

The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 605 ReadOnline

Chapter 605 A Late-Night Chat at the Bar The car sped all the way to a local bar.

Upon entering, Kaiser ordered two glasses of whiskey before he sat with his son and had a chat with him.

Javier even found out that a woman called Shirley Quinn was Kaiser's subordinate.

However, there was one thing he still could not figure out. "Why didn't you tell me earlier that she's one of your people?"

"It's a very long story, but it begins with the fact that she's motherless!"

After a long sigh of exclamation, Kaiser took a drink before he gave Javier an explanation.

"In short, I didn't expect you to approach her. I only found out about your appearance after she told me everything. I wasn't going to tell you anything originally because I didn't want you to get involved with the Raiders..."

Kaiser then went on to say a lot of things. He did not want Javier to be involved with the Raiders because of the fact that Javier was his only son. After all, no father in the world would willingly put his son in danger.

When Kaiser realized that the Raiders had ruined Shirley's plans and Javier wanted to find out more about the organization, to the point where Javier had gone up against them a few times, he understood that he could no longer decide whether he wanted Javier to be involved in the issue or not.

"I only chose to disappear after I found out about the Raiders. "I've been secretly investigating them all these years and I indeed have some leads on them. Right now, I should hold a lot more information on them than you do, which is exactly why I abandoned my initial intention.

"Do you know what it was? It's actually quite laughable, but I initially wanted to thoroughly destroy the Raiders myself. After doing that, I would declare my achievement before all the families and bring the Kerseys' name to its peak. "But now, it looks like that will forever be a joke. The Raiders are far more powerful than you think they are."

Javier admitted that the Raiders were indeed a very powerful organization, but he refused to accept that he did not know the extent of their power.

“To my knowledge, the Raiders should be a force consisting of traitors from all families that have joined forces. Their objective is to destroy all the families and then have them replaced.”

This was not just what Javier understood. Instead, it had become common knowledge amongst the families.

However, Kaiser merely smiled and shook his head after hearing Javier say this.

“I would’ve been able to crush them flat if it were that simple...”

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Javier was very shocked when he heard this.

‘Is Dad so powerful that he can actually destroy an organization as powerful as the Raiders?’

However, he was even more shocked because Kaiser’s statement had proven to him that the Raiders were indeed much more powerful than he and the other families had imagined.

‘But aren’t the major families supposed to be the most powerful people? Is there really someone even stronger than us?’

Kaiser ended up speaking out before Javier could even speak his mind. “Javier, who do you think is stronger? You? Or me?”

Although Javier was very confident, he had to admit that Kaiser was more powerful at that moment.

After all, Kaiser had already made a name for himself more than 10 years ago, which was definitely worth a lot. Besides, after laying in hiding for more than 10 years, Javier believed that Kaiser had become even more powerful. He possibly even owned his own force for that matter. Thus, Javier was able to say without hesitation, “You’re a little stronger than me.” Kaiser nodded his head. “That’s right, I am stronger than you. In fact, it might not just be a little, but by a mile.

“Despite this, I still had Cecile lay in hiding. Why do you think that is?”

Javier was able to comprehend how powerful the Raiders were through this question.

‘If a man as powerful as Dad had to hide his own woman, this probably means that even he is afraid of the threat the Raiders pose.’

While Javier was silent and speechless, Kaiser raised his glass and clinked glasses with Javier. Then, he said, "You shouldn't feel dejected. I was nowhere near as powerful as you are right now when I was your age, so you've done really well for yourself. However, it's still slightly too early for you to go up against the Raiders, so you should carry on refining your skills!"

"Refining my skills?" Javier was slightly confused. "What am I supposed to refine, and how do I do it?"

Kaiser laughed and patted Javier's shoulder. "You should be refining your business skills, of course! The Kerseys have hundreds of years of legacy in the business world, so of course you should be refining your business knowledge and skills. Indeed, you've pulled off whatever achievements you've been asked to work on, but based on how you did it, you've proven that you need a little more time.

"Out of all your previous achievements, which one did you not pull off by pushing your way through with the Kerseys' wealth?"

"Of course, I'm not saying you can't make use of our family's resources, as you would be a fool not to use them. However, you should learn when to use them. If you only rely on our family's resources to obtain business intel and information that aids you in your way to success, you will prove that you're not only genuinely capable but you have a powerful

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background as well.

"On the contrary, you yourself wouldn't believe that you're a capable person if all you did was use the family's name and resources to forcefully gain whatever you want, right?" Kaiser had successfully wiped away all of Javier's previous achievements with this statement.

'Dad's right. I did push my way through by using the Kerseys' wealth and I fulfilled my objectives through underhanded tactics. I even thought of buying the Osborne Award the moment I was told to win it last time...'

Kaiser then gave Javier some advice. A specific piece of advice for that matter... "If you intend on refining your skills, you should do it by entering the real estate business. This time, you are to start from the ground up, without taking any shortcuts. "Right now, the tycoons in our country have begun to move out of the real estate business, which proves that this is no longer a feasible method to earn profit. However, if you're able to earn a lot of money and live a good life despite these harsh conditions, you will prove that you are powerful enough. "Whatever you learn and gain through this process will end up refining your skills. "All the things in this world end up relating to one another somehow, especially business. You will come across even more schemes and

conspiracies that will open your eyes to their extreme limits. In fact, this is much more terrifying than fighting in court, so you should set your mind on refining yourself! “When you reach a certain level in the world of real estate, you will truly become powerful enough to go up against the Raiders.” Once again, Kaiser had given Javier new homework to do. Most importantly, this was extremely difficult homework to finish. Javier was only limited to using the Kerseys’ resources for information and intel, nothing more. This meant that he would mostly have to rely on himself.

However, Javier still bravely accepted his “homework”. After all, he would be able to effortlessly solve his problems in comparison to other entrepreneurs, as he had a cheat code: his family’s intel...

The two of them spoke about other topics after this.

They mentioned Cecile and agreed that it was still not time for her to reveal herself, so Ciara could not know that her mother was alive.

There was a very simple reason behind this. If news that Cecile was alive were to spread out in the world, others, especially the Raiders, would begin to wonder what Kaiser had been doing all those years, which would in turn make the organization raise its guard against Kaiser. Worse even, they might take the initiative to attack Kaiser first.

Then, Javier even brought Suzanne’s name up, but Kaiser pushed his empty glass to the bartender before Javier could even ask much about her.

Kaiser embraced his son and said, “I’m leaving now. I’ll have Shirley contact you if something

comes up.”

‘You’ll contact me only if something comes up? Can’t you leave me a way to contact you instead?’

Also, is Shirley actually the same person as Suzanne? I think this is most likely the case.’

Just as Javier was about to mention this, the lights in the bar were suddenly turned off, throwing the entire place into pitch-black darkness!

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Chapter 606 You're a Rather Domineering One! Obviously, the darkness in the bar had been caused by a power outage. Everything very quickly returned to normal, but Kaiser was no longer in front of Javier. The entire ordeal had not even taken 10 seconds, yet Kaiser had managed to disappear without a trace.

Javier rushed out of the bar and noticed that the vintage Rolls Royce was still around.

However, the car was now completely empty. There was a note on the driver's seat that said... 'Stop trying to look for me. Do you think you're going to find me when the old fox couldn't?' Javier was rendered speechless.

He looked around at the heaps of cars driving past but could not discern which one Kaiser was in, which obstructed any intention he had of trying to locate his father. *D*mn it, Dad. There's seriously nothing I can do about you coming and going like a phantom.'

At that moment, Javier heard a clear voice singing a tune coming from the radio. "My dear father, the man I love the most..." 'What the f*ck?! Now you're just trying to say that you're a filial son, aren't you?'

