

Ah! Lacey's face turned red instantly as she bit her lips and said, "C-can I undo that bet?"

"As a human, especially as a businessperson, trust is very important," Zeke argued anxiously. "How can you be successful if you can't keep your promise?"

Lacey stared at Zeke's anxious expression and couldn't help but laugh. She couldn't help but realize how cute Zeke was when he was all flustered.

"Chill," Lacey stuck her tongue out and laughed. "I'm not going back on my promise. But, it's still quite early to head to the hotel, isn't it?"

"You're right," Zeke smiled. "So, to reward you, I've decided to buy you some jewelry."

Lacey didn't want that because it meant spending time on things other than her work since she still has a lot to do, including managing the Love in a Fallen City project and constructing the Linton Group.

But she finally gave in to Zeke's persuading. They soon arrived at Royal Jewelry.

Looking at the signboard, Lacey turned to Zeke worriedly. "Zeke, let's go to another shop. I've heard that the cheapest piece here goes for a million minimum. Instead of spending that money here, I'd rather buy a new house."

“No can do,” Zeke smiled and pulled Lacey into the store. “Only the best for my girlfriend. Let's go.”

Interestingly, Emily was at Royal Jewelry as well. After getting one of the gems Zeke had given her appraised, she left the store with her head down.

The piece she got appraised was a gold necklace, which seemed like the most expensive piece in it to her. But to her surprise, the appraiser told her that the necklace was made out of placer gold, meaning that the gold had a lot of impurities.

Emily thought that if the necklace was something that even the store wouldn't buy, then the other products were worth even less.

Two sale representatives were whispering on the side.

“I don't know where she gets the courage to ask us to appraise some placer gold products.”

“I reckon she's trying to scam some money from us.”

“Is that so? I think she's just too dumb to differ good and bad products.”

Emily lowered her head even further as she scolded Zeke in her head for giving her such cheap quality jewellery pieces.

When Emily made her way out the door, she ran

into someone else and quickly apologized. "I'm sorry!"

Since the guests who could visit Royal Jewelry were people with high statuses, Emily knew she couldn't afford to offend them.

"Emily?"

Emily raised her head only to see Lacey and Zeke in front of her.

"Zeke? How are you still here? I thought you were taken away by Mr. Hugh!"

Emily still has no idea that her little brother was apprehended.

"You should go back and see for yourself what's happening right now," Zeke replied.

"Huh? I'll tell you what's happening right now! My brother just got promoted to a second lieutenant!"

"Zeke, forget it," Lacey stopped Zeke. "Let's go."

Zeke nodded obediently.

"Wait? Are you guys here to buy something?"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Wake up, Lacey Hinton! Do you really expect him to buy something for you here?” Emily snorted. “At most, he's here to see if there's any design you like and buy something off e-bay. Look at the things he gave me! They're all third-rate products!”

It was then that Zeke realized Emily was there to sell the jewellery pieces he had given her. Each and every one of them had been crafted for the royalties, meaning that they were worth a fortune.

Zeke couldn't help but wonder why she thought they were cheap products. “Are you sure about that?”

“Duh! I just got them appraised! Looks like they're just trash that's not worth keeping! I was about to throw them away.”

“Don't. Give them back to me,” Zeke stopped Emily. “Even if they're cheap stuff, they're still priceless to me as they were from my friends.”

“Give them back to you? Dream on! I would rather smash them! But... If you really want them back, give me a hundred thousand.”

Emily still believed that the pieces in her hands weren't worth fifty thousand combined.

Selling them for a hundred thousand would land her a huge profit.

“Deal!” Zeke replied almost instantly.

Emily was stunned as she didn't expect that response from Zeke.

Perhaps they're worth more than that to him?

Emily thought and quickly raised her price. "Good! Three hundred thousand for everything then."

"I thought you said a hundred thousand?"

"For a piece! I'm giving them all away for three hundred grands!"

Zeke took a deep breath to suppress his anger. "Fine! Let me withdraw some cash."

Zeke took his card out to withdraw the money from the only ATM in the store.

Even though Lacey felt that three hundred thousand was too expensive for those pieces, she decided to keep her mouth shut since they were something that Zeke's friends had given him.

Zeke withdrew three hundred thousand and handed the cash to Emily.

Emily counted the money before she threw the jewellery pieces at Zeke.

Emily didn't forget to laugh before she left. "Lacey, I suggest you leave that man as soon as you can. He's just playing with your feelings! He'll kick you away once he's done with you. Look at me, five

years with him, and all I got were these pieces of trash. Zeke, I know you hate me, but you're the one who disappointed me first. Why should I tie myself with you?"

"Stop right there!" Zeke yelled.

"What now?" Emily asked, annoyed.

"You said that these things are trash? Fine! I'll show you their true worth today!"

Zeke then headed to the appraisal counter. "Can you get these appraised?"

The chief appraiser looked at the pieces and scolded, "Dude, don't waste my time. These are all cheap products. There's a small workshop just around the corner. Why don't you try there?"

The other two sale representatives also joined the conversation. "Sir, please leave. You're disrupting our business. This isn't a place for you to sell some cheap products."

Emily couldn't help but laugh. "You hear that? The chief appraiser just confirmed that they're cheap products!"



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Lacey gave a slight tug on Zeke's shirt. "Zeke, there's no need to identify these pieces of jewellery. I'm happy as long as they're gifts from you."

Zeke curled his lips into a smile and said, "Lacey, I'm telling you, they're real. I can't let it slide if someone mistakes the authentic jewellery I gave you for fake jewellery. Appraiser, are you sure you're not going to assess the jewellery?"

The jewellery appraiser grew impatient. "I just appraised that necklace! It's made out of placer gold! I'm going to call security if you refuse to leave."

Zeke frowned and picked the necklace out. "You mean this?"

"That's right."

