

Winifred immediately straightened up, still feeling nervous as ever on the inside.

However, Tyr was sitting on the sofa with his legs crossed, looking indifferent.

Winifred had wanted to greet the man first, but Hudson seemed even more enthusiastic than her.

“I’m really sorry, Miss Zea. I’ve been delayed by some urgent matters just now, so I’ve made you wait.”

Winifred was stunned. She never expected Hudson Ziegler to be this courteous. “It’s okay, President Ziegler, we haven’t been here long.”

After that, Hudson went over to Tyr out of reflex but was stopped by the man’s look.

Hudson immediately turned around to say politely to Winifred, “Miss Zea, please have a seat.”

Winifred quickly sat down on the opposite of Hudson with her hands still covered in sweat. “President Ziegler, I’ve come here today because I wanted to ask for a loan from Golden Peony Bank. We would like to borrow thirty million but... But we don’t have any properties for collateral, only... We only have this collaboration contract signed by the Smith Group.”

As she said this, Winifred felt her legs trembling. This was just too absurd. How could she be such a fool to trust in Tyr by coming to Golden Peony Bank and bringing up such a ridiculous request?

Hudson did not respond immediately but

kept quiet instead. Winifred had thought that Hudson, too, was startled by this absurd request, but she did not know he was actually waiting for Tyr's opinion.

"President Ziegler, if you think it's impossible, I'm sorry to have bothered you!" Winifred got up as she spoke. She did not want to stay here for another second longer. It was just too embarrassing.

"Miss Zea, please wait," Hudson suddenly spoke up before glancing at Tyr.

At that moment, Tyr stretched and stood up before uttering a shocking request! "How could thirty million be enough? I think we should borrow a hundred million."

Winifred jumped in shock. She glared at Tyr in agony and said, "You're crazy..."

However, before she could finish her words, Hudson slapped his knees hard and said, “I think Mr. Summers is right. How could thirty million be enough? You should just borrow a hundred million.”

Winifred was baffled. “Mr. Ziegler, you mean ...”

Hudson quickly said, “We’ll be loaning you a hundred million. I’ll get someone to draft the contract now.”

“But we don’t have any collateral...”

Hudson smiled and pointed to the contract with the Smith Group in Winifred’s hands. He said firmly, “Miss Zea, that contract in your hands, together with your company’s investment eligibility in the city center, is

worth a hundred million!”

A seemingly absurd loan was now mysteriously settled. Hudson started preparing the contract. He asked Tyr and Winifred to wait downstairs for only ten minutes before it was ready.

Needless to say, Winifred was worried that this loan might be fraudulent. However, Winifred had nothing on her, so what could the other party cheat from her?

As they sat in Golden Peony Bank's guest lounge, Winifred's mind remained blank. Was getting a loan at Golden Peony Bank that easy? Could they get a loan with just a contract? Did they really just borrow a hundred million?

“Tyr, why do you still have the heart to play

games on your phone? Why do you look so calm?” Winifred snatched Tyr’s phone away. “I can’t even sit still now, so how can you be so at ease?”

Tyr was confused.

“Isn’t that Winifred and her beggar of a husband? Why are you guys here as well?” Just then, Iris’s enigmatic voice rang in their ears.

Upon lifting their heads, they saw Iris, Travis, and Ford standing in front of them.

Winifred was shocked as well. “Iris, what are you doing here?”

“Hmph, how dare a b*tch like you ask? If it weren’t for an ungrateful wretch like you playing tricks on us, would we have to get a

bank loan? Winifred, how could you be such a b*tch? The Zea family has raised you for so many years, but you're no better than a dog!"

Winifred turned red at Iris's words and could not retort. After all, it was true that when she left, she had taken the collaboration with the Smith Group along with her, which was why the Zea family was in such a pinch right now. However, Winifred was not at fault for any of this. It was the Zea family that had forced her into a corner...

Winifred could endure this, but that did not mean Tyr would. He stood up immediately with his eyes as cold as a frozen lake. "One more word from you, and I'll pull your tongue out."

Iris abruptly took a step back as fear filled her eyes. That horrifying punch Tyr had shown in the conference room that day still made Iris's scalp feel prickly. "You... What are you trying to do? This is a legal society, you can't do anything rash! Tyr, Winifred, you're here to get a loan, aren't you? Because you need money to start a new company. But I can tell you with confidence that you won't get to loan a single cent today!"

After that, Iris turned to Ford and said something to him. After she was done, Ford glanced at Travis. Travis nodded mildly, and Ford went over to Winifred with a dark expression.

"Winifred Zea, was it? I'm Ford Jensen, an executive at the credit department of Golden

Peony Bank! Are you here to get a loan from our bank? Unfortunately, based on what you have done to your own family, we can evaluate that there's a huge problem in your personality, so our Golden Peony Bank will not loan you even a single cent!"

Chapter 45 Only With Freedom Can Your Talents Soar

Winifred's heart fell into her stomach. She quickly answered, "We're not here to get a loan from you."

"Hah! So what?" said Iris. "No matter who you look for, can your representative be more powerful than my third uncle?"

Winifred, I think your family must have gone mad from being broke. You don't have any capital on you, but you're thinking of starting a company. Why are you still alive? After leaving our Zea Group, you're nothing!" Having said that, Iris raised the loan contract in her hand cockily. "Do you see this, Winifred? With just a word from my Travis, a twenty million loan is easy as pie,

so you don't even think about loaning a single cent today.”

Slap! Like a strike of lightning, Tyr slapped Iris across her face. “I've already warned you earlier. I won't repeat myself another time!”

Tyr's slap dumbfounded iris. Travis rushed over out of reflex, but after meeting Tyr's dangerous gaze, he gave up!

“You wild man!” Iris could only vent her frustrations through words.

Ford was now frowning. “Both of you, get out of Golden Peony Bank now!”

Tyr smirked. “We're not here to see you, so your words have no effect.”

“Is that so? Is that so?” Ford was flaring up

in anger. He felt that his authority within the bank was being challenged and scorned upon! “I’m an executive in Golden Peony Bank. If I don’t agree to it, no matter who you ask for a loan from, they wouldn’t dare to give it to you!”

“Not even me?” Just then, a thundering voice rang from the second floor. Hudson rushed down with the hundred million dollar contract in his hand.

“Pre... President.” Ford was stunned. He felt his mind exploding.

“Let me ask you, do I have to get your approval as well before giving Miss Zea a loan?” The veins on Hudson’s forehead were popping. When he was on his way downstairs, Hudson had heard half of this conversation. It had frightened him so much

that his body went weak. A holy being like Tyr Summers had brought his wife here to get a loan. This was Hudson's greatest chance to get into Tyr's good graces, so how dare this Ford Jensen tried to humiliate the holy being?

“You blind fool! Who are you to offend a valuable customer like Miss Zea? Are you an executive of the credit department? Ford Jensen, I now announce that you've been fired! And this twenty million loan that you've just given these two people is immediately void!”

A buzzing sound exploded in Ford's mind. Travis and Iris, too, were ghastly pale.

If Ford was fired, what would happen to that loan earlier? What about the land in South Hill Plains?

With a loud thud, Ford fell to his knees in front of Hudson. It was like his soul had left his body. “President, you can’t fire me. I’ve been working in Golden Peony Bank for so many years now. I’ve put in so much hard work even if I don’t have any credits to show.”

Travis was starting to panic as well. He kept giving Iris signals with his eyes. Although they had no idea what connection Hudson had with Winifred, this scene in front of them told them that something big was about to happen.

Iris quickly caught on and said to Winifred immediately, “Winifred, this crisis that the Zea family is facing now is your fault. If we can’t get this loan today, the Zea family will end in your hands. You’re still a Zea family

member no matter what. Are you really trying to force us off a cliff?”

