

Chapter 136

After everyone had left, Dawson Robbins smiled apologetically and said, “CEO York, if necessary, I can fire all of them by noon.”

Harvey York replied faintly, “This concerns the internal affairs of your company. What does it have to do with me?”

“Yes, yes, yes...” Dawson changed the topic. “As for the matter at hand, I still hope you would be magnanimous enough to forget about moving your assets elsewhere.”

Dawson’s face was dripping with cold sweat. York Enterprise did not have much money in its accounts, with only about hundreds of millions. However, Harvey was different. The amount he possessed in his account was astonishing. If he moved his private account away, Dawson would be in dire conditions.

“President, it’s not that I don’t want to give you a

chance. I just don't like how these things keep happening to me.”

“No, it will never happen again.” At that instant, Dawson rose. “Our bank will tailor-make a professional team to handle any business matters you wish. They will come to you in person in the shortest time possible to solve any and every problem you have. Would that suit you?”

Harvey kept mum.

Dawson mulled over the situation and continued, “Oh, that's right. There's a big auction going on tonight in Niumhi. Rumor has it that the auction has numerous famous treasures. In fact, this auction is by member invitation only. You cannot enter if there's no one to bring you in, no matter how wealthy you are.”

“I have an invitation card here. Would you be interested to come tonight? Furthermore, all items that catch your attention will be bought using my money.”

This piqued Harvey's interest, and he took the invitation card. After looking at it, he nodded and said, "Thank you, Mr. President. One more thing, please immediately increase the limit on my Amex Black Card."

Dawson was rendered speechless at Harvey's request. Harvey already had so much money in his card, but he still wanted to increase the spending limit.

Dawson smiled obsequiously. "CEO York, I hope you can understand. The spending limit on your card was decided in accordance with the bank's rules. We fear that if your card happens to be missing or stolen, you may lose a lot of your money."

"Don't worry about that. I will personally follow up on it. Although a verification process is needed, I will handle it as soon as possible."

"Also, here is a cheque book. The total amount is one hundred thousand. Please consider it a small

sign of courtesy from us and accept this humble gift. If you would like to make any purchases within these few days, do use this cheque book.”

Harvey nodded. He saw through Dawson’s sincerity and his initial anger dissipated. Everyone lived in Niumhi, after all. They were bound to meet again sooner or later. He decided to let the earlier incident slide.

In the evening, at the Mountain Top Villa.

This was the venue where the secret auction was being held. Harvey had not attended such an activity for a long time. Since he received the invitation card and had nothing else to do, he brought Yvonne Xavier along to have a look.

When he had just alighted from the car and reached the entrance, Harvey frowned slightly. Something not far ahead caught his attention.

Two beautiful ladies akin to goddesses from

paintings appeared before him. The one on the left, bearing a stunning aura, was none other than Mandy Zimmer. Talking next to them was a tall, handsome man.

Harvey furrowed his brows and instinctively walked over.

When Yvonne saw Mandy, she hesitated and said, “CEO York, I won’t come along lest it causes any misunderstanding with the Missus.”

Mandy was in a foul mood. She went to York Enterprise early that morning to discuss the contract, but did not expect that she would be chased out. Although Wendy Sorrell was polite, her words were rife with rejections.

She then tried to call Wendy numerous times, but the latter didn’t pick up. Her best friend, Cecelia, saw that Mandy was in a bad mood, so she brought Mandy to this place. Cecelia told Mandy that she knew a rich heir who had good connections with the

upper management of York Enterprise.

It was only then Mandy became willing to come to Mountain Top Villa to attend the auction. She had heard of it before. One would need an invitation card to participate in the event. Although the Zimmer family was quite high-class and reputable, this was her first time attending such an auction.

“Miss Zachary, Miss Zimmer. I’m Jake Surrey.” The tall and handsome man who stood before them carried an air of elegance. “My family is in the architecture business. We’re in the same field as the Zimmer family.”

