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Chapter 491 A Hundred Million

It was a significant day for Cross Group and the town of Channing.

Following the approval of the FDA for the Hope liver cancer vaccine, the establishment of the pharmaceutical factory Phoenix, and the final resolve of all problems regarding the workers and facilities, the vaccine now entered the phase of mass production.

Once the vaccine went into mass production, the next thing to do now was the marketing of the vaccine.

After a long meeting, Penny and the senior management decided to start promoting the vaccine and kick start its sales.

One of the most effective ways for such publicity was via endorsement of celebrities, followed by advertising through different medias.

Cross Group had chosen a list of celebrities for this purpose before they finally decided on Ms. Melanie Zane as the brand ambassador, who was now the most



Chapter 491 A Hundred Million

popular celebrity in the country.

Melanie Zane was once an unknown actress, but after acting in a famous medieval drama, her fame had skyrocketed to unprecedented heights.

After that, she acted in a few other films, which all became huge box office hits.

These high-grossing films had further affirmed her status as the current superstar of the country!

It was her beauty and explosive popularity that made Cross Group decide on her as the ambassador.

However, her endorsement fee was incredibly pricey.

For most popular actresses, their endorsement fees would range between a few hundred thousand to a few million.

But Melanie's endorsement fee was at least 50 million!



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Chapter 491 A Hundred Million

And this time, her price for Cross Group was a whopping 100 million per annum!

Penny thought the fee was too pricey, hence she and Nathan invited Melanie over for dinner at Victoria Station Restaurant to discuss her endorsement fees.

Both parties had arranged to meet up by 12 pm, but Nathan and Penny waited until 2 pm before Melanie finally showed-up belatedly with her manager, Hugo Lawson, and a hoard of her staff.

The plump Hugo smiled at the couple before explaining, "Mr. Cross, Ms. Smith. Sorry for being late. We were stuck in a jam just now."

Nathan's face was cold as he listened to him. *I don't remember any place in Channing where the traffic jam can last up to two hours.*

On the other hand, Penny smiled politely in return. "Oh, it's fine. We've just arrived too."



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Pulling out her chair, the gorgeously dressed Melanie plonked herself down imperiously and took out her make-up set.

She then proceeded to fix her make-up and uttered impatiently. "Just shoot. My time is precious and I don't have much time to spare. You must be from the Cross Group, right? How much are you willing to pay for my endorsement fees?"

Nathan frowned even deeper at her words. *Girl, we have waited for you for a whole two hours! Do you think our time is not precious?*

Now he was starting to doubt if Melanie's personality was worth the pay for her endorsement. He had to reconsider if her character fit the role of Cross Group's ambassador.

However, Penny found it normal for Melanie to act this way. After all, she was the most popular actress in the country. Penny knew that the more famous the actress, the more arrogant she tended to be, so she did not mind Melanie's rude



Chapter 491 A Hundred Million

attitude at all.

Penny put on a sweet smile. “Mr. Lawson, Ms. Zane, usually the endorsement fees for famous actresses are below 20 million.”

“But we really like Ms. Zane and we sincerely wish you can be our ambassador, so our company is willing to pay 50 million for your endorsement.”

Upon hearing the offer, Melanie’s face immediately turned ugly as she replied in displeasure, “Only 50 million? Cross Group is a listed company that’s worth a few billion, and now your liver cancer vaccine is another product which can rake in a huge load of money, yet you only offer me a mere 50 million?”

Penny replied sincerely, “I can assure you this is a very fair price for your endorsement and no other celebrities can get the same offer as you.”

Seeing how she couldn’t convince them to pay her more, Melanie stood up to leave.



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Chapter 491 A Hundred Million

“It’s too little for me. I ask for 100 million, and that’s it. Don’t ask me to be your ambassador if you don’t have a hundred million.”



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Chapter 492 Opposite Of Her Image

Hugo proceeded to pack up his things. Before leaving, he turned to Penny with a smile. "President Smith, you shouldn't be so stingy with your price, especially when your company is so rich."

"Ms. Zane has no scandals throughout her career and she never has any misconduct in behavior. She's as pure as an angel, so I believe she's the best ambassador you can ever find. Please reconsider her request."

With that, he left with Melanie.

Seeing how dismayed Penny was by the failure to settle Melanie's endorsement, Nathan comforted, "Honey, I think this Melanie Zane is not a suitable ambassador, and her price is too expensive. Maybe we should switch to someone else?"

