

The Ace at the Apex

Chapter 69 Everyone Will Be Trying to Make Themselves Look Good

Javier met up with Odello Corp.'s "most loyal servant" in Victor's office.

"There are rumors being spread outside that you're Jade's close confidant and you're both living under the same roof. Is that true?"

Javier merely looked at Victor silently upon being questioned, wanting to see what Victor was playing at.

However, Victor obviously did not need Javier to answer. He went on to say, "Don't worry, I've never been one to look into someone's family background. What I'm more concerned about is how capable they are and how ambitious. The way I see it, you're not too bad yourself..."

After saying that, Victor once again expressed his dissatisfaction with Zayn and how much he admired Javier.

"I've been watching Jade grow up since she was a child as the previous chairman's old partner, so I look at her as my own granddaughter. I would never allow her to be with Zayn Dunham, who's obviously a wolf disguised in sheep's clothing. I hope that her future companion is a young man as decent as yourself!

"I believe you understand what I'm getting, don't you?"

Javier nodded his head. "Yes, Mr. Dowding, I understand. I'll compete against Zayn and ensure that he doesn't get a chance to get close to Jade!"

Victor very happily nodded his head and opened his drawer. He then took out a credit card that he handed to Javier.

"Take this card and go make yourself look more decent. I want you to accompany Jade more as well. Take her out shopping...have a meal..hell, even take her to watch a movie. Whatever the two of you want. Anyway, women are meant to be loved and accompanied. Now go!"

After he refused to take Victor's credit card a few times, Victor still ended up forcing it into Javier's hands, so he had no choice but to keep it.

After Javier left, a mocking smile appeared on Victor's face.

'I'm sure you're going to go after the 26% Jade has, aren't you, Zayn? 'Too bad it's going to be a fruitless journey for you. I've now gotten someone to keep an eye on her, so you're not going to have a chance!

While Victor was feeling a little elated about the little scheme he had just cooked up, Javier had already left the company building.

'Oh, you pitiful old man.'

Javier could not even be bothered to make any comments about Victor. Instead, he directly headed to the nearest ATM to find out how much money was inside the card.

Surprisingly, Victor had actually given Javier a credit card with a limit of 150,000 dollars.

“Wow, 150,000 dollars, huh. Tsk, tsk. Looks like you really are going all out to protect Jade from Zayn. But don’t you think this amount is a little...insufficient?”

Javier took out his cell phone and dialed a number. “It’s me. Have the bank adjust the credit limit on this credit card of mine. Make it limitless.”

After hanging up the phone, Javier once again checked the card’s credit limit and immediately felt much better.

Right after he put the card in his pocket, he received a phone call from Jade, who told him that Zayn had just invited her to dinner.

“Of course, you should go. Why wouldn’t you go when there’s free food involved? Bring me along, I’m starving!”

‘Victor’s already being so generous, so Zayn should at least do the same, right?’

‘After all, I was just given a credit card with no credit limit, so I should return to the luxurious life I once lived tonight!’

After work that night, Javier picked Jade up and the two of them rushed over to the restaurant where Zayn had reserved a table.

‘I hate to admit it, but Zayn really does have a way of wooing women.’

“This is supposed to be a simple, casual dinner, but he’s managed to make the entire private room look like a flower fest!”

There were fresh flowers of all sorts of colors spread across the floor, making the entire private room seem extremely romantic.

‘I believe any ordinary woman would be so touched that she’d be in tears by now.’

However, Jade was no ordinary woman. On top of that, she was not there alone that night. When Javier entered, the flattering smile that Zayn originally had on his face instantly disappeared. “What are you doing here?!”

Jade answered on Javier’s behalf. “He’s my driver, so I can’t possibly have him wait in the car while I sit here and eat now, can I? Plus, you’re a very generous person, so you wouldn’t mind feeding an extra person, would you?”

Despite how unhappy he felt, Zayn had no choice but to put a smile on his face, as he wanted to curry favor with Jade. “Of course! Please have a seat!”

After saying that, Zayn merely mentioned that he wanted to invite Jade to collaborate with Matthew but was outright rejected.

“I never talk about work once I leave the office, so how about you head over there later if there’s something you’d like to talk about?”

“All right, let’s only enjoy ourselves tonight. No business talk!”

Sure enough, Zayn did not mention a single word about work after that, but Jade was not going to let him enjoy himself with her. Hence, feeling depressed, Zayn would occasionally hurl a few words of scorn at Javier.

However, Javier remained silent the entire time, so all of Zayn's scorn fell on deaf ears, and he could not be bothered to say anything else,

In his eyes, Javier was a piece of trash who did not dare retaliate even when he was being insulted.

After dinner, Javier told Jade, "Ms. Odell, the jewelry showcase you've been wanting to check out is opening tonight. I believe it's almost time, so should we head over there now?"

Zayn immediately cut in before Jade could even say anything.

"Do you want to take a look at jewelry, Jade? You should've told me sooner! My family's company is the one hosting this event!"

As he spoke, Zayn headed to his Ferrari and opened the door to the passenger seat. "Those are our family's jewels on showcase tonight. Come on, I'll drive you there. I guarantee you won't be late!"

Jade merely smiled and thanked Zayn for the invitation.

"All right then, thank you for leading the way, Mr. Dunham."

After saying that, Jade returned to her Mercedes Benz, leaving Zayn standing by his Ferrari with his front passenger door open and his face filled with embarrassment.

Javier chuckled. "You're going to lead the way, aren't you, my dear former schoolmate?"

Zayn's expression turned cold, and he slammed his car door shut, almost breaking it.

'You f*cking piece of trash, do you get off calling me your former schoolmate? I'm going to humiliate you one of these days!

Back in his car, Zayn drove his Ferrari to the jewelry exhibition center, while Javier followed him with Jade in his car.

Meanwhile, Jade curiously asked, "When did I say I wanted to take a look at jewelry? Why are we going there now?"

"We're going there for a show. I heard that there's going to be an event. Everyone will be trying to make themselves look good, so it's going to be quite the spectacle."

Javier's answer made Jade feel even more curious. 'Why would they want to make themselves look good? Then again, would someone actually be willing to humiliate themselves?

However, Javier did not satisfy her curiosity.

After following the Ferrari racing in front of them, they finally arrived at the exhibition center.

The jewelry being showcased that night was indeed out of this world. All the pieces had been worn by international celebrities at events before. In other words, these pieces had been advertised.

For example, there was a pair of emerald earrings made in Colombia that had once been worn by Angelina Jolie in 2009. The emeralds were 115 carats and were worth 2.5 million dollars. There was also a stunning carved rock crystal Neil Lane necklace that included 100 carats worth of diamonds and was priced at 2 million dollars. The necklace had once been worn by Jennifer Lawrence in 2014...

All in all, the jewelry being showcased that night was all very valuable and beautiful, so much so that Jade, who had never liked jewelry, was deeply attracted to it.

However, Javier did not mind any of this because all he cared about was this one specific event.

Finally, Zayn spoke up and this mysterious event officially began. Zayn flatteringly said, "Do you like that, Jade? If you do, I'll give it to you!"

Chapter 70 A Dream Come True

Javier had already expected long ago that Zayn would go after Jade's 26% share, so he was not going to allow Jade to leave empty-handed.

On top of that, this would make Zayn break character, which was why he had been waiting for this event to begin for a very long time.

When Jade saw Zayn's flattering expression, she could not help but want to vomit.

However, before she could even reject his offer, Zayn had already snapped his fingers at the person in charge of the exhibition.

The man rushed over to Zayn's side and flatteringly said, "How may I assist you, Mr. Dunham?"

"The yellow diamond necklace that Kate Winslet wore in the past looks pretty nice. Bring it over for me!"

Perhaps afraid that the surrounding crowd did not know how valuable the necklace was, Zayn deliberately added, "I'm talking about the necklace that's worth 1.7 million dollars."

The person in charge nodded his head and walked away, very quickly returning with a beautiful model on a tray.

It was undeniable that the yellow diamond necklace was indeed rather beautiful, as it left countless women in the vicinity stunned.

After a moment, Zayn reached out to pick up the necklace and told Jade, "Jade, you're the prettiest woman I've ever laid eyes on, so this necklace will never compare to you. However, my love for you will be as everlasting as diamonds.

"This is a gift for you, my beloved Jade!"

Countless women threw a jealous fit the moment Zayn uttered all of that.

"Oh my God, I'm so jealous! If only someone would give me such a necklace, I swear I'd be so touched that I'd cry!"

