

The Ace at the Apex

## Chapter 99 Crushing Reivaj Group to Smithereens

After Doug was done with his phone call to Zayn, he went on to call Javier.

“Mr. Kersey, I’ve prepared everything as per your instructions. But, based on the info that I’ve gathered, the Dunham Group holds quite a large quantity of zircons. Don’t you think that...it’s a little risky for us to be paying so much money?”

Of course, Javier understood the risks. “A little risky’s a huge understatement. There’ll be a huge risk at play this time, but I trust that Mr. Dunham will be willing to help us foot the bill...”

As Javier told Doug about the next phase of his plan, Zayn was in a hurry to tell Geoffrey the good news he had just received.

In the office, Zayn told Geoffrey everything, not leaving out a single detail.

Geoffrey was a very cautious person by nature. He scrutinized all of the details that Zayn gave him, carefully thinking over the entire thing out of fear that it might be another trap. Finally, after more than ten minutes, Geoffrey gave Zayn his approval after not being able to identify any potential pitfalls with the plan.

“Go ahead, but you’ll only be responsible for contacting them. All trades and any other aspects of this business will be dealt with by the person I arrange to be in charge.”

Zayn immediately showed his dissatisfaction with this.

“You can’t do this! I’ve only just gotten a whole pile of sh\*t dumped on me, so who knows how many people within the company are laughing at me behind my back? If I’m not the one to handle this myself and bring us all a perfect victory, their opinions of me will only deteriorate even further. They’re never going to listen to my instructions anymore...”

Zayn had to use every excuse and persuasion method he had before successfully convincing Geoffrey to leave him in charge.

“On one condition... I want you to be extra careful about this. You are not to cut any corners and do not be greedy at any point. Do you understand?”

Zayn merely nodded his head at his father’s numerous reminders, expressing that he would not fail again.

The moment he exited Geoffrey’s office, Zayn immediately contacted Doug.

Within just half the day, Doug had acquired all of the zircons reserves in Dunham Group’s zircon mines, which came up to a total of more than 200 tonnes. At 230 thousand dollars per tonne, the grand total came up to more than 45 million dollars.

Doug had also very efficiently arranged for a fleet of cars to transport all of the zircons away. On top of that, he had transferred all of the payment to Zayn before the latter even mentioned a word about it.

Later that afternoon, when Zayn returned to his company’s headquarters, Geoffrey was in a

company meeting.

Beaming, Zayn stepped into the conference room. Occasionally, he would even smile a little.

All of the people inside the conference were curious about Zayn's strange behavior, to which the latter very keenly gave everyone a brief overview of what had happened.

Later on, he began claiming merit for himself. "Originally, the fellow I'm working with was prepared to deal with Reivaj Group, but I managed to persuade him into working with us using my sincerity. He has taken all of the zircon off our hands. And that's how Dunham Group managed to direct his money into our company!"

Everyone in the conference room gave Zayn a round of applause and showered him with compliments upon hearing this.

"45 million dollars?! That's awesome, Mr. Dunham! You've managed to surpass our entire sales team who's in charge of selling our zircons!"

"We were worried about how we were going to sell off the stock we had on hand and were about to sell them off at a low price. But you've managed to save us all with this fantastic feat of yours! You've cleared out all of the reserves we have. Wonderful! Just wonderful!"

Even Geoffrey was nodding his head and complimenting Zayn as well.

"You've done pretty well in this deal, Zayn. You did not let me down. Good..."

Zayn scanned the entire conference room with a gloating look on his face as he thought to himself, 'With this deal, I've instantly managed to wipe away the entirety of the 12 million dollar loss I had caused previously!

'Let's see if any one of you dare look down on me now! Try criticizing me behind my back now!

That afternoon, Zayn was the star of the show. The people's endless compliments for him flew in from all directions.

He was still in a wonderful mood when the meeting ended. But he then thought that such a feat would not be enough to show how talented he was in business.

'Since Doug needs a large number of zircons, I wonder if I'll be able to purchase Reivaj Group's reserves at a low price and sell it back to Doug at 230 thousand dollars again. I'll then ear the difference as my profit.

'After all, Reivaj Group has no idea that Doug is acquiring zircons.'

However, Zayn decided to drop the matter since Geoffrey had already instructed him to not be greedy.

'Reivaj has quite a lot of zircons on hand as well, so I'm guessing that I'll have to fork out around 4 5 million dollars, while I'll only be able to earn approximately 450 thousand dollars. It's a high risk, high cost but low-profit business...' In the end, Zayn decided to play it safe and put the efforts into mining and selling off the finds.

At that point, Zayn received another phone call from Doug.

“My client tells me that what you provided me with is too little. Do you have any more zircons to sell me?”

Hearing this, Zayn was genuinely shocked at how much buying power this huge foreign client had.

However, he became depressed when he thought about how he had already sold off all of his reserves. ‘What am I going to do now? There’s money to be earned right in front of me, but I just can’t reach it!

Doug said that he was going to acquire more zircons from Reivaj and that they had already begun negotiations.

“But this friend of yours is really tough to deal with! He’s asking for 280 thousand dollars per tonne, which is a whole 50 thousand dollars more than what I paid you!”

‘This price is almost on par with the current market price. It is cheaper than purchasing it from another province, but the difference isn’t significant. More importantly, the zircons here are of higher quality, which is why Doug might have to purchase it at that price.’

Zayn instantly became unhappy.

“What’s all this nonsense? Why are you buying from them at 280 thousand dollars when you only paid me 230? Is this how you conduct business?”

Doug sounded very aggrieved as he said, “Do you think I want to do this? I’ll be earning 10 million dollars less if he sells me 200 tonnes!

“Plus, isn’t he your best friend and former schoolmate? If you’re able to purchase his zircons, I’ll pay you 265 thousand dollars per tonne, and that will be the price that I purchase all future stock from you from now on!”

Zayn became enticed at the potential offer of stacks of cash being hurled at his face...

However, after pondering for a while longer, he decided to reject Doug’s offer, not daring to take the risk.

As a result, the next afternoon, a piece of news came from Reivaj Group’s zircon mine...

They had sold nearly 200 tonnes of their zircons at 280 thousand dollars per tonne and it had all been transported!

Upon hearing this, Zayn regretted everything right down to his core.

“F\*ck! I should’ve been a little braver last night! I would’ve at least earned 3 million dollars if I managed to buy the zircons off of Reivaj!”

Just as Zayn was wallowing in regret for not being brave enough to take risks, Doug gave him another phone call.

“D\*mn it, I can’t stand this friend of yours! He kept pushing me and refused to sell his zircons to me unless they were bought at 280 thousand dollars per tonne!

“Say... would you like to join me and set up a trap for him to fall into?”

Zayn immediately became motivated just as he was fuming about how he had lost the opportunity to earn some extra cash.

“Sure! Let’s crush him! What was the plan you had in mind.”

Doug told Zayn that would arrange for someone to spread false rumors that a huge client is going around acquiring zircon mines throughout their province, while Zayn was to arrange for someone to acquire Reivaj’s mines. 1

“When you’ve got the mines, I’ll purchase however many tonnes of zircon you have at a fixed price of 250 thousand dollars.

“Don’t worry, with my identity as the vice president of the Darton Group, I’ll sign a purchase agreement with you. Of course, we won’t be able to put down the 250 thousand dollar rate on paper since the price of zircons fluctuates regularly. However, the least I can do is guarantee you that we’ll purchase the zircons from you according to the market rate. Don’t worry, I promise you won’t make a loss.”

Zayn’s eyes twinkled and widened as he beamed brightly!

‘With a legally binding contract with the vice president of the Darton Group, there’s nothing left for me to be afraid of!’

Thus, Zayn readily agreed to Doug’s plan.

“All right, Mr. Dowding! Here’s to a wonderful partnership! Let’s crush the Reivaj Group to smithereens!”

### **Chapter 100 Once Bitten, Twice Shy...Not!**

‘If I manage to get my hands on Reivaj Group’s zircon mines, it’ll be like me getting a hold of a goose that lays golden eggs!’

Thus, Zayn readily agreed to the plan since there was nothing for him to be afraid of as Doug had already given his word, including his signature on a legal agreement.

At the thought of being able to earn more money and being able to deliver a punch to Javier’s face, Zayn was literally on cloud nine.

‘I’ll wipe that f\*cking smirk off your face, Javier!’

Satisfied after gritting his teeth and cursing out loud, Zayn hurriedly went to look for Geoffrey. After all, Zayn needed his father’s approval before he would be able to mobilize the funds to acquire Reivaj Group’s mines.

However, Geoffrey firmly shook his head when he heard about this.

“No, there’s no way this will fly. In business, our most important creed is to play it safe. We should be content that we’ve been able to earn, even if it’s just a little.”

At Geoffrey’s rejection, Zayn immediately panicked.

“Dad, it’s exactly because I did as you asked and played safe that caused me to lose out on the zircons that Reivaj Group had. They ended up selling their zircons at 280 thousand dollars per tonne and earning 10 million dollars more than us!

“Do you know what the others are going to say about me if word about this gets out? They’re going to think that I’m a fool who ended up selling the exact same thing for a much lower price! They’re going to think that I’m an idiot who doesn’t understand the market economy!

“But things will be different if I’m able to acquire Reivaj Group’s mines. I can state that I was trying to determine if our client genuinely needs that many tonnes of zircon. So this time, I’m adamant about acquiring their mines!

“Plus, Doug will be signing a purchase agreement with us. He’s the vice president of the Darton Group, so what do we have to be afraid of? Didn’t you always teach me to not collect the golden eggs laid by the goose, but to catch the goose itself...”

Zayn was using all sorts of tactics, including begging, to gain Geoffrey’s approval.

