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"Didn't you tell Mr. Jennings that Kai is an ex-convict?" Maria continued pursuing the matter.

"Of course, I did! I almost had a heart attack at the look in Mr. Jennings' eyes at that time. If I dared to dissuade him further, he might even demote me!"

In fact, Zayne was still fearful when he recalled Xavier's gaze earlier.

"Don't tell me he's really acquainted with Mr. Jennings?" Maria's brows creased.

"Let's just observe how things are first. If he's really acquainted with Mr.

Jennings, we can't target him anymore in the future. Instead, you'll have to fawn over him," Zayne reminded.

"I know that!" Maria rolled her eyes before stalking out of the office.

By then, the dozen or so people in the sales department had already heard that the general manager himself gave the order to employ an ex-convict.

Such a matter spread very quickly in the company, especially a gossip like this.

"That man named Kai must be somehow associated with Mr. Jennings. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been hired!"

"I can't help feeling scared that an ex-convict is going to work alongside me."

"We've got to be careful when he arrives later. If he really knows Mr. Jennings, we'll be dead if we accidentally offend him!"

The staff in the sales department gathered and whispered among themselves.

"What are you all doing? Do you not have any work?" Maria reproached coldly upon seeing everyone gossiping together when she exited the office.

Although she was merely an ordinary sales representative in the sales department, she always threw her weight around. After all, no one dared to offend her when Zayne was the department manager.

Following her reprimand, everyone dispersed. Only a girl with short hair headed toward her.

That girl was known as Lydia Wilson, and she was very close to Maria.

"Maria, have you heard that the sales department has recruited an ex-convict? And it's rumored that Mr. Jennings himself made the hiring decision, so they're probably associated somehow," Lydia whispered to Maria.

"Nonsense! How could he possibly have any association with Mr. Jennings? It's just dumb luck!"

Maria didn't believe that Kai really had anything to do with the general manager.

At that, Lydia was taken back. "Are you acquainted with that man named Kai?"

Realizing her slip of the tongue, Maria hastily shook her head. "I'm not acquainted with any ex-convict! I just feel that he can't possibly have any association with Mr. Jennings when he had just gotten out of prison. Anyway, don't simply gossip about him! I'll ask Mr. Carlson to inquire about it from Mr. Jennings."

About an hour later, Kai finally completed the onboarding procedures. After getting an employee ID, he went to the sales department.

When he arrived, he noticed everyone staring at him wide-eyed. That had him rather discomfited.

"Congratulations on joining the sales department, Kai! Make sure that you cherish this opportunity," Zayne said to Kai in a calm voice.

He didn't dare target the man before he had ascertained whether he was associated with Xavier.

In response, Kai nodded.

"Come here for a moment, Troy!" Zayne called out to a bespectacled young-looking man.

The man promptly trotted over and murmured timidly, "You called for me, Mr. Carlson?"

"You'll be Kai's mentor henceforth. You both will be in a team, so remember to teach him the ropes," Zayne instructed him.

The man glanced at Kai with a conflicted expression.

"Why, do you have an objection to that?" Zayne threw him a glare.

The man quickly shook his head. "No, no..."

At his acquiescence, a smile bloomed on Zayne's face. He then turned to Kai. "Go with him. Your desk is adjacent to his."

Having said that, he pivoted and returned to his office.

The other colleagues in the sales department regarded Kai with a smirk. Maria also stifled a giggle as she went back to her seat.

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"S-Sir, my name is Troy Zimmer. Nice to meet you," Troy stammered while holding out his hand to Kai nervously after they had returned to their desks.

Kai could tell that the man was terrified of him, which came as a bit of a surprise.

"I'm Kai Chance. The pleasure is mine, and I hope to learn much from you!" he replied with a smile, shaking the man's hand.

"No, no... I only started working here a few days ago as well. Let's learn from each other," Troy hurriedly uttered.

Naturally, Kai could tell that Troy wasn't a veteran.

"You seem to fear me a lot?" Kai asked in puzzlement.

