

Chapter 181

Paula couldn't wait to go in and eat.

She had been eager to try the chief's dishes of a top-class hotel.

However, just as she was about to lift her leg, her daughter pulled her back.

Paula was taken aback. She said unhappily, "What are you dragging me for? Let's go in."

Karen took a look at Ethan and shook her head. She whispered in Paula's ear, "Don't be in a hurry, mom. Don't you notice that something is wrong?"

Paula quickly looked around, then looked at Ethan and Linda. She scratched her head, "What's wrong? You are so paranoid. Hurry up. I'm hungry!"

Karen rolled her eyes and scolded Paula, "Are you stupid? Can you use your brain on something other than food? Don't you wonder why did Linda and that kid bring us here?"

Paula didn't understand what her daughter meant. She asked, "What's wrong with having a meal here? Get to your point! You are so annoying!"

Paula couldn't wait any longer, but her daughter's words got her attention. She also started to suspect Linda and Ethan's motives.

Karen sighed. She wondered why her own mother could be so stupid that she didn't see the obvious.

She continued, "Why can't you use your brain? Does that kid look like someone rich? He is driving a fancy car and inviting us to eat at the Empire Hotel. Do you think he can afford any of those?"

Hearing this, Paula checked Ethan up. She suddenly understood her daughter's words, "No... I don't think so."

Karen sneered, "So, where did he get the money to support his pretentious action?"

Paula frowned and complained, "How should I know? Say your point quickly! Such a pest. Tell me directly what's wrong with that kid. So you say he stole the money or robbed someone?"

Hearing Paula's words, Karen shook her head and said, "Come on, look at him! How can this coward has the gut to do those things. I guess he put everything on a tab, and when we finished our meal, he pushed the tab on us. He will tell us he did everything for us, so we need to pay for his bill, and we can't argue about it."

Paula had a mean personality. Upon hearing her daughter's words, she became

very nervous. Paula stared at Ethan for a long time.

"My God, I missed it all. Who would've thought such an innocent-looking guy could be so evil!" Paula said angrily, "Son of a b*tch, what a disgusting person! But are we going to stay here for the meal?"

Paula was hesitant.

She wanted to enjoy the meal for free. So her daughter's words put her into a dilemma.

At the critical moments, Paula was normally scared of making decisions. So she always listened to her daughter.

She would choose to walk away if her daughter told her so.

Karen thought for a moment and smiled slyly, "No, why would we leave? We just need to be very careful. Mom, remember, we'll eat as much as possible. When the bill comes, don't say a word. If that little b*stard dares to ask us to pay, we'll walk out right away!"

Karen then looked at Ethan with a sinister look on her face.

She thought she had seen through Ethan. No matter what trick Ethan was going to pull, she knew how to handle it.

"Playing tricks on me? You are too young!"

Hearing her daughter told her to stay, Paula heaved a sigh of relief.

She didn't want to lose the opportunity to try the food of a fancy hotel.

And she found out that she didn't need to at this moment.

"Yes, that's it. Let's see what that little b*stard will do!" Paula smiled cheekily and said, "That kid dares to play tricks on us? Who does he think he is?"

At this moment, after handing the car key to the parking attendant, Roy walked over.

Seeing Paula and his wife were whispering to each other, he hurried over.

The two told Roy their worries. Roy was taken aback by the theory, "Is it even possible?"

Roy had doubts about his wife's suspicion.

"Why can't it be? Just wait and see. If he doesn't ask us to pay the bill, I will hand you my head!"

Chapter 182

Roy frowned, but he couldn't come up with a good reason to contradict his wife.

"Okay, let's play it by ear," Roy said, "If this guy dares to play tricks on us, we will find ways to deal with him. To tell you the truth, I have a lot of classmates who are in Buckeye. I knew them from high school and college. They will come if I need them."

"Oh? Who are you going to deal with?"

Ethan walked over to them while they were whispering to each other.

Ethan noticed that they didn't come inside but to discuss something with each other outside.

He was curious about what they were talking about. But after everything they had done since they arrived, Ethan didn't expect that they're trying to do a nice thing.

When Ethan was walking towards them, he overheard Roy's words.

He didn't hear everything but heard Roy mentioned something about finding people to deal with someone. He didn't miss that one.

Seeing Ethan coming over, Linda's relatives were flustered. After all, Ethan just walked in on them while they were talking back things behind Ethan's back.

"Nothing... Haha..." Roy quickly smiled awkwardly, "I didn't say that. You heard wrong."