Most importantly, all the points he had made while in Geoffrey’s office made perfect sense and did not seem like something he would say out of impulse. Thus, Geoffrey was moved.

After some digging, he realized that Doug had indeed been spending a lot of time with a foreign client recently, plus both the Reivaj Group and the Darton Group were beginning to work on the immigration papers for the purchase of two batches of zircons.

There was all sorts of evidence that showed Doug indeed did require zircons, so there was not much for Geoffrey to be suspicious about. Coupled with the fact that Zayn kept on giving him

reassurances and even went as far as to say that “he would have his head chopped off should the deal end up in smoke”, Geoffrey finally gave his approval.

“But Zayn, remember, you must be careful...”

“I got it, I got it! Thanks, Dad!”

Ecstatic, Zayn rushed out of the office without even giving Geoffrey a chance to finish speaking.

Early the next morning, Zayn went along with Doug’s plan. He found a friend to acquire Reivaj Group’s mines.

Meanwhile, Doug started spreading the fake rumors. Someone even saw Javier smoking a cigarette outside one of his zircon mines, his expression extremely depressed, seeming as though he was being troubled by the fact that his mines were about to be shut down.

Meanwhile, Zayn felt that Doug was very good at spreading fake rumors because he had even started hearing about them through the grapevine.

Zayn felt that the time was right for him to make his move!

He arranged for his friend to approach Javier and acquire the mines.

However, Javier took an unrelenting stand on the selling price, which was sky-high. In total, all three of his zircon mines would only be worth 82.5 million dollars, but he insisted that it had to be 135 million dollars. It was either that or no deal. This price was enough for Zayn to grit his teeth in pain.

However, he decided to accept the price in the end. After all, there were still a good many tonnes of zircon remaining in the mine, so he could sell them off and churn out profits later!

Unable to contain his excitement upon successfully acquiring the zircon mines, Zayn called up Javier.

“Hey Javier, your zircon mines are now in my hands! You feel pretty good about yourself that you managed to sell them for 135 million dollars? Well, listen up, you idiot. You’ve been duped! I was the one who spread those fake rumors about the zircon mines being shut down! Hahaha! You f\*cking idiot!

“You had a huge goose that laid golden eggs in your possession, but I’ve ended up taking over them. Do you feel like crying right now?”

“Go ahead, cry as much as you want, you f\*cking idiot! I’ll be the one to harvest the whole pile of zircons and sell them off at whatever price I want, you idiot!”

After that, Zayn gleefully hung up.

“I’ve not only scolded you, I didn’t even allow you a chance to retaliate, you f\*cking idiot! Go ahead and die of a heart attack!”

Zayn carried on gloating for a while before he collected his emotions and called Doug.

Zayn had already instructed his men to approximate the number of zircons left, and it came up to a total of 200 plus tonnes.

250 thousand dollars per tonne...that would come up to a total of approximately 50 million dollars. If I sell them all off, it would mean that I had bought up the three mines for 85 million dollars.

‘Although the price is still considered steep, it’s still worth a lot more in the long run to have a goose that lays golden eggs.’

Delighted, Zayn lit up a cigarette as he waited for Doug to answer his phone. Doug failed to answer his first call, so Zayn tried again but the call remained unanswered. After a moment of puzzlement, Zayn figured it was not a problem. After all, he had a legal contract with Doug. The man was probably engaged in some other matter.

However, when night fell, Zayn had a different opinion. Doug had failed to answer his numerous phone calls since that afternoon!

Anxious that Doug had not returned any of his calls, Zayn became more and more restless. He decided to give the Darton Group a call, intending to contact Doug through them. Fortunately, someone from the Darton Group picked up.

However, what was most unfortunate was that the employee informed Zayn that Doug had resigned a long time ago...

'Resigned?! Won't that mean that the contract he signed as the vice president of the Darton Group will be nullified?!

'The Darton Group won't have to bear any responsibility whatsoever because Doug's the only one who has to be responsible. But now, Doug...is missing!!!

Zayn was now hit with a full-scale panic attack. He muttered to himself frantically as he tried calling Doug's number again.

"C-Come on, d-don't do this to me, Mr. Leigh...you're killing me...you're seriously killing me right now!!!"

Zayn was so miserable that he was almost in tears. After all, he had just wasted 135 million dollars!

Although he had bought zircon mines with zircons inside, they would be nothing more than ordinary pieces of rock should they fail to be sold!!!

However, there was no miracle for Zayn... Doug really had disappeared.

When Geoffrey found out about this, he hurriedly sent out men to look into Doug's background as well. What they found was that Doug's motto was to leave the country whenever he was in trouble!!!

'This was a scam. An outright scam in broad daylight! What in the world is this?!

Geoffrey instantly picked up the table lamp next on his desk and smashed it against Zayn's head, who was cowering in fear with his head lowered.

"I kept telling you that this is a no-go, but you f\*cking insisted on acquiring it. You even said that you'd have your head chopped off if this falls through. Go ahead, chop it off right now!"

In fact, Zayn really wanted to do so, but he did not have the courage because...he was afraid of death.

He ended up being brutally beaten by Geoffrey until he was soaked in his own blood. However, Geoffrey, still feeling incredibly frustrated, decided to direct his hatred toward Javier.

'Dunham Group has been conned twice now. And both of them were because of Doug. Both times, Javier became the one to reap the benefits, while my company became the one to foot the bill!

'Even a fool will now be able to see that Javier and the Reivaj Group are the ones behind this!

And now, Doug has fled. Even if we catch him, we won't necessarily be able to prove that Javier had anything to do with this, so getting the police involved would be useless...'

Pondering for a while, Geoffrey instructed his son, who was all bloody, "Go, contact Chessie. Get her to arrange for some people to turn Javier into a cripple! How dare he play games with me over and over again...I will have his head!!!"

Zayn was still in a daze from being brutally beaten. "Uh...Dad... I did contact her once previously to try and get rid of Javier myself.

"But she warned me that if I were to dare do anything to Javier, she'd...kill us all."

Geoffrey's eyes instantly widened and he felt like his chest was about to explode. 'Are we really going to accept being tricked twice in a row?!'

### **Chapter 101 There's something I'd Like to Ask You**

Dunham Group was more than Geoffrey's private property-it belonged to the family. And now, after being two-time colossal suckers, it surprised no one that the Dunhams were incensed to a fever pitch. When the zircon mine scandal was pulled from under the rug, the entire family basically unsheathed their fingers and launched an interrogation against Geoffrey and his son.

Their main goal, apparently, was a demand to know if Geoffrey was "mentally-challenged" and whether he had passed that trait down to Zayn. The family meeting held that night basically eviscerated Zayn and Geoffrey, sending them to hell and back.

Then, for a few days, Dunham Group was basically enervated. Their initial intention had been to sell those zircon ores, but since someone had dumped a surfeit amount in the market, their price had been lowered to 200,000 dollars, which was a far cry from the original 240,000 dollars the family had asked for more than 300 tonnes of ore.

It would have been manageable if that was the extent of the trouble, but they still owned three zircon mines. Still, misery loved company, so the government shortly passed a law that immediately clued the Dunhams in on the fact that Doug was not bluffing.

The country was going to impose a crackdown on smaller zircon mines.

Though the Dunhams had caught wind of this, they thought Doug was simply trying to hoodwink Javier and they even praised the former for that. But now, the zircon mine they had exhausted hundreds of millions of dollars to own was on the verge of being shut down.

Dunham Group's crisis had turned into a catastrophe. They had lost about 160 million dollars, and the group's venture capital chains were being stretched rather thin just to cover these holes.

The ones shouldering this mammoth task, of course, were Geoffrey and Zayn.

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Zayn watched his old man's vim get slowly chipped away by his increasing workload and felt a pang in his chest. He began to wrack his brain for ideas, until finally, a new plot took form in his head.

A scheme that would save his family...and knock Javier down a peg.

He was going to ruin Jade and Javier's relationship. He was going to make Jade kick that b\*stard out, and then... They could kiss Reivaj Group goodbye. Better yet, he could sidle up to the damsel in distress, and while she felt vulnerable, he would provide her with a shoulder to cry on and win her heart!

Win the girl, win Reivaj, and Dunham Group could annex it as one of its own!

"Well, well, well. Javier Kersey, you fancy yourself a chess master, don't you? But you can't even beat someone half as good as me no matter how hard you drag your \*ss, slick! I'll f\*ck you so hard, just you f\*cking watch!"

The time for his coming-of-age rite was drawing close, so Javier had to make his move now. But before that happened, he needed to make some arrangements, not just for Reivaj Group but also for Jade.

While sending Dough away to work overseas, Javier had Mackenzie dispatch someone to work on Jade's security detail. His friend obliged and sent an ex-professional bodyguard called Ingrid Lovette, whose female gender made few people think they had to be vigilant around her.

This assumption could not be further from the truth. Ingrid's abilities were far from subpar, as she had been assigned to guard many politicians both domestically and abroad. Joining Jade's side required her to be demoted from her illustrious role, though. To rationalize Ingrid's presence in Jade's home, Javier appointed her as the new "housekeeper."

As a professional bodyguard, she was overqualified for the job, but she was alright with it. It was gratifying to be working with Master Javier again, though her feelings were less matronly and more excitement-like when she met her unofficial apprentice.

She used to teach him how to play with daggers, after all.

With Jade's safety issue resolved, Javier's mind drifted to Reivaj.

That night, Javier invited Jade, Chad, and Mary Jane to join him around the wine table. There, he proclaimed, "I will be out for some time to settle some personal matters, so our business will be in your capable hands, Chad and Mary Jane."

Both of them knew the real reason behind his excursion—he was going to attend the rite signifying his passage into true adulthood at the age of 24. They nodded solemnly before reassuring Javier that they would ensure no accident would harm Reivaj Group. As Chad put it, "Well, the only accident that might happen... is accidental growth! Haha, it will blow your mind!"

