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Norman wailed in despair, "Oh, my God. This guy is a fraud! He canceled his phone number right after scamming the money! Jojo, how could you be so careless? You've only been working here for two days and you... You've... messed it all up..."

Jojo's embarrassment turned into rage. Thinking back, not only she had been scammed, she had her heart played like a fiddle.

"That's enough. Let's not talk about this anymore." Paula said anxiously, "We need to solve this situation, fast! We can't just let Jojo go to jail. She is still so young!"

Norman was dejected. "What can we even do at this point? The contract was authorized by her, the transaction was organized by her, and even the acquisition and shipment of the goods was arranged by her. This incident has nothing to do with anyone else. What kind of solution can you come up with?"

At this, Paula's eyes reddened. "T-Then what do we do now? Are we going to let Jojo go to jail? She had just graduated! If she goes to jail, her whole life would be ruined!"

Dejected, Norman kept his peace for a long while. With a sudden clench of his teeth, he suggested, "Why don't we... arrange Jojo's escape?"

"Escape?" Paula froze for a second. "But escape where?"

"Let her go into hiding first," Norman said. "We can wait and see how things go before we make a decision."

Paula broke down into tears. "But she's just a girl. Where can she escape to? Can't you think of something else?"

Norman retorted, "Do you have any better ideas then? Now, it's either escape or the slammer. Take your pick!"

Paula was now crying up a waterfall. There was no choice but to escape.

That night, the family barred all communications with the Cunninghams and escaped from Eastcliff overnight.

Meanwhile, James had booked a table at the Wembley. He waited impatiently for Paula's family to arrive at the restaurant for their arranged dinner.

Matthew also came to the restaurant. After all, James had invited him to come.

Today was the last day of the agreed three-day period. If Paula's family wasn't leaving, then James would have to interrogate Matthew.

As Matthew entered, Demi said coldly, "Wow, Matthew, you still have the audacity to come here! Do you know what day it is today? Have you ever wondered if your boasting will turn around to bite at you?"

Sasha frowned. "Demi, how can you talk to your brother-in-law like that?"

Demi let out a dry laugh. "Am I wrong? Sis, at this point, why are you still defending him? Look at what this man has done. Making Jojo the CEO of the medicinal company, giving her a luxurious car and a mansion.

As a result, Jojo stirred up even more trouble. Yet, he still went and solved her problems, spending over 500,000 in one fell swoop. Matthew, you never made our family one cent.

Instead, you spend it everywhere else. What a generous person you are! We got our money through hard, honest work, but because of you, we have to suffer a loss of 500,000. Do you have any pride?"

Sasha was beyond furious. "Demi Cunningham, you're too much! This problem has nothing to do with Matthew to begin with. You guys were the ones who used him as a scapegoat for Jojo. How can you condemn Matthew now? If you are so capable, why not let Liam take the blame?"

Demi was at a loss for words. She could only look toward James for help. "Dad, look at her. She's taking Matthew's side!"

James waved his hands in dismissal. "That's enough from you. Sasha, why don't we talk about something else? Enough with Paula and her family. Matthew, you said you would get rid of them in three days' time, but what's going on now?

Not only did Jojo not leave, she even processed a huge transaction. Paula just called me about a bonus too. From the sounds of it, she wanted at least 20 million. Is this your idea of getting rid of them, Matthew? Are you getting rid of them or our company?"

Sasha retorted, "Dad, how can you say that? Everything Matthew has done is for our own good!"

Demi scoffed. "What has he done, then? Why don't I see anything?"

Matthew threw a cold glance at Demi. Gently, he said, "Dad, you have to trust me on this one! Tonight, Paula's family will definitely leave Eastcliff!"

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"Trust you?" Demi scoffed. "Why should we trust you? You better stop talking nonsense! If their family ain't leaving, then you better leave. You said this yourself!"

Sasha tried to speak, but was cut off by Matthew who glanced at Demi, a sneer twisting his lips.

Everyone sat silently. Even after waiting for about half an hour, still no one arrived.

"Where are those people?" James snapped impatiently. "They were the ones rushing me to organize this dinner, so where are they? Who do they think they are?"

Helen looked helpless. "That's enough from all of you. They'll make a huge fuss if they hear you talking this way."

"So what? I'm not afraid of them!" James said.

Having said that, James didn't dare make another sound.

Well, it wasn't a matter of fear, but when it came to that shrew of a woman, James would rather not have to deal with Paula.

Right then, Matthew put down his phone and chuckled lightly. "Dad, Mom, there's no need to wait anymore. They won't be coming!"

"Why is that?" Sasha enquired, surprised.

