

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0001

## PART PROGRESS

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Zayn Larson was doing the whole family's laundry when his mother-in-law, Ruby Lewis, threw another item at his face. She arrogantly commanded, "Zayn, wash this piece of mine first."

The corner of Zayn's lips twitched. He felt that his mother-in-law's gradually worsening attitude was pushing him beyond his limit. He said to her, "Mom, could you please put your laundry in the basket the next time you want me to wash it and not toss it at my face? I'm still your son-in-law after all."

It felt so degrading having a piece of clothing hanging on his head like that.

His mother-in-law slapped him across the head. "Do the laundry as you're told. Cut the crap or I'll stuff it into your mouth next time. You think a good-for-nothing like you has the right to complain? I'll tell you this, don't even think about eating today if you don't clean it properly!"

Still feeling like she had not vented her anger sufficiently, she gave his head another slap.

Zayn's entire body shook with rage. His mother-in-law said dismissively, "What? Have you had enough? You want to hit back? Try it. Try and hit me. Give it a go. I won't even

be mad. In fact, I'll commend you for having the guts to touch me even once. Can you do that, you useless piece of sh\*t?!"

If he could, Zayn would have retaliated without hesitation. The Carters had treated him worse than a dog over the past few years, giving him nonstop chores throughout the day. He was frequently not allowed to have enough food just because he was a son-in-law living with his wife's family.

Moreover, despite being married for four years, he had not even managed to hold his wife's hand. They called him son-in-law, but in reality, he was just a slave to the Carters.

"Like the spineless worm you are, you don't even have the courage to fight when you're told to. A man is better off dead than having to live like you!" his mother-in-law yelled maliciously.

Zayn lowered his head and clenched his fists so tightly that his nails were almost cutting into his flesh, yet he did not have the nerve to make a sound.

"Mom, how many times have I told you not to toss your clothes at Zayn's face? He has his dignity too."

Upon hearing that, Zayn shivered from head to toe. He looked up and saw an exquisite lady standing at the doorway with a slight frown on her face.

It was his wife, the beautiful Faye Carter.

He also saw the distance and disappointment in her eyes.

“Dignity? Ha-ha! Ask him and see if he has any dignity or if he knows what dignity is?” His mother-in-law said with a sneer, “I wish he was a dignified man so nobody would look down on our family anymore! But could he be that?”

Faye gazed at Zayn in anticipation and saw that he remained completely unmoved, which made her even more disappointed. It seemed that she had truly misjudged Zayn and he really was just a hopeless good-for-nothing.

“Alright, Mom. Let’s get ready to leave. Dad is waiting for us downstairs,” Faye said.

Realizing what was happening, his mother-in-law pulled Faye to the side and said in hushed tones, “Fifi, is there no other way? From what I’ve heard, Wilson is a hideous, fat old man!”

As he did the laundry, Zayn overheard her. He trembled ever so slightly and his ears perked up.

Faye closed her eyes, took a deep breath, and nodded, saying, "This is the only way to save the Carters."

His mother-in-law protested, "You're not the only woman in the family. Skye and Eve are very pretty too! Why do you have to sacrifice yourself? Not to mention, you're already married now. How can we show our faces in public if word of this were to get around?"

A wisp of sorrow and self-mockery emerged in Faye's eyes. "Perhaps this is my destiny. After all, I'm the one at the bottom of the ladder in this family."

His mother-in-law turned around and glared at Zayn furiously. "I shouldn't have agreed to let you marry this layabout back then. If he were a man with even a little backbone, at the very least, he wouldn't let you do this! God!"

Seeing Zayn putting so much effort into doing the laundry, the disappointment in Faye's eyes only grew. At last, she heaved a helpless sigh. Shaking her head, she said, "He is not made for this and I never had any hope for him from the start. Anyway, Grandpa has yet to make a decision, so perhaps there's still a possibility that things will work out..."

"Really?" Ruby's eyes lit up.

Faye forced a sorrowful chuckle. "Maybe."

Standing at that distance, they assumed Zayn could not hear their conversation. In fact, he could make out everything clearly. As he raised his head, his eyes were red and his heart was bursting with an uncontrollable flood of emotions! He desperately wanted to tell Faye he was not a good-for-nothing. In truth, he was the second son of the Larsons from Waltz City, a position that commanded great respect. Nevertheless, he was unable to reveal this to her because of issues he could not discuss!

Noticing that Faye and his mother-in-law were leaving, he gritted his teeth and chose to follow them.

He arrived downstairs only to discover that Faye and Ruby had already gotten into his father-in-law's car and left. He had no choice but to ride his electric scooter and go after them.

Fortunately, it was the evening rush hour. The roads were congested with vehicles, so he managed to catch up to them with his ragged scooter.

Half an hour later, his father-in-law's car stopped in front of a building and the three of them walked inside together. Zayn noticed that it was the office building that belonged to the Carters.

The Carters owned a huge multimillion dollar fashion brand. In the first year of their marriage, Faye took him to the company twice, but he accidentally offended her cousin during his last visit. After that, the Carters forbade him from going there ever again.

“What happened to all of you? You’re just arriving while the others have been waiting for you for so long,” one of the older men said.

There were already more than twenty people sitting in the room.

“My apologies. We were stuck in traffic. Sorry for keeping you waiting.” Faye’s father, Waine Carter, lowered his head contritely.

“Alright, take a seat and let’s talk about how to handle this crisis,” the old man replied, waving his hand dismissively.

Howard Carter stood up and said, “Grandpa, Mr. Wilson has agreed to loan us three million dollars as long as we agree to send a beautiful woman from the Carter family to accompany him for three days and to pay off the loan with interest in three years. I think we should do as he asked. If we use the three million dollars to turnover, I believe that we will certainly be able to overcome further difficulties.”

His grandfather, George Carter, nodded and said, “Skye, Eve, Faye, in our family, the three of you are the only ones that meet his requirements. This is the crucial turning point that decides the survival of the Carters, so which one of you is willing to endure this for the family?”

Skye was the first person to come forward. “Grandpa, I’m already engaged to Zachary Cullen. If news of this matter were to get out, my marriage would be ruined. Moreover,

my period just started yesterday... Grandpa, I'd do anything for this family, but you can see it's quite impossible given my circumstances..."

Right after that, Eve stepped forth and said, "Grandpa, I'm afraid I can't do it either. I just found out that I'm pregnant a few days ago. If I were to spend time with Mr. Wilson, I'd lose the baby. Grandpa, I genuinely want to help the family, but unfortunately, my situation won't allow that!"

Both of them appeared so pitiful as they managed to force out two tears each. After giving their excuses, their eyes filled with pride and triumph as they turned to Faye standing at the side.

They had always been envious of Faye ever since they were young just because she was more beautiful and cultured than them.

Any man they managed to seduce would inevitably fall for Faye after meeting her.

They were under the assumption that an exquisite woman like Faye would definitely marry into a powerful, wealthy family and live a life of endless luxury and splendor. They did not expect that Faye would actually get married to a man who stayed with her family instead. Moreover, they were delighted to learn her husband was a worthless nobody.

With the family in the middle of a huge financial crisis and the banks refusing to loan them anything else, the only person willing to come to their aid was that ugly pig, Mr.

Wilson. "Faye, you're a woman of great beauty, aren't you? You should do this for the good of the family."

George looked toward Faye and said with narrowed eyes, "Faye, this is the final juncture that determines the fate of the Carters. You're not menstruating or pregnant, are you?"

Ruby swiftly stepped forward and said, "Dad! Our daughter Faye is already married, and they'll be celebrating their fourth wedding anniversary in two days. If Zayn were to find out about this matter, it will affect their relationship!"

Howard immediately replied contemptuously, "You mean that good-for-nothing Zayn? What difference does it make if he finds out about this? He's just a scoundrel that married into our family. In my opinion, little Faye is such a beauty, it would be a waste for her to be stuck with a disgusting man like Zayn! After spending some time with Mr. Wilson, he might even take a liking to her. Isn't it a far better for her to be with Mr. Wilson than that scumbag Zayn?"

Pretentiously, he added, "I'm only doing this for Faye. Doesn't everyone think this is the best course of action?"

"Yes, yes, yes..."

"Howard's right. She'll be much better off with Mr. Wilson than that useless piece of sh\*t Zayn."



“We’re doing this for Faye. It’s a win-win situation for all sides!”

Everyone in the meeting room chimed in.

As the person concerned, Faye did not utter a word and simply gazed out the window. There was no telling what was on her mind, so Ruby gave her a shove and said, “Yikes! My sweet daughter, why are you daydreaming? Say something. You’ve got me worried to death.”

Faye focused her eyes and looked toward her Grandpa George. Astonishing everyone, she said, “I will accompany Mr. Wilson...”

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When Faye made the statement, her face filled with sorrow, helplessness, and self mockery.

Zayn felt his heart twisting painfully. He held Faye's hand and said, "Fifi, there's no need for you to go with Mr. Wilson. I can protect you now!"

Faye sneered twice. "How are you supposed to protect in e? Is it by just saying so or with the three million dollars you're going to give?"

Zayn burned with excitement as he took out a bank card from his pocket. "I genuinely can provide you with three million dollars! Fifi, there are three million dollars on this card of mine. I'm really capable of protecting you!"

It appeared that Faye did not share his excitement in the slightest. Her expression turned even colder while her eyes grew more disgusted. "Zayn, you keep changing the way I look at you over and over again, and you're always making it harder for me to put up with you! "

"Fifi, I'm not lying to you. There truly are three million dollars on the card. You can follow me to the bank and check if you don't believe me..." Zayn tried to take her by the hand once again, hilt she ferociously flung his hand away.

“That’s enough, Zayn! You’re a useless piece of sh\*t who doesn’t work and depends on me to support you financially. I’ve never criticized you because you never forced me to have sex with you. I still have a certain level of respect for you, but don’t you see that what you’re doing now is ruining even that? Do you even know how much three million dollars is? It’s an amount of money that you won’t be able to make in ten lifetimes!”

Upon hearing that, Zayn felt his heart tighten, and it was difficult for him to even breathe. He bit his lips and told himself over and over again that Faye was doing this because she was unaware of his identity. She did not know who he was and that was why she made such a harsh comment. That was not what Faye actually thought of him.

He wanted to force a smile just like he did previously, yet he found that the muscles on his face were rigid and he was incapable of controlling them.

Perhaps realizing that her words were a little harsh, Faye took two deep breaths and attempted to soften her tone. “Alright, Zayn. Let’s part ways peacefully and head to the attorney’s office to finalize the divorce. If you’re willing, we can remain friends. There’s 300,000 dollars in this card and I’m giving it to you in private. Thank you for doing so many chores for the Carters over the past four years.”

As she was speaking, Faye took out a bank card from her bag and stuffed it into Zayn’s hand. “The password is your birthday. It isn’t considered a lot in Waltz City, so I suggest you head back to the countryside. Get married and spend wisely. It should be enough for the rest of your life.”

Zayn felt his heart twisting in agony as he held the card in his hand. It was as if his son! had been stripped away. After a long time, he raised his head and looked at Faye. With

a weak voice, he asked her, "Faye, we have been married for four years. In your heart, am I just a servant for the Carters?"

Perhaps because he appeared so miserable and sad, the sight of Zayn made Faye's heart wrench in pain. She could not bear to meet his eyes, so she hastily lowered her head and avoided his gaze. She felt like crying.

They had been married for four years and had lived together throughout that time. Zayn's presence had already left a deep mark in her life. It was impossible for her to insist that there were no feelings between them at all. One would have feelings for a dog after keeping it as a companion for four years, let alone a human being. Moreover, though Zayn was rather useless, he took meticulous care of Faye in everyday life. She could still remember that time two years ago. She was very sick and Zayn was so busy caring for her that he did not sleep for two full nights.

In reality, she was already accustomed to Zayn's presence. Had it not been for this incident, she did not mind spending the rest of her life with Zayn. What a waste that this occurred, and this was her life, so she was destined to endure it.

"Yes," Faye forced herself to say. Moreover, it was said with an ice cold tone.

Zayn's tears rolled down his face despite himself. He clenched his fists tightly until his nails dug into his flesh. He gradually loosened his grip as if he had exhausted all his strength. He replied, "Alright, I agree to the divorce."

Hearing Zayn's consent, Faye was relieved, yet she felt an ineffable emptiness in her heart.

A divorce was the best ending for both of them.

Her family was not at home that day, so Faye suggested that they eat out and they could consider it the farewell meal of their marriage. Zayn agreed.

Faye drove to a place not very far away. It was a fancy restaurant close to the attorney's office.

They ate in silence. Both of them did not speak as they counted down the final span of their marriage in their hearts.

After the meal, they paid the bill and exited the restaurant. Just as they were preparing to head to the divorce attorney, a figure suddenly walked in front without paying attention to the street. She ended up bumping into Zayn and almost tumbling over.

"Hey, are you not watching where you're going?! If you were to damage my handbag, you wouldn't be able to compensate me with all the money in your entire family!" she yelled ferociously. Squinting, Zayn saw a slightly chubby woman with thick makeup. She was pointing at his nose as she loudly scolded him.

Zayn furrowed his brows. He was about to contest her words when Faye said in astonishment, "Is that you, Ivy?"

"Faye Carter?" The other woman's expression was unnatural.

"That's right. It's been a long time since we last met. I didn't expect to bump into you here today," replied Faye courteously.

Ivanna was Faye's classmate in high school and they seemed quite close in the past. They stopped keeping in touch after graduation because Ivanna was not genuinely fond of Faye. Wherever Faye was, Ivanna was destined to be an accessory to her beauty. It was apparent that Faye was unaware of this. She was still under the assumption that Ivanna remained her classmate from the past. She wanted to hold Ivanna's hand just like they did in high school, but she shoved her away.

Faye was stunned. She did not understand why this classmate she had been such good friends with before had become so distant

Gazing at Zayn, Ivanna sized him up and saw that he was dressed in clothes from a flea market. A look of contempt flashed past her eyes. "This is?"

The words escaped Faye's mouth. "He's my husband."

She regretted it as soon as she said it. She was about to divorce him, so how was he still considered her husband?

“Ooh! This is your husband, huh? He is rather fine and good-looking. What is his profession?” Her tone was obviously tainted with schadenfreude. She did not expect the most beautiful girl in high school would end up married to a poor man.

It made Faye even more embarrassed. For her, Zayn had always been a difficult topic of conversation when talking with outsiders.

“Uh...”

Seeing Faye hesitate and struggle with her words, Ivanna knew the truth. She immediately laughed profusely. “Could it be that he is unemployed?”

Faye chuckled forcefully and considered it as acknowledgment. She wanted to change the topic, but Ivanna refused to give her that chance. She continued to push Faye on the matter with her peculiar demeanor. It filled Faye with shame and regret. She would have headed to get the divorce right away if she knew this was coming. Why did she insist on a farewell dinner?!

“Ivy, let’s not talk about me anymore. We haven’t met for so many years. Are you married yet?” Faye stood in the middle and shielded Zayn. Out of sight, out of mind. Ivanna beamed with joy. She was waiting for Faye to ask her about this. “I, uh, got

married last year and had my wedding in the Hilton Hotel. The cost of each banquet table was over 1,500 dollars. That was quite expensive.

“I’m not as pretty as you, so I didn’t catch a man as great as yours. I only married a small business owner with a net worth of a few million. Oh right, your husband is jobless, no? He can work for my husband’s company. Since we’re old classmates, my husband will pay him well.”

“I appreciate your kindness, but we have our own arrangements,” said Faye, declining the invitation with a stiff expression.

Meanwhile, a voice came from behind Ivanna. “What are you girls talking about? Who’s coming to work in my company? Who’s this?”

A fat man with a fleshy figure, less than 1.7 meters in height, approached them. He had a huge belly hanging over his waist. His face was all chubby cheeks and his hair was sparse. He appeared to be almost 40 years old at the very least. His eyes lit up at once upon seeing Faye. The beady little things were bursting with a perverted glow.

Ivanna was overjoyed. She wrapped her arms around his arm affectionately and said in an intentionally coquettish manner, “Hubby, you’re here just in time. This is my classmate from high school. Her husband lost his job recently. Your company has quite a few vacancies, right? You can have him work for you.”



As Faye stood before them, the husband and wife unabashedly flaunted themselves in an eccentric manner. They were figuring out ways to mock Faye's useless man and that made Faye very uncomfortable. Nonetheless, there was nothing she could do since they were not wrong.

"Ivy, I still have some matters to attend to. I'll see you next time." Faye could not stand being there anymore, so she finally tugged Zayn's hand and prepared to make a hasty retreat.

Ivanna blocked her and said with a smile, "Sheesh! We just met each other after such a long time. What's the rush? Let's chat for a while more! Oh right, that jewelry store in front is having a sale. They are giving a 70% discount to pairs of married couples who purchase items of the same value. Let's head over there and have a peak."

"Ah? There's no need for that. I didn't plan on buying jewelry anytime soon." Faye swiftly declined. Now that the Carters were in a serious financial crisis, her savings were used to pay off their debt. She had so little these days. How could she use that on jewelry?

Despite this, the more she refused, the more enthusiastic Ivanna became. She pulled at Faye and absolutely refused to let her leave. Faye was not adept at saying no, so she helplessly turned to Zayn for assistance. She hoped that Zayn would be sensible enough to find an excuse for them to escape in order to prevent them from embarrassing themselves more.

However, Zayn's next remark almost angered her to death. "Sure, I happened to be planning to get a few pieces of jewelry for Faye as a gift."

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Faye's expression changed drastically at once. She was enraged and cursed Zayn for being a scoundrel. Had nobody else been there, she would have given him a hard slap!

“See? Even your husband agrees. No point trying to fight it. Let's go. We're going to pick out some jewelry as besties. What a coincidence that I spotted a diamond necklace recently. It's quite cheap at only about 15,000 dollars.” Ivanna beamed broadly.

Zayn had wanted to get Faye some jewelry for some time. He had never given her a proper gift during their four years of marriage. Now that he had money and this opportunity had presented itself, he would definitely not let it pass. Moreover, he had a bit of an idea. He hoped that he could use his sincerity to redeem their marriage.

Faye was close to tears, but she was helpless before Ivanna's unrestrained enthusiasm. There was nothing she could do to get away, so she had to follow Ivanna into the jewelry store. She heaved a sigh thinking about how Zayn was truly such a jinx. They were about to get a divorce, yet he was still trying to embarrass her.

Faye stamped her foot ferociously on Zayn's shoe after he caught up to her. “Look what you've done! Would it kill you not to embarrass me for just one day?!”

Faye was wearing high heels. The pain made him grit his teeth and he almost jumped up. “Fifi, don't worry. I won't embarrass you this time.”

“Zayn, does it hurt when you don’t lie?” Faye refused to believe him and her face was filled with disgust.

Hand in hand with Daryl Lee, Ivanna waltzed into the room and said to the saleswoman, “Hey, the sale that you mentioned before, is it still on?”

The saleswoman said, “Welcome! Yes, the sale is still ongoing. As long as the two couples are legally married and purchase two pieces of the same item, they can enjoy a 70% discount. May I inquire which piece of jewelry you have your eyes on?”

Ivanna cracked into a mysterious smile as she said to Faye, “Faye, I noticed that your fingers are all bare and you don’t even have a diamond ring. Choose one then, for the sake of us being classmates. I’ll get one of everything that you choose. This way, you can save quite a lot of money. Your old classmate is quite something, isn’t she?”

“Ivy, frankly, my business isn’t doing so well these days, so I can’t afford such expensive jewelry.” Faye almost had to force the words through her clenched teeth.

A simple sentence like that had taken all her strength! She was a proud person, so she would rather have died than have to say such a thing.

Ivanna chuckled. “Oh, dear! Fifi, stop joking around. Everyone from our class knew that you’re the daughter of a wealthy family. You were chauffeured to school every day. If you say you’re not rich, then common people like us must be dirt poor! So many years have passed, so your family business must be doing even better!”

Every word she uttered stabbed Faye's heart like a needle and made her face grow increasingly paler.

Standing at the side, Daryl stepped forward to say, "Hah-hah, that's right. In addition, your husband is well off, right? How can he not afford to spend a few thousand dollars to buy some jewelry. Oh right, wifey, how much is that diamond necklace you wanted?"

Ivanna replied, "The original price is 33,800 dollars. With the discount in the combined package, it's less than 26,000 dollars."

"Less than 26,000 dollars? That's cheap. I'd call that a bargain if you buy," said Daryl with a smile.

The few salespersons in the shop ran over to flatter them upon realizing that it was a huge sale.

Faye felt so thoroughly embarrassed that she wanted to dig a hole in the ground and bury herself. She had not been so ashamed since childhood!

Meanwhile, a resonant voice was heard saying, "Twenty six thousand dollars? That's genuinely not considered expensive."

The group looked back to find out who had such an imperative tone.

It was Zayn. He smiled widely and held Faye's hand while he said, "Honey, have you forgotten about those original issue shares that I bought some time ago? They're stable now, so I made a small profit. Just a few hundred thousand this time, but that's enough to buy a dozen diamond necklaces."

Faye was stunned for a moment. Since when did Zayn know how to trade shares? She soon concluded that Zayn was bluffing.

It was apparent that Ivanna and Daryl did not believe Zayn either and assumed that he was just pretending. "Whoa, you made a few hundred thousand from trading shares, huh? That's impressive! You should get the most expensive ones then!" Ivanna said with a feigned smile.

"No..." Faye tried to get out of it, but Ivanna refused to give her the chance.

She quickly asked the saleswoman, "Which one is the most expensive piece of jewelry in your store?"

The saleswoman started behaving even more respectfully. "Madam, you came just in time. Our store transferred a limited edition diamond necklace from headquarters only yesterday. It was designed by a famous jewelry designer, and it is made with a total of 999 diamonds that signify longevity. That is why it was named the Eternal Heart"

“The Eternal Heart?” Ivanna gasped in astonishment. “Is that the Eternal Heart that was a trending topic on Twitter before?”

“Yes.” The saleswoman’s face exuded pride. “The Eternal Heart is a limited edition and there are only nine pieces in total across the globe. It is precious in value and our store only managed to seize two pieces because our boss is a close friend of the designer.”

Ivanna’s eyes lit up as she hastily said, “Take it out and show me right now.”

The saleswoman swiftly but cautiously brought out two delicately crafted boxes. One could sense that all the people in the vicinity were holding their breath in anticipation.

It even drew Faye’s attention. She read about the Eternal Heart on Twitter some time ago. It was exquisite and her interest was aroused.

She did not expect that she would actually stand a chance to see the Eternal Heart with her own eyes. Her curiosity was absolutely piqued.

The saleswoman opened up the packaging and the Eternal Heart inside was displayed for all to see. It was dazzling, splendid, and exquisite. It was as if every diamond was bestowed with so much life that they emitted an array of lights from different angles.

Ivanna recovered from the shock and said to Zayn, "What do you think? You can afford the Eternal Heart, right?"

Zayn did not answer her. Instead, he asked Faye, "Fifi, what do you think of the Eternal Heart? Do you like it?"

Faye was still immersed in the beauty of the Eternal Heart, so she had yet to recover from the surprise. She nodded strenuously and said, "I love it! "

Zayn said with a smile, "Alright, we shall get it then." Next, he had the saleswoman wrap up the item.

The saleswoman asked in an exploratory manner, "Sir, are you certain that you're buying it? The Eternal Heart is a limited edition and its current selling price is 388,888 dollars..."

Upon hearing the price, the nearby customers gasped in astonishment. The necklace cost over 300,000 dollars. It was a simply astronomical price for them, enough to purchase a house in the city center!

Zayn nodded and said, "I'm certain. Wrap it up."

All of a sudden, Zayn remembered something and said pointedly, “Right, the Eternal Heart is also included in that sale, right?”

The saleswoman nodded to confirm.

Zayn said to Ivanna, “Fifi and I have chosen the Eternal Heart. Let’s settle the bill together when both of you are done choosing the jewelry.”

Ivanna and Daryl’s expressions dimmed. They were incapable of paying that much money!

Zayn said once again, “Daryl, Ivanna, could it be that you can’t afford the Eternal Heart?”

Like a cat whose tail was stepped on, Ivanna said agitatedly, “Bullsh\*t! I can’t afford the Eternal Heart? My husband’s company makes a profit of a few hundred thousand dollars annually so paying 300,000 dollars for jewelry is a piece of cake. You, on the contrary, you’re dressed in flea market clothes all over and you can’t even get a job. Can you afford to pay 300,000 dollars?! I think you can’t even afford to pay 30,000 dollars!”

The two pieces of jewelry were about 300,000 dollars after the 70% discount.



Zayn would not lower herself to her level naturally. He chuckled and said, "I'm sorry, but I really am capable of paying 300,000 dollars."

"You make it sound like you're telling the truth. Buy it on its own if you can then!" Ivanna's expression was filled with venom. She was certain that Zayn was a pauper.

Zayn immediately asked the saleswoman, "Can I pay by card here?"

The saleswoman put on a sweet smile, "Yes, you can. However, you're taking the 70% discount deal, so it's only applicable on one single bill."

"I'm good." Zayn looked toward Ivanna. "So have both of you made up your mind? Shall we pay together?"

The husband and wife looked into each other's eyes and thought that Zayn was certainly bluffing. Daryl said disdainfully, "Let's pay together then. You think we're worried about this?"

Both of them then took out their cards and headed to the counter to pay the bill. At that point, they heard the tones of a successful payment and failed payment in succession.

Daryl was stunned at once. Where did the cue tone of successful payment come from? There were just a few tens of thousands of dollars on his card. Could it be that his customers paid him in advance? That was bad because the money was used to support the operations of the company. He would be at a huge loss if he were to use it to buy diamond necklaces!

Hence, he said in a panic, "How did the payment go through? Refund the money to me quickly. I used the wrong card..."

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0011

It was true that Adrian was a Larson, but he was the bastard son of a mistress. He did not have much authority in the family, and his share of the annual profits was also far less than the sons born to legitimate wives. On the other hand, Zayn was a son born of a legal wife, so he was a true heir to the Larsons!

Before Zayn was kicked out of the Larson family, Adrian had been of a lower status and he would treat Zayn respectfully, never doing anything above his station. More specifically, Adrian would never take a seat when Zayn was standing, and when Zayn was seated, Adrian would never lie down. Anything else would have been seen as disrespectful!

Technically, Zayn had been kicked out of the Larson family and lost his status, so Adrian did not need to defer to him anymore. However, Adrian had to respect Zayn even more now! It was because Zayn's innocence had been proven, so he would return to the Larsons sooner or later. Most importantly, his grandfather transferred 70 percent of his properties to Zayn prior to his death! It would not be an exaggeration to say that Zayn had become the highest authority in the Larson family and all of them had to obey his commands.

Moreover, some time ago, the family issued the order that whoever encountered Zayn must show respect to him, do their best to ask for his forgiveness, and invite him to return to them to take charge of the overall situation.

Still, he could not figure out why Zayn would make an appearance at this point.

Ethan was unaware of all these details. As he stood in front of Adrian, his entire body was trembling with fear. His mind was chaotic as he attempted to control his voice, trying not to sound shaky. "Mr. Larson, I... Frankly, Thomas is not my brother-in-law and I'm not actually related to him at all... I wouldn't dare to oppose you even if I had the chance."

As it was, Adrian was not paying attention to Ethan. He looked at Zayn and composed himself. Just as he was preparing to flatter Zayn when he noticed Zayn was glaring at him. His eyes were cold and threatening.

Adrian was a wise man, so he immediately understood Zayn's intentions. He did not wish to be recognized by Adrian.

He was terrified by Zayn's actions. Could it be that he had made Zayn that angry?

Zayn let out two feigned coughs and quickly walked in front of Faye. He asked, "Dad, Mom, Faye, is Thomas alright?"

Faye did not attempt to conceal the revulsion and loathing on her face upon seeing him. She rudely chided, "I thought I told you to wait in the car. What are you doing here?"

Ruby furrowed her brows as well and yelled, "You useless piece of sh\*t, who gave you permission to come here? Go back to where you came from!"

Waine was not very fond of him either.

From the side, Adrian was dumbstruck upon witnessing the situation. Why was Zayn being shouted at and humiliated by these three people? Moreover, he did not have the nerve to respond.

Hold on, did Zayn address them as 'Dad' and 'Mom'?

Zayn cast a glance at Adrian, and he could not help shivering in fear. He realized that this was the family that Zayn married into! That meant Thomas was Zayn's brother-in-law. He was doomed. He had savagely thrashed Zayn's brother-in-law, so he was a dead man!

Just as he was so startled that he was shivering in fear and was preparing to bow down and seek Zayn's forgiveness from Zayn, he heard Faye say to him, "Mr. Larson, we truly can't afford to pay so much money. We are not of great wealth and are not qualified to negotiate with you, but we hope that you can let my brother off, okay? I'm willing to do anything for you."

Adrian was immensely terrified because this woman was Zayn's wife. How could he have the audacity to behave rashly anymore? He hastily said, "I was only joking with all of you! Why would I make you pay so much money, huh?! Speaking of which, it was my fault. My gang of friends and subordinates went too far by beating up Thomas so severely. I'm sorry."

What was going on?

Faye was stunned.

Ethan was dumbfounded.

Waine and Ruby widened their eyes in astonishment. Never mind them, one by one, Adrian's gang of rich kids were incredulous as well.

Only Zayn's expression remained unchanged. He cast another glance at Adrian then he stepped forward to help Thomas stand up and said, "Tom, let's go home."

Hatred and disgust could be seen emerging in Thomas' eyes obviously when he saw Zayn. He shoved Zayn away and softly told him to get lost. He then stood up and made his way to Adrian. Bowing deeply, he loudly apologized.

Adrian maintained the smile on his face. He patted Thomas' shoulder and said, "Mr. Carter, I'm sorry for beating you up earlier."

"No no, nothing..." Thomas was shocked by the unexpected boon, and in his panic, he could not put any words together.

The rest of the group found it incredible as well. Was Adrian suddenly behaving so courteously? Could it be that he was playing a trick on them?

As he watched everything unfold, Ethan did not have the courage to stay anymore. He bowed to Adrian respectfully before saying, "Thank you, Mr. Larson." Then, he winked at Faye to signal them to leave quickly and give Adrian time to change his mind.

"Mr. Larson, why did you let them off? That b\*stard Thomas had the audacity to scold you. It's not very like you to let him go with both his legs unbroken after that."

"That's right, Mr. Larson! Moreover, Thomas' sister is drop dead gorgeous. If you could get your hands on..."

There was a loud slap. The kid had yet to finish his sentence before Adrian stunned him with a slap.

Adrian coldly yelled, "Shut the f\*ck up!"

The rest of the gang was bewildered as well because they could not figure out why Adrian had hit him.

However, they did not have the gall to question him either. Even though they were rich kids, they were nowhere near Adrian's level. After all, he had the weight of the Larson family behind him.

Not caring about their feelings, Adrian issued a warning, "From now on, anyone that tries to make trouble with Thomas and his sister will have to deal with me!"

They nodded hastily and did not inquire further. Judging by the situation, they assumed Mr. Larson had taken a liking to Thomas' sister.

Zayne followed Faye and the others as they walked out of the pool hall. He felt relieved and thought about how Adrian was quite intelligent. The boy was able to understand the look he gave him and did not expose his identity.

When he married into the Carter family, he concealed his background from Faye completely because he did not want her to misunderstand. Moreover, from the bottom of his heart, he did not want to have any connection with the Larsons!

After leaving, Faye was feeling deeply thankful and said to Ethan, "Ethan, thank you for your help earlier. Had it not been for you, we wouldn't be able to save my little brother."

Ethan was stunned for a moment. He quickly waved his hand and said gracefully, "Hey, Fifi. No need to talk like that. What's yours is mine, so what's the big deal? Did you think that I'd just stand by and do nothing to help?"



Waine held Ethan's hand and exclaimed excitedly, "Ethan, we are genuinely grateful for your help! Without your impressive reputation, there's no telling how badly that foolish boy of mine would have been tortured. The Carter family owes you a huge favor!"

Ruby hastily expressed her gratitude to Ethan as all. More over, she pushed Thomas forward and made him thank his savior properly.

Ethan smiled joyously. In reality, he had no idea why Adrian suddenly had a change of heart and let them off.

Could it be that it really was because of his great status?

Hmm, it must have been! He was the only one in their group with a reputation. Adrian must have shown respect to him because of that. Could it be that it was the good-for-nothing Zayn's presence? That would be a huge joke!

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0012**

"That's my duty as a close friend of Fifi's after all. When she's in trouble, I can't be cowardly trying to hide just to save myself, right? Hah-hah," said Ethan in an eccentric manner while casting a telling glance at Zayn, openly mocking him.

Zayn immediately furrowed his brows upon hearing that Ethan had no shame. Did Thomas being saved have anything to do with him?

“Ethan, that whole thing had nothing to do with you, did it?” Zayn could not refrain himself from saying.

Ethan immediately burst out laughing aloud. “Hah-hah, could it be that it had nothing to do with me but had something to do with you? Could it be that Adrian was not showing respect to me but you, Zayn? That’s a huge joke!”

Ruby kicked Zayn from behind and yelled, “Shut up Zayn, you imbecile! It was fine that you cravenly clung to life and hid at the side when Tommy was in trouble. Now that Tommy was saved by Ethan, how dare you still make bitter remarks? You’re a shameless ass\*le!”

Zayn almost fell from the kick, so he hastily tried to explain himself, “Mom, I didn’t…”

Before he could finish his sentence, Waine interrupted him. He said with a cold expression, “This is absurd, Zayn! It was fine that you were useless in the past. Now that Ethan is the benefactor of my family, how dare you speak ill of him? Apologize to Ethan, quick!”

“Dad…”

“Don’t call me that. I don’t have a son-in-law like you. You’re a disgrace!” scolded Waine.

Zayn hastily looked toward Faye, hoping she would speak out for him, only to discover Faye looking at him with a cold gaze. It was apparent that she did not believe his words either.

Faye was utterly disappointed by Zayn. She did not count on Zayn to help when Thomas was in trouble. In order to avoid infuriating Ethan, she made Zayn stay in the car on purpose. His presence would only exacerbate the problem. Despite that, he defied her and ran over to show himself. She could let that off but now that Thomas was saved by Ethan, Zayn was still ungrateful.

