

The Ace at the Apex

## **Chapter 79 Celebrating Two Happy Occasions in One Night, Maybe Even More...**

“I’m sorry, I just couldn’t bring myself to kick Matthew out of the company...”

Jade’s face was filled with embarrassment while Javier was driving her home.

Taking a good look at her expression, Javier chuckled and said, “It’s all right, you’re a very kind woman by nature, so it’s very normal for you to not have done so.”

Jade did not know if she was truly being kind or plain stupid. Matthew had clearly done all sorts of things toward her in the past, yet Jade somehow thought of her grandfather at that crucial moment, about how Matthew was his only son, and how her grandfather might feel very sad if he found out that she had kicked Matthew out of the company.

“Since I’m the chairwoman, I think Matthew probably won’t dare do anything stupid even if he wants to, so...”

Javier nodded his head. “Yeap, I understand. It’s all right.”

However, although Javier was comforting Jade, his acceptance of her explanation was another matter directly.

After all, once a snake, always a snake... Just because a person gave it warmth did not mean that it would be grateful and not bite.

However, Javier did not think of Jade’s hesitation as a bother. Perhaps to a child, it would be a serious matter if the doll they were playing with had a broken leg. However, to an adult, all that needed to be done was to put in a few new screws or something simple like that.

To Javier, Matthew was the same as the doll whom he could leave alone and repair if found broken at any time.

In fact, Matthew had indeed begun to come up with more stupid ideas at that moment.

Right after he left the company, he went to look for Neve and Zayn. The young man was spewing flames when they met.

“Why is this happening?! My old man has already left 26% of his shares to Jade, and Victor even gave more of his to her as well. That f\*cking idiot!!! Now look at what’s happened! Jade’s now holding 64% shares in total and is now the largest shareholder, earning her the right to become the chairwoman!

“But how could she possibly be capable or even eligible of being the chairperson? I’m John Odell’s only son!”

Zayn merely sneered when he saw how angry Matthew was as he lashed out.

“Do you think you should very naturally become the chairman just because you’re the only son? Don’t you think it’s a little preposterous?”

Zayn was actually very unhappy that Jade had silently taken in Victor's shares and become the chairwoman, but he was also in awe of Matthew, who managed to play a perfectly good hand with an ultimate winning chance to a huge flop.

In fact, Zayn mercilessly insulted Matthew over this...

Meanwhile, Neve, who was witnessing her own father being insulted, could not sit back and do anything anymore. She gently shook Zayn's arm and said, "Please help my Dad, Zayn!"

"It's Mr. Dunham to you! Where do you get off calling me by my name?"

Neve originally thought that had a much closer relationship with Zayn since the two of them had already slept together a few times. But to her surprise, all Zayn saw her as was nothing but a tool for him to vent his frustrations whenever he felt like it.

Even though Neve was unhappy about her current situation, there was nothing she could do about it since Zayn was her family's only hope of being able to make a comeback. Thus, she forced down the humiliation she felt and pleaded. "Please, Mr. Dunham. Would you please help us?"

Zayn slapped away Neve's hand that was clinging onto his arm. "She's already become the chairwoman, so there's nothing else I can do anymore!"

Neve continued to beg, and even Matthew had discarded his ego and said, "Please help us, Mr. Dunham!"

It was not until Matthew had lowered his ego and beg that Zayn finally spoke up.

"Fine! Since you all aren't happy about how things have developed, you're all left with one final option now. You should all do this and that..."

It was Jade's birthday the next day, but she did not want to host a birthday party due to her grandfather's disappearance. On top of that, she had just taken over Odello Corp., so there was a whole load of work for her to look into, leaving her no luxury to waste any time either.

Thus, Jade finally decided to celebrate two happy occasions in one night-her becoming the chairman and her birthday.

Javier did not have any objections to her decision, so both he and Jade did not return home for dinner that night and went out instead.

Jade was the one who paid for that night's dinner as a token of appreciation for all the help Javier had given her thus far.

During dinner, she said, "Seriously Javier, thank you very much. You've been helping me this entire time all the way from when our investments failed, to the quarterly deal, to Matthew forcing me to get married to Victor to remain in power, until I've become the chairwoman. Tonight's dinner will be a token of my appreciation for you!"

Javier smiled. "Don't you think you're being a little cheap by using this as a token of appreciation? How about...you fulfill the additional condition from our initial bet?"

Jade's face instantly turned red with embarrassment when Javier brought up their old case. "You jerk!"

After being coquettish for a moment, Jade hurriedly ate her food. The flush on her face spread all the way to her earlobes. In fact, even her fair neck seemed slightly reddish...

After dinner, Javier and Jade took a casual stroll through the streets, which made them look very much like a pair of lovers having a leisurely walk. When they passed by the park next to the river, neither of them said anything and entered at the same time.

As they walked through the grassy fields, the both of them chatted casually as they walked aimlessly until they arrived at the river. There was a yacht decorated with colorful lights, which caused Jade, who was in an extremely good mood, to revert back to her child-like self for a moment.

"How about we take a ride on that boat, Javier? It's been a really long time since I've been on one."

There were yachts, animal-shaped paddleboats, and even jet skis for rent by the river.

Not objecting to Jade's suggestion, Javier immediately looked for the owner of the place to rent a yacht, but Jade obviously preferred the animal-shaped paddleboats more.

"Sure, whatever you say, birthday girl. Also, you're the chairwoman, so you've got the final say!"

Javier gave in to Jade's wishes and the both of them got onto a paddleboat and skimmed across the surface of the water.

They enjoyed the gentle breeze as they listened to the laughter around them while enjoying the view of the hustling and bustling nightlife of the city. They were both having the time of their lives.

The only thing that seemed out of place was that there was a young couple riding on a jet-ski, driving around at high speed as they yelled at the top of their lungs.

Javier could understand their actions since they were young and hot-blooded people who wanted to feel free.

However, what he could not understand was why the couple on the jet-ski was driving it toward their paddleboat!

paddleboats solely relied on manual labor to move and had very bad turning speeds, so it was obviously not as nimble as a jet ski.