"Because they have already left Eastcliff." Matthew smiled faintly.

"What?!" everyone exclaimed. "Y-You better not be lying!" James cried. "But they just called me earlier, asking me to give them at least 20 million as a bonus. How could they leave Eastcliff?!"

Matthew smiled faintly and told them what happened earlier at the company.

After listening to Matthew's story, everyone was too stunned to react.

After a few moments of silence, Helen was the first to exclaim, "They're finally gone! This is amazing! Utterly amazing!"

However, James roared, "What's so great about it? They're gone, and everything will be fine now, but how are you going to fix the mess the company's in now? The compensation will cost a few hundred million. If the shareholders find out, they'll cause a riot.

How is Sasha going to hold onto the chairman's position then? Not only would she lose the position, our reputation will be compromised. That's our relative, and we got her into company ourselves. If they're gone, then... wouldn't Sasha have to go to jail?"

Helen's expression changed abruptly. "Then, w-what's going to happen? What are we going to do?" she asked anxiously.

"Matthew, is this what you call 'fixing' the problem?" Demi asked angrily. "Sure, you managed to chase them away, but now that they're leaving this huge mess behind, can you even handle it? Were you out of your mind? Will you only be satisfied after you break our family apart?"

"Matthew, you... What are you going to do? Doesn't this bring us trouble as well?" James asked nervously.

"Dad, don't worry," Sasha chipped in. "Matthew's not done explaining yet. Please let him finish."

"What else is there to talk about?" Demi hissed. "Now that it has come to this, what do you suppose we should do? Who is going to take responsibility for this matter? Forget about how much Matthew loves you. This is not a small matter!

Even if he loves you and is willing to shoulder the responsibility, he can't do anything! If you don't have the ability, then you shouldn't have meddled! At the end of the day, all you're doing is getting yourself and others into trouble!"

"Tell us, Matthew. What are you going to do about this?" Helen joined the inquisition.

"There's no need to worry. Nobody has to take responsibility for this," Matthew said expressionlessly, "as I arranged everything. That guy, Harold Johnson.

I hired him. The pharmaceutical company was also my fabrication. The whole purpose of this set-up was to chase Jojo away. Once they're gone, everything will be over. No one will be holding anyone accountable."

After hearing Matthew's words, everyone was amazed.

Sasha's surprise quickly turned to joy, and she asked excitedly, "Is this all true? Matthew, you... you arranged all this?"

Matthew nodded.

"Mom, Dad, do you see?" Sasha was overjoyed. "It was Matthew's plan all along."

"So what, that family has been chased off? And our family isn't losing anything, is that right?"

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James' face was full of surprise.

None of them expected that Matthew could drive away Paula and her family.

And, the most important thing was, they didn't have to suffer any loss!

"What do you mean there were no damages?" Demi said suddenly, pursing her lips. "Didn't we pay over 500,000 in damages for theat car accident the other day? Isn't that a loss? Matthew, if you had the solution to this problem, why didn't you chase them away earlier?

Then we wouldn't have had to pay so much money. It's more than 500,000! Do you think our money grows on trees?"

Matthew frowned. She just loves finding fault with me, does she?

"That's not right, Demi!" Sasha said angrily. "In order for Matthew's plan to work, it had to go through each step consecutively. That kind of thing takes time. Don't we need to wait for them to take the bait? You can't just chase them away immediately!"

"Well, if Matthew is so capable, why does he need to go step by step for such a small problem?" Liam sneered.

"If it's such a small problem, then why didn't you handle it?" Matthew replied softly. "Not only did you do nothing about it, here you are just making sarcastic remarks. Is this all you're capable of?"

Liam's expression changed instantaneously. He opened his mouth to refute Matthew's claims but found no argument.

"Matthew, don't push your luck!" Demi raged. "This is your family's problem. Why does my husband have to deal with it! You're the live-in son-in-law here, not my husband!"

"According to that logic, neither of you are part of the Cunningham family, then?" Matthew chuckled lightly. "If that's the case, then why not skip tonight's meal and not return home anymore?"

"You—" Demi retorted.

"That's enough from all of you." Helen tried to get them to stand down. "Is it really worth fighting over such a small matter ?"

"Mom! Is it really such a small matter?" Demi argued. "Right now, the matter is worth 500,000! What are we going to do about this money?"

Helen was rendered speechless.

Demi then turned toward James and asked, "Dad, are we really going to pay the 500,000? Even after working your whole lives, you couldn't make that much money. And now... we have to give it all away? And for what? If Matthew is so capable, why can't he settle this too?"

