

## The Protector Chapter 31

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The students knew they had been outnumbered by the dozens of thugs who had now occupied their VIP room.

It petrified them when they looked at the faces of these thugs, who appeared to be contorted with menace.

It made their legs wobbled with fear and their eyes filled with horror.

They had completely forgotten about their female classmates now. All they wished now was to flee as far away as they could.

“I want all of you to get down on your knees! Let’s see who’s got the balls to stand when I ask you to kneel!”

The thugs shoved and pushed the boys to the ground, and made them kneel.

The girls followed suit voluntarily, since they had more to fret than the boys.

The leering eyes of these thugs had been all over their bodies.

Abigail was bolder than the rest and she turned only to see Levi sitting in a corner being so inconspicuous that even the thugs failed to notice him.

What a lame duck we have here! She moaned to herself, It’s such a pity that Zoey had married to a weakling like him.

Her disdain for Levi grew when she saw his expression, which somewhat appeared as timid and wimpy in her eyes.

She swore her future husband must never be a coward like him, but a true and fearless hero!

She shouted at the group of thugs with glaring eyes, “I’m warning you, get out of here and leave us alone, or I’ll call the police.”

“Go ahead, my little darling! Do you think we’d let you go?”

One of the thugs stepped forward and stretched out his hand, trying to touch Abigail’s face.

Slap!

Abigail slapped him in the face and her action sent the rest of the thugs into a state of shock.

Never would they have expected her to have the guts to lay her hand on them.

“Who’s the one that have the guts to hit my man?”

Following that, a few guys stormed into the room.

The leader of the group was a man with a big pot belly and tattoos all over his body.

“B-Beck...”

Yannick knew that Beck was one of the gang leaders of the underground society. He was known for his fearlessness and brutality, many had seen him cut up dozens of men single-handedly by himself.

Many of the young thugs worshipped him as their idol.

“This way please, Trey!”

It astounded everyone when they saw another person stepped into the room. It seemed like Beck was just the chaperon today to someone who was an even a bigger shot than Beck himself.

A group of thugs escorted the man into the room. He was cradling two shiny walnuts in his hands. A prominent scar ran diagonally across his face which resembled the teeth of a shark.

“Hiss! Trey is here as well?”

Yannick was so frightened he almost pissed himself in the pants.

As compared to Beck, Yannick knew better than his classmates that Trey was the real daddy of the underground world. He had over two hundred men at his disposal.

“Look at these girls, Trey! Young, bubbly students who look so juicy and tender, doesn’t it make you feel like you want to just gobble them up? Hehe!”

The silver-haired guy buttered up Trey and Beck with an unctuous grin.

There was an aura of pure lust reflected in the repugnant eyes of Trey and Beck.

Beck cast a few glances at Abigail and suggested to Trey, “This one seems like the cream of the crop, Trey. You should take this one.”

“Good.” Trey nodded approvingly, “I like your humility.”

Beck’s demeanor was anything but humble when he turned around to the group of students. “Bashed up all the guys and boot them out of the place. Leave all the girls behind.” he snarled in his raucous voice, “If any of you dare to leak a word or tell the police, I’ll make sure you won’t get to live another day!”

“No! No! This can’t be happening...”

The students were all stricken with horror, especially the girls, who feared for the worst.

All the girls knew what would be waiting for them if they were made to stay behind.

Even the brave-hearted Abigail could not hide her panic as her body quavered in fear.

The boys were utterly shell-shocked.

They had never expected it would end up in such a grisly manner.

“Trey, Beck, please don’t do this to us!” Yannick pleaded while he knelt on the floor.

“Oh? It seems like this guy know us?” Beck laughed.

“Of course I know you, Trey and Beck” Yannick proclaimed, “I’ve heard so much about you guys from the streets.”

“Who the hell are you?”

Trey asked disinterestedly.

“My dad is Felix Zann, President of Marriot Roman Hotel Group.” Yannick informed them, “He have had a drink with the both of you before.”

“Ah, Felix Zann of Marriot Roman Hotel.” Trey nodded, “Yeah, I know him.”

His answer seemed to offer a glint of hope to the students as they all heaved a deep sigh of relief.

Everyone gazed at Yannick with adulation. It seemed like they could lean on him when the going gets tough.

The girls looked at Yannick in a different light as well.

Even Abigail’s eyes glistened with a new respect now when she looked at him.

Yannick beamed with such heroism and courage that they really thought he would be their knight in shining armor.

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“My dad often speaks highly about the two of you!” Yannick pressed on, “Trey, since you have such a cordial relationship with my dad, why don’t you just let the matter rest and let us leave?”

“I know we are in the wrong, and we are really sorry for everything we’ve done. I’d really appreciate it if you could let us go and I’ll definitely repay your kindness, I promise!”

Yannick was getting bolder as he spoke, straightening his back and thrusting his chest forward.

Given his father’s reputation and his relationship with these guys, Yannick was certain that he could pull this one through.

He was confident that Trey and Beck would definitely spare him together with his classmates, on account of their relationship with his dad.

The room went dead silent again.

After a momentary pause, Trey broke the silence as a spark shined in his eyes. Slap! He slapped Yannick brutally on his face.

The slap was of such magnitude that Yannick bounced back a few meters. A few teeth flew out from his mouth, which was oozing blood. His face was contorted with pain.

“Who do you think you are? What nerve of you to ask me to let the matter rest and let you go?” Trey barked at Yannick, “You think I’d give a shit about you or your father? Even if your father’s here right now, I’ll make him kneel before me too!”

The bestiality of Trey’s demeanor paralyzed everyone and dented their hopes.

Just when they thought Yannick would be their savior...

The girls whimpered while the boys were in a daze. We’re not getting out of here unscathed.

This is it, we’re doomed! What else could we do now?

Abigail tried to calm herself down and tried to think of a way out.

How about asking Zoey for help?

Abigail could not help but turned to look at Levi, who was still sitting at a corner inside the dimly lit room, unnoticeable to Trey and his men.

What a useless piece of crap! An absolute good-for-nothing! Abigail thought to herself, Is he my brother-in-law at all? Shouldn’t he have done something by now to protect me, if he still has the guts of a man?

“Take away all the girls and beat up all the boys!” Beck ordered, “Just beat the hell out of them but keep them alive!”

The dozens of thugs immediately sprang into action and walked towards the group of students.

That’s it! We’re done!

Abigail closed her eyes and murmured a prayer.

“I’m giving you ten seconds to get your asses out of here!”

A sudden loud voice shot up from nowhere and shocked everyone.

They turned and looked towards the corner of the VIP room. What they saw was a man sitting on the sofa. He was hardly noticeable since he was dressed in all black.

“Drag that guy over here. Get him to kneel on the floor!” Beck demanded.

The silver-haired thug came up to Levi and clamp one hand on Levi’s shoulder, looking to jerk him up from the sofa.

But in the next instant, Levi’s eyes flickered as he grasped the thug’s wrist and twisted it around in a flash.

Crack!

The sound was crisp and clear. It was the sound of a broken wrist.

“Ahh!”

The silver-haired thug cried out as he felt excruciating pain and that stunned everyone in the VIP room.

His overturned palm was a gruesome sight to watch. Everyone was bathing in cold sweat, their scalp prickled with horror.

What kind of force would it take to twist a wrist as if he was twisting open a bottle cap?

Abigail was awestruck by the prowess and agility showed by Levi.

It seems like he’s not such a pushover after all.

“How dare you do this to my men? I’m going to make you pay with your blood!”

Beck’s howl resembled a mad beast. He was about to lunge himself at Levi when Trey halted him.

“Let me check him out.”

It aroused his curiosity when he realized they had failed to notice the man sitting in the corner, who had sat through the entire incident seemingly unfazed.

Trey and Beck, together with their men, moved across the room and walked up to Levi.

“Turn on all the lights!” Trey commanded.

Click! Click! Click!

Soon, the room was fully lit, and everything was in plain sight, including Levi who had been sitting on the sofa.

“You son of a b\*\*\*h, how dare you just sit there looking nonchalant?”

Beck yelled heatedly at Levi.

Abigail knew this would be the end of Levi. She closed her eyes in despair.

Thump!

What ensued blew everyone off their mind. Trey slammed his knees to the floor with a thud and knelt in front of Levi.

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The thud came as a bombshell to everyone when they saw Trey went down on his knees.

Beck was slacked jawed with surprise.

The same goes for Abigail, and everyone else in the room, who reacted with a blank expression on their faces.

The room had become so quiet that they could even hear a pin drop.

Levi lit a cigarette and took a deep puff. The smoke he blew out encircled Trey like a ghostly chain.

“I remember you...”

Levi said nonchalantly.

Trey gave a sad grin when he heard this. I’m done now, this would only spell disaster now that I’m in the bad books of Levi.

Unaware of Levi’s actual identity, Beck was still trying to stamp his authority, “How dare you puff your smoke at Trey? You must be sick of living!”