Javier knew him enough to not discount this as a pure bluff. In Chad's hands, Reivaj would definitely expand its conquests more quickly than one would expect. Useful as Javier's subterfuge and underhanded guile might be, it still could not compare to going up against an actual professional like Chad Floyd McCool.

He would have an even smaller chance of squaring up to Mary Jane Gould, especially since she was basically a war goddess in the battlefield of finances who led the nation into victory against foreign contemporaries.

After they had dinner and left the hotel, Javier decided to return home on foot rather than drive under the influence. Jade, on the other hand, drove both Chad and Mary Jane home.

He took a casual, unhurried stroll on his way home, as though he was just having an evening walk. Walking slowly, he was passing by an alley when he suddenly heard a series of frantic cries. "Stop! I'm not...I'm not a call girl! Lemme go! Please don't do this to me, please! Help! Help me-somebody, anybody! Heeeeeelp!"

The scream was shrill with hysteria, and Javier whipped his head in the direction it came from.

There, on the far side of a corner, three men towered above a young woman who could not be more than twenty-four or twenty-five years old, cornering her and making her back up against a wall.

She was a beautiful woman. Her long, flowy hair billowed in the evening wind, and she was wearing a lacy, black satin dress that accentuated the vaguely seductive air about her.

Javier did not hesitate. Instinct alone made him bolt over.

“Let her go and p\*ss off!” he warned the men.

The three offending men were none too pleased to have their perverted fun interrupted. One of them wasted no time taking offense. “Who the hell are you supposed to be? This is my f\*cking business, punk. It ain’t yours... So you p\*ss off unless you’re stupid enough to come near!”

There was a hint of a threat in his undertone. A gangster, maybe?

Half a minute later, the gangster-like guys were sprawled on the floor, wincing and whimpering like abused dogs. Not in the mood to waste time chatting with plebeian degenerates, Javier removed his coat and wrapped it around the woman’s body.

“T-Thank you,” she huffed, her voice a little frazzled. However, her eyes were conveying her gratitude. She seemed to have something more to say, which caused Javier to consider her curiously

She hung her head and let her hair shield her eyes. “I’m...I’m scared,” she said in a whisper. “C Could you be so kind as to a-a-accompany me home? P-P-Please?”

Ah, so that was what was on her mind. It was a very reasonable request too. She was alone at night and she had just experienced a near-miss with the unthinkable, after all. Javier immediately agreed without a second’s thought.

Keeping the young woman by his side, Javier walked her home. On the way, she introduced herself as Ciel Ince-Dolch and said she lived somewhere very close by.

The name rang a bell in Javier’s head, enough that he instantly called out his school’s name. “I knew you looked familiar even from afar, but I wasn’t sure enough to call your name! You’re an alumna, aren’t you? The captain of the cheerleading squad and renowned dream girl?”

Ciel froze. “Y-You... You know me?”

Javier was overjoyed. “Know you? Heck, we were in the same cohort! Different majors, of course, but still...Anyway, I’m Javier Kersey.”

Saving an old schoolmate’s life by chance had given Javier quite the serotonin boost. Delighted, he began to chat with Ciel on the way. He took her to her doorstep as soon as they reached her home and stopped short outside the door. Given his gender, he was not inclined to enter a woman’s abode.

He waved, implying that this was farewell. Before he turned away, Ciel said, “Come in for some water first. I still have something to ask you, Javier.”

This piqued Javier’s interest. What could she possibly have to ask him?

He strolled inside and took a seat on the couch. Ciel then unscrewed a water bottle and handed it

o him.

All that chatting on the way had made him a little thirsty, so Javier thought nothing of it and took a few sips. The two struck up another casual conversation, yet Ciel never mentioned the question

she was supposedly itching to ask him.

As Javier's curiosity grew, a strange numbing fog began to envelop his head. 1

His body was heating up. It was burning as though it was on fire.

By the time he realized he might have been drugged, his body had already given up enough that he collapsed on the couch.

### **Chapter 102 Womanly Wisdom**

By the time Javier was up, he realized he had fallen asleep on the couch.

He was flummoxed, as he had no idea just how on Earth this had happened.

He was aware of the fact that he had been drugged and he'd had sex with Ciel under the influence, but none of that knowledge could explain the reason this had happened. He had just met Ciel by

accident!

Unable to wait a moment longer, he asked, "You'd never even had sex before, so why? Why do this? What was your motive?"

Hearing his voice out of the blue made Ciel jump. She turned to him, and upon realizing she was completely naked, she yanked her clothes to cover her more sensitive bits, looking clearly flustered.

Her embarrassment and bashfulness were such an innate part of a sex-shy woman that she hardly even looked like a sultry seductress. In fact, her subsequent breakdown and tearful confession sealed the deal.

"I'm so sorry! I'm sorry...Oh, god, I'm sorry. I had no choice. My dad's debt to the casino is too big. He couldn't pay it, so those gangsters said they would l-1-lop off his limbs in exchange. I had to...I had to save him. So I had to do what they said..."

There were more details to Ciel's confession, but these key points were clear enough to Javier.

Then came the cherry on top: She told him someone had recorded the entirety of their activities and left the house with the damning footage. This was what clued Javier in on who had done this. It was the work of \*sshat extraordinaire Zayn Dunham.

That piece of sh\*t must have planned to film this video and take it to Jade so he could drive a wedge between Jade and Javier. Zayn was going to take advantage of the schism. Maybe he even fantasized about possessing Jade's heart while she was in low spirits and then gaining ownership of Reivaj Group!

"Well, f\*ck. You're a natural-born rat, Zayn." A counterstrike had already taken form in Javier's mind, but first, he needed to take care of Ciel's side of the story. He produced his phone and called Sam.

An underworld baron would know all about illegal casinos and any related matters. He would know all about the incident Ciel claimed had happened too.

Sam did not need much time to get the information he needed-Ciel was telling the truth.

Javier wondered if he could help handle her father's troubles, but apparently, as Mr. Dolch had fled from the casino, his sheer panic had blinded him and he had crossed a busy road...

Javier got to his feet and put on his clothes. He made his way to the door, but before he opened it, he could not help turning his head a little, casting a side-glance at the young woman he had left behind.

At the end of the day, Ciel was just an innocent woman harmed by the feud between him and Zayn. She had lost her virginity and her father all because of him. It was impossible not to feel sympathy over an experience like that.

"That's it. From now on, you belong to me," Javier proclaimed. "And no one will ever dare lay a finger on you again!"

He stepped out of the door as poor Ciel wept.

Grief over her father's death dominated Ciel's mind, but in her despair, she seemed not to consider how lucky she had gotten since this tragedy...

The first thing Javier did after leaving the room was call Jade. He spilled the beans about the entire event to her, sparing no details and narrating everything up to him having sex with Ciel." Jade, I know this looks bad, but,"

"I believe you."

Before Javier could explain himself, Jade cut him short with a declaration of her own. She had her upsetting doubts about the whole thing, but they were so mild that she trusted Javier. This was the same man who had multiple advantages when it came to sexual advances against Jade herself but had nonetheless never crossed the line. She believed in his integrity.

"My man deserves an abundance of women," she added. "Because he's just that cool and extraordinary. But I always occupy a spot in his mind too. He could think about me when he's cuddling with some other woman, but he can't do the reverse when he's with me!" 1

What a generous woman! She was so cool and generous that she impressed Javier. He did not think he would be able to do the same if their roles were reversed.

Honestly, though, Jade could not help but let out a helpless sigh after she hung up. She did not like that arrangement at all. No woman, she reckoned, would consent to it. But, oh, her beau was simply too incredible and unique! This other woman might have ended up with him as a pawn in a conspiracy beyond her power, but Jade suspected that more women would genuinely pine and fall in love with him in the future. Rather than suffer, she might as well give her beau some leeway.

Catherine might have been a milquetoast all her life, but even a milquetoast had their own principles that they lived by. "Women should never restrict a man too much. Men are like sand in your hand-the tighter you hold them, the faster they leave. Only when you loosen your hand up will a man want to stay with you forever." 1

This had been Catherine's way of treating Jade's father, which was why the man had ultimately married her despite his family's protests. And no matter how many women he bedded and had flings with out there, his heart always belonged to her.

Now, Jade had inherited this awesome wisdom too..

As she was pondering this, the door to her office was pushed open. Her frustrated secretary tried to stop the incoming man to no avail.

It was Zayn. A USB drive was in his hand as he marched quickly to Jade's side before sticking it into the computer. "You won't believe this unless I show you-that son of a b\*tch has shown his true colors!"

He immediately played the video. One could clearly see how unbridled and feral Javier was as he ravaged Ciel, who seemed to be in agony. The footage even managed to show the redness in his eyes, which could only be the symptom of a powerful aphrodisiac at work.

It was the proof to support Javier's claim. He had been set up, just as he'd claimed.

The video was short. It actually lasted only about 30 seconds. Zayn thought it would be enough to light Jade's fuse, and as soon as the video ended, he bristled, "I swear to god, that disgusting motherf\*cker does not deserve you at all! Who does he think he is?! He works his \*ss off to please you and apparently 'loves' you, but then he goes and screws some other woman when you aren't watching! He's despicable-there is nothing he deserves other than pure contempt. He's no man. He's as loose as an animal!"

Zayn went on and on with his angry attack before finishing by asking her, "What are you going to do, Jade?"

The young woman pulled the USB drive out of the computer and chucked it into a drawer. "I'm going to question him!"

Internally, Zayn chirped in glee. "I agree! He deserves a thorough interrogation if I do say so myself!" he assented. "In fact, he deserves more than that,"

"I'm going to ask him why he hasn't ever tried that position with me while we're doing the hanky panky!" Jade cut off his sentence pointedly. "Now, that's unforgivable!" 3.

