

The Ace at the Apex

Chapter 91 A Classmate's Kind Suggestion

After leaving the office, Javier drove over to the Dunham Group. At the same time, Zayn was seated in his office, soaking in his underlings' obsequious praises and bootlicking.

"Mr. Dunham is young and brilliant. He's the most successful one among all the young people I know."

"That...what's the name? Reivaj Group doesn't even know who they're messing with. How dare they declare war against the Dunham Group. I think they're on a suicide mission. Especially that Javier Kersey. Who does he think he is to fight our dear Mr. Dunham. He's not even qualified to do such a thing, that piece of sh*t!"

"It's interesting how he dares pick a fight against Mr. Dunham. Reivaj Group doesn't even have 7.8 million dollars in total assets. What does he have to fight Mr. Dunham with? Any subsidiary that M

1. Dunham casually appoints would kick him in the *ss..."

The employees chorused each other as they clamored to pander to Zayn, the heir of the company. The apple polishing worked well on Zayn as he even felt that the cigar he was smoking today was exceptionally fragrant.

A knock came from the door of his office and in came his female secretary.

"Mr. Dunham, someone wants to see you. He says that he's...Javier Kersey from Reivaj Group."

"Javier Kersey?"

Zayn was slightly taken aback. There were plenty of people who wanted to meet him, but Javier was on the farthest end of the list that he had in mind. He snickered. "What does that scum want to see me for?"

His secretary shook her head. "He didn't mention, only brought a large envelope with him."

Zayn was overjoyed at the mention of an envelope. "All right. Let him in. Quickly."

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Zayn felt impatient, but not to see the man. He was impatient to mock him.

As Javier walked through the door, Zayn taunted as he had been waiting to do.

"Kersey, you aren't learning from that dead*ss Matthew to beg me to acquire your company because you can't manage it, are you?"

"Don't do that. You've got to keep your word as a man. You were just declaring war against me two days ago and here you come behind Jade's back today to beg me. It doesn't seem quite right, does it? Isn't this too shameless of you?"

What Zayn said pulled a loud guffaw from those in the office as they added oil to the fire.

“Yeah, you’ve got to pick up your balls, put on your armor, and fight our dear *Mr. Dunham* here. We all know you’ll lose for sure, but you’ve got to have the courage to die anyway. TV series are always talking about the spirit of the knight who flashes his sword, no? Come on, show us that!”

“As if he’d have any armor. That Reivaj Group of his is a piece of rag at most, one with holes everywhere. What does he have to fight *Mr. Dunham* with? His hiss and growls like that of a dog? Barks that declare war against the *Dunham Group*? Bullsh*t!”

“Why are all of you so mean? He’s a general manager, you know. He doesn’t seem quite bright but he’s a GM either way. Let me see... I think I’ll go fetch some newspaper to put on the floor so he can take a seat and talk. Respect. We’ve got to show him some respect...”

With Zayn starting the taunts, the men in the office were enjoying themselves as they cackled and mocked Javier. Zayn looked flushed in triumph and felt incredibly pleased as if he was already at the top of the world.

Javier ignored their taunts and went right to Zayn.

The latter reeled in his laughter and triumph then. The last time Javier was this close to him, he remembered taking a punch from him and passing out after having his head smashed against the wall. When he woke up after that, he was on the street without any trousers on.

Zayn was nervous. “What do you want? Don’t do anything crazy. This is my territory.”

If Javier wanted to beat Zayn up, it would have nothing to do with whose territory he was in, but Javier was not here to beat up the guy today. He pulled out the envelope under his arms and shook its contents onto the floor.

To save some dignity in front of his underlings, Zayn did not look at the scattered documents on the floor but at Javier.

“What are those?”

“Do you not have eyes?”

Javier retorted as soon as Zayn asked, causing the latter to turn furious immediately. Despite his anger, he was still curious about what Javier had brought over.

The man beside Zayn tactfully hurried to pick up the documents on the floor lest Zayn lost his authority. But as he picked them up, he accidentally looked at the contents of the document and instantly looked troubled.

“M-Mr. Dunham, please have a look. We’ll be heading out first.”

The man quickly waved for his colleagues to leave with him and even took the secretary out of the office.

As the door closed after them, Javier and Zayn were the only ones left in the office.

Zayn could understand that his subordinates had purposely taken their leave, so he was even more curious about the documents. He looked down for a quick glance and that was all it took to glue his eyes onto those papers.

Those were documents of proof, snapshots of video clips, and even transcripts of phone call recordings. Zayn was bewildered and subconsciously asked, "Where did you get all these?"

He thought that his devourment of Odello Corp. would not be exposed. There would be no evidence even if Matthew had not died. Unexpectedly, Javier managed to gather so much evidence. There was even a letter of indictment and the suggested duration of penalty.

In his panic, Zayn asked again, "Tell me where you got these!"

Javier sat on the couch, crossed one leg over the other, and lit a cigarette.

"I'm not a teacher to answer your question. That's not what I'm here for today either. I just want to ask you how you think I should handle these."

Zayn suddenly felt parched, probably due to the burn of the flames of panic rising within him. He picked up a glass of water to take a drink but his hands kept shaking. He could barely maintain his composure. He looked at the letter of indictment and read the two cases involving an exceptionally large amount or other serious matters, one can be sentenced to imprisonment for ten years up to a lifetime, as well as given the appropriate fines or confiscation of assets.

The estimated value of what he had taken from Odello Corp was 189 million dollars. That was a huge sum!

Gulping down several mouthfuls of cold tea, Zayn felt his nerves calm down slightly. He forced a smile. "Javier, we're old friends, aren't we?"

*People say that friendships made during your school years are the purest and the most pleasant in the world. In both our lives, I think our friendship is the most precious one and it will help us to face some...some...some..."

Zayn did not even know how to continue. His mind was in so much chaos he did not know what to say. After a pregnant pause, he grew frustrated and shouted instead, "What do you want?! Just tell me what you want!"

He did not even believe in what he said about their friendship made in school, so he was unable to bring himself to keep making things up.

This worked well since Javier did not want to listen to his bullsh*t and told Zayn directly, "Spit out whatever you've gobbled down."

"No way! That's impossible! Not even if I have to die!" Zayn roared back anxiously, like a dog with a bone in its mouth and it was about to be pulled away.

Javier nodded. "Sure."

Chapter 92 This Is So Frustrating

This meant that Zayn would be enjoying a “marvelous” treat when he was put behind bars. Once he thought of it, he felt shivers down his spine and could not help shuddering..

Zayn was scared. Not wanting that to happen, he told Javier, “Buddy, let’s negotiate, hmm? I can give you some of it perhaps? They belong to Odello Corp. after all. We can split 70-30 between me and you, or even just 60 for me and 40 for you!”

At the man’s reaction, Javier was rendered speechless. He would rather lose his freedom than his wealth “Sure, that’s all to it then since you can’t wait to go to jail!”

Zayn stopped Javier again when he expressed that he was leaving and begged him. He then said that it was not his decision to make and had to ask his father, the chairman of The Dunham Group.

