

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin_Jnr Chapter 26

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Chapter 26

Chapter 26 Darius smiled when he saw that Alice was hosting a competition to let the top gifter go on a date with any of the ladies in the stream.

Didn't they say that he was poor? He would show them!

He thought about using his real name in his account but decided against it. He didn't want to bring unnecessary attention to him; at least not yet.

However, he wasn't going to let them get away with this. He was going to completely ruin their chances of them being able to go out on a date with them. Wasn't it money? He had a lot of it anyway.

With that thought in mind, Darius recharged his account with \$5,000,000 at once. His account instantly leveled up to lv99, 1 level away from level 100. His name also had a blue verification tick on it, a symbol that the account's owner had topped up more than \$1,000,000.

Darius wasn't bothered at all that he was spending lavishly. The Groove streaming platform belonged to the Reid consortium, meaning that he was just enriching himself.

Finally the five minutes allocated to them to recharge their accounts was exhausted, prompting Alice to speak up.

"So the five minutes are up! And the competition begins now! Remember, the more you gift, the higher your chances of going on a date with any of the ladies here including me. So don't hold back and shower us with your gifts!" Alice announced cheerily.

Almost as soon as she finished talking, a notification flashed across the stream.

[Mr.rich.guy.177 just gifted Alice a galaxy ship) Alice smiled broadly when she saw the gift. A galaxy ship was by no means a small amount as it was worth \$1,000. The name Mr.rich.guy.177 instantly rose on the gift's leader board rankings to number 1. The comment section went wild when they saw the gift's notification. "What the-?!" "A galaxy ship?!" "Wow people are really rich huh?" "Move aside peasants. I'm the one who's going to go on a date with the ladies."

Just as soon as the comment was made, a notification flashed across the stream's channel.

[kingcrafts_ just gifted Alice a skyscraper)

“The rich have arrived!”

“A skyscraper? Is there still a meaning to this competition?” Alice could barely contain her joy when she saw the skyscraper gift. A skyscraper was worth \$

1.500, meaning that kingcrafts_had just paid \$1,500 in order to get a chance to go on a date with them!

And that wasn't all. Just after kingcrafts jumped to number one on the gift's leader board rankings, several notifications flashed across the stream's channel.

(zmeister just gifted Alice a world rose]

(sacogun just gifted Alice a cruise ship x2]

(nightcrawler23 just gifted Alice a golden throne x5] (sidonna just gifted Alice a diamond castle x10] This went on for ten minutes and during those ten minutes the gift's leader board rankings kept changing. By the time twenty minutes had passed, the gifting had slowed down significantly and zmeister was the number 1 gifter. By that time, most of the fans had exhausted the money they had recharged in their account.

Alice couldn't care about the slow gifting now. She had already amassed more than \$20,000 in terms of profits from this single stream alone, which was way more than what she normally earned from a normal stream.

The gifting session had also pushed her stream popularity into number 28 in the top 30 popular stream at the moment. That single feat alone earned her over 10,000 viewers, increasing the total number of viewers on her stream to 60,000.

“Is that all you have? Remember that the top gifter gets to go on a date with any lady of his choice present on the stream!” Alice announced, trying to get her fans to gift more.

However, her attempt failed woefully. Most of her fans weren't that wealthy, as the wealthy fans only followed the top 10 popular streamers. They had already gifted her the ones they could afford.

Alice saw that no one was gifting her anymore. She checked the time and saw that only four minutes were left before the thirty minutes were up. She decided to end the competition early and announce zmeister as the winner. However just as she was about to do that, a notification flashed across the stream's channel.

Alice thought it was a little gift, but when she saw the golden color that accompanied the notification, she instantly thought otherwise. The golden color was only present in a super gift and was accompanied by a site wide broadcast, which meant that whoever gifted her stream gifted her a super gift.

Alice wasn't the only one who was surprised. The viewers watching the stream and other viewers/streamers on Groove all received the site wide broadcast.

[Mr.ordinaryio just gifted Alice the universe] There was a brief period of silence, as everyone stared at the notification. A few seconds later, the comment section on various streams exploded. "Am I seeing things?!"