Winifred's heart shuddered. For a moment there, she could not answer. Even if the Zea family had never thought of her as family, Winifred was still too kind.

Tyr spoke coldly, “I've taught you before that you should show some sincerity when begging someone.”

Iris gritted her teeth, yearning to tear Tyr into pieces. However, she did not dare to lash out. “Winifred, I beg you, please speak up on our behalf. Otherwise, the Zea family will really be done for. Even if not for me, do it for Grandpa...”

Winifred took a deep breath and walked over to Hudson. “President Ziegler, can you let

them off this time?”

Winifred did not sound confident when she said this. She, too, was here to ask for a favor, so why would Hudson Ziegler show her that kind of respect? However, Hudson quickly looked at Tyr. After seeing Tyr nod faintly, Hudson immediately understood.

“You piece of sh*t, thank Miss Zea now!”

As he had just been spared his life, Ford quickly stood up to show Winifred his gratitude. Even Travis could not resist thanking Winifred. That was too dangerous. Their plans of cheating the Zea family's land was almost gone just now.

Iris was furious, but she dared not lash out. Although she, too, breathed a sigh of relief, she still felt anxious on the inside. She did

not understand why a prominent figure like Hudson Ziegler would show Winifred that much respect. Could Winifred have not only slept with Zachery Smith but also Hudson Ziegler as well?

Tyr glanced over, coldly, at Iris. “Don’t you know how to say ‘thank you’ after Winifred has helped you? Are you that uneducated?”

“Tyr, you...” Iris’s teeth were tingling from anger, but she still thanked Winifred unwillingly.

After that, Hudson handed the drafted contract to Winifred very respectfully. “Miss Zea, I’ve already prepared the contract for a loan of a hundred million dollars. If you sign here, it’ll be effective immediately. The money will be released in half a month!”

What? A hundred million? Did Winifred just

get a loan of a hundred million from Golden Peony Bank?

At that instant, not only Iris, even Travis and Ford were dumbstruck! How was that possible? Has the world gone mad?

Iris saw how thin Winifred's one hundred million loan contract was. It was only a few papers, but the contract in her hands was so thick for only twenty million! What was going on? Iris felt that something was odd, but what exactly, she could not put to words right now.

While the contract stated that the money would be released in half a month, in reality, it only took three days for Golden Peony Bank to transfer them the hundred million.

When she read the text message on her

phone, notifying that the hundred million had reached her account, Winifred felt that everything was surreal. “Tyr, I keep getting the feeling that this is all just a dream.”

Tyr stood beside her with a smile and said, “Silly, this isn’t a dream. All of this is real. Now, you have the freedom to let your talents soar! It’s time to show your talents!”

Chapter 46 This Is Human Nature

“Tyr, can I really do it?” To be frank, Winifred had wanted to start her own apparel company a long time ago, but that dream felt so far away. She never thought that this day would come! And now that it was here, Winifred, who had been feeling complacent, started feeling nervous instead.

“All tall buildings are built from the ground. After you’ve taken this first step, everything will go well!”

“Really?”

“Yeah.” Tyr nodded firmly at Winifred. “Believe in yourself!”

“Yeah, believe me!” Winifred rooted loudly

for herself.

Tyr said, “Now that the money’s here, next up is to set up a factory and a company.

Although the Smith Group is willing to give us some time, we still have to hurry up.”

Tyr held a hand to his chin and said, “If everything has to be built from scratch, that will take a lot of time. It would be great if there were an existing factory. That way, we just have to take care of the procedure and start the work. It’ll save a lot of time and hassle.”

A ray of light flashed in Winifred’s mind. “I can find an existing factory and company!”

“Really?” Tyr was surprised. He had wanted to get Zachery to help, but it seemed like there was not a need to.

“Get in and follow me!” Winifred was excited.

Just then, at Joseph’s Apparel Factory in North Hill Plains. The long-standing apparel factory in Khanh City that had been in operation for over thirty years was once glorious. However, it now looked desolate.

When Tyr and Winifred arrived at the apparel factory entrance, they were there just in time to see a large group of workers heading to the administration department. Each of them held a resignation letter in their hands, clearly intending to terminate their services.

Just then, Joseph, together with his factory director, Graham Davis, and a few old-time workers hurried over.

“Everyone, are you really resigning? President Zea has tried really hard to coordinate some business. Can everyone give President Joseph a few more days? I believe our factory will be able to resume operation soon. Everyone knows how President Zea has treated us all these years. Now that the factory is facing a crisis, can’t everyone help out a little?” The factory director, Graham, was trying to reason with the group of workers, hoping that they would stay with the company to make it through this hurdle.

If this group of workers left, it would really be over for the company!

“Director Davis, stop trying to build a castle in the sky! Who doesn’t know that the factory no longer has any business? We

really want to stay and share the woes with the company, but life won't allow us to. Let's leave now. This factory is sure to be dead!"

Graham frowned at the person who spoke. "Gerard Wilson, a few years ago, when you've lost tens of thousands after gambling and your wife and kids have threatened to leave you, who was it that paid you six months worth of salary in advance to help you through your hardship? Now that the factor is in a crisis, forget sharing its woes, how could you run your mouth like this? A worker like you is too irresponsible."

Gerard's temper rose. "Graham, do you still think you're a factory director? What are you putting on airs for? What I'm saying is the blatant truth. This factory won't last more than half a month. All of us still have

to eat. Who would stay here and die with the rest of you? Right, everyone?”

The group of workers behind Gerard chimed in. “Gerard is right. The factory is almost closing down, so what’s with all this talk of sharing woes?”

“Why don’t we use this remaining time to find a new factory to work at?”

Under Gerard’s encouragement, the group of workers headed to the administration department to resign.

Graham panicked. He asked the few old-time workers to help with stopping them, but there were just too many of them.

Graham and his few men could not stop them.

“President Zea, say something to them.”

Graham's forehead was covered in sweat from anxiousness as he said to Joseph, who had been silent all this time.

“Forget it, Davis, let them be.” When he said this, Joseph felt the energy drain out from his body. This apparel factory had been his lifetime effort. He had wanted to revive it, but he no longer had the power to do so!

“President Zea...”

“Thank you, Davis, and thank you, old brothers, for willing to stay and support me in this hardest time. But just let it be. Go on with them and resign as well.”

“President Zea, as long as there's still a ray of hope, we won't ever leave!” Graham said firmly. The few old-timers behind him looked resolute as well.

Humans should never forget their roots. They should always be grateful! Everyone here had received Joseph's grace before, but unfortunately, most of them have become ungrateful wretches. This was human nature!

“Stop trying to flatter, Graham. You've always been a bootlicker; otherwise, how could you ever become a factory director? But now, your flattery won't work anymore,” Gerard mocked enigmatically.

“Get lost and stop blocking the way. President Zea has already said so. So, who are you guys to block our way?” Gerard shoved Graham aside harshly to lead the group of workers to the administration department to get their resignation approved.

“I’ve heard that the Zea Group’s Miss Winifred has recently signed a huge business deal with the Smith Group. In just these few days, Winifred Zea has loaned a hundred million dollars from Golden Peony Bank to start a new company. I’ve already pulled strings. Once we resign here, we’ll go over to Winifred’s company to work. With our skills in helping her build her foundation, we might even be offered senior positions. Only idiots would stay here and wait for death.” ①

Gerard’s words immediately riled up the workers around him.

“That’s right. Going to Winifred’s company and getting a senior position is better than waiting for death over here.”

“Right! Let’s hurry up and resign. I don’t

want to stay here for even a second longer.”

However, at that moment, a voice spoke up, “People like you who hit others when they are at their lowest will never be hired in Winifred’s company.”