Penny shook her head. "I have discussed with the management, and we agreed that she's the best choice. Let me think of an alternative and discuss it with the management again. If there's no other way, I'll have to agree to her price."



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Chapter 492 Opposite Of Her Image

That evening, Nathan accompanied Penny back to her office.

Penny reorganized another meeting with the management, and they all agreed to Melanie's price.

Before she left the office, Penny made a call to Hugo and informed him of their decision for Melanie's endorsement.

Hugo was elated by the news. "You have made the right choice, President Smith!" he replied with a grin.

Penny smiled in reply, "I would like to invite Ms. Zane for dinner and sign the contract at the same time. Is she available tonight?"

Hugo hesitated. "Erm... Ms. Zane is now having dinner with a VIP. Can we sign the contract tomorrow?"

"Sure, no problem!" Penny replied.

After work, Nathan and Penny had wanted to return home when they received Kylie's call and invited the two of them to a new



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Chapter 492 Opposite Of Her Image

Japanese fine dining restaurant in Channing.

Nathan usually paid no attention to food and restaurants, but since it was Kylie's invitation, he dropped the idea of going home with his wife and drove to the restaurant instead.

Kylie had booked a private room in the restaurant which was the first room at the Earth row.

However, all the rooms' names in the restaurant were written in Japanese.

Both Penny and Nathan couldn't decipher the characters at all and entered the wrong room, which happened to be the first room in the Sky row instead.

Swoosh!

Nathan and Penny pushed the door open, only to be shocked by the lewd scene within.

It turned out that a group of Japanese men



Chapter 492 Opposite Of Her Image

were drinking with several women.

The Japanese sitting on the main seat is Kenji Mitsui. Right beside him was a beautiful woman, who was kneeling in her revealing dress while serving him his wine.

And that woman was Melanie Zane herself!

Penny was shocked to see her as she called out in alarm, "Ms. Zane!"

Nathan's face had turned ugly as well. *Hmph! So this arrogant actress who claimed to be clean and innocent this afternoon, is now serving a bunch of Japanese in her revealing dress like a prostitute!*

Kenji pulled Melanie into his arms as he fondled her breast.

He then turned to Penny with a perverted gaze. "Is she your friend, Melanie? Why didn't you introduce such a beautiful friend to me earlier on?"



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Chapter 492 Opposite Of Her Image

Melanie's face paled rapidly upon seeing Penny and Nathan.

"President Smith!" she cried out frantically.

Penny fixed her gaze on Melanie in disbelief. Melanie was famed for her clean image and never had any scandals. The media portrayed her to be as pure as an angel, which was the reason Penny insisted on making her Cross Group's brand ambassador!

But the scene before her was clearly the opposite of Melanie's portrayed image and Penny's good impression of Melanie hit rock bottom right then.



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Chapter 493 Is This All You Got

Penny's expression was frosty as she spoke, "Ms. Zane, there are many other celebrities out there, but I insisted on making you our ambassador because of your clean image."

"But I didn't expect you to be this disgusting in private. I'm disappointed in you, and I'm not going to make you our brand ambassador."

Melanie panicked at her words. "President Smith! Please listen to me! Mr. Kenji Mitsui is the young master of Yoko Financial Group, and I'm here at his request. You should understand why I'm doing this, right?"

Penny replied coldly, "No, I don't understand. What business can you have with a Japanese for you to stoop so low and disregard your name and honor?"

"Well, I don't think I can work with such a despicable woman like you. Good luck with your future endeavors."

Penny then left in fury.



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Chapter 493 Is This All You Got

Nathan gave Penny a thumbs-up discreetly. She had always been a firm lady when it came to business.

Melanie might be the most famous celebrity in the country, but Penny would never make a problematic celebrity with no integrity as Cross Group's brand ambassador.

Kenji Mitsui was a famous flirt within the business realm. This time, he was representing Yoko Financial Group to conduct a market survey in the South.

He had just alighted from the plane when he received a dinner invitation from his friend in Channing. His friend had even invited the greatly popular Melanie Zane to accompany him.

Kenji had seen Melanie on TV before, and she was just the type of woman he liked. Hence, he accepted the invitation in delight.

But now that he saw Penny, the pleasant surprise on his face was evident as his



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Chapter 493 Is This All You Got

eyes sparkled.!

The moment Penny turned to leave after scolding Melanie, Kenji actually panicked and stood up from his place. “Hey! Did I allow you to leave?” he yelled in Penny’s direction.

His friends and bodyguards immediately blocked Penny and Nathan’s way.

