

The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 816 ReadOnline

Chapter 816 The Birthday Party Don not seeing eye to eye with his sister-in-law, Joey, meant that his son, Elliott did not see eye to eye with Evanna either. If sarcasm did not drip from his words each time they met, Evanna herself might feel out of place. Evanna ignored Elliott and was about to carry the bonsai, when Javier got to it first.

“It’s heavy, I’ll do it. Help me with that box instead.”

Evanna nodded and retrieved the wooden box that housed the ruby and diamond pocket watch from the car.

“Tch. Tch. The gifts you two brought... Even scavengers wouldn’t want to bend down to pick them up if they saw them.” Elliott shook his head after mocking them and headed inside the hotel with his chauffeur. The chauffeur was carrying something covered with a red cloth, so it was not clear what the item was in particular. Javier carried the potted plant, while Evanna carried Javier’s box as they headed to the hotel lobby.

According to the local custom, there was a reception at the door where someone took a record of the guests’ presents for the elder’s birthday.

That was why, when Javier stepped into the lobby, he could hear a loud declaration coming from the reception. “The eldest grandson of the Dennisons, Elliott Dennison, brought a porcelain statuette of an ancient deity!” The voice resonated in the lobby, baffling many people. “Sh*t, that’s an ancient artifact created more than 1,500 years ago!” “Elliott is such a nice kid. He knows that Mr. Dennison Sr. likes antiques and went all out. This artifact must’ve cost so much!”

“What an eye-opener today is! This was created ages ago. What a gem. David’s got a nice grandson!”

Exclamations of envy rose and fell like a tide as the guests were alarmed by Elliott’s extravagance.

Elliott enjoyed the spotlight. He felt as if he was a celebrity on stage with countless fans cheering him on below. It felt wonderful! Despite that, he replied ‘humbly’, “This isn’t much. What’s money anyway? It’s nothing compared to family. He’s my grandfather. A few hundred thousand dollars can’t represent my love for him.”

His little speech surprised everyone. Elliott had to really love his grandfather since he had brought a gift that had cost hundreds of thousands of dollars for his birthday! When it was Javier and Evanna’s turn to give their gifts, though, the receptionist’s declaration changed the topic of conversation.

“The granddaughter of the Dennisons, Evanna Dennison, brought a potted lavender plant, and his grandson-in-law, Javier Kersey, brought a ruby and diamond pocket watch!”

Before the receptionist could drawl all the syllables, the comments of others drowned them out.

“What kind of gifts are these? Evanna’s is even worse than the husband’s. She’s only gifting him a potted lavender plant? How embarrassing!” “You have no idea, huh. The ruby and diamond pocket watch is from Evanna, and Javier is just a piece of trash. He’s only a security guard at Aurora Academy-how could he afford a pocket watch? Evanna must have exchanged presents with him to protect his ego. I saw them do that at the door.”

“I think that even if that piece of trash did buy it, it must be a counterfeit. How much money does he have? And yet he’s still putting up a front!”

Elliott’s porcelain statuette of an ancient deity had been announced first, so when Evanna and Javier’s presents were announced, a comparison was made and the guests felt entitled to mock the couple.

“Let’s go!”

Evanna was embarrassed by the gossip but she said nothing as she pulled Javier and weaved past the lobby to enter the banquet hall.

They were Dennisons, so Evanna took Javier to the main table, just like last year. Just as they got closer, however, her Uncle Don waved as though he was chasing off flies. “Go sit at Ruby and Steven’s table.”

Ruby Jewell was Dahlia’s daughter, while Steven Hogg was Ruby’s husband. They did not share the same last name as the Dennisons, so it was expected of them to take the table on the side.

Evanna was a Dennison, and Javier was her husband, though. She was David’s granddaughter, and Javier had married into the family. They were Dennisons, so they had the right and, reasonably so, they should sit at the main table. Evanna was upset. “Uncle Don, what’s the meaning of this? Are you kicking me out of the Dennison table on behalf of grandpa?!” Don turned to look at Evanna sharply. To be honest, he would actually love to do that on behalf of David, and it would be best if he could kick Joey out of the family too. Unfortunately, David was still alive, and Don did not have a say in the matter, so he could only explain. “Your grandfather has two guests of honor tonight. One came from Medb, and the other came from Clouston. There are only so many seats at the main table. Could your mother be asked to move if the two of you do not? You’re a grown adult but you aren’t sensible at all. How

idiotic!”

There were two more seats at the main table, and one was taken by Elliott’s two-year-old son, and the other was occupied by the man’s wife-to-be, whom he had yet to marry. Illegitimate

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women and children had no right to be at the main table of an established family like the Dennisons.

Even though the kid could stay because he was David’s great-grandson, Elliott’s wife-to-be, whom he had not married yet, should scram! Was it so hard to tell the difference between Evanna and Elliott’s illegitimate wife? Joey, who was sitting at the table, felt embarrassed but waved a hand to signal for Evanna and Javier to move to the side table.

Javier was not having it. He was fine if he was a target for the night, but the arrow was now pricking Evanna. This was his wife, not a straw dummy bought at the market!

Before he could say anything, though, Evanna dragged him away. “Don’t make things difficult for my mom. Don’t embarrass the Dennisons.” This was what Evanna said as Javier was about to pry her off. He felt bad for her, so he held it all in and followed Evanna to the side table, sharing it with Ruby and Steven. As soon as Evanna sat down, Ruby took her hand warmly. “Evanna, isn’t it nice that all the cousins are sitting together? What’s up? Have you been doing well?” Evanna forced a smile and half-heartedly replied “fine”, looking like she wanted nothing more to do with Ruby.

The latter was not aware, though. “What about Javier? How’ve you been? Are you still a security guard at the academy? Speaking of which, Evanna, you’re the assistant head of education, and your mom’s the assistant principal. You could’ve given him a better job!

“True, Javier’s a little useless and incapable, but you could’ve made him the vice chief of security, right? Don’t worry, no one at home will say a thing. Everyone knows that Javier’s useless. They understand.”

According to a saying, if one could not say something nice, then one should not say anything at all. Ruby obviously did not know this-and she was not done. She held her husband Steven’s hand, looking blissful and boastful. “Steven here isn’t the greatest, but at least he works for the ministry of education. You know what, why doesn’t Steven help Javier look for a security chief job at another school? It’d be a full-time position and it would pay well too. About 500 dollars a month! “I guess it’d be enough for him to feed himself.”

Due to that, Javier reeled back his thoughts on using The Destiny and told Ruby, "Enjoy this while you can!" Ruby scoffed. "I've always enjoyed life, so much so that I'd like to change my name to Carpe Diem-for life. Just like you're going to be Useless for life. Gosh, why's my life such a pleasure, right? "I don't even know if I've experienced any misfortune until now. It's been smooth sailing all the way. How I wish I was unlucky once!"

Javier nodded with a grin. "Your wish will be granted."

Ruby wanted to say more, but David made an appearance then, stirring waves of congratulations and good wishes.

"Thank you, thank you, everybody. It's my pleasure and my greatest honor to have all of you here to celebrate with me!"

David was already 73 years old but he was looking energetic and healthy, and his voice was booming. Javier took this opportunity to read the old man and was surprised by his good fortune. The old man was destined to have both longevity and wealth. Had he saved the universe in his past life?

While Javier secretly read David's fortune, the latter exchanged more pleasantries and introduced the person who went on the stage with him.

The man was in his sixties and looked as skinny as though he was sick, but his eyes were shining with life, as if he could read someone just through them. "This is an old friend of mine from Medb. He used to work in the museum and he is an antique and artifact expert. Asiel Langdon, ladies and gentlemen!" When Asiel's name was announced, the crowd broke into cheers.

Asiel Langdon was a name every antique enthusiast knew. He was so famous that people who were not interested in antiques had heard of him too.

Someone from the other table introduced him. "Asiel Langdon has a nickname we all know: All -Seeing Asiel. The reason for this nickname is that his eyes are as all-seeing as a god's eyes. He doesn't even have to hold an antique to recognize its authenticity at a glance. He's amazing

The person at the next table was still rambling when Ruby spoke as well. "Eliott must be happy. Asiel will definitely take a look at the porcelain statuette of the ancient deity later."