“It’s worth 1.7 million dollars?! I can’t even begin to imagine how wonderful it would be to have that necklace around my neck!”

“He’s both handsome and rich. Plus, he’s so gentle and romantic. Why can’t I find a wonderful man like him? Hmph...”

The countless women and their coquettish voices boosted Zayn’s ego.

However, Jade was extremely unhappy with the situation. In fact, she felt disgusted purely because of what Zayn had just said to her.

Before she could even say anything, Javier, who was standing next to her, had already spoken up.

“I’d like to cut in here, Mr. Dunham. I know it’s inappropriate, but please don’t be angry at me for this.

“Since you already know that that necklace could never compare to Ms. Odell, why don’t you give her an even more expensive necklace? Err...are you worried about your finances, perhaps?”

Zayn instantly choked on the gloating feeling he had been enjoying a moment ago when he heard this.

‘I’m not spending your money now, am I?! This is 1.7 million dollars, you know?! You want me to give her something even more expensive than this? Are you serious?!

At that moment, Javier asked with a very serious expression, ‘Mr. Dunham...you’re not actually feeling a little stingy, are you?’

Zayn suddenly felt enraged. ‘F*ck this guy! He’s deliberately trying to make me spend more money, isn’t he?!’

However, Zayn was not a fool at the end of the day, so he was not about to fall for such an obvious trick and spend more just to prove that he was rich.

He replied with a cold sneer, “I was only saying that figuratively, so you must really be a fool for not being able to tell what I meant “Also, if you think this yellow diamond necklace is cheap and unworthy of Ms. Odell’s beauty, you could very well buy her a necklace that you think would fit her. In that case, I wouldn’t mind personally being your server and bringing it to you myself.”

‘Forget this yellow diamond necklace worth 1.7 million dollars. The cheapest piece we have here is a pair of earrings worth 600,000 dollars, which I believe you won’t be able to buy!’

Thus, Zayn had every reason to believe that Javier was going to keep his mouth shut and silently endure this humiliation.

However, what actually happened was very different from what he had expected. Not only did Javier not remain silent, but he even seemed to become even more arrogant.

“In that case, I suppose I’ve got no choice but to pick out a piece that I think would match Ms. Odell’s beauty the most.”

Javier raised his head and looked at the stage for a moment before he pointed at the diamond necklace that was the highlight of the night

“I’ll have a look at that necklace then. Please bring it over to me. I’d like to personally put it on for Ms. Odell. I believe that’s the only piece that would be a match for her.”

Zayn followed the direction Javier was pointing in and saw the diamond necklace.

Immediately, Zayn began to laugh out loud. “You’ve got a pretty good eye, I see. You chose the most expensive piece here in an instant! Can you recognize that piece?”

“That’s a necklace with over 7,500 diamonds and a total carat count of 1,399! Nicole Kidman once wore it to an event. From what I’ve heard, that piece is handmade and took 6,200 hours to complete. It’s worth more than 7 million dollars right now!”

“You must really have some nerve to pick out that necklace! Do you have an endless amount of cards that can pay for this?!”

Upon hearing this, Javier appeared to be “enlightened”.

“Oh wow, I didn’t realize it was this famous. Thank you for all that information!”

As he spoke, Javier took out the credit card Victor had given him that afternoon and shoved it directly in Zayn’s hand.

“Go on, I’d like to purchase that piece, please. Oh, do bring the necklace over here yourself as you promised.”

Zayn took a look at the ordinary-looking gold card in his hand and then at Javier. ‘I can’t even decide how I should begin to mock him now!’

“Javier, are you a f*cking idiot? Gold cards like this don’t have more than 16,000 dollars of a credit limit usually, so what the f*ck are you playing at? Get the f*ck out of here right now, or I’ll have security throw you out!”

After handing the credit card back to Javier, Zayn once again picked up the yellow diamond necklace on the tray. He was just about to give it to Jade when Javier suddenly called one of the staff members over. He then handed the credit card over to make the payment.

With a menacing look, Zayn said, “You’re not done putting on an act yet, are you? Fine... Fine! Let’s get your card swiped right now! I can’t wait to see you grovel in tears when it fails to go through! I wonder how you’re going to clean up this mess!”

Zayn then waved his hand and had his staff swipe the credit card immediately.

Meanwhile, he was in no hurry to put the yellow diamond necklace on Jade. He wanted to see how Javier would humiliate himself and how he was going to clean up that mess!

Next to Javier, Jade poked Javier’s waist hard and even gave him an eye signal to remind him not to fight with Zayn when it came to finances.

As much as Jade disliked Zayn, she could not help but admit that the latter was indeed rich.

‘Javier’s only going to end up making himself look even worse if he keeps up this stubborn act.’

However, Javier suddenly told her, “Stop poking my waist, please. I’m really ticklish there!”

Jade was immediately rendered speechless. ‘Like I’m poking your waist for fun! I’m trying to give you a warning...’

While Zayn was looking at Javier as if the latter was an outright fool, the person in charge of the exhibition personally walked over with a card in his hands.

At the same time, there was a stack of receipts right beneath the card.

“S-Sir... Here’s your card and the receipts for a total of 7.2 million dollars. Please have a look and see if there’s a problem.”

Zayn was dumbfounded at that moment. Filled with disbelief, he looked at the ordinary looking gold card and the receipts that consisted of several hundred thousand dollars each, adding up to 7.2 million dollars.

‘That’s 7.2 million dollars?! Since when can this poor bimbo fork out that much money?! Did he rob a bank or something?!’

Next to them, Jade was also very stunned. ‘What the...since when did he become this rich?!’

However, Javier did not care about any of that at that moment. Instead, he was only focused on one thing...

“Mr. Dunham, I believe someone said he was going to personally serve me and bring the necklace to me on a tray himself, correct?”

Zayn came back to his senses and felt embarrassed. He had only said those words on a whim. He had never dreamt that Javier would actually buy the necklace.

But now... Very miraculously, his dream had come true!

Chapter 71 Isn’t He Infuriating?

“Oh wow, he bought a necklace for almost 8 million dollars. He’s so rich!”

“And I thought Mr. Dunham was rich. He’s nothing compared to this guy though!”

“Hey, does anybody know this guy? Introduce him to me, pretty please? I don’t have a boyfriend yet

The voices that had originally been filled with admiration and envy for Zayn were now directed at Javier. Unfortunately, Zayn heard them loud and clear as well. He felt incredibly put off as if he had just swallowed a fly.

There were a few others who were looking at him with a smile. While they did not say anything, the implication was clear.

‘Didn’t you want to become a server? Go on. He’s bought a better necklace. Go on then, fulfill your promise.

The sight of Javier grinning ignited Zayn’s fury. He wanted to slap the grin off Javier’s face and storm away, but that would not be plausible as someone had already recognized him as the Dunham heir. If he

backed out of his promise and left now, that would embarrass him more than being a server. Thus, he suppressed the rage burning within him and got up to go to the jewelry section on the stage.

After Zayn left, Jade gaped at Javier. "Where did you get so much money from? I don't want this, all right? This is too expensive. That piece is almost 8 million dollars. I refuse!"

Javier smiled and passed the credit card to Jade, making sure to point out the name printed on it Victor Dowding.

"Victor Dowding's credit card? Why is his card with you?"

When Jade asked in surprise, Javier briefly told her the situation. He made no mention of the original credit limit, merely telling her that the card was not capped. Jade now understood where

Javier had got so much money from but she was still worried, afraid that Javier's exorbitant purchase would anger Victor and cause the man to seek revenge or ask for compensation.

Javier was indifferent. "He wouldn't dare. Unless he doesn't have his eyes set on your 26% anymore

As they discussed the matter, Zayn stepped down from the stage. His expression was dark as he carried a red velvet tray that held the diamond necklace. When he reached Javier, he thrust the tray forward and snapped his head in the other direction.

He was absolutely embarrassed. He had to be a server to Javier in public so the latter could gift the necklace to a woman he fancied. Just thinking about it made his blood boil, and it was currently his reality. But something even more infuriating was about to follow.

Javier frowned. "I saw the female model going down on one knee when she presented the necklace to you earlier."

Zayn lashed out, "Javier Kersey, don't push it!"

Javier snorted. Zayn was speaking as if he would not try to seek revenge on him later, even if Javier were to not go over the line. Since he was already pushing it, he might as well go all out.