Their leader was Maru Musashi. He stood at 1.9m tall and weighed at least 300 pounds; obviously, a sumo fighter.

He stood before Nathan like a mountain as he threatened deeply, “Our master Mitsui hasn’t allowed you to leave yet.”

Kenji came out with Melanie in her arms and rested his perverted gaze on Penny. “Well, that dude can scam off first. As for the lady, you can stay back and accompany me for a drink.”

Melanie assented, “Yes, President Smith. Mr. Mitsui is the young master of Yoko Financial Group. You are lucky to get



Chapter 493 Is This All You Got

acquainted with such a powerful man like him!”

However, Penny replied disdainfully, “I don’t need such acquaintances. Let’s go, Nathan.”

Kenji quickly beckoned to Maru to stop Penny from leaving, and the sumo fighter blocked them with a salacious smile.

“You have to pass me to leave!”

Nathan narrowed his eyes and replied flatly, “Get lost, big guy. Or else don’t blame me for teaching you a lesson.”

The moment he finished his words, the bunch of Japanese and even Melanie herself burst into laughter.

Maru even stuck out his right hand as he tried to slap Nathan’s face. “Teach me a lesson, huh? How are you going to teach me?” he asked arrogantly.

Before Maru’s hand could touch even Nathan, Nathan raised his hand and



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Chapter 493 Is This All You Got

grabbed Maru's wrist.

Maru was surprised by his move and struggled to free his wrist.

However, despite using all his strength, Maru failed to free his wrist from Nathan's iron grip. He turned to Nathan with shock written over his face. "You!"

Nathan retorted curtly, "Hey, big guy. Is this all you got?"



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Chapter 494 Apologize

After that, Nathan exerted more force and broke Maru's wrist with a loud crack.

"Ahh!!!" Maru let out a painful shriek.

Whoosh!

Nathan's foot snapped out in a powerful kick.

Wham!

The kick landed accurately on Maru's head, which sent Maru flying aside and finally he collapsed on the floor like a fallen tree. Dust was flying everywhere due to the sheer force of the kick.

Everyone gasped at the turn of events and stood startled by the sight.

A while later, Kenji woke up from his stupor and yelled in rage, "You idiot! How dare you hit my subordinate! Everyone, beat this idiot to death!"

Clang!



Chapter 494 Apologize

Dozens of Japanese and a few locals roared and lunged towards Nathan.

Kenji yelled again. "You bunch of bakas! Don't hurt that pretty girl there! I want her to sleep with me later!"

Nathan snorted at his words and waited for their attack.

Pang!

The first Japanese to reach Nathan received a hard blow from Nathan, and his face collapsed inwards. He fainted backwards before he could let out a cry.

Swish!

Another Japanese sent a kick towards Nathan.

However, Nathan easily avoided the kick and grabbed the Japanese' leg with his left hand, while his right-hand crushed into his calf. With a loud crack, the Japanese' leg was broken as Nathan sent him flying with a kick.



Chapter 494 Apologize

Kenji's heart almost leapt out of his chest as he watched. He thought he could count on his henchmen to settle Nathan and cripple him.

But now things were not going his way at all!

Nathan was like a predator in his element as every single opponent fell one by one while wailing in pain.

In just seconds, all of Kenji's men ended up on the floor.

After a nice round of beating, Nathan walked over their writhing bodies and headed straight for Kenji.

Kenji's face paled visibly. Trying to conceal his fear, he put on a brave front as he threatened Nathan, "What are you trying to do?"

Nathan sneered, "With what happened after the Pearl Harbor bombings, I'd thought that you Japanese would have learned your lesson not to mess with



Chapter 494 Apologize

people of other nations on foreign land. But now, not only did you mess with us, but you also even harbored coveted thoughts towards my wife!”

Nathan raised his arm and gave Kenji multiple slaps, leaving bruises all over his cheeks and blood streamed from the corner of his mouth.

“Kneel!”

Nathan landed his hand heavily on Kenji’s shoulder.

Kenji felt as if a mountain had just landed on his shoulder and he couldn’t resist the force exerted on him at all.

His knees gave way, and he knelt down hard onto the ground. The poor man’s face contorted in pain as the sharp pain from his knees shot up his spine.

Nathan demanded icily, “Apologize to my wife now!”

Kenji initially refused to surrender as he



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Chapter 494 Apologize

lifted his head, only to be met by Nathan's murderous gaze.

A sudden chill crept up his spine and spread throughout his body as fear gripped him.