As the jet-ski got closer and closer to them, Javier finally understood what was happening... The couple on the jet-ski was having an argument, so neither of them was paying attention to what was happening.

'They seemed pretty happy just a moment ago, so what's with this sudden argument?'

Javier then dropped his focus on them and turned to his legs that were paddling with all their might, while Jade was also doing the same. In fact, she even kicked off her high heels to paddle better.

However, despite their best efforts, the jet-ski still sped past them with a whoosh.

The paddleboat began shaking violently because of the waves caused by the jet-ski and was about to topple over. Meanwhile, Jade went along with the motion and was about to jump into the water.

Fortunately, Javier was quick-witted and managed to grab onto her arm, forcefully dragging her back before she fell out.

However, because of how hard he had pulled onto her, he pulled Jade's entire body toward him, while her red full lips coincidentally landed on Javier's lips as well.

The both of them looked at each other and immediately regained their senses after the coincidental kiss.

Even though the boat was rocking pretty violently, neither of them seemed to be paying it any attention because they could only see each other in their eyes...

After almost ten seconds, Jade's face suddenly turned red and was about to break free from the kiss.

However, in the next moment, Javier's strong arm wrapped itself around her slender waist, stopping her from breaking free.

Javier's hot passionate lips went in for another kiss at Jade's sexy little lips once more.

This time, Jade did not try to break free anymore. Instead, she closed her ice-cold eyes out of reflexes.

### **Chapter 80 Get the F\*ck Out of Here, You Mutt!**

After the kiss, the young couple came over to apologize to them. As young and wild as they were, they were still polite people.

Javier and Jade both said that it was all right and the both of them played for a while longer before they went back to land.

At that moment, Jade, who had been embarrassed the entire time, said that it was getting late and that they should be heading back. Javier agreed as well, so they left the park and returned to their car before heading back to Jade's house.

However, just as Javier parked the car in the courtyard, Jade said shyly, "I don't think it's appropriate for you to stay at my place anymore."

Javier laughed and asked, "What's the matter? Are you cutting me off now that I'm no longer useful to you?"

Jade hurriedly waved her hands. "No, of course not! Of course that's not what I meant, but it really has become inappropriate for you to live at my place.

"I could even buy you a house if you'd like, and then... Aah! Anyway, it's just inappropriate for you to carry on living with me anymore!"

Bright red with embarrassment, Jade hurriedly rushed inside her house after she said that. (This novel will be daily updated at [www.noveljar.com](http://www.noveljar.com)) Just the thought of explaining it any further would have made her feel even more embarrassed.

The two of them were not in any kind of relationship and had a strictly professional relationship thus far, so there was nothing for them to worry about. However, they had kissed that night, so.. Jade thought that the professional relationship they had had now completely broken down!

Javier could tell what Jade was thinking, so he did not think too much about it.

'Well, I suppose it really is time for me to get my own place now. It isn't right for a man to keep on living here since it's only her and her mother living here.'

Thus, Javier thought of the kind of house that he wanted to buy and went straight for it.

The next day, Javier took some time off from work and headed out to look at some houses.

Odello Corp. was located in a different area compared to Beacon Tires, so the places that had not seemed suitable at the time now became viable options.

For that afternoon, Javier had set his eyes on a house, a second-hand duplex unit that was exquisitely renovated. Although it was second-hand, the owner of the house said they purchased it about half a year ago. After it was renovated, the owner had bought all the furniture and had someone remove all traces of formaldehyde as well.

However, the owner was afraid that the formaldehyde might not have been completely removed and it might end up affecting their son and daughter-in-law's baby in the future. Thus, they had deliberately left the place empty for half a year to allow the formaldehyde to evaporate naturally

before moving in.

However, unexpectedly, the owner's business had gone south and the son had broken up with his fiancée. On top of that, the owner was drowning in debt, so they had no choice but to sell that brand new house as a second-hand unit.

However, it was exactly because of this that the house was in hot demand, with many of those who had viewed it complimenting non-stop.

"I've already received quite a number of offers, so if you really like the place, I suggest you put down your down payment first."

The salesman standing next to Javier kept on talking about the house to give Javier a feel of the place before he finally said that.

In fact, the salesman even took out his notebook and showed Javier the list of clients that had viewed the house, afraid that Javier might not believe him.

\*I'm serious, take a look for yourself. (This novel will be daily updated at [www.noveljar.com](http://www.noveljar.com)) These are all the serious buyers who intend on buying this place, they.."

Just as the salesman was about to say something, Javier waved his hand and said, 'I don't need to know all this, nor do I need to put down any down payment. I'm going to head upstairs to take a look at the rooms. If I'm happy with it, I'll pay you the full sum this afternoon.'

The salesman was instantly all smiles the moment he heard this.

'This house is seriously in-demand right now, so I've been really worried that my other colleagues might end up getting the sale first, which was why I thought of having him pay a down payment first.'

'But... I've come across a rich guy this time! This is a 300-thousand-dollar house, but he's going to pay the full sum today if he likes the place!'

Javier headed upstairs along with the salesman, who was serving him in a very friendly manner.

'Hmm... Not bad... Both the bedrooms and the study have got good natural lighting, and there's a gym to the north of here.'

'Also, the paint job and the furniture in his place are all of high-quality, unlike some subpar places.'

That was just the first house Javier had looked at, but he was ready to make his decision without even looking at others.

"Okay, I'll

However, before he could even finish, someone suddenly opened the door downstairs, followed by some people having a conversation. Judging by the conversation, it would seem as though the owner of the house had personally brought someone to take a look at the place.

The salesman hurriedly went downstairs and met up with the owner, who was a woman. "Miss, you can't do this. You've already handed this place over to us to sell on your behalf, so you really shouldn't be bringing guests here to have a look..."

Before the owner of the house could even say anything, the beautiful woman standing next to her suddenly spoke up. "You yap too much... You just want your intermediary fees, right? Is eight thousand dollars enough? If not, I'll pay you all 16 thousand dollars. So shut up and stop wasting my time."