The scene immediately fell silent. Everyone directed their gaze to the factory’s entrance where a man and a woman walked in. 1

Gerard glared at Winifred and barked, “Where did this sh*tty lass come from? How dare you spout nonsense here? Every one of us here is skillful veterans. If we go over to Winifred’s, she will treat us like treasure! Yet, you have the gall to spout nonsense here. Aren’t you afraid that I’d tear your mouth open?” 2

Winifred merely chuckled. “No matter how

skillful you are, I won't take you in. Because your personalities are trash!"

Chapter 47 Don't Be An Iris Zea

Gerard and his group were smirking.

“Who are you to disapprove of us? Stupid lass, I’m advising you to shut up, or I’ll smack you!”

Slap! Tyr slapped Gerard across his face.

“Be more polite when you speak to my wife!”

“You... How dare you hit me?!” Gerard was jumping with anger. He clenched his fists, wanting to retaliate while a few male workers behind him swarmed up around him.

Gerard said that he had contacted Winifred’s company, and he was going to bring them

over to be seniors. How could they not display their caliber now?

However, at that moment, Joseph finally regained his senses after the initial shock. He hurried over to Winifred. “Winifred, you ... why are you here?”

Winifred? What Winifred?

Gerard and his group, who were about to attack, suddenly froze. After that, they turned to look at Winifred, feeling shocked as a chill ran down their spine.

Graham glared at Gerard and his group. “Gerard, didn't you say that you wanted to go over to Winifred's company and become the first seniors' batch? Here... Miss Winifred is right here. What did you say she was just now?”

Boom! A loud sound exploded in Gerard's head. His mind was instantly blank. The group of people who had been echoing after Gerard were dumbstruck as well.

What was this situation? Did Gerard not say he had made the necessary connections? After so long, how could he not know who Winifred Zea was?

Winifred did not spare Gerard another glance. She said to Joseph, "Fourth Grandpa, I'm sure you've heard about my situation. I've already taken the collaboration with the Smith Group and left the Zea Group. I've also gotten a loan of one billion dollars from Golden Peony Bank and am about to start a new company. Fourth Grandpa, with your current situation, can you transfer your Joseph's Apparel Factory over to me?" 5

Joseph frowned out of reflex. He thought Winifred was here to loot a burning house.

Winifred quickly added, “Fourth Grandpa, don’t misunderstand me. I’ve already evaluated your apparel factory before coming over. It’s worth about fifteen million on the market. I’m willing to buy it for twenty million. In addition, you can keep working here as Deputy General Manager, maintaining all of your current authority.” 2

As Winifred spoke, she looked at Graham’s group and said, “Factory Director David, I’ve seen what you’ve done for the factory earlier. If you’re willing, you can continue to stay here as the factory director with your salary increased by three folds. And those workers who weren’t about to resign will have their salaries doubled! As for the

company's business, you guys can rest assured. With this contract in our hands, it'll be enough to keep you guys busy every day!"

After Winifred said this, everyone was dumbstruck.

Joseph's eyes turned red as he could hardly believe any of this. "Winifred, look at you. You... Let Fourth Grandpa kneel for you!"

"Fourth Grandpa, get up, quickly! You're overwhelming me!" Winifred immediately supported Joseph. "Fourth Grandpa, are you willing to accept my conditions?"

"I'm willing. Of course, I'm willing." Joseph kept nodding his head. Winifred's conditions were blatantly a losing deal for her. She was giving him a hand when he was about to fall into the deepest pit, so how could he refuse?

At this, Gerard and his group were dumbfounded.

Winifred had acquired Joseph's Apparel Factory, which meant that this factory was now Winifred's new company. They had even rambled on earlier about wanting to become the first batch of seniors at Winifred's new company. But now, all of this sounded so insulting and hilarious.

"We're not resigning anymore!" Gerard was the first to rush up and said, "Miss Zea, what happened earlier was just a misunderstanding. Don't take it to heart. My name is Gerard Wilson, the workshop director of this factory. I'm a senior worker and am definitely reliable! I'm willing to stay and continue working. I don't need my salary to be three folds like Factory Director

Davis. I'm good with two folds just like the other regular workers." Having said that, Gerard looked at Winifred with great anticipation.

"Don't be such an Iris Zea!"

Gerard was puzzled.

Winifred pointed to the entrance of the factory. "Get lost! Get lost this instant! Get away as far as you can! Workers like you, who don't have any character or morals, I can tell you upfront that from today onwards, not only my, Winifred Zea's, company won't hire you, in the whole of Khanh City, the companies who work with me won't hire you either!"

Ever since he knew Winifred, this was Tyr's first time seeing her so tough. The old

Winifred was just too soft. Tyr smiled on the inside. It seemed like this lass was learning and growing!

After spending one whole day, Winifred and Joseph completed the transfer. Joseph's apparel company was now under Winifred's name. The factory's infrastructure, the workers, and all licenses were ready, so the company could start working in a few days. With the help of Joseph's outstanding veteran staff like Graham and his group, they had saved Winifred a lot of trouble.

After everything was done, Winifred treated all her staff to dinner to get to know them as their new boss.

At dinner, Winifred found it hard to refuse everyone's kindness, so she drank a little. When they went home, Tyr was the one

driving.

“Tyr, I never thought there would be a day where I can break free and start my own company. This is all thanks to you. I feel that ever since you've appeared, my path in life has been changed. My world used to be black and white, but now I can see colors again.”

Winifred probably was not good with alcohol. With just a few drinks, she was intoxicated.

“Do you know something, Tyr? When we were having dinner, Fourth Grandpa, Factory Director Davis, and those old workers made me feel warm. It's true. I've never felt this warmth in the Zea Group for a very long time. To think that I can work with them from now on makes me really happy.”

There was a faint smile on Tyr's face. He did

not answer as he quietly listened to Winifred while she poured her heart out.

“Oh, right, now that we’ve started a new company, we have to think of a name. Tyr, do you have any good suggestions? If it weren’t because of you, there wouldn’t be a company, so I’d like you to give the new company a name!”

Tyr was quiet for a moment before answering, “‘Summer’ is my last name, and you like autumn, why don’t we call it...”

“Call it what?”

Winifred looked eager. Even if the name had now appeared in her mind, she hoped that Tyr would be the first to say it out loud.

“Mating Season Apparels.”

Winifred was dumbstruck.

Chapter 48 Autumn Field Group

Seeing Winifred's face turn red, and her stunned expression made Tyr burst out in laughter.

“How dare you play me!” Winifred pretended to be angry and hammered at Tyr with her fist. Her punch was light like she was just flirting.

“How dare you hit your husband? Is this a rebellion?” Tyr stopped the car by the road and grabbed Winifred's hand.

Their eyes met, and their faces were only a few centimeters apart. The atmosphere in the car fell silent.

Out of reflex, Tyr leaned his lips closer to

Winifred's.

There was a clapping sound as electricity surged through Winifred's whole body.

She quickly pulled her hand back and sat up nicely in the passenger seat, keeping her legs straight. Her chest was rising and falling heavily. Her thumping heart almost jumped up to her throat. ①

Tyr smiled. He did not mind Winifred's rejection.

“Our new company will be called Autumn Field!”

Winifred turned over, looking shocked as she stared at Tyr. “Autumn Field?”

“Yeah.” Tyr nodded firmly. In fact, he had already thought of this name in advance.

“Autumn Field Apparels! Autumn Field Group! The fields in the autumn breeze mature as they turn yellow. It’s like how humans become fearless after experiencing metamorphosis!”

In that instant, Winifred teared up. The implications were just the surface. What was important was how this name represented her and Blair in each word.

Autumn and Field were everything to Tyr!

Three days later, Autumn Field Group was officially established.

As the president of Autumn Field Group, Winifred had sent out invitations to local factory owners. Autumn Field Group would

be hosting an opening ceremony in their factory and preparing a feast there, hoping that local corporate owners would attend!