Despite being Thomas’ brother-in-law, he made some rude remarks. She was extremely repulsed by him!

There was no need to mention how wonderful Ethan felt upon seeing Zayn being forced to yield. He was almost blissfully floating, especially when he noticed Faye was disgusted by Zayn. Feigning magnanimity, he dismissively waved his hand and said, “It’s fine if he’s not willing to apologize and I’m not a narrow-minded person either. Just as long as Mr. Carter, Mrs. Carter, and Thomas believe me.”

Zayn had no choice but to acknowledge that Ethan was truly a great actor. He behaved so gracefully, he made them hate him even more.

“Look at yourself, Zayn! How can both of you be so different?! How dare a good-for-nothing like you go on like this!”

“It’s fortunate that Ethan is magnanimous and doesn’t lower himself to your level!”

“If I had known this would happen, I wouldn’t have invited a scoundrel like you into my home four years ago! ”

Zayn lowered his head and did not utter a word. He could no longer explain how he felt anymore. It was as though his heart was empty.

Meanwhile, Faye had spoken. “Alright, he has always been like this, not that all of you are unaware of that.

Since Tommy has already been rescued, let’s take him to the hospital and get checked on first.”

“Oh, right, right, right...”

They suddenly remembered the more urgent matter of Thomas still being covered in wounds.

Ethan said, "I have a classmate who's the medical director at Central Hospital and he is especially skilled at treating trauma injuries. Let's take Thomas to Central Hospital."

Next, he pressed a button on his car key. When Thomas discovered that Ethan drove a Lamborghini, his eyes lit up immediately. In a manner both envious and excited, he exclaimed, "Whoa, Ethan, you've already gotten yourself a Lamborghini, huh? That's awesome!"

The pride on Ethan's face could not be concealed when he said, "Nothing to it. A Lambo isn't expensive either. Just a few hundred thousand dollars."

"You're really amazing, Ethan. Can I sit in your car?" said Thomas in excitement.

"Of course you can," Ethan said while nodding. He took one more glance at Zayn, pleased as he could be. Thomas said, "Ethan, it'd be great if you were my brother-in-law instead."

"Hah-hah, if your sister has no objection, I'm very willing to take up the position."

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They got into the car while chatting and drove away swiftly when Ethan stepped on the accelerator. Faye had also departed with Waine and Ruby in her car, leaving Zayn behind all alone.

Zayn heaved a long sigh, composed his broken heart, and prepared to leave. Just then, Adrian jogged over.

With a reverential and awestruck expression, he bowed deeply and called out, "Mr. Zayn, I wasn't aware that Thomas is your brother-in-law and I went a little overboard with the beating. Please punish me, Mr. Zayn."

He leaned in close so that Zayn could give his face a few slaps.

Zayn did not show any mercy. He delivered a slap right away and beat Adrian until his mouth bled. Finally, he commanded, "Leave."

Adrian did not feel humiliated after being thrashed by Zayn. On the contrary, he felt relieved. He was afraid that if Zayn did nothing, he would be in deep trouble. Adrian gritted his teeth as he watched Zayn walk away.

He chased after Zayn and said in a lowly manner, "Mr. Zayn, it has been a long time since we've met. Would you like to go somewhere and catch up?"

Zayn ignored him and continued walking forward.

Adrian caught up to him again. “Mr. Zayn, I know of a place that serves especially good Aresian food and it has a cozy ambiance. Should we head there for a meal?”

Upon hearing that, Zayn stopped and looked at him nonchalantly.

Adrian was feeling very nervous as Zayn stared at him. He did not expect that Zayn would still be so imposing after being exiled by the Larson family for such a long period. He forced a smile and behaved exceedingly humbly.

Zayn nodded after considering for a moment. “Sure.”

His mother was from the Ares Province and she continued eating Aresian food after she got married and relocated to Waltz City. Zayn had eaten Aresian food just like his mother since he was young, so he enjoyed it too. What a waste that his mother passed away long ago. When Adrian mentioned Aresian food, it brought back memories for Zayn.

At the Aresian restaurant, they got a reserved room and took a seat. Adrian served drinks to Zayn personally and said, “So, Zayn, you’ve still been living in Waltz City for the past four years, huh? I was under the assumption that you’d moved elsewhere.”

“Hmm.” Zayn remained indifferent.

Adrian continued to search for topics of conversation and showed concern for Zayn. He was very cautious about not bringing up the incident where Zayn was kicked out of the Larson family four years ago, so he talked about topics that would not upset Zayn.

However, Zayn remained distant the whole time. There was no love lost between Zayn and the Larsons.

“Adrian, as I recall, you kicked me a few times on that night four years ago, didn’t you?” Zayn suddenly asked with a knowing smile.

Adrian’s hand shook upon hearing Zayn’s words. The hot coffee splashed onto his pants but he did not have the courage to scream. His face turned ghastly pale from shock. “Mr. Zayn, I... At the time I... It was my fault It was all my fault! I was an idiot! ”

Adrian was so shocked that he kept slapping himself continuously. It did not take long until his face was swollen. The surrounding customers in the restaurant were looking at him strangely.

“Say it. The Larsons sent you to me. What’s the matter?” Zayn asked impatiently.



Adrian was well-aware of Zayn's intelligence and that he could not hide this scheme from him. He told the truth at once, "Mr. Zayn, the incident from four years ago was just a misunderstanding. Before Grandpa passed away, he had already cleared your name. After learning the truth, everyone in the family felt very guilty that they made you suffer from such a huge injustice and that is why the Larsons hope that you can come home. They'd like you to give everyone a chance to make up for their mistake and take over the estate."

Zayn burst out laughing as if he had just heard the funniest joke. "Hah-hah-hah, guilty? Make up for their mistakes? Take over the estate? I think all of you are preying on that inheritance of mine worth over seven billion dollars, right?"

An inheritance worth over seven billion dollars!

Adrian felt as if his heart was leaping out of his chest upon hearing the numbers. Oh god, that was way too much money! No wonder when he called to report to the Larsons earlier, the family issued a strict order that he get a hold of Zayn at all costs.

All at once, he was even more respectful toward Zayn. If Zayn were to tell him to, he would become his dog at any moment.

After Zayn was done laughing, he stared at Adrian and said, "You want me to go home? Sure, George Carter is celebrating his 70th birthday in two days. Send Jordan Larson to pay a visit personally and present his gift. If that pleases me, I may consider returning to the family. Otherwise, you can perish the thought. Remember, I'm only giving this opportunity to you once, and I won't do it again if you mess this up."

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0013

Jordan Larson was Zayn's uncle and also the patriarch of the Larsons.

The decision to kick Zayn out of the family four years ago was Jordan's idea. He could never forget how Jordan looked at him on that night, like he was less than a dog!

Four years had passed since and by the mercy of God, his grandfather regained consciousness prior to his death. He cleared Zayn's name and transferred his fortune to him. It gave him a chance to seek revenge on the Larsons!

Zayn did not wish to do this initially, but that day's incident had been a crushing blow to him. Faye's misunderstanding of him had only deepened, especially after Ethan took advantage of their vulnerability and invaded their family. Zayn was worried that if he were to allow this situation to develop, Faye would truly be deceived by Ethan. It was something that he found hard to accept.

The Larson family was the most powerful in Waltz City. After Jordan made an appearance personally and presented his gift during George's 70th birthday feast, all the misunderstandings would be resolved and Ethan's true colors would be revealed.

Moreover, this plan would also disgust Jordan, so he would be killing two birds with one stone.

After Zayn's departure, Adrian dared not procrastinate anymore. He reported to the Larsons at once.

At the Larsons', many of them were infuriated upon receiving the news.

The request was for Larson's family patriarch, the mighty Jordan Larson, to send a gift to a nobody like George! It was a disgrace to Jordan and also to the Larson family!

"That b\*stard Zayn has gone too far. He's relying on his recent inheritance to do whatever he pleases! He's walking all over our values of kindheartedness, justice, loyalty, and sincerity!"

"The patriarch is his uncle, for better or worse. He is humiliating a senior member of the family like this. That's just impudent!"

"It's all our father's fault for leaving his fortune to the little b\*stard before he passed away. A total of over seven billion dollars?! The combination of all our holdings adds up to about 12 billion dollars, so he just gave away 70% of our family's properties to that little b\*stard. Without that, could he be as arrogant as he is now?"

"I knew we should have clubbed him to death four years ago!"

One said with a sigh, "There's no point in talking about that anymore. Zayn received over seven billion dollars, so he's the boss. The fact is, 70% of the Larson family's properties have been stripped away in one go. Our cash flow is broken, and we may not be able to withstand it any longer if we don't fix it soon."

The crowd of Larsons began to fall silent upon hearing that.

There was nothing they could do. It was a crushing blow for the Larsons when over seven billion were siphoned away in one fell swoop. If Zayn refused to help them, the Larsons would be in a deep financial crisis and may even go bankrupt!

That was why they had to bear with Zayn regardless of how much they loathed him.

At that point, the patriarch, Jordan, spoke, "Tell Adrian that I will be making an appearance personally at George's 70th birthday in two days and bringing my gift!"

Upon saying that, Jordan left the meeting room.

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Zayn returned to the house and found that the door was locked. Faye and the others were not home yet and he did not have a key either, so he could only wait outside.

He waited for more than an hour before Faye and her family were home. They saw Zayn sitting by the door with a look of disgust in their eyes.

It had been alright when they had nobody to compare him to. Now with Ethan there, the more they looked at Zayn, the more he was an eyesore to them. There was no part of him that could measure up to Ethan. They could not see the point of living a life like Zayn's!

Only Faye could not bear to see Zayn being so pathetic. Her ice-cold emotions softened a little as well. Regardless of how useless Zayn was, he was her husband who took care of her for four years.

"Have you waited here for long?" asked Faye.

Zayn sensed the wisp of affection in Faye's tone and he was overwhelmed by the unexpected concern. He hastily shook his head and said, "A little over an hour, not long at all."

"You can give me a call if you don't have a key to enter the house next time. There's no need to wait for so long," said Faye.

"I was worried that I might disturb you, " said Zayn softly while scratching his head.

Ruby grew impatient. She walked over and shoved away Zayn before she scolded him for blocking the door. She unlocked the door and purposely flung it open so that it knocked Zayn to the side. Upon seeing him in pain, she proudly cursed Zayn, saying he deserved it.

After witnessing the scene, Faye's lips moved once as if she wanted to say something yet she did not manage to say a word.

Zayn was too mild mannered , so he had always acted cowardly regardless of how he was bullied by her family members. She had even wondered if Zayn had no dignity at all.

Thomas was kept for overnight observation in the hospital because he had been badly beaten up.

Zayn did the laundry of the entire family and then cleaned the house before he headed to the room for a shower. Coincidentally, he bumped into Faye walking out of the shower when she was wrapped in just a bath towel. The sight of her overly exposed body immediately made Zayn's mind wander restlessly.

“Who gave you permission to enter without knocking? Get out now! ” Faye could not help panicking. She turned around hastily when she saw Zayn enter the room and cast his eyes over her body.

She had been married to Zayn for four years, but they had yet to consummate the relationship. In fact, they had not even touched each other and were akin to two strangers.

“I’m sorry! I’m sorry!” Zayn quickly apologized and ran out of the room in a flurry.

His heart was racing loudly beyond his control!

The sight of Faye’s fair-as-snow complexion filled his thoughts, and he could not get his mind off of it.

Faye had always been on guard around him, and it was actually his first time seeing her in just a towel. She had a stunning figure. Half an hour later, Faye walked out of the room, dressed appropriately. She bundled up her body in thick clothing and glared at Zayn fiercely!

“If you don’t knock before entering the room again, I’m going to carve out your eyes!” Faye ferociously warned.

Zayn nodded repeatedly.

That night, Zayn could not sleep well because his mind was filled with Faye.

In the past, he did not have the courage to let his imagination run wild, despite being legally married to Faye. However, he was different now. With his grandfather's inheritance, he could turn the tables and give Faye true happiness. The two of them could truly be husband and wife!

He found it hard to fall asleep at the thought of that.

Two days passed in the blink of an eye, and the 70th birthday of Faye's grandfather, George, had arrived. Zayn woke up early in the morning, looking forward to everyone's reaction that night. He believed that it would certainly be very interesting.

Contrary to his excitement, Faye was sullen. It was because she was going to sacrifice herself for the family after this.

She was supposed to have gone with Mr. Wilson the day before, but he was on an international trip and would only return the next day. That would be the end of her.

She was enraged when she saw Zayn being that happy, so she kicked his foot forcefully. "You're smiling, huh?! How can you still be in such a good mood?! You're a rogue, Zayn! It's Grandpa's 70th birthday celebration tonight. Don't come so you won't embarrass me again!"

How could he not come? He had been anticipating the night's events for the past two days.



He hastily said, "Don't worry, Fifi. I won't embarrass you tonight! Moreover, not only will I not embarrass you, but I will also boost your reputation!"

Faye laughed, but it was out of anger. "Is that so? You're genuinely capable of boosting my reputation, huh? May I inquire how you are going to do so?"

Zayn said mysteriously, "It's a secret, so I can't tell you yet. Just wait and see tonight anyhow. I'll definitely boost your reputation tonight."

"It's a secret, huh? You bluff so well that you make it sound like it's real!" Faye's gaze turned icy cold. "Zayn, do you know what I hate the most about you? I hate you for being so self righteous! "

Zayn was not infuriated. It was a rare occasion for him to stand upright in front of Faye. He said with a look of confidence, "Fifi, I know that you don't trust me and you have a deep misunderstanding of me, but I'm going to prove it to you."

Faye's gaze grew colder and more disgusted. "Sure, I shall wait and see then!"

Next, she remembered something and said with a sneer, "Since you're so confident, we shall place a bet here. If you're truly capable of boosting my reputation tonight, I will fulfill one request from you unconditionally. If you lose, you must sign the divorce papers immediately and not appear before me ever again!"

“Fifi, do you really not want to see me so badly?”

Faye avoided his gaze. “Tell me, do you accept the bet!”

“Sure, I accept the bet.” Zayn was unprecedentedly serious. “If I win, my request is for you to be my wife, a wife both in name and in fact!”

Faye’s charming face blushed. She understood Zayn’s intention and cursed him for being a pervert. She then spat out, “Sure!”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0014**

George was a man who cared a great deal about his reputation. Every year, he would throw a party for his birthday that everyone in his family, both young and old, was obliged to attend. Previously, his vanity would only allow that the feast be held in a five star hotel with a grand setup, but the family business was doing so poorly this year. There were too many major financial losses, so he could only throw the party in an old three-star hotel. He was too embarrassed to invite the other business owners in his circle and dispensed all unnecessary formalities.

By the time Faye and her family arrived, the vast majority of the Carter family was already there. Because they showed up last, they were immediately criticized.

“What’s wrong with all of you? You arrive last every year. Don’t you know that everybody else is waiting on you?”

George cast an unkind glance as well. It was his 70th birthday this year, so he was supposed to throw a grand party and invite everyone. Instead, he could only have them come to a trashy hotel. He was already feeling very displeased about this when Waine and his family had the audacity to arrive late. This ignited the rage in his heart at once. “Why are you late?! Give me a reason!”

They were late precisely because the b\*tch, Ruby spent two hours putting on makeup and delayed their departure. They left just in time to get caught in a traffic jam.

“Dad, we didn’t do it on purpose, actually...” Ruby noticed that Waine was about to expose her, so she hastily chimed in and said, “Dad, it’s all the good-for-nothing Zayn’s fault. He was procrastinating before we left the house and we ended up being delayed. We got caught in a traffic jam on our way and that’s why we’re late. This imbecile can’t do anything except ruin things

for the rest of us!”

Ruby delivered a slap to the back of Zayn’s head and yelled, “You useless piece of sh\*t! What are you doing standing there in a trance?! Apologize, quick!”

Zayn was furious. It was obviously Ruby’s own mistake, yet she had the gall to blame him. She was abominable!

He wanted to tell the truth loudly, but after careful consideration, he decided to leave the matter at that. Jordan was coming over personally to send a gift later anyhow so everyone would be shocked by his presence, and Ruby would also come to understand how foolish it was to offend Zayn.

As a result, he put lip with it and did not utter a word.

Faye watched Zayn endure it in silence and not attempt to fight back at all again. The tiny ounce of hope she managed to have for Zayn vanished into nothing. She began mocking herself, 'Faye, oh Faye. You're so naive. It has been four years and you still have hopes for Zayn?'

Yes, Zayn gave Faye an ounce of hope when he told her that he would boost her reputation confidently on the night of the party. It seemed to her that she had been too gullible because she was tricked by Zayn once again!

"That useless Zayn again? Why did you bring him along? A scoundrel like him doesn't deserve to sit and eat with us."

"Damn it! I don't know what's on Waine's mind either. Why would he allow a wastrel like that to marry into the family."

"Indeed. He has greatly tarnished the reputation of the Carters."

“Drive him out then. I don’t want to see his face.”

Many members of the Carters began complaining and mocking Zayn mercilessly.

“Don’t be so sure. He charged into the office for his wife and claimed that he would give us three million dollars in a week. Perhaps he is a super-rich kid in hiding,” someone said jokingly.

It was none other than Howard who could not stand the sight of Zayn the most. It was his idea that Faye sacrifice herself for the family by sleeping with Mr. Wilson.

“Hah-hah-hah, I’m going to die from laughter. If he’s a super-rich kid, then I’m the wealthiest man in the world.”

Zayn was not infuriated by so many people mocking him. On the contrary, the corners of his lips curled up ever so slightly. The more these people mocked him, the more interesting their reaction would be later. He had already begun to anticipate the moment.

Faye felt that Zayn was utterly hopeless when she saw that he was laughing.

Meanwhile, George had spoken. "Alright, let's not talk about that anymore and be seated."

Next, he talked to Waine, "Have Faye get a divorce within the next two days. Our Carter family can't accept a pauper as a son-in-law."

Waine nodded in agreement.

This way, they looked at Zayn with schadenfreude thriving in their gaze.

Faye heaved a sigh and thought to herself, 'Zayn, I took you to get a divorce a few days ago for your own good. If you were a little wiser, you'd have simply signed the papers back then. Why bother being taunted by everyone here tonight?'

The 70th birthday feast was done on such a tight budget that there were only six banquet tables. A child about the age of seven to eight years old said, "Mommy, why are there so few people at Great-Grandpa's birthday party this year? I thought so many

people came last year, didn't they?"

The comment was made loud enough that it was heard by the people nearby, including George. His expression darkened as soon as he heard it.

The rest of the attendees did not dare to make a sound. “Nonsense, Bran, eat your meal, quick!”

The child continued complaining, “The food here doesn’t taste good at all. It’s not as good as what we had at Great-Grandpa’s birthday in that fancy hotel last year. Mommy, I want to have caviar and lobsters!”

Thud! George slammed his cutlery on the table.

Just as he was about to lose his temper, a group of people walked into the room. A clear voice announced, “The heir to the Zeus Group is here to convey his well wishes by sending over a Rolex watch and a crate of Iamon Iberico ham to Mr. George Carter for his birthday. We hope the coming years bring even more happiness, health, and wealth to you!”

The voice appeared so suddenly that it stunned all the partygoers. They had never expected that someone would come forward to extend greetings tonight.

George’s hand shook and the utensils he held almost fell to the floor. He widened his eyes in surprise and stared as Ethan walked toward him in quick strides.

Naturally, the man who had just arrived was Ethan. He waited a very long time for this day to come. He knew that George was a man who valued his reputation.

Moreover, he had great authority and a strong grip on the Carters. In addition, the Carters' family business had not done so well that year, and his 70th birthday party was held in a thrifty manner. As a result, he had been preparing for a while. He spent over 30,000 dollars searching for the Rolex Cosmograph Daytona and also waited for a crate of precious Jamon Iberico de Bellota to give to George. He wanted to win George's favor in order to ask for Faye's hand in marriage! He was certain that he would rapidly reach his goals.

"Mr. Carter, my name is Ethan and I'm a classmate of Faye's. I'm here to extend my well wishes to you. Here's to another year of joy, comfort, health, and longevity!" Ethan presented the gifts in front of George and shouted aloud in respect.

"Very well, very well!" George was overjoyed. He stood up to receive Ethan's gifts. He was so excited that he could hardly control his shaky voice, "Sweet child Ethan, I'm most pleased that you could attend, most pleased indeed!"

Ethan said, "Mr. Carter, it's my fault for coming late. I hope that you don't mind."

"I don't mind. I don't mind at all!" George laughed aloud in joy. He noticed Ethan affectionately gazing at Faye, and he could surmise Ethan's intentions. Narrowing his eyes, he quickly said, "Ethan, it's my pleasure having you here to celebrate with me. Let me know if there is anything that you would like from me, and I will fulfill it!"

"Really?" Ethan was elated. He had been waiting for George to say that!



# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0015

“Yes, of course. Could it be that I’m lying to you?”

George laughed aloud heartily and said, “Tell me, what is your request?”

Ethan sniggered twice. Looking toward Faye, he got down on one knee and shouted aloud, “Mr. Carter, I have only one request. I hope that Mr. Carter is willing to betroth Faye to me!”

His voice echoed through the entire room, reverberating in the air. Everyone could feel the longing in his heart.

Faye’s charming face blushed scarlet at once. Ethan’s actions threw her into a flurry of panic, and she was at a loss as to what to do. Frankly, Ethan had been pursuing her for many years. She never had feelings for Ethan, and the most she could say was that she found him tolerable. Nevertheless, after witnessing Ethan doing everything he could to save Thomas from Adrian two days ago, she was touched. Any woman would fall for a powerful, masculine man.

Ethan’s strength gave her a sense of security that she had never experienced before.

Conversely, Zayn was far worse, and favorable impressions were often born out of comparison.

Zayn's expression darkened instantly. Ethan had simply gone too far in bullying others! He had actually declared his intentions in front of Zayn, so it was obvious that he had no respect for him!

Everyone looked toward Zayn all at once. Their eyes were filled with schadenfreude and mockery. It was as if they were looking at a clown.

Yes, he was acting just like a clown.

He clenched his fists tightly. His eyes were widened to their limit, and his chest was filled with a raging fire.

George said meaningfully, "Ethan, Faye is already married. Don't you mind that?"

He asked whether Ethan minded that and not whether Ethan was suitable for Faye.

"I don't mind at all!" Ethan said in all sincerity, "Mr. Carter, frankly speaking, I fell in love with Faye at first sight. My love for her is so deeply rooted that I firmly believe that Faye is my happiness! That is why I had the courage to plead that you betroth Faye to me here, Mr. Carter!"

Ruby's face flushed scarlet from excitement from under the stage. She approved of Ethan 100% because he was good-looking, came from a wealthy family, and showed respect to her. He was simply the epitome of a perfect son-in-law.

A few Carter women looked at Faye enviously, wishing they could marry Ethan.

George's face was beaming and his heart was bursting with joy. Even though the Zeus Group was not considered a large company, they had a few million dollars worth of properties in their possession. At its peak, the Carters were still less than the Zeus Group. If Faye were to marry Ethan, it would be a boon for the Carters!

As for the son-in-law that married into the family, Zayn did not figure into his plans at all. In George's eyes, Zayn was not truly a person but a dog capable of speech.

George said to Faye with a smile, "My sweet grandchild, would you accept Ethan's proposal?"

"I..." Faye's mind was in a chaotic mess and she was at a loss for words all at once.

Ethan got down on one knee before her and took out a delicately designed ring box from his pocket. He opened it to reveal a dazzling diamond ring that appeared quite expensive.

"Fifi, from the first time I laid my eyes on you, I fell deeply in love with you! I wasn't brave enough to tell you this in the past. The biggest regret in my life is watching helplessly as you throw yourself into the arms of another man!" Ethan stared at Faye passionately. "I've figured out that I have to strive for happiness on my own. I love you, Faye Carter, and I love you from the bottom of my heart! I swear that I will make you the happiest woman in this world. Will you marry me?"

As he spoke, he took out the ring and was about to put it on Faye.

Zayn was furious. How could he endure this anymore? He charged forward at once and tugged at Faye before sending Ethan tumbling over with a kick. "Ethan, I've put up with you long enough! Faye is my wife. What gives you the right to propose to her?"

Ethan was not angry despite being kicked over by Zayn.

On the contrary, he was elated and cracked into a cunning smile for having his way. He compelled Zayn to hit him on purpose. The more ludicrous Zayn acted, the more Faye would loathe him.

Faye was immediately vexed when she saw Zayn hitting Ethan just as expected. She scolded Zayn aloud, "Zayn Larson, what the heck is wrong with you?!"

Next, she rushed over to help Ethan to stand up. "Are you alright?"

Zayn did not cause any serious damage to Ethan with his kick, yet Ethan pretended that he was badly injured on purpose.

"Faye, I'm fine...Cough cough cough...You shouldn't scold Zayn anymore. It's my fault for rushing into things... Cough cough...Yet I genuinely do love you very much. I don't think that there's any meaning in my life without you."

Ethan's acting was so skillful that he was capable of slyly gaining her sympathy and made her even more revolted by Zayn.

George was furious at once. He smacked the table abruptly and shouted ferociously, "This is absurd! You're a useless piece of sh\*t, Zayn. Who gave you the permission to beat up the heir to the Zeus Group here?! You don't even deserve to clean his shoes! Send someone to pin down Zayn for me!"

A few young lads in the Carter family heard George's order. They took action at once and subdued Zayn by pinning him against the ground violently. They seized the opportunity to kick him a few times too.

The smile on Ethan's face could not be concealed anymore upon witnessing the scene. He looked at Zayn proudly with a gaze that seemed to be saying, 'Can a good-for-nothing stand a chance against me?'

As soon as Faye looked toward him, he resumed feigning injury. He was extremely cunning.

"Fifi, will you marry me? My love for you is sincere!"

Ethan wanted to grab Faye's hand, but Faye avoided him in a panic.

Faye's mind was very confused, and she had no idea how to make up her mind.

Ruby had already stepped forward, shoved her, and chided her softly, “Why are you staring blankly, silly girl? Answer him quickly! It’s not easy to find a good man like Ethan. Could it be that you still want to spend the rest of your life with that scoundrel Zayn?”

Faye raised her head to look at Ethan and then at Zayn. She realized that Ethan was far superior to Zayn in every way.

Realizing that she was going to say yes for real, Zayn hastily shouted aloud, “Fifi! Don’t say yes to him! He’s a liar! He doesn’t love you sincerely! He’s only hungry for your body! I heard him telling someone with my own ears the other day that he’s only trying to get his hands on you. He has a fiancée!”

Ethan immediately panicked upon hearing that. Ethan yelled in agitation, “Bullsh\*t! My love for Fifi can endure any test. If you can’t make Faye happy, it’s best if you leave now, you wastrel!”

George walked over, glared icily at Zayn, and said, “Toss him out!”

Zayn struggled with all his might and shouted, “Let me go! I have something to say! I have something to say!”

“Let him go. What else do you have to say for yourself?”

Everyone stared at him coldly including Faye. All the sentiment she once had in her eyes had gone.

Zayn took a deep breath and said, "You've always thought of me as an utterly useless good-for-nothing, but I haven't told you the truth yet. Now, I'm going to reveal to you that Adrian let Thomas off willingly the other day out of respect for me. It's totally unrelated to Ethan."

Upon saying that, Ethan burst out laughing aloud at once. "Hah-hah-hah-hah, I'm going to die laughing. Zayn, oh Zayn, how did you get such confidence? How do you have the nerve to say that aloud?"

Waine and Ruby were laughing as well. They were amused by Zayn.

Faye was not laughing because her disappointment for Zayn had already reached its peak. She wanted to retain some respect for Zayn initially by rejecting Ethan's proposal. It seemed that it was no longer necessary anymore judging by the current situation!

"What's going on? What's going on?"

The rest of the people began gossiping out of curiosity.

Ethan narrated the incident that took place the night before yesterday in an exaggerated manner and mocked Zayn when he was done. "I think that you should at least make sense

when you bluff, Zayn, right? I'm afraid that you don't even know what kind of person Adrian is, right? Let me tell you this, he is a young Larson. The Larson family is the most powerful family in Waltz City with a few billion dollars worth of holdings. Would he show respect to a useless man who married into his wife's family and couldn't even get a job? You must have assumed that everyone here is an idiot, right?"

Faye said, "Leave, Zayn. I don't want to see you anymore."

Zayn hastily said, "Faye, you must trust me. I'm telling the truth. It was true that Adrian did let Thomas off willingly out of respect for me. Moreover, I've already told Adrian about this. He will be coming over with the Larsons' patriarch Jordan in a while to extend their birthday wishes to Grandpa. I told you that I am going to boost your reputation, so I swear that I'm not lying to you!"

Despite his efforts, Zayn's remark did not stir up any emotions in Faye. On the contrary, Faye's gaze grew even colder and more disgusted as she looked at him. In fact, her gaze was even tainted with a wisp of sympathy. She had already considered Zayn to be mad.

Only a madman would say something like this.

Ethan was laughing so hard his face hurt. He had never met anyone so foolish as to make such ludicrous statements. "Zayn, I think that you must be delusional, right? Do you think that you are related to the Larsons just because your last name is Larson? You're making nonsensical claims, hah-hah. Could it be that you don't know that there are over 50,000 people with the last name Larson in Waltz City?"



Zayn struggled free from his restraints and made his way to the front of Faye. He gazed at her deeply. "Fifi, it really was me who saved Thomas. It had nothing to do with Ethan..."

"Leave." Before he could finish his sentence, Faye spat out the word frostily.

Zayn panicked. "Fifi, you have to believe me!"

Faye spoke louder, "Leave! I'm asking you to leave!"

In a moment of desperation, Zayn attempted to hold Faye's hand so he could explain himself properly. Faye slapped him across the face with all of her might. The force of the blow was unusually loud. "Zayn, you disgust me. You're more repulsive than the maggots crawling inside the sewage! Marrying you has really been the biggest mistake of my life! Leave! Leave now!"

Approaching the end of her sentence, she was almost screaming hysterically.

Zayn's entire body was frozen as if he had turned into stone. His eyes had reddened and his heart was aching so much that he could barely breathe.

He covered his chest and felt that all of his strength had been drained completely. He stumbled a few steps back and almost fell.

He wanted to laugh to ease the agony he felt, but he could not. The nerves on his face felt as stiff as if they were injected with cement. He could only crack into the dreariest of smiles and said to Faye, "Fifi, we've been married for four years. Have you never loved me even just for a moment?"

If Faye was in her calm state now, she would give the true answer. It was yes. However, at that moment, she was too furious, disappointed, and disgusted by Zayn. As a result, she did not care about Zayn's feelings anymore, so she could only answer coldly, "No..!"

Zayn staggered. He closed his eyes and let his tears stream down his cheeks soundlessly. "I'm sorry for putting you through such inconvenience for the past four years. From now on and for the rest of your life, I hope that you can be happy. "

Upon saying that, he turned around and left resolutely.

Behind him, the crowd was chanting 'leave, leave, leave'.

Someone even threw something at him!

Not long after he left, everyone was seated once again. Faye was preparing to say yes to Ethan and put on the diamond ring when all of a sudden, a voice shaking with excitement came from the entrance. "Oh god, oh god, it's the Larsons! It's the patriarch of the Larson family, Jordan Larson! He's here in person to celebrate Grandpa's birthday!"



# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0016

Every person in attendance was dumbstruck upon hearing that.

George asked, “Which Larson family is that?”

Many people had the same question on their minds. There were no Larsons in George’s social circle.

“It’s the Larson family, the most influential one in Waltz City!” said the person delivering the message.

His face had turned scarlet and his body was shivering with anticipation.

“What?!”

George was bewildered. In his panic, he knocked over a plate in front of him and it crashed onto his foot. The pain was excruciating, but he had other things on his mind. He widened his eyes and said, “Chase! Is this a mistake? Is that person genuinely one of the Larsons, the first family of Waltz City?”

Chase gulped and nodded vigorously. He said with unprecedented seriousness, "Grandpa, I'm 100% positive!"

George hissed as he inhaled deeply. The rest of the family felt like they were in a dream as well. They could not believe that this was real, and it took a long time for them to recover from the shock.

Some thought that they were hallucinating. They pinched their thighs or slapped themselves. "Oh god, that hurts. It can't be a dream!"

George said anxiously, "What are you doing there staring into space? Go ahead and welcome them quickly. Go and welcome them right now!"

They had no idea why the supreme Larson family would come to extend their wishes to George. It was akin to royalty deciding to send gifts and well-wishes to their subjects in ancient times.

"I couldn't have misheard, right? The Larsons, with a few billion dollars worth of properties, are here to celebrate Grandpa's birthday? Since when was Grandpa such a reputable figure?"

"We hit the jackpot, we hit the jackpot! They are the Larsons. If we can form an alliance with the Larsons, our Carter family will certainly rise to fame, hah-hah-hah!"

“Everyone must be on their best behavior when the group from the Larson family arrives. We must do our best to flatter them. This is the chance for the Carters to climb up the social ladder!”

All the Carter family members were elated.

Just as everyone was speculating as to why the Larsons would come and celebrate George’s birthday, Ruby suddenly slapped her thigh and shouted aloud, “I knew it. The Larsons are here to offer birthday wishes to Master Carter out of respect for Ethan!”

Her comment made everyone shift their gaze to Ethan.

It was apparent that Ethan was stunned.

He had no history with the Larsons. All he had was that brief conversation with Adrian Larson on the previous day. Was he so worthy of their respect? Moreover, it was the Larsons’ patriarch Jordan personally paying a visit.

Faye’s eyes widened as she looked at Ethan. She found it incredible. Was Ethan held in such high esteem?

George bought it. He said excitedly, “Ethan, was it you who invited the Larson’s patriarch to my party? You truly are the best grandson-in-law of mine, bah-hah-hah!”

Ethan was walking on air upon hearing the praise. He assumed that the Larsons had actually come there to offer birthday congratulations to George out of respect for him. He quickly cleared his throat and said, "Grandpa, I have a rather close relationship with Adrian. I took the liberty to invite Adrian here to your 70th birthday party, yet I didn't expect that he would actually have Jordan tagging along as well. That's not a problem, is it, Grandpa?"

George's face was beaming with joy. He said 'very well' three times to express his utmost satisfaction with Ethan. He quickly told Faye, "Faye, Ethan is a fine man and he is countless times better than your useless ex-husband! You must take good care of Ethan as your husband and educate your children well after you marry him, okay?" .

