

The Ace at the Apex

Chapter 130 Javier, the Country Bumpkin?

The bidding immediately began with someone raising the price by 80,000 dollars, which was, of course, expected.

Immediately, someone yelled out, "80,000 dollars!"

With two consecutive raises, the original price of 3.15 million dollars was almost immediately raised to 3.31 million dollars, which was a terrifying sum.

It was Chessie's first time participating in a bidding war of this sort. When she went, she initially thought she was going to be there for a leisure trip.

However, she was now feeling slightly stunned after seeing how much money was being flung around here and there.

On the contrary, Javier did not seem to be fazed in the slightest. Although he had not participated in a bidding war before, that small amount of money meant next to nothing. It was akin to a common passerby stumbling upon a nickel on the floor. In such a case, the common passerby would not even think twice about picking up the nickel before carrying on with their life.

This was because, in their eyes, that small amount of money was not more important than what they had to do. Thus, the same could be said about Javier's mentality at that moment.

As the participants continued to raise their placards, the piece of land was now going for 4.91 million dollars. The entire bidding process from 3.15 million dollars to 4.91 million dollars had been conducted in no more than a few minutes.

At that moment, fewer and fewer people were raising their placards since only a handful of people were truly wealthy enough to participate. Of course, Andrew was one of those people.

He turned around to glance at Chessie, and then at Javier, who was right next to her. 'I'm definitely going to teach that little brat a lesson to remember me by!'

Andrew raised his placard and yelled, "320,000 dollars!"

With that increase, the price now shot up to 5.23 million dollars, which was a rare sight in the later stages of the bidding process.

After all, most people would want to spend as little as they could, so there were very few who would indeed yell out "320,000 dollars!" straight away.

After successfully garnering the attention of the entire crowd, Andrew felt very pleased with himself and turned toward Javier once again.

He wanted to see what sort of expression the male prostitute would have for him and whether or not he would be so shocked that he would end up falling from his chair. maviel the Country compone

To Andrew's surprise, not only did the male prostitute not fall, but he raised his placard.

“Um...I’ll add 16,000 dollars!”

Javier had made it sound like he was not very confident, making it seem very obvious, in fact.

On top of that, the crowd began jeering at him because Andrew had raised the price by 320,000 dollars, while Javier had only raised it by 16,000 dollars, which was the bare minimum amount. Of course the crowd would look down on Javier as a result,

Everyone looked at Javier, sure that he was someone from a minor company who clearly wanted to purchase that piece of land but did not wish to spend that much. Most importantly, they thought Javier might not have that much money on hand, Maybe he’d even have to rush off to raise the funds should he end up winning the bid.

Everyone merely spent a short while looking at Javier before looking somewhere else. After all, they couldn’t care less about what vermin chose to do.

However, Andrew was a completely different matter. Actually, he even seemed to gloat.

Male prostitutes will never be able to amount to anything!

‘Then again, I suppose it’s understandable...How much money could a male prostitute possibly be capable of gathering?’

‘He must be pretty well off to be able to bid 16,000 dollars, actually. In fact, he’s probably even one of the most well-off male prostitutes in his industry!’

As the others carried on raising their placards, the price of the land kept on increasing.

By the time Andrew raised his placard once more, he was no longer doing so to frighten others, but to save as much money as he could.

However, he still wanted to show others that he was not backing away and being a coward, so he yelled, “80,000 dollars!”

“16,000 dollars!”

Javier’s shameless voice was once again heard right after Andrew was done yelling his price.

*F*cking hell? We’re all increasing the price by 80,000 dollars per turn, yet you’re being so stingy that you’re only bidding 16,000 dollars each time? Do you think that we’re here to entertain you with a circus show?!

Nobody paid Javier any more attention as they carried on raising their prices.

Andrew shot Javier a glare, as he had raised the price by 16,000 dollars after him twice in a row. It was now obvious to him that Javier was out to get him.

Thus, Andrew raised his placard up high. “I’ll raise it by 16,000 dollars as well!” farw We Country Bumpku?

‘Fine, I’ll play along! I can still raise it by 16,000 dollars more than 10 times, so let’s have some fun!

Right after Andrew yelled that out loud, the auctioneer suddenly paused the session.

Then, he leaned toward his superior and received some instructions before he said, "16,000 dollars shall now be deemed insufficient."

Andrew became annoyed and said, "Why is it deemed insufficient? Why can he call out 16,000 dollars but I can't?"

Before the auctioneer could even answer, his superior sitting on top of the podium said, ". Nobody here wants to waste their spare time watching you increase the price by 16,000 dollars each time, so we will now increase the bids to 80,000 dollars instead."

After saying that, the superior even shot a frustrated glare at Andrew, most likely telling him to keep raising the price or get out of there.

No matter how powerful Andrew was, he still was not powerful enough in comparison to the people in charge of the bidding process. Thus, Andrew had no choice but to continue raising his placard when the bidding resumed.

"128,000 dollars!"

Nobody here wants to waste time, eh? Fine! Take that!'

Not only did Andrew's latest raise impress the superior, but he even shocked everyone on the scene once more.

After all, that piece of land was estimated to be worth 5.7 million dollars at most.

Coincidentally, with the latest 128,000 dollar raise, the price had just reached 5.7 million dollars.

Thus, there did not seem to be much of a point in anyone else carrying on raising the price. Because of that, many people began to give up bidding.

However, Javier somehow did not seem to care about that fact and raised his placard.

"160,000 dollars."

Everyone's gazes immediately focused on Javier, who still raised the price of the land despite this being over its estimated value. 'He's here to cause trouble on purpose, isn't he?'

Even Chessie poked at Javier and reminded him in a whisper, "The land's evaluated at 5.7 million dollars at most, and you just increased the price to around 5.8 million dollars."

Javier suddenly seemed to come back to his senses. "I thought I was only at 5.7 million dollars! Why didn't you tell me earlier?!"

Javier's rather audible exclamation sent everyone laughing. 'Aah...So there's more than one Javier, the Country Bumpkin?

person here who is bad at math!'

Andrew was laughing as well, but his laugh was more of a scornful mock.

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“Don’t worry, I won’t have you spend too much money. As long as I’m here, you’ll never be able to spend your money even if you want to!”

After saying that, Andrew once again raised his placard. “80,000 dollars.”

I’ll definitely win with this 80,000 dollars.’

In fact, it seemed to be true. The auctioneer began calling out after seeing that nobody was about to contest Andrew’s final raise.

“5.9 million dollars going once...

“5.9 million dollars going twice...

“So...”

“160,000 dollars.”

Javier once again shocked everyone, especially Andrew, who had already come up with a series of mocking remarks that he was going to throw at Javier when he won the bid.

However, the male prostitute had suddenly jumped out at the very last second and bid another 160,000 dollars!

“Hey, little boy toy. It’s only 5.8 million dollars, so why would you stop raising the price? You’ve made it too easy for me...”

Andrew had been waiting to say those words for a very long time, waiting for Javier to feel dejected before he hurled the words out.

However, the recent 160,000-dollar increase sent him into a dumbfounded spiral immediately.

He had never thought that Javier would carry on raising the price at that moment!

Seeing that nobody wanted to contest, the auctioneer yelled, “5.9 million dollars going once...”

Before the auctioneer yelled a second time, Andrew hurriedly raised his placard. “160...80,000 dollars!”

Andrew at first wanted to raise the price by 160,000 dollars, but he was worried that he might end up raising it too high, which was why he changed it to 80,000 dollars right at the last minute.

After all, he could not remain silent now that he had just declared that Javier was not going to be able to spend his money even if he wanted to!

However, it was obvious that Javier was adamant about going against Andrew because as soon as Andrew declared his price, he raised his own placard and said, “800,000 dollars.”

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The entire crowd was left dumbstruck by that raise...

Chapter 131 Unmatched

They had thought that Javier was only a bumpkin from some small-time company and had even suspected him of being a troublemaker, but they now realized that that was not true at all

– Javier was there to make sure Andrew went down!

Each time he placed a bid, it was targeted at Andrew, and he was still increasing the price in folds now, baffling everyone.

The land that had started off from 3.15 million dollars was now at 6.62 million dollars. The way the price had doubled with an additional 10% was aggressive!

Chessie was startled by Javier's bidding. She could not help poking him again and reminding him softly, "It's 6.62 million now!"

Andrew, who saw Javier and Chessie whispering to each other not too far away, understood the situation. That bumpkin boy toy must be pandering to Chessie and borrowing money from her!

Chessie was a force to be reckoned in the mafia world, but everyone knew that she was only involved in the sex work field of the gambling, drugs, and sex business. She was barely doing that much.

That was why Andrew felt that Chessie would not have that kind of money and that she would not be able to support Javier for long. He raised the bidding paddle again based on his judgment, determined to put an end to Javier's haughty ways just because of what he had said just now. 1

"Count me in. 320,000 dollars!"

Andrew, who spoke up, was feeling incredibly pleased with himself as he preened about raising the price from 6.62 million dollars to 6.94 million dollars.

The land that had originally been estimated to be worth 6 million dollars maximum had already exceeded said estimated value by 940,000 dollars.

Such a temperamental course of action was not how a successful businessman should act, but there was obviously an even worse businessman on the floor.

"640,000 dollars."

Andrew had just shouted his 320,000-dollar bid and had yet to cause much of a commotion when his bid was doubled to 640,000 dollars.

What the heck? It felt as though he had exerted enormous strength to carry a huge rock and throw it in the water, but before it could even make a splash, a truck had poured an abundance of rocks in there. No one would remember the tiny splash he had made!

The guests turned to look at Javier and wondered who this seeming upstart who threw money away for fun was, Chessie gave up poking Javier from the side as well.

The money deposit was only 80,000 dollars. They could lose it, but it felt nice to annoy Andrew anyway.

Coincidentally, that was what Andrew was thinking as well. He also assumed Javier was putting on airs and was ready to forgo the 80,000-dollar deposit.,

Want to act cool and rich in front of me with 80,000 dollars? Dream on!”

Andrew gritted his teeth and raised the auction paddle. “640,000 dollars!”

“1.28 million dollars.”

Andrew had not even loosened his clenched jaw yet when the unsophisticated boy toy added another 1.28 million dollars.

How much was the price now? It took Andrew a long time before he could count, muttering, “0.04 million dollars plus 320,000 dollars and another 1.28 million dollars...”

It seemed to amount to 9.5 million dollars?

A 3.15-million-dollar piece of land had been hiked to 9.5 million dollars just like this. Had they gone crazy?!