“Shut up!” Trey stood up and shoved Beck a few meters away with a kick. “Get down on your knees now, all of you!” he blasted at his men.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Dozens of Trey and Beck’s men fell to their knees, successively like a pack of dominoes.

Beck joined them and went down on his knees, even though he hardly had a clue of what was happening.

Everyone was in a guessing frenzy about Levi’s true identity.

They wondered who could command such an authority that scared the hell out of a powerful thug like Trey and made him kneel before him like a high-strung cat.

Yannick knew better than everyone that Trey and Beck were not somebody you would mess around with, given their notoriety on the streets.

That brother-in-law of Abigail must be someone with supreme dominance to make them go down on their knees.

He felt it more profoundly than everyone in the room.

Abigail's impression of Levi had taken a complete 180. She no longer looked at him with detest, but with curiosity and adulation.

In her eyes, Levi now seemed to carry a halo of valiance above his head.

Even the way he smoked enchanted her.

The rest of the girls were equally charmed by Levi, whose machismo and charisma were acutely absent in their male classmates.

His bravery in such a situation fueled their admiration to the fullest.

"So this would be the second time that we've met?" Levi asked.

"Yes... Yes... Yes..." Trey pressed his face to the floor as he replied. He was too afraid to look into Levi's eyes.

His whole body was shaking uncontrollably and there was a large urine stain on his pants. He had just wet himself.

"So what should we do about it?" Levi puffed, his cigarette smoke curled into a circle.

"Please feel free to punish us in any way you deemed fit, Sir..."

Trey felt only a complete and utter despair at that moment.

"Each of you will leave two fingers behind, that's it." Levi said in a desultory fashion, "There are too many young ones present. I don't want to show them my wrath."

The students were just young punks in the eyes of Levi.

"Yes... Yes... Whatever you say..."

Trey was thrilled when he heard Levi's punishment, it was much lenient than he had anticipated. He picked up the blade and chopped off two of his fingers under the watching eyes of everyone...

Many of the students nearly fainted at the swiftness and brutality of his action, as if they were watching an execution.

Soon the other thugs followed suit to chop off their fingers...

The scene would certainly leave its indelible mark on the minds of Abigail, Yannick and the rest of their classmates.

The harrowing experience would haunt them when they recall the horrifying screams that had seeped into their heads, insidiously like tea from a tea bag.

“Let’s go!”

Levi stood up from the sofa after he had finished his cigarette and grabbed Abigail by her arm to get out of the VIP room.

Yannick and the rest of them hurriedly followed Levi out of the room. They couldn’t wait to get out of there.

Beck, now left with eight fingers, asked in a trembling voice, “Who’s that guy, Trey?”

“He’s somebody you could never afford to mess around with in North Hampton!” Trey breathed deeply and said it with the certitude of a true believer.

Outside the KTV, Yannick was back to his boastful self again, “Are you alright, Abigail? I was just getting ready to throw everything at them if they dare to touch you!”

Abigail scoffed at his words. She could still vividly recall the timid look on Yannick’s face when he was so freaked out that he’d almost peed in his pants.

You are nothing but a coward compared to my brother-in-law.

“I’m fine.” she answered impatiently.

“Why don’t you let me send you home? I’d really like for you to check out my new car today, it’s a BMW x5!” Yannick suggested while he gave the car remote in his hands a click.

A car near them lighted up and gave off a buzzing sound. It was a brand new BMW x5.

All their classmates could barely conceal the envious looks in their eyes.

It would be any student’s dream to drive a brand new, powerful sports car that could cost easily over eight hundred thousand.

All the girls were eager to cast their nets at Yannick.

“You don’t have to send me back.” Abigail snubbed, “I’ll take a cab with my brother-in-law.”

She had been under the impression that Levi did not own a car since she was well aware of Zoey’s family condition.

“I have a car!” Levi led them towards the car park and stopped in front of his car.

“Holy cow!” Yannick blurted out in surprise, “Isn’t this a Maserati Executive GT?”

“This looks like the most exclusive model too!” Yannick added.

Click!

“Get in the car, quick!” Levi shouted at Abigail as he opened the door of the car.

“Alright.” Abigail flashed him a cheerful smile as she ran across to the passenger seat and tucked herself into the car.

Vroom! Vroom! Vroom!

The Maserati emitted a deep and powerful rumbling sound when Levi started the car.

Soon they were cruising on the highway.

At that moment, Levi seemed to feel a pair of eyes staring at him.

He turned to his side and was greeted by Abigail’s bright fever button eyes. They had not left his face since she boarded the car.

The spark in her eyes gleamed with affection.

She winked at Levi when he tilted his head and gave her a puzzled look.

“Why are you staring at me?” Levi muttered, “Turn around.”

“No way. Why should I?” Abigail gushed, “Don’t you know you looked so much better than those young chaps in my school? They’re just a bunch of wimps compared to you.”

There was hardly anyone who could hold a candle to Levi when she scanned through those faces in her head.

“Yeah, I know.”

“How did you do that, Levi?” she asked inquisitively while her eyes never left Levi’s face, “How did you make that two leader kneel in front of you and even chop off their fingers obediently? I know they were equally ruthless in their own ways.”

“Don’t ask. You’re too young to know about these things.”

“But I’ve heard a lot about you. I know my aunt and the rest of them have always treated you with contempt, they think you are just a piece of junk. I bet that’s because they do not know about your true identity.” Abigail pouted her lips and said, “I bet their attitude towards you would change completely if they knew what happened today. Zoey would worship you like her hero!”

“Don’t tell Zoey about what happened today. It’s between you and me.” Levi said to her.

Abigail nodded meekly, but there was a curious look in her eyes.

“By the way, does Zoey know that you are driving such a luxurious car?” Abigail asked with an air of interest.

“Don’t tell Zoey about the car too!”

Why couldn’t Azure Dragon just send me an ordinary car instead? Levi grumbled to himself.

Yet this was exactly what Azure Dragon felt he had done, for in his mind, it was the most unassuming car among the fleet of cars they possessed.

Kirin had even suggested to send Levi a Lamborghini Veneno Roadster, which cost almost nine million.

Soon, they arrived at the vicinity where Zoey’s house was situated. Levi stopped the car a few blocks away from the house.

Shortly after, Azure Dragon then informed his men to come and drove the car away.

Levi and Abigail were back in the house.

“Come in, Abigail.” Aaron and Caitlyn greeted her with open arms.

“I’m so glad you’re finally here, Abigail.” said Zoey, who darted a displeased look at Levi, “What took you so long to fetch Abigail?” she asked.

“Abigail was attending a group event.” Levi explained, “She needs to finish the event before she could leave.”

“Yes, yes, Levi was right.” Abigail played along, “We got held up by the event.”

Caitlyn gave Levi a reproving glance, “Yeah, seemed to me you’re incapable of even a simple task like this. Look how long you took to fetch Abigail?”

“Why don’t you spend a few more days with us, Abigail?” Zoey was thrilled to have Abigail staying with them for the National holidays, “I hope you could stay longer this time.”

“That’s right, we’re celebrating Zoey’s birthday in two days’ time. You must join us, Abigail.” Caitlyn gave an inviting grin.

“Of course, I’ll be more than happy to stay longer this time.” Abigail swooned her eyes at Levi and said, “I’ll stay a week with you guys this time.”

“That’s wonderful news indeed, Abigail!” Caitlyn pulled her over to the dining table, “Look at all the food I’ve prepared for you. Let’s tuck in!”

The food was reserved solely for Abigail since Zoey and her family had already eaten.

“What about Levi? Why isn’t he invited to the table?” Abigail slid a look at Levi and asked.

“Don’t worry about him. He can feed himself with some instant noodles.” Caitlyn snorted, “Why do I have to cook for him? He should be able to take care of himself. It’s only because of Zoey that we kept him in the house, if it were up to me, I’d get Zoey to seek a divorce a long time ago.”

Caitlyn was filled with resentment towards Levi after what happened at the hospital.

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“What? Divorce? I’m all for it! I fully support a divorce for the both of them!”

Abigail raised her hand eagerly.

“Huh?”

Her reaction drew a quizzical look on everyone’s faces.

Even Levi was baffled by her gesture.

Abigail hastily waved her hands in denial when she saw the pairs of eyes staring at her, “Oh, I was just joking.”

I would gladly become Levi’s bride if Zoey would divorce him! She thought to herself.

When night fell, Caitlyn demoted Levi to the couch, “Abigail will sleep in Zoey’s room. So you’re going to have to sleep on the couch.”

“Why don’t I take the couch instead, Aunt Caitlyn?” Abigail felt bad about it.

“How could we let you sleep on the couch?”

Caitlyn turned and scorned at Levi, “You should know that we are no longer living in the big house with those enormous rooms that we used to have. What’s the problem with sleeping on the couch? Do you think we could rely on you to give us a better life? Zoey is our only hope now.”

“Aunt Caitlyn, actually...” Abigail hesitated if she should tell Caitlyn the truth.