The other women of the Carter family members were envious and jealous of her. They wished that they were the ones marrying Ethan.

Faye bit her lower lip softly and did not speak. For some reason, she was reminded of Zayn. She remembered Zayn telling her that day that he would boost her reputation. She also recalled what Zayn said earlier about Adrian letting Thomas off out of respect for him and not Ethan.

Ten minutes before their arrival, Jordan was seated in a Rolls-Royce Phantom on the way to George's birthday party.

"Dad, are we really going to offer birthday wishes to George? I've looked into George Carter, and he is but a minor business owner and the Carters are just a small family. Their company got into a serious financial crisis recently, and they are on the verge of bankruptcy. As the Larson's family patriarch, giving birthday wishes to George is just going to be trouble for you. If news of this were to spread, you're certainly going to end up as a joke," Shane Larson, Jordan's son, said with a frown.

With a sigh, Jordan replied, "The Carters are facing a financial crisis, but so are the Larsons, aren't we? That old fool grandfather of yours transferred over seven billion dollars to Zayn prior to his death. Without that money, our company no longer has an income stream. If we don't get back the funds, we'll be in deep trouble."

Jordan heaved another sigh and said, "You must be on your best behavior when you meet Zayn later. Apologize to him properly. Even if he were to beat you it p and scold you, you must bear it, okay?"

"I really don't like that..."

Jordan and the others arrived at the three-star hotel, but he did not enter right away. First, he passed a message to a Carter family member to announce their arrival. The goal was not to inform George, of course, but to tell Zayn they had come and they were very sincere.

Jordan composed himself, put on a wide smile, and walked into the banquet hall in long strides.

"Jordan Larson is here to convey his well wishes by sending over a box of white Alba Truffles, a set of Kenneth Noland's paintings, an antique Black Forest cuckoo clock, and a gift of one million dollars in cash to Mr. George Carter for his birthday. We hope the coming years bring even more happiness, health, and wealth to you!"

Every member of the Larson widened their eyes in surprise and held their breath in shock upon hearing the list of gifts!



All else put aside, the cash gift of one million dollars was enough to stop anyone's heart!

That was on top of the numerous luxury presents mentioned previously.

It was definitely a feat only a genuinely wealthy man was capable of!

George was so delighted that his old face flushed scarlet upon hearing what he would receive. The smile on his face could not be hidden.

Who Claimed his 70th birthday party was cold and cheerless? With Jordan's presence, he was already a winner in life. If news of this incident were to travel, would there still be anyone in all of Waltz City that would dare to criticize him?

They say joyous occasions put people in good spirits.

Indeed, George felt that he had become at least 20 years younger.

Meanwhile, Ethan was excited beyond comparison as well. He swelled up with pride. Had all this not happened, he would not have known he was so highly regarded!

If this were his and Faye's wedding, would he receive a cash gift that was a hundred times more?

Waine and Ruby were already grinning widely. After driving Zayn away, it was finally time for some good fortune.

Then, Jordan walked over in quick strides. He immediately saw George and said heartily, "Mr. Carter, it's your 70th birthday today. I hope you don't mind me turning up at your party without an invitation."

George had seen Jordan in business magazines prior to this and could only admire him from afar. He never believed there would come a day that he would get acquainted with him personally. He was so ecstatic that he could hardly speak.

"Mr. Larson! It's my honor to have you here for this humble meal!" George held Jordan's hand and could not contain his excitement.

Ethan seized the opportunity to walk over in quick strides and said to Adrian, "Mr. Larson, I didn't expect for you to show your courtesy to me by coming to my Grandpa's birthday party. I'm truly grateful for your favor!"

He talked loudly on purpose so everyone could hear him. He stood up straight and puffed out his chest akin to a triumphant rooster. He was as proud as one could be.

Adrian furrowed his brows and felt that something was off. He said, "What are you talking about? Who said that I'm here out of courtesy to you?"

The smile on Ethan's face froze instantly and he was a little embarrassed.

Meanwhile, Jordan expressed his displeasure on his face and glared at Adrian because he had not seen Zayn around.

Adrian immediately trembled in fear. He swiftly asked Ethan, "Someone is missing from this party, right?"

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0017**

"Someone is missing? No," said Ethan.

Adrian furrowed his brows even more. "Are you sure?"

They had come for Zayn. If Zayn was not around, What was the point?

Jordan stood on the spot, expressionless. The numerous Carter family members felt fear creeping into their hearts and Ethan could tell that something was off. He hastily asked George, "Grandpa, is someone absent from your 70th birthday party tonight?"

George glanced around the entire room and noticed that everyone from the Carter family was there. There were the older ones and the younger ones, so no one was missing from the party. Moreover, it was his 70th birthday celebration, so he was the focus of the night. Who else from the Larson family needed to be there?

George felt puzzled, but he still shook his head and said, "Everybody's here."

'Everybody's here?'

Adrian and Jordan exchanged glances. Could it be that this was Zayn's test for them and he was observing from afar?

It was highly possible...

Soon, they came up with an idea and decided to play along.

"Hah-hah-hah, it's nothing. I'm only asking out of curiosity," said Adrian jokingly.

They were seated and began to have drinks with George and the others.

When faced with a business mogul of such esteem, even with Jordan being very friendly, George still felt a lot of stress. Due to the disparity in their status, there was almost no common ground between them. They made small talk for a while, but then the conversation quickly died and the atmosphere grew tense.

Howard would do anything to have a connection with the Larsons. A thought abruptly came to him, so he said with a smile, "Mr. Larson asked us earlier if anyone was missing from the party. I suddenly remembered that we did drive someone away. He is a son-in-law who married into our Carter family, but he's just a good-for-nothing. Hah-hah-hah! "

"Right, right, right!" Ethan's eyes lit up upon hearing that. He had finally found something that he could use to blow his own horn. "It seems I forgot about that. That scoundrel is incapable of doing anything, but he loves to bluff. We caught him in a lie and exposed him on the spot. He was a mess and cried in the end. Hah-hah-hah, it was a good show. What a waste that you weren't here. Otherwise, you could've seen what a mess that wastrel was when we chased him away. Hah-hah-hah."

The rest of the partygoers joined in and burst out laughing. They chimed in on the story one by one as if they had just reached a hot topic of conversation. They talked about how they bullied Zayn earlier and kicked him out mercilessly. They were so enlivened by the conversation that they failed to notice the expressions on Jordan and his group growing increasingly darker.

"Is the good -for-nothing son-in-law you mentioned named Zayn Larson?"

Jordan's voice was practically trembling when he asked the question.

Ethan was fully engaged in the topic and he was in a great mood after having a few drinks. It was apparent that he felt this was the peak of his life. "That's right! Mr. Larson, do you know him?"

After receiving the confirmation, Jordan shut his eyes and felt his heart fill with rage!

He abandoned his pride this time and came over here in person to George's birthday party only out of respect for Zayn... No, one should say he did it all just to flatter Zayn!

Nevertheless, as a result, Zayn had been banished by this worthless family!

The scene was so similar to the incident from four years ago. Jordan had no pity for Zayn, but he pitied himself!

Jordan had already figured it out after hearing all of them mocking Zayn. It was apparent that Zayn married into the Carter family in order to escape the Larsons over the years. He hid himself and lived like a useless man. After receiving his enormous inheritance, he summoned them over on purpose in an attempt to flaunt his status. That resulted in this incident, and the dramatic history repeated itself. He imagined that Zayn would certainly loathe the Carters together with the Larsons now!

Jordan's entire body shook with rage after considering even more severe consequences.

Clap!

All of a sudden, Jordan loudly slammed his hand on the table and startled the bustling crowd as they were enjoying their collected mockery. Ethan was closest to him and fell from his seat.

All the Carters looked at Jordan in a panic.

"Mr... Mr. Larson, are you okay?" George asked cautiously.

Jordan began laughing from extreme anger. He stared at George and bared his teeth furiously. "George, do you know why I'm here to celebrate your lame birthday despite me being the patriarch of the Larsons and the head of the family?"

The corners of George's lips twitched as he had an ominous feeling. "No, I don't know..."

"It's because I'm doing it out of respect for Zayn."

Jordan's expression was icy cold. "The good-for-nothing you all kicked out so carelessly!"

George's mind went blank from the sudden realization. The blood drained from his face and he was ghastly pale. His body went numb and he was shaking profusely.

Not only George, but the rest of the attendees also reacted similarly. Jordan's statement immediately left them dumbfounded.

Faye was stunned instantly. Her jaw hung open and the shock left her dumbstruck.

Waine and Ruby were terrified and it took them a while to recover from this revelation...

The magnate Jordan Larson had actually come over to George's birthday party out of respect for Zayn?

Uh... Why did it sound so absurd?! It felt even more preposterous to them than the sun rising from the west.

"That's impossible!" Having fallen to the ground, Ethan stood up and said aloud, "You must be joking, right, Mr. Larson? Zayn is just a good-for-nothing. Everyone in the Carter family, young and old and even the dog, bullies him. Why would you show your respect for him? Hah-hah-hah!"



Ethan was intoxicated from the drinking. With his mind befuddled, he was laughing, but no one else joined him this time. Jordan, Adrian, and a few Larsons glared at him coldly while everyone from the Carter family was already scared to death.

He finally noticed something was off. He said to Adrian, "Adrian, please explain to Mr. Larson that you're here for the birthday celebration because I invited you and that it's unrelated to that good-for-nothing Zayn..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Adrian loudly slapped him across the face. It sent him spinning two full rounds before he crashed into the ground. The blow left half his face swollen.

"Who do you think you are to have my respect? Had it not been for Zayn, I would have crippled that Thomas boy on the spot the other day!" said Adrian bubbling with rage.

He was furious, but more than that, he was terrified. It was Zayn who ordered him to pass the message to Jordan, but the deed did not go well and he managed to offend both sides! He blamed Ethan for this fiasco! At that point, he truly wished that he could kill the b\*stard!

Ethan had been sobered up by the blow to his face. He widened his eyes and stared at Adrian in fear and panic. He realized that he had made a huge mistake!

George and the others were horrified yet resentful at the same time. In any case, they could not figure out the reason. Was Zayn not a useless piece of trash? Why would he be able to invite Jordan to George's birthday party? It did not make sense at all!

“Faye, what’s going on? Since when is Zayn acquainted with the patriarch of the Larson family? Fifi. Fifi, please tell us!”

Ruby’s face was filled with dread. She shook Faye’s hand hoping that her daughter had answers.

As it was, Faye had turned into a gargoyle. She stood there in a daze without budging at all. Her eyes were red as tears streamed down her face soundlessly. Her heart was in so much pain that she could not breathe!

Her mind was filled with the image of Zayn...

“Don’t worry, Fifi. I won’t embarrass you tonight! Moreover, not only will I not embarrass you, but I will also boost your reputation!”

“It’s a secret, so I can’t tell you yet. Just wait and see tonight anyhow. I’ll definitely boost your reputation tonight.”

“Fifi, I know that you don’t trust me and you have a deep misunderstanding of me, but I’m going to prove it to you.”

“If I win, my request is for you to be my wife, a wife both in name and in fact!”

“Fifi, we’ve been married for four years. Have you never loved me even just for a moment?”

“I’m sorry for putting you through such inconvenience for the past four years. From now on and for the rest of your life, I hope that you can be happy.”

Every word Zayn had said surged into her mind, especially the scene where he was so bitterly hurt, battered out of his senses, and left in a disheveled state.

The thought of that pierced her heart mercilessly like a knife. She was in so much pain that her entire body convulsed in agony and she could hardly stand straight.

So it turned out that Zayn had never deceived her from the start, but she had refused to trust him all this time and hurt him over and over again!

She swiftly dashed out of the room.

She wanted to look for Zayn by herself!

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0018

Faye's actions got on the nerves of the numerous members of the Carter family!

George's eyes rolled back and he almost fainted.

The rest of the Carters also realized that they had caused a great calamity. They were in a state of utmost regret. If they had known Zayn was acquainted with Jordan, they would not have dared to humiliate him, let alone chase him away!

Soon, they put the blame on Ethan. Had that man not proposed to Faye, the incident would not have developed into such a disaster!

They were doomed now. They were completely doomed. After offending the Larsons, it would be impossible for them to continue living in Waltz City.

Jordan left, taking the gifts that he brought for George along with him.

After the Larsons left, it took a few minutes before someone dared to speak, "How did Zayn get to know a big shot like Jordan?"

That was the question that was vexing everyone, but no one knew the answer.

“Could it be that Zayn was part of the Larson family?” Someone asked fearfully.

Some denied it at once. “That’s impossible! I looked into Zayn’s background before. He’s a poor man who originated from the village and his parents passed away when he was young. It’s impossible that he is from the Larson family. Moreover, if Zayn was truly a member of the Larson family, why did he end up marrying into the Carters? Why did the Larsons remain indifferent after they learned that we put Zayn through four years of suffering?”

The others all agreed with the logic of these points.

“My guess is that Zayn received a favor from Jordan by blind chance. He wanted to seize the opportunity provided by our father’s 70th birthday to show off, so he invited Jordan to come and be part of his spectacle!”

“That explanation makes sense. Didn’t you hear Zayn say that Adrian let Thomas off the other day out of respect for him?”

“Zayn is truly a mischief-maker!”

“Regardless, we should locate Zayn first and make him clarify the situation with Jordan so the misunderstanding can be resolved. Otherwise, our Carter family will be doomed for sure!”

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Faye ran out of the hotel in a panic, but she failed to locate Zayn. She frantically called him, but everything went straight to voicemail. She checked with the security guards at the door of the hotel and also the owners of nearby stores, but none had seen Zayn. It felt as if he had vanished from her world completely.

Where did Zayn go then?

Half an hour earlier, Zayn had exited the hotel, battered out of his senses and heartbroken.

He wandered aimlessly like a lost soul and was almost hit by passing cars a few times.

As he was walking, he suddenly heard noises behind him. Zayn turned around and found himself watching an infuriating scene. Two young men and two young women were bullying an elderly woman.

The woman was a fruit grocer, but all the produce in her pushcart had been scattered across the ground. The four young people stamped on the fruit over and over again and refused to stop despite the old woman's pleas. They yelled at her the whole time, "Old f\*cker, don't you know who we are? How dare you sell rotten fruit to us? You're the reason why we have diarrhea now!"

The woman proclaimed her innocence, "I swear to God I've never sold rotten fruit. Please think about this!"

"How dare you deny it, you old b\*tch? Crush all her fruit so she can't harm anyone else from now on!"

"Please don't destroy everything! Stop crushing my fruit! I'm begging you..."

The old woman was about to beg them at their feet, but they remained indifferent. They were all youths in their twenties, and their faces were beaming with excitement. Committing evil deeds felt exhilarating for them and they thought of it as an accomplishment.

A crowd gathered around them, yet no one had the courage to step forward and do what was right.

Zayn found that he could not bear to watch anymore. He walked over immediately and shouted, "Stop!"

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0019

His shouting drew everyone's attention, and they all turned to him at once. The four youths had also stopped stomping on the fruit.

"Ma'am, are you hurt?" Zayn asked the elderly woman gently as he helped her to her feet.

"I'm not hurt, but my fruit, oh my fruit..." Tears rolled down the old woman's cheeks when she saw the scattered mess of fruit on the floor.

Zayn was furious. He glared at the four young people coldly. "You're all just kids, yet you're bullying an old lady. What happened to your manners? Did nobody teach you?"

"Who the heck are you to be such a busybody?"

"Where did this piece of trash come from? I bet you're trying to play the hero, right? I'll give you three seconds to leave before I thrash you too!"

"Look at him dressed in his flea market attire. You can tell that he's a pauper."



“Get lost now if you don’t want to get beaten up.”

They called Zayn out by mocking him continuously. One of the men was about to walk over and push him down.

A man in white recognized Zayn.

“I know you. Aren’t you that good-for-no thing son-in-law who married into the Carter family?”

Zayn also recognized the man. It was Howard’s brother -in-law. They met each other on a few occasions, but Zayn had forgotten his name. He was a jobless man who idled all day.

“You’re Howard’s brother-in-law, right? I can tell that you’re an educated man. Where are the values of respecting the elderly, caring for the young, and having a sense of decency that your teacher taught you, huh? You’re over 20 years old, but here you are bullying a helpless old woman. Don’t you have any shame?” Zayn said while glaring at him.

Zayn’s words got the other bystanders to call out the bullies, and the crowd began condemning the four youths.

Howard's brother-in-law immediately pulled a long face. He walked over with his wide gait and pointed at Zayn's nose while shouting, "It's none of your business, you worthless rat! Had my brother-in-law's family not supported you financially, a useless piece of trash like you couldn't even afford to eat sh\*t! How dare you try to discipline me?"

Zayn creased his brows. He was not in a good mood, so quarreling with this man just seemed tiresome. He said to the old woman, "Ma'am, let me take you home. I will compensate you for your loss personally. Is that alright with you?"

The old woman shook her head pitifully as she looked at the trampled fruits strewn over the floor. With a heavy sigh, she said, "No need, young man. This matter has nothing to do with you. There's no need to compensate me. Just think of it as my bad luck for encountering a bunch of brutes."

Her comment immediately enraged the bullies. One after another, they began clamoring, "Old f'tcker, who are you calling brutes, huh?!"

"You have a death wish, don't you?!"

In their tirade, they insulted Zayn as well. These young people were obviously educated, yet their curses sounded exceedingly unpleasant and offensive.

Zayn could not bear to take it anymore so he shouted back at them. They were just about ready to come forward and beat up Zayn.

Meanwhile, a voice came out of the crowd. It sounded both surprised and excited. Soon enough, a man dressed in a suit and leather shoes dashed over. "Zayn Larson!"

Zayn immediately furrowed his brows upon seeing him, as it was none other than Howard. It was the same man whose verbal attacks had left Zayn in tatters at the hotel earlier.

Howard's brother-in-law was elated by the sight of him. He dashed over to Howard in quick strides. "Howard, you're here just in time. This scumbag Zayn had the audacity to call me a brute and even badmouthed you as well!"

Upon hearing his brother-in-law's remark, Howard immediately had an ominous feeling. Then, he saw Zayn's ice-cold expression and felt chills run down his spine. He stared at his brother-in-law and said through clenched teeth, "Did you insult him?"

His brother-in-law was so agitated that he did not notice the change in Howard's expression. He was still under the assumption that Howard had his back. He spoke as though he expected to be praised, "That's right, Howard. I know that you're especially revolted by this good-for-nothing, so I scolded him in a very humiliating manner earlier..."

Thud!

Before he could finish his sentence, Howard delivered a heavy kick to his belly, and the impact sent him rolling on the ground. He screamed in agony, dumbfounded because

he could not figure out why his brother-in-law would hit him when he normally treated him well.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0020**

The people watching were shocked by Howard's aggressive attack.

The three remaining youths were especially astounded by the scene. They met Howard before and were aware that he was Draco's brother-in-law. He normally treated Draco well, so why did he abruptly decide to attack him?

Draco bawled aloud from the assault. "Howard, you must be mad! Why did you hit me?"

At that moment, Howard wished he could kill Draco. After Jordan and his people left, everyone in the Carter family panicked because they realized the severity of the situation. If it was not handled well and the Larson family was offended, the Carters could be destroyed at any moment!

They could not care about how Zayn had come to know the Larsons. All that mattered at that point was locating Zayn as fast as possible so he could call up Jordan and resolve the misunderstanding. Otherwise, the Carters would be doomed, judging by how furious Jordan and his people were when they left.

As a result, he had tried his best to search for Zayn, only to find him being bullied and insulted by his idiot brother-in-law. He could not help feeling overwhelmed with emotion when he saw Zayn's grim expression.

"Hit you? I'm going to kill you!" Howard's anger was still burning, so he walked over and kicked Draco a few more times. It was then that Draco realized that his brother-in-law was genuinely furious. He did not dare to argue anymore, so he covered his head and endured the beating.

After unleashing his fury, Howard hastily approached Zayn and said courteously, "The incident earlier was all a misunderstanding. Don't mind that, okay? In truth, I've always looked up to you."

Zayn was well aware of the motivation behind Howard's action. The only possible reason was that, after his departure, Jordan and his people paid a visit.

The Carters realized that they were in deep trouble, so they were trying to mend the situation before it was too late.

Noticing that Zayn was staring at him without uttering a word, Howard felt an enormous pressure. Cold sweat dripped down his forehead and he felt terribly distressed. He was always in a superior position when he was with Zayn in the past, unlike how lowly he was at this moment. He had no idea what sort of good luck Zayn had encountered that connected him to a big shot like Jordan.

Zayn sneered and said, "I'm a good-for-nothing son-in-law and I can't afford to accept your apologies."

Upon saying that, he helped the old woman to her feet and they were about to leave.

Howard refused to let Zayn go. He hastily jogged over and blocked Zayn's way while apologizing submissively, "Zayn, I know that it was our fault earlier. We shouldn't have mistreated you like that. I'm begging you, won't you come back, please? It's our fault. It really was our fault. We will surely worship you like a god from now on."

Seeing Howard's meek, humble behavior, Zayn felt as if his anger was being unleashed like never before. He had much experience being humiliated by Howard over the past four years.

"It seems that you've offended the Larsons rather seriously. Let me take a guess, your family must have bragged to Jordan about how I was chased out of the Carters, right?" said Zayn with a foxy smile.

Howard's heart was racing and he cursed internally, 'Since when was the good-for-nothing Zayn been so smart?'

"This is all a misunderstanding. You are Faye's husband and the son-in-law of the Carter family. Why would we have driven you away for real? Zayn, you're an honorable, understanding man. You won't be so narrow-minded and quibble over every detail with us, right?" said Howard with his back bent over in an attempt to lower his posture and appear submissive.

"Misunderstanding? I don't think so. One by one, your family members insulted me for being worthless. Which one of you has ever considered me to be part of the family?" At that point, Zayn became incensed beyond his control. "How many times have I been bullied and how much degradation have I suffered since I married into the Carters? You're the worst of all, Howard!

Have you not humiliated me enough? You were the one who strongly recommended that Ethan propose to Faye and embarrass me to death. Hah-hah, I bet you didn't think that I'd be acquainted with Jordan, huh?! I bet you couldn't figure out how I was capable of making him come to George's birthday party, right?!"

"Now that you've offended the Larsons, you remembered me and want me to call up Jordan so I can resolve the misunderstanding? Let me tell you this, I won't!"

Zayn uttered the sentence through clenched teeth and his eyes had turned red.

Howard panicked even more so he pleaded, saying, "Zayn, this is a misunderstanding. It's all a misunderstanding!"

Zayn ignored him and turned around to leave once again.

Howard did not have the courage to let him leave so he chased after Zayn once again. He was drenched in sweat and almost crying.

"Leave. If you try to block me again, I'm going to call up Jordan right now and destroy the Carters!" Zayn said coldly.

Howard was genuinely on the verge of tears. He could only watch helplessly as Zayn departed.

However, as Zayn walked away from the crowd he saw a beautiful woman standing in front and gazing at him without moving.



# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0021

It was none other than Faye.

Upon noticing her, Zayn's body shuddered and he felt like crying. Bitterness and sadness welled up in his heart. He lowered his head to avoid her gaze and walked in a different direction to leave.

“Zayn!”

Faye called out his name.

His feet paused for a moment, but then he sped up his pace, not wanting to stay there.

Seeing that he was leaving, Faye chased after him.

Zayn heard her footsteps and walked even faster, eventually breaking into a run.

Faye ran after him, but she was wearing high heels and could not catch up. She accidentally twisted her ankle, fell to the ground, and let out an agonizing scream.

Instinctively, Zayn turned around and saw Faye on the floor, her face covered in tears. He had just managed to toughen up his mental state, but the sight of her undid all that.

Faye sat on the ground and looked at him sorrowfully.

He let out a sigh and chided himself for being useless. Then, he walked over and helped her take a seat on the bench at the side. Without a word, he massaged her injured ankle in silence.

“I’m sorry, Zayn...” Faye said, feeling guilty and ashamed.

Zayn did not respond. When he was done massaging Faye’s ankle, he stood up to depart again. The whole time, he did not look her in the eye.

Noticing that he was going, Faye hastily grabbed his shirt and said in a pleading tone, “Don’t leave...”

“Aren’t you going to marry Ethan? Why are you still coming after me?” Zayn attempted to stabilize his voice and not reveal his feelings, but his speech was still trembling ever so slightly despite himself.

The marriage lasted four years, so how could he just let it end without feeling anything?

Faye said with reddened eyes, "I was wrong. Please forgive me this one time, okay?"

After hearing Faye's tearful voice, Zayn's heart immediately softened.

Zayn was not a cold-hearted man. He could tell that Faye genuinely knew she had made a grievous mistake after seeing her beg him for forgiveness. The anger in his heart had gone as well. He nodded in reply, simply saying, "Hmm..."

Faye immediately beamed with joy.

Back at the Carters, George and the other family members were waiting anxiously. They immediately approached Zayn upon noticing his return. They apologized to Zayn in succession and explained that the incident earlier was just a misunderstanding. They assured Zayn that they would never chase him away from then on.

Zayn could see that they were rather sincere and since he was no longer angry, he told them that he had forgiven them.

After getting Zayn's forgiveness, George said impatiently, "Then, please call Jordan Larson quickly and tell him that it was just a misunderstanding!"

Zayn nodded and called up Adrian. Zayn resolved the issue with just a brief exchange of words and did not expose his identity.

After hanging up the phone, everyone in the Carter family let out a breath of relief. George asked cautiously, “Oh Zayn, what is your relationship with the Larson family? Why didn’t you tell us about that in the past?”

Everyone held their breath and looked at Zayn anxiously in anticipation.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0022**

“When we went to the countryside carnival last month and I was getting a drink for everyone, I happened to stumble across Jordan having a heat stroke. I ended up saving his life and he was very grateful to me. He said that he owed me a huge favor. It is Grandpa’s birthday today, so I invited him over to boost the Carters’ reputation. Who would have thought that all of you would...” Zayn stopped speaking at that point. He got his point across without needing further explanation.

He could clearly see that every Carter family member looked embarrassed.

Clap!

A loud slap was heard. Howard gave himself a tight slap strenuously and said, “F\*ck! I should’ve gotten the drinks that day. If I had known, the one to save Jordan Larson would have been me!”

The rest of the family also expressed their remorse.

They had all been there at the countryside carnival the month before. They had run out of drinking water and none of them offered to get more, so they tasked Zayn with it. They certainly had not expected their decision would result in a stroke of luck for him! They would never have missed the chance to achieve such an immense boon in one step! They had not known that they could have encountered Jordan!

Seeing them wallowing in regret, Zayn felt delighted. The Carters had humiliated and mistreated him constantly over the past few years. When they were attending the countryside carnival last month, everyone left all the dirty and tiring chores to him, and only now they had learned their lesson.

Ruby changed her usual malicious attitude toward Zayn and said in a flattering manner, "Oh Zayn, since Jordan owes you a huge favor, he will certainly agree to a request from you, right? Give Jordan a call one of these days and have him set up a girl from the Larson family to your brother-in-law, Thomas. It's time for him to settle down too."

Waine chimed in and said, "That's right. As his elder, you must take your younger brother-in-law into account. Thomas has a lot of respect for you, you see."

Zayn was quite irked when he heard that. Since when had Thomas shown respect to him as his older brother-in-law, huh?

"Hey, your boy Thomas is very young and is still studying in university. Why should Zayn set up a potential marriage partner to him?!" A senior member of the Carter family glared at Waine and

Ruby before he said to Zayn with a smile, "Oh Zayn, I've always thought highly of you. I was frequently praising you for being so good to your in-laws and felt you would certainly have a promising future, but your in-laws refused to believe me. Just as expected, this has proven that you're a precious gem in hiding! Jordan is the wealthiest man in Waltz City. It's hard for many people to meet him even once in their lives, yet you managed to invite him to a birthday party with just a call. Moreover, he brought over so many impressive gifts. Zayn, you've done our Carter family proud!"

This man's name was Hector Carter. He was Howard's father and Faye's uncle. His flattery was a pleasure to one's ears and comfort to one's heart. Those who were unaware of the situation would actually assume that he really thought highly of Zayn.

His tone changed and his smile grew wider. "Oh Zayn, our Carter family's business is in trouble now, you see. Tell that to Jordan and have him help out our business next time. Our entire family will forever remember your contribution!"

Zayn sneered at his words. Hector had dealt a fair share of degradation to him before. Hector had called him a villager over and over again and despised him from the bottom of his heart. Now that he was affiliated with Jordan, Hector came to flatter him. Zayn held people like Hector in contempt.

The rest of the family refused to be left behind as well. They surrounded him and one by one voiced their requests, hoping that Zayn would fulfill them.

Zayn felt revolted by their hideous faces.

He said, stumped, “I’m afraid I’m of no help to all of you.”

“What? Zayn, what do you mean by that?”

“That’s right. It’s true that we were a little hard on you earlier, but you shouldn’t be so narrow-minded either, right? We are your elders in the family after all.”

“You saved Jordan’s life, so these meagre requests of ours are but a trivial matter to you. As the son-in-law who married into our Carter family, could it be that you won’t even help us with these simple things?”

They began to criticize Zayn.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0023**

Zayn sneered, but he continued to feign awkwardness by saying, “It’s not that I’m unwilling to help all of you, but there’s nothing I can do now. It’s true that I saved Jordan’s life and he owed me a favor, but he’s already returned the favor to me.”

Upon hearing that, they were dumbstruck.

With a sigh, Zayn continued to speak, "Having Jordan come to Grandpa's birthday was not considered a favor, yet it's your fault for driving me away halfway through the event and offending him. He was so furious that he wanted to destroy the Carters at one point. I managed to calm him when I called just now, but the favor that he owed me was returned. He is the patriarch of the Larson family. A big shot like him wouldn't come at my command."

The expressions on their faces were frozen, and they felt so bad as if they had just gulped down sewage. If they had known this would happen, they would never have kicked Zayn out of the party!

A thought occurred to Howard, so he hastily asked, "We're not going to ask for Jordan's favor anymore, but can we at least get back the birthday gifts he brought for Grandpa? He gave them to him, so they're considered the property of the Carter family now!"

Hearing his words, the rest of the family all agreed.

Jordan had given a box of white Alba truffles, a set of Kenneth Noland's paintings, an antique Black Forest cuckoo clock, and most importantly, one million dollars in cash! The total value of the gifts was three to four million dollars, was it not?

"They took back the birthday gifts that they brought with them?" Zayn asked curiously.

"That's right, that's right. They took it all back and the gifts are worth three to four million dollars. Give Jordan a call, Zayn, and make him bring back the birthday gifts. How is it



appropriate for them to take back gifts that they've already given away?" Hector said, sounding displeased. This sentiment was echoed by the others. The Carter family was not doing well financially. Let alone three to four million dollars, even if the gifts were worth three to four hundred thousand dollars, it was a huge sum for them.

Even so, Zayn heaved a sigh and said, "How could all of you allow Jordan to take back the birthday gifts? Can we still take back something which someone has already taken back? I'm not affiliated with Jordan anymore now. He sounded annoyed with me during the call earlier, so there's nothing I can do to get the gifts back now..."

"No way..."

"Oh god, what have we done?!"

"Poof! There goes gifts worth four million dollars just like that..."

The numerous Carter family members whined bitterly as if they had just lost their parents. They were filled with regret.

George's face turned green with rage. In the end, he could not stop himself from slapping the faces of a few of the Carters. "It's all your fault, you bunch of brutes. Why did you have to embarrass Zayn and kick him out for no apparent reason? Now, you've offended Jordan! Our Carter family was supposed to get on the good side of the Larsons and rise to great success. As a result, we ended up with nothing, and I even

lost my birthday gifts because of you, you hooligans! I'm going to beat all of you to death!"

George had an emotional breakdown. He began slapping the faces of Howard and the others madly. It was a fascinating scene.

After learning that Jordan would no longer pay attention to Zayn, which was equal to Zayn losing his value in the family, the Carters resumed their usual malicious attitude toward him. In fact, they had even begun to complain about Zayn not informing them of his acquaintance with Jordan in advance which resulted in them wasting a good opportunity to make a fortune!

On the way home, Ruby babbled incessantly. The more she talked, the more furious she became, and she even jabbed her finger at Zayn's forehead a few times.

Faye could not bear to watch anymore, so she glared at Ruby while shouting, "Mom! Can you please stop for a moment. Zayn didn't do anything wrong from the start! Had it not been Zayn who called up Jordan seeking his forgiveness earlier, our family would already be doomed by now."

"God, Faye! Who's side are you on, anyway? I'm your mother, yet you still have the audacity to talk back?" Ruby had her hands on her hips as she yelled, "In addition, have I wrongly accused him of anything? If he were to tell us about how he saved Jordan's life earlier, would today's incident have happened? I can see that he holds no respect for this family! Other matters aside, there's this issue about you having to sleep with Mr. Wilson in order to borrow three million dollars for the family. As a man, if Zayn had any

conscience at all, would he still sit idly and do nothing? I bet the amount of three million dollars is just pocket change for Jordan, right?”

The remark pierced Faye’s heart like a sword.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0024**

Noticing Faye’s expression, Zayn hastily explained, “Fifi, I won’t just stand by and do nothing when you’re in trouble. I…”

Faye interrupted him by saying, “I know. You’ve been telling me a few times and it’s my fault for not believing in you.”

Ruby’s expression changed drastically. She asked in haste, “What do you mean? Are you saying that Zayn gave you three million dollars but you rejected him?”

Faye bit her lower lip, but she did not speak. Her heart had filled with regret. Zayn told her that he had three million dollars and that he could help her to circumvent the crisis more than once, yet she had never believed him. She had even scolded Zayn bitterly for saying so! Objectively speaking, it truly was not Zayn’s fault.

Nevertheless, she still blamed him. Why did Zayn not insist on telling her about it firmly? She would have believed Zayn if he had been a little firmer than he was! The more she thought about it, the more upset she became.

Mr. Wilson was returning to the country soon. At that point, she would have to accompany him for three whole days and it would be hell for her!

Zayn could sense Faye's resentment and he felt very uneasy in his heart as well. Meanwhile, Waine said, "Zayn, did you borrow the three million dollars from Jordan? It's not too late for you to hand over the money now!"

"I didn't borrow the money from Jordan," said Zayn with his head lowered.