Kenji had a feeling that if he tried to go against Nathan, he would not hesitate to kill him right on the spot!

Kenji's figure shuddered and he immediately avoided Nathan's gaze. "I'm so sorry, Ms. Smith..." he apologized in his trembling voice.

Penny then turned to Nathan. "That's enough, hubby. We as a peace-loving nation shouldn't take offence to these rude people's actions."

With that, Nathan let go of Kenji as he replied in disdain, "You got by lucky this time. Don't ever let me see you again."

At that moment, Kylie rushed to the room from her own room. "Goodness! What just happened here?!"



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Chapter 494 Apologize

Nathan replied, "Kylie, this is a foul place to dine in. Let's go elsewhere for dinner."

With that, Nathan left the restaurant with Penny and Kylie.



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Chapter 495 Marco Schulz

Nathan had just left the restaurant when Shane Chrysler, the regional manager of Yoko Financial Group, rushed to the scene with a bunch of men.

Shane looked at the messy scene in disbelief. The moment he saw Kenji, he immediately bowed to him frantically. "Master Mitsui! I'm sorry for being late. Please forgive me!"

"Forgive you?"

Kenji was in a furious state as he gestured for Shane to come closer.

Shane came forward with his head drooped low. "Any orders, Master Mitsui?" he asked cautiously.

Kenji roared in rage. "I am ordering you to die now!"

Kenji grabbed hold of Shane's hair and pressed him down. He then lifted his knee and aimed at his face.

Piak!



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Chapter 495 Marco Schulz

His kneecap landed on Shane's face, which turned bloody in an instant, and the poor man let out a shriek in agony.

Still on the top of his anger, Kenji pushed Shane to the floor and kicked the man with all his might while scolding profanities, "You may be the regional manager of Yoko Financial Group, but you're just a dog to the Mitsui family. And yet I got bullied in your place, where you are supposed to protect me! Isn't that enough of a reason for you to die?"

Kenji was a cruel and merciless man with a bad temper.

Not only was he cruel with his enemies. He was also the same with his subordinates and the women he played with.

Hence, he showed no mercy as he kicked Shane continuously.

Although Shane curled himself up to protect his weak body parts, he was still badly beaten and even broke one of his ribs, thanks to Kenji's kicks.



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Chapter 495 Marco Schulz

Kenji only stopped when he got exhausted. "If it wasn't for the fact you are helping me to expand my business in this nation and earn some money for the Mitsui family, I'm sure to kick you to death right now!" he uttered angrily.

Poor Shane was covered in blood, and one of his ribs was broken, yet he dared not whimper in pain.

He even struggled to get up as he bootlicked Kenji, "Thank you, Master! Thank you for sparing my life!"

At that moment, a tall man in a white suit and gold-rimmed glasses entered the place with his group of men.

The tall man smiled. "What makes you so angry, Mr. Mitsui?"

Kenji lifted his head in surprise. "Hah! Mr. Marco Schulz! It has been a long time since we last met. I don't think we have seen each other ever since you graduated from the University of Waseda."



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Chapter 495 Marco Schulz

Marco approached and hugged Kenji with a wide grin on his face. “Oh, yes indeed! This time I’m here under my family’s orders. They have told me to accompany you for the market survey in the South and make sure you have a good time here.”

Kenji smiled. “Oh, please send my regards to your family. Actually, I’m also here to see if we have the chance to work together.”

Marco nodded and eyed the messy scene. “Why is it so messy here? What just happened?”

Cursing along the way, Kenji told Marco about the conflict he had with Nathan. “Mr. Schulz, I heard your family is very influential in the South. Now that I’m bullied and humiliated here, you must avenge me.”

Marco nodded. “Don’t worry. I’ll kill Nathan and send Penny Smith to your bed. How’s that?”

Kenji broke into a delighted smile. “Deal! If



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Chapter 495 Marco Schulz

you can make this happen, then we, the Mitsui family, will definitely work with the Schulz family for our future projects!"

Marco and the rest laughed uproariously while Melanie looked on with an awkward smile.



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Chapter 496 Reputation

That night, Marco treated Kenji and his men for a drink and they ended up fairly drunk.

Out of habit, Kenji must sleep with a woman in his drunken state.

And the unfortunate lady who had to sleep with him was no other than Melanie Zane!

Being the cruel hentai he was, Melanie couldn't escape the fate of getting tortured in bed and she ended up in a private hospital, totally covered in bruises.

