

Chapter 111 Be Mindful Of Your Place

"Are you saying that I'm not worthy of you?" Xavier questioned.

"What do you think?" Josephine retorted.

All of a sudden, he gave a self-derisive laugh. "Yes, I'm not worthy of you with my lowly status. But why would you rather date someone who had been to prison instead of giving me a chance? Am I even lowlier than an ex-convict?"

He abruptly became emotional, and his tone turned harsh.

Upon hearing that, Josephine frowned. "Whomever I date has nothing to do with you, and you don't have the right to question me about that."

"Do you know the kind of person Jared is? Not only is he an ex-convict, but he's also a Lothario! Do you know that he already has a girlfriend? You've been duped!"

As Xavier spoke, he fished out his phone and showed her the photos of Jared with Hilda.

Josephine stared at the photos, her expression turning increasingly grim until her brows scrunched deeply.

Xavier inwardly crowed with delight when he glimpsed her expression and immediately added fuel to the fire, saying, "This girl is known as Hilda Wallace, and she's his girlfriend. They're childhood sweethearts and are now colleagues at Sentiment Chemical Limited. It was even him who recommended her to work there!"

Josephine said nothing, merely staring at the two people in the photo silently.

"My feelings for you are genuine, Josephine. I'll never dupe you. What's so great about him? How is he better than me?"

Xavier continued pouring out his heart to her.

Slap!

Just a moment after he had finished speaking, Josephine slapped him across the face hard without warning.

That blow blindsided Xavier, and he gaped at her incredulously. He could not fathom why she struck him.

"How dare you take photos of Jared secretly? Did you think that I'll accept you by doing so? You're wrong. You're so very wrong! I believe that he'll never dupe me, and you don't need to come to me with these photos either! You wanted to know how he's better than you, didn't you? Fine, I'll enlighten you—you can't even hold a candle to him!"

With that said, Josephine shouldered her bag before she got to her feet and left.

As Xavier rubbed his cheek that had turned bright red from the slap, a terrifyingly vicious glint entered his eyes.

“You’re forcing my hand, Josephine! You drove me to this!” he hissed through gritted teeth, enunciating every single word.

When Josephine had exited the restaurant, her brows creased once more.

Although she claimed to believe Jared and did not care about the photos in the least, she had long gone on the warpath upon seeing them.

Women were envious, so she could not possibly be unfazed at the sight of her man acting so intimate with another woman.

Taking out her phone, she called Jared straight away. She had been searching for the medicinal herbs in the past few days, so she had not contacted him. Never had she expected him to hook up with another woman behind her back.

At that precise moment, Jared was having lunch with Hilda and Maria. Due to the short lunch break, they could only eat at a roadside stall near the office.

When he saw it was a phone call from Josephine, he promptly got up and went to the side to take the call.

“Where are you?” Josephine demanded, cutting straight to the chase.

“I-I’m at home!”

Jared did not want her to know that he was presently working at her company. Besides, he was not planning to work there for long and would resign after gathering all the herbs and finding the spiritual brush to restore his mother’s eyesight.

That was because he wanted to focus on training as the fifteenth of July was drawing ever closer. If his capabilities did not reach the required standard, he would not be able to go to Nameless Island.

Hearing his answer, Josephine tried her best to suppress the fury blazing within her. “At home? Okay, stay at home then!”

After saying that, she hung up on him.

## Chapter 112 Watch Your Tongue

Baffled, Jared went back to his table and continued eating.

Shortly after the lunch break, Jared sorted out the arrears. He planned to send the information over to Tommy and let him handle it. If the latter could not manage, he would then personally pay the debtors a visit. Otherwise, it would be a waste of time to do everything himself.

Just as he was doing so, there was a sudden commotion in the sales department. On the heels of that, everyone shot their gazes in the direction of the office and whispered among themselves.

That had Jared's curiosity piqued, so he went over to Maria and asked, "What happened?"

Glancing at him, Maria uttered coldly, "Go back to your desk and do your work. Ms. Sullivan has just arrived. She hasn't been here for some time, and no one knows why she's visiting the sales department this time. Anyhow, she has now gone into the office. Stay on your toes, and don't offend her lest you drag me into trouble!"

In response, Jared frowned slightly. "Ms. Sullivan? Josephine is here?"