When she heard that, Ruby was even more furious and she slapped him across the face. She ferociously roared, "You're a useless piece of sh\*t! If anyone had the opportunity to receive a huge favor from Jordan, they would have risen to great success and reached for the moon! You're really something! You had a chance to make a fortune, yet you wasted it! Zayn, don't think that I don't know what's going on in your mind. I know that you invited Jordan to George's 70th birthday celebration just to show off. You wanted everyone to think that you're so impressive and then they'd worship you, right? You made it sound so fancy when you said you would boost Fifi's reputation, but I can see that you did it to boost your own reputation too, didn't you? For that pathetic reputation of yours, you actually planned to sacrifice your wife's chastity?"

Zayn's face was burning in pain from the slap. He hastily explained, "Mom, you've got the wrong idea. I didn't invite Jordan to the party to show off..."

“Why’d you do it then? Tell me! You can’t explain it, can you?!” Ruby jabbed her finger at Zayn’s forehead. Her spit splashed onto his face as she shouted, “A box of white Alba Truffles, an antique Black Forest cuckoo clock, one million dollars in cash, those are all very prestigious gifts, aren’t they?! You used up all the good fortune in your life in exchange for Jordan’s favor just to give it all away as a gift for George? Zayn, you’re a rogue! You lived under our roof and ate our food for the past four years, but have you spent even a penny of theirs? Had it not been our kindness for supporting you, you would have died of starvation!”

Despite feeling very bitter from being scolded, Zayn still wanted to explain himself. Even so, as soon as he saw the disillusionment and revulsion in Faye’s expression, his enthusiastic heart froze once again.

“That’s enough, Mom. Let’s not talk about that anymore!” Faye quickly interrupted Ruby by saying, “Zayn is not at fault. He told me before that he could get three million dollars to help me, but it was me who didn’t appreciate the opportunity. I deserve it, so this matter is not his fault! Moreover, it was him who saved Jordan’s life, so it’s his choice to decide how he wants to utilize the favor. We don’t have the right to affect his decision.”

Upon hearing that, Zayn felt sick to his stomach. So it turned out that Faye’s impression of him had not changed all.

Seeing Faye’s dissatisfaction, he wanted to tell her about his real identity, but he swallowed his words again.

There was no need for that. Most likely, Faye would not believe him, and even if she did, she would despise him all the more. Judging by her attitude, she would probably assume that he was pranking her.

Thus, he chose not to reveal the truth. He still had years ahead of him. Since he had inherited his grandfather's properties, he had enough money to make Faye fall in love with him eventually!

Faye waited for his explanation for a long time, but Zayn did not speak. He was staring into space with his head lowered which made Faye even more disappointed and disgusted with him. She chided herself for being foolish. 'Don't I know Zayn well enough after being married to him for four years? Could it be that I am still counting on Zayn carrying out his duty as a man this time?'

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0025**

Noticing that Faye was really upset, Ruby stopped insulting Zayn. The more she looked at Zayn, the more she found him to be an eyesore. As soon as they reached home, she eagerly ordered Zayn to do chores. In order to make more laundry for him to do, she removed her clothes immediately and tossed them to Zayn, hoping that the work would exhaust the ungrateful man to

death!

For his part, Zayn did not utter a word and endured it in silence.

By the time he was done with the chores, they had already finished dinner. Zayn ate all the leftover food out of hunger.

For the rest of the night, Zayn and Faye did not speak to each other. In fact, they did not even meet each other's eyes. Faye kept her cold countenance and regarded him as an invisible man.

By the time he woke up the next day, he saw a brand-new set of divorce papers placed on the dresser. Faye had already signed the papers with a note attached to its side. Faye wrote, 'Zayn, I'm going to accompany Mr. Wilson tonight. I don't blame you for not helping me even if you were able to do so. It's my fault and I deserve it. I've already signed the divorce papers. When you sign your name, we will be officially divorced. This way, no one can say I was unfaithful to you. Of course, if you don't consent to the divorce and you're willing to be with me, a woman whose chastity has been sullied, I won't force you either.'

His eyes flashed with determination as he read the divorce papers. "Don't worry, Fifi. I won't let your chastity be sullied!"

He took out his phone and dialed a number. When the call was picked up, he immediately said, "Jordan, I'll meet you at Chelsea's Café in 20 minutes. If you can't be there in time, there will be consequences."

Upon saying that, he hung up right away.

On the other end, Jordan was at his mistress' house. He had just taken a shower and was about to engage in a session of passion when he received Zayn's call. He was startled and did not

dare to delay. He hastily got up from the bed and accidentally tripped. The fall was agonizing, and he clenched his teeth in pain.

His unusual behavior displeased his beautiful mistress waiting for him in bed. She said flirtatiously, "Honey, why are you leaving again when you've just arrived. Was it that ferocious woman at your home calling you again? I don't care. I want you to stay here with me today!"

As she spoke, the lovely lady tugged at Jordan and refused to let him leave. He slapped her face with the back of his hand. "Scram and get out of me! If you make me late, I'll kill you!"

She was shocked. She had been acquainted with Jordan for a long time, and it was her first time seeing him so panicked and agitated.

Jordan had no choice but to hurry. It would take quite a long time for him to go to Chelsea's Café from his current location. At the very least, it would take 30 minutes and Zayn had only given him 20 minutes, so he could not afford to waste even one second!

He had known Zayn since he was a child, so he was well aware of his temperament. Zayn usually appeared to be harmless, yet nothing would sway him once he made up his mind. With the Larson family in a financial crisis, they would be doomed if he were to offend Zayn.

As a result, he could not care about getting dressed. He put on his pants and ran outside. He got into the car and loudly ordered the driver, "Get to Chelsea's Café in 20 minutes...No, be there in 18 minutes. If you can't make it there in time, you're fired!"



Upon hearing that, the driver's entire body trembled in fear. He dared not wait, so he stepped on the accelerator at once. The Rolls-Royce Phantom rushed out aggressively.

The car overtook other vehicles and ran red lights all the way. At last, they managed to arrive at Chelsea's Café within 19 minutes. Jordan got out of the car and swiftly dashed into the café.

There were quite a lot of people enjoying their drinks inside. They frowned at the sight of him running into the café impatiently. However, they soon noticed the Rolls-Royce Phantom parked outside and expressed their shock. This man was an incredibly wealthy business mogul!

They were particularly bewildered when they then saw the magnate rush over to a young man dressed in cheap attire and speak to him submissively.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0026

“I’m here, Zayn. I managed to make it in 20 minutes, I’m not late, am I?” Jordan had a flattering smile on his face. His back was bent forward ever so slightly as he held a respectful posture. If the Carter family were to witness this scene, they would certainly be rendered speechless from the shock and confusion.

Seeing Jordan so sweaty and anxious, Zayn said pensively, “Mr. Larson, you’re not angry with me for calling you over in such a rush and making you get all sweaty, are you?”

Jordan shook his head and waved his hand hastily while saying, “No, no! Why would I be angry with you? That’s nonsense.”

“You really aren’t angry with me?”

“I’m really not angry with you!”

Zayn chuckled but did not say anything else and sipped his coffee leisurely.

Jordan ordered a cup of coffee as well. He then asked cautiously, “Oh Zayn, did you call me here because you have something to discuss?”

Zayn left Jordan hanging for close to a minute before he nodded gently. Zayn had embarrassed Jordan immensely, yet Jordan did not dare to throw a tantrum out of fear of offending him.

“Truthfully, I called you over for no other reason than that I left my wallet behind and I hoped you could pick up the tab for me,” said Zayn with a smirk.

Upon hearing that, the smile on Jordan’s face froze immediately while a burning fury surged from his heart straight to his head!

Since when had he, Jordan Larson, ever been treated like this before? Before him, the entire population of Waltz City would behave, act obedient, and be respectful.

He almost lost his temper, yet when he saw the sneer on Zayn’s face, he shivered in fear and endured it forcefully.

This Zayn was not the Zayn from the past. This Zayn was someone that he could not afford to offend at all. He took a deep breath and gave himself a hard pinch to keep calm. Forcing a smile, he said, “If that is the case, uh...sure thing, sure thing. I can pick up the tab for you.”

Zayn waited until Jordan stood up before he said, “I bet the Larson family is having a hard time after losing more than seven billion dollars all of a sudden, right?”

Jordan's movement paused for a moment. An expression of indignation and unwillingness flashed past his face before he said with a nod, "Oh Zayn, it's true that it was our fault for wronging you in that incident four years ago, and you suffered terribly for that. Afterward, we always regretted it and we tried every way to find you again so we could make it up to you properly."

He played the card of feelings and his acting was so impressive that he even managed to force some tears out of his eyes. If Zayn did not know him any better, he would have easily been deceived by Jordan.

Zayn did not believe a word, but he acted as if he was moved. He said, "Uncle Jordan, is that genuinely what all of you were thinking? Am I truly still allowed to go back to the Larson family?"

Thinking that Zayn had taken the bait, Jordan was elated and he was quite proud of himself for pulling it off. He despised Zayn for being so easily swayed, yet he said in a very sincere tone, "Of course! You are my brother's only son and you have the Larsons' blood coursing through your veins. As long as you want to come home, we will welcome your return!"

Zayn appeared delighted at first but then acted as if he remembered something and looked very upset. "The thing is, I..." He sighed and continued, "In order to get revenge on the Larsons, I donated the seven billion dollars I inherited from Grandpa because my mind was clouded by anger. So I can't be of help to the Larsons..."

“What?” Jordan reacted dramatically upon hearing that. He stood up abruptly, widened his eyes and his face turned red with rage while his entire body trembled. “You, you, you actually donated the money? You’re a black sheep, a black sheep of the family! I…”

He soon noticed Zayn was calm as he sat there looking back at him mischievously. Was he not upset just a moment ago? Jordan immediately realized that Zayn was playing a trick on him.

Jordan stood there, stunned and very embarrassed.

“Uncle Jordan, it seems your enthusiastic invitation for me to come home was not as innocent as you made it out to be,” said Zayn in a bantering tone.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0027**

Jordan mentally cursed Zayn a thousand times because the little brute was too cunning. Zayn’s trick had rendered him speechless, so he could only force a laugh.

Zayn had already achieved his goal, so he could not be bothered to make small talk with Jordan anymore. He said straightforwardly, “It’s possible that I will return to the Larsons, but I’ll say this. It was all your fault for making a false claim that I harmed Grandpa four years ago and then kicking me out of the family. I can’t bury the hatchet yet. If your actions please me and ease my anger, I shall return to the family eventually.”

Jordan was relieved because he was afraid that Zayn would be too furious to ever return to them. "Alright, Zayn. What sort of compensation are you seeking then? As long as it is within our abilities, we will do our best to fulfill it!"

Zayn sipped his coffee and took his time to answer. After a while, he said, "The Larson's Violet Vision Media Corp has a market value worth 300 million dollars now, right?"

"Yes, " said Jordan while nodding. He had no idea why Zayn was bringing up the company. The Larsons possessed a large number of holdings that covered a wide range of fields. The Violet Vision Media Corp was one of the numerous Larson's properties. Valued at 300 million dollars, it was considered a small company for the Larsons.

Zayn said, "Since you've been so sincere, I shall acquire the Violet Vision Media Corp for 350 million dollars and consider giving 50 million dollars to all of you at no cost. Deal?"

Jordan did not know what tricks Zayn had up his sleeve, but there was certainly no reason for him to reject such a good bargain. Moreover, the Larson family was in a financial crisis and their cash flow had been broken. Fifty million dollars would be enough for them to make ends meet for a while!

"Deal! " Jordan agreed without the slightest hesitation.

"When shall we close the deal?"

“We’ll get it done today. Also, I don’t want the Larsons spreading word of my identity to anyone else.”

“Noted! Noted!”

Jordan acted quickly and completed the acquisition process in less than half an hour. After that, Zayn became the owner of Violet Vision Media Corp with a 60 % share of the company.

Zayn bought the Violet Vision Media Corp for two reasons. The first reason was that the company had been founded by his father. Acquiring it was one of his personal goals. The second reason was that Mr. Wilson, the man who wished to sleep with Faye, was its director.

He wanted to check out how impressive the supposedly filthy rich Mr. Wilson was!

‘Fifi, I said that I’d protect you, so I certainly will!’

Zayn clenched his fists tightly while a look of determination flashed through his eyes.

Jordan handled the affairs swiftly. Once he had signed the company over to Zayn, he immediately dispatched orders to inform the administrative officers of Violet Vision Media Corps about this matter. Moreover, he reminded them repeatedly to serve the new owner properly and revealed that Zayn was a man of great status and wealth! They were so startled that they

stopped working on their tasks and anxiously waited to welcome the boss' arrival in a grand display.

The female staff members and artists were especially on guard after receiving the news. The slightly more attractive ones went through every means to make themselves look beautiful. What if the big boss were to take fancy on them? Would that not give them a boost on the path to success?

In turn, the men in upper management began to plan how they would flatter the new owner.

As the manager of Violet Vision Media Corp, Mr. Wilson was dumbfounded when he heard the news. The future of Violet Vision Media Corp's was not looking good because there was too much competition in the market. Its profit was shrinking day by day, yet someone had actually spent 350 million dollars to acquire the company?

Without knowing the new owner's vision, Mr. Wilson could confirm that he must have been a rich tycoon at the very least!

A magnate like that would certainly need to be served well.

Then, he remembered that a beauty from the Carter family was coming over to spend the night with him, could he...



# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0028

Zayn was unaware that the administrative officers were already having ideas about him. With the acquisition complete, he planned to head over to Violet Vision Media Corp for a visit. He had just arrived at the Violet Vision Tower and parked his electric scooter when he heard a clang. He discovered his scooter had been knocked over.

“Whose electric scooter is this? My car is scratched up because of it!”

A man got out of the car with a frown and yelled furiously.

The security guard jogged over and bowed to apologize.

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry. I was negligent.”

The man jabbed his finger at the security guard’s forehead and shouted with a malicious tone, “What kind of a security guard are you, huh? Why would you allow a scooter to park here? Do you know what this car is? It’s a Volkswagen Touran and it’s worth several tens of thousands. A knock like this will cost a few hundred dollars to repair. That’s equal to two months of your pay!”

The security guard bowed even lower and apologized repeatedly. Next, he pulled a long face and cursed aloud, "Who the f\*ck parked their scooter over here?! Who was it?! Come the f\*ck out!"

There were numerous people standing nearby, but no one stepped forward to admit it.

The security guard yelled furiously from embarrassment, "So you're not bold enough to accept the consequences of your actions, huh?! What a piece of sh\*t! If you don't come forward, I'm going to f\*ck up your scooter!"

As he spoke, he pulled out his iron baton and was about to wreck the scooter.

"It's my scooter." Zayn walked out from the crowd.

The security guard could tell that Zayn was nothing but an ordinary wage earner just by looking at his shabby clothing. He pointed at Zayn while shouting, "Who gave you permission to park your scooter here?"

Zayn answered with a question, "Whose rule is it that scooters can't park here? Aren't there a few scooters parked on the side?"

The security guard was rendered speechless by his question. The truth was, electric scooters were allowed to park there.

As the guard struggled to find an answer, the other man stepped forward. He glared at Zayn and said in a haughty tone, "It's my rule that you're not allowed to park here!"

"Are you the chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp? I can't park here just because you said so?" Zayn asked with a frown. He was very displeased because he had just spent 350 million dollars to acquire Violet Vision Media Corp. It was his first time revealing himself to the company, but he ended up having to deal with this unpleasant incident.

The man snorted and said, "I'm the head of Violet Vision Media Corps' Human Resources Department, Gabriel Long. I'm the one who can declare that it's not permissible to park here. Why? Do you have an opinion on that?"

The numerous people watching gasped in astonishment.

"Whoa, that good-looking man must be less than 30 years old, yet he's already been promoted to the head of Violet Vision Media Corps' human resources department. That's impressive!"

"That's right. I hear the Violet Vision Media Corps' market value is as much as 300 million dollars now. As the head of the human resources department, his annual salary must be over 150,000 dollars!"

"Most importantly, he's so handsome. He's a classic example of a perfect husband."

“I see he drives a Volkswagen Touran and that’s worth several tens of thousands of dollars. What a capable young man...”

The spectators were mostly young women who came for job interviews at Violet Vision Media Corps. They thought it was a great coincidence that they met the head of the human resources department when they had come for job interviews. Hearing his words, they fervently gazed at Gabriel. If they could hook up with him, would they still need to worry about not getting employed by the Violet Vision Media Corp?

Every single one of them dreamed of becoming a star. They would spare no effort to gain fame.

Upon hearing their voices, Gabriel stood straight and proud, and the smile on his face grew even wider. In reality, as the head of the human resources department, his annual wage was only around 76,000 dollars. However, that was enough for his reputation. He had a habit of using his authority to hit new employees with unspoken rules over the past two years. One could say he went through his work unchecked.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0029**

He greatly enjoyed the adoring stares of the surrounding women.

Zayn furrowed his brows even more upon noticing Gabriel’s proud look. No wonder Violet Vision Media Corps had been steadily deteriorating over the years. It was

because of the unprofessional employees. Now that he had taken over the company, it was time for him to clean house. He spent 350 million to acquire the business, so he was not planning to lose money on it.

Realizing that Zayn was silent, Gabriel was under the assumption that Zayn was afraid of him, so his expression grew even more maliciously charming. “Got you shivering now, huh? Why don’t you take a look around and see where you’re at! This is Violet Vision Media Corps and it’s not a place for a sucker like you to visit! Now that your electric scooter scratched up my Volkswagen Touran, the cost to repair it is 1,300 dollars. Judging by your clothes, I’m assuming you can’t afford to pay that much. Considering this to be your first offense, I’m only going to take half from you as compensation. Pay 700 dollars and I’ll consider this matter finished.”

“What? You still won’t accept that? Let me tell you this, you’re in luck for encountering me. I’m generous and that’s why I’m only taking half of the cost from you without any fuss. If someone else were in my place, you’d have to pay 2,000 at the very least!” Gabriel loudly declared.

Zayn sneered. Gabriel’s car was not even a Volkswagen Touran. It was a Volkswagen Tiguan L, and there was only a small scratch that could be fixed for 150 dollars at most. Gabriel was trying to extort 700 dollars from Zayn, so he was actually a fraud.

“I see you have no scruples. Firstly, your car here is not a Volkswagen Touran but a Volkswagen Tiguan L. Moreover, it’s the low spec 1.4T version. The total on-the-road price is only about 35,000 dollars after the discount, and you still have the nerve to call it a Touran? It’s just a tiny scratch that can be fixed for 150 dollars at most. You have the audacity to call yourself generous for taking 700 dollars from me as compensation?” said Zayn disdainfully.

Upon hearing that, the crowd looked at Gabriel differently. Some of the men were discussing, "I was just saying how the car seemed so familiar. So it turns out that it's only a Volkswagen Tiguan L and a low spec model at that. I really believed he was some kind of big shot."

"That's right. The repair cost would be less than 150 dollars, yet he is trying to extort 700 dollars from that man. Absolutely shameless!"

"Moreover, it was his bad driving that caused him to knock over the man's electric scooter."

Upon hearing the discussion, Gabriel's expression darkened at once. He was just about to threaten Zayn that he would take the matter to the police when a beautiful young woman with a graceful figure walked over. She said to Gabriel, "Mr. Long, I'm sorry I'm late."

Upon seeing the woman, Gabriel's eyes lit up at once. His grim expression vanished and he resumed his handsome, suave appearance. "It's fine, it's fine. I just arrived too."

Zayn was astonished by the sight of the woman. It was Faye's good friend, Yvonne Keller, and she was a rather famous live streamer. Zayn did not have a good impression of her because she was a materialistic woman.

Yvonne immediately creased her brows upon seeing Zayn as well. "Zayn? Why are you here? Don't you have some housework to do?"

She did not attempt to conceal her loathing and contempt for him in her tone.

Gabriel was stunned for a moment then asked, “Ms. Keller, are you acquainted with him?”

Yvonne sniggered and said, “Yes, I am. He is a friend’s husband and he’s very ‘popular’ within our circle!”

She emphasized the word ‘popular’ on purpose to express her mockery.

Gabriel noticed Yvonne’s disdain for Zayn. His eyes darted left and right as if he came up with a sneaky idea when he said, “Ms. Keller, you know this man, yes? So out of respect for you, I won’t bother arguing with him on the matter of his electric scooter scratching my car.”

“Hmm? His scooter scratched your car?” After clarifying the course of the incident, Yvonne sneered and said, “Mr. Long, there’s no need for you to do that out of respect for me. I’m not close with him, so you should handle it as you please.”

Gabriel was well-aware that Yvonne would say so. He said to Zayn arrogantly, “Zayn, right? I can see that you’re a pauper just by looking at your poor face. You also must not be of very good conduct seeing how you’ve even offended Ms. Keller who is kind and easygoing.”

His remark flattered Yvonne and won her over even more. He continued to speak, “This is my last warning to you. Pay up now or I’ll report you to the police. Are you aware that your crime is enough to get you detained for half a month?!”

He tried to intimidate Zayn as though Zayn did not know anything about the law.

Meanwhile, Zayn’s phone rang. He took it out and saw that the caller was the director of Violet Vision Media Corp, Sean Wilson. “Hello, Mr. Chairman. May I inquire where you are now? We shall head downstairs to welcome your arrival.”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0030**

Sean spoke with a very respectful tone.

It was not long ago when he found out that the new big boss spent 350 million dollars to acquire the Violet Vision Media Corp, which was 50 million dollars more than the market value. What was the significance of this? It meant that the newly arriving big boss was wealthy, exceedingly so!

Sean sought to flatter such a tycoon by worshipping the ground he walked on.

Zayn cracked into a mysterious, meaningful smile and said, “I’m downstairs already, but I haven’t seen you yet.”



“Oh? You’re downstairs already?” Sean was startled, so he hastily said, “I’m coming over now! I’ll be there in a moment!”

After Zayn hung up the call, Sean said disdainfully, “Yikes! How dare you call someone as your backup? Are you trying to get a bunch of food delivery men to help you? Hah-hah-hah!”

His remark triggered the mocking laughter of the crowd.

Yvonne glared at Zayn contemptuously as he made the call.

Zayn noticed that Yvonne was all dressed up in a beautiful outfit, so he asked with a strange expression, “Yvonne, judging by your attire, are you here to accept Violet Vision Media Corp’s offer of employment?”

Yvonne grunted and said, “That’s none of your business, is it?”

Zayn was elated because he was not expecting such a coincidence. He had just acquired Violet Vision Media Corp when Yvonne came to accept their job offer. Moreover, from her appearance, it seemed that she was employed as an artist. It was rather interesting.

Yvonne interpreted his grin as shamelessness, which made her even more repulsed by him. It was true that she had started a small company some time ago, but the business went downhill in less than six months. She had a huge amount of debt, and out of desperation, she had no choice but to seek employment elsewhere. A friend told her Violet Vision was planning to cultivate a new generation of entertainers and recommended she give it a try. Her interest was piqued as soon as she learned about it. She felt she had a beautiful face and a great figure, so many of the female artists in the entertainment industry were no match for her. If she was lucky, perhaps she would actually become a celebrity.

Zayn's words had left her embarrassed and furious. She rudely replied, "Zayn, who do you think you are to criticize me when you're just a deadbeat? It's true I'm seeking employment from Violet Vision Media Corp, but is that not a thousand times better than being Faye's toyboy?"

Her insult sounded cruel and unpleasant, which did not match her sweet, adorable appearance. Many people were looking at her repulsed.

Yvonne immediately regretted it after she was done speaking. She was there to become an artist, so her image was of the utmost importance. At the thought of this, she became even more disgusted and revolted by Zayn.

Yvonne was a materialistic woman. As Faye's worthless husband, she had ridiculed him many times over the past few years. In fact, Yvonne had even encouraged Faye to divorce him in secret. If Yvonne were to learn that the good-for-nothing she despised was the new chairman of Violet Vision Media Corps, how shocked would she be?

“Yvonne, I thought you told us that you started a company and the business is doing very well. Why are you here working for Violet Vision instead?” said Zayn with a smile.

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Meanwhile, Gabriel spoke in a very caring manner, “Don’t worry, Ms. Keller. I’m the head of the human resource department and you’re my friend. It’s not going to be an issue for you to get a job with Violet Vision Media Corp.”

Yvonne dropped her harsh mannerisms and regained her prior girlish demeanor. She put on a charming smile and said to Gabriel, “Thank you for taking the trouble to help me, Mr. Long. It’s really great to get to know you.”

Gabriel perked up upon hearing that.

Zayn could not keep himself from laughing upon watching them. “Yvonne, you’ve got it wrong this time. You can’t count on this Long person to get employed by Violet Vision just yet.”

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0031

Yvonne was annoyed by the sound of his voice. She was so vexed that she burst out laughing. “Ha! If I can’t count on him, am I supposed to count on you?”

Zayn said with a smile, “You’ve actually got it right. I really am capable of getting you hired by Violet Vision. For the sake of your friendship with Faye, I’ll get you a job here if you apologize sincerely right now and address me with the proper respect. Not only will you be hired, but I’ll also put every effort into turning you into a huge celebrity.”

Yvonne sniggered and could not stop herself from bursting into laughter. “Hah-hah-hah! Did I hear that right? A loafer like you could get me hired by Violet Vision and turn me into a huge celebrity? Zayn, you’ve shown me that there is far more to foolishness than I ever knew.”

The rest of the crowd were chortling derisively as well. They gawked at Zayn as if he were a clown.

“Hah-hah! I’m going to die of laughter. Do you know what the scale of Violet Vision Median Corp is? Its market value is 300 million dollars. It’s backed by the Larsons of Waltz City and earns a few million dollars in profit annually! Even I don’t have the courage to guarantee that I can turn Ms. Keller into a celebrity. How dare a pauper who works as a food delivery man make such enormous claims? I’ve seen many morons in my life, but this is the first time I’m meeting a blockhead of your level.”

Gabriel spared no effort in deriding Zayn. He could see that Yvonne was acquainted with the man and there was bad blood between the two. He was mocking Zayn so he could get on her good side.

Zayn was not angered by their insults. He kept the smile on his face while he began to anticipate the two b\*tches' expressions upon the arrival of Sean and the others.

However, it had already been a few minutes. Why were Sean and the others not downstairs yet?

Gabriel was growing impatient because it was almost time for him to clock in. He was scheduled to do an interview, so he tried to pressure Zayn, "Hey, deadbeat, quit stalling and pay what you owe. Otherwise, I'm really going to report to the police and send you to jail!"

At that point, a group of people walked out from the entrance of the Violet Vision Tower in a hurry. They had excitement and nervousness on their faces and every one of them was dressed in expensive suits. One could immediately tell that these were the rich higher-ups, and the one walking at the front was a fat man with wealth written all over his face. He was drenched in sweat and looked like he had rushed over hastily.

This man was the director of Violet Vision Media Corp, Sean Wilson. He was the Mr. Wilson who had offered to lend the Carters three million dollars under the condition that Faye would spend three days and nights with him.

Gabriel swiftly hid his excessive behavior upon seeing Sean and the others. With the top officials from Violet Vision around, he submissively hunched over a little. All of them were superior to his own boss, particularly Sean. Sean was the big shot that he tried to curry favor with!

Witnessing their arrival, Gabriel forgot about Zayn. He eagerly dashed over to them and said in a respectful and flattering manner, “Mr. Wilson, what brings you here?”

Many people there had come for the interview. They instantly realized that he was the director of Violet Vision Media Corp when they observed how submissive Gabriel was to Sean and that he addressed him as ‘Mr. Wilson’.

Yvonne was momentarily stunned when she saw this. She rapidly composed herself and cracked into her sweetest, most pleasant smile before walking toward Sean.

Sean was frantically looking everywhere for the new chairman when he was suddenly surrounded by a crowd. He furrowed his brows and had a displeased expression. He instinctively wanted to shout at the mob, but then he recalled his earlier conversation with the new chairman. Over the phone, he had told him he was already at Violet Vision Tower, so Sean figured that he must have been nearby. In order to uphold his personal image, he immediately smiled and said, “I’m here to welcome our company’s new chairman!”

He raised his voice on purpose, hoping the new chairman would hear him.

As the deputy head of the Human Resources department, there was a huge disparity between Gabriel and Sean's positions. It was usually quite hard for him to have a conversation with the director. Even if the opportunity came, Sean had always been cold and nonchalant. It was the first time Gabriel had been greeted with such enthusiasm by Sean, so he quickly got excited and overwhelmed by his own emotions. He soon noticed that Mr. Wilson and the other managers had come downstairs to welcome the new chairman.

If even a top leader like Mr. Wilson had to come down to welcome the new owner personally, whoever it was must have been very rich. He decided that he had to make a bigger spectacle of himself!

He stood straighter and behaved as submissively as possible. He wanted to run to the new chairman later so he could lick his boots and win over him on the spot.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0032**

As so many people had tuned into their conversation, the situation immediately drew a great deal of attention!

The new chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp was an unrivaled big shot. Anyone who caught the eyes of the new chairman would be able to progress by leaps and bounds.

All at once, the crowd of onlookers began to escalate into an uproar of excitement, especially the beautiful women who were there for their interviews. They even whipped



out their pocket mirrors to freshen up their makeup and hurriedly dolled themselves up in an attempt to grab the new chairman's attention.

Yvonne was no exception. Her enthusiasm only grew as her lips trembled in excitement. Among the numerous candidates, she was easily the most beautiful as well as the one with the best figure. If she were a little bolder, she could even be capable of seducing the new chairman!

She spotted Zayn, who was still smirking to the side. He was being a complete killjoy. The chairman and Zayn were both men, yet they were as dissimilar as night and day!

Despite standing on the tips of their toes and craning their necks in anticipation, they were unable to locate the new chairman. They could not help but wonder if he had even arrived. And if it were the case, why had they not seen him yet?

Zayn did not immediately announce his arrival, instead he merely stood there. Everyone's gaze swept past him before shifting away in disdain. They did not have the slightest idea that the new chairman-who they so desperately wanted to suck up to-was actually the pauper that they despised.

Three minutes passed, and many people began to doubt if Sean had made a mistake. One of the higher-ups standing next to Sean asked in bewilderment, "Sean, are you certain that the new chairman is already here?"

Sean responded, "There's no doubt about it. He called me earlier and said that he's already here at Violet Vision Tower."

"Then why haven't we seen him? Did he just up and leave because we weren't downstairs to welcome him?"

"That's right. We can't just wait and stand around like this. In the event that the new chairman is genuinely unhappy with us for not welcoming him earlier, we're going to have to apologize before it's too late."

"Sean, I think it would be for the best if you gave the chairman another call, don't you think so?"

Sean deliberated his options for a moment, before ultimately agreeing that the better course of action was to call and check in with the new chairman. If he truly took offense, they would be in deep trouble. He would fire them all in a fit of rage!

As experienced veterans who had been working in the industry for years, they were naturally aware that higher-ups like themselves were at risk in a scenario like this. If they were not careful, they could easily be fired by the new owner at any given moment. They refused to believe that the chairman, a man who had spent 350 million dollars to acquire ownership of the company, would have anything less than a team of professionals working under him.

At their age, if they were fired at this point, jobs would be few and far between, and they refused to end up in such a predicament.

As Sean dialed Zayn's phone number, everyone held their breaths. They glanced around, their anxious eyes in search of the new chairman.

However, it was also at that very moment that they heard the sound of muffled ringing. It was a classic Nokia ringtone. Everyone gazed towards the source of the sudden sound, only to be shocked by the inconceivable sight before them.

It was Zayn. He pulled his phone out, a laid back smile playing on his lips as he answered the call. "Hello?"

As Sean stood with his back against Zayn, he was out of his field of vision. He spoke hastily, yet in a respectful tone, "Hello, sir. I'm downstairs, but I don't see you at all."

Zayn's voice could be heard from the other end of the call, saying, "I'm right behind you."

Sean hastily turned around to find a young man dressed in casual attire. He looked at Sean, smiling.

Sean was dumbfounded. Was this the new chairman?

Apart from him, everyone had their mouths agape in bewilderment. They wanted to know if they were delusional. The new chairman of Violet Vision Median Corp was Zayn, who came on an electric scooter, wore an outfit from the flea market, and had been berated for being a pauper?

Oh, God, the world has gone mad!

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0033**

Gabriel was dumbstruck. His jaw hung so low that it could fit a child's fist!

Meanwhile, Yvonne's expression was a sight to behold too. She was completely dumbfounded because she never would have guessed Faye's freeloading husband, who married into her family, to be the new chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp. It all seemed so strange that she was starting to believe that she was hallucinating!

Up on noticing their reactions, Zayn felt rather pleased with himself. He feigned two violent coughs that jolted Sean back to reality. He hastily approached him and asked in an tentative manner, "If I may inquire, are you Zayn Larson, the new chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp?"

He felt it was necessary to question him out of earshot to avoid making things overly awkward.

He was incredulous of the young man covered in rags. After all, he did not resemble a wealthy tycoon who was capable of producing a large sum of 350 million dollars.

Zayn was well aware of Sean's thoughts. His smile faded, and a look of discontent took its place. He had a daunting presence of intimidation, one belonging to a distinguished man!

Sean's expression underwent several drastic changes as he cowered in fear before him. He immediately came to the realization that this was the new chairman of Violet Vision, as only someone with such a superior status could exude such a powerful aura.

"Why? Do you think I'm an imposter?" Zayn challenged with a false smile that was a harsh contrast to his cold expression.

It sent a shiver down Sean's spine. His shock was apparent from his shaking head. He replied anxiously, "No, no! Why in the right mind would I think you're an imposter? I'm just surprised that our chairman is so young. You're a giant amongst men, just as expected. Even if you're dressed in such plain clothes, you're full of spunk and you stand out in a crowd! Violet Vision Media Corp will certainly soar to greater heights under your impressive leadership!"

Sean was relieved to see Zayn cracking a smile as he engaged in his bootlicking.

The rest of the higher-ups scrambled to surround them. They began to bombard Zayn with countless words of flattery, intensely trying to suck up to him.

“I’ve been hearing about your fame for quite a while now, and I’m finally witnessing it today. You’re extraordinary, just as expected!”

“Look at the chairman’s mannerisms. He’s so domineering...”

“Chairman, I’m the manager of the marketing department...”