"You must have misheard!" Paula quickly explained with a smile, "We didn't say that. We were just talking about how beautiful this place was."

However, Karen was not that friendly. She said to Ethan arrogantly as she had already seen through some tricks, "Mind your own business. We don't need to ask your permission for what is allowed to say. We were guessing what food you will treat us to. Satisfied?"

Karen smiled complacently, waiting to see how Ethan would respond to her.

Ethan was very annoyed by her attitude.

In fact, Ethan didn't think much about what they were talking about, and he didn't even suspect that Roy was talking about him.

Even though Roy wanted to do something to him, Ethan didn't need to be afraid of them anyway.

The jokes would be only on them.

Ethan was just disappointed about these so-called Linda's relatives.

He tried very hard to make the trip pleasant for them. But all they could think of was how to fight against Ethan. What on earth were they thinking? Were they even normal people?

However, Ethan stopped being bothered by them. He decided to let them be.

Ethan replied bluntly, "Excuse me. I don't care what you are talking about at all. I just came to inform you all to move upstairs. I've notified the manager to set up the table for us."

Finishing his words, Ethan then rolled his eyes at Karen and walked toward the elevator, holding Linda's hand.

And the three were left outside in embarrassment.

"Come on, let's go," Roy suddenly urged his wife, "Hurry up. Just be careful when you order stuff, and keep an eye on Ethan."

Seeing that Ethan and Linda had left, Paula couldn't wait any longer, "Yes, I know. Let's go quickly. If we are late, he will order things without us. This is my first time here, and I have to order the things I like."

Paula then left Roy and her daughter behind, running toward Ethan.

Roy took a look at his wife and followed Paula without saying a word.

Only Karen was still standing outside. She rolled her eyes at Ethan and Paula furiously.

She was convinced that her suspicion was correct. Karen sneered and muttering to herself, "Playing tricks with me, you are too young!"

She then walked in.

The elevator took them to the floor above the twentieth.

The door opened, and a waitress wearing a well-fitted suit was standing in front of them to welcome them. She took a bow and said, "Welcome to the Empire Hotel."

Ethan and Linda smiled and nodded at her, while three of Linda's relatives completely ignored her.

Paula even suddenly changed her attitude when seeing the waitress.

Paula looked at the waitress and said arrogantly, "What are you waiting for? Quickly take us to our dining room. What a bad service! If you don't do it better, I'll file a complaint against you!"

The waitress was stunned by the scolding. She didn't understand what she had done wrong to deserve it.

She took a look at Ethan. The waitress knew Ethan. She had seen how Pablo acted inferiorly every time he saw Ethan.

Chapter 183

The waitress was afraid of making them angrier. She hurried to lead them into the dining room.

Soon after they sat down around the table, the waitress put the menu in front of Ethan and said politely, "Sir, here is your menu."

There was nothing wrong with what the waitress did. Among the people around the table, she only knew Ethan. She knew that Ethan was someone very important.

There was no question with her handing Ethan the menu first.

However, this action immediately displeased Karen, who's sitting opposite Ethan.

She pushed the set of exquisite porcelain dinnerware in front of her and said angrily, "Kidido, are you new here? What's wrong with you?"

The waitress was surprised. She didn't know what she did wrong again.

The waitress didn't think she had done anything wrong since she saw them. But the older lady and the younger one were very rude to her constantly.

They didn't act like they were here to dine. It seemed as if they were here to pick up a fight.

Moreover, the waitress also noticed that they kept rolling their eyes at Linda and Ethan from the moment these two sat down.

She didn't know why they were doing this.

But on one side, there were Ethan and Linda, who treated her gently and humbly, and on the other side, there were two women, who scolded her for everything she did. The waitress wasn't silly, and she had her own judgment of who was more respectful.

Those two women just yelled at her twice for no reason. A waitress was not someone's punching bag, and she felt she was treated unfairly.

The waitress's face turned rigid, but she managed to force a smile. She asked Karen, "Excuse me, ma'am. What can I do for you?"

Karen was enraged by the question. She screamed at the waitress, "What do you mean? Are you an idiot? Let me ask you this. We came here together, why did you give him the menu first? Who do you think we are? You are just a small waitress. Who gives you the right to look down on us?"

Karen was loud and aggressive. The waitress had never seen such a customer like her. Most of the customers at the Empire Hotel were elites, and none of them was

this arrogant.

Tears rolled in the eyes of the waitress.

