

### Chapter 136 Is This Right

"Why? Do you want to collect the debts together with him? In that case, I'll put both of you on the same team. If you can't complete them by today, both of you will be fired," Zayne suddenly declared after Hilda challenged him.

Suddenly, Troy raised his hand and suggested, "Mr. Carlson, I want to change teams."

It was obvious to him that Zayne was targeting Jared on purpose, especially after Jared disrespected Xavier. Therefore, he felt that he would be dragged down by Jared if he remained on the same team as him.

"Fine, Hilda and you will switch." Zayne nodded in agreement.

This time, Maria no longer stood up for Hilda despite watching what happened. After all, Jared had hit Zayne the day before, upsetting her. Moreover, he had also stepped on Xavier's toes, which was as good as ending his career."

After Zayne returned to his office, Troy quickly packed his things and moved, as if he was avoiding the plague.

Looking at how Troy reacted, Jared let out a smirk. He had initially planned to promote Troy, as he had a good impression of him. All he needed was to say the word. After all, Josephine wouldn't interfere.

But now, Jared no longer felt the urge to do so. Perhaps, this is what the corporate world is like. It's every man for himself indeed.

"Jared, wh-what are we going to do?" Hilda asked helplessly.

Given how elated their parents were when they found the job, they would be equally devastated if they lost it.

"Don't worry, the debts will be quickly paid into our company account," Jared reassured Hilda.

However, Hilda remained unconvinced. The bosses of those companies were not going to pay up on their own accord unless there was something wrong with their heads.

"Hilda, why did you have to get involved? I'm afraid that even you will be fired now. Considering your qualities, you can have any man you want. Hence, you should break up with Jared, and I'll introduce a rich guy to you," Lydia suggested as she walked over to Hilda.

Instead of saying anything, Hilda just shook her head. She didn't want to leave Jared even if she was to be fired.

"What a foolish gal you are," Lydia commented with a wry smile.

Josephine had wanted to persuade Hilda too but felt that there was no point in doing so. After all, she knew that it would be Jared and Hilda's last day at work.

"They are going to be fired after two days at work. This has never happened in the company before."

“That’s right. I have never seen such an impudent employee who dared to hit his manager.”

“He really deserves it. Why the need to act tough? If he’s really so capable, would he even be working here?”

Members of the sales department ridiculed Jared incessantly.

Amidst the crowd’s gossips, someone from the finance department suddenly rushed in.

“Silas, what brings you to the sales department? Is there something wrong with the accounts?” Maria asked.

“Maria, the sales department has done an awesome job! Right after I came to work, I saw all our customers settle their debts with us. Therefore, there are no outstanding amounts right now. Who’s the one in charge of it? It’s just unbelievable!” Silas explained excitedly to Maria.

“What? All the debts have been collected?” Maria was stunned.

Her other colleagues gradually stood up and looked at Silas in disbelief.

“Silas, is there a mistake? Can such huge sums really be paid?” Lydia asked with an incredulous tone.

Feeling curious, Silas threw the question back at her. “Why would I lie? Anyway, your department is responsible for collecting the debts. Now that they have been settled, how can you not know about it?”

### **Chapter 137 A Major Client**

“Oh, of course, I do! Naturally, it was our manager who managed to collect all the arrears,” Maria answered hastily as she abruptly jolted back to her senses.

I’ve naturally got to give the credit for such a windfall to Zayne. Who knows, he may be promoted to the position of manager of the acquisition department this time!

“In that case, Mr. Carlson is really capable!” Silas flashed them a smile before adding, “We’ll talk next time. I’ve got to go through the accounts with Mr. Carlson.”

He then entered Zayne’s office. Meanwhile, everyone in the sales department went into an uproar.

“Whoa! Who’s so competent to have collected all the arrears?”

“That’s simply incredible! Those arrears are all accumulated from a few years ago and were exceedingly difficult to collect!”

“Could it be Jared? Judging from his confident expression today, he seemed to have known that the arrears would definitely be repaid in full!”

“Nonsense! Could someone like him have collected all the arrears? Didn’t you hear that it was the respective companies themselves who voluntarily repaid their debts? It has nothing to do with him whatsoever!”

“Speaking of that, he’s really lucky! It looks like he won’t be sacked today, after all!”

The employees of the sales department gathered together and gossiped among themselves.

“This is great, Jared! We won’t be dismissed!” Hilda said to Jared excitedly.

“Didn’t I tell you from the very beginning that you didn’t have to worry?” Jared chuckled softly.

“How did you know that the arrears would all be paid today?” Hilda queried, regarding Jared curiously.

“It’s a secret!” Jared smiled without telling her anything.

