

The Ace at the Apex

Chapter 431

The Best Research Team Logically speaking, Javier was more handsome, but different people had different preferences, so it was difficult to tell.

One could only say that love was blind when Alyssa seemed to be attracted to Herschel. Nonetheless, Javier was relieved that Alyssa was not attracted to him. He felt nothing for someone nearly 1.9 meters tall and with skin so tanned that she would be one with the dark when he turned off the lights at night.

However, Herschel seemed to be quite interested. When Alyssa was not paying attention, he told Javier, "Boss, don't you know, the darker, the tighter? I'm speaking from experience!"

"Buzz off." Javier had no intention to talk about such an experience with him now.

After getting into Alyssa's car, Alyssa drove, and Herschel sat in the front passenger seat. It seemed like it would be easier for him to flirt. Javier intentionally sat in the back seat and started talking to Alyssa about their medical research team.

"There are probably more than 100 people in our team. There were 116 people, but some joined and some left. I can't remember exactly how many."

Alyssa's words shocked Javier. There would normally be only about four people in an average research team and no more than ten assistants as far as he knew. Alyssa's research team seemed pretty impressive. They had more than 100 people?

"You're not lying, are you? Do you guys need more than 100 people to make a psoriasis targeted drug? Did you include the patients too?" Herschel's answer was just what Javier was thinking about.

Alyssa lit a cigarette and threw it at Herschel, who was next to her.

Herschel picked up the cigarette and motioned to Javier, but Javier simply waved his hand and took out his thick cigarette to borrow a light.

After lighting the cigarette, Alyssa said to Herschel, "Are you a man?" Herschel was surprised and did not understand why Alyssa would suddenly ask that.

Alyssa said, "According to the Tobacco Association, the standard ratio of filter tips for thick cigarettes is the same as that for women's nipples. The standard ratio of filters for slim cigarettes is the same as that for men's genitals. It's to take into consideration the taste in men and women."

"You're a man smoking a slim cigarette...So, you like them small?"

Alyssa put Herschel between a rock and a hard place. It would be embarrassing for him whether he smoked it or not. Alyssa noticed how deflated Herschel looked and said proudly, "That's for spewing nonsense earlier." Herschel realized that Alyssa did it for revenge because of what he had said earlier. "Did you include the patients too?"

Sure enough, Alyssa continued. "It's not like what you said. I didn't count the patients, and I didn't even count the assistants. The entry qualification for our 100-person team is a Master's degree, and there are also dozens with Ph.Ds. A Master's student like me is considered an assistant in the team. Anything less than wouldn't make the cut."

Alyssa's tone sounded like she was very proud. But based on how amazing this team was, it was indeed something to be proud of. However, Javier did not quite understand. It was just a psoriasis-targeted drug. Why did they need such a big team? Javier recalled Oliver saying something about a consortium behind this team, and he suddenly realized something.

"Alyssa, your team doesn't just work on this research project, but many others too, is that right?"

Alyssa did not answer Javier. Instead, she turned to look at Herschel next to her.'

"Do you see that? That's why he's the boss while you're just a bodyguard and a driver."

Herschel was rendered speechless but felt the same as Javier about Alyssa's team. He was shocked.

Afterward, Alyssa said that their team did not only research targeted drugs but also medical surgeries and others. They were mostly projects that were more difficult to research given the current state of the world. And for better teamwork, they were all Chineseans.

Herschel asked curiously, "Then what is all the research for?"

Alyssa replied, "To sell, of course. We sell them for money so that we can get luxury cars and houses.

Why else would we do the research?"

Alyssa's answer was specific, but Herschel was still curious. "Then why don't you develop and manufacture it yourself?"

Alyssa touched Herschel's lips charmingly. "Baby, don't be silly. Grow up. The consortium owns the R&D equipment laboratory and the laboratory equipment. What would the consortium get if we developed and sold them ourselves?"

"Plus, this doesn't just sell for profit, but also reputation. Say, you're the director of a local hospital, but your ethics and your social status aren't equal. You have no special achievements either. How do you demand respect from all those doctors with various degrees?"

"Come on, buy our research and development, and we'll give you all the research and development process, as well as the data of our experiments. You can then apply for a patent and tell the world you developed it. But as for sales...Sorry, you don't have the right to share them."

"You're just spending the money to buy a title. If you're greedy for the profit of sales as well, then you'll have to pay the price. You're a bodyguard, and you're exposed to this a lot. I'm sure you don't need me to tell you how they pay the price."

It turned out that was how things worked. Herschel did not expect it at all. Even Javier wouldn't have thought of that,

It was no wonder that many so-called experts had impressive resumes and achievements but were not reliable at all.

"Alyssa, what project is your team still working on now?" Javier was more interested in this. Alyssa knew why Javier came, so she did not hide anything, "Targeted drugs for AIDS, cancer treatment, vaccines, and so on. By the way, the previous breast cancer vaccine was created by our team, but a foreign team took the reputational rights. However, they also paid a price of 500 million dollars, and they don't have the right to license the sale."

It was amusing. It was just a matter of reputation, but it was sold for 500 million dollars, which was crazy.

However, the return on investment was huge because many pharmaceutical companies and medical research institutes that were clueless about it all would hire them to help develop other products. The R&D industry was full of empty promises.

It was completely normal for the industry to put in high investments and have no production income. They would still make a profit if they could not develop anything.

Besides, the research team that Alyssa was in was even more awesome. They had even developed the vaccine for breast cancer. It was amazing!

But now, Javier was more interested in the consortium behind this research team. Or, in other words, the family behind the consortium.

It was pretty good. He would like to use his connections to make them his completely so that he could

use them for his own. It would be easy to help underprivileged patients with free treatment with such huge profits. After that, he asked Alyssa about the name of the consortium. "I don't know. I'm an assistant. I don't know things at such a deep level, but you can ask our boss later. She definitely knows about it.

"By the way, our boss is an absolute beauty, and most importantly, she hasn't even turned 30 this year!" Javier couldn't care less if she was beautiful or not, He was more focused on the fact that a woman who hadn't even turned 30 could lead such an awesome team... Was she a genius!?

Chapter 432

Shyness Of A Young Girl After talking with Alyssa throughout the journey, Javier felt even more strongly about the research team. He couldn't wait to find out the family behind the consortium.

If he could, he would bring all these talented people back immediately.

However, Alyssa was not in a hurry. In order to welcome them as hosts, she brought them to a restaurant specially and invited Javier and Herschel to have breakfast. They were speechless, but Alyssa was doing it out of kindness, so Javier could not really refuse it either.

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After breakfast, Alyssa and Herschel got back to their own bubble. Javier was at a loss for words.

After all, Alyssa did help him with his work, so it would not be appropriate for him to rush her. He got out of the restaurant and went aside to smoke. While he was smoking and waiting, a car passed by him and suddenly stopped. The car had tinted glass, so he could not look inside at all. Instead of getting out of the car either, the driver seemed to be fiddling with something. The door on the right side of the car opened the next moment, and a brunette in a short white skirt came out.

She looked about 30 years old. She was wearing big black sunglasses and had scarlet lips and fair skin. She looked very alluring,

More importantly, she had a great figure. She had curves in all the right places and fitted all the descriptions of a sexy body. Javier was admiring her with appreciation, but the woman who got out of the driver's seat went around the car and to the other side. After a pause on the left rear side of the car, she took off her sunglasses. She was clearly frowning, and she looked helpless.

The next moment, she came to the back of the SUV and opened the automatic car trunk.