Steven shared the sentiment. "Of course. Eliott spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to buy

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the statuette, and that's the price a connection of his gave him. The value might be higher when Asiel assesses it later. It's an antique after all! "Unlike someone who brought a pocket watch. Who knows if that's real or not. If Asiel's all seeing eyes expose him, it will be embarrassing. I wonder if he'd be able to still sit at the table!"

Ruby scoffed. "That's not possible. He's useless, but his wife is smart for gifting grandpa a counterfeit. Why? She knows that grandpa won't ever expose her in public. That'd be embarrassing for the family!

"She's got it all thought out. She skimps at present and boosts her useless man's ego. It's a pity that life got in the way and Elliott actually gave him an antique as well. It must be even more valuable!

"Some people just don't expect to embarrass themselves despite all their calculations. I feel embarrassed just sitting with them!"

Evanna was enraged. Who could take it when each word of theirs was so pointed? Javier was furious as well. He wanted nothing more than to press Ruby's head into the pot of soup in front of them.

Then, the hall instantly fell silent. The sudden loss of noise made everyone feel like they had gone deaf all of a sudden. In reality, everyone's attention had been attracted by the person at the door-Jared Griffin!

"Grandpa David, happy birthday! I wish you a long life full of health and happiness!" Jared bowed, holding up some golden, glittery accessory before the receptionist's voice resonated inside the hall. "The North-Griffin Inc. vice GM and young heir of the Griffins, Jared Griffin, brought a 10 kilo golden sculpture of a winged Victoria!"

The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 817 ReadOnline

Chapter 817 The Celebration This was exactly the reason Evanna did not want to talk to Ruby. Don and Dahlia were siblings, and both of them had opinions about Joey being the assistant principal. As Dahlia's daughter, how could Ruby actually be genuinely friendly to Evanna? Besides, Don was the one who had pulled some strings to get Steven his job at the ministry of education.

Steven quickly spoke up after Ruby, "Ruby, it would not be difficult to get a full-time security chief position for Javier, but he's too useless. He can't even do anything. If I have to get a job for him, I could only look for one in the countryside, as management there is more lenient.

“If there’s really a thief or a robber and Javier can’t catch them, no one will mind in that case,

right?”

Ruby nodded and kissed Steven on the cheek. “Your consideration is so well-rounded, darling.”

After she complimented her husband, she turned to tell Javier, “Javier, we’re a family, but we ought to be courteous. You should thank Steven, don’t you think so?”

Javier had gotten familiar with The Grimoire of Five in the past two months. The Destiny in The Grimoire of Five had several functions and abilities other than fortune telling. One of them was the ability to change a person’s destiny through their Soul Flame.

Of course, this could not be done carelessly, as an intentional man-made deed would be punished by heaven. This punishment would not take the form of thunderbolts and whatnot, like the myths said, but it would still put one in extreme danger.

Previously, on the island, Javier had been bitten by a venomous snake and had changed the snake’s fate with The Destiny out of rage. The venomous snake had been killed after that, but Javier had fared no better, as his own punishment had followed.

His foot had slipped, and he had fallen over a cliff tens of meters deep. He had not fallen to his death in the end, as he had fallen on a branch that had stopped his momentum. This was only revenge for animals. If he had targeted a man or harmed someone, the consequences would only have been graver. Since then, Javier had not used The Destiny to tinker with one’s fate.

However, Ruby and Steven were being too infuriating tonight. It seemed like they would not understand that a superman was called that way because of his superpowers unless they were taught a lesson.

After studying it for so long, Javier could control the extent of his manipulation as well. It was not purely good or bad, like before. He was able to figure out that the repercussions would not be as bad as long as he tweaked The Destiny a little to the bad side.

Hence, he activated his Astral Sight to use The Destiny and change the fate of the couple. Unfortunately, as soon as Javier used his Astral Sight, he realized that the couple’s Soul Flames were flickering and showed signs of deterioration. He then switched to the Semblance

and did a reading for Ruby and Steven.

Things were looking great for Ruby. There was no need to step on the accelerator down her future path, as she was going downhill all the way. Way to save him energy! Steven was even better. His future path showed a direct plummet that would begin tonight.

The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 818 ReadOnline

Chapter 818 Continuation of the Party The whole banquet hall lost their cool over the present and Jared. It was a sculpture made of pure gold that weighed 10 kilograms. Since when were presents made of gold being gifted in kilograms?! 10 kilograms was 10,000 grams. Even if each gram was calculated based on the market price of 45 dollars, this was worth a whopping 450,000 dollars-without taking into account the fee of the workmanship. With all the miscellaneous fees added, it would go up to 600,000 dollars! The sincerity Jared showed while holding up the golden sculpture of the winged Victoria and bowing down to wish David a happy birthday was unparalleled. Elliott, who had been feeling triumphant at the table, dared not even make a sound. He was stunned by Jared's actions, and Jared had stolen his thunder right off the bat!

A few seconds later, voices full of envy and amazement slowly filled the hall.

"It's made of pure gold. Jared's really giving it his all to woo Evanna, huh? That's 600,000 dollars gone just like that!"

"Oh, Evanna, why am I not you? I'd have married Jared a long time ago if I were you. When will a man love me like Jared loves you...I'd be willing to get on my knees for him if it really happened one day! "Who does Javier think he is? Why does he get to be with Evanna? He and Evanna are like the princess and the frog. Or the beauty and the beast. Look at Jared. He's handsome, eligible, he comes from a good background, he's cultured-what does he lack? If I were Javier, I'd run into a wall and kill myself. It's too embarrassing to even be alive!" Without an exception, everyone involved Evanna and Javier. While they were surprised by what Jared had done, all of them knew why Jared had given the old man an expensive gift like this. It was all for Evanna! Reality proved this was true. Jared headed straight to Evanna's table after he bowed.

"Javier, Evanna, don't worry. I won't let anyone bully you while I'm around!"

"It's just a birthday present. I thought I'd prepare it if Javier is unable to. I'm using real gold to tell Elliott and everyone else here that no one can dream of stepping over you on my watch!" Jared sounded domineering. He did not even try to lower his voice. Even if the whole hall couldn't hear him, the surrounding tables could-and those who did looked at Javier with mockery and irony in their eyes. Ruby, who was next to them, had a sharp tongue as well. "Well done, Javier. You got a wife, and your wife's suitor is covering your *ss too. How lucky you are-unlike my husband, who's got to protect me all by himself." Steven waved dismissively. "No, no. It's because I'm capable of protecting

you. I wouldn't want to be a useless jerk and have another man protect my wife. I'm no cuckold!"

It was a perfect duet. It actually seemed as if Ruby and Steven had rehearsed it before. Each

played their part as they worked together to prick Javier with the needle of their mockery. It felt like this was all they had sworn to do.

As the protector, Jared left directly, excusing himself to greet Joey. He went to the main table, graciously rejected Don's invitation to take a seat there, and sat down right next to Joey.

"Madam Kimberley, don't you worry. I won't let you and Evanna feel wronged or upset as long as I'm around!"

Joey was comforted. Jared was the most sensible man. Each time they met, she was reassured. It would be wonderful if Evanna could be with Jared. Joey believed Don and Dahlia would never dare target her so blatantly if she had Jared's support, while Evanna thought the man would definitely protect her from mockery and ridicule if they were together. It was unfortunate that she had listened to her late husband back then and agreed to let Evanna marry that good-for-nothing Javier! Joey could not help sighing while thinking about this. "Sigh... Jared, it'd be great if you ended up with Evanna."

Jared smiled. "It's fine, Madam Kimberley. I'll protect you and Evanna no matter who she's with. Javier's decent too, actually. Although he's pretty useless, he's honest and upright. He wouldn't bully Evanna."

Joey was exasperated. "Jared, how could you say that? A man needs to be brave enough to shoulder his responsibilities and go after his own happiness. Would you really be okay with leaving Evanna's happiness up to that good-for-nothing Javier?"

