

A Man Like None Other

## Chapter 81, A Man Like None Other

“Didn’t you tell Mr. Jennings that Jared is an ex-convict?” Maria continued pursuing the matter. “Of course, I did! I almost had a heart attack at the look in Mr. Jennings’ eyes at that time. If I dared to dissuade him further, he might even demote me!” In fact, Zayne was still fearful when he recalled Xavier’s gaze earlier. “Don’t tell me he’s really acquainted with Mr. Jennings?” Maria’s brows creased. “Let’s just observe how things are first.

If he’s really acquainted with Mr. Jennings, we can’t target him anymore in the future. Instead, you’ll have to fawn over him,” Zayne reminded. “I know that!” Maria rolled her eyes before stalking out of the office. By then, the dozen or so people in the sales department had already heard that the general manager himself gave the order to employ an ex-convict. Such a matter spread very quickly in the company, especially a gossip like this.

“That man named Jared must be somehow associated with Mr. Jennings. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have been hired!” “I can’t help feeling scared that an ex-convict is going to work alongside me.” “We’ve got to be careful when he arrives later. If he really knows Mr. Jennings, we’ll be dead if we accidentally offend him!” The staff in the sales department gathered and whispered among themselves. “What are you all doing?

Do you not have any work?” Maria reproached coldly upon seeing everyone gossiping together when she exited the office. Although she was merely an ordinary sales representative in the sales department, she always threw her weight around. After all, no one dared to offend her when Zayne was the department manager. Following her reprimand, everyone dispersed. Only a girl with short hair headed toward her.

That girl was known as Lydia Wilson, and she was very close to Maria. “Maria, have you heard that the sales department has recruited an ex-convict? And it’s rumored that Mr. Jennings himself made the hiring decision, so they’re probably associated somehow,” Lydia whispered to Maria. “Nonsense! How could he possibly have any association with Mr. Jennings? It’s just dumb luck!” Maria didn’t believe that Jared really had anything to do with the general manager.

At that, Lydia was taken back. “Are you acquainted with that man named Jared?” Realizing her slip of the tongue, Maria hastily shook her head. “I’m not acquainted with any ex-convict! I just feel that he can’t possibly have any association with Mr. Jennings when he had just gotten out of prison. Anyway, don’t simply gossip about him! I’ll ask Mr. Carlson to inquire about it from Mr. Jennings.” About an hour later, Jared finally completed the onboarding procedures.

After getting an employee ID, he went to the sales department. When he arrived, he noticed everyone staring at him wide-eyed. That had him rather discomfited. “Congratulations on joining the sales department, Jared! Make sure that you cherish this opportunity,” Zayne said to Jared in a calm voice.

He didn’t dare target the man before he had ascertained whether he was associated with Xavier. In response, Jared nodded. “Come here for a moment, Troy!” Zayne called out to a bespectacled young-looking man. The man promptly trotted over and murmured timidly, “You called for me, Mr. Carlson?”

“You’ll be Jared’s mentor henceforth. You both will be in a team, so remember to teach him the ropes,” Zayne instructed him. The man glanced at Jared with a conflicted expression. “Why, do you have an objection to that?” Zayne threw him a glare. The man quickly shook his head.

“No, no...” At his acquiescence, a smile bloomed on Zayne’s face. He then turned to Jared. “Go with him. Your desk is adjacent to his.” Having said that, he pivoted and returned to his office. The other colleagues in the sales department regarded Jared with a smirk. Maria also stifled a giggle as she went back to her seat.

## **Chapter 82, A Man Like None Other**

“S-Sir, my name is Troy Zimmer. Nice to meet you,” Troy stammered while holding out his hand to Jared nervously after they had returned to their desks. Jared could tell that the man was terrified of him, which came as a bit of a surprise. “I’m Jared Chance. The pleasure is mine, and I hope to learn much from you!” he replied with a smile, shaking the man’s hand. “No, no... I only started working here a few days ago as well.