Andrew did not want to bid anymore. “You’re here just to mess with the auction. I’m not bidding with you anymore.”

Javier was amused. “Wouldn’t it be a slap in your face if I were to successfully buy it then? You just said that I wouldn’t even qualify to spend more even if I wanted to!”

Andrew scoffed, “If you actually manage to buy it, I, Andrew Kearsy, shall acknowledge that!”

Javier waved his hand. “Please, you really think you’re some bigshot? Why would I need your acknowledgement? How much is it even worth?”

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Andrew, who was infuriated by the retort, sprang up, pointing an angry finger at Javier. “You

Then, the host on the stage spoke up, “What are you doing? This is an auction! Not a marketplace!”

Cutting Andrew off, the host told Javier, “The money gained by selling this plot of land will be used to build a nursing home and a welfare house. The municipality has already planned this out. We hope there won’t be a ruckus.”

“Don’t worry. I assure you I’m not causing a ruckus. If I am, I’ll recompense you with 1.5 million dollars that will go toward the construction. Although a verbal promise isn’t much, we have certified personnel overlooking and recording the auction. This could be used as evidence,” Javier replied.

“As for whether other people are here to cause trouble or not, I wouldn’t know.”

Javier was naturally referring to Andrew.

When he was picked on so directly, there was no way Andrew could take it. He had not even kept his promise just now! Now that the boy toy had provoked him in public again, he sprang u

“Alright. If you win this plot of land today, I, Andrew Kearsy, will donate 1.5 million dollars to the nursing home and welfare house project as well!”

A proper auction had been turned into a wager by the two of them, but the betting money was actually going to a donation instead of in their personal pockets. This made the person in charge contemplate it for a moment before he decided ultimately. "We'll go on with the auction!"

The others were stunned while watching the two guys compete with each other. They did not dare get themselves involved, as plenty of them did not even have 9.5 million dollars in assets, yet the land was already worth this much.

It was Javier who had placed a bid just now, so it was now Andrew's turn. If he failed to bid, the land would go to Javier. He kept mulling it over, too scared to keep up with the 1.28-million-dollar increase.

"8-80,000 dollars!"

The guests threw him disdainful gazes. He had been the one to blow his trumpet earlier, yet he was bidding only 80,000 dollars now.

Not wanting to stall, Javier raised his paddle directly."720,000 dollars."

All it took was two sentences from the two men to raise the land's price up by another 800,000 dollars and make it a stuttering 10.3 million dollars.

Although Andrew did not make high increment bids, he'd have to pay the price in the end. Once he thought about buying a 3.15-million-dollar piece of land for 10.3 million dollars, exasperation burned within him. It was not like he could throw his dignity out the window, though, as he had just made all sorts of promises.

Clenching his jaw, he added another 80,000 dollars.

Javier was honestly infuriating, however, as he bid another 720,000 dollars, causing the total price to reach 11.1 million dollars!

Javier was set on teaching Andrew a lesson today. He wanted the latter to know that while their last names were pronounced the same, his surname was not something Andrew Kearsy could ever match!

Thinking about the 1.5-million-dollar donation he had promised because of his ego, Andrew felt a pinch. He could have given up on the auction if that promise had not been made, but Unmatched

giving up now would mean that he would have to toss 1.5 million dollars for nothing. It was a real ache to him. Besides, he would be embarrassed as well.

He then looked at Javier, who still looked at ease and full of cheer. It was like the latter's money was the result of a windfall and he felt nothing for it. The more composed the bumpkin toy boy was, the more Andrew fumed. He was especially furious when he saw the former groping Chessie's pretty legs.

Andrew wanted to raise his auction paddle and make another 80,000-dollar bid, but his arm quivered at the thought that he'd have to spend a few extra million dollars.

While he was caught in this dilemma, the auctioneer chanted for the second time. "11.1 million dollars going twice..."

Chapter 132 If We Fall, We Fall Together

That was 11.1 million dollars—11.1 million dollars!

Andrew surrendered. No matter how rich he was, he had yet to reach the stage of considering several million dollars nothing. He truly was unable to stay as composed as Javier was.

As the sound of the gavel rang out, the plot of land successfully went to Javier.

Applause erupted from the venue as people congratulated Javier for winning the land and pandered to this wealthy man. The guests felt like their horizons had been broadened today, as the world of a rich man was indeed different from theirs. Compared to Javier, they were akin to poor farmers.

Even the bureaucratic big shot had gotten up and gone down the stage to congratulate Javier.

“Young man, thank you. Thank you for making a great contribution to our town’s charity. Everyone here will remember you!”

After thanking him courteously, the big shot looked at Andrew. “I hope you’ll keep your promise.”

Andrew was incredulous. What kind of attitude was that? He had promised to donate 1.5 million dollars, but the big shot did not even give him a smile. Instead, he was threatening him? What he had said just now was a threat!

He wanted to say something after embarrassing himself, but the bureaucratic big shot left after shaking hands with Javier, not sparing Andrew any attention.

There were many people who went up to Javier to strike up a conversation with him.

“Mr. Kersey, hello. I’m the vice GM of the Edwaldo Company. Let’s keep in touch...”

“Hi, Mr. Kersey, it’s so nice to meet you. I’ve heard about you for a long time and have quite the impression of you! This is my business card. We can talk sometime soon...”

All sorts of pandering and bootlicking took place. Javier received a small stack of business cards during that time alone.

Chessie was baffled as she watched from the side. She had thought that Javier was bidding with the 80,000-dollar money deposit. She had not expected him to go crazy and actually spend 11.1 million dollars to buy a plot of land that was valued at 3.15 million dollars just over a matter of pride.

Now that so many tycoons and bosses came over to get acquainted with Javier and were even greeting her warmly, it felt quite nice. She had never enjoyed such treatment before since these big bosses were the most disdainful when it came to gangs and thugs.

Despite that, Chessie still poked Javier after the crowd dissipated.

“Have you lost your mind? You’re spending 11.1 million dollars on a plot of land worth 3.15 million dollars just over a matter of pride?”

Chessie’s distressed voice made Javier chuckle nonchalantly. “Yeah, it’s a matter of ego. I need to show Andrew how brazen and brilliant your man is so that he knows he couldn’t even catch up to my shadow is he looked up!”

“You madman!” Chessie chided him softly. However, when she looked away, her expression was giddy.

Javier had gone against Andrew because of her. The knowledge warmed her heart, as she felt sweet and delighted. She liked that.

It was the truth too. Javier was not fooling around with her. However, there was also another reason, and that was that he wanted to contribute something to charity. That small sum of money did not matter much to him, as it was a drop in the ocean to the Kerseys. Since it was nothing, Javier treated this like doing a good deed. He was wealthy anyway!

As Javier wrapped an arm around Chessie and got ready to leave, Andrew went past him. The man snorted and tossed the auction paddle in a huff before stomping away. He had done a thorough job of embarrassing himself today. Not only had he shamed himself in public, but he had wasted 1.5 million dollars to boot.

This was a huge injustice that Andrew had never suffered before, so his tightly-clenched fists were a forewarning.

Accompanied by Chessie, Javier completed the procedure and paid 11.1 million dollars generously. When he left, hugging the girl, she was still in a daze!

“You really have that much money? I thought you’d have to collect it here and there. I even figured out how to pool 8 million dollars for you.”

The 8 million dollars that Chessie mentioned was really all she could gather. She would even have to sell her Mercedes-Benz sedan.

When Javier pulled out his phone to transfer the payment nonchalantly, though, it felt like he was just going to the mart to buy a packet of cigarettes. The thing was, one had to pick the brand when they bought cigarettes, but Javier did not even bat an eye.

Chessie only knew that Javier had been well off in the past, so she assumed that his family probably had a few million dollars. However, the man had spent 11.1 million dollars like it was nothing, which had shocked Chessie.

Looking at the disbelief brimming in Chessie’s face even after they left, Javier asked with a chortle, “Would you believe me if I said the wealth I have right now could buy you this whole city?”

Chessie was amused, “Sure, I’d believe you even if you told me you’d give me the sun. We have enough to spend anyway, regardless of whether you’re rich or not. And I don’t care how much 11 We Fall. We Fall Together

you actually have as long as you have me in your heart.”

Javier knew that Chessie was still skeptical but did not really mind it. Embracing the girl, he kissed her forehead and stroked her less than smooth back.

Chessie originally had a smooth back with supple skin, but she sported two raised scars that looked like an X on her back now. That was what she had suffered because of him.

Each time Javier felt the scars, he felt his heart ache, and the price he had to pay was his growing fondness and love for Chessie.

Upon returning to the hotel, they went back to their room.

“Chessie, now that things are settled, I should go back too. Do you want to come with me and spend a few more days with me?”

Hugging Chessie from the back, Javier rubbed his lips against her ear affectionately.

With pink cheeks, Chessie shook her head. “Nah, I still have other things to take care of. I’ll probably leave tomorrow too.”

Javier understood Chessie’s independence and willfulness, so he did not press further since that was what she said. Besides, he honestly could care less when he had the beauty in his embrace right now.

Chapter 133 I Don’t Know How to Fight

After dinner that night, Chessie headed out with her underlings to take care of some business ma negotiation with a certain boss. Javier wanted to join her, but Chessie rejected him because they could not afford the appearance of an unfamiliar face.

Looking at her composed mien, though, Javier knew that nothing would happen to her. He did not worry too much after they parted ways and asked Herschel to hang out with him.

The hotel dinner could not quite satisfy his appetite, as he felt like having some street food. This worked in his favor since he could have a beer with Herchel and chat about the latter’s past. They had known each other for a long time now and had never talked about it. Hence, Herschel briefly introduced himself as they had some street food.

“My family didn’t do well when I was young, and I was pretty flippant. They had a military recruitment base in our area, so I enlisted. I actually did quite well in the army and got myself a master who was the champion of the military martial arts competition.

“I spent two years in the primary-level company before my master took me into Knifepoint, also commonly known as the special forces. I spent another three years in that company before getting into military school thanks to his encouragement and tough love.

“When I graduated from military school, my master was gone, killed by an enemy’s trap while he was on a mission. I got back to Knifepoint after an insistent request and took over my master’s position. I wanted to avenge him.”

Clinking bottles with Javier and downing the beer, Herschel burped before continuing to talk about his past.

“I’d like to think that my effort paid off. I spent two more years in Knifepoint and finally caught the enemy who trapped my master during a mission. He surrendered, but I didn’t accept it. I stabbed him 103 times and killed him.