Zayn was stunned.

Why had it turned out differently than he had expected? Should she not be so incensed over being scored and slighted that she'd at least slam her fists on the desk until they turned red? So why was her main complaint about the sex position instead?

### **Chapter 103 Javier Is a Good Man**

The result had completely changed Zayn's expectations. He left Reivaj, feeling bemused, without any idea why that had happened.

“Jade’s got a few screws loose, doesn’t she?” Zayn murmured to himself. It seemed like the only plausible explanation.

He made his way to the parking lot, but just as he was about to yank his car door open, he felt a force engulf his nose. Panicked strength broke out of him, yet his struggle had no effect.

That was when a strange smell invaded his nose and robbed him of his senses. Zayn’s strength was pilfered from his limbs, leaving them enervated before Herschel dragged a limp, powerless Zayn into the car.

When Zayn came back to his senses, there was a new weight pushing against him from above. He snapped his eyes open and squealed in terror before making a mad dash for his life.

It took more than 10m before the naked young man could make out the..monstrous thing that was on him. It was a single leg-a human leg thick enough to be confused with a pillar.

His eyes traveled up the thigh, and he realized it was a man.

A man with the physique of a sumo wrestler, that was. At least 200 kilos heavy and with an appearance that resembled a large, vaguely humanoid mass of flesh.

What was even more terrifying, the man was winking at Zayn flirtatiously. “Come over here, lil twink!”

Zayn was so shocked that he was on the verge of tears. How the hell had this happened?!

He summoned every ounce of his strength from every reserve he had to spring outside. He dared not let his imagination picture what could have happened while he had been out as a light...

Not that the soreness in his body made it hard to imagine! And this was precisely why Zayn felt so humiliated that he felt like he could turn into ashes.

He reached the door and tried to pry it open.

To his terror, someone had bolted the door shut from the other side. He could not open it at all.

To add insult to his ballooning fear, the man had gotten out of bed and was stomping toward him like a dangerously mobile mountain.

Zayn was scared out of his wits. “L-L-Look, we c-c-could just t-t-talk about this, you know? Is it money that you want? I can give you money! No problem-I’m one of the Dunhams!”

“Don’t want money. I want you.”

Zayn took one look at his lascivious eyes and almost let out a wail.

Face white as a sheet, he made a mad dash for the window, hoping that he could escape from there. He actually succeeded too, as the window opened wide enough that half of his body.

managed to squeeze through.

Unfortunately, a large, powerful hand struck out of nowhere and grabbed Zayn by the ankle before yanking him back inside with mortifying strength.

Zayn felt like a ragdoll cruising through the air as the man chucked him back on the bed despite the distance of three to four meters in between. Then, without wasting a beat, the man lunged and slammed onto him like an unstoppable boulder.

Next, the room was filled with Zayn's shrill, ear-splitting scream. "Help me! Help me-anyone, pleaaaaaaase!"

He stopped abruptly as a bloodcurdling wail screeched across the air.

Javier was packing up to go home. Just before he set off, he received a call from Selena, who had not talked to him since their divorce three months ago. Their split had been total and complete, which was precisely the reason it was genuinely bemusing to see her trying to contact him.

Selena Lewis was already waiting on the ground floor. According to her, she was having an emergency and she needed his help. Since Selena was not famous for her mendacity, Javier believed her and went downstairs.

She did not even wait long before lurching at him with tears streaming down her cheeks. "Javier, I know I was in the wrong and maybe I'm the last person who should ask you for help, but...Oh, god, I have no other option than to beg you for help at this point! My mother...She's in the hospital. She's very sick, a-a-and the doctor said if she doesn't have surgery soon...

"I can't afford it at all. Please... You gotta help me!" she wailed.

Javier had no idea if it was true. Regardless, he began to wonder about the old woman in his mind. To be completely fair, that old woman had been nothing but kind to Javier over the years. Even when he had been at his poorest, she had still treated him like her own son. Never once has she scowled at him in distaste or let him take on any chores. She'd always treated him with the kind of respect one offers their guests.

The old woman had been the biggest reason he had endured Selena's harpy-like personality. And now, when the old woman was in dire need of help, he simply could not sit this one out.

Jade happened to rush over to him at that moment, so Javier told her about Selena's predicament briefly. Jade, for her part, nodded in support almost immediately. "Go! I'll hold the fort, so don't worry about the company!"

She turned to Selena and clapped her on the shoulder. "Don't worry, you're in good hands. Javier is a good man. We all know how kind he is."

Selena broke into tears. Of course he was a good man. She knew that, but she had never known how to cherish him. And now, the fact that Jade was telling her this only exacerbated her despondence and misery.

Javier was not in the mood to dwell on this at all. He raced to the parking garage and drove out of the building before yanking Selena with him to the hospital. By the time he reached his destination, the old lady was already in a deep coma.

He demanded to know why the doctor had not prioritized saving the old woman at that stage-a question that embarrassed the doctor very much. "It's not that we don't want to save her, sir. It's just

that...we can't perform the operation when the family has no money, and the general hospital in Medb refuses to accept her transfer. We have little choice in this, you know!"

With that new information in mind, he immediately gave that old trickster a call. The only way to fast-track her transfer to the capital was by relying on that big shot and his immense power.

The old man basically answered his call with a hearty, smug chortle. "Well, well, well! Look who decided to call? Can't hold yourself together now, punk?"

Javier was not in the mood for his quips. "Grandpa, it's Selena's mom. She's gotten so sick that she has fallen into a coma. I need a paramedic aircraft to fly her straight to the hospital in Medb!"

His grandfather knew all about the mess involving Javier and Selena, but he made no comments. "Atta boy. I'll have that arranged in no time."

After giving his grandfather the hospital's address, Javier ended the call.

Had he requested a run-of-the-mill helicopter, it would have been easy, barely an inconvenience.

Javier could have purchased one right there and then. But flying aircraft was bound by many rules. For one, they needed to report when flying in any given air space. A check-in with air traffic control was a must, or any unidentified aircraft entering a restricted air space would soon find itself flanked by fighter jets. Suffice to say, getting anywhere the owner wanted by air with a phone call and private aircraft alone was only possible on television.

Air traffic control was strict in all cross-regional flights, so one had to mark out their flight route and report their intention for entry. Even the amount of time allocated for the flight was limited.

Flying in any region of the capital, Medb, would be impossible without an extraordinary privilege. One would be barred from entrance or risk getting escorted by fighter jets. Forced entry would then result in having the aircraft shot and destroyed, so not even a millionaire would really think they could just cross Medb's air space in a helicopter.

That was why Javier had to rely on his grandfather for this. No one else had the power to have his private aircraft land within Medb!

Javier ordered the doctor to prepare for the transfer, but the latter was palpably broiling. "That's a very irresponsible thing to do, young man!"

Javier was stunned. What was that supposed to mean? How was saving a life an irresponsible thing under any circumstances?

"Look, the patient is in critical condition, yet you thought this was a good time to pull this mendacious bluff and claim you've summoned helicopters and aircraft...for you just like that? With all due respect, that's pure hogwash from the sounds of it. What, you really think just about any random person is granted the privilege to fly into Medb's air space?"

Schooling Javier was apparently just the start. Turning to Selena, he added, "I might not know

what your relationship with this guy is, but frankly, he's showing nothing but reckless disrespect to the patient. That's terrible, senseless judgment he displayed right there. With all due respect, I think you

better keep a wide berth from a man like that...before something bad and deeply regretful happens in the future.”

#### **Chapter 104 Would You Prefer Your Left Hand Or Right Hand?**

Javier finally understood the doctor’s contention. Long story short, he thought Javier was being a megalomaniac. Or maybe the doctor thought he was coveting Selena’s beauty and was puffing himself up so he’d look like a cool Chad to earn her favor.

The thing was, why would Javier even need to puff himself up into this larger-than-life character when he was already a larger-than-life character?!

Of course, at the very least, Javier knew the doctor was simply doing his job because he cared and wanted to protect his patient. He was not going to shout at someone with a heart like that. “Look, doc. I know you mean well, but regardless of whether you believe me or not, now is a good time to process the patient’s transfer. Just let me clear any outstanding fees owed to your institution, please. We’re waiting for a jet, anyway. There’s ample time left. Then we won’t have to abuse the patient’s time when the helicopter arrives just to finish the paperwork.”

The doctor, however, was steadfast about his Hippocratic oath. He held up his hand and gave an authoritative wave as he objected. “Absolutely not! You might discount medical accidents as trivial, but you can’t afford to be cavalier about the patient’s life! I will not let anyone as reckless as you put her life at risk and hazard an even bigger crisis-as far as that is concerned, I’m standing my ground!”

Try as he might, Javier could not get the doctor to understand his frustration. Pressed for options, he cast a glance at Selena.

“Do you trust me?”

The young woman was caught in a dilemma. She was not at all sure if a jet could cross into the capital’s air space, but she doubted even more that Javier, of all people, somehow possessed the ability to summon a private jet. That was her mother’s life on the line, so this was a huge gamble. She just did not know how to choose one of the two options.

Javier was starting to panic. “For god’s sake, Selena! This is your mom, not mine! I’m more worried about your mother’s life while you dilly-dally here! Do you have any idea just how much valuable time you are wasting at her expense? Every second could mean her life or death!”

The man’s anxious irritation finally egged Selena into making a decision. “Fine, I trust you!”

Turning to the doctor, she declared with finality, “Based on my authority as the patient’s kin, I would like to request a discharge from this hospital!”

The doctor was reasonably upset. “You don’t know how irresponsible the two of you are!” he snarled, stomping. “You don’t know how reckless your choice is!”