He didn’t want her to know everything right then, though he would be telling her the truth sooner or later.

While the employees of the sales department were still whispering among themselves, Zayne walked out of his office with Silas, who was from the finance department. At the sight of the man, everyone went silent.

Zayne cast a chilly look in Jared’s direction before he stalked away.

Right that moment, Xavier was sitting at his desk in the general manager’s office with a grim expression on his face.

He still had a band-aid on his neck, covering the cut from the night before. Worse still, a palmprint was still vaguely visible on his face.

Knock, knock!

A knock sounded on the door, upon which Xavier coldly snapped, “Come in.”

“You asked for me, Mr. Jennings?” Zayne inquired deferentially as soon as he stepped in the door.

No sooner had his words fallen than he froze, for he had glimpsed faint marks that were obviously the aftermath of a slap on the man’s face.

Noticing his stare, Xavier frowned slightly. “Are you enjoying the view?”

As his words rang out, Zayne was so petrified that he shuddered and hurriedly lowered his head, not daring to utter a single word in response.

“Was it you who handed the task of collecting the sales department’s arrears to Jared?” Xavier demanded.

Zayne couldn’t quite understand the man’s meaning, so he could only nod. “Yes. I just wanted him to hit a brick wall and to take him down a peg, but I never expected him to be so lucky that all the companies owing us a debt actually paid up today.”

At that, Xavier sneered. I know why all the arrears were paid out of the blue. Josephine must have given him a hand secretly. Otherwise, he couldn’t have possibly done it alone, no matter how capable he is!

Nevertheless, he was the only person in the company who knew about Jared and Josephine’s relationship.

“Henceforth, have him handle the negotiation for the collaboration with Cosmic Chemical,” he said to Zayne while scanning through some information about the company’s collaboration partners in his hand.

Hearing that, Zayne was stunned for a moment. “Cosmic Chemical? Mr. Jennings, Cosmic Chemical is a major client, and the Scott family has been eyeing them as well. Will it offend them to have Jared handle the negotiation and lead to them thinking that we’re insincere?”

He couldn’t figure out why Xavier wanted to give such an important client to Jared. After all, the sales department would receive a king’s ransom in commission if such a client were to sign a collaboration agreement with the company.

“Why, are you questioning my decision?” Xavier’s eyes narrowed a fraction.

### **Chapter 138 Cut The Crap**

“Of course not! I’ll do as you ordered, Mr. Jennings!”

Zayne naturally didn’t dare go against Xavier since the latter was his immediate superior.

When he had left, Xavier slowly picked up his phone and made a call.

“It’s done, Mr. Scott. I’ll be sending Jared to discuss the collaboration with Cosmic Chemical.”

“Haha... Great job! Do as I say, and I’ll give you double the amount the Sullivan family is paying you!”

A burst of gleeful laughter came from the other end of the phone, and the person hung up right after he had finished speaking.

The person Xavier phoned was none other than Leyton. Not only was he aware of the grudge between Jared and Leyton, but he knew that the former’s girlfriend had been snatched away by the latter.

In Horington, the power and influence of the Sullivan and Scott families were equal. Besides that, they were also rivals. The Scott family had once tried to poach him by offering him an exorbitant salary, but he had feelings for Josephine and wanted to date her, so he declined.

But after the failure of the assassination attempt on Jared last night and having suffered a slap instead, his fury skyrocketed, and he contacted Leyton.

It was actually Leyton’s idea to have Jared handle the negotiation of the collaboration with Cosmic Chemical, and his goal was to humiliate the man. After all, an insignificant sales representative like Jared couldn’t possibly clinch a huge client such as Cosmic Chemical. All Leyton would have to do then was personally pay Cosmic Chemical a visit and heap insults on him.

Presently, Leyton was still recuperating in a hospital room in Horington.

“There’s no need to be over the moon just because of such a trivial matter, Ley! Jared isn’t worthy of having you target him so deliberately. He’s just an ant to you and is nothing at all without Josephine’s protection!” Sandy crowed in delight when she saw Leyton’s jubilation.

“He broke my arm, so I naturally have to answer the challenge. I want to make his life a living hell and torture him slowly...”

The corners of Leyton’s mouth lifted slightly, and his eyes brimmed with menace.

“Ley, you’re not his match since he has some fighting skills. Besides, Tommy isn’t the least bit reliable! I think you’ll have to employ a few other martial arts experts if you want to take him down,” Sandy suggested.

“Don’t worry. I’ve already sent someone to contact the Crimson Dragon Gang. Tommy’s Templar Regiment isn’t the only organization in the whole of Horington. Crimson Dragon Gang is just as illustrious as Templar Regiment, so it’s more than sufficient to deal with him.”