James' frown deepened. It was true that 500,000 was a lot of money.

Helen started tearing up. "Oh, what have we gotten ourselves into? How can we afford to pay this money? How are we supposed to live our lives after this..."

"Mom, don't worry about it," Sasha replied, gritting her teeth. "I'll deal with the money!"

"H-How are you going to handle it?" Helen asked anxiously. "You just became Chairman. You won't be getting any dividends from the company yet. A-Are you going to use the company's funds? Sasha, you can't do that. You are going to lose everything because of this!"

Sasha clenched her jaw and kept silent.

"Sasha, don't you worry," Matthew said with a sigh. "I'll figure out a way to deal with the 500,000,

alright?"

"Matthew..." Sasha was getting anxious.

James and Helen gazed at Matthew too, getting emotional themselves.

Meanwhile, Demi burst into laughter. "Oh, wow! Who knew you could say things like that? Well, since you offered, you'll be dealing with the 500,000 then! Don't say we forced you into it!"

"Demi, you're too much!" Sasha banged on the table in her anger. "I'm done! I've lost my appetite."

Sasha turned around and walked off and Matthew rushed off to follow her.

"Hmph, what a temper she has!" Demi pouted. "Whatever! We'll eat if she doesn't want to!"

James and Helen lowered their heads in silence. Even though they felt a pang of guilt, they would not stop Matthew from solving the problem since he had promised to do it.

On the other hand, Demi and Liam were grinning widely as they ate and drank, acting as though they had just had a long-awaited victory.

Suddenly, the door was pushed open by a breathtaking woman walking in.

The woman was probably in her late twenties. From the way she dressed, one could tell that she was no ordinary woman.

She was almost as beautiful as Sasha herself.

The crucial part was the aura she commanded. She had the imposing manner of someone who lived in high society for a long while. It was hard to meet her gaze directly.

"Excuse me, sorry to disturb. May I ask if Mr. Matthew Larson is having his meal here tonight?"

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The four remaining people froze. Why was this absolute beauty looking for Matthew?

Even James couldn't take his eyes off her.

"W-Why are you looking for Matthew? Liam stuttered out.

"Oh, I owe Mr. Larson a huge favor. I just wanted to thank him personally!" The woman laughed softly.

"He helped you out?" Helen snapped, "What could that useless idiot possibly help you out with? Did

you get the wrong person?"

The woman's delicate brows furrowed slightly. "Please be mindful of your words. The day before yesterday, I had a car accident, and it was because of Mr. Larson that my daughter was rescued. He even sent her to the hospital just in time to save her life."

Realization dawned upon them. So this was the woman who was involved in the car accident that night.

Demi felt jealousy building within when she saw Liam's gaze fixated on the woman.

"Oh, so that was you. Hmph, who are you to tell me to watch the way I'm talking? I'll speak however I want. It's my business, after all. What are you going to do about it?"

The woman frowned, for she had no idea why Demi was so angry.

"When will Mr. Larson be arriving?" she asked.

"Why are you looking for him?" Demi countered.

"Well, everything was a mess when Mr. Larson saved my daughter. I never even had the chance to thank him. I heard that he will be eating here today, so I came over here especially to thank him!"

"Don't bother thanking him," Demi replied with a pout. "Matthew won't be coming anytime soon. You should just leave."

"But I was told that Mr. Larson was here already," said the woman in surprise. "Isn't he here? Otherwise, can you please give him a call and invite him over?"

Demi replied furiously, "Don't you understand what I'm saying? I said he won't be coming. We're not close to him, so don't bother asking us to give him a call."

"You're... not close?" the woman asked, bemused. "Aren't you his relatives?"

"Relatives?" Demi spat. "Who told you that? Matthew will be divorcing my sister soon. We are not his relatives! We have nothing to do with him!"

The woman frowned again and gave Demi a withering look. "Well, since you don't know him, then so be it. I was going to entrust this card to you to pass to Mr. Larson, but it seems like I will have to go find Mr. Larson myself."

In the woman's hands was a bank card.

Demi's eyes lit up. "What's up with that card?" she asked.

"Well, since Mr. Larson saved my daughter, the money in this card is just a small token of my appreciation!" the woman replied.

"How much money is in there?" Demi asked hastily. "It would only take about 100,000 to fix that car of yours, but ours would cost over 300,000. The money in the card probably isn't enough to fix the car..." she trailed off.

Suddenly, Liam pulled at Demi's shirt. "Demi, I think there's quite a bit of money in that card!" he whispered. "It looks like a diamond card. There's got to be at least 100 million in there!"

"R-Really?" Demi's eyes widened.