Leaving Javier in the office, Zayn hurried to his father, Geoffrey Dunham’s office. Geoffrey, who was going through some documents, asked when he saw Zayn entering, “You’re not in your office

He did not get to complete his question as Zayn interrupted him with a long face, “Dad, sh*t has hit the fan.”

He passed the documents Javier had brought to Geoffrey and the latter felt his heart plummet as he looked through them. As the chairman though, he managed to maintain his composure much more than Zayn. After understanding the general situation, he called the lawyer from their legal department and passed the documents to him.

The lawyer studied them carefully for five minutes and ultimately shook his head. “There’s no way. Once these are submitted, it will be a solid case. The most we can do is fight for fewer years in the sentence. There’s nothing else we can do. The evidence provided is airtight.”

Geoffrey was stunned. “In that case, why haven’t they pressed charges yet? Could there be forged evidence here?”

The lawyer shook his head again. “The possibility of that is nearly zero. From what I see, there are only two reasons why the other party has not pressed charges and has chosen to settle it in private. One, it’ll take too long for the court case to process. And two, he must have other requests

Geoffrey sent the lawyer away after consulting him on a few other things. He then sat in his chair and contemplated, all the while with a deep frown on his face.

Zayn looked troubled as he kept muttering, “Dad, I don’t want to go to jail. I don’t want to be imprisoned...”

“Enough! Stop whining. Let me think!”

After yelling at Zayn, Geoffrey wracked his brain for several more minutes before speaking up, “Go. Stall Kersey. I’ll discuss it with the lawyer some more.”

Instructing Zayn away, Geoffrey summoned the lawyer again and they began their hushed discussion in the office. Like what the lawyer had suspected, Javier had not pressed charges on Zayn because of those two reasons.

Javier had waited over ten minutes in Zayn's office before the latter reappeared. In spite of it, he started to beat about the bush with him, going from splitting the companies 5-5, to 4-6, to 3-7, all while evading the crux of the matter.

All of it made Javier wave in dismissal. "I see it now. You want to go behind bars. There's nothing else you want."

Zayn was at the brink of tears. As Javier kept threatening to report him to the police, he felt thoroughly helpless. His father had asked him to stall Javier, but how was he to do that under such circumstances?

When Zayn was about to lose his wits, the lawyer walked in. He walked up to Javier and asked, "You're the GM of Reivaj Group, Javier Kersey, right? I'm a lawyer from Dunham Group's legal department and have received instructions from our chairman, Mr. Geoffrey Dunham, to talk to you about this."

Zayn heaved an inward sigh of relief when he heard that the lawyer had been appointed by Geoffrey, assuming that his father had found a solution. It then came as a surprise when the lawyer said, "On behalf of Mr. Zayn here, we will return all the subsidiaries of ex-Odello Corp. to you. Do you have any other requests?"

Zayn was exasperated. Why the f*ck was the lawyer returning the companies to Javier on behalf of him? Why would he need a representative to do that?

The lawyer was serious about the return. After several exchanges with Javier, he called the legal team and other relevant departments to start the handover of property rights and et cetera to The Reivaj Group. They did not have to personally attend to these things, they only had to pass it down to their subordinates and have them complete the transactions.

Zayn was appalled as he listened to the phone calls. Those were hundreds of millions of dollars that he had spent so much effort to pull in! And he heard the lawyer ask some more, "Mr. Kersey, do you have any other requests?"

Goodness, had the lawyer been paid off? Was that why he was acting this way?!

Furious, Zayn grabbed the lawyer by the collar. "Whose f*cking side are you on, huh?! It's not enough that you're giving back all the companies, but you're even asking if he has any other requests?!

"Tell me, did Javier Kersey pay you off, you trash..."

The lawyer, obviously unhappy about being scolded and insulted, shielded himself with Geoffrey's name, asking Zayn to go to his father if he had anything to say.

Unable to do anything, Zayn could only let go of his grip despite the rage roaring within him.

Javier, who saw everything, did not comment. He answered the lawyer's question though, "Due to the fact that you guys have caused a certain substantial loss to the ex-Odello Corp., you'll need to compensate for it. We won't ask for much. Just 12.6 million dollars."

Zayn lost his cool at the request.

*12.6 million dollars? Javier Kersey, are you blackmailing us or extorting us?"

He turned to the lawyer at once. "He's bullsh*tting. Those companies did not even incur any loss..."

Zayn was still explaining but the lawyer had nodded instantly. "Of course. We'll transfer the money to you right now."

Upon hearing that, Zayn kicked the lawyer. "You must've f*cking taken Kersey's money, you piece of sh*t, traitor! I'm going to beat you to death today!"

He picked up a chair and was about to bring it down on the lawyer when the latter cried out, covering his head, "This was the chairman's instruction. Ask him!"

That was one timely yell or Zayn would have really smashed the chair on him. Zayn then fished out his phone to call Geoffrey and haughtily complained about the lawyer working against them.

Geoffrey's reply was simple. "Do as the lawyer says. Shut up!"

Zayn was stupefied. The hundreds of millions of assets that he had painstakingly dragged over were returned in mere seconds. And they had spent another 12.6 million dollars on top of that. It frustrated and infuriated Zayn to no end.

The lawyer got up and dusted himself off before starting negotiations with Javier again.

"Mr. Kersey, 12.6 million dollars is truly a little too much. Is it possible to go lower?" "Sure!" Javier agreed generously. "12.599 million dollars then. You can take the one thousand dollars as a tip."

It was not just Zayn who was infuriated now. The lawyer felt a fire growing within him as well. How could he say that? It was simply upsetting. Javier had offered just a one-thousand-dollar discount-and in the name of tipping. 1

What did Javier take a lawyer like him for? A server at a restaurant? 1

But what could he do? Javier obviously had the upper hand in this situation, so the lawyer could only swallow his rage and agree to transfer the sum.

On the side, Zayn hugged his head and crouched on the floor, crying out of anger. First, he lost the companies, then he lost the money. It was just so frustrating..

Chapter 93 What Are You Stalling For?

The subsidiary companies under the ex-Odello Corp. were returned. The compensation of 12.599 million dollars was banked in as well. When everything was settled, Javier got up to leave.

The lawyer would not have it and went after him for the original documents.

"Why are you in such a hurry for the originals? Come collect them at my company later this afternoon when the handover is complete. Do you think I'll run?"

Javier left with that.

Looking at the leaving Javier whose pockets were now loaded, Zayn felt like choking the lawyer to death. He would have done it too if the man had not immediately fled.

Hurrying out of his office, Zayn barged into Geoffrey's office. "Dad, how could you promise him all that?!"

"You don't understand."

Geoffrey waved for Zayn to come closer. Zayn leaned in and the father-son pair had a hushed conversation. At the end of it, Zayn cracked a smile.