She knew it was well within Levi’s means to get them a bigger house. I mean, just look at the car he was driving? It was a Maserati Executive GT that could be worth more than a house!

Levi could have easily bought them a villa, or even two, Abigail reckoned.

“Actually what? what are you trying to say, Abigail?”

Caitlyn stared at her, looking puzzled.

“Oh, actually it’s nothing important.” Abigail shrugged, “Goodnight, Aunt Caitlyn.”

The next morning.

Despite being the National holidays, Zoey could hardly get a breather from her project. Even Aaron had to put down everything to give her a hand. Caitlyn was out too. She had gone to the hospital since she was on duty that day.

They left it to Levi to take Abigail around for a spin.

“Come on, Levi. Why don’t we go for a spin?”

Abigail suggested, leaning close to Levi.

“I’d rather stay at home.” Levi said lazily, “It’s full of people everywhere.”

He was still lying on the couch.

“Let me take you to a fun place!”

“Come on, get up, Levi...”

...

Abigail came up with several suggestions to tempt Levi to get out of the house. But nothing worked.

“By the way, what present did you get for Zoey’s birthday?” Abigail asked curiously, “You know her birthday is coming up in two days’ time right?”

“Oh yes! It’s time to prepare something for Zoey’s birthday!”

“Okay, come with me!” Levi got up immediately from the couch.

Abigail grimaced and pouted her lips with displeasure.

The all fired up Levi was a stark comparison to the disinterested look on his face just minutes ago, with his lackluster response to her every suggestion.

But the mention of Zoey’s birthday sprang him into action at once, as if it had filled him with renewed vigor.

Azure Dragon had been waiting outside to deliver the car Levi had specifically asked for today. It was an Audi R8 sports car.

“This is unbelievable, Levi! Another luxurious car? I’m sure this Audi R8 exclusive model could easily cost up to three million.”

Abigail had an excellent knowledge about luxury cars since she had worked as a model for car exhibitions before.

She had seen almost every kind of luxury car.

“Stop saying nonsense. Get in the car now!”

Levi stepped on the pedal and the car whizzed off like a rocket.

Inside the car.

Abigail’s eyes never left Levi.

“Why do you keep staring at me?”

Abigail’s gaze was making Levi uneasy.

“Why don’t you get a divorce, Levi?” Abigail suggested, “That way, you won’t have to put up with Zoey and her family again. Look at how they have treated you.”

“So you want me to stay single for the rest of my life?” Levi quipped.

“That’s not what I mean! You could marry me after you’ve divorced Zoey! Can’t you see that I’m as pretty as her, not to mention I’m so much younger too? Why don’t you consider me instead?”

Abigail pressed herself closer to Levi, which gave him the goosebumps.

This girl is bold and even aggressive.

“Why don’t you give me a chance, Levi? I got the looks and the body, and I am really gentle and loving. Not to mention you know how I idolize you...”

Abigail bared her long and slender legs as she inched closer to Levi.

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“Stop it, or I’ll tell Zoey.” Levi warned, without showing the slightest interest in her.

“Hmph! What a boring guy!”

Abigail slid back to her seat with disdain.

They had come to a building known as North Hampton Center. It was the most bustling and iconic building of North Hampton.

A revolving restaurant sat at the highest level of the North Hampton Center. It was one of the most lavish restaurants in North Hampton, known for its Michelin three-star chefs and its outrageous price tag.

A simple meal would cost easily over a hundred thousand, and it was not available for walk-in patrons.

Anyone who wished to dine in the restaurant would have to make a reservation one month in advance with a deposit of fifty thousand.

The seats would always be snapped up in less than a minute every time they open for reservations on their official website.

It would take more than just mere cash to get a seat in the restaurant.

Those who dined here were mostly wealthy businessmen and famous superstars.

If one was lucky enough to grab a reservation, the restaurant would send a gold-plated dining card.

It was regarded as a symbol of status if one could get to dine in the restaurant.

“Why did you take me here to North Hampton Center, Levi? I know you can’t be here to look for some necklaces for Zoey’s birthday?” Abigail tossed her head and asked, “Are you looking to make a reservation at the revolving restaurant?”

“You are one smart girl!” Levi complimented her with a smile.

“I know you’re not the kind of guys who’d go for the same boring stuff like necklaces.” Abigail winked at Levi, “Why not we turn it into something romantic and special instead?”

However, she turned cautious all of a sudden, “But do you know this restaurant would only accept reservations one month in advance? Besides, they require you to pay fifty thousand as deposit.”

“Oh, really? I didn’t know they have such rules?” Levi was surprised.

He only knew that it was a famous restaurant, and nothing else.

Not to mention those quirky rules.

“I know their rules because the owner of this restaurant is the father of my classmate. He has asked me here for a few times before.” Abigail explained.

“I see.” Levi nodded.

“But I didn’t accept his invitation, Levi.” Abigail was worried Levi might jump to conclusion, “I’m not those who would give themselves away just because some guy takes them to some nice posh restaurant.”

“Why are you giving me an explanation?” Levi frowned.

“Hurry, we need to get to the restaurant now, I don’t care what rules they have.”

Levi and Abigail made their way into North Hampton Center.

The revolving restaurant was at level eighty eight of the building.

Eight servers were standing at the entrance as soon as Levi and Abigail show up at the restaurant.

“Do you mind showing us your dining card?”

The servers were under the impression that Levi and Abigail were here to dine at the restaurant.

“No.” Levi shook his head, “We’re here to make a reservation. I’m looking to reserve the whole restaurant on the 3rd, that’s the day after tomorrow!”

Abigail was in some kind of a bewitched state as she gazed at Levi.

What a bold statement to make! To reserve the whole restaurant?

“I’m sorry, sir. Perhaps you are not aware of our rules here!” The server explained patiently, “We’d only accept reservations on our official website one month in advance, or you’re not allowed into our restaurant!”

“Didn’t you hear what I’ve just said?” Levi lighted up a cigarette, “I said I’m going to reserve the whole restaurant the day after tomorrow!”

Cough! Cough! Cough!

Levi’s cigarettes were war zone cigarettes. They were a peculiar kind of cigarettes with a strong tobacco scent.

Just one puff was enough to suffuse the air in the entire restaurant with its weedy smell, which many of them had mistaken it to be from some cheap tobacco brands.

Not to mention the way Levi was dressed in today was anything but lavish.

The servers gave him a despised look, “This place is not for you to mess around with. Do you know how much it would take to reserve the whole restaurant? It would cost more than all the money you could make in your entire life!”

“That’s right! Get out of here! This is not the place for paupers like you! All of our guests are wealthy and famous people. What makes you think you can compare yourself to them?”

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Levi took another puff and asked indifferently, “How much does it cost to reserve your whole restaurant?”

“Fine, I’ll enlighten you! It would cost at least five million to reserve the entire restaurant. Can you afford that?”

“Hahahaha...”

The servers laughed out loud when they saw the astonished look in Levi’s eyes.

Levi finished up his smoke and stubbed out his cigarette.

“So that’s all you need to reserve the whole place? Just a mere five million?” Levi said with a sardonic smile. Five million is just chicken feed to me.

“Don’t act like some big shot when you are just a nobody!” sneered the servers, “Look at those cheap stuff you’re smoking! You couldn’t even afford something better than those lousy, filthy, ten for a pack of cigarettes!”

Just when Levi was about to take out his wallet and put down the reservation, a high pitched voice came up from behind, “Who’s the one that’s looking to make a scene here at North Hampton Center? Let me see who the hell is he?”

Levi could feel a few shadows had gathered behind his back.

The voice came from a young man fully clad in Versace outfit with a Rolex Submariner on his wrist. Even his shoes were custom made from overseas.

Together, these would cost more than the life savings of any common folk.

The man was Kyle Jarvis, whose father owned the restaurant.

Kyle was Abigail’s senior in the university as well.

As compared to Yannick, Kyle came from a family that was way wealthier and powerful than Yannick’s. One could immediately tell from the way he was dressed and his charisma.

Kyle was a playboy known for his flings with different women, and his latest conquest was an internet celebrity.

“Oh? What brings you here, Abigail?”

Kyle’s eyes lit up when he saw Abigail standing behind Levi.

“Hello, Kyle!”

“I’m here to make a reservation!” Abigail said tensely.

Several times, Kyle had tried to woo her in the most exaggerated fashion.

Slap! Kyle gave a tight slap to the server next to him after he heard Abigail’s recount of what had happened.

“Don’t you know that she is my dearest classmate? I want you to process her reservation immediately!” Kyle shouted at his servers.

“But it’s not your classmate who wanted to reserve our restaurant, sir.” The server said feebly, “It was this man who wanted to reserve the whole restaurant for one full day!”

“Who’s this guy, Abigail?” Kyle eyed Levi curiously when he heard what his server had told him.

“I...”

Levi was just about to make known his intention when Abigail grabbed his arm and halted him, “Let me introduce my boyfriend to you, Kyle!”