Cecilia was delighted when she saw him. “Mandy, Mr. Surrey is not just any average person. His family develops high-end real estates. Even if you have the money, without a high status you won’t be able to buy any of them.”

Mandy had some impression when she listened to Cecilia’s words. This Surrey family had quite an unusual background. She heard that they were a

branch of the Surrey family from the capital. Their connections with the capital helped them prosper rapidly when they came to Niumhi. In addition to that, they didn't like to mingle with the local families of Niumhi. She didn't expect this man was the person she would be introduced to.

“So it's Mr. Surrey. It's an honor to meet you.”

Mandy nodded slightly and smiled. “I heard you have a good relationship with the upper management of York Enterprise. Do recommend me to them when you happen to have the opportunity.”

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“Miss Zachary told me about your predicament. It’s no big deal, really. I just need to make a call, and all will be good.”

It was hard to read Jake Surrey’s thoughts. He surveyed Mandy Zimmer from top to bottom and exclaimed, “Miss Zimmer, you really are the goddess of Niumhi. There’s only one as beautiful as you. I have never believed the rumors, but I stand corrected after seeing you. It’s unfortunate you’re already married. Otherwise, I would very much like to court you.”

Jake’s behavior was rather overbearing. When he spoke, his eyes rested on Mandy’s body with an intrusive leer which made her quite uncomfortable. However, she needed him to get acquainted with the upper management of York Enterprise. She couldn’t say much.

“Mr. Surrey, you’ve misunderstood. Mandy is

married, and that's a fact. However, that marriage is only on paper. The reality is quite the contrary. That loser live-in son-in-law husband of hers had never once held hands with her in the past three years. Aunt Lilian had always wanted to chase him out." Cecilia Zachary giggled. Her original intention tonight was to matchmake Jake and Mandy. "If there's an excellent suitor, I'm sure both Aunt Lilian and the Zimmer family would welcome him with open arms."

"Cecilia, please don't talk nonsense. I'm not ready to divorce Harvey." Mandy replied, her voice low. An inexplicable guilt crept in as she said this. Harvey still hadn't returned home ever since she chased him out a few days ago. She didn't know where he had gone off to.

Jake smiled, but said nothing. He shot a glance at Cecilia.

Cecilia could see what was going through Mandy's mind. She held Mandy's slender waist and said, "Mandy, what are you thinking? What's that trash

good for? He's a worthless live-in son-in-law who lives in your house and eats your food. Why would he be afraid to come home just because you scolded him a little?"

"I'm telling you, that that b*stard is a kept man too. A few days ago while walking on the pedestrian street, I saw him sitting in the front passenger seat of a rich woman's car!"

Mandy was quite shocked. "A rich woman?"

"Of course it's a rich woman! That car was a Ferrari 488. Not any average person can afford that kind of thing. I think it's fine to be a live-in son-in-law if one stays loyal. But not only he's disloyal, he's also a worthless piece of trash! What's the use of keeping someone like him?" Cecilia crooned. "Even a dog knows to be obedient if you cared for it for long enough. What's the point of supporting him? Now that you've run into a problem with your business, can he come and solve it for you? What else is he good for aside from upsetting you?"

Mandy was still in disbelief. Harvey wasn't that

kind of person. “Are you telling the truth?”

“How can I not be? One would know the moment they see it. That woman is pretty skilled, even Zayn Lewis wouldn’t dare to step on her tail. I suspect she came from the capital. Harvey really has some insane luck to know a woman as successful as her. Look, I even took a photo.”

Cecilia pulled out her phone and handed it to Mandy as she spoke. The photo showed Harvey leaning against a Ferrari. Yvonne Xavier’s profile could be seen standing not far in front of him.