Javier had just arrived upstairs after driving back to the company when Jade frantically jogged up to him

"Javier, Javier, I saw the legal team and other departments going out together just now. When I asked them what it was about, they told me that you've asked them to take care of the handover for the businesses that the Dunham Group had embezzled. What's going on?"

Javier chuckled. "Oh, that? It's nothing. I went to talk to Zayn Dunham just now and after my sincere persuasion, filled with heart-wrenching words and undefiable logic, he was struck with remorse and realization. Consequently, he decided to return the businesses he had swindled and even compensate us with 12.6 million dollars."

Jade did not have the mental space nor was she in the mood to comment how utterly ridiculous that sounded. She was only surprised at one thing.

"He's willing to spit what he'd already gobbled up? And recompense 12.6 million dollars on top of that?!"

Pinching Jade's dainty earlobe, Javier answered, "Of course. When it's what I want. Even if it's impossible, it'll happen!"

The domineering tone lacing his answer heated Jade's blood and spirit. Still utterly bewildered, she watched as Javier walked away. How in the world did he pull this off? It was magical...

To Javier, there was nothing magical about it. He called Herschel upon returning to his office and left him with some more instructions.

Herschel promptly vowed, "Don't worry, Mr. Kersey. I'll get someone on it right away."

That afternoon, the handover of the businesses that had been conned from the ex-Odello Corp. was completed. Javier had just received the update from relevant staff and Zayn waltzed into the company accompanied by his lawyer a little while later.

Javier was going through the handover documents in his office when the door was kicked open with a loud bang. Zayn entered the office with unconcealed smugness in his gaze.

"Javier Kersey, you f*cking,"

Not giving Zayn the chance to complete his sentence, the accompanying lawyer swiftly held him back and spoke up, "Mr. Kersey, we've completed the handover of the subsidiaries of the past Odello Corp. Please give us what was promised."

Javier nodded. "Of course. I'm a man who keeps my word in terms of business."

Javier was not just running his mouth. Putting his words into action, he pulled open his drawer and brought out an envelope. He tossed it to the lawyer.

“You’re the lawyer, the professional. I’m sure you can identify if these are original.”

The lawyer took them and went over them carefully on the side. Zayn looked restless like he had something he could not wait to do. It took ten minutes of scrutiny before the lawyer finally nodded.

“Yes, Mr. Kersey. You’re a faithful businessman.”

“These are all the originals?” Zayn asked, still worried.

The lawyer nodded to confirm. “Yes, all of them are original.”

Right after the lawyer’s reply, Zayn changed his attitude immediately. The impatience that had been thrumming within him exploded. With a loud bang, he kicked the water dispenser, causing the large water bottle to topple over and spill water all over the floor.

Zayn slammed both his hands onto the table and smirked menacingly at Javier.

“Kersey, you’re f*cking done for. Blackmailing me huh? F*ck, this is the moment I’ve been waiting for!”

He hammered the table and told his lawyer, “Go on, tell him. Scare him sh*tless!”

Zayn continued hurling curses as the lawyer nodded and went up to Javier.

“Mr. Kersey, we’ve obtained evidence of you extorting Mi. Zayn Dunham. According to everything we have, the total amount involved in your case exceeds 205 million dollars. We’ll reserve the right to press charges against you and~”

As the lawyer was making his speech, Javier waved his hand. “Cut to the chase. I’m pretty busy.”

It looked like Javier did not even care. He was even in the mood to light a cigarette and act casual.

Zayn took in Javier’s reaction and could not help the flames of anger that rose within him.

“Still trying to act cool? Who do you think you are? I’ll send you to jail and have your *ss ripped a new one while you’re there!”

Javier felt too much disdain to even spare Zayn a glance.

“Do you know why your father sent the lawyer instead of you? Because you’re brainless! Send me to jail? If he wanted to do that, would the lawyer be wasting his time and telling me all this? You guys could have just contacted the police immediately after!

*The reason the lawyer’s telling me so much crap is that he wants me to transfer the businesses out again and return you guys the money! Your lawyer and your father are trying to pull a UNO reverse on me!

“So are you done yapping like a dumb*ss? Piss off to the side and stop interrupting my negotiation with the lawyer!”

The scolding left Zayn flummoxed. Javier's words were exactly as Geoffrey's earlier prediction, but how did he know? Before he snapped out of the daze, the lawyer nodded at him with a smile on his face and resumed his conversation with Javier.

"You're a smart man, Mr. Kersey. I'll make this short then. Other than the businesses we've handed over and the 12.6 million dollars, we'd also like Beacon Tires from Reivaj Group and also" 'That's asking for a lot. And on what grounds?' Javier suddenly retorted as the lawyer was listing their requests, successfully stunning the latter into silence.

On what grounds? Of course, it was grounded in the evidence they held! When he had to negotiate with Javier in Zayn's office earlier, he had gone in with a pinhole camera that had recorded the entire exchange!

The lawyer reached into his pants pocket, meaning to fish out the thumb drive that contained a copy of the recording to play it for Javier.

Zayn pointed a finger at Javier. "You're doomed. Just you wait! You'll be begging me with tears running down your face!"

He then chastised the lawyer, "Hurry up, show him the thumb drive. I want to see his eyes bulge out of their sockets!"

The lawyer dug through his pockets, but it was futile. He was unable to find the thumb drive. It was neither in his left nor right pocket. It was not in his work bag either when he rummaged through it. That was not right. He had slipped it in his pants pocket before coming here and had felt it in there all along the way.

How could it have gone missing?

Zayn urged, "Come on, give me the thumb drive. What are you stalling for?"

The lawyer answered awkwardly, "Mr. Dunham, the thumb drive.. it...it's missing..." "What?!"

Chapter 94 You Sneaky Liar

Zayn was dumbfounded at the lawyer's words.

He had wanted to keep the thumb drive himself, but Geoffrey, thinking that Zayn was too flippant and impatient, passed it to the lawyer who was reliable and mature in his way of handling things.

What was happening now was entirely unexpected. They had lost the thumb drive!

"What the f*ck are you doing?! Are you an idiot?! How could you lose the thumb drive when it's not even that small! Why didn't you lose yourself..."

Zayn broke out in a flurry of curses and put the lawyer in an incredibly awkward spot. The latter was still confused. The thumb drive had clearly still been in his pants pocket when he got out of the car. When did he lose it?

As the lawyer thought about it, he was struck with a sudden realization.

When they took the elevator up earlier, a worker sending water dispenser refills had accidentally bumped into him. He had even grumbled about the worker dirtying his white shirt and hastily dusted himself off...

Recalling the scene in the elevator, the lawyer finally caught on. Sh*t, the thumb drive was stolen! He pointed a furious finger at Javier, "It's you! That's why you're acting so cool and triumphant. You had someone steal it!"

Javier spread his hands in feigned innocence. "As a lawyer, you shouldn't make such callous accusations. We need proof to back up the things we say."

It was Javier who had made the arrangement. He had instructed Herschel to assign someone to the task. Back in Zayn's office, Javier had already been suspicious.