Let’s learn from each other,” Troy hurriedly uttered. Naturally, Jared could tell that Troy wasn’t a veteran. “You seem to fear me a lot?” Jared asked in puzzlement. “N-Not at all!” Troy shook his head, but he didn’t dare look the man in the eye. “Do you know something?” Jared was sure that the man was only afraid of him because he knew something or other. Troy hesitated for a while before he nodded and inquired, “W-Why did you go to prison?”

You don’t seem to be some villain.” Jared burst into laughter when he heard that. *Ah, it turns out that he knows about me having been to prison! That’s why he seems fearful of me.* After learning the reason for the man’s trepidation, he didn’t hide anything but told him everything that had happened. It didn’t take long for them to get chummy, and Troy didn’t fear Jared anymore. “That was really a stroke of bad luck, Jared!

But since you’re free now, you should work hard. However... However...” As Troy spoke, he started stammering. “What is it?” Jared queried. “However, we probably won’t be here for long when you’ve been teamed up with me, Jared,” Troy lamented on a sigh. “Why would you say that?” Astonishment inundated Jared. Troy clicked open a document in the computer and explained, “Jared, these are the debts we have to collect.

The previous sales representative resigned, so we have to do it instead. We’ll be dismissed if we can’t manage to get everything settled this month.” Staring at the row upon row of figures, Jared frowned slightly. “I didn’t know so many people owe my wife money!” “What did you just say, Jared?” Troy froze for a moment. “Oh, I was just commenting on the number of people owing the company money,” Jared replied, changing his tune in a flash.

“Indeed! Businesses aren’t doing that great nowadays. I’ve already analyzed the list, and these clients are the difficult ones. We probably won’t be able to collect the money from them.” Troy heaved a sigh. At that very moment, Jared finally understood why many were furtively snickering when he was ordered to team up with Troy. “Don’t worry. We’ll be able to collect all the money, not a dime less,” Jared assured, patting him on the shoulder.

*This company belongs to Josephine, so being indebted to the company is equivalent to owing her money. And in turn, it means that they owe me money. I'll never allow anyone to do that!* "All right. We shall work hard together!" At his encouragement, Troy nodded resolutely. Jared then started familiarizing himself with all the company's arrears, determined to collect all money owed in its entirety.

In the blink of an eye, the day flew past. Stretching, Jared couldn't help grumbling, "There are too many arrears. What on earth is the general manager doing?" "Shh! Don't say that, Jared! If someone overhears you and reports you, you'll be in deep trouble!"

Troy hastily warned in fright when he heard the man griping about the general manager. "That serious? He's just a general manager who's working for the company. Does he really think that this is his house, and he's the king here?" Jared didn't expect the employees to fear Xavier that much.

After all, the man was just a professional manager the Sullivan family employed. Therefore, he hadn't the right to do as he pleased in the company. However, Josephine rarely came to the office and never interfered in the company's affairs, so it made Xavier all the more powerful.

### **Chapter 83, A Man Like None Other**

Maria looked for Jared after work. "Jared, we have a company rule that says the newcomer must buy everyone dinner. So, where do you have in mind?" At that moment, everyone in the office was staring at Jared. They were eager to hear his plan. It was a long-standing office tradition. "There's such a thing? Who set them? The director?" Jared was bewildered. "Jared, there's really such a rule. When I first got here, I had to buy everyone dinner as well!

If not mistaken, I spent ten thousand on that meal! If you don't obey the rules, your life here will be difficult," Troy cautioned Jared with a low voice. "Jared, since you're now in the sales department, you have to abide by the rules here. It is one of the rules I've set when I became the manager," Zayne said. "You set the rules?" Jared scoffed and continued, "I'm sorry, but I don't have the money for it. Pay for your own meals.

Don't ask of it from me as if you guys are a bunch of beggars." Despite Zayne's grim expression, Jared left right after he finished his sentence. "Jared is too arrogant! He's just taking advantage of the fact that he has a special relationship with Mr. Jennings. He doesn't respect anyone, not even Mr. Carlson!" Lydia showed up and defended Zayne. "Exactly! Even if he does have a special relationship with Mr. Jennings, he shouldn't have spoken to Mr. Carlson rudely.

