

## Chapter 325 Apology And Proposal

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Jaylen and Brian arrived. Jaylen brought a bunch of gifts with him. He was in his best behavior. He was humble, polite, and apologetic.

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Grace inherited her father's looks. He was fat, and his belly bulged in the middle. He was also bald, which didn't do much to flatter his features. Pollock was so plump that Brian was certain his clothes were tailor-made for him.

Pollock was sitting comfortably on the sofa, and Brian tried to hide his disgust. With his

complexion, the older man looked like a giant lump of meat. ①

Pollock's brows furrowed. He gave Brian an assessing look, and he ran his finger under his chin. "You really want to marry Grace?"

Jaylen replied, "Yes. That's why we're here today—to show our sincerity."

Pollock huffed out a breath and sneered. "In his own words yesterday, your son didn't want to marry my daughter. So why the sudden change of heart?" ⑧

Jaylen glanced at Brian, who took it as a cue. Brian stood up from the sofa, lowered his head and spoke in a sincere voice. "Mr. Cook, Grace and I had a few misunderstandings yesterday. I didn't mean what I said. I'm here to apologize and beg for your forgiveness. And I would also like to ask for her hand." ②

"Well, young man, what do you like about my daughter?" ②

Brian choked, and he had to bite his tongue to make sure he didn't say the wrong thing. Looking at Grace, he swallowed hard and mustered all his courage to keep a straight face. "Grace is straightforward and not shy at all. She's exactly my type." ③



Hearing this, Grace leaned forward. Surprise was written all over her face. "Really?"

"Yes, that's the truth." 2

Grace was obviously delighted and beamed from ear to ear. She looked at Brian with shining eyes. She had several toy boys, but Brian was different. He was born rich, well-educated, and he had the manners and finesse that others lacked. And of course, Grace couldn't deny the one thing that truly made him dreamy. He was handsome. Not one of the toy boys she spent so much money on was even half as good-looking as him. If she married him, her friends would die of envy.

Grace turned to her father and winked.

Pollock glared at her and gripped the sofa. He knew what she wanted to say even if she didn't speak.

'Calm down! You should act like a lady!' he mouthed.

Grace pouted. "Dad..."

"Grace!" Jennifer Cook, her mother, looked at her sharply. It immediately shut her up. Grace looked down and clenched her fists on her lap.

She was afraid of her mother, and she didn't want to provoke her.

The conversation continued.

"Mr. Oliver, let's all be frank and get straight to the point. We all know why you brought your son here to propose to my daughter. My wife and I only have one daughter. We have spoiled her since she was a child, and we want her to find a good man whom she can live a peaceful and happy life with."

Jaylen acknowledged with a slight nod. "Yes, we're aware of that. As a parent myself, I can understand where you're coming from."

Pollock raised a hand to silence Jaylen. "And we have conditions."

Jaylen stiffened and mentally prepared for it. "Mr. Cook, just let me know anything that you require."

"In that case, I'll be direct." Pollock reached for Grace's hand and held it without taking his eyes off Jaylen. "To be honest, if my daughter didn't fall in love with your son at first sight, I would never agree to this marriage."

This displeased Jaylen. He knew what Pollock was trying to do.

Pollock was trying to gain the upper-hand. He knew how desperate Jaylen and Brian were.

Sure enough, Pollock dropped a bombshell. "My request is fairly simple. First, if Grace and Brian

end up getting married, they cannot divorce unless Grace wants to!"

"Of course..."

"Mr. Oliver, we're discussing their marriage. Please let your son speak for himself."

Under Pollock's piercing gaze, Brian cleared his throat. Without looking at Grace, he said, "Mr. Cook, I'm taking this marriage very seriously. I won't divorce Grace. That I promise you."

Pollock was satisfied with his answer, and he nodded. He turned to Jaylen again. "Second, I want to talk about the betrothal gift..."

"You don't need to worry about that, I assure you."

This amused Pollock who said with a faint smile, "I'm not talking about money or a house..."

"Well, go ahead and continue."

"I want a ten percent holding in your company."

Jaylen blinked, uncertain whether he heard Pollock correctly.

Pollock patted Grace's knee and continued, "Don't worry. We won't take the shares. Instead, we want them for Grace."

Jaylen remained silent. There was barely a change in his facial expression, but his mind was quickly running through the options. 'A ten



percent holding in the company! It isn't a small deal.'

Pollock was a businessman and a shrewd one at that. He didn't make millions from sheer tenacity alone. He knew how to play the game. Seeing that Jayden was thinking hard, he didn't pressure him to answer immediately.

After a long while, Jaylen's shoulder tensed, and he gritted his teeth. "Okay, I agree."

Pollock was not surprised at all. If it was in the past, when Jaylen's company was at its peak financially, the shares would be a huge sum. But now, the company was about to go bankrupt, and its shares weren't worth that much anymore.

Even so, Jaylen was worried. The shares weren't much right now. But when they managed to get up from the ground and bring the business back to its former glory, the amount might skyrocket to millions.

Then again, the shares were going to be Grace's. Jaylen thought maybe they could still find a way to get them back someday.

Women were highly emotional, and Brian could use that to his advantage. As long as he was good to Grace, he could make her do anything he wanted.

Jaylen trusted Brian, and he knew his son could get their shares back. But first, they needed this marriage to work.

Finally, Pollock was satisfied. "Since you have expressed your sincerity, it's time to show you ours. The Cook family will give five hundred million as dowry."

'Five hundred million?' Jaylen scowled. It was less than the amount he assumed Pollock would offer.

The money would help them, but it was unable to solve the company's crisis.

"Let's be honest. No matter what you think of us, we are no fools. Your son is handsome and highly educated. I don't believe he loves my daughter. It's simply a marriage of convenience, we know that. Five hundred million dollars is no chump change. We can't exactly give you all our money now, can we? But, as I said before, we only have one daughter. Grace has grown up spoiled and doesn't know how to run a business. As long as Grace remains happy after their wedding, her husband will take over our family business in the future." ①

Brian's eyes lit up. This was the best thing he had heard all day.

He and Jaylen looked at each other. Jaylen



nodded without hesitation. "Okay. We have a deal. My wife and I will find the best day for them to get married. After that, we will have an official proposal."

"Good!"

And that was it. The marriage was settled. It was more like a business agreement, but both parties seemed satisfied.

In the ensuing silence, Jennifer spoke in a soft voice. "They need to get in touch more often, so they can develop feelings for each other."

Without any hesitation, Brian offered, "Mrs. Cook, I don't have work today. With your permission, I'd like to take Grace out this afternoon."

Grace beamed at him. When she smiled, her face wrinkled and turned so ugly that Brian had to stop himself from cringing. He found it so hard to look at her. He could almost feel bile rising in his throat. 5

His heart skipped a beat, and he reminded himself to breathe slowly. He closed his eyes. He imagined himself running two companies in the future. All he had to do now was suppress his disgust for Grace. 7