"Someone please pinch me." "Someone gifted Alice the universe?!" "We've got to check it out!"

Just that single super gift changed the status of Alice's stream. The number of viewers on her stream shot up from 60,000 to 100,000 in the span of a few minutes.

They were all curious to see who the mysterious wealthy fan was.

The popularity of her rank also shot up from number 28 to number 20, surpassing 8 live streams at once.

Naturally, his name rose from the bottom to the top, surpassing zmeister as the top gifter with a fan value of almost 10,000.

The adjustments were expected because the universe was not just a super gift, but the most valuable super gift worth \$25,000. This meant that Alice had received \$25,000 from a single fan all at once.

When Alice noticed the blue verification tick on the gifter's name, her heart began to race. She knew what the blue tick meant as a streamer. It signified that Mr.ordinary1o had recharged his Groove account with more than a million dollars.

Another golden notification flashed across her stream's channel, and a site wide broadcast followed, as if to validate her thoughts. [Mr.ordinary1o just gifted Alice the universe x2]

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin_Jnr Chapter 27

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin_Jnr
Chapter 27
Chapter 27

There was another period of brief silence when the notification flashed across the stream's channel

The viewers watching the stream couldn't believe this. The mysterious Mr.ordinaryo had just sent Alice two universe in a row. That was a whooping sum of \$50,000. That was way too luxurious!

Alice herself couldn't believe what was going on. When she started the competition she didn't hope to get more than \$10,000 from gifts. She was plenty satisfied with the gifts she had gotten, yet this mysterious fan had sent her two super gifts in a row.

Alice wasn't the only one who was shocked. The three ladies on the stream including Sarah were completely shocked by what they saw. They never knew that Alice had such a wealthy fan!

The fanfare that accompanied the super gifts pulled more viewers to Alice's stream. More viewers flocked to her stream for one single purpose. The presence of a verified account was more than enough to pull them to her stream. Even some streamers including the top one all ended their streams in order to see who the mysterious gifter was. Darius scoffed when he saw the attention he was getting. Several people were admiring him and calling him several glorified names like King rich, Emperor of wealth and so many other names. Weren't they the ones cursing him out and insulting him a few minutes ago? He wondered how stupid they would feel if they found out that Mr.ordinary10 was Darius Reid. (Mr.ordinaryio just gifted Alice the universe x5).
[Mr.ordinaryio just gifted Alice the universe x10]

(Mr.ordinaryio just gifted Alice the universe x20)

The fanfares accompanying the gifts pulled a lot of viewers to Alice stream and soon enough the number of viewers on her stream shot up to 400,000! That wasn't all. The numerous consecutive gifts increased the popularity of her stream and sure enough in just a few minutes her stream's rank shot up from number 20 to number 1!

By this time everybody was speechless. They were completely tongue tied. Despite their shock, Darius was not planning on stopping anytime soon. He was going to show them what a true nouveau riche was.

(Mr.ordinary1o just gifted Alice the universe x3) (Mr.ordinaryio just gifted Alice the universe x10)

[Mr.ordinaryio just gifted Alice the universe x30] And in such manner, Darius gifted Alice continuously until all the whole money he recharged had been exhausted. It was only then that he stopped gifting.

By this time, Alice viewers had shot up to over 600,000. It was a record high for her, as she had never had that much viewers in her show.

Everyone was dumbfounded. Alice couldn't believe what she was seeing. She knew that some people were wealthy, but she had never seen someone as wealthy as Mr.ordinary1o.

Her shock was understandable. After all he just gifted her 5 million dollars,

It was a crazy huge sum of money. She had never ever seen such a huge amount of money, yet someone had casually gifted her that exorbitant sum on her stream.

Sarah herself was now fidgeting in her seat. She had thought that the highest gifter would not gift more than \$10,000, but now it seemed that she was incredibly wrong. A fan had just gifted Alice 5 million dollars.

Originally, Sarah had planned to refuse anyone who asked her out on a date, but now she certainly thought otherwise. Even though David was one of the richest guys on campus, she seriously doubted if he could casually spend 5 million dollars the way Mr.ordinary1o did.

The comment section was quiet. The viewers were quiet. Alice herself was quiet. Everybody was quiet.