“A comrade who was competing for a position with me tattled, and the higher-up marked that as serious misconduct. The comrade took that position from me too. I was so angry about him stabbing me in the back that I taught him a lesson.

“I was basically attacking a superior, and in combination with the serious misconduct I had already exhibited and the fact that this comrade had some connections to support him, I was honorably discharged.

“I didn’t pick up anything else in the past few years, just warfare and killing, so I’ve been staying abroad as a mercenary. Kenzo saved me during a mission previously, and I worked for him after that.

“That’s about it. The rest is history.”

A straightforward resume, but a rather brilliant one. They picked up another bottle of beer, toasting Herschel, before they paid and left after a *good* feast and some drinks,

When the two of them left the place and walked to an alley, about a dozen people trapped them in there from both ends. Andrew then made an appearance behind these people,

Stroking his signature middle-part, slicked-back hairstyle, he pulled out a cigarette and lit it.

“Javier, well done, huh? You made me lose 1.5 million dollars. Chessie isn’t around tonight. I’d like to see who else will protect you.”

Javier poked Herschel, who was next to him. “He can.”

Herschel looked quite distressed, a little helpless even.

Andrew was very amused by the sight of him. “Javier, oh Javier, why did you hire such a piece of trash as a bodyguard? I think you can forget about struggling now. Give me back the 1.5 million dollars and another 1.5 million dollars as compensation and we’ll consider this over. You...”

Andrew was still going on, but Javier looked at Herschel curiously. “Why do you look so fretful?”

Herschel nodded vehemently. “That’s because I am. I don’t know how to fight!”

The thugs Andrew had brought along were amused and kept guffawing loudly. They were the best at fighting—that was all they did anyway. Some of them were even suggesting that they could teach Herschel and Javier how to fight.

Javier asked Herschel, “You really don’t know how to fight?”

Herschel nodded again fervently and genuinely. “I really don’t. I spent these years in war. How would I get to fight? You don’t have to hold back in war. It’s on the other person whether they make it or not. But fighting is different. The police would be overwhelmed if I killed them all.”

Oh, ho, listen to that fella boast! What a bluff! Maserati could not even be his rival, as he was already so far ahead in the way of boasting that he had left behind only a trail of dust.

Even Javier could not take it as he squatted down by a corner and lit a cigarette, looking like an old man crouching by a farm. The thugs could not take it either and began cracking their knuckles and rubbing their palms together, as they wanted nothing more than to beat Herschel up.

Andrew held them back as he turned to Javier. "I have no time to listen to you boast. You have two options. You -"

Andrew was once again left rambling as Javier instructed the group of thugs. "Go get the one boasting. Get him!"

Andrew was still talking, and he was the one who had brought the thugs there, but the group

1 Don't Know How to fight

charged toward Herschel at Javier's command.

Herschel panicked. "I really don't know how to fight!"

Seeing Herschel get punched twice, Javier quickly added, "As long as you don't kill them, the crippled count will be on me!"

Javier regretted it the moment those words left his lips.

Herschel was merciless. A thug raised a wooden stick to hit him, but he caught the thug's arm before he could land the blow and broke it with a crack as though he was breaking a cob of

corn.

The white bone that shattered pierced the man's skin directly, and blood splattered before it kept gushing...

One would usually need five minutes to finish a cigarette in a calm manner, but Javier was quite hasty as he smoked, taking puff after puff. No one was beating him up anyway, but he was thinking about finishing the cigarette quickly to give Herschel a hand. It would be a waste to throw the cigarette away- it was 80 cents a stick!

However, he had not even managed to finish the cigarette by the time the dozen of brazen thugs were all laying on the ground with either a broken arm or a broken leg, all of them wailing and groaning in pain.

Upon a closer look, there was even one of them who was on the ground with his neck twisted to the side, lying there motionless.

Javier froze. "Sh*t, you broke his neck? This doesn't fall under the disabled category, alright?!"

Herschel waved his hand. "I didn't. He got lucky. I pulled my arm back to beat someone up, but my elbow knocked him out. I can't possibly go up and break his arm now that he's already

unconscious, right?"

As the two men discussed this, Andrew was stunned. To ambush Javier, he had specifically asked for thugs who were good at duels, people who could fight two or three men alone. However, all of them were now crippled.

The thing was, the two men across from him were ridiculous. One of them talked about killing casually, while the other had been smoking in the corner and had only gotten up now.

What the heck? What the f*ck was going on?

Flicking the end of the cigarette away, a sign that he had not wasted those 80 cents, Javier gi
up to approach Andrew.

“You had the audacity to give me two options just now, didn’t you? Come on, give me two more options
now. I’ll think about it.”

Javier was ready to teach Andrew a lesson!

Chapter 134 That’s All You’ve Got

Javier had never seen Andrew as anything worth his effort, for the latter was too insignificant to be
regarded as such. That said, Javier would be damned if he did not repay the gesture since Andrew had
offered himself as a gift tonight.

It was just that someone seemed even more impatient. Javier had just gone up to Andrew when
Herschel dashed forward. There was no way Javier could allow this. This was the only dummy left. If
Herschel took him out, Javier would lose his only chance to loosen a limb or two.

While Javier and Herschel were ready to fight for the dummy, Andrew surprised both of them. He
moved so swiftly that when he lifted his arm, there was a pistol in his hand. His movements were
smooth too, as he loaded the gun with his left hand the moment he pulled the weapon out.

“Try and take another step toward me. Come on!”

As the dark gunpoint was staring back at him, Herschel paused. He was impatient but he was not
reckless.

Andrew spat, “F*ck, weren’t you so good just now? You crippled over ten people alone. Well, go on,
let’s see you do it now too. Where’s your gusto now?”

Andrew was possibly preening at the moment as he alternated between pointing the pistol at Herschel
and Javier. No matter how good these two guys were, it was finally his turn to have the upper hand.

Herschel said nothing, merely staring silently at the ink-black gunpoint. He was ready. As long as Andrew
switched aim again, he would dash up and crush the man’s arm. He was confident that he could
incapacitate Andrew’s arm before he could shoot.

The next moment, Andrew did actually change targets. Just as Herschel was about to move, Javier, who
was closer to Andrew, moved.

In a blink of an eye, Javier’s right hand pressed on Andrew’s pulicue, the area between his thumb and
forefinger, while his left hand grabbed the pistol. As if he was doing a magic trick, it took little more
than a second for Javier to take Andrew’s pistol apart.

Looking at the grip of the pistol in his hand and the scattered parts that Javier had tossed on the ground,
Andrew was completely baffled. He could not imagine why the process of loading his gun, which he had
specifically taken a long time to practice in order to save himself, was far from dexterous compared to
Javier taking the gun apart.

It was not just Andrew. Veteran Herschel, who had been battling in the frontline was dumbfounded as well. He could do that as smoothly too, but he had been a professional armed forces man and, later in life, a mercenary. It was only normal that he could accomplish that as a

That's All Ynu've Go!

n outstanding soldier.

Javier was not any of that, however. Herschel had thought that he was only a rich heir, one who was more loyal at most. Now that he looked at Javier again, he found this wealthy heir to be... not quite like usual heirs.

Javier took the pistol from Andrew and removed the magazine to retrieve a bullet before patting the latter's shoulder with a chuckle upon seeing how he was shaking now that he had no pistol to defend himself.

"It's fine. I'm not beating you up. I'm a civilized man. We'll play a game."

As Javier spoke, he lifted his arm and placed the bullet against Andrew's forehead with his left hand while he held the magazine upside down with his right hand and used it as a hammer to knock the bottom of the bullet.

The crisp "ding" made shivers run down Andrew's body. "B-Bro, let's talk this out."

Javier ignored him as he continued playing his game.

"Actually, I've always been curious to see if the bullet will actually be triggered if it keeps getting knocked like this. We're playing this today. I'll just hold the bullet and knock the bottom of it with this magazine.

"If it does erupt, I'll lose two fingers and you'll lose a head."

Without giving Andrew a chance to react, Javier hit the magazine below the bullet. Andrew was scared witless, falling to his knees as his trembling legs lost support.

"Bro, I was wrong, I was wrong. Let's not play this game, okay? It's dangerous!"

"Dangerous?" Javier was amused by Andrew's comment.

"Didn't you think it was dangerous when you planned to accuse me? You're telling me it's dangerous now?"

Andrew was truly scared and was on the brink of tears, especially when Javier's right hand, which was holding the magazine, was about to knock it again.

"Bro, this is a real gun and a real bullet. Don't joke around like this. It can be lethal!"

Javier pretended to be struck by a realization. "Oh, I see. Are you scared of dying?"

Andrew nodded fervently with his eyes closed, "Yes, yes. I'm scared of dying. I'm a coward."

Javier replied right after him, "It's okay. I'm not scared of dying. I'm not a coward."

He passed the bullet and magazine to Andrew after saying that.

“Come on, we’ll change the game. I’ll bet my head and you’ll bet two fingers. Let’s go, give it a knock!”

Pinning Andrew’s hand, Javier pressed the bullet against his own head.

As Andrew held the magazine with his right hand, his entire right arm was shaking, but he did not dare do it. He was scared that the triggered bullet would blow up his whole arm

“Bro... Goodness, bro, I was really wrong. Please, just please let me go this once. I won’t dare do it ever again. I’ll give you 3.15 million dollars. I’ll recompense you with 3.15 million dollars, okay? I’ll call someone and make the transfer now. I won’t dare do it again,

Tossing the bullet and the magazine, Andrew kept shaking like a leaf as he knelt on the ground. He had even hung his head low, so low that his forehead was pressed against the ground as his tears and snot ran freely.

Andrew surrendered completely. He had never met such a daredevil before.

Javier lost interest in bullying Andrew when he saw how cowardly he was acting. With a slap on the latter’s head, he asked with a scoff, “That’s all the courage you have, yet you’re in a gang? What for? And you brought over ten people to flank me. You really think these pieces of trash could stop me?

“And how dare you boast with a stupid gun? I was already toying with a semi-automatic when I was seven. Are you trying to die faster by trying to get me with a pistol?”

Andrew could only quiver as he stayed on his knees through all the deriding and taunting. He dared not make any additional movements.

Javier turned to leave after that, ignoring Andrew.

“Give all the territories you have to Chessie by tomorrow noon or get ready to flee!”

Javier left this order and gestured for Herschel to get out of the alley with him.

It was only after both men had gone far enough that Andrew, whose back was completely soaked in sweat, tried to get up. However, his legs felt like jelly, and he was unable to stand no matter how hard he tried...

“Wow, Mr. Kersey, I didn’t expect that from you. It’s great.”