Since they were agreeing to return the subsidiaries and pay the compensation, why did they make it redundant by bringing along a lawyer? That had caused Javier to carefully observe the lawyer, and he finally spotted something on the sleeve button of the man's shirt.

Truthfully, the lawyer had his professionalism to thank for. He kept lifting his right hand to aim the sleeve button at Javier. It was how Javier guessed what the lawyer and Geoffrey wanted to do, so he immediately sent Herschel to get a few things done.

It was practically a walk in the park for professional veteran thieves to be stealing a little something from someone in such close proximity!

Zayn was outraged at Javier's audacious attitude, but what the lawyer said after that rekindled his victorious spirit. The lawyer proclaimed that they had backup copies.

"Mr. Kersey, don't worry. I've always backed my words with evidence. To ensure the completeness of the proof, I've specifically kept a copy in the office in case of any accidents.

"I can make a call right now to ask someone to make another copy and send it over. I think the results will still be the same."

The lawyer was not just talking. He pulled out his phone and went off to the side to make the call.

Zayn slammed the table again, his eyes brimming with menace.

"Javier Kersey, don't think that your little trick will be of use. I'm telling you, it's bullsh*t!

"Other than returning the companies and the money, I want other compensation from you. I want you to kneel on the floor and beg me like a dog. Beg me to let you go!"

Zayn was extremely triumphant.

The next instant, however, the panicked voice of the lawyer who was on the phone attracted his attention.

"What did you say? The computer hard disk got stolen?!"

"No, wait! Are you guys blind? How could you not notice someone stealing a hard disk?"

Zayn was astonished. How could everything have been stolen?

The evidence was saved on the thumb drive, and the thumb drive got stolen. It was saved on the hard disk, and now the hard disk was stolen too. What else did they not steal?

Zayn had learned his lesson though. He was not in a hurry to lambaste the lawyer. He would carefully ask the lawyer about the situation first.

He tugged the lawyer. "Do you have a copy anywhere else?"

The lawyer was about to answer when Javier did it for him. "He does. Two copies are in his inbox, one in his lawyer email and another in your father's email. I didn't steal those, don't worry. The password to all of them is the same too. I just asked someone to erase whatever was in there."

The lawyer was tearful. What kind of person was this man? Javier was even clearer about it than he. Even he had not recalled everything yet!

Looking at the lawyer's crestfallen face, Zayn knew that they were doomed. They were done for. Taking back the businesses was impossible now.

He turned to glance at the lawyer and felt his rage surge up. He swiftly kicked the lawyer again.

"You f*cking piece of trash! You useless sh*t! You can't even save a copy. What can you do..."

Zayn kicked the lawyer as he rebuked him, wishing he could just kill the man. That was several hundreds of millions of dollars! All gone just like that. How could he not feel the pain?

It took five to six minutes of kicking the lawyer before Zayn felt a little appeased. He glared at Javier and spat before turning to leave. He would just have to consider himself unlucky today. F*c

As Zayn fumed, Javier spoke up, "Do you think Reivaj Group is your home where you can come and go as you please?"

Zayn snapped his head back angrily. "What's your deal? Are you trying to dictate my right to freedom of movement as well?!"

Javier snorted. "I wouldn't dare, you have a lawyer with you. I'm all alone. I wouldn't dare challenge the law.

"The most I could do is to use the law as my weapon and contribute a little something."

As he spoke, he pulled open his drawer and took out another envelope.

"Why, what a coincidence. I made an extra copy of the evidence and was meaning to put it into the paper shredder, but you—"

Zayn rushed up to Javier before he could finish his sentence and snatched the envelope away.

"Haha. Want to blackmail me again? Forget it, idiot! You fool!"

The lawyer secretly sighed in relief as Zayn continued cursing. Although he was aggrieved that Zayn had beaten him up, he was paid by the Dunhams, so he had to serve them.

His heart dropped when he saw another copy of the evidence. Even though it was just a copy, some of the original and photocopies had little difference between them. They could threaten Zayn with it either way.

Fortunately, Zayn was fast enough to snatch away the envelope. Good, they would not be extorted again.

It almost seemed like Zayn's invisible tail was wagging victoriously. "Oops, I managed to grab it. Serves you right, you unlucky b*stard. Why didn't you hold on tighter? Now that I've snatched it away, you've got nothing. You can only glare at me huh? You,"

Javier pulled the drawer open again and tossed another envelope onto the table with a thump in the middle of Zayn's gloating.

"F*ck, my memory is getting worse as I get older. Why do I have another set? Did I make another extra copy in the morning?"

Zayn was dumbstruck. The lawyer was too. This guy was infuriating! What did he say about making one copy? Where did this second one come from? Has the evidence learned how to clone themselves?

Leaving the evidence on the table, Javier looked incredibly at ease as he leaned back against his chair. "Aren't you going to snatch this too? Hurry up then. It's kind of interesting how dumb you looked while you were gloating just now. Come on, grab it and sing-song about it so I can watch it again."

Zayn did not budge. Javier was one sneaky liar. He said he had just one copy. Who the heck knew how many copies he had actually made?

Zayn stayed still, feeling extremely awkward as he could not cackle nor cry.

Stubbing the end of his cigarette in the ashtray, Javier finally straightened up.

"Not gloating anymore, are you? I can start on the serious matter now then.

"Due to your excellent performance just now, I've decided to sell you another set of evidence for

12.6 million dollars. Of course, you can bargain for it. I'm a generous person. Same old, same old, you can keep one thousand dollars as a tip!" Zayn felt like bawling...

Chapter 95 Good Friends, Best Bros

Javier was a principled man who would usually not play the same trick twice, but it really depended on the situation. Since the Dunham Group wanted to play, he would certainly play along.

Ultimately, Zayn and his lawyer bitterly paid another 12.599 million dollars and carried a stack of photocopy documents out. Zayn was still running his mouth when he got into the car, saying that Javier was not credible as he had said the first set he had given them was the last. But now they were walking out with a thick stack of photocopies

No one knew whether Javier still had more. They could only act cautiously in the future...

After transferring all the money he had received to the company account, Javier threw the last set of evidence he had into the paper shredder.

Herschel asked from the side, “Mr. Kersey, aren’t you scared that he’ll come to find trouble with you again?”

Javier chuckled. “Let him. No matter how much trouble he tries to pick, I have as many ways to handle him. We’ll see if he’s better at finding trouble, or I’m better at coming up with solutions.”

Javier thought it was too much effort to actually get serious and defeat someone like Zayn. If he really wanted to end the guy, he only needed to make one phone call. He was capable of crushing the Dunham Group like what he had done to Odello Corp. It was just that the Dunham Group had yet to be that annoying, so he was happy to take his time with them.

It was also to pave the way for Jade. She ought to learn what real business strategies and tactics were.

The next few days, the Dunham Group was still oppressing the Reivaj Group from every direction possible. Both corporations seemed to have reached an inward consensus that no one would resort to malicious tactics aside from being business-relevant.

One day, Jade went to Javier to express that their company had suffered quite a bad blow.