"You-ugh, you're just so nice that you see the good in everyone!" Jared merely smiled without replying. He looked quite abashed while he was smiling like that. It was just that the flash of ridicule in his eyes reflected his true thoughts.

He was going to ruin Javier and Evanna's marriage. He would make Evanna his and acquire the Dennisons for North-Griffin Inc. through Evanna, becoming the next person in command of the Griffins.

How Jared had acted around them and how he was acting around Joey now infuriated Javier. Any man would not be able to take it if another man tried so hard to step in.

Just as Javier was about to use The Destiny again, a soft hand held his under the table. He turned to see Evanna forcing a warm smile as she looked at him. The smile was

proof that she was happy, but there was also another emotion mixed in. It was a sense of stubbornness that showed she was not regretting anything

Javier was moved at that moment. He felt his heart clench, and it pained him like never before. He felt bad that Evanna had not been able to lift her head up all this while because of him.

“Evanna, don’t worry. I’ll make sure you rise up and become the most honorable woman in this world. I swear on my life!”

“You swear on your life? Is your trashy life valuable enough?” Ruby mocked him mercilessly.

Steven added at the perfect time, “See, Asiel keeps staring at the pocket watch that the good-for-nothing brought as a gift. Who knows, maybe he’s discovered it’s a counterfeit and is

of the Party

wondering what kind of b*stard gifted it!”

Asiel was really staring at the ruby and diamond pocket watch from the stage, and even Jared’s golden sculpture of the winged Victoria did not distract him.

David felt a little bummed. Jared had wished him so formally a happy birthday, yet his old friend kept his back turned to the young man. It was not quite appropriate. Just as he was about to remind Asiel, the receptionist announced something again.

“Boris Garrison from Clouston brought some calligraphy from Mr. Garrison Sr. of the ministry of education!”

Mr. Garrison Sr’s calligraphy was obviously not valuable, but his status was. It was inappropriate for him to attend the event, so he had sent his son, Boris. Everyone knew that Boris represented the minister of education, Mr. Garrison Sr!

Steven was excited. “I didn’t know grandpa was friends with Mr. Garrison Sr. I’ll soar in the ministry of education in the future!”

Ruby was flushing from excitement as well. “I’ll ask grandpa to hook you up with Mr. Boris Garrison tonight!” While the husband and wife gushed, Boris appeared in the banquet hall before the public’s eyes.

“Here’s wishing Mr. David Dennison a happy birthday on behalf of...”

Would someone stop midway through their birthday wish to someone else? Yeah, Boris did.

It was because he had spotted Javier, whom he greeted happily. "What a coincidence, you're here too!"

Steven, who shared the same table with Javier, was beyond himself. How could he not when Boris actually knew a small fry like him? He was so excited that he barely paid attention to Boris' gaze as he sprang up in delighted surprise.

David was all smiles and was about to thank Boris from the stage when the latter simply ignored him. He did not even finish his wish before he walked to the table on the side, looking ecstatic.

David was befuddled. In all 73 years of his life, he had never met something like this! He complained to Asiel, who was next to him. "I've never met someone like this, who makes half a birthday wish and"

Before David could finish, Asiel walked over to the place where the presents were set down, muttering under his breath. "I need to have that pocket watch. I have to have it. Nobody can stop me!"

Elliott was huffing at the main table. He was infuriated that Jared, who had popped out of nowhere, had stolen his thunder. However, when he saw Asiel marching over to the presents, he perked up in delight. Needless to say, All-Seeing Asiel must have recognized the loftiness of his ancient porcelain statuette. That had to be the case!

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Elliott was filled with glee as he waited to be showered with praise by the antique expert.

Steven was also delighted as he waited for Boris to shake hands with an insignificant person like him.

Jared was pleased with himself too and kept waiting for Evanna to spread her arms and throw herself into his embrace. The only one who was upset was Javier, as these jerks had completely forgotten their place!

The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 819 ReadOnline

Chapter 819 Elliott Giving It His All Steven grinned obsequiously and went forward to greet Boris warmly, his grin almost splitting his face in half. However, when he extended his hand in great joy, he did not even get Boris' attention, as the latter shoved him away to stand next to Javier. Boris' eyes brightened up at the sight of Evanna, but the moment he noticed Javier's hand, which was interlaced with hers, he reeled in his captivated gaze. This was the master's woman. He would not dare have any other thoughts about her!

It was apparent that Boris was quite tactful-unlike someone else. Ruby, for example, admonished Javier when she saw that Boris was there. "Mr. Garrison is here, so piss off and give up your seat!" She was not being brazen. She was just doing her husband a favor, so she gave him a sh*t eating grin.

Once her supposedly pandering words left her mouth, however, Boris was angered. "Who do you think you are to speak so pompously?!"

Boris' comment stunned Ruby, who was totally befuddled. Why was she being criticized when she was being servile?

Steven went up to him with a grin to explain. "Mr. Garrison, this is my wife. Let me introduce you. She's "

"Who are you?" Boris' automatic response felt like a lethal blow to Steven. Why the f*ck would he come over with a smile when he did not know him?

Before Steven could react, Boris said, "I don't know you. Why are you introducing your wife to me? She's so ugly too. Are you hoping I see her in some special way?" Steven panicked. "No, wait, you don't know me? I'm Steven Hogg!

"I thought you knew that I'm also working at the ministry of education and had seen me before when you came over to me..." "Why the f*ck would I know you? Who are you? There are so many people at the ministry of education. Should I get to know all of them individually?" Boris waved dramatically after mocking Steven. "Scram. I have nothing more to say to you. You don't deserve it!"

Boris' attitude stunned Ruby and Steven, who stood frozen on the spot. They had wholeheartedly thought that Boris was there for Steven, but that was obviously a far cry from reality. Boris, the son of the minister of education, did not even know the two of them! Boris put on a smile again as he bowed slightly before Javier. "Sir, you're here too. What a coincidence!"

"Coincidence, my *ss!" Javier's retort shocked everyone else.

That was the minister of education's son, yet he dared talk to him like that?

Steven was even more furious and wanted to seize this opportunity to show off.

"Javier, you piece of trash. This is not how you talk to Mr. Garrison. I f*cking-"

Before Steven could finish criticizing him, a leg appeared near his hips and kicked him to the floor. Boris was then heard yelling, "Who did you call a piece of trash? One more insult from you and I'll kill you with this ashtray!" Steven felt incredibly wronged as he lay on the floor. He was arguing on behalf of Boris, but why would Boris beat him up?

Boris could care less about him, though, and turned to smile at Javier. “What do you mean,

sir?”

Javier slung his arm around Evanna’s shoulder and asked Boris, “Come on, tell me, why were you looking at my wife just now?” It was only then that Boris realized that he had offended Javier, so he quickly apologized.

“Sorry, I’m so sorry. I was just enthralled by your wife and I couldn’t help doing a double take. But don’t worry, I don’t have any ulterior motives at all. Not in the slightest. I wouldn’t dare

to.

“Come to think of it, only a wonderful woman like your wife could match your talent, sir. You’re a match made in heaven!”

Boris kept rambling obsequiously, shocking everyone else, especially Steven and Ruby. They had thought of pandering to him, yet he was pandering to Javier, which bemused them.

After that, Boris pulled the chair that was supposedly Steven’s and sat down next to Javier. He frowned at Ruby, who was beside him, and said, “Why are you so ugly? Stay away from me!” That was...direct. He had called Ruby ugly openly, and damn, that hurt. Ruby would have been ready to kill if someone else had said this, but Boris was obviously not “someone else” but the son of the minister of education. Therefore, she dared not even talk back. Not only that, but she gave her seat up because she needed to avoid being in front of Boris.

As she left with Steven in exasperation, Boris looked at Javier with a beam. The server replaced the cutlery while Boris rambled on respectfully in front of Javier. David, who was on stage, was baffled while watching everything that had happened. He just wanted to know who the protagonist of tonight’s birthday party was. Why was the son of the minister of education ignoring him? He was frustrated but he thought that he ought to go to him personally. After all, he was still the son of the minister of education, so he was worth David’s pride.