At his question, everyone instantly cut their gazes at him. Maria shot daggers at him and snarled, "Are you sick of living? Ms. Sullivan isn't someone you can address on a first-name basis! Don't make any trouble for me!"

Everyone distanced themselves from him, afraid that they would be dragged into the mess if he said anything to offend Josephine.

"Hurry up and return to your work, Jared. Don't talk nonsense anymore!"

Hilda dragged Jared back to his desk to resume his work.

Right then, Zayne was in his office with his eyes closed, planning to take a nap after having had some wine during lunch. When he heard the click of his office door, he did not open his eyes since he knew no one else would come over at such a time other than his subordinates.

Besides, the only person who dared to enter his office without knocking was Maria. If anyone else dared to do so, they would be reprimanded by him.

"You came at an opportune time, Maria. Come over and massage my temples for a bit. I've got a mild headache," he murmured with his eyes closed.

As Josephine stared at the man, a layer of frost blanketed her face. "Are you asking me to massage your temples for you?"

When her words rang out, Zayne's eyes popped open at once. The instant he saw Josephine standing in front of him and regarding him chillingly, his expression changed in the blink of an eye.

Thud!

He hastily leaped to his feet, only to trip and fall in his haste. Enduring the intense pain shooting through him, he scrambled to his feet and hustled over to her with an ingratiating expression. "Ms. Sullivan, why are you here?"

"If I don't come, are you planning to turn the office into a massage parlor?" Josephine remarked icily.

"No, no! Of course not! I wouldn't dare do that. Please forgive me, Ms. Sullivan..."

Zayne was so frightened that he shook his head profusely, almost going to his knees.

Josephine did not comment further but headed to the desk. Seeing that, Zayne quickly pulled the chair out for her.

After taking her seat, she ordered, "Call Jared to come in."

“J-Jared?” Zayne was startled, puzzled as to how she knew Jared. Why is she looking for him?

“Did you not hear me?” Josephine frowned as she asked.

“Ah! Yes, I’ll go and get him right away!”

Terrified, Zayne ran out posthaste.

As soon as those gossiping in the sales department saw him coming out of his office, they hurriedly dispersed and went back to their respective desks, feigning diligence. However, their eyes remained fixated on the man. They were all desperate to know why exactly Josephine suddenly came to the office.

The next thing they saw was Zayne striding over to Jared’s desk. “Jared, Ms. Sullivan wants to see you. Watch your tongue when you’re in there!” he said.

Jared stood up and headed toward the office. He knew Josephine had undoubtedly come over in search of him, so he was not at all surprised.

“Why does Ms. Sullivan want to see him?”

“How strange! She isn’t acquainted with him, so why is she asking for him first thing when she comes over?”

“Could it be that she’s here to look for him because he managed to collect Dexter Murphy’s debt?”

“Come on! Mr. Carlson hasn’t reported that to the higher-ups, so how could she possibly know about it?”

Everyone whispered among themselves, curious as to why Josephine was here to look for Jared.

### **Chapter 113 Do You Think I Will Believe That**

“Hilda, do you know if Jared is acquainted with Ms. Sullivan? Otherwise, why would she be inquiring for him?” Maria asked Hilda, curious.

After all, Hilda had made Jared’s acquaintance long ago, so Maria reckoned she might know his affairs well.

Alas, Hilda shook her head. “I don’t know, but he has just gotten out of prison, so he probably doesn’t know a big shot like her.”

On second thought, Maria felt that it indeed made sense. He was in prison for three years, so how could he possibly be acquainted with Josephine?

“I just hope he doesn’t run his mouth in front of her and drag us all down,” she said, fretting.

For some inexplicable reason, she found Jared highly unreliable.

“He’ll never do that.”

On the contrary, Hilda had absolute trust in the man.

Meanwhile, Jared awkwardly pushed the door open and walked into the office.

At the sight of Josephine sitting there, he grinned.

“Didn’t you say you were at home?” she demanded coldly.

“Uh... I’m indeed at home! I’ve now considered the office my home,” he answered as a light bulb went off in his head.

“Who is Hilda Wallace?” she questioned, going straight to the point.

“Will you believe me if I say that she’s my sister?” Jared asked in return, his eyes trained on her.

In response, Josephine chuckled coldly. “Do you think I’ll believe that?”

Flashing her an awkward smile, Jared had no choice but to come clean about his relationship with Hilda. “Hilda and I are just long-time neighbors. Our relationship isn’t what you think...”