"N-Not at all!" Troy shook his head, but he didn't dare look the man in the eye.

"Do you know something?" Kai was sure that the man was only afraid of him because he knew something or other.

Troy hesitated for a while before he nodded and inquired, "W-Why did you go to prison? You don't seem to be some villain."

Kai burst into laughter when he heard that. Ah, it turns out that he knows about me having been to prison! That's why he seems fearful of me.

After learning the reason for the man's trepidation, he didn't hide anything but told him everything that had happened.

It didn't take long for them to get chummy, and Troy didn't fear Kai anymore.

"That was really a stroke of bad luck, Kai! But since you're free now, you should work hard. However... However..."

As Troy spoke, he started stammering.

"What is it?" Kai queried.

"However, we probably won't be here for long when you've been teamed up with me, Kai," Troy lamented on a sigh.

"Why would you say that?" Astonishment inundated Kai.

Troy clicked open a document in the computer and explained, "Kai, these are the

debts we have to collect. The previous sales representative resigned, so we have to do it instead. We'll be dismissed if we can't manage to get everything settled this month."

Staring at the row upon row of figures, Kai frowned slightly. "I didn't know so many people owe my wife money!"

"What did you just say, Kai?"

Troy froze for a moment.

"Oh, I was just commenting on the number of people owing the company money," Kai replied, changing his tune in a flash.

"Indeed! Businesses aren't doing that great nowadays. I've already analyzed the list, and these clients are the difficult ones. We probably won't be able to collect the money from them." Troy heaved a sigh.

At that very moment, Kai finally understood why many were furtively snickering when he was ordered to team up with Troy.

"Don't worry. We'll be able to collect all the money, not a dime less," Kai assured, patting him on the shoulder.

This company belongs to Josephine, so being indebted to the company is equivalent to owing her money. And in turn, it means that they owe me money.

I'll never allow anyone to do that!

"All right. We shall work hard together!"

At his encouragement, Troy nodded resolutely.

Kai then started familiarizing himself with all the company's arrears, determined to collect all money owed in its entirety.

In the blink of an eye, the day flew past. Stretching, Kai couldn't help grumbling,

"There are too many arrears. What on earth is the general manager doing?"

"Shh! Don't say that, Kai! If someone overhears you and reports you, you'll be in deep trouble!" Troy hastily warned in fright when he heard the man griping about the general manager.

"That serious? He's just a general manager who's working for the company. Does he really think that this is his house, and he's the king here?"

Kai didn't expect the employees to fear Xavier that much.

After all, the man was just a professional manager the Sullivan family employed. Therefore, he hadn't the right to do as he pleased in the company.

However, Josephine rarely came to the office and never interfered in the company's affairs, so it made Xavier all the more powerful.

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Maria looked for Kai after work. "Kai, we have a company rule that says the newcomer must buy everyone dinner. So, where do you have in mind?"

At that moment, everyone in the office was staring at Kai. They were eager to hear his plan. It was a long-standing office tradition.

"There's such a thing? Who set them? The director?" Kai was bewildered.

"Kai, there's really such a rule. When I first got here, I had to buy everyone dinner as well! If not mistaken, I spent ten thousand on that meal! If you don't obey the rules, your life here will be difficult," Troy cautioned Kai with a low voice.

"Kai, since you're now in the sales department, you have to abide by the rules

here. It is one of the rules I've set when I became the manager," Zayne said. "You set the rules?" Kai scoffed and continued, "I'm sorry, but I don't have the money for it. Pay for your own meals. Don't ask of it from me as if you guys are a bunch of beggars."

Despite Zayne's grim expression, Kai left right after he finished his sentence. "Kai is too arrogant! He's just taking advantage of the fact that he has a special relationship with Mr. Jennings. He doesn't respect anyone, not even Mr. Carlson!" Lydia showed up and defended Zayne.