"This...this gentleman is sitting at the head of the table. I'm supposed to give him the menu first. I didn't do anything wrong!" The waitress cried grievingly. She looked at Karen and justified for herself.

The waitress was also a human being who had her self-esteem. The inhumane way Karen treated her was outrageously rude.

Hearing the waitress's explanation, Karen quickly checked for herself. She realized the waitress was telling the truth. And even the chair Ethan was sitting in looked different from the rest.

She became even more furious.

She didn't think Ethan was qualified to sit at the head of the table. Did that loser deserve it?

She glared at him and questioned, "What's wrong with you? Who allowed you to sit there? Do you know manners?"

"What?" Ethan didn't understand her.

Ethan thought he was the host who would pay the bill, so he was supposed to sit at the head of the table.

However, for the sake of Linda, Ethan didn't shout back at Karen. He asked with a straight face, "What manner I don't know? Are there problems for me to sit here?"

Ethan needed to make things clear. He had arranged the seating conventionally. And what Karen was asking was for the guest to sit at the host's seat.

"Of course, there's a problem!" Karen said arrogantly, "Don't you know who you are? Do you know the seniority here? Who gave you the right to sit at the head seat?"

Karen pointed at Paula and shouted, "Get your a*s off that chair! That's my mom's seat! Who the hell are you to sit at the head of the table?"

She then waved her hand to urge Ethan to stand up.

Ethan took a look at Paula but didn't move.

In Ethan's opinion, Paula was indeed an elder. But she never acted like one.

Ever since they met, Paula used her behaviors to tell Ethan that she was a disrespectful senior.

So why Ethan should give her the seat?

And with the fact that Ethan was the host, it was the rightful seat for him.

In Ethan's mind, it was okay for him to change his seat, but Paula would definitely

not be the person to take it. He thought someone was more appropriate to sit at the head of the table than Paula.

Thinking of this, Ethan said, "Cousin, if you want to order food, please do, but I will not give you this seat. Don't worry. I won't sit here either."

After finishing speaking, Ethan took out his phone and dialed a number.

Chapter 184

After a while, someone picked up Ethan's phone call.

"Hello, Ethan..." The voice sounded gentle and kind.

Ethan smiled and answered, "Aunty, it's me. Have you arrived? I'll go and pick you up."

It was Linda's mom Ethan was calling.

Ethan had planned to pick up Linda's mom first, but she insisted that they should go and pick up Linda's relatives. Linda's mom told Linda and Ethan that she could take a taxi.

Ethan and Linda were unable to convince her otherwise, so they did as told.

"I'm in the elevator," Linda's mom said, "You don't have to come down. I'll be there soon."

The elevator reached the floor before she finished talking. Linda's mom walked to the dining room and knocked on the door.

Ethan hurriedly opened the door to greet her.

Ethan was very respectful to Linda's mom. And only Linda and Ethan would treat her like that.

Roy and Karen didn't move a bit when Linda's mom walked into the room.

Karen glanced at Linda's mom with disdain, murmuring something to herself.

As for Roy, he just took a look at Linda's mom and gave her a fake smile.

Only Paula spoke, but her tone was not friendly.

"Living in Buckeye for two years makes you a big shot already? You are making me wait for you!" Paula glared at Linda's mom with contempt and grabbed the menu that Ethan threw over.

Linda's mom blushed. She explained, "Paula, I'm so sorry. I left the hospital early, but the traffic was bad. Sorry for making you wait."

Paula ignored Linda's mom. She focused on checking the menu.

Karen was unhappy at the explanation. She rolled her eyes at Linda's mom and sneer, "Who knows if it's the traffic, or you just woke up from somebody's bed."

She then burst out laughing.

However, the room suddenly turned dead-silent.

Ethan was choked by anger, and blood rushed up to his face. He stared

at Karen furiously.

Linda was reaching the limit too. Anger was bursting out of her.

"What did you say? Say that again?" Ethan yelled at Karen, "She is also your aunt. How could you say such a thing? Do you even think before you speak?"

Ethan's words were full of anger. It was obvious that with one word from Karen, he would lash out.

Once he did, no one could get away with the consequences.

However, Karen didn't take Ethan seriously. She sneered and said gloatingly, "What can you do to me if I say that again? Who the hell are you? If you dare to touch me, Roy has a lot of friends here, and they will come here to kill you!"

Karen had no intention to back down.

She didn't think it was inappropriate to talk to Linda and her mom that way.

Everyone treated Linda and her mom like that back in their hometown. Karen thought that Linda and her mom would always be pieces of trash wherever they went.