"I'm sorry, but this isn't mine."

"I remember now!" Emily exclaimed. "I bought that myself! This is probably the most expensive thing in there. The others are fakes nobody wants."

"Are you sure about that?" Zeke asked the appraiser.

"Seriously! Give it a rest!" the appraiser scolded. "Fine! I'll appraise them for you!"

The appraiser then randomly grabbed a piece and

took a glance at it. He then threw it back on the table. "It's a fake product!"

Emily let out a loud laugh.

"I really hope you get to keep your job," Zeke smiled and pulled his phone out.

After the call got through, Zeke scolded, "Tasha? Your appraiser just told me the Emperor's Heart pendant you gave me is fake... Yeah, I'm at the Oakheart store right now."

Zeke then hung up on the call. The appraiser and the sale representatives looked at each other before bursting out in laughter.

"Wait! Are you serious? Did you just call our boss, Ms. Hensen?"

"A beggar like you? This is a humiliation to her!"

"The Emperor's Heart? There are only ten of them out there, and they all belong to royalty!"

"Only an idiot would believe you have the real thing."

Even Emily joined them. "A down-and-out like you having the Emperor's Heart? What a joke!"

"This guy here really think of us as idiots!"

"If this is the real Emperor's Heart, I'll swallow it!"

“We'll see about that.” Zeke returned a smile.

A few minutes had passed after the phone call when sudden footsteps could be heard by everyone running down the stairs accompanied by an elegantly-dressed young woman.

That woman was the manager of the store, Veronica Bennett.

“Ms. Bennett,” greeted the appraiser and sale representatives.

Veronica walked straight up to the appraiser and slapped him without any warning. “You useless thing! How dare you insult Ms. Hensen's friend? She just called and scolded me!”

Everyone was shocked by what they had just heard. The manager claimed that the appraiser had just insulted the friend of the Royal Jewelry's owner.

The only one who just got insulted was the normal-looking young man, which also meant that he had really just called Tasha Hensen.

“What's going on here, Ms. Bennett,” the appraiser asked in a low voice. “Which one is Ms. Hensen's friend?”

Veronica shot him an angry stare. “I'll deal with you later.”

The manager then turned around and laid her eyes on Zeke and his companions. "I'm sorry, but which one of you is Mr. Williams?"

"That would be me." Zeke raised his hand.



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Veronica quickly bowed to Zeke to show her humbleness towards him. "I apologize for the inconvenience, Mr. Williams. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to help."

"Cut the crap. Tell me, is this Emperor's Heart the real thing or a fake one? If it's fake, I'll have to settle it with Tasha!"

The crowd was stunned as Zeke was really acquainted with the owner of Royal Jewelry. Judging from how the manager treated Zeke, it seemed like they were close as well.

Then, it would make sense for Zeke to possess an Emperor's Heart.

Emily couldn't avert her eyes from the pendant.

Veronica turned to the appraiser, who was still stunned, and scolded, "What are you spacing out for? Do your job!"

"What? Oh! Right away!" The appraiser quickly reached for his tools and began the appraisal.

Everyone held their breaths; they didn't want to affect the appraiser.

It was so quiet that even water drops could be heard.

The appraiser's expression stiffened over time. Tears rolled down his face in the end.

“It's the real thing! It's the Emperor's Heart! Since all of them are well-treasured by royalty, not a soul other than them has ever had the chance to actually see one!” the appraiser exclaimed. “Never in my life have I thought I would have the honour to see and touch one! This is an honour!”

The answer was clear.

The pendant was authentic.

Emily closed her eyes out of desperation as all the jewellery pieces Zeke had given her were real.

If the Emperor's Heart alone was worth fifty million, all the pieces would total up to a few hundred million.

It showed how much Zeke had really loved her in the past, enough to give her hundreds of millions worth of presents.

Yet she was stupid enough to breakup with him because of three hundred thousand. She had even sold those jewellery pieces back to him for a mere three hundred thousand.

Tears of regret filled Emily's eyes and drowned her.

She raised her head and cursed God for playing with her life. *I've been living a poor life while keeping gems worth almost a billion in my drawer!*

Emily bit her lip and walked towards Zeke. “Zeke,

here's the money. Give those back to me.”

Emily did not expect Zeke to raise his palm and slam it down on the Emperor's Heart.

A crackling sound broke the silence as the pendant turned into dust.

Everyone dropped their jaws as only a hydraulic press could only do what Zeke had just performed.

The two sales representatives quickly collected the dust, just in case Zeke still needed them.

Lacey walked up to Zeke and pinched him angrily.

That's fifty million! Couldn't you just give it to me instead? Ugh!

Emily was a hundred times more desperate than Lacey. As she stared blankly at the crushed pendant, her phone rang. It was from her mother.

She slowly answered the call. Roars could immediately be heard from the other side.

“Emily! Where the hell are you? Get back here this instant! Your brother has been taken into custody! Why aren't you here when we need you? You useless brat!”

“Wait, mom, slow down. I thought Sam had been promoted to a second lieutenant. Who took him?”



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“It's hard to explain over the phone,” Madeleine said. “The only person who can save Sam now is Zeke. I don't care how you do it. Just get Zeke to help him!”

Emily finally collapsed after the barrage of bad news; her life was a complete mess.

They had originally planned for Sam to capture Zeke so that Zeke could beg them to forgive him.

But instead, it turned out to be the other way around.

Emily crawled towards Zeke and grabbed his hand. “Zeke, please, help us! Please save my brother! You wanted to marry me. I can marry you right away! You can do anything you want to me! We can even have sex! Please!”

Zeke yanked his hand back and threw a table mirror to the floor. “Can you fix this broken mirror?”

A broken mirror can never be mended...

Emily rummaged her hands through the mirror, trying to fix it. She completely ignored the cuts that the sharp glass pieces caused her.