“We’ve already recovered nearly 80% of Odello Corp.’s past capacity, but it’s still difficult to fend off Dunham Group’s attacks. A lot of weaker companies are close to shutting down. We need to figure something out.”

Jade’s worry was not a problem to Javier.

“I’ve looked into it. The subsidiaries that are on the brink of shutting down are mostly old businesses that don’t pose much competitiveness. Sure, they’re still making a profit. But either the profits they generate are too low, or they’re about to collide with the nation’s policies.

“The country is in the process of replacing old energy sources with renewable energy sources. As corporations and enterprises, we can’t just sit this out. We have to learn to ride the wave. There’s a famous internet saying, ‘even pigs can fly if they stand at the right place.’ This is basically it.

“Judging by the businesses that are about to shut down, I think it’s a good thing if they do. They’re like pieces of decaying meat. How could we spark new lives if the decaying meat isn’t cut away?”

Feeling like Javier’s reasoning made a lot of sense, Jade nodded her head. And although she felt like she had learned a lot, she still had her own opinion. “I think we can’t just allow them to shut down though. It’ll incur too much loss.”

A smirk tugged at Javier’s lips. “Of course, we can’t. I have it all thought out. We’re getting someone to pay for it!”

Looking at the evil smirk on Javier’s face, Jade knew that he had set his eyes on the Dunham Group

“But the Dunham Group isn’t dumb. They’ll clearly see it coming.”

“Yeah, some tricks are specially for dummies. But certain tricks work even easier on fools...”

The Dunham Group that Javier was planning to trick was currently very much preoccupied!

The company's entourage of executives, with Zayn as the head, was lined up in front of their headquarters, ready to welcome the vice president of Darton Group, Doug Leigh.

"The birds have been chirping since I got up this morning and I was wondering if there'd be any good news. Lo and behold, it's really the most wonderful news that Mr. Leigh is visiting us. It's the Dunham Group's honor..."

Upon Doug's arrival, Zayn went up to the man and started to sing servile praises—a hundred times more obsequious than those who had been pandering to him. He then told Doug that his father, Geoffrey, was not able to welcome him personally because he was away on a business trip.

"Don't you worry, Mr. Leigh. My father has mentioned to me that you're a young star in the business world who's even more capable than him, so all of us in the Dunham Group look forward to learning from you and soaking up some knowledge. Hopefully, we'll be able to improve as a company. Please, feel free to comment and impart your wisdom to us, Mr. Leigh!"

As Zayn spoke, he escorted Doug to the company's guest lounge.

Doug gestured at Zayn with a chuckle as he sat down on the spacious couch. "You're getting better with your words. From the first time we met, I remember that you're quite a smooth talker. You left a deep impression then!"

Zayn waved his hands. "Nothing like that, no. I'm just speaking the truth..."

Both of them exchanged a few more pleasantries before Zayn indirectly probed Doug about his purpose of visiting today. However, the latter did not let a word slip, merely saying that he was here for a casual visit and to learn from Dunham Group's advanced management experience.

Zayn understood from the typical business excuse that Doug had come for another reason, but he was hesitant to spill. At lunchtime, he brought Doug to a restaurant.

What had been hard to say in the guest lounge would roll off the tongue easier when some wine was involved.

That was exactly what happened. After repeatedly asking Doug regarding his purpose for visiting, the latter finally let up.

"I'm actually here to find your father. I want to talk about a partnership, but he isn't around."

At the revelation, Zayn inwardly panicked. Doug came from an established company. The partnership would boost Dunham Group to greater heights. Zayn thought that he needed to secure this collaboration and flaunt it to his father.

He plied Doug with more drinks. Once Doug had a good amount of alcohol in his system, he slurred out, "This is what I'll tell you. I'm here for fossil fuel plants."

Fossil fuel plants, literally, were factories that generated energy through the burning of fossil fuel. The Dunham Group did not own any fossil fuel plants. However, there was one under Odello Corp. that was now Reivaj Group.

Zayn was rather curious. Why was Doug setting his eyes on fossil fuel plants? When he voiced the question, the latter answered, "You wouldn't know. The higher-ups have already decided on the policy. The memo will be disseminated soon."

What the policy was, Doug would not tell. It sat with Zayn like an unscratched itch and frustrated him.

In spite of it, he quickly gathered something else from Doug-something about the latter wanting to acquire the fossil fuel plant under the Reivaj Group. But he was not the only one who had gotten the news. There were other companies here to try their luck as well and they seemed to already be in talks with Javier.

"So, I was wondering. Since you both are in the same city, are you two perhaps acquainted? Will you be able to put a word in?"

Realization hit Zayn. This was the purpose of Doug's visit today.

The instant Zayn had found out about the man's purpose, he wanted to sabotage the matter. However, when he thought of what the man had said, that Doug's company was not the only one wanting to acquire fossil fuel plants and that there were other companies in negotiations with Javier, it would not hinder Javier from selling the factory off even if he sabotaged the deal between Javier and Doug.

After some thinking, Zayn had another idea. Since he could not sabotage it, he could take advantage of the situation and take a thick cut of the profit from the deal!

With that thought in mind, Zayn laughed out loud.

"Mr. Leigh, consider yourself lucky for coming to the right person today. Truth to be told, Javier's my friend!"

At that proclamation, Doug's eyes shone. "Mr. Dunham, are you serious?" Zayn patted his chest. "Of course! We aren't just good friends, we're best bros!"

Chapter 96 An Aggressive Young Man

Although Zayn had now managed to lure Doug into his scheme, he was now faced with another problem...

This idiot will be easy to fool. But if Javier joins his side, things will certainly become tricky.

'Looking at the tiff between Javier and me, it'd be a miracle if he actually decides to sell to me. He'll probably take the chance to raise his selling price.'

Zayn carefully pondered over this matter after leaving the restaurant and arriving back in his office chair.

'Based on the Darton Group's capabilities, it's not difficult for me to understand what the "order from the higher-ups" is. Plus, there are other players in the competition, so fossil fuel businesses will definitely be selling like hotcakes.

'Now then, it'll be impossible for me to approach Javier directly and have him sell it to me, but what if I had someone else do it for me instead?'

On top of that, Zayn also wanted to find out exactly how much the Darton Group was willing to fork out for this particular fossil fuel business.

Still pondering over the matter, Zayn began listing down all of his conditions on a piece of paper and would tick off the ones that he managed to complete as he went. When he had finally fulfilled all of the conditions, it would mean that it would be time for him to execute his plan.

When he was done, Zayn gave Doug a call, to which the latter failed to pick up on the first two attempts. When Doug finally answered on the third, his speech sounded a little slurred.

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“...How much did you say? The chairman seems to be willing to go as high as 52.5 million dollars but I think 57 million dollars is acceptable as well.”

“That old fart knows f*ck all! Once the policy is defined and in motion, we’ll be...blergh...”

Doug was absolutely hammered. Zayn even felt that he could smell the alcohol reeking off of Doug despite being on the other end of a phone call.