Javier gave the old fox a call after he was done smoking a cigarette.

"I just met up with Dad, Grandpa. There's a song that he wants to sing to you, so listen to it!" Zephiel also felt depressed when he heard the melody through the phone. Without even having to ask about it, he knew that his second eldest son had run away once more. Otherwise, why would Javier have to ask him to listen to the song?

Then, both the old and the young fox spoke about whatever had been discussed back at the bar. After getting the gist of whatever had just happened, Zephiel remained silent for a long time before he said, "Go do what your dad says. He's always been a proud man since a young age, so I'm sure you're no match for the Raiders right now since he himself has to admit defeat. Also, he's right about you having to refine your skills first. Naturally, you'll be able to do whatever you want once you manage to grow more powerful, little fox." Javier could tell that Zephiel was holding a grudge against Kaiser, or he would not have told Javier that he could do whatever he wanted later on...

That night, Javier took a flight back to Clouston, where Reivaj Group was located.

Naturally, he shared a whole round of flirtatious moments with Jade when they met up, which was long overdue.

When that was over, Javier looked at Jade with a serious expression and said that he was going to disappear for some time.

Although Jade could not bear to see him go, she still accepted it very readily, like the

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intelligent woman she had always been. She understood that men were like horses that could not be tamed. The more one tried to tame them forcefully, the more likely it was for the horse to run off on its own,

However, Jade believed in her man and would support Javier's every decision without question

Thus, after Javier made some arrangements for his work over the next two days, he gradually disappeared from everyone's eyes, and it was only a month later that Chad and Mary Jane realized something was amiss.

"Where's Mr. Kersey gone? He hasn't shown up around here in a very long time."

Meanwhile, Jade only told them that Javier had something very important to look into and was not going to be around for a while.

Of course, both Chad and Mary Jane believed this since it was coming from Jade. Meanwhile, Reivaj Group was developing at a ferocious rate, so there was nothing for either Javier or Jade to worry about with Chad and Mary Jane manning the fort, as they also had assistance from Lloyd, Saiorse, Doug, and the other young people.

Thus, the group would still be able to develop as usual even without the CEO present.

Meanwhile, Javier had somehow chosen a rather harsh method to go into "exile".

In an instant, he went from being the CEO of Reivaj Group to becoming a staff member in Maple Court.

This particular Maple Court was not the same as the kind of courtesan hall where men would go to relax a very long time ago. Instead, it was the largest developer of urbanized houses in the country, and the leading real estate group in China's integrating development, management, and so on. Although the Kerseys were in control of similar industries, like the Sky Loft, it was undeniable that Maple Court was the only one that could work on it spectacularly. This was why Javier has chosen to work for this company as an ordinary sales consultant in a sales office for more than half a month.

That morning, Javier arrived at the office via public transport as usual.

Before he entered the office, he took a look at himself in the glass window on the side. The Kerseys had made a very exquisite-looking mask to disguise his looks. Now, he seemed very ordinary, with no special features to speak of. This was beneficial for him, as nobody would realize that he was the CEO of Reivaj Group. After all, he had become

too famous previously. Right before he entered the office, he heard a few people speaking behind him. He turned around and realized that it was Leila Lockwood, his colleague, and the manager of the sales office.

“I’m not going to be working here from now on. The upper management has transferred me elsewhere, so a new manager is going to be replacing me here. Make sure you put in a little more effort at work, or nobody’s going to give you any extra credit in the future...”

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One!

The two of them were having an affair, which was actually no secret, as everyone in the sales office knew about it. Of course, this included Javier.

However, Javier was slightly surprised. ‘I did hear that the manager was going to be transferred away, but I didn’t think it would actually happen.’ No longer interested in eavesdropping, Javier returned to the sales office and began working on his own after greeting everyone. At that moment, he was in no mood to deal with anything else. He had already set a target for himself, which was to get transferred to Maple Court’s HQ and become upper management within the shortest time possible. Although it was slightly difficult, Javier had absolute confidence that he was going to do it when he recalled a certain woman who had been transferred to the company as an ordinary saleswoman with no background and had managed to become the CEO. Besides, Javier had information and intel from the Kerseys to support him. Sitting before his desk, Javier put on his worker’s badge and took out the clients’ contact details to call some potential ones.

Shortly after that, Leila arrived at the sales office. What was different from the past was that the clicking sound of her high-heeled shoes was no longer filled with arrogance but sadness.

Now that her backer was no longer around, her sales performance in the sales office was most likely going to drop miserably.

Already feeling very unhappy with her current situation, she became even unhappier when she accidentally kicked the wastepaper basket while passing by Javier’s desk “Are you blind?! Why would you leave the wastepaper basket here when we’re supposed to be walking through?!”

Javier leaned his head over to look at the basket that had been kicked over and said, “That’s not mine. Mine’s under my desk.”

Although that was the truth, Lela was still not going to let Javier off the hook.

“Why would you leave it lying around there instead of taking it away then? Are you that lazy of a person?!”

Javier could not be bothered to deal with Leila, even though she had spoken with a rather rude tone.

At that moment, Leila was like a three-year-old who was throwing a huge tantrum, so Javier, the adult, could not be bothered to lash out at the child in anger.

However, Leila became even angrier because of Javier’s silence. “Are you deaf? I’m talking to

you!!!”

Finally, Leila’s tantrum made someone feel resentment.

However, it was not Javier who resented Leila, but a beautiful woman who had just entered the office. “You’re a rather domineering one, aren’t you?”

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Chapter 607 You Coward The woman who had entered was very beautiful and seemed to be in her early 30s. She had a slim and tall figure with a fair complexion and exquisite facial features.

She had burgundy-colored long hair with soft curls and was perfectly showing off her beauty with her light makeup.

After questioning Leila, the woman turned to look at Javier with slight disdain in her eyes.

“Are you a man or not? How can you still feign ignorance and remain calm after being scolded so badly?!”

Javier shot a glance at the woman. ‘She’s quite pretty. Plus, she’s got a pretty hot body. Who is she?’

Javier did not even want to explain that he had chosen to feign ignorance because he could not be bothered to deal with Leila. In fact, he did not think there was a need for him to explain himself.

However, others did not have the same opinion, and the first person to think so was Leila.

Leila had originally been in a bad mood, so she was exploding in flames of anger now that she had just been questioned by a total stranger out of nowhere. "Who the hell are you? Why are you butting into my business? Get out of my sight!" Leila relentlessly lashed out at the beautiful woman, as she thought the latter was just an ordinary client who was there to look at houses.

Right at that moment, the sales manager who had been transferred walked in and began introducing the woman.

"This is Miss Sofia Jenner. She will be your new manager from this day onward. Please give her a warm welcome, everyone." Everyone in the sales office was instantly shocked. They obviously didn't understand why they were being introduced to a new manager all of a sudden. Meanwhile, Leila was completely dumbfounded when she realized that the woman she had just rudely lashed out at was the new manager. Plus, she had even told Sofia to get out of her sight...

Sofia walked over to Leila and looked down at the latter, who was barely 5'2 compared to her 5

6 stature.

"You were asking who I am just now, weren't you?"

"Err..."

Leila was now mumbling away, no longer as arrogant and furious as she had been just a moment ago.

Sofia poked Leila in the chest and said, "According to our company's rules, you'll be penalized 30 dollars for not wearing your worker's badge during working hours. Do you have a problem

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with that?"

Of course, Leila had a huge problem with that, but Sofia could not be bothered to deal with her, so she turned around to introduce herself to everyone.

"Hello, my name is Sofia. I'll be working with all of you from this day onward.