She regarded Linda and her mom as insects for her to bully as she pleased.

And nothing could change that.

She never said it out loud, but she believed there was nothing wrong with thinking that way.

What she didn't know was that if she dared to say her true thoughts to Ethan, Ethan would be so infuriated that she probably wouldn't be able to walk out of the Empire Hotel alive.

Ethan had vowed that he would give anyone a really hard time if they dared to bully Linda and her mom.

Since Ethan only heard that Karen was going to find people to kill him, he wasn't very angry. Ethan sneered.

"To kill me? Haha, what a joke."

He looked at Karen with a freezing cold look and said, "Call them, the more the better. Otherwise, you'll never know what desperation is!"

Ethan's words irritated Karen in an instance. She gritted her teeth and shouted, "Son of a b*tch, are you threatening me? You wait there. Today I'll teach you a lesson!"

She urged Roy, "What are you waiting for? Hurry up and call them!"

Chapter 185

"Karen, don't do it..."

Linda's mom hurried to stop her.

"We are families. There is no need to be so angry. You see, we are here for a nice meal. Would it be great if we just enjoy ourselves in peace? And the hotel is so luxurious..."

Linda's mom tried very hard to avoid an unnecessary fight.

It wasn't Ethan who she worried about. Linda had told her everything about Ethan.

She knew that it was easy for Ethan to deal with a couple of visitors.

Linda's mother was worried about her relatives.

She deeply valued the family tie. She believed that nothing could change the relationships of families.

Under such thought, she forgave every unfair treatment that her relatives had given her.

Linda's mom thought that she owed her second-elder brother a great deal, who was Paula's husband.

No matter how bad Paula and Karen treated her, her own brother had always been treating her well.

It was a tragedy that her brother passed on two years ago.

But she would never forget her brother's kindness and generosity to her.

It was also the reason that she had been putting up with the abuse by the wife and the daughter of her brother. In her mind, her brother's kindness was so great that nothing from his family could turn her against them.

What Linda's mom didn't expect was that Paula and Karen used the same reason to bully her and Linda. They thought Linda and her mom were in debt with them, and it was their way of getting everything back.

Karen ignored dissuasion from Linda's mom. She scolded coldly, "Shut your mouth! Who allowed you to speak? Don't you know your place? Living in Buckeye two years makes you believe that no one can control you anymore?"

It was not how a junior should talk to a senior.

Ethan couldn't believe his own ears.

How could Karen talk to her aunt like that?

Ethan was trembling with anger. At this moment, he completely lost patience with Paula, Karen, and Roy!

"Remember, no matter what will happen to you today, you asked for it!" Gnashing his teeth, Ethan said in a groaning voice, "I tried to treat you all with decency, but none of you is interested. Don't blame me for the choice you've made!"

Ethan took out his cell phone.

He was going to call Pablo to bring some people over. Ethan wanted to give Paula and the other two a good lesson and kick them out afterward.

"F*ck you! Bullsh*t!" Karen wasn't scared by Ethan's action. She sneered, "I want to see what trick you can play! Go ahead. I'll call people after you. With my experience with the world, I'll show you how I'm gonna crush you."

Karen then sat down on the chair and lit up a cigarette, waiting for the storm to start.

Roy just smiled without saying a word.

But it was obvious that he didn't believe that Ethan could call anyone useful.

Ethan dialed the number.

But Linda's mom grabbed Ethan's cell phone. She turned off the phone and put it in her pocket.

Linda's mom moved too fast for Ethan to react.

"Aunty, what... what are you doing?" Ethan looked at Linda's mom in surprise.

Ethan didn't understand why she snatched his cell phone away. All Ethan was doing was to help her.

Linda was also stunned by her mom's behavior. She pulled her mom anxiously and said, "Mom, what are you doing? Ethan is doing this for you. He can't stand watching you bullied by them anymore. You are breaking his heart!"

A few years ago, Linda would do the same, trying her best to push things down.

But she had had enough. After meeting Ethan, she decided to fight back for her own right.

Linda's mom didn't know how to answer her daughter's question. She looked at Ethan and pleaded, "Ethan, I appreciate your kind intentions, but please let it go. We are families. You doing this will make people laugh at us. We are here to have a great meal together, right? Linda's aunt just got here. We should give her a warm welcome! Let it go, please. I'm begging you!"

Chapter 186

The words of Linda's mom put Ethan in a dilemma.

He was furious and wanted to get justice for Linda and her mom.