“Do you see it? Did you think that men would be honest if they didn’t have any money? They just haven’t found their golden opportunity. They’ll turn into sc*ms the moment they get the chance!” Cecilia gritted her teeth, growing increasingly annoyed. In that instant, she changed the topic. “Look at Jake here. He’s so polite. How attractive! He’s young and he has wealth. Don’t let the opportunity slip now that he decided to court you. You might not get another chance in the future!”

Mandy's face was devoid of color. Her hands shook as she held the phone. How could Harvey stand together with another woman? She couldn't comprehend the feelings stirring in her heart at that moment.

Was she jealous? Or was this simply naïve anger?

At this point, Jake took out an invitation card. He turned around and said, "Beautiful ladies, the auction is about to start. Shall we go in and have a seat? Do take note if any of the items catches your attention. Money isn't a problem."

Cecilia's eyes glimmered with joy. "Thank you in advance, Mr. Surrey!"

"It's just a small matter," Jake replied with a relaxed tone. A few million was not a big sum to him. On the other hand, to chance upon such an exquisite woman was a rare fortune. He was set on pursuing Mandy ever since he set his eyes on her.

It wasn't easy for him to contact Cecilia. How could

he let this chance slip by?

Cecilia took a few steps forward and leaned towards Jake. She murmured to him in a lowered voice, “Mr. Surrey, I’ve helped bring Mandy here and created an opportunity for you. Will you finally be able to succeed?”

“Don’t you worry, Miss Zachary.” Jake smiled. “I fell in love with Mandy at first sight. I just never had the chance to confess to her. Rest assured, I won’t disappoint you.”

Cecilia smiled in response. She turned around and was about to call Mandy, but her expression quickly went dark.

F*ck! Speak of the devil! How is Harvey, that worthless piece of trash, here?

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Harvey York strode past Cecilia Zachary, his eyes not deigning her even the smallest hint of attention.

“Harvey... Harvey York?”

At this moment, Harvey York finally caught her eye. Her delicate body trembled slightly. She was quite surprised at seeing him, and couldn't shake off her awkwardness. It was evident that she did not anticipate meeting Harvey York on this occasion.

“You're really exceptional, Harvey York.” Cecilia hurriedly spoke, shooting Harvey a hateful glare. “It's fine if you didn't return home for the past few days, but I must say, being able to enter places like these just by becoming someone's kept man is rather impressive. Calling you the king of kept men is just an understatement at this point!”

Harvey York replied quietly, “You've met Yvonne Xavier before, she's my classmate. Mandy knows.”

“Classmates?” Cecilia Zachary let out a cold snicker. “If you’re really just classmates, then why are you sitting in the front passenger seat? Tell me, how did you manage to crawl your way in here? There’s no way a mere classmate would hand you an invitation, right? Do you have any idea what this place is, Harvey York? You worthless sack of trash! You think you can come here willy-nilly even if you have the money for...”

Harvey York’s temper sparked. He seethed, “This is between me and Mandy. Can you shut your mouth?!”

When he finished speaking, he turned his attention to Mandy Zimmer.

Mandy Zimmer walked up to him, feeling rather shameful.

“Harvey, don’t misunderstand. Mr. Surrey is a colleague of Cecilia Zachary. He’s an acquaintance of the higher-ups in York Enterprise. I only wanted to acquire a referral from him...”

Hearing this, Harvey York nodded his head and said, "I understand."

Harvey York wasn't a fool. Whatever ruse regarding Mr. Surrey and his relationship with the higher-ups were nothing but excuses. He had grasped full well Cecilia Zachary's true intentions.

"Mandy, this person is..."

Anxious, Jake Surrey couldn't hold himself back anymore. Mandy Zimmer was the woman he fancied. How could someone who looked like a mere farmer have the audacity to speak to her? Is this not an act of sullyng a goddess?

Mandy Zimmer was unsure of how to respond. An awkward look settled on her face.

Harvey York gave Jake a casual reply. "Let me introduce myself. My name is Harvey York, husband of Mandy Zimmer. Will you please have some respect? Not everyone can simply utter my wife's name so nonchalantly."