Furthermore, he likened us to a beggar! It's not like we'd starve to death without him!" "Well, it seems like he underestimates what we could do to him. His time will come." The staff in the sales department were infuriated. On the other hand, Troy kept his mouth shut and hid in the corner with mixed feelings. *He'll surely get sabotaged soon. But since I'm in the same team as him, I'd be suffering the consequences too!*

"Hmph! There's no such special relationship! I've asked Mr. Jennings already. The only reason Mr. Jennings keeps him around is that he wants to make a fool out of him!" Zayne said to the others with a cold glint in his eyes. Apparently, Zayne had already asked Xavier about Jared. Xavier told him to make

Jared look bad in front of the other employees. Although Zayne had no idea what the reason behind that was, he dared not to defy the orders of his general manager.

Everyone in the sales department left after hearing that Jared wasn't buying them dinner. As Zayne was bidding goodbye to Maria before he left, Maria's phone rang. It was Maria's mom, Frieda, who called. Maria answered the call instantly. "Maria, I have good news! Glamorous Designs had cleared their debt!

They've repaid all the money they owed to us. Now our company is back on its feet!" Frieda exclaimed excitedly. "Really?" Maria was thrilled as well. "But we've been asking for the money for so long! So, why have they suddenly paid us now?" "Your dad asked around and found out that Mr. Lewis had spoken to them.

They were so scared that they paid us right after that!" "Mr. Lewis?" Maria paused and continued, "But we don't even know him. Why did he help us?" "I was wondering about the same thing! Do you remember when I told you that Zayne wanted to use his personal connections to help us?

I think maybe Zayne knew Mr. Lewis personally. That's why I called you. Please find out if he had anything to do with it. If so, invite him over for dinner!" Frieda answered. "Oh, I see. All right, I'll ask him now." Maria hung up the phone. "What's up? Why are you so happy?" Zayne curiously asked when he saw the excitement on Maria's face.

## **Chapter 84, A Man Like None Other**

"Zayne, was it you that got Mr. Lewis to help us collect our money from Glamorous Designs? Now that they've paid us, our company is back on its feet again. My dad said it was all thanks to Mr. Lewis."

Marian looked at him with hopeful eyes. She was hoping that Zayne would be the one that contacted Tommy. Because if it really were him, then her parents would finally approve of her relationship with him.

Besides that, her parents would be impressed by Zayne's relationship with a formidable figure such as Tommy. "Mr. Lewis?" Zayne was dumbfounded. But he managed to react quickly and said, "Oh, yes. I did mention the issue to Mr. Lewis. But I didn't expect him to deal with it with such efficiency. I'm relieved now that the money has been collected." "I would've never expected you to be an acquaintance of someone like Mr. Lewis! Zayne, you're incredible!"

Maria threw herself into Zayne's arms as she shouted with excitement. She then kissed him and said, "My mom told me to bring you over for dinner! Let's see if my dad could still not look up to you after this!" With happiness written all over her face, Maria held Zayne's arm as they walked toward the parking lot. Jared, on the other hand, had just arrived home. Upon his arrival, Hannah asked anxiously, "Jared, how was your interview?"

Did they give you a job?" "Mom, the interview was a success. I'm now a salesperson. The benefits aren't too bad." Jared flashed a faint smile. "Oh, that's great! We owe our gratitude to Maria, then. We should look for an opportunity to go thank them in person. I'm less worried now that you have a proper job."

Hannah was smiling with satisfaction. Jared couldn't help but keep silent when he saw how happy his mother was. "Jared, go and clean yourself up. Mr. Saunders has invited us out for dinner." Gary was

holding his phone when he walked into the house. "Gary, why did Franklin do that? After what he has done for Jared, we should be buying him dinner instead!"

Hannah was puzzled. "I think it's because his company received a sum of money owed to them. His company is going to do well again," Gary answered. "That's great! That's good karma indeed." Hannah felt happy for Franklin. Upon hearing that, Jared smiled faintly and went to change.