When she pulled open the left side of the rear trunk, a large full-sized tire appeared. It looked brand new and had never been used on the road before.

She stretched out her fair little hands and twisted the fixing bolt in the center of the tire, but there was no movement at all.

She seemed very upset as she kicked the back of the car. At this time, Javier could tell the trouble she had encountered. The car system must have been showing the incorrect tire pressure when she was driving, and she realized that the left rear wheel was flat when she got out of the car. She wanted to change it with the spare tire but did not have enough strength, Not far away, Javier asked, "Chinean?" The dejected beauty turned her head and saw Javier's bright face in the sunlight. The beauty nodded and asked him, "If you may, could you help me change the spare tire?" Javier put out the cigarette in the hanging ashtray at the door before walking toward the beauty,

As Javier got closer, he glanced at the sign on the bolt and said to her, "This is a hydraulic booster bolt. You don't need much strength at all. If you couldn't open it earlier, it means that you twisted it backward."

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After he said that, he stretched out a little finger and swiped the bolt in the opposite direction. Sure enough, after he loosened it with his finger, the bolts raised and rotated automatically as if they were electric. The beauty was shocked. She never expected the process to be that simple. However, it turned out that she could not change the tire herself even if she knew how because the full-sized tire was too heavy. Javier removed the tire and immediately grabbed the spare tire from the car. The beauty did not know how much the spare tire weighed, but she could tell from the bulging veins on Javier’s arm that it was laborious.

In the ensuing time, Javier took the tools out of the car and changed the beautiful woman’s tire with the spare tire.

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It looked like something simple, but the beauty could only watch. She could not do it.

After successfully changing the tire, Javier gestured to the beauty, “You can go now.” The beauty smiled at Javier. Many Chinese and other Asians, even Europeans and Americans, had tried to court her, but Javier was the first ever to help her and not ask anything in return.

After thinking about it, she asked Javier, “How much do you want?”

Javier stretched out his mud-stained hands. “A wet towel, if I may.”

The beauty was stunned for a moment. She then took a pack of makeup remover wipes out of the bag in the car and handed it to Javier. “It works the same.”

Javier nodded. “Thank you.”

The beauty did not say anything else and returned to her car.

Before leaving, she lowered the car window and waved to Javier. “Thank you, Wilberforce.” Javier hurriedly replied, “Please don’t. That’s a big title that I don’t deserve.”

The beauty smiled and said nothing. She put on her sunglasses and left.

While Javier was wiping his hands, Herschel and Alyssa happened to come out of the restaurant,

When Javier saw Alyssa’s flushed face and the sweat on Herschel’s forehead, he was slightly dumbfounded,

“Herschel, you’re pretty fast, huh? It all ended in less than ten minutes. Why don’t you call yourself the Minute Man?”

Herschel was embarrassed. “Boss, it’s not like that. We

Alyssa spread her hands casually, “It’s nothing to be embarrassed about. He was bragging to me in the restaurant that he could make me feel good with his mouth and that he has the kiss of heaven. So, I let him try it under the table.”

It was bright outside. Wasn’t it a little crazy to be doing that under the table in a restaurant?

Still, Javier was more concerned about the result. When he asked, Alyssa waved her hand, “No, His tongue is too slow and inflexible.”

Javier gave Alyssa a thumbs up. He found the conversation extremely dirty and didn’t even dare to listen. Herschel blushed even more. He used to be the one toying with women, but a woman had toyed with him instead today. It made him feel very ashamed.

After that, Javier gave him an assessment by telling him, "You have the shyness of a young girl."

Herschel felt like dying...

After their filthy, inappropriate conversation, Alyssa went to the parking lot. She drove the car out and hit the road with Javier and Herschel.

The car dashed the entire way, and there were no delays this time. They went straight to the company. That's right, a company that belonged to the research team.

There were not only laboratories but also patients and a small pharmaceutical factory. It had a substantially large area.

However, there were no security issues at all. The compound had high walls and three checkpoints.

The first checkpoint required a card, the second checkpoint required facial recognition and inspection, and the third checkpoint was strictly forbidden for outsiders.

They did not understand the hassle, but since the rules were set as such, they must have a reason for it. Javier and Herschel were stopped at the third checkpoint. Alyssa told them that there was a lounge, so they could go there and rest for a while. She would bring the leader of their team over shortly so that they could talk about the psoriasis-targeted drug.

However, Javier was not just interested in the targeted drugs for psoriasis but also in the entire medical research team.

After sitting in the lounge for a while, Javier was feeling a little tired. He lay on the massage sofa and closed his eyes to rest for a while.

Because of jet lag, he fell asleep when he was in a daze. When he woke up, he was woken up by Herschel "What? Are they here?" Javier rubbed his sleepy eyes, but Herschel said, "It's not that. We've been waiting for more than three hours!"

What the heck!? Alyssa's understanding of "shortly" seemed different from that in their country!

Chapter 433

You're Going To Be Disappointed, Mr. Kersey Javier motioned for Herschel to call Alyssa, but Herschel shook his phone. "I called, but her phone is off, and I can't get through."

He asked again, "Alyssa is not scamming us, right? Is it because we look handsome and strong, she's trying to sell us to fat, rich foreign women? I heard those women especially like strong Chinese men..." What a load of nonsense. Javier had no intention to deal with Herschel's nonsense at all.

Javier got up and stretched before lighting a cigarette.

He looked outside through the window. The security here was very strict indeed. There were also firearms like automatic rifles.

They actually had a professional security service protecting this place. They were probably worried about their research data getting stolen.

Javier was looking forward to taking over the entire medical research team, but they had a terrible concept of time! Finally, about ten minutes later, Alyssa appeared. Alyssa was wearing a white coat when she came to the lounge. She looked at Javier apologetically. "I'm sorry, Mr. Kersey. I've already told Suzanne...Err, our boss. I informed our boss early in the morning, but she was too busy with work that she forgot.

"I just mentioned it to her earlier, and she said she would come over shortly."

Javier frowned slightly. "How many hours this time?"

Alyssa was embarrassed. “No, no, it’s going to be quick this time because we’re about to get off work for lunch.”

That was indeed the case. After a while, the lounge door was pushed open, and the clicking sounds of high heels hitting the ground echoed. The sound of heels hitting the ground was very clear and rhythmic. It sounded like the woman was very organized when she worked.

Then, Suzanne Quinn appeared in the lounge. She was also wearing a white coat.

It was obvious that she was a little tired. It seemed like she was a little tired from working all morning. But even so, people would still be amazed by her beautiful face, and they could feel their hearts fluttering when they saw her. However, Javier’s heart seemed to be fluttering more because he found that Suzanne was not only beautiful but also familiar.

“It’s you?” Suzanne was the beauty who had been driving the SUV that needed to get its tire replaced when she was in front of the restaurant this morning.

At that moment, Suzanne saw Javier, and after a brief daze, she reached out to him with a polite smile on her pretty face, “What a coincidence. Thank you for your help this morning. I’m Suzanne.”

“You’re welcome. I’m Javier.” After shaking hands with Suzanne, Javier was ready to talk about the purpose of his trip this time.

No matter how pleasant it was to have a beauty, business was still more important. Javier knew how to weigh his priorities.

But at this time, Alyssa suddenly pulled Herschel’s arm. “Come on, go out for lunch with me.”

Alyssa had already dragged him away before Herschel snapped out of his daze. After leaving the lounge, Herschel said, “My boss is still talking about business inside, and I don’t know where we’re going when he’s done. I can’t leave.”

