

The Protector Chapter 996

“Yeah! He’s the one behind everything that has happened recently! We thought he simply got lucky, but it turns out that he has a trick or two up his sleeves!” Edward said while panting in excruciating pain.

Damien refused to believe what he had just heard from the butler. “Are you sure? He’s just an orphan! He doesn’t have any connections and resources. It’s impossible that he’s the one behind all this! I can’t believe he managed to defeat you!”

“I’m just as surprised as you are, Mr. Damien. But remember that the man still has Garrison’s blood in him. He’s bound to do exceptional things! As long as he has our bloodline, he’ll definitely shake up the world one day!” Edward tried registering the gravity of the problem to his skeptical master.

“True that. He’s a Garrison, after all. How bad can someone from our family turn out to be? Even a Garrison bastard is better than an average person,” Damien conceded.

To people like him who grew up in a prominent family, they had always attributed success to one’s bloodline.

It was never a matter of individual effort whenever someone did well in life.

Thus, it was natural for them to give credit to the Garrisons instead of acknowledging Levi’s own capability.

“I’m sure Father and Grandpa will welcome him back to the family after they find out about his success. Yes, everyone in the family has great achievements, but we won’t say no to another genius like him joining us. There are still ways in which the bastard can be of service to the family,” Damien noted.

The younger generation in the Garrison clan was talented and competent, and they were at the very least, top fifty in Erudia. All of them were deserving of the family name.

The fact that Levi could outdo them meant that he was not to be underestimated at all.

“Mr. Damien, he might be accomplished, but he’s too arrogant for his own good. He has no regard for the Garrison family—not even you or Master Tyrone! He even wanted me to convey a message to Master Tyrone. He said we would regret it when he made his way to the Garrison family’s residence!” Edward complained.

Bang!

Over on the other end, Damien slammed his fist on the table. “Come again? What did he say? Sure enough, a bastard’s always a bastard. He might share our noble blood, but he’s obviously unrefined! I shouldn’t have expected something good to come out of a bastard who grew up in a questionable environment. He’s nothing compared to us! And since he has no respect for the family, I can only say it’s his loss. He won’t go far with his haughty attitude. His pride and his narrow-mindedness will be his undoing!” Damien shouted into the phone.

Damien nodded his head weakly at the man’s outburst. “I agree, Mr. Damien. His pride is way bigger than his accomplishments. He needs to know that South Hampton is just a small part of the world!”

Hearing this, the other man chuckled in pride. “Of course. He’ll shut up once he’s seen what Oakland City’s Garrison clan can do with his own eyes. This bastard needs to broaden his horizon instead of being so full of himself. Wait till he faces someone more powerful than himself.”

“What should we do then, Mr. Damien? Should we still kill him?” Edward asked.

“No. Given his ability now, he won’t be a shame to the family anymore. We shall spare him for now,” Damien replied.

“Then what should we do about him, Mr. Damien?”

A slight pause came from the other side before Damien finally spoke, “Since he’s so egoistic and treats the family as a joke, I’ll teach him a lesson myself!”

The butler’s eyes glistened in hope when he heard Damien was handling this himself.

Edward had had enough of Levi Garrison and his conceited attitude. Now that Tyrone's son was getting involved directly, someone could finally avenge what Levi had done to him.

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"Aha! That's why that bastard has the guts to challenge us. He's Morris Group's boss!" Damien exclaimed after doing some digging into Levi's background.

He finally understood why Levi had the guts to be so obnoxious.

Although few people knew Levi was the head of Morris Group, it did not take the Garrison clan long to obtain that piece of information.

Hearing the name, Edward widened his eyes in surprise. "Morris Group? Even Triple Group in Keerea is no match for that company! It practically dominates everything."

"Well, it's true that Morris Group has got some substance. But that doesn't mean Levi can take the Garrison family lightly. Father's Pinnacle Group in South Hampton is far superior! I'll tell the company to acquire Morris Group. I bet Levi Garrison will come begging on his knees in no time. This will be the price he has to pay for messing with the Garrison family!" Damien let out a confident laugh as he imagined Levi begging for mercy.

The next day, Levi and his mother began their journey home along with the Beasts and the Amethyst Guards.

Levi was deep in thought, thinking about the encounter he had yesterday. A frown settled on his brows. Before long, he finally broke the silence. "Mother, do you miss him?"

Emma was startled by his sudden question. She turned towards her son reluctantly, trying to think of how she should answer in an appropriate manner.