"Mr. Dunham, if you're unhappy about being a server, just leave. It's not like I'm forcing you to do it. But since you're already at it, please respect the job and put some effort into it."

Zayn's rage made both his hands shake, looking as if he had Parkinson's. Nonetheless, Javier merely smiled at him and made no move to take the necklace as Zayn was not kneeling.

Everyone else was watching to see if Zayn from the Dunham family was someone who kept his word.

No matter how reluctant Zayn was, he could only grit his teeth, go down on one knee, and present the necklace to Javier.

Javier scoffed but made no further comment. He picked up the necklace and helped Jade to put it o

“Ms. Odell, I actually think that this necklace doesn’t suit you too well. Oh, what shall we do? The items here are too cheap. We could only pick the best from what was available. Do put up with it for now! Luckily, you’re beautiful so you’d look gorgeous no matter what you wear.”

Gah, this hypocrite! Zayn really wanted to swing the tray and hit Javier to death. The latter was shameless. Shameless! This man had to watch his mouth. That was nearly 8 million dollars!

It was not that Zayn could not produce that amount but it was a sum that he would make even him feel the pinch. Therefore, he was filled with a murderous impulse at Javier’s exaggerated bluff.

After Javier and Jade left, Zayn went backstage. Away from prying eyes, he thrashed the wooden tray that had held the necklace and stomped it bits with his jaw tight-set as if the tray was Javier

A violent venting later, Zayn stopped and wondered: Where did Javier get so much money from? He had asked for the guy to be investigated and the latter’s money had come from a lottery he had won. Apart from that, he did not have any other financial sources. How could a guy whose wife left him for another man have 7.5 million dollars on hand?

With this doubt in mind, he sent someone to look into it immediately. The show supervisor provided him with an answer shortly.

“Mr. Dunham, the owner of the card is Victor Dowding.”

Realization hit Zayn then. He knew it. He knew that Javier did not have that much money.

“Using another man’s money huh? Sure, since you’re not the one feeling the pinch from this purchase, I’ll go tell on you to the person who will!”

Although not in the mood to guess why Victor would give his card to Javier, Zayn was sure of one thing- Victor must not be aware of this. Zayn could more or less estimate how much money Victor had. Taking into account all the shares Victor owned, the amount should be a maximum of 31.5 million dollars.

Javier had so callously spent 7.5 million of Victor’s money that the latter would surely feel the burn when he learned of this. And reality turned out as Zayn had expected. When Victor found out that 7.5 million dollars had been swiped on his card, he was bewildered.

He remembered that the credit card he had given Javier had a limit of 150,000 dollars. How had Javier pulled 7.5 million dollars out of it?!

When he called the bank to question them about this, he was so furious that he threatened to sue them.

“Did you have too much time on your hands? Why would you suggest that I upgrade to an uncapped credit? Besides, of all the times you could have suggested it, you had to bring it up after I had passed the card to someone else? Are you f*cking working with Javier to con me?”

After berating the bank, Victor’s next call was to Javier. “Where are you? Get the hell over here, right now!”

With 7.5 million dollars spent in a single receipt, Victor could care less about “admiring” Javier as his eyes bulged from wrath. This was 7.5 million dollars! The jewelry possessed by his wife and mistress combined would not come close to the number of zeroes on this number!

Ten or so minutes later, Javier and Jade arrived at Victor’s house.

“Eh, Jade, what brings you here?” “Javier’s driving me. I heard you asking for him so I figured I’d come along since you’re not unfamiliar to me.”

Drat. Victor had not expected Jade to come along. This placed him in a position that was difficult for him to chide Javier. Despite all this, that was almost a quarter of his assets. In one snap, it all disappeared. How could it have just disappeared?

After some contemplation, Victor finally spoke up, “Oh Jade, Javier’s such a pain.”

“I figured that it wouldn’t do for him to be without some money since he’s dating you, so I gave him a credit card to buy you meals, go on movie dates, and whatnot, lest he doesn’t have enough.

“Who knew that he’s such a spendthrift. He just spent 7.5 million dollars from my account to purchase some jewelry. Isn’t he infuriating?!”

Victor was complaining when Jade interrupted, “Not really. He bought the jewelry for me. I like the piece very much. Thank you, Mr. Dowding. You’re the best!” Victor was stunned.

Chapter 72 A Kid Standing Before His Teacher

Victor’s plan was rather simple. He had no intention of making Jade repay him in cash-not that Jade could fork out that much-and instead wanted to direct their conversation toward the shares, hoping that Jade would offer them as repayment.

After all, shares were valuable and were what he needed most right now. It then surprised Victor when Jade opened her mouth and said thank you, looking like she was done with the matter.

That was one expensive thank-you. Million-dollar syllables!

While Victor was caught up in his shock, Jade giggled and spoke up, “I know you like to pamper me, but I can’t possibly let you pay so much, right?”

“Why don’t we strike a deal? When we defeat that traitor Matthew, I’ll transfer 10% of the shares to you as thanks for your help and as repayment for the 7.5 million dollars.

“When that time comes, you mustn’t refuse me at that time, all right? It’s my way of showing my appreciation for you...”

After some more “genuine” thanking, Jade left with Javier.

Victor watched as the two of them got into their car and murmured, “Did she just paint a future picture and take 7.5 million dollars away from me?”

Yeah, that was exactly what Jade had done. And it was Javier who had come up with the brilliant

On their way back, Jade asked doubtfully, “Victor’s a sly fox. What if he doesn’t agree to it?”

“What would he do then? Have a fallout with you and push you to Matthew? So you and Matthew will work together to squash him? Unless he nids himself of his ambition, the only option he has is to swallow the loss of 7.5 million dollars!” Javier replied

“Be patient. He’ll most probably come looking for you tomorrow, but he won’t bring up the money. Instead, he’ll talk about how you two can work together to fight Matthew. He’ll swallow tonight’s loss and try to get it back from you after you guys take care of Matthew.”

And when had Javier ever been wrong?

The next morning, not long after they reached the workplace, Victor summoned Jade to his office And the moment she left, she went straight to Javier.

“Your prediction was spot on. Victor really didn’t mention the money at all and talked about howt o oppress Matthew using the shares.

“You’re so good! You managed to foretell everything and even bagged a diamond necklace without spending a dime.

“Hmm, do you want the necklace or the money? If you want money. I can pull some strings and sell the necklace for you...”

Jade was rambling when Javier broke her chatter. “I told you last night. That necklace is for you.”

Jade had been under the assumption that Javier had said that due to the circumstances they were in. She had not expected the latter to really give it to her. But...but the gift was too expensive. She could not accept it.

After several attempts at returning the gift, Javier got up and left. He had never been one to take back what he had gifted to others.

Returning to her office, Jade was flummoxed as she looked at the shining diamond necklace. Did Javier mean something by giving her such a lavish necklace? Her heart thumped erratically at the thought and her cheeks grew warm.

While Jade felt butterflies, Zayn felt like exploding. He could not sleep well last night so he got his hands on some aphrodisiacs and worked Neve who delivered herself to his door all night. When h e woke up, he was still angry over what had happened yesterday.

It was infuriating. For all the years he had been alive, he had never been so humiliated-and in public too! What irked him the most was that the person who did such a thing to him was that b* stard Javier whom he despised immensely. That guy was not even worthy of being compared to him. How dare Javier humiliate him!

The more Zayn thought about it, the more he seethed and the more disgruntled he grew. He flipped open the covers to reveal a sleeping Neve. He grabbed a slipper off the floor and, without any forewarning, hit Neve. Startled awake, the woman let out a yelp and a moan.

As she crawled out of the bed and headed to the bathroom, Neve could barely walk straight. After closing the door, she looked down at where she had been hit. She cursed Zayn for being such a pervert.

Said man, however, had gotten dressed in one of his most dapper outfits and headed out, driving away in his Ferrari. There was no way he was letting Javier off the hook for humiliating him last night. His current destination was to teach the b*stard a lesson!

Arriving at the most luxurious hotel in town, the Duxom Hotel, Zayn straightened his clothes in front of the lobby mirror before taking the elevator up to the presidential suite-Room 018.

Outside the door stood two men dressed in black: Black sunglasses, black shirt, black slacks, black leather shoes, black everything. Their outfit and demeanor reflected their profession, which was the exact opposite of white and light.

As Zayn approached, one of the men put up his left hand to stop him as his right hand reached behind his back. Zayn could barely see the outline of a pistol under the man's shirt. He quickly chuckled. "Bro, chill. I have an appointment with Ms. Chessie. Please let her know I'm here."