As the doctor furiously stormed out to process the discharge documents, the rhythmic beat of a helicopter’s blades slicing through the air was heard. By the time they finished up the paperwork for Selena’s mother’s discharge and cleared her outstanding bill, the helicopter had already landed on the hospital’s roof.

Selena's mother was wheeled to the roof quickly before being carried into the helicopter

Selena could not look away from the bold red numbering on its side that denoted its use as military aircraft. She was shocked, and so were the rest of the hospital employees. The doctor who had been previously in charge of her mother gawked too. He had not expected a helicopter to arrive, as Javier had claimed, let alone one still in military service.

Even when it rose back into the air and flew into the distance, the doctor could not tear his eyes away from it. A long beat later, he muttered, "Well, I'll be damned."

Selena listened to the pilot reporting to the air traffic command center. She shot a glance at Javier, then looked at the medics and pilots in military uniforms, and tears began to stream from her eyes. While she'd doubted Javier's purported abilities back in the hospital, the man himself had cared only about saving her mother's life.

She could not help but think about how much of a nice guy Javier had been to her in the past and how she had behaved in contrast.

To say she regretted it would be an understatement. It was only today that she realized how powerful Javier really was. He was more than a parvenu or even an absolute one-percenter. He was, in her eyes, a god.

Could a mortal ever be with a god?

She had always kept alive the dream that they might get back together, but now, reality had buried what little embers of hope she'd had with a devastating landslide. Selena could no longer imagine such a possibility because she literally could not.

She was too unworthy of him.

Two hours later, the helicopter, which was flying at top speed, finally arrived at Medb's military base. An ambulance was already standing by, and the patient was immediately transferred to the hospital on the far side. A life-saving operation was soon put in place, and never during the whole process did Selena ever need to feel worried.

By late afternoon, the old woman's operation was successfully executed. She was then placed in the intensive care unit. As a precaution against bacterial infections, everyone, barring the doctors and nurses, was prohibited from visiting the ward. That included Javier.

His current relation to the patient made him unsuitable for entry anyway, so he decided to leave now that the worst had passed.

Before he did, though, he transferred 780,000 dollars to Selena's bank account. They used to be husband and wife, and that sentimental history alone was a good enough reason.

Now, he just hoped this was the start of something better for Selena.

While Javier was busy accompanying Selena to Medb, the internet was having a field day with Zayn Dunham. He was trending and rising up as the web's most famous man, complete with the nickname "Heavy Lover Boy."

One thing was certain: The “love” he had received was heavy-200 kilos heavy. Hell, it was more than just heavy for one’s soul to bear. It was painful.

Poor Zayn had nowhere to go to even lick his wounds. He had no one to talk to. No place to find comfort. His family had basically ostracized him like a pariah after the incident, and now he was banned from showing up in the vicinity of Dunham Group. In other words, he had been disqualified as a candidate for the company’s chairman position.

Zayn was apoplectic. To him, everything had been Javier’s fault. And since Javier had Chessie to back him, Jade became the scapegoat simply because she was supposedly an unprotected target.

After the cataclysm he was subjected to, Zayn was delirious. His sanity was slipping, and he began to believe that Jade was the mastermind behind the beginning of his fall. Had she just said yes to being with him, none of this sh\*t would have happened!

At night, while Jade was returning home, Zayn intercepted her on the way. This time, there was no marriage proposal.

Only an attempt to abduct her.

He was going to kidnap Jade. He was going to express his hatred and broiling resentment by destroying her body.

It was eight at night, so Zayn tailed Jade as she left the office and walked to the parking lot before producing a big, black sack. He was going to blind her by covering her head with the sack, knock her out cold, and drag her into the car. Then, after driving them both to a remote area, he would rape her however he liked.

Once that was done, he would leave without a care in the world. Jade would know who had done it, but she wouldn’t dare report him to the authorities. She would not dare, not when the lofty mantle of the chairwoman of Reivaj Group was still hanging around her neck.

Just as he was about to put his plan into action, a voice suddenly rang out behind him. “Would you prefer to keep your left hand or right hand?”

Zayn jumped. He looked over his shoulder and saw a rather unsightly woman in her forties staring back at him. The shock of being startled at night, before he turned around to realize how ugly the person who had asked this question was, immediately made Zayn bluster. “F\*cking hell! Who the f\*ck are you supposed to be,”

The woman suddenly brandished a knife, its blade glistening in the cold, white moonlight. She swung and a transient arc of silver light stung his eyes.

When it faded, Zayn’s shoulders felt light. He looked down and realized in terror that both of his arms had been chopped off!

“You didn’t answer my question, so I thought you wanted to keep neither,” the woman said placidly before turning on her heel and leaving, looking impassive.

That woman was none other than Jade’s new housekeeper, Ingrid Lovette.

As Ingrid left, so did Jade. She had driven back home, blissfully unaware of the horror averted and the new horror that had replaced it.

Zayn was left alone, screaming in agony. Then, another woman appeared—a gorgeous sexpot that

Zayn recognized almost immediately. His eyes widened in hope. “N-Neve? Neve! Call an ambulance, please! Help!”

Zayn thought Neve was the same young woman who used to gush at his every beck and call. What he had forgotten, however, was that this was the Neve Odell who had gone through the horror of watching her father die before her eyes.

### **Chapter 105 Just A Bit**

Javier had gone straight to the airport after taking care of the hospital affair. He had no plans to stay in Medb any longer.

While waiting to board, he decided to lie down for a bit before realizing the seat next to him was occupied by a young woman in a black cap. The large pair of shades and mask covering the rest of her face complemented her getup. She was wearing a white short-sleeved t-shirt with a print of Princess Peach paired with denim shorts.

Judging by her fashion sense alone, she seemed to be a beautiful young thing. Javier could not understand why she would cover herself up this tightly on a hot day.

He thought about it for a while and realized why. While the girl cast a side-glance at him, her profile reminded Javier of a celebrity. Specifically, a celebrity who used to be all the rave before she’d suddenly been banished from the scene—Edelgard Weiss.

The more he considered her overall features, the more her appearance matched the celebrity’s.

He took out his phone and searched for her likeness. The general shape of her face, along with the contours of her features, were indictments of the young woman’s possible identity. The more

Javier pondered it, the more he believed it was her.

Still, Javier had no desire to clamor for her autograph or anything of the sort. He was not a sheeple, and honestly, Javier’s signature would have been worth more money and merit than Edelgard’s. He had so little regard for her autograph that he did not want one at all, let alone a selfie.

To him, Edelgard was as unspectacular as any plebeian girl.

Leaning back on an automated massage chair, Javier enjoyed the rhythmic movements while casting a few glances in Edelgard’s direction. The object of his observation was not the young woman but the airport employees by the boarding gate, as Javier wondered when boarding would

start.

Five or six glances and half an hour later, Edelgard finally could not pretend. She got to her feet and approached Javier before removing her mask and shades. Giving him a polite, acknowledging nod, she extended a hand.

“Hi. I’m Edelgard Weiss. If you’d like an autograph, just ask. I’d be more than delighted to give you one. I’d be happy to take a selfie with you too,” she said. “All I’m asking in return is that you don’t expose my identity to the wider public, okay? I’m here on personal business, and I would prefer not to have anyone recognize me.”

Javier was a little embarrassed, but he rose to take Edelgard’s warm hand, extending his own palm and shaking it lightly. “Hi, I’m Javier Kersey. This...might sound a little awkward, but I wasn’t looking at you, actually. I was checking the boarding gate.”

“W–What?!”

Edelgard was embarrassed. She had thought he was a fan who just could not muster the courage to speak, so she’d wanted to offer her fan a chance to fulfill their wish out of simple generosity. Little had she known that it would cause such an awkward misunderstanding.

Fortunately for her, Javier was a socially shrewd young man. He tried to look for some paper and a pen so that Edelgard could give him an autograph, but he was not the type to bring such things with him. Instead, he asked Edelgard for a group photo as a sign of appreciation for her kind gesture.

“Sorry, I lied. I’m actually a big fan of yours. I said I wasn’t because I don’t exactly belong in the . normal age group of celebrity-crazed fans, you know? I get embarrassed,” Javier remarked sincerely, although Edelgard quickly noticed him blacking out his phone before saving the photo.

In other words, he had asked to take a picture with her just to try to save her dignity and get her out of this embarrassment. She could not help but comment in silent awe, ‘Wow, this guy has such a high EQ!

Noticing someone strolling into their VIP lounge, Edelgard quickly put her shades and mask back on before re-taking a seat next to Javier. He was interesting to her, and the fact that he treated her just like anyone else made her all the more pleased to engage in pleasant chitchat.

Halfway through their conversation, a tall, blond girl came in. She approached Edelgard with a bright, effusive smile before extending a hand and speaking with marked difficulty and an accent, “Nice to meet you.”

Not wanting to seem rude, Edelgard removed her mask and shades right away before taking her hand and shaking it. “Hello!”

To Edelgard’s wide-eyed bemusement, the foreign girl began to speak in fluent Chalametan. She could not understand her at all, a fact that was not lost on the girl, who proceeded to gesticulate while enunciating each word as hard as she could.

Edelgard was none the wiser. She was just about to ask for help from a capable employee when she heard Javier speak-not to her, but to the foreign girl.

The revelation that Javier could speak fluent Chalametan made the girl switch targets with the decisiveness of a sailor jumping from a sinking ship. She sidled up to Javier’s side and began to chat in earnest, her incredibly voluptuous figure bending slightly.

It was a titillating window for a man to admire. In fact, the sight was so deliciously seductive that he almost wished he could flip the girl over and give the Charlemetan a “deeper probe”...

Regardless, it was just a passing lewd thought. After understanding the girl’s request, Javier turned to Edelgard and said, “She was wondering if you’re on your period right now. If you are, she would like to borrow...you know what.”