“I-I'll fix it...” Emily mumbled. “Let's get married when I fix it...”

Emily completely lost control of her emotions. It

was a painful sight to see.

Lacey couldn't bear to see Emily like that as they used to be best friends.

She knelt next to Emily and said, "Emily, stop. You can't fix it. You're still young, so there are still a lot of chances out there for you. You can still rise as long as you fight for it."

Emily stared at Lacey with her reddened eyes and begged. "Lacey, please, I beg you. Return Zeke to me. I have nothing left... He was mine from the beginning. You can't take him away from me."

"Emily... I didn't take him away from you. You threw him away."

"Please... Give him back..."

Lacey turned to look at Zeke helplessly.

"Wait," Zeke laughed wryly. "You aren't actually thinking of giving me to someone else, are you?"

Veronica couldn't bear with it any longer and ordered her security, "Get this maniac out."

Two of the guards took Emily and walked out the door.

"Lacey! Please! Give Zeke back to me!" Emily's screams echoed throughout the store.

“You reap what you sow...” Lacey sighed.

Zeke walked up to Lacey and flicked her forehead. “Why are you going soft on her? Have you forgotten how she treated you?”

Lacey flinched in pain. “Y-you stupid musclehead! Do you not know your own strength? That hurt!”

“I-I'm sorry! But... I didn't put any strength into the flick...” Zeke quickly rubbed Lacey's forehead.

“If you did put strength into it, my head would explode! Give me your forehead! This calls for revenge!”

Zeke didn't know how to respond.

Do you know you're asking to flick the Great Marshal's forehead? Even if I allow it, there's no way my million subordinates would allow it...

Before Zeke could react, Lacey had already bent her finger and flicked his forehead after taking a deep breath.



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“My finger! Ouch! Do you have a metal brain or something?” Lacey scolded.

Zeke frowned at Lacey. He couldn't believe she had just flicked the Great Marshal's forehead.

“Mr. Williams, Ms. Hinton.” Veronica stepped in. “Please, come with me. I'll guide you to our most prized possessions.”

“Thank you, but these here are enough...” Lacey laughed awkwardly as she pointed at the jewellery pieces Emily brought.

“No can do,” Zeke shook his head. “I'm giving you something brand-new. These second-hand pieces, especially those used by Emily, don't suit you. They belong in the trash.”

Lacey turned terrified upon hearing what Zeke had just said. She ran to protect the rest of the jewellery. “Hey! Even if you don't want them, you shouldn't throw them away! You... you can trade them for something new instead.”

Zeke gave it some thought before he finally nodded. “Fine...”

In the end, Lacey managed to exchange them for a diamond necklace Veronica suggested.

When the appraiser and sale representatives saw the necklace, their jaws dropped to the floor.

The necklace Lacey chose was the 'Desert Eagle'. It was the shop's most prized possession, something that was supposedly only for display.

Many royalties had requested to borrow the Desert Eagle in the past, but Tasha had never allowed it.

One could say that the Desert Eagle was the face of Royal Jewelry; it was priceless.

But now, Veronica was exchanging the diamond necklace for a bunch of 'scraps'. It wasn't too much to say that Lacey basically got the necklace for free.

It just showed how important friends Zeke and Lacey were to the owner.

"Thank God Mr. Williams is happy with the gift..." Veronica sighed. "Or else... I have no idea what Ms. Hensen will do to me."

After walking out of the jewellery shop, Zeke finally opened his mouth and asked carefully. "Lacey, it's quite late. Why don't we head to the hotel?"

"You pervert! How can you think of that when the sun is still high up?" Lacey rolled her eyes. "Why don't you head to the hotel and get us a room first? I have to head to our new building and look over the renovation plan. I can't sit still until everything is finalized."

"Fine... I'll wait for you at the Grand Millenium..."

Don't be late," Zeke sighed.

...

Darren was presented with a problem at the construction site for Love in a Fallen City.

Zeke had asked him to conquer the underworld of Oakheart City, but Darren didn't possess the manpower to complete the job.

Darren thought of recruiting other groups to join him, but only a few responded.

Just as Darren was pondering what to do next, a blonde man charged into his office.

"Mr. Collins! We're doomed! T-Rex's here with over two hundred people!"

"F**k? Isn't T-Rex dead? Gather everyone we can! We have to protect this place!" Darren jumped out of his chair.

"B-but, all of our people are out recruiting others... We only have five people here..."

"Shit! Call everyone back! Where's Sole Wolf? Call him here to help us too!"

Since Darren had witnessed Sole Wolf taking on hundreds of people on his own, he had become an indispensable comrade.

...



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“He's working at the site,” the blonde man replied.

“What? Who ordered that? F**k! Go get him to help us!”

Darren located Sole Wolf in no time. Just as his subordinate had mentioned, Sole Wolf was indeed carrying bricks at the site.

If people who knew Sole Wolf saw what he was doing, their eyeballs would've popped out of their sockets.

The Great General, who usually guarded the northern border, was actually working in a construction site.

Zeke was who had actually ordered Sole Wolf to do so. It was training to calm Sole Wolf's fighting impulse.

Since it was an order from the Great Marshal himself, Sole Wolf could only abide by it and think of it as strength training.

After hearing from Darren that T-Rex had returned, Sole Wolf cracked his knuckles excitedly. “Hah! It looks like it's time for me to put on a show again! Come on! Let's go beat the shit out of that wimp!”

He really is a battle junkie...

Darren and Sole Wolf quickly arrived at the gate that was being guarded by the five men who were

left at the construction site.

Sole Wolf began to rummage through the metal pipes scattered on the floor. "This is too thick; people might really die from this. This is too thin... Hmm... This looks great."

T-Rex soon arrived with his men; a party of people twenty times the size of Darren's.