Liam nodded his head impatiently, staring at the woman with a slightly shocked expression.

Regular people wouldn't own cards like this.

This woman's identity was definitely not ordinary!

Demi smiled awkwardly. "Well, actually... We... can help you pass it along... You can pass the card to me, and I can give it to him in a bit."

The woman glanced at Demi. "Didn't you say you have nothing to do with him?" she asked.

"Who said that? I happened to be his sister-in-law!" Demi announced.

"Didn't you say he was going to divorce your sister?" the woman jeered.

Upon hearing that, Demi's face flushed red with embarrassment. "I-I was just joking..."

The woman's face turned cold at once. "I'm sorry then. I don't enjoy jokes! Since you're not close with Mr. Larson, then I will give this card to him myself!" she snapped. "You are not worthy of this card!"

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"I'm not worthy?" Demi asked angrily. "Do you know who I am? My sister is Sasha Cunningham, the chairman of Cunningham Pharmaceuticals. I'll have you know that Cunningham Pharmaceuticals is owned by my family!

Who do you think you are? How dare you say I'm not worthy! From what I see, this card of yours is fake. You're worried I might see right through you, yes?"

The woman stared at Demi intensely before saying, "It is only a Diamond Card, so why would I, Leanna Sandel, stoop so low and lie about it?"

Upon hearing the name, everyone in the room was shocked. Eyes wide, Liam asked, "You're the Leanna Sandel? The Chairman of Creative Cloud Group? The heiress of the Sandel family; one of the Ten Great Families in all of Eastcliff?"

"Clearly someone has done his homework!" Leanna sneered.

Liam was stunned, along with several others in the room with him. Leanna Sandel is one of the biggest names in Eastcliff.

The Sandel family are the big fishes among the top ten most influential families around. She herself is no less impressive; being the firstborn of the younger generation in her family, she single-handedly founded and grew Creative Cloud Group to a point where it's personal assets are on par with the entire Sandel Family wealth.

She's the only person of the younger generation to be equal in standing when compared with the other influential families of Eastcliff. In other words, we are currently in the presence of a powerhouse!

A terrified Demi stood frozen in her tracks as she recalled her treatment toward Leanna mere moments ago. James immediately got to his feet and said, "Miss Sandel, I must apologize for my daughter's actions.

Please accept my sincere apologies on her behalf. We had no idea. Please do not let that upset you, Miss Sandel. Demi, what are you waiting for? Apologize to Miss Sandel this instant!"

"M-Miss Sandel, I-I'm truly sorry for what I said," Demi stuttered out of fear.

"Seeing that Mr. Larson is not here, I'll look for him elsewhere," replied Leanna coldly.

James rushed to intervene, saying, "Miss Sandel, l-let me call him now!"

"Forget it! I'm sure Mr. Larson would have no interest in seeing the lot of you like this." Waving her hand, Leanna dismissed his offer and left.

Following that, the four of them looked at each other, feeling extremely embarrassed for what had taken place. Demi said indignantly, "How could that have been her? What are the odds that Matthew actually saved the daughter of Leanna Sandel?"

"Fortunately, the odds were in his favor and Matthew was able to save her daughter. Otherwise, who's to say what would become of our family if any misfortunate had befallen the girl," James added with a sigh.

Demi nodded in agreement. "Well, you've got a point."

"Well, I beg to differ. I think Matthew had no good intentions in mind," said Liam as he pressed his lips together.

"It was probably Leanna's looks that motivated Matthew to save the girl. He must have calculated his moves carefully, knowing very well that we have always wanted Sasha to divorce him.

I bet he is already looking for his next partner. After all, rumor has it that Leanna is a single mother. Seeing how she is toward him, it is pretty obvious that she has fallen for his charms!"

James and Helen's expressions changed upon hearing this.

"I think you're right," Demi agreed angrily. "Ugh! That Matthew is a real son of a b\*tch. It has become second to nature for him to live off a woman. That is probably his intention in seducing Leanna Sandel.

Then again, it takes two to tango, and she mindlessly took the bait! Mom, Dad, we must watch his moves closely!"

James remained silent as he frowned intently. Helen suddenly responded, saying, "I think that this is actually not a bad thing at all.

If the two of them really do get together, Matthew would be sure to divorce Sasha! That would put an end to our problem once and for all."

"That's true," said Demi as she nodded in agreement.

"This cannot happen! Mom, Dad, think about it." Liam intervened. "As far as Matthew is concerned, he has not taken even the slightest advantage of our family. If he gets together with Leanna Sandel, he'll no doubt get revenge on us. By that time, we won't even stand a chance."