For the similar humiliation and ridicule that he had suffered once, Ethan could understand how terrible the feeling was when under abusement.

Ethan would never want his loved ones to go through the same horrible situation.

What had been done was done, but Ethan didn't want the same abuses to happen ever again.

But Linda's mom put him in a difficult spot.

Ethan scratched his head. He looked at Linda's mom, and then at the arrogant Paula and Karen.

He hesitated for a long time but still was unable to make up his mind.

Linda's mom pleaded again, "Ethan, Auntie knows that you are a good kid, so please be generous and let them be. Auntie owes them, so I will accept it no matter what they will say. But please, don't be impulsive."

Looking at the expecting eyes of Linda's mom, Ethan's stubborn heart was softened.

He clenched his fists tightly and released them.

Letting out a long, slow sigh, Ethan looked at Linda's mom and said gently, "Auntie, I know. Don't worry. I won't do anything cross the line."

Ethan managed to suppress his anger.

He could tell how difficult Linda's mom was feeling at the moment, so he decided to forgive Karen just for the sake of Linda's mom.

Linda's mom hadn't fully recovered from the surgery, and Ethan didn't want to make her sick again by going against her will.

Hearing Ethan's decision, Linda's mom smiled and nodded, "That's wonderful, Ethan. Thank you so much."

Ethan tried to squeeze out a smile, "It doesn't matter. Auntie, you... don't be too emotional, all right? You are still recovering."

Linda's mom replied, "All right. I'm calmed. Thank you."

Hearing the conversation between Ethan and Linda's mom, Karen was angry and disappointed. She had been waiting for Ethan to call someone.

She sneered, "Why stop? Keep it up! You were making such a big fuss. Why back up the moment you've got an excuse? Keep bullsh*tting!"

Karen's tone was filled with mockery.

She never believed that Ethan could find anyone useful, calling more losers like himself?

What impact could a bunch of poor students have? Karen didn't take his word seriously at all.

She thought that depending on Roy's connection, to deal with Ethan was as easy as a piece of cake.

And Roy thought so.

So from the moment that Karen picked up with Ethan, he had been watching in silence and mocked Ethan from time to time.

He thought Ethan was bluffing, putting on a furious look to threaten them.

Roy was familiar with threatening tricks. He thought Ethan was naive.

"Does he treat me as a three-year-old kid?" Roy sneered.

Paula rolled her eyes at Ethan. She can't wait any longer.

Paula just wanted to eat. But Linda's mom showed up to delay her feast.

Paula had always been mean to her, and she hated her even more at the moment.

Paula thought Linda's mom meant to waste her time and stop her from enjoying the feast.

Paula thought to herself, "Ethan is trying to stop me from eating too. Karen just said a few words to Linda's mom. What is he so agitated about? Pretending to be nice to Linda's mom?"

Paula felt that she could see right through Ethan, and Ethan was a fake.

"Don't stop. Call!" Seeing Ethan didn't reply, Karen kept pushing him. She sneered, "You are so powerful, right? Call your gang! If you don't have a phone, use mine. Hurry up..."

Karen was sure that Ethan was bluffing, but in fact, he was powerless.

Ethan was tortured. He really wanted to call Pablo.

But eventually, he gave up.

It wasn't Paula, Karen, and Roy he worried about. Ethan didn't care what they would think.

Ethan took a look at Linda's mom and let go of his anger.

Ethan was worried about Linda's mom.

He didn't want to make Linda's mom sicker by directly opposing her.

However, Ethan didn't intend to let that day's incident slide by.

He needed to teach them a lesson. Otherwise, they would keep bullying Linda and her mom.

As for how he would do it, Ethan didn't need to let Linda's mom know.

Chapter 187

Ethan looked at Karen for the last time and then ignored her completely.

However, Karen mistook Ethan's silence as a sign of cowardness. She was convinced that Ethan had been bluffing.

So she looked down on Ethan even more.

"Okay, shut up and get up. Right now!" Karen urged Ethan, "Give my mom her seat back."

Ethan could ignore all of her unreasonable requests, but he would never give Paula the head seat.

Because it was a matter of principle!

Ethan said to Linda's mom, "Auntie, please sit here!"

Ethan showed the head seat to Linda's mom.

Karen was infuriated by this.

She sprung up and yelled at Linda's mom, "If you dare!"

Linda's mom was sitting down but stopped.

She said apologetically, "Ethan, how about we give the seat to Paula? She is older than I am."

"Auntie, you..." Ethan was surprised by how defenseless Linda's mom was. She never thought about opposing anything from Paula's family.

