Right as the group of people were happily chatting...

A battery-powered four-wheel-drive drove over before stopping near Jeff Bauer and the others.

Elanor Stanton, who had exquisite makeup on along with her sportswear and sunhat, walked out of the car.

Her looks were extremely mesmerizing. Even Jeff, who was familiar with every single part of her body, could not help but be fascinated after seeing her sight.

Audrey Lopez instantly squinted as soon as she saw her rival show up.

"Young Master Bauer didn't even ask you to come today, Elanor. What do you want?

"Don't his words matter to you now?"

Jeff showed a warm smile as he waved his hand.

"You're sisters, Audrey. You need to play nice with each other. There's no need to get jealous."

Naturally, Jeff quite enjoyed his women fighting over him. After all, his charm and status would only be shown because of this.

Audrey coldly scoffed with a disdainful look.

Elanor completely ignored Audrey and hastily walked toward Jeff.

"You're crossing the line, Young Master Bauer!

"Harvey's our ally!

"We only managed to take out Flutwell's business alliance because of him!

"It's only right for him to buy the properties!

"Instead, we rob him of his spoils and everything else he fought for!

"This isn't right, no matter how we look at it!

"Please think this through, Young Master Bauer!"

After looking at Elanor's serious expression, Audrey let out a cold chuckle before Jeff could even say anything.

"Are you insane, Elanor?!

"What's with all this nonsense?!

"What do you mean we robbed him of his spoils?!

"Number one: if it wasn't for Young Master Bauer's protection, how could Harvey even go against Joseph in the first place?

"Number two: Young Master Bauer was helping behind the scenes in Flutwell's new district and the chain Budokan incident! How else did you think Harvey managed to get through that easily?

"Number three: Young Master Bauer also spent tons of money to help with the stock market! This alone played a vital role in taking out Joseph!

"It's even safe to say that Young Master Bauer was the one who did everything!

"Harvey was only doing as he was told at most!

"It's only natural that Young Master Bauer reaps the benefits if Harvey does, right?

"Besides, Flutwell's business alliance properties belong to the Bauer family in the first place!

"Joseph was Young Master Bauer's enemy, but he can't just watch as the family's properties fall into someone else's hands!

"Joseph owed Young Master Bauer in the first place!

"What does any of this have to do with Harvey?!"

Audrey coldly glared at Elanor. She was speaking on behalf of Jeff's lofty thoughts deep in his heart.

"He's just an outsider! He earned quite a lot of benefits in this battle already!

"What else does he want?!

"Doesn't he understand that reaping all of the spoils wouldn't do him any good?!

"I think you're getting a little too close to Harvey as of late, Elanor. You must've forgotten who's your true master at this point.

"Not only aren't you defending Young Master Bauer's rights, but you're also siding with a savage like Harvey?

"Are you dumb or something?"

Audrey instantly went for the people's hearts, hinting that Elanor had a relationship with Harvey.

The other women were glaring at Elanor with hostility after hearing her argument.

Out of all seventy-two mistresses, not many women had hundreds of millions of dollars worth of assets.

Elanor Stanton was the one who had control of most of the assets, so she was usually excluded from the rest of the mistresses.

If it were not for Jeff Bauer having such a big ego, the mistresses would have started ridiculing Elanor for cucking Jeff at this point.

Elanor shuddered as soon as she realized what Audrey Lopez was actually doing. She instinctively shook her head when she said, "Don't misunderstand me, Young Master Bauer.

"I was just worried about you.

"After all, that b*stard is extremely dangerous. If he gets angry because of this, there'll be dire consequences..."

Audrey coldly chuckled.

"Get angry? What right does he even have?

"Even if he did get angry, do you really think he can go against Young Master Bauer?

"How ignorant and naive can you get?! You're obviously being spiteful right now!"

"Alright. That's enough. There's no need to argue about such a small matter."

Jeff's eyes lit up before he waved his hand to stop Audrey from speaking.

Then, he tenderly wrapped his arm around Elanor's shoulders with a warm smile.

"I do have to give you an explanation, Elanor.

"After all, I know you put more effort into this than anyone else.

"I didn't ask you to buy those properties because of your previous loss against Harvey.

"I thought that you'd be afraid of him. I thought you'd get sloppy if you got overly cautious.

