

# The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin\_Jnr Chapter 111

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SVL Royal Hotel was really worthy of being the best hotel in the district. The interior of the hotel was twice as luxurious as that of the Sky Golden Hotel, with expensive and deluxe chandeliers hung on the ceilings and several other lavish decorations lining the hotel lobby.

Tyrell sneaked a glance at Darius as he stared at the interior decorations and a wave of accomplishment washed over him when he saw that Darius was impressed by the decorations.

Their arrival in the lobby attracted attention from the few prominent people in the lobby, which was expected, because not only was Tyrell the owner of the SVL Royal Hotel, he had over ten bodyguards with him.

Nonetheless, when they saw Tyrell being humble to a young man in his early twenties, they were shocked beyond comprehension, and very curious about the young man's identity.

Just seconds later after Tyrell and Darius entered the hotel lobby, a male receptionist walked up to them hurriedly. He knew who Tyrell was, so he was incredibly nervous. He was even more astounded when he saw how attentive Tyrell was to the young man beside him.

The young man was definitely younger than him, yet Tyrell's behavior to the young man showed him that he and the young man were worlds apart in status.

"Which room should I book for you, Mr. Tyrell?" The male receptionist asked respectfully.

"Book the diamond room." Tyrell ordered imperiously.

"Yes Mr. Tyrell!" The male receptionist replied reverently.

"This way Mr. Tyrell." The receptionist said and started leading the way to the Diamond room, with Tyrell, Darius and the ten bodyguards following them closely.

They took the elevator to the 61st floor, which was the highest floor in the building, and where the Diamond room was located. Not just anyone could use the Diamond room in

the SVL Royal Hotel, as it was the most luxurious and most expensive room in the hotel.

Only the most prominent and influential businessmen could use the Diamond room, and to book a room cost more than \$50 million.

When they got to the room, the receptionist bowed modestly and exited the floor, leaving Tyrell and Darius alone. The two of them then made their way into the Diamond room.

Tyrell instructed eight bodyguards to keep watch outside the Diamond room, while the remaining three bodyguards escorted him into the room.

The interior of the room was the most lavish room Darius had ever seen. Every decoration in the room looked ridiculously expensive, and created a very beautiful sight in the room.

There was a table that looked to be made of pure diamonds in the room, with a tray containing sumptuous meals on it. There were also two bottles of wine beside the meal. One of the bottles of wine was the Tinto Molleux', an extremely rare French wine that Darius admired.

Impressed, Darius took a seat on the plush sofa in the room, after which Tyrell did the same. When they were settled in, Tyrell was the first to break the silence.

"Mr. Reid, once again it is truly a pleasure to meet with you." Tyrell said once more.

Darius didn't respond to him with words. Instead he hummed lowly and then brought out the document his grandfather gave him.

Tyrell's heart quickened when he saw Darius bring out the document. The document contained the contract details of a mega-deal worth over \$5 billion, and Tyrell had gone all out in order to secure the deal. Once he signed the document, the influence of Sanders Group in S country would skyrocket.

Darius had no idea how important the document was to Tyrell Sanders. After all, he was just here on the orders of his grandfather.

He brought out the document from the envelope and handed it over to Tyrell, which the latter happily collected.

When Tyrell was done with reading the contents of the document, he put his pen to his signature on the document, and then handed it over to Darius. He was incredibly glad that moment, and was over the moon at the successful signing of the mega-deal.

“Thank you very much Mr. Reid.” Tyrell stood up from his seat and thanked Darius wholesomely

“It’s nothing.” Darius replied indifferently, waving off Tyrell’s Thanks

In truth, Darius didn’t do anything noteworthy. All he did was follow his grandfather’s instructions. so he believed there was no need for Tyrell to be so thankful to him He should be thankful to his grandlather instead.

With the mission his grandfather assigned to him successfully completed, Darius didn’t see the need to remain in the room with Tyrell any longer.

“Please have a drink before you leave, Mr. Reid.’ Tyrell said. As he spoke, he had already filled a glass cup with wine and offered it to Darius.

“No need, but thank you for the offer.” Danus replied firmly. Even though he was a wine lover, and was dying to know how good the French wine lasted, he refused to have a drink because he came alone. As a result, he would need to drive himself home later, therefore he needed to stay clear of wine or any alcoholic drink

He wished at that moment that he wasn’t so stubborn and insisted on coming alone. By now, he would be enjoying the exquisite French wine.

“Alright Mr. Reid.” Tyrell said. He didn’t dare force Darius to have a drink.

“Let me show you the way out.” Tyrell suggested strongly.

Darius knew that Tyrell wouldn’t take no for an answer, so he didn’t decline his request. Together with the three bodyguards, they exited the Diamond room. The eleven bodyguards then escorted Darius back all the way to the spot where his Mercedes Benz S Class was parked.

Darius was about to enter his car when a huge sense of crisis came over him. As a martial artist, his ability to sense danger was now greatly improved, and he was extremely sensitive to danger,

“Mr. Tyrell!” Darius yelled out.

He then quickly turned to Tyrell and pushed him away from the spot he stood forcefully, Just a split second later, a loud sound echoed in the car park.

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Bang!

A gunshot sound echoed in the car park, and a split second later, a bodyguard fell to the ground and lay motionless.

He was dead.

Tyrell's eyes widened in surprise when he saw the body of the murdered bodyguard. He was certain that the bullet was intended for him, but he was pushed away at the last second by Darius, resulting in the bodyguard taking the bullet in his place.

Tyrell's eyes clouded over in grief at the bodyguard's dead body, before rage seeped into them. The gunshot was a lethal one, as the bullet pierced his bodyguard's heart, killing him on the spot.

Whoever the shooter was intended to end his life immediately, and not give him a chance to survive even with the help of world class medical specialists. There was no way he was going to let such a person go

scot free.

"Go after him!" Tyrell yelled furiously and pointed at the direction the gunshot came from. If looks could kill, Darius was sure that the shooter would be six feet under already.

"Do not let him escape! Bring him back to me, alive or dead!" Tyrell roared loudly. He didn't care if the shooter was brought to him dead or alive; all he wanted was justice for his murdered bodyguard.

Eight bodyguards immediately rushed towards the direction the gunshot came from, leaving the two bodyguards behind.

"Why are you two not going after the shooter?!" Tyrell asked the two bodyguards that were left behind angrily.