Herschel was growing even more pleased with the boss he had now. Javier was loyal, tactical, and physically skilled, which made Herschel feel quite relieved.

Javier glanced at the man beside him. “That’s all?”

Herschel hummed rightfully. “Ah, yeah, that’s all. What else could there be?”

“Call me boss, duh. I was already nice enough to offer to take you in as my underling. You should show me some respect and call me boss too. It’s the most basic courtesy and the very foundation of our manners. Need I say more?” Javier replied.

Herschel was bamboozled, What was this? It sounded kind of reasonable, but as he mulled

over it. I did not seem quite right He kept feeling like he would be taken advantage of

Chapter 135 The Adorable Faye

Javier had initially planned to leave the next morning, but he stayed around since Andrew had to keep his promise by noon. When it was about time, Chessie received 800,000 dollars in her bank account and a call from Andrew

“Chessie, I got into a small misunderstanding with Javier last night. Consider this 800,000 dollars my apology to him...”

Andrew made it sound very nice and tactful enough for both him and Chessie. It sounded like he would have taught Javier a very necessary lesson if it were not for Chessie.

When Chessie asked Javier about what had happened last night, she received a kiss on the lips from the man as an answer. The man then called Herschel.

“Andrew Kearsey. Make sure you make it clean.”

He was paid to take care of somebody else’s problems. It made no difference to Herschel whether he had to go to battle with an AK or slit someone’s throat with a small blade. When it came to someone as awful as Andrew, he considered the elimination of the guy a favor to the neighborhood and the local law and order.

“It’ll be done within two hours.”

That was all Herschel said before he hung up. Chessie, who overheard the call from the side, felt like something was amiss.

“What sort of misunderstanding occurred between you and Andrew last night?”

As Chessie pressed him for an answer, Javier eventually explained the situation generally. The young woman nodded. “Get your guy back quickly. Andrew must have prepared since he dared say that. Never mind that you won’t be able to kill him and you’ll have to lose a guy, but you’ll be in big trouble as well. Andrew is still quite influential.”

Javier seemed indifferent. “Just get ready to take over Andrew’s forces, Chessie. Don’t fret over the rest.”

Javier thought about some other things and called Ingrid.

“Ing, get somebody to stay with Chessie.”

Ingrid answered, “Arrangements have been made. I think she’s almost there by now?”

Right as the phone call ended, there was a series of knocks on the door.

When Javier opened the door, a girl around 18-19 years old stood before him, carrying a travel backpack. She looked rather fresh and youthful, but the backpack she carried was visibly heavy.

As she entered the room and dropped it on the floor, the loud clunk it produced made it sound as if there was a gong inside the bag.

“Who are you?” Javier asked the girl.

The girl smiled sweetly and opened her mouth before she halted, gesturing to show that she had no tongue. She then fished out her phone to type on it, saying that Ingrid had sent her there to protect Chessie.

The woman could not help chuckling when she found out that this young girl was there to protect her.

“She’ll be protecting me? She might still have been in diapers when I was playing with knives!”

The girl was mute but she was not deaf. Frowning, she pouted at Chessie, looking indignant. She even typed on her phone, (Faye. Angry. Bad consequences!)

Javier grinned as he looked at this girl, whose name was Faye, and asked curiously, “How bad?”

[You don’t want to see it), Faye replied on her phone.

Javier beamed and replied, “It’s okay. I’ve seen worse rage. Show me how angry you are.”

Chessie nodded at what Javier had said. It seemed that she was also curious to see how angry this adorable girl was.

Since that was the pair’s answer, Faye replied no further and went to her backpack. She unzipped it and pulled out a submachine gun, loading it and firing at the ceiling.

Javier was stunned, not knowing what to do about the shattered wall above him as he stood there frozen. Chessie was dumbfounded as well. She had never seen someone this aggressive—a woman, no less.

Throwing the submachine gun aside, Faye picked up her phone. (This is first-stage anger. Do you want to see the second stage?)

Looking at the text on the phone, then at the grenade and rifle in the backpack, Javier dismissed it. This building was not his, and people would come to inspect the room when they checked out. It would still be fine when they saw the holes on the ceiling, though. That could be resolved with money.

Soothing Faye and asking her to zip her bag up, Javier called Ingrid again.

“Ing, did you just send us a terminator? She said she’d fire the gun and she did. She just turned the ceiling into a hive.”

Ingrid sounded nonchalant. “You must’ve asked her to do it then. Faye is hot-tempered but she listens incredibly well. Once you give her an order, there’s nothing she wouldn’t dare do.

“I’ve told her that she has to protect Chessie and listen to her, so she won’t let either of you get in harm’s way. Don’t worry!”

While Javier was still skeptical about Faye, he believed Ingrid, so he let Faye stay and asked Chessie, “What do you think of this bodyguard?”

Chessie really wanted to say that she was happy about it. Although she was used to being alone, it would be great having a bodyguard who could fight around her. When the words reached the tip of her

tongue, though, she hesitated, thinking that Javier was actually afraid of what would happen if Faye refused to listen and harmed her.

Taking a look at Faye's adorable face and thinking that the girl was quite pitiful because she was mute, Chessie nodded. "Sure, let's have Faye follow me from now on!"

Faye looked happy about it and quickly went around the room, packing up things. Before she did that, though, she formed a heart with her finger and showed Chessie. She looked absolutely endearing doing that-if one ignored the blasted ceiling...

With Faye helping Chessie out, Javier felt completely relieved. After all, no one could guess when some ignorant, blind fool would target Chessie because she was in a gang. Now that Chessie had Faye around, an adorable girl with a violent mind, Javier was very placated.

That was why he left after lunch with Herschel, who came back with a toothpick between his teeth. He asked the man on the way, "What did you do just now?"

"Had lunch!" Herschel answered.

Javier asked, "What about Andrew?"

Herschel shook his head. "Who knows? It hasn't been long since he went on his way. Don't think he's gotten to hell yet, no. Probably still on his way!"

Great! It would be good if Andrew went over to the other side. Maybe he could bring the other souls he had killed with him too. That would be wonderful.

Javier pulled out his phone to call Chessie. "You can take over Andrew's territories completely now. Guy's gone."

At noon, the murder was reported on the internet.

'All 17 people in the room, the employer and his bodyguards, died. No one survived.'

Since the incident involved firearms, the police's attention was strongly piqued, and they announced that they would solve the case and seize the culprit. It was just that the culprit, Herschel, had long left with Javier.

By the time Javier got home, it was around seven in the evening. Jade had not had dinner yet and had been standing as she waited by the table since she had received Javier's call earlier.

When Javier finally appeared in the house, she threw herself at him, looking thrilled.

"Darling, you're finally home! Let's have dinner."

Dinner? No way!

Moving his eyes over Jade's body, Javier claimed lecherously, "I don't want to have dinner. I want to have... you!"

Chapter 136 Jade Uses Bait

Of course, Jade was not going to allow Javier to get what he wanted. After all, it would be embarrassing for her since Ingrid was still working in the kitchen.

However, after rejecting him, Jade shyly said, "Come...Come to my room tonight!"

Javier was immediately overjoyed!

'Looks like Jade has completely broken through her mental barrier!

'Tonight's the night this beautiful woman will be completely mine!

Over the moon, Javier ended up eating a bit too much and felt a little too full. Thus, he was in need of some exercise

After Javier was done washing up, he headed upstairs and looked for Jade, hoping that he could exercise to digest the food he had just eaten.

At that moment, Jade was doing some yoga exercises in the yoga studio. She was wearing a white tube and her yoga pants were as short as a pair of swimming trunks, revealing her absolutely enticing curves completely.

Her slim waist and slender legs were enough to make one feel excited just by looking at them.

Meanwhile, Javier felt his mouth go dry. Even though he had been able to vent a lot of his frustration on Ciel, Ciara, and Chessie, he still could not suppress his urge when he saw Jade's seductive curves.

He approached Jade and hugged her while she was doing her yoga exercises, starting off by kissing her slightly blushed earlobes.

Feeling embarrassed, Jade said, "Stop it, I'm doing yoga right now. I've got a few more minutes before I'm done, so give me a while, okay?"

Javier lustfully asked, "Can't you feel whether I'm okay with it or not yourself?"

Jade felt even more embarrassed because she could feel something creeping up toward her. However, she continued to beg Javier to give her another moment.

Javier did not want to force himself on Jade, so he headed to the treadmill next to her and exercised a bit as he waited for Jade to be done.

A few minutes later, Jade was finally done with her yoga and she relaxed her pose.

Javier, who was still on the treadmill, immediately rushed off and sprinted toward Jade.

However, Jade ran even faster than him, heading downstairs right away as if she was running for her life.

By the time Javier managed to catch up, she had already gone into the bathroom.

'Since when has she gotten so cheeky? Is she really just going to run away after lighting a fire inside me?'

Ingrid walked out of her room while Javier was softly mumbling away.

However, Ingrid did not seem to have anything to say about the commotion she had heard a moment ago, when Jade had run into the bathroom.

Instead, all she did was approach Javier and say, “Kenzo called. He says that everything has been prepared and you may leave in five days.”

Originally, Javier had thought that Mackenzie would need half a month to get prepared, but it had ended up being approximately 10 days in the end.

‘Well, I suppose that’s fine. The earlier I get more information on Dad and my stepmom, the earlier I can be done with this and the burden I have inside my heart.’

After discussing his travel plans and some other issues with him, Ingrid asked, “Are you really not going to bring me along?”

After all, there was no person more suitable to be his bodyguard than Ingrid herself.

But this was exactly why Javier wanted to keep her there.

“I’ll feel more at ease with you here. Only that way will I be able to make sure I don’t run into any accidents when I’m out there.”

Ingrid stared at Javier for a moment and finally nodded gently. “All right then. Kenzo was the one who taught you how to shoot a gun, so I’m sure you’ll be fine if you play it safe when you defend yourself. The men that Kenzo’s arranged for you are the best of the best as well.”

Vinmenuard?” Javier seemed to be kidding as he asked, “As good as the Kingsguard?”

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Ingrid chuckled. “Yeap, as good as the Kingsguard. All of them, in fact.”

After reminding Javier to be careful with a few matters, Ingrid gave Javier a hug. “You’ve always seen me as your elder sister, and I’ve also always seen you as my little brother, so you’d better come back in one piece. I’m still waiting to be the nanny of your and Jade’s children!”

Javier shook his head. “No need, you aren’t qualified to do that.”

Ingrid turned around and headed back to her room. “I wouldn’t do it even if others paid me to. Hmph!”