Just then, in the living room of the Zea mansion, Jorge was holding an invitation in his hand, feeling various types of emotion. He never expected Winifred to really start up a company. To his Zea Group, this was not a good thing.

“Is that b*tch Winifred trying to show off?” Iris’s enigmatic voice perked up again. Her tone was mingled with thick fury. “This ungrateful wretch is blatantly starting a company to go against us. If we’d known she was such a person, we should’ve chased her out of the Zea family six years ago.”

The other Zea family members, too, were infuriated. They felt threatened by Autumn

Field Group's establishment.

"I never thought that Winifred would become like this."

The elders, Jackson and Lillian, were also gritting their teeth.

"How dare she send us an invitation. I really want to slap her to death!"

Jorge's head was aching from all the noise in the living room. He barked, "Everyone, shut up!"

After that, he waved the invitation in his hand. "I definitely won't go to Autumn Field Group's opening ceremony. Which of you will go?"

No one answered because none of them were willing to celebrate with Winifred or show

her any support!

“I’m going. Why not? Our whole Zea family is going. We have to!” Iris suddenly walked over to Jorge. “Grandpa, you have to go too.”

“Why?”

“Hmph! To see Winifred make a fool of herself, of course. Is she trying to start a company with the likes of her? Bullsh*t! I want to see just how many people would attend to support her opening ceremony with her barely existent influence. We can also use our Zea family’s connections to ask our contacts within the industry to decline attending Autumn Field’s opening ceremony.”

At this, Iris started chuckling as she held the invitation in her hand. “By then, other than

us, there would be no one at Autumn Field's opening ceremony. That desertion makes me excited just thinking about it!"

It was a beautiful day, and the sun was bright.

The original Joseph's Apparel Factory had now become Autumn Field Group. The venue was currently decorated with colorful lights, and a banquet had been prepared inside.

According to Winifred's estimation based on the invitations she had sent out, the banquet would require twenty tables.

For the opening ceremony of a new company, it was naturally best to make it more lively. A good start could increase the

fame of the company. At the same time, being able to have influential people within the city to attend would greatly increase the company's esteem.

Hence, no matter which company opened, they would use every connection and method to invite prominent figures to support them. Even if it was through someone's favor or giving gifts, they had to get them over!

To make this opening ceremony grand and impressive, Winifred had used the entire network that she had accumulated over the years. Joseph and Graham, too, invited their whole network without hesitation. They were trying their best to make Autumn Field's opening ceremony lively and magnificent!

By ten in the morning, Autumn Field Group

was fully prepared. With Winifred in the lead and the higher management staff, Joseph and Graham following behind, they waited at the company's entrance. Inside, Jacob and Helen were in charge of taking care of other things.

“Are you nervous?” Tyr asked calmly when he saw Winifred clenching her fists tight as she stood beside him.

“Yeah.” Winifred took a deep breath. “I’m so nervous, my heart’s going to pop out.”

Tyr smiled. “What’s there to be nervous about?”

“I’m worried that not many people will be attending today’s opening ceremony. Tyr, say, if one-third of our twenty tables can’t be filled with guests, would it be really

embarrassing? This is all your fault. I've only estimated ten tables at first, but you insisted on twenty tables. How could there be so many people who would attend?"

Tyr was speechless. Winifred, you're so nervous only because of this?

However, if no one came to congratulate on a huge occasion like a company's opening ceremony, it would truly be embarrassing. Not only was it shameful, but it would also greatly affect the company's future operation. Winifred could not be blamed for her nervousness.

"Relax. Our Autumn Field Group's opening ceremony will definitely be filled with celebrities and stun the whole city!"

"Why don't you start flying?" Winifred was

speechless. Do you think this is a concert?
What do you mean by 'filled with celebrities
'?

Yet, Winifred did not know just how
fearsome Tyr's network was inside Khanh
City.

Just then, on the eight-laned road outside
the company, three cars came bustling over. ①

The first batch of Autumn Field Group's
opening ceremony guests was here! ②

Chapter 49 Giving A Clock

In an instant, Winifred and her group straightened up. It was inevitable that they felt nervous!

However, what they never expected was that the first batch of guests was the Zea family members!

The three cars stopped at the parking lot in front of the company entrance. They were parked horizontally, deliberately taking up six spots in total.

With Jorge and Iris in the lead, the Zea family arrogantly got out of the car.

When Joseph saw the cars coming, he immediately rushed over to welcome them

as the deputy manager. But when he saw Jorge and his group, the smile on his face immediately disappeared. “Why are you guys here?”

The humiliation he had experienced in the Zea Group last time was something Joseph would never forget even until his deathbed. This sore spot with the Zea Group can never heal.

“Of course, it’s because your President Zea has invited us. Why? You don’t welcome us?” Iris showed her elder, Joseph, no respect. She glanced around at the empty parking lot and then looked inside at the few bustling people before laughing. ①

“We’re not the earliest ones here, are we? It’s almost ten now! I thought there would be more people here to celebrate your Autumn

Field's opening. Why isn't there anyone here? Hehe, this is too shabby!"

Iris' enigmatic attitude made Joseph's face darken.

Just then, Winifred and Tyr had made their way over.

Before Winifred could say anything, Iris yelled at the top of her lungs, "Winifred Zea, as expected of a boss. Look at how proud you are now. The Zea family's elders are all here, but you have let your subordinate welcome us first instead before coming over yourself. Tsk tsk tsk... Look at your ego. I think the leaders within Khanh City can't even compare to you when it comes to this!"

Tyr's expression darkened. If he were not trying to keep the atmosphere light today,

he would have already slapped her.

Winifred had instead taken Iris as a clown and ignored her. She looked at Jorge and greeted him. However, Jorge had turned away coldly, making Winifred feel awkward.

Iris smirked before instructing two Zea family members to bring out a box from the boot of an SUV boot.

“Winifred, I was just joking with you. Don’t take it to heart. We’re relatives no matter what, so at your company’s opening, the Zea family has to give you something to celebrate the occasion. It’s just a small token of our regard. Nothing to thank us for.”

The box was about one meter tall, covered by a red cloth.

Iris was smiling brightly at Winifred as she

said, “This is a token of the Zea family’s regard. Why don’t you open it and take a look?”

Winifred pulled the red cloth away out of reflex.

Inside the glass box was actually a pendulum clock about half a meter tall! There was even a large red flower hung in front of the clock! The red flower implied good luck, but it seemed like such an eyesore when placed in front of the clock!

Winifred was startled while Joseph and Graham flew into a rage.

“What do you guys mean by this? How can you guys give us a clock at our company’s opening? Are you guys here just to pick a fight?”

Iris snorted. “What do you mean, Fourth Grandpa? We’ve come to congratulate you on good intentions, so what are you saying? What’s wrong with giving you guys a clock? Big Boss Zea always used to be late when working at our company, so we’re trying to help her with her time management. Is there something wrong?”

As she spoke, Iris turned to Winifred. “What’s wrong? This is something Grandpa has picked out with us. Don’t you like it?”

Winifred was unable to speak. She did not know what to say.

Tyr, who had been standing nearby, laughed out instead. “We like it. Of course, we like it. Look at you, you’re just too kind. Our Autumn Field Group will cherish this clock

you've given us like how we cherish our ancestors.”

Having said, Tyr turned to the two security guards who have been tasked with receiving gifts and said, “Quick, move this huge pendulum clock over to the gift area. Remember to put it in front, in the most obvious position! This is the Zea family's kind regard. We can't let them down.”

The security guards immediately did as they were told. Iris and the Zea family members were puzzled instead. Why was this beggar so happy? It did not make sense. Should he not be as angry as Joseph and the others?