"We can't leave you alone. If there's another shooter or murderer lurking in the shadows, we will be unable to protect you." The first bodyguard answered respectfully but firmly.

"Yes. Besides, the eight of them would be able to capture the shooter, and our presence is unneeded." The second bodyguard added.

Tyrell didn't respond to them, as their answers were truly logical. In truth, he was afraid of being left alone by the bodyguards, in case another shooter was still lurking in the dark. If that happened, he wouldn't be able to defend himself.

Tyrell then turned to Darius who was standing by the side. His eyes were fixed in the direction of the gunshot, and he seemed to be deep in thought.

"Mr. Reid?" Tyrell asked tentatively. He knew that Darius was the one who saved his life at the last moment by pushing him away; so he was very grateful to Darius.

He was about to speak again, but Darius interrupted him.

"The shooter has escaped. They won't be able to find him." Darius stated mysteriously.

Tyrell was in shock at Darius' statement. What do you mean, Mr. Reid? Tyrell asked; his voice laced with confusion and disbelief.

Darius didn't say anything and entered his Mercedes Benz S Class. He then started the vehicle and drove off, leaving the confused Tyrell and the two bodyguards behind,

Tyrell looked at the leaving Mercedes Benz S Class in bewilderment. However, some seconds later, the

eight bodyguards returned with looks of dejections and frustration on their faces.

"Where is the shooter?" Tyrell asked, frowning slightly.

"We lost him." A bodyguard replied dejectedly.

Tyrell didn't respond to them. Instead he stared at the quickly diminishing image of Darius' car, replaying Darius' last words to him with a complex expression on his face.

Darius naturally had no idea that the bodyguards had already returned to Tyrell's side. As he drove, the only thing on his mind was the assassination attempt on Tyrell.

He had no idea why Tyrell was shot at, but he felt that the shooter must have really wanted him dead, as he had the audacity to shoot at him in broad daylight. If he didn't sense the incoming danger a split second earlier, Tyrell would have really lost his life.

Moreover, Darius could vaguely feel that after the shooter was unsuccessful in his murder attempt, he instantly packed up his weapons and escaped. His presence vanished from Darius' radar in less than thirty seconds.

It was why Darius was very confident that the bodyguards would be unable to capture the shooter.

Darius thoughts then shifted to his body. He could feel that the changes in his body were now more profound than they were the previous day. He was now very uneasy about this, because he had no idea why he was encountering changes in his body.

In addition, he could sense that these changes were only the beginning and not the end of it.

Darius was at a loss on what to do. As he was too deep in thought, he was hardly focused on the road he was driving. It wasn't until he heard some loud screams that he focused his attention back on the road.

When he returned his gaze to the road, he noticed an elderly man standing in the center of it. It was too late for Darius to steer his car away from the old man at that point.

Crash!

"F\*ck!" Darius yelled as his car crashed into the old man. Darius quickly controlled the car and pulled it to a stop before rushing out of his car.

The elderly man lay motionless on the floor in a pool of blood. One glance at him led one to believe he was dead. People who were present when the accident occurred rushed over to where the elderly man lay.

When Darius got to where the old man lay, he pushed the crowd aside and moved in to check the old man's pulse. Luckily, he could sense a weak pulse coming from the old man. He breathed out a sign of relief at that. This meant that the old man was not killed on the spot by his car.

He took off the light Jacket he wore and wrapped it around the old man's bleeding wound before lifting him up and placing him gently in the back seat of his Mercedes Benz S Class.

He then climbed into the driver's seat, used his car GPS to find the closest hospital to his location, and sped there while blaming his lack of attention.

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Darius drove as fast as he could paying little heed to the traffic rules as he drove. He couldn't care less about the traffic rules now, especially now that he had the injured old man with him.

After driving speedily for more than thirty minutes, Darius finally got to the hospital. He should have gotten to the hospital much later as the distance was quite far, but because of his high speed, he was able to get there earlier.

The moment he got to the hospital, he called the paramedics over, after which they put the injured old man on a stretcher.

Darius walked with them as they wheeled the injured old man into the hospital. It was then he took a closer look at the old man.

Even though there was a significant amount of blood on the old man, Darius could see his body clearly. The old man looked to be in his mid sixties, and had a very developed body. He seemed very fit with a muscular body for an old man. It made Darius wonder how the old man was unable to avoid being hit by his vehicle.

Some minutes later, a doctor appeared and took charge of the injured old man. He then sent Darius out of the room after booking a private room to treat him.

Darius was anxious about the condition of the old man, and pleaded with the doctor to be present as he was treated, but the doctor strictly refused. In the end, Darius could only sit down and wait till the treatment procedure was over.

While he was waiting for the doctor to exit the theatre, his phone rang. He checked the caller ID and saw that it was his grandfather who was calling. He answered the phone call and placed the phone to his ear.

“Hello.” Darius said.

‘I heard what happened. Are you okay?’ Darius grandfather asked.

Darius eyebrows twitched at that. There was truly nothing that could be hidden from his grandfather. The accident happened not less than an hour ago, yet his grandfather already knew about it.

“I’m fine.” Darius replied.

“Good. What about the victim?” His grandfather asked.

“He’s receiving treatment right now.” Darius replied.

\* You’re at fault so make sure to compensate him properly.” His grandfather added and then disconnected the phone call without giving Darius a chance to reply.

Darius put his phone back into his pocket and sat down on the chaise longue and continued waiting for the doctor to be done with the treatment.

After forty five minutes of waiting the doctor finally exited the theatre. Darius quickly got to his feet and walked over to the doctor.

"How is his condition? Darius asked anxiously

"His condition has been stabilized now "The doctor answered.

Darus exhaled an audible sigh of relief at the doctor's words. He had been incredibly worried about the old man all these while, and was relieved to know his condition had been stabilized.

The doctor looked strangely at Darius. He looked like he had something to say to Darius, but changed his

mind at the last moment.

"Can I see him now?" Darius asked.

"I performed a minor surgery on him, so he's recuperating now. You'll be able to talk to him when he wakes up later." The doctor answered.

"Now if you'll excuse me, I have some other patients to attend to." The doctor said and left.

Darius didn't pay much to the doctor's attitude. He took his seat back on the chaise longue and fell into his thoughts

Even though he was not paying close attention to road, the accident was still quite sudden. It was as if the old man had appeared out of thin air; one moment he wasn't there, and the next he was.