Alyssa glared at Herschel. “You’re an idiot. Can’t you tell from their conversation that they’ve already met? Although I don’t know how they met, it’s already lunchtime. Do you think they’d be talking here?” Herschel thought about it, and it did seem to make sense, but...

“Come on, let’s go. Let’s just relax during this afternoon break.”

Initially, Herschel was still a little hesitant, but when he heard Alyssa talking about relaxing, he immediately became very intrigued.

Especially when he saw Alyssa winking at him, he immediately became extremely interested.

Outside the room, Herschel and Alisha could not wait to leave. Meanwhile, Javier motioned Suzanne to sit down as he wanted to talk to her inside the room.

But Suzanne said, “It’s already lunchtime. To thank you for your help in the morning, I’ll buy you lunch.” Javier did not decline. It was a good sign since table culture was a big part of the Chinese culture, and business deals were often made at the dinner table.

After leaving the lounge with Suzanne, they took the SUV and drove out of the company.

When they were still on the road, Javier said to Suzanne, “You’re really impressive. You’re leading a medical research team at such a young age, and you have so many achievements. Your achievements in the medical field are very admirable.”

Suzanne smiled slightly, and her beautiful eyes glanced at Javier. “Aren’t you even more impressive? Now, you can easily see the Chinese from Reivaj Automobile on the streets. I just watched “Ackerman” by Reivaj Media again last week. “You’re only 25 years old, but you’re already the CEO of companies worth billions, I feel like nothing compared to you.”

Javier was stunned. He then asked with a smile, “Am I that famous? Even a beauty in the medical field

like you noticed me?"

Suzanne smiled, "That's not the case. Many of my subordinates are your fans, and they often tell me how amazing, powerful, and handsome you are. All of them wish they could be your girlfriend so that they can have wealth and money for the rest of their lives."

Javier was stunned. "I see. Out of all those fans, I wonder if there's a woman with the last name Quinn who happens to be particularly beautiful and talented in medicine? If so, it would be a great honor."

Suzanne turned her head while driving and smiled at Javier. "Well, I'm going to disappoint you, Mr. Kersey. No."

Javier nodded and pretended to look disappointed. "This really is disappointing."

They talked along the way, and finally, they arrived at a Chinese restaurant. After finding a seat by the window, they got seated and ordered some food. Javier was eager to talk about business with Suzanne. "Boss Quinn? Madam Quinn? Miss Quinn? I don't know what to call you. I think it'll be better for me to call you Suzanne."

After forcibly making their relationship seem closer than it was, Javier did not wait for Suzanne to speak as he went on.

"Why don't you return to China? For an extraordinary talent like you, being back in China is just as good as being overseas." Suzanne ordered two glasses of juice. She handed one to Javier and kept the other in her hand. "Why should I go back to China? Foreign research and development can offer me enough money. It will also give me enough technological progress and reference. But back in China..." Speaking of this, Suzanne had a wry smile on her face. She then said to Javier, "You probably understand that not everything can be yours just because you make them. Just like your automobile, the Chinese. Although it has a different logo, it's still a sub-brand under Heisenberg Group, isn't it?" Javier vaguely understood what Suzanne meant. He shook his head. "This is different. I'm fully capable of the production of the Chinese brand independently. The reason I hang on under Heisenberg Group isn't just to make use of its vast 45 stores but also to bring out the brand. "After all, they are the only luxury brand in China. If I have the ability to help them while making money at the same time, I'll certainly help," Suzanne finally understood. "I admire your love for the country. "But I can't. Not because I don't want to love our country, but because someone wouldn't let me."

Chapter 434

I Like Violence The food had been served while the plates were steaming hot, but Suzanne had no desire to start eating

"You can build a car, and if you don't agree with Heisenberg Group, you can still build a car on your own. But I can't. I don't have the ability to develop independently in China, nor do I have the ability to develop and handle independent manufacturing. I don't even have the qualification to own a patent, "To tell you the truth, I developed a vaccine to prevent a certain disease when I was 20, but at the time, my mentor told me that I was still young, and I couldn't hold this honor all by myself because I would get questioned by the public. He would co-sign as the developer with me.

"I was so happy to have a good mentor who was so considerate of me, so I signed my name on a series of documents he provided that I couldn't understand. I was hoping to be published in academic journals as someone this young and gain fame in the medical field.

"But in reality, none of that happened. The next day, I was expelled from the laboratory because I had private connections with foreign medical personnel and leaked the contents of the laboratory. I also got my student status stripped away.

"I couldn't understand it. I obviously didn't have any private connections with foreign medical personnel. Why was I being accused? So, I foolishly went to my kind mentor, thinking that he'd definitely help me.

"But no. He didn't even want to see me. He sent his assistant to tell me that he didn't need a brazen student like me who would steal his medical results. He thought I was rotten and despicable.

"After that, I found out that he became the sole developer of the vaccine and began to appear frequently in various medical journals, magazines, and even the news. He got to enjoy the honor as the new elite of the medical field and as the developer of the vaccine.

"I'm not angry. I want to collect the process of my experiments to expose the truth behind that hypocrite. However, the laboratory is his, and I have no right to enter at all. He even painted me as a shameless, despicable, and rude person over this."

When Suzanne said this, her expression was calm, and there did not seem like there was much anger in her tone. Still, it was clear that her gaze was cold.

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If possible, she would have probably stabbed her mentor's heart with a scalpel that she was good at using "Mr. Kersey, would you choose to stay in China and do medical research if it were you?"

Suzanne's question rendered Javier speechless. He asked himself, and it would be difficult for him to stay as well if it were him. From his point of view, he could certainly make patronizing statements. He could say things like how people should be patriotic and how people like them were hard to find.

However, if things like that happened to them, how many of them could actually endure it?

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Her own mentor had deceived her, and there was no way to prove her innocence. Even if she brought the matter to a relevant department, it would be pointless.

Therefore, Suzanne's departure seemed understandable now.

Suzanne did not wait for Javier's reply, and it seemed like it was not needed either as she continued.

"This medical team happened to be founded at that time, and they found me, so I said yes.

"Since I'm not destined to be famous, why would I give up on fortune? At least, I can live a prosperous life and make my existence more valuable and meaningful instead of being treated like a golden goose, whereby others reap the fruits of my labor!"

Javier expressed his empathy for what Suzanne went through.

"Indeed, I would have made the same choice if it were me. But if there's a chance, I'd still hope to return to my country for development. After all, fortune doesn't last forever. Reputation does."

Javier believed that it was a lethal temptation for any "original" creator to want their names to go down in history. The original creator of books could make the author's name go down in history, just like the author of the four greatest pieces of literature of all time. The original creator of inventions could make the inventor's name go down in history, such as Thomas Edison, who created the light bulb. The original creator in the medical field could also make the creator's name go down in history, just like Edward Jenner, who invented the smallpox vaccine.

Javier believed that this would also be quite enticing to Suzanne.

But when Javier pointed it out, Suzanne waved her hand. "Once bitten, twice shy. That's the kind of person I am. "I know the purpose of your trip. Alyssa told me. She said you want the technology and R&D of the psoriasis-targeted drugs. But now, it looks like you not only want the targeted drugs, but you also want me."

Seemingly aware of the ambiguity of her sentence, Suzanne quickly added, "And the research team I

lead.”

“Why should we go back with you, however? Even if you can provide a similar working environment, what do we get out of it?”