“Chairman, I’m the...”

Zayn nodded his head, a long-awaited smile beamed back at them as he basked in the praise of the company’s leaders. It had been a long time since he experienced such a familiar feeling.

Meanwhile, he spotted Gabriel in the crowd. The grief-stricken Gabriel turned a ghastly shade of pale white, shuddering in terror. An idea came to Zayn’s mind as a mysterious smile began to play on his lips as he said, “May I know who is the superior of Gabriel Long, the head of the Human Resource Department?”

Upon hearing Zayn's words, the higher-ups of the company were puzzled. They had no clue as to why the new chairman would ask about that small fry. Could Gabriel be a relative of the new chairman?

As the manager of the Human Resource Department, Charlie Rivera stepped forward and proclaimed loudly, "Gabriel is my subordinate. He's doing fairly well in the Human Resource Department, so I have plans on promoting him to head of the Human Resource Department!"

"Really?" Zayn cracked a meaningful smile. It wasn't long-lasting however, as an icy glare occupied his gaze seconds after. "From here on out, you and Gabriel are fired."

"What?"

Charlie was dumbfounded. What the heck was going on?

Gabriel wanted to bawl his eyes out as soon as the words left Zayn's lips. He realized he had made a huge mistake.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0034**

Sean and the others were astonished as well. They were baffled-how had Charlie offended the new chairman? They hastily distanced themselves from Charlie to avoid being involved. The possibility of suffering a similar fate sent a chill down everyone's spine.

Charlie reacted to the situation by aggrievedly questioning, "Sir, what have I done? Why are you firing me?"

Zayn stopped in his tracks to spare a glance at Gabriel before he spoke, "You may ask him yourself."

Upon hearing that, Charlie realized that it was Gabriel who had offended the new chairman! He wanted to give himself a tight slap right then and there for having absolutely zero social awareness. It was obvious that the new chairman was having a bad day when he was speaking of Gabriel! However, he hated Gabriel with every fiber because that useless b\*stard was blind! Gabriel had actually offended the new chairman, and as a result, he had to bite the bullet as well. He could not afford to lose his job as the manager of the Human Resource Department.

He hastily tried to explain, "This is a misunderstanding, sir! I haven't been able to stand the sight of Gabriel since the moment I laid eyes on him. He's incompetent, and he's a worthless employee who holds a position to his name without making a single

contribution to the company. He's only capable of using his authority to manipulate newcomers with his unspoken rules. I've just been itching to fire him for some time now!"

The hostility that boiled over inside of him was evident as he roared, "Gabriel, you're fired! Clear your desk and leave!"

The turn of events had rendered the women who previously had thoughts of seducing him speechless. Their impression of Gabriel had changed drastically, as they viewed him with newfound contempt. On the contrary, Zayn was now gorgeously handsome in their eyes.



Despite being dressed head-to-toe in flea market rags, he emanated an aura of royalty and sophistication.

On the other hand, Yvonne was completely and utterly astounded. She still found everything hard to swallow. Was this man really the good-for-nothing freeloader she used to know?

Gabriel was experiencing a mental breakdown. Shamefaced and pathetic, he hastily ran over and apologized profusely, "It's my fault, sir! I was ignorant, I made a mistake by offending you. It's all my fault! I won't do it again! I'm begging you not to fire me. This job is my life. Please, I'm on my knees. I'm begging you!"

As he groveled, he slapped himself over and over again, audibly. He was no longer the arrogant egotist from earlier, instead he was now a nobody.

Zayn paid no attention to Gabriel as he provided Charlie with further instructions, "When you've finished dealing with his account, send him an extra 300 dollars as compensation for scratching his car. Starting today, if I see him at Violet Vision again, you'll be fired as well."

As soon as the words left his lips, he strode towards Violet Vision Tower indifferently, disregarding Gabriel's heartbreaking plea for forgiveness.

He did not spare Yvonne a single glance from start to finish. To Yvonne, his apathy felt like a slap across the face.

At the same time, Yvonne had trouble figuring things out. Was Zayn not the deadbeat son-in-law of the Carters? For years, landing himself a job was already a troubling feat in it of itself. He spent most of his days slaving away at household chores, like washing his mother-in-law's undergarments. How on earth did he manifest this position of his as the new chairman of

Violet Vision Media Corp? Something felt off.

While she was still racking her brain for an answer, Yvonne decided to call Faye. "Hello, Fifi, how are you? I've been good lately. Hmm... Hey, I was calling in to ask about your husband, Zayn. What's his family background like, huh?"

Faye was in an awful mood. She was moments away from getting into bed with Mr. Wilson. However, she discovered that Zayn had yet to sign the divorce papers when she arrived home at noon later that day. He was nowhere to be seen, so she was all worked up when she received Yvonne's call. Yvonne even had to mention that disgusting excuse for a human being, which irritated her even more. "What sort of family background could he possibly have, huh? He's just a simpleton from the countryside! I honestly regret marrying that deadbeat at all!"

"Are you sure he's really a pauper from the countryside, and not a well- to-do rich boy?" Yvonne asked with a frown.

Faye's voice grew grave and wary upon hearing Yvonne's queries. She spoke in a low tone, "Yvonne, did Zayn try to borrow money from you? I'm telling you, don't lend a single cent to that man, or trust a single word that comes out of his putrid mouth! Well-to-do rich boy, huh? That's b\*llshit. He's just a pauper who has flies coming out of his wallet! I should've listened to your advice back then and filed for a divorce years ago!"

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0035

“So, that’s the case, huh?” Yvonne stated in a rather peculiar tone of voice.

“Speaking of which Yvonne, why are you asking me about Zayn out of nowhere?” Faye questioned incredulously. “Is he with you?”

“No, no!” Yvonne denied quickly, “I just happened to run into someone who reminded me of Zayn, which is why I’m asking you out of curiosity. Since I’ve clearly mistaken him for someone else, it’s not a problem then. Let’s meet up some other day, alright?”

After hanging up, Yvonne’s captivating eyes wandered as her mind began to run wild. Judging from how Faye sounded, she strongly resented Zayn. It was apparent that the relationship between them was unhealthy. Moreover, it was vital that Zayn kept his identity a secret from Faye so that Yvonne could take advantage of him!

Under that sweet disposition, Yvonne was nothing but a fox. She had every man wrapped around her finger, trapped in the palm of her hand. Gabriel had not even laid a finger on her, yet he was already under her spell of lust. She was certain if she and Zayn could establish a connection, she would certainly be able to manipulate him with her beauty and wit!

She too remembered how Zayn would steal quick glances at her during her visits to Faye’s in the past. It was apparent that he was infatuated with her. She previously felt revolted by the very thought of him, but she felt incredible now. If Yvonne could deceive Zayn into putting a ring on

her finger, she would never have to worry about work for the rest of her life. She would be fabulously wealthy. In fact, she would be rolling in mountains of fame and fortune! After all, he was the man who had acquired Violet Vision for an impressive sum of over 300 million dollars.

While Yvonne continued to be upset at the preceding altercation, it was not a matter of life or death. As she understood the male thought process quite intricately, she knew that Zayn was just holding his head up high in her presence so that she would apologize for her behavior. She would then strike at the perfect moment, obediently fulfilling his Wish and at the same time luring him in with her feminine charm. If it were plausible for her to ensnare Zayn with her allure, she would definitely be able to tie him down!

At the thought of such a wonderful scenario, she began laughing maniacally.

Zayn had no idea that he had already become Yvonne's prey. He was still being escorted by Sean and the others as they walked into Violet Vision Tower. He felt extremely pleased and at ease as he watched them compete against each other to figure out who could compliment him the most.

Of course, he had not forgotten his original intentions behind acquiring Violet Vision Media Corp either. Now that he was the chairman, he had to properly understand the inner workings of Violet Vision. He would then be able to properly strategize the company's next plan of action moving forward. He still wanted to make a huge profit off of Violet Vision.

Despite Sean and the others treating Zayn with the utmost respect, it was all merely surface level. In reality, they viewed him as a mere naive, well—to—do boy due to his young age. They assumed that Zayn was not capable of bringing much to the table, and had spent all that money to acquire Violet Vision so that he could have his way with the female artistes.

Nevertheless, it soon dawned on them that they were sorely mistaken. They informed Zayn of the company's dire circumstances. After listening to Zayn's views on the whole situation as well as his market analysis, their hatred for the young man simply melted away. Many were incredibly taken aback by his brilliance. Although Zayn was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, he was incredibly intelligent. They were impressed by his ingenious perspectives, proposals, and plans.

Initially, Zayn was a business prodigy. At least a third of the Larsons' wealth had been generated solely by him, whether directly or indirectly. Operating a small company like Violet Vision did not pose a challenge to him at all. In addition, he was reliable and level-headed when handling current affairs. He had done plenty of research on a number of companies prior to acquiring Violet Vision Media Corp, so he was able to resolve any issues by nipping them at the bud.

Since he had only recently acquired the company, he was not in a rush to push new plans out either. He wanted to maintain the current business model for the time being and let time take its course before he executed a major move.

When the meeting was adjourned, he dismissed everyone except for Sean. "Stay back, Mr. Wilson."

Sean's heart raced when he noticed Zayn's grave expression. He started to get jittery, and he attempted to identify whatever it was that he had done to offend Zayn from the moment he welcomed him. He wondered what could have caused Zayn's resentment?

"It was my fault, sir. I'm begging you to give me one more chance to change my ways, sir!" Sean acknowledged his mistake right away in a very professional manner.

Zayn did not speak, instead narrowing his eyes as his icy stare bored into Sean's soul. He had originally thought of firing Sean, but after a moment of consideration, he responded indicatively, "Mr. Wilson, you've really been pushing it these days, haven't you? You offered to loan three million dollars to the Carters and demanded that the Carters let you sleep with a beautiful woman for three days. Tsk tsk!"

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0036

“Huh?” Sean was so startled that his mind had drawn a complete blank. He struggled to figure out what tricks the chairman had up his sleeves. He treaded carefully with his words, “Yes, that’s true. In truth, I was only joking with the Carters. I never intended for them to legitimately bring me such a beautiful woman...”

Sean carefully noted the changes in Zayn’s expressions at all times. He was anxious beyond belief—the young chairman’s actions were incredibly unpredictable. His agreement between the Carters, which put three million dollars in their possession, was sworn to secrecy. No information was released to any uninvolved parties, yet the new chairman had somehow caught wind of it. From that alone, he could tell that he had extraordinary capabilities.

Bang!

Zayn slammed the table in outrage. It startled Sean so much that he began to tremble, before stumbling and falling over. “Sean Wilson! How bold of you!”

“S—sir, s—sir, sir...” The color had drained out of Sean’s face, leaving nothing but a ghastly husk. He was shivering excessively. Fear had taken over his entire body. “I was wrong, I was so very wrong. I’m begging you to put me in my place, sir!”

Zayn stared at Sean, sending a chill down his spine. “Alright, tell me what you’ve done wrong then.”

“I...I...” Sean’s lips were twitching as his mind spun into a downward spiral. He could not explain his wrongdoings right away. Well, what had he done wrong anyway? The Carters were just a small, petty family when you looked at the bigger picture. Moreover, their family business did not operate properly, causing their net worth to deteriorate. They could be considered mere bums at this point. Even if he were to sleep with the most beautiful woman in the Carter family, he could opt out of paying them without many repercussions.

“Are you just going to stand there?” Zayn’s gaze grew colder and colder.

Sensing the pressure that was being put on him, sweat had begun to pour from Sean’s forehead. He looked like he was on the verge of crying his eyes out. He could not bring himself to come up with a reason, so he could only resort to doing one thing—he shouted at the top of his lungs as he slapped himself multiple times in quick succession, “I was wrong, I was wrong!”

Zayn waited for Sean to finish destroying his face with swollen palm marks before declaring, “Alright, stop putting up such a pathetic performance.”

Zayn waited for Sean to stop before he continued, “I know what you’re thinking. You think that the Carters are a bunch of nobodies who just happen to own a company. Even if you were to sleep with Faye Carter and refuse your part of the deal, the Carters could do nothing in retaliation. You think you have free reign to just do as you please, isn’t that right?”

“Yes, yes, yes. You know me like the back of your hand, sir. You’re incredibly insightful as expected. I know I was wrong!” Sean nodded profusely, even more in awe of Zayn’s



presence. The new chairman was clearly not a simple man. To his surprise, Zayn was able to read his mind with a single glance.

Zayn stared at Sean in indignation as he spoke, “Sean, you’re an industry veteran. How could you be so brainless? It’s true that the Carters are a small family, so if you were to shamelessly take advantage of them, there would genuinely be nothing they could do. Despite this, you shouldn’t forget that we’re currently in the age of information, where everything is readily accessible at the touch of a screen. Any piece of information could be easily spread online, especially on social media. On the other hand, you’re the director of Violet Vision. Should you see yourself involved in a scandal, Violet Vision’s reputation would be on the line! Its market value would drop promptly after. Would you ever be able to shoulder such a mighty responsibility?”

Every carefully crafted sentence that left Zayn’s lips progressively turned Sean’s skin ghostly white. “Sir, I shall drop the deal at once! I promise that I won’t jeopardize Violet Vision’s reputation.”

“Hmm.” Zayn nodded. Meanwhile, Zayn’s phone—which had been lying on the table—chimed to notify him of a text message. He had set an image of Faye as his phone’s wallpaper. Sean had noticed it in passing and could not suppress his shock. Why did the person in the photo look so familiar?

“I’m not opposed to the idea of you loaning money to the Carters, but you’re not allowed to have any inappropriate thoughts about Faye from now on. Do you understand?” Zayn asked with a solemn stare.

“I promise that I won’t!” Sean nodded strenuously, only relaxing when Zayn left the meeting room. His entire body was drenched in cold sweat. The new chairman truly was a handful.

When he managed to steady his breathing, he resumed his initial train of thought. As Sean slowly analyzed the events that had happened earlier, he deduced that it held a rather important place in the chairman’s heart. Zayn had even kept him back after the meeting had been adjourned to discuss the matter in detail.

In all frankness, this was simply a trifling matter. To start, the possibility of the company’s reputation being tarnished was very unlikely. The Carters were a small family. Even if they did manage to get media coverage about the whole ordeal, it would not affect him at all. Besides, there was no evidence that could be traced back to him, so he was fully capable of suing the Carters on the grounds of slander with his manipulative tactics. The Carters would only end up losing more.

As a result, it was illogical for the new chairman to punish him for something so trivial. After the interaction from earlier, he did not see the chairman as an ordinary man. The new chairman must have had his own reasons! As an experienced veteran who had been working in the industry for years, it was necessary for him to crack the mystery that was the chairman’s complex mind.

Then, what could have been the reason for the new chairman to do this? Was he trying to further establish his authority by punishing him?

All of a sudden, it all made sense. Sean had it figured out!

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0037

It was all because of Faye Carter, the beauty the Carters had sent over.

He remembered, Sean remembered now. Faye was the person who was set as the chairman's wallpaper.

He knew Faye's name, had a photo of her set as his wallpaper, and even warned Sean to keep his distance. It was obvious that the new chairman had his eyes on Faye!

By connecting the dots, Sean had it all figured out...

It was obvious that the new chairman had his eyes on Faye, but she was already married. It would be demeaning for him to use his position as chairman to win over Faye. That was why the new chairman was aware of Sean blackmailing Faye for three million dollars to sleep with him. Besides, he looked absolutely fuming!

The more Sean thought about it, the clearer the picture in his head. He was thrilled about it, even.

With how the new chairman had reprimanded him, it was evident that he was hinting Sean to behave accordingly. Otherwise, he would have made him reject the deal entirely. Instead, why had the new chairman stressed so much about the importance of Sean staying away from Faye?

How he carried himself would determine the outcome of the situation.

After piecing together the final piece of the puzzle, he was so overjoyed that he snorted in baleful glee. If he could strategically humor the new chairman and pander to his current affairs, he was sure to earn a raise.

Zayn was unaware of Sean misinterpreting his intentions. He returned to his office, closed the door, and paced around the room. The excitement that was written all over his face was something he could not hide.

He had been aggrieved for four years, and now he was finally where he belonged. After acquiring Violet Vision, he was now at the pinnacle.

The feeling of a successful recuperation from what was known previously as a loss was exhilarating.

Now that he was a chairman, he had to look the part. He could not allow himself to be dressed in flea market attire anymore, at least not at Violet Vision. He sent his assistant to purchase a few suits and casual attire, spending around tens of thousands of dollars.

After having dinner at the company, he was a little fatigued. He planned to rest for a while and return to the Carters' household after waking up from his nap.

There was a bedroom that was adjacent to the office with a huge bed that spanned 2.1 meters in width. It was so comfortable that he fell asleep soon after laying down.

At the same time, Faye was walking out of the house. In order to complete her mission, she had done her make— up in a very subtle, yet flattering manner. She donned a skintight, figure—hugging dress to accentuate her sexy physique.

She looked exquisite tonight, but her expression was soulless, as though she were a colorless zombie roaming amongst the living.

“Fifi, I know that you’re displeased with what’s been happening. If everything goes according to plan, everyone will admire you for what you did!”

“That’s right. The Carters are in trouble and the situation is taking a turn for the worse. You’re the most beautiful woman in the Carter family, you’re the only one who can help us.”

“Three days will fly by before you know it. There’s no need to worry. Plus, this isn’t something to be ashamed of. Mr. Wilson is the director of Violet Vision Media Corp. That company has a net worth of over a few hundred million dollars. He’s the biggest boss around. Being with him would make a world of a difference, and it would be a significant improvement from that deadbeat husband of yours, Zayn!”

Before Faye left, many of the Carter family members rushed over to console her with their flowery words and tasteless formalities.

Someone remembered something all of a sudden and asked out of curiosity, “Oh, right. Speaking of Zayn, where did he run off to?”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0038**

It had just dawned on them that Zayn was nowhere to be found.

“Sh\*t, where could he be? He must be hiding.”

“That has to be the case. Zayn is the epitome of a boytoy. Now that Faye is with Mr. Wilson, can we even count on him to step up and stop it from happening?”

“I’m furious just thinking about the incident from earlier. He can’t do anything except ruin things. He exhausted all of his good fortune when he saved Jordan’s life, and he never even took full advantage of his favor! What’s worse is that he didn’t reclaim Jordan’s birthday gifts either! I’ve never met a man as foolish as he is!”

“That’s true. If I was the hero who had saved Jordan’s life, I would’ve achieved great heights by now, and built a path of new glory for the Carters!”

“Any Tom, Dick or Harry who had the honor of receiving Jordan’s favor would make the most of it, let alone you, Regardless, none of them would ever end up as battered as Zayn!”

“Stop talking. I’m on the verge of dying from all this rage!”

Due to what had happened in the past, they resented Zayn with a burning passion. Although the Carters were in times of great difficulty, Zayn had not managed to do anything besides having Jordan’s temporary favor for him. They were even more furious when they remembered how they had to yield to Zayn. It was the most shame they had felt in their lifetime!

As they thoroughly deliberated the situation, they were expectantly waiting to give Zayn a taste of his own medicine the moment he returned.

In the midst of their never ending stream of infuriated grumbling, Faye piped up forbiddingly, “That’s enough! If anyone has the gall to mention his name in my presence ever again, I won’t go as far as even stepping into Mr. Wilson’s bedroom!”

The whole room was startled by Faye’s sternness, causing it to quiet down to pin drop silence.

Faye was in a terrible mood, mainly due to Zayn. She was about to head out to see Mr. Wilson now, yet Zayn was nowhere to be found. She expected a surprise appearance at the very least. Zayn was acting like a coward, one who was hiding in the shadows of fear and weakness. It was truly disappointing to her! Someone like him could never be considered a real man.

Meanwhile, George stepped forward to speak, "Alright, let's not drivel on about things of such unimportance. Faye, I have fulfilled all of your wants and needs, so it's now time that you fulfil your promise to me as well."

Faye nodded, expressionless. She got into the car.

"Fifi, thank you for all the trouble that you've gone through. It's all that deadbeat Zayn's fault. He obviously had the opportunity to save you from this mess, yet it all went to waste for nothing!"

"Sigh..." Ruby clutched Faye's hand. She was equally despondent as she was exasperated.

Waine said, "Fifi, I can see that Ethan loves you deeply. When you return, do the right thing and get a divorce with Zayn and marry Ethan instead, alright?"

Faye mustered a sorrowful smile before lamenting, "Dad, do you think that Ethan will consider me as a life partner, even after I sleep with Mr. Wilson?"

"Uh..." Waine was left at a loss for words. He lowered his head as he frantically puffed on his cigarette.

20 minutes later, they had arrived at Violet Vision Tower. She said to her parents, "Mom, Dad, go home. I'll be home in three days."



Tears welled up in Ruby and Waine's eyes. They watched helplessly as Faye disappeared into the tall building before them.

Faye walked into Violet Vision Tower. She felt herself shiver as her skin reached freezing cold temperatures. Every step she made it felt like hundreds of pound weights were strapped to her ankles.

Her appearance drew the attention of many people at Violet Vision Tower. It was for no other reason than her breathtaking beauty and her sexy, figure-hugging dress.

Many people were wondering if she was a new employee, and that she had a future in the company as a huge celebrity.

She was quickly approached by a man who came over to strike up a conversation with her, but she simply disregarded him with a cold stare. She took the liberty of walking to the front desk, speaking to the front desk receptionist, "Hello, my name is Faye Carter. I'm here to see Mr. Wilson."

The front desk receptionist responded, "You're looking to see Mr. Wilson? Do you have an appointment?"

Faye bit her lower lip and said, "Just tell him my name."

## When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0039

The front desk receptionist sized Faye up twice, seriousness written all over face. She pursed her lips, before dialing Sean's line. "Hello, Mr. Wilson, there's a lady named Faye Carter who wants to see you."

Sean was smoking in his office. His entire body quivered in excitement upon hearing the receptionist's words. He hurriedly demanded, "Send her in, quickly!"

He considered for a moment before adding, "Forget it. I'll come downstairs and escort her up personally!"

After hanging up the call, Sean hastily put out the cigarette and ran to the washroom to rinse his mouth. He chewed on a piece of gum to cover the acrid smell of tobacco and tidied himself up before going downstairs to meet with Faye. He knew without a shadow of a doubt that the beauty who had stolen the heart of the new chairman was in fact Faye. He had to treat her right. The new chairman had been in the office for a few hours and had yet to come out, so Sean was certain that the man was waiting for him to send Faye in.

He arrived downstairs and immediately recognized the woman who was standing next to the front desk as Faye. His eyes could not help but light up at the sight of her irresistible charm.

Having seen Faye's photo on a prior occasion, he knew that she was stunning. He had no idea that it was possible for her to look even better in person.

It was a pity he could not have a piece of such a fine beauty... Bah! As soon as the idea crossed his mind, he hastily shook his head to eliminate his wandering thoughts. He could not allow himself to have such dangerous ideas floating around like that. She was the new chairman's love interest. If the new chairman knew of his attraction to Faye's refined beauty, surely he would never be forgiven!

Sean composed himself and strode cautiously towards. He cracked into a smile that he regarded as friendly.

Faye caught sight of Sean as well. Her pupils constricted at once as she felt her heart race at a million miles an hour. She was in a state of unbearable tenseness.

Sean was a chubby man with a pudgy tummy. When he walked, the fatty folds of stretched flesh trembled with each step.

She had an intense repulsion for that fat pig, she was disinclined to give her first time away to a creature like him! If she had known of this earlier, she would have given it away to Zayn! At the very least, Zayn had strong, handsome features and a rather toned physique too...

Huh? Hold on, why was she thinking about him at such an inconvenient time? She had to get rid of that thought, pronto!

"Hello, hello. You must be Ms. Carter, yes?" Sean greeted with a smile as he made his way to the front. He had his eyes fixated straight on her.

Faye's mind was a chaotic mess at this point. She wanted to force a smile, but she looked so uncomfortable that it would look uglier than if she were to burst into tears. However, she remembered George's reminder to her before she came, so she suppressed her grievance and disgust. She took the initiative to offer her hand. "Hello, Mr. Wilson. I'm Faye."

Sean could not help but feel the passion pulsating in his heart as he looked at her up so closely. She looked so tantalizing that any man would be aroused with a single glance. He stretched out a hand subconsciously to shake hers, but a thought flashed across his mind immediately. He remembered Zayn's face being filled with impending rage, so the wicked ideas invading his mind quickly vanished into thin air. He hastily withdrew his hand and said, "Ms. Carter, you're gorgeous. Let's head upstairs to discuss some official business, shall we?"

What a joke! Now that he knew Faye was Zayn's cup of tea, how would he ever have the courage to lay a finger on Faye? Moreover, there were security cameras installed everywhere in Violet Vision. If Zayn were to review the security footage, he would be doomed.

Faye was astounded because she did not expect Sean to pull back his hand. What was going on? Was he unhappy with her?

With that question plaguing her mind, her heart felt a heavy sense of unrest. The situation that the Carters were in was terrible, so she had to get her hands on the three million dollars tonight before it escalated into something far worse.

In the elevator, she could not refrain from asking, "Mr. Wilson, are you not satisfied with me?"

Sean was stunned for a moment. Soon after, he noticed Faye's anxiety and realized that she was under the impression that he was aggravated with her.

"No, no, I'm very satisfied with you..." He immediately caught wind of the fact that he made a slip in his words. He hastily corrected himself by saying, "No, no, that's not what I mean, but..."

With nothing more to say, he did not know how to explain himself within such time constraints, thus he waved his hand in dismissal. "You will know when we get there in due time."

Faye was even more confused. She could not understand what Sean had up his sleeve. However, she was already prepared to sacrifice herself regardless. She would brace herself and take on anything that happened next no matter what was waiting for her!

"Mr. Wilson, you agreed that you would loan three million dollars to the Carters without interest if I become your companion for three days. You're not backing out of the deal, are you?" Faye stared at him closely.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0040**

Leering at Faye's exquisite face and her fantastic body, Sean had taken a liking to her almost instantly.

However, he was also aware that he would be signing his own death warrant if he ever revealed his true feelings. As a result, he hastily shifted his eyes away from her and admitted truthfully, “Ms. Carter, I won’t go back on what I promised you, naturally. Of course, that is on the condition that you fulfill your end of the deal.”

Faye bit her lower lip. “I will abide by your arrangements and do exactly as you tell me!”

As soon as the words left her lips, Faye’s heart was heavy with sorrow and agony. She was such a proud woman, yet she had to stoop as low as selling her body now.

Sean furrowed his brows upon seeing the state Faye was in. He was slightly displeased so he said, “Ms. Carter, you have to work this out. It was your family who wanted to loan the money from me, and it’s not like I’m forcing you to do this. This is a matter of mutual consent, so don’t make it seem as though I’m the one perpetrating a heinous crime! This is your job, so please be professional and don’t parade your reluctance!”

Faye’s body trembled, lowering her head to stop her tears from flowing.

Ding! The elevator jingled as it arrived. Sean walked out as he spoke, “I can tell you one thing. I wasn’t the one who promised to loan you the money to your family, the new chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp is. You’re lucky you’re receiving our chairman’s good graces. If you serve him well, you’ll enjoy endless fame and fortune from here on out. On the other hand, if you happen to fail, don’t even think about getting anywhere close to the three million dollars! Your family won’t be able to survive in Waltz City either!”

Sean was emanating an aura of hostility as he talked down to Faye in a sour tone of voice, which made Faye shiver involuntarily.

After slowly composing herself from his vicious remarks, she quickly raised her head. “Hold on, Mr. Wilson. What did you mean by your statement earlier? I thought we agreed that I would be going with you. Why am I to be with the chairman all of a sudden?”

Sean’s expression darkened as he grumbled, “Why are you still being picky? You really think that you’re all that, huh?”

“No, no, I didn’t mean that...” Faye hastily apologized.

They were about to arrive at Zayn’s office, so Sean slowed down his pace. He eased up on his stressed features, sounding significantly less aggressive as he spoke to Faye once more, “Ms. Carter, our chairman is a young, handsome man who makes a tub like me look dopey. You’re very fortunate to have caught his eye. Serve our chairman well for the next few days. If he’s in a good mood, forget the three million. Thirty million dollars will be a piece of cake.”

Thirty million dollars!

Upon hearing the number, Faye’s heart raced even faster.

“You’re... you’re being serious?”

“Of course I’m being serious! Why would a man in my position lie to you?” Sean smiled and said, “Alright, his office is right ahead. The chairman’s waiting for you inside. You’ll need to do your best to satisfy him. Do you understand?”

Faye clenched her teeth and nodded.

At that very moment, an all too familiar feeling of guilt stabbed at Faye’s chest. She felt like she had wronged Zayn.

They had been married for four years, yet she was still a virgin. She was a virgin who Zayn had yet to even touch...

Regardless, she promptly pushed those feelings aside, Zayn was not worthy of her guilt whatsoever!

Sean approached the door of the office and knocked on it before he asked in a respectful manner, “Sir, may I come in?”

It did not take long before a nonchalant voice called out the inside, “Come in.”



Sean suppressed his excitement as he pushed open the door and entered the room. In order to take full credit of bringing Faye to him, he made her wait outside. He entered the office and found Sean in the room by himself. He walked over and said, "Sir, I brought the girl here."

"Hmm?" Zayn was confused.

Sean winked at him and said, "Sir, I've already briefed her. She admires you very much and claims that she's been wanting to meet you for quite a while now. She's waiting right outside that door as we speak. I'll send her in immediately."

The more Zayn listened, the more puzzled he became. What sort of sick idea had Sean plotted to make him smile so sinisterly?

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0041

“Tell it to me straight, who exactly have you brought here?” Zayn furrowed his brows.

However, Sean interpreted his graveness as feigned obliviousness. How could a man of such incredible intelligence not know that Faye was standing right outside that door? Moreover, it was the chairman himself who strongly implied Sean to bring her here! He was certain that the chairman was just simply too bashful, and wanted to maintain his cold, arrogant exterior in front of one of his subordinates. There was no doubt about it! The chairman was still a young man after all. Despite his extraordinary capabilities, he would not be as bold as any of the industry veterans like himself.

Sean sniggered, a knowing expression on his face. He said, “Sir, I still have some matters to attend to, so I’ll be on my way. Oh yes, the technicians have reported some malfunctions in the surveillance cameras on this floor. The latest they can be fixed would be tomorrow, so the cameras won’t be able to operate until then.”

And with that, he turned around and left.

Zayn was dumbfounded. What was Sean up to?

All of a sudden, Zayn’s pupils constricted. When he realized what was happening, he shot up from his seat. He called out to Sean, but he had already left. Just then, Zayn could hear a familiar voice sounding out from beyond the door, “Mr. Wilson, can you please transfer the three million dollars to me before anything else? We are in dire need of it...”

F\*ck!

It was Faye's voice!

Just as he had expected, that b\*st\*rd Sean had a death wish! He had disregarded his warning, even going as far as having the audacity to take Faye upstairs! Apparently, he had to let that pig have a taste of his own medicine!

He could hear Sean speaking from outside his office, "Why are you in such a hurry? Would a man like me run away with your three million dollars? Serve the chairman well tonight and I'll transfer the money to your account tomorrow. If you don't, you know the consequences."

"Alright then..."

Faye sounded absolutely devastated. Moments after, he heard footsteps. She was about to walk into the room!

Zayn was terrified, even more so bewildered . His eyes darted around the room frantically, contemplating the possibility of him crawling under the bed to hide from Faye!

He would be doomed if Faye were to learn that he was the chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp.

What should he do? Should he hide?

In any case, she could scan the whole room with a single glance. There was nothing else in the room besides the bed and a closet, so he had nowhere to conceal himself.

It did not matter anyways. Faye was already informed of the chairman's presence in the office, so hiding was not a feasible course of action.

Zayn looked around the room in search of a solution. As he was slowly consumed by his crippling anxiety, Faye was growing restless. She was nervous beyond belief. She clutched her handbag tightly to her chest. Her breathing was erratic, and her legs were squeezed together in distress. She could hear her heart audibly thudding away.

It was her first time doing something so foreign, so she was certain it would be a challenge. The situation was overwhelmingly unbearable. In fact, she thought of dying after the whole ordeal was over!

She was under the assumption that she was going to be with Mr. Wilson, though her expectations quickly shifted as she was informed it was instead the chairman of Violet Vision who she was to escort. Their positions were like night and day.

As a citizen of Waltz City, she had constantly heard so much about Violet Vision and knew that it was a large scale media corporation as many trending artists originated from the company.

The more she thought about it, the more she realized the importance of gratifying the young chairman. Just as Mr. Wilson had mentioned, if she were to offend Violet Vision's chairman by leaving him unsatisfied, she would not be the only one on the sinking ship. In fact, the entire Carter family would go down with her! After coming to such a conclusion, she took a few deep breaths and pinched herself in the thigh to brace herself. She then walked towards the room, before forcing the words out of her mouth, "Sir, this is Faye, will you please... please..."

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0042**

Upon uttering those words, Faye's breathing quickened. Her legs felt as if they weighed a thousand tonnes. It felt almost impossible to move.

The room had gone dead silent. The great chairman of Violet Vision was nowhere to be seen.

She waited for something to happen, but there was still no response. Faye could not help but feel anxious as she wondered if Violet Vision's chairman was in there at all. Was there a possibility that the chairman was unhappy with her?

"Sir? Can you hear me? May I come in?" asked Faye tentatively.

Zayn panicked when he heard her voice. It was evident that Faye was going to enter at any moment now, so he hastily came up with an excuse. He pretended to groan, his voice hoarse and scruffy, "You may not come in."

"Huh?" Faye cried out softly. On the verge of crumpling from her overwhelming emotions, she gritted her teeth and said, "Sir, I don't understand."

Zayn continued to speak raspily, "Go home."

Faye clenched her fists and took two steps towards the room. She said loudly, "Sir, we've already discussed with Mr. Wilson and agreed that I'm here to stay with you so you would loan us three million dollars with three years of free interest! You are a man of great prestige and status, are you really backing out of your end of the deal?"

Zayn smiled bitterly. It was all the b\*stard Sean's fault for acting on his own.