Jake Surrey had grown rather agitated, until he heard Harvey York's introduction. He froze for a fraction of a second, and then replied with a laugh. "Goodness gracious, if it isn't the live-in son-in-law! I heard that not only did you continue to live with your wife's family, you also became her kept man?"

"Mandy told me about your situation. Married for three whole years, but not a single ounce of contribution in your marriage. A hundred dollars of pocket money every day, in fact. Hahahahaha, you're killing me!"

"I'm really curious. As a man, how did you manage to stay in the Zimmer household for this long? I've also heard that just because Mandy told you off a little, you packed your bags and left? Even your mother-in-law is pressing you to divorce Mandy. Am I wrong?"

"Tell me. Under these circumstances, how do you still have the gall to call yourself Mandy's husband?"

Do you really think that you deserve it? If you ask me, I'd tell you to take a look in the mirror and see the pitiful state you're in. If I were you, I'd kill myself for being so brain-dead!"

Jake Surrey laughed maniacally as he went on, his expression whimsical. The live-in son-in-law of the Zimmer household was the biggest laughing stock of the family. No, he was the biggest laughing stock in all of Niumhi! Married for three whole years, and yet not once has he touched his wife. This worthless sack of trash was truly beyond hope.

Mandy Zimmer's face grew dark. Biting her lip, she said softly, "Mr. Surrey, please stop..."

Listening to Mandy, Jake sent Harvey a gleeful stare and said, "For Mandy's sake, I won't make a fuss about this. Now, scram! This place doesn't suit you."

Jake flagged down a waiter and said, "Waiter, what's the deal with this man? I thought the Mountain Top Auction only allowed invitees to come in? How

is it that literally anybody is able to get in?”

“This...” The waiter hesitated, but then replied swiftly, “Mr. Surrey, I’ll go confirm it right away. If he really did sneak in here, I’ll get the staff to take him away.”

“I humbly apologize, live-in son-in-law.” Jake Surrey turned to Harvey York, hiding his grin. “I had a mind to invite you to the auction, but alas, I don’t have the qualifications to do so. Even if I could, what’s the point? It’s not as if you can afford anything here, anyway. Hahahahaha...!”

During their conversation, a man clad in a purple suit strode into the main hall, looking quite vexed. His eyes lit up as soon as he saw Mandy and he greeted her. “Mandy, what a coincidence.”

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“Wyatt Johnson?” Mandy Zimmer’s body went stiff with surprise. To meet him in this place was nothing short of unexpected.

Cecilia smiled and said in a tone of jest, “What a coincidence, Wyatt. What brings you here?”

Cecilia Zachary had some knowledge about the ins and outs of Wyatt Johnson. The Johnson household was nothing but a third-rate family. Logically speaking, he had no right to attend the Mountain Top Auction.

She and Mandy were only able to attend because of Jake Surrey’s grace, so she grew curious as to how Wyatt Johnson was able to take part in the auction.

Wyatt Johnson replied cheerfully, “I got lucky recently and made some pocket change. I just happened to get an invitation, so here I am.”

Saying that, Wyatt instantly felt ill. The past few

nights serving that old woman had taken a huge toll on him. He had to take heavy medication because of it. Even then, he was slowly losing consciousness. On the other hand, she treated him exceedingly well. Not only did she give him the opportunity to attend the Mountain Top Auction, she also gave him a credit card to spend however he pleased.

The raggedy clothes donning Harvey York caught Wyatt's eye. Shocked, he asked, "Mandy, isn't this your live-in husband? I heard that he's become your kept man. He didn't cheat on you with anyone else, did he?"

At these words, Mandy Zimmer's face immediately turned sour. Despite all reason telling her that an outstanding woman like Yvonne Xavier couldn't possibly come in contact with a worthless sack of trash like Harvey York, she couldn't help but feel a twinge of jealousy. ①

"And this person is..." Wyatt Johnson directed his gaze toward Jake Surrey. Although he now had a York mistress, meeting with Mandy Zimmer had

reignited the fire of first love in his heart.