Her words almost gave Levi the goosebumps again.

Abigail clung on even tighter to Levi, pressing her body against his.

Frustration kicked in when Kyle saw the affectionate display from Abigail.

The rage in him was driving him mad!

So Abigail has a boyfriend now?

What made her set her eyes on such an unsightly fellow? Doesn’t he look like some beggars on the streets?

“Are you kidding, Abigail?” Kyle suppressed his anger and forced out a smile, “Why do you have to go get some beggars off the streets to act as your boyfriend? Are you going to such great lengths just to avoid me?”

“Why do I have to lie to you, Kyle?” Abigail rebuffed, “We’ve just stayed in the same place the night before, haven’t we?”

Levi nodded in acknowledgement. Since it was true that they had stayed in the same place the night before.

Little did he know that others would interpret that differently. It was as good as telling them that Levi and Abigail were sleeping on the same bed.

“I’m utterly disappointed in you, Abigail!” Kyle was raving mad as he shouted at her, “How could you give in to his honeyed words? It pains me to know that you are such a loose and disgusting woman who would sleep around with beggars like him!”

His words elicited a cold, hard stare from Levi.

“What did you just say? Say it again!”

How dare you insult the cousin of my beloved wife? Are you looking to die?

The Protector Chapter 38

Abigail was quick to calm things down once she saw that Levi was about to flare up. “It’s fine, let’s not

forget what we're here for. We're here to make a reservation.”

Abigail turned to Kyle. “We would like to reserve the whole restaurant the day after tomorrow, Kyle. What do you think?”

“No can do! We would only accept reservations made one month in advance, and there is no such thing as reserving the whole restaurant!” Kyle touched the gold ring on his finger and snorted.

“How about if I double up the price to make it ten million?” Levi suggested.

“So you're telling me that you're flushed with cash?” Kyle grinned shrewdly when he heard that.

But his grin diminished all of a sudden when he turned volte-face. “How about this? Let me add a new rule to our restaurant. I hereby forbid the two of them and dogs to enter our restaurant!”

“Sir, do you mean we would accept any guests apart from the two of them and dogs?” his men intentionally repeated his question to embarrass Levi and Abigail.

“Exactly!” Kyle gave a brittle laugh, “To put it plainly, there are three dogs who would be barred from our restaurant!”

Even the angelic Abigail, whom he used to regard as his goddess, had now been condemned to a b\*\*\*h in Kyle's eyes.

His words infuriated Abigail, and she snapped at him, “What's all this about, Kyle? You're doing all these just to vent your frustration at us and humiliate us, aren't you?”

“So what if I am doing it to humiliate you? This restaurant belongs to my dad, and I have every right to decide who we take in as our guest. I'm determined to shut the both of you out of my restaurant. What else can you do about it?”

The relentless Kyle even spat at Abigail's foot.

“You...”

Abigail seethed, yet she could do nothing about it.

She knew it was beyond her means to go head to head with Kyle, who came from a family that was so much powerful than hers.

Levi gazed at Kyle stoically, “I'm asking you for the last time. Are you taking my reservation?”

“Over my dead body! I will never let the both of you step into my restaurant!” Kyle refused resolutely, “No way!”

Levi merely took out his phone and dialed a number, “I want to take over the revolving restaurant at North Hampton Center and I need to see the acquisition contract in ten minutes!”

“Hahahaha...”

Everyone burst out in laughter after they heard what Levi had just said over the phone.

Even Abigail was too shameful to lift her head.

It was simply outrageous for Levi to say such a thing.

Kyle's family ran an extremely successful food and beverage business empire with outlets that span across the whole of North Hampton. They were more powerful than Trey and Beck, who were mere crooks on the streets.

It was inconceivable that Levi could buy over the restaurant in ten minutes' time!

"Hahaha... this is so ridiculous that it almost made me laughed to death! Did somebody just say he wants to buy out the jewel of our business empire in ten minutes' time? What a joke!"

Kyle and his men cackled in laughter.

They found Levi as ludicrous and dumb as some blockhead.

Even the servers were gazing at Levi as if he was some retarded fool.

They had met countless of the super-rich and A-list superstars who dined in their restaurant frequently.

Even they would never had dared to say such a thing.

"Let's get out of here, Levi." Abigail tugged at Levi's shirt and said in a soft voice, "There are still plenty of restaurants we can choose from."

"No! I've set my eyes on this restaurant and I'm not backing down!" Levi insisted, "Since they refused to accept my reservation. I'll just buy the place and make it mine."

"Hahaha, alright! We'll wait for that to happen!" Kyle theatrically lifted his hand and peered at his watch, "You have five minutes left to do that!"

The doors to the elevator swung opened when eight minutes had passed. A few men dressed in well-pressed suits walked up to Levi and said humbly, "This is the acquisition contract that you've asked for, Mr. Garrison. Please have a look!"

Their words turned everyone dumbfounded.

Abigail quivered in disbelief.

Could it be true that Levi is really buying over the restaurant?

It would be simply incredulous!

“Oh, I’m impressed with your efficiency! So you’ve even brought the contract along, eh?” Kyle scoffed at the scene in front of him, “What makes you think my dad will sign it? This is just too funny!”

Kyle’s mobile phone buzzed at the same time.

“What’s up, dad? Yes, I’m at the North Hampton Center now.”

Kyle did not expect to receive a call from his father.

“You stupid idiot!” Lloyd Jarvis was about to explode in rage as he lashed out at his son over the phone, “Do you know who you have run into? How could you antagonize him? Now you’ve cost us the whole revolving restaurant! It’s gone!”

“Dad, what are you talking about?” Kyle snubbed, “He’s just a dud who looked like some vagrant to me!”

“What the hell do you know? He’s way above our league and not someone we could afford to mess around with! I want you to kneel and apologize to him immediately, or you might not get to live till tomorrow! I’m not joking, son. I’ve already sold the revolving restaurant!”

“And it’s all because of you that made me lose the restaurant! I’m going to beat the hell out of you when you get home!”

Kyle’s face turned pale when he heard the wild rant from his dad.

His face turned as white as a ghost.

He realized with a pang that this was not a joke anymore.

This guy had really just bought over the restaurant in ten minutes!

Kyle cast a wary glance at Levi.

Meanwhile, Levi and Abigail were going through the contract to finish up with the formalities of the acquisition.

Levi finally put his signature to the contract, and he was now officially the owner of the restaurant!

A herd of people rushed out of the restaurant the moment the contract was inked.

Leading the herd was Yahir, the general manager of the restaurant. He ran up to Levi and greeted him with an ostentatious grin, “It’s our pleasure to meet you, Mr. Garrison. You are now the one and only boss of the restaurant. This way, please, Boss!”

“This way, please, Boss!” all the rest of the staff behind him echoed synchronously.

Kyle could only watch with stupefied eyes.

He could not believe what his eyes were telling him. So my family's restaurant now belongs to somebody else?

All in just a matter of ten minutes?

"Hold on," Levi waved at Yahir, "there's still some unfinished business left to do!" he flicked his eyes over to Kyle.

"Didn't you just insulted Abigail by calling her a b\*\*\*h and spat on her? I want you to kneel and lick away all your spit on the floor. The floor has to be spotless before I let you go."

"Who the hell do you think you are to ask me to kneel and apologize?" Kyle hit back at Levi.

Known for his haughtiness in North Hampton, Kyle was fearless of Levi.

"Ahh!"

Levi grasped Kyle's finger at such lightning speed that it caught Kyle by surprise. Before he could figure it out, Levi had already bent his finger back to almost ninety degrees.

Crack!

Levi applied a little pressure, and his finger was broken.

The cracking sound pierced through the air and horrified everyone!

Bang!

Levi thrust his leg forward and shoved Kyle to the floor.

Crack!

Another cracking sound rocked the air.

Kyle's kneecap fractured as he slammed his knees to the floor, right in front of Levi and Abigail.

Thud!

Levi stamped his foot on one side of Kyle's face, with the other side pressed to the floor.

"I want you to apologize and eat up you own spit!" Levi ordered mercilessly.

His foot on Kyle's face was hurting him so badly that he felt his head was about to split.

It was the most torturous pain Kyle had ever suffered in his entire life. He was sure he would never want to go through it again.

"Yes, yes, I'll apologize!"

Kyle finally gave in.

“I’m sorry, Ms. Rogers! Please forgive me!”

Not only had Kyle apologized, he had even eaten and licked away his own spit, under the horrified gazes of everyone.

The scene was too nauseous for many of those who were watching on with saucer eyes. They were utterly shocked to the core!

It bewildered them to think that the once proud and arrogant Kyle Jarvis would stoop to do such a shameful act.

The man whom they called Levi Garrison was ruthless as hell!

Abigail’s heart was thumping so hard and fast that she felt like it was about to burst from the strain.