After hanging up the phone, Zayn wrote down 57 million dollars on the piece of paper.

Then, he gave the finance department a call and asked them to assess how much Reivaj Group’s fossil fuel business was worth.

‘Holy sh*t! No wonder those major companies have been able to develop at such a fast pace! They’ve literally been siphoning money from the citizens, haven’t they?!’

Dumbfounded, Zayn’s rage slowly built up inside of him.

“There’s a whole 19.5 million dollars in profit that I can make out of the original 37.5 million dollars, so why don’t I come up with something to try and earn a little money on the side?”

After some pondering, Zayn finally called up Kaecilius Morde, his best friend...

That same afternoon, as Javier was going through some papers in his office, his secretary suddenly knocked on his door.

“Mr. Kersey, there’s a man by the name of Kaecilius outside. He says that he has come with a business proposal.”

Javier assented and told the secretary to let the man in.

Just as he finished signing the document before him and put his pen down, Kaecilius was brought into Javier’s office. The former walked forward and began introducing himself.

Kaecilius proclaimed that he hailed from the country of Merzia. His family had long been in the coal business and wanted to seek a partnership with Javier.

At the mention of coal, Javier found this all very strange. “Reivaj Group isn’t involved in the coal business though. Are you perhaps...asking us to invest in this business of yours? If that’s the case, I can tell you upfront right now that this doesn’t interest us.”

Many people ran around running Ponzi Schemes. They would go around getting money from others the moment they find out that someone has the potential to obtain the approval papers to open up a mine. Then, after receiving the money, they would crown themselves as the chairman of the company and give out 40% of the total to all those who had helped him as commission, while they kept 60% to themselves.

In fact, it wouldn't matter if they made a loss since they had invested absolutely nothing into the scheme in the first place, and they could easily wash their hands clean of anything that might link them to the scheme. The worst-case scenario for them would be to lose all of their hard work and have to start all over.

Obviously, Kaecilius was aware of such people as well, so he hurriedly waved his hand as he laughed. "You've misunderstood me, Mr. Kersey. I'm not like one of those connen trying to scam you out of your money. On the contrary, I'm here today with cold hard cash as a show of my sincerity."

Javier was slightly confused, but Kaecilius quickly explained himself.

"While my family's in the coal business, we do have a coal mine as well. However, the people from my father's generation are all a bunch of old-timers who only know how to hold onto their resources and are failing to realize that the new generation is slowly phasing them out.

"But we're different! We're focused on opening up opportunities for development, which is why I'm preparing to acquire a fossil fuel plant."

Javier instantly understood what was happening. "I see. You wish to acquire our fossil fuel plant. You'll then be able to lower the cost by using your family's coal, while the energy generated can be used within the country, where you'll then bill the users directly.

"So, this would be a low-cost business with a steady return. Most importantly, it's guaranteed to succeed!"

A smile appeared on Kaecilius' face. "That's right! I knew you were a sharp man, Mr. Kersey. You instantly understood where I'm coming from!"

Javier chuckled and accepted Kaecilius' flattery. But in terms of the fossil fuel plant that was just proposed, his reply was....

"I'm sorry, but we don't have any plans to sell the plant at the moment. Plus, you're not the first one to offer to acquire my company either. In fact, someone came here two days ago. But, same story-I refused to sell. However, if you're interested in this business, you could very well invest in us instead, Mr. Morde. We could get rich together!"

Kaecilius' heart sank when he heard this. He had indeed heard Zayn mentioning that someone else was trying to acquire Javier's fossil fuel company. But at the same time, he had not believed it.

'My objective today isn't to invest in his company, but to coerce him into selling his fossil fuel plant!

In the end, seeing how adamant Javier was being, Kaecilius had no choice but to pull out his trump card. "Mr. Kersey, I've had someone assess your fossil fuel plant before coming here. They've found that your

production equipment is old and the output capacity is low. So your company is worth around 33 million dollars. I'm willing to offer you 36 million dollars to-

"Get out!"

Javier pointed toward the door before Kaecilius even had a chance to finish.

"Mr. Morde, I had only been willing to speak to you for this long because I thought you were a sincere person. Plus, we're both around the same age. However, for you to actually claim so upfront that my plant is only worth 33 million dollars... do you take me for a fool? Do you think I'm unaware of how much my own company is worth?!"

"In fact, the last person who came here offered me 42 million dollars, but I ended up sending him away as well. Yet, you're telling me my company's worth 33 million dollars?"

"Right, let's not waste any more time. The elevator is to your right once you exit my office. Take your 33 million dollars elsewhere. We don't need it!"

Kaecilius hurriedly tried to calm Javier when he saw how angry he had made the man. However, he also felt that the situation was now slightly complicated after hearing the information Javier had just revealed to him.

Kaecilius quickly came up with an excuse to leave his office so that he could call Zayn,

Meanwhile, Zayn merely nodded his head when he heard about the 42 million dollars.

'Looks like Doug's information was accurate, there's not only a single company who has understood what this order from the higher-ups is about...'

Thus, Zayn gave Kaecilius his ultimatum. "I'll only offer 49.5 million dollars at most. And once the deal is sealed, I want the handover done immediately!"

Kaecilius now had ammunition in his rifle thanks to this ultimatum.

When he returned to Javier's office, he came up with all sorts of excuses and persuasions until Javier became frustrated by his attempts.

'What are you trying to do right now? I've already told you that I'm not selling my company, yet you're now increasing your offer price? Are you mad?'

Kaecilius maintained his sincere expression without seeming frustrated in the slightest.

"To be honest, my Dad has never seen me as a competent person. He thinks that my elder brother is much more suitable to take over the family business because of his conservative personality. So I need to prove to my Dad that I'm competent enough to surpass my brother!"

Surprisingly, Javier seemed to admire Kaecilius for his aggressiveness and ambition.

"Then again, I genuinely have zero intention of selling my fossil fuel company. Although you've already offered me 48 million dollars, I still..."

“F*ck this, I’ll cut straight to the chase! 49.5 million dollars. That’s my final offer! Either we immediately proceed with the handover, or I’m leaving!”

Chapter 97 Knee-Deep in a Pile of Sh*t

“I admire your sincerity and your ambition...All right then, you’ve got yourself a deal! The fossil fuel company is yours!”

Javier’s sudden agreement had the excited Kaecilius jumping in joy, his eyes shining with delight. In fact, he was genuinely delighted because Zayn had promised to pay him 300 thousand dollars should he successfully get Javier to sell him the plant.

The handover took place immediately that very afternoon. Meanwhile, Zayn was only able to release such a huge amount of funds because he had given Geoffrey his assurance over and over again.

After that, Zayn gathered a few staff from his finance department and hurried to the fossil fuel plant. Now that the handover was already in progress, Zayn had no more reason to hide the fact that he was the real buyer. Thus, he directly met up with Kaecilius.

“Haha! As expected of my best friend! You’ve really helped me out big time, Kaecilius. Thank you!”

When Zayn spotted Kaecilius, he immediately rushed up and embraced his best friend, his face filled with glee.