She was admitted into the VIP room, as she couldn't afford to let anyone know of her injuries. The poor actress was now complaining to Hugo tearfully over Kenji's cruel act.

"That damned Kenji Mitsui is a real hentai! See how badly he has tortured me! And he's stingy as hell. I accompanied him for dinner and even had sex with him, but he only paid me 10k! Does he think I'm a beggar or something!"



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Chapter 496 Reputation

Hugo snorted bitterly. "Well, he's the young master of Yoko Financial Group. I dared not reject him when he asked for you to accompany him."

"That's why endorsements are the best. I don't need to do anything, and millions of cash will enter my pocket just like that."

Speaking of endorsement fees, Melanie suddenly recalled the endorsement with Cross Group. "By the way, how's my endorsement with Cross Group?"

Hugo smiled bitterly. "All gone. President Smith has found out about you drinking with Kenji, and she thinks your actions greatly contradicts your image, hence she has decided to not make you their ambassador anymore. Your 100 million endorsement fee is also gone with the wind."

Melanie jumped at the news. "See! This is all your fault! We should have agreed with her deal when she offered 50 million, but then you wanted to rig more cash off her! Now everything is gone!"



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Chapter 496 Reputation

Hugo explained, “My dear Melanie, I just want to maximize the profit! Who would’ve thought such an incident will happen!”

Melanie replied hatefully, “No way I’m letting this go. This is 100 million we’re talking about, and I’m going to snatch it back no matter what.”

Hugo froze in his place. “But President Smith is not making you their ambassador! How are you going to get it back?”

Melanie snorted coldly. “Well, I have a huge fanbase, and they are my greatest support. My endorsement will give them the publicity the Cross Group need. But if they refuse to let me endorse them, then I shall make my fans spread seditious rumors about Cross Group’s vaccine and bring down their reputation. I can say that their vaccine will cause infertility and other harmful side effects after injection. I’ll see who else dares to use their vaccine!”

Hugo’s eyes lit up, and he clapped in excitement. “Oh, yes! We’ll do just that then!”



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Chapter 496 Reputation

“If Cross Group works with us, it’ll be a win-win situation. But if they don’t, then I’m dragging them down with us!”

Inside Cross Group, Penny, Nathan and a group of senior managers were having an emergency meeting over the malicious rumors regarding their vaccine.

Some people had claimed that the Hope vaccine would affect the receiver’s fertility as one of its side effects.

Penny had on a stern expression as she scanned the senior management.

“Someone must’ve spread these rumors in order to destroy us. Have you found the perpetrator?”

Jenny stood up and replied, “Yes, President Smith. The perpetrator is from Wisteria Entertainment, who instigated Melanie’s fanbase to spread those rumors.”

The news surprised and maddened Penny. “So Melanie is unhappy with us not making her our ambassador and so she instigated



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Chapter 496 Reputation

her fans to spread those malicious rumors?”

Jenny nodded. “Yes. I have called Hugo myself, and he admitted it.”

“In fact, Hugo also said it will be a win-win situation if we work together, so he wants you to reconsider making Melanie our brand ambassador. And this time, the endorsement fee will be 200 million per annum!”

An uproar ensued Jenny’s report.

Nathan smiled coldly. “What if we don’t agree to them?”



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Chapter 497 Let Me Settle This

Jenny smiled bitterly. “Then they are going to instigate the fanbase to spread more rumors and bring down our reputation. Melanie has a very strong fanbase. If that really happens, our credibility will suffer, and it’s going to affect our marketing for the vaccine.”

Jenny hesitated before suggesting, “Well, I suggest we comply with them. Let Melanie endorse us, and we will pay 200 million to her. Once she’s the ambassador, her fanbase will stop spreading those rumors and everything will be solved.”

Nathan turned to Penny. “What do you think, President Smith?”

Penny shook her head. “No, her behavior is problematic and I’m not letting her be our brand ambassador.”

Jenny panicked. “But now we’re facing a credibility crisis! What should we do?”

Penny turned to Nathan for help. “Any suggestions, Nathan?”



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Chapter 497 Let Me Settle This

Nathan smiled. “Let me settle this. I will make Melanie apologize on TV and restore our reputation.”

Penny and the rest rounded their eyes in disbelief.

Did he just say he will make the superstar Melanie apologize on TV and restore our reputation? Is that even possible?

Although Nathan said he could settle this himself, Penny was still worried if he could actually manage it.

Hence, she brought Jenny and a few other staff from the legal department and accompanied Nathan to Wisteria Entertainment.