Kyle had stood out in Abigail’s group of friends as the undisputed leader of the pack. Yet he seemed more like a rat in Abigail’s eyes now, rubbing his nose on the floor like some mouse gnawing on leftover breadcrumbs.

The Protector Chapter 40

Levi is simply amazing!

His heroism had completely swept Abigail off her feet!

How she wished there were nobody around, so she could grab him by his neck and give him a big hug.

Levi and Abigail entered the revolving restaurant after ordering some men to whisked Kyle away.

“There’ll be no changes to your duties and everybody get to keep your jobs. I’m sure you guys are aware that I’m hosting a banquet on the day after tomorrow.” Levi said with a half-smile, “I’ll double your pay if you guys do a good job for me.”

His words were a real shot in the arm for all the staff in the restaurant.

Levi and Abigail stayed behind for their lunch after he had made known his requirements to the staff.

“How I wished there’ll be a guy who would throw me a birthday banquet here too.” Abigail gushed, “I’d be sure to cherish him my whole life.”

Levi turned a deaf ear to what she said and switched to something else, “Now that we’ve got the venue for the birthday banquet, it’s time to choose a birthday present.”

“Huh?” Abigail gave a start, “Do we still have to look for a present?”

“Just follow me.”

Levi took Abigail to a real estate agency in North Hampton Center.

“Isn’t this the real estate agency of Bayview Gardens?” Abigail squealed in surprise, “Are you out of your mind, Levi?”

Bayview Garden was in the most sought after neighborhood in the Uptown District. The minimum price of its apartments starts at seventy thousand.

Given its premium location, Bayview Garden would only fetch the highest price per square footage. The asking price for its apartments came in tens of millions.

“This is the place, Abigail. Let’s go in.”

The office was sparse since this was an upscale property where few could afford.

A female sales executive immediately came up to greet them when they entered the office.

Yet her enthusiasm waned when she saw how Levi was dressed. Besides, he looked relatively younger compared to the typical middle-aged buyers she frequently encountered.

There was nothing in Levi to convince her that he was somebody who could afford an upscale property like Bayview Garden.

“Sir, are you looking to rent a property?”

The sales executive asked with a tinge of contempt in her tone.

“Do you know this is the exclusive sales office for Bayview Garden? This is not the place for you to rent an apartment.” She waved them away impatiently, “This is not something young chaps like you could afford. To rent an apartment at Bayview Garden would cost over ten grand a month, let alone buying one. I’d advise you to go somewhere else instead.”

“You’ve mistaken my purpose for coming here. I’m not looking to rent an apartment, I’m here to buy one!” Levi rebuked her sternly.

“Did you just say that you’re here to buy an apartment at Bayview Garden?”

Mary, the sales executive, looked askance as she assessed Levi from head to toe.

Apart from the pretty girl who came with him, he hardly looked like someone who could afford to buy such an expensive property.

“Do you know how much it would cost to buy an apartment at Bayview Garden?” she eyed them cynically, “Even the cheapest ones are priced at seventy thousand per square meter. The apartments we have for sale ranges between eighty-five thousand per square meter to a hundred thousand per square meter! Any one of them could easily cost twenty to thirty million.”

“How could you afford such an expensive property?” she said with a sardonic grin.

“What do you mean we can’t afford it? How dare you look down on us?” a peppery Abigail fired back at her.

“Let’s be honest here! How could you guys afford a property worth tens of millions?” Mary refused to back down and shouted back at them, “Even a blind person could tell from that beggarly look of yours!”

Their outburst of words attracted the attention of unwanted eyes, who had come over to watch with an air of curiosity.

The leader of the pack was a woman clad in an all-black business suit in skirt and jacket. Her legs were long and slender, which looked extremely sexy in those beguiling black lacy stockings.

Her shapely figure oozed hotness as her voluptuous bosom arced up and down when she breathed.

Men could not peel their eyes away from her pretty face and her curvaceous body when they were here.

The woman was Chloe Macy, the General Manager of Bayview Garden Real Estate Agency.

“What’s going on here, Mary?”

Chloe came up to Mary with a puzzled look in her eyes.

“This couple is trying to stir trouble here, Chloe.” Mary gave Levi and Abigail a hard glare, “They refused to leave even though they know they couldn’t afford to buy our properties.”

“Hmm? Aren’t you L-Levi Garrison?”

Chloe was astounded when she saw that it was Levi.

The Protector Chapter 41

“Oh? It’s you?”

Levi recognized Chloe as well.

Chloe was Levi’s high school classmate. She was one of the most beautiful and popular girls in the school, with plenty of admirers pursuing her.

Chloe had tried to pursue Levi in the past, but Levi rejected her.

After high school, Chloe merely entered a normal university and ceased all contact with Levi.

But she kept herself updated about Levi’s news.

Chloe was especially grateful for Levi's rejection after she heard about his imprisonment. I'd be so embarrassed if we got together back then. I'm feeling mixed emotions facing him in person now, but I am feeling more excited than ever. I finally have the opportunity to flaunt my achievements in Levi's face! I want him to regret his decision of rejecting me!

"When were you released from prison?" Chloe asked.

"A fortnight ago!" Levi answered.

"Ahh, you were once the most successful upstart in North Hampton's business world. Such a pity you were sent behind bars. Otherwise, you might have become one of the richest men in this city. I remember I once confessed to you because you were so excellent and extraordinary. But you rejected me. I wonder if you will accept me now if I confess to you again? Hehehe..." Chloe lamented.

"What? You're an outstanding person now, Manager! You are the manager of Bayview Garden Real Estate Agency, as well as the top sales agent! You're earning a couple million a year, and you have your own house and luxurious car! Not to mention your captivating beauty. He's not good enough for someone like you."

"He must be regretting his decision of rejecting your confession back in the day! He may even offer himself up to you, now that he's released from prison."

"You're too good for someone like him, Manager. He is just a lowly person compared to you!"

...

The other sales agents were experienced and quick to assess the situation. They understood Chloe's intention immediately after she spoke. So all of them cooperated in her scheme.

Levi gazed at the employee's tag on Chloe's chest. She is the manager of Bayview Garden Real Estate Agency. I guess Chloe is a competent person in her profession.

Chloe said with a smile, "With my academic qualifications, I have no other choice but to become a sales agent. Although my achievements and a monthly salary of a few million may be insignificant compared to your earnings in the past, I am still doing better than you currently are..."

Chloe deliberately left her sentence hanging in an attempt to scorn Levi. She could not feel more pleased, looking at Levi's pitiful appearance. He was once the cream of the crop among our peers but look at him now. This must be fate.

Levi smiled. "Indeed, you looked like you're doing well for yourself!"

Chloe pretended as if a thought popped into her mind. "Oh right. We are having a high school reunion on the 7th of this month. Are you coming? If you are, please don't feel inferior by that time. It is a virtue to celebrate another friend's success, after all."

"High school reunion? Sure. I'll be there." Levi nodded.

“That’s great.” Chloe’s cheerful smile did not reflect her disappointment in Levi inwardly.

In Chloe’s opinion, Levi merely wanted to attend the reunion to butter up their ex-classmates.

She grinned. “Oh, are you here to purchase a house? I’m afraid that the cheapest unit available here will cost you at least thirty million, even if I provide you with all the offers and discounts I can. Why don’t you consider houses that are around three million instead? You should be able to afford that. However, you will have to look for properties outside of North Hampton for houses in that price range!”

## The Protector Chapter 42

Levi stared at Chloe. “Well, that’s not going to work for me. I want to buy a house in North Hampton only.

“Hahaha…” Mary and the others laughed out loud. How long is he going to put up that act?

Chloe laughed as well. “Old friend, I must remind you. We only accept full payment in cash for properties under our agency. Even if you accept a unit with a mortgage loan, you will have to pay a few million for the down payment. I don’t think you can afford that amount as of now!”

Levi said coldly, “I am making full payment in cash as well!”

“Full payment in cash? Are you sure?” Chloe was shocked. He only dares to utter such outrageous nonsense because he cares too much about his pride. Hmph! I will see if he can live up to his own words. He will only embarrass himself in the end. Then I will spread this shameful incident to our high school friends tonight!

But everyone was dumbfounded after Levi added. “Let me see the most expensive unit you have here!”

Everyone fell silent as they looked at him in bewilderment.

“What did you say? The most expensive unit? Are you sure?” Chloe asked in a low voice.

Abigail scolded impatiently. “Are you deaf? He wants the most expensive unit!”

Chloe regained her senses. Hmph! The most expensive unit, you say? I can’t wait to see how you are going to pay for the house!

“Alright, follow me!” Chloe brought the crowd to the real estate model and pointed at one of the units. “This is the most high-end house in Bayview Garden, measuring at five hundred square meters. We will also include a free underground garage and storage for you. The price for this unit is fifty million!”

“What do you think?” Chloe looked at Levi smugly after she gave them a thorough explanation.

Mary and the others gazed at Levi mockingly. How are you going to pay now, since you talked so big?

Levi nodded his head satisfyingly. “Not bad!”