It was completely inconceivable that someone would spend 5 million dollars just to go out on a date with any of the ladies on the stream. While they were pretty, they were certainly not worth paying 5 million dollars just for a date.

After a few minutes had passed and there was no more fanfare, Alice finally came to her senses.

“T—Thank you Mr.ordinaryio for your gifts! I really appreciate!” Alice exclaimed. Darius smirked before dropping a comment in the comment section. “It’s nothing. I just can’t pass up the opportunity to go out on a date with any of the beauties present.”

The comment section that was quiet before exploded immediately when they saw his comment.

“What the—?!”

“5 million dollars to go on a date?!”

“Wow. The rich are truly built differently from us huh?” Alice herself was surprised when she saw the comment. Spending 5 million dollars casually proved how wealthy he was. “Say, Mr.ordinary1o, before you choose who you would like to go on a date with, are you by chance a student of Kingston University?” Alice asked. Everyone waited with bated breaths to see if he was from Kingston University. The female viewers were the most anxious to hear his answer. They hadn’t heard of such a rich guy in the campus so they were eager to know if he was truly a student of their university. “Yes. I am a student of Kingston University.” Mr.ordinaryio replied through a comment “Oh wow!” Alice exclaimed. She didn’t truly expect him to be a student of Kingston University.

“Okay Mr.ordinary1o. Who would you pick to go on a date with?” Alice asked.

As everyone waited for his answer, both Alice and Sarah's heart beat rapidly. Alice herself prayed for her to be his choice for a date. Although Sarah was in a relationship with David, she also wanted to go on a date with the gifter. After all, his gifts alone for a single night showed how much wealthier he was than David.

The comment section naturally wasn't quiet during the wait, with the viewers arguing among themselves who would be his pick.

"Sarah of course. There are no doubts about this one." "Sarah? Please be reasonable for once. Sarah already has a boyfriend. Of course he'll go for our goddess Alice."

Several other comments flew in the comment sections as they argued about who would be chosen.

When Darius noticed the remarks, he burst out laughing in his room. To be honest, Darius was uninterested in going on a date with either of the ladies. In fact, he was planning to turn down both of them on a date. However, after reflecting on the fact that he had spent \$5 million on her stream, he changed his mind and chose to go on a date with a lady from the stream. A few minutes after being asked the question by Alice, Mr.ordinaryio finally gave his answer.

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin_Jnr Chapter 28

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin_Jnr
Chapter 28
Chapter 28

"Alice. I want to go on a date with Alice."

Everybody had an expression of surprise when they heard his choice, but it was only for a few seconds. When they thought about it his choice seemed pretty normal. After all Sarah was in a relationship with one of the richest guys on campus and although she was very beautiful, Alice was not so bad herself.

Sarah's face scrunched up when she saw Mr.ordinaryio's choice. It irked her greatly that Alice was picked over her, but it was only for a split second after which she returned her expression to normal which was her smiling face.

Alice let out a small victory dance in her heart. She was the one the rich fan had chosen to go on a date with! It was still very dreamlike to her that she had been gifted 5 million dollars by a single person, and now the said person had decided to go on a date with her.

Alice was someone who strongly rejected the idea of dating before, but she didn't mind dating this obvious nouveau riche. She could barely wait to see in him person. After asking him a few more questions, Mr.ordinary10 account finally turned gray, meaning that he was no longer active.

A few seconds after he went offline, several viewers started leaving the stream. The highlight of the stream was over. They had lost the competition to someone they could never compete with.

Alice saw the multitude of viewers leaving the stream rapidly and saw that it was finally time for her to end the stream.

"Thank you guys so much for your support! I'll see you in my next stream!" Alice said as she waved at the screen. Sarah and the two roommates also waved at the viewers before Alice finally turned the stream off, ending the stream.

Sarah and the two roommates smiled at Alice as they congratulated her for a successful stream, but Alice could see the bitterness and envy in their gazes. It was expected. Even she would be jealous if someone gifted them a million dollars, not to talk of 5 million dollars. After they congratulated her, she left the room to take her shower. By the time she was done freshening up, it was way past 11 pm and her roommates were now asleep. With her hands trembling from anxiety, Alice brought out her phone and opened TextMe,

another popular social media app and searched for Mr.ordinaryio's account on it.