Ms. Chessie, a big gun who was notorious throughout the city. Rumor had it that she once cut up her enemy's ribs with an electric saw, boiled them up, and consumed them.

e the best person to ask for help from.

After the bodyguard passed on the message, Zayn was finally allowed to enter the room. After shuffling into the presidential suite, he stood in the living room with both hands plastered by his sides, looking like a soldier at attention. Upon closer inspection, one would see that he looked more like a kid who was about to face his teacher after making a mistake.

Looking up, Zayn cast his gaze to the woman on the couch, who was wearing a black sleeping gown. She sat there smoking, her legs crossed over one another. This was his first time meeting Chessie. His prior assumption of her was that she would be a rough and robust woman in her forties. She might even sport a beard. But the reality was nothing like his imagination.

Chessie was a young woman in her late twenties and had a great figure. She was incredibly sexy as well. A femme fatale, if you would.

The next moment, their eyes met and Zayn ducked his head. In that instant, he felt like a knife had gone straight for his eyes-and his heart! To conceal his panic, he quickly greeted the woman and told her the reason for his visit.

"Ms. Chessie, there's a b*stard named Javier Kersey whom I hope you can assist me with chopping off his two legs.

"Someone had already tried to send others after him but Kersey is trained. So I could only come to you for this.

"Don't worry, I'm aware of the rules. It's 315 thousand dollars per leg and the incident will not lead back to you."

Chessie brushed away some of the stray hair in front of her face and said, "Leave the photo."

Zayn quickly went forward and placed a photo of Javier that he had asked someone to secretly capture onto the table. At the same time, he also dropped a bank card with its password attached and indicated that there were 630 thousand dollars in it.

Chessie picked up the photo with two dainty fingers.

“You can leave now. I’m sure you’ll be happy with the results, more than you could imagine.

Leaving the hotel room, Zayn sneered cruelly. To him, Javier’s future mode of transport for the rest of his life would soon be a wheelchair!

Chapter 73 It Doesn’t Make Sense

That afternoon, as Javier drove back to the office after taking care of some personal business, a van started haggling him on the road and forced him to stop by the side. Immediately, three more

As he looked at the thugs getting out of the vehicles, Javier figured that it most probably had to do with what had happened last night. The man showed no signs of panic though. And even had the mood to pat his pockets for a cigarette, only to realize he had none.

“I need to remember to get two more packets and keep them in the car when I go out shopping next time.”

Muttering to himself, Javier got out of his car and was about to pull his phone out of his pocket to toss it back into the vehicle when he spotted a familiar face. It was a large, shiny bald head. It was the fellow who had wanted to cut his ear off the last time.

Javier wracked his brain and finally recalled his name. “Sam Langdon, right? Great timing! Come, come. I’ve run out of cigarettes again. What a coincidence.”

Sam was speechless. Upon receiving an order from Chessie to stop a car in the middle of the road, he summoned his members and instructed them as told. To his utmost surprise, it was Javier again. Those 20 plus ears that had got cut off were still fresh in his memory. What kind of luck did he have to run into the devil again?

Despite that, Sam was peeved at the fact that this man remembered his name and he had somehow become synonymous with a grocery store. The man was exasperated as he looked at Javier who stood next to his car.

“Why could it be you again?!”

“Who knows? I either have too many enemies or your business is popular. Why do you keep accepting tasks that target me anyway?”

As Javier spoke, he walked up to Sam and ignored the man’s underlings who surrounded them. As he fished out Sam’s cigarettes from his pocket like they were old friends, he said. “C’mon, light me

This guy had no cigarettes or even a lighter on him. Does he go out and about with only his mouth?! As Sam stared at Javier incredulously, a Rolls-Royce Cullinan worth over 950 thousand dollars pulled up beside them and came to a stop.

The door swung open to reveal Chessie who was wearing a figure-hugging, velvet slip dress.

As she alighted from the car, Sam promptly went up to her and bowed in greeting, “Ms. Chessie.”

The young woman ignored him and looked at Javier, parting her sexy crimson lips. "Go on, continue hiding. Isn't that what you're good at? Now that I'm here, why aren't you hiding?"

Javier rubbed his face as he looked at the woman and felt utterly powerless.

Sam, upon hearing what Chessie said, assumed that Javier had somehow offended her in the past and immediately raised his cleaver, intending to avenge his boss.

"Guys, we're going to chop this guy into pieces today, even if it costs us our life. We mustn't let him

He was halfway through his proclamation when a loud slap landed on top of his bright, bald head.

"This fellow here is my man. You want to lay your hands on him? Do you have a death wish? P*ss off!"

Holding his throbbing head with one hand, Sam looked lost as he gaped open-mouthed at Chessie. Things...were not turning out as he had expected...

Javier and Chessie sat opposite each other in a cafe, both having a drink in front of them. Javier lowered his head to take a sip as Chessie stared at him with her arms crossed in front of her chest as if it was incredibly interesting to watch someone drink.

To be honest, Javier was not drinking at all. How could he be in the mood to drink anything? The woman seated opposite him was making things as awkward as possible for him.

Back then, he had spent some time in the city's underworld and Chessie was the mafia boss he had served. Javier was well trained and had no fear of getting into scuffles. He was also opinionated and had a good head on his shoulder. Which in turn allowed him to quickly rise through the ranks within Chessie's group. Gradually, his reputation within the field eclipsed hers.

But Javier did not cast her aside and instead helped boost her to greater heights. One night, when the two of them had had too much to drink and were the only two people in the room, they ended up sleeping together. That sort of thing was not a big deal to people within that field. But the issue was that Javier, in his intoxicated state, had recognized the wrong person.

Chessie had been the one under him, but he had called out another person's name. The next morning, when Chessie questioned him about it, he swore he would rather be dead than tell the truth.

Coincidentally, his letter of admission had just arrived from the university, so Javier took the chance to quit the underworld and dedicated himself to student life. Refusing to relive this painfully awkward moment, Javier had avoided it for many years. Though, lo and behold, man could not forever avoid what was bound to come.

"Chessie, I'm sorry!"

After an extended period of silence, Javier felt helpless and the only thing he could think to do was blurt out a belated apology,

A heartbeat later, he heard Chessie giggle as she handed him 95 dollars. He thought she was scoffing at his apology, but she really was not. He looked up to steal a glance and saw that she had on a casual expression, seeming nonchalant about what had happened back then.

Despite this, Javier knew that Chessie was only acting as such because she was worried that he would feel guilty over the incident.

“Chessie-” he started, but the woman cut him off.

*A rich heir named Zayn Dunham came to me and asked me to snap both your legs off. That’s how I found you.

“Don’t worry, I’ll find a suitable location and bury the guy. He’ll soon cease to exist.”

Javier waved in dismissal. “You don’t have to. He’s just a piece of trash. There’s no need to waste your efforts on him. Let him stick around. I like having something to toy with.”

Chessie nodded and that was the end of the matter. After that, the two of them chatted about the old days and updated each other on what they were currently up to.

“Oh yeah, how’s Cici doing? I miss that girl. She must have grown into a gorgeous young lady by now.”

Ciara used to hang around Javier a lot back then and had been quite close to Chessie.

“She’s doing okay. The next time she pops by, I’ll call you. We can all hang together.”

Chessie assented and fell quiet. She kept her eyes on Javier and did not say a word. This flustered the man. She then suddenly asked, “Javier, back then, did you like me? Even if only a little?”

Staring back at the woman’s misty eyes, and after weighing the guilt he had carried toward her over the years, Javier decided not to lie. “Yes.”

Right after he answered, Chessie suddenly pushed her cherry lips forward and landed a kiss right smack on his lip.

“That’s enough for me. I don’t and won’t regret that night for the rest of my life! Catch you later!”

And with that, Chessie got up and left, not giving Javier even a chance to stop her.

Through the window, Javier watched the Cullinan speed off. He leaned back in his seat and contemplated silently. After a good long while, he fished out his phone.

“Keep a close eye on Chessie. Don’t let anything happen to her...”

At the same time that Javier was making this call, Chessie was on the phone too. She was talking to Zayn.

“That man that you wanted both his legs chopped off. I just slept with him. His technical skill was pretty decent and I feel good.

“So that makes him mine from now on. If you dare lay a finger on him, I’ll kill your entire family. As long as you don’t harm him, you’re free to do whatever...”