'Wow... This is my first time seeing such a generous customer...'

Since the woman had already promised to pay 16 thousand dollars for the intermediary fees, of course, the salesman would not say anything more.

Meanwhile, Javier, who was upstairs, did not think that this beautiful woman was being generous, but arrogant.

However, he did not think she was arrogant purely because she offered to pay 16 thousand dollars as the intermediary fees, but because of her prior actions.

'Heh, it's Neve, Matthew's daughter... She's here to look at this house as well, eh? What a coincidence..'

The sound of Javier's footsteps heading downstairs gave Neve a scare, who then realized that it was Javier.

She was startled for a moment, obviously not expecting to see Javier there. However, she quickly let out a mocking smile.

“Heh, if it isn’t Jade’s loyal mutt and driver. What are you doing here? Looking for a house for your owner?”

Javier could not be bothered to argue with Neve since it wouldn’t be glorious anyway. Worse, he would be embarrassed should he lose to her.

‘There’s no need for me to waste my time with dogs that are all bark and no bite!

With that sentiment in mind, Javier did not pay Neve any attention and went to the salesman directly. (This novel will be daily updated at [www.noveljar.com](http://www.noveljar.com))“I’ll take it, Let’s go make the payment.”

The salesman was on cloud nine at that point! After all, this was a buyer he had brought in, so he was going to earn an even higher commission from this sale!

With a bright smile on his face, he said, “Of course, sir! Let’s head back right away.”

After that, Javier even greeted the owner of the house and told her that she did not need to show the place to anyone else since he was now going to buy it.

Of course, the owner of the place was pretty happy because all she cared about was the fact that she was going to be receiving money which she desperately needed at that moment, so she did not care who the buyer was at all.

However, there was someone who was unhappy, and that person was none other than Neve who had just arrived.

She had recently entered a relationship with Zayn and would occasionally be involved in some compromising activities with him, so it would not be convenient for her to live at home.

This was why she wanted to buy another house, but she would have to renovate it if it was new and someone would have already lived there before if it was a second-hand unit. Thus, this very unit would have been the perfect fit.

In the end, the house ended up being sold to Javier before she could even finish taking a look at the place.

‘I may not be able to deal with Jade, but I refuse to believe that I can’t deal with a mutt!’

Neve very unhappily said, “Hold it right there! Who the hell do you think you are, trying to take away the place that I’ve set my sights on?!”

Without even going upstairs to take a look, Neve did not want to feel humiliated, so she asked the salesman, “How much is this place?”

The salesman refused to answer because he would not have received any commission should Neve buy the place.

However, the owner of the house did not have that kind of worry, so she said, “It’s 397 thousand dollars. If you pay in full today, I’ll give you a seven thousand dollar discount.”

Neve snorted. "Who the hell do you think I am? Why would you think I'd be bothered about a discount?"

Neve took out a credit card from her handbag and handed it to the salesman directly.

"I'll throw in another sum and pay the owner here 405 thousand dollars in total. Also, go ahead and take 16 thousand dollars as your intermediary fees."

That was not all, Neve even took out her cell phone and said, "Give me your bank account number, I'll wire you three thousand dollars right now as your commission."

'Wow... She's seriously rich!' Both the owner of the house and the salesman were dumbfounded. (This novel will be daily updated at [www.noveljar.com](http://www.noveljar.com)) She's definitely not that old, but she's really loaded!

Seeing how both the salesman and the owner of the house were all smiles, Neve turned to look at Javier with a gloat.

"Get the f\*ck out of here, you mutt! Go stroll wherever you want! What made you think you could take away the house that I've set my eyes on, you fool!"

### **Chapter 81 Activating Pure Minted Mode**

Although Javier would usually not be bothered by such things, the woman was insistent on picking a fight

Standing at the door, Javier was quiet for a bit before he looked up at the roof.

\*All right, that's it. Stop looking around. What the f\*ck are you looking at anyway? No matter how much you look, it's my house, Get the hell out of here!"

Neve's voice rang out from behind Javier, but he ignored her. He was not longing for the house. He was just wondering how long it had been since he had acted, for lack of better words, like an

upstart.

He was 24 this year, no longer young and wild. By right, it would not be appropriate for him to behave so arrogantly. But if he did not seize the last bits of his youth and go wild, it would be even harder to do so when he grew older.

"Sure. If you want to play, I'll play," Javier said as he pulled out his palladium Messer card and handed it to the salesman, "470 thousand dollars for the house. I'll take it."

He then looked at Neve. "Come on, offer a higher price. Don't act like you don't know what this is all about. Hurry up."

It disgruntled Neve that Javier was heckling her while she was still dazed.

"Who the f\*ck are you looking down on while acting rich with Jade's stupid card? Who the f\*ck do you think you are?"

"I'll give you something better. Since you want to play, let's make it big. We'll do it at the real estate agency

“We’ll swipe the card with every increase of offer, lest somebody backs out of the bluff! Whoever loses will take off their pants and shake their \*ss on the street and shout ‘I’m a mutt of a driver’ three times.”

This brazen wager would have rendered most speechless. It seemed almost absurd that such a thing had been suggested by a beautiful woman.

Nonetheless, Neve was clear. She was not expecting to lose at all. Why else would the penalty be “a mutt of a driver?”

Javier instantly agreed, “Sure. If you want to shake you \*ss so badly, let’s do it.”

It was just throwing away some money. A game he had played during his childhood. He thought that it would be a good way to reminisce about his childhood fun.

Two cars—a Mercedes-Benz G63 and a Mustang 5.0T—zoomed toward the real estate agency with their engines roaring. They competed against each other to be in the lead. Javier was leading far ahead with his 2.6 ton 4.0T Mercedes-Benz G63 using his brilliant driving skills.

The infuriated Neve who could only rev the engine of her car as she lagged behind him and was unable to cut him. The only thing she could do was blare her car’s alarm at him throughout the journey. Instead of recognizing it as her lack of skills, she blamed the cars on the road with drivers so blind that was getting in her way.