"That was why I asked Audrey to take over instead. After all, she's a talented woman.

"Of course, I'll compensate you.

"Surely you know of the Hearthstone Corporation, right? It belonged to the Bauer family...

"I'll reclaim it soon enough. It'll be yours to control after that.

"You also don't have to worry about Harvey...

"Even if he's God, he wouldn't be able to get out of this situation alive.

"I know him well enough.

"He made quite a lot of money buying shorted stocks in the stock market...

"I'm sure he wouldn't mind me taking advantage of the situation either.

"If he's planning to go against me because of this, then it can only mean that he's just selfish. A shortsighted man at best.

"I've been protecting him for so long! He wouldn't just make me work for him for nothing, right?

Jeff showed an expression as cold as ice.

"Of course, if you think you're having a hard time being the middleman...

"Then, go tell Harvey something for me.

"Tell him I don't blame him for not coming to the banquet.

"I'll treat him again tomorrow night to show my sincere apology.

"I'll explain the situation to him myself.

"After all, we'll be working together again soon enough. There's no need for us to go against each other for such a trivial matter."

Elanor let out a sigh after hearing Jeff's words.

"I'm relieved," she said with a slightly less tense look on her face.

"I'll contact Sir York now. I'll try to get him to understand."

"Understand?"

Jeff smirked after hearing that word.

Voom!

Right at this moment, Audrey's phone suddenly rang.

Her expression instantly changed after she took the call.

"This is bad, Young Master Bauer!

"This is really bad!"

"Every big media in Flutwell is saying that the young masters of the Bauer family completely hate each other because of their battle for the throne!

"Joseph Bauer, who had malicious intents toward the public, was actually backed by Jeff Bauer himself!

"Harold Bauer is probably the kindest one out of the three young masters!

"To avoid compensation, Joseph transferred every single one of his properties under Jeff's name!

"Joseph disappearing with his money without a trace also seems to be because of Jeff!"

After returning to the family's manor, Jeff was boiling with anger after looking at the headlines.

'This is shameless!'

'This is despicable!'

Not only was Jeff being forced into a corner, but the things that should have been made public were also exposed all at once!

All of the rage directed at Joseph also converged toward Jeff.

Jeff taking over all of Joseph's properties was all fact.

Many news platforms were also leaking documents signed by the two!

Simply put, the people who hated Joseph were also targeting Jeff!

The only reason Jeff was not surrounded by angry mobs at this moment was that Harvey York did not want to yet.

There was no way for Jeff to talk his way out of the situation. After all, Jeff taking over all of Joseph's properties was the truth.

Nobody would believe whatever Jeff would say in front of solid proof.

He would turn into the second Joseph if he were not careful.

Not only would he have a status on par with a street rat, but people would also beat him up for the rest of his life.

"Harvey, that b*stard! Isn't he fighting Harold right now?!

"Why is he spending his time on me?!

"I might just get Harold on my side to deal with him! How is he not afraid of that?!"

Jeff gritted his teeth in anger. He wanted to slap Harvey in the face so badly.

His trusted subordinates would not dare say a single word.

Audrey Lopez coldly scoffed before she exclaimed, "Yeah! How dare that b*stard disrespect you like this?! Does he have a death wish or something?

"All you did was take some of his property! He's such a selfish b*stard, already trying to take revenge like this!

"And he calls himself a man?!

"Let's call the cops, Young Master Bauer! We'll sue that b*stard for slander and make him pay for tarnishing our reputation!

"We'll also send some people to tear down those news stations after that!

"Surely this kind of thing wouldn't affect us!

"Everyone will forget about this after a few days!"

Jeff hesitated for a moment. Audrey's quick and decisive plan would definitely be of some use.

"You can't, Young Master Bauer!"

Elanor Stanton stepped up with an anxious look on her face.

"Number one: let's not even talk about the government's involvement in the situation. Everyone will think you're guilty if you actually sue Harvey right now!

"Number two: forcing the media down will only cause a bigger uproar!

"Those people crave chaos! If they manage to take pictures or record our people forcing them down, we'll be finished!

"Number three: Harvey killed Harold's trusted subordinate, but they wouldn't care about such a small matter!

"They might just turn their heads against you if they think it's beneficial for them to do so!