"Exactly! Even if he does have a special relationship with Mr. Jennings, he shouldn't have spoken to Mr. Carlson rudely. Furthermore, he likened us to a beggar! It's not like we'd starve to death without him!"

"Well, it seems like he underestimates what we could do to him. His time will come."

The staff in the sales department were infuriated.

On the other hand, Troy kept his mouth shut and hid in the corner with mixed feelings. He'll surely get sabotaged soon. But since I'm in the same team as him, I'd be suffering the consequences too!

"Hmph! There's no such special relationship! I've asked Mr. Jennings already. The only reason Mr. Jennings keeps him around is that he wants to make a fool out of him!" Zayne said to the others with a cold glint in his eyes.

Apparently, Zayne had already asked Xavier about Kai. Xavier told him to make Kai look bad in front of the other employees. Although Zayne had no idea what the reason behind that was, he dared not to defy the orders of his general manager.

Everyone in the sales department left after hearing that Kai wasn't buying them dinner. As Zayne was bidding goodbye to Maria before he left, Maria's phone rang.

It was Maria's mom, Frieda, who called. Maria answered the call instantly.

"Maria, I have good news! Glamorous Designs had cleared their debt! They've repaid all the money they owed to us. Now our company is back on its feet!" Frieda exclaimed excitedly.

"Really?" Maria was thrilled as well. "But we've been asking for the money for so long! So, why have they suddenly paid us now?"

"Your dad asked around and found out that Mr. Lewis had spoken to them. They were so scared that they paid us right after that!"

"Mr. Lewis?" Maria paused and continued, "But we don't even know him. Why did he help us?"

"I was wondering about the same thing! Do you remember when I told you that Zayne wanted to use his personal connections to help us? I think maybe Zayne knew Mr. Lewis personally. That's why I called you. Please find out if he had anything to do with it. If so, invite him over for dinner!" Frieda answered.

"Oh, I see. All right, I'll ask him now." Maria hung up the phone.

"What's up? Why are you so happy?" Zayne curiously asked when he saw the excitement on Maria's face.

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"Zayne, was it you that got Mr. Lewis to help us collect our money from Glamorous Designs? Now that they've paid us, our company is back on its feet again. My dad said it was all thanks to Mr. Lewis." Marian looked at him with hopeful eyes.

She was hoping that Zayne would be the one that contacted Tommy. Because if it really were him, then her parents would finally approve of her relationship with him. Besides that, her parents would be impressed by Zayne's relationship with a formidable figure such as Tommy.

"Mr. Lewis?" Zayne was dumbfounded. But he managed to react quickly and said, "Oh, yes. I did mention the issue to Mr. Lewis. But I didn't expect him to deal with it with such efficiency. I'm relieved now that the money has been collected."

"I would've never expected you to be an acquaintance of someone like Mr. Lewis! Zayne, you're incredible!" Maria threw herself into Zayne's arms as she shouted with excitement. She then kissed him and said, "My mom told me to bring you over for dinner! Let's see if my dad could still not look up to you after this!" With happiness written all over her face, Maria held Zayne's arm as they walked toward the parking lot.

Kai, on the other hand, had just arrived home. Upon his arrival, Hannah asked anxiously, "Kai, how was your interview? Did they give you a job?"

"Mom, the interview was a success. I'm now a salesperson. The benefits aren't too bad." Kai flashed a faint smile.

"Oh, that's great! We owe our gratitude to Maria, then. We should look for an opportunity to go thank them in person. I'm less worried now that you have a proper job." Hannah was smiling with satisfaction.

Kai couldn't help but keep silent when he saw how happy his mother was.

"Kai, go and clean yourself up. Mr. Saunders has invited us out for dinner." Gary was holding his phone when he walked into the house.

"Gary, why did Franklin do that? After what he has done for Kai, we should be buying him dinner instead!" Hannah was puzzled.

"I think it's because his company received a sum of money owed to them. His company is going to do well again," Gary answered.

"That's great! That's good karma indeed." Hannah felt happy for Franklin.

Upon hearing that, Kai smiled faintly and went to change.