"Do you still want to marry Tyrone? The family will finally accept you after all these years," Levi continued.

"No. I don't harbor unrealistic expectations like that anymore. That's no longer what I care about," she replied firmly as she looked at Levi in the eyes.

"What do you care about then?" he asked.

A warm and gentle smile slowly spread across her face.

"Well, it's not anything important that you need to know."

"Come on, Mom. I will try my best to make your dream come true!" he insisted.

"I hope you can stand in front of the Garrisons one day and proudly tell them that you're my son—and that you're a man worthy of their respect!"

But she quickly regretted what she said when she saw her son's solemn expression. "You don't have to get all stressed out about it, Levi. This is just a thought I have, don't take it too seriously."

The last thing she wanted was to pressurize her son and make things difficult for him.

She knew how difficult and dangerous such an action could be for Levi.

But that was not what her son thought. "No, Mom. You will live to see that day. I promise," Levi pronounced.

Yet, Emma knew he was just trying to make her feel better. She knew better than to set her expectations too high.

Besides, Levi was not even thirty yet. He still had a long way to go before he could actually do something substantial.

It was impossible that someone of his age would earn the respect of the Garrison family.

When they arrived, Zoey was already waiting for them. She had put aside work to pick Emma up.

"How's the prep coming along?" Levi asked when he saw the woman.

“We’re almost done. We’ll go over and bid for the project tomorrow,” she replied.

He nodded approvingly and let out a small smile. “Remember to be careful of Lyndsay Granger. She’s not an easy character.”

“Don’t worry; I already have it all planned out. Iris and I will travel separately tomorrow,” Zoey assured.

“That’s great. All the best for tomorrow then.”

Levi knew Zoey must have made adequate preparation, but he was still worried that something unexpected would pop up.

Over at Golden Plaza, Jayden hung up the phone after a long call.

“Do you know who just called me? Damien Garrison! The actual Mr. Damien!” he exclaimed at the top of his voice.

Around him, everyone looked at him enviously.

Damien was well known to be the potential next heir of the Garrison clan.

It must be an urgent matter for a man of his standing to actually call Jayden.

“What did Mr. Damien say?” Lyndsay asked as she scooted closer to Jayden.

“Mr. Damien wanted one thing done—we are to crush Morris Group as soon as possible,” the latter replied.

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“That’s good news. We’re competing for a project with them tomorrow anyway. That’ll be our first chance,” Lyndsay commented.

Jayden nodded, rolling his eyes schemingly. "Exactly. Make sure you deal with them accordingly. I don't want anything to go wrong tomorrow."

Lyndsay and the other council members exchanged cunning glances with each other, and sinister smiles curved on their lips. "Don't worry. They won't even make it to the venue tomorrow."

The big day soon arrived. Sylas and her team escorted Zoey and Oriental Star Group's council members as they headed for the venue.

"Sylas, make sure nothing happens to anyone. Someone might try and stop us on the way," Zoey reminded before they departed.

The woman refused to allow the same thing to happen again. She had once been held up by her competitor when she was on her way to the venue and had missed the bidding event because of that incident.

She had been fooled once; she would not fall into the same trap again.

"Ms. Lopez, rest assured that everything will be okay. We will make sure everyone arrives safely," Sylas replied calmly.

In no time, Oriental Star Group's convoy departed for the venue.

To ensure nothing would happen, Iris took a different route towards the destination.

No one else in the company knew about it except for Zoey.

Although everything had been meticulously planned out, Zoey still had a premonition of imminent danger as she sat in the car.

Her eyelids kept twitching, and she could not hold it in any longer—she needed to double-confirm everything.

"Sylas, could you check and see if everything is fine out there?"

“Everything looks fine,” her bodyguard answered after surveying the surroundings.

Bam!

Suddenly, a vendor on a trishaw came out of nowhere. One of the cars did not manage to stop in time, running into it at full force.

The collision sent the vendor flying three to four meters away before the man finally hit his head against the cold tar road. The grey road was soon stained red as blood gushed out of the man’s body.

The whole Oriental Star Group fleet pulled the emergency brake – everyone was stupefied.

Zoey’s face turned pale—something had happened just as she expected.

She knew Pinnacle Group would not let her off the hook that easily.

“Is everyone okay?” Zoey turned around frantically, checking to see if anyone was hurt. Their schedule had been affected because of the accident, and Pinnacle Group managed to have their way, but Zoey did not want anything to happen to anyone, be it friends or foes.

Everyone got out of the car, and some people rushed towards the vendor lying on the ground.