Darren was clearly shaking when he faced such a huge difference in number, but he knew he has to guard the site at all costs.

"How dare a loser like you come back here? Was the defeat last time not enough for you? Come on!"

What T-Rex did next surprised the hell out of Darren. T-Rex and all of his two hundred men bowed to them.

"Mr. Collins, you've mistaken our intentions. We're all here to serve under you," T-Rex explained.

"From now on, you'll be our boss! Two hundred of my men will serve you from today onwards!"

"We'll serve Mr. Collins from today onwards!" all the two hundred people pledged.

Darren was stunned as his eyes began to well up with tears.

The former underground lord was now calling

Darren his boss; the latter had just become the new lord.

It was the best feeling Darren had ever felt.

He then suddenly recalled what Zeke told him. *A group will serve you tomorrow.*

Zeke was right.

“Useless!” Sole Wolf suddenly roared. “Why are you bowing to these bad guys? All of you are still young! You should be full of justice! We're a bunch of bad guys who are planning to take over the city! All of you must be prepared to stop us! Come on! Let's fight! I promise I won't use my legs!”

T-Rex and his men could only tremble as they recalled the fight they had participated in a couple of days ago. They knew Sole Wolf was a force not to be reckoned with.

Darren didn't know if he should cry or laugh. He knew Sole Wolf wouldn't mind being the bad guy as long as he could fight.

After long persuasion, Sole Wolf cursed and left.

Darren then turned to his new comrades and ordered, “Come on! Let's go take over this city!”

Everyone yelled in agreement and followed after Darren.

...

The sun soon set; Zeke had been waiting in the hotel for hours.

He had even booked a romantic themed presidential suite to spice things up.

A king-sized waterbed sat in the middle of the room with heart-shaped roses on it, while the entire room was decorated with red wallpaper. There was also an enormous bathtub in the bathroom.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Every inch of the room screamed romance.

Zeke couldn't keep his calm as he paced back and forth. It was finally time for him to lose his virginity.

There was no way he could keep his cool.

Finally, after hours of painful waiting, the doorbell rang.

Zeke quickly answered the door. It was Lacey whose face was as red as a ripe apple.

Zeke couldn't hold it in any longer and pulled Lacey into his arms. "You're gorgeous."

"Stop... The kid's here," Lacey replied embarrassedly.

Kid? What kid?

Zeke looked around and realized Sharon was hiding behind Lacey with a stick of jelly ice-cream in her mouth.

"Dhadhy, I ffound you. Yhou lost!" Sharon sputtered.

"Wow! Sharon, you're really good at hide-and-seeek! Daddy isn't even your opponent!" Lacey smiled as she patted Sharon's head.

Zeke instantly frowned after that.

Liar! Women are all liars!

Lacey then extended her hand and touched Zeke's forehead. "Hey, don't frown. It'll make you look old. Don't tell me you're actually angry?"

"Shouldn't I be?" Zeke asked back.

"I didn't have a choice," Lacey chuckled. "Mom and Dad have to take care of the memorial ceremony. They don't have the time to take care of Sharon."

"Really?"

"Of course. You can ask them if you want."

That managed to calm Zeke down.

Lacey looked at Zeke and finally gave in. "Fine. I'll.. I'll let you hug me when we sleep tonight."

Lacey immediately blushed after saying that.

Zeke's lips formed a smile after hearing that. "You better keep your promise this time."

"Yeah..."

Midnight arrived. Zeke and Lacey sat on the couch watching a movie while Sharon fell asleep in Lacey's arms. The little girl mumbled, looking for her mother from time to time.

Zeke turned off the TV. "Come on, let's tuck

Sharon into bed.”

Lacey nodded. She carried Sharon into the bedroom and placed her in the middle of the bed.

But Zeke gently moved Sharon to the side. “She's not a little kid anymore. She doesn't need to sleep in the middle.”

Lacey realized the reason for Zeke's action and flushed.

She went into the bathroom and changed into her pyjamas before taking off her slippers and climbing onto the bed.

Her pyjamas plastered out Lacey's perfect figure as her long and silky hair fell naturally on her shoulder.

It was as if she was a delicious meal waiting for Zeke to indulge.

Zeke's heart raced as he took off his top.

Ah!

Lacey couldn't help but gasp at the scars that covered most of Zeke's body. Some of them looked like bullet scars.

Lacey quickly got off the bed and touched the scars on Zeke's body as tears filled her eyes.

“Zeke... What did go through in the past?”

Zeke pulled Lacey into his arms and smiled.
“Nothing much. I was just protecting my family.”

A family that consisted of a billion and four hundred million people.

They both laid down on the bed. Lacey covered up inside Zeke's arms as if she was a little kitten.

Tears soon wetted Zeke's chest.

“Zeke, promise me you won't do anything stupid, okay?”

“Alright. I promise you.”

Lacey hugged Zeke even tighter. “I don't know how I would live if you're gone...”

“Don't worry. I'll never leave you,” Zeke promised.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Sam could see his life end inside the military prison.

He had never expected his promotion to turn into his imprisonment.

Sam blamed it all on Zeke so much that he cursed Zeke with everything he could.

The only hope left for Sam was Logan Hugh.

Just as Sam was thinking of how Logan could help him, the officer came into his cell.

Sam quickly got up and greeted him excitedly, "Mr. Hugh! You're finally here!"

Logan nodded as he turned to the guard who had guided him. "Leave us for a few minutes."

It made the situation awkward for the guard as it was against the rules.

"What? As a staff officer, I have the right to do that, don't I?" Logan scolded.

"My apologies, Mr. Hugh. I'll take my leave now," the guard replied and left in a hurry.

"Mr. Hugh! Please get me out of here! I don't want to stay here any longer!" Sam begged.

"Calm down," Logan said. "Let me ask you this first, did you tell anyone you're working with me?"