“Grandpa, First Uncle, Second Uncle, Aunty, please go in and have a seat.”

Although Winifred knew that Iris and the

group were here to pick a fight, it was not appropriate for her to lash out. She had to welcome them with a smile.

The Zea family members entered the banquet hall pompously, mocking, and insulting everything as they went.

At that moment, Jacob and Helen just happened to run into them, and the atmosphere became awkward.

“Dad. Big Brother, Second Brother, Sister!” Jacob went over to greet them and offered them some cigarettes.

However, none of the Zea family members took it. Jorge snorted and turned to walk away.

“Old Third, keep your cigarettes. We can’t

afford to take them.”

Jackson and Jared, too, snorted before following Jorge to take a seat somewhere. They were sitting down not because they wanted to have a meal, but they wanted to see how Autumn Field Group gets embarrassed later.

Iris and Travis had even taken out their phones to do a live stream. To show how no one would appear to congratulate Autumn Field Group at their opening ceremony. To show the world this deserted and embarrassing situation!

There were not many people. In the span of half an hour, only about eight people came. The cars these guests came in were worth only about ten million each. As a businessman, the price of their cars

represented their personal worth. For people whose cars cost around ten million, how prominent could they be?

These people were small workshop owners who used to have dealings with Jorge. They were not very significant individuals.

As the time neared ten thirty, only less than one-fifth of the twenty tables were filled. The venue looked deserted. This was exactly what Iris and her group wanted to see.

“Grandpa, Uncle, Aunty, look. It’s just as I’ve said. No one would be willing to come and support Winifred’s company opening. These bumpkins here might even be part-time actors that they’ve hired. How hilarious!”

Jackson, Lilian, and the other Zea family started laughing. Even Jorge seemed to be

enjoying this tragic scene.

Iris got up and yelled at Winifred, standing at the door, “I say, Big Boss Zea. You’ve waited for almost an hour now. Is anyone else coming? If no one’s coming, let’s start eating!”

Chapter 50 One After Another

Iris' voice was extremely ear-piercing, immediately annoying many of the Autumn Field workers present. Even the other two tables of guests were frowning as they looked her way.

At the entrance, Winifred was starting to panic. Out of twenty tables, not even one-third of them was filled. This was too embarrassing.

Winifred subconsciously took out her phone, wanting to call her guests, but Tyr stopped her.

“Don't panic. There's still some time until the feast starts.”

“But Tyr, until now, none of the people I’ve invited have shown up. Could something have happened to them on the way here?”

“Hehe, cars can drive steadily on this eight-laned factory highway. What could possibly happen to them?” Tyr curled his lips as he continued, “Those people that you’ve invited mostly have dealings with the Zea Group. Isn’t it obvious that the Zea family had spoken to them?”

“Ah...” Winifred immediately understood. “You mean none of the people I’ve invited will show up?”

Winifred was feeling very upset and enraged. We’re a family where blood runs thicker than water. Why are you guys, my relatives, trying to go against me time and

again? Have I stolen from the Zea family? Or did I rob the Zea family?

“Don’t worry. Everyone will come. Every single one!”

There was no way Tyr would not be aware of the Zea family’s tricks. Hence, yesterday morning, he had gotten Zachery Smith to call them all up, one by one. Would the people Winifred have invited show respect to the Smith Group? Or the Zea Group? If they did not show up, that would mean they no longer wanted to make a living at Khanh City.

On the other hand, the entire Zea family was blooming with happiness. It was almost eleven now, but only a scarce few people showed up. Up till now, the guests present could not even fill up three tables. This day

was the most embarrassing one for Autumn Field Group.

“Grandpa, you’re very well respected after all. With just a word from you, none of our partners in the city’s apparel industry dare to show up. Who does Winifred think she is? How dare she start her own company? She really doesn’t know her place!”

Jorge mildly nodded. “Winifred has really gone too far this time. She has disappointed me through and through. Using this opportunity to teach her a lesson was the right thing to do. Otherwise, she would never know her place! I, Jorge Zea, am considered a magnate in Khanh City’s apparel industry after all. Many people will still have to show me some respect.”

However, just after Jorge’s cheeky

declaration, a few Benz and BMWs appeared at the entrance and drove into the parking lot. In the span of a few minutes, around seven batches of people showed up. These people who drove Benz and BMWs were definitely of more importance.

“President Asher Lewis of Asher Apparels presents Flower Basket of a Hundred Treasures, wishing Autumn Field Group blooming success and continuous wealth!”

“President Julian Zimmer of Julius Apparel Factory presents a White Jade Cabbage, wishing Autumn Field Group great harvest in profits and a grand opening!”

“President Cory Wilson of Wilson Group presents Lucky Silver Cat, wishing Autumn Field Group luck in all four seasons!”

“Clark Group...”

One after another, owners of large apparel businesses in Khanh City came up in person to present their gifts and wishes.

The venue that was cold and deserted just minutes ago suddenly became lively.

“President Zea, congratulations!
Congratulations!”

Winifred was shocked. These were all guests she had contacted previously. Did the Zea family not pull any strings behind and stop them from coming? Why did they all show up in the end?

Although she was confused, Winifred did not think too much of it. She quickly invited them in with great enthusiasm.

When Jorge, Iris, and the group saw this

scene, they were dumbstruck.

“Grandpa, didn’t you say that you’ve already contacted these people? Why are they here?”

Jorge was baffled as well.

Coincidentally, Asher and Julian were coming their way. Jorge immediately got up and said, annoyed, “President Lewis, President Zimmer, what are you guys doing? Haven’t I already contacted you guys earlier to not attend this function? Why are you guys here?”

Asher and Julian stared at Jorge with contempt in their expression. Their tones were as deep as murky waters! “Jorge Zea, we can’t come just because you told us not to? Who do you think you are?”

Jorge was completely flushed. Just yesterday these people had promised him that they would not show but today they had instead turned their backs at him. Jorge Zea was a proud man but no one was showing him any respect right now.

“Grandpa, don’t get angry.” Iris immediately hurried over to comfort him. “What can these people do even if they show up? They can’t compare to our Zea Group, so even if they came to support Winifred, her opening ceremony would still be a joke!”

As she spoke, Iris glared viciously at the entrance. She was gritting her teeth in fury as she watched Winifred welcome her guests with a smile.

“Winifred Zea, don’t get too cocky. These

are just a few insignificant businessmen whose net worth isn't over ten million each. What are you acting so proud for? Even if these people came, it doesn't change the fact that your company's opening ceremony is just as bleak. We were right to give you a clock!"

Iris inadvertently glanced at the clock placed up front in the most noticeable position in the gift area. She smiled cheekily.

However, at that moment, a few more cars appeared at the entrance of the company.

"Why are there still more people coming?"

Iris frowned. But when she saw the car logos, she was startled.

A Porsche Cayenne.

A Volkswagen Phaeton.

A Land Rover...

Over ten luxury cars worth more than millions each successively entered the parking lot. The occupants of these vehicles were all prominent business owners in Khanh City with a personal net worth of over ten million each.

“President Cain Zeller of Genting Group presents a golden plated ‘Booming Business’ signboard, wishing Autumn Field Group an auspicious opening and booming business!”

“President Felix Carter of Grandeur Properties presents a White Jade Vase, wishing Autumn Field Group thriving business and grand fame!”

“Drogo Hanks, owner of Dragon Lake Villa presents a Golden Horse, wishing Autumn Field Group smooth success and liberation from hardship!”

One after another, over ten local prominent business owners presented their gifts and wishes. The large group of people was congratulating Winifred and her crew.

Just like before, Winifred ardently welcomed them inside. Her mind was now abuzz. Cain Zeller of Genting Group? Felix Carter of Grandeur Properties? But she did not know any of these people personally. Why were they here?

Iris and the entire Zea family, too, were stunned.