Jared was meant to call Tommy to follow up. *I never expected him to be so efficient! It seems like I should also ask him to collect debt for Sentiment Chemical Limited as well. After all, the money belongs to me.* Meanwhile, Franklin had arrived at Glamor Hotel. He had reserved a table for dinner. It was his first visit in a long time because the food served there was pricey. Furthermore, his company had been in debt for quite a while.

He simply couldn't afford to dine in at that restaurant. "Wow. This place looks amazing! It's my first time here!" Maria was very impressed by how grand the Glamor Hotel was. "Since this belongs to the Sullivan family, maybe I could get a twenty percent discount if I show them my work pass!"

Zayne said proudly. "That's true! We're actually contributing to their revenue by dining here!" Maria entered while holding Zayne's hand. They arrived at one of the private rooms at the restaurant. When they opened the door, Franklin and Frieda were already seated at the dining table.

"Hi, Mr. and Mrs. Saunders!" Zayne greeted politely. "Hi!" Frieda stood up hurriedly and said, "Have a seat, Zayne. We're practically family. Don't be shy!"

## **Chapter 85, A Man Like None Other**

Franklin welcomed Zayne with a smile as well. "Zayne, it's all thanks to you! Now my company is safe. We should have a few drinks together to celebrate." Zayne was getting arrogant upon seeing how Franklin's attitude toward him had changed. "It's just a small matter, Mr. Saunders! As Mrs. Saunders said, we're family now!" Zayne sat down next to Franklin proudly. Although Zayne knew that he had nothing to do with collecting the debt for Franklin, he accepted the recognition anyway.

He had to take the opportunity to make a good impression out of himself. "Zayne, I had no idea you knew Mr. Lewis! You should've seen the look on the owner of Glamorous Designs' face when he came with my money! He was so scared that he almost knelt before me. It was so satisfying to watch!"

Throughout the years, Franklin had never been treated with such respect. "Just let me know if your company needs help with anything from now on, Mr. Saunders. Although I'm just a departmental manager, there's nothing I can't deal with in the whole of Horington," Zayne gloated shamelessly. He wasn't worried about getting exposed because he knew that no one at the table knew Tommy. "All right.

From now on, I'll rely on you for all the company matters. Since Maria is my only daughter, whatever I have now will definitely be passed down to you in the future." Franklin's admiration for Zayne had grown greatly. "Don't worry, Mr. Saunders. I'll love Maria unconditionally!" Zayne nodded excitedly. "Enough talking. I'm starving! Could we please have our food now?" Maria pouted. "A while more,

okay? I've invited Mr. Chance and his family as well. They should be here soon!" Franklin exclaimed. "Why would you invite outsiders to our family dinner?"

Maria's face turned sullen when she found out that Jared was invited to the dinner. "Silly girl! Mr. Chance had saved my life before!" Franklin glared at Maria before continuing, "Speaking of which, how did Jared's interview go?" "Mr. Saunders, it was a success. I worked my magic as the departmental manager!" Zayne took credit for Jared's interview brazenly. "Thank you, Zayne!" Franklin gratefully looked at Zayne.

Suddenly, the door to the room opened, and Jared waltzed in with his family. "We're sorry for being late!" Gary apologized. "It's fine, Squad Leader! We've just arrived too." Franklin welcomed them warmly. Jared was startled when he saw Zayne present at the dinner.

However, he didn't say a word. On the other hand, Zayne stared at him and taunted, "Hey, Jared, we meet again! Did you know that Maria and I had to make excuses on your behalf with the staff? All because you disobeyed the company rule." Upon hearing that, Gary glared at Jared and asked, "What's going on, Jared?"

"Exactly, Jared. What's going on?" Hannah added. Franklin was equally puzzled as well. "Upon his successful interview, he was supposed to buy everyone dinner! It's a long-standing departmental tradition. Instead, Jared said he had no money, and he just left. It was so embarrassing for Zayne and me," Maria raged.