Then, Elliott rushed up to the stage hastily. He knew that his porcelain statuette must have gotten Asiel’s attention, as the latter went there, just as he had expected.

He could not help his excitement as he ran on stage to boast to Asiel.

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“Mr. Langdon, look at this porcelain statuette. I spent a good fortune on it! “It’s an antique of an ancient deity of benevolence, and it’s said to bring light and longevity into one’s life. Look, the deity’s even holding a lantern...” Elliott spoke on the stage while the guests below the stage exclaimed. “It’s an antique. Goodness, that’s worth a lot. Elliott’s really giving it his all!” “The young man really is trying to curry favor with the old man, huh... It’s also a form of love, I guess!” “The f*ck? It’s an antique? It’d be great if I had it. I’m just missing a piece like this one...” Elliott was even more triumphant while listening to the gasps below the stage. He looked at Asiel victoriously. “Mr. Langdon, please assess it!” Asiel was disgruntled that Elliott had stopped him from taking a look at the pocket watch, and the latter stayed in front of him, just yapping away. Therefore, he lashed out. “I already saw it when I went on stage. What kind of assessment do you want? It’s a gift for the dead, and you gave it as a present!” Asiel did not mince his words. His voice was clearly heard by everyone else. Javier heard it too, of course. As he glanced at the gift, he was impressed by Asiel. Lo and behold, the artifact did have a foreboding energy about it. He could see it, but not Elliott, so the latter’s face fell immediately. “Why are you spewing nonsense, Mr. Langdon? “This is my birthday gift to grandpa. Why would I gift him something that’s for the dead?!” Asiel was annoyed that someone had claimed he was spewing nonsense in public, so he pointed at the statuette and told Elliott, “Sure, since you want to get to the bottom of this, I’ll grant your wish!”

The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 820 ReadOnline

Chapter 820 This Is a Priceless Artifact! Asiel’s proclamation made David queasy. Asiel never made things up, which could only mean the master had sniffed something fishy. Not keen to see Elliott shamed in public-Elliott’s disgrace would be just as disgraceful for David, after all- he wanted Asiel to keep quiet and cover things up.

Unfortunately, Asiel misread David’s expression and thought the latter wanted him to explain in detail. Thus, he obliged. “Look at the color. Soft and faded, this faint spot of blue indicates an anomaly in the glazing process. Porcelain ware sporting such features is rarer-and thus more of a treasure-than its more common peers. This is, in fact, a genuine historical artifact. One would even classify it as a Grade-1 historical artifact, such as paintings and sculptures of old artisans and masters found in museums. Though it won’t fetch the highest price out there, Grade-1 artifacts are considered protected by the state, so all legitimate sales of such items are prohibited. Of course, this doesn’t stop the black market, which values it at around \$9,000.”

The crowd was a little taken aback. Had Elliott not claimed that his gift was worth over hundreds of thousands?

Their questioning gazes burned into Elliott’s face. Embarrassed, he tried to find an opening to explain himself, but Asiel powered through. “This statuette doesn’t depict the ancient deity of prosperity and boons. The ancient inscription here gives the identity of

the statuette away: ‘ The Great Unmover, Pillar of the Earth. Strength in Solitude, Keeper of Silence. It’s an excerpt from a funerary text meant to invoke the benevolence of an underworld deity. In other words, this is a votive item. A grave good! “How could you, young man? Even if you had purely aesthetic reasons, gifting your own grandfather something related to death on his birthday is just-gosh-so tactless! Not to mention that this item was probably the loot of grave robbers that ransacked ancient tombs. Who knows if it’s cursed? After all, it was standard practice back then to ward off trespassers and grave robbers...”

Elliott could feel his heart skipping a beat. He had not expected something he had bought from the black market to be exposed in this way. Worse even, he had not known it had come from a

grave!

Asiel was not finished yet. “Do you see the lantern? That’s no imagery of a guiding light to the living. It’s like the light of a lighthouse for souls seeking to be moored. It’s fitting for a deity who sometimes works as a psychopomp, but as a birthday gift?! Jesus, Elliott! One might even wonder if you secretly hate your own grandpa!”

A furor erupted below the stage. “Wow, Elliott. You bought a piece of stolen, possibly-cursed grave goods for over 10,000 bucks and presented it to your own grandfather? How bold. And you’re claiming it’s worth hundreds of thousands? You have some balls!”

“Imagine giving someone a thing that might have been cursed by its dead owner! And that someone being an old man who’s still perfectly healthy! Are you trying to supernaturally murder your own grandfather?”

“Gotta be the only case in history of someone gifting a dead man’s doll to an alive old man

under the ruse of ancient blessings, man!”

Hearing the sneering mockery erupting from the crowd below was as bad as having his pants ripped open in public. He was so embarrassed!

He was not alone in his suffering, though. David was just as embarrassed. He had loved and doted on this grandson for most of his time as a grandfather, and this kid had given him a cursed relic of some ancient civilization in return?! He might as well have announced to the attendants that he wished his grandpa would die already!

David slapped the young man’s cheeks hard. “You ingrate! Get the hell out of here at once!” he barked. Elliott knew that by “here”, he meant more than just the stage. He meant the banquet altogether. His invitation and right to be at this party had been revoked. It was hardly surprising given the magnitude of his slip-up. He would have

excused himself entirely and called it an early night even if his grandpa had not asked. The embarrassment was just too great. Despite that, Elliott was seething. He had hoped to look good tonight, only to fall flat on his face so unceremoniously...and in front of such a big audience too! Jared gleefully watched Elliott skulk toward the main door before disappearing beyond it. Now that the latter's gift had turned out to be a disaster, his own gift-the golden statue of a winged Victoria-would only seem all the more precious. Unlike Elliott, Jared knew his thing from head to base, and she was made of genuine gold. No expert worth their salt would conclude otherwise.

Feeling smug, he turned to Don to offer fake comfort. "Hey, chin up! Elliott obviously did not mean this. I'm sure everyone knows this. It's too bad he made a fool out of himself simply because he's a little too slow and trusting. But it's not his fault, right?"

Don gritted his teeth so hard they could have turned into powder. And yet, all he could do was force a smile as he looked back at Jared. His son had done something so catastrophic that he could not even bristle.

Now that Elliott had been sent away, David felt himself calm down a little and beckoned to Asiel. "Come on, we shall feast now!"

It was a tacit way of begging everyone to move on. The last thing he wanted was to uncover another cursed burial good disguised as a birthday present! How embarrassing that would be! Asiel was obstinate, however. He ignored his old friend and hurried toward the pocket watch, prompting David to call out insistently, "Hey!"

"Wait, bring that pocket watch! I need to see it!" The man protested.

David and the crowd reeled back in realization. Javier's pocket watch? They had thought it was a cheap fake; something he had bought from some arts-and-crafts shop online. That was the best he could do, was it not?

But this was different. Anything that could attract Asiel's attention could not be an ordinary thing. If this were a fake, then by God, it had to be a spectacular, extraordinary fake!

He approached the watch and rubbed his hands, hoping to generate enough sweat to grip the artifact before him without any chance of it slipping from his hands. He furrowed his brows,

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his gaze concentrated, and held the watch.

"This is no common pocket watch. It looks like a watch framed with diamonds and rubies in circular cuts, but do you see this? It's a fleur-de-lys motif set by single-cut rose

diamonds. It was a gift to an Archduchess and her consort,” he said. “What many people would miss is this

He clicked a button and, strangely enough, the pocket watch opened up, revealing a mechanical miniature angel in a miniature garden. A turn of the clockspring later, a soft tune with an unwavering pitch that defied its age began to sing. “To Elizabeth, my dear” was engraved finely at the rim of the watch. It was breathtaking to watch. The angel spun slowly, her head craning toward the onlooker who uncovered her secret every 30 seconds, as though it felt bashful to be found. This miniature music box packed inside a modestly-sized pocket watch spoke volumes of the genius behind this contraption; even more so when the angel had been sculpted so masterfully. The maker had to be a clockmaker, miniaturist, and engineer rolled into one. The receiver had to be someone of great importance too. Indeed, the emblem next to the fine engraving proved that it was a royal possession.