“I think this is not bad too.” Abigail nodded in agreement.

Chloe smirked. He could win an Oscar for that rhetorical statement! The question remain though, how are you going to afford a fifty million house?

Chloe had resolved to humiliate Levi then and there. She wanted to drive him into a corner with nowhere to escape. “Let’s look at the showroom, shall we? This is a ready unit, available for you to move in right away!” Chloe said with a smile. I will never let him leave so easily.

But she did not expect the subsequent turn of events.

Levi took out a credit card and said, “There’s no need for that. I’ll purchase it now.”

Everyone was stunned.

“What? You are purchasing the unit now?” Mary was the first to snapped herself back to reality.

“Are you sure?” Chloe’s voice trembled.

Levi handed the card to her. “Get on with it now! I have some other matter to attend to!”

Chloe received the card with shaking hands because she recognized the Centurion card she was holding. There’s no credit limit to this card! Is he really qualified to possess such a card?

Chloe proceeded to check out the payment with uncertainty.

The payment was successful after Levi entered the password.

He paid fifty million in one transaction! Chloe, Mary and the other sales agent were shocked to their cores. He really spent that much money to buy a house!

They stared at Levi with disbelief in their eyes.

Even with my capabilities, I have to earn this consistent amount for over ten years to afford that house. But Levi just paid the sum so effortlessly? Chloe thought to herself.

### The Protector Chapter 43

What’s going on with him? I know Zoey is not doing well now. That means he relied on himself to afford this house. He is still as successful as before. Perhaps he rebuilt his empire since he was released from prison. From my experience, I can tell his net worth is at least over a billion at the moment. His current status is surely comparable to six years ago!

Chloe felt as if Levi was emitting a holy glow.

She regretted her behavior earlier. If I did not act that way, perhaps there might be a chance for us to be

together. At the very least, I know I am prettier than Zoey.

The purchase contract was printed swiftly.

Levi pondered shortly before signing the agreement. "I'm only staying in this house temporarily because the villa will be completing soon. Let's do this instead. You should sign this contract!"

Levi looked at Abigail.

Abigail was astonished.

She signed the papers in a daze. So Levi actually bought the house for me.

Chloe, Mary, and the others were losing their minds. He casually bought a fifty million house for his sister-in-law... How rich is this man?

That transaction attracted the attention of Bayview Garden's boss as well. He hurried over and treated Levi like an honored guest.

Chloe received a whopping commission of one and a half million from that sale alone.

Although she achieved her largest sale thus far, Chloe felt extremely bitter in her heart. I can't believe I missed out on the opportunity to enjoy ten or a hundred billion.

Mr. Wesley, the boss of Bayview Garden handed his name card to Levi. "It is my pleasure to be acquainted with you, Mr. Garrison..."

"Forget about that. You should fire that woman!" Levi looked at Mary. I need to teach her a lesson for looking down on others.

Mary broke down into tears, sprawling on the floor. But her fate had been sealed.

All the employees at Bayview Garden lined up to send Levi and Abigail off in the end.

He turned around and glanced at Chloe with a smile. "Don't worry. I will attend the reunion."

"Okay." Chloe's mood worsened to the brink of despair. Did I just give up a man with a net worth of over ten billion?

Abigail looked at Levi with admiration glinted in her eyes. "Does that mean I have a house now, Levi?"

"I am staying in that house with your sister for now!" Levi corrected her.

"Then I can stay there too." Abigail wanted to move out of the dormitory to stay in that house because she wanted to see Levi every day.

Three days passed in the blink of an eye as Zoey's birthday arrived.

Everyone paused their work to celebrate her birthday together.

Before Levi could inform Zoey about his dinner reservation at North Hampton city center's revolving restaurant, Caitlyn said first, "Someone arranged a birthday banquet for you, Zoey. You will receive a huge surprise soon!"

Aaron agreed with a smile. "She's right. The banquet will be held at Kempinski Hotel!"

Sensing her parents' mysterious behavior, Zoey said, "Kempinski? That place is very expensive. A meal alone costs over ten thousand! I do not need an extravagant birthday party!"

Aaron explained. "We're not the ones that made the arrangements, Zoey. Someone took the initiative. Moreover, we are talking about Kempinski Hotel's most luxurious meal. A table reservation amounts to over a hundred thousand."

Zoey looked at Levi subconsciously upon hearing that.

Caitlyn snorted coldly. "Don't worry, that person is definitely not him! He's not capable to even host a birthday party for you!"

Levi stopped Abigail as she was about to spill the truth about that revolving restaurant's reservation.

A Mercedes-Benz G came to a halt outside Zoey's house shortly after.

A man wearing a white suit with a bouquet of fresh flowers in his hand strode towards the door.

#### The Protector Chapter 44

Zoey recognized the man as the door swung open. He's the son of one of father's friends. I heard he went to live abroad.

"You're getting younger by the day, Uncle and Aunt! Here's some gifts I brought from overseas." Theo greeted politely.

He gifted Aaron with a few luxurious bottles of wine and Caitlyn with some expensive makeup products.

Aaron and Caitlyn were delighted to receive the lavish gifts from abroad. These presents will become a great topic of conversation with our friends and families. Levi is truly a useless son-in-law in comparison. He has never provided our family with anything useful.

"You're as pretty as ever, Zoey!" Theo leaned closer to kiss Zoey's cheeks as he complimented her. But she tilted away to avoid him instinctively.

Clap!

Levi stood in between Zoey and Theo. "I'm sorry, we do not practice this form of greeting here!"

Theo ignored Levi and said to Zoey with a smile. “Happy birthday, Zoey! You will like the surprise I’ve arranged for you tonight!”

Zoey nodded. “Ah? Thank you!”

Theo shifted his gaze onto her parents. “Uncle and Aunt, my parents will be attending the birthday banquet tonight as well.”

“Oh? Really? That’s great!”

Aaron and Caitlyn were excited to learn that news. We rarely keep contact with our old friends since our family’s downfall, especially Theo’s parents. They are both influential figures in government departments. His father, Steve Nash, is a high-ranking and powerful officer in the Department of Commerce, while his mother, June Webb, holds a leadership position in the Department of Education. With Theo’s family background, he is the perfect son-in-law candidate for everyone. Any girl will be considered lucky to marry him. We had the idea to pair him and Zoey up, but Steve did not want to establish any connection with our family previously. This is a golden opportunity to build a good rapport with Steve and June since they are willing to attend the birthday banquet later.

The thought invigorated Aaron. The best outcome will be for Theo and Zoey to become a couple.

Aaron and Caitlyn exchanged glances to express similar thoughts in their minds. This desired outcome will be rendered impossible with Levi’s existence. Let’s hope Zoey will think wisely for herself. We can tell Theo is interested in Zoey judging from the effort he’s putting in to celebrate her birthday.

Theo and Zoey’s parents chatted while Levi, Zoey, and Abigail sat beside them without saying a word.

“I’ve started a business overseas, and the prospect of the company is bright…” Theo began to describe his experiences overseas.

Aaron grinned. “You don’t really have to do anything on your own either, Theo. You are sufficiently excellent with your parents’ support.”

Before long, a Passat arrived.

Aaron and his family went to welcome the visitors at the door.

A couple got out of the car. They were Theo’s parents.

Steve was dressed formally with his hands behind his back. He appeared to be competent and gave off a stern vibe from the look of his neatly-combed hair.

Standing beside him, June wore a relatively casual outfit. But her outstanding temperament from years of working experience in the governmental department was clear to see.

“Welcome, Steve, June.” Aaron greeted them passionately.

“Hm.”

## The Protector Chapter 45

Steve looked at Zoey and said, "I heard about that Ecological Park project you're working on. That's indeed an impressive accomplishment. Keep working hard then."

"Thank you, Uncle Steve." Zoey nodded.

June was friendlier in comparison. With a smile on her face, she said, "Zoey is clearly a competent girl."

Caitlyn seized the opportunity to curry some favor from June and Steve by asking them to help their daughter whenever possible. After all, Steve is extremely authoritative in the field of business.

Steve looked at Levi displeasingly. "Of course we're willing to help your daughter, but have you thought about how others will see us if we assist someone that is not related to us?"

Everyone knew Steve was implying for Zoey to become his daughter-in-law.

June added with a smile. "After all, we have rules to follow in our family. All our family members must have proper conduct and manners."

June was informing everyone indirectly that Zoey can be accepted into the Nash family as long as she completely severs her relationship with Levi.

Aaron responded immediately. "We understand that. How else did you manage to raise an extraordinary kid like Theo here?"

"Come on, It's almost time now. We should head straight for the hotel." Theo said.

"Hm. Let's go." Steve nodded sternly.

"Hold on!" Levi voiced out all of a sudden.

"What's the matter? You have something to say?" Everyone looked at him simultaneously.

Levi looked at Zoey. "Zoey, actually, I've prepared a birthday banquet for you at a restaurant. Let me bring you there."