Ethan looked at Linda. He didn't want to back down this time.

"What are you waiting for? Listen to what she has told you! What? You gonna go rogue?" Karen shouted.

Linda's mom shivered with fear. She begged, "Ethan, please. It's just a chair. If they want it, give it to them. Okay?"

Ethan sighed heavily. Looking at the expecting eyes of Linda's mom, he had to nod.

"Okay, auntie." Ethan moved away from the seat and walked to another chair with a long face.

Linda and her mom followed him.

Paula was escalated. She walked right up to the head of the table and sat down with a big smile as if she took huge advantage of others.

A hand grabbed her before her bottom even touched the seat.

Paula was scared. She thought Ethan had changed his mind.

She didn't know what she could do to take back the head seat.

But it was Karen who grabbed her. Paula relieved.

"What are you doing?" Paula scolded her, "Don't mess around. Let me sit down so we can order."

However, Karen showed no sign of releasing Paula's hand. She looked at Paula coldly and said in a low voice, "Sit aside."

"What?" Paula was stunned. "What did you say?"

"I said you sit aside," Karen replied.

"But why? Didn't... didn't you just fight the seat for me? Where do you want me to sit?" Paula asked in surprise, "I sit aside and leave the seat empty?"

Karen sneered, "Empty? Why? I'll sit here, and you sit beside me!"

"What?" Paula couldn't believe her ears. She stared at her daughter in disbelief and confusion.

However, she realized Karen's intention after a while. Paula sneered.

"So that's what it is!" Paula said contemptuously, "I thought that you fought the seat for me. It turned out you did that for yourself! So you used me to get what you want, and when the time comes, you just kicked me out of the way? Bravo..."

Paula stared at Karen angrily. She finally saw Karen clearly.

Karen interrupted her.

"Why aren't you moving? Squatting the chair? Get up, or... " Karen threatened in a whisper, "Or you won't get a penny!"

"You..." Staring at Karen, Paula gnashed her teeth in anger.

She didn't expect that Karen would use anything that she taught Karen on her.


Paula could only sigh and sat aside.

Karen looked like she just gained a big victory. She sat down on the head seat right away.

Ethan understood that Karen used Paula to grab the head seat for herself.

He wanted to get up to argue with Karen, but Linda's mom stopped him.

Ethan couldn't do anything but sigh.

Sitting in the head seat as she wanted, Karen was very complacent. She pointed at Ethan and said, "You, pass me the menu!" 

Chapter 188

Ethan didn't do what Karen asked. He was so tired of her that he didn't want to look at her anymore.

Ethan was furious, and he was trying his best not to do anything impulsive. There was no way he could do as Karen asked.

Seeing that Ethan didn't move, Linda's mom quickly got up and put the menu on the Lazy Susan. She turned the Lazy Susan so the menu was in front of Karen.

Karen glared at Linda's mom with disdain. She picked up the menu and muttered, "You again. Why do you have to be everywhere?"

She then started to check the menu by herself.

"It's indeed the best hotel in Buckeye. All the dishes look so good!" Karen said complacently, "Roy, what do you want to eat? Hurry up!"

She then whispered in Roy's ear, "Order something expensive. Let's give that guy some hard time!"

Knowing Karen's plan, Roy nodded and tried not to laugh. He then started to search on the menu.

"This... this one is good, and this one too, I'll take them all!"

Not for long, Karen and Roy had ordered eight dishes.

They were calculating while ordering. The dishes they ordered cost around twenty thousand dollars.

Karen smiled meaningfully and pushed the menu to Ethan, "Come on, Mr. Host. Order something?"

Ethan asked the waitress what Karen and Roy had ordered, and the waitress told him.

The dishes Karen and Roy ordered weren't the most expensive ones. The price of them was just above the average.

For Paula, Karen, and Roy, Ethan thought that those dishes were far more than enough because he hated them.

But Linda's mom was also here. This was the first time she was here, so Ethan wanted to order something good for her.

A dish caught Ethan's eyes. It was called Joyful Three.

The waitress told Ethan that the Joyful Three was the signature dish of the Empire Hotel. Its materials were the most exquisite, and the dish required the high cooking

skills of the chef.

After hearing the waitress's explanation of the dish, Ethan decided to order it.

The dish was a little expensive, and it cost almost twenty thousand dollars.

But Ethan hoped Linda and her mom would like the Joyful Thress. It didn't matter how expensive it was as long as they liked it.