Unknown to many, before the stream ended, Mr.ordinaryo had texted Alice his TextMe account username and told her to message him on the app so that they could discuss the details concerning their date better.

Sure enough, she found his account there. His name was even written in green which showed that he was active at the moment.

Nervously, she typed a short message and hit send.

Alice: (Hi. It's Alice, the streamer on Groove.)

She held her phone and swung her legs as she awaited a response from him. A few seconds later, she heard a notification ping from her phone.

Mr.ordinary1o: (Hello) Alice: (Thank you so much for your gifts! I truly appreciate!)

Mr.ordinary1o: [It's nothing. Don't bother about it.]

Alice shuddered when she saw his reply. How rich could someone be to be so casual about spending 5 million dollars like it was nothing?

Of course, she didn't know that Groove Inc. belonged to the Reid consortium; otherwise everything would have been so much easier to understand. Darius gifted her that huge sum because basically it was generating more profits for Groove Inc.

Alice: [When do you want to go on a date? You can pick the date.]

Darius fell into deep thought when he saw her message. He had a tight schedule ahead of him so he didn't want to go on a date anytime soon. He still hadn't gotten his cars, he still hadn't gotten a new apartment, and he still hadn't visited some of the companies he now owned. Mr.ordinary1o: (Sorry. I'll be really busy for a while. I'll tell you when I'll be free for a date if that is okay with you?)

Alice felt downhearted when she saw his rejection. She didn't know why but she felt bothered and hurt by his outright rejection.

Alice: [Oh. I see. Alright then.]

Mr.ordinary1o: (I have to go now. I have a busy day ahead of me tomorrow. Goodnight.)

A few seconds he sent the last message, his name that was written in green turned gray. He was no longer active.

Alice sighed. While she didn't expect to be rejected outright, she still had positive feelings. After all he promised to tell her when he was free so that they could plan and fix a date for the date.

Seeing that it was late, she was about to switch off her phone when another ping came in. She checked her phone and saw that it was a message from one of the top streamers on Groove.

She scoffed when she read the content of the message. Basically they were asking for a collaboration stream with her in hopes of roping in the wealthy fan she just gained to spend more on them.

Alice recalled that when she was a no-name streamer with few followers, she asked for a collaboration stream with the top streamers and was flatly refused. They didn't even give her a chance. She had slowly worked her way up into a well known streamer and now that she had gotten over 5 million dollars from a fan they now wanted a collaboration stream with her.

Alice found the concept absurd and amusing. Even now, they refused to engage in a genuine

collaboration stream with her. They only wanted her to join them so that her wealthy fan could donate gifts to them.

Without any ounce of hesitation in her, she declined their offer. She wasn't desperate. She wasn't desperate. Even if she hadn't received such gifts before she still wouldn't do such a devious act as it went against her principles

She started streaming primarily to support herself and her younger brother, who was the only family she had left after her parents died in a car accident. Now that she had gotten 5 million dollars from streaming, there was absolutely no reason for her to bend to their will.

Alice checked her phone's time and saw that it was already past 12 a.m. She turned off her phone and climbed into her bed. She could finally relax now that the majority of her problems had been resolved. As a result, Alice fell asleep with a huge smile on her face that night.

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin_Jnr Chapter 29

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin_Jnr
Chapter 29

Chapter 29 The next day Darius got up later than usual. He looked around the dorm room and saw that the dorm room was empty again. He laughed when he saw that. His roommates had finally decided to attend classes like normal students at last.

He picked up his phone to check if there were any messages for him and surprisingly there was

one.

Darius checked the message details and saw that the sender was his grandfather's assistant Bruce, Curious, Darius opened the message and read its contents,

Bruce: [Good day, Young Master Reid. This is Bruce. Your two cars have been customized to your taste and are now ready to be delivered to your new abode. Also, Mr. James is troubled by the fact that you haven't paid a visit to any of the companies listed under the Reid consortium. He told me to urge you to do it as soon as possible.) 1
He let out a sigh after reading the message. He could feel a headache coming on. He decided to visit one of his companies after getting a new apartment.