Caitlyn said impatiently. "Hmph! So what? Theo arranged a banquet at Kempinski Hotel! One table there costs over a hundred thousand. I'm sure the place you've reserved paled in comparison to that."

Theo smiled politely at Levi. "I'm afraid Zoey won't be able to go to the banquet that you've prepared. I will suffer a loss of over a hundred thousand if we do not attend the banquet at Kempinski Hotel. Let me reimburse you the money, perhaps a few thousand is sufficient?"

Steve glared at Levi in dissatisfaction.

Levi returned Theo's smile. "My loss will be greater than yours."

"Oh? Which restaurant did you booked? I reserved the VIP private room at Kempinski Hotel with a minimum spending of one hundred and twenty thousand." Theo was curious.

Everyone gazed at Levi too.

"I made a reservation at North Hampton City Center's Revolving Restaurant." Levi answered.

"What? That restaurant requires a one month advance booking before the desired date. There's also a need to place a deposit in addition to the ridiculously expensive pricing." Theo was astonished.

"Indeed. I heard of that restaurant. Only the wealthiest people in the society and famous stars dine in that place. It's not uncommon for a dish to cost over a hundred thousand." Steve elaborated.

Theo asked with uncertainty. "You really booked a table there?"

"Not just a table. I booked the entire restaurant." Levi replied nonchalantly.

Everyone burst into laughter upon hearing Levi's outrageous claim. Even Steve broke character and sneered.

"What did you say? I'm afraid my ears are failing me. Did you say you've booked the entire restaurant? Do you know what's the requirement to execute that action? Putting aside your status, the money needed to book that place for a day is easily a few million. Are you treating me like a fool?" Theo chuckled aloud.

Caitlyn and Aaron grimaced. Why must Levi always embarrass us whenever there are outsiders? What a despicable person.

"Do you feel proud by your actions? You're just a joke in everybody's opinion."

Even Zoey found it hard to believe Levi this time.

## The Protector Chapter 46

I know about the revolving restaurant Levi mentioned. Only someone with a status equivalent to Bryan can reserve the entire restaurant. Who does Levi think he is? This is an impossible feat for him! Moreover, I doubt Levi can afford a few million now.

Steve said, "Let's go and take a look at the revolving restaurant you've reserved then. The time is still early anyway. If anything goes wrong, we can always go to Kempinski Hotel since it's nearby."

"Alright. Let's go have a look at the restaurant then." Theo and June could not wait for Levi to make a fool out of himself.

Aaron and Caitlyn had no other choice but to follow them helplessly.

Zoey's mood dampened. I should really talk to Levi if things go south.

"Aaron, why don't you join us in our car with Caitlyn? Let the youngsters take the other car." Steve was creating an opportunity for his son.

In the end, Zoey and Abigail entered Theo's Mercedes-Benz G.

"I do not think someone as high and mighty as you should lower your status to sit in my car, Mr. Garrison. You should take a cab instead." Theo said to Levi with a smile.

"Take my car." Zoey handed her car keys to Levi.

The three cars arrived at North Hampton city center one after the other.

Zoey started to feel uneasy. Her hands that were wrapped around Abigail's arm, were trembling.

She was actually anticipating the surprise Levi prepared for her. But on the other hand, she was afraid of facing the harsh reality.

Theo stopped in his tracks abruptly and asked Levi, "Oh. I heard that the revolving restaurant would provide customers with a gilded card after a successful reservation. That card is the pass to enter the restaurant."

Steve nodded in agreement. "He's right. The restaurant sends the card to the customer's house in a Rolls-Royce, and the card is coated with real gold. Many celebrities and millionaires even keep the gilded card as a souvenir to signify their status."

Theo narrowed his eyes at Levi. "Where's your card, Mr. Garrison? Can we have a look at it?"

Steve added. "Yeah. We've never seen the card in person. Why don't you enlighten us?"

Zoey's anxiety intensified.

She knew Levi did not have the card as soon as she looked at him. This restaurant requires a one month booking in advance. Levi was released from prison two weeks ago. There's no way he made a reservation in time.

Even Abigail was dumbfounded. We really do not have the card.

Aaron's displeased voice was heard. "Do you have the card or not? Show us if you have it."

Levi said magnanimously. "I do not have the card because I reserved the entire place. This is different from booking a table."

"Hahaha... You don't have to sugarcoat your words if you don't have the card." Theo regarded Levi like he's a fool.

Steve shook his head helplessly. This young man is nothing compared to my son, yet he was the dark

horse of North Hampton's business world six years ago? This is the extent of his capabilities?

"I'll apologize on his behalf, Steve and June. Levi never changed his rotten personality of talking big." Aaron explained.

June smiled without a care. "Let's go then. We should hurry over to Kempinski Hotel."

"Wait a moment." Abigail stopped everyone from leaving. She suggested. "Although Levi does not have the card, we can verify his statement once we're there at the restaurant, am I right?"

Steve scoffed. "Sure. Let's go to the restaurant then."

## The Protector Chapter 47

Everyone entered the elevator to go to the 88th floor.

Ding!

Zoey could feel her heart pounding heavily and restlessly against her chest as the elevator arrived on the 88th floor.

Thump thump thump...

But the next moment, everyone was showered with pieces of colorful glittery papers the moment they stepped out of the elevator.

"Happy birthday to you..." The birthday song was heard. Unexpectedly, it was a professional band performing the song.

Zoey looked up and saw the entire restaurant was decorated with huge pictures of herself. Every picture was a dear memory of the time she spent with Levi.

The venue was decorated lavishly with flowers. A sparkling chandelier illuminated the floor with a warm glow.

In the middle of the restaurant was a large, multi-tiered cake placed on top of a cart.

"North Hampton City Center Revolving Restaurant wishes you a happy birthday, Ms. Zoey! You are the first and only person to have a birthday banquet here. So we dedicated a souvenir for you to remember this day."

The restaurant manager handed a present to Zoey.

At that moment, tears were already streaming down her cheeks.

How touching! This is the best birthday celebration a girl can hope for! Abigail looked at Zoey in envy.

On the other hand, Theo and the rest were stupefied.

“Let’s go further into the restaurant, Zoey.” Levi held Zoey’s hand and lead her towards the cake placed in the middle of the room.

Levi gave a signal with a click of his fingers just as Zoey was caught in perplexity.

Whoosh!

A series of noises was heard.

Bang!

Fireworks were seen outside the windows swiftly after.

Whoosh!

...

Volley of fireworks were launched upward to the sky, and the people inside the revolving restaurant would get a perfect view of the mesmerizing scenery.

The fireworks were of the best quality as they lasted longer and covered a large area of the sky with dazzling sparks.

In the end, two large and colorful words embellished the sky. Happy Birthday!

Everyone in North Hampton was captivated by the breathtaking show of fireworks that filled the night sky at that moment.

Clarity washed over Zoey. All these arrangements are dedicated to me.

Finally, Levi grasped Zoey’s hands. “Zoey, I promise to protect and cherish you for the rest of my life.”

“I will stay by your side for the rest of my life too.” Zoey hugged Levi tightly.

Aaron and Caitlyn were touched by that scene. Levi really hosted a spectacular birthday banquet for Zoey in this place.

All the colors drained from Theo and his parents’ faces. I’ve made a thorough preparation for Zoey at Kempinski Hotel. But all my effort is completely insignificant compared to Levi’s arrangements.

Steve’s face darkened. His only desire was to leave the place immediately.

The birthday banquet lasted through the night.

Theo, unsettled by the unexpected outcome, began investigating the matter. I do not believe Levi has the ability to book the entire restaurant!

Looking into the matter was effortless with Nash Family’s influence.

Theo suddenly laughed after a few minutes. “Haha. Now I know what’s going on. The young master of this restaurant is Abigail’s senior. Moreover, he’s been pursuing her. I finally understood how Mr. Garrison managed to reserve this place. So it’s all because of Abigail.”

Everyone shifted their gazes onto Abigail, including Zoey.

Abigail nodded. “Yes. This restaurant belongs to my senior’s family. But now…”

Theo interrupted Abigail before she could finish her explanation. “I see. We understand everything now, Abigail. But I can see Mr. Garrison did place the effort to decorate this venue.”

Theo’s superficial compliments were actually an attempt to mock Levi.

They gave all the credits to Abigail for the successful birthday banquet because they thought Levi would never be able to reserve the restaurant without her help.

But Zoey did not let go of Levi’s hands. “I am moved by your efforts no matter what.”

## The Protector Chapter 48

Zoey’s heartfelt words were sufficient to fill Levi’s heart with contentment. I could not care less about other’s opinions. All I want to achieve is to please Zoey.

Aaron and Caitlyn’s resentments toward Levi deepened upon hearing the whole story. “He’s just an opportunist!”

Everyone segued into the birthday banquet afterward.

Aaron and Caitlyn presented their gifts to Zoey, followed by Abigail.

Then Steve and June handed the presents they prepared as well.