He ordered a few more and stopped when the total count was twelve. Ethan gave the menu back to the waitress.

But Paula suddenly spoke.

"Wait a minute..." Paula's face was slightly red. She said, "I haven't ordered anything yet. Why are you giving back the menu?"

Paula sounded unhappy, but she didn't say it directly.

Ethan was taken aback. He pointed at Karen and said, "Didn't you all just ordered?"

Paula said, "That's their orders, but I haven't ordered a thing. Why are you holding the menu? I can't order anything just because you are the host? How can you treat a guest like that? Don't you agree with me, Linda?"

Linda didn't reply. She thought there was enough food already.

Five people ate twelve dishes. There would definitely left-overs that would be wasted.

Linda didn't want to talk to Paula, so she turned her head away from her.

Linda's mom quickly said, "Paula, there are only five of us, and twelve dishes are more than enough. I believe things here should all be delicious. So... Let's not order too much and waste everything."

Linda's mom didn't want Ethan to spend too much.

Just a glance at the menu, Linda's mom was scared. An ordinary dish would cost two to three thousand dollars here.

All the dishes ordered would cost tens of thousands of dollars.

Linda's mom had been living a poor life, and she was used to saving every penny. She didn't want Ethan to spend an unnecessary amount of money even though she knew how rich Ethan was.

However, her words were like a fuse that immediately infuriated Paula.

Paula jumped up and screamed at Linda's mom, "What do you mean? Who are you to tell me not to order? Don't you know what's your position here? Tell me what to do? Are you qualified to do that?"

Paula scolded Linda's mom harshly. She had been holding her anger

because Karen just grabbed the head seat away from her. She vented all her anger at Linda's mom.

Hearing Paula's angry words, Karen also chimed in, "What a stingy bum! Inviting us to dine here, but scaring of us ordering? Are you afraid that you won't be able to afford the check? Ridiculous!"

Chapter 189

Ethan was boiling with rage at Karen's words.

He lightly pulled the hand of Linda's mom, "Don't worry, auntie. It won't cost too much. I don't mind spending some money as long as it can shut somebody up."

Ethan tossed the menu to Paula and said, "Take your pick. There are twelve dishes already."

Ethan thought for a moment and asked the waitress, "Oh! By the way, if I want to order all of your best dishes, how many dishes there would be?"

The waitress was stunned by the question, "Si-Sir, no one has done anything like that before."

The waitress found it was hard to answer Ethan's question. Here in the Empire Hotel, it had the best chefs from all over the state. The number of dishes available was more than one could possibly imagine.

Take the menu they were using that day as an example. It was very thick, and there were over two hundred main courses and countless appetizers and sides.

Some new waiters couldn't even remember all the dishes.

The waitress could only remember the most popular ones even though she had been working here for years.

So there was no way she could answer Ethan's tricky question.

The waitress thought for a moment, and suddenly something came up in her mind. She said with a smile, "Sir, the number probably is hard to tell. But we had a set before. It contains fifty-six of our best dishes. You can't find a better one in the whole province. Why don't you..."

The waitress asked tentatively.

Before Ethan could say anything, "How much is that set?" interjected Karen.

The waitress replied, "One point two million dollars!"

The price made the everyone gasped.

Fifty-six dishes for one point two million. This was way too much!

It was the cost of Karen and Roy's apartment, car, and the restaurant, and they were still on the mortgage.

Linda's mom hurriedly took Ethan's sleeve and whispered, "Ethan, what are you doing? Stay calm. To eat one point two million dollars is too wasteful!"

Linda's mom was leading a frugal life. She was so shocked by the astronomical

figure for merely a meal, and was scared that Ethan would really order the set.

She couldn't earn one point two million dollars for her whole life. To spend that much money at a restaurant for just one meal was way too wasteful.

Linda also looked at Ethan anxiously, hoping to stop him from splurging.

Linda knew about Ethan's financial capacity. One point two million dollars was nothing for him.

However, she thought it was a waste to spend all that money on food.

What's more, the food was for Paula, Karen, and Roy to eat. Linda hated to let them take Ethan's advantage.

All three of them had been treating Linda and her mom horribly. To treat them one point two million dollars worth of food just for venting anger? Linda couldn't understand it.

Not to mention Linda and her mother, even Linda's three relatives couldn't believe that Ethan was able to order the set.

They didn't believe that Ethan was courageous enough even though he might be able to afford it.

It wasn't a hundred and twenty dollars or one point two hundred. It was one point two million. Most people couldn't earn that much money in half their lifetime. How could Ethan spend it all for one meal?