Hurtful words would always sound much less severe when spoken as a joke, and this was also a way to lighten a heavy mood.

Later, Jade returned to her bedroom after she was done showering. When she turned on the lights, she realized that Javier was lying in her bed.

Although Jade was quite embarrassed to look at Javier directly, she still had to admit that Javier did have a decent build with toned muscles and smooth lines. The sight before her struck a chord in her heart, even pulling on her heartstrings and leaving her feeling a small itch.

When Javier saw Jade’s sneaky smile and the tampon in her hand, he finally understood why Jade was being so daring that night!

“You’re becoming sneakier and sneakier, Jade. Did you deliberately seduce me when you clearly knew you were going through that time of the month?”

When she heard that question, there was a hint of gloating in Jade’s eyes. “Serves you right for having to leave right after you came back home. I’m going to reel you in forever so that the vixens out there won’t be able to take you away from me.

“They might be able to take your body, but you’re still going to sniff for my scent and come back to me in the end!”

‘Ho! I didn’t realize Jade had such an intricate plan in mind!

‘No wonder I keep on thinking about her the minute I part ways with the other women!

‘So...She’s the one who’s set a bait for me without me even realizing it...’

“You cheeky woman, I’m going to deal with you tonight...”

Meanwhile, rich and powerful men from all walks of life were standing on the square of Lustmord in Navette Bay.

It was supposed to be the day Javier, a direct descendant of the Kerseys, went through his coming-of-age rite. On top of that, it was also the perfect opportunity for these people to get to socialize with the young man Zephiel adored the most. Thus, both men and women were in high spirits, eagerly waiting to lay eyes on the capable young man of the Kersey Family.

However, while they were waiting earnestly, William suddenly showed up, even wearing the gold suit that the main character was supposed to be wearing that day.

William could not conceal the smile on his face as he loudly declared that Javier’s coming-of-age rite was canceled forever.

All the people on the scene were smart, while some of the less intelligent ones needed a while to ponder this before they finally understood what was happening...

‘Javier has probably been disowned by the Kerseys.’

Seeing the crowd’s dumbfounded expressions from the stage, William clenched his fists, filled with even more excitement.

Zephiel had three sons. The eldest had passed away, the second eldest was missing, and the third was a complete loser.

He also had three grandsons. The second eldest had now been disowned, and the third was still too young and was an even bigger loser than his equally useless father.

Thus, guessing who would be the next leader of the Kerseys was probably a no-brainer. William even wanted to laugh out loud as he thought about that.

Zephiel, on the other hand, revealed a mocking smile as he sat in his courtyard and saw William gloating through a live feed from a camera set up on the scene. “My pitiful grandson, you’re actually the most foolish one out there...”

Chapter 137 A Pair of Eyes Silently Watching From Behind the Scenes

Despite how much Jade did not want Javier to leave, he still left in the end.

However, Jade did not try to keep him around because she knew a real man was like a kite flying up high in the sky. It was solely up to Jade whether she was skillful enough to control the line that flew the kite.

In fact, she believed that she had already done very well, which was why she was able to see Javier off in a very gentle manner.

Before Javier left, she even shyly said, "Honey, I'll be ready for you by the time you get back."

At first, Javier still felt slightly heavy about having to leave Jade behind, but he immediately waved his hand when he heard that.

"Forget it, there's no way I'm going to allow myself to be tricked by you again. Do you think I haven't learned my lesson yet after the many times you've tricked me?"

Jade felt slightly guilty at that point. "I-I...That's because I'm not ready yet!"

That was indeed what she felt inside, as she had not gotten over her mental barrier yet.

However, Javier was not genuinely frustrated with her, which was evident through how tightly he held Jade in his embrace after saying that.

"I'll be waiting for you, Jade. I'll wait for you forever even if it means you won't be ready before then."

Jade felt especially touched and even felt her nose become slightly runny. "Honey..."

She might have a very soft voice, but it was filled with all of the emotions Jade could muster up.

She could no longer bring herself to love another man aside from Javier, who was her everything...

After leaving home, Javier greeted Herschel before both of them headed to the airport.

During their journey, Javier informed Herschel that he needed to take a trip down to Hyliveskia in the Middle East.

Hyliveskia was involved in wars throughout the year, making the place known as a haven for mercenaries.

However, Javier was not going there to be a mercenary. Instead, it was because of the information Zephiel had shared with him.

This was the very place Javier's father and stepmother had disappeared in, and it was also the place where they were supposed to be lying around out of plain sight.

Javier had always found it strange that Zephiel would not conduct an investigation despite possessing this information.

'Based on the old fox's methods, it definitely wouldn't be difficult for him to look into this. In fact, it would be a piece of cake for him, but he just refuses to do it.

'On top of that, it even looks like he's deliberately leaving me to investigate this...'

Javier then briefed Herschel on his objective, and the latter did not seem to object at all, as Mackenzie had already told him about it. Mackenzie had assigned Herschel to be in charge of protecting Javier and had even asked him to contact some people over in Hyliveskia since he used to be a mercenary there.

Throughout the journey, the two men seemed to be rather relaxed based on the conversations they struck up.

However, there was one thing that Herschel did seem rather awkward about. "Mr. Kersey, I don't mind going overseas, but I don't have a passport!"

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Javier chuckled and instructed Herschel to open his luggage to reveal the passport inside.

'Oh my god! Everything's literally here, including our identification papers and our flight tickets. Aside from the fake name and details, everything here seems as genuine as it can get.'

Herschel was rather worried. "Wouldn't we be inviting trouble by using fake documents to get on a plane? I'm sure airport security will detain us!"

Javier patted Herschel on the shoulder and did not explain anything. Then, they headed directly to the customs department.

When Javier showed his identification, Herschel even noticed that his name had been changed to Roy Gibbins.

Then, the strangest thing happened... The customs officer allowed Javier to go through!

When it was Herschel's turn, the fake passport and identification papers he had granted him access as well.

'How mysterious...'

While Javier was pondering what was going to happen next on the plane, Herschel was doing the same.

'My coming-of-age rite has been canceled, and William has now successfully become acquainted with many rich and powerful people.

"This is definitely going to leave William feeling over the moon, as he will feel as though the entire Kersey Family is under his control.'

In fact, this was exactly what William felt, and he was also beginning to ponder how he could solidify his power.

Thus, he secretly sent someone to look into what Javier was doing.

The investigator sent out reported to William that Javier had bought a piece of land and had murdered Andrew.

William mockingly laughed. "Is he really still so arrogant even though he's no longer a Kersey? Looks like he's not going to learn his place unless I give him another wake-up call."

Just as William was wondering how to get at Javier, he suddenly recalled something...

'There's absolutely no way Javier would be able to get to Andrew based on his current status, so Mackenzie or someone else is definitely helping him from behind the scenes.'

William then thought of Chad and Mary Jane, who were still employed by Reivaj Group, and Mackenzie, who had always been in very close contact with Javier. Finally, he relaxed his fists.

He then persuaded himself that it was not time to deal the killing blow to Javier yet, as he was still as tough as a cockroach at the moment.

'He's still got people behind him, waiting to see him rise from the ashes.'

'If I were to punch him now, Zephiel might end up becoming suspicious and ruining my plans completely.'

"I'm not going to act that carelessly, Javier. Instead, I'm going to give you some time to have fun. Mackenzie and the others will be thoroughly disappointed in you when I squash you flat. I'll make sure you don't have the slightest chance of making a comeback when that happens!"

After declaring that with a sinister smile, William went on to think about Ciara, the sexy beauty.

He did not care whether she was his uncle's daughter or not. All he cared about was that she was beautiful, she had nice curves, and he wanted to have her.

However, the old fox was protecting her at the moment, so William could not act rashly. Thus, he had to rethink his strategy regardless of how desperate he was for her.

'Aah...Mackenzie isn't going to be around on the island anytime soon. I can use this chance to sneak into Arthur's residence.'

William then gave Sigmund a phone call, and his cousin immediately woke up and ran to the door when h

e heard that William had something to ask him.

"Sig, I know that you've been cooped up here for too long recently, so I've brought two young girls to my house. Hurry over and take some time off. There's no need for you to come back tonight. If your mom asks where you are, I'll help you come up with something."

Sigmund was over the moon. "Thank you! I knew you were the nicest to me!"

'Heh, not only is he out of here because of two lesser women, but I've even managed to get him away for an

entire night!"

Thus, only Marjorie was left in the large, spacious house.

Marjorie had just laid on the bed when someone suddenly knocked on her door.

Thinking that it was Sigmund, Marjorie got up and opened the door. "It's so late already, Sigmund! What's wro...Aah!"

William immediately rushed into the room before Marjorie could even finish her sentence, pinning her on the large bed completely.

Filled with panic and fear, Marjorie asked, "How did you get in here, William?! What are you doing?!"

William directly ripped Marjorie's clothes away and forced his way on her.

"How did I get in here? It's all thanks to your idiotic son, of course! All I had to do was look for two random women, and he went running to my house. He's not going to be back here tonight, Marjorie, so yell as loudly as you want! The louder you yell, the more excited I'll feel, in fact!"

"No! Stop!!!"

Marjorie yelled at the top of her lungs, her voice echoing throughout the entire mansion. But alas, nobody was there to come to her rescue.

When she finally realized that Sigmund really had been distracted away from the mansion, Marjorie felt something inside her that should not be there.

"You feel really great, Marjorie! I love it!"

William spoke lustfully while Marjorie was left weak, her eyes filled with tears.

However, neither of them noticed that a pair of eyes was hiding in the shadows outside the house, watching the entire scene in silence.

The owner of this pair of eyes was none other than William's third uncle and Marjorie's husband, Arthur Kersey...

Chapter 138 This Employer Is Really Awesome!

After being on an airplane, a train, a car, and some other means of transport for half a day, Javier and Herschel finally arrived in Hyliveskia.

Since Herschel had once fought there, he was very familiar with the roads and took Javier directly to a mercenary group.

There, Javier met up with two more people Mackenzie had hired, Levi and Gabby.

The two of them were from Javier's country as well, each with their own past, but they had gotten close to one another on the battlefield.

At present, they were in control of a team with approximately 3,000 men, all of whom were secretly employed by Mackenzie under Javier's instructions.

Although their numbers were great, Javier looked at their battered guns and...wondered if they could fire a bullet without the guns exploding on them...

'Come on, I'm about to ask this group of people to get to work, not send them off as cannon fodder!

Javier then asked, "Do you guys have better equipment?"