Kai was meant to call Tommy to follow up. I never expected him to be so efficient! It seems like I should also ask him to collect debt for Sentiment Chemical Limited as well. After all, the money belongs to me.

Meanwhile, Franklin had arrived at Glamor Hotel. He had reserved a table for dinner. It was his first visit in a long time because the food served there was pricey. Furthermore, his company had been in debt for quite a while. He simply couldn't afford to dine in at that restaurant.

"Wow. This place looks amazing! It's my first time here!" Maria was very impressed by how grand the Glamor Hotel was.

"Since this belongs to the Sullivan family, maybe I could get a twenty percent discount if I show them my work pass!" Zayne said proudly.

"That's true! We're actually contributing to their revenue by dining here!" Maria entered while holding Zayne's hand.

They arrived at one of the private rooms at the restaurant. When they opened the door, Franklin and Frieda were already seated at the dining table.

"Hi, Mr. and Mrs. Saunders!" Zayne greeted politely.

"Hi!" Frieda stood up hurriedly and said, "Have a seat, Zayne. We're practically family. Don't be shy!"

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Franklin welcomed Zayne with a smile as well. "Zayne, it's all thanks to you! Now my company is safe. We should have a few drinks together to celebrate."

Zayne was getting arrogant upon seeing how Franklin's attitude toward him had changed.

"It's just a small matter, Mr. Saunders! As Mrs. Saunders said, we're family now!" Zayne sat down next to Franklin proudly.

Although Zayne knew that he had nothing to do with collecting the debt for Franklin, he accepted the recognition anyway. He had to take the opportunity to make a good impression out of himself.

"Zayne, I had no idea you knew Mr. Lewis! You should've seen the look on the owner of Glamorous Designs' face when he came with my money! He was so scared that he almost knelt before me. It was so satisfying to watch!"

Throughout the years, Franklin had never been treated with such respect.

"Just let me know if your company needs help with anything from now on, Mr. Saunders. Although I'm just a departmental manager, there's nothing I can't deal with in the whole of Horington," Zayne gloated shamelessly. He wasn't worried about getting exposed because he knew that no one at the table knew Tommy.

"All right. From now on, I'll rely on you for all the company matters. Since Maria is my only daughter, whatever I have now will definitely be passed down to you in the future." Franklin's admiration for Zayne had grown greatly.

"Don't worry, Mr. Saunders. I'll love Maria unconditionally!" Zayne nodded excitedly.

"Enough talking. I'm starving! Could we please have our food now?" Maria pouted.

"A while more, okay? I've invited Mr. Chance and his family as well. They should be here soon!" Franklin exclaimed.

"Why would you invite outsiders to our family dinner?" Maria's face turned sullen when she found out that Kai was invited to the dinner.

"Silly girl! Mr. Chance had saved my life before!" Franklin glared at Maria before continuing, "Speaking of which, how did Kai's interview go?"

"Mr. Saunders, it was a success. I worked my magic as the departmental manager!" Zayne took credit for Kai's interview brazenly.

"Thank you, Zayne!" Franklin gratefully looked at Zayne.

Suddenly, the door to the room opened, and Kai waltzed in with his family.

"We're sorry for being late!" Gary apologized.

"It's fine, Squad Leader! We've just arrived too." Franklin welcomed them warmly.

Kai was startled when he saw Zayne present at the dinner. However, he didn't say a word.

On the other hand, Zayne stared at him and taunted, "Hey, Kai, we meet again! Did you know that Maria and I had to make excuses on your behalf with the staff? All because you disobeyed the company rule."

Upon hearing that, Gary glared at Kai and asked, "What's going on, Kai?"

"Exactly, Kai. What's going on?" Hannah added.

Franklin was equally puzzled as well.

"Upon his successful interview, he was supposed to buy everyone dinner! It's a

long-standing departmental tradition. Instead, Kai said he had no money, and he just left. It was so embarrassing for Zayne and me," Maria raged.