Furthermore, his injuries appeared to be far too serious and grave to have been caused by a simple car accident. Darius was a little flustered at the time of the accident, so he didn't pay much attention to the old man's injuries, but when the old man was placed on the stretcher, another look at him revealed that the injuries were far too severe for a car accident.

While he was still thinking about it, a nurse came over to where he was seated with the medical bill for the old man's treatment. It was a bit expensive to the ordinary people, but it was well within Darius ability

He collected the medical bill from the nurse and walked to the counter where the payments were made. As he got closer to the counter, some loud voices seeped into his ears. It was like an argument was about to break out. When he got closer to the counter, he could finally see the cause of the loud noises

"Miss Vera, there is nothing we can do for your mother. If you cannot afford the treatment fees, your mother will be discharged from the hospital right now." A nurse said exasperatedly.



“Please, just bear with me for one day. I promise you I will find a way to complete the payments.” The lady named Vera pleaded.

“Miss Vera, you’ve already said the same thing last week. I had to use my allowance fees to pay for your medical fees so that your mother could continue to get treated; but you were still unable to pay up. The nurse replied in a frustrated tone.

“But.” Vera started, but the nurse cut her off.

“No buts Miss Vera, I have done all I could to postpone your payment so that your mother could continue to receive treatment, and right now, there’s nothing I can do anymore. If you are unable to settle your outstanding payments now, then your mother will be discharged from the hospital.” The nurse stated firmly.

Vera slumped down to her knees in defeat. The medical bills were too expensive for her to pay. She lived with her mother all her twenty years of life with her father nowhere to be found. Her mother had worked so hard for her to enjoy the perfect childhood, but in the process her work had taken a severe toll on her health

Vera was at a loss for what to do because she had not expected her mother to become seriously ill. She had no choice but to admit her mother to Serene Hospital, the best hospital in the district, in order for her mother to receive the best possible care. Unfortunately, she was unable to afford the expensive treatment fees after three months, which led to the current scenario.

Naturally Vera’s discussion attracted attention from several patients and guardians in the hospital, and as Serene Hospital was the best hospital in the district, so it was mainly used by the wealthy in the district, the wealthy patients and guardians all had looks of disdain on their faces at Vera’s discussion.

They were very upset at the fact that someone as poor as Vera could receive the same treatment as them.

Hearing about Vera’s situation deeply touched Darius. He could identify with Vera’s predicament because he was aware of the agony of poverty. He was about to move closer to her when a middle aged woman walked up to Vera and asked haughtily. “What is the matter, Nurse Emily?”

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When Emily, the nurse who was speaking to Vera, turned around and saw the middle-aged woman, her eyes widened in surprise.

“Director Yul!” Emily exclaimed in surprise.

The middle aged woman with a haughty demeanor was none other than the Director of Serene Hospital. Of course, as the Director of the hospital, she had a very high status in the hospital.

“Emily, what is the issue?” Director Yul asked with a frown on her face.

Emily hesitated to respond to the Director, but Director Yul glared at her. Emily had no choice but to recount the events that had led up to this situation. She did, however, leave out several details about when she paid for the treatments with her own allowance fees. She was aware of how difficult Director Yul could be, and she didn’t want to make things more difficult for Vera.

As Emily narrated the incidents, the frown on her face grew increasingly prominent. By the time Emily was done, she was sporting a very huge frown on her face.

She turned to Vera who was slumped weakly on the ground and walked over to her.

“Miss Vera, if you are unable to pay the medical bills in the next five minutes, then we will discharge your mother immediately.” Director Yul stated mercilessly.

Vera eyes widened in panic at her statement and rushed to hold her arm.

“Please no. You can’t do that.” Vera pleaded with merciful eyes.

However, Yul pushed Vera’s hand that was holding on to her arm and stated cruelly with a hint of disgust in her eyes.

Yes I can.”

Darius frowned at Director Yul’s harsh tone. From what he heard, Vera’s medical bills were long overdue, and she needed to pay the rest of the medical bills otherwise her mother would be discharged from the hospital without fail.

Darius knew that her mother was not yet healed from her illness, and discharging her from the hospital now would only aggravate her illness.

Even though the hospital was right to discharge her after three months of treatment without complete payment, there was no need for Director Yul to be extremely harsh to Vera.

Vera was dejected at Director Yul's harsh response. She knew more than anyone how impossible it was for her to come up with the medical bills for her mother's treatment in just five minutes. It was as good as discharging her mother five minutes earlier,

Just as Vera thought that all hope was lost, a clear voice rang out in the hospital.

"How much are her medical expenses?"

Vera looked up in surprise to see a young man in his twenties, like her, walking towards Director Yul. When he came into her line of sight, she was rendered speechless.

The young man was incredibly attractive, tall and also very well built. As he spoke, there was an undertone of authority in his voice.

Director Yul was taken aback at Darius' question, but soon recovered her senses. She then sneered at Darius and asked in a disdainful tone.

"Why? Do you think you can afford it?" Director Yul asked.

Even though she didn't know who Darius was, she was sure that he had no idea how things worked at Serene Hospital. In fact, she believed that he only made that statement out of the sentiment he felt for Vera. This was because the medical bills for three months worth of treatment were nowhere cheap, especially at a renowned hospital like Serene Hospital.

Moreover, Darius was dressed very casually. This threw the Director off, and made her look down on him considerably.

Vera turned to Darius and spoke in a weak tone.

"Thank you mister for your kindness; I'm truly grateful. However, this is my problem to solve. Please don't be bothered about it." Vera said weakly.

After looking at Darius' casual outfit, she had the same line of thought as Director Yul. She strongly believed that there was no way Darius could afford her mother's medical bills, so she didn't want to burden him at all.

It was then that Darius got a clear look of the lady's face, as he had been at her back the whole time.

He was pleasantly surprised at her facial features. Although she had black circles underneath her eyes, which was probably because of lack of proper sleep, her facial

features were still incredibly pretty. Instead of being repulsed, it made Darius want to help her out the more.

He then turned to Director Yul and asked coldly.

“Are you going to show me the medical bills or not?”

Director Yul’s eyes widened at his cold tone, before sneering at him. She then turned to Emily and asked harshly.

“Where are the medical bills?”

Emily brought out the medical bills and handed it over to her. She stretched and snatched it from Emily’s hands before handing them over to Darius.

Darius collected them and took a brief glance at the medical bills. When he was done, he smirked at Director Yul before stating in a calm tone.