## **Chapter 86, A Man Like None Other**

"Jared, is that true?" Gary glared coldly at Jared. "Dad, I was..." "Shut your mouth!" Gary cut Jared off. "Yes, we're poor. But we could still afford to buy others a meal! You have a job now because others have helped you. Show some gratitude and respect to the tradition of others, will you?" Gary didn't give Jared a chance to explain himself. "Squad Leader, Jared did it to save money! It's no big deal. We shall congratulate Jared with dinner tonight!"

Franklin eased the tension to avoid an awkward dinner. "Mr. Saunders, actually Maria and I don't mind if he doesn't buy us dinner. It's just that if he did, the staff would be more welcoming toward him." With that, Zayne had again emphasized Jared's pettiness. "I agree. This is Jared's fault.

"I'll get him to honor the tradition by tomorrow," Gary responded apologetically. "Actually, we don't have to wait till tomorrow. After dinner, I'll inform the staff and arrange a karaoke session. As long as Jared is willing to pay, I'm sure the others would be grateful," Zayne suggested. "That'll do!" Gary nodded. "Zayne, Mr. Chance's family isn't that well-off. Don't impose too much on Jared," Franklin advised. "Don't worry, Mr. Saunders.

Three hundred would be more than enough." A smile flashed across Zayne's face. "Franklin, is this Maria's boyfriend? Not only is he handsome, but he can handle things very well!" Gary complimented Zayne. "Indeed! He had even gotten back the money for my company because he's an acquaintance of Tommy Lewis, the underground king of Horington. With just an order, I've gotten all my money back!"

Franklin couldn't hide his contentment as he was very satisfied with his future son-in-law. Upon hearing that, Jared was stunned. *Since when did Zayne have anything to do with that? I did all the work, but he got the recognition instead?* "Tommy?" Gary paused and continued, "Isn't he the infamous gangster in Horington? It's better to avoid these people. Although they seem to do good now, it's just a matter of time before they're dealt with by law enforcement."

Having worked as a government servant, it was only natural that Gary had bad impressions toward outlaws. "Mr. Chance, you're mistaken! It's an honor to have a relationship with Mr. Lewis, especially in Horington. How could you slander him? In fact, someone as insignificant as your son would never be a friend of the famous Mr. Lewis. You should refrain from talking in such a way. Otherwise, troubles may come to you one day."

Zayne was angered by Gary's statement. In response, Gary kept silent. "He has a point, Squad Leader. Time has changed. We need these people nowadays," Franklin said placidly. Still, Gary kept his mouth shut. No one could change his perception toward outlaws such as Tommy.

That was one of the reasons why Jared never revealed to his parents his relationship with Tommy. *If my parents knew about Tommy and me, they might even disown me!* At the dining table, Zayne was indulging in alcohol while receiving praises from everyone. However, Jared had not taken a sip.

Zayne wasn't happy with the fact that Jared had not offered him a toast. "Jared, why aren't you drinking? You're being such a wimp!" Zayne teased. "It's not that I can't drink. I just don't think it's worth the money! I'd rather have tea." Jared flashed a grin.

## **Chapter 87, A Man Like None Other**

Zayne burst into laughter and asked, "Oh? So you're saying that you can drink very well?" "Well, I haven't been drunk before," Jared answered expressionlessly. Jared's response had triggered Zayne's interest. "All right, then! Since I've never encountered a worthy opponent before, I shall challenge you to a drinking contest!" As he spoke, he waved his hand and requested a crate of liquor from the waiter.

"Jared, don't overestimate yourself. Since when did you learn to drink liquor? Don't make a fool out of yourself," Hannah cautioned with her furrowed brows. "Don't worry, Mom. I know what I'm doing," Jared comforted. The moment Gary wanted to advise against the challenge as well, Franklin said, "Squad Leader, let the youngsters be! Don't you remember the fun we had back then? We used to have drinking contests all the time!"

Upon hearing that, Gary had no choice but to keep his opinions to himself. All he could do was stare at Jared helplessly. "Zayne, I know you can hold your liquor. Don't be too harsh on Jared, okay? Besides, it's just for fun." Franklin knew of Zayne's drinking capability. Because he once witnessed Zayne drinking a whole bottle of liquor and could still drive on his own. "Don't worry, Mr. Saunders. For every glass Jared drinks, I'll down two!"