Meanwhile, Javier jumped back in shock! “You’re with him?! I’m not selling anymore! I don’t care how much you’re offering, I won’t sell my company to him!”

Zayn laughed to his heart’s content. “You f*cking idiot. You’ve already begun the handover. So do you think you have any other choice right now?”

“Now then, are you going to sell your fossil fuel plant or not? *We* won’t pay you if you refuse!”

The more Javier fumed, the happier Zayn became.

“Who do you think you are to try and challenge me? You’re nothing but a piece of sh*t!

“All I have to do is wiggle my little pinky and I can have you squashed like the insect you are!

“Do you know how much other entities are willing to offer to acquire this fossil fuel plant of yours? 57 million dollars. And yet, you just sold it off for 49.5 million, you f*cking idiot! Then again, I’m grateful to you for helping me earn 7.5 million dollars without breaking a sweat! Hahaha, f*cking idiot!”

Tasting the sweetness of finally getting revenge on Javier for having humiliated him countless times in the past, Zayn began to laugh maniacally.

Zayn gloated then asked, “So, do you still want your 49.5 million dollars or not? You do? Come beg me for it then!”

Javier furiously turned around and stalked off. “You can refuse to pay all you want, but I’m never going to beg you!”

Seeing the look of absolute defeat on Javier’s face, Zayn was even more delighted.

However, Zayn did not dare to not pay up at the end of the day. He was fearful that Javier might have another photocopy set of those documents from before...

After instructing his finance department to pay up the full 49.5 million dollars and complete the handover with the various departments in Reivaj Group, Zayn excitedly headed off to meet with Doug, humming happily as he left.

Meanwhile, Kaecilius followed behind and rushed Zayn for his payment. "Don't forget about my commission, Zayn!"

"Of course, I won't forget it! Come now, would I really cheat my best friend of his money?"

Despite those pretty words, Zayn was in no mood to think about Kaecilius' commission since he was in a hurry to meet with Doug!

In fact, Zayn thought he would be able to pay up the 300 thousand dollars easily after he had exchanged the fossil fuel plant for 57 million dollars.

When he was standing before Doug's hotel room, Zayn excitedly knocked on the door.

"Mr. Leigh, it's Zayn! Good news, I've helped you acquire the fossil fuel pla..."

The room door suddenly swung open before Zayn had even finished speaking. However, instead of Doug, it was the janitor who showed up behind the door.

Zayn was slightly confused when he entered and saw that the room had been cleaned and tidied. "Where did he go?"

The janitor replied, "Are you referring to the man who was staying here before? He already checked out. Just half an hour ago in fact."

Zayn was now panicking... 'Didn't he say he wasn't going to leave until he got his hands on the plant?! Then why would he check out all of a sudden?!'

Zayn hurriedly took out his cell phone and called Doug, wondering if the latter had just changed hotels for some reason.

"Hello, Mr. Leigh, it's Zayn Dunham. Where have you gone?"

"You've left?! Didn't you say you wanted to acquire the fossil fuel plant by any means?"

"What?! You're temporarily putting it on hold because the policy has been rejected?! You're not going to acquire the plant anymore?!"

Zayn's legs gave out and he sank to the ground when he heard this. Oh, sh*t! Oh, sh*t! OH SH*T! I'm now left with a fossil fuel plant in my hands...

Meanwhile, at that very same hotel, Javier was having lunch with Doug in the most luxurious private room on the topmost floor.

Doug was speaking to Zayn on the phone. "Mr. Dunham, please apologize to that best friend of yours on my behalf! I genuinely am not an untrustworthy person. But this is the latest information that my company had just announced, so my hands are tied."

Zayn was panicking and breaking out in cold sweat. "Wait, you can't do this to me, Mr. Dowding! You're literally pushing me knee-deep into a pile of sh*t!"

Very surprised, Doug asked, "How have I pushed you into anything though? You told me that Javier's your best friend and former schoolmate and I only asked you to help me ask about the matter. I didn't ask you to acquire the fossil fuel plant on my behalf. So how is this my fault?"

"Come on, Mr. Dunham, you can't just...Hello? Hello?!"

Doug placed his cell phone on the side of the table. "He hung up. Looks like he doesn't want to talk to me anymore."

Javier nodded his head. "It's also possible that he threw his cell phone and broke it into pieces."

After that, Javier raised his glass. "Thank you for your help. Come, cheers."

Doug hurriedly raised his glass with both hands and stood up before clinking glasses with Javier, respect written all over his face.

"It's my pleasure to be of service to you, Mr. Kersey!"

Javier smiled and gestured for Doug to take a seat, followed by a leisurely lunch and casual chat.

Of course, the Darton Group, the company that Doug was working for, was also a business under the Kersey name.

Moreover, Doug was actually Chad's disciple. At the time, Doug was Chad's secretary. When he found Doug to be a smart and hardworking person, Chad accepted him as his pupil and took him under his wing. After a period of nurturing, Doug was now out in the world to gain "first-hand experience."

Earlier, Javier had called Chad and expressed his intention to put on a huge show. Coincidentally, the Darton Group was on friendly business terms with the Dunham Group at the time, so Chad arranged for Doug to help Javier out.

So, it turns out that Javier was the one who had planned to have his fossil fuel plant, which was worth 37.5 million dollars, to be sold at 57 million dollars. It was all a setup! 1

To Javier, the fossil fuel company was like a tumor that had to be removed. On top of that, there was a particular circumstance that urged him into selling it off within a short period of time as soon as possible. Otherwise, he was going to be in deep trouble.

While Javier and Doug were enjoying their time clinking glasses and having their meal in the private room, Zayn was sitting limply in front of the hotel's entrance with the shattered "corpse" of his cell phone beside him.

It was obvious just how much fury and aggrivement Zayn was feeling then based solely on how shattered his cell phone was.

'I've actually spent 57 million dollars on a fossil fuel plant that's worth 37.5 million dollars? Plus all the effort I had to put into this...'

When he recalled how he had even written down a detailed plan on that piece of paper, Zayn could only feel how foolish he had been.

However, on second thought...

'I'm not a fool! I was just unlucky because of the changes in the policy!'

Thus, Zayn merely thought that he had lost due to luck, and not because he had been outwitted.

However, Geoffrey obviously thought differently! That night when he returned home from his business trip and found out about what had happened, he immediately became so furious that his eyes blazed!

"Didn't you assure me that this would be a sure-win?!"

"Didn't you ask me to wait for your surprise when I got home?!"

"I gave you the luxury of being in charge for a day, and you end up making me lose 12 million dollars?! Is this the so-called 'surprise' you were preparing to give me?!"

"Let me ask you this, Zayn...have I offended you in any way in the past? I haven't, have I? So, why would you give me such a huge pile of sh*t?! 12 million dollars is no small matter! How could you tell me that you've ended up making a 12 million dollar loss just because of an accident?!"

Zayn ended up being severely bruised and battered that night.

"Hey, Zayn! You'd better not forget about the 300 thousand dollars you promised me!"