Nathan and Penny’s team met up with Melanie and Hugo’s team in the meeting room of Wisteria Entertainment.

Both parties sat across each other on the two sides of the long table.

Without further delay, Penny started the



Chapter 497 Let Me Settle This

negotiation directly and demanded Melanie's side to stop spreading malicious rumors about the Hope vaccine.

However, Melanie replied nonchalantly as she applied her lipstick. "President Smith, I remember you have agreed to make me Cross Group's brand ambassador."

Penny retorted sternly. "That's a different matter altogether. I'm now talking about the spread of malicious rumors by your side!"

Melanie smiled. "To me, they're the same. Once you agree to make me your brand ambassador, then everything will be settled."

Penny warned sternly, "Ms. Zane, do you know you have breached the law by spreading seditious rumors against us? Cross Group can sue you for that!"

Melanie snorted in disdain. "Are you threatening me now?"

Hugo assented with a smile. "President



Chapter 497 Let Me Settle This

Smith, regarding the rumors about your company, I admit it is spread by Ms. Zane's fanbase. But that has nothing to do with Ms. Zane herself. You can't sue us for something she didn't do, right?"

"If you really have to sue the perpetrator, then you should sue all of Melanie's fans!"

Melanie snorted coldly. "My fanbase has at least 100 million people. Can you sue every one of them? You're going to anger many civilians for doing that. If they boycott your vaccine, the one in trouble will be your company."

Penny was enraged by their arrogance.

Melanie was the one who instigated her fans to spread those rumors, yet she refused to admit her wrongdoings. Even if they try to sue them, Penny could only sue the poor fans who were used by their idol and not Melanie herself.

With the massive fanbase she had, things would get worse if they really sued her fans. That would be destructive to Cross



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Chapter 497 Let Me Settle This

Group.

What a meanie Melanie is!

Seeing how rage had crept on Penny's face, Hugo smiled and continued, "President Smith, both parties will benefit if we work together. If not, both of us will end up on the losing end. What for, then?"

Penny replied icily, "Cross Group will never make a celebrity with no morals and problematic behavior as our brand ambassador. That's final."

Melanie retorted furiously, "If that's the case, then there's no point in negotiating further; 200 million endorsement fee, and no less than that. Either you beg me to be your brand ambassador, or you wait for the day when your vaccine and company's reputation go down the drain!"



Chapter 498 Mind Your Words

Melanie's arrogance deeply infuriated Penny and her team.

Suddenly, Nathan spoke, "200 million, huh? What a daredevil you are to ask for such an unreasonable price! You don't even worth it with this rude attitude of yours!"

"Since you refuse to negotiate with us, then I shall not waste my time further. I want you to stop spreading malicious rumors regarding our company by 7 pm tonight. Other than that, I want you to make a public apology. Otherwise, don't ever think of being an actress again!"

Melanie and Hugo couldn't help but gasp over his boastful words. *What a huge boast he is! How dare he threaten Melanie to not be an actress! Who does he think he is for saying such boastful words?*

Hugo let out a cold chuckle. "Hey, lad. Mind your words. You're going to chew your own tongue for making such unrealistic boasts."

Melanie's rage flared further. "Who do you



Chapter 498 Mind Your Words

think you are to make me apologize publicly? It's fools like you who keep inviting me to dinners and do all sorts of stupid endorsements, yet you refuse to pay the price for it. And when you're not happy with me, you come and complain about me. Isn't this despicable of you?" she scolded rudely.

Penny couldn't help but shake her head. *Luckily, I didn't make her our brand ambassador, otherwise our company's image will be ruined.*

Penny was afraid that Nathan would be triggered and resort to brute force again, hence she tugged on Nathan's arm. "Hubby, we should leave now. Since they refuse to negotiate with us, then we have to resort to legal means now."

With that, Nathan and Penny left Wisteria Entertainment.

Melanie was still scolding away as they left.

Hugo passed her a cup of coffee and



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Chapter 498 Mind Your Words

smiled bitterly. “Ms. Zane, there’s no need to lose your temper over them. Who knows, there may be reporters among them and they’ll ruin your name!”

Melanie snorted. “Geez, I hate reporters the most! They always like to write stories instead of the truth. But I have a fanbase of 100 million people. If any reporter dares to write bad about me, I’m going to let my fans mince him to death!”

Hugo smiled awkwardly. “From what I see just now, Penny’s stance is firm, and she refused to budge at all. What are we going to do now?”