Just before Zayn had received the call, he was boasting to Neve who was beside him, claiming that Javier was doomed because this time, he had gone to the most savage of people within the underworld and had implored them to take care of Javier properly.

Neve had looked at him with admiration and sung praises about how cool he was. But moments later, he received such a call, Zayn was stunned-for a long time.

What the f*ck? It made no sense! He had paid the woman to reap some legs. How had he managed to turn into a pimp instead?!

Chapter 74 Only Thwack the Palm, Please

Zayn was absolutely put off by the idea of physically harming Javier because he was scared that Chessie would hunt him down. But the woman did say that she did not care about anything else, so he diverted his attention toward other aspects.

While Zayn was contemplating on how he would strike now, Victor had taken the step first. He called for a shareholders meeting to snatch away a big project that Mathew was in charge of.

When Matthew found out about this, he boiled with rage and wished he could stab the old man.

“Victor is openly snatching away my project. What’s worse is that Jade is actually taking his side!”

Although the shareholders meeting had yet to begin, Matthew had already assumed that Jade would side with Victor. That was also what Victor thought, so he was exceptionally delighted when the five old-timers got together.

“Brothers, don’t worry. After we take over Matthew’s project, I’ll make it ours. I, Victor Dowding, am not a hog. We’ll share the windfall that comes our way!”

Despite being almost 70 years old, Victor exuded a rare liveliness that he had retained since his youth. It seemed to influence his old pals as the five of them raised their glasses in a toast.

When the shareholders meeting started, Victor arrived at the meeting room early and sat down in the seat reserved for the chairman. He wanted an early taste of what being chairman was like. He was confident that he was not far from actually taking the throne as long as Jade remained

Waiting for everyone else to arrive, he returned to his seat, putting on his facade of a loyal subject of the company. As Victor watched the room fill up, the happiness within him swelled. As long as he successfully pried this project away from Matthew, all the big profitable projects in Odello Corp. would be under his control.

He waited for everyone to arrive. But after even Matthew-with a long scowl on his face-had come in, there was still no sign of Jade. Victor was curious and confused as to why she was not there yet. He instructed his secretary to call the young lady.

When the secretary came back from making the call and told Victor of what had transpired, the older man looked incredibly affronted. His secretary said that Jade had caught quite a serious cold and could not get out of bed.

Victor nearly threw his mug out of anger upon hearing this excuse. He had just spotted Jade in the office this morning and she had looked incredibly bright. How could she have possibly caught a cold and succumbed to bedrest that same afternoon? Such bullsh*t. She just wanted to stay out of the shareholders’ meeting and avoid stripping Matthew bare!

Victor finally realized that Jade, whom he had assumed would be an obedient lamb, was not as docile as he had imagined her to be. He wanted to treat her like a puppet, but the young lady had instead used him as a stepping stone!

Thinking of how he had been tricked and of his 7.5 million dollars that had gone down the drain, Victor fumed. After declaring that the meeting was postponed due to the absence of one of the shareholders, he stormed back to his office. He then sat scowling on the couch for a good half an hour before gritting his teeth and proclaiming, "Jade Odell, don't blame me for being brutal when you were cruel first. You forced me to do this!"

Victor finally came to the realization that the state of the shares would remain as it was currently

-balanced. If he wanted to tip the scales, he had to get more shares from either Jade or Matthew. It was not a simple feat but upon investigation, he found a loophole...

As Victor was making his plans, Jade was out shopping with Javier, looking as bright and bubbly as ever and nothing like the sick person she had claimed to be.

"Victor must be blowing his top right now. That sneaky b*stard. He dares try to steal from my family? No way!"

Javier merely smiled in reply. He had no clue about this incident. Jade had done it all on her own. Javier did not think that she had made the wrong move, just that it could have been better.

Jade certainly could not have fulfilled what Victor wanted her to do, but she could have used that opportunity to cheat Matthew out of some of his shares. Jade had not done so, and by the time Javier was told about this, the shareholders meeting was already underway. He decided to stay quiet.

After shopping and wasting away half the afternoon, Jade was pretty happy. The only thing that had annoyed her was the constant interruption of spam calls. They ranged from real estate sales pitches to insurance promotions. Even one or two matching sites had called to offer their services. This annoyed her so much that she decided to switch her phone off.

When Jade turned it on again on the way home, she saw that she had numerous missed calls. And many of them were from Catherine. Calling back, Jade asked, "Mom, why did you call—"

Catherine exclaimed before Jade could finish her sentence, "Oh thank Heavens! Thank God! Jade, you're all right!"

Jade was surprised. She did not get the opportunity to raise any questions as Catherine continued, "Did those kidnappers hurt you? Are you badly injured? I was so scared. What would I do if something bad had happened to you!"

Her intense sobbing on the other end of the line, Jade was thoroughly puzzled. She glanced at Javier in bewilderment. "My mom's asking if I'm safe and she mentioned something about kidnappers. It's so odd. What's wrong with her?"

Javier was no mind reader. How was he supposed to know what was up with Catherine?

At his signal, Jade put the call on speaker. "Mom, what happened? Tell me everything slowly."

Catherine recounted the entire tale, punctuating it with the occasional sob or sniff. Over the phone, Catherine told of how Victor had come looking for her in person. He claimed that Jade had been kidnapped-possibly by Matthew. Victor said that the perpetrator wanted the 13% of shares that she was holding on to, while he was there to deliver the message and save Jade. He even had

a ransom video with him.

In the video, Jade's head was covered with a brown paper bag as wooden sticks were swung down on her abdomen over and over again, landing painful after painful blows.

The moment she saw the video, Catherine lost it and could not think straight. Then, without hesitation, she signed a share transfer agreement and had even penned an authorization letter as per Victor's instruction, stating that she had voluntarily transferred the shares and her decision was not influenced by any external factors.

After Jade heard the whole story, she was rendered speechless. It was only then she realized why she had suddenly got a barrage of spam calls today. It had obviously been a ploy to make her switch her phone off.

Javier, who was beside her, was more curious about something else. "Where did your mom get that 13% from?"

At the question, Jade sheepishly answered, "The other day, my mum heard that I had inherited 26 % of Grandpa's shares and told me that she would like some under her name. That way, she'd be assured and wouldn't have to be scared of the Odells anymore.

"Initially, knowing how important it was for me to hold onto the shares, I had not wanted to give them to her. But when I thought about how meek my mom acts before Matthew and others, and also under her persistent nagging, I felt bad and..."

Javier was speechless. It was not like he could criticize Jade for doing what she did. After all, her mother was her family. She was a filial daughter. What else could he have said? If anything was to blame, it was Catherine's cowardice and ignorance.

Catherine was still shooting Jade questions over the phone, asking if Jade was injured or hurt. She was mad, but she repressed it and assured her mother, telling her that she was fine and not to worry.

After appeasing her mother and hanging up the phone, Jade stood before Javier like a kid who had done something wrong. Hanging her head, she told him softly, "I was wrong. Punish me. But just a thwack on the palm, please. Be gentle, I have low pain tolerance."

Javier was honestly powerless against her. He was both exasperated and amused. Finally, he patted Jade on the head. "Forget it. I'll think of something. I said I'd be the bad guy, didn't I?"

Chapter 75 From Now On, Address Me as Chairman

There was no use reporting Victor's scam to the police. The fact that he had resorted to such a tactic meant that he would be careful to not leave any evidence behind. Moreover, he had a letter that stated Catherine had willingly transferred the shares.

After sending Jade home to placate Catherine, Javier sat by the road, lit up a cigarette, and contemplated the matter.

This was close to a crisis. Victor originally held 31% of the shares. After conning Catherine of her 13 % today, he now held 44% in total. If he managed to secure another 7%, he would gain absolute authority.

And getting his hands on another 7% would be no challenge at all. He could gather that amount just by taking a little from each of the other four old-timers.

Seeing that they were pressed for time and regular tactics would be futile, Javier decided to stray away from the righteous path. (This novel will be daily updaed at www.noveljar.com)He fished out his phone and dialed Herschel's number.

"The woman Victor Dowding abducted this afternoon was similar to Jade in build. They should be around the same age as well. Her abdomen was hit by wooden sticks. Go to the hospitals and quickly search for such a woman."

As Javier gave Herschel these instructions, Victor was rejoicing in his office.

Looking at the original share agreement he had and then at the updated agreement he had recently gained, he felt as if he could see everyone fervently addressing him as chairman when they came into work tomorrow.

Thinking of this scenario, he thought that he had finally reached the peak of his life!