Edelgard’s cheeks flushed pink. That was completely unexpected! But then again, now that she thought about it, the girl had been making wild gestures at her private area in an attempt to communicate her request this whole time.

Coincidentally, Edelgard was on her period at the moment. She bashfully opened her cabin luggage and took out a sanitary pad before Javier’s eyes before passing it to the Chalametan girl.

Edelgard’s face was completely scarlet by this point. Fishing such a private object out in front of the other gender embarrassed her very much.

“Thank you!” the girl exclaimed, leaning forward to peck at Javier’s cheek before doing the same to Edelgard’s. With the sanitary pad in her hand, she walked away.

Edelgard blushed in newfound embarrassment. She knew kissing people goodbye was how Chalametans bade others farewell, but...the fact that she had kissed Javier before kissing her made her feel like she was kissing Javier by proxy...

Desperate to mask her embarrassment, Edelgard quickly put away her bags before asking, “So... You speak Chalametan?”

Javier nodded lightly and smiled. “Just a bit.”

Edelgard was skeptical. He had sounded proficient during the conversation and had never stuttered at any given moment. He could have fooled bystanders into thinking he had majored as a Chalametan interpreter!

A few moments later, as they chit-chatted, a tearful child passed by the VIP lounge before backtracking and sitting in front of the door while crying.

Edelgard scanned her surroundings and found no sign of an anxious parent. She turned her attention back to the child. He had to be only seven or eight years old and he might have gotten lost while fooling around in the airport. The boarding room they were currently in was expansive, after all, so it had to be hard to locate an individual.

She approached the kid and crouched to meet his eyes. “Hey, buddy. You okay? Where’s your mom?”

The child answered in what sounded like Manean. Edelgard, to her growing embarrassment, could not understand him at all. She tried switching to her rather dodgy Elizabethan, the international common language, but it just confused the boy.

Edelgard was almost at the end of her wits when Javier stepped forward and came to her rescue by conversing in Manean. Soon, he understood why the boy was crying. He had, as suspected, lost his mother and was not sure where to find her.

Javier led the kid to the service desk and relayed the problem to the employees. After thanking him, an employee took the boy, and soon, he was reunited with his mother.

Edelgard witnessed the entire incident like an awe-struck bystander, gawking at Javier. "You speak Manean too?!"

"Just a bit."

### **Chapter 106 Don't Worry, Mr. Kersey**

The two of them chatted for a bit more before the departure gate opened.

Javier was not taking the same flight as Edelgard, so he got up to bid her farewell and board with his flight ticket

"Bye-bye!"

After waving goodbye at him, Edelgard kept her eyes on Javier's retreating back. She thought that he would probably turn around a few seconds later and ask for her contact information to keep in touch. She had already given it some thought too, and she would give Javier her Messenger handle. After all, this man, who did not treat her like a celebrity, seemed decent. She was at ease chatting and interacting with him.

In reality, though, Javier did not even turn around once while he queued up at the departure gate.

Edelgard kicked her luggage harshly and muttered under her breath, "What kind of man are you? I already thought about it and decided to let you add me on Messenger, yet you can't even be bothered. Ugh, how infuriating!"

Javier truly did not intend to ask for Edelgard's contact information to keep in touch. She was just a female celebrity, an actor, no matter how popular she was.

When the flight landed, it was already past two at night. Javier took a cab to the hospital before driving his own car back home. When he arrived downstairs, he smoked a cigarette outside his car before going back into the vehicle in the end.

He dropped the car seat to sleep inside, deciding against going upstairs. Who knew how long he had been asleep when he was woken up by the sound of knocks on the car window. Opening his eyes to check, he saw Jade knocking on the window.

As the car door opened, Jade asked, "When did you come back? Why didn't you come upstairs to sleep?"

Javier rubbed his eyes and yawned before answering, "It's too late. I was worried I'd wake you up by opening the door and disturb your rest."

Javier spoke naturally, like he was just stating something normal, but Jade could hear his deep emotions for her through these ordinary actions. She replied with red eyes, "Why are you so silly? Why are you so nice to me that you take me into consideration no matter what you do..."

Stroking the woman's pretty face, Javier chuckled. "Can't help that I like you."

Jade looked even more moved then and nearly teared up.

Javier held her delicate face and pushed himself closer to land a soft kiss on her lips.

“Jade, if you’re really that moved, do something with me tonight. You know what I want.”

Jade knew. Of course she knew. Abashed, she gave Javier a punch, reluctant to exert any force.

“Go back to sleep. I’m leaving for the office.”

Leaving Javier’s car in embarrassment, Jade turned around again and raised a threatening fist at Javier.

“You’re not allowed to go to the office today. Rest properly at home. I’ll break your leg if you dare appear in the office, hmp!”

The affectionate threat felt like a puppy barking. It did not pose any harm, it just brimmed with cuteness.

The more Javier looked at Jade, the more he liked her. He rested his arms on the steering wheel and sighed at the woman. “Jade, why do I like you so much?”

The words felt like honey trickling into her heart despite her bashful glare at Javier. Then, she replied, “I like you too.”

Jade then hurried away shyly.

Ingrid briefed Javier on what had happened last night when he returned home.

“I just cut off both of Zayn’s hands, but Neve killed him afterward. It was a coincidence.”

What Ingrid meant was that the coincidence had nothing to do with her.

Nevertheless, Javier understood that Neve had targeted Zayn long ago. She just had not found a good chance to get revenge. It was alright. Now that Zayn was out of the picture, he would feel more assured leaving.

Dunham Group, though...

Javier called Chad. “After I leave, if the Dunhams do anything out of line, just crush them.”

“Got it. Don’t worry, Mr. Kersey!”

After taking half a day off and staying at home, Javier went to the office in the afternoon. It was not like he could help it. The lawyer had just called him to inform him that Jade had already transferred 60% of the shares to him. This meant that he was now 100% the boss of Reivaj Group.

It felt too sudden. Why would Jade transfer the shares to him? He thought that something had happened, so Jade’s super-simple answer when they met surprised Javier.

“Because I’m yours. What’s yours is mine too, and you’re a better fit for the chairperson position than me-unless you don’t want me anymore.”

Javier could not even object to what Jade had said, as he could understand where she was coming from.

“You’re transferring all the shares to me because you’re worried I won’t come back again, huh?”

“Don’t worry. I’d miss you too much even if I could forget about Reivaj Group.”

Jade blushed charmingly upon hearing that.

The company management would be taken care of by Chad and the finances by Mary Jane for the time being, so Javier was not fretful at all.

Since Jade had managed to learn so much from Mary Jane, she was getting ready to learn about management from Chad now. Before that happened, however, she had something incredibly important to do.

“Javier, I have to leave for a bit to check out Xerxes Village.”

Jade had once mentioned during her chats with Javier that she had been supporting an impoverished village all these years. That place was Xerxes Village, a small place on the mountain. The village had only had running water for two years and was incredibly poor.

Take a teacher’s salary, for example. Teachers basically had a secure job as government workers, as they were paid a one-month bonus on top of their monthly salary, including during summer and winter breaks. They could easily make around 630 dollars a month. Additionally, with enough years of teaching under one’s belt, one could receive 1,100-1,260 dollars in pension after retirement.

In Xerxes Village, however, the teachers were only paid 95 dollars a month, and the payment had been delayed for more than half a year.

In comparison, the wealth disparity created a stark contrast.

Jade had made some money in the past few years and had donated the profit to Xerxes Village. That was why she still did not own a house of her own, but the village now had a steady water supply and the students had new dorms.

Hearing that Jade wanted to visit the village and knowing there were still five days left before he went home, Javier told her, “Let’s go together!”

If he could make a small contribution, he thought that it would be nice too.

Jade considered it. “Is it okay if both of us aren’t in the office?”

Javier smiled. “What’s there to worry about? Chad and Mary Jane are both reliable.”

After Javier’s assurance, Jade found it unnecessary to say anything else, as she did hope that Javier would go with her. She did not want to show off but to show the man she liked how she was affecting others positively. In a way, she would be discreetly showing off to the man she loved...

After confirming their trip to Xerxes Village, Javier left some instructions for Chad and Mary Jane.

Chad’s response was nice. “Don’t worry, Mr. Kersey. If there are any changes in the company by the time you come back, they’ll definitely be positive developments.”

Mary Jane's reply was sarcastic. "It's not like you'd do much in the company. Go on, I'll have peace of mind that way."

Javier's fate as the boss was... awkward to say the least.

That night, Javier and Jade drove to their destination in the Mercedes-Benz G63. After a full day, they finally arrived in the village. Javier was surprised to see a familiar face in the village...

### **Chapter 107 The Fairy and the Goddess**

It had never once crossed Javier's mind that he would meet Edelgard in Xerxes Village when they had just met that one time.

What he found odd was that Edelgard had a bamboo basket filled with grass on her back. Judging by the scythe she was holding, she was obviously the one putting the grass in the basket.

Javier was surprised and he suspected that this person was not actually Edelgard but a doppelganger. Nevertheless, Jade asked at the same time, "Isn't that film star Edelgard Weiss?"

Javier nodded in surprise. "I think so. I met her in the capital airport previously and even chatted with her. She looks like she's wearing the same clothes as when I saw her too, but why is she holding a bamboo basket and cutting grass?"

"You two have...

met?"

Javier broke out of his trance when he heard Jade's pointed question and asked with a chortle, "Why, are you jealous?"

"No." Jade shook her head.

Javier did not say anything but rolled down the car window as he drove by Edelgard's side.

Before he could say anything, Edelgard greeted him in delighted surprise. "Hey, it's you, Javier!"

So it was really Edelgard. Was a celebrity like her there to "experience life"?