When Neve arrived at the real estate agency, she got out of her car in a huff. “It’d be below me to get angry at a mutt of a driver. I’m going to make him pay first!”

No one said anything about getting angry, but she was being rather obnoxious by shouting about it. Javier ignored her and walked into the building together with the sales agent and the house owner.

When one of the members of finance joined them, the salesman asked for Javier’s card to be swiped according to what Javier had offered—470 thousand dollars—and have the receipt printed out.

Neve looked victorious when she saw that it was done, “I’ll watch how you’ll beg them to refund you later now that the payment is done!”

She declared generously after that, “Here, punch in 550 thousand dollars!”

The owner was overjoyed. She had not dared to fantasize about selling her house at a high price, but now she had managed to break even on the renovation fees and have some to spare. Life was wonderful!

As the receipt came out with a buzz, Neve looked at Javier challengingly.

“You’re a man, don’t be so impatient to take off your pants and shake your \*ss on the street. Give it another go if you’ve got balls.”

Javier scoffed. He had already decided to go big for another time. What could have possibly held him back?

“Put in another 150 thousand dollars for me.”

The finance staff was taken aback. Did the guy's family own a money-minting factory or something? Was this how people had fun nowadays?

Neve was shocked as well. She had just wanted to taunt Javier, not expecting to actually pull another 150 thousand dollars out of him. Now that the house had been hiked to 700 thousand dollars, she found the house not quite worth it as it had originally only been 390 thousand.

Despite that, she had her dignity to defend. She was the one who had asked to up the stakes too.

There was no way she would embarrass herself.

"Sure, throw in 150 thousand dollars for me too. It's just 850 thousand dollars in total. I don't lack this little sum."

Neve's tone took a haughty turn and brought her some much-needed confidence. Just as her self assurance rose, however, Javier spoke up again to crush it.

"Double that into 300 thousand dollars. Bring it up to 1.15 million dollars."

Javier sounded nonchalant and matter-of- as though he was just throwing away toilet paper he had used to wipe his behind.

Neve was startled. "Have you gone crazy? You dare play with that b\*tch Jade's money like this?"

Javier answered with a chuckle, "Why do you care? Go on if you have the money!"

Neve would have gone on a long time ago if she actually had the money. She only had about 1.25 million dollars in her and they were now already up to 1.15 million dollars.

Considering that Javier was just a lowly driver and Jade had only just become the chairwoman, they should not have that much money, Neve waved her hand in feigned calmness.

"I'll add a small 80 thousand dollars then. I wouldn't dare add too much, lest I scare you away."

What a drama queen! She would probably win an Oscar if she were to be nominated.

Neve should have just admitted that she did not have the money. Instead, she decided to bluff. Javier could care less to expose her, so he waved for the finance staff to continue with the payment.

Before he could call for another 300 thousand dollars, the finance staff behind the counter spoke to Neve, "Miss, your balance is insufficient."

Neve paused. "That's impossible. I have over 1.25 million dollars on that card. How could there be insufficient bal"

She paused abruptly as she had just recalled spending some tens of thousands of dollars to buy a suit from abroad in an attempt to please Zayn. Having spent the money, the balance on the card was no longer 1.25 million.

This was awkward. Neve had already declared her price. It would not do if she could not fulfill it.

“Why did I take this stupid card out today? I would’ve brought the 8 million dollars one if I’d known,” Neve muttered in pretense and waved her phone. “It’s fine. I’ll go make a call and have someone transfer more to the card!”

Slipping out of the finance room with the excuse of wanting to grab a smoke, Neve wasted no time in locating an empty spot and called Matthew. But as she tried over and over again, the call would not go through. Matthew was not one in the habit of switching his phone off!

Too pressed for time to contemplate over the matter, Neve called Zayn.

“Mr. Dunham, it’s an emergency. It’s quite urgent and I need 800 thousand dollars. Could you please send it to me-”

“What makes you think you’re worth that much money? Are you gilded or diamond-studded?”

Neve was taken aback by the insult. She knew that Zayn did not see her as a woman, but she had not expected him to treat her lesser than a human! She was about to retort but the man hung upon her. He couldn’t be bothered with her any longer.

When she tried to call him again, it showed that the call was temporarily unable to connect. Looks like the man had blocked her. The angered Neve cursed Zayn to eternal damnation but whether that would happen would be a matter for the future. Right now, Neve would have to face her shame.

It was easy to lay it on thick, but it was a challenge to fork out just 80 thousand dollars. Moreover, Neve had boasted about an 8-million-dollar card! As she contemplated, she finally figured it out...

## **Chapter 82 Going Rogue**

With his legs crossed over one another, Javier was leisurely sitting on a chair in the finance room when the salesman ran in frantically. “Mister, the lady just now...is missing!”

The duplex owner was dumbstruck. She had been hoping for Neve to bring her 8-million-dollar card over and continue raising the price. How was she gone just like that?

The finance staff spoke up, “Her card’s still here. Her money is still in our account too. Maybe she just went to the washroom...”

As the three of them wondered where Neve had gone, Javier had no interest in the matter.

Where had Neve gone? Simple-she had fled!

If she did not want to embarrass herself, the easiest route was for her to flee and then ask for the money back through Matthew’s connections later. She would even later proclaim victoriously, “I had something urgent come up that day, so I couldn’t waste any more of my time playing with you!”

She would not have to spend a dime and would salvage her dignity. She might even sing-song inwardly, ‘Hah, bought an overpriced house huh?’

Morons who thought they were pretty smart like Neve were probably the only ones who could play

petty tricks like these.

“Fine. Since you don’t want to follow the rules in the game, I don’t mind teaching you siblings another lesson on the same story!”

With a plan in mind, Javier called Chad.

“McCool, I have an agency here that deals in secondhand real estate. Acquire it then shut it down

Making the call in front of the salesman and the finance staff, Javier then went up to the anxious looking house owner. He understood what she was thinking. She was worried that he would suddenly back out of the purchase and burst her bubble of delight.