“If I’m able to pay the medical bills, you’ll have to apologize to Vera and nurse Emily.”

Director Yul scowled and looked at Darius warily. Darius noticed her skeptical look and spoke in a taunting tone.

“What? Are you afraid that I’ll actually be able to afford the bills?” Darius taunted while staring at Director Yul straight in the eyes.

Director Yul flared up right at that moment, and anger overcame her rationality.

“Yes! I’ll apologize to both of them.” She agreed angrily.

“However if you’re not able to do so, you will leave this hospital this moment and never come back here in your life again Director Yul added angrily

“Sure Darius answered Indifferently.

Vera panicked when she saw Darius so easily agreeing to Director Yul’s condition. She knew Darius had someone who needed to be treated here, or perhaps he needed to be treated himself, which was why he was here if he was barred from entering the hospital, he would be in big trouble!

Meanwhile, Director Yul and the other onlookers looked at Darlus as if he were o moron He clearly had

no idea how valuable the Serene Hospital was, or he would not have agreed to such an unfavorable condition. After all, what was an apology compared to being barred from the district’s best hospital?

Darius didn't bother with them. Instead he walked to the counter where the payments were being made. He then brought out his black card and swiped it on the payment machine.

While everyone expected to see his transaction declined, a loud robotic voice echoed in the lobby.

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The moment they heard the robotic voice, all of them turned to look at Darius in shock. They could not believe their eyes at all.

The young man was actually able to pay \$270,000 without batting an eyelid. This meant that he surely had more than that amount with him!

Vera, Director Yul and the onlookers in the hospital stared at Darius with a new light. Anyone who was able to bring out such amount of money on a whim was certainly someone impressive.

Vera's eyes shone with admiration as she looked at Darius. That moment, Darius was the most attractive person she had ever seen in her life, and his position in her heart soared drastically.

Being the wise person she was, Director Yul immediately understood what Darius' action meant, so her attitude took a complete 180 degree turn.

"Pardon my rude behavior earlier. I was totally at fault." Director Yul said meekly and shamelessly

Darius didn't say anything to her and merely arched his eyebrows. Director Yul saw through his intentions and swiftly moved to obey them.

"Miss Vera and Miss Emily, I am sorry for my rude behavior earlier. I hope that you will find it in yourself to forgive me." Director Yul apologized sincerely. Moreover, there was no hint of hesitation in her actions

Both Vera and Emily were rendered speechless at the sight before them. Although Darius had proved her wrong by paying the medical bills, it was still in question whether Director Yul would actually apologize to them.

After all, no one knew how much Director Yul valued her dignity more than Emily. Yet the fact remained that she swallowed her pride and dignity to apologize to them despite the obviously glaring status between them; and so decisively too showed how highly she rated Darius.

When Darius saw how shameless she was behaving, he let out a wry smile. Indeed, if she didn't know how

have such a shameless attitude, there was no way she would be able to become the Director of the best hospital in the district.

"Are you sick in anyway?" Director Yul asked Darius straightforwardly after apologizing to Vera and Emily

"I am not." Darius replied flatly.

"Why are you here then?" Director Yul asked relentlessly.

Darius sighed at her relentless attitude. Just as he was about to respond to her, a nurse approached him and spoke audibly.

"Mr. Reid, the patient is awake."

Darius nodded and started walking decisively towards the old man's room. Director Yul stood still and watched as Darius left hurriedly. She wasn't bothered about his hasty retreat. He would still visit the hospital frequently after all. There was no way that they wouldn't meet in the future.

She then turned to Vera and spoke sweetly.

"Now that your medical bills have been taken care of by the kind gentleman from earlier, you can be rest assured that your mother will receive the utmost care from us at Serene Hospital."

Vera could only nod lightly at Director Yul's abrupt attitude change. However she was glad that it was beneficial for her mother's treatment.

Meanwhile, Darius walked swiftly towards the old man's hospital room. When he got there, he only knocked once, and without waiting for a response, he pushed the door open and entered the room.

The doctor who performed the surgery on the old man was present in the room when Darius entered. He glanced over at Darius but hastily removed his gaze a second later and continued writing on his note.

Darius didn't notice anything strange about the doctor and therefore didn't respond to the doctor's presence. He instead walked over to the old man on the bed. The old man looked extremely weak at the moment, and it was as if he was mustering all his strength just to stay awake,

"Are you the one who hit me with your car?" the old man asked weakly.

Darius sat down on the chair beside the old man's bed and grabbed his weak hands.

Yes I was. It was a grave mistake on my part; but don't worry. This is the best hospital in the district. After a few days, you'll be back to how you were before.\* Darius answered cheerfully.

"It's alright. I don't blame you." The old man said weakly.

Darius was about to speak again, but the doctor suddenly interrupted him.

"That's enough. You can leave now. He is still injured and recuperating." The doctor said firmly.

Darius was a bit irritated at the doctor, as he had barely spoken with the old man, but he couldn't refute his words. The old man was indeed extremely weak now, and it would be detrimental to his recovery if he kept speaking to him.

In the end, he obeyed the doctor's instruction and waved the old man goodbye before exiting the hospital room,

Seconds after Darius exited the room, the doctor kept staring at the door with a complicated gaze. He then sighed helplessly before continuing to jot on his note,

After Darius exited the hospital room, he suppressed the frustration he was feeling at the moment and went to the car wash. By the time he arrived, the blood stains in the vehicle had been completely washed off by the staff there, and the Mercedes Benz looked as good as new.

Darius paid the staff at the car wash accordingly and tipped them generously. He then drove back to the Reid mansion in a hurry.

When he arrived at the Reid mansion, he handed over the keys to the bodyguards there and walked straight to the bathroom. After taking a long shower and changing into a new pair of casual wear, he exited the room and headed to his grandfather's study.

He had barely descended the staircase when he heard his name being called out.

"Young Master Reid."

Seconds later, Bruce appeared at the edge of the stairway. He was dressed as immaculately as ever; and there was a file in his hands.

“Please don’t bother yourself Young master Reid. Your grandfather stepped out for some important business, and he won’t be back today.” Bruce announced courteously.

A slight frown edged itself on Darius’ face, before he asked back.

When will he be back?”

“He didn’t give me a specific date yet, but if I were to make an estimate, presume he would be back in two weeks time” Bruce answered politely

The frown on Darius’ face became more prominent His grandfather had suddenly embarked on a

business deal suddenly, and furthermore, he would not be available for two weeks, yet he didn’t bother to inform him.