“No! I swear to God, I've never mentioned your name!”

“Good. I'm the only one who can save you now. If I'm caught as well, you'll have no hope of leaving this place. Just chill in here for a few days, you should be out in no more than two weeks.”

“What are you planning?”

“Have you ever heard of the Great General of the North?”

“I do. He's one of the four legendary generals of Eurasia, the apprentice of the Great Marshal.” Sam nodded, even though he had no idea how the general was part of the plan.

“I've heard some news that the general will be appointed to a position here in Oakheart City. Our boss has arranged something to welcome him. If we can get the general to our side, we'll be able to save you. Heck, even Zeke won't be able to do anything.”

Sam instantly grew excited by the news.

He had never expected the head of Logan to possess the power to recruit one of the Great Generals.

Sam could finally see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Who would have ever imagined that the legendary Great General of the North was currently being ordered to work at a construction site by Zeke...

“Mr. Hugh, for real, who even is our boss?” Sam asked carefully.

“His identity is top-secret. It's better if you don't know, as you might be dead because of it.” Logan shook his head. “All I can tell you is that he's not someone you or I can ever hope to reach.”

“I see...”

“I heard you like seafood a lot,” Logan said as he gave Sam the food he brought. “Here, I bought some for you. I'll take my leave first then.”

Before Logan left, he reminded Sam never to tell anyone that they were working together.

It was natural for Sam to agree as he still needed Logan to save him. All hope would be lost for him if Logan were to be captured as well.



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Sam looked at the food Logan had brought him but did not eat it.

He had witnessed his superior trying to poison T-Rex, their once companion, to apprehend Zeke.

It wouldn't be hard to imagine that Logan would do the same thing to Sam as well.

The only person any prisoner could trust was himself.

After Logan had returned to his room, he looked around to make sure he was alone before making a phone call.

“Hades, boss has a mission for you.”

On the other side of the phone was a 60 years old man with a compassionate expression.

The elderly man was no other than the underground lord of Rivermouth, Hades.

He was the person who controlled the leaders of all ten cities in Rivermouth, including T-Rex.

There were two reasons Hades could maintain his position for more than thirty years. One was because the way he handled things was extraordinary. The other was because he had someone supporting him.

Hades and Logan both served the same person.

“What's the mission?” Hades asked.

“The Great General of the North will be coming to Oakheart City soon. I'm tasked with welcoming him,” Logan explained. “The most expensive hall in the city right now is no other than the Love in a Fallen City that's under construction. I want you to take over the construction and use it to welcome the general as soon as it's done.”

Logan hung up right away, not giving Hades any chance to refuse.

Hades could only stare at his phone as he smiled bitterly.

“This rascal wants me to interfere with the most important project of the city...”

“What are you planning to do?” a skinny elderly man standing next to Hades asked.

That elderly man was a person as famous as Hades in the underworld, Eclipse. Hades couldn't have taken over the whole state if not for Eclipse's help.

Even though they were master and servant, their relationship was as close as real brothers.

“You and I have seen what Zeke Williams is capable of.” Hades smiled. “He took down three hundred people with only twenty of his. That's a talent that can only be seen once in a thousand

years. I originally thought of having him take over you and me when we retire... But it looks like Logan is set on taking his revenge. There's no way he's going to approve it. He wants us to take Zeke down.”

“I thought Logan never mentioned Zeke Williams in the call?” Eclipse frowned.

“But his intention was clear,” Hades sighed. “He tried to use T-Rex to take Zeke down the hard way. He even tried to kill T-Rex for that purpose so that he could force us to help him. What he did not expect was for Zeke to turn the tide and save T-Rex. Now, he wants us to take over the Love in a Fallen City... That's Zeke's project. How are we going to do that? Logan is just forcing us to get on Zeke's bad side.”

“You're right... So, what will you choose?”

“Well, we don't have to face Zeke head-on. There's another way to do this.”

“What's that?”

Hades smiled wryly and called his assistant.

“Spread the news that the Great General of the North will be coming to Oakheart City soon. We will be hosting a welcoming ceremony in Love in a Fallen City. Anyone who can get their hands on the construction right gets to have a meal with the general.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Eclipse took a sip of his tea. "So, as soon as the news is out, those businesses with a lot of capital will do whatever they can to take over the construction of Love in a Fallen City. Anyone who managed to take it away from Zeke... Well, they'll be ours anyway since all of Rivermouth belongs to us. Plus, we don't have to go head to head with Zeke. This is a cunning plan, I must say."

"I don't really have a choice, do I?" Hades sighed.

...

Oakheart City turned famous overnight once the news of the Great General of the North being appointed a position in the city had spread around like wildfire.

As one of the four legendary generals of Eurasia and the Great Marshal's disciple, anyone who could make friends with the general could skyrocket their own values.

A chance to get close to the general was now out in public. Anyone who could take over the construction of Love in a Fallen City would have the chance to personally welcome the general.

Many business owners and powerful people shifted their attention to Oakheart City, specifically Love in a Fallen City, overnight.

To other people, the construction was a once-in-a-lifetime chance, but to Lacey, it was as if she was

holding onto a hot steamy potato.

Whenever Lacey thought of the number of people trying to rob her of the project, it hurt her head.

She looked at the table full of delicious foods but couldn't seem to work up an appetite.

After eating two spoonfuls of rice, Lacey put her cutlery down. "You guys go ahead and eat first. I have some work to do."

"Seriously, what's wrong with you? Even Sharon eats more than you," Hannah scolded. "Don't even think about dieting. I saw someone on the internet saying dieting is bad if you want to get pregnant."

Hannah's words only annoyed Lacey even further. "Mom, you can't just force me to have a child! I'm not thinking of having one now. My career is more important. Plus, having Sharon is more than enough."