Chapter 98 Another Trap?

of course, Zayn had no intention of losing another 300 thousand dollars on top of 12 million.

Surrounded by bottles of easy-to-open beers, he drank himself into a stupor as he mumbled...

"Best friend my *ss! Money is the only thing worthy enough of being my best friend!"

"Kaecilius is no longer my best friend, he can go f*ck himself!"

As Zayn was angrily drowning himself in alcohol, Javier had just arrived home.

When Jade heard that he had sold the fossil fuel plant for 49.5 million, she once again looked at him with reverence as though he was a god.

"Javier Kersey, are you even human? You seem more like a god right now...no...you're the God amongst gods!"

Nonstop strange exclamations streamed out of Jade's mouth. She could not for the life of her believe that Javier had been able to get rid of the tumor that she was so ready to cut away despite it being a loss. And Javier had not only managed to get rid of it, but he also did so with such grandiose!

“You’ve managed to earn 12 million dollars from just this single exchange! Imagine what would happen if our company is able to cheat that family of their money like this on a daily basis. We’d be filthy rich!”

As Jade counted how many more 12 million dollars she would be able to get, Javier was rendered completely speechless.

“Do you think they’re all as idiotic as Zayn? Plus, Zayn had merely been fueled by greed as he had just lost a good chunk of his business. The only reason he fell for my trap is that he desperately wanted to cover his losses. So, I doubt it’d be that easy to trap him again in the future.”

“It doesn’t matter, we’ve managed to gain a massive load from him already. It’s a huge victory for us!”

Although Jade was continuously talking about the matter, Javier had already let go of it.

Squatting near the sofa, Javier suddenly reached out his hands to grab Jade’s fair and slender hands.

Looking at each other through the short distance between them, Jade’s face slowly turned bright red.

“Don’t you think that it’s a waste for us to sleep in two separate bedrooms?”

At that statement, Jade’s face instantly turned even redder; so red that it seemed as though her blood would start pouring out of her ears at any moment!

She might have been a 27-year-old woman who had no prior experience with men, but she immediately understood what Javier meant based on the videos she had watched in the past.

This was also the reason why she felt even more embarrassed. 1

However, the blush from her embarrassment made her seem even more inviting and seductive to Javier.

Before she could even say anything, Javier cut her off by leaning in for a kiss, sealing her full red lips shut. He successfully made Jade swallow whatever she was about to say in that heated moment.

The passionate kiss lasted for a whole five minutes before the couple finally separated.

Jade’s breathing was labored. She sighed and hurriedly got up, tidying both her clothes and her messy hair. However, she only succeeded in making an even bigger mess of her hair...

“I-I’m going to shower now.”

Before Javier could react, Jade ran toward the bathroom with her reddened face. She slammed the bathroom door behind her and locked herself inside. Jade leaned against the wall as both hands clutched to her chest.

‘I’m so nervous...I haven’t felt anything like this before. It’s like I’ve just done something wrong.

‘But, on second thought...what I did just now didn’t seem wrong though...’

Meanwhile, Javier stood outside on the balcony, puffing on a cigarette. His restlessness was soothed thanks to the night breeze. He knew that Jade was not rejecting him; she just was not ready yet. Secured in this knowledge, he did not panic.

And that was indeed the case. Although the both of them still slept in their own rooms that night, Jade took the initiative to tenderly kiss Javier goodnight before retiring to her bedroom. This was enough to prove her feelings toward Javier.

As Javier lay in bed, he was no longer thinking about whatever had happened that night. Instead, he was thinking about Zayn.

'Hmm...I think I can lay another trap for him...!

Zayn ended up being berated and brutally beaten by Geoffrey over the fossil fuel plant incident.

However, that night, Geoffrey gave Zayn another phone call, reminding the latter over and over to be extra careful in the future and to not make rash decisions. In the end, Geoffrey said that he would drop the 12 million dollar loss and not pursue it any longer.

Zayn heaved a long sigh after he hung up the phone call. Although Geoffrey had clearly said that he was not going to pursue the matter anymore, Zayn still could not overcome this mental hurdle. After all, he was the great Mr. Dunham whom people looked up to, so he could not allow anything to stain his record!

He silently swore to himself that he was going to do something that would earn him massive profits-so massive that it would be able to cover up his losses.

What he had not expected was for that very opportunity to arise the very next day...

Around 10 in the morning, Zayn received a phone call from Doug.

"Mr. Dunham, I've thought about it the whole night, and I now realize that I was wrong. Regardless of the reason, my actions had betrayed both you and your friend's trust. So, I've got an opportunity here that I'd like to include you in. Would you be interested?"

The problem was that at this moment, the only thing Zayn felt toward Doug was extreme distrust.

Zayn had no evidence to prove that Doug had somehow been involved in his loss, Zayn was still suspicious of him after losing 12 million dollars.

Zayn replied, "Mr. Leigh, our company is suffering from bad cash flow right now. So I really can't-"

Doug interjected and said, 'Don't worry, Mr. Dunham. I'll help you put in a deposit of 750 thousand dollars upfront. We could sign an agreement first before we talk business if you like.

"You don't have to worry about anything. Look, I'm ready to put down the down payment, sign a contract with you, and invite you into a business that's guaranteed to be profitable."

Zayn was instantly over the moon because he could tell that Doug was being sincere about this. His thoughts reflected what Doug had just said. He was not worried about being conned this time since Doug was going to be paying the down payment. On top of that, they would be signing a contract, legally binding them together in a business that was guaranteed to do well.

Coupled with the fact that he had just sworn to himself the night before that he was going to work on a business that would rake in massive profits, he excitedly asked Doug about the details.

“Your family’s got some zircons on hand, right? I’ve got a huge buyer from overseas, so we can think about making some profits out of them...”

Zircon was a rare gemstone. Due to the fact that they were extremely similar in appearance to diamonds and had far lower costs, they’d often become counterfeit diamonds.

On top of that, the Reivaj Group and the Dunham Group were in a city that had zircon mines in it. These two companies controlled all the mines in the area and were the only ones to offer a steady supply of these gemstones throughout the province.

As Zayn pondered over this, Doug carried on to say, “I’ll not only be acquiring Dunham Group’s zircons, I’ll also be acquiring them from your friend Javier as well. This overseas buyer is a huge whale, so I’m going to take in as much zircon as I can get.

“However, because of our relationship, I’m going to go by principle and acquire the zircon you have first. I’ll acquire all of your zircons at the rate of 230 thousand dollars per tonne, which is the market price right now, and I’ll even pay you before I receive the goods. Are you happy with my suggestion? I’ve proven that I’m being sincere about this, haven’t I?”

Zayn was overjoyed! ‘The zircon market has been slowing down recently, and the company has been worried about this matter as well!’

Now that Doug has claimed that he was going to acquire zircons in large quantities and had given such a foolproof suggestion, Zayn immediately agreed to the deal! “Yes! It’s about f*cking time I make a massive profit and make a huge comeback!”