"There's nothing special about me aside from the fact that I'm a very straightforward person with a slight temper. As your new sales manager, I require from you all something very simple ...So long as you help the company sell more houses, I'll put in a request to HQ for all of you to be rewarded.

“The more you sell, the higher your commission will be and the more rewards you’ll receive.

“On top of that, our company has a very well-organized promotion system. If you’re good enough, go ahead and show us all your talents. I will feel especially happy for you should there come a day when you become my superior!

“Alright, that’s all I have to say for now. Go ahead and get back to work, everyone!”

Sofia waved her hand and entered her office with the former sales manager hurrying behind her before he began to hand over his on-hand tasks to Sofia.

Outside the office, Leila stomped her foot angrily. She had already been in a very bad mood, but she was now feeling even worse after being penalized 30 dollars.

As a result, the poor wastepaper basket in front of her ended up becoming a victim and getting sent flying by an angry kick.

The rubbish was scattered all over the floor, and Leila, who was too lazy to even pick it up, glared at Javier and said, “Hurry up and go pick it all up!”

Javier might not be bothered to deal with Leila, but this did not mean he was going to allow her to order him around to do stuff like that.

Leila was now even angrier when she saw Javier, the loser, being so ignorant. However, she did not dare do anything else out of fear that Sofia might leave her office at any moment. After all, her office door was still open. “Fine! I’m going to remember this, Javier! You’re going to learn that nothing good comes out of offending me!”

After making a threat, Leila personally went over to pick up the wastepaper basket and the rubbish she had kicked over. Then, she shot Javier a glare and a threatening look, to which Javier was completely ignorant, as he went on to contact his potential customers. “Hello there, Miss Bailey. It’s Javier from Maple Court’s sales office. I just served you a few days ago...”

Later that morning, Sofia had a chat with each and every staff member in the sales office.

Of course, Leila was one of the people she spoke to. Leila entered the office with a very cautious look on her face and left looking deathly pale, so it was obvious she had been given a pretty harsh lecture.

After her, Javier was called in...

As he was sitting before Sofia, she closed Javier’s personal file, tidied up the loose hair in front of her forehead, and said, “I’ve taken a look at your portfolio, and it looks like

you have a pretty good sales performance. Plus, you're a hard worker. However, based on what I've seen and what I've been told by your colleagues, you seem to be rather cowardly. What's going on there?"

Cowardly?!'

Javier did not even think that word was suitable to describe him. He was just too lazy to deal with any trivial matters, as he was focused on his main objective.

However, this was not something he was going to tell Sofia. 'I don't even know how long we are going to be colleagues for, so why should I explain so much?' Meanwhile, Sofia began showing Javier some concern, telling him all sorts of words of encouragement as she attempted to make Javier grow into a manlier person...

In fact, Javier even thought that Sofia probably had nothing better to do because everything she said did not seem to have anything to do with his work.

Fortunately, Miss Bailey from before arrived at the office right at that moment, so Javier had a chance to make up an excuse to leave the office.

Sofia could very well understand why Javier had to leave since there was a rule that a client had to be greeted and entertained by the specific salesperson they had been contacted by. This was done to prevent any disputes regarding the salesperson's commission. However, she was just curious to know how Javier had been able to remain silent the entire time.

'He didn't seem to be affected by my words at all.'

Indeed, everything Sofia had said just now had nothing to do with work. Sofia just could not stand seeing Javier being so silent and unaffected by everything. Meanwhile, Javier had a smile on his face as he looked at Miss Bailey. However, Leila suddenly showed up with a smile on her face before Javier could even approach his client.

"Hello. You're Miss Bailey, aren't you? Is there a particular house you're interested in? I could take you there and show you the place."

Leila had just committed a grave offense within their industry by not only snatching a customer from a colleague but doing so right in front of his face! This was akin to stealing her colleague's money directly from his pocket!

Although Javier did not care about the money, he did, however, care about his sales performance. He needed to build a good sales performance report in order to climb up the ranks. Otherwise, why would he be working there instead of being the CEO of Reivaj Group or even living a luxurious life as a member of the Kerseys?

In fact, Leila's behavior was frowned upon by her other colleagues.

Although it was inevitable that they would argue with one another since they would all face

each other day in and day out, what Leila had just done was flat-out immoral. Obviously, Leila did not care what her colleagues thought of her. In the past, she had been able to easily obtain a good sales performance with the help of the former sales manager. Now that she no longer had his help, she needed to put in more “effort” to make herself seem useful. In fact, she was not snatching Javier’s client because she wanted his sales performance! Unfortunately, Miss Bailey did not so much as look at Leila. Instead, she walked past her directly and met up with Javier. “Javier, I was pondering what you said to me on the phone just now, and I think it does make sense...”

According to a saying, anything that belongs to you will surely end up becoming yours no matter what. On the contrary, if you covet something that does not belong to you, you will never grab hold of it no matter how hard you try. Leila was now feeling even unhappier because Miss Bailey had completely ignored her to approach Javier. After chatting for a while, Miss Bailey said that she wanted to take another look at the house she was interested in, so Javier went off to grab some safety helmets. While passing by Leila, he growled very rudely and fiercely and said, “You will never make this sale! Never!”

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you’re Abusing Your Power for a Personal Grudge

The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 608 ReadOnline

Chapter 608 You’re Abusing Your Power for a Personal Grudge It was common for competing departments to sabotage each other, but it was unheard of for coworkers to foil each other.

Despite that, Leila had made it clear. She was set to screw up Javier and the unit he was selling

Javier was indifferent when he heard what Leila said, not even bothered to offer her a sarcastic smile. After ignoring her, Javier took a helmet and went to the construction site with Mrs.

Bailey.

Javier introduced it to Mrs. Bailey like a considerate little brother as they looked at the site.

“Many people think that it’s going to bubble from how the property market’s price falls, so they plan to wait but what they’ll get in return is usually the price rising again after a few days.

“They’ll then rush to buy with the worry that the price will increase even more.

“That’s why it’s the best time to purchase right now as the price is dropping...

“Like the eighth floor that you’re looking at, I’d suggest you take a look at the seventh floor instead. It’s not that I want to help you save money because the eighth floor is slightly more expensive than the seventh floor. I’m mainly considering it on behalf of your husband.

“You’ve mentioned that your husband works at a state institution, so I figure the seventh floor suits you the best. Like a lot of offices of the state institutions, they’re all seven-floor buildings. Why? We Chinese believe in lucky number seven.

“It’s a superstition, of course, no scientific evidence at all, but since there’s this saying and the property price is lower with a similar layout, why don’t you go for the seventh floor?”

Javier shared a lot with Mrs. Bailey, and what he said about lucky number seven, specifically, hit the nail on the head for her.

It had been years since her husband reached his position. It was said that there was a reorganization in the state institution he was working at, and it was foreseen that he would be demoted. That worried Mrs. Bailey. While she fretted, it was like she found hope when she heard what Javier said about lucky number seven. When thinking about it, it felt true. Her husband’s office building had seven floors, and the other state institutions mostly had seven floors as well. Although there was no scientific evidence to prove that seven was lucky, it was like a prayer-no one knew if it worked, but everyone would still be praying sincerely. Therefore, she was rather convinced. “Sure. Thank you for sharing so much with me, Javier. I’ll go home and discuss it with my husband...”

After sending Mrs. Bailey off, Javier went back to the sales office. His other coworkers were all there except Leila, but he was not bothered since she might also be seeing a client. Around 20 minutes later, though, Leila came back with Mrs. Bailey in tow. When Leila passed Javier, she tipped her chin victoriously. “We’re going to sign the contract!”