Jade pouted her sexy little lips. She even knew his name and had greeted him cheerfully. Jade did not voice any of this, though. She merely murmured to herself deep down.

Nonetheless, Javier could read her expression and gestured for Jade to get out of the car with him to greet the celebrity.

Coming face to face with Edelgard, Javier wrapped an arm around Jade's slim waist and introduced them warmly. "This is my girlfriend, Jade Odell."

Edelgard extended a hand happily. "Nice to meet you. I'm Edelgard Weiss."

Jade shook hands with Edelgard cheerily, as she was genuinely delighted now. The fact that Javier had wrapped an arm around her waist and openly introduced her as his girlfriend, as well as the fact that Edelgard was reacting so gleefully, was enough to prove that there was nothing between the two of them.

After a friendly chat, Javier asked Edelgard, "Say, what's a celebrity like you doing here, cutting grass instead of acting? Are you experiencing regular life?"

Edelgard removed the bamboo basket she was carrying from her back and rubbed her shoulders.

"What do you mean experiencing regular life? I'm a volunteer teacher here. I volunteer for six months a year. It's been three years and counting."

Javier was astonished. He really had not expected a celebrity to be a volunteer teacher in the village. He had heard about university students going to villages for voluntary work, such as teaching, but it had never crossed his mind that an actual female celebrity would do it as well.

If she were there for ten days or two weeks so the press could report and publicize it, that would no doubt have been a publicity stunt. However, Edelgard had been a volunteer teacher there for three consecutive years and each time stayed half a year, so this must come purely from her kind heart.

While Javier was taken aback by Edelgard's volunteering work, Jade asked in delighted surprise, "You're the goddess the students keep talking about? They tell me about it every time I'm here. They say that a goddess has been teaching them for a long time.

"Due to my busy work schedule, I usually only stay a few days before I have to leave, so I've never run into you."

Edelgard looked positively surprised as well. "Then you must be the fairy they keep talking about. The kids tell me that you're always visiting them, and each time you come, you bring lots of money for the village and even take them back to the city to treat their illnesses.

"Jade, you're really pretty. I like you just by looking at you. And you're not just pretty. You have a kind heart too..."

The two women were actually doing kind deeds in Xerxes Village together yet had only heard of each other without meeting in person. Now that they'd gotten to see each other today, they showered each other with so many compliments that Javier felt secondhand embarrassment.

Fortunately, Jade knew that Javier must be worn out from driving the whole day, so she opened the trunk to put Edelgard's bamboo basket there.

"Edelgard, ride with us there. We can talk in the car."

Edelgard was not one to politely refuse, so she picked up her scythe to move it to the trunk as well.

At that moment, someone ran over frantically from the front of the car. He looked like he was slightly over 20 years old and was wearing luxury brands from head to toe, but his clothes were incredibly soiled.

Lifting his leg, the young man stepped on the car's wheel roughly.

"You're after Edelgard, aren't you? Not bad, huh. You've got a sharp sense of smell -just like a dog. You even knew that Edelgard was all the way up here. But I think you think too highly of yourselves. Don't

you? How dare you come after Edelgard in a cheap G63? You really think that you're rich just because you have an extra penny or two?

"Do you know who I am? Easton Group. Ever heard of it? It belongs to my dad!"

Easton Group belonged to his father? Javier was intrigued.

How could he not have heard of Easton Group? Mary Jane used to be the financial director of that company, a teeny tiny subsidiary of the Kersey conglomeration. If Mary Jane had not been a financial director there, Javier might not even have remembered that there was a corporation like this under his family's control.

This young man was saying that it was his father's?

Javier said with a chuckle, "Right, it belongs to your dad. If it makes you happy, you can say that it's your grandpa's too!"

The young man looked rather triumphant. "So? Scared now, huh? Are you aware that the couple of pennies in your pocket can't do anything now?" While he fixed his clothes, Edelgard spoke up. "Luca Pangani, stop assuming everyone is as useless as you!"

The young man called Luca Pangani, who had been acting rather brazen, put on a pandering expression right after hearing Edelgard's reprimand.

"Yes, yes, yes. Edelgard, you're right. I'll certainly turn a new leaf when I go back. I'll study hard and strive to become even better to show my dad!

"Then, I'll give you an established corporation as a betrothal gift and make you the most gorgeous bride in the world!"

It was apparent that Luca was being nice to Edelgard. He was not even enraged when he was mercilessly chided. Instead, he was all smiles and giggles. He had even come all the way to the isolated Xerxes Village. It was evident how serious he was about Edelgard.

In spite of this, Edelgard paid him no mind and whipped around to get in the car directly.

Jade exited the back of the car at the same time and lightly flicked the stray pieces of hair in front of her face away. The unintentional sensuality that she showed mesmerized Luca.

Jade had not quite caught the conversation outside, as she had been in the car just now, so she asked Javier upon seeing Luca, "And this is?"

Javier hugged her and pecked her loudly before introducing said young man formally. "Mr. Dumb\*ss!"

"Huh?"

Jade had yet to react when Javier pushed her into the car. A moment later, Javier hopped into the driver's seat and started the car.

Luca panicked and went over to pull the door to the backseat open, but Javier had locked it from the inside. Luca cried frantically, "What about me? I'm with Edelgard!"

Javier smirked. "It's a cheap G63. Don't hop on. It'll taint your honorable \*ss."

Looking at the G63 that zoomed off, Luca stomped his foot furiously. "F\*ck. If I could drive my Ferrari up here, I'd make you see for yourself what a rich man is like!"

### **Chapter 108 This Is Outrageous!**

Javier, Jade, and Edelgard went out shopping when they arrived at Xerxes Village and then felt slightly tired.

The one most affected was Javier, who had not been able to even shut his eyes the entire night, while Jade had managed to take a nap in the car.

Initially, Javier had his guard up against Luca, but he then realized that Jade was quite close to the villagers. Plus, Luca seemed to have placed all his focus on Edelgard, which ultimately made Javier lower his guard.

Javier finally managed to find somewhere to lie down thanks to the chief's arrangements, so he immediately dozed off and woke up around noon.

The moment Javier opened his eyes, he instinctively thought that he had been kidnapped by someone.

'Where in the world am I? There's no roof above me, and there are even rats dancing about. Even the windows have a few broken panes, which are covered in cobwebs.'

After a while, Javier recalled that he was in Xerxes Village.

He had not gotten a proper look around in the morning due to extreme fatigue.

Now that I see all of this...this place is so poor that it's insane!

'If a thief were to come in here, he'd probably leave in tears before he even managed to steal any money... No wonder Xerxes Village has been hailed as the safest of all villages with zero crimes reported. Who in their right mind would want to come here and commit a crime when the whole village is so poor that not even the rats can get fat?'

After Javier got out of bed, he walked to the courtyard and realized that the rundown houses in front of him were the village's headquarters!

Javier looked at the broken, battered houses and felt nothing but concern for the villagers...

'If a huge storm were to befall this place someday, wouldn't all the villagers end up being massacred?!'

At that moment, the chief, Thomas Bloom, showed up.

Thomas had been honorably discharged and had returned to the village, swearing to help get Xerxes Village out of poverty and make it prosper.

However, he did not seem to have successfully fulfilled his dreams.

The problem was not that Thomas had not tried his best but that the natural environment of Xerxes Village was just unsightly...

“Javier, you’re awake! Come, come, the kitchen’s whipped up something for you guys to eat. I was just about to come get you!”

As Thomas greeted Javier in a friendly manner, he seemed to have trouble moving about. so

Javier wanted to go up to him to help him.

Thomas gave him a smile, showing that two of his front teeth were missing, and waved his hand to refuse Javier’s help. “It’s alright, don’t worry. I might not be able to move around very well, but I actually managed to kill two of my enemies on the battlefield once!”

Thomas was not bragging, actually. That was indeed a battle merit of his. It was a merit that he had won by risking his life.

However, nobody in the modern world remembered his contributions. Instead, they were more interested in what their idol’s birthday and blood type were.

Thomas fumbled around before taking out a metal box with completely flattened edges. He opened the lid and took out a cigarette, handing it to Javier.

“Please don’t mind this. I picked up this cigarette box from the floor when I attended a village meeting last year. After all, self-rolled cigarettes aren’t easy to carry around without a proper container, haha!”

Javier felt unpleasant about Thomas’ situation and was about to take out the box of better quality cigarettes he had in his pocket. However, he dropped the thought after a while.

“This man is a war veteran, so what he wants isn’t a box of cigarettes worth 15 dollars. He wants his dignity.

‘He’s someone who managed to eliminate countless enemies without losing his honor or dignity, but he has now thrown away his entire life because of an oath to make this village prosperous.

Thus, Javier smoked the cigarette even though it burned his throat and pondered how he was going to assist Thomas.

On the way, Javier was smiling along as he listened to Thomas narrate how he had managed to eliminate his enemies in the past, but he was actually feeling differently inside.

In fact, he felt slightly embarrassed because he had gotten money in his hands without having to do anything at all, while Thomas had to risk his life on the battlefield and return home with a missing leg. Now, he was carrying around self-rolled cigarette sticks inside a defective metal box.

However, Javier did not want Thomas to carry on feeling sorry because of the “inferior cigarettes” he was offering. Javier wanted to resolve this issue and even felt that he needed to resolve it.

Jade and Edelgard had already set the table when Javier and Thomas arrived, while Luca was

sitting down like a king.

Javier could not reprimand Luca about this because he had already slept the entire morning like a king himself.

The four of them had four simple dishes in front of them and half a keg of alcohol that the villagers had brewed themselves.

Before everyone had even managed to sit down, Luca began showing his distaste.