Asiel looked up from the watch. “The only other pocket watch made in the same manner and by the same man was once sold off by Christie’s auction house. It was worth 750 million dollars at the time!”

The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 821 ReadOnline

Chapter 821 This Is A Bit Too Inappropriate The crowd gasped in shock, Jared most of them all. His golden Victoria was worth 600,000 dollars, but now, Asiel’s verdict meant that the little trinket’s price dwarfed the value of his pure-gold Victoria!

“Impossible! He’s useless! He’s literally a good-for-nothing! There’s no way he could even buy something so beyond his means. This has to be a fake!” Jared cried. His disbelief was so great that he accidentally said that part out loud

Asiel shot him a look. “Please. Do you know the immense historicity and meaning behind the Fleur-de-lys, hmm? It’s the favored symbol of monarchies. It’s used by both royalty and saints. It’s religious, political, dynastic, artistic, emblematic, and symbolic. A favored emblem of royalty... It’s not something to be emblazoned on any item willy-nilly!” he pointed out. “And of course, what can we deduce from the liberal use of gemstones, especially in the past, when few people had access to such things? Diamonds, rubies, and pink diamonds... Do you honestly think these things were available to some forger a ‘good-for-nothing could get his hands on, hmm?”

“And let’s not forget the ingenious contraption of the angel and her secret garden hidden within the pocket watch. Look at the delicate artisanship evident in these miniature figures! Look at the mechanism that makes it work! Do you really think any forger would be able to forge such a thing at a price a ‘good-for-nothing’ could pay? In fact, a forger who can make such a thing would be better off selling it as a master artisan of their own

right!” he added relentlessly. “What’s more, I do know a thing or two about the history behind this pocket watch...

“I previously mentioned that it was made for one Archduchess Marie Anne, also known as Elizabeth among the people closest to her. Her father, Archduke Alfred, commissioned it from a renowned renaissance man, Mermod Dimitri Frères. It took him more than three months for something so beguilingly modest, but it’s the materials it required, as well as the complexity of its design and mechanism, that made it especially laborious. Frères devised the contraption fervently only because—as rumor has it – he was enamored with dear Elizabeth despite their differing statuses. “Such labor didn’t go unnoticed, certainly not by Archduke Alfred. Awed and enchanted by the pocket watch, he was nonetheless unsupportive of young Dimitri’s feelings. Elizabeth was to be wedded to a prince of distant relation to strengthen the ties between the family and nations. To hammer that home, the Archduke commissioned another pocket watch of the same ingenuity—though a slightly different jewelry design – for Prince Roland. Imagine that! Recreating a labor of passionate love and confession...for your blue-blooded rival! You can only imagine the anguish he felt upon receiving the request. Already toiling in ill health, and now a broken heart grieving for love, Dimitri nonetheless created the other pocket watch, making it a perfect match for this one. It was said that Dimitri thought Roland was at least upright and seemed to love Elizabeth genuinely, so he made the other watch as a token of his

s, if only such grace could save the altruist from an untimely death!

“There were rumors of a few more of these pocket watches getting lost in time. They were made either by Dimitri himself or his accomplished apprentices, and some were copies of the

original two watches he made, while others merely copied the contraption and mechanism. As a sign of respect to their master, they continued to engrave their master’s name as though they had all been made by him,” Asiel added, “Now, full disclosure: I have no idea if this was a creation of Mermod Dimitri Frères himself or his aspiring apprentices. All I’m saying is that it features all of the hallmarks of the master’s work and the historicity checks out. I’m going to err on the side of optimism and trust my gut feeling. I stand by what I said: At the very least, it’s worth 750,000, if not more!”

Asiel’s words were as good as solid proof. His words carried the weight of a giant in antique appraisal and history of art. He would not make such a daring proclamation if he had the slightest doubt. His reputation rested on him being right, after all. In other words, the fact that he had dared say this alone was proof!

“How the f-how?! How the hell did that useless son-in-law even manage to get his hands on this?! 750,000! That’s worth more than my savings and assets combined!”

“Amazing! How the hell did he even get this super-rare sh*t that was lost in time? And to give a treasure like that away, apparently without reservation?”

“Fellas, fellas! Do you think he might have smuggled this watch? Or maybe he got it from the black market or through illegal trading...”

The speculations began, which was inevitable. After all, Javier had made himself known as a useless son-in-law who leeches off his wife and her family. Imagine someone with that kind of infamy suddenly pulling a hefty treasure, once belonging to royalty no less, out of his hammerspace. How could anyone not doubt its origin?

Everyone was a small theorist of their own now, but no one's pet hypothesis seemed that convincing. The crowd's murmurs and susurrus had grown to the point that Boris Garrison finally stood up. He scanned the room and proclaimed loudly, “I was there when Javier acquired this pocket watch. I saw him uncover it with my own eyes!”. To the crowd's growing bewilderment, he began retelling what had happened. They had never heard of something as ludicrous as hiding a pocket watch within a phony antique mantle clock, but then again...why would the son of the Education Minister lie about such a thing? The crowd was stunned. They were totally shocked. They were amazed. For the first time, they realized Javier might not be a useless waste of space after all. The things he had done shocked them to the core!

Jared Griffin was damn pissed. 600,000 dollars had gone to waste, and he had earned no acclaim, attention, clout, or anything else. That uppity piece of sh*t Javier had snubbed it all. His mood had soured so much that he would not even stay to have some booze. He made up an excuse and left the banquet. His ingratiating manners at the beginning of the event had all but vanished, and he had lost his will to humor or flatter David Dennison. He had never cared for that old man! This was just for Evanna—he had done it merely to please her. And yet, instead of getting the young woman's attention, his effort had been rewarded with the sight of Javier and Evanna growing all the more closer

Evanna herself had not noticed Jared leave. In fact, she had not focused even a modicum of her attention on the guy who had been vying for her attention since the very beginning. Her eyes had been stuck on Javier.

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She was really intrigued by the watch and wanted to know where it had come from. She wanted to know how Javier had even known there was such a thing hiding inside a mantle clock.

Her mind was racing as Javier casually flicked his fork to the ground before passing it off as an accident. “Oops! Can you help me get that? I'll tell you how I managed to do it if you pick it up for me.”

Evanna thought little of his possible intentions, so she bent down and picked the fork up. What she did not know, though, was that as she was bending in the man's direction, her wide neckline would leave a window to a very generous view. She looked up right on time to catch Javier staring right at her cleavage. With burning cheeks, she exhaled and said, "God, really?!"

She had fallen for his trick! Though, honestly, she was a lot less infuriated than she would have been had this happened in the past. Now, she just had a strange fuzzy feeling in her chest. They were husband and wife in the eyes of the law and society. Javier could go straight for her lips or take her to the bedroom, and it would still be normal. There was little she could do to protest. Besides, after all the things that had happened lately, Evanna had concluded that Javier was not as useless and stupid as he had first shown himself to be. He was like a box of surprises, only he came up with surprises other men could not hope to create. For one, Jared paled in comparison to Javier. Something was blooming in Evanna's heart, and it was definitely something she felt for Javier

Unfortunately for them both, a stranger interjected by ambling toward the couple and introducing himself. It was Asiel Langdon, the professional who had seen through the ancient deity statuette ruse, as well as the expert who had recognized the priceless of the ruby-and-diamond pocket watch.

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The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 822 ReadOnline

Chapter 822 You've Got Quite the Fashion Sense Javier welcomed the man. He had only known Asiel for a while and he was already impressed. After he showed the man to his seat, the two of them began to chat. A few pleasantries later, Asiel finally asked the real question he wanted to ask "How did you know that there was a pocket watch hiding in the mantle clock, Mr. Kersey?" Javier flashed him a smile. "I take no pleasure in keeping secrets, Mr. Langdon, but sorry. I'd rather not say." Asiel nodded appreciatively. He was equally impressed by Javier's attitude and would rather not get an answer than to be lied to. Javier's answer was not satisfactory, sure, but it was also not irritating to hear. Antique and art appraisal were a race for the players, as each individual relied on their own secret techniques to out-compete one another. That way, they could maintain their prestige and income. Asiel did not ask any more questions; there was no point. He just threw in some small talk before taking his leave. The banquet was a merry one-if one excluded Elliott, Don, and Jared. Javier was the indisputable victor of the entire event, and no one could top him.