This surprised Javier as his talk with Mrs. Bailey had gone well before this. Why was she

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suddenly signing the contract with Leila now? He was confused, but Mrs. Bailey did not say much, going directly to the manager’s office with Leila.

The truth was, Leila had kept her eyes on Mrs. Bailey a long time ago. Once Mrs. Bailey parted ways with Javier, she quickly approached the woman to persuade her-slandering Javier and claiming how the floor was awful, Javier was lying to her, and so on. Mrs. Bailey was enraged, so she agreed to sign the contract at the sales office with Leila.

When they entered the manager's office, Leila told Sofia triumphantly, "Ms. Jenner, here's a congratulatory gift for your promotion. I got the contract."

Leila felt that she had finally made an impression. The new manager had just come in, and she had snagged a contract. The new manager would certainly look at her differently now and might even plaster on a smile to compliment her for her ability.

Moreover, she had stolen Javier's client. She felt like she had vented, so she was incredibly pleased with herself.

While she gloated, Mrs. Bailey spoke to Sofia. "You're their manager, right? Okay, I have a question for you. How did you become a manager?"

Leila froze. Were they not signing the contract? Why was the woman scolding the manager?

Sofia was stunned as well, not understanding what was up with the client.

Mrs. Bailey continued to speak. "I've had a good talk with Javier from your sales office and was going home to discuss with my husband, but your worker here, Leila Lockwood, came to me.

"She told me that the eighth floor Javier recommended isn't good at all as someone's leg was broken in there during construction. She even said that whoever from your office manages to sell the unit that I have my eyes on will get a high commission..." Mrs. Bailey relayed the lies Leila had made up without missing a word. When Sofia heard it, she was seething. Leila was stealing her coworker's client and slandering her own company's property. She was despicable!

Beside them, Mrs. Bailey added, "I don't care if those are true or not. Even if they are, Javier didn't recommend the eighth floor to me either. Instead, he suggested the seventh floor with the same layout according to my family's situation.

"A good salesman who considers his clients is what we need.

"Lockwood here...Who does she think she is? She lies to her client and foils her coworker. She's a rotten apple!"

Leila was caught in a predicament when Mrs. Bailey, who had agreed to sign the contract, now spilled everything between them. She felt even more embarrassed as

Sofia glared at her. “Mrs. Bailey, we truly can do better in this. We haven’t been strict enough with them and have caused you trouble...”

Sofia coaxed Mrs. Bailey with all sorts of pleasantries she could come up with and ultimately suggested a 7.50-dollar rebate per square meter before the latter left the office with a grin and

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went to Javier to shower him with praises. Outside of the office, Mrs. Bailey complimented Javier, calling him a good man and a considerate person, while inside the office, Sofia berated Leila. “Leila Lockwood, good job! Your congratulatory gift for my promotion is quite exquisite! “I’ve been in the property field since I graduated university, and this is my first time meeting a salesperson like you who steals your coworker’s client and actively slanders your company’s property. Well done for opening my eyes to something new!” Leila was embarrassed with her offense exposed. “Ms. Jenner, 1—” Sofia waved her hand without giving Leila a chance to explain herself. “Alright, no need to explain yourself. Pack up your personal belongings and find a job elsewhere! “Our sales office is a small place. We can’t afford to keep a VIP like you. You’ll flourish in a new place as the sky’s your limit. I wish you a bright future. Goodbye!” Leila was stunned. She did not expect Sofia to fire her over something so trivial, but she was not aware that her assumed triviality was despicable misconduct. It was like the quality assurance manager in a factory telling their client, “Our products don’t actually pass the QA.” Which boss could accept something like this? They would be so furious! Never mind if there was actually an issue. Leila was causing huge trouble by purposely saying there was an issue when there was none! It was completely within reason for Sofia to fire her. Despite that, Leila disagreed. Her experiences shaped her unique opinion. “Bullsh*t! You make it sound so nice, but you must have hooked up with Javier. You are abusing your power for a personal grudge!” Sofia was flummoxed. Had she hooked up with Javier? When? Why did she not know that?

to Do Something Tonight

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Chapter 609 Got to Do Something Tonight Leila’s accusation was so loud that the coworkers in the office outside could hear her. This angered Sofia that her rage could barely diminish even when Leila was driven out of the company. Leila, who had packed her personal belongings, glared at Javier when she passed by. “Just you wait. I won’t make life easy for you...” Javier was nonchalant about Leila’s pre-departure threat. He had dared plot against Raiders, so what was a mere Leila to him?

Flipping through the company information, Javier did his best to understand the overall operation of Maple Court. It was his daily routine now, as each second and minute of his

free time was used to understand these as soon as he could. It was boring, but it was necessary in order to climb to a sufficient height within the shortest time possible.

Sofia had been a little upset about Javier due to what happened with Leila since she was accused for no reason because of him. However, she was significantly less disgruntled when she saw how diligent he was through the glass.

A serious and diligent employee would be liked by their superior no matter where they worked, especially when Javier had his sales achievement to back him up. Mrs. Bailey came over with her husband to sign the contract that afternoon.

Sofia was delighted to have scored a contract on her first day as the manager and thought that it was a good sign. She decided to buy everyone a meal to bond and get closer with her subordinates and to celebrate Javier's accomplishment today.

When they had dinner together, it was harmonious. Sofia did not act like a superior at all when she was at the table, and everyone liked that. One of their coworkers proposed to go karaoke after dinner and share the cost of that, and everyone else agreed. Javier paid his share but did not join them.

"I still have things to read through, so I won't be joining you guys. Have fun." He left after letting them know. Sofia initially wondered if Javier was purposely putting on a show to leave a good impression on her as the new manager, but everyone else told her later that he was not someone like that. "He rarely joins us for meals or our activities. He sticks out almost like a sore thumb."

"I don't think he's trying to single himself out. It's more like he's from a poor background and is hardworking and diligent."

"Yeah, Javier looks like a racer on his track who's just sprinting toward his target without other thoughts..."

The coworkers chipped in their opinions in commenting about Javier and allowed Sofia to understand the latter better. She was also vaguely curious why Javier was so hardworking,

The time that followed saw the sales office doing well. The threat that Leila had left before she was gone did not come true, and the property sales grew rapidly with the encouragement of Sofia's handsome reward,

As for Javier, he was still assiduously learning and selling property every day. When it came to the end of the month, he had even become the top salesman in the office with solid results he had sold a total of 30 units within a month, basically one per day.

It surprised everyone because the second in sales had only sold 10 units that month, just 1/3 of his accomplishment,

Sofia made a special request to the company because of this, asking to add 3,000 dollars of reward to Javier aside from his commission. The company allowed it without hesitation and encouraged the rest in the office to learn from Javier,

It was a matter of course for Sofia to carry out the company's instruction, but Javier placed the 3,000 dollars on the table directly when it came to individual execution.

"The best learning is using this up in food and drinks tonight!"

His generosity earned him the cheers of all his coworkers in the office,

3,000 dollars was a luxury for a night's expenditure for a regular life. They spent the night happy and high, including Sofia, as she had even gone to the dancefloor in the club with them.

Javier joined tonight. After all, he was the host footing the bill.

After the night of fun, they left around midnight. In their coworker's words, they should all head home

The bar was not far from where Javier was staying, so he watched his coworkers leave in cabs before turning to leave himself. While walking his way back, he spotted someone crouching at the corner and throwing up. He went closer only to see that it was Sofia.

They had not seen Sofia when they were hailing cabs, so they were under the impression she had left earlier. One of their coworkers had even called Sofia a wet blanket for leaving halfway through their drinks.

Judging by the situation now, Sofia was not a wet blanket. She had become so engrossed in the partying that she had gotten herself drunk. At present, Sofia's long legs in her nude tights were tensed straight as she folded over to vomit.