Leyton knew full well that he wasn’t Jared’s match, and it wouldn’t do him any good to seek Tommy out either. For that reason, he had someone contact the Crimson Dragon Gang.

While the Scott family was exceedingly powerful in Horington, they were just involved in business dealings. They weren’t all that familiar with gangs such as the Crimson Dragon Gang, which was why they needed a middleman to facilitate a meeting.

“Ley, I’d also like to go for the negotiation of the collaboration when the time comes. I want to see how pathetic Jared would look then! He dared to act all high and mighty with Josephine backing him up back then, so I want to see whether he can still maintain his domineering demeanor now!”

Sandy teetered on the verge of flipping her lid whenever she recalled how Jared humiliated her back then.

“Sure! Just watch as I crush him under my foot!”

Leyton guffawed triumphantly.

At the sales department, Zayne really couldn’t fathom why Xavier would give Jared such an important client. However, he had no choice but to execute the man’s order when he had said as much.

“Jared, you’re lucky that all the arrears were suddenly repaid in full. However, as a qualified sales representative, not only do you have to be able to collect arrears but also negotiate collaborations. Therefore, you’ve got to learn to do so. And according to the rules, you—”

“Cut the crap and just spit it out!” Jared barked impatiently.

He was probably the only person who dared speak to Zayne in such a manner.

Zayne’s expression darkened when he heard that, and he almost burst a blood vessel. Yet, he didn’t dare fire the man without a valid reason since he wasn’t sure what Xavier’s plan was.

“The company has decided to put you in charge of negotiating the collaboration with Cosmic Chemical. Cosmic Chemical is considered the biggest company in the cosmetics industry in Horington, so if you manage to clinch the collaboration, the commission will be a sum beyond your imagination! However, if you ruin things—”

## Chapter 139 You Must Have Lost Your Mind

“Stop yakking! Give me the information!”

Impatience was written all over Jared’s face. Hah! He’s just blathering away because he’s jealous of me and wants to humiliate me!

With a frosty expression, Zayne tossed the folder containing the relevant information to Jared.

Hmph! This time, I’ll definitely figure out some way to give you the boot! How dare you act so arrogantly with me! he inwardly swore even as he gritted his teeth.

“What’s the meaning of this, Zayne? I’ve been the one negotiating the collaboration with Cosmic Chemical! Do you know how long I’ve been at it? Why did you give it to him all of a sudden?” Maria roared at Zayne as she panicked.

Everyone knew that Cosmic Chemical was a huge client, and the commission would certainly be a pretty penny if one managed to secure the collaboration. That was why Zayne gave the project to Maria from the start. Considering their relationship, no one in the sales department dared to have any objections.

Furthermore, Zayne had made several trips to Cosmic Chemical’s office with Maria for the sake of the collaboration, and Maria had been working particularly hard.

Thus, it was only natural that she was apoplectic when the client was abruptly given to Jared then.

Zayne tugged her aside and whispered, “Don’t kick up a fuss first. I’ll explain things to you later.”

After saying that, he turned to Jared and declared, “This is the company’s most important client, so you’ve got to settle it as soon as possible, Jared. As such, give me a specific time frame as to when you can clinch the deal.”

“Tomorrow, I guess.”

Jared initially wanted to say that afternoon, but on second thought, he still needed to inform Tommy and make the arrangements beforehand, so he said tomorrow instead.

“Tomorrow?” Zayne was knocked sideways.

In fact, everyone in the sales department was staggered. They all gaped at Jared in utter disbelief.

“You must have lost your mind, huh, Jared? This is Cosmic Chemical we’re talking about! Yet, you’re saying that you can secure the collaboration by tomorrow?” Lydia scoffed with contempt etched on her face even as she gave a bark of laughter.

“Can you please stop bragging, Jared? Do you know how long I’ve spent on this client? Three months! I didn’t manage to finalize the collaboration even after three months, but you’re saying you can secure it tomorrow?”

Maria shot daggers at Jared.

Ugh! He's simply humiliating me by saying such a thing! I didn't manage to clinch the collaboration after three months, but he's claiming that he can do it within a day! Isn't he just deriding me for my incompetence?

When Zayne saw Jared's pompousness, he sneered, "You said it yourself, so you'd better pack your bags if you fail to do so, Jared! The sales department doesn't need someone who loves to talk big!"

"Okay," Jared agreed readily.

Following that, elation deluged Zayne like a tidal wave, for he knew that the man couldn't possibly secure the collaboration the following day. If it were that easy, he wouldn't have accompanied Maria in making trip after trip for three whole months. Besides, the Scott family also had its eye on Cosmic Chemical, so it was definitely no piece of cake.