That was exactly what the owner lady was fiddling with within her mind. “Mister, I know that I shouldn’t be asking for this amount but we’ve really hit a tough spot as a family and have so many debts. My child is still in the hospital. Why don’t you just pay 630 thousand dollars? I’ll slash the price by half, okay?”

The woman was truly afraid. She could not afford to offend someone who could casually throw 1.25 million dollars in a match of wealth while her family went bankrupt. Her gaze on Javier was pleading, begging for the man to not reject her.

Javier did not hurry to answer her question but instead asked, “Is your son really in the hospital?”

The owner was not lying. She then pulled out a stash of receipts from her purse and the hospitalization bill she had just paid for today. “I have a doctor’s letter too. My son’s—”

Javier was not bothered to check on them, nor was he about to make the woman pull out the letter. “Don’t worry, I keep my word. 1.25 million dollars it is. I won’t pay a single cent less.”

Javier did what he said he would and swiftly signed the contract with the agency. The agency acted promptly as well, banking the owner’s portion of the money to her right away. After all, it was money to save the woman’s child. No one would stall over such a thing.

Holding up her phone and looking at the money that had just been transferred to her account, she could not help tearing up. She wiped them away and wanted to get on her knees.

OW

“You’re a savior. Thank you. Thank you so much. You’ve saved my entire family...”

There was no way Javier would let the woman kneel to him, so he quickly held her and brought her to her feet. After some soothing words, the woman left. Before she did, she kept mumbling about “meeting a kind soul.”

Javier was only being generous. Neve was the one who had paid dearly. It felt appropriate that the small sum he had forked out to buy a company was being exchanged for a duplex unit that cost 390 thousand dollars.

As for Neve who wanted a refund? She could dream on!

Neve, who had escaped, picked up her phone and blocked the owner’s number.

“Thank god I’m smart! Would’ve embarrassed myself today otherwise!”

Neve’s quick wit delighted herself as she would not have to stand in the street with that sl\*tty pose. She had it all thought out too. When she met Javier the next time, she could totally say that she had an emergency come up. She was even thinking to mock Javier to her heart’s content as he had bought an overpriced unit.

The more she thought about it, the more victorious she felt. Neve, who was driving, could not help whistling in triumph.

Speeding down the streets, she finally arrived home. When she saw Matthew’s phone being charged, she fiddled with it and realized that it was turned off-probably an automatic shut down due to the lack of battery.

Neve put the matter away and yelled directly, “Daddy! Daddy! Come here! I have something to tell you!”

Once she got Matthew to come to her, she told him about what happened today. Matthew’s brows furrowed tightly. “I don’t even have to ask to know that b\*tch Jade must’ve given him the money. She probably found out about you wanting to buy that place and made Kersey fight for it.”

Neve was not as peeved about it as her sole attention was on the 1.15 million dollars that she had put in.

“Daddy, pull some strings and help me get my money back!”

“You’re one to speak. How old are you now? Throwing money to show off how rich you are...you’ve got to be more mature...”

It was only after nagging Neve that Matthew made a call to the real estate agency through his connections. After going through two to three contacts, he finally managed to get in touch with the boss of the agency

Matthew first exchanged pleasantries with the boss before he brought up Neve’s 1.15 million. dollars.

“Huh, it’s this matter huh? My apologies, I won’t be able to help. That small company of mine just got acquired.”

Matthew initially thought it was no big deal until he heard that the company had been bought out. His eyes widened in disbelief. He suspected that the man was being greedy and wanted to keep the money

Despite that, the boss then told him that his company really had been acquired and the acquisition seemed to have been made by Beacon Tires...

Hanging up, Matthew’s eyes were ablaze. Jade was brutal. She had forced them into a corner by setting up such a large trap and burying his princess’ 1.15 million dollars.

When Neve was told of what had transpired, she yelped and whined, screeching about suing Jade for fraud. And she was not just talking about it too. She summoned their lawyer to their place right away.

“I want to sue her. I have to sue her! Her and that scum driver of hers. Throw them both behind bars. Keep them in there for some eight or ten years!”

The lawyer winced. “Ms. Odell, the case can only be brought against the agency but the agency has closed down. They will just get a random person to be the juridical person for the agency and there’s basically nothing we can do.

“Without any asset under the juridical person’s name, it’s useless even if the court freezes their assets.”

Neve was incredulous. “You mean I’m losing that 1 million dollars plus just like that?”

There was nothing more the lawyer could say. “If you sue them for not returning the money, the law could retain him for 15 days twice a year.”

“What the f\*ck would that achieve?!” Neve wanted to cry from how frustrated she was. How could they just go rogue? They took her money, acquired the company, and shut it down all in one breath. It was simply out of expectation!

“Daddy!”

Stomping her foot with a scowl, Neve stared at Matthew in hopes that he would figure out a way to recollect her 1.15 million dollars.

Matthew could only stare back at her. It was futile. No matter how furious they were, there was no solving the matter.

“F\*ck, we just got unlucky this time. We’ll get more back from Jade soon anyway!”

Neve remembered what they had been doing in secret recently and nodded. She gritted her teeth and screeched, “This time, we need to make sure that Jade is completely obliterated so that she won’t be able to make a comeback-forever!”

### **Chapter 83 Matthew the Scapegoat**

When Javier bought his new place, he moved in and did not stay with Jade anymore. Afraid that he would misunderstand why she had wanted him to move out, Jade repeatedly explained to him that she was not burning bridges,

Catherine on the other hand was quite reluctant to have Javier leave because he had helped her out in secret several times while he had been around. Catherine came from a rural mountain area and had relatively more impoverished relatives. She was the only city dweller-having married into a wealthy family and ended up becoming a rich housewife. That was why everyone came to her for help.

But despite her seemingly glorious status, The Odells treated her worse than a dog, so she was hardly much help.