Due to her position, her butt was raised high up and looked incredibly tempting in the dark. If one were to approach her quietly and take off his pants, he could even force himself on Sofia.

Javier did not do that did not even have the thought of it. All he had in mind was how he could climb higher and learn more in Maple Court. That was why he passed over a water bottle when he approached Sofia.

"Ms. Jenner, are you alright?"

Sofia looked up at Javier and shook her head, mumbling inaudibly that she was fine. She then leaned against the wall, fumbled to open her purse, and retrieved some tissues to wipe her mouth,

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“Javier, thank you. Thank you for buying us...” Who knew what Sofia wanted to say. She was slurring her words, and they were barely audible. She was even slowly sliding down the wall that she was almost collapsing to the ground. If Javier had not caught her in time, she would have sat sprawled on the ground.

“Ms. Jenner? Ms. Jenner?”

Javier tried calling Sofia for some time, but there was no response from the latter. Javier was helpless and could only carry her on his back. He walked toward the hotel in front, thinking of hailing a cab on his way. It was not like he could abandon a woman like her at the corner in the middle of the night. Unfortunately, there were not as many cabs in the day since it was already late at night. Javier was tired out after walking for a while since he had drunk quite a bit tonight too. Seeing that his rented place was not too far in front, he thought about it and carried Sofia back to his place directly. On their way up, it was a torture to Javier because Sofia was sprawled snugly against his back. What he felt made him feel like doing something to Sofia...

The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 610 ReadOnline

Chapter 610 It's Coming for Him After carrying Sofia back home and settling her down, Javier washed, returned to his bedroom, and turned in for the night after going through some files. He had no idea how long he had been asleep when a shrill screech came from the outside suddenly and woke him up.

He hurried out of his room only to see Sofia sitting on the couch in a daze as she scanned her surroundings anxiously. She seemed even more nervous when she saw Javier.

“Y-You... Why am I here? What did you do to me!?”

Javier was rendered speechless. “You got drunk, and I wanted to send you back but couldn't get a cab, so I brought you to my place. As for what I did to you...If I had really done something, you wouldn't not feel it?”

Sofia blushed the moment Javier retorted with his question, but she looked much more relaxed after that. Obviously, she must not have felt different, and that alone was enough to prove that Javier had not done anything to her.

After sitting around for a moment, she asked awkwardly, "Uh, do you have water?" "Bottled mineral water, unopened. All ready for you." Javier pointed at the table beside Sofia. That was the truth. He had thought that Sofia might be thirsty when she sobered up, so he prepared her a water bottle. When Sofia followed the direction of Javier's finger and realized that there was a bottle of water right next to her, she felt even more awkward. However, she felt so parched that she could care less and grabbed the bottle to take a few gulps.

Her neck was beautiful. When she tipped her head to drink, her fair neck felt like what people called a swan neck

After taking several gulps, Sofia put the bottle down and thanked Javier. Whether she was thanking him for the water or "taking" her in for the night, the woman might not even be aware of which it was.

She got up after drinking. "Um, I'll get going now." Javier did not ask her to stay but turned to glance at the clock on the wall. "It's 3:00 a.m. right now. You can barely get a cab. Even if you could hail one, you'd probably be anxious taking a ride. "If you insist on leaving, though, I won't ask you to stay. Just remember to close the door." Javier turned to return to his bedroom and went back to bed upon closing the door. He was already lacking interest in Sofia's alluring body, so why would he fret over if she was staying or not? Lying on the bed, he fell asleep shortly.

In the living room...

Sofia soon heard Javier's snores and felt incredibly speechless. She was still bashful about the

situation, yet the man had just returned to his room and slept.

"Do you even see me as a woman? Gosh..." Sofia muttered under her breath and looked up at the clock again.

It was already 3:00 a.m, and it was dark outside. Forget whether she could get a cab or not. She would still be afraid even if she were in a cab. After some contemplation, she decided to stay in Javier's place for a while longer-she would leave when the sun rose.

She sat on the couch with her legs curled up but didn't dare to sleep again. After all, she was alone with Javier, a man, in his house. Despite that, fatigue washed over her through the long night. Somehow, and at some point, her eyes fell shut when she yawned. When she woke up again, it was the shuffling noises in the living room that woke her up. Sofia's eyes flew open in alert, only to see that Javier had his back against her as he tiptoed to the bathroom holding his slippers. She could not help chuckling inwardly at the sight, not expecting Javier to be so thoughtful and walk barefooted so that he would not wake her up. She was embarrassed that she fretted over him taking advantage of her when he was being so considerate.

It was just that when Sofia thought about how the b*stard had left her on the couch and gone to sleep on the bed last night, she was irked. She was still a woman. Even though she was slightly older, could he not place her-who was drunk-on the bed and take the couch himself?

When they had breakfast together outside, Sofia brought her displeasure up to Javier, but the latter's answer was righteous. "I could choose not to sleep on the couch, but I couldn't not sleep on the bed. I was scared that you'd throw up on my bed."

His composed tone and expression made Sofia so speechless and miffed that she had no comeback. The man was pretty infuriating. How could he treat a pretty woman like this? However, Sofia kept quiet, considering Javier's care for her the previous night.

Sofia insisted on buying breakfast, and Javier went along without putting up any fight. She left in a cab later to the sales office but reminded Javier to take a bus there. If both of them took a cab, it would be awkward when others realized that upon their arrival at the office.

It was not like they had never arrived at the office together, but Sofia's conscience was clear at that time. Today was obviously not one of those times, so she insisted Javier take a bus. The reality proved that Sofia had overthought it because no one cared. Everyone else was more concerned with something more important. "Ms. Jenner, have you heard? There's a client who wants 68 units in one go recently."

"That client's been to other sales offices, but nothing caught their eyes, so it's said that the client's coming to us for a look."

"That's 68 units, man. How rich must the client be? We'd hit the jackpot if we get the sales!" This was the piece of news Sofia was greeted with once she stepped into the office. Supposedly, she should have long heard the rumor if there were a client like this, but she had

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known nothing about it.

Her subordinate said that the news came from his girlfriend's daughter. Said daughter worked in another property sales office and had just received the client the previous day. It was just that the client had not seen anything they liked at her place, so they wanted to look elsewhere. If this were true, they had to seize the opportunity. The salespeople were all thinking about commissions once they snagged a huge client like this, but Sofia was thinking about a promotion! She could definitely take a step further in the company from her title as the sales office manager. Hence, Sofia gripped her fists. "Perk up, everyone. Be on your toes today and get ready to welcome the client for their purchase with us. When they do come, whoever it is to take them, everyone else should help..." Sofia left them a lot of reminders, and the rest of the employees were motivated,

all of them waiting to catch the big fish. When Javier came and found out about it, he did not think much. Someone who could purchase 68 units of property in a go was not someone the salespeople could convince or persuade. Even when Maple Court's property cost 150 thousand dollars a unit, 68 units meant 10.2 million dollars, and that did not include various taxes. Would someone who could afford the sum right away listen to the sales representative's rambling? Forget it. It was the person's willingness to pay for his purchase and never the salespeople's tactics. That was why Javier was quite indifferent regarding the client. In spite of it, the less regard he paid, the more the matter went for him.

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Chapter 611 Why Is He So Calm? Every employee in the sales office was waiting for the VIP client to walk in except Javier, who was still doing what he usually did. He was either reading up or calling clients to follow up, seemingly uncaring of the matter. His coworker advised him, "Aren't you silly? We're all doing our best to receive the client!"

Javier smiled nonchalantly, and his coworker gave up upon seeing he was unable to get to Javier.