After Suzanne asked, Javier replied earnestly, “I can provide everything you have here and everything you don’t, including reputation. Whoever develops the drug or technology shall sign their name. “I’m not going to make money by selling reputation, so I can guarantee the reputation will definitely go to you guys.” Suzanne laughed, but it sounded...uncomfortable. “Forget it, Mr. Kersey. I admit that Reivaj Group is strong indeed, but that’s just me. The total assets of Reivaj Group are worth about 1,5 billion dollars, right? Our company’s annual R&D expenses are 450 million dollars, and this doesn’t include the equipment and the construction

of the laboratory that was previously invested. 9. “Let me tell you, even if you can provide the same conditions and put your entire company on the line, it won’t be enough.” Just as Javier was about to say something, Suzanne waved her hand again, motioning him to stop talking until she finished speaking. “And it’s not just about money. It’s about the reputation you just mentioned. “Indeed, every researcher wants their name to go down in history, and I’m no exception. It’s like our own child. Who doesn’t want to be known as the mother of their child when their child is famous out there? I’d love that too. “But obviously, some things just don’t work the way you want them to. Can you guarantee that every drug developed and new medical technology will be signed under us, the developers? No, you can’t guarantee that. You can’t even help me get my reputation back.” When Suzanne said this, Javier asked, “How do you know that I can’t get it back?” Suzanne was stunned for a moment. She then smiled as she had just heard a joke. She then said, “Well then, we can talk about what’s next when you get me back the honor that my mentor took away from me. What do you think? Is that okay?” Javier understood what Suzanne meant. Suzanne thought he was just lying and bragging, so she was trying to use this obstacle to stop Javier. But for Javier, it was not really an obstacle. He stretched out his hand to Suzanne. “Come on, let me feel your warm little hand.” Was he trying to shake hands as his pledge to work together? “Mr. Kersey, it looks like you’re not one who gives up easily.” Suzanne reached out and gently shook his hand. “But my hand isn’t warm. I’m better at holding a scalpel and getting rid of all problems.” Javier nodded, “That’s quite a coincidence. My hand is better when clenched into a fist and smashing things out of the way, I’m more violent.” Suzanne smiled, “I like violence. It’s more straightforward.”

Chapter 435

Beauty Over Pride Javier did not bring up their collaboration again. Suzanne had already stated her condition, which was to take back the honor that originally belonged to her.

In her eyes, it was an obstacle, a hurdle that was set up to keep Javier out of the door.

But in Javier’s eyes, it was a challenge that would prove his ability. He liked Suzanne and the medical team she led, so he was going to make it. Javier and Suzanne held up their juice glasses and clinked lightly. Javier then said, “In order to celebrate us knowing each other, would you like to have a glass of wine?”

Suzanne smiled sweetly. “I think it’s better to have a glass of wine when we celebrate the return of my reputation.”

Javier nodded. “That’s not a bad proposal. That’s a deal.” “Deal!”

Suzanne happily agreed. Her rosy lips touched the side of the cup lightly, and she picked up a fork after taking a sip.

However, just after she picked up the fork, she realized that Javier had finished drinking his juice and gotten up.

“Mr. Kersey, it’s bad to waste food.”

Suzanne thought that Javier was leaving, but Javier waved his hand. “You misunderstood. I just think the Chinese food you eat abroad isn’t very authentic. I’m going to teach an apprentice here so that your taste buds will no longer have to suffer.”

Javier hadn’t tasted those dishes, but he did not need to taste the food with his tongue as a real foodie. He could just use his eyes and nose. These Chinese dishes made by foreigners were not authentic at all. They had learned enough tricks, but they did not have the essence of Chinese at all.

Suzanne did not like eating those dishes either. But since they were local cuisine, she still preferred them more than foreign cuisines, such as rice and noodles. Suzanne pouted and smiled when she saw Javier heading to the kitchen.

But it was unclear as to why she laughed. It was hard to understand what she was thinking, “By the way, what type of cuisine do you like to eat?” When Suzanne heard Javier’s question, she replied, “North Chinese, if you know how to make such dishes.”

Javier smiled, “You should be mocking me at times like this and state your requirements. For instance, if I can make authentic North Chinese cuisine, you’ll give me a kiss as a reward. You should also say that I’ll never get a kiss from you my entire life.”

Suzanne couldn’t help turning her head to look out the window and smile. “I’m not sick in the head!” Because she was not sick in the head, she did not say that. Javier’s mood was just as he described, “You really let me down.” Suzanne saw Javier entering the kitchen through the reflection in the glass. She found this man to be more and more interesting, mainly because of his way of picking up girls. It seemed fascinating. However, it was hard to tell if it worked because, at least for now, she did not feel anything. Although she did laugh, her heart was as calm as still water.

About 20 minutes later, Javier came out of the kitchen, followed by a blond man.

Suzanne knew the blond-haired hunk. He was the chef of this restaurant, and he had lived in China before. She had heard that he went there to attend university at the time, but it did not work out. Instead, he got obsessed with Chinese cuisine, so halfway through, he had a change in career and became a cook.

Perhaps because he was a foreigner, everyone said he made decent food, and it tasted good.

It was made by a foreigner, after all. So, it definitely had different judging criteria than local chefs.

Everyone was more lenient, thinking that he did a good job.

He seemed to think so too, so he returned to his country to open a Chinese restaurant and worked as a cook.

Perhaps it was destiny or good luck, but Suzanne’s research team happened to all be Chinese, and there were no other Chinese restaurants nearby, so they would often go to eat here. It did not taste that good, but it was still Chinese food.

However, foreigners who visited and ate at the restaurant would still raise their thumbs. “Chinese meal, awesome!”

Awesome? How dare they say that they had been to Medb if they hadn’t seen the Medb Arch? That’s nonsense!

Today, Javier showed his skills in the kitchen, and it made the blond-haired hunk realize how bad his cooking skills were. Before Javier brought it up, he had already taken the initiative to ask for an apprenticeship. It seemed like he was quite self-motivated when it came to improving his cooking skills,

“Braised meatball, poached pork, glazed fried pork, and sticky honey tenderloin. Four little dishes for the beauty, Miss Quinn. Please have a taste.” Suzanne did not mind Javier’s slightly playful flirting. Or maybe those four dishes had completely caught her attention.

This was what authentic Chinese food should be like. It was much better than those dishes the blond-haired hunk made. They were simply on a different level. Other than the fragrance, just looking at the bright colors with her naked eye gave Suzanne an appetite.

She picked up a fork eagerly and tasted the sticky honey tenderloin. Suzanne’s eyes widened suddenly, The sweet and sour taste, the soft texture of the paste, and the chewy texture of the tenderloin-it tasted so good that she wished she could just swallow her tongue whole.

Afterward, she quickly tried the braised meatballs, poached pork, and glazed fried pork. They were so tasty that she was completely blown away.

“You’re amazing, Chef Kersey. I’ve underestimated you. No wonder you asked me to have a bet with you earlier. You’ve got some skills, Why don’t you quit the Reivaj Group and open a restaurant here?”

Javier took off the apron and handed it back to the blond-haired hunk. He smiled and said, “Okay, but you’ll have to be my woman, or I won’t come.”

Suzanne looked up at Javier with bliss in her eyes

“Sure. I don’t have a man anyway. You’re handsome and rich, as well as a good cook. I have no objection.”

Javier and Suzanne were both joking. Neither of them would take it seriously.

But that did not stop the blond-haired hunk who studied in China from glaring at him. “Sir, are you trying to take my business away from me?”

Javier and Suzanne chuckled. Suzanne then said to the blond-haired hunk, “Don’t worry, your mentor is remarkable. The total assets under his company are worth 2 billion dollars. He wouldn’t take away a small business like yours.”