Josephine felt much more at peace after listening to his explanation. In truth, she trusted him, but she wanted to hear him say it personally.

“I did not make any assumptions about your relationship with her. The two of you can do whatever you want. That has nothing to do with me. How presumptuous of you!”

She rolled her eyes, though inwardly, she was elated.

Jared could tell that she was no longer angry, so he queried, “How did you know I’m here? And how did you know about Hilda?”

He was rather curious to know how she learned that he was currently working at her company.

After all, he was just an ordinary employee, so news about him joining the company could not have possibly reached Josephine’s ears. If that were truly the case, she would have long since died from exhaustion.

Josephine got to her feet. “Never you mind that. You could’ve just told me if you wanted a job, and I could have appointed you as the general manager right away. Why do you want to be a sales representative? Besides, you don’t lack that paltry sum.”

“I don’t want to be the general manager, and I don’t have the time for that. I only came to work here to appease my parents. Otherwise, they’d worry about me. Besides, I still have tons of things to do, so I won’t be staying here for long.”

Jared hastily waved his hands to decline the offer since he did not want to be shackled to the company.

“Oh right, why don’t your parents want to live at Dragon Bay anymore? Isn’t the environment there pretty good?” Josephine asked in puzzlement as she again remembered how Gary and Hannah insisted on leaving the mansion.

“I’m not sure either.” Jared shook his head, for he still did not know why his parents were adamant about leaving Dragon Bay and even said those things to him.

Then, he continued, “But I feel as though someone said something to them, and that made them leave.”

No sooner had he said that than realization dawned upon Josephine. "I know! It must've been Xavier! He's really too much. He thinks that I'll take a fancy to him by doing so. So insidious of him!"

"Xavier? The general manager?" Jared was stunned for a moment.

At long last, he understood why Xavier suddenly appeared during his interview back then and employed him. It turns out that he has long since known about me and also my relationship with Josephine!

## **Chapter 114 Not Telling You**

"Yes, that's him! He has been courting me for years, but I've never fancied him!" Josephine was annoyed when Xavier's name was brought up. "How about this? I'll explain it to Mr. and Mrs. Chance myself. After all, Dragon Bay is the perfect place for retirement."

"That's not necessary. My parents are happy where they are now. Besides, they have neighbors accompanying them to pass the time. Perhaps we can talk about it sometime in the future," Jared suggested.

Josephine nodded as she picked up her bag and walked toward the door. Suddenly, she turned back and said, "Don't hesitate to tell me if someone bullies you, okay? If worse comes to worst, I can just fire Xavier."

"Do you think there's anyone capable of bullying me?" Jared smiled cheekily.

Amused by Jared's sense of humor, Josephine left with a smile on her face. Who am I kidding? I watched Jared defeat Steven with my own eyes. Surely no one in this company could bully Jared.

Zayne rushed into the office as soon as Josephine stepped out. "Jared, what did Ms. Sullivan talk to you about?"

With a cold gaze, Jared answered, "I'm not telling you."

Jared exited the office after that, leaving Zayne in absolute anger.

"Hey, Jared! Just because you collected a debt, that doesn't mean you can disrespect me! I'm your manager!" Zayne screamed at the top of his lungs.

The rest of the staff gathered around Jared the moment they saw him coming out. They were all curious about the conversation Jared had with Josephine. To their dismay, Jared kept his mouth zipped.

Jared was busy compiling the documents on all the debtors throughout the afternoon. He then sent the documents to Tommy.

Just minutes away from getting off work, Xavier dropped by the sales department. His visit had unsettled the whole department because the employees were worried that he might order them to work overtime.

"Hi, Mr. Jennings!" Zayne rushed to greet him.

Xavier scanned the floor before purposefully gazing at Jared. He then said to Zayne, “Mr. Carlson, due to the exemplary performance of your department, I’d like to buy everyone dinner. Make sure everyone will be there. The venue is Vintage Restaurant.”

Xavier turned to leave after making the announcement while Zayne stood rooted to the spot.

Surprised, Maria walked toward Zayne and asked, “Did Mr. Jennings just say he wants to buy us dinner? Not only that, but he also complimented our performance?”

Zayne was equally startled. He nodded and wondered out loud, “What has gotten into Mr. Jennings today? Is he all right?”