Levi and Gabby obviously did not know who Javier was, nor were they worthy enough of knowing that information. Instead, Mackenzie had only told them that they would be working for a man named Javier Kersey.

Thus, Levi immediately appeared disgruntled after being questioned by Javier.

"This is what we've got, and it's the best equipment amongst mercenaries. Did you think the real world would be exactly like what you see in Hollywood movies? Come on, if that's

suggest you be a good boy, head back home, and carry on watching your little movies!"

Herschel knew Levi personally, so he knew why the latter would criticize Javier so much.

Therefore, he hurriedly tried to give an explanation. "Boss, it's a very precious skill for a mercenary to be in harmony with their firearms on an actual battlefield. Plus, these people are all very organized and have very strict rules that they live by.

"Levi has always been a straightforward person, but he means well. Please don't mind the silly fool, as he i

S..."

After all sorts of explanations, Levi shot a glare at Herschel and said, "What are you blabbering about? I didn't ask you to defend me!"

Gabby gently nudged Levi just as he was about to say something.

At the end of the day, women were more observant people, so she had already noticed how respectful Herschel seemed as he'd explained everything to Javier.

'If even Herschel's being so respectful to him, I'm sure we can't go wrong by doing the same.'

"Boss..."

Herschel was just about to defend Levi once more, but Javier waved his hand.

"It's alright, I'm not as petty as to find fault with him over something so trivial. He's right, though. I didn't

know much about how close they were with their firearms.

"However, you people are working for me, so I will do my best to make sure that you are not only paid, but that your lives are as safe as they can get!"

After saying that, Javier took out his cell phone and gave Angelina a phone call.

Although he did not want to do it, there was no other family as reliable when it came to firearms as Angelina's.

"Angelina, I would like to arm 3,000 people with equipment of the same spec as the marines from Sammius. I need it all as quickly as possible..."

While Javier was on the phone, Levi could not help laughing out loud mockingly.

“Who are you trying to fool? Equipment of the same spec as Sammius’ marines? You’ve got to be f*cking kidding me. Do you really think you’re Sammius’ president and can do whatever you want?! You’re just a fool trying to show off!”

Levi refused to believe that Javier was capable of such a feat, while Gabby did not try to stop Levi from lashing out.

The main reason was because even she could not believe Javier was capable of doing this. After all, it seemed impossible. ‘Who’s he trying to fool, actually?’

Herschel did not explain anything when he saw their expressions either.

‘If the Kerseys couldn’t do such a thing, they’d really become the laughing stock of the whole world.’

He then looked at Levi and Gabby and said, “You two are going to regret it very badly...”

In fact, that was exactly what happened. That very afternoon, a helicopter was heard approaching their base.

Everyone was on high alert because there were armed missiles right beneath the helicopter.

However, Javier waved his hand, signaling that there was nothing for them to be worried about.

After a moment, the armed helicopter landed and a beautiful blonde woman walked out.

‘Angelina?! I didn’t think she would come here herself.’

“Why... Why did you come here yourself?”

“What a silly question. Why wouldn’t I come when my man’s right here?”

Javier was rendered speechless by that remark.

Fortunately, Angelina did not elaborate too much about it in front of the crowd and merely asked about the mercenaries instead.

“Have you given up on being the leader of the Kerseys and come all the way here to become the commander of a group of rag-tag mercenaries in this warzone?”

“You could say that!”

Javier and Angelina had a casual chat before talking about their firearm business.

Angelina was never one to waste any time when conducting business, so she immediately called out to the aide behind her.

“Gusman, bring out the equipment.”

Levi and Gabby did not know who Angelina was, but they had heard Gusman’s name.

Gusman was the largest firearm dealer in the Middle East, so he was so important that neither Levi nor Gabby would be worthy enough of meeting him!

However, that very day, they had the chance!

On top of that, what left them even more dumbfounded was that Gusman seemed like Angelina's subordinate around her!

'If that's the case... shouldn't this guy be super-powerful and prestigious?!

Levi and Gabby exchanged a look and each saw their own shock in the other's eyes.

However, time did not revolve around them and was not about to stop for them. Everything went on like normal instead.

A moment later, Gusman took out a walkie-talkie and gave some instructions.

Very soon, around 20 armed transport planes flew over.

When they all landed, all sorts of equipment was brought from within.

Levi was stunned when he hurriedly took a crowbar to open the boxes.

The content of the boxes was revealed to be standard-rated equipment used by Sammius' marines. On top of that, it was brand new, and the mercenaries would be fully equipped.

"Holy sh*t! There's an LWH helmet that is both lightweight and durable, FROG fire-resistant masks, MTV bullet-resistant armor, ESAPI bullet-resistant shields, M16A4 rifles, M32MGL grenade launchers...Oh my God! This is insane!"

It was evident that Levi knew all about military equipment judging by his ability to name all of the equipment he saw before him.

However, that was not his main concern at present. Instead, he was shocked by how awesome Javier was!

"This equipment isn't just enough to arm a single unit. It's enough to arm a whopping 3,000 units! Plus, there's more than enough firepower in here!

Next to him, Gabby was dumbfounded as well. A moment ago, the two of them had even thought that Javier was nothing but a foolish show-off!

Now, they realized that Javier was most definitely not putting on airs but was a truly powerful person!

At that moment, Herschel showed up and wrapped his arms around both Levi and Gabby's shoulders.

"What's the matter? Are you two not going to continue saying he's a foolish show-off? "You see, neither of you could have imagined just how powerful he is.

"So, both of you should consider it a great honor to be able to work for him!"

Levi looked over at Javier, who was some distance away, and raised his thumb. "He's got my full respect from now on!"

However, Gabby excitedly ran over and easily picked up a Barrett anti-material sniper rifle that weighed more than 30 pounds. Then, she raised the rifle and fired a shot without even having to look through the

scope.

Immediately, with a loud bang, a bird ended up turning into a mist of blood.

“Thank you, Boss! This is a really nice gun! Both of us are yours to command from now on!”

In fact, even Javier was shocked by that gunshot.

‘D*mn, that woman’s not one to mess around with! Most men wouldn’t even be capable of firing a Barrett, but she literally raised it and fired a shot. D*mn... ‘Then again, I suppose this is good since victory will be certain with these two leading the mercenaries!

Chapter 139 Surprisingly, They Were Really Easy to Take Down

Before Javier had arrived, he had already found out that the information about his father and stepmother was inside an underground room in the town hall.

However, that very town hall was now under the control of armed rebels, so he was going to have to fight them with force. Fortunately, the town hall was only about three kilometers from where they stood, which was not too far away. On top of that, there were only approximately 2,000 men guarding the place, which was why Javier decided to take action that night.

After he explained his plan to Levi and Gabby, neither of them had any objections.

They had not been afraid of facing the 2,000 guards before either, but now that they had brand-new firearms, there was nothing for them to be afraid of anymore!

On top of that, all the mercenaries were eagerly waiting to try out their new equipment, so everyone was in high spirits!

This was extremely promising because it was the exact kind of atmosphere Javier wanted from them.

Thus, Javier ordered the mercenaries to move out.

Originally, he had wanted to join the fray himself as well, but Angelina stopped him right before he was able to leave.

Javier did indeed feel slightly awkward when he was around Angelina in private.

After all, when everyone had thought Angelina was his wife, he had rejected without a second thought the notion.

However, before Javier was even able to say anything, Angelina took off her clothes and deliberately leaned close to Javier.

“Actually, I’ve never looked for another man after being with you. You’re the only one I need for the rest of my life. Do you understand?”

‘I don’t think it matters whether I get you or not anymore. My lower part has already answered that question for you now that you’re so close to me...’

Javier could very clearly feel what Angelina wanted while her body was pressing against his. On top of that, her eyes clearly reflected her longing for him, and her red lips were deeply pressed against Javier's neck, kissing it fervently.

"Would I still be able to stand and take a whizz if something were to happen between us tonight?"

Angelina was startled when she heard this for a moment but she very quickly smiled joyfully.

Then, she placed her red lips close to Javier's ear.

"I've played small tricks here and there, just like the Kerseys have done in the past. Indeed, I have flayed a few men, but that's because they all harbored ill will toward me. I believe you should be able to understand what I'm thinking. I can only have you in my heart, no one else."

Javier replied, "What about William?"

Angelina felt furious at the mention of William's name. "I only intended to use his name to pressure you into being with me. Who knew you'd be even more heartless than me. You just took advantage of what I did and came up with that new scheme of yours without even finding out whether it was genuine or not.

"Then again...you really are a cheeky man. Right now, William is so overjoyed that he's completely lowered his guard. He even wore your gold suit like an emperor during your coming-of-age rite. He obviously thought he was the next leader. I just wanted to kill the b*stard!

"After all, he's wearing my man's clothes!"

Angelina's face was filled with a furious expression whenever she mentioned William, but her eyes were filled with endless kindness and sincerity again the moment she looked at Javier again.

That kind look left warmth in Javier's heart, while he felt an endless urge rushing throughout him when he saw her fair, slender body.

Thus, that very night, Angelina once again came to experience what having a man she deeply loved felt like after almost 10 years.

Overwhelmed, she could feel Javier's deep love for her along with the pain.

Both of them were finally done after almost two hours.

By that time, Angelina had already passed her limits and her fair body had turned completely red.

Her teary eyes were filled with happiness as she embraced Javier tightly. She genuinely wanted time to freeze at that point so that she would be able to embrace him forever and lean against his chest, never to part ways with him again.

However, she had been so happy over the past two hours that she was exhausted and she fell deeply asleep shortly.

Meanwhile, Javier also felt good when he looked at the coquettish foreign woman in his arms.

However, he did not dare enjoy the moment for too long, nor could he do so since Levi and the others had already returned.

“Boss! Boss! That was such a high! I’ve never felt such a high in battle before. We had armed helicopters covering for us up in the sky, while our ground units charged in with our superpowered firearms! We literally felt like humans battling against men from ancient times...”

After Javier left, Levi excitedly ran toward him and even brought more than 20 men with laptops in their hands.

Although Levi kept going on about how excited his last crusade had been, Javier was in no mood to listen to him.

He immediately ordered for the laptops to be fired up and searched while he himself walked to and fro across the laptops continuously.

Finally, he found the information he wanted on his parents...

His father and stepmother had indeed visited Hyliveskia more than 10 years ago but had ended up disappearing after that.

At the time, the local police and other relevant departments had sent specialists to look into the matter. According to their reports, Javier’s parents had been forced into a car with a fake license plate and brought to the sea. Then, they had gotten onto a speedboat and disappeared out at sea.