Since they had caught wind of the VIP client's visit, everyone looked anxious when the office door opened. It was not just the salespeople outside. Even Sofia glanced out of her office occasionally, anticipating the client.

Despite that, it was like the client had no idea of their sales office as there was no sight of them. From morning to afternoon, the office did not get any new visitors other than the regular clients they would have.

Even with these regular clients, the employees were disinterested in serving them and looked sluggish. Some had even offered the clients they had to Javier upon seeing that he was so diligent, so they could get themselves prepared for the big sales.

In the end, Javier managed to seal the deal for three units within the day, and those who had called him foolish behind his back were exasperated and speechless. They had aimed for the big client only for Javier to bag all the small ones.

One of them then thought that minor clients were clients too. They would take the minor clients when they came next.

When someone finally came, it was an old man in his fifties who was dressed regularly and was even wearing a pair of slippers. The one who thought to take minor clients too called for Javier directly, "Javier, we have a customer. Attend to him!" To said worker, the old man was not even a client. He must be here just to enjoy their air conditioning

Javier had the same assumption. It was not that he was judging a book by its cover, but there were frequently people who came for the air-conditioning and refreshment, taking a good half -day rest, with the excuse of browsing for a property before they turned away and continued shopping

When he came close and noticed the old man's palms, though, he knew that the latter was not here for the free air-conditioning. The man's palms were smooth and supple, almost like a woman's, as they did not look hard-worked at all. It was safe to say that he was only dressed sloppily. This did not mean that his job was dirty as well.

Some people were just strange like that, keeping a low profile the richer they were to the point that their repulsively low profile was close to being stingy.

Javier did not judge the old man by his looks and greeted him seriously before asking about his purpose of visit. The old man was direct as well.

"My daughter's getting married, so I'd like to look at a property as her wedding fit."

"That was no problem, so Javier led the old man and introduced him to the property they had seriously

Farther away, his coworkers who saw the scene shook their heads, not knowing what Javier was thinking. The old man's attire was an obvious hint that he was poor and he was just bluffing Why was Javier still making an effort?

Some of them even felt that Javier must have liked scoring petty sales and must be fantasizing that this old man was another minor client.

Javier did not care about these. He was only doing his job, and it would be best if he could seal the deal. If not, then he was just wasting a little saliva.

Nevertheless, the old man looked like he would make a purchase as he later asked Javier to go site visiting

Javier's coworkers were stunned. Was the old man really buying a house? The coworker who had just directed the old man away was regretful. If he had known that the old man was a serious buyer, he would not have given him to Javier. Look at what happened now-he was thinking of scoring minor clients too, yet he had sent away the one he got with his own hands.

Javier went on-site with the old man and diligently introduced the property they had. The old man looked at many units in progress and expressed his satisfaction with the construction quality. He also asked about future environmental maintenance and management, inquiring about various aspects in detail.

The visit went on from 2:00 p.m. to almost 5:00 p.m. before Javier returned to the office. His coworker teased, "Where's the old man, Javier? Has he gone to the bank for cash?"

It was only a joke without much malice, so Javier said nothing and replied with a smile.

The coworker did not add to it either. After all, he had not even made one sale today. What right did he have to laugh at Javier, who had already sold three units? They all began to pack up and got ready to finish work at 6:00 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., a fashionably dressed woman appeared in a Mercedes-Benz S600. Everyone in the office widened their eyes when she showed up as they assumed that she must be the VIP client.

She did drive an S600, which cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Who else could the bigshot client be if not her?

Sofia, who was in her office, widened her eyes, anticipating the woman to make her request to purchase 68 units directly.

It was thus a surprise when the woman disregarded everyone's hospitality and asked, "Who's Javier?"

"I am. You are?" Javier had just left the washroom and was still holding the tissue he wiped his hands with

The fashionable woman went past everyone to come to Javier directly.

"Hi, our chairman came to look at the property this afternoon, and he's pleased with what you have.

"So he's sent me to look for you in hopes of sealing the deal for 68 units of property. "Of course, we hope that your company is able to give us a certain discount as well..." The fashionable woman was still speaking, but the other employees in the sales office were baffled. It would never cross their mind that the wrinkly old man in the afternoon was the rumored VIP client while this fashionable woman here, whom they assumed to be said VIP client, was only the man's secretary. Javier's coworker, who had personally directed the VIP client to Javier earlier, wallowed in regret as he screamed inwardly, 'I should be the one attending to him! These 68 units of houses should be under my sales...'

There was no use crying over spilled milk as Javier had already led the fashionable woman into the office.

His coworkers watched enviously outside of the office, feeling incredibly forlorn. They had prepared for the whole day only for Javier to take even the smaller clients. They had put their hopes on the rich client, yet Javier took him too! Sofia was dumbstruck when she found out about it in her office. Judging by Javier's calm expression when he

entered her office, she thought that the woman was probably not here to make a purchase but needed her for something else, so she was stunned when she was informed that this was the client who wanted to purchase 68 units of property. Sofia was not surprised about the 68 units as she was mentally prepared. She was astonished about how Javier was regarding the 68 units as nothing. When he led the woman into her office, it felt like he was simply guiding a regular water supply worker. There was not even a hint of delight. "Ms. Jenner, she's asking you if there's any fitting discount." Sofia snapped back to reality at Javier's reminder. "Sure, sure, of course..." There had to be. There was a sale of 68, and each unit was around 150 thousand dollars, making it a deal of approximately 10 million dollars. It was crazy!

Sofia had already made up her mind. She had to interrogate Javier tonight. She had to know how he was so calm!

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Chapter 612 Her Second Visit The discount for 68 units was not something Sofia could decide as a sales manager. After all, they were not an authorized agent but a direct sales company under Maple Court. Once she talked to the company and confirmed the details, they did not have to sign the contract either, as it would be signed directly by the higher-ups in the company.

The sales belonged to them, and there was no doubt about it. The achievement and commission were theirs as well.

That night, Sofia wanted to treat everyone again happily, but no one wanted to go as they were not in a good mood. After all, they had waited the whole day fantasizing about hitting the jackpot only to find that dream crushed.

Javier did not want to join either, but Sofia had forced him to, unrelenting even when he said no. She was getting more curious about Javier now. She had been under the impression that he was timid back when she had just come to the sales office, but she realized Javier was not meek after spending this period of time together. He just disdained being distracted by irrelevant things,

Like what their coworker had said, Javier was like a sprinting athlete on his track who was running for the finishing line without another thought in his mind. He did not care about other things at all. Sofia discovered that Javier seemed not to care too much about money through what happened today.

She asked him in the restaurant, "You don't even care about money. What do you care about?"

Javier had not wanted to answer but explained when Sofia kept pressing

“I don’t want to keep staying at the bottom level. I want to climb up.”

Sofia understood from what he said that he was referring to what was above Maple Court, but she did not know how high he meant. When she asked, Javier shook his head.

“I don’t know. The higher, the better, I guess!”

Sofia did not know what to comment about it. Although she knew that having ambitions was the difference that distinguished men and slugs, Javier’s ambition seemed to be a little too big that she did not know what to say

“Whatever it is, I’ll help you as much as I can!

“Don’t misunderstand, I don’t mean anything else. It’s because I’ll be honest. I’m not for the money either. I want to rise up the ranks with sufficient sales as well, so I think I’ll be able to be promoted into the marketing, office this time, thanks to you.

“If that happens, I’ll fight for your case to go along with me.”

Although it would be a same level transfer to go to the marketing office and he would only be a regular office worker there, the starting line would be different. Javier was quite thankful for Sofia regarding it

As they are and chatted, they got along well. Both of the took a stroll on the streets when it

was around 8.00 pm.- not like a couple, but they were on the way home

Suddenly, a cyclist on a bicycle in front of them was crossing the road, not at all aware of the speeding dump truck perpendicular to it. The more urgent the dump truck’s honking was, the faster the cyclist sped forward.