Melanie scoffed coldly. “If that’s the case, she better don’t blame me for not going easy on her.”

“Tell the admins of the fanbase to instigate the fans further. Let them spread rumors that the Hope liver cancer vaccine will cause severe side effects and infertility to both male and female receivers. Then ask them to appeal to the public to boycott the vaccine.”



Chapter 498 Mind Your Words

Hugo was worried about her next move. “Do we really need to do this? Nathan has just warned us to stop spreading rumors and even wants you to apologize publicly by 7 pm...”

Melanie snorted. “Hmph! That stupid fool even threatened to ruin my career and stop me from being an actress. Does he have the ability to do so in the first place?”

Hearing that, Hugo also found his worries to be unnecessary. *Wisteria Entertainment has a strong background, and Ms. Zane herself has connections with the strong and wealthy. Who else could threaten Ms. Zane’s current status?*

He then nodded in agreement. “Alright. Then I shall instigate the fanbase to increase their efforts in bringing down Cross Group’s reputation and force Penny to comply with our conditions.”

That night, all social media and news outlets exploded with malicious rumors about the Hope liver cancer vaccine.



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Chapter 498 Mind Your Words

In fact, there were some people who wore a lab coat and pretended to be a renowned doctor and specialist in immunology, claiming that the liver cancer vaccine would cause severe side effects to those who got vaccinated. One of the most severe side effects would be infertility to both male and female receivers of the injection.

Within a night, the Hope vaccine was now the center of the discussion by the netizens and many questions were raised regarding the vaccine.

Because of that, the stock price of Cross Group had dropped by 7%, and 7 thousand million worth of assets evaporated within a day.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 499 No Public Apology

By 6 pm, all senior management of Cross Group still hadn't left the office as they had to stay back for another emergency meeting regarding their credibility crisis.

The admins all reprimanded Nathan for his actions today. He could've easily solved this crisis by making Melanie their brand ambassador and pay her the 200 million endorsement fees.

But Nathan had to be so full of himself and refuse to let Melanie be their brand ambassador. They thought it was his boastful attitude that offended Melanie and caused this crisis.

Seeing how the management reprimanded Nathan, Penny bit her lips and spoke up for him. "It is my stance to not make such a problematic celebrity our brand ambassador. It has nothing to do with Mr. Cross' actions."

One of the senior admins retorted, "President Smith, now Melanie's fans are spreading malicious rumors everywhere and our stock price has dropped so much



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that 7 thousand million evaporated within a day.”

“If the new chairman is to question about this, who’s going to be held accountable?”

Penny held her head high. “Me. If the new chairman is to question this, I’ll take full responsibility for this, even if I get fired from my position.”

Since Penny had said that, the rest fell silent and dared not reprimand further.

Scanning the row of admins, Penny finally asked, “Now the most important matter is to settle this credibility crisis as soon as possible. Any suggestions from the floor?”

One manager voiced out, “Since the perpetrators are Melanie’s fans, and it stems from our refusal to endorse Melanie, then we should make Melanie our brand ambassador to settle this.”

Someone asserted immediately, “Yes, President Smith. 200 million may be a huge sum, but it’s worth it. This is how



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business works, anyway. We cannot be too stingy when it comes to money.”

The others nodded their heads in agreement. Making Melanie the brand ambassador was definitely the best way out of their crisis now, despite the incredibly pricey endorsement fees.

Although Penny refused to make such an immoral celebrity their ambassador, she was no longer the boss of Cross Group to make final calls.

She only had 20% of the company shares, while 70% of the shares were in the hands of the mysterious chairman who never appeared in public.

Although the chairman gave her the full authority to make all decisions in concern of Cross Group, she knew that every decision she made would affect the company and impact the investments of their investors.

Hence, she could feel herself wavering in her stance, and was tempted to



Chapter 499 No Public Apology

compromise with Melanie's threats and make her their ambassador.

The poor president turned to Nathan helplessly, only to find him slacking on his seat and dozing off soundly.

*This dude! Come on, it's a f**king crisis! How could he even have the mood to fall asleep in such a desperate situation!*

"Nathan! Nathan!"

Penny raised her voice and called out to him twice, and only then did Nathan woke up from his sleep.

He looked around the meeting room, only to be met with gazes of disgust by the senior management. "What's wrong, honey?" he asked dumbfounded.

Penny replied in frustration, "You said you can make Melanie apologize publicly and restore our reputation. But now, not only did Melanie refuse to apologize; she even made things worse for us, and 7 thousand million of our share price has evaporated



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in a day. Now, what should we do now?”