Noticing that the chairman was not replying at all, Faye could feel an uncontrollable rage boiling up inside of her. She had been deceived. She took two more steps forward. With a deep breath and mixed feelings that were eating into her soul, she said, "Sir, Mr. Wilson claimed that you're infatuated with me, so you must have done some research on my background. However, there are certain details that I believe you are unaware of! I am Faye, a Carter who's been blessed with beauty beyond words. Although I'm married, my husband is a good-for-nothing freeloader, who's never laid a single finger on me. To this day, I'm still a virgin, so there's no need to question my purity!"

After she had finished her little speech, she heard something fall. She was still clueless to what was going on inside. The last person she expected to be inside that room was Zayn.

After a while, a deep and harsh voice boomed, “And how sure are you that your husband’s refusal to touch you isn’t due to something else?”

Faye was stunned. She was not expecting a question like that, so she was rather taken aback. In any case, the possibility of the Violet Vision’s chairman being Zayn had never crossed her mind. She could only assume he was very concerned with whether she was a virgin. “Very sure.”

In the room, Zayn clenched his fists. He could feel the fury coursing through his veins. Soon after, he questioned, “Don’t you feel an ounce of guilt for coming out here to spend time with me?”

Upon hearing that, Faye was even more astounded. What was going on here? Was Violet Vision’s chairman a serious germaphobe?

“No, I’ve never loved him, and I’m not going to regret this decision of mine either. We’ve only been putting on an act,” said Faye earnestly.

Crack! It was the sound of something being snapped. Faye began to feel anxious again. Had she said something wrong?

Nevertheless, just as she was about to respond, the chairman's husky voice echoed out from the room. "You may come in."

Faye's heart started racing even faster. The moment had finally arrived, and she was well aware of what awaited her. Violet Vision's chairman was going to savagely violate her body!

With heavy footsteps, she walked towards the room and found it impossible to steady her breathing. Her face was flushed.

The first thing that caught her eye was the large, luxurious bed that took up most of the room. A tall, muscular man stood next to it. He had a gorgeous physique, but he was facing away from her.

For some reason, his silhouette seemed awfully familiar. Had she seen this man somewhere?

She stopped herself from thinking any further. She was in a complete state of nerves, and all kinds of feelings were racing through her mind. She was not thinking of Zayn at all either, her brain was too much of a jumbled mess.



# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0043

“Sir... sir...” Faye called out softly. She noticed her voice had a slight tremble to it.

She watched as the chairman slowly turned to face her, before letting out a gasp.

The chairman’s face was obstructed by a clown mask, so she could not make out his features. Faye was confused. What in the world was going on?

Yes, Zayn had legitimately put on a clown mask so that Faye would not be able to recognize him. She could only see his eyes. He would not have been bold enough to let her in without the mask

Faye was frozen still from shock, so Zayn had an easier time picking apart her outfit. She wore a tight, figure-hugging dress that accentuated her shapely curves. The dress was so short that her long and fair legs were completely on display. She looked flawless.

She had even gone the extra mile of putting on makeup to impress Mr. Wilson. It made her even more charming and sexy.

Zayn had been put into a trance by Faye’s beauty, and he found it hard to take his eyes off of her.

It sounded ironic, but as Faye's husband, he had never seen her dressed so provocatively in their four years of marriage.

Faye had always covered herself up when she was with him, as though she was disgusted at the very thought of him looking at her.

"You're very beautiful, Ms. Carter," Zayn exclaimed, his emotions stemming from the bottom of his heart. It was the truth. Faye was currently the most stunning he had ever seen her. He knew she must have spent a decent amount of time getting ready.

"Thank you for your kind words." Faye blushed a bright pink, lowering her head shyly. Her beautiful facial features had always been something she took pride in. Every man who had laid their eyes upon her immediately fell in line to win over her.

She realized that Violet Vision's chairman was not, in fact, a filthy, middle-aged geezer. He was actually a young man around her age, and he even had a muscular physique too. She was delighted to think that there would be an upside to this deal after all! After all, she was initially supposed to sleep with Sean, and she had horrific nightmares over the mere thought of it.

This man was Violet Vision's chairman. He was so young and so capable.

Unbeknownst to Faye, her mindset was slowly being reprogrammed.

Both of them fell silent. The air had turned freezing cold. Faye was perplexed and so was Zayn.

He had never expected that Faye would appear right in front of him like this.

Frankly, it was impossible for Zayn not to desire Faye after four years of being married to her!

Only his incredible willpower kept him in control. Under the current circumstances, with Faye standing in front of him like a full course meal, his heart immediately started racing wildly and his breathing was growing heavier by the moment!

He could not stop himself from gulping, and Faye heard it.

With so much sexual tension, how could Faye ignore the fact that the chairman was already aroused? Her face turned scarlet. She clenched her teeth and began advancing towards the chairman.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0044**

Zayn hitched a breath as Faye closed in on him.

Faye's cheeks were burning from embarrassment.

“Sir.” You could hear the tremble in her voice when she addressed him.

At first, she was initially prepared to endure the worst, but that urge to rebel had suddenly vanished.

She never had high expectations from the start, so perhaps that was why they were easily surpassed.

He reached out to wrap his hands around Faye’s waist. He gently pulled her towards him so that there was barely any space between the two.

He thought about sleeping with Faye even in his dreams, he wanted her so badly. Though, this was definitely not the way he wanted to go about it. As soon as he pinned her against that bed, she would basically be cheating on him, and that was not what he intended.

As a result, he let go of Faye and spat coldly, “You should leave. I’m not interested in another man’s wife.”

Faye was confused.

What was going on? Did the chairman not just try and take her as his own? She had been delivered straight to his doorstep, and yet he already wanted her to be sent away!

“Sir, I’m married, but I promise I’m a virgin! I swear upon my own life that I’m not lying!” Faye protested in a panic.

The chairman stared at Faye. She saw the desolation in his eyes, but was completely and utterly clueless behind the reason.

Zayn turned around, waving his hand dismissively. He commanded stiffly, “Leave. I’m not interested.”

Instantly, Faye’s face had turned as white as a sheet. She could feel herself succumbing to the dread. Her mind went completely blank!

Before she arrived at Violet Vision, countless possibilities had crossed her mind. In fact, she even considered multiple men degrading her as one of the outcomes, but this was the only possibility that she had not considered! She wasn’t a huge celebrity, but she had always been very confident about her beauty. How could the chairman of Violet Vision actually turn her down? He went to the extent of even asking her to leave! She could not identify the problem.

She felt so humiliated that she was on the verge of bursting into tears.

She bit her lower lip hard, anger welling up in her chest. She had to make such a huge sacrifice to borrow all that money. She recalled those sleepless nights spent on making such a difficult decision. There were so many that she struggled to keep count, and it all came down to the person on the other end of the deal simply losing interest. What else was he doing besides making a fool out of her?

“Give me a reason!” said Faye defiantly.

Zayn retorted coldly, “Why would I need to give you a reason?”

Faye clenched her teeth and proceeded to do something that Zayn would not have predicted in a million years.

She charged towards him, squeezing him tightly before pinning him to the bed.

“Hey! What are you doing?” Startled by her aggression, Zayn let out a scream without lowering his pitch. He had exposed his true voice.

Fortunately, Faye was so highly aggravated that she had failed to notice. Her teeth were clenched and her eyes were practically glowing red. She was definitely not afraid to get physical. “You promised that you’d loan my family three million dollars with three years of free interest as long as I consent to being with you. You can’t back out now! I’m already here, have your way with me, I don’t care! I can’t leave this room without my three million dollars!”

Faye was so enraged that her body began shaking violently.

He had not expected Faye to be so uncouth. Inwardly, his resentment grew inside of him like a tumor. It was fortunate that he was the chairman of Violet Vision. Otherwise, he would have been cheated on.

“Let go of me.” Zayn was equally ashamed as he was vexed.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0045**

“I’m not going to. You’re not allowed to back out of your end of the deal!” Faye snarled ferociously.

Zayn said, “Are you crazy? Who said I was backing out of my end of the deal? I already have a cheque for three million dollars written up for you.”

Faye was shaken up. She followed Zayn’s gaze, noticing the cheque that had been lying on the table the entire time.

Zayn seized the opportunity to push her aside so he could get up and off the bed. He readjusted his clown mask, his back facing away from Faye. The mask had been knocked off slightly askew after the struggle. Fortunately, his cover had not been blown.

“This is a cheque for three million dollars. You can cash it out at any bank. As for the IOU, you don’t need to give it to me. Even if the Carters had the slightest ounce of courage in them, you wouldn’t have the audacity to refuse paying off your debt. I already know a hundred ways I can eliminate your family off the top of my head!” Zayn threatened coldly. His presence was so staggering that it made Faye shudder.

She picked up the cheque. Upon closer inspection, ‘three million dollars’ had been scrawled as the written amount, and the maker was in the name of Violet Vision Media Corp.

Despite her level of intelligence, she could not come close to deciphering the inner workings of Violet Vision Media Corp’s chairman.

“Hey, why are you even helping?” asked Faye, puzzled.

Zayn had his back against her. He stood in front of the window, looking out into the distance. He exuded an air of dominance. “I’ve never compelled a person to do anything in my life. You’re a rather nice girl, and you’re definitely unlike any other I’ve seen. You’re willing to sacrifice yourself for your family. People like you are few and far between. I’m not going to rob you of your purity.”

Faye was agape from utter shock. As she stared at Zayn’s silhouette, she felt incredibly moved by his words, whilst an emotion she could not recognize stirred up inside of her.



Had he really refused to touch her because of that reason? She chewed on her lower lip and whispered, "Thank you!"

Zayn grunted nonchalantly, maintaining his haughty façade.

Faye held the three million dollar cheque, feeling a wave of emotions washing over her. "So, may I leave now?"

"Go..."

Faye made her way to the door. She turned around before she laid a hand on the doorknob, as though she had suddenly remembered something. "Sir, may I see your face?"

"Don't challenge my patience. I can cancel that cheque in your hand with just a phone call!" Zayn growled.

Faye was startled. Scared of the possibility of the chairman changing his mind, she quickly apologized and took off.

After he was sure that Faye had left the office, Zayn felt more at ease.

He could not forget the surge of adrenaline that ran through his body when him and Faye experienced that moment of intense intimacy.

Faye walked out of the office and felt a cold gust of wind envelope her. Everything felt surreal. She felt like she had just woken up from a dream.

To her surprise, she had kept her virginity, even managing to loan the promised three million dollars without performing any sexual favors. She did not even leave an IOU.

She recalled the tall, mysterious silhouette of the chairman of Violet Vision in her mind once more. Those familiar emotions welled up inside of her once more as she recalled his departing words.

He became the chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp at such a young age. He even had a muscular physique and an air of dominance to match such an achievement.

Most importantly, his principles were in the right place. It was very rare to find a man like him!

She fantasized about the way the chairman had embraced her earlier, and her face blushed uncontrollably at the very thought. She would be the luckiest girl in the world if that man were her husband.



# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0046

The image had just cropped up in her thoughts before quickly evaporating away into nothingness!

She suspected she had gone insane—how else could she have thought of something so absurd? The chairman of Violet Vision was on top of the world. On the other hand, she was just a common woman from a small family. How in the world could she be a worthy wife to such a sophisticated man?! She was only deserving of a freeloading deadbeat like Zayn.

At the very thought of Zayn, Faye felt a fresh swell of rage rising inside of her. Zayn had been missing for the entire day! He obviously knew that today was the day she would be leaving, yet he had not made any effort to show up at all. She did not even receive a text message showing his support, or do the bare minimum of signing the divorce papers.

Coincidentally, as soon as she had exited Violet Vision Tower, she spotted the last man she wanted to see. Of course, it had to be Zayn. Her wrath nearly consumed her as she tried to process the sight of him.

Zayn was dressed in a dapper suit that made him sickeningly pretentious. He was shivering from the wind. As soon as she saw her walking out of those doors, he immediately went up to her with a delightful smile spread across his lips. “You’re here too, huh, honey?”

As Zayn spoke, he took off his coat and draped it across Faye’s shoulders.

Faye pressed her lips together into a thin line, narrowing her eyes at the very sight of Zayn. Her chipper mood after having successfully loaned the three million dollars had turned appallingly sour. She stared at Zayn, vexation painted all over face. "Where the heck have you been all day?"

Just looking at Zayn's face made it hard for Faye to swallow down her frustration, and her tone of voice made it evident that her patience was wearing thin. Nonetheless, Zayn could not bring himself to be angry, and he lacked a single shred of manly dignity. He was, in comparison, a laughing stock when placed next to the chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp!

"Uh..." Zayn was struggling to find words to explain himself. Faye's annoyance had begun to spike as well, so she waved her hand dismissively before retorting, "You don't need to explain yourself anymore. I'm not interested in finding out either. Where did you get the suit? I thought you didn't have one."

Faye tugged on the coat that Zayn had given her as she interrogated him, furrowing her brows. She fingered the fabric, realizing that it was rather high quality for someone of Zayn's standards. It was soft to the touch, so she could tell that it was a top of the line suit with a single glance.

Zayn's heart started racing. Shoot, he had left the building in such a hurry that he had forgotten to change!

Fortunately, he was quick enough to react and covered himself hastily, "You've always been chastising me for being unemployed. I came here to get a job. I managed to get a job at a real estate agency, and this is their uniform. It's new."

Faye answered with an, “Ah.” She did not have enough concern to question him any further. In the past, she still had a slight attachment towards him, but after meeting the chairman of Violet Vision, her final string of attachment had finally been severed.

Ethan had pursued her for a few years, but she never reciprocated his affection, neither did she commit to a divorce. After meeting the chairman of Violet Vision, she discovered that she was head over heels! Her desire for his cold, arrogant silhouette had been awakened. It was the first time she truly lost all her feelings for Zayn. The air was so tense you could cut it with a knife. Faye walked ahead, refusing to speak at all to Zayn. She could only maintain a stony expression while Zayn chased after her like a lost puppy.

“Oh, right, Fifi, did you manage to loan the three million dollars?” Zayn tried to look for a topic of conversation. However, he immediately regretted it as soon as the words left his lips. He realized that he was just begging for trouble.

just as expected, Faye let out an exasperated sigh as she stared down at him coldly. Indignation flared in her eyes, and she was just about to give him a piece of her mind when she noticed the regret and anxiety that plagued his face. He looked just like a little boy who had made a mistake. He looked oddly pitiful. Her features softened in response to his sincerity, before answering, “I got it. ”

“Great then.” Zayn smirked.

The fact that he was still capable of smirking made a wave of anger ripple through her once more. What kind of man was he? Despite knowing his wife had sacrificed her dignity for the sake of her family, he didn’t feel a tinge of humiliation in her place. In fact, he was even capable of smiling.

Faye wanted to give him a tight slap. However, after a moment of deep thought, she realized that, while Zayn was useless, he had not done anything wrong per say. Moreover, she ultimately had the last say in the deal. Who was she to blame Zayn?

Therefore, she refrained herself and replied nonchalantly, “Hmm.”

Upon arriving home, they opened the door to find the house clouded in the acrid stench of cigarettes. Someone had been smoking. Besides Waine and Ruby, the seniors of the family—George, Howard, and Hector —were also there. They were smoking while engaging in a discussion. They were shocked to find Faye and Zayn had returned home.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0047**

“Fifi! Weren’t you supposed to be with Mr. Wilson? Why are you home so soon?” Ruby asked in astonishment.

Hector sprang from his seat “That’s right, Faye. What has gotten into you? I thought you were supposed to be with Mr. Wilson for three days. Did you take the liberty of coming home early yourself?”

Upon realizing Faye’s return, every single one of them was in a state of frenzied distress. They automatically jumped to the conclusion that she had simply failed to complete her mission, and that she had come home on her own volition. They were

convinced that she had ruined their family's only chance of redemption. Howard berated her senselessly, "Faye, what's wrong with you? We've reminded you time and time again over how important this is to our family. We told you to bring back the three million dollars, even if it meant sacrificing everything! So why is it that you've come running back home in less than an hour? We raised you and put a roof over your head. We've put clothes on your back and food on the table. Forget that, we're even paying for your education! And this is how you repay us in our time of need? You can't seem to go a second without being selfish, can you?"

Faye had actually been rather enthusiastic to come home. She wanted to tell everyone that she had completed her mission earlier than expected, and that she had successfully acquired the three million dollars. In lieu of a warm welcome, she was instantly swarmed by lambasting family members who would not even let her explain herself.

It felt like a bucket of icy water had just been thrown into her face, putting out her last flame of enthusiasm.

There was nothing but pain written all over her face.

After analyzing the situation, Zayn stood out and said with a frown, "How dare you say such things? Does the Carters' financial crisis concern Faye in the slightest bit at all? It's due to your own blatant mismanagement of household funds. Every single one of you is guilty of throwing cash around as soon as you make a small profit. You splurge on mansions, designer cars, and countless luxury goods! That's precisely the reason why there's a broken funding chain and a loss of cooperation with the channel distributors. It's a vicious cycle! Meanwhile, Faye has been hard at work trying to give her all to the Carters. All this misfortune that has fallen onto the Carter family name is in no way Faye's fault, but the result of your own mistakes! If anyone needs to make a sacrifice for



the family, it should be all of you! It was deplorable enough that all of you refused to sacrifice yourselves, yet you still have the nerve to criticize Faye?”

Zayn felt his fury tear through him, you could feel the searing heat radiating off of his aggrieved words. Everyone in the room fell silent, shifting their gaze towards him. They were having a difficult time reacting to his speech, as they never would have expected Zayn the good—for-nothing freeloader to stand up for Faye so valiantly.

Faye gawked at him in wonder. It was her first time seeing Zayn behaving so heroically.

Bang!

George slammed his hand against the coffee table so hard that the cups of coffee on it toppled onto the ground, shattering into tiny smithereens. “How reckless!”

He glared at Zayn, his eyes wild with fury. “You worthless piece of shit! And who are you to insult me like this? I’m not letting you off the hook after that disastrous birthday party of mine, and yet here you are, telling us what to do?”

George screamed at the top of his lungs, his rage nearly consuming him. Faye felt a bolt of panic hit her in the chest.

Zayn did not flinch. He could withstand any degree of pain and suffering that the Carters brought upon him, but he could not just sit around and watch Faye being tormented so terribly. She had worked so hard tonight, and he knew it better than anyone else. It was criminally wrong for all of the Carter family seniors to make such outlandish conclusions without letting Faye explain herself.

“I’ve spoken nothing but the truth. Faye has had nothing to do with your financial emergency! Not a single one of you has the authority to condemn her! Plus, everyone here has at least some property that they sell off for a decent resell price, yet I don’t see any of you doing that! You ’d rather throw Faye under the bus for your own selfish intentions. You’re all nothing but a bunch of failures with inflated egos the size of your head!” Zayn had no intention of backing down, and his words cut deeper than anything else in the world.

Faye was baffled. She was practically at a loss for words. Her eyes were fixated on her husband, focused intensely on his movements. The way he carried himself reminded her of someone awfully familiar... Soon enough, she realized, right then and there, that the enraged man standing in front of her was the chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp.

“That’s absurd!” George was almost choking on his anger. Everyone else had joined his outrage as well, causing a complete and utter commotion. They were looking to teach Zayn a lesson they should have taught him years ago.

“How dare you be so defiant. Get on your knees for me, now!”

Howard demanded, “Get on your knees!”

Hector yelled, "Get on your knees!"

Everyone was shouting at him to get on his knees and apologize for his insulting behavior. If he did not obey their orders, he would be in for a pair of broken legs.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0048**

Everyone was pressuring Zayn to yield. You could see the pure, unadulterated hatred present on their faces as they took their anger out on Zayn.

Zayn clenched his fists. He felt like he was about to burst from all his pent up rage. As he looked back at George and the other Carters, he was reminded of the Larsons all those years ago. The Larsons would force him on his knees to apologize. This was no different from how it was back then.

"Why should I get on my knees? I've said nothing but the truth. I'm not going to give in!" Zayn's eyes were ablaze, and his face had flushed a deep red. A vortex of anger swirled inside of him.

George, as the patriarch of the family, felt as though his dignity had been compromised. His deadbeat grandson in law had the nerve to defy his commands, and that made his blood boil more than anything else. "When I ask you to get down on your knees, you get down on your knees! Why would you question my authority? Howard, Thomas, pin him down. I don't just want him to kneel before me, I want his legs broken into pieces!" As soon as the words left George's lips, Howard and Thomas charged towards Zayn and pinned him by his shoulders. They kicked Zayn in the knee, causing his legs to buckle and forcing him down on his knees.

Zayn resisted them with all his might. His eyeballs looked like they were ready to pop out of their sockets. He was almost considering resorting to violence when Faye finally spoke up, "Everyone, stop it!"

When her words fell on deaf ears, she pulled the cheque the one that Zayn had written to the Carters from her handbag. She held it up, shouting, "I will tear this three million dollar cheque into shreds if any of you hurt Zayn!"

She strained her voice so much that it cracked. The words 'three million dollars' hung in the air, causing everyone to stop what they were doing and turn their attention to the young, distraught girl who stood before them. They looked at Faye, and then at the cheque in her hands. They were absolutely hysterical.

"That's a..."

"Three million dollar cheque?"

"What's going on, didn't Faye fail her mission?"

"Was Mr. Wilson truly satisfied with Faye's performance so quickly? He's a fast one!"

Thomas let go of Zayn and rushed over to Faye like a starving puppy towards its owner. He rubbed his palms together in glee, musing in excitement. "Faye, you actually managed to

borrow three million dollars. You're incredible! Can I see the cheque, please? I've never seen a three million dollar cheque in my life."

As he spoke, he gingerly stretched his hands out to snatch the cheque away from Faye.

Faye brought her hand down to deliver a tight slap to his face, before proceeding to smack his hand away. Thomas pouted morosely as he muttered softly, "F\*ck, it's not a big deal anyways."

Meanwhile, Howard had a wiley smile plastered across his face as he sauntered over. "Fifi, is that really the three million dollar cheque? You're amazing!"

"What happened to telling me off for being an ungrateful daughter who couldn't possibly save the Carters from going under? You said I was useless, and you even threatened to disown me, didn't you? What happened? Why did you stop?" Faye deadpanned, looking very unimpressed.

The corners of Howard's lips twitched twice. Rage was still pulsing through his veins after being humiliated by Zayn like that, yet he did not convey his anger in fear of the three million dollars. He could only let out hollow, half hearted strings of laughter in feigned amusement "I was just playing a prank on you. You're my cousin! I grew up with you! Even if you came home empty handed, without the three million dollars, did you think I would be bitter about it?"

Faye sneered as she snapped back, "Is that right? That's fantastic. I was playing a prank on all of you too. I offended Mr. Wilson, so you can kiss your three million dollars goodbye!"

Howard's features contorted into a sludge of emotions. He was just about to blow his top off when he took note of Faye's telling sneer. He was not born yesterday, in fact, he knew exactly what to do. He realized that Faye was toying with him. He cursed at her internally, 'That little b\*tch is insatiable!'

Despite Howard and Faye being cousins, they were not on good terms. Faye was no stranger to being bullied by Howard ever since she was a little girl. After she tied the knot with Zayn, Howard had always been the most hostile to Zayn.

George had also made his way over to Faye, a well meaning smile painted on his lips as he gushed, "Oh, Fifi, I've always thought so highly of you, ever since you were a little girl... You've never disappointed me, and you've even managed to borrow the three million dollars I asked of you. Thank you for going through all of that trouble. Come now, show me the cheque."

Faye's lips parted as if she wanted to say something, but she could not bring herself to say anything at all. She obediently passed the cheque to George.

Everyone else was tripping themselves and surrounding them like a swarm of hungry bees. They were dying to see what a three million dollar cheque looked like!

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0049**

George was thrilled as well. He carefully spread the check out in his hands, and as expected, saw the number '3,000,000' staring back at him.

The others held their breaths, ogling greedily at the piece of paper in his possession. Three million dollars was a large sum of money it could easily sustain their lavish lifestyles!

“Call them so we can confirm this cheque’s authenticity. Hurry!” George’s hands were trembling in excitement as he ordered Howard to call up the bank. Howard’s face flushed scarlet. He was practically buzzing with excitement. He whipped out his phone

and hastily dialed a number. “Hello, I’m calling to asking my cheque is genuine. Could you please check? The serial number is...”

Howard put the call on loudspeaker. Everyone quieted down, their ears perked up as they listened intently. It did not take long before the pleasant voice of a customer service worker chirped back, “Hello. Your cheque is valid. You may cash it out at any local bank.”

Hiss...

They drew in a cold breath, almost collapsing from their elation. George protected the cheque with his life, in fear of accidentally tearing it and destroying its validity.

As the Carters were virtually knee deep in poverty, three million dollars was not just a sum of large money it was a beacon of hope that was capable of salvaging their family ties. With three million dollars, their broken funding chains could be reinstated, and the company could operate normally again.

Zayn cracked a contemptuous smile as he watched from a distance away. These people had not seen much at all if they were losing their minds over something as trifling as three million dollars. If Faye had brought home seven billion, they would be dropping dead from delirium.

“Oh, Fifi, how did you manage to get your hands on the three million? Didn’t Mr. Wilson ask to be with you for three days?”

“That’s right, Fifi. What happened?”

They expressed their queries, and even Ruby and Waine were curious as well.

Faye responded blankly, “I didn’t spend any time with Mr. Wilson.”

“What?”

“Uh...”

Dumbfounded, they began questioning Faye, talking over themselves in an attempt to quench their inquisitiveness. They were afraid to think that Faye had offended Mr. Wilson.



Following their incessant inquiries, Faye narrated the events that took place that night. Of course, she left out some of the more questionable details. One of them being how the chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp had worn a clown mask, or how she had taken the initiative to hug him, and how she had also developed feelings for him.

George and the others were flabbergasted upon hearing Faye's answers. They could not wrap their heads around why the chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp would lend Faye the three million dollars without needing to touch her? What did he want from her? Was there finally a man in this world who had yet to be corrupted by lustful desires?

They exchanged looks with one another in disbelief. Although they did not verbalize it, they assumed that Faye was too ashamed to admit it. In truth, she had already lost her virginity to the chairman! Moreover, Zayn was still here. Even if he was a freeloader, he was still Faye's husband. It would only be normal for him to be humiliated as well.

"Where is the IOU then? Did he list the three years of free interest?" George demanded frantically when the thought had crossed his mind.

Faye said, "There isn't one."

They were even more convinced that Faye had been deflowered by the chairman of Violet Vision now. She served him so well that he did not even bother issuing an IOU.

Reading their expressions, Faye was well aware of what was on their mind. However, she could not be bothered to explain herself. She could never truly explain the whole story in full detail. To her, it was fine as long as she knew that she was innocent.

She could not help spare a glance at Zayn, who had been standing back in the corner. She noticed that there was no anger or regret on his face. In fact, he was actually smiling. She felt a flicker of irritation. How could a worthless slob like him react so nonchalantly after knowing that his wife had slept with another man!

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0050**

George and the others left jubilantly with the three million dollar cheque.

Once they had left, Zayn approached Faye with the intention of expressing his gratitude. “Thank you for doing that earlier, honey.”

Faye looked less than thrilled. She felt revulsed knowing that Zayn had his gaze fixated on her. With knitted eyebrows, she muttered apathetically, “Hmmm.”

She was about to walk out of the room when Zayn called out from behind her, “Honey. ”

“Anything else?” Faye turned around, impatience written all over her face.

Zayn stared at her and said, “They don’t believe you, but I believe that you’re innocent.”

His touching words moved her so much that she had to shake off her disbelief. She asked, “Why do you believe me? I went into his office, and both of us were together in the room without anyone else.”

Zayn was startled by her question. He could not think of an immediate answer for her. From any logical person’s perspective, it did not help Faye’s case when she had dressed so exquisitely to visit the chairman’s office. They had spent a significant amount of time together in a room by themselves. Moreover, he had agreed to lend her three million dollars on the grounds that she pleased him. In spite of that, Faye had somehow returned with the agreed three million dollars, yet claimed she was still a virgin. Who in the right mind would believe her?

The problem was that Zayn had been the masked chairman all along, and as the chairman of Violet Vision, he could confirm that he had not touched Faye at all.

Alas, he could not reveal his true identity for a good number of reasons.

Seeing that he could not answer her question, her feelings for him promptly dissipated into the cold air. The glazed look in her eyes had returned, and she looked all the more unhappy. Soon after, Ruby had come back from sending George and the others off. She

exclaimed disdainfully, “He doesn’t believe sh\*t! He’s only looking for a way to save his piteous face.”

Her mother’s words made the most sense in Faye’s head. Even if she had truly slept with chairman of Violet Vision, what could Zayn do in retaliation? Would he go as far as physically hurting the chairman? He was less than capable, and he was as timid as a mouse! He merely made such an outlandish statement to keep a roof over his head!

Zayn hastily tried to explain, “Fifi, this is all a misunderstanding. I really do believe you! ”

Faye waved her hand dismissively as she responded disinterestedly, “Alright, I know, I know. I’m heading to my room to take a shower. Just be there at eleven.”

Without sparing Zayn even a second to defend himself, she walked out of the room, scowling, before locking the door behind her.

Zayn heaved a sigh. There was a long road ahead of him if he wanted to earn Faye’s trust and approval.

The very next day, Faye woke up early to get ready for a company meeting. She refused to take Zayn with her, and that even if she did, he would be an eyesore to all of the other attendees. Zayn saw it as a blessing in disguise, as he could make his rounds at Violet Vision without being seen as suspicious.

Now that he had acquired Violet Vision, many projects required his approval in the form of signatures and verbal agreements. On another note, the growth of the company's revenue had recently recorded a sharp decline. Therefore, he had to come up with a plan to increase their profits.

Zayn was overly concerned, and it was mainly due to him being a business prodigy. He was highly convinced that with a little more time, he could lead Violet Vision to soaring success and turn the media corporation into one of the greatest companies in the country.

He had stopped taking his electric scooter to Violet Vision. After all, he was the chairman of a company that was worth 300 million dollars. It was unfitting for him to get around in such an unsophisticated manner, so he opted to hail a cab. When he had the time lying around, he planned on purchasing a luxury car to act as a mode of transportation and match his identity.

"That is all for now. The meeting is adjourned."

Zayn stood up and walked out of the boardroom. It was only then did the staff had the opportunity to loosen up and relax. They began discussing work plans because it was the only thing they could do. Zayn was putting a lot of pressure on them. The more time they spent with Zayn, the more they discovered that he was highly intelligent. None of them could decipher the enigma that was Zayn Larson. He possessed the presence, the competence, and the eloquence of someone beyond his years.

He was much more impressive than the previous chairman!

Not only did they regain newfound confidence in the future of Violet Vision, a spark of passion had reignited their spirits one that drove them to do better and go further.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0051

They came to understand that Violet Vision Media Corp would certainly rise to a new peak under the leadership of the new chairman!

Zayn returned to his office. He rubbed his temples to relax. He did not manage to sleep well last night because the floor had been too cold. What a pathetic reason to have lost sleep over!

Feeling a little drowsy now, he got some shut eye for a short while, then he called his assistant to bring in a cup for coffee to refresh himself.

It did not take long before there was a knock on the door followed by a sweet voice saying, “Sir, your coffee’s here.”

“Come in,” Zayn said nonchalantly before he continued to screen through the documents.

Two hours ago, Yvonne had arrived at Violet Vision Media Corp way ahead of time. It was the final day of recruitment, so she had to seize the opportunity properly for sure!

Ever since she found out that Zayn was the chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp, she had been overwhelmed with emotions all this time without a single moment of

calmness. She went to look up Zayn's background at once after she returned home after the previous incident but did not find anything. She looked into Violet Vision Media Corp and discovered that the original chairman of the company had the last name 'Capel'. It was precisely on the same day she encountered Zayn that Violet Vision Media Corp was suddenly signed over to someone. A mysterious person had acquired Violet Vision Media Corp with a large sum of 350 million dollars!

The mysterious person was precisely Zayn.

She had no idea how Zayn managed to get so much money, and why a man as wealthy as him would have consented to marry into the Carter family willingly.

Nonetheless, all this was not important and she had no intention to look further into the matter either. She had only identified one thing, Zayn was a wealthy man. Moreover, he was a super wealthy tycoon!

This was not the result of an act but it was the truth. As a result, she immediately came up with a plan to make sure that she could seduce Zayn regardless of the method.

It was too difficult to make money in this current society. There were many women with much better qualifications than her. They would degrade their dignity to submit and serve greasy middle aged men for vanity, much to her disgust. Zayn was still young

now, and he had a good figure. She could not possibly allow herself to let go of a perfect husband like him!



In the end, she arrived for the interview at Violet Vision Media Corp way ahead of time.

She had already prepared for this very moment for a long time. She believed that she would certainly be able to receive a job offer with her qualifications.

On the other hand, reality had proven that her speculation was right. She was offered a job without any difficulty and was now a part of Violet Vision Media Corp. Next, she would get close to Zayn!

It was supposed to be a long process in her original plan that could not be rushed. Still, she was lucky. She was given a chance to serve the chairman coffee as soon as she was hired. How amazing!

For that very purpose, she intentionally freshened up her makeup so that she could appear even sexier and more beautiful. In addition to that, she unbuttoned two more buttons on her shirt on purpose.

She refused to believe that Zayn would not be infatuated by the sight of her now!

Upon entering the office, she was immediately shocked by the elegant office. It smelled of money! She had always bragged about being a rich kid to Faye because her family owned a company. However, she was much inferior compared to Violet Vision. The difference was akin to night and day.

She noticed Zayn sitting in the chair, screening through documents in all apparent seriousness. Zayn was dressed in an expensive suit, and his hair was styled nicely as well. He looked really handsome, just like the splitting image of a classic wealthy bachelor. Yvonne could not help feeling butterflies in her stomach, unable to look away from Zayn! How did she not notice how good looking he was in the past? Oh, god, she must have been blind in the past, was she not?

She held the coffee and made her way to the side of Zayn with gentle footsteps. She said in a sweet, seductive voice on purpose, "Sir, here's your coffee."

Zayn did not look up as he said nonchalantly, "Alright, you may just leave it there."

After managing to get the opportunity to be with Zayn alone with great effort, how could she abandon the plan so easily? She stood next to Zayn and attempted to tease him.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0052**

Zayn finally noticed that something was off, so he raised his head. "Haven't I ordered you to leave...? Oh, Yvonne, it's you, huh?"

"Indeed, it's me, Zayn. We meet again." Yvonne batted her eyelashes. She had a surprised expression that matched her beautiful face and her graceful figure. One had no choice but to acknowledge that she was so exquisite that few men could resist her.