"John Odell you old rat. You've suppressed your entire life and I'm now finally standing up. Come back and hold me down again if you can! Come snatch the shares I now possess if you can! F*ck you. Look, all your efforts finally belong to me-to Dowding Corporation! Haha!

"And Jade, you little b*tch, run back to your mama and cry your heart out. Once I get the remaining 7% of shares from the other four old men, I'll have the final say. Tomorrow, I'll become the new chairman!"

Thinking about how he was finally going to become the chairman tomorrow, Victor could not help the electrifying thrill that coursed through him. Already on cloud nine, he could not hold himself back from calling Javier.

"Javier, women are such a naive bunch. I don't want to negotiate with them. Today, I'll talk to you.

"I'm sure you know that I have Catherine's 13% of shares under my belt.

"You're a smart guy. Go persuade Jade for me and have her transfer the other 13% she has to me.(This novel will be daily updaed at www.noveljar.com) I'll send the mother and daughter pair an appropriate amount of money each year after that. I promise that they won't starve!"

Javier had not expected Victor to call him. How insolent was this man?

He scoffed, "Victor Dowding, don't you have any shame?"

The old man guffawed triumphantly. "That's a word that doesn't exist in a successful man's vocabulary."

Javier nodded. "Sure. Go on and rejoice. I'll refresh your vocabulary."

“There’s no way you’ll be able to,”

Victor had yet to finish when he heard the line being cut.

“Tch!” He clicked his tongue and tossed his phone onto the table.

Victor had not put much hope into this tactic anyway. Looks like he had to depend on his old pals for the last 7% of shares to cement his rise to power. And they did not disappoint. Some scattered 2 % and 1% of share transfers later, he really had accumulated enough.

When the shares Victor held finally reached 51%, his triumphant and smug guffaw filled the whole office...

That night, the “Jade” who Catherine had seen being beaten up in the video was found. Due to the time constraint, Herschel only managed to complete the list of tasks Javier had assigned to him at the break of dawn the next day.

When Herschel met up with Javier, he passed the man a large envelope. “Mr. Kersey, I’ve done everything you’ve asked.”

“Well done.”

As Javier patted Herschel’s shoulder and told him to head back and get some rest, he looked up at the tower that was Odello Corp.’s headquarters. The building was tall, but it was not as lofty as Victor’s wild ambition. The old man would probably be calling for the shareholders’ meeting today.

As Javier had expected, Victor sent out the memo just minutes past 10 am. The memo stated that he was calling for a meeting. Him. Not the quintet. It was a move to show that he could already call the shots!

In his office, Victor was rejoicing over his victory. (This novel will be daily updated at www.noveljar.com) He stroked his desk and rubbed his chair, mumbling to himself, “Goodbye partners! Now that I’m the chairman, you guys don’t deserve me anymore. I’m moving to a new office!”

With 51% of shares under him, Victor had already gone to the relevant departments and made the necessary arrangements at 8 am. What could stop him from becoming the chairman now? Even a divine power could not stop this from happening!

“Jade, Matthew, just you guys watch. When I’m officially titled the chairman, I’m going to kick you Odells out!”

As Victor reveled in his office, his secretary came in after knocking on the door.

“Vice GM Dowding, Mr. Ker-”

“Vice GM? Address me as Chairman Dowding from now on!”

Victor corrected the secretary’s incorrect term of address without allowing the latter to finish his sentence.

“You’re the chairman’s secretary from now on. Don’t make that mistake again!”

After warning the man, Victor cooed, “Say, you’ve got quite the luck. It took me painstaking effort and cautious planning to become the chairman. I’ve been quietly putting up with sh*t and devising strategies. Now, I’ve finally succeeded and yet you got promoted to the position of secretary to the chairman without lifting a finger.

“People even address the king’s dog as a noble. It’s true, isn’t it? You managed to rise through the ranks with me, you dog!”

Anyone would be pissed to be compared to a dog, but the secretary dared not show his disgruntlement and could only pander to Victor with a smile. He then cut to the chase. “Mr. Chairman, Javier Kersey is here. He says that he’d like to talk to you about the shares.”

“Ho, he was just calling me shameless and was asking me to refresh my vocabulary last night. What has gotten into him that he’s coming to beg me today?”

Tugging at his shirt collar in triumph, Victor waved. “Go, let him in. I’d like to chat with him and see if the word ‘shameless’ is in this loser’s vocab.”

At the older man’s instructions, the secretary went out and Javier appeared in Victor’s office shortly with an envelope in hand. Victor grinned at the sight of the thick envelope the young man was holding.

“Javier, you aren’t here to hand me Jade’s share transfer agreement, are you?”

Not wasting even a second to scoff at Javier, he tossed the envelope onto the table and went behind the old man. He unceremoniously shoved the older man and his chair to the side.

Sitting in his swivel chair, Victor was flummoxed. “No, wait. What are you doing, Javier?”

Said man did not provide any explanation, but instead turned on Victor’s computer and keyed in a n address. When the page loaded, a video began to play. It was a news clip from a local crime watch station. It reported that a woman had fallen over dead as she was walking by the side of the road.(This novel will be daily updtaed at www.noveljar.com) When the police arrived at the scene, the forensics team noted that the woman’s cause of death was due to severe injuries to her internal organs. It was said that she had been violently attacked before her death.

The news clip showed the police taping off the location and a photo of the woman. Victor’s eyes widened at the video and nearly bulged out their sockets.

Chapter 76 The Loudest Person Gets the Final Say

Javier leisurely sat before the desk and lit up a stick. Then, he took down the “no smoking’ sign by the side.

Javier turned around to look at Victor, who was still focused on the computer screen before him.” Show’s over. You can stop looking at it now.”

Victor finally regained his senses but pretended to remain calm. “Why would you show me this piece of sh*t news? Do you think I’ve got a lot of time on my hands?!”

“Sh*t news? I can’t tell though...”

Javier handed Victor a coffee mug as he spoke.

Meanwhile, Victor stared at the mug as Javier flicked the ashes from his cigarette into it without a shred of emotion on his face.

After that, Javier pointed at the file on the desk. "It's inside, take a look for yourself."

"I don't know what's inside though."

Even so, Victor pondered for about 30 seconds, before he could not contain his curiosity any longer and picked up the file.

When he saw the contents, Javier continued to speak.

"Yesterday afternoon, a guy by the name of Robert was instructed by his father to meet Reena, a hostess. He was asked to strike a deal with her and that she would receive 800 dollars if she helped him with a skit and have it filmed.

"Of course, Reena very readily agreed and followed Robert to a warehouse.

"Inside, Reena changed into some clothes Robert had prepared beforehand. Then, she was tied to a chair and a bag was placed over her head so that nobody would find out that she was an impostor.

"What happened next was Reena being beaten with wooden sticks and some people pouring water over the bag covering her face, seeming as though they were about to drown her alive.

"After the video was recorded, Reena felt an intense pain in her abdomen and required medical attention. So, Robert paid her an extra 800 dollars but neglected to send her to the hospital. Instead, he asked his subordinate to drive her away.

"That very afternoon, Reena was found unconscious by the roadside. Yeap, it's the very scene you saw in the video where police were swarming toward the scene."

Javier paused for a moment and took a look at Victor, who was reading the documents in his hand.

Beads of cold sweat were rolling down his forehead, his face turning pale. He seemed to have just suffered from a tremendous shock.

Javier then continued, "I've looked into the matter, and...what I found interesting was that you've also got a son called Robert, Mr. Dowding. On top of that, he's your only son. So... Don't you think this is all too much of a coincidence?"

Victor remained silent, but his hands that were holding the file began to tremble. He wanted to conceal the terror in his eyes, but he ultimately failed. The file contained a will which was penned by Reena before she passed away...

'I received an invitation from Victor Dowding of Odello Corp. to work together with his son, Robert Dowding, to film a video in exchange for 800 dollars... If I don't return by 5 pm today, please file a police report on my behalf.

-Reena.'

Javier took another puff of his cigarette and continued, "Strictly speaking, that's not her will, but a letter she's left to a friend that's renting a place together with her. At the time, she thought that Reena had no choice but to convey this message through a letter because she had had too much to drink that afternoon.

"However, I don't find all of this important anymore. What's important is that this is evidence enough for the police to investigate this as a homicide case. What do you think, Mr. Dowding?"

Victor began to panic. As he sat in his chair, he had no clue as to what to do. Everything that Javier had said was true, except for the part where Reena had died, which he had not expected.