Sylas checked the man’s pulse and her frightened gaze slowly trailed towards Zoey.

“Ms. Lopez... He’s gone...”

Zoey’s steps faltered, her knees going weak at the news.

She could not believe Pinnacle Group would kill someone in order to stop her.

Did they really plan all this?

How cruel can those people get?

This was not the first time a competitor had targeted her, but no one had ever gone to such length to get in her way.

Pinnacle Group was the first to do so.

“Somebody help! They just hit someone! And the man is now dead!” a passerby shouted.

Soon, a huge crowd hurried over, encircling Zoey and the others. They had come forward with kitchen knives, ready to get revenge on behalf of the man.

“You’re not getting away with this! We will make sure you pay for it!” the angry men shouted.

“It wasn’t our fault! He’s the one who came out of the junction all of a sudden! He’s the one who ran into us!” Zoey tried to explain the situation.

However, her pleas only made the situation worse; she had angered them all even more.

There were no surveillance cameras around that area, and it so happened that the trishaw had rushed out at the car dashcam’s blind spot.

There was no proof to whatever she claimed.

“Bullshit! We saw everything with our own eyes. You guys hit him! Don’t blame a dead man for what you did!” one of the men yelled.

“Yeah! We’re all witnesses! You won’t get away with this!” another cried out.

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Sylas’ blood ran cold at the sight of those furious men.

This is all my fault.

I clearly saw that man there. But I didn’t expect him to dash out just like that! Gosh, what should I do?

“Ms. Lopez... What should we do now...” she asked in a frail voice.

Her mind went blank; she could not think of any way of getting them out of this mess.

“There’s nothing we can do. This was all premeditated. They did it to keep me away from the event,” Zoey stated with a resigned sigh.

The only thing she was concerned about now was that an innocent man had lost his life because of the strife between Pinnacle Group and her.

If she knew that all this would come at the expense of a man’s life, she would have given up on this project readily.

But she also knew that Iris would still make it to the event.

She and Iris had foreseen something bad happening, and they already had a bulletproof plan laid out.

Even if Zoey did not make it to the venue, Iris would still be there.

“You guys have nothing to worry about. I won’t run away. I’ll settle this properly,” Zoey told the crowd.

After all, this man had died because of her. She took it on herself to look into the accident.

Meanwhile, a car sped by along a road in the suburb.

Iris cried out when she was informed that something had happened to Zoey.

The woman had been on the way using another route when she got news of the incident.

The car she was seated in braked to halt when a few men in black suddenly appeared before her, blocking her way in the middle of the road.

“Ms. Anabelle, I’m sorry, but we have to cut your trip short. Don’t worry; it’ll only take two hours, that’s if you cooperate with us,” one of them said as he leaned closer to the car window.

Iris knew exactly what they were up to.

It went without saying that all they wanted was to stop her from bidding for the project.

The fact that these people had found out about her route surprised her.

Now that these men were in her way, it was impossible for her to get herself out of this.

The only thing she could do was to do as they demanded.

"I'm so sorry, Zoey." Iris sighed.

Over at the venue, all the council members from Pinnacle Group had already gathered in a timely manner.

Jayden and Lyndsay held their heads high as they looked around. The event was about to commence.

Many big companies had convened after knowing that the project was open for bid.

Jayden approached some of the heads, putting up a smug smile. "You guys won't stand a chance against us today. Pinnacle Group will win the project. All of you'd better back off. Try us, and you'll end up dead!"

He was rude and overbearing—yet there was nothing those people could say.

Jayden was from Pinnacle Group; no one had the guts to challenge that company.

Since they were here at the event just for the sake of it, there was no need for them to incur the wrath of Pinnacle Group unnecessarily.

"Mr. Yolander, Ms. Granger, we've handled Zoey and Iris as instructed. They won't be able to make it," an assistant reported.

A smirk crafted Jayden and Lyndsay's faces when they received the news.

There was no way a small company like Morris Group could threaten Pinnacle Group.

It was foolish for Morris Group to think that they stood a chance to win.

“Did you leave any traces?” Lyndsay asked.

“No. No one will be able to track it back to Pinnacle Group. Also, we’ve blocked all the roads, so no one from Morris Group will reach this place,” the assistant added with a sly smile.

Beside him, Lyndsay nodded as an evil smile broke out on her face. “Now that I think of it, it’s actually not a bad idea for Morris Group to come. They can well amuse us if they’re humiliated here today. But, oh well, they can’t even make it here now. What a pity.”