He was confused at the sudden development, but there was nothing he could do. After expressing his gratitude to Bruce for the information, he returned to his room.

He had barely sat down on the sofa in his room when his phone rang. He checked the caller ID and saw that it was Erin. Surprised, he picked up his phone and answered the call.

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“Mr. Reid! There is trouble!” Erin yelled anxiously from the other end of the phone the moment Darius answered the phone call.

Darius frowned at Erin’s anxious tone. Since he knew Erin, she had always been composed no matter the situation. Now that she was this anxious, he could guess that the matter wasn’t so simple.

“Erin, calm down and talk to me. What is going on?” Darius asked steadfastly.

Erin took a deep breath and exhaled before speaking slowly. As she spoke, the frown on Darius’ face grew increasingly prominent, and by the time Erin was done talking, Darius had a huge frown on his attractive face.



“Okay. I got it. Thank you.” Darius said, and then ended the phone call abruptly. He then walked over to his bedside table and took the TV remote on the table before switching the TV in his room on.

” And coming next is news about the Chairman of the fast rising investment company in Capital City, West Atlantics Int’l.”

The television station was the one of the biggest news channel in the whole country, and it had millions of viewers across country. The news channel wielded a very dangerous power, as they had a very large audience; therefore the majority of their news reached and influenced the public. If they reported negatively on a particular company, the said company reputation would take a nosedive, and it was the same vice versa.

“West Atlantics International is a private investment firm that Chairman Darius Reid founded. Over the past few weeks, it has experienced rapid growth. This is true because they were able to invest in a number of valuable projects, such as the construction of the Invicta Bridge in Xana City.”

“However, we received news from trusted sources that the chairman of West Atlantics Int’l was involved in a car accident this afternoon, and took down an elderly man in the accident. The elderly man has now been admitted to Serene Hospital, and is receiving treatment there.”

“As for the cause of the accident, the chairman was said to ...”

The anchor continued speaking, but Darius watched the news with a stoic expression on his face. This was a blatant attack on his company, and even a fool could tell that someone was target West Atlantics Int’l.

Darius was a bit unsettled at the moment, as he had no idea who was targeting his company or the reason why, but he remained calm. The only weapon they had now was the media and the

news about his car accident.

Although it would deal some damages to the reputation of his company, it wasn’t so bad that it couldn’t be controlled. The main problem was finding out who was behind this sudden

attack

Darius could feel a serious headache seeping into his head. So many things had happened lately, and it made even the calm Darius flustered.

The assassination attempt was the first. He had only recently successfully defended himself against an assassination attempt, and as a result, he had been chased out of his home. He couldn't go back because he no longer felt safe there. However, before he could relax, a casual meeting with Tyrell Sanders resulted in the death of a bodyguard due to another assassination

attempt.

He was unable to find out who the person behind the assassination attempt on him was, yet another person had come into play. It was obvious that this person was here to target his company.

When combined, all these events led to one bad thing after another.

The most infuriating thing was that they all operated in the dark, while he was in the open. It was extremely upsetting.

While Darius was still contemplating about this issue, the surprised voice from the anchor suddenly reached his ears.

"Just in! We have received news from a trusted source that the elderly man involved in the car accident has just kicked the bucket!"

Darius lurched forward from where he stood in shock. He couldn't believe the news he just heard. The last meeting with the old man showed that the surgery was successful. How could he just die like that?!

At that moment however, his phone rang. Barely able to pull his self together from the shock he was feeling, he answered the call numbly.

"Mr. Reid. It's Doctor Langhan from Serene Hospital." Dr. Langhan said the moment Darius answered the phone call.

"Is the old man really dead?" Darius asked straightforwardly.

Dr. Langhan was taken aback at Darius' straightforward question, but pulled his self together and answered professionally.

"Yes he has." Dr. Langhan replied. There was sad and complicated undertone to his voice.

"Okay. I'll be coming over." Darius said and then disconnected the call. He forced himself to put matters about the news at the back of his mind and exited his room. He needed to visit the old man and pay his respects to him before anything else.

The moment he exited the room, he came face to face with Bruce. It turned out that Bruce had been outside his room and was about to knock.

“Young Master Reid, I heard the news.” Bruce said solemnly.

“Of course. You should have heard about it by now.” Darius replied.

Bruce had a complicated expression on his face, and it looked like he wanted to say something to Darius, but was struggling on whether to say it. Darius noticed his complicated expression and smiled knowingly.

“Don’t worry. I’ll resolve this issue myself. I’m sure you’ll be busy with the tasks grandpa delegated to you.” Darius said with a smile on his face.

Bruce didn’t say anything response, but bowed his head lowly. Darius let out a knowing smile and then tapped Bruce shoulders before hurrying away.

Bruce looked at Darius’ vanishing back and let out a rueful sigh. Darius was still very young, yet he was already thrown into the extremely harsh business world.

Contrary to what Darius believed, his grandfather’s departure was not prompted by a business deal. Given that not much in Scountry could elude his foresight, he anticipated this development.

However, he made no move to stop it. The business world was a battlefield, and Darius would later inherit the Reid Consortium. There, the challenges he would face would be a hundred times harsher than what he was facing now. The only way to prepare Darius was to let him experience some obstacles; otherwise he wouldn’t grow to be able to face his enemies later.

Nonetheless, this didn’t mean that he was completely abandoning Darius. Two weeks. If Darius wasn’t able to solve this issue in two weeks time, then he would take charge.

## **The Consortium’s Heir by Benjamin\_Jnr Chapter 117**

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Meanwhile, Darius was already speeding towards Serene Hospital. Naturally, he had no idea about his grandfather’s plans. His thoughts were totally occupied with the old man’s death.

After minutes of driving speedily, Darius arrived at the hospital. He parked the car neatly and then rushed to the old man’s room, without paying any attention to anybody.

When he opened the door, Dr. Langhan was already waiting for his arrival with an expectant

expression on his face.

“Mr. Reid.” Dr. Langhan called out carefully.

Darius ignored him and walked straight to the old man’s lifeless body on the bed. Darius didn’t say anything and stared at the old man’s body with a complicated expression on his face. Darius back was turned to Dr. Langhan, so he couldn’t see the expression on Darius’ face.

The two of them maintained a period of silence for over five minutes, before Darius finally spoke up

“What happened exactly? Wasn’t his condition stabilized already?” Darius asked.