Things were different while Javier was staying with them. Anyone who came to Catherine for help, whether it was big or small, Javier was able to take care of them all. It made Catherine feel good. And her impression of the man only grew better.

After having one last meal at Jade's place, Javier packed up and left. He went to the new house he had purchased.

For the next half a month or so, everything moved pretty smoothly. Jade took over Odello Corp. without any hiccups and Matthew seemed to be behaving. Everything was progressing well.

One day, Javier took a nonchalant glance at the date and recalled that his coming of age ceremony was fast approaching. After a quick calculation, he concluded there were only 20 odd days or so left.

In other words, he would have to go on a "business trip" in about 20 days from now. For how long though...that was hard to predict. It could be a couple of days, it could be a couple of months. It all depended on how things played out between him and the old fox. After all, when he left home all those years ago, he had a pretty bad fallout with the old man. Mackenzie had mentioned that the old fox missed him though.

As he was pondering over the Kersey affairs, his phone rang. Chad was calling. When he answered the call, Chad asked, "Mr. Kersey, Sky Loft called to ask me why we're appointing a new company as the sales agent and if it's one of Odello Corp.'s new companies."

Javier was perplexed by this question. Odello Corp. had been occupied with acquisitions recently. How could it possibly be branching out and setting up new companies? He was quickly struck by a realization and quickly told Chad to look into the new company. At the same time, he called Jade and told her to check the corporation's recent sales.

Shortly, Chad came back with the answer. "Found it. The Dunham Group is backing that company."

Jade found a shocking discovery as well.

"I wouldn't have noticed if you hadn't asked me to check. 40% of our sales have been secretly transferred and 60% of its funds have been diverted to somewhere. I don't even know where!"

What was happening in Odello Corp. thoroughly confirmed Javier's previous guess.

Jade had just taken over the company and it had been mere days since she became one of the higher executives, so she was not yet familiar with the company matters. Leveraging on said fact, Matthew then took the role of being the company rat as he shifted the sales and funds out. His plan was simple. Since he was unable to get a hold of Odello Corp.'s shares and become chairman, he would empty the corporation. When the new company was built, Matthew would make himself the sole shareholder and the chairman-using the sales from Odello Corp.!

'Pretty slick, stealing the shares indirectly!'

Sitting in his office, Javier lit a cigarette and meticulously sorted through the issue. Judging from the current sales and assets that had been transferred, Matthew had basically siphoned away 50% of Jade's shares. It was half of everything she had. If the business deal with Sky Loft had not been tampered with, they would have only found out about this bomb when it was too late. Odello Corp. that Jade held could very well be an empty shell by then!

The trick was deceptive and even a little idiotic because as Chad had said, there was evidence of that company being linked to the Dunham Group. What did that mean? That meant that Matthew the rat

had sneaked all the fish he had stolen from Jade to Zayn the civet and was probably feeling very triumphant about it at the moment...

When Javier met up with Jade and relayed his analysis to her, the woman fumed.

“Doesn’t Matthew Odell have any shame? I didn’t kick him out because of Grandpa. And yet he’s scheming behind my back and stupidly giving away our company to an outside thief? Is he touched in the head?!”

“We can’t say for sure, but Zayn’s probably ordering him around like a real \*ss.”

Speaking of which, Zayn was pretty devious. He was the one coveted Odello Corp., but he had not even shown himself and had made Matthew do all the dirty work for him. He only had to open his mouth and wait for Matthew to throw in the goods.

It was interesting. He did not reveal himself but he was still the one behind all the problems. Bravo!

Despite that, Javier was in no hurry to get back at him. It was Matthew that Javier wanted to defeat once and for all.

“We’ll file a report with the police if there’s no way to go about it. Matthew must have evidence lying around. He won’t get away!”

Jade’s suggestion was valid, but it was not exactly a good idea. Javier explained, “We can do that and the police would open an investigation, but it’d require some time. And that duration of time will be enough for the Dunhams to digest whatever they’ve managed to get and Matthew will be made into a scapegoat.”

Jade was enraged the moment she was reminded of. She could not understand what Matthew was thinking. Did he really think that Zayn would be so kind as to help him?

As she was consumed by her rage, Javier told her, “Give Matthew a call and ask him to go to your place tonight.”

Jade was puzzled but under his insistence, he did as she was told, Javier then drove her to a cottage in the countryside.

There was an old man in his seventies who was plowing the soil at the southwest corner of the front yard. Jade was dumbstruck when she saw the old man.

“Grandpa?!”

The old man was none other than Jade’s grandfather and Matthew’s father, John Odell!

The night when Jade had completed the quarterly deal, Javier had received a call. It was from John. The old man had expressed that he wanted to use his illness as an opportunity to weed out the snakes of the family. His disappearance and will were all part of the plan.

“Grandpa, you’ve been keeping an eye on us in secret? That’s why the document to split the shares appeared so timely.”

After a short chat with John, Jade brought up what Matthew was currently up to. When John found out that so many sales and assets had been lost through secret transfers, he was livid

“Idiot. What foolishness. He’s cutting off his own flesh and feeding it to the Dunhams! He’s a fool “Let’s go, take me to him. I’m going to question this fool about what he thinks he’s doing?”

### **Chapter 84 The Wolf With His Mouth Wide Open for Meat**

As they arrived back at Jade’s place, Matthew had just arrive as well and was parking his car. Under John’s instructions, Jade got out and confronted Matthew alone first.

“Uncle, what are you trying to do? Why are you draining Odello Corp.’s sales and assets and giving them to the Dunhams?”

“Oh, you’ve really realized? All right, there’s no need for me to hide then.”

Matthew looked triumphant as he leaned against his car door.

“I did transfer the sales and assets but I’m not gifting them to the Dunhams. Not that they’d accept *it!*”

“Neve’s together with Zayn now, so he’s my future son-in-law!

“Do you think a son-in-law would embezzle his father-in-law’s assets? He’s just helping me strip those sales and assets off of you. They ultimately belong to me. When the time comes, I’ll be the chairman of the new Odello Corp.!