Before Wyatt could continue, Jake Surrey laughed and stretched out his hand. “Hello there, I’m Jake Surrey from Niumhi’s Surrey household. I’m friends with Mandy.”

Wyatt immediately realized that the man in front of him was also trying to pursue Mandy. His eyes lit up and he chuckled. “I see. Excuse me for what I’m about to say, Mr. Surrey. Mandy is a wonderful woman, but the people she meets are not. You must cherish her dearly!”

“Hehehe, I will surely do so if given the chance to.” Jake Surrey neither confirmed nor denied it, but he did turn around to look at Harvey York with a smug expression.

‘You see? Everyone thinks that Mandy and I are a match made in heaven. Who gives a damn about a worthless live-in son-in-law like you anyway?!’

“I have high hopes for you.” Wyatt Johnson smiled. “Don’t forget to invite me to the wedding when you

two get married eventually!”

A trace of rage flashed in Wyatt’s eyes as he spoke. He hated Harvey York to the core. Given the opportunity, he would not hesitate to snatch Mandy away from Harvey. Yet, his mistress was watching him intently. If he dared to pick up any woman outside, he would have no home to return to.

Still, he would be satisfied as long as Harvey York was miserable. This was why he was so insistent on Jake pursuing Mandy.

Harvey York stood there, speechless.

‘Is Wyatt Johnson mad? Why is he speaking up for Jake Surrey? Does he think Jake is his father or something?’

Mandy Zimmer spoke up, clearly awkward. “Wyatt, can you stop spouting nonsense?! There’s nothing between us!”

“Nothing?” Wyatt laughed. “Oh, Mandy. Please don’t think that men without money are good people.

Let me tell you, a few days ago I saw your husband and a rich woman driving a Ferrari together with my own two eyes. You really ought to be ruthless against men like this, or you won't be able to realize it when he sells you out."

"Agreed!" Cecilia Zachary held a disparaging countenance. "Men like him don't deserve your attention. If it were me, I'd divorce him in a heartbeat!"

"Alright, waiter." Jake Surrey's face was icy. Having Harvey around pushed him into a foul mood. "Hurry and get this man out of here before he dirties the air in the auction."

Harvey York chuckled coldly. "Who dares throw me out?"

Wyatt Johnson sneered, "You talk as if you actually have an invitation. Of course if you do, you wouldn't need to leave."

"Mandy, did he follow you here?" Cecilia asked. "How did he even know about this place? Did he

come to find blackmail and threaten you with a break-up fee before he divorces you?”

Harvey York's head throbbed in pain after he heard that.

‘What’s with this ridiculous logic coming out of Cecilia’s head? She must have watched one too many drama shows to cook this all up.’

Mandy Zimmer couldn't stand the situation any longer, but she didn't have the courage to stop either Jake Surrey or Wyatt Johnson. Instead she pulled Cecilia close and said, “Can all of you please stop? Harvey's not that kind of person...”

“How can I stop? You think I don't know what kind of person he is?” Cecilia snapped, her tone full of resentment. “I'm telling you, you have to divorce this man! Honestly, I feel awful that you have to spend the best years of your life with a man like him.”

Filled with a sense of righteousness, Cecilia shot a hateful glare at Harvey.

“I suggest you scam right now, York. It’ll be a shame if the staff were to throw you out forcefully.”

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Harvey York paid no attention to Cecilia Zachary's scathing remark and simply laughed.

“Sorry to disappoint everyone, but I do in fact have an invitation.”

“Hahaha! You really do get more and more interesting by the minute.” Jake Surrey pointed at Harvey York. “I've met a lot of show offs, but one who goes this far is truly rare. Look, if you can show us your invitation right now, I'll leave this place straight away and not say another word. But if you lose, you get out. What do you say?”