Grandeur dealt in properties while Genting

developed villas. These companies would never have any business dealings with apparel. So why would they come over to Autumn Field's opening ceremony and congratulate them? None of this made sense!

Chapter 51 Dominance In Khanh City And Soaring Authority

“Grandpa, what’s going on?” Iris frowned as she looked at Jorge, hoping to get some answers from him.

But Jorge, too, was shaking his head, unable to understand what was going on. Be it, Winifred or Joseph, he understood them both well enough to know they would never be able to invite prominent business owners with their insignificant network.

“Has Autumn Field perhaps given them money to have them fill up the scene? Right. That must be it. She had previously gotten a loan of one billion, which is enough for her to splurge.” 2

Seeing as half the twenty tables were filled, Iris flared up in anger. She had no choice but to comfort herself with excuses.

“Hmph! So what if a lot of people show up? If our Zea Group hosts a banquet, we can get many prominent business owners like this too.”

Jackson, Lilian, and the others nodded. “You’re right, Iris. Our Zea Group can invite this level of guests as well. And we wouldn’t even need to spend any money.”

“Heh!” Iris smirked. “Once Winifred finishes splurging her one billion, let’s see how she tries to return the loan. I guarantee that this Autumn Field will close in less than three months.”

“Right, right! I don’t think they’ll last three

months. They'll probably close in one!"

The group of Zea family members started mocking and insulting again.

"It's almost twelve now, but they've overestimated themselves and prepared twenty tables. One-third of it is still empty. How embarrassing..."

"Hmph! These actors who drive Porsches and Land Rovers must be their biggest guests. No matter how Winifred fakes it, this is the best she can do. What a joke!"

However, while the Zea family mocked, luxury cars could be seen driving over once again.

There were about twenty cars in this batch of newcomers, forming a long line. There was a Lincoln, Maserati, Lamborghini,

Hummer, Bentley, and etcetera... 1

One after another, outstanding luxurious cars, each worth over millions, drove into the parking lot at the entrance. It was like an event for luxury cars.

In an instant, the whole Zea family stood up.

“This is impossible. What’s going on?”

“How... How could there be so many luxurious cars coming over?”

“Whoever owns these cars must have a net worth over billions!”

By then, some of the luxurious cars had entered the parking lot and found a spot. The doors opened as guests came out.

“President Zachery Smith of Smith Group

presents Goddess of Mercy with A Thousand Hands, wishing Miss Zea's new company a prosperous opening and great wealth!"

"Jade Laurell of Emerald Tower presents a pair of Burmese Blood Jades, wishing Miss Zea's new company smooth sailing and success all the way!"

"Henry Walker of Walker Media presents a Statue of Guan Yu, wishing Miss Zea all the best and steady wealth!"

"Branch President Hudson Ziegler of Golden Peony Bank presents..."

In an instant, the venue went into an uproar. Each of these people was top class figures in their respective industries. No matter who they picked out from the group, that person would be worth at least a billion!

If they were to say Drogo Hanks was specially hired by Winifred to show off. What about these people? Had these people been drugged? Would they especially come over to put on a show for you for that measly amount of money? The only explanation was that these people had come out of respect for Autumn Field Group.

Joseph and Graham's jaws dropped in shock. In fact, when Drogo and Cain had appeared earlier, they were already shocked beyond words. To them, people like Drogo and Cain were already prominent enough. They never thought that even the top-class individuals of Khanh City, like Zachery Smith and Jade Laurell, would show up.

Zachary's attendance was reasonable because Autumn Field was working together

with his company. But what about Jade and Henry? Why did they have to show Autumn Field any respect?

“Winifred, I never knew that you were acquainted with such prominent figures,” Jorge and Graham exclaimed sincerely. They were in awe of Winifred’s network. 2

However, Winifred became more confused. “But Fourth Grandpa, I didn’t invite these people.”

“It wasn’t you?”

“Yeah. It wasn’t me...”

Winifred reflexively turned to look at Tyr. Tyr instead smiled and shrugged. “Maybe it was Zachery who called them over.”

At that moment, the Zea family was

dumbstruck. Their expressions looked as if they had just eaten crap. They had come all the way here to watch Winifred make a fool of herself, but now, the venue was looking grander by the minute, making them feel out of place.

“This is impossible. This is definitely impossible! What exactly is going on? Why are people like Jade and Henry attending Autumn Field’s opening ceremony?”

Iris could not believe this. She felt as if she had taken a huge blow, and her lungs were about to burst. She was specifically here to watch Winifred embarrass herself, not to see how glorious they were.

Yet, the endless stream of luxurious cars continued to pour in, and the twenty tables prepared were almost full. Voices were

booming, and the place was thriving.

Just then, from the parking lot, an angry voice called out, “Who are these immoral people who occupy six spots with their three cars?”

This voice belonged to the wealthiest man in Khanh City, Drake Tucker. When he was coming over, Tyr had sent him a text message about the parking lot!

The Zea family immediately panicked! It was Drake... Drake Tucker! The city’s wealthiest man, Drake Tucker was actually here!

The parking lot was now crowded without any space left. But the Zea family’s three cheap cars were occupying six spots!

Jackson and Jared abruptly got up with their

faces ghastly pale. Jorge was shuddering slightly. “What are you standing there for? Move the cars quickly!”

Jackson led two other Zea family members out as they apprehensively ran toward the parking lot.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Tucker. These cars belong to our Zea family. We didn’t think there would be many cars coming, so we didn’t pay attention when we parked. Please calm down!”

“What do you mean there wouldn’t be many cars?” Drake flew into a rage. “Are you blind? Can’t you see that all the dignitaries of Khanh City have come to celebrate Autumn Field’s opening ceremony? Are you blatantly trying to look down on us by parking your cheap cars here?”

Jackson was frightened. He kept apologizing before moving his car away in a flurry of panic.

Just then, a head popped out of the Hummer behind Drake's Lincoln. It was Donald Lewis.

“Who allowed you to park in the parking lot? Cars are coming behind. Hurry up and move your cheap cars over to the roadside.”

Jackson was dumbstruck. Jorge and the other Zea family members were now red all the way down their necks.

Once he had parked his car, Drake immediately went over to Winifred and Tyr. “President Drake Tucker of Tucker Group presents an Eon Cauldron, wishing Miss Zea's Autumn Field Group dominance within Khanh City and soaring authority!”

Chapter 52 Filled With Celebrities And Shocking The Whole City

As they accompanied Drake and Donald into the banquet area, the initial twenty tables were now filled. The venue was joyous and lively. It did not look like a company's opening ceremony. Instead, it looked more like a networking event hosted by a local celebrity.

Those present were all famous and influential figures.

Being surrounded by these prominent figures immediately made the Zea family members feel tiny. Even Jorge was feeling nervous on the inside.

Iris was pale as a sheet. It was like a huge

rock was pressing into her chest, making it hard for her to breathe. “Why... Why do Drake Tucker and all these people attend Autumn Field’s opening ceremony? Why do Winifred and her crew have such a huge network?”

Iris inadvertently looked at the gift area again. Many of those gifts cost a fortune. If they were converted to cash, they were probably worth over millions.

At that moment, the Zea family’s present, the large pendulum clock, was still placed at the most conspicuous location. Even Drake Tucker’s gift, the Eon Cauldron, was placed behind it. For some reason, Iris suddenly felt a chill down her spine. She felt like something was wrong, but she could not put the finger on it. She subconsciously wanted

to go over and move the pendulum clock away.

Yet, at that moment, more cars appeared at the entrance. There were a total of three very ordinary and older versions of Volkswagen. But when they saw the car plate, many people in the hall stood up.

The vehicle was plain, but the numbers on the car plate made many people standstill with respect! Khanh A0000x. The great leader of Khanh City was here!