“As for you, Jade Odell...hah. You’re just a little b\*tch after all. Watch over your shell of a company and await your doom!”

Rage burned within Jade as she looked at Matthew who was maniacally waving his victory about. Since the man would not get to stay triumphant for long as John was in the car, she held back her anger.

“Uncle, you’re giving him too much credit. Zayn’s not a nice guy. He isn’t together with my cousin because of true love. He’s-”

“Enough!” Matthew waved a hand, not wanting to listen to what Jade had to say. “Uncle? Cousin? Who are you putting on a show for? Are you trying to butter me up so that I’ll let you go? Not a chance! You don’t have to badmouth about Zayn to me either. I know what you’re thinking!

“You were jealous when you found out that Zayn got together with Neve, so you want to ruin their chances!

“Jade...Jade Odell...you’re getting more and more vicious, you little bitch!”

Jade wanted to try changing Matthew’s mind using the family approach for John’s sake, but not only did the man refuse to repent, he assumed the worst of her. It made the rage inside her grow.

John, who had stayed back in the car, could no longer sit still. He opened the car door and stepped out.

Matthew had his back toward John and was still rambling ever so arrogantly when he got a smack to the back of his head. He was instantly enraged, "Who the f\*ck dared to hit..."

As he turned around, before he could say "me", his eyes widened in disbelief.

"Dad?! You're still alive?!"

"Were you hoping that I was dead so that you can ruin the Odells once and for all?!"

Matthew was truly stupefied, not knowing how to answer John. He thought that the old man had gone missing and had probably been buried wherever he died. What was going on?

While he was still dazed, John slapped him on the cheek and barked at him, "Speak!"

It was only then Matthew snapped out of it. With one hand on his throbbing cheek, he asked with a quiver in his voice, "W-What do y-you want me to say?"

He quickly covered both his cheeks and trembled in fright when he saw that John was about to slap him again. It was obvious that he was still afraid of John.

John ultimately did not land the second slap and questioned his son with a huff, "Are you an idiot? Do you really think that Dunham brat actually likes Neve? What he likes is Odello Corp.! You're probably the only one stupid enough to assume that he'll kindly transfer the sales and assets to you because he's together with Neve!

"Let me ask you. Have you ever seen anyone feeding a wolf a piece of meat and being able to make it spit it out again?"

John nagged and tried to enlighten Matthew at the same time. His words were clear. He wanted Matthew to grab back the meat before the wolf could clamp its mouth shut.

However, no matter what John said, Matthew refused to do it. He could not hold himself back at the end. "Dad, as of this moment, Jade is holding onto 64% of Odello Corp.'s shares. If I hand these out, how am I supposed to go on living after that? I'm your only son now-your sole and only son!

"But I knew that doing this is risky, but how could I not take it? Should I have watched Jade devour my shares step by step and kick me out of the family so that Neve, Kendrick, and I end up on the streets?!"

John finally shut his mouth at Matthew's emotional retort. It was as if he now realized that this was a valid issue. After a short silence, he spoke, "Let's go inside and talk. We'll have a family meeting."

Javier understood his words perfectly. He stayed beside the car and fished out his cigarettes. The three generations of Odells-John, Matthew, and Jade-walked into the mansion. Javier was not sure about what they were discussing, but it looked like there were two things that John had to solve right now.

The first was to get back the funds and sales that were transferred out the soonest possible and the second was coaxing Matthew adequately and assuring him of his future.

Things had played out as Javier had predicted. Around 20 minutes later, he received a call from Jade. She told him that Matthew had already agreed to take back the funds and assets while she had given

him certain assurances under John's instruction. She did not mention what they were as it was probably inappropriate to say while John and Matthew were still around.

"Javier, you go home first, all right. Grandpa and Uncle Matthew are staying for dinner."

It was understandable. It was like a family reunion. Hopefully, this was the end of the fiasco.

At the same time, Zayn was seated opposite Neve and was staring at her.

"Neve, your dad went to meet Jade. She won't be able to persuade him and have him pull back the sales and funds, right?"

The meat had ended up in Zayn's mouth, but he had yet to chomp it down because he was still greedy for more.

Neve shook her head fervently at Zayn's question. "That's impossible. Absolutely impossible. My brother's still in the hospital. My dad won't ever let that grudge go.

"Besides, Jade has 64% of the shares. What good would it do us to take things back?"

"You're supporting us from behind too. We can totally empty Odello Corp. and start a new one..."

Neve pointed out facts from various angles to prove the point that they would not pull back the sales and funds. The truth was that she honestly thought so as well.

"I really look forward to seeing the look on Jade's face when she discovers that Odello Corp. is nothing but an empty shell!"

As she imagined Jade panicking and crying, Neve felt incredibly happy and triumphant.

Seeing that Neve sounded so sure and excited, Zayn relaxed. He decided to keep his "mouth" open for a couple more days. He would wait until Matthew had stuffed everything from Odello Corp. into his mouth and swallow everything whole. As for Matthew and Neve, they could scam to wherever they pleased!

Satisfied, Zayn's mind wandered toward lustful thoughts. Neve, who was seated opposite of him, naturally became his channel for sexual pleasure once more.

That night, Zayn was gratified with the help of a certain drug. The next day when he woke up and received the news, he saw red like his eyes were bloodshot.

Neve, who was sleeping next to him, was woken up from the hit of a slipper again. "Neve Odell, how dare you f\*cking lie to me!"

## **Chapter 85 This Is Not Your Place to Speak**

Worried that even the smallest of moves would alert Matthew, Zayn had not made any prior planning. All he had in mind was swallowing Odello Corp. in one go.

It came as a shock then when Matthew snatched away the thick cut of meat that was already in his mouth and ready to be consumed within just one night.

This caused Neve to be brutally beaten using the slippers this morning.

“I’m helping you guys with everything I have and even when my family asked me to gobble up your company when I had the chance, I didn’t because of you. And this is how you all treat me? Look at me as a fraud and trample all over my kindness?!”