The blond-haired hunk finally let out a heave of relief but suddenly seemed a little gloomy.

“I was just thinking about paying him to stay and teach me how to cook...”

When Javier saw how dejected the blond-haired hunk looked, he said with a smile, “I’m nothing, and it’s impossible for me to stay. But I’ll go back to China tonight and arrange for a chef to come over and mentor you for a while. The extent of how much you’ll be able to learn shall depend on you.”

The blond-haired hunk was very excited. “Sir, I love you. Why are you so nice to me?”

Javier turned her gaze toward Suzanne, who was facing him. The blond-haired hunk immediately understood. “Oh, you’re trying to win over the missus’ stomach and her heart!” Javier raised his thumb.

“You’re smart. I believe you’ll have great success in cooking in the future. That’s for sure.”

Suzanne was rendered speechless as the mentor and apprentice were echoing each other, Javier did not look like the chairman of a big company. He looked more like a glib thug on the street. Had Alyssa...picked up the wrong person? However, for the sake of the food on the table, Suzanne allowed the glibness, Or at least, she did not hate it.

After lunch, Javier and Suzanne left the restaurant. Suzanne asked, “Are you really going back to China?” Javier nodded. “I am, I’ll help you restore your reputation as soon as possible, and I’ll come back when your reputation is restored,”

Only then did Suzanne realize that Javier was taking this matter very seriously.

As such, she replied, “Even if you restored my reputation, you might not be able to take us there. The consortium behind our company is extremely powerful.”

Javier smiled. "Don't worry. They're not as strong as your man." Suzanne rolled her eyes. "So shameless." Javier solemnly agreed. "I'll pick beauty over pride!"

Chapter 436

I'll Wait For Your Call That day, Javier, who chose beauty over pride, left with Herschel in the afternoon. Javier's intention did not matter because he would have to return soon anyway, but Herschel would not forget his duties because of Alyssa.

*The boss and the woman, which one is more important? Of course, it's the boss. If I go with my boss, I'll get all kinds of women. If I go with Alyssa, what should I do if my boss gets kidnapped and killed? Will I starve all by myself in the future?"

Javier only had one answer to Herschel's argument, "Buzz off. You're the one getting kidnapped and killed!"

In fact, Herschel and Javier knew very well that Alyssa was just a way out to Herschel's needs.

But to put it another way, Alyssa was just the same.

They were just human beings made of flesh, and they had needs. It was understandable...

When the plane returned to China, it was nearly 12:00 p.m. local time, and it was a direct flight to Medb.

Initially, Javier wanted to find a hotel near the airport to stay. However, since they were not too far away from the bar managed by Luca, he took a taxi there.

After arriving at the bar, the waiter took Javier to meet Luca in a luxurious room on the second floor.

At this time, Luca was screaming and twisting. The atmosphere in the room was pretty exhilarating. In the faint flickering of the laser light, Javier also saw Edelgard.

She was still so young and beautiful. He heard that she had become an A-list actress acting in blockbusters. She was extremely popular.

However, Javier no longer had any special feelings for her. He was not attracted at all.

After turning on the lights in the room, Luca, who was dancing around with his back facing Javier and head down, was upset.

"Who turned on the light? I haven't had enough fun yet!"

Javier walked behind Luca and waved his hand before slapping him right on the back of his head. "Kid, are you on drugs?"

Luca was unhappy after getting slapped on the back of his head, but the familiar voice made him feel a little excited,

He hurriedly turned around and looked at Javier, "Boss, it's actually you?"

Javier did not answer immediately. Instead, he just stared into Luca's eyes. He was looking to see if Luca had bloodshot eyes and if he was agitated because of the drugs.

He seemed fine, and there was no sign of drugs, Javier was relieved. If Luca did drugs, he really wouldn't mind getting rid of Luca right away.

When Javier saw the cake on the table, he asked, "Whose birthday is it tonight? You're so hyped up."

Luca smiled and replied, "Edie's. It's Edie's birthday tonight, so we had a gathering." "Oh," Javier said, As he was reaching out to get an empty glass, Luca was already pouring him some wine.

Javier smiled and clinked glasses with Edelgard. After saying "Happy Birthday" to her, he finished his drink, and there were no further exchanges between him and Edelgard.

Edelgard felt a little uncomfortable deep down, but it wasn't because being with Luca was unpleasant. She had just always felt an indescribable feeling. If she had been with Javier, she wouldn't have had this feeling.

However, she could not really say much about it since she had made the decision herself without anyone forcing her.

Javier did not talk to Edelgard again. He asked about the current situation at the bar.

Luca briefly explained that, all in all, things were not bad. Even though they had not gotten back their capital, the revenue was looking good. They should be able to break even soon.

However, Javier was just casually asking. He did not care about the money at all.

Later, Luca asked Javier, "Boss, did you come here this time...just to see me?"

Javier chuckled. "I haven't seen you for a few days. Why has your face gotten so big?" Luca laughed. "I'm just joking. Of course, I know you have something to do. By the way, what is it? Do you need my help?"

Javier never wanted to get Luca to intervene in this matter, but now that Luca brought it up, he did not hide it either.

"Sure. You can help me look into the director of Serenity Hospital. His name is easy to remember, Manny Poupe."

Law

Manny Poupe had been Suzanne's mentor in the past. He was the one who had taken away her research results and caused her academic status to be stripped away.

Herschel was listening next to him and chuckled. "This name isn't just easy to remember. It's also disgusting!"

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Javier had thought so too when he heard the name. It was a nice last name since some famous people had the same last name. Manny was also a good name as it meant "God is with us". However, they sounded way too catchy when the names were put together. Of course, judging from the name alone, he must have a pretty good digestive system..

Unexpectedly, Luca did not laugh at all. Instead, he was a little stunned. "Boss, why are you looking into Manny Poupe?" Javier could tell what he meant from his words. "What's the matter? Do you know him?" Luca nodded, "I don't just know him. I know him all too well. He's my uncle, who's my mother's cousin. I certainly know him

That was quite interesting. He was simply asking for directions, but he ended up at the door of Manny's relative. "It's too noisy here. Let's talk outside."

After getting Luca, they went to the empty room next door. Javier took out a cigarette, and Luca hurriedly took a lighter to help light it. He then asked, "Boss, what's wrong with my uncle?" Javier did not try to hide it. He briefly told Luca about the situation.

"Well, I need to acquire a medical research team, but the team leader was once cheated by your uncle, who took away all her medical results. So now, he needs to stand up and admit his mistakes so that the leader can regain her reputation."

As soon as Javier said this, Luca quickly waved his hand. "That's impossible. It's absolutely impossible.

"My uncle is extremely talented in the medical field. Nine years ago, he even developed some kind of vaccine personally. It was very impressive, and it was the first in our country. Since then, it has also solved the problem of the monopoly of imported vaccines. The government even gave him an award for his medical advancement!

"My uncle is amazing. Why would he take other people's medical results? This is absolutely impossible!" Luca was loud, even a little anxious. Javier looked at him with a smile. "Well, maybe I made a mistake. You can ignore it. I'll handle it myself."

Luca's little heart suddenly turned cold because he understood what Javier meant. He thought he was

just blindly defending him! Besides, he knew that once Javier looked into it himself, he would be doomed if something actually had happened. Luca quickly explained, "Boss, I didn't mean that. I meant to ask if there's any misunderstanding. Why don't you give me some time? It won't take long, just one night. I'll definitely give you an explanation tonight. "If my uncle actually did take it, I hope you'll give him a chance. I promise I'll get him to admit to his mistake on his own."