"Who gave you the right to speak? Do you think I like doing this? I'm doing this for you and Zeke's sake! How long has he been living with you? Half a year, yet nothing has happened yet! Is this how you take responsibility?"

Daniel quickly frowned and quickly signalled Zeke to calm things down as he had no say in the family. It would only make things worse if Daniel spoke up.

“Lacey, please, mom is just worried about us.” Zeke quickly stepped in. “Mrs. Hinton, you have to understand where Lacey is coming from as well. She's just frustrated from all the recent work. It's normal for her to want to vent her frustration from time to time.”

Hannah's expression immediately softened up. “See. Try and learn from Zeke.”

“Bootlicker.” Lacey rolled her eyes at Zeke.

Her words only angered Hannah again.

Upon seeing that the mother and daughter were going to go at it again, Zeke quickly stopped them. “Alright, Lacey, have a seat first. If something is going on with work, why not tell us? Maybe we can help.”

Lacey hesitated but sat back down in the end.

The storm quickly died down, and Daniel shot Zeke a huge thumbs up.

Ever since Zeke had started living with them, Daniel's life had improved by the day. In the past, whenever the mother and daughter started arguing, the one who suffered the most was none other than Daniel as he couldn't take either side.



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“You know the Great General of the North is coming here, right?” Lacey asked.

“Coming here? I think you're misinformed. He's already here! He's working at our construction site.” Zeke smiled.

Lacey instantly laughed at Zeke's remark. “The general? Working for us? Heck, then, wouldn't the marshal be the site manager?”

“How can the Great Marshal work as a construction site manager? He's working as our salesperson!”

Lacey laughed even louder, all her pent-up frustration disappearing in a flash. “Seriously! You should try stand-up comedy!”

“You're funnier than I thought you would be,” Hannah also laughed. “Who knew you would be so good at calming a girl down. Look at Lacey's father. He's just a muscle head. No matter how angry I get, he can never sweet talk his way through it.”

“What does this have to do with me? Isn't your temper the main problem here? Whenever I try to calm you down, you'll roar back at me. Who the heck in this world can calm that temper of yours?”

“Well, Zeke can...”

Zeke was hindered completely speechless.

Even though he was telling the truth, the Hintons only thought he was trying to boast.

Now that the older couple was about to start a fight, Zeke quickly stopped them. "Let's hear what Lacey has to say first."

"The welcoming ceremony for the general is going to be held at Love in a Fallen City," Lacey continued. "Apparently, whoever gets the construction for the building will get to welcome the general personally. A lot of rich and powerful men are laying their eyes on the project now. They can probably take it away from us without batting an eyelid."

"What? Whoever gets to construct the building gets to welcome the general? Wouldn't that be us?" Daniel grew excited at the news.

"For now, yes," Lacey sighed. "But you never know what will happen later. There's no way we can fend off all the hungry wolves."

"You have to protect the contract at all costs then!" Hannah quickly suggested. "They can't do anything as long as we have it, right?"

"It's not that simple... To these people, the contract is nothing more than a piece of paper."

Daniel and Hannah's faces quickly darkened.

"Don't worry. I can assure all of you, no one is

going to take away what's ours," Zeke suddenly said. "Did you forget what I promised you? That we'll be the first to use Love in a Fallen City for our wedding? The general will have to wait in line."

Lacey smiled at Zeke bitterly. She thought Zeke was only trying to calm her down.

Just as they were in mid-discussion, Lacey got a call from Dawn and quickly answered it.

"Lacey! Something bad's happening here at the office! You better come here right away!" Dawn wailed.

"Wait! Slow down! What's happening?"

"All of our partners of Love in a Fallen City have decided to stop working with us! They're here at the office now!"

"Looks like someone's made their move." Lacey's face turned pale.



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“Who did?” Zeke quickly asked.

“Dawn didn't say,” Lacey shook her head. “All of our partners want to stop working with us. Someone's definitely calling the shots behind the scenes! I have to get back to the office right away!”

“Lacey, just let it go if it's too much to handle,” Daniel took a deep breath and said. “Your mother and I are happy as long as you and Zeke are safe and sound.”

Lacey nodded.

“I'll go with you,” Zeke said.

“Okay.”

As they walked to the door, Zeke suddenly turned around to talk to the older couple. “Don't worry. I'll be there if anything happens.”

Both Daniel and Hannah nodded simultaneously. They couldn't explain why, but they always felt as if Zeke could solve any crisis perfectly.

It was because Zeke had never once disappointed them.

On their way to the office, Zeke and Lacey learned about the situation through the phone.

The one who had orchestrated the whole coup-

d'etat was Franky from the Forrest family.

The Forrest was the richest family in Riverdale District, a city located right next to Oakheart City.

The Forrest family controlled both the business and underground world of Riverdale District.

The crucial news was that Franky's sister, Florence, was Evan Schneider's wife.

That piece of information only made Lacey even more desperate.

"It's all gone. We're doomed... The project belongs to the Schneiders... There's no way Mr. Schneider will side with us over his brother-in-law."

"Don't worry, he won't," Zeke assured.

"I really have no idea why you're so confident about this..." Lacey has no idea if she should cry or laugh. "Let me ask you this. If you have a billion, would you give it to your friend or a stranger?"

"That's a good question. It depends on who the stranger is."

"Don't tell me you really think you're more powerful than Mr. Schneider to the point that he fears you?"

"That's a fact."

"Haha..." Lacey laughed bitterly.

Zeke had no idea how to respond to the laugh.

They soon arrived at the construction site.

When they got out of the car, Zeke told Lacey, "You head to the office first. I have something to take care of."

Lacey nodded before quickly running towards her office.

Zeke went to look for Sole Wolf, who was still moving bricks around.

The moment Sole Wolf noticed Zeke, he ran towards his boss. "You're finally here! Look! How's my work?"

"Sole Wolf, do tell me this. When you were appointed to Oakheart City?"