Dr. Langhan sighed forlornly before answering Darius’ question.

“That was a lie. In truth, the old man was already severely injured before you hit him with your car. He was already destined to die, and even the aid of world class doctors would be unable to save him.” Dr. Langhan said in a sad tone.

Darius turned around and stared at Dr. Langhan in shock.

“What do you mean?” Darius asked; surprise lacing his tone.

Dr. Langhan then explained what he discovered from the old man’s body after an intense scan. It turned out that the old man already had several internal injuries that dated years back, and some that were recently inflicted.

There was no way the old man would have survived those injuries. Perhaps if Darius didn’t hit him with his car, then he would survive a few more weeks before his death. Darius hitting him with his car aggravated his already grave injuries, hereby accelerating the inevitable.

After Darius heard Dr. Langhan’s explanation, an expression of realization appeared on his face. He now understood why Dr. Langhan was always cutting his meetings off. It turned out that the old man was already close to the end of his lifespan, and he didn’t want Darius to

figure out that something was wrong with the old man.

“Why didn’t you tell me?” Darius asked calmly.

“The old man begged me to keep this a secret from you. He didn’t want you to be burdened by the truth.” Dr. Langhan replied sadly.

Darius sighed at Dr. Langhan’s answer. In the end, Darius was responsible for aggravating the old man’s injuries, indirectly causing his death.

“I understand.” Darius said at last.

“He asked me to give you this.” Dr. Langhan abruptly said, pulling out a special piece of paper with equally special writings on it and handing it to Darius.

Darius collected the piece of paper with a confused expression on his face. After going through the contents of the paper, the confused expression on his face became even more profound.

The special writings on the paper were completely unreadable to Darius, and were written in a language Darius had never seen before in his life.

He didn’t understand a single thing in the paper!

“Why did he tell you to give this to me?” Darius asked Dr. Langhan skeptically.

“I don’t know. He only said that it would be extremely important to you soon.” Dr. Langhan replied helplessly.

Darius only became more confused at Dr. Langhan’s answer. Unfortunately, the person who handed Dr. Langhan the paper was now dead. There was no way he could find out the reasoning behind the old man’s actions.

Darius tucked the paper into his pockets and waved Dr. Langhan goodbye before exiting the hospital room. He did, however, remember to pay his last respects to the old man.

Darius walked straight to his car after leaving the hospital. His phone rang just as he was about to start the car and drive away.

He checked the caller ID and saw that it was Erin once more; so he quickly answered the phone call.

“Mr. Reid, the news concerning the accident has spiraled out of control. Several of our projects have been stalled because of the news.”

“The businessmen and the public are both beginning to question the morality of the chairman

of West Atlantics Int'l, and they have blatantly refused to continue any business talks until a satisfactory explanation is issued to them." Erin concluded.

"Alright. I'll be at the headquarters soon." Darius said emotionlessly and then hung up the call.

He clenched his teeth in rage at the latest development before calming down. He knew it was pointless to get worked up about the current turn of events. His opponent was still lurking in the shadows, and any misstep by him would be disastrous for his company.

He then switched on the car engine before driving towards Capital City where his company was located. As he drove, he kept on calculating on how to handle the current issue. The fact that his opponent was able to sway one of the country's most powerful news outlets demonstrated that he was no pushover.

Darius knew what this attack on his company signified. The other companies under the Reid consortium were only stable because of the influence his grandfather built. As the new head of the Reid consortium, he would surely come to be in charge of all the companies.

A massive financial group like the Reid consortium was not without its enemies. By that time, he would have been subjected to a slew of attacks from various financial groups and conglomerates with a vendetta against the Reid consortium.

If he was unable to successfully defend a single company under his name, how would he be able to defend hundreds of companies under the Reid consortium?

Darius sighed and pushed the thoughts to the back of his mind as he drove. There was a lot going on right now, and he could only deal with one problem at a time.

He first had to deal with the obvious attack on his company. There was no way he was going to let his opponent have his way.

## **The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin\_Jnr Chapter 118**

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin\_Jnr

Chapter 118

Chapter 118 [West Atlantics Int'l headquarters, Capital City.]

The atmosphere in the company's regal building was dull and tense. The workers were all moving about their daily activities with gloomy and forlorn expressions, unlike the usual bustling attitude they had previously.

The employees were not to be blamed however, as they had already seen the negative news about the chairman of their company. They were seasoned employees, so they knew how detrimental the effects of such news could be to their company.

The higher ups, such as Erin and Zack, were more depressed at the situation at hand. The company was still a very new one, so they were feeling aggrieved about the current turn of events. If their chairman was unable to resolve this issue, then it would be a huge setback in their already laid out plans.

The news had been embellished greatly by the media, so it had succeeded in creating a false impression about the chairman of West Atlantics Int'l.

The public didn't know the full details regarding the accident, and they only believed what they were fed by the media, so it was understandable why they hurled insults and looked down unfavorably on West Atlantics Int'l.

While Erin and Zack were at a loss on what to do, Darius arrived at the company. After parking his vehicle, he entered the building and headed straight to Erin's office.

"Mr. Reid!" Erin exclaimed in surprise when she saw Darius walking towards her in haste with a stoic expression on his face. It had just been less than an hour since she called him last, yet he was already present at the company. She couldn't imagine how fast he must have driven to get here so quickly.

"Call every higher ups in the company and tell them that we're having a meeting in five minutes." Darius ordered as he glanced at Erin and exited the office before continuing walking towards the conference room.

Erin jolted back to her senses and nodded subconsciously at Darius' instructions before scurrying away to obey his instructions.

The company's internal structure was no longer the same as it had been. With over 1,000 employees working currently in the company and the number growing by the day, the company would definitely not continue to operate in the same manner as before.

When the higher-ups received Darius' orders, they immediately halted their actions and rushed to the conference room. They had been waiting for Darius to arrive and address the situation for quite some time. They dared not dally now that he was finally around to deal with the problem

Sure enough, in less than five minutes, the conference room was filled with the higher ups already present.

These higher ups were the core of the company, and majority of them were handpicked by Darius painstakingly; therefore they heeded Darius' words with utmost respect.

"I trust we all understand why we've gathered here." Darius stated flatly. He didn't want to waste any time on pleasantries, so he got right to the point.

“I’m certain that by now you all have seen the news and rumors about me circulating on the internet.” Darius started, as he looked straight into the eyes of the people present.