The banquet soon ended, and Javier and Evanna went home. In a stark contrast to the arrangement at the beginning, Javier was the driver now, while Evanna was relegated to the passenger seat.

It was getting a little harder-hotter even?-to face Javier now. She had just started to like Javier when the man had immediately begun to run his hands all over her as though they were in their own bedroom. Hell, he had even placed her hand over his crotch!

God. Her cheeks were burning just at the thought. Fighting her embarrassment was hard, so she turned away and looked outside the window to clear her head.

Unfortunately, no sooner did she turn away than she felt her silk-clad thighs being caressed and rubbed all over by the warmth of his hungry hands. Flustered, she squealed, "Stop it, Javier! Take your hand away, please, b-b-before I get really cross at you!" Evanna mustered the best glare she could, but there were no traces of genuine irritation in her eyes. Truth be told, she thought it was natural to be teased and touched by a guy who was her legal husband. Her rage simply lacked protest. At most, she found these things unfamiliar and novel. She was just expressing a woman's natural tendency to be bashful and coy. Javier saw right through her faux protests and went even harder...and deeper. Evanna could feel things getting out of control. "D-Don't do this... You're driving, for God's sake! Road...safety...comes... comes...first..." Her protest fizzled out into a low whimper, and her breath became shorter. By now, her cheeks were turning pink. Javier looked at her beautiful, flushed face and felt his fire blazing brighter. "Can I drive tonight?" he asked.

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Evanna mustered all the strength she had and shoved his hands away from her thighs. "You are driving right now! Focus on that, would you?"

"No, not this car. You know I meant something else." Evanna blushed. Of course she did, but she had never been intimate with anyone over her twenty-odd years of life. Just talking about it was enough to embarrass her. Cheeks burning, she said nothing in return. Luckily for her, Javier stopped getting handsy for the rest of their journey home. Naturally, he only paused because he had a plan all laid out in his head: Once they got home, he was going to carry the young woman into their bedroom before initiating his unbeatable foreplay!

And then...Evanna would definitely surrender and welcome his conquest!

Reality did not play out as he had hoped. At all.

By the time they got home, Joey was bidding Jared farewell by the gate as though the latter was her real son-in-law. Jared himself was rather spirited and relished in taking any opportunity to address Joey as "Mrs. Dennison" with the tone of the boy next door. Upon noticing Evanna's return, he waved at her and beamed. The former frowned in

reply. She waited until the guy was gone before asking her mother, "What the heck was that, Mom? Why was he here? And why did you let him in?"

Joey rolled her eyes. "Have I ever done anything that wasn't for your own good, huh? You didn't really think Javier got that pocket watch by himself, right? Jared told me the truth. He was the one who gifted Useless Javier that watch because he didn't want to see him embarrass you. He also told me that Javier would deny this ever happened for sure, but he doesn't mind. Anything for you, he said. Even if it means being misunderstood or saddled with untrue accusations..."

Javier was baffled. Okay, now this was a low blow. Claiming the pocket watch was an act of benevolence on Jared's part before hastily posturing as the "bigger person"? What the f*ck?

Besides, did Joey's stupidity even have a limit? She had actually believed something so contrived! Why? Because Jared was the heir of North-Griffin Inc?

Evanna moved swiftly to defend Javier, but Joey proved Javier right when she cited Jared's deep pockets as proof. "Think, girl. Javier's a useless, penniless good-for-nothing. How could he possibly buy something so beyond his means?! The only plausible explanation is that Jared bought it and told him to present it as his own!

"Can't you see how much he loves you, Evanna? You mean the world to him! You can't pass up someone this good and kind, girl. You're literally doing yourself a disservice!"

Just hearing another one of Joey's for-your-own-good lectures irritated Evanna, who stormed up the stairs without another word. Her mother had no idea how much of an idiot she was!

Javier was about to follow her when the woman suddenly stopped him in his tracks. "You are coming with me. We need to talk."

Her status as his wife's mother made refusing an impossibility. Quietly, Javier took a seat on

– 822 You've Got Quite the Fashion Sense

the couch.

"Look, I can see how much effort you've put into reinventing yourself, but there are some things you can't achieve even if you work hard and put in 100% effort. Can you become the president no matter how hard you try? You can't, because you're a nobody. This is why people like us have to be pragmatic, okay? And what's most pragmatic in your case is filing for divorce!" Joey said. "Jared has made it clear that he would compensate you with 150,000 dollars the moment you and Evanna split. Do you know

how much that is? It's enough to give you a comfortable life! You could even buy your own house!

"In fact, you could get your needs fulfilled with that much money every night for years. A new girl every once in a while-isn't that your version of heaven?"

It was unimaginable that a mother-in-law would say something so disparaging...which was why Javier thought she should be taught a little lesson. While Joey was still giving a speech, Javier swiped a tack from the table and pressed it down on the edge of her skirt. Since Javier continued to pretend that he was listening and kept nodding as she nagged, the older woman was none the wiser.

It was an infuriating conversation. Javier would nod and agree to virtually everything she said, except to the divorce. She was so irritated that she got to her feet, looking exasperated and vexed. "God, why do I keep talking to a moron?!"

She felt something gripping her skirt, and before she could register what had happened, she saw her skirt on the couch, far away from her. Joey was stunned. How had this even happened? Her beautiful face was red as she hastily slapped her hands around her exposed underwear... "Wow. Nice fashion sense," Javier remarked before leaving with a smirk on his lips. Joey could only stand in her spot, blushing exasperatedly.

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The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 823 ReadOnline

Chapter 823 As If He Was Trying to Kill Her! There was no way Evanna's mother would make Javier hard, no matter how little she was wearing. He did, however, feel burning flames in his groin for Evanna. He had to be inside a beautiful woman like that, or it would feel as though he had wasted this fake marriage.

He returned to the bedroom and turned the knob.

To his surprise, Evanna had locked the door!

He received a text message from the woman on the other side of the door. Her message was simple and brutally clear: Javier was to sleep on the couch tonight.

"Please. You really think I can be stopped by a mere locked door?" Javier murmured to himself. He instinctively looked for a paperclip to unlock the door, though he gave up before he really acted on it.

Evanna was only doing this because she was clearly not ready. Fine, then. Javier could wait.

He left the door alone and went out of the house. All this energy should be spent elsewhere, though not exactly purposelessly. Jared claimed he had “helped” Javier at the banquet, right? Well, surely he would not object to “helping” Javier a second time, then? Jared’s father had a mistress who was only 30 years old. Ah, the age when a woman was at her sexiest and most receptive! She was going to be so tasty...Just perfect for his hunt! Javier headed straight to Jared’s old man’s place like a man on a mission. As a wealthy family was wont to do, the Griffins’ mansion was guarded by both hired men and snarling dogs to ensure their precious security. Of course, something like that could not possibly stop Javier. He scouted a side of the wall where no one could see him, getting ready to vault in. The sight of Rosemary Manchin hurrying out of the mansion stopped him. What was she doing up at ten at night? Where was she heading?

Javier crept back into his car quietly. When Rosemary’s car took off, he followed it.

His target took quite a lot of detours until, finally, the car stopped in front of a house somewhere in the rural outskirts of the city. Rosemary and the driver emerged from the car, their hands snaking around each other’s waists as they opened the door to the house. “I love it when that irritating ‘gardener’ is out of state. It means I can lie on a bed of roses! Nip on the buds, pinch the petals, kiss the thorns...” “God, stop it! You’re unbelievable!” Rosemary and the driver’s love talk drifted in the still night air as they strode inside the house and locked it from the inside.