That was the right attitude to do things, so Javier patted Luca on the shoulder. "I'll wait for your call tomorrow then." Javier left with Herschel without saying anything. He was just waiting for tomorrow to come. If Luca could not give him a proper explanation by then, he would deal with Manny personally!

Chapter 437

Don't Act Reasonable With Me Lying on the big hotel bed, Javier mulled over the matter with Suzanne's medical research

He felt that it might not be Suzanne who was reluctant to leave. It was most probably the consortium that might not let them go. Anyone who had a nest of chickens that could lay golden eggs would make sure to have a secure leash on them as they were the source of profit.

That was why Javier thought that taking care of Manny was the least of the problem. The actual issue was still waiting for him.

Nonetheless, he had to resolve it step by step now. The first step to start things off would be to make Suzanne realize his ability and be willing to lead the team back to the country with him. However, to accomplish this, he still had to take care of Manny first. :

The next morning...

Javier had just finished his breakfast when Luca, who had been on a call with Herschel and got to know the address, rushed here. Seeing Luca's bloodshot eyes, Javier knew that the man must not have had a good night's sleep yesterday-he might not even have had any sleep.

As expected, Luca told him, "Mr. Kersey, I've looked into it. It was my uncle who took the vaccine from a student named Suzanne Quinn nine years ago."

Although there was no concrete evidence, something like this would not pop out of nowhere..

Moreover, Javier had personally gotten involved. There was no way it could be fake. Hence, Luca came this morning after a night of contemplation.

"Boss, can you give us a chance? I'll take you to my uncle now and ask him to recover the girl's honor."

Needless to say, the chance was for Manny. Luca was asking Javier not to target Manny. Javier could understand Luca. Manny was the latter's relative, after all. Anyone would want to defend their family. Besides, Javier just needed Manny to clear Suzanne's name and honor. He was fine with everything else. Therefore, Javier agreed to Luca's request, and the latter was grateful for that. After thanking Javier repeatedly, he took him into his car and drove to an exclusive mansion residential area. The place was probably nothing cheap, costing at least 6-8 million dollars. To Javier, such an amount of money was nothing but to a hospital director...Hah, he must have made a lot then!

Javier was uninterested in the work behind this right now. He was not here to find out about bribery and corruption. He just wanted Suzanne's credit back.

After Luca pressed the doorbell, the door was opened shortly.

A charming woman about 35 years old opened the door. She was a charismatic woman with a sensual appeal, like a ripe peach.

Javier thought that she was the house helper, but Luca called her "aunty" politely. It seemed that Manny had arrived at the peak of his life. He was in his sixties with a wife in her

thirties. Status, wealth, and a young wife he had fulfilled all the classic conditions of a good life. He had it all—a huge mansion, a pretty wife, and was a hospital director. He was truly at the pinnacle of his life. Samantha knew about Luca's family-owned Easton Group, so she welcomed her nephew warmly. While inviting Luca in, she was also smiling congenially at Javier when she looked at him.

When they entered the living room, they saw Manny reading the newspaper on the couch, and it was not medical related but an entertainment one. That was interesting. He was already in his sixties, but he still paid attention to show business. What a busy man... Seeing Luca here, Manny asked, "Luca, what brings you here this early in the morning? Have you had breakfast? We can have it together later!" Luca waved to dismiss it. "No need, uncle. I'm here to talk to you about something."

"Oh?" Manny looked at Luca and shifted his gaze to Javier. "You wouldn't be thinking about asking for a job for him, would you? You've overestimated your uncle, then. I've been upright and uncorrupted all this life. I won't abuse my professional right." Javier was amused. However, it embarrassed Luca. The latter cut the cr*p too, being frank with Manny. "Uncle, this isn't an outsider. He's my boss. You can drop the act. You're staying in such a big mansion and drinking expensive tea. If you had depended only on your meager pay, you wouldn't even have been able to sustain your lifestyle." Luca's straightforwardness disgruntled Manny. "Luca, what are you trying to say?!"

Not wanting to go on and on with Manny, Luca laid it out clearly. "Uncle, I'll be frank. I'm here for the vaccine patent nine years ago. The inventor of that vaccine isn't you. It's Suzanne Quinn. Clear up this matter and give the credit back to her!"

Manny had only been displeased initially, but now, he was not just displeased. His heart dropped, and chills ran down his spine. He took a deep breath and stared wide-eyed at Luca. "What nonsense are you spewing!?" Luca advised him earnestly, "Uncle, listen to me. I won't harm you. You've earned wealth and prestige all these years, and you're reaching retirement. Stop what you shouldn't be doing. It'd be best if you could retire without any fuss. There's no need to be burdened by unnecessary things like this."

"B*llsh*t! Why should I retire in silence? I have a clear conscience being a hospital director all these years! The vaccine patent belongs to me as well. Don't question me just because you've heard rubbish from an outsider. I'm your uncle!"

After Manny berated Luca, he looked at Javier. "You're Luca's boss? I don't care who you are and how capable you are, but all of us walk this world with a sense of morality and justice. I don't know who you are and why you'd slander me, but I walk and talk with integrity. I'm not scared of anyone!" Faced with Manny, who was absolutely vehement with the sense of justice exuding from him, Javier nodded in approval, "You're a very good actor." Manny was infuriated and questioned angrily, "What do you mean? Are you saying I'm acting?"

This is absurd! I, Manny Poupe, have been honorable all my life. Never once have I taken a questionable shortcut. You claim that I've taken the result of someone else's research. Sure, show me the proof!

"Where's your proof? You don't have it? How dare you make such a claim if you don't have any proof? I can sue you in court over this!". Javier asked, "Don't you know if you've taken someone else's research result as your own?"

Manny gnashed his teeth and slammed a palm on the table. "How dare you!?" He then yelled at Luca, "Luca, it's so early in the morning, and you have to bring someone like this here and disgust your uncle, is this it?" Luca felt helpless. If he had not known how Manny had gotten this mansion of his, he would have believed the older man. These were not important right now, though. What mattered was that Manny needed to admit his mistake as soon as possible. "Uncle, I'm sincerely doing this for your sake.

Our boss... isn't someone you can afford to offend. Just admit to your wrongdoing!" Luca was genuinely considering Manny. He had been to Javier's home, experienced rockets dropping fireworks, seen luxurious personal jets, and even met Sammius' blonde president on Zephiel's porch. Think about it. How powerful must the Kerseys be if the blonde president had to visit personally? Luca was truly a decent nephew, doing his best to protect his uncle. Manny obviously disagreed.

"He's influential, huh? That's okay. I know plenty of authoritative figures as well. Want to act unreasonably here with me? He can save it!"

Luca wanted to say more, but his aunt, Samantha, came over. *Luca, you're at fault this time. Don't you know what your uncle is like? It's a huge disrespect to your uncle and even an insult to his character that you doubt him just because you heard a dog barking! "Ask him to leave right now. We do not welcome people like this!" Javier shrugged and patted Luca's shoulder before he got up to leave Manny's house. Since the man had to knock at hell's door, prying it open when the door was not answered, there was no way to stop him from sending himself to his doom.

Chapter 438

Determined to Die After Javier left, Luca did his best to persuade and advise Manny, but he was chased out as well. There were a few times that Luca had wanted to spill how powerful Javier actually was, but there were things he could say and then some that he could not. If Javier had not been nice, Luca would never deserve to know about the Kerseys-not even his father deserved to. It was already a taboo that they had learned something they did not deserve. It would be an even bigger faux pas if he disclosed it today. If something happened and got sourced back to him, the Panganis would all be doomed.