Jake Surrey's lips curved into a tiny smirk.

“Listen, kid. If I were you, I'd turn around and leave right away to avoid further embarrassment to your wife.”

Wyatt Johnson grinned. “Mr. Surrey, you forget. What sort of self-respect does a live-in son-in-law

have left? Every bit of it is long gone by now!”

Harvey York chuckled nervously, saying, “Fine, let’s gamble. I’d like to see who leaves next.”

As he spoke, he reached into his pocket. The next second, his body froze. Though he did indeed bring his invitation, it was kept inside the pocket of his suit which he had left in the car.

Thus, Harvey was unable to show his invitation.

“Hahahaha!” Jake Surrey exploded into uncontrollable laughter. Never had he seen a poser fail so miserably. “Kid, I really do admire you. You even managed to sneak in here without an invitation. Now, scram!”

Wyatt Johnson laughed along coldly.

‘This Harvey York truly is a kept man. Even his mistress refused to speak up for him. I’m different. Not only did Madam York allow me to attend the auction on my own, she also gave me a credit card to spend on whatever I want.’

Wyatt Johnson found slight relief at the thought.

A furious waiter walked up to Harvey. “Sir, if you do not have an invitation, the Mountain Top Auction will have to kindly ask you to leave.”

Those were the rules of this place.

Not waiting for Harvey to utter a single word in response, the waiter called security to send Harvey away.

“Harvey...” Mandy Zimmer managed to say.

Jake Surrey cut her off with a smile. “Mandy, I heard that this time even the CEO of York Enterprise was invited to the auction. If you’d like to make his acquaintance, now’s your best chance. You can’t miss it.”

“The CEO of York Enterprise...”

Wyatt Johnson stood in awe. “Rumors said that he’s a rich heir and also quite the enigma. He would never attend activities like this. Why would he be

here today?”

Jake Surrey smirked. “I heard the president of Niumhi Commercial Bank, Dawson Robbins sent the invitation. Mandy, he and my family are friends. We only needed Mr. Robbins to give us the opportunity to see the CEO of York Enterprise. It’s no big deal.”

Mandy Zimmer initially wanted to confront Harvey York about his relationship with Yvonne Xavier. After listening to what Jake had said, she swallowed the urge to do so.

There was no other way. The lives of the Zimmer household depended on this investment from York Enterprise. No matter what, she was a member of the Zimmer family.

Nobody at York Enterprise wanted to lend her a hand when Mandy went for help today. Now that the opportunity had shown itself, how could she possibly let it slip away?

Even so, all that she could think of at that moment

were her memories of Harvey York.

“Mandy, Mandy...?” Jake Surrey smiled and waved his hand, pulling Mandy back to her senses. “Let’s head inside. Our seats today are only second class, but even then, it’s still priceless...”

At the same time, the president of Niumhi Commercial Bank, Dawson Robbins, was pacing back and forth in a VIP lounge while staring at his watch.

“Why isn’t Mr. York here yet...?”

For Dawson, today is the best day to make an acquaintance with Mr. York. In his opinion, this CEO of York Enterprise was not only young and promising, but also an extremely discreet individual.

‘Young people nowadays turn so arrogant as soon as they get a little bit of money, but not Mr. York. Even if he had hundreds of millions of dollars, he would never forget his roots. He likes wearing stall bought goods, and looks like an ordinary person to

boot.'

To Dawson, it is people like Harvey who do honest work and accomplish great things. Dawson Robbins would not hold any other simple-minded rich heirs to such a high regard. 1

Mr. York did not show up even after quite a while, and Dawson was beginning to grow anxious.

Without a second thought, he hurriedly gave Yvonne Xavier a call.

"Hello? Miss Xavier? Is Mr. York free to pick up the phone right now?" He said, while smiling on the phone. "May I ask where you are right now? Do you need me to escort you here?"