As a man, Zayn was enticed by Yvonne's feminine beauty that momentarily captured him in a trance as well. On the other hand, Yvonne managed to notice his fleeting trance and the desire seeping from his gaze successfully. Elated, she was even more confident about seducing Zayn!

She began to gloat. So what if Zayn had a beautiful wife like Faye at home? She still managed to seduce him.

"Who gave you the permission to come here?" Zayn recovered from his stupor and said with a frown.

"I brought you the coffee that you asked for." Yvonne stuck her tongue out and feigned mischief that matched her beautiful appearance. It was a lethal move to a man's heart.

Zayn was no fool. He was naturally aware of Yvonne's goal. He knew that she was here for no other reason but to seduce him for his riches.

"I'm not talking about that. I'm asking who gave you the permission to come and work for Violet Vision," Zayn demanded with a cold expression. Yvonne was sweet and adorable now, but she had no lack of experience mocking him in the past.

Yvonne's eyes rapidly turned glassy. She pouted her lips as if she was aggrieved. Then, she bent forward and swayed her body while tugging at Zayn's shirt. She begged, "Zayn, I know that I was wrong about that incident previously. It was all Gabriel's fault for instigating me. It wasn't my fault at all. Will you please forgive me? Please..."

Because she intentionally bent over like that, Zayn hastily shifted his gaze to the side. Yvonne was Paye's classmate, so he could not possibly allow anything to happen between him and her. He would be doomed if the news were to reach Faye.

However, he had no choice but to acknowledge that he felt rather pleased to see Yvonne begging for his forgiveness in her current state. She used to behave very loftily before him and refused to even look him straight in the eye at all times in the past. She would mock him with sarcasm every time they met.

The smile on Yvonne's face grew sweeter when she noticed Zayn's panic. Everything was happening according to plan. Zayn still had feelings for her.

Zayn shoved her away and said with a sneer, "Are you putting on a show? Yvonne, do you think that this is the first time I'm getting to know you? Have you forgotten how you used to mock me and humiliate me in the past?"

A loud clap was heard.

Yvonne gave herself a tight slap. Tears streamed down her face swiftly as she lamented in regret and sadness,

"Zayn, I know that [used to scold you and mock you as well in the past. You hated me very much and assumed that I'm a harsh, vicious woman! Yet, it was Faye who made me do that. She said that the biggest mistake she's ever made in her life was marrying you and that she's always loathed you. As a result, she made me hate you so that she could drive you away!"

However, Zayn was expressionless. He looked at her coldly while his gaze was saying, 'Pretending, you're pretending again'.

Noticing that Zayn was not reacting, Yvonne clenched her teeth and gave herself another slap on the face. It was even harder than before. The smack was loud and resonant. It was fortunate that the office was well insulated, or else the sound could have been heard outside too.

"Zayn, all the faults are mine and mine alone. It's not related to Faye. I know that you will never forgive me, and that's fine. I accept that as my destiny!" Yvonne wept sorrowfully. Her acting skills were superb when she stared at Zayn longingly with her goo- goo eyes filled with tender love, regret, unwillingness to part, and anticipation... One could not help but to love her upon seeing her. Zayn realized that he could not bear to do this to her anymore for a moment. Had it not been for his understanding of Yvonne's character, he would have fallen for her deceit.

Yvonne had already rehearsed her use multiple times prior to this. It could be said that her acting was so perfect that any man was guaranteed to melt in her arms, then forgive her. Yet, Zayn still remained indifferent. She began to panic. Could it be that she was not attractive even in the slightest bit to Zayn?

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0053**

She made a determined effort of clutching Zayn's hands at once while pleading with tearful eyes, "Zayn, you may hit me if you're angry. Hit me, you may even beat me to death! As long as I can get your forgiveness, I'm willing to die in your hands."

Zayn was speechless.

She was a really good actress.

“That’s enough.” Zayn pulled back his hand and said coldly, “Stop putting up your bad performance and leave now.”

Yvonne was recalcitrant. There was no reason why Zayn was completely indifferent towards her because she was beautifully dressed and she looked sexy today. Soon, she noticed Zayn swallowing his saliva secretly, so she immediately dispelled the doubt in her mind. It was apparent that he was successfully enamored by her. He was just putting up a front on purpose.

Yvonne was relieved. As long as Zayn had the sexual orientation of a normal man, she had confidence that she could take him down.

“Zayn, do you really hate me that much that you won’t even give me a chance?”

Tears trickled down Yvonne’s face and made her so appealing that the sight of her aroused one’s desire to protect her and be unable to bear to sadden her.

One had no choice but to acknowledge that Yvonne was albeit a person with bad character, there was nothing bad to comment about her appearance. She was beautiful, she had a good figure and she was as seductive as a fox.

Moreover, Yvonne had her ways of seducing men. Her eyes could entice a person.

Zayn was afraid that if he were to allow Yvonne to continue doing what she was doing, he would make a mistake. He stared at her and said in a cold voice, "Yvonne, don't think that I don't know what's on your mind. You're trying to take advantage of me now that you know I hold the position of chairman of Violet Vision and am no longer that deadbeat man who married into the Carter family. You want to seduce me so that I'll fall for you, and in turn, you get to enjoy all the wealth and glory there is. I'm right about you, aren't I..?!"

Yvonne looked slightly embarrassed when he exposed her scheme in such a direct manner. However, the embarrassment on her face vanished at once. She said in rage, "Zayn! How could you say those things about me? Am I such a shameless woman in your heart? I really do like you. If you don't believe me, you can feel my heartbeat and see if I'm telling the truth!"

Upon saying that, she grabbed Zayn's hand, startling him!

The woman was truly shameless. She would exploit her body just to flatter him!

A hint of pride flashed in Yvonne's eyes for a moment. It seemed that Zayn was still rather naive. A man like him would be easy to seduce.

She walked nearer toward him. "Zayn, I don't expect you to forgive me immediately, but I'm asking you to give me a chance. Please allow me to stay in Violet Vision, will you? I swear that I won't tell Faye about your identity as chairman of Violet Vision..."

Zayn's expression turned icy cold instantly as he stated at her. "Are you threatening me?"

The aura he exuded was so overbearing at this very moment that Yvonne shivered in fear and her legs went limp. She shook her head hastily and said, "No, I'm not! Absolutely not!"

Zayn walked over, lifted her chin, and looked straight into her eyes. "Listen here, you wench. If you ever have the audacity to undermine me again, I'll make you wish you were better off dead."

Blood drained from Yvonne's face as she shuddered in fear.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0054**

She had never seen Zayn so terrifying. After walking out of the office, she realized that her back was drenched in sweat. She was panting loudly and had only managed to recover from the shock after a long while. Oh, God, Zayn was too overbearing, wasn't he? He was more formidable than any of the big bosses that she had encountered in the past!

This showed that Zayn was certainly a super-wealthy rich kid. Only a person of nobility could exude such a powerful aura and overbearingness.



Even though she was driven out of the office, she was not discouraged by this turn of events. On the contrary, she was even more motivated. She pledged to herself in her heart that she would take Zayn down for certain. She was not asking for much, she would be satisfied with being Zayn's mistress.

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Nothing seemed to be going right for Ethan Capel recently. Ever since he had been slapped by Jordan during George's 70th birthday party and was thoroughly discredited, he was completely out of luck. Aside from being very sick after the event, his family business had deteriorated for no reason and suffered a disastrous decline. His family was beginning to lose money!

He was in a bad mood, so he joined a few of his disreputable friends to vent his anger. However, he was so unlucky that he encountered a prostitution ring bust. His bail had cost quite a large amount of money. He had since lost his prior power and prestige, and he was in a disheveled state. On the other hand, the person who caused all this was that swine, Zayn!

He had already looked into Zayn afterward. It turned out that Zayn was capable of inviting Jordan to the party not because of how awesome he was at all but because the lucky b\*st\*rd had saved Jordan's life. Jordan owed him a favor, and that was why Jordan stooped to attend George's birthday party and cooperate with Zayn to show off!

The funniest part was that the imbecile Zayn had actually wasted Jordan's huge favor for nothing in order to show off to Faye. In the end, he did not even manage to gain the slightest advantage from the favor.

Frankly, Ethan was really jealous of Zayn when he found out about this matter, but he despised Zayn very much as well. If it had been him who saved the big shot Jordan's life and granted the favor, he would have already made giant leaps. Everything else aside, he would have already made a huge profit by taking a job offer casually from the Larsons' huge estate!

That was only half of it. He could get acquainted with more big shots and expand his social circle through his connection with Jordan. That way, he would be on a whole different level now!

He felt very recalcitrant. Why was it not him who had saved Jordan's life? Had he known about this, he would have stayed there and waited for Jordan that day!

Sigh...

Also, there was the c\*nt Faye. After pursuing her for so many years and spending so much money on her, he would have slept with her over and over again if it had been another woman in her place. As a result, Faye refused to even let him touch her hand. What a b\*tch! The more he thought about it, the more furious he was. As Ethan's eyes glowed with rage, a rampant idea

emerged in his mind.

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After bustling about in Violet Vision for a day, Zayn finally drafted the subsequent plan for the company. He would only need to send down the arrangements so that his subordinates could implement the plan.

He had the confidence that Violet Vision Media Corp would soon rise to a new peak under his leadership.

He worked over time. By the time Zayn got home, it was already close to nine. He opened the door to find Faye and his mother-in-law, Ruby, applying facial masks in the living room. Noticing that he was home late, Ruby was displeased and scolded him, "Where the heck have you gone that you're home so late, huh?!"

Zayn said, "Mom, I..."

"Alright. I don't want to know where you've been anyway. I'm warning you that I'm going to lock the doors if you're not home after eight from now on. You can spend the night outside," Ruby said impatiently while waving her hand dismissively.

"Ah..." Zayn's tummy was growling in hunger. He forgot to have dinner because he had been busy with work all day, so he was starving now.

He walked into the kitchen and found that there was no leftover dinner in the kitchen. He was famished. Did he have to resort to instant ramen?

Meanwhile, Ruby said, “Stop looking around. There’s no food in the kitchen because we finished it all.”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0055**

“Huh?” Zayn was demoralized.

“What do you mean ‘Huh’? You can tell when it’s time to eat, but you can’t tell when it’s time to be home early? Take a look at the time-it’s thirty minutes past nine! Do you actually expect us to wait for you to come home? Who do you think you are? You’re just a freeloader who stuffs his face and slacks around like a fat, lazy pig!”

His mother-in-law, Ruby, always had a way with her words. Her incessant nagging could go on for hours with varying levels of insults. He could never bring himself to talk back to her either.

Faye was on her last straw, so she quickly piped up, “I stored some leftovers in the fridge. You can heat the food up yourself. Give it a break, Mom. You can stop yelling at him.”

Ruby rolled her eyes before trying to justify herself. “What’s wrong with giving him an earful? He deserves it more than anyone else in this house! He’s been unemployed for four years, and he just bums around all day doing absolutely nothing. This man has no shame!”

Faye muttered, "He has a job now."

"What, he has a job now? Really?" Ruby asked in disbelief, dubiously impressed by the news. "They actually hired a deadbeat like him?"

"Hmmm? Yeah, he's a real estate agent," Faye responded casually. She peeled off the sheet mask she had on before picking up the remote so she could switch channels.

"A real estate agent? What kind of a dead end job is that? Are you making at least 800 dollars?" Ruby did not hold back on her spiteful remarks and facial expressions. Eventually, she avoided Zayn's gaze as she admitted reluctantly, "At least you have a job under your belt You're going to have to hand the money over to me. I'll have it in safe keeping, okay?"

Zayn stared at her peculiarly. He gauged his monthly wages to reach up to a few million dollars. After all, he was the chairman of Violet Vision. If he actually handed the money over to Ruby, she would have fainted from complete and utter shock.

Of course, he would never bring that up as a topic of discussion. It was not necessary, and it would likely spell him more trouble. He nodded obediently as he popped the leftovers from the fridge into the microwave.

Meanwhile, Ruby lowered her voice to a curious whisper, "Oh, Fifi. You mentioned that Mr. Wilson sent you up to the chairman's office last night, didn't you?"

A strange look crept up Faye's facial expressions as she nodded in confirmation.

"Are you really telling me the truth? You know what I'm talking about the chairman hasn't touched you at all?" Ruby stared at Faye rather suspiciously.

'Here we go again.' Faye let out an exasperated sigh, her patience wearing thin. Ruby had already asked her more times than she could count. "I don't want to answer any more of your questions. Whether you believe it or not, that's totally up to you."

"Goodness, I was just asking. Don't parade your horrible attitude around my house." Ruby pulled her daughter closer towards her, before saying, "You told me that the chairman of Violet Vision's a respectable young man, and that he's infatuated with you, or at least that was what Mr. Wilson told you. He loaned you three million dollars without anything in return, and he hasn't touched you at all. He was wearing a mask too, how mysterious! Do you think he was someone you know personally?"

Zayn's ears perked up as he eavesdropped on their conversation from the kitchen. He could feel his heart racing. Was he about to be exposed?

Faye could feel her heart throbbing in her chest too, like a loud gong ringing in her ears. It was highly possible that her mother was onto something. Why else would the chairman be wearing a mask. It wouldn't have made any sense.

Faye tried to jog her memory, though she quickly realized that she had no close connections to any extremely wealthy men at all!

Plus, the chairman's physique was unlike any of her male friends and acquaintances...  
However, him and Zayn did share a handful of resemblances.

At the thought of it all, she found her eyes naturally drawn to her husband in the kitchen...

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Feeling her eyes boring right through him, Zayn felt like his heart had been caught in his throat, so he frantically tried to walk away so he could avoid her gaze.

There was no way Faye recognized him, right?

Luckily, Faye shifted her attention away from him. She thought she was insane to compare Zayn to Violet Vision's chairman.

Violet Vision's chairman was an affluent tycoon holding a high position in office. His presence was infinitely powerful compared to Zayn's, who was a lowly man who married into the Carter family. She could still accept him for his lack of lifeskills, but he was also a coward. He was as timid as a mouse, and he could never stand up for himself. Zayn was a far cry from the chairman.

Faye shook away the absurd thought. She replied to Ruby thoughtfully, "It's not someone that I'm acquainted with. I think he was wearing a mask because he didn't want me to see his face. After all, he's a man of class."

Ruby recognized that beguiled look on Faye's face from anywhere. As a mother and an older woman, she knew exactly what was on Faye's mind. She stated plainly, "From what I'm seeing, Violet Vision's chairman definitely has the hots for you!"



Faye blushed a deep scarlet, her cheeks burning from embarrassment. She shook her head profusely, denying, "Mom, that's impossible! You're being silly!"

"How's that impossible?" Ruby questioned seriously, straightening her posture. "You see, you were supposed to accompany Mr. Wilson, but he passed you over to the chairman instead. I'm certain it was because the chairman caught wind of your deal with Mr. Wilson, so he reprimanded him for his misconduct. I remember you telling me that Mr. Wilson couldn't even look you in the eye, and that he was behaving like a meek little lamb! That's right, Mr. Wilson is infamous for his insatiable lust. You're as beautiful as the sun, and you were dressed so suggestively. Had it not been for the chairman, do you think Mr. Wilson would have treated you with such respect? He would have taken you as soon as you walked through the doors!"

"What do you mean 'taken' me? That's so foul." Faye could not stand Ruby's vulgarity.

"There's no need to worry about whether it sounds foul or not. It's the truth, is it not? This isn't my first rodeo, and I have years of experience compared to you! I'm a hundred percent sure that Violet Vision's chairman has feelings for you, and that's why he refused to touch you. He wanted to leave a good impression." Ruby reassured Faye like it was a known fact. She was very confident in her deduction.

Ruby was slowly starting to convince Faye. She could feel her heart beating out of her chest. If what her mother said were true...

She could not bear to think about it any longer. She was already blushing heavily.

Ruby continued on with her speech, “Oh, Fifi, this is such a golden opportunity! Violet Vision’s chairman has a net worth of over a hundred million dollars. He’s rich and powerful. If you manage to establish a long lasting connection with him, you won’t need to worry about money for the rest of your life! You’ll be in good hands, and by then, everyone in the Carters will look up to you. Who could bring themselves to despise you?”

Faye’s interest was piqued. Suddenly recalling something, she hastily shook her head in protest. She frowned as she reminded her mother, “I’m married.”

Ruby immediately poked Faye’s forehead in indignation. “Oh, you, what will I ever do with you? What does it matter if you’re married? You haven’t consummated your relationship with Zayn, and you’re still a virgin. Violet Vision’s chairman won’t bat an eyelash.”

At the other end of the room, Zayn choked on his meal. He let out two coughs. A flash of grief plagued her gaze as she bit back her words, “Let’s leave it alone. I’m going to go take a shower.”

“Goodness, you’re...” Ruby glared at Zayn sternly. The longer she looked at Zayn, the more she wanted to throw up in her mouth.

Zayn was speechless. It was a beautiful misunderstanding. He did not want Sean to have any ideas about Faye simply so he could settle things appropriately. Who would have thought that Sean would misinterpret his intentions and send Faye to him instead? What was going on? Did Faye cheat on Zayn, with himself?

The next day.

Before Faye got off work, she received a phone call from Ethan. "Hello, Fifi, are you free tonight?"

"What's the matter?" asked Faye coolly.

Ethan responded, "Have you forgotten today's occasion?"

Faye was taken aback for a moment. She thought about it for some time, but she could not recall anything important happening today. "What exactly is today supposed to be?"

You could hear a wave of misery radiating from the other end of the line. "I knew that you'd forget. Today's my birthday..."

"Oh? I'm sorry I forgot." Faye apologized, turning pink from embarrassed. Ethan had always remembered her birthday, and he would even go the extra mile of sending her gifts. Despite this, Ethan's birthday had actually escaped her memory.

Ethan let out a self-deprecating chuckle before continuing, "It's fine. I'm used to it anyways. I was actually going to invite you to my birthday party. It's tonight at Fireflies, will you be there?"

Faye wanted to reject the offer so badly. She had absolutely no feelings for Ethan, and after her interaction with Violet Vision's chairman, she was even less interested than she already was.

Picking up her silence, Ethan took on a tone that sounded almost pleading. “Fifi, I’ve celebrated every birthday of yours for years. Can’t you come to mine just this once?”

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Faye’s heart melted with pity upon hearing Ethan’s words. She nodded and agreed, “Alright, send me the address and I’ll drop by later.”

“Alright, alright, alright! I’m really glad that you can come, Fifi!” Ethan was overjoyed. The excitement on his face vanished at once after he hung up the call. The corners of his lips began to curl upwards into a cunning smile. He muttered to himself, “Hmph. I was afraid that you might not come. As long as you’re here, you won’t be able to escape anymore!”

He sniggered cunningly.

Faye was unaware that Ethan had already come up with an evil plan against her. When she got off work and came out of the office, she frowned at the sight of Zayn waiting for her in the lobby.

“You’ve gotten off of work, Fifi.” Zayn walked towards Faye with a bright smile on his face.

Faye nodded nonchalantly. She noticed that many people were pointing at her secretly and whispering, "Who's this man? He looks poor and pathetic."

"How is he even worthy of speaking to Faye?"

"You're new, so you don't recognize Zayn. He's the husband to the beautiful Faye, and he actually married into her family!"

"It can't be! Faye is already married? She's so beautiful, so I'm certain that she doesn't have to worry about suitors. Why does she need to get a husband who marries into her family? She must be mad!"

"I don't know much about it. He's probably loaded, and he might be packing, I guess, heh heh..."

Their critical remarks entered Faye's ears, making her feel extremely embarrassed. Being the sensitive person she was, she immensely disliked being criticized by people.

She glared at Zayn ferociously once, then lowered her head and walked out of the office building swiftly.

“Zayn, what the heck is going on with you?! Haven’t I warned you not to visit me during work hours? Are you out of money again? I just gave you 100 dollars last month. Did you spend all of it already?” Faye scolded in anger.

Zayn looked at her affectionately and said, “Fifi, we’ve been married for four years, but I’ve never treated you to a meal properly all this time. I’ve booked us a table at The Graceful Gourmand today. Give me a chance to make up for something that I haven’t managed to do in four years, will you?”

Faye furrowed her brows. “The Graceful Gourmand is a high-end restaurant, and a meal for two would cost anywhere between three to four hundred dollars. How are you going to afford it?”

“I’m working now, aren’t I?”

“Well, you just started working yesterday. ”

Zayn made up an excuse. “I, uh, took a salary advance.”

Upon hearing that, Faye was not touched. On the contrary, she pulled a long face and looked at Zayn in exasperation. “How am I supposed to tell you this? You just started your first day on the job. Not only have you already asked for a salary advance, you’re spending it on luxuries you can’t afford? Zayn, when are you going to be more mature?”

“I...” Zayn hastily explained, “Frankly, this isn’t a salary advance but a bonus given to me by my boss in view of my good performance.”

Faye’s gaze turned even colder. “Your boss gave you a few hundred dollars worth of bonus on your first day at work? Zayn, do you think everybody else is as stupid as you are?”

“Fifi...”

“Alright. There’s no need to argue with me because I’m not interested anymore,” Faye interrupted him by saying, “It’s Ethan’s birthday today and I’m attending his birthday party. I don’t have time to have dinner with you.”

Ethan’s birthday?

His instincts told him that there was more to this than meets the eye. He said in a deep voice, “Fifi, Ethan is a man who has evil intentions, and he’s constantly hitting on you. The incident that took place during George’s 70th birthday party previously embarrassed him greatly. Judging from his temperament, he will surely bear grudges. I think that it’s highly possible that this is a trap and it’s best that you don’t attend.”

Faye said in disgust, “Zayn, you’re really becoming more and more disgusting! You’re judging others by your own standards. Do you think that everyone is as cunning as you? Ethan is my course mate from university, and I understand his character very well. If he

really is looking for revenge, he would have done it earlier. Would he still need to wait up until today?”

Noticing that Zayn still had something to say, Faye shoved him away crudely before walking towards her car in long strides.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0058**

Zayn watched as Faye left and let out a long sigh. She was still so naive.

Based on Zayn’s understanding of Ethan, he was certain that Ethan had some form of ulterior motive behind him asking her out this time. For safety reasons, Zayn called Sean up...

Over on Faye’s side, she drove the car away in a hurry. She went back home to change into a new outfit before heading to Fireflies for Ethan’s birthday celebration. She sincerely assumed that Zayn was judging others by his own standards. As her ex-university course mate, she knew Ethan well enough to know that he would never hurt her. Ethan was a rather boastful person and enjoyed showing off, but he was never a man with ill intentions. In addition to that, they were in a society with legal systems and security cameras that could be found everywhere. Even if Ethan harbored ill intentions, would he have the courage to act upon them? On the contrary, it was Zayn’s actions that disgusted her more.

At eight, dressed in her new outfit, Faye found private room No. 888 according to the address provided by Ethan. She pushed open the door and entered.



“You’re here, Fifi!”

In the private room, Ethan, who was drinking, immediately cracked a surprised smile upon noticing Faye’s arrival. He placed his drink down and walked toward Faye swiftly. He stretched out a hand to hold hers, but Faye left him hanging. A sly look flashed across his face before a smile reappeared at once. He clapped his hands and said to the people in the room, “Please, let me introduce you all to Faye. She has been a goddess to me since university!”

Clap, clap, clap. Everyone applauded.

There were eight people in the reserved room, and the rest of them were all couples. Moreover, they were all hugging one another. Ethan was the only single man. Now that Faye was here, the purpose of her presence went without saying. Upon realizing the situation, Faye furrowed her brows ever so slightly. However, she did not comment further on that. After all, it was no longer a secret that Ethan had feelings for her.

Faye smiled toward them out of respect and nodded as a form of greeting.

“Mr. Capel, you’re not a very sincere friend. You’ve got such a beautiful girlfriend, yet you never told us about her?” said a young man in a teasing manner as he wrapped his arm around Ethan’s shoulder after they took a seat.

Ethan sniggered. Although he did not explain his relationship with Faye further, he said, “I’ve brought her along, haven’t I?”

Faye frowned ever so slightly at Ethan's behavior. She felt slightly displeased in her heart but did not speak up to expose him either. Since it was Ethan's birthday today, she did it out of consideration for his feelings. She decided that she would accompany Ethan until he blew out the candles on his cake and after having two drinks.

Ethan saw right through her. He leaned closer and lowered his voice to say, "I'm sorry, Fifi. It's my fault for making a presumptuous decision. This group of people are my childhood friends, and they are always mocking me for being single and unable to get a girlfriend. Frankly, I asked you out tonight out of my selfish motives too. I just want you to pretend to be my

girlfriend temporarily so that I can boost my reputation in front of my friends..."

Noticing that Faye was frowning but staying silent, Ethan added, "Of course, it's also fine if you mind. I'll just explain it to them. Goodness, I was thinking that it's my birthday today, so I can still have some fun..."

Upon seeing his sad face, Faye felt pity for a moment. She said, "It's okay. Leave it be. I forgot to wish you. Happy birthday..."

Ethan's eyes lit up and he was visibly moved. "Thank you, Fifi. You're really sweet to me!"

They were leaning so close to each other that they could hear each other clearly in the noisy club. Ethan could smell the scent of Faye's body as he studied her delicate, flawless face up close. While his heart burned with passion, he wanted to hold Faye's waist out of impulse.

When Faye noticed his movement, her expression changed drastically. She shifted her body to avoid Ethan's hand. "I didn't agree to letting you touch me!"

She spoke rather loudly at the time while the music ended coincidentally. There was a momentary silence in the room, so everybody else there could hear her. The atmosphere turned rather awkward at once.

Ethan's lips twitched and his expression turned broodier.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0059**

It was fortunate that the music began blasting again. The rest of the people pretended not to have heard her and continued dancing with each other to conceal the awkwardness.

"I'm sorry. It's my fault for being rash." Ethan forced a smile and apologized to Faye.

Faye did not bother herself with him either. She nodded, brushing it away.

Next, the crowd in the private room began drinking and chatting. The room was bustling with noise and excitement. Faye had also loosened up a little slowly under the influence of the mood. After a few drinks, she busted out a few dance moves. She was very good at dancing with her

graceful movements, impressing those around her. Besides Ethan, the rest of the men were ogling her with a fervent gaze.

“Come, Ms. Carter. Cheers!” said a man to Faye with a grin as he walked over with a glass of whiskey.

Faye declined him respectfully, “I’m sorry. I drove here, so I’m not drinking.”

The man said, “That’s no big deal. Just grab an Uber later.”

The people around him chimed in and said, “That’s right. All of us drove here. It’s very convenient to get an Uber since they’re everywhere these days, they can pick you up with a tap of your screen.”

Faye shook her head and said, “I’m a lightweight. I get drunk from the slightest drop of alcohol. I’m really sorry.”

That man’s expression turned cold. “We are Ethan’s good friends, so it’s not very nice of you not to do that for us, is it?”

Meanwhile, Ethan took a seat next to him and said with feigned displeasure, “Hey, hey, hey! What are you doing?! She doesn’t drink, so don’t bother her. If you want to drink, I’m your man!”

He sounded immensely heroic when he said that It was a very manly behavior for him to drink on behalf of her. Faye was genuinely moved by his action so she said to Ethan in gratitude, "Thanks."

Ethan waved his hand dismissively. "It's nothing. You're my girlfriend now, could it be that I'd let them bully you?"

Faye smiled but did not comment further. Realizing her persistence, Ethan vented his anger by cussing in his heart, 'Stupid b\*tch, why are you still feigning innocence? Everyone knows that you made yourself spotless before you delivered yourself to Mr. Wilson's doorstep in order to borrow the three million dollars for the Carters!'

Ethan had learned about this incident not long ago as well. He had been crushed. After all this time, Faye had actually been gifted to another person! He was infuriated as if something precious that he had cultivated for years had been robbed by someone else.

She was obviously deflowered already, yet she was still pretending to be an innocent angel in front of him. This vexed him even more! He exchanged glances with the other few men. Then, one of them took out a small pill bottle from his pocket, poured out a tiny, white pill, and placed it into Faye's cola when she was distracted with dancing. The tiny pill diffused instantly and dissolved into the cola in two seconds. It emitted no smell or taste, so there was no way one could sense that the drink was spiked.

"Mr. Capel, this is the newest, top-grade product. The effect of this single pill is enough to tranquilize a cow! You can take your sweet time then. Heh heh."

Ethan sniggered. “Don’t worry.”

Faye was completely unaware that her drink had been spiked. Parched after coming back from dancing, she picked up her glass and took two sips.

Upon witnessing her sipping the drink, the rest of the people in the private room cracked into wily smiles...

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0060**

It was close to eleven o’clock now, and it was already very late for Faye to be out. She said to Ethan, “Ethan, I’m still working tomorrow, so I’ll get going first Here’s a gift for you, and happy birthday.”

Faye took out a delicately packaged gift box and passed it to him.

After managing to take Faye down after so much effort, how could Ethan let her off willingly? Moreover, Faye had already drunk the spiked cola, so the pill was about to take its effect soon...

He opened the gift and found that it was an expensive tie, much to his surprise. “Thank you, Fifi. I needed a new tie. You know me so well! ”

Faye smiled calmly and said, "It's great that you like it. I'm heading home first. Have a good time."

Ethan hastily called out to her, "Don't go, Fifi! It's almost midnight. Leave after we cut the cake, alright? Please, I'm begging you."

Faye furrowed her brows. Looking at how Ethan begged her piteously, she was reluctant, but she had to comply.

"Alright then. I have to go home after having the cake."

"Great, great!" Ethan was so excited that he nodded repeatedly.

Faye could not see the devious expression on Ethan's face. She took a seat once again, and after a while, she felt her body begin to heat up while her head felt heavier with every second. It felt like she was down with the flu.

She did not mind the feeling much initially. After all, the club was heated, and there were so many people there, thus it was very normal for her to feel warm. However, as time passed, she slowly realized that something was wrong!

Not only was she gradually feeling warmer and warmer, but she had a strange desire to undress herself. In addition, her control over her mind was also getting fuzzier as well. She realized that her vision was beginning to blur while her breathing sounded more and more laborious.

It was especially obvious because she felt something that was too embarrassing to describe. It was definitely not a cold!

She looked towards Ethan at once and discovered that he was scanning her with his peripheral vision to monitor her reaction.

Even if Faye was a fool, she came to the realization that Ethan had spiked her cola!

She was very anxious and furious. She could not believe that this was really happening. All this while, Ethan had always behaved like a gentleman in front of her. However, he was actually capable of committing a heinous act like this. He was worse than a beast!

She could not help remembering how Zayn had reminded her about this prior to her coming here. Unfortunately, she had scolded Zayn viciously at the time and called him out for judging others by his own standards. Now that she thought about it, she regretted it! She should have listened to his advice if she had known.

As an adult, Faye was well aware of Ethan's objective of doing this. She found it mildly ironic that she had read stories of spiked drinks and drugged girls, yet she had never taken any preventative measures.



She regretted it very much now as the anxiety built up within her. She stood up in a haste while she still had the ability to move, and said to Ethan, "Ethan, something has happened at home, and I have to go home at once. I'm sorry that I can't stay for cake. I'll treat you to a meal next time!"

She finished her conversation with Ethan rapidly and was about to leave.

Alas, how could Ethan let his prey slip from his hands? He blocked Faye's path at once and did not bother to conceal his intention anymore. He sniggered and said, "I thought you promised to stay for cake. Why are you leaving now? Are you trying to disrespect me?"

Faye's expression changed drastically, but she suppressed the rage in her chest and said patiently, "It's not that I'm disrespecting you, but I really have some important matters to attend to!"

While talking to Ethan, she felt that besides her body burning up, her legs were also beginning to weaken such that it was exhausting for her to even stand still.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0066

Faye fell into silence. There was nothing in Yvonne's words she could rebuke or refute, even if her heart was open. So, in the end, she could only answer, "I don't really know..."

Yvonne was in one of her worst moods, she could even consider it as abysmal.

She had expected Zayn and Faye's marriage to be undone by the increasing fractures in their relationship because it would mean there would be a window of opportunity open for her. Alas, as it turned out, Zayn simply capitalized on his identity as the chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp to bring himself closer to Faye. Worst of all, Faye was head over heels for him too!

Yvonne had no idea why Zayn refused to come forward with his real identity to Faye, but she knew it did not change the fact that this piece of news boded ill.

"Fifi, do you really not know who the chairman of Violet Vision really is?" Yvonne asked tentatively.

Faye shook her head. "No, of course not. I've only met him twice, and both times, he was wearing a mask, but I kinda feel that he might conceal some feelings for me."

As she explained it, Faye lowered her voice into a bashful hush, her head angling downward to hide the shades of crimson on her cheeks.

Yvonne watched her reaction and cursed in her head, 'Slut.'

At the very least, she managed to confirm Faye's ignorance of who the mysterious chairman was, which would benefit Yvonne herself. The opportunity made her think, and after some internal musing, she settled on a plan that began with her snickering. "Come on, he's the bigshot of Violet Vision Media Corp. He's basically a billionaire, at the very least. Why would he fall for you? Think about it for a second. A bigshot like that has no limits to the type of women this world has to offer on a platter. There's also the fact that he's the boss of a large entertainment company with a slew of beautiful female celebrities at his command. God knows if he's been sleeping with all of them behind closed doors."

The implications that Yvonne raised disturbed Faye quite a fair bit, but she retorted, "I feel like that isn't the case."

"And what you feel should be real because...?" Yvonne snapped in contempt. "Face it. It's just a one-sided infatuation from you. It's not even hard to come to this conclusion if you were to think with your head rather than with your heart. Men are just animals enslaved by their banal, carnal desires. How many rich men have you seen remain loyal once they get some money? The chairman's rich beyond comparison, Fifi. He could literally summon a bevy of women to swarm toward him. Every single one of those poster boys for fidelity all have got one thing in common: they aren't rich. In fact, let's take Zayn Larson as an example. If he had the means, I bet he'll be out there partying and sleeping with women."

“Zayn wouldn’t be like that,” Faye commented with a frown.

Yvonne was quite the whiz at confabulating. “Why wouldn’t he? Remember a few days ago when I visited you at your house? Zayn’s eyes were booked onto me the whole time I was there, and he was so terribly eager to talk to me. He even came over to flirt with me. I simply hid what he had been doing from you, you know.”