In an instant, the venue fell into a dead silence.

“That’s the great leader, Ian Lawson’s car!”

Many of the guests present were top-class dignitaries. They naturally recognized this car. Many of them gasped. Exactly how

fearsome was the background of Autumn Field's founder? They even managed to get Leader Lawson here.

The hearts of the Zea family members were now at their throats. A scene like this had completely overturned their views in life. Did Winifred have such a great network? Why did they not realize it before?

Sure enough, when the door opened, the great leader, Ian Lawson, came out followed by the other leaders and district leaders as they made their way over.

Winifred, Jorge, and their group were frozen with shock. Only Tyr was just as calm as ever. By now, Drake and Zachery were standing beside Tyr.

“Miss Zea, congratulations.

Congratulations!” Ian went up to Winifred with a smile and shook her hand. They did not know each other at all, but he was behaving so ardently like they were old pals.

Winifred was surprised as she shook Ian’s hand, her heart beating wildly. “Welcome, welcome...”

Ian nodded with a smile before instructing his assistant to bring over a couplet. “Miss Zea, congratulations on your company’s opening. I have personally written a couplet for Autumn Field Group. I hope you’ll like it.”

The crowd went into an uproar. Having Leader Lawson write a couplet personally was the greatest honor!

In a corner, the Zea family members’ faces

turned from yellow to red, purple, and finally white!

The couplet calligraphy was displayed.

The first line - The spring breeze brings about new beginnings.

The second line - The lotus leaf gathers the coming fortune.

The horizontal scroll read: Blossoming Success.

“Wonderful!” With Drake in the lead, the other prominent figures started clapping and cheering before swarming up to Ian to shake his hand.

At the same time, Tyr was smiling as he walked over to Ian.

“You must be Tyr!” Ian scanned Tyr

thoroughly. A hint of amazement flashed in his eyes. He never expected the holy being that Drake had mentioned being this young.

Words were not needed. Tyr nodded with a smile. "Honored leaders, please come inside."

Ian smiled and nodded in return. The man was showing Tyr and his group great respect. He even wanted to bring his couplet over to the gift area in person.

And so, with the company of Tyr, Winifred, Drake, and the others, Ian went over to the gift area.

One second later, Ian's expression changed completely. Not only his, the faces of the other leaders following beside him changed as well.

“Who dares to give Autumn Field a clock on their opening ceremony?!”

Boom...

The whole Zea family felt like they had just been struck by lightning. Each of them stood rooted to the spot like a wooden plank. The pendulum clock was placed up front in the most apparent position, and the bright red flower was abnormally piercing to look at.

The Zea family had wanted to use this method to humiliate Winifred, but they never thought they would end up dropping a rock at their own feet!

A cold glint flashed in Tyr’s eyes. He had already anticipated this to happen. Otherwise, why would he have the clock

placed here with such glee from the start?

“To give someone a clock at their company’s opening. Is this the actions of a beast?” Ian was furious, and the other prominent figures, too, were enraged. “Who gave this gift? Get out here now!”

Jorge and Iris felt their scalps go numb. Ian Lawson was seething with fury. It would be hard for them to get out of this.

Jorge stood up fearfully while the Zea family followed behind him with bleak expressions as they made their way over.

In an instant, everyone’s furious gazes were focused on the whole family. Each pair of eyes were like sharp blades. Jorge felt as if the pride he had accumulated all his life was lost in that instant.

“Leader Lawson, this...”

Before Jorge could finish, Ian roared, “What were you trying to do? Just what were you trying to do? Which company are you guys from?”

“They’re from the Zea Group,” one of the nosy people in the crowd answered.

“Yeah. They operate an apparel factory and are the main family members of Miss Zea.”

“But this family is just too vicious. Leader Lawson, you have to help Autumn Field Group regain justice!”

The entire Zea family felt like they had fallen into an ice pit!

“Investigate them! Investigate the Zea

Group thoroughly! If you find that they have done anything illegal, punish them gravely!”

The Zea family members felt their bodies go weak. Jorge’s vision went black, and he almost fainted.

At the entrance, the readily prepared firecrackers suddenly started crackling. The time was just right. It was now time for Autumn Field’s ribbon-cutting ceremony. Winifred invited Ian, Drake, and the others over to cut the ribbon together.

The reporters from many large media companies, arranged by Henry, had set up their cameras as they covered the entire event.

With a snip of their scissors, Autumn Field Group was now officially established!

It was just as Tyr had told Winifred from the start. Today's opening ceremony would be filled with celebrities, and it would be an event that stunned the whole city!

Chapter 53 Fashion Design Competition

Ian was not joking. On the second day of Autumn Field's operation, the Zea Group was investigated by multiple parties.

Throughout the years, the Zea Group had committed multiple tax evasions. Together with other illegal activities, this cost the Zea Group a considerable loss. More than ten of the Zea Group's top management were being investigated, and even Jackson and Lilian were detained for a few days.

Finally, this disaster ended with the Zea Group being fined for three million dollars.

The Zea Group was already in trouble because of the collaboration with the Smith

Group. This investigation by the government officials was just one disaster on top of another!

Although they had loaned twenty million from Golden Peony Bank, it was now clearly not enough.

Inside the Zea mansion, everyone's hearts fell into the deepest pits of their stomachs. Ever since Tyr married into the Zea family, they seemed to be facing bad luck one after another to the point of hitting rock bottom.

“It's all because of that b*tch, Winifred. Her whole family's a b*tch! Those ungrateful wretched dogs! Our Zea family has raised her for over twenty years now. How could she let outsiders destroy our family?”

Iris was rambling on as she scolded

Winifred, just like the past few incidents. She always thought that Winifred was the cause of all this and never thought of reflecting on her own actions.

“Shut up!” Jorge suddenly burst out in anger. His roar stunned Iris.

Ever since that incident happened to Winifred six years ago, Jorge had been biased toward Iris. It had been a long time since Jorge was this furious at her.

“Grandpa...”

“If it weren’t because you were trying to attack Winifred all the time, would our family have come to this? Iris Zea, how long are you going to keep causing trouble? Don’t you think you’ve suffered enough?”

Iris’s expression changed. “Grandpa, are

you blaming me? Aren't I doing this all for the Zea family's sake? Grandpa, this is all Winifred's fault."

"That's enough!" Jorge took a deep breath and said coldly, "Winifred Zea is no longer related to my Zea family. From now on, no one is to mention her in front of me. One other thing, our Zea Group's fame has now fallen in the industry. Our orders are also getting lesser. If this continues, the Zea Group will be over. We have to sign a big business deal soon to recover ourselves."

Jackson came over and said, "Dad, ever since the Smith Group has gotten a long-term partnership with Gucci, Gucci has now officially entered our country's market. In the future, they will have a place in the city center as well. Gucci has recently joined

forces with the city center and the Smith Group to host a fashion design competition. Many apparel companies within the province will be sending out professional design teams to take part in this competition. Whichever company can secure a high ranking in this competition will get a huge order from the city center's apparel alliance. The champion can even work directly with Gucci's headquarters.”

This news about the fashion design competition hosted by Gucci had been spread all over Khanh City a few days ago. The family members present, too, had heard of this event, and they were now itching to give it a shot.

If they could be one of the competition forerunners, it could help the Zea family

make it through their ordeals. If they could get first place, the Zea Group could even become a first-rate apparel corporation overnight.

Jorge looked at everyone. “Our Zea Group is a long-running corporation. It shouldn’t be too hard for us to get a high ranking in this competition. Which one of you is willing to take the lead and join this competition?”

“I’ll go, Grandpa.” Iris was the first to step up.

“Iris, you’re in the operation department. Would you be suitable for this?” Jackson asked.