He was wondering where he was going to get a good apartment when a sudden thought flashed through his mind. Wasn't Bruce the one in charge of several businesses before? Surely he would know a very nice apartment for him to stay in.

Thinking so, he decided to text him back.

Darius: [Hello Bruce. Tell Grandpa that I'll do that as soon as I'm free. I'm very busy at the moment. Also, I need suggestions for where to live. Do you know a good place for me to live?] Darius' phone pinged immediately after he sent the message, indicating the arrival of another message.

Darius checked it and saw that it was Bruce who sent the message. He had replied to his previous message as soon as he received it.

Bruce: [Of course Young Master Reid! Leave it to me! Just give me a minute. I'll send you the address to an apartment befitting your status!]

Before thirty seconds even elapsed, Darius' phone pinged again.

Darius grimaced when he saw that the message was from Bruce yet again. He told him to wait for a minute but not even thirty seconds had passed before he gave him a reply.

Bruce: [Young Master Reid, I have found a suitable place for someone of your status to live in. Go to Dragon Estate. I have already informed the manager of your arrival. She will take you to the new apartment I have chosen for you.]

Darius sighed. Bruce was just as efficient as always. It was good for him anyways. Now he didn't have to bother himself looking for an apartment. He would just go the one Bruce selected for him and make the necessary payments.

He took his bath and dressed up in his new outfits leisurely. When he checked the mirror he saw that his hair looked a bit unkempt. He made a mental note to visit the salon when he was

free.

Darius packed up the few properties that he had in the dorm room. Apart from the clothes and shoes that he bought recently, he really had no properties in the room. It was a testament of his poverty.

He looked at the dorm room that he spent the past three years living before taking his few properties and making his way out of the dorm.

When he got to the bus stop, he took a cab to the Sky Golden Hotel. He needed to eat breakfast before going to Dragon Estate.

The reception he received this time was very different from the reception he received when he first visited the hotel. It was expected as he was one of the few high valued members with a gold membership. 1 As usual, he ate a luxurious and exquisite breakfast at his preferred table. He texted Rudd and his roommates while eating that he had gotten a high-paying job and that he would be moving into a new apartment from

now on. He also requested Rudd's bank account information so that he could repay the \$5,000 used to bail him out when he was detained.

Of course, he would never tell his roommates that the reason he could now pay them back and get a new apartment was because he was the heir to a consortium worth an incalculable sum of money. They'd never believe him anyway, so it was best if he told them he'd gotten a good job.

This would make it easier for them to accept.

When he was done eating, he picked up neatly packed bags and went to the counter. There he booked a room that was worth \$500,000 to keep his properties. To book a single room for a night in the hotel costs \$25,000 for the cheapest room, while the most luxurious room cost \$100,000 for a night.

Darius quickly paid the \$100,000 for the most luxurious room at once. He went ahead and paid for five nights at a go. He did so that in the off chance that he didn't like the apartment Bruce picked out for him, he would have a place to sleep till he found a suitable apartment.

Once he was done lodging his properties in the room, he took a quick shower and changed his clothes yet again before making his way out of the hotel.

He hailed a cab yet again as his cars were yet to arrive. When he told the cab driver that he was going to Dragon Estate, the cab driver gave him a strange look before agreeing to take him there.

Darius nodded and settled into the back seat of the cab. The cab pulled out of the bus stop and began moving a few seconds later. Darius exhaled softly as he sat back in the back seat. He was finally beginning his search for a new apartment.

Chapter 30 Darius found himself driving through various luxurious buildings as the cab moved. Darius had never been to this part of town before, so he was taken aback by the opulence of the buildings.

Finally after driving for over 45 minutes, the cab came to stop at a very luxurious gate. Darius waited for a few seconds for the driver to move forward but there was no sign of movement from the driver. Confused, Darius decided to ask what the issue was.

"Hello, could you please go further? Or is there a reason we're stopping here?" Darius asked.

When he heard Darius' question, the cab driver who was a middle-aged man, lightly shook his head. It seemed that his hunch was right after all. His passenger clearly had no clue how Dragon Estate worked.