He then pulled Maria into his office to explain things to her. The other employees in the sales department eyed Jared disdainfully before they all dispersed as well.

After getting the information, Jared didn't even bother flipping through it but sent it to Tommy instead. Hilda, however, was anxious and pored over the details about Cosmic Chemical the entire day.

"Hilda, you've got a class reunion tonight, so you should pack up since it's about time to get off work now. Don't scrutinize the information anymore," Jared finally urged, seeing that Hilda had been studying the information about Cosmic Chemical incessantly with a worried expression on her face.

"Jared, Cosmic Chemical is really difficult to convince. Its general manager is an extremely obstinate person. How are we going to sway him over to collaborate with us tomorrow?"

Hilda was no longer in the mood to attend her class reunion. After all, Jared would be shown the door if they couldn't clinch the collaboration tomorrow. And if that happened, she didn't want to continue working here either.

"Do you not trust me? I said it'll be fine, so it's a done deal. Don't worry!" Jared stared right into her eyes.

## **Chapter 140 Tooted His Own Horn**

Gazing into Jared's unwavering eyes, Hilda nodded at long last. "I trust you!"

Jared flashed her a smile and patted her head gently, his gaze emanating brotherly love.

Mere moments after it was time to get off work, Hilda received a call from Yolanda, who urged her to hurry up as many of their former classmates had already arrived.

She then asked her friend for the location, only to be told that the class reunion was being held at Glamor Hotel.

When Hilda heard that, she wavered slightly. They were planning to split the bill for the class reunion tonight, and such a luxurious hotel would undoubtedly cost a tidy sum. She didn't want to spend that much, finding it a waste.

Only after Jared persuaded her otherwise did she agree to go. Subsequently, the two of them drove straight to Glamor Hotel in a second-hand Ford.

As soon as they arrived at the entrance of Glamor Hotel, they were greeted by the sight of Yolanda waiting anxiously at the door.

Surprise flooded Yolanda when she caught sight of Jared. She thought that he would definitely have been beaten to death after having offended the Crimson Dragon Gang the previous night, or at the least, had his head bashed in. But looking at him right then, there actually wasn't a single scratch on him.

"Were you not beaten up last night?" she questioned suspiciously.

"Didn't I tell you that the Crimson Dragon Gang is afraid of me? They wouldn't possibly dare make a move against me."

Jared flashed her a smile.

"What a boast!" Yolanda rolled her eyes, not believing him in the least. How could a big gang like the Crimson Dragon Gang be afraid of him? He must have used some other method to settle the matter. Perhaps he paid them off!

"Believe whatever you want!" Jared didn't bother explaining further.

"It's Hilda's class reunion today, yet you came here in a Ford? Even hailing a taxi would have been better than driving a crappy Ford. Look at the parking lot here. Is there any car as shabby as yours?" Yolanda berated with a chagrined expression.

Back then when he encouraged her to attend the class reunion, I thought he was going to figure out a way to give her bragging rights. But isn't he making her a laughingstock now by driving a Ford here?

"What's wrong with driving a Ford? We've got to support local brands!"

Jared wasn't the least bit bothered.

"I think this car is pretty good, too. It's far more comfortable than taking the bus. All right, let's hurry up and go in!" Hilda hastily chimed in.

Since she had said as much, Yolanda stopped dressing Jared down. The three of them then entered the hotel together.

A dozen men and women were already seated in an opulent private room. They were chatting and laughing, so the atmosphere was very much lively.

One of the men was particularly eye-catching, with his hair parted to the side and a gold watch adorning his wrist. He was seemingly the center of attention, with everyone fawning all over him.

That man was Lincoln Palmer, Hilda's ex-boyfriend. Despite having been of a different class than them all, he was attending the class reunion as Michelle Henderson's boyfriend.

"You're so lucky to have such a great boyfriend, Mich! Lincoln used to be the campus hunk back then!"



“Hear, hear! He was already well-respected in school back when I first joined, and I even had a crush on him once upon a time!”

“Look at the watch he’s wearing! It probably cost a couple hundred of thousand. He’s truly the epitome of a successful person!”

“Furthermore, he has his own company now. How incredible!”

They all praised Lincoln and Michelle to the skies, inflating their egos to epic proportions.

“Nah, I’ve got to work as well. I’m not all that successful. Besides, this watch isn’t that valuable either. I asked a friend to get it for me from Sumanthova, and it was only a little over three hundred grand!”

Despite his seemingly modest words, his tone made it crystal clear that he was showing off.

In truth, everyone could tell that he was bragging, but no one dared to point it out.

They merely listened as he tooted his own horn.