Once again, low-effort security like this could not stop Javier, who pressed his right foot against the wall and vaulted himself up. He grabbed the edge and leaped over before landing quietly in the garden like a cat. He then crossed over to the window and peeked inside.

He caught Rosemary dropping her bag while removing her dress, revealing two fine legs draped in black silk pantyhose.

Very sexy! Very alluring! Very good.. The driver obviously felt the same raging effect. “Be patient, my dear. I gotta empty my bladder first.”

“Urgh! Why do you always have to do that before we f*ck? I swear, your bladder hasn’t grown since you were a kid!” Rosemary protested while her lover walked out the main door.

He was not going to take a leak-anyone old enough to know could tell from the springe in his hand. Someone was trying to cheat his way out of being a fast-shooter!

“So you’re the Flash, huh? Come fast, go fast?”

The driver jumped. He then turned in the direction of the voice to see who it was –

And was promptly greeted by the blurry image of an incoming fist.

The driver fell to the ground motionless. It was a hard punch, so it would take the average man 4 to 5 hours to recover.

Javier ignored him completely, took a bucket of water, and poured half of it all over the electric box. A pop and a sizzle later, the entire house was covered in pitch-black darkness. Rosemary was terrified. Panicked and unsure what had happened, she called out to the driver while feeling her way to her phone. If she could switch on the flashlight app...

She had barely touched the phone case when a pair of feverish hands began charting across her skin.

At six in the morning, the battle was over. Rosemary Manchin felt like death. Her eyes could hardly open, so she gave up, sinking into the bed on her stomach and falling asleep. She writhed a little in her slumber, her muscles spasming uncontrollably.

Javier washed up a little and decided to bail. He got out of the door and found the driver, who he proceeded to knock out cold again. Since the driver had removed his pants to take his drug, Javier left his junk exposed and trawled the man to the bed inside.

His shoes and pants were left on the floor in the process, but Javier let them be. He just hauled the driver to the bed, where his body lay limply over Rosemary's weak form.

Satisfied with his work, Javier strode out of the door. He was about to drive his car into an alley when he saw a Bentley and an Audi pull over at the gate. From the rearview mirror, Javier could see Jared behind the wheel of the Audi.

Well, well, well. Who could possibly be driving the Bentley? It had to be his father.

Mr. Griffin got out of his car. Then, along with Jared and a few bodyguards, they barged into the house and kicked the door open.

They found a naked Rosemary and a half-naked driver on the bed.

Mr. Griffin was apoplectic. Only Jared's rage came close to the degree of the old man's fury. The younger Griffin was particularly offended by the fact that his father had been turned into a cuckold. At the height of his fury, he grabbed a wooden bat he found nearby and began

hitting the driver's crotch

The poor man just could not catch a break, could he? He had been knocked out twice, he'd had his date snatched and f*cked, and now, his manhood was at the end of its line

The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 824 ReadOnline

Chapter 824 Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire! Pain shot up from the driver's groin, causing the man to snap out of his blackout, only to let out a few yelps of anguish before plopping back on the bed and fainting again. The agony was just too much!

His screams woke up Rosemary, who opened her eyes to see Jared, his father, and her own naked body

She was baffled. Why were these two here?

A more terrifying question hit her a millisecond later: Did this mean...that the thing between her and the driver...?!

Rosemary immediately defended herself by blaming it all on the driver. "Honey, you gotta believe me! I had nothing to do with this-he forced me! It was him! He"

"Darling, you're really hanging him out to dry, huh? Just like you did your lingerie, I bet!" The older Griffin snapped at her with a mirthless smile. "He forced you, you say? Then the surveillance footage should prove it!"

The mention of the camera mortified Rosemary, who fell down on her knees and begged for dear life. The older Griffin, though, had a steely glare that could only mean he would show no mercy. He ordered his men to take her away while leaving the driver in his son's hands. He was sure the kid knew what to do.

As the sole person to enjoy that entire escapade, Javier felt rejuvenated and recharged, and there was a spring in his step now. His partner for the night had been sweet, ripe, and as juicy as a fruit about to burst. A fine delicacy that made losing his kicks impossible! Hell, he would be delighted to recall all the finer details right now!

The only fault she had-which Javier thought was quite grave indeed – was her mediocre technique. It was like dancing with an expensive sex doll. She was sexy and all, but she had danced with two left feet. She did not know how to synchronize-or complement her partner, for that matter!

She paled in comparison to his most premium girlfriends, like Jade and Quinna. He had taught them how to f*ck, and boy, they had become soooooo good at f*cking. It was unfortunate that Jade was pregnant and Quinna was too far away physically. He'd only had this expensive sex doll to use last night, boo-hoo.

When Javier returned, he happened to bump into Evanna, who was on her way to work. Surprised to see him return in the morning, she asked, "Huh? Where were you last night?"

“Sleeping with another woman,” he replied before striding into the bedroom and throwing himself on the bed.

Evanna felt a tinge of guilt. She had been nasty to him, had she not? Of course, Javier was bluffing! He could not have possibly done something like that! He was only saying this out of spite. He was just sulking.

– 824 Lar, Liar, Pants on Fire!

Evanna felt bad. They were married, and yet she had locked him out of their room at night to punish him for his sexual advances. And yet, no matter how hard she mulled it over, she could not come up with a viable compensation. She shook her head and decided not to dwell on it altogether.

A while later, Javier got back on his feet, feeling rejuvenated after only two hours of sleep. He had another important matter to attend to, after all. He had not joined the Dennisons to tease Evanna or give these people a punching bag to relieve stress.

He was there to find a person that was most likely connected to the Raiders. He had some clues now, so he needed to follow the breadcrumbs and see where they led.

His latest target was Evanna’s granduncle and David’s little brother, Daniel Dennison. 30 years ago, he had left the family and had never returned. Everyone had assumed he was long dead, including his own brother. He was alive, though. Daniel’s departure was considered by the Dennisons the culmination of his magical thinking and delusions. The man had believed in the human potential for parapsychology and other arrays of superpowers, so much so that he had walked out on his family to search for ways to unlock this potential. Had Javier heard of this in the past, he would have assumed Daniel was a madman who had never grown out of his infatuation with the supernatural. Now, though, his eyes were proof enough that there was such a possibility. There were no absolutes in this world.

Since all the advanced weaponry the Kerseys possessed was not enough to protect their dominion and ultra-elite status, Javier would need even stronger power.

Daniel might have just found that power.

Javier drove straight to David’s home, hoping to glean some information about his target this way. The two met in the latter’s mansion, but before he could start asking, David rattled off about the pocket watch. Javier couldn’t care less. “It’s just an old piece of junk made by a guy so lame that he could not even get his girl. I could smack it and feel nothing.”

David was stunned. “You talk like your dad’s the richest man in the world! Does your grandpa own mines of...god-knows-what precious stones?” he drawled. David had no idea how right he was. Javier’s family did own every kind of mine there was. Gold, oil,

coal, gas-even goddamn uranium. His family acquired money, power, and instruments of violence as though they were collectibles. If the Kerseys ever ran out of money, then everyone on the planet would already be living in f*cking poverty. Of course, Javier was above telling David all of this. "Can we get to the real matter at hand? I'm here to talk about—"

"You'd feel nothing, you say? Does that mean it's actually fake?" David blurted out, cutting him short. It was obvious which topic was more interesting to him.

Javier was speechless. Here he was, racing against time to complete his mission, and this old geezer just would not stop rambling about the damn watch!

To hell with his cover! Javier ordered Herschel to get ready. "Give me your bank account," he said, turning to David. "I'll transfer 150 million to you right now." David was startled. Really? His bluff was so bold-how the hell had this guy's pants not caught fire from that lie?! 150 million? That was more than the entire family's net worth! "Fine. Fancy yourself a billionaire in a beggar's clothes, do you? Have at it. Transfer 1.5 billion instead if you really wanna make my jaw drop to the floor!" 150 million or 1.5 billion-who cared? Javier hardly felt the loss. He just gave Herschel orders while David watched with a sneer. "Oh boy. You even talked to your 'henchman', as if this is really gonna happen! What kind of excuse are you gonna use to get out of this, hmm? Tell me you've reached your transfer limit for the day, hmm? This way, you can pose around like a rich man while having nothing in reality?"