"Robert was the one who arranged it, which is very convenient if I say so myself. I can be around you now!"

"I wonder if this arrangement has something to do with Logan Hugh..." Zeke pondered. "Let's wait and see. Oh, right. Are you going to host your welcoming ceremony at Love in a Fallen City?"

"What ceremony? No one told me about it."

"I see... Let me just get one thing straight. I don't care what happens, no one gets to use this

building before me. As soon as this place is constructed, I'm going to propose to Lacey here.”

“For real?” Sole Wolf exclaimed. “Shit! I'm going to drink at least three litres of alcohol at your wedding!”

Their conversation was cut short by Dawn, who came running to find Zeke. “Zeke, why are you still here? The office is in chaos!”



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“Dawn, I need you to do something for me. Help me check the transaction between us and all of our partners,” Zeke said after taking a deep breath. “Let me know as soon as you notice something suspicious.”

“Are you going to terminate the partnership with them?” Dawn asked with a worried expression. “If we don't have their support, we can't handle the project on our own. It's best if we talk things out and come to an agreement.”

“Don't worry. I know what I'm doing,” Zeke said and left.

Sole Wolf looked at Dawn, feeling guilty about everything that was happening. “If I didn't come here, things wouldn't have gotten this messy.”

Dawn was confused and wondered if the worker she was currently staring at had some mental issues.

What does a billion-dollar contract have to do with a construction worker like yourself?

Zeke soon arrived at Lacey's office. What he saw caused him to fly into a rage.

The office was filled with people. The seat that once belonged to Lacey was now being taken up by a playful looking young man who was biting a cigar.

The young man was not one of the partners. He was Franky, the eldest son of the Forrest Family.

Lacey had no place to sit and could only stand as she coughed violently. She couldn't stand the smoke of the cigar.

She was almost begging the partners not to leave.

“Why are you guys suddenly doing this? I've been treating all of you like my family!”

“Open your eyes wide and look clearly,” a man with a huge tummy laughed. “The person sitting right there can literally drown you with money. We put up with you because Mr. Schneider was helping you, but not anymore. Mr. Schneider won't be siding with you any longer, and neither will we!”

“You better think this through clearly.” Lacey gritted her teeth. “If you back off now, you'll have to pay the breach of contract fee.”

“F**k off!” the fat man scolded. “Who are you to threaten us? Hand the project to Mr. Forrest now, or you'll have to bear all the responsibility!”

In truth, the partners were simply trying to intimidate Lacey. There was no way they would actually give up on the project. They only planned to make sure Lacey would back out of the project and hand it to Franky after losing their support.

As for the partners, they would continue to work

with Franky instead.

Yet, Lacey had acted out of their expectation. Not only did she not hand over the contract, she had even threatened them.

Franky put his cigar out and smiled. "Lacey, it's better if you just give up. I'm already gracing you with my appearance here. Oh, wait, do you want me to call Mr. Schneider, who happens to my brother-in-law, just to kick you out?"

As soon as Franky mentioned Evan, Lacey knew all hope was lost.

"Fine... I'll give you the contract..." Lacey bit her lip and sighed. "But you have to give us back all the investment we've put into this project."

"Yeah, right!" Franky laughed. "Keep on dreaming! Sign this and get the f**k out of my face! Or, do you not want to leave?"

"T-this is too absurd!" Lacey cried out as her body shook. She'd already invested around seven hundred million in the project.

If she could not get the money back, she would be in danger of bankruptcy.

"So what? What can you do to me?" Franky laughed.



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“Sigh...” Zeke heaved a heavy sigh as he made his way to Lacey's side.

“Lacey, come with me.” Zeke held onto Lacey's hand.

“There are too many insolent fools on earth! I'll teach them a lesson today. I'll show them that there are certain people in this world whom they can't afford to offend!”

Zeke and Lacey made their way to Franky's side.

“Move the hell aside!” Zeke yelled.

Franky grew infuriated all of a sudden and slammed the table as he got up from his seat.

“Who the hell do you think you are? How dare you try to order me around?”

“Get out of this room! You have no rights to stay in here!”

Zeke warned Franky, “I'm warning you one last time. Move your ass away from this seat!”

“F***! I'm not going anywhere! This is my seat!” replied Franky.

Zeke sneered, “Fine! If that's the case, I'll grant you your wish!”

He placed his hands on Franky's shoulder once he finished his sentence and tapped on his shoulder

lightly.

Crack!

Thump!

Franky was pinned on the chair all of a sudden.

However, the wooden chair could no longer withstand the pressure and shattered into pieces.

Consequently, Franky was forced to squat on the floor.

A broken piece of the wood penetrated through Franky's ass.

It was a tormenting experience.

Blood gushed out of his wound and dyed his pair of pants red.

Ouch!

Franky shrieked repeatedly as he held on to his ass and rolled on the floor. "F***! Help me! Help! It freaking hurts!"

"F*** you! I want you dead!"

Hiss!

Everyone present couldn't help but gasp in shock.

He's such a fearless man!

Franky is Evan's brother-in-law!

Zeke is but one of Evan's subordinates! How dare he beat up his supervisor's brother-in-law?

Forget about the project! He should be grateful if he's able to make it out alive!

Lacey was anxious as well because Zeke had been overly aggressive.

Zeke walked towards the two co-developers sides and instructed them indifferently, "Move aside! I need chairs."

The two co-developers stood their ground. "Why should I?"

Zeke raised his head once again.

The two co-developers were horrified and covered their heads as they moved away from their seats immediately.

They had no intention to go through what Franky had just gone through.

Zeke brought the chairs back with him and got Lacey to sit on one of them. Meanwhile, he took another and sat by her side.

"It's time for us to settle the scores."

“Hand over the withdrawal agreement if you no longer wish to be part of the collaboration.”