“Pardon me Sir, but I really cannot go any further than this. Is this by chance Sir’s first visit to Dragon Estate?” the cab driver asked.

Darius wondered how the cab driver could tell that it was his first time here but answered anyway.

“Yes it is.”

“Ah. I see. No wonder.” The cab driver said out loud.

“Is there a problem?” Darius asked. He was curious to know why the cab driver looked at him the way he did.

“Of course not. It’s just that taxis and public transportation are not permitted in Dragon Estate. It’s a common rule around here. I assumed you were aware of the rule. That’s it.” The cab driver elaborated.

Darius made a light realization sound. It was no surprise that the cab driver gave him an odd look when he said he was going to Dragon Estate. If he was going to Dragon Estate, he should have known that taxis and public transportation were not permitted.

“Oh. I see now. Thank you for your explanation.” Darius said, thanking the driver.

“It’s nothing sir.”

Darius alighted from the cab and paid the money for the cab services before making his way towards the luxurious gates.

Darius hadn’t given the gates much thought before, but as he approached them, he realized how impressive they were. It appeared to be entirely made of gold. It had a regal appearance and was expertly designed. The gates had a detailed dragon logo on them, and the words “Dragon Estate” were neatly carved onto the top of the gates.

Darius wondered what over the top place Bruce had arranged for him. He let out a sigh before moving forward. However, before he could get close to the gates, he was stopped in his tracks by a loud voice.

“Halt!”

Darius came to a full halt and looked in the direction where the voice was coming from. There, he noticed two individuals approaching him while carrying batons and wearing uniforms. He could tell their professions just by looking at them. They were the security personnel.

“Who are you and what do you want here?” One of the two security guards asked haughtily.

When Darius looked at him, he realized that he was probably two or three years older than him and in his early twenties. However, Darius kept mute when he heard the security guard's question. He didn't like the haughty tone the guard used to question him so he decided to ignore the guard. "I asked you a question! Answer me!" The young security guard shouted. He was beginning to get pissed off by Darius' stare and silence.

The other security guard was a man who was clearly older than his colleague. He looked to be in his late fifties. He narrowed his eyes and stared at Darius for a few seconds. He struck his coworker with his baton as the latter was about to snap at Darius. The younger security guard scowled at his more experienced partner but sighed and moved aside to let him question Darius.

"Good day sir. I apologize for my partner's behavior. May I ask the reason you're here?" The older man asked politely. Darius finally reacted to his question and smiled at the older guard. "I'm here because my grandfather's assistant told me to come here." Darius replied, keeping his answer simple and short.

"I see." The older guard said. "If that's the case then you're free to go in." The older guard said. As he spoke he brought out a remote from his pocket and pressed the green button on the remote. Immediately he did so, the gates made a whirring sound before they opened. Darius smiled at the old guard and ignored the younger guard before making his way past the gates and into the estate itself.

After Darius made it into the estate, the younger security guard could no longer hold his silence and blew his top at his partner. "Thomas! What have you just done?! You let a complete stranger past the gates and into the Dragon Estate! Are you trying to get us fired?!" The younger guard shouted.

"Relax Dan. We let strangers with expensive cars past the gates all the time. What's the problem this time?" The older guard, Thomas said.

"Of course there's a problem! Those strangers have expensive cars! This stranger clearly came here by cab! Who in heaven's sake visits the Dragon Estate by cab?!" Dan exclaimed.

Thomas let out a sigh. Dan was a good kid who always followed the rule of his job to the latter. Thomas understood that he was just trying to do his job but then it was not always how their job worked. Having such a rigid mindset would backfire more often than not. It was better to be flexible at times like this. 1

"Look here Dan; sometimes you need to see the bigger picture. I have been working here for a

long time now and you're not my first partner. I have seen a lot of security guards come and go because they were being short sighted just like you were now."

“Don’t you wonder how I was able to last this long as a security guard here? Well that’s the reason. That stranger is clearly not an ordinary stranger. I have worked here for a long time so I can tell the signs of someone who have real power in their grasp and that young man is one of them.”

Dan kept silent when he listened to Thomas’ analysis. It was true that getting a job here at the Dragon Estate was incredibly hard and that Thomas was the guard who had worked the longest here.