“Well, they’re mainly false.” Darius said.

The higher-ups, including Zack, breathed a sigh of relief when Darius clarified his viewpoint. Although they had never believed the rumors about their chairman, they were relieved to learn that they were all false and that Darius had confirmed it himself.

Darius then went on to explain the real incident behind the accident. Of course, he left out several details including when he paid for Vera’s medical bills and the special paper the old man left for him. There was simply no need to include them in his story.

“Now that we all know the truth behind the false rumors, we can say that everyone is on the same page.” Darius said after taking in the relieved expressions of his subordinates.

He was well aware that he needed to improve his image in the eyes of his subordinates. His first step would be to eliminate any possibility of doubt. After all, it was a new company, and while he was certain that they were loyal to him and the company, the sense of unity between them had not yet formed.

Darius then informed the higher ups to pacify the lower ranked employees. He was not a fool. He wasn’t a moron. The employees were probably wondering if they had made the right decision by leaving their companies and working for West Atlantics Int’l. They needed to be appeased in order for them to remain in West Atlantics Int’l.

He then dismissed the higher ups and sent them on their way; and only Zack and Erin remained behind.

“Hand me the detailed reports you’ve compiled so far.” Darius ordered authoritatively.

Erin quickly fetched the reports and handed them over to Darius. Darius collected them from her outstretched hands and read through the reports.

He had already informed Bruce to erase any news about his car accident and the old man’s death. With how efficient Bruce was, Darius was sure that in a few minutes time, the news would surely die off.

In a matter of seconds, Darius was engrossed in the reports about the company. It remained that way for over thirty minutes. Just when Erin and Zack thought that Darius would not separate himself from the reports, his phone rang.

He checked the caller ID and saw that it was Bruce before answering the call.

“Young Master Reid, I have dealt with the issue. They are no longer any false news and rumors about you.” Bruce stated as soon as Darius answered the phone call.



Darius smiled knowingly and thanked Bruce sincerely before disconnecting the phone call.

He then took another long look at the reports Erin had given him before laughing mysteriously.

Capital City was the best city for a company to develop. It was completely expected for a new company like West Atlantics Int'l to be targeted by the titans in Capital City after witnessing its growth speed. After all, no one wanted another company to grow strong enough to compete for the resources with them.

After reading the reports, he was sure that the person behind the rumors and news was from Capital City, and a pretty powerful adversary at that.

Darius grinned. Now that the person had had his fair share of his fun, it was time for him to counterattack

## **The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin\_Jnr Chapter 119**

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Chapter 119 Erin and Zack both felt chills run down their spine as they looked at Darius who had a smile on his face.

Although he was smiling, his gaze was extremely frightening. "Zack, bring me the list of companies that backed out from the projects we're supposed to invest in." Darius suddenly said. Zack jolted from his thoughts in shock before hurrying away to obey Darius' instructions. Seconds later, Zack returned with a pile of documents in his hands which he then carefully handed over to Darius. Darius collected the documents and read through it, and just minutes later, he gave his verdict. "Remove Terra International, Venus Inc., and Sky Industries from our company's database." Darius issued an unexpected command. "From now on, West Atlantics Int'l will not have or entertain any form of business with these three companies." Darius concluded with a tone of finality. Both Erin and Zack looked at Darius in astonishment. They didn't expect his sudden decision at all. It was way too rash! Darius blacklisted three companies with net worths in the hundreds of millions of dollars, and also had a lot of power and influence in Capital City. Even though West Atlantics Int'l had far more money as a starting capital, the fact that the companies were more influential than West Atlantics Int'l in Capital City did not change, as such power and influence was not something that West Atlantics Int'l could just build in a day.

Working with them would be extremely beneficial, as West Atlantics Int'l was still a relatively new company. As a result, Erin and Zack were both taken aback by Darius' sudden decision to blacklist the three companies. "Mr. Reid, isn't this too hasty a decision?" Zack asked tentatively. Erin kept silent as Zack questioned Darius, which meant she thought the same thing as well. Darius looked at Zack, who had a panicked expression on his face, and Erin, who had the same expression on her face despite her efforts to hide it, and smiled slowly before speaking. "Terra Int'l, Venus Inc., and Sky Industries have backed out from a total of seven projects which cost us quite a lot to acquire, including the Swallow park project; and about four of these projects have already been set to be completed in the next four weeks." "Their backing out has left us several holes for us at West Atlantics Int'l to fix. It will be extremely unwise to continue to work with them in the future, regardless of their status and influence now." Darius explained slowly. However, Zack wasn't convinced with Darius explanation, and gave his reason. "But Mr. Reid, these companies only pulled out of the projects because of the false rumors that the news channel spread. If we contact them now and explain the situation to them, I'm sure that they will request to rejoin the projects." Zack argued. Darius sighed slowly and looked at Zack. Sure enough, Zack still had the experiences of being the head of a third rate company deep rooted in him, and it clearly affected his way of conducting things. After managing a colossal technological company like Nix Inc. for some time, Darius knew how these bigwigs thought. He knew that the only reason they partnered with West Atlantics Int'l was because of the seemingly large capital they had. It was hardly a secret, as big companies like theirs had their way of discovering things. Even if they didn't know the exact amount West Atlantics Int'l capital was, they knew that it was big enough to give them a solid foundation in Capital City. As such, they were only with them for the benefits. They had no intention of helping them out if they encountered any crisis, as this was shown by the fact that the three companies pulled out from the projects without hesitation the moment they encountered what could be called a 'small issue. They couldn't even wait for Darius, the chairman of the company, to issue a statement concerning the issue before backstabbing them. While Zack might be a bit overwhelmed by their status and influence and overlook this action of theirs, Darius won't. There was no room for partnerships with companies like them. As for Zack, Darius believed that soon enough, when West Atlantics Int'l grew to the level he expected it to, his mindset would surely change. Not everyone could easily adapt to the difference in status, and it was completely normal for Zack to behave the way he was behaving now. "Just do as I say. I'm sure you'll come to understand sooner or later." Darius said calmly, without explaining any further to Zack. Although Zack was far from satisfied, and believed that they should still maintain their partnership with the three companies, Darius was still his superior; therefore there was no way he could disobey him. He could only carry out his instructions, regardless of his thoughts about them. Zack exited the conference room to carry out Darius' order, and now only Darius and Erin were left in the conference room. Darius slowly stood up from his chair at the head of the table and walked leisurely to the window in the conference room. Capital City was a very big and successful city, with various luxury vehicles speeding past the road, and several office workers rushing about after a long day at work. Erin watched in silence as Darius watched the bustling city from the window. She couldn't help but admire his side profile. Even though Darius was still dressed in his casual wear from the

Reid mansion, the serene and tranquil aura surrounding him didn't diminish one bit. He looked incredibly noble from that angle. Darius continued watching the bustling city from the window even after twenty minutes had gone by. By this time, Erin was already getting impatient. It was already very late in the evening, yet Darius hadn't made any move. After another ten minutes, Erin could no longer bear the silence and Darius inactivity. Just as she was about to speak up, a loud ping sound echoed in the silent conference room. Darius brought out his phone at that moment, and read through the message. The moment he finished reading the message, a chilling smile broke out on his face. 2 Now that his plans had finally been successful, it was time for his opponent to have a taste of his own medicine.