In the end, the cyclist continued pedaling forward with the bicycle like nothing had happened, but the dump truck fell to its side from the emergency braking and furious steering, even skidding toward Javier and Sofia’s direction,

All of that happened in a blink of an eye, so Sofia was unable to react in time as the dump truck was skidding toward her with sparks flying Just when the truck was about to ram into her, a large hand grabbed her slender figure as they tumbled to the side.

By the time Sofia returned to her senses, the dump truck had gone past her, with the soil and sand it carried spilling on the ground. “You okay?”

Sofia was startled upon hearing the question come from below her. “I’m o-okay.”

If Javier had not grabbed her in the nick of time just now, she would already have left this world in the form of mashed meat!

Sofia was grateful. She wanted to get up, but it was then she felt a strange sensation beneath her. It was warm, and the position was awkward. Looking down, she realized that Javier's palm was right in front of her left side. His grip was so tight that it kind of hurt her.

Sofia was embarrassed and struggled to get up, not knowing what to say with a flushed face. She knew that Javier had not done it on purpose since he was only saving her given the critical timing. It was just that no other man had touched her like that before, aside from her husband

When Javier got up as well, Sofia hurried to thank him and ask him if he was injured. The man shook his head and expressed that he was fine.

Javier wanted to ask Sofia to leave after seeing that the driver was fine as he got out of the dump truck. It was at the same time the woman suddenly cried an "Oww" as she fell sideways Javier's reflexes were quick, so he caught her arm and saved her from falling. He looked down and saw that the heel on Sofia's left foot was completely torn. It was probably due to the friction when the dump truck brushed past her just now. The violent collision had also injured Sofia's left foot.

Luckily, it did not look serious, merely a little swollen and red.

There was no way to find the shoe now. It was probably already buried under the dirt, and Sofia could not keep walking, so Javier could only carry her on his back to the nearest clinic. "Thank you. I'm fine, put me down. I can walk on my own."

Sofia was bashful with her thighs being held in Javier's warm, large palms, but the latter did not think much of it. When they arrived at the clinic, the doctor was not in. The person watching the clinic was the doctor's wife, who could only sell medications and knew nothing else. It was fortunate that

Javier knew what medication to use for an injury like this, so he paid for some ointment directly. "This injury isn't serious. If it's untreated, it'll just remain swollen for some time and affect your walking. I can massage it with the ointment and get some oral medicine for you. You should be fine tomorrow or the day after."

There was no hesitation when Javier took Sofia back to his place.

Visiting Javier's place for the second time, Sofia was quite embarrassed, but it was much better than her first time here.

Javier went to the bathroom. "I'll wash my hands. Take off your tights, or I won't be able to apply the ointment on you." Sofia made an "oh" sound from the living room and got

up bashfully with her eyes on the bathroom. Although she knew Javier would not peek at her, she still felt embarrassed.

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Chapter 613 Kind of Innocent To break the awkwardness, Sofia took the initiative to start a topic of conversation. “Javier, where’s your girlfriend? I didn’t see her here the last time either.”

Sofia’s mention made Javier think of Jade, Chessie, Ciara, Lilith...He thought of many – and he would fully indulge himself whoever was there with him right now. He could only answer glumly, “Not here, located elsewhere.” Sofia made an “oh” sound and replied casually, “My husband too. He’s working somewhere else.”

When she said that and realized that Javier was looking up at her, she was immediately aware of the issue with what she said and quickly added with a flushed face, “I don’t mean it like that. I-I...”

Sofia was at a loss. She really did not mean it that way, but once the words left her lips, it sounded like both of them could do whatever they wanted since Javier’s girlfriend and her husband were not around.

Fortunately, Javier smiled and did not comment on it. It calmed down Sofia a little and made her less awkward. After Javier was done tending to her, she got up to leave.

However once her foot touched the floor, it hurt so much that she could barely walk. She could not even walk down the stairs. Hence, Sofia could only stand there awkwardly, not knowing what to do.

Javier spoke up. “Stay the night. Sleep on the couch or the bed, your choice.” Naturally, Sofia did not want to stay. It was embarrassing! Despite that, she could not leave tonight either. It was almost 10:00 p.m., and she could not walk properly. After some hesitation, she could only shyly hum in agreement and express that she would be fine taking the couch. It was honestly awkward for a man and a woman to stay in the same room, so Sofia made her way to the bathroom with the excuse of washing her tights. “Your foot is still in pain. Sit down. I’ll do it.” Sofia was immensely embarrassed when she heard Javier. It was rather indecent for Javier to help her wash something so personal like her tights, especially when she was a married woman.

Unexpectedly, Javier grabbed his keys and went out, leaving a surprised Sofia at home. He returned about half an hour later with a shopping bag, passing the shoes in the bag to Sofia when he opened it.

“The shoe size should be similar. Try them on.”

Sofia was really embarrassed now. Javier had saved her life and had to spend money to buy her shoes. She felt bad about it but could only accept the shoes. Otherwise, she would have to walk barefooted tomorrow.

After that, she offered to pay for the shoes, insisting that she could not let Javier spend his money. Before she could say much, though, Javier went back to his room and closed the door, saying that he was turning in for the night.

Sofia was kind of speechless about it. It was as if she were a man who Javier ignored directly. Although she had no such intention, it was not delightful either when her beauty and figure were overlooked. Anyway, she was upset and a little disgruntled.

“What kind of person is he...!”

After waking up the next morning, Sofia’s foot felt much better. It was still tender when she pressed it against the floor, but it at least did not affect her walking anymore and did not make her look like a waddling penguin. Both of them went to the office after having breakfast together. When it was almost noon, someone from the marketing office came and met Sofia personally in her office. The meeting was nothing much. It was simply a compliment on the work they had done and a notice that Sofia’s transfer to the marketing office was already in progress and that she could expect a result soon. At the same time, the staff asked for Sofia’s opinion. “Just within this sales office, who do you think is fit to replace you as the sales office manager?” Without even thinking, Javier popped up in Sofia’s mind right away. “It has to be Javier. He’s the one who sold 68 units and three more that morning.”

The company rep nodded. “I think he should be promoted too, but he’s quite new, not even working with us for a full month. Isn’t it...inappropriate to promote him to the sales office manager?”

Sofia answered promptly, “I know this cleaning lady who’s worked here for over a decade. Can we promote her to the sales office manager now? Of course not. The main duty of the sales office manager is to sell. Whoever can sell the property can be the manager. “If we look only at experience and not ability, who’ll work hard then? They’d just dilly-dally here...” Sofia said a lot, eliciting nods from the company rep. “You make sense too. I’ll bring it up when I return to the company.”

Both of them chatted a bit more, and the person left. Sofia asked Javier into the office afterward and told him about it when they were both alone in the office.

“I can’t bring you into the marketing office, but I’ve already made the suggestion to promote you as the manager here. I think it’ll most likely go through.”

Javier mulled over it. That was fine. He would be climbing up the ranks sooner or later and would end up a mere office worker if he went to the marketing office earlier anyway. By the time he transferred as the sales office manager in the future, he would start off differently.

“Sure, thank you. I’ll get everyone to gather for a farewell party for you tonight.”

Not

Javier meant well, but Sofia thought she must not get drunk again when they drank.

Leila stood frozen on the spot in awkwardness and embarrassment. She had been blustering just a moment earlier, yet she was rendered speechless now. It never crossed her mind that Javier would actually become the sales office’s manager. Lou had already promised her that he would go to the marketing office to ask to be transferred back as the manager. What happened?