As Zayne was speaking, he opened a bottle and started pouring it into his glass. "What a ridiculously small glass! Bring us two bowls instead!" Jared ordered the waiter. Upon hearing that, Zayne was stunned as he stared at Jared with his bewildered eyes. "You can handle it, right?" Jared asked with a

faint smile. "Of course! I can even drink from the bottle!" Zayne scoffed. *He's just bluffing to scare me off! In that case, it means that he can't hold his liquor!*

Soon after that, the waiter brought over two empty bowls. The bowls were so big that each of them could fit a whole bottle of liquor. "Okay, so how should we do it?" Zayne asked with a provoking tone. "Well, we'll do it the fast way." As soon as Jared finished his sentence, he downed the whole bowl of liquor. Everyone present was in shock upon seeing that. Gary frowned worriedly and said, "Jared, why would you drink like that?"

"It's not good for your body! Enough, slow down." "Dad, I'm fine!" Jared assured. He then flipped his empty bowl over and said, "Zayne, it's your turn." Zayne was still in shock. He didn't know Jared could do that. *Although I can drink, that's just not the way!* "It's all right if you can't do it.

"Don't force yourself, Zayne." Gary was genuinely worried about Zayne. "Yeah, it's okay if you don't drink, Zayne. But that'd mean you've chickened out." Jared couldn't help but taunt him. "Chickened out?" Zayne was infuriated by the insult. "I've never chickened out from a drinking contest!" He then shut his eyes and downed the bowl of liquor. By the time he was done, his face was flushed. Then, Jared proceeded to pour out another two bowls of liquor.

Having noticed that things were getting out of control, Gary stood up and shouted, "That's enough, Jared!" While ignoring Gary, Jared stared at Zayne with contempt. "Stay out of it! Let's continue drinking!" Unable to swallow his pride, Zayne insisted that the contest should continue.

Jared then downed another bowl of liquor expressionlessly. Actually, the liquor had no effect on Jared. The spiritual energy in his body was able to absorb the alcohol he consumed.

Again, everyone present was astounded as they watched Jared drink another bowl of liquor, especially when he did it with such ease. "It's okay, Zayne. Please stop now before you hurt yourself. Don't entertain Jared's stupidity." Maria was worried about Zayne's well-being.

## **Chapter 88, A Man Like None Other**

"Exactly, Zayne. Don't drink anymore. Prioritize your health!" Frieda suddenly stood and tried to stop Zayne. She was worried that another bowl of liquor could endanger his life. Zayne was so intoxicated that he was already starting to lose consciousness. Pride was in his way. He couldn't stop himself when he saw Jared staring back at him with provocation. He clenched his teeth and forced another bowl of liquor down his throat.

After that, Zayne's face turned sickeningly pale. In fact, he looked terrible. Upon seeing that, Jared sat down with satisfaction written all over his face. *If this continues, he might actually die from alcohol poisoning. Besides, I doubt Mom and Dad would allow me to take another sip.* "W-Why have you sat down?"

"I... I can still drink!" Zayne couldn't even speak without stuttering. As soon as he finished his sentence, Zayne vomited all over the place. Some of it even splash onto Frieda. "Ah!" Frieda yelled in disgust. She even gagged when she saw the mushed-up and half-digested food all over her. Upon seeing that,



Franklin's expression was distorted. Gary glared at Jared before he stood up and said, "Franklin, send Zayne home now. We should leave as well. These two are out of line!"

By then, Franklin could only comply. When Gary was about to leave with Jared, Zayne got up and stopped them. "Hey, you can't leave..." Zayne couldn't even stand straight anymore. He looked at Jared with his blurry eyes and continued, "I've arranged a karaoke session. Are you leaving again so that you don't have to pay?" "Zayne, you've had one too many. How about some other day?" Franklin stressed. "No! It has to be tonight!"