The older one got, the more cynical they became, and the harder it was for them to admit certain facts. David's skepticism was no trouble to the ever-confident Javier, though, because the man knew just how filthy rich he really was. He used to spend more than 1.5 billion over a few months when he was a kid! Pah, money was insignificant. He would have used it to wipe his *ss, but toilet paper was smoother to the touch and a lot more hygenic. "Alright, I'm done with your act. Tell me how you got your paws on the pocket watch at once!" David snarled. He had no reason to act differential for a useless good-for-nothing, and he was even starting to believe the watch was fake. Javier was not going to tell him anything. His proof was coming soon after all. David received a message from the bank, but instead of reading it, he waved the screen at Javier. "Wanna bet? If it turns out you transferred 1.5 billion dollars, then I'll call you daddy. Otherwise, you'll have to tell me how you got the watch." Javier smiled. "Sure. You wanna shoot yourself in the foot so much? Go ahead." David snickered. He was going to win this bet! When he read the message though, his glee froze on his lips. The amount on the screen included so many zeroes that he had to count them over and over again!

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The Ace at the Apex by Nine Linked Rings Chapter 825 ReadOnline

Chapter 825 Let Me Take a Look Too! David was stunned! Baffled! Stupefied! He had decades under his belt, but still, he had never seen so much money before in his life.

Just the reminder that all of this had been transferred into his account the moment Javier had ended his call sent a chill down his spine.

He stared at Javier with renewed respect and intrigue. This guy...Holy sh*t, he needed to abandon every past judgment and opinion of his. Now, he really had to know who he was. This grandson-in-law had been doling out surprise after surprise like there was no tomorrow!

Lord Almighty, David had to find out who this Javier really was. Why would he marry his granddaughter? Why would he join their comparatively humble family? Why "I don't have time for small talk!" Javier interjected. He was in no mood for all this chit-chat." I just wanna know where Daniel Dennison is!"

His brother? So this guy was after his brother? But why?

David snuffed out any curiosity he felt the moment he met Javier's piercing gaze. It was like looking at a viper before it struck.

Instead, he answered Javier's question without further ado. "To be completely honest, I don't really know where my little brother is."

Daniel had been missing for a very long time. Nobody really knew where he had gone, but a brother could not stop himself from trying to find out. He had hired private eyes and organized search parties, but what he had discovered was piecemeal information that had led nowhere.

"For now, the only piece of information I have is this: He was found somewhere on top of Bauld Mountain. No one knows what he's doing or why he was even there. The only reason we even managed to find him is...well, luck."

David handed a photo to Javier. The photo depicted a man who looked very much like the old man himself, though he was wearing a ceremonial robe of some kind and he gave off the air of

a hermit.

"I found the man who took this picture. He talked about how...unreal it felt to be in his presence. He was like a man from another plane of existence or something, so he thought he was just another mountain hermit, mystic, or even demigod. He couldn't resist taking a picture, but he didn't have any contact with him or any real connection to Daniel, David explained. "I conducted a few other investigations on my own, you know, to see if the photographer was telling the truth. He was. He was just a tourist.

“That’s it. That’s the last lead I got regarding Daniel and...well, I got no leads after that,” David finished. He then added, “Um, why are you looking for Daniel?”

Javier waved his question away instead of dwelling on it. Before leaving, though, he had a few more last words to say. “Listen to me. If anyone asks about Daniel, don’t hide what you know and just give them the information they want. However, you will notify me first thing after

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they leave.

“Also, if anyone ever dares threaten your family, you must tell me. I’ll snuff them out, and it will look as though they never even made a ripple.”

‘Never even made a ripple’! Brave words-no, bold words that no one would possibly say if they had not even a modicum of might or capability to back them up. The fact that he could make such promises showed David just how immensely powerful Javier might be. David no longer had the heart to ask him anything else. He was not going to offend a guy who could shell out 1.5 billion dollars with a call and was capable of silencing any riot or rabble. The only thing he should do was serve Javier like a retainer or a vassal! Javier might have been a useless good-for-nothing in the past, but not anymore. He was their most important guest—a guest of unparalleled honor! David announced his decree to the rest of the family as quickly as he could. From now on, everyone in the family should defer to Javier like the royalty that he was!

There was one unfortunate member of the family who did not receive the memo because he was not at home: Elliott Dennison. Right now, he was looming over one of the many women he paid to hang out with him. He grunted and bucked against her spread legs for about two or three times before...he was done.

His confidence, unfounded as it was, was brimming as he followed up on his performance “Ain’t I an emissary of heaven, gals?” The women forced a smile. “You bet!” they said in an insincere chorus that was only made possible by the promise of Elliott’s generous payment.

The call girls then left. Elliott lit a cigarette in the car, puffing smoke while recalling last night’s events. Others had told him what had happened after he had been booted out of the banquet. Javier, in a stroke of fool’s luck, had revealed that he had stumbled upon a priceless pocket watch. He had gotten to strut, gloat, and parade around in his newfound fame... God! It made his blood boil! Elliott had done everything he could to get on his grandpa’s good side, and yet all that effort had gone up in flames. But Javier-f*cking Javier, that lucky son of ab*tch-had managed to get all this clout by sheer dumb luck! None of this was fair!

“How dare a piece of sh*t like you think he can fight me!” he snarled under his breath. His fury kept growing, as did the pain of his humiliation. Elliott called one of his underlings who was active in the seedy underworld. “Take some of your boys and find this son of a b*tch for me,” he snarled. “I want you to teach that uppity jack *ss a lesson!”

Knowing that someone was going to wreck Javier’s *ss mollified most of his rage. He then flicked his cigarette ashes out of the car. The ashes accidentally landed on a stranger—a 20-something gorgeous babe, to be specific. Elliott was not the type to waste an opportunity. Fidgeting with his money, he disembarked

from his BMW and put on his most winning smile...

Javier sent the picture David had given him to Herschel so that the latter could start searching with his men. He also sent it to Zephiel, as this matter had grown beyond his own affairs. This was a family affair too.

The grimoire Kaiser had passed him had helped him unlock a strange new energy inside of him, but Javier still did not know how to use it. It was like having the deadliest bullets but not a gun to fire them. He just could not be the bad*ss he was supposed to be. The only person in this entire world who could use this power was Daniel Denisson, so Javier needed to find him and fast.

Only if he mastered his power would the Kerseys’ role as the world’s apex rulers be secured. Only then could the Kerseys’ dominion be eternal!

If this power ever became someone else’s, whoever that might be, the Kerseys would be relegated to submission. To submit was to be ordered around, and that was simply unacceptable to a family that had been kings of the world for centuries.

The mission to secure the Kerseys’ absolute rulership over the world was even more important than the business with the Raiders. Of course, it did not mean Javier could afford to ignore them. The Raiders were looking for Daniel too!

Javier put away the photo after making arrangements. It was time to connect with Evanna! Sure, he definitely meant “intimately”, but Javier also wanted to bag her as one of his women too. Evanna’s father was not David’s biological son, after all.

He was Daniel’s.

Evanna Dennison was Daniel’s one and only granddaughter, and now, the last of his progeny. This was the real reason Javier had done all he could to marry Evanna. Their marriage would serve as a great start, but whether he could make that relationship work was a different matter. So now, Javier needed to make it work. And to make it work, he was going to rely on tactics that were Not Safe For Work.

He had to, okay? She was so gorgeous, and sexy, and alluring. It would be a gargantuan waste not to feel her beauty from the inside!

Javier reached the academy and went to see Evanna straight away. On his way to her office, he passed by Joey's place.

His acute hearing immediately picked up some faint grunts, whimpers, and moans. Why would Joey moan like that if she were alone?

Javier peeked through the window. Through a small opening in her curtain, he saw Wilson and Joey doing the dirty. Oops. Sorry, moving on! Javier pulled away and got ready to leave. Then, Evanna passed by and asked curiously, "What are you looking at? I wanna see!"

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