

## Chapter 478

The Gift's a Little Intimidating Most of the researchers who were on leave had returned by the time the equipment arrived. Compared to the original research team, a total of five people were missing. Alyssa was well, who knew where she was decomposing right now, while the other four had left the team for their own reasons.

Luckily, they were only assistants and would not hinder the research progress. They were not too aware of the invention process in particular either. In Suzanne's words, they were people who could not provide any insightful answers even if other research teams recruited them.

Suzanne led the members to begin installing the adjusting equipment and running the experiment on the psoriasis vaccine once more. The effect turned out well. The vaccine could both prevent and treat psoriasis and demonstrated a decent efficacy. The result pleased Javier.

Hence, the drug manufacturing plant began to manufacture in batches while Javier sent the vaccine to relevant departments as well as went to a professional agency for patents in all biological things to commission them for the patent application. There was a prerequisite minimum duration for how long the research laboratory had been established during the application for the patent, and overseas research labs were not recognized. This alone had stumped Javier, so he could only resolve this through a professional agency.

It was just that the vaccine sent for assessment had received approval from related departments only for the issue to crop up during the patent application. The boss of the agency, Steve Collings, told Javier, "Your vaccine doesn't meet the requirements!"

Javier was taken aback. That should not be the case. The same batch of vaccines that had been sent for assessment in related departments had been approved. Why would it fail the requirements at the patent application place?

He pulled out the permit and documents for manufacturing from the relevant departments and passed them to Steve. "Mr. Collings, these are the assessment results from relevant departments."

Steve did not even look at them as he waved in dismissal. "There's no need to look at them. It'd be useless, anyway. You passed sending it there, but you failed to send it here. It'd be futile for me to look at it. Given the time, my suggestion for you is to go back and think of a solution."

Steve mentioned thinking of a solution but nothing else, which made Javier understand what he meant instantly.

Petty matters like sending the vaccine for patent application should not have required Javier to do it, not even Doug, but Javier was more careful about it since it was the first time. He had also heard from Suzanne that some patent applications did not go as easy.

At least, it used to be that way in the past because no one was willing to do it as they got nothing in return. Javier thought that things would be much simpler now that it was privatized, only to discover that it was still the same.

He sat down, lit a cigarette, and asked Steve, "May I ask for your enlightenment then, Mr. Collings?"

Steve looked at Javier with a smile. "Sure, why not? But an office isn't a good place to talk. I suppose you understand what I mean?"

Naturally, Javier did. What did the man mean by a place to talk? A club, of course, where one had arms around young pretty ladies and hands on their thighs. That was the foundation of a smooth, delightful negotiation.

"Of course. I won't take up your time then, Mr. Collings. I'll give you a call in the afternoon."

Steve got up and cracked a bright grin. "One look at you, and I know that you're meant for big success. Your future is boundless."

Javier scoffed, inwardly mocking Steve that he was not one to be commenting if his future was boundless or not.

Packing up and leaving the agency, Javier went back to his car. Herschel, who had come with him, asked, "Boss, we could just pay him a bit and be done. 60-80 thousand dollars could've made a small fry like him put you on a pedestal, where he has to bow down on his knees."

L

Javier stayed silent. He knew that 60-80 thousand dollars could easily satisfy Steve and ease the patent application process, but he was thinking further -a future where he would always be dealing with the patent agency.

It was not that he was worried about the money given accumulating to a big sum. He just did not want other troubles popping up here and there.

People had always been greedy, and no one was able to escape such fate. One who was in position did not care about integrity or impartiality-only the higher rank one rose, the better. Businessmen did not care about conscience either-only the more they earned, the better.

It was the same even in dating. It was kissing this time, making out the next, then sex another time. When all those were achieved ultimately, they thought about switching to a new partner for novelty. There was no way one could be satisfied. Javier predicted that Steve would be the same, claiming that the vaccine did not pass this time and asking for 60-80 thousand dollars, and then he would seek another reason the next time. With a different excuse each time to mess with him and getting increasingly demanding and in Javier's face, it was only a matter of time for Steve to anger Javier. In that case, Javier thought he might as well take care of Steve first and save the latter the chance of rousing his fury. Javier pulled out his phone and published a quest in the black market before pocketing the device.

"Let's go. Send me back for a nap. We'll make Mr. Collings buy you a good meal when we go back at night. I'll make sure he gets the three of you some beautiful girls too."

Herschel was in glee. It sounded good. He would have a good time at night again. Javier actually slept half of the afternoon away when he returned to his place, waking up only around 5:00 p.m. and smoking a cigarette to perk himself up.

Herschel called by the time he finished smoking. "Boss, the things have been sent over."

Javier hummed in agreement and asked Herschel to come to pick him up before he got out of bed to wash up. Javier made himself presentable and came downstairs, where Herschel was already waiting. Javier took a look at the information Herschel had received when he got into the car and told the latter, "Nice. Let's go send this gift to Mr. Collings." The car cruised on the road and ultimately arrived at the patent agency. Javier grabbed the information packet and went to Steve's office, where the latter was leisurely nestled on his swivel chair with his legs propped on the desk, looking completely at ease. He did not even get up when his secretary brought in Javier, merely greeting him with a grin. "You're here?"

Javier smiled. "Yup. I went back to prepare myself, and here I am with a gift for you, Mr. Collings."

Steve was ecstatic. "Oh, a gift? That's very nice of you. You could have just gotten us a place for a meal and then somewhere else for some fun at night. There's no need for a grand gesture!"

So he said, but he looked anticipating, obviously very interested in Javier's gift.

Despite that, Javier was unfazed and replied with a grin, "There's no hurry. I'll have to ask before I give you the gift, though. Where do you plan to take me for a meal tonight? Then where to for some fun after that?"

Steve waved, chuckling. "Up to you. Anything goes, as long as you're happy with it. You—" He was rambling when he suddenly realized it. "No, wait. What did you say just now? Where am I buying you a meal then some fun?" Javier nodded. "Yeah. I brought you a gift. Are you not returning the gesture?" Steve could not help the scoff. "I have to return the gesture when you give me a gift? That's interesting. Do you think this is a marketplace where you pay and I give you the goods? Bro, that's dumb of you. Here's an honest word. The country fixes the prices agencies charge. If I actually charge you with that, I'll make like 1,200-1,500 dollars. "Look, do I look like I'm in need of that kind of money? No way! So if you think it's inappropriate and you feel wronged and don't want to talk about the deal with me seriously, that's fine. Get out. I don't want to make 1,200-1,500 dollars from you either. "As for your gift, take it with you, okay?"

Steve waved toward the door. "All right, get out. I'm busy!"

Javier made an "oh" sound and left holding the information packet, but when he turned, he "accidentally" dropped what was inside. It was a photo of Steve giving some higher-up a gift. "Oh my, how did I drop your photo, Mr. Collings? I'm so sorry for that." Javier picked the photo up and wanted to leave, but Steve paled in horror, The gift was a little intimidating—there was no way he could refuse it!