## The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin\_Jnr Chapter 120

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Chapter 120

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Chapter 120 (Sterling Corporations, Capital City) The Chairman's office; 10:00 am •

A man in his late fifties sat behind a large mahogany desk in what appeared to be a slightly above average office.

He had a bald head, beady eyes that appeared shrewd, and an average face. The mahogany desk was littered with numerous documents, and the man was busy scribbling on them. Suddenly, the door to his office opened abruptly, and an equally average man rushed into the office in a panicked manner. Hector Sterling, the current chairman of Sterling Corporation looked at the average man in distaste. The average man was of course his secretary, and his sudden entrance irked him greatly, as it interrupted his concentration. Just as he was about to rebuke his secretary, a loud voice cut him off. "There's big trouble President Hector!" the average man shouted frightfully. Hector frowned slightly at his secretary words, and forced his reprimand down his throat. "What is it?" Hector asked, his tone dripping with disdain. There was no change in the expression on his face, so either the secretary didn't notice or chose to ignore the disdain in his boss' voice. "The banks and loan companies we took the loans from are suddenly questioning our ability to pay back, and are requesting for us to pay back in twenty four hours time, otherwise they would seize the company's assets!" The secretary exclaimed. "What?!" Hector yelled and jolted to his feet. "What do you mean by that?" Hector asked his secretary disbelievingly. His secretary didn't answer his question immediately. Rather, he brought out two documents and handed it over to Hector. Hector collected them from the secretary's outstretched hands and read through them. As he read through them, the expressions on his face became more and more ugly, and by the time he was done reading it, a thoroughly twisted expression was on his face. "Motherf\*cker!" Hector yelled in anger and tore the documents to pieces. The document stated that if the loans were not paid in back in twenty four hours time, their

company's assets would be seized and auctioned off. The requests from the loan companies and banks were simply outrageous. Hector had borrowed more than \$200 million in total from the banks and loan companies as one of the means to boost his already declining company. Yet, who would have thought that his decision would backfire? Sterling Corporations was one of the below average companies in Capital City, with a net worth of over \$20 million. However, they were one of the oldest companies founded in Capital City. Usually, the companies who started at the same time with Sterling Corporations in Capital City now had their net worths in the hundreds of millions of dollars, but Sterling Corporation were far behind. This was because of the declining competence in the abilities of the previous chairmen of the company. At their current level, they were duly ignored by the bigwigs in Capital City. Hector Sterling, the current chairman of Sterling Corporations had tried his very best and exhausted all his means to build the company to a higher level, but his efforts were all futile. Not only did his business not develop as he had hoped, but they also experienced a decline that was even more severe than usual. The loans and debts the company incurred kept piling up, and their capital chain was severely affected. Hector knew that if there was no external aid to his company, it would only be a matter of time before Sterling Corporations went bankrupt. While Hector was at his wits end, a new company named West Atlantic Int'l was founded in Capital City. Normally, Hector rarely paid attention to such companies, as new companies were founded everyday in Capital City. Besides, of all the multitude of companies founded, how many of them actually managed to remain standing? The answer was only few. After all, the resources in Capital City were already monopolized by the bigwigs, and new companies like West Atlantic Int'l would have nothing for themselves. A company with no resources could not possibly grow, so the only option was for them to leave and start over somewhere else. However, contrary to Hector's expectations, not only did West Atlantic Int'l leave Capital City to start up somewhere else, they experienced a very rapid growth. In just a matter of weeks, they were already far ahead of Sterling Corporations! Hector could not bear to see such a new company gaining so much influence in Capital City, while his company continued to decline. Nonetheless, he was powerless to stop their momentum. Just when he thought all hope was lost, a bigwig company reached out to him. The bigwig company promised to elevate the status of his company and clear out all the outstanding debts he incurred, and at the same time promised to invest heavily in Sterling Corporations. Of course, such a pleasant deal was not without its catch. Hector was tasked with the job of taking down West Atlantic Int'l in the shortest time possible. West Atlantic rapid growth was just too threatening to the bigwigs, and they couldn't sit still anymore. Nonetheless, these bigwig companies couldn't target West Atlantic Int'l openly; hence they opted to get a minion to do the task for them. Sterling Corporations fit all the criteria, hence the reason the job fell to them. Hector naturally accepted the task. He too was eager to push his company to another level, as if he succeeded, his company would experience an upward growth spurt. Besides, he was already bitter at West Atlantic Int'l success growth. There was no way he would shy away from hindering them. Since Sterling Corporation couldn't compete with West Atlantic Int'l on an equal ground, he resorted to underhanded tactics. Using the influence the bigwig company had, he monitored and discovered Darius' accident, then fanned the flames by embellishing the details of the accident, successfully creating a negative image and impacting the positive reputation

West Atlantics Int'l had built in Capital City. Hector forced himself to calm down despite the shock and rage he felt at the banks and loan companies' rash decision. There was no way that the loan providers and banks would suddenly demand that he fulfill the terms of the contracts when he still had two weeks to do so. Something had to be involved in this. While Hector was deep in thoughts contemplating the sudden change in decision, his phone rang. He quickly picked up the phone when he saw that the caller was the bigwig who arranged for him to take down West Atlantics Int'l. "Check the TV, you moron!" The bigwig yelled angrily at Hector as soon as the phone call connected. The sudden yell perplexed Hector, but he obeyed the bigwig and switched on the TV in his office. However, he nearly fainted from shock when he saw the caption on the TV station.