He turned around to look at Thomas and said, "Thomas, I can accept the fact that you didn't have any meat served when I arrived last night because you people didn't have enough time to prepare, but are you seriously serving us nothing but simple greens this morning? Where's the meat? I brought 15,000 dollars worth of goods into this village, but this is what you're serving me? This is outrageous!"

Thomas' face was filled with embarrassment as he chuckled dryly.

Next to him, Edelgard frowned and said, "You're free to leave if you dislike the food we're being served. Did your parents ever teach you manners?"

"Also, do you know what you brought here that's worth 15,000 dollars? 20 sets of suits! So tell me, how do you think those fancy suits will help them? Do you always act without thinking, Luca?"

Luca obviously felt slightly embarrassed upon hearing Edelgard's criticism.

He mumbled and said, "I just so happened to be buying some clothes at the mall when I found out that you were coming here, so I casually picked out a few things and rushed over. We hadn't been in contact with one another in two months."

"What the..."

Edelgard was just about to scold Luca even further when Thomas hurriedly stopped her.

He smiled and said, "Let's all calm down. I'm sorry that my chef hasn't cooked anything you like. It's my mistake for not making better arrangements. Also, the suits you've given us are useful to us. I'll be wearing one during the meeting later, haha."

Everyone present could obviously tell that Thomas was just trying to prevent the situation from blowing up. There was no way a poor chief would put on such an expensive suit, as he would definitely be scorned by everyone present at the meeting!

Then, the peacemaker went on to say, "Alright, I'm going to tell my chef to slaughter the pig and prepare some pork for you guys tonight."

"F\*cking pork? Come on..."

Luca was about to mumble something when Javier suddenly grabbed his head and slammed it on the table, almost shattering the firm wood.

After stopping Thomas from advancing, Javier looked at Luca and said, "Say another word and I'll rip your head off!"

Luca, who was furious, was about to say something but turned into a coward when he saw the fury in Javier's eyes.

'I don't have my subordinates with me, or there's no way I would have given in like this!'

After Javier told Thomas not to pay Luca any attention, he went on to criticize the latter. "Is this how the son of Easton Group's owner behaves himself? Are you not able to survive a day without having meat? Can't you see what Xerxes Village has been going through? Do you think this is a f\*cking vacation?"

Luca rubbed his forehead, which was throbbing in pain, and yelled, "I don't care whether I get meat or not! I'm only worried that Edelgard isn't well-fed! Did you really think I was doing all that for myself? I've already tried everything I could get my hands on before, so everything I do is only for Edelgard!"

Luca's eyes seemed to be filled with tears, but it was unknown whether it was because he felt aggrieved or he was in pain.

Edelgard sat aside and remained silent for a moment before she said, "I'm content with what I've been served, thank you. You should hurry up and eat too."

Luca did not say anything else. He only smiled at Edelgard. However, he quickly turned around to shoot a fierce glare at Javier.

Even though no words were said, it was obvious through Luca's gaze that he now saw Javier as his mortal enemy!

As he was eating, Luca kept on staring at Javier and silently thought to himself... 'I'm coming for you, Javier. Just you wait!'

### **Chapter 110 He's a Liar!**

'What the f\*ck?! Why is Javier reacting so differently from what I anticipated?! He added 120,000 dollars just now, so by right, he should only be adding 240,000 dollars, yet he went directly all the way up to 300,000 dollars instead. Most importantly, I can't pay five times 240,000 dollars, let alone 300,000!

'Five times 300,000 dollars would be 1.5 million dollars...Where the f\*ck am I supposed to get that kind of money?!

'My dad would have it, but he's definitely going to beat me up if I actually ask him for it!!!'

After pondering it for a while, Luca, who was unable to yell that he was going to donate 1.5 million dollars, became furious.

"This is f\*cking unfair! You purposely set a trap for me! You're only going to donate that small amount of money, while I'm already going to donate close to 3 million dollars!"

Javier sat next to the table and chuckled as he looked at Luca. "Did I force you into this, though? Did I hold a gun against your head and ask you to donate five times whatever I'm donating? You're the one who got involved in this, yet you're yelling that it's unfair just because you're unable to pay up five times whatever I'm donating? Did you throw away your dignity while you were taking out the trash today?"

Luca was absolutely furious, so much so that his face had turned slightly pale. However, it was true that he was the one who had gotten involved of his own accord. He'd even done so in front of Edelgard and Jade, so it was going to be extremely difficult for him to try and squirm his way out of this mess.

Next to them, Jade looked at Edelgard, who also seemed slightly troubled, and tried to be the men's mediator. "Alright, let's set aside this donation for now. Donating money to them won't solve the village's issues, so let's try and come up with some other ways to help them."

Luca finally found a way out and hurriedly said, "I agree..."

"Agree, my foot!"

Javier kicked off another round of criticism against Luca.

When he was done, Javier went on to say, "I've already come up with a plan for this afternoon. I'm planning on opening up the roads of the village toward the mountains first. Then, I will open factories for processed food and fruit juice to take advantage of the abundance of fruit trees in the village."

He then raised his head and looked at Luca. "Easton Group's got a complete sales channel for food and beverages, right? You could very well use that channel to help the village with sales."

Luca turned around and asked, "What are you going to do then? Are you going to become the factory manager without forking out a single cent? Are you kidding me?"

Javier sneered. "In that case, the two of us will split the cost of building the roads and the factories. I won't interfere in any of those things. Instead, I'll arrange for people you will definitely approve of to handle those matters."

Luca remained silent for a moment. He thought about it for a while but ended up returning to the same topic... Money.

However, now that they were paying equal amounts, whatever he had yelled out just now was rendered moot, which was why he felt much more confident again.

'I won't be able to fight this poor miser in a five-times-his-money battle, but I'll definitely be able to massacre him if we're standing on equal ground!'

Thus, Luca very generously said, "Sure, but there's no need for you to match my expenses. You go ahead and pay up first. I'll match yours instead."

Javier nodded his head and took out a cigarette, lighting it up before he said, "1.5 million dollars."

Javier said that in a very calm tone, but Luca ended up almost vomiting everything that he had just eaten.

'Are you seriously throwing out 1.5 million dollars like it's nothing?!'

Luca gave it some thought and decided that the roads and factories could be built for under 500,000 dollars. In fact, Luca had even imagined how cool he would look when he took out 750,000 dollars and slammed it on the table, taking revenge on Javier for humiliating him and making Javier squirm in pain as he struggled to match his amount.

However, now...everything was progressing completely differently from what Luca had imagined! Javier was playing his game completely differently, raising the pot by a significant amount even before the river cards were revealed. Most importantly, Luca had a pair of aces in his hand!

Fuming, Luca questioned Javier's decision and asked, "Do you really need that much money to build factories and roads?"

Javier could not be bothered to explain to him how much was required to develop the land on the mountains. On top of that, he had subsequent plans for later. He'd be selling away the rocks excavated from the mountains for cash, which would become a project for the later stages of Xerxes Village's development. Therefore, it was obvious that if they donated 1.5 million each, it would not be enough to cover all of that!

However, Javier was not going to explain all of that to a mere fool. Instead, he simply said, "Pay up or forget it!"

Luca was now panicking. There was no way he was about to allow himself to be humiliated in front of Edelgard once more.

Thus, he slammed the table and said, "Fine! I'll pay 1.5 million dollars!"

At that moment, Javier very calmly said, "Hmm..1.5 million dollars will definitely not be enough to cover all the expenses incurred... Alright then, I'll pay 3 million dollars instead."

Luca was originally planning on seeing if Edelgard showed any admiration for what he had just done, but he ended up hearing Javier's sudden change of heart before he could even turn to look at her. The mere mention of the words '3 million dollars' almost sent Luca into a frenzy!

"3 million dollars?! Are you insane? Do you even have that much money to begin with, you f\*cking idiot?!"

Javier scornfully looked at Luca. "I personally feel embarrassed that you're putting on this rich boy act all the time. Just look at you. Are you really shocked just because you're going to have to pay 3 million dollars? You can forget about it if you can't even fork out that measly amount of money. Also, stop putting on that rich boy act in front of me from now on!"

Luca became so furious after being criticized continuously that he was about to match Javier's price once more.

After all, Javier, the man with the broken-down G63, was already matching his price. Luca did not have it in him to allow himself to be humiliated again.

However, the biggest problem was that he did not have that much money! 'Would Dad be willing to pay it for me?'

As he hesitated, Edelgard, who was beside them, finally said, "You don't have to pay the 3 million dollars. I'll do it."

Luca instantly felt stinging pain on his face. He had just been utterly humiliated by a woman, which was the worst humiliation of all!

Most importantly, the woman who had done this was the one he was romantically interested in!

Luca really wanted to yell out that he was going to pay the 3 million dollars, but he just could not find the means to fork out the cash.

Thus, he immediately came up with another explanation from a different angle. "You mustn't trust him, Edelgard. We don't even know if he's really able to pay up to 3 million dollars. Plus, there are many evil people in the world nowadays, so he might just be coming up with empty numbers just so that he can con us out of our money!"

"I was not hesitant just now because I don't have the money. I was trying to figure out how I could reveal his true intentions!"

After finally being able to conceal the truth behind why he wasn't able to fork out the money, Luca turned to Javier once again and almost sounded arrogant as he questioned him. "Didn't you say you were going to find someone I would definitely approve of to manage the funds? Go on then! Let's see who you'll find, you conman!"

Javier took out his cell phone, but there was no signal.

Fortunately, they were in a committee meeting, so there was a landline nearby. Javier got up and dialed Mary Jane's number.

After briefing her on what had happened, Javier told Mary Jane, "That's about it. I'm leaving you in charge of this now, Mary Jane!"

Javier put the phone on speaker before returning to his seat.

Right after he sat down, Mary Jane's voice came from the landline. "Where's that little rascal? Get your \*ss out here, Luca!"