Truth be told, Xavier had never treated them to a meal before. Furthermore, Zayne was constantly lambasted for debt collection issues during corporate meetings. The former’s sudden change of attitude caught everyone off guard.

“Mr. Carlson, isn’t that good news? Why are you still standing there like a lemon? Quickly let the others know!” Lydia was very excited upon hearing the announcement.

“Oh! You’re right!” Zayne regained his senses and informed the others hurriedly before any of them leave the building. Mr. Jennings said to make sure that everyone will be there!

“Listen up, everyone! Mr. Jennings is very pleased with our performance. Hence, he’d like to invite all of us for dinner. He explicitly said that everyone in our department must be there.”

The staff started cheering upon hearing that. “Wow! Vintage Restaurant? That’s awesome!”

“That’s one of the best restaurants in Horington! It’s as famous as Glamor Hotel!”

“What’s with Mr. Jennings’ sudden act of generosity?”

“I have to go touch up my makeup! I must look my best for Mr. Jennings!”

Suddenly, everyone was rushing to get themselves ready for dinner. The ladies stormed the washrooms to freshen themselves up.

## **Chapter 115 Do Your Best**

“Zayne, you must take this opportunity and do your best to impress Mr. Jennings. If he likes you, he might offer you a managerial position in the procurement department! Now, that’s a good opportunity!” Maria encouraged.

“Yeah, don’t worry. I’ll do everything I can so that I can buy a house at Dragon Bay as our residence.” Zayne nodded enthusiastically.

Upon hearing that, a blissful smile emerged on Maria’s face.

Unlike the others, Jared was less thrilled. He frowned as he sense

d that the dinner might play a part in Xavier’s plot against him. However, he couldn’t care less. Try as you may, I’m ready for it.

Within a few minutes, everyone was ready to leave for Vintage Restaurant.

Unlike the others, Hilda and Jared didn't drive to work.

"Hilda, come. I'll drive you!" Maria waved at Hilda.

"Thank you, Maria!" Hilda got in the car and smiled gratefully at Hilda.

"You're welcome. Sit tight!" Maria then sped off.

"Oh no, how about Jared? We've left him behind, Maria." Hilda thought Maria would offer Jared a ride as well.

"No way I'm fetching him. He'll only dirty my car! The others are behind us, so he can bum a ride off them instead!" sniffed Maria.

Hearing that, Hilda kept mum. That's true. Jared could just ride in any of the cars behind us.

However, none of them offered Jared a ride. Instead, each and every one of them drove past him hurriedly.

Troy, in his run-down second-hand car, meant to pull over for Jared as he approached the latter. But right behind him, Zayne kept honking for him to leave instead.

All Troy could do was cast a helpless glance at Jared before leaving him behind as well.

Following closely behind, Zayne was about to drive past Jared. Abruptly, he pulled over right next to Jared. But instead of offering him a ride, Zayne rolled down his window and mocked, "Jared, do you realize how unpopular you are? Not even one car stopped for you."

Unstirred, Jared responded with a cold smile.

Zayne then took Jared's silence as a weakness and said smugly, "Get yourself a taxi! Don't worry, you can pass me the bill tomorrow. I'll reimburse your ride."

At the sight of Zayne gloating, Jared snorted, "Reimbursement? That's unnecessary. Who knows I might arrive at the restaurant before you!"

"Pfft! Unless you somehow grow a pair of wings and fly, there's no way you'll arrive first!" Zayne burst into laughter and sped off.

As Jared watched Zayne speed off, he gathered his spiritual energy in his abdomen before transferring it toward his legs. Although he couldn't fly yet, he could still run faster than a car.

Just before he wanted to take off, a Bentley arrived before him. It was Tommy.

Surprised by his arrival, Jared asked with a puzzled tone, "What are you doing here, Tommy?"

"My Lord, some of the debtors were so spooked that they handed over the money as soon as they heard my voice! Unfortunately, your company's financial department has already gone off work. So I brought the money to you instead."



It turned out that Tommy gave all the debtors a call after receiving the documents from Jared. Fearing for their lives, the debtors wanted to pay Sentiment Chemical Limited off right away. But since the financial department left the building earlier, none of them could make the payments. Hence, they gave the money to Tommy instead.

Did he come all the way here just for that? Amused, Jared chuckled and said, "There's no rush for that. You can pass the money directly to the company tomorrow!"