"You must think before you act, Young Master Bauer!"

Audrey let out a cold chuckle.

"If we can't do any of this, we might as well just kill Harvey at this point, right?!"

- "Enough with your stupid ideas, Audrey Lopez!" Elanor Stanton exclaimed while frowning.
- "Don't you know that Harvey York's also an expert martial artist?! Using brute force against him won't work!
- "How did you think he managed to deal with Frankie Garcia and disrespect Clyde Osborne in a place like Flutwell?!
- "Ordinary people would've died a thousand times over doing this!"
- "Then, what else are we supposed to do?!" exclaimed Audrey.
- "Young Master Bauer will become a joke if we keep letting Harvey run free!
- "When that happens, it'd be good enough if the family's elders don't start calling him out, let alone him rising to power!"
- "Harvey only did this because Young Master crossed the line," Elanor replied with a bitter look after taking a deep breath.
- "Young Master Bauer, Harvey will always treat others how they treat him."
- "At this point, I do hope you put enough thought into the properties of Flutwell's business alliance!
- "Those are really good properties to have...
- "But, are they worth going against Harvey to the bitter end?
- "In the end, Harold would be the one reaping the spoils if this continues.
- "He'd be the one who'd win the war.
- "We should be focusing on the important matters here, Young Master Bauer!"

Slap!

- Jeff immediately slapped Elanor in the face.
- "Are you teaching me how to do things right now, woman?!" exclaimed Jeff with a cold expression.
- "Do you think Harvey can make me kneel with something like this?!
- "Ridiculous!
- "Even if I can endure this embarrassment, the Bauer family will surely not!"
- "Young Master Bauer! Joseph Bauer treated you the same way before, but he..." replied Elanor while covering her face.
- "Young Master Bauer, someone sent over a USB flash drive.

"You're asked to open the box."

A subordinate quickly trotted over.

Still boiling with anger, Jeff swiftly opened the box when his heart skipped a beat.

"Charity Garden" was labeled on the USB drive.

Jeff's expression instantly darkened.

He knew exactly what was inside the USB drive without even opening it. It was probably the entire process of him being slapped around during the charity event.

If this were to be released to the public, Jeff would not have the face to stay in Flutwell!

At this very moment, resentment, fear, anger, and other emotions surfaced simultaneously.

Jeff managed to regain his composure by taking a deep breath.

He waved his hand to quiet the people around him.

"Looks like I was being reckless this time!

"Audrey! Return every single property of Flutwell's business alliance to Sir York!

"Inform them to take over tomorrow.

"Elanor, we'll be holding the banquet tonight.

"I'll apologize to Sir York myself!

"Tell him I'll see him as my friend for the rest of my life!

"I can guarantee that this won't happen the second time!"

The crowd looked at each other after seeing Jeff instantly change his attitude.

Nobody dared to say anything about it, though. All of them left quickly to execute Jeff's orders.

Elanor called Harvey right in front of Jeff. After ensuring that Harvey would attend the evening banquet, Jeff's gaze became fiercer by the second...

At seven o'clock in the evening, Harvey York was sitting inside Elanor Stanton's car and entered the Bauer family's manor without a hitch.

Harvey glanced around him as he got out of the car.

The manor was located on the outskirts of Flutwell. The buildings were fascinating, and the scenery was breathtaking. The Holy Lake was also quite close to the place.

Legends said Jeff Bauer would always take baths in the Holy Lake as part of his training.

"Young Master Bauer and Mrs. Lopez are waiting for you, Sir York."

A few guards respectfully ushered Harvey into the buildings when Elanor disclosed who he was.

"Sir York, Young Master held the banquet ahead of time to show you an apology and also to give you an explanation," whispered Elanor while walking beside Harvey.

"He said that Joseph Bauer was the one who tricked him into taking the properties of Flutwell's business alliance.

"I do hope that you'll pay him some respect. Please lighten up when you talk to him later.

"After all, he already told me to transfer every single property under your name."

Harvey calmly smiled.

"If I didn't respect him, I wouldn't be here right this moment.

"Of course, I'll have to hear Young Master Bauer's explanation to see if all this was just a big misunderstanding.

Elanor showed a beautiful smile.

"I understand. This way, Sir York. We'll be heading to the Eclipse Building."