Iris answered confidently, “Uncle, you forget that I graduated from a fashion design institution. All these years, Winifred

has been in charge of the design department, but I'm not inferior to her. Winifred's Autumn Field Group will enter this competition as well. By then, I'll use my creation to give her a vicious slap in the competition so that I can finally resolve my hatred."

Just then, inside the conference room of Autumn Field Group, Winifred was seated at the president's chair as she discussed Gucci and the city center's collaborated contest with her higher management staff, including Joseph and Graham. ①

Finally, everyone voted unanimously that Autumn Field Group will enter this competition.

Winifred had already discussed this with

Joseph. Once Autumn Field obtained a ranking in this competition, Joseph would contact two of his old friends and get their factories to join Autumn Field Group. That way, Autumn Field Group will definitely grow bigger and stronger!

After everything was settled, Winifred led her own designing team to start working on her creation.

There was still half a month until registration, so they needed to design the perfect piece in this half a month to submit during registration.

For the next half a month, Winifred spent all her energy on this design. She was practically busy from day to night every day, continuously coming up with new pieces and then disposing of them. She needed

every single detail to be perfect so that it would stun the crowd during the competition.

At the president's office of the Smith Group building, Tyr was casually sitting on the sofa with his phone in his hands, playing a Sokoban game.

Zachery had specially prepared an expensive tea for Tyr as he respectfully handed it to the younger man.

“Brother Tyr, our Smith Group is Gucci's main partner for the city center's fashion design competition. For this competition, the judges will be Gucci's Chief Designer, Mikhael, alongside a few internationally renowned designers. Brother Tyr, I've already made the arrangements. Miss Zea's Autumn Field Group will definitely be able

to get a place in this competition.”

Tyr put his phone down and took the tea from Zachery's hands. He shook his head. “No. Zachery, I won't allow you to pull any strings for this competition.” ①

Zachery was stunned. “Brother Tyr, you mean...”

“You're not allowed to help my wife. So, revoke all the arrangements you've made. For this competition, I want it to be completely fair.”

Zachery did not understand why Tyr made this decision. Did the man not love his wife very much? It was such a good opportunity, so why was he not supporting her now?

Tyr stood up and went to the window to watch the birds soaring in the sky.

“For an eagle to spread its wings and soar freely, its wings need to be strong enough. Winifred, I believe in you! This time, even without my help, you’ll be able to stun the world!”

Chapter 54 A Masterpiece

To be frank, Tyr had initially wanted to use Zachery's connections to help Winifred get a place. To him, it was only a matter of one command.

But when he saw how serious and dedicated Winifred was in pouring all her experience into her design, Tyr changed his mind. He believed that with his wife's attitude and professional skills, even if he did not do anything, she would be able to get a place in this competition. He even believed that Winifred could get first place!

In contrast to Winifred's enthusiasm, Iris was lazy beyond words. A few days ago, Iris still showed some interest. She would stay in

the design department every day to develop a good design with the staff there. But after three days of vigor, Iris realized that designing a good piece was not as easy as she had thought.

Be it her professionalism, imagination, or leadership skills to lead her design team, she was inferior to Winifred by a long mile. Iris Zea was no better than a freelance designer, much less a professional one.

And so, Iris lost interest in designing just like that. One week later, she became so lazy she stopped going to the design department.

In the blink of an eye, tomorrow was the submission date for the competition. Jorge called Iris into his office with great fury and roared at her. It was clear that he was dissatisfied with Iris's recent performance.

“Iris Zea, tomorrow is the contest submission day. Where is your design? I only gave you such an important task because I believed in you. So what exactly did you do?”

However, Iris looked calm as she said, “Don’t worry, Grandpa. I’ve already prepared the design for the competition.”

“Already prepared it?” Jorge was confused. Iris clearly did not do anything all this while. Until now, the design department had not handed in a draft. Where did Iris get this design?

Iris flashed a mysterious smile. “Just relax, Grandpa. I have everything arranged. I can guarantee you that not only will I get a place in this competition. I will even stun the

whole city!”

The last day before registration, under Winifred’s leadership, she and her team worked until ten at night. Finally, loud cheers resonated within the design department.

“It’s finished! It’s finally finished!”

“This is an art of perfection!”

“President Zea, our work will definitely stun the whole city during Gucci’s fashion competition.”

Inside the design room, the trash can was filled with drafts, and various design proposals were piled up like mountains on the work desks.

In this half month, Winifred and her entire team stayed up all night and battled their way through to finally come up with the design of their dreams on the final night. As they looked at the 3D simulation on the computer, every designer present was deeply stunned.

“President Zea, you’re a genius.”

“I’ve been in the designing industry for so many years, but I never imagined we could design such a masterpiece one day.”

“Your designing skills and creativity really opened our eyes!”

Winifred could not conceal the excitement in her heart. “This is all thanks to everyone’s effort. Thank you, guys.”

After that, Winifred, too, stared fixedly at

the rendering on the computer. She was also captivated by this perfect artwork. But soon, Winifred frowned slightly.

“What’s wrong, President Zea?”

“It’s nothing.” Winifred stood up and said, “Everyone should be tired now. Go home and get some rest.”

“Okay.”

The designers all left, leaving Winifred behind. Other than her, another young designer had just graduated from a renowned designing school not long ago.

“Yara, why are you still here?”

The young designer, Yara Campbell, quickly answered, “I’m about to leave. President Zea, why are you still here? Do you feel that

the design is not perfect enough?”

“Yeah, it feels like something is missing. But I can’t tell what it is...” Winifred shook her head and stood up. “Maybe I was just overthinking. Let’s go home!”

Back home, Winifred did not have a good night’s sleep. Tomorrow was the day of the submission. Winifred had led her team to design a top-class piece, but she still felt like something was missing.

She spent the whole night thinking hard!

Finally, when the first ray of sunlight shone over the lands, and a gentle breeze came in through the window, Winifred realized.

“That’s it... Wind! It’s the wind! I finally know what’s missing.”

Winifred climbed out of bed excitedly and

took out her designing pen and paper in an instant. She spent two hours to complete the final touch of this design.

After she had freshened up and gotten dressed, she rushed over to the company with the draft in hand without even having breakfast. She needed to add this last detail to the artwork to complete it finally.

However, just as she entered the design department, Winifred found the whole department messy. “What’s going on?”

Looking at all the anxious expressions of her subordinates, Winifred felt a bad feeling invade her body. Yara was sweating profusely with tears in her eyes.

“President Zea, this is bad. The design we’ve spent half a month on has been stolen!”

Buzz... Winifred's mind instantly went blank. Was the design stolen?

There were still two hours left until Gucci's fashion design competition. Winifred and her team had spent a full half month working their hearts out to design this piece. And it was stolen at this crucial time? What kind of joke was this?

Winifred opened the computer folder and started up the designing application. It was empty!

At that instant, Winifred felt her surroundings spin.

“President Zea, the materials and rendering inside the folders and application was deleted by someone.”

“What about the draft?” Winifred was

practically roaring.

“The draft, including all the designs we’ve compiled are all... all gone!”

“The office building also faced a sudden power out last night, so the surveillance systems didn’t catch anything.”

“We’ve already made a police report, and they should be here soon.”

Winifred looked pale and out of her wits. “There are two more hours until the official submission and registration. It’s too late. Everything’s too late!”

Chapter 55 The Venomous Iris Zea

There were no words to describe Winifred's current feelings. It was like the energy in her body had been instantly sucked dry. Her mind was blank for a long while before she abruptly regained her senses.

"Everyone, return to your positions."

At Winifred's command, the other designers immediately returned to their posts.

"President Zea, what are you trying to do?"

Winifred answered, "We don't have any time at all. But our Autumn Field Group will enter this competition no matter what. We're coming up with a design in one hour!"

The whole room fell silent. Everyone was