Hence, Luca held himself back ultimately despite the impulse to blurt it out numerous times.

After he left Manny's place, he went to Javier. "Mr. Kersey, boss, give me one last chance. He's my uncle, after all. I might be too young and insignificant to give him the advice. I'll let my father do it, okay? Please, Mr. Kersey." "Sure!" Javier grinned and kept his phone.

He had just published a task in the black market, rewarding a hefty 3 million dollars to find out everything about Manny. It was not just limited to the vaccine patent. He wanted everything else, including illegal matters and bribes.

Since Manny was insolent, he should let him pay the price for that then.

Finding the evidence was not going to be quick, so Javier easily agreed to Luca's request. It would be for the best if the latter could make his father persuade Manny. That way, he would do the Panganis a favor and be able to answer to Suzanne.

It was just that Javier was not hopeful about it. For the years that Manny had been the hospital director, it seemed that he had gotten to know plenty of power players, and he felt that these bigshots would give him the immunity he needed to keep living his carefree life.

Javier had to have some concrete evidence to show Manny, make him see whether those high ranking bigshots would dare step out and get themselves involved when he burned himself.

That noon, Luca's father, who knew that Javier had come over, hosted a feast in a five-star hotel to treat him. Javier had not planned to go, but he went anyway as a favor to Luca.

Luca's father felt incredibly honored, calling him 'Sir' here and there upon meeting him like he was an old servant.

Javier stopped him promptly. "Don't call me that, uncle. Luca and I are bros. It wouldn't look good on me when you keep calling me sir."

His term "uncle" delighted Luca's father so much that he could hardly keep his grin down as he felt

immensely honored.

Luca was happy as well, feeling like he could fly at being called “bros”,

It was a huge honor to the father and son that one could be Javier’s bro and one could be his uncle!

During lunch, the topic of their conversation inevitably went to Manny.

Luca’s father had obviously found out about it last night and was furious when he learned that Manny had rejected Luca’s kind suggestion and Javier’s chance.

“If he hadn’t helped us prior to your mother’s death, I wouldn’t have cared about a piece of trash like him!” Luca’s father felt disdain upon learning that Manny had claimed someone else’s research result as his own, but he could not just watch the man go to waste when he was his brother-in-law and Luca’s uncle. Thus, he told Javier, “Mr. Kersey, I hope you can still do this old man a favor. I’ll go find him personally after lunch. If I still can’t manage to persuade him, I promise I won’t intervene anymore.”.

Javier had already promised Luca this, so he did not mind promising his father again. Luca’s father was happy, feeling peachy, and visited Manny at the hospital after a delightful lunch

“He’s incredible? How incredible? Could he pull the Secretary General of the United Nations down? No, right? Then why’s he being unreasonable with me? Besides, I’m retiring soon. I can’t possibly shoot myself in the foot and have others laugh at me at this point in time. “Bro-in-law, I’ll be honest with you. I did take the vaccine as my own, but I taught the student. She wouldn’t possibly exist without me.

Without her, there’s no vaccine. So, this vaccine is very much tied to me too.

“It’s been so many years, and you’re asking me to admit to this on my own now. Have I lost my mind? He doesn’t have any evidence. Why should I admit to it? No way. I invented the vaccine. Anyone else can forget about intervening!”

Manny held a firm stance like a dog with its bone. Not only was he not letting go, but he was going to bite whoever dared fight for it with him as well. He was domineering.

No matter what Luca’s father said, Manny was relentless and ultimately chased the former off with the excuse of having a meeting. Luca’s father was anxious. “He’s really powerful and influential. There’s no way he’ll fail if he wants to take you out!”

Manny waved impatiently. “Forget it, man. You don’t know how many bigshots are pleading with me for favors with this position of mine. They wouldn’t even have their secretaries call me but do it personally, asking me to treat their family and friends to my best ability.

“Honestly, the network of connections a reputable hospital director like me has isn’t any inferior to a bureaucratic head. I’m much more significant than you think. Take me out? Sure, some people want to take me out, but it’s never going to be a baby like him!” Manny left without sparing Luca’s father a chance to speak. Luca’s father left the hospital after a sigh. “Oh, darling, it’s not that I don’t care about your younger brother, but he’s too insolent. I can’t reel him back...”

Javier was enjoying a foot massage from a hired masseuse in the Pangani’s mansion with the company of Luca. It felt quite nice. Javier had never had such fun despite his age. He wanted to do this on the island, but he would definitely get hit by the old fox’s pipe if he found out. Back then, Arthur had brought a prostitute back to the island, but she was gone when he woke up the next day—by the cliff. Arthur had been shocked and asked the servants around him

what was going on. They had relayed the old fox’s message to him—“The prostitute’s the one falling off

the cliff this one. It might be you the next.”

No one had dared bring any miscellaneous person to the island from then onward. Of course, such miscellaneous people referred to those who provided special services.

While Javier enjoyed his treatment in the Pangani mansion, Luca’s father returned. Without a word and

just by looking at the latter's fidgety expression, it was clear that Manny had pried the door to hell again. Manny Poupe, what a brave man. He was really determined to die!

"Mr. Kersey, 1—"

Before Luca's father finished, Javier cut him off. "Alright. You two stay out of this now. Don't worry either. I'll give him one last chance as a favor to you both. If he doesn't grab it, I can't be blamed."

Luca's father nodded and thanked Javier, but he later asked, "Mr. Kersey, Luca's uncle is retiring this year. Can he not disclose the truth about the vaccine patent? It'll be a blow to his status if he admits it." Javier was amused. He got up and looked at the older man. "Mr. Pangani, you mean that Manny Poupe doesn't have to take a step back, but I, Javier Kersey, can do it, is it?"

Chapter 439

Your Wicked Thoughts Luca's father felt his heart drop at what Javier said, and he panicked. "Sir, that's not what I mean. I-I... I forgot myself and babbled. I —" Javier patted his shoulder without saying anything and put on his shoes to leave. Luca could care less about wearing shoes as he hurried after the man to apologize, but Javier had only left him with a cryptic smile. Luca was antsy upon returning to their mansion.

"Dad, have you lost your mind!? He calls you uncle, and you really think you're his uncle? Why would Mr. Kersey come here personally to talk about this if it weren't necessary? He's already done us enough favor, and you ask him to stop? Have you gone crazy!?"

It was inappropriate for Luca to say that as a son but forget that he did not currently find it inappropriate as even his father felt that he must have lost his mind. A wire must have been connected wrongly somewhere in his brain for him to ask Javier to step back without even thinking Why should Javier take this step back? Just because Manny was a Pangani relative? Luca's father slapped himself on the face. "Gah, how foolish of me!" The older man was worried that Javier would take it out on the Panganis, so he shakily pulled out his phone and called Mary Jane.

"Ms. Gould, I've made a mistake. Help me..." Javier received Mary Jane's call not too long after he left, and they talked about what happened just now. "Aunt MJ, don't worry. I'm not that petty. I won't do anything to them."

In spite of it, Mary Jane told him, "One can never mistake the relationship of a master and a servant. I won't utter a word no matter how you handle this. Old Pangani is at fault for being foolish. No one held a knife against his neck to ask him to do it.

"He has to remember the hand that feeds him. If he takes from his master and still barks at the master, that's insensible of him. And the easiest solution for a dog that's insensible is to knock its teeth out!" Mary Jane was considering the matter completely from Javier's perspective, and that warmed the latter. Nonetheless, he was rather disinterested to wreak havoc for the Panganis over something small like this today. There was no such need.