While she stayed rooted awkwardly, Sofia went up and asked her, “So? As an ex-coworker, do you want to join the celebration they’re throwing Javier and me for our promotions tonight? “There’s no way you’d join this sales office again in this lifetime, but we don’t mind you getting a free meal.”

Leila was furious, but there was nothing she could do, so she left huffing. Before that, she glared at Javier. “You’ll-”

She wanted to tell him, “you’ll regret it,” but the words could not roll off her tongue. On what ground was she saying that? The man was already promoted to the sales office manager, but she did not even qualify to become a salesperson.

Ultimately, Leila left without daring to say a thing. Both Sofia and Javier drank a lot during the gathering that night—two rounds, to be exact. They drank in the hotel and resumed drinking at the bar, thoroughly enjoying themselves. The reason was simple, quoting their coworker, “Serves you two right for being promoted!” It was only a joke, but everyone understood the envy behind it. It served them right for being promoted. As such, both of them drank plenty.

Javier was fine since he had a specific drug from his family and did not have to be scared of getting drunk after taking it. Instead, he caused his coworkers to be intoxicated. On the other

is not doing so well, already too far gone and throwing up all along their way back

If Javier had not been taking care of her, she might be sleeping on the street. Even then, she was completely soiled from her own vomit. Javier could not let her sleep like this, so he took her home and rummaged through his pocket for the pillbox, only to discover that the family-invented drug was used up. He could not even let Sofia sober

up swiftly. He could only pull out his phone to take a video of Sofia before taking her to the bathroom.

It was unrealistic to take Sofia's clothes off and wash her up as Javier was scared that he would lose control of himself. He showered her despite her clothes. Luckily, the cleaning was fast since he was only aiming to wash away the filth on her clothes. It was just that Sofia was already dressed thinly for summer, so her clothes became more transparent from being soaked...

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However, the consequences of sleeping with a drunk woman were troublesome. If it were not reported to the police, he would have to provide various explanations and coax and sort out the relationship. If it were reported to the police, it would be much simpler since the busy party would be the police, as he only had to be put behind bars.

Although both methods would not actually cause Javier practical troubles, they would still waste a lot of time—and he was pressed for time, hoping he could split a day into two. He could not afford to spend time on such triviality, so he could only forbear it with his willpower.

He managed to withstand it, but the night was a long one. As he tossed and turned in bed, all he could think of was Sofia...

Javier woke up the next morning—woken up by screams from the outside, to be exact.

Needless to say, Sofia must have screamed when she saw what her clothes looked like.

As expected, Javier saw Sofia hugging her knees as she curled up in the corner of the couch like a frightened bunny when he stepped out of his bedroom. He asked weakly, "Would you believe me if I say I didn't do anything last night?"

Sofia shook her head fervently, her long hair flying, but she nodded with equal force the next moment. Obviously, she could tell from how her body was feeling that they really had not done anything—unless Javier...was too fast. Javier pulled out his phone, causing Sofia to pull her clothes tighter around herself and question him about what he wanted to do. The man played a clip and placed the phone on the table before her.

"Have a look yourself!"

As Javier left to wash up in the bathroom, Sofia watched the video clip in the living room. She immediately recalled what happened last night as she watched how

embarrassing she had behaved. Javier had helped her wash her clothes and placed her on the couch. Anything that happened after that, it was all her own doing.

Recalling all these, Sofia was utterly embarrassed. As a married woman, it was a shame that she had taken off her clothes like that in front of another man. It was fortunate that Javier was a gentleman and did not do anything to her. She was immensely grateful for that. If they had done something, she would not know how to face her husband.

When Javier came out of the bathroom, Sofia was already dressed as she thanked him profusely. Whether it was for Javier helping her back or for him not taking advantage of her, she had no idea. It was simply embarrassing, so much so that she left hastily without even bidding goodbye.

After Sofia left, Javier went through a quick routine and had breakfast outside before heading

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to the sales office.

From today onward, he was the manager of this sales office. He needed to have a new look. First things first, it seemed out of place for him to take the bus to and back from work. He went to a secondhand car dealership at noon and bought a secondhand Buick Regal to save time.

It was not a luxury car, but it sufficed as transportation. Besides, Javier did not need a luxury car for a front.

The following week, his days passed peacefully. Nothing much was different other than a slightly faster tempo in life. His coworkers under him, however, were suffering as they had a lot of complaints about him for making them work overtime.

When the grumbles resulted in higher sales and growth in commission, though, all of them wore big smiles. The reality proved that people were not scared of working overtime. What they were scared of was not having a corresponding return for working overtime. When there was an adequate temptation of return, so what if they had to work overtime? As long as it did not get in the way of their meals and sleep, they did not mind doing it as nobody would complain about making too much money!

In the same week, Javier did not see Sofia again. It seemed that Sofia minded what had happened that night and was far too embarrassed to appear before him again-until this afternoon. The woman had driven to the sales office to meet Javier.

Javier was happy to put away the documents he was going through upon meeting the old friend and joked with her. "What's up? Are you staying over tonight to test me

again?" Sofia was flustered immediately. "Nonsense!" She glared at Javier and talked about what she had come for. "Tucker Goldwater from the marketing office is going to set you up as an example to promote you to all the salespeople in the company and encourage everyone to learn from you. You need to get ready now and meet Mr. Goldwater to receive some advice from the superior." Javier understood what it meant by "receive some advice from the superior". Frankly, it was the superior meeting you for a chat and judging if you had potential. If you had, they would make you an example for everyone else to learn from. If you had not, then all was forgotten. Javier initially did not want to be involved with such things, but he gave it a thought and found that being an example was an achievement too! Since he wanted to climb up the corporate ladder faster, an achievement like this could not be avoided. Thus, he agreed easily. As for what Sofia mentioned about getting prepared, he did not need that. While he could not bluff his way through, he talked a lot during Reivaj Group meetings. He had come up with those a lot, whether it was formal, b*llsh*t, motivating, or inciting speech. Did he still need to prepare himself? Not at all!

After ushering Sofia and letting the others in the office know, Javier drove to the marketing office with the former. He met Tucker in the marketing office about 20 minutes later.

Sofia had briefed him about Tucker on their way there. The man's last name was Goldwater, but he was a man of virtue with his priorities set straight for the company. That was not to say

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that he was pedantic and conservative. It was just that his decisions were made from the point of the company's benefit.

With that in mind, Javier talked to Tucker in the office. The latter asked him about things like opinions and mindset in work, then talked about experiences in sales. Javier was able to answer everything smoothly like he had memorized it from a script.

Despite that, Tucker was well aware that it was impossible for Javier to be prepared beforehand since he had only thought of meeting him this afternoon. All these could only mean that Javier was truly informed and knowledgeable.

"Nice. Not bad, young man. You're very motivated and spurred. The company needs talents like you!"

After an elaborate praise, Tucker asked Javier to go back and make his preparation. Javier did not leave but took the opportunity of it being after work hours to invite Tucker and Sofia for a meal.

His reasoning was impeccable. He was taking the chance to thank both his superiors for training him and to ask them for some work advice. The matter flowed without a hitch when the meal was tied to work.

Tucker agreed easily. Since her boss had agreed, Sofia, as his subordinate, had no reason to reject.

That night, three of them showed up at the restaurant. The meal was for a good reason, and the conversation was easygoing, so the trio was happy while they walked to the restaurant.

Despite that, Sofia had been worried since she was seated. Would she have too much to drink again tonight? The first time she had, she had stayed at Javier's place. The second time, she had taken off her own clothes until she was left with her undergarments. If she got drunk the third time tonight...would her body welcome the touch of the second man in her life?