Theo questioned Levi. “I suppose your gift must be invaluable too, Mr. Garrison?” I must humiliate him in front of everyone!

“That’s right. What birthday gift did you prepare for Zoey?” Caitlyn could not suppress her curiosity.

Levi smiled. “I did not bring my gift. Well, it’s more like I can’t bring the present with me.”

“So what you mean to say is that you did not prepare a present. Isn’t that right, Mr. Garrison?” Theo took out a delicate box and gifted the present to Zoey. “This is my gift for you. It’s a necklace from Cartier, the same design worn by a princess from a foreign country. I spent a lot of effort to lay my hands on this accessory.”

Caitlyn eyed the sparkling necklace. “This must have cost you a fortune, Theo?”

“Not really, Aunt. It’s about eight hundred thousand only,” said Theo with an indifferent tone.

“What? eight hundred thousand? Oh my God!” Caitlyn and the others were shocked.

“Thank you for the goodwill, Theo. As for the gift, I am not going to accept it as it’s an expensive gift.” Zoey rejected him firmly.

But Steve and the others gazed in their direction solemnly. “How can you reject Theo’s kind intention?”

Caitlyn accepted the present in Zoey’s stead immediately.

Theo looked at Levi. “This is indeed a wonderful banquet all thanks to Abigail, Mr. Garrison. You could’ve prepared a gift for Zoey though, even a cheap necklace to express your sincerity will do.”

June smiled. “It is rather inappropriate for you to come empty-handed, not to mention with your ‘special’ status.”

Aaron sighed and lowered his head shamefully.

Caitlyn was even more disgusted by Levi.

“That’s enough. We’re a married couple for so long, so there’s really no need to fixate on that problem.” Zoey smoothed things over in the end.

Levi and Zoey left for a stroll after the banquet ended. “I did prepare a birthday gift for you.” Levi said all of a sudden.

“What?” Zoey was surprised.

Levi took out a bunch of keys with a label. “It is time for us to have our own house and move out of your parents’ house.” Levi explained with a smile.

“What? Bayview Garden?” Zoey was astounded after she read the label on the keys because she knew of the overpriced properties in that area. Even Harry Lopez will not joke about buying a house in Bayview Garden.

“Come on. Let’s go have a look.” Levi brought Zoey to Bayview Garden.

“Oh my God. What did you do?” Zoey was losing her mind.

“Don’t worry. I rented the house. What do you say if I’ll have you pay the monthly rent?” Levi joked.

But he did not expect Zoey to believe in that joke. In her opinion, Levi certainly could not afford that house. He must’ve rented this place. But I’m touched, nonetheless.

“I’ll pay for the rent.” Zoey said in a rush.

Zoey had a wonderful night. She was smiling even in her sleep.

## The Protector Chapter 49

At the Lopez family house, everyone was infuriated when they heard about Zoey's extravagant evening.

"Zoey had her birthday party at North Hampton City Center Revolving Restaurant. She's really spending money as she likes now!"

"If it weren't for grandpa help, I bet they wouldn't even be able to enter the restaurant." Melanie roared.

Henry and Fabian were dissatisfied. "Aaron is a disappointment! If we did not help them previously, they would be begging on the streets now, father. How dare they forget about their family after receiving that project?"

Harry grimaced. "I did not expect them to go against me as well. Aaron and Zoey were obedient in the past."

"This is all Levi's fault! Did you not notice the way everything is changing since Levi's back?" Melanie uttered.

A menacing look flashed across Samuel's face. "Hmph! Do they think they will be able to proceed with this project smoothly? Dream on!"

Harry looked at Samuel puzzlingly. "Do you have any good idea, Samuel?"

Malicious intent glinted in Samuel's eyes. "They should not be handling this project since we are not participating. Don't worry, grandpa. I am acquainted with a mafia boss. If he's willing to help us..."

Harry asked. "Who's the boss you're talking about?"

"Everyone refers to him as Nueve!" Samuel answered.

"Oh, you're talking about Nueve. He's infamous for killing over a hundred people with an axe."

"They say no one can match his cruelty and bloodlust."

"I heard Nueve was imprisoned for three years in the same prison as Levi. He was released from jail last year."

Harry and the others were obviously familiar with Nueve's name.

"Alright. You will handle this, Samuel. I will pay for the money." Harry was prepared to risk everything.

At this time, Zoey, Levi, and the others were unaware of the Lopez Family's scheme.

Zoey went to monitor the construction site in person as the project for West City Ecological Park started.

They hired a professional construction team due to their ample funding.

A few buildings were already taking shape because of their high efficiency.

That night, Zoey went to survey the site again. But she was met with a total mess as if something terrible had happened.

Zoey and Aaron jogged toward the scene hurriedly.

They saw two parties standing up against one another. On one side were the construction workers, while the other side were a group of unfamiliar thugs with scary tattoos on their bodies.

They were all carrying knives and other weapons as they closed in on the construction workers.

Following closely behind the thugs were a group of villagers.

“What’s going on?” Zoey and Aaron asked as soon as they arrived.

“Ms. Lopez, they claimed themselves to be ex-residents in this area. They are here to create trouble because of the on-going demolition. They destroyed our constructs and even harmed us.” The team leader of the construction site exclaimed. “This is so scary! They are evidently thugs who do not belong to this village.”

Zoey and Aaron shifted their gazes in the other direction.

The people on the opposite side did resemble criminals who were recently released from prison. Not only that, they gave off a sinister vibe as if they were, in fact, murderers.

“I am the boss of this project. Talk to me if you have any dissatisfaction.” Zoey addressed the crowd bravely.

The person leading the thugs was a muscular man with tanned skin. Horrible scars covered his face, shoulders, and body.

The Protector Chapter 50

The scars were obviously left behind after he recovered from grave injuries inflicted by knives.

The sight of his scars was sufficient to invoke fear in most people.

The man was nicknamed Chopper and he was a famous person in their circle. He was also Nueve’s right-hand man.

Chopper sneered at Zoey while wielding two knives in each hand. “You’re the boss? This demolition is

wrong in the first place. You forced your will on us and scammed us, the villagers.”

“He’s right. We want compensation!”

“We will wreak havoc on this place if you do not compensate us!”

Under the thugs’ leadership, the villagers shouted angrily.

Zoey stared at them with all seriousness. “I am sorry, but we’ve acquired the right to develop this area legally. If you feel that the compensation amount is not sufficient, then you should be looking for the department in charge of this matter, not us.”

Chopper jeered. “We don’t care about all those things. We’re all just common folks here, and all we can see is that you are building things on our land. I will give you two choices. Compensate us handsomely, or we will destroy whatever you build here.”

“That’s right! We want compensation!” Everyone shrieked.

Zoey finally got the hang of the situation. They are here to stir up trouble. These thugs must have forced these villagers to cooperate.

“Alright. How much do you want us to compensate you for?” Zoey asked.

“We have made the calculations. You only need to compensate us with one billion.” Chopper answered.

“Impossible! Don’t even think about getting a single cent!” Aaron retorted immediately.

Chopper narrowed his eyes menacingly. “If that’s the case, then destroy everything!”

The few thugs and over a hundred villagers began wrecking things after receiving Chopper’s command.

The workers tried to prevent them. But the thugs threatened them with knives aimed at their throats. “I’ll kill everyone who dares to move.”

Zoey and the workers could only watch idly at the side as they tear down everything that was built in sight, including the worker’s resting area.

After that, Chopper smiled satisfyingly. “I’m warning you now, Zoey. We will come here every day and demolish everything you’ve built if you do not compensate us.”

Then he threatened the workers. “I will kill all of you if you dare to inform the police.”

Chopper led the angry crowd away afterward.

Zoey and Aaron were on the verge of tearing up at the sight of the mess.

Chopper sneered at the villagers after they reached a secluded area. “Go back to your houses now and do not tell anyone about this. I know your address, so I will find you and let you suffer the

consequences should you disobey me.”

“We know. We won’t disobey you.”

The villagers left immediately.

Chopper dialed a number and reported cheerfully. “We’ve accomplished the task, Lord Nueve.”

An unpleasant voice was heard from the other line. “This is some easy money provided by the Lopez family. All we have to do is destroy a few buildings.”

“You’re absolutely right. I will visit the construction site again tomorrow night, Lord Nueve.” Chopper laughed out loud in excitement.

On the other hand, inside a clubhouse. A lot of people were seated inside a private room.

Among the crowd was Trey. But he was far from being the center of attention in that banquet because Nueve was the host of that event.

Nueve’s was ranked significantly higher in their circle compared to Trey.

Someone whispered. “What’s the matter, Lord Nueve? Are you facing any trouble? Just tell me if you need any men to do your biddings.”

Nueve, who was dressed formally for that occasion, responded with a smile. “Nothing of the sort. It’s just that the Lopez family gifted me with ten million to stir up trouble at the on-going West City Ecological Park construction site. I thought the task would be tricky, but things ended smoothly.”