"I've already informed the others. I'd be embarrassed if he doesn't go and pay for the session!" Zayne shook his head and insisted. Franklin was in a tight spot as he looked at Gary helplessly. "Dad, it's all right. You guys head home. I'll go meet the others," Jared said. Judging by the circumstances, Gary had no choice but to agree. "All right. Come home early, then. Remember not to drink anymore." He then took out some cash from his pocket and gave it to Jared.

"Take it. I know how expensive karaoke sessions can be." Although the amount was just a little over three hundred, Jared wanted to reject Gary. But he knew how persistent his dad could be. Hence, he accepted it and kept the money in his pocket. Suddenly, Franklin took out his wallet as well before handing a thousand to Jared.

"Jared, take this. Just in case you need more." "Dad! You were never so generous toward me!" Maria snatched the cash out of Franklin's hand. "Silly girl! Hand it over to Jared, now!" Franklin thundered. "No! I'll keep this. I'll top up for him later if needed!" Maria then kept the money in her pocket.

"Mr. Saunders, I have enough on me. If needed, Maria will top up. Don't worry," Jared said calmly. Franklin sighed in response. After they got out of the private room, Franklin headed toward the cashier.

Zayne caught up to him from behind, threw his work pass onto the counter, and said drunkenly, "I have a work pass. and can get a twenty percent discount." Without taking a glance at the work pass, the cashier told Franklin politely, "Sir, your bill has been waived."

## **Chapter 89,A Man Like None Other**

Franklin was dumbfounded. *Who paid for us?* Zayne overheard the cashier and chuckled. "Haha. Who would've thought that my work pass has such privilege! Thanks to the Sullivan family, we've got a free meal!" Franklin nodded upon hearing that. He had also assumed that the meal was covered by Zayne's work pass. *Well, he does work for the Sullivan family.* However, the cashier rolled her eyes at Zayne because she knew that was far from the truth.

The bill was waived because of Jared. Everyone at Glamor Hotel knew about his relationship with Josephine. Hence, no one would dare to collect money from their future boss. Shortly after, everyone had gotten out of the hotel. Franklin and Gary were bidding goodbyes to each other. "Enough. Let's go already. The vomit on me stinks! It's all Jared's fault. He shouldn't have drunk so aggressively. Zayne had no choice but to comply!"

Frieda muttered while glaring at Jared. Although Jared didn't speak of a word, Gary was apologizing profusely. Then he left with Hannah. At the same time, Franklin and Frieda had also gone home. Only

Jared, Zayne, and Maria remained. Maria gave Jared a cold stare and said, "Jared, you stink of alcohol. Get yourself a taxi. You're not getting into my car smelling like that." Indeed, Maria was still blaming Jared for the state Zayne was in.

"Jared, we're going to Dynasty Karaoke Bar. Don't you dare bail on us..." Zayne mumbled as he swayed from left to right. Maria dragged him into her car and drove off. As Jared watched them driving away, his eyes were gleaming with anger. *Zayne, since you keep looking for trouble with me, I'm going to teach you a lesson! And Maria, if it weren't for Franklin, you'd be dead too!* After hailing a taxi, Jared wanted to go to Dynasty Karaoke Bar.

However, his phone rang. After seeing that it was Hilda on the line, Jared answered his phone hastily. "Jared, where are you guys? My mom made some ravioli. But when we brought it over to your house, no one answered the door." "We've gone out for dinner!" Jared explained. "Oh? Are you guys done? I'm so bored! I was wondering if I should go out for a walk." It was obvious that Hilda was trying to get Jared to ask her out.

Jared hesitated for a while said, "My interview was a success. So, I'm going for a karaoke session with my colleagues now." "Oh, I see. It's fine, then." Hilda was disappointed. "Where are you now? Would you care to join me?" Jared had already planned to bring Hilda along to his work the next day.

Hence, he thought that the karaoke session would be the perfect opportunity to introduce her to his colleagues. "I-Is that appropriate?" Deep down, Hilda was raring to go. But she felt bad to intrude. "Why not? I meant to bring you along to work tomorrow. It's good if you get to meet some of them beforehand. I'll go get you now." After Jared hung up the phone, he went to fetch Hilda in the taxi before heading to Dynasty Karaoke Bar.