Nathan frowned. “She hasn’t apologize yet?”

Penny and Jenny couldn’t help but roll their eyes at him.

Nathan checked his watch; it was almost 7 pm.

He then smiled in response. “Time’s up for Melanie. Since she refuses to apologize, from now onwards, it’s time for her to regret her actions.”

Time to regret her actions?

What does he mean by that?

Nathan took the remote controller and switched on the TV.

It was 7 pm sharp now, and the news broadcast started right on time.

The broadcaster appeared on the screen in his formal wear. “It is said that celebrities



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should be idols who set good examples to the public. But then there's this celebrity by the name of Melanie Zane who has not only failed to set a good example, but she also instigated her fans to spread seditious rumors, which badly disrupted public order, and have set a terrible example for youngsters in the country."

Penny and the senior management stared wide-eyed at the TV news.

The news not only broadcasted Melanie's problematic behavior. It also broadcasted pictures of Melanie drinking with wealthy businessmen while sitting on their laps.



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Chapter 500 What An Awesome Man

The broadcaster reported sternly,
“Celebrities like Melanie Zane have enjoyed incredibly pricey endorsement fees and portrayed themselves to be clean and innocent, yet her behavior has contradicted her image so much behind the scenes.”

“This time, she even instigated her fans to spread malicious rumors about a listed company, which badly affected the company’s reputation.”

“The police has filed a case report to investigate Wisteria Entertainment and Melanie Zane herself over this series of seditious actions.”

“Relevant departments have also removed her qualifications as an artist. An immoral person like her should never be the idol of the nation and she does not fit to be a celebrity. She shall face severe punishment for her misconducts later on.”

This time, the senior management of Cross Group cheered in victory.



Chapter 500 What An Awesome Man

Finally! This despicable woman has finally received her deserved punishment!

Besides being happy, Penny and Jenny couldn't help but turn to Nathan in admiration.

They suddenly remembered that Nathan had warned Melanie to apologize publicly before 7 pm.

At that time, none of them understood why he fixed it at 7 pm.

Only now did they know that 7 pm was the time of the news broadcast!

This is terrific!

Did Nathan actually arrange beforehand to send Melanie up the headlines if she refused to issue a public apology by 7 pm?

Does that mean if Melanie actually apologized before 7 pm, he too had the power to cancel the news?

How powerful Nathan must be for him to



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Chapter 500 What An Awesome Man

do that!

Penny and Jenny looked thunderstruck as the realization hit them.

In fact, some senior admins even approached Nathan with a fawning smile as they boot-licked him. “My God, Mr. Cross! You’re simply amazing! How did you manage to teach Melanie a lesson with the 7 pm news! You’re my idol now!”

“Yes, Mr. Cross! What an awesome man you are!”

“Please tell me who you are. What identity do you have for you to achieve such a feat? Are you some big shot by chance?”

Penny stared at Nathan fixedly. She was also curious about how he actually did that.

Nathan smiled. “Well, you don’t have to admire me for that. I just happened to have a friend who works in the news department, and he’s close with the director of the TV news, so I simply asked



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him for help.”

“Plus, Melanie’s actions were too much. The moment my friend submitted his news report, the director immediately regarded his news as of high importance and decided to punish her by making her news the headline today.”

Jenny and the rest nodded in realization.

Penny frowned instead as she had a hunch that things were not as simple as that. However, his explanation was impeccable, and she had to believe it as it was.

Right then, the head of the security department, Ryan Day, entered and reported, “President Smith, Mr. Cross. Melanie Zane and Hugo Lawson are here.”

Jenny frowned. “What’s she here for?”

Nathan smiled. “I bet she has regretted her actions and came to apologize.”

Penny instructed Ryan, “Let them in.”



Chapter 500 What An Awesome Man

Soon, Hugo and Melanie appeared in the meeting room.

Thump!

Melanie knelt in front of Nathan and Penny, totally devoid of her arrogance from this afternoon. Instead, she sobbed pitifully as she begged for forgiveness. “Mr. Cross! Ms. Smith! I’m sorry, I’m so sorry! Please let me go this time!”

Hugo and the other staffs from Wisteria Entertainment too knelt in fear as they begged in trembling voices, “We know our mistake now! Please forgive us! We’re so sorry!”

Penny and Jenny’s jaw dropped at the scene.

They had seen for themselves how arrogant these people were this morning, yet now they were groveling on the floor as they begged for forgiveness.