Even if that particular speedboat had been filled with barrels of petrol, it still would not have been enough

for it to leave the South Pacific Ocean.

However, there were no yachts passing by that area, nor were the radar and satellites able to pick up any trace of the speedboat.

Instead, however, they did pick up a submarine from a foreign country that came up to the surface for a moment before disappearing without a trace.

This was not good news because it would not be easy to find out what country the submarine was from. However, the good news was that this newfound information proved that Javier’s parents were safe. After all, the perpetrators would not have gone through so much trouble unless they’d wanted them alive.

At the same time, Angelina suddenly woke up and stood by Javier’s side.

When she saw the investigation report on the laptop, she discovered the reason Javier was there.

After all, this man used to be a crucial member of the Kersey Family, a powerful one for that matter...

Angelina could tell that Javier had lost his lead after she read through the report.

“Don’t worry, I’ll use my family’s connections to help you identify the submarine.”

In fact, the connections the Kersseys had were much more far-reaching than what her family had. However, at that moment, it would not be convenient for Javier to mobilize his family’s connections, which was exactly what Angelina had realized. Thus, this was why she offered to use her family connections to look into the matter.

Javier pulled her into his embrace and hugged her tightly in his arms without saying a word of gratitude...

The next morning, Angelina left because there were still many matters she had to look into as the leader of her family.

Meanwhile, with a heavy heart, Javier had no choice but to pause the investigation into his father and stepmother's disappearance, as there were no more leads.

After all, the submarine did not have the trademark of the country it was registered to, nor was there a model number, which made it literally impossible to trace it.

Thus, Javier was preparing to return home.

Before that happened, he met up with Gabby and Levi to see if they wanted to follow him back.

However, both of them wanted to stay behind because their entire mercenary group, including themselves, had not had enough fun with their equipment yet!

'Alright, I suppose there's no way I can determine what's going through their heads from a normal person's perspective when this lady can wield a Barrett with such ease.'

On the way back, Herschel seemed to be rather unhappy. "I thought I'd be able to stay here for a few more days, but we ended up having to leave almost right after we arrived."

Javier had originally wanted to stay for a while longer as well, but he had not expected his enemies to be so weak!

'D*mn those weaklings!'

When Javier told Herschel what he thought, the latter's expression instantly darkened.

"Boss, you do realize that you literally bullied our enemies with our arsenal..."

While they were chatting away, Faye suddenly sent a text message... (Chessie's in trouble!)

Chapter 140 Let's Share a Table, Sir!

Chessie was in trouble. She was in a pretty sticky situation, in fact.

Previously, she had taken the opportunity to completely absorb all of Andrew's territories after his death.

However, that was a huge piece of the pie that many hungry wolves had their eyes on. Coupled with the fact that Chessie had been the fastest and greediest to grab the pie, everyone else now had their eyes on her. Aside from the fact that she was currently the person with the most power, they were all eyeing her because she was a woman.

In fact, someone had even said that they would not allow such a powerful woman to exist in their state!

Thus, they all formed an alliance that would cumulatively go up against Chessie, taking her down permanently!

On top of that, the person leading the Anti-Chessie Alliance was an old veteran called Jonah Lambert.

Those guys must have a death wish! How dare they think of laying their stinking hands on my woman?!”

After instructing Faye to take good care of Chessie, Javier used the connections he had on hand to find out where Jonah was. When Javier obtained that information, he was told that his connections needed more time before they could find out more about Jonah.

However, Javier did not want to wait, as he was never one to waste a single moment.

Thus, he got into a car right after he got off the plane and rushed off to the city Jonah lived in.

After a few hours’ drive, Javier reached the entrance of the neighborhood where Jonah lived.

‘It’s 7 p.m. now, and I’m actually feeling a little hungry.’

Since Javier was not in a hurry, he parked his car in front of a restaurant in the neighborhood and ordered something to eat.

To his surprise, the restaurant was packed with customers, so there was not even a vacant table.

Fortunately, Javier was not a shy person, so he carried his food to a table where a 60-year-old man was sitting.

“Let’s share a table, sir!”

“Sure, sure... Take a seat.”

The old man looked like a kind and friendly person in plain clothes, which made him seem like a retiree.

Javier made small talk with the old man as he ate and realized that the two of them got along rather well.

This was especially true when Javier asked what the old man was up to now that he was retired. The old man immediately mentioned chess and expressed his deep interest and love for the game.

Seeing that it was still early and that it would not be appropriate to get into any official matters at the moment, Javier invited the old man to play a few rounds of chess with him.

There was a table outside under a street lamp and a chess set was coincidentally on the table. Of course, nobody would want to steal something like that.

The old man led Javier to the table and then took the white pawns, while Javier took the black. Thus began their chess battle.

The old man was indeed pretty good at the game, as he was using opening moves that were commonly played by professionals with steady decision-making skills. Based on his gameplay, it was obvious that the old man was very intelligent but was also not a person who would resort to underhanded or petty tactics.

Thus, the old man had ended up losing every single game he had played.

On the other hand, Javier had learned all his chess skills from the old fox, who had always resorted to underhanded tactics at every turn. On top of that, the old fox's motto was to kill his enemies silently and swiftly, making sure that they were pronounced dead before considering the job done. 1

Thus, Javier's gameplay was very similar to the old fox's. He got rid of all of the old man's chess pieces before going for the king.

The old man had begun to grow impatient and annoyed after losing to Javier a few consecutive rounds. However, Javier still gave the old man a few consecutive wins near the end, soothing his frustrated heart.

"That's enough. You're pretty skilled at chess though, young man. I deliberately let you win a few rounds just now, so consider those last few a little lesson for you. One shouldn't resort to underhanded tactics no matter what they do. Instead, they should play openly, like a true man!"

"Yes, sir..."

Javier kept on agreeing with the old man, who seemed happy as he gave him a lecture.

Realizing that it was getting late, Javier said goodbye to the old man he had become acquainted with and headed to a fast-food chain nearby to buy a cup of coffee.

The cup of hot coffee was served 15 minutes later, and Javier picked up a straw before he left.

Then, Javier took the straw and kept folding it before it finally had a razor-sharp edge.

"I'll be able to cut open someone's artery if I'm fast enough."

Javier then arrived at unit 15 and raised his head, only to see that he was in a neighborhood with a lot of old-fashioned houses.

'401... This is Jonah's house. Looks like the lights are off, though...'

Using a water pipe, Javier grabbed it and climbed up.

When he arrived on the fourth-floor kitchen, he pushed a window half open with his leg and jumped inside. The entire ordeal seemed extremely easy for Javier, who did not even break a sweat thanks to Mackenzie's assassination techniques.

The moment Javier entered the kitchen on the fourth floor, he felt his cell phone vibrate.

Javier opened it and saw that more details about Jonah's background had been sent.

Sure enough, he was an old veteran who was more than 60 years old. In the past, he had been considered a very reputable and respected old man.

However, he had now grown too old but he still retained his respectable status as a senior. On top of that, he had even brought up a few proteges and their sons.

Thus, the name Jonah Lambert still held a modicum of power within the entire street Javier was now on.

On top of that, Jonah was known to be a man who would not resort to dirty tricks and had never once committed murder or arson. Instead, he managed to patch things up when it came to a lot of matters.

After reading all of the information sent, Javier became very curious. 'Judging by the information here, this Jonah person doesn't seem like the kind of guy who would gang up on a woman, though...'

This thought of his was proven true after Javier saw a photo of Jonah, who was a dignified and domineering man in a suit and a tie.

'Isn't this the old man I just shared a table with?!

I've always heard that a man's personality and character can be seen through their gameplay during chess, and that old man was so upright that it was a little overbearing, actually... 1

How could such an upright old man set in his ways possibly gang up with others to try and get rid of Chessie?'

Javier put his cell phone away and did not want to think about it much longer. Instead, he left the kitchen and arrived at Jonah's bedroom, where he was lying in bed.

However, Jonah had heard some footsteps that had seemed hostile to him.

Immediately, he wanted to reach under his bed and grab his weapon, but the visitor was obviously much quicker. He entered the bedroom fast and turned on the lights.

Jonah was instantly stunned when he realized that it was the young man who had just been playing chess with him a moment ago.

After a few seconds, the old man asked in surprise, "Are you a thief?"

Speechless, Javier took out a cigarette and handed it to the old man, while he lit one himself. "Do I seem like one to you?"

Jonah did not seem to be afraid at all, as he accepted the cigarette and asked Javier for a lighter.

After he lit it up, Jonah replied, "It's pretty hard to tell."

Javier thought about it and smiled. "I suppose so, just like I couldn't tell that you were the famous Jonah Lambert living in our society."

Of course, now that his identity had been exposed, there was no need for Jonah to hide around anymore.

He gestured for Javier to hand him the ashtray. After flicking the ash of his cigarette, he asked, "Why are you here?"

Javier rubbed the straw that he had folded until it was razor-sharp and threw it into the ashtray.

"I originally came here to kill one Jonah Lambert, but now that I realized that it's you, I've given up."

Jonah did not seem to be fazed in the slightest when he heard that he had been an assassin's target.

Instead, he chuckled and asked, "Why would you want to kill me? I'm sure there must be a reason. Power? Vengeance?"

Rather than answering, Javier asked, "Why don't you ask me why I gave up instead?"

Jonah waved his hand. "I could tell that you're a very determined person based on your gameplay just now and you definitely see through what you've set out to do. So, you might have said that you aren't going to kill me now, but you're definitely going to do it should I end up truly offending you, which makes asking

this question pointless."

That's rather observant of him. It's true that all it took was a single thought and I didn't want to kill him anymore.'

Javier took a deep puff of his cigarette and extinguished it against the ashtray before he said, "Chessie's my woman."

Jonah was slightly startled but very quickly understood that Javier had indeed visited him with the intention to kill him.

However, there was one thing Jonah just could not understand. "Chessie's been mingling around in our society for many years, but I've never heard her mention that she's got a man."

Javier chuckled. "I just told you, didn't I?"

Jonah nodded and chuckled as he replied, "I suppose you're right."

After Jonah extinguished his cigarette, he lay back on the bed and remained silent with his eyes closed, looking as though he had actually fallen asleep.

Javier curiously asked, "Do you really not have anything to say, Sir?"

Jonah opened his eyes and looked at Javier. "Would you believe anything I said, though?"

Javier nodded. "You should at least try talking to me first. Who knows, I might just believe you?"