In a panic, he fished out his cell phone and wanted to call Robert to question him about the matter. In the end, all he met was the busy tone from the other end of the line.

From next to his desk, Javier smiled and said, "Are you trying to call Robert? Forget it, you won't be able to get through. He's still my prisoner at the moment. How do you think I found out about him paying Reena an extra 800 dollars?"

Victor was truly panicking now! He did not know what he should do. His lifelong dream was to become the chairman. However, he did not want to be caught by the police, nor did he want his son to be sentenced to death for manslaughter!

Thus, he hurriedly looked toward Javier and said in a trembling voice, "Mr. Kersey, please forgive the both of us! Based on the fact that you're here in my office, I'm sure you're here to negotiate, right? Please, I'll do anything, just don't tell the police it was us!"

'Looks like he's still smart despite his age... He's able to figure out the reason why I'm here very quickly.' Javier thought to himself.

Without beating around the bush any longer, Javier said, "All right then, since you seem to be very sincere, let's get right down to business.

"From what I understand, you've already gotten hold of 51% of Odello Corp.'s shares. What I want from you is rather simple actually... I want you to transfer all 51% unconditionally to Jade. And—"

Victor stomped his foot and stood up before Javier could even finish.

He then roared and said, "Impossible! There's no way I'll agree to this! You can forget about it!!"

To Victor, the fact that he possessed 51% of the company's shares was enough for him to achieve his lifelong dream of becoming chairman.

So how could he possibly be willing to give it up so easily when the title of chairman was right in front of him?!

Seeing how Victor was roaring like a raging tiger, Javier did not intend on having a shouting contest with him. Instead, he merely tucked the document back into the file.

"Fine, I suppose the loudest person gets the final say. Happy now? I'll take this to the police, while you go ahead and be the chairman as you've wanted to be for so long. That'll be all!"

After that, Javier stood up and was about to leave, while Victor panicked even more.

“Mr. Kersey, Mr. Kersey... Please wait! Let’s...let’s talk about this some more...”

This is proof enough that the person with the loudest voice does not always win.

During the entire conversation after that, Victor no longer raised his voice and kept on trying to flatter Javier.

He first promised to pay Javier 12.5 million dollars in cash and assured him that he would arrange for Javier to become the company’s second-in-command.

After failing to “entice” Javier with all sorts of counteroffers, Victor agreed to give Javier 20% of the shares he held as a final resort.

However, Javier merely snorted in disdain at all of those offers.

In the end, he gave Victor his ultimatum. “51% of the shares you hold unconditionally transferred to Jade in return for your clean break. The only way you’ll be able to get out of this is by leaving the Odello Corporation.”

Victor was still hesitating at that point. ‘It’s taken me my whole life just to get my hands on these shares! It’s my lifelong dream to become the chairman!!!

“Forget it! On second thought, I’d actually prefer seeing both you and your son go up in flames. See you in your next life!”

Javier was just about to leave after their negotiation had broken down, and Victor finally broke down mentally “All right! I’ll have it transferred, okay?! I’ll do it... I’ll transfer it all to her...”

Chapter 77 You’re Literally God!

Victor was in tears at this point, the drops running down his face.

Throughout his entire life, Victor had come up with all sorts of dirty tricks and underhanded tactics, all so that he could become the chairman! Alas, when the shares were finally in his hands and the chairman’s title was just within inches of his grasp, all he could do was give it away with open arms. He felt aggrieved, but there was nothing he could do about it since he could only choose his life over money when he knew he was going to be delivered to death’s doorstep should he refuse. Victor did not want to live out the rest of his days in prison, nor did he want his son to be sentenced to death.

Thus, that was the only option that remained for him. 1

After another ten minutes, Victor and Javier had visited the relevant department to have all of the shares he held unconditionally transferred to Jade.

And that was not all. Javier even brought Victor to the notary to have his statement filmed, an agreement that states that he was willingly transferring the shares to Jade. In essence, he was reenacting everything he had done when he conned Catherine the day before.

After everything was done, Victor and Javier returned to the office.

Victor could no longer hold back his tears when he looked at his former desk and utensils on it, all of which were very familiar to him.

Previously, he had told his former colleagues that he was going to the chairman's office and bade his farewell. Moreover, he mocked how his former colleagues were all beneath him.

Now...he was not even worthy of being their former colleague anymore.

After Javier had put away all of the documents including the contract to have Victor's shares transferred into a file, he turned around and was about to leave when Victor suddenly rushed forward and grabbed his arm.

"Where's my son? Let him go right now! I've already done everything you've asked, so let him go!"

It was only then that Javier thought about the matter. "Oh! You mean Robert? I lied. He's not my prisoner. I had a few people prank call him a few times, and he very quickly lost his cool and turned off his cell phone. That was quite cooperative of him actually. Are you feeling frustrated now?"

Victor was stunned for a moment. 'Hang on... I clearly used this very same tactic against Jade yesterday...'

"This can't be right... How did you find out about him paying Reena an extra 800 dollars if you didn't capture my son?!"

Javier replied with a serious expression, "Reena's the one who told me that!"

Victor was even more dumbfounded at that point. "She told you that?! Isn't she dead?!"

Javier asked in return, "Why would you actually believe that she's dead just because I told you so?"

Victor could not wrap his head around the many questions he had in his head. He pointed to the computer and asked, "But isn't it on the news?"

Javier was rendered speechless. "Come on, Mr. Dowding... Work that old brain of yours for a while... 150 dollars is all it takes to have a fake video uploaded onto a fake website. Go ahead and try opening up that website now. You won't even be able to get in because it was only a temporary website."

Victor let go of Javier and rushed toward the computer, making it very hard to believe that an agile old man like him was actually more than 60 years old.

Upon trying to refresh the website he had opened a while ago and realizing that it was no longer valid, Victor finally realized that everything Javier had just said was true.

Sitting lifelessly on the chair, Victor remained stunned for so long that he did not even notice that Javier had left.

After five minutes, Victor suddenly let out a hysterical roar, "Javier Kersey! How dare you f*cking trick me?!!"

Victor poured over the entire situation and realized that everything Javier had said was true, except for the fake video he had created.

Javier very clearly contacted Reena and had her go along with his act. Even the police were hired actors as well!

'A fake video, prank calls, writing an agreement stating that I'm willingly transferring the shares I have... All of these were tactics I had just used yesterday?!

'This is entirely a trap of my own design, and Javier's ended up using it all against me!

'I was the one who came up with that smoking gun and conned that stupid woman of the 13% she had. And Javier just comes along and uses my exact strategy to con me of my 51%!

Victor had the sudden urge to murder Javier at that point.

"Javier... You shameless b*stard! F*ck you!!!"

Words filled with hatred and helplessness poured from Victor's mouth, but he somehow forgot that he was the one who said that the words "shameless" did not exist in his dictionary!

His fury rising the more he thought about the situation, he slammed the desk and stood up. But in the very next second, he suddenly sat back on his chair and his body began convulsing! His mouth and his eyes twitched as he foamed at the mouth.

Five minutes passed before the secretary found him.

Victor had suffered from an acute stroke and was very fortunate to still be alive when he was sent to the hospital. However, he would remain paralyzed forever, confined to a bed, and was no longer able to speak.

This was the second time the shareholders' meeting had failed to be conducted ever since Mr. John's disappearance,

Nobody knew why Victor suddenly had a stroke. At the same time, Matthew gloated and said that it was karma that got to him.

The four of the remaining elders out of the five-man group glared at Matthew, who did not look afraid at all. Instead, he pointed at the four elders and said, "You're getting a stroke, you're getting a stroke, you're getting a stroke, you're also getting a stroke! Your entire five-man group is going to end up getting strokes together, hahaha!"

One of the elders almost blew his top when he heard this.

Javier and Jade walked in right at that moment

Feeling curious, Jade asked, "Victor had always looked very healthy, so why would he suddenly have a stroke?"

Javier replied, "Due to anger."

"Anger?" Confused, Jade tried to pursue the topic, but Javier did not reply to her. Instead, he handed her the file and said, "I believe it's your birthday tomorrow, so here's your birthday present."

'What's with this sudden gift? True, it's my birthday tomorrow, but that's not what I'm talking about right now!

Subconsciously, Jade took the file and was still about to ask who it was that drove Victor so angry to the point that he had suffered a stroke, but Javier interjected before she was able to speak. "Open it."

Jade opened it up and took out the documents inside.