The co-developers were forced into a tight spot all of a sudden. They actually had no intention to withdraw from the project at all.

They merely wanted to leverage on their withdrawal and force Lacey into submission. The rights over the construction site were what they were after all along.

They didn't expect Zeke to be such a cruel man. In fact, they were taken by surprise because Zeke didn't play according to the rules.

The co-developers were the disadvantaged ones now as the table had been turned on them.

Franky held on to his ass and yelled once again, “Don't worry! Go ahead and withdraw from the collaboration!”

“I'll get my brother-in-law to terminate them once he's back! I'll invite everyone back by then and get you guys to be in charge of the project instead!”

Everyone felt a sense of relief when they heard Franky's words.

A hefty co-developer was the first to hand over the withdrawal agreement. “Please sign.”

Zeke took it over and passed it to Lacey. “Lacey,

sign it.”

Lacey got anxious all of a sudden; she hurriedly looked at Zeke.

We can't possibly handle Love in a Fallen City's construction without these co-developers.

Zeke tapped on her hand and assured her, “Don't worry! I'll always be by your side!”

Lacey gritted her teeth. “Alright! I have faith in you!”

She then signed the withdrawal agreement without any hesitation.

Zeke asked, “Anyone else?”

A lot of the other co-developers handed over their withdrawal agreements.

Zeke instructed Lacey to sign each and every one of the said agreements.

The hefty co-developer picked up his withdrawal agreement and mocked, “Hmph! You guys better get yourselves ready! I'm sure Mr. Schneider will be coming after both of you soon!”

“I'm certain you guys will be terminated! Meanwhile, we have Mr. Forrest on our side! He'll invite us to collaborate on the project once again!”

“Hurry up! Get Mr. Forrest to the hospital immediately!”

“Apart from that, please settle the remaining receivables right now, Lacey!”

Zeke replied indifferently once again, “Correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe we have the rights to deny your payment if you are the one who wished to terminate the contract unilaterally. These terms are stated in the contract, right?”

The hefty co-developer glared at Zeke. “Don't you dare!”



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Zeke replied, "Try me. We shall see if we have the guts to."

"I won't pay you a single cent today. Instead, I will demand each and every one of you to compensate for our loss!"

Pffft!

Everyone present could no longer hold back their laughter. "Who the hell gave you the audacity to utter such nonsense?"

"I'll acknowledge you as my father if I pay you a single cent today!" sneered the hefty co-developer.

Zeke replied with a smile, "Sure! I can't wait for you to address me politely!"

In the meantime, Dawn was making her way into the room.

She put down a stack of documents in front of Zeke. "Zeke, their ledgers are flawed. There are a lot of issues with it!"

Zeke reached for the name list and read it out loud, "Dickson, the supplied materials don't match the amount required. The amount actually involved amounts to thirty million."

"Hendrix, you tend to supply poor-quality goods to us. You're the reason the project is greatly delayed. The amount involved amounts to fifty

million.”

“Gordon, you embezzled the funds allocated to purchase shares. The amount involved amounts to twenty million...”

Everyone was rendered speechless by Zeke's words.

Zeke smashed the name list on the table after he had called everyone out. “I'll be able to send each and every one of you behind bars for the rest of your life with these pieces of evidence!”

The facial expressions of the co-developers changed once again.

*Damn it! The ledgers should have been flawless!
How could they possibly figure out what's going on!*

They had no idea Dawn was a PhD candidate from Stanford University in the United States. It would be a piece of cake for her to figure out what had been going on behind the scenes as she had majored in Economics.

Zeke went on. “Don't worry! I'm not such a heartless man!”

“I'll take our past relationship into consideration and give everyone another chance!”

“Supply the materials needed for free until we're done with the project!”

“Otherwise, I'm afraid every single one of you will have to spend the rest of your lives behind bars.”

The hefty co-developer burst into laughter. “Zeke! Do you really think we have to give in to you because of the trivial evidence you have?”

“In your dreams!”

“Mr. Forrest will get rid of both of you soon! We'll soon take over your position!”

“We'll get Mr. Forrest to clear the transaction records and dismiss us of any responsibility by then.”

“Mr. Forrest, please get in touch with your brother-in-law. We need Mr. Schneider here...”

However, the hefty co-developer didn't receive the response he was waiting for.

Everyone turned and looked at Franky. They finally realized Franky had long passed out due to excessive bleeding.

The hefty co-developer was afraid Franky wouldn't make it out alive. Hence, he ordered the other co-developers to help him. They rushed him to the hospital.

Zeke scoffed, “It's only a matter of time before you all get on your knees in front of me.”

Lacey was perturbed. “Sigh! What should we do next, Zeke?”

“It seems like things are over between us and the co-developers! We won't be able to finish the project in time without their help!”

“Apart from that, you've beaten Mr. Schneider's nephew up! I'm certain Mr. Schneider will come after us through legal means, let alone putting us in charge of the project!”

Lacey was surprised to see Zeke angry once she finished her sentence. “Lacey, are you sure that's what you should be concerned about?”

She got confused and asked, “What should I be concerned about if not that?”

“What's for lunch? That's what you should be concerned about because we've rushed over without having lunch!” replied Zeke.

“Dawn! Here's a mission for you. Bring Lacey along and go grab something delicious.”

Dawn tapped on their shoulders, “Let's go! Let's feast using the allocated funds!”

Lacey was speechless because of how Dawn and Zeke reacted.

Seriously? That's all they have in mind? What a heartless duo!

Is this really time for a meal...

...

Meanwhile, at Grand Imperial Tea House.

Hades took a sip of tea and looked at Eclipse, who was right opposite him. “My friend, it seems like Zeke has beaten Franky up to a pulp. What do you think of the situation?”

Eclipse broke the silence with a single word.
“Arrogant bas***d!”



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