Jonah rested his hand against his head and said, "My wife got pregnant when I was over 30. It was raining heavily that night, when one of my subordinates gave me a call. He said that he was being pursued and he needed my help.

"Of course I was not going to allow anyone to murder one of my own, so I picked up a knife and rode my bicycle over there, killing six people by myself. I could literally see my surroundings dyed red, both from my enemies' blood and mine. Then, that subordinate of mine took me to a private clinic.

"There were no cell phones at the time, and I was poor, so I couldn't tell my wife a thing while I lay in bed for seven days. By the time I went home, my wife's corpse had already begun to rot along with the child on the floor. His umbilical cord was still attached to my wife's body. The boy had ended up starving to death.

"From that day onward, I never found myself another woman, nor was I planning on getting married, as I thought I would never be able to get over my guilt for the rest of my life.

"It wasn't until I turned 40 that a teenage gangster became my subordinate. The boy could neither throw a punch nor receive one, but when I saw his pitiful looks and found out that he was an orphan, I ended up adopting him because I didn't have anyone to take care of me when I grew old in the future.

“That boy’s name was Samuel. Coincidentally, my wife and I were going to name our son Samuel, so I thought this was God sending him to me on purpose. I taught him how to be an upstanding person and sent him to school, hoping that he would one day make a name for himself instead of being a man like me, someone only good at fighting.

“Samuel was indeed smart and showed potential in school. You might not believe me when I say this, but he was already 16 when I took him to school. Fifth year of elementary school, in fact. But he kept jumping up the ladder, sometimes even skipping three years in one go.

“By the time he turned 19, he was already in university just like other people his age. On top of that, he managed to get into Gale University, which is a very good school. In fact, I used to be very proud of my achievements in our society, but I was never as proud as when I saw that little rascal get into Gale successfully

“He did bring me pride and joy when he was in university, as he successfully won a scholarship and even started his own business. He managed to build his own company before he even graduated and earned around 470,000 dollars. I was so happy for him at the time for being able to earn such an amount of money, which was a huge sum 10 years ago.

“I thought that I should go visit him. He was my son at the end of the day, so I should at least understand what sort of business his company was in. I quietly looked into what he had been doing previously, but I ended up finding out that there was no company at all. Then, I went to Gale and checked. He had indeed managed to get into the university, but he had been expelled after half a year for forcing himself on one of his lecturers.

“I was so furious at the time because I didn’t think that the son I had made so much effort to raise into an upstanding man had ended up committing such a beastly sin. However, what I wanted to know even more was who in the world had helped him cover up the lecturer’s case and who had helped him earn that 470,000 dollars.

“Later on, I found out that it was the very subordinate of mine who had asked me to help him kill my enemies while my wife and son had ended up dead because of me. I couldn’t believe it at the time. The man who used to be my best subordinate had not only made me lose my wife and son, but he’d even dragged Samuel into our society!

“In fact, I even found out that the company Samuel was talking about was actually a nightclub the two of them were operating together. They were even selling Ecstasy in there, something inferior to meth, or so I’ve heard. In any case, I’ve hated drugs my entire life and banned all of my subordinates from even going anywhere near that f*cking stuff!

“I immediately looked for Samuel and threw him a knife. I told him that he was to either chop off his hand and leave the path he was on or cut me down and do whatever he pleased from then on.”

At that point, Samuel looked at Javier with tears rolling in his eyes. “Do you know what he chose in the end?”

Chapter 141 Rue and Regret

Javier shook his head, took out a cigarette, and lit it up. He moved the packet toward Jonah, but the older man waved dismissively.

“Samuel didn’t remove his hands or my head. No. He simply killed my best friend.”

Jonah’s voice broke as he wiped his wrinkled face and sobbed like a schoolboy. It took him a long time before he finally gained a hold of his tumultuous emotions. His mind seemed to have traveled back in time to when it had happened...

Samuel was on his knees, trembling. Brilliant red blood dyed his hands.

“I swear, Dad, he egged me on! He told me there was no point in school and education and told me...He told me I’d just end up working for him anyway. He told me to join him to make so much money our heads would spin and...surprise you.

“I was sold. Age is catching up to you, Dad. You’re growing weaker and you can’t meet the challenges in this society. If I stuck to the well-beaten path of education just to become useful to you...how long would that take? So I thought I should just start earning money with him, you know, make enough so that you can retire in splendor. It’s been my dream as a son to see my father happy and comfortable...

“But he lied to me, and I was in too deep before I finally understood that. He tricked me, manipulated me into...having sex with our teacher against her will, and then...he talked that teacher into using it against me. He dangled that threat over my head and forced me into dealing drugs. Told me it makes money fast. Told me it’ll take me only a few years to collect enough funds for your retirement!

“I had no choice, Dad! I had no choice! He was threatening me! I didn’t know what else to do anymore... The only way was to do as he said and bag as much money as I could before leaving him for good. Then, we’d move somewhere far away, where no one knows our past, so we could start new lives in the present...”

Jonah grabbed a piece of tissue from the table and wiped his tears away. “I believed him. What else was I supposed to believe? Samuel was just a kid. What the hell did he know? I haven’t talked to my friend for years because of my wife and children. And he...His fortune just kept ballooning at this unbelievable rate. So I believed Samuel.

“But then, one day, I met his teacher by chance. That was when I realized what he told me had not been true. He...He had tried to rape the teacher’s daughter, and it was only because she’d wanted to save that innocent young woman, oh god, that her mother had let him do it to her instead. But that wasn’t enough for Samuel. He had threatened the teacher. Told her he would kill her entire family if word got out.

“My best friend had accidentally heard this through the grapevine, and to atone for the regret he felt between us, he found the teacher before she sought help from the police. He bribed her with money and helped her and her family migrate somewhere else to bury the scandal. Samuel was terrified of me knowing, so he begged my friend not to say a word to me. He said he was confused. It was a regrettable moment of confusion. My friend believed him; he was worried that I might be enraged, so he helped Samuel hide the whole d*mn thing and never said a word!

“Samuel was expelled from school. He had no direction, no worthy pursuit. My friend sympathized with him, so he took Samuel into his business, hoping that giving the young man a chance could make him right again...But Samuel was no businessman. He was disinterested in it all. All he had in that debased brain of his were perversions! He talked my friend into starting a nightclub. He said it was going to be legal. The cleanest nightclub on this side of the country, he said...

“My friend resisted the idea at first. But Samuel threatened him with his wife and children, testing his resolve, and made him bend to his will. My friend ended up bankrolling Samuel’s nightclub.

“He never wanted it to be clean. He had only wanted to make bank. It was a prostitution ring and hard drug haven from day one. He struck deals with brothels and drug dealers and began making money like there was no tomorrow. My friend caught wind of it sometime later, and since I was around, he wanted to tell me

“And that was when Samuel did it. He wasn’t going to give my friend a chance to rat him out, so he...he slit his throat...He killed him and pinned all the blame on a dead man!” Jonah wiped away fresh tears. “God, I was blind. Blind to hell and back. I believed the lies he told. I helped him bury my dear friend’s body in the hills. He went ‘missing’ and I acted as though that was true.

“I shut the nightclub down. I helped him process papers and sent him overseas to continue his education. At first, it seemed like things were fine. He took pictures of his school and showed me. He called me through his school’s landline. But then, one day, I decided to pay him a visit at that school and realized he had not gone there at all. It was all fake-the phone number, the pictures. All fake. He had gotten involved in some crime syndicates abroad already and he was trafficking women and children from Noah, and sometimes, using those children as drug mules!

“That was when I finally understood the truth. I’d blamed my dear friend for no reason! It had never been him. It was that...that son of a b*tch I adopted. That Samuel! He was behind it all. He was the one pulling the strings!

“I made up my mind. I’d end Samuel, I’d avenge my friend, and I...hope that it would be enough to atone for the sins he had committed. But before I could do just that, he came back and usurped my own business. My employees were bought by his disgusting dollar bills. Every single thug on the street takes his money and listens to him now! If any of my old allies and apprentices resisted, he stamped them out. Two families-women, children, and the elderly alike-were murdered for resisting! The extent of his cutthroat methods against anyone who dares to oppose him...Oh god, the cruelty of it all...

“I wasn’t going to back down. Wasn’t going to lie down and let him stomp all over me. You could leave me alone, with a knife and nothing else, and I’d still throw myself at him and chop that motherf*cker to pieces!

“But he...he had one more trick. He took my best friend’s children hostage. He brought them before my eyes, told me all it would take to silence them once and for all were my thoughts. If I dared come up with any way to threaten him...

“And the rest... You know the rest. I haven’t cared about any of them. Haven’t had the power to care. That woman you mentioned, that Chessie girl? I’ve never seen her before, but I’ve heard of her-she

sounded like a good lass. But I didn't start that whole Antichess League crap. It was all Samuel's doing. He took my name and abused it, using me as a figurehead."

When his story was finally finished, Jonah grabbed another tissue and wiped the tears out of his eyes before lying back on his bed. "Samuel...He's my punishment, isn't he? He's the embodiment of my wife and children's wrath. Like the last judge of the olden days, he is my punishment, isn't he?"

Jonah sank into silence as he lay supine. He was so quiet that one might think he was asleep, but the unbroken fresh trails grazing down his cheeks from the side of his eyes said otherwise.

Javier finished his cigarette with one last puff and buried the embers into the ashtray. He, too, had fallen silent. He left without another word,

There was nothing more to be said. If Jonah was telling the truth, then all he needed to do was kill Samuel. If Jonah was lying, Javier could just come back and claim his life. No problem.

Jonah listened to the sound of his door shutting and sat up on his bed, his hands on his age-weathered face.

He keened. Hoarsely, loudly. He rued the ways he had wronged his wife, his children, and his best friend. All that was left of them in his mind was already besmirched by ceaseless regret and agony.

Javier drove straight back home after leaving Jonah's house. A few hours later, he reached his home when it was almost three in the morning.

Just like always, he opted to sleep in the car instead of going in. He had announced his intention to collect all intel regarding Samuel through the black market and was sure that every piece of information about him would flood his mailbox by tomorrow afternoon..

Javier pushed his seat all the way down and lay there for a while before hearing hurried footsteps from the corridor-slippers pattering and grazing the floor. The owner was rushing from the sounds of it. He thought it was a resident in the middle of an emergency, so he quickly sat up and looked outside.

He barely sat still when Jade, clad in her nightgown and framed by her disheveled hair, saw him, her face lighting up with joy. She wasted no time making her way to the car and rapping on the window, exclaiming, "You're back, honey! Come on!"

It was already three in the morning. Why was she not asleep yet?