Karen sneered and said, "What's wrong? Why stop? Order!"

She was sure that Ethan wouldn't dare to do that.

Karen was convinced that Ethan would back down. She was waiting to humiliate him when he did.

"Bluffing in front of me? Figuring out who you are first!"

But she didn't know that Ethan wasn't bluffing.

Was one point two million a lot for Ethan now?

With ten billion dollars in his pocket, is there anything, in any restaurant that Ethan couldn't eat?

Looking at Karen, Ethan laughed. He said to the waitress, "Well, let's order this set!"

Ethan continued, "By the way, tell your boss that there's no need to free my charges today. I'll pay for the check!"

Then Ethan let the waitress go.

Karen and Roy found Ethan's words extremely ridiculous.

"Free of charge? What's wrong with him? Does he really think he's some big shot?"

Does he even know the owner of this hotel?" Karen mocked. 2

Chapter 190

Roy grinned and said, "What if he knows the owner of the hotel? Think about it. He can afford a one point two million dollars' meal. It's not a big deal to know a hotel owner. Maybe he even knows that guy on the billboard, that Eric Norman!"

Roy's words might sound like he was complimenting Ethan, but it was obvious that he was mocking Ethan.

He continued, "Who doesn't know how to bullsh*t? I can do it too! Honey, I haven't told you yet, but I own the moon, and I am the richest person in the world."

Roy burst out laughing.

Karen was laughing hysterically.

In their eyes, Ethan was nothing more than a clown.

But what they didn't know was that in Ethan's eyes, they were actually the clowns.

Roy was right about one thing. Ethan indeed knew Eric, and they were father and son.

Perhaps they could never imagine the relationship between Ethan and Eric.

Sometimes the distance between human beings was huge like that.

Ethan ignored him and sat down.

Ethan was curious about what they would behave when they saw all the exquisite dishes.

He hadn't wanted to be serious about them, but they pushed too far.

Ethan had had it enough. Linda's mom was so kind, but they treated her so horribly. Ethan couldn't sit aside and do nothing anymore.

However, Linda's mom was in torment at the moment.

She knew Ethan did it for Linda and herself.

If she caused Ethan to lost so much money, Linda's mom would felt that she was in great debt to Ethan.

She knew that Linda had owed Ethan a lot. With that day's meal, Linda and herself would never be able to stand up straight, and they would be laughed at for the rest of their lives.

At this time, the waitress just left the room.

Linda's mom got up and walked out too. She said to Ethan, "I... I'm going to the bathroom..."

Ethan didn't find it suspicious.

However, Linda's mom walked out of the room and stopped the waitress.

"Miss, wait a minute. I need to talk to you."

The waitress was surprised. She turned around and asked, "Ma'am, are you talking to me?"

Linda's mom nodded, "Well... Can you cancel the order for us, please? You can see that there are only so many of us, and we can't eat all that food. Everything will go to waste eventually. I believe you can tell that Ethan was angry. An angry decision shouldn't be accountable."

The waitress was in dilemma. She said painfully, "But, ma'am, he has ordered. If you want me to cancel the order, I'll have to go back and ask him to reorder. I really can't..."

The waitress was unable to do what Linda's mom asked. Ethan was the customer, and the order had to be decided by him only.

The waitress thought, "I can't just do what you tell me to. It was a millions-dollars' order. If things go out of hand, the outcome would be too serious for me to handle."

But Linda's mom couldn't let her ask Ethan. She didn't even tell Ethan the real reason that she went out for.

Linda's mom thought for a moment and stopped the waitress, who was on her way back to the room. She said in a serious tone of voice, "There's no need. I can make the call. I'm his mother-in-law, and he will listen to me. You just do as told. If anything goes wrong, it's my fault. You have nothing to do with it!"

The waitress still found it hard to deal with.

It was very tricky.

"But ma'am..."

"It's a deal. You just do as told. Blame everything on me. It has nothing to do with you!" Linda's mom continued, "You use the order we gave you before."

"No, at least I need to discuss it with that gentleman!" The waitress still insisted.

Linda's mom was unhappy. She said bluntly, "What's wrong with you? I'm his mother-in-law. Do you think he would obey my words? You hurry up. If the dishes come in late, I'll file a complaint."

The moment the waitress heard the word complaint, she was shivering out of fear.

Her job wasn't easy. If she had a complaint in her file...

Thinking of this, the waitress sighed, "Alright then. But if anything goes wrong, you

have to clarify it for me."