After a short chat with Mary Jane, Javier ended the call. The moment he did, he called Saoirse.

"Saoirse, I'm in Medb. See if you want to put on your stockings and heels to come to welcome me. Let me feel your passionate warmth?" Saoirse was having a meeting and blushed the moment she heard what he said. Luckily, she had not put the call on speaker, or she would have died on the spot in embarrassment. "I'm having a meeting, I'll get back to you after that."

Hanging up in haste, Saoirse took deep breaths to contain herself. Then she got up and told everyone, "I have an emergency. Go on with the discussion and put the executable proposals into a report for me after that. I'm heading out now." Such was the special right of a boss. Leaving the meeting room in a

hurry, Saoirse was ready to slip into the elevator and leave, but she returned to her office upon discovering that she was wearing a pair of pants.

The partition in her office was a resting lounge, and there was a closet in there. When Saoirse came out again, she was in a short black and white shift dress with a pair of bejeweled tights. She looked charming. When she checked herself in the mirror, even she could feel the sexiness she oozed. She was happy with how she looked, so she left her office and called Javier. "I'm done with my meeting. Where are you?"

When Javier met Saoirse, he was in the hotel's spa.

The spa was great. It was not a large shared space but individual booths. Even the pools and stuff were separated. It was clean and hygienic, as well as convenient. The hotel would not care about whatever they did or how many people were in one booth.

Hence, there were two people in Javier's booth-himself and Saoirse, who had just made her way there.

Looking at her sexy legs wrapped in the bejeweled tights and the black heels that looked wild with leopard prints, Javier grinned. "Saoirse, why do I feel like I have endless strength whenever I see you?"

Saoirse was embarrassed by Javier's blatant stare. She used to flirt with him each time they met, but the dynamic had taken a one-eighty ever since their relationship took a step further. It was Javier who flirted with her every time they met now. It overwhelmed her a little, but she could not help liking it. Seeing the face she had been missing day and night, Saoirse repressed her longing and acted indifferently.

"Endless strength? Become a worker then. Don't waste that energy. It'd be good to make a few bucks."

Javier feigned sadness. "And this is how you're treating me when I purposely flew here to see you?"

Saoirse was caught off guard. "Did you really fly here just to see me?" "Of course not!" Javier nodded seriously, Saoirse had been a little pleased when she saw Javier nod, but she immediately fumed because of what he said. "Javier, I'm going to choke you to death!" It was not only a verbal threat. Saoirse actually crouched with her arms out to choke Javier on the neck, but the latter got to her first before she could get him...

Chapter 440

Bark First if You Want to Speak When Saoirse came in, she looked beautiful with a fair face and carefully applied makeup. When she left, she was glowing in radiance with a fresh face and a sense of purity that did not match her age.

Whichever version of her it was, she was incredibly charismatic to the men and attracted countless lustful gazes.

Javier did not mind one bit about this. They could look all they wanted because they could only look anyway. They could come and try to fight for her if they were capable-whether it was a contest of brawn or wealth, he was not worried.

Wrapping an arm around Saoirse's slim waist, Javier pressed a kiss against her pink cheek.

Saoirse was shy. "What are you doing? There are so many people around!"

Javier's answer was unrepentant. "That's exactly why I kissed you. I'm like a territorial lion. I need to prove that you're mine. Of course, if you think this is ineffective, I can pee on you like an actual lion too."

Saoirse gave Javier's waist a hard pinch. "Nonsense!"

She whined but was incredibly happy about it. At least, it proved that Javier treated her as his woman and not a venting tool at his beck and call.

Javier did not have anywhere to go out of the hotel since digging Manny's dirt required some time, so he asked to shop with Saoirse.

Saoirse did not have anything she needed to buy, but she enjoyed the process. As long as Javier kept her company, she found it enjoyable even if she was sitting by the street taking in the exhaust fumes of the cars. It was borderline crazy.

The two of them spent the afternoon in the mall and went back to Saoirse's place after they had dinner outside. There was no need to mention what happened upon stepping inside her place...

When Javier woke up in the morning, it was already past eleven. He turned to the side to find that Saoirse was not there. There was no response after he called for her either, so he knew that the career-minded woman had gone to work.

After washing up, Javier stood on the balcony to smoke and watch Medb's busy vigor. The cars felt like snails as they slowly inched forward, and all those cars were luxury ones. It was ironic, They were not even moving faster than a tiny electric scooter. Why were they driving those luxury cars? They might as well take electric scooters.

Javier flicked off the cigarette ash, pulled out his phone, and scrolled through the black market. It was good news. He received what he should have gotten a good night's sleep later,

Javier found all sorts of pieces of evidence in his black market mailbox. There were corruption, bribery, abuse of power, sexual harassment of female subordinates, and more. The relevant pieces of evidence regarding the vaccine patent from nine years ago were in there as well. Obviously, someone had gone through personal channels and got these pieces of evidence from Manny's coworkers.

Manny was the director of a famous hospital in Medb, after all. Thus, many people had their eyes on his position. They probably dared not do anything despite having the evidence due to Manny's status. Now, however, they could receive payment for submitting proof and kick Manny off his throne along with it. Everyone was happy to hand in the evidence they had, counting the reward they received while watching how Manny would go down. After going through and sorting the pieces of evidence, anything tangible would be sent to Javier shortly according to the address he had left. As for himself, he saved the photographic evidence from the black market and went out to eat.

He called to ask and confirmed that Saoirse would not come back for a meal, so he went on his own to eat. After filling his stomach and wiping his mouth, Javier went to the hospital Manny was in:

When he arrived at the lobby, he asked the nurse, "Hello, how do I go to the director's office?" The nurse was all smiles. "May I know your purpose for visiting the director's office, please?"

Javier looked around stealthily and told her, "I'm sending a gift. I can't say much. That's all you should know."

The nurse was put in a difficult situation. How could he state it explicitly? She could not even reject him. What if she accidentally cut the director's way to wealth? She answered honestly then, telling Javier where Manny's office was.

"Thank you!"

Javier waved to the nurse and went to the elevator.

As the nurse watched Javier enter the elevator, she felt a little regretful. She thought that she should have told Javier she was not sure. Otherwise, would she be considered an accomplice of the bribery for having paved the way of convenience for lawbreakers like them if this incident was investigated? Javier had no idea what the nurse thought. He had only one thought in mind, and that was to meet the hospital director, Manny Poupe. He would still keep his promise to the Panganis and give Manny one last chance. If the man remained stubborn, Javier should not be blamed then-if one wished to see

Manny in the future, it would be in prison. Javier walked to the office door and did not even knock as he entered, pushing the door open only to run into a female nurse sitting on Manny's lap with the latter's hand groping her indecently

The nurse flushed when she saw someone had entered. She looked embarrassed as she got up – to leave with a blush. Manny was enraged. "There's no end to this, huh? Believe me when I say I'll call the security and beat you up like a dog!"

Javier pursed his lips, not intending to speak at length with Manny. He went through his phone to pull photographic evidence of Manny's dirt and tossed the device on his desk.

"Don't talk after you go through them. Bark first if you want to speak, or the originals of the photos will be sent to relevant departments. The photos themselves will be posted online too. I believe that people will still like to see you being penalized and falling off your altar as a so called medical expert and exemplary hospital director."

Manny had already picked up his phone, but he froze when he saw the photos on Javier's phone.
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