Zayn’s pressing questions made Neve speechless. She felt wronged as she did not know what happened. (This novel will be daily updated at [www.noveljar.com](http://www.noveljar.com)) After leaving Zayn, she went to find Matthew.

“Daddy, why did you pull back the sales and funds to Odelle Corp. again? Have you gone stupid?”

Instead of getting furious at Neve’s questioning, Matthew looked rather triumphant.

“Me? Stupid? Your daddy is anything but stupid...”

When Matthew explained the reason, the corners of Neve’s lips were pulled into a delighted grin.

“This isn’t a bad thing. It’s less worrisome and safer. It’s just a little difficult to placate Zayn.”

Matthew waved his hand. “That’s fine, he’ll understand our situation. Besides, we can work together in other ways in the future!”

While Matthew and Neve talked, Jade and Javier were in the office discussing what had happened last night.

“Matthew is redirecting all the sales and funds back, so Odello Corp. has finally got through this crisis safely.”

It was good news. Then Javier asked Jade about how John managed to pacify Matthew.

“Uh, well...no, Grandpa successfully persuaded Uncle to repent by both logical and emotional reasoning.”

John had managed to make Matthew realize his mistake without offering any benefits and only through his authority alone? Javier was skeptical but he did not press the matter since Jade insisted that there was nothing. After all, it was the Odells’ affairs. It might involve certain private matters that Jade did not want to reveal.

Javier stopped questioning and left Jade’s office after a short chat.

That afternoon, Odello Corp. called for an executive-level meeting. Javier was not among the high executives, so he was unable to attend said meeting but he managed to catch wind of some gossip.

“Jade’s term as the chairperson was kind of short-lived. It’s only been days and the old man’s about to take it back from her.”

The unanticipated gossip astonished Javier. He did not understand it. Jade had 64% of the company’s shares. How did John seize the chair?

Curious, he came to Jade’s office only to find the latter packing up with tears brimming her eyes. She quickly wiped them away and pretended that nothing happened when she saw Javier coming in-until he asked about the switch in chairperson. Knowing that she was unable to keep it hidden any longer, she spilled the beans.

“After we got home last night, Grandpa told me that stakeholders in the corporation are restless and no one but him will be able to appease them...”

John told Jade that he wanted to ask Matthew for the 26% of shares he had, worried that his son would continue causing trouble if he continued holding on to it. But Matthew had vehemently refused and even compared what he had to the 64% shares Jade held.

Under such circumstances, John requested that Jade act with him and transfer to him the 64%

she had so that he could trick Matthew into releasing his 26%. Jade had agreed without any hesitation as this was her biological grandfather who had always pampered her.

“Grandpa told me last night that he’d assume the position and quiet down the company issues before returning the shares to me but during the exec meeting this afternoon, someone brought up the company assets and sales being drained and Matthew blamed me for failing as a chairperson. (This novel will be daily updaed at [www.noveljar.com](http://www.noveljar.com))What’s more infuriating was that Grandpa agreed and had me fired!”

Javier understood now. This was why Jade had not said anything this morning when he asked her how John had coaxed Matthew. It was not that she wanted to keep it from him. It was that she had chosen to trust John due to their family ties. Anyone would have done the same. After all, he was her biological grandfather.

No one had expected the grandfather to deal the hardest blow in tricking his granddaughter!

Jade got teary-eyed as she talked about it. “He’s my grandfather! I’m of his blood! How could he do this to me!”

Javier was furious as well. He had never met anyone so abhorrent that they would simply throw requests at their granddaughter and waste no time in tricking her. Grabbing Jade’s hand, Javier pulled her to John’s office.

After Javier kicked the door open, he saw John seated on the chairman’s throne and was chatting gleefully with Matthew. With one finger pointed at Jade, he asked, “Why was she fired? Give me an explanation!”

His question was directed at John but the one who answered was Matthew. “Who do you think you are to barge in and question us like this? Get the f\*ck out!”

Matthew looked triumphant and jubilant.

Taking in his expression, Javier more or less understood what John was thinking.

“You have two granddaughters but only one son. So it’s okay to let them down, as long as it isn’t your son, is that it?”

Being put on the spot by Javier, John fidgeted in awkwardness. He got up and looked at Jade.” Jade, don’t worry. I still love you. You won’t have to fret over you and your mother’s daily life either. Whether it’s today or the future, your quality of life will be kept high. I’ve already talked to your uncle about this.”

What John said had indirectly answered Javier's questions. Looking at the old man, Javier scoffed spitefully

"Right, well done, John. If I'd known that you'd trick the 64% of shares out of your granddaughter without even batting an eye too-I wouldn't have kept your secrets for you. I should've exposed you and let you tackle Victor on your own!"

"Enough! This is not your place to speak!"

John was embarrassed after the few words from Javier. Glaring at Javier, he barked, "Who do you think you are? You're just a small pawn in my game of chess. Stop thinking that you've made any significant contributions. Whether it's Victor Dowding or Zayn Dunham, they were all within my plan.

"I had already set everything up in advance. Even if it weren't you but a dog, Victor Dowding would still have gotten kicked out and Zayn Dunham would only be tricked like a circus monkey. And you thought that you've done so much? Hilarious!"

John returned to his desk and hastily scribbled something. He wrote a check for 470 thousand dollars.

"Take this money and go as far away as you can. I don't ever want to see you again!"

Javier did not even spare the check a glance as Jade angrily spoke up from beside him, (This novel will be daily updated at [www.noveljar.com](http://www.noveljar.com)) "Grandpa, how could you?! If it weren't for Javier, our company would've-"

"Jade, if you still want to remain an Odell, you'd better shut your trap or you can get out with him!"

The person who said this was Matthew but John did not oppose it-his stance was clear.

The image of the loving and respected grandfather in Jade's heart shattered and crumbled into ashes. She whipped around and left tearfully, disappointed at her family to her very core.

Javier followed her. But before he left, he left John and Matthew with a warning. "Believe me, you guys will be the cause of your own downfall!"