Meanwhile, Zayne and the others had already arrived at Dynasty Karaoke Bar. They had even gone ahead and reserved a spacious private room. "Where's Jared? We've been waiting for so long! Judging by how much of a cheapskate he is, I wonder if he'd bailed!" Lydia complained.

Everyone else was also anxiously waiting for Jared because if he did bail, one of them had to fork up for the private room. Zayne was lazing on the couch when he squinted and said, "Hey, Troy. Just in case Jared fails to show up, you'll have to pay for our expenses tonight. That's because you're on the same team as he is." Troy quickly nodded. Even though he was dissatisfied, he didn't dare to turn Zayne down.

## **Chapter 90, A Man Like None Other**

Upon Troy's confirmation, the room turned lively. Everyone started to indulge in food and alcohol because they knew that Troy was going to pay. On the other hand, Troy was praying for Jared to show up. *If he doesn't come, I might be broke by the end of the night!* Still hungover, Zayne was lying down on the couch while Maria massaged his temple gently. Although he felt better, his head was still spinning.

"Guys, if Jared does show up later, I want all of you to try to get him drunk. Whoever succeeds, his monthly bonus will be doubled," Zayne declared. Everyone was jumping for joy when they heard about the extra monthly bonus. "Don't worry, Mr. Carlson. I'll make sure he gets drunk!" "If he dares to come, he'll get so drunk that he won't be able to find his way home!" Everyone was excited at the prospect of getting the extra monthly bonus.

Although Troy wouldn't try to get Jared drunk, he was tempted by the reward. While everyone was having the time of their lives, the door to the private room was pushed open. Jared and Hilda had arrived. Everyone was startled by their arrival. Although they were surprised that Jared eventually showed up, they were keener on the lady he'd brought along. Most of the men in the room were captivated by Hilda's beauty.

Zayne, who was still hungover just a minute before that, suddenly got up from the couch and stared at her with his bewildered eyes. Although Maria was pretty, she didn't have the desirable aura Hilda possessed. Despite having worked as an exotic dancer, Hilda had an innocent look. "Jared, I thought you'd be too stingy to come!" Zayne took a glance at Jared before shifting his gaze toward Hilda. "Who's this lady?"

"Hi, everyone, I'm Hilda Wallace. I'm Jared's neighbor. I hope I'm not intruding!" Hilda introduced herself politely. "You're absolutely not!" "Come! Come sit next to me!" "Here! Have some fruits!" The men were throwing themselves at Hilda while ignoring Jared. Zayne then cleared his throat and said, "Hi! I'm Zayne Carlson, Jared's manager." The moment Hilda heard that Zayne was Jared's manager, she reached out her hand nervously and greeted, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Carlson."

"Nice to meet you too!" Zayne's eyes glittered when he shook hands with Hilda. Everyone in the room saw how attracted Zayne was to Hilda. Maria was utterly infuriated. "Where do you work, Ms. Wallace?" Zayne asked with a bright smile on his face. He definitely didn't notice that Maria was already glaring at him. "I-I'm jobless now," Hilda answered awkwardly. Upon hearing that, the smile on Zayne's face grew even wider.

He then took out his name card and exclaimed, "Here's my name card, Ms. Wallace. Come work with us if you're interested!" "Really?" Suddenly, Hilda's eyes widened. "Of course! I'm a departmental manager. I have a say in recruitment!" Zayne was filled with pride. "Zayne Carlson!"

Finally, Maria couldn't take it anymore and shouted at Zayne. Suddenly, Zayne remembered that Maria was right next to him. He immediately backed away from Hilda and said, "G-Go on and have a seat!" Having noticed that awkward moment, Hilda smiled and walked toward Jared.

She then casually put her arm around Jared and said, "Jared, why don't you introduce your colleagues to me?" Jared was stunned by Hilda's intimate touch. However, Hilda did that on purpose so that all the other men present wouldn't make a move on her. Besides, she did that to show Maria that she had no reason to get jealous