Harvey nodded before he followed suit.

When the two came to the top of the building, nobody was there.

Elanor pushed the door open with a confused look on her face, but she was unable to put much force onto it.

Harvey went up to help her push the door open.

Creak!

A slender and beautiful woman fell right toward Harvey when the door was almost open.

The smell of blood seeped out...

Harvey instinctively held the woman before he saw a knife stuck inside her chest.

The woman was gorgeous. Her makeup was exquisite, but an expression of disbelief could also be seen on her face. The woman was already dead at this point.

Judging from the warm blood that stained Harvey's clothes, the woman died less than three minutes ago.

And from the look on her face, the woman was none other than Audrey Lopez.

"Aaah!"

Elanor screamed in fear. Panic was showing all over her face. She was clearly shocked by the sight.

One of Jeff's mistresses died in the Bauer family's manor!

No matter how anyone looked at it, this was a huge deal!

"Tch! I must admit, Sir York, you really are a brave man!"

The lights of the Eclipse Building instantly lit up.

A round table with two seats could be seen right before Harvey.

Jeff was cutting his steak at the moment.

The seat that was reserved for Harvey seemed a little messed up. At the same time, there was no knife on his side of the table. It was most likely stuck right in Audrey's heart.

Jeff raised his head while he lightly chewed on his marbled streak. He squinted at Harvey with a surprised look on his face.

"I sincerely invited you here to a meal.

"Even the ingredients were shipped here all the way from the Island Nations.

"Why would you kill my mistress right in front of my face?!

"Even if she offended you because of Flutwell's business alliance's properties...

"You can't just kill her like that!

"This is illegal!"

Jeff Bauer's calm words were jaw-dropping.

Elanor Stanton, who was standing right beside Harvey York, had her face devoid of all color.

At that moment, she understood that Jeff had no intention of negotiating with Harvey...

Rather, he was prepared to frame Harvey and take him out.

Clearly, he was getting desperate.

At the same time, dozens of experts from the Bauer family showed up from both sides of the hall.

Those people showed cold glares with their face masks and axes on their backs.

Naturally, they would not hesitate to turn Harvey into minced meat if Jeff wanted them to.

The senior of the Longmen Warband, Arya Johnson, was wearing a white robe while sitting in a corner.

She glared at Harvey emotionlessly, as if she was looking at a dead man.

A fight could break out at any time.

Blood would spill all over the place at any minute.

"I've experienced many things, Young Master Bauer. I knew you were planning to do something like this tonight...

"That said, you're a lot dumber than I thought.

"You want to frame me by killing your mistress, who had a conflict with me?

"Who even thought of this idea in the first place?

"At this point, you should just kill her quickly. You might just get screwed without knowing what happened if she miraculously survives this."

Harvey calmly sat in front of the table before he wiped the blood off his hands with a napkin.

The people around him were showing cold glares.

Under such circumstances, someone as calm as Harvey would either be fearless or prepared.

Jeff showed a profound look on his face.

He thought he would be able to scare Harvey with such an arrangement, but he was calm and collected as usual.

"I must admit, Sir York, you are pretty capable.

Jeff cracked a faint smile.

"I should really give you a toast for being this calm right now!

"How about this? Eat and drink whatever you like here! I'll order more for you if you don't have enough!

"After all, you won't get another chance to have these."

"So, you're dead set on killing me?

Harvey casually picked up his utensils and ate a piece of bamboo shoot.

"You better think before you act, Young Master Bauer.

"It does look like you have a just cause for framing me...

"But, are you that sure I won't get out of this situation?

"Did you already forget what happened at the Charity Garden already?"

Jeff let out a cold chuckle.

"Of course not.

"That's why I prepared three hundred experts just for you!

"These are all elites of the Bauer family! Not only are they competent, but they're also loyal to the family!

"I believe that they can at least tire you out with all their might, even if they don't manage to kill you!

"After all, you're just a man, not a machine."

"You overestimate me!

Harvey heaved a sigh before calmly looking at a few high-ground spots on the Eclipse Building.

People with crossbows and sniper rifles were deployed all over the place. It was truly a terrifying sight.

"But I don't understand something. You should know just how hard I am to deal with. Then, why are you still persistently coming at me?"