Instantly, she noticed the agreement that stated Victor had unconditionally transferred all 51% of shares he held in Odello Corp. to her, leaving Jade completely dumbfounded. In fact, she forgot how to breathe for a moment.

Unable to believe her eyes, she hurriedly took out the other documents...

After confirming that Victor had indeed transferred all 51% of his shares in Odello Corp to her, Jade's face turned slightly purple when she finally started to breathe again. Also, due to the blow to her nerves, her breathing was labored, which was obvious by the rise and fall of her chest.

"I-IS... Is this really happening?!"

Javier nodded his head with a smile. "Of course this is happening. You've got the notary's proof right there, so Victor won't be able to regret and take back his decision even if he wanted to."

Jade looked over the documents again, spending a whole ten minutes going through every single detail on the agreement. But she still could not believe her eyes. "But... How did you pull this off?!"

Javier merely smiled and made it seem as though it had not been too difficult.

However, to Jade, she was witnessing a miracle... No... A divine intervention!

"Oh my God! You're awesome, Javier! Thank you, you're literally God right now!!!"

At that moment, Jade was so excited that she could almost feel herself losing control. She wanted to hug Javier and then give him a fierce kiss!

However, this had nothing to do with romance. She merely thought that Javier was so powerful that he had already reached God-tier!

While Jade did not know what she should do due to her excitement, Javier chuckled and said, "All right, calm down now. Be careful not to become the sixth person to get a stroke. We still have to host the shareholders' meeting for the third time!"

Of course, the agenda for the third shareholders meeting was... To announce Odello Corp's newly appointed chairwoman!

Chapter 78 The Queen Finally Gets on Her Throne

That afternoon, Jade called for a shareholders meeting for the third time.

Everyone felt very unhappy about this and wondered if Jade had been touched in the head. She clearly knows that Victor's currently in the hospital, so why is she calling for a shareholders meeting at a time like this?'

Many did not want to attend, but they all still attended because of the fact that Jade expressed there was something important she wanted to announce during the meeting.

"It doesn't matter how important this announcement is. Victor's still lying in the hospital right now, so this meeting would be no better than a formal courtesy!"

"Let's see how it goes. If it's something beneficial to us, we'll just support her and vote for her motion to proceed."

"You're right. If it's not beneficial to us, Jade might as well forget even trying..."

The four elders from the five-man group were muttering as they discussed and entered the conference room. They were completely in the belief that they held the winning hand and were going to be the ultimate winner no matter what the cards played out! They thought that Jade was just a poor old miser holding onto a sh*t hand and not knowing what she should be doing with the minuscule amount of shares she had in Odello Corp.

"Calling for a shareholders' meeting my foot... Do you even know why meetings like these are called for? F*cking hell!" Matthew entered the conference room, curses spewing from his mouth.

He then immediately spotted Jade sitting at the chairman's seat. The chairman's seat was actually about the same size as everyone else's, but it was located at a very obvious location for everyone to notice. Jade was sitting at the most powerful seat around the oval table, which was a pain to Matthew's eyes.

touched in the head? Who gave you the authority to sit in that chair?!"

After Matthew scolded her, the four elders joined in as well, reprimanding Jade for being unruly and downright rude.

"Even Victor, who holds the highest percentage of this company's shares, doesn't have the nerve to take up that seat, so who do you think you are?!"

"Exactly! Now get out of that seat!"

All four elders did not have any fear of offending Jade since they already knew that Victor was holding onto 51% of the shares. On top of that, Odello Corp. was going to soon become Dowding Corp., so there was no reason for them to be afraid of a naive little girl anymore.

Finally, as the four elders and Matthew hurled all sorts of insults, Jade stood up from her seat. However, she had no intention of moving aside. Instead, she had her secretary distribute the documents she had in her hand. When everyone received a copy, Jade finally spoke up.

"I've sent out word to inform all of you beforehand that I've got a very important announcement to make this afternoon, but it seems like none of you believe me very much. No worries, go ahead and open up the documents you have before you and we'll talk when you're all done."

After that, Jade sat back on the chairman's seat once again.

This time, none of the other people present could be bothered with her seating arrangement anymore. They all wanted to see just what she had that allowed her to behave so arrogantly.

Thus, they picked up the document and began reading it.

It was only a very short moment before they all had the same intriguing expression on their faces -which were shock, dumbfounded, and disbelief...

However, all of their expressions carried the same question... 'Jade's become the largest shareholder?!

All four elders were confused. "Why would Victor give away all 51% of his shares to Jade? Has he gone mad?!

Matthew was also very confused about this new revelation... 'Jade's now got 64% of the company's shares in her hand?! Where in the world did she get it from?!

The four elders privately muttered something for a moment until one of them finally raised his doubts..

This is a fake! I'm sure you're bluffing that you're holding onto this many shares! You're definitely taking advantage of the fact that Victor isn't able to speak and pulling out numbers from thin air!"

Matthew did not believe Jade as well. "I've only got 26% shares on me, so where could you possibly have conned that many shares from? You're lying!"

Jade could not be bothered to waste her time explaining herself and directly had her secretary play the video.

In the video, Victor was sitting before a notary as he very clearly and seriously uttered each word very carefully, 'I, Victor Dowding, hereby willingly transfer all 51% of my shares in Odello Corp. to Jade Odell unconditionally..."

After the video ended, all four of the elders and Matthew were completely dumbfounded. They leaned back into their chairs, unable to utter even a single word.

They had just been given solid proof that Jade was not bluffing them, and that she really did hold 64% of the company's shares at that moment.

The percentage she held was even higher than what Mr. John held when he had been chairman!

Jade then knocked the table with her knuckles to attract their attention before she asked, "So, is there anyone here who still objects to me being in this seat?"

She sounded very calm, but the authority in her voice was absolute and unchallengeable!

All five of them in the conference room now understood that the important thing Jade wanted to announce that afternoon was the appointment of the new chairperson.

Silenced, all four of the elders knew that their only option at that moment was to remain silent, even though they could not understand why Victor would give away his shares to her out of the blue.

Matthew could not utter a single word as well, but there were countless thoughts running through his mind.

'Why? Why? Why???' Jade's just a naive little woman, so why is she able to keep on rising to the top no matter how hard I try to squash her? Now, look! She's managed to make a huge reversal of her situation and has now even become chairwoman!'

However, Matthew was just like the elders and could only remain silent, no matter how unhappy he was about this sudden revelation.

After taking a look at the five people before her, Jade once again spoke up. "Right then, since nobody's got any objection to me being the new chairwoman, I'll now speak to all of you as such."

She looked at the four elders and continued, "Seeing how you four are already seniors, I suggest you all go ahead and retire of your own accord. I'll have people take over your duties later, so all four of you can enjoy your retired lives at home starting from tomorrow."

"What?!" One of the elders immediately sat upright after Jade made that announcement to voice his objection and doubt. "It's true that you're now the chairwoman, but you have no right to make us leave without proper grounds. We might be minor shareholders, but we're still shareholders nonetheless!"

Jade waved her hand and her secretary brought out a few documents to the four elders which contained nothing else but evidence of their embezzlement, corruption, and many of their other wrongdoings.

No matter how well they tried to cover their tracks, they were obviously no match for the top notched financial hacker that Javier had hired.

When Javier handed over these documents to Jade, she knew that it was time for the old foxes to pack their bags and f*ck off.

Looking at the four of them, Jade continued, "You all now have two options left. One, go back home and live the rest of your days in retirement. Or two... You four should know where I'm going with this by now."

The four elders looked at each other and could see the helplessness and dejection in their eyes.

They all knew that their five-man group had now come to an end, and they should be counting their lucky stars that they're still being allowed to return home to live out the rest of their lives in peace.

Finally, all four of them silently nodded their heads, acknowledging that they would leave the company for good.

After dealing with the four of them, Jade turned to look at Matthew, who suddenly felt panicked all of a sudden.

He knew that Jade was no longer the same woman he could insult and criticize like he used to anymore. Instead, she had somehow grown so strong that she was now able to disband the five man group and even become the queen of the Odello Corporation.

This very queen was now powerful enough to even have him killed should she wish!

Thus, Matthew was frightened for his life! He was afraid that he was going to end up the same as the four elders.

Sure enough, Jade did indeed have a document in her hands that contained evidence of Matthew's illegal activities within the company.

And now, he was entirely at her mercy. All she had to do was raise her hand and throw the document out to sentence Matthew to death!