“Yeah, they’ll lose the project to us even if they came. It’s just a matter of time before Morris Group belongs to us!” Jayden agreed.

Just as the two were busy talking about taking Morris Group down, Yale Freeman, the person in charge of the project, walked over.

“Mr. Yolander, Ms. Granger, we’re about to start. Shall we take a seat?” he inquired politely.

Jayden shot the man an innocent smile and asked, “Oh, aren’t we still waiting for Morris Group?”

Yale gestured to invite them in as he cleared his throat. “Actually, Morris Group met with an accident when they were on their way. I don’t think they’ll be able to make it.”

Just as Jayden and Lyndsay were about to walk in, a deafening noise rang out from above, causing everyone to tilt their heads towards the sky.

“Quick! Look up! Look at the sky!” someone exclaimed in shock.

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A choppy noise resounded through the place as a few private helicopters hovered in the sky.

The rotor blades spun incessantly, and the sound grew louder as time passed.

Everyone looked up and squinted their eyes at the sight of the helicopters flying in weird patterns in the sky.

It turned out that those helicopters were making a skywriting.

“Morris Group?” Everyone was surprised when they saw what was written in the sky.

Are these helicopters from Morris Group?

Jayden and Lyndsay exchanged worried looks as they watched everything play out before their eyes.

They had done all they could to stop Morris Group from reaching the venue, but never in their wildest imagination would they expect them to arrive in private helicopters.

The private helicopters pitched forward and finally got ready to descend, creating ripples of strong winds as the pilots lowered the machines on the ground.

Everyone tried standing their ground, lowering their heads as the helicopters got closer. The wind sent all the dust blowing in their faces, and people were forced to close their eyes as the wind got more forceful.

Many began taking refuge and sought shelter as the wind intensified.

Ironically, Jayden, who claimed to have noble blood, was the first to flee. In fact, he was crawling away like a coward because he knew he would die if he didn't get away quickly.

His jaw dropped when he saw workers of Morris Group descend from the sky.

His men had blocked all roads leading to the venue—yet he had still miscalculated.

Morris Group had flown people in private helicopters to get to the venue.

Once the helicopters landed and positioned themselves in front of the place, Levi and Kirin came down and walked towards the disheveled lot.

“Levi... Levi Garrison...” Lyndsay mumbled in disbelief.

“He’s Levi Garrison? Mr. Damien told me he’s the man who owns Morris Group. But regardless, Mr. Damien has told us that he’s a nobody. Morris Group will be ours soon,” Jayden scoffed.

Lyndsay did not answer him. Hatred and spite sparked in her eyes as her glare traced him. “Levi Garrison... Things are gonna get interesting.”

“Just in time!” Levi exclaimed as he stood before the crowd.

However, Yale did not seem happy to see him.

The man personally preferred entrusting the project to Pinnacle Group; he knew he could not afford to get on the wrong side with that company.

Now that Morris Group had arrived, Yale was caught in a difficult position.

But the bidding process still had to go as planned. “Alright, since everyone’s here, let’s get started!”

Yale led everyone in.

Behind Levi, Jayden and Lyndsay came close enough so he could hear them.

“You’d better stop before things turn ugly. You have no idea who you’re going up against. Pinnacle Group is not a company you can mess with!” Jayden warned.

“We will acquire Morris Group in no time. It’s useless to compete with us!” Lyndsay added as she tried to keep up with Levi’s pace.

However, Levi’s nonchalance enraged her. “Did you hear me? Give up now! It’s for your own good! I know you’re Morris Group’s boss, but don’t overestimate yourself. The enemy you’re facing is much stronger than you think, and the world is much bigger than your tiny brain can imagine!”

Jayden also interjected, “I heard that you have no regard for the Garrison family. Don’t be childish! You’ve only seen a tiny bit of what they’re capable of. You need to be realistic. Stop being so arrogant!”

Levi stopped abruptly at the entrance of the venue and shifted his contemptuous gaze towards them.

"I think y'all should stop here. There's no way you guys are getting in," he stated.

Jayden and Lyndsay's eyes widened in astonishment as they stared at him. Everyone who heard him all turned around in bewilderment.

"What? Who are you to bar us from entering?" Lyndsay interrogated.

In front of them, Yale halted his step and walked over.

He knew Levi had no right to stop Jayden and Lyndsay.

"Kirin, keep an eye on them. Make sure they stay away," Levi ordered in a domineering tone as he looked at the two from the corner of his eyes.