Dan knew how hard it was for him to get this job so he wanted to work here for as long as he could and listening to Thomas was one way to achieve that. “How about the manager, though? When she learns that we allowed a stranger into the estate, what will she do to us? Dan questioned, obviously concerned about the manager’s reaction to

Thomas’ choice. 1

“I would accept full responsibility in that case.” Thomas said in a firm voice. Dan looked at him with worry evident in his gaze. Thomas saw this and laughed. “I’m confident it won’t come to that. I completely believe in my gut feelings. They have never let me down before, and I have no doubt that they won’t now.

Dan sighed and shook his head. The only thing he could do at this point was to hope that Thomas’ gut instincts were correct and that the stranger was a powerful one, because if he weren’t, the results would be terrifying.

The Consortium’s Heir by Benjamin_Jnr Chapter 30

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When Darius looked at him, he realized that he was probably two or three years older than him and in his early twenties. However, Darius kept mute when he heard the security guard's question. He didn't like the haughty tone the guard used to question him so he decided to ignore the guard. "I asked you a question! Answer me!" The young security guard shouted. He was beginning to get pissed off by Darius' stare and silence.

The other security guard was a man who was clearly older than his colleague. He looked to be in his late fifties. He narrowed his eyes and stared at Darius for a few seconds. He struck his coworker with his baton as the latter was about to snap at Darius. The younger security guard scowled at his more experienced partner but sighed and moved aside to let him question Darius.

"Good day sir. I apologize for my partner's behavior. May I ask the reason you're here?" The older man asked politely. Darius finally reacted to his question and smiled at the older guard. "I'm here because my grandfather's assistant told me to come here." Darius replied, keeping his answer simple and short.

"I see." The older guard said. "If that's the case then you're free to go in." The older guard said. As he spoke he brought out a remote from his pocket and pressed the green button on the remote. Immediately he did so, the gates made a whirring sound before they opened. Darius smiled at the old guard and ignored the younger guard before making his way past the gates and into the estate itself.

After Darius made it into the estate, the younger security guard could no longer hold his silence and blew his top at his partner. "Thomas! What have you just done?! You let a complete stranger past the gates and into the Dragon Estate! Are you trying to get us fired?!" The younger guard shouted.

"Relax Dan. We let strangers with expensive cars past the gates all the time. What's the problem this time?" The older guard, Thomas said.

"Of course there's a problem! Those strangers have expensive cars! This stranger clearly came here by cab! Who in heaven's sake visits the Dragon Estate by cab?!" Dan exclaimed.

Thomas let out a sigh. Dan was a good kid who always followed the rule of his job to the latter. Thomas understood that he was just trying to do his job but then it was not always how their job worked. Having such a rigid mindset would backfire more often than not. It was better to be flexible at times like this. 1

"Look here Dan; sometimes you need to see the bigger picture. I have been working here for a

long time now and you're not my first partner. I have seen a lot of security guards come and go because they were being short sighted just like you were now."

“Don’t you wonder how I was able to last this long as a security guard here? Well that’s the reason. That stranger is clearly not an ordinary stranger. I have worked here for a long time so I can tell the signs of someone who have real power in their grasp and that young man is one of them.”

Dan kept silent when he listened to Thomas’ analysis. It was true that getting a job here at the Dragon Estate was incredibly hard and that Thomas was the guard who had worked the longest here.

Dan knew how hard it was for him to get this job so he wanted to work here for as long as he could and listening to Thomas was one way to achieve that. “How about the manager, though? When she learns that we allowed a stranger into the estate, what will she do to us? Dan questioned, obviously concerned about the manager’s reaction to

Thomas’ choice. 1

“I would accept full responsibility in that case.” Thomas said in a firm voice. Dan looked at him with worry evident in his gaze. Thomas saw this and laughed. “I’m confident it won’t come to that. I completely believe in my gut feelings. They have never let me down before, and I have no doubt that they won’t now.

Dan sighed and shook his head. The only thing he could do at this point was to hope that Thomas’ gut instincts were correct and that the stranger was a powerful one, because if he weren’t, the results would be terrifying.