Yvonne watched the storm pooling around Faye’s face, and she felt as though she could dance in delight. Her attempt at instigation went so well; she had to admit that she was simply amazing.

“That disgusting waste of space!” Faye cursed under her breath, her face twisted in pure abhorrence. She continued, “But I still feel that the chairman, whoever he is, cannot be as you’ve claimed. He could have owned me that night, you know. So, why did he let me go?”

“You really are hopelessly clueless about what men think. You’re just like Za—look, a lady’s man like the chairman must have played with a throng of women from all walks of life that low—level kinks and gratifications no longer excite him. Now, he’s looking

for something fresh to control him emotionally. It was all just a ploy to get you to like him, don’t you see? He was just waiting for that moment when you’ve finally fallen in love with him. Then he will kick you to the curb and watch how his rejection is tormenting you.”

Faye's face turned pale. "Do you really think that's gonna happen?"

Yvonne suppressed her dark delight at how well things were going her way and answered, "Do I have a reason to lie to you?"

She paused for a few minutes and spoke again, this time in a gentler tone suggesting goodwill and concern, "Fifi, we are best friends. I'm only trying to do the best for you. I'd never deign to hurt you. The chairman knows you're a married woman, yet he continues to get close to you despite that. Nothing can serve as a bigger red flag than that if you ask me. The fact that you like him must have been part of his diabolical scheme all along.

"So, to avoid any tragedy in the future, I really think you should fortify the boundary between you and the chairman. Turn away and go the next time you see him. As for Zayn...He's far from any good man you can trust anyway. Divorce him as soon as you can!"

Meanwhile, Zayn had been waiting for Faye to call him since he left Fireflies, but there was not a squeak. He was just about to call her when he saw Yvonne, who appeared to be hurrying into the club.

He put down his phone and drew out a long sigh.

It looked like he had yet to scrape the surface of Faye's heart, let alone live within it. Despite the gravity of the incident, the woman had shown that she would rather seek help from Yvonne than from him. That was how much of a failure he was as a husband.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0067**

Zayn had to wait a little while longer before Yvonne and Faye sauntered out of Fireflies. Seeing the latter's condition improve so much was a tremendous relief to him.

A few moments later, Sean dashed out of the club. He sauntered toward the car and very obediently reported to Zayn, "Sir, I've completed the task as instructed. Ethan Capel and his cabal are in deep trouble now, I can assure you. They'll be in there for at least three or five years before being released."

Zayn nodded in satisfaction, replying, "You're not half bad this time."

Jubilance spread across Sean's face immediately. He smiled so widely that his pudgy cheeks had to squish together to make way for his grin. "It's all thanks to your excellent tutoring, sir."

Instead of following up on that, Zayn simply looked out the window.

“Sir, if you’re so inclined, Gordon Hayes would like to treat you to dinner. ” Sean added, “He says he would like to get to know you a little better, so maybe if you could tell him the time— ”

“Pass. I’m busy,” Zayn declined without hesitation.

The smile on Sean’s lips froze. “Oh. I see. I’ll pass your message along then.”

A beat or two later, Zayn suddenly spoke up, “When?”

“When—wha—?” Sean blabbered, stunned by his sudden change of heart. Regaining his composure, he answered, “I mean, he says it’s up to you to decide!”

“Make it tomorrow then,” Zayn said.

“Okay! I’ll tell him the good news right now.” With that, Sean left for the club once again. A few minutes later, he came out with Gordon in tow. He was very moved and came to see Zayn off personally.

Gordon was the owner of the Fireflies. He might not have been the richest man in town, but he owned two businesses —Fireflies, the club, and a casino. A man like that would

have accumulated quite a number of connections, so making his acquaintance would be worthwhile. Who was to say? Maybe one day Zayn would need his help.

By the time he returned home, it was already midnight. Faye only returned when it was one in the morning. She looked worn-out and markedly addled.

“Honey, you’re home!” Zayn greeted her with a smile, coming forward to help his wife carry her handbag.

Faye had only just returned from the hospital. Apparently, she had been treated with an IV drip for an hour. She was so lethargic and drowsy that she could only give a noncommittal nod in response.

Zayn brought a bowl of warm soup for Faye. “Here you go, honey. A bowl of good soup goes a long way to healing a weary body.”

Zayn’s kindness moved her a little, and yet, whatever happiness she felt was immediately displaced by the echoes of what Yvonne told her. In a snap, any warmth brought by his actions was erased so thoroughly that it was as if it never existed.

She set the bowl down on the table and stated stoically, “I don’ t want it.”



Zayn did not think much about this. He had already rationalized it as her holdover frustration from the misadventure she suffered a few hours ago. He only knew something was wrong when he tailed Faye into their room—hoping to have a chat—and the woman

leveled an expression of disgust at him before declaring coldly, “Get out of my room. You’re sleeping on the couch tonight.”

Zayn was stunned. What was this about? He had not offended her in any way, had he?

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0068**

Zayn had no choice but to spend the night on the couch as he was ordered.

The next day, he had lunch with Gordon at The Graceful Gourmand. They had reserved the most ostentatious private dining suite in the restaurant just for him.

Gordon Hayes was a man in his sixties, but he was so well-groomed that he could have passed for a fifty-year —old. He was a hard worker who left his hometown and came to the city looking for a job at the age of fifteen. For over a decade, he had worked a plethora of jobs, each of them honest labor. That changed the night his boss slept with

his wife. In a crime of passion, he attacked the man with an ax and was sentenced to a few years in prison.

When he was released, Gordon was a changed man. Gone were his scruples and values of honesty and fairness. He became a practitioner of duplicity and intrigue. His wiles quickly brought him the success that he had never had before and his business grew rapidly. He soon opened a casino and a nightclub.

He might not have been the kingpin of Waltz City, but he was still very much one of its ruling dukes. Zayn remembered hearing about how one of the Carters offended Gordon in some way, and the family was mortified. To ensure the incident ended peacefully, their patriarch himself treated Gordon to a sumptuous apology feast and gave some monetary compensation.

Who would have thought a figure powerful enough to be feared by the Carters would act so subserviently to Zayn? Gordon was practically humbling himself with as much servility as Sean always did when around Zayn. He even took to addressing the latter with his most adulating “sir”, just like Sean.

It was one of Zayn’s most pleasurable meals for a while. Gordon had mastered flattery. He had a variety of ways and tricks to stroke an ego and not make it so obvious as to raise Zayn’s ire. Perhaps having such skills was why the man had managed to get to his position.

In the days preceding, Howard Carter had been living the good life. The three million dollar stimulus was just the right tonic to repair the company’s cash flow. Many other companies and corporations were flooding back to them for new partnerships.

Everything was going back to how it used to be. Within a short period of time, the Carters' company was seeing growing interest again, and Howard himself benefited from it through a fat sum of dividends. After being in a prolonged slump, getting that much money so quickly was a reason to indulge. One of the first things he did was squander a few thousand dollars at a pub, spending it all to ensure a stranger—a female university student—would give him a good time.

The best part was the windfall he made with his friends in Gordon's casino over the past two days, winning a whopping twenty grand or so. Lady Luck had blessed him so much that he felt as though he could get by just on chance alone. The wide grin on his face never faded.

The day before, while he was eating with his family, he watched them pack all the leftover food home into doggie bags. Howard could not stop himself from lampooning Faye for it.

Now, in the company's meeting room, Howard was reporting their recent sales with a massive grin on his face. "I'm oh—so—lucky to be the bearer of good news. Our family's business is back on track! That's not all. Just a few days ago, two of our biggest competitors suffered losses even more tremendous than our own because of gross incompetence in management. Because of that, both of them have declared bankruptcy! In other words, here in Waltz City, we are effectively without competition!

"From now on, our profits will continue to break records. I have every reason to believe that we'll be able to build new factories and expand our company next year!"

His stirring speech earned him the shareholders' thunderous cheers. Faye, being one of the shareholders, was among those who broke out into an earnest applause. The Carters' rescue from their financial plight was largely her doing after all. Had she not borrowed that timely sum of three million dollars, the Carters would have already been finished.

She waited eagerly for her grandfather's praise, her face beaming.

George rose to his feet and began his commendation speech, but it was painfully obvious that he had skirted around mentioning her name. Instead, he lauded Howard for what was actually her contribution.

"Howard is right through and through. We should all thank him. It was his wits and courage that stopped our family from going to ruin. It was he who stood up at the critical juncture, our time of need, and handled our creditors. Then, over the past few days, he has been the one who devoted himself to raking in as many demands for our goods as possible. Everyone, we should all give Howard the plaudits he deserves!"

Just like that, George led the crowd into showering the man with yet another round of ovations.

Faye's furrowed brows betrayed the nagging grudge emerging in her mind. She knew her grandfather played favorites all the time, but he did not expect the man to be so blatantly biased. Still, she held her tongue and waited, hoping that her grandfather would mention her by name even once.

Her patience was not rewarded. There was no acknowledgment. No mention. Even the way George looked at her was frigid and steely.

How could that be? How was that fair?

She could not accept being snubbed like this, yet her quiet disposition prevented her from voicing out the rancor building inside of her.

They had shafted her and her contribution, but it was still far from the worst. It was what George said next that finally broke her.

“Now, as I’ve mentioned, the overarching hero who saved the family was Howard. Hence, I think it’s apropos to rethink the distribution of our shares.” George continued after a pause, “Waine and his family hold too much in their hands. Them owning fifteen percent is unfair to the rest of the family. So, I’ve decided to cut ten percent of what Waine owns and transfer it to Howard.”

“What?!” Faye blurted out with uncontrollable shock. She leaped to her feet and cried, “Why are you cutting into what is ours, Grandpa?!”

“Watch your attitude, Faye Carter! ” Hector snarled. Sitting nearby, he slammed his fist on the table to emphasize his words. “Who taught you to shout at your grandfather like that, you uppity brat?!”

## When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0069

Signs of a temper shadowed George's mien. He trained his eyes on Faye, stating, "You and your family have always just owned five percent of the shares."

Faye balled her hands into fists. "That's not what you promised me, Grandpa. You told me that if I could borrow three million dollars from Mr. Wilson, you'd allocate an additional 10% of the shares to us!"

"She's right, dad. Didn't you make a promise?" Waine chimed in dissatisfaction.

"Shut up!" George bellowed, leveling a nasty scowl at Waine. The younger man's face immediately paled under George's sight, prompting him to cast his eyes to the floor while biting his tongue.

"Are you truly so shameless that you have no problem reminding us of what you've done?" George continued with the same bellicosity now oozing out of his expression. "Thanks to you, everyone's scorning us for having a loose woman among our kin! Thanks to you, the good name of the Carters has been sullied!"

"I didn't do anything of that sort! " Faye rebuked hotly. "I've explained it to all of you before already—the chairman of Violet Vision never bedded me. I'm untouched!"

“That’s what she always says, isn’t it? Who would believe that? Do you really think we are morons who are easily duped?” Howard interjected, the abnormal inflection in his voice suggesting an accusatory undertone. “That man is the chairman of Violet Vision, isn’t he? Why would a hotshot lend you a handsome sum of three million dollars without getting anything in return, not even your body?”

Faye mounted another retort in her mind, but before the words could leave her lips, George thumped the surface of the table again to command silence. “That’s enough. The decision has been made. Faye Carter, from now on, you don’t have to report to work anymore. You’ll be paid according to your dividend. That’s all.” As Faye’s tears burst out of the dams in her eyes, she stormed out of the meeting room instantly.

As it stood, Howard bagged the most wins from the Carters’ family meeting. That night, he went to Gordon’s casino for his victory lap, hoping to cash in on his good fortune to earn even more.

He expected his streak of undefeatable luck to bless him in gambling, yet even before the two—hour mark was up, he had managed to lose more than fifteen thousand, which meant that any gain he had made a few days ago had all left him.

Naturally, Howard’s malcontent spurred him into double—down on his games. He planned to stop the moment he regained what he had lost, but it seemed that his luck had run dry. After another hour passed, Howard lost another fifteen thousand dollars!

In other words, he effectively lost the dividends he had earned from the company.

Howard could not accept the reality that the tides of fortune had turned against him at all. Defiant, he gritted his teeth and asked the casino management to lend him a loan of seventy-seven thousand dollars before diving right back into gambling.

It did not last beyond half an hour before it was completely lost. Eyeing the direction his careless gambling was leading to, Howard's friend admonished him, hoping that he would stop.

Howard reacted by shoving his friend away boorishly. Furious, his friend began to just watch his continuous streak of abysmal losses with indifference.

The day ended, and Howard found himself down by 460 thousand dollars. It was too much for him and too much to tell anyone about it even. If his grandfather knew about this, Howard was sure that he would tear him into pieces.

On the other hand, Howard dared not leave what he owed Gordon hanging either. Everyone in Waltz City knew how ruthless that man was. Crossing someone like Gordon was akin to giving himself the boot from Waltz City, so he set his eyes on the company's funds.

He embezzled seventy—seven thousand dollars, deciding that fifteen thousand would be used to cover the interests of what he owed Gordon, and the rest of the money would be used as his capital for the next gamble. He decided that he must regain all that he had lost yesterday. He was going to win all of it back and never step into a casino ever again!



Unfortunately, gambling had always been a slippery slope to ruins masquerading as an extreme sport, and Howard was trapped in the downward spiral. He lost another 770 thousand dollars!

By this point, Howard had borrowed 700 thousand, which combined With the 460 thousand dollars he owed from before, meant that he had about 1.16 million dollars on hand. That was not even counting the thirty—one thousand dollars in interest too.

It was the final nail in the coffin that made him crack.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0070**

It was the night of the Carters' annual gathering.

Howard appeared distracted, as though his husk of a body was unattended, as he looked on with his eyes glazed and unseeing. His face was abnormally pale too as cold beads of sweat potted his skin.

“Howard, are you okay? You don’ t look so hot,” Hector asked, his eyebrows furrowed.

Howard stared at nothing in particular without answering him. It was beginning to worry the older man, who placed his hand on Howard’s forehead before crying out in shock, “Your forehead’s really cool...Are you having cold sweat?!”

Upon hearing his voice, everyone else turned to look at him.

“Oh, uh, what?” Howard finally pulled himself back to reality. When he realized where he was, he quickly shook his head. “I, uh, I’m fine.”

“Are you sure? You’re having cold sweat. Did something happen to you?” Hector asked, unconvinced and concerned.

“Yeah, Howard. If something’s troubling you, at least let the family know.”

Howard forced a smile. “What do you mean something happened to me? Nothing happened. I just overworked myself in the office last night. I didn’t notice that it was already midnight. All I need to do is to have an early rest, and I’ll be as good as new. Don’t worry, guys.”

Hector’s eyebrows creased just a little in suspicion. As his father, he had watched the young man’s growth and knew his character like the back of his hand: Howard had always been a sloth at his core. He frequently played hooky when he should have been at school. His attendance and productivity at work had been spotty after graduation, and nothing in his attitude ever suggested him as someone who would work long hours and into the night for the company’s benefit.

Admittedly, Howard had been coming home late at night these days. In fact, he had not come home at all last night. Hector had thought that his son was fooling around with his

hedonistic ne'er-do-well friends again, but now, it seemed that he had been wrong about Howard after all.

Hector could not help but smile at the thought. Howard had taken his time, but finally, he was starting to act like a mature adult.

Hector patted his son's shoulder. "Work may be important, but you shouldn't overtax yourself and take your health lightly, okay?"

The rest of the crowd chimed in as well, "Yeah, Howard. You're the star of the family right now. We Carters are rooting for you to bring glory to the family."

Their words were so flattering to Howard that the man was instantly rejuvenated. A genuine smile returned to his face, and suddenly, he was a different person from who he had been just minutes ago.

Meanwhile, across the room, Faye was just as absent-minded as Howard previously was. Her eyebrows were creased as she looked on, lost in her thoughts. To be honest, Faye had objected to attending tonight's dinner party because seeing George, Hector, and several others in the family made her retch. It was her father, Waine, who had insisted on her joining them, so she had to set aside her reluctance and be there.

She did not tell Zayn about what happened since she deemed it unnecessary. What changes would it make? How could Zayn even help?

Zayn noticed her general lack of alacrity, so he tried his best to tend to her discomfort, asking her if something was troubling her and questions of the likes. Of course, Faye ignored him altogether, and after a while of listening to his concerned questions, she snapped, “Don ’t you ever find yourself irritating, Zayn? I told you I’m not troubled by anything, and that is that! Besides, even if I were bullied by anyone, can you even do anything about it?”

The incident from two days ago-whereby Faye’s family’s hold of the company’s share was truncated and she herself was expelled from the board of directors, was still gnawing at Faye’s mind, leaving bubbles of pent-up anger all over. Adding to that was Zayn and his relentless barrage of questions, and it was no wonder that she became so exasperated that she raised her

voice when she snapped at him.

Unfortunately, in turn, many of her family members heard her, and quickly, the snickers and gibes followed.

“Look! Isn’t that Waine’s useless son-in-law over there? Faye’s shouting at him again, huh? Haha!”

“Ha, you know that’s their daily routine, don’t you? Faye’s been kicked out of the board of directors just two days ago, so shouting and screaming abuse at Zayn is the only catharsis her incompetent self has! What a pair of weirdos.”

“Seeing them is just embarrassing! One’s a failure of a son-in-law who couldn’t get a job for four years while the other is a slut who beds other men. They deserve each other. Haha!”

“Oh, you’re right! They are such a perfect match!”

“Anyway, isn’t this an invite-only family gathering? What’s a stupid parasite like him doing here?”

“What else? He’s shameless enough to come for the free food. I heard he’s always been given leftovers as his meals, so it’s not surprising that when he heard he could feast on actual food from a luxury hotel, he came crashing the party with his tongue sticking out! When you’re someone like that, why would you care about dignity, right?”

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0071

The Carters did not waste time jeering and insulting Faye and Zayn, their fingers wagging and pointing in mockery. Mocking them had become a form of entertainment for them.

Faye's expression turned stormy, her ire and contempt toward Zayn multiplying. She had been reluctant to join the family gathering despite being a Carter herself. Conversely, Zayn was so thick-skinned, he did not even care that he was just a guy who married into his wife's family. He would let himself be abused and looked down upon just so he could have some free food.

She missed the chairman of Violet Vision even more. Had he been at their family gathering, everyone would have shut up and kissed his boots as hard as they could.

It was regrettable that she did not even have the chairman's contact details. Just the thought of that made her heave a sigh as her dismay grew.

Zayn hardly cared about the Carters' remarks. The only reason he had come was to be Faye's companion. He would not have bothered to attend otherwise, not even for "free food". To think that that was his intention was preposterous, especially since Gordon had just treated him to an even more lavish feast back in The Graceful Gourmand that made this one seem pitiful in comparison.

Nonetheless, the Carters' jabs did carry some important information that Zayn seized upon. With a frown, he asked, "Is it true, Fifi? You've been kicked out of the board of

directors? But why? The only reason the Carter family even got out of their crisis was your contribution, right?"

Zayn was angry at the injustice Faye had suffered. He only lent the family three million dollars because of Faye. Take her out of the equation, and the Carters' plights would never have concerned him.

Faye's eyes reddened instantly. The feeling of being wronged intensified. "So what if my contributions were what saved them? I was just a means to an end that could be disposed of as soon as my purpose was fulfilled. They didn't just kick me out. They robbed us of the ten percent of the shares they promised. And now, they called me a slut who slept with the chairman of Violet Vision. They see me as a stain on the Carter family's name."

"What?!" By now, Zayn's anger had grown into a burning fury. He leaped to his feet and fumed, "How could they repay your contributions with such grave injustice?! No, I'm gonna fight them for this!"

"What are you trying to do?! Come back here right now!" a glaring Waine yelled, as he pulled Zayn back with a yank. "Don't go around creating trouble!"

"He's right, Zayn. You're a nobody who married into this family, remember? At least get a good grip on your capabilities," Ruby chimed in. "If you fight them, you could even cost us our five percent of the shares! Make us lose what we have and you're getting the boot!"

Faye had just begun to feel a little touched by Zayn's outburst. She thought it meant he cared about her, but her parents' words removed all such feelings. Instead, she now saw Zayn as a dimwit who could not get anything right.

"We can't just let them walk all over us!" Zayn rebuked frantically. "This is entirely unfair to Fifi!"

"And? What can you do? Debate with them and get more eggs on your face in the process and get us expelled from here along with you?" Faye snapped coldly. "You're over twenty years old, Zayn. Can't you be a bit more mature and stop burdening me with the troubles you created?!"

Her words stung Zayn, but he was at a loss as to what to say.

It became clear from the Carters' gathering that Waine's family was effectively ostracized. Their seating had been relegated to the corner. No Carters wanted to sit with them, and the portions of the food served at their table were markedly smaller than everyone else's.

Waine had become their whipping boy. He was aggrieved by the injustice, but he was also afraid to speak out.

In contrast, everyone around the main table was eagerly toasting to Howard while singing his praises.



It was at that point that Hector received a call that changed his expression in an instant. Swiftly standing up, he cried out loudly, "What did you say?! Is the information accurate? When did that happen? I want a clear answer now!"

His outburst shocked everyone. Howard, in particular, shuddered as the joy in his face froze before being smothered by panic. He almost dropped to the floor.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0072

Howard was not being subtle, but as most people had their eyes on Hector, his reaction went largely unobserved.

Even so, not everyone missed him, Zayn had seen his reaction. He narrowed his eyes as the cogs in his brain turned before concluding that this was Howard's doing. The call Hector received had something to do with him!

Meanwhile, Hector's expression went through a spectrum of shock, fury, and finally, horror. By the time the call ended, his eyes were glazed over in disbelief, as though his soul had left him.

His shifting emotions mystified the crowd. A heavy air of foreboding began to dawn on them, and they started to wonder if something terrible had happened to the company.

Amid the uneasy silence, George furrowed his eyebrows and stared at Hector. "Who was that?"

Hector gulped, scanning everyone's faces, before meeting George's eyes. "It's from the finance department."

Though he managed to project an appearance of unflappability, George felt his pounding heart skip a beat. “What happened?”

Hector was crestfallen. “They said... someone has been siphoning 1.5 million dollars from the company over the past week— ”

“What?!” George could no longer maintain his calm facade. With a loud stomp, he leaped to his feet, his face twisted in a thunderous rage.

Others in the room were also stupefied by the bombshell revelation, leaving their minds blank and their limbs numb.

The next moment, they exploded into an uproar.

“Who could have siphoned off 1.5 million like that? Who did this?!”

“Right! That’s not Chump change! This loss is going to cause our company yet another capital shortage!”

“Which heartless bastard did this?”

“I hope he’s good at hiding, because if I find out who he is, I’ll fracture his bones!”

As emotions ran high, the Carters erupted into a cacophony of condemnation. Faye herself was stunned by the revelation. Who would have done that? The Carters had just barely made some headway and a shortage of 1.5 million dollars would instantly rupture the company’s cash flow, causing their partners to balk. Their company would be crippled again.

The last instance of that had tainted the company’s image in the eyes of their business partners. To have history repeating itself was akin to financial suicide.

Throughout the helter-skelter, Zayn’s eyes were following Howard like a hawk. He could see the color flowing out of the latter’s face, beads of cold sweat emerging from his skin, and his feeble attempts to stay composed. Even the cup he held was shaking.

One and a half million dollars! One had to be impressed by Howard’s audacity.

“Silence, all of you! ” George struck the table and bellowed furiously above the din, his magisterial air pouring out of him like a tide. He was the patriarch of the Carter family an authoritative position that fostered fear in everyone else. Immediately, a hush fell over the room.

George took a deep breath before asking Hector, “Who took the money?”

“The culprit hasn’t been identified,” came the reply.

“What did you say?” George’s eyes widened. “Why is the culprit unidentifiable?... Or are you the culprit?!”

“That’s ridiculous, Dad!” Hector cried out frenetically. “Why would I do something that would doom all of us?! I’m only relaying what the finance department said to me. If you don’t believe me, you can always call them and verify it!”

George’s expression darkened.

At that point, a new voice chimed in, “Why don’t we just investigate whose account the money went into?”

It was Zayn. He was standing with an uncanny expression etched on his face. He even seemed to be sending furtive glances at Howard.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0073

Howard could feel Zayn's eyes burning into him and his blood boiled in frustration. How he wished he could lunge at him and rip his foul mouth to shreds! Nevertheless, he could not make any sudden, out of place moves lest he expose himself.

Just from the way his grandfather and the rest of his family reacted, Howard had no doubt that if anyone knew who the culprit was, they would lynch him right there and then.

This was why he kept telling himself that he had to be calm above all else when it came to situations like these. He needed to deny everything to the bitter end.

Besides, Howard had been careful not to leave an incriminating trail when he embezzled the money, and the sum was transferred straight into Gordon Hayes' account. As long as he remained steadfast in his denial, no one would really believe he had done it. What's more, he was far from the only one who had access to company funds.

George gave Zayn the stink eye. "Shut up. No one asked you!"

He quickly turned back to Hector. "Ask the finance department to whose account the 1.5 million was transferred to."

Hector nodded and called the department instantly. A while later, with a grim expression, he declared, "They got it. It was transferred to Gordon Hayes' bank account."

"Gordon?!" Hearing the name made George's pupils constrict and fill with fear.

The other Carters instinctively recoiled as well. The name clearly invoked fear and dread in all of them.

Within Waltz City, Gordon Hayes's reputation might not exceed the Larsons', but the Carters thought he was a lot more dangerous than them in every way. If they had to pick one of them to be their adversaries, the Carters would choose the Larsons. They might be the elite of the elite, but their business was one firmly rooted in legality. Incurring the Larsons' wrath would get the Carters' business ruined in no time, but at least everyone's personal safety was not compromised.

The same could not be said if their enemy was Gordon. He was a man knee-deep in the city's criminal underground. He was reputed to be ruthless and unscrupulous, preferring cruelty over mercy. How many who crossed Gordon ended up with their lives ruined and their families dead?

A few years ago, someone from the Carter family accidentally offended Gordon. His retribution on them was so terrible that the trauma had never left them. In the end, they had to spend a fortune just to placate his anger.

The Carters certainly did not want to have anything to do with Gordon. Even so, a whopping 1.5 million dollars had been transferred to his account. What could that mean? Was one of them working for Gordon as a double agent?

It was rather hard to believe, and that particular idea was quickly scrapped. One and a half million was negligible to someone like Gordon, which meant he had no real incentive to siphon the money out of their coffers. Besides that, it was illegal and Gordon was not so stupid.

That meant the only believable explanation was that someone in the family had been gambling at Gordon's establishment and then lost a huge amount. The stolen money was used by the culprit to clear his debts!

At the thought of that, George's scowl became uglier and uglier. He was so infuriated that his body was visibly trembling. He scanned everyone present with bloodshot eyes, suppressing the inferno within him. When he spoke, it was as though he had to force the words out of the gaps in his clenched teeth, "Who did this? Confess right now!"

Every family member in the room lowered their heads to avoid meeting George's gaze. Howard, in particular, stuck his head under the table as he repeatedly told himself to calm down like a mantra.

"I'm gonna count from one to three, and I want the culprit to stand up and admit their faults! If you don't, then wait till my investigation reveals who you are, and I'll fix you so good, you'll be wheelchair bound!" George continued, scanning everyone around with a steely lethality that could make a grown man cower.



“One...two...”

No one stood. No one confessed. Howard had taken to feigning indignation and anger at the “culprit”.

It was then that Zayn stood up again, this time to jeer at Howard, “When are you going to stop pretending, Howard? The gig is up, but you don’t wanna confess?”

Upon hearing Zayn’s accusation, a sea of eyes turned to Howard.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0074

Howard quivered and his heart fluttered in a panic. How dare that little bastard Zayn rat him out!

George's eyes immediately zoned in on Howard with all his majestic pressure. It was so overwhelming that Howard almost wet himself right then and there.

“Bullsh\*t!” Hector bellowed, slamming the desk furiously before pointing his finger at Zayn. “You sorry excuse for a son-in-law! You really have a death wish, don't you? How dare you fling these baseless accusations at my son?! Imagining that you're some kind of brave hero, huh?”

The other Carters were just as enraged as he was. Their faces twisted in anger as they fired a barrage of verbal abuse.

Faye was taken aback by Zayn's bravado. Why was he so good at dragging her into one mess after another? Where did he find the audacity to accuse Howard just like that?

She quickly yanked Zayn back to his seat before bristling in irritation, “Are you really that suicidal, Zayn?! Or are you pathologically incapable of dragging me into one disaster after another?”

Waine and Ruby had already launched into a scathing tirade against Zayn, with the latter's finger prodding his forehead so many times that she grazed the uppermost layer of his skin.

Howard was panicking at first, but after realizing that everyone had directed their rancor toward Zayn instead of suspecting his role, he sighed in relief. His heart calmed down, slowly but surely, and his mind started churning out ideas. It was always at moments like these he felt as though his brain would light up and run at a thousand miles per hour.

It did not take long before a plan formed in his mind. The fact that he was so close to getting away with it all brought a mirthful smile full to his lips.

Zayn sighed. "It's not a baseless accusation. I know for sure he was the one who siphoned that 1.5 million. Didn't any of you notice? He had been acting strangely since we were having dinner and he kept sweating. Then his father received a call, and he was so shocked that he almost fell onto the floor! Anyone who isn't blind should be able to tell this was his doing!"

Faye heard his analysis with her eyebrows furrowed, recalling Howard's behavior a few moments ago. As Zayn had pointed out, he was acting very strangely which could only be explained as the behavior of one who knew they were guilty. Besides, there was also the fact that not everyone had the authority to transfer the company's funds.

"Bullsh\*t!" Howard bristled. "The reason I had been sweating was that I overworked myself in the office until the wee hours! I am simply tired! Zayn Larson, I know you hate

my guts. You think I was the one who instigated your wife to sleeping with another man, and so all of this is just a cheap attempt at getting back at me through slander, isn't it?!"

He grabbed a glass from the table and hurled it at Zayn.

"I swear, Zayn, this sort of transgression can't be forgiven unless you kneel and apologize. Otherwise, fat chance of this ever getting absolved!"

It was Zayn's turn to scowl darkly. Apparently, an insignificant bastard like Howard had decided to get physical. Had Zayn's reflexes been half a second slower, he would not have been able to dodge the flying glass and he would have been wounded by the exploding shards.

The rest of the Carters had all turned against Zayn, united in their shared contempt and hate for him. Zayn was a nail in their eyes and a thorn in their flesh. They hated him so much they wished that looks really could kill.

"His depravity has no limit! A useless waste of space like him actually thinks he's got the right to boss us around and smear Howard's good name!"

"I knew from the moment I set my eyes on Zayn that we were dealing with a vindictive, grudge-obsessing bastard who would make sure even the slightest grievance would be avenged. He's always been envious of Howard's excellence! And now that he got the chance to malign his image, he's decided to keep harping on Howard like a rabid dog!"

“Disgusting-just plain disgusting!”

Amid the crowd’s heated assault against Zayn’s character, a voice suddenly rose above the din and led the conversation in a different direction: “Say, don’t you all suspect this might be on Faye’s orders? What if she was the one who directed Zayn to make this baseless attack against Howard?”

“What makes you think that?”

“It’s elementary, really. Faye just lost ten percent of her shares to the company two days ago, and then she was kicked out of the board of directors. Remember how she stormed out like that? I bet these two events planted the seeds of malice in her heart!”

“Damn it, you’re absolutely onto something! How else could a piece of trash like him suddenly be filled with bravado? How could he dare to blame Howard, who could easily break his legs?”

Suddenly, the tides had turned. Faye had become the target of their vitriol.

Faye’s demeanor changed, but she did not defend herself. She merely bit her lips and clenched her fists. She looked tormented, tortured by abject desolation. Her eyes were turning red, yet she stubbornly refused to let her tears flow.

Zayn watched her and felt a sharp pang in his chest. His anger at the Carters and their disgusting behavior was increasing. His revulsion for their hideous natures was growing.

He reached out to hold Faye's hand. "Don't worry, Fifi. As long as I draw breath, I'll never make you suffer any injustice."

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0075

Faye raised her head suddenly, and without concealing her emotions, swung her hand hard and struck Zayn on the cheek.

“Just shut the hell up, Zayn Larson! I’ve had enough of you! I’ve told you over and over again that I don’t want you to plague me with troubles. But you never listen, do you? This is your petty way of getting vengeance against me, isn’t it? You have the gall to claim you can prevent me from suffering any injustice, but what do you have that could guarantee that?!”

The blow was uncannily sharp-so much so, Zayn was too bewildered to react.

The rest of the room did not waste time before indulging in schadenfreude. Some of them clapped, including Howard himself. All the fear and panic he felt before was gone, replaced by an expression of genuine mirth. Zayn was such an enormous moron, was he not? He was so brainless that he did not even know how someone as stupid as himself could not possibly have

ratted him out successfully. In fact, Howard thought that Zayn’s eagerness only served to clear him of any suspicions!

George banged on the table again. “Alright, that’s enough. All of you, quiet! I’m asking you one last time, who took the money and what was it used for? Stand up right now and confess to your crime. If we get all 1.5 million dollars back, I’ll consider a pardon.”

That was what he said on the surface, but everyone knew it was impossible.

Howard's head shrank into his neck again. No matter what happened, he had to continue claiming innocence. It was then when Hector suddenly spoke up, "Say, where's Thomas?"

Thomas Carter, Faye's brother, had always liked family gatherings of this kind. Today was the only exception.

"He's at school, studying for his test," Waine replied.

"Studying? Oh, really? I would bet the truth is something very different!" Hector rebuked, his tone hinting at dark designs. "We've all seen what Thomas is like! Since when has he ever done any actual studying?"

Ruby was immediately annoyed. "What's that supposed to mean, Hector? One moment you people claimed there was a double agent in the family who helped themselves to 1.5 million dollars, and now you're bringing my son up?"

"From what I know about Thomas, he's gotten into trouble by ignoring his studies to spend time gambling, hasn't he?" Hector added, "And of all the casinos he could visit, he picked the one Gordon Hayes owns..."



Just like that, everyone in the crowd understood what he was implying. Hector was mounting a case against Waine as the possible culprit.

It did not take long for Waine and his family to catch on as well, and Faye was particularly horrified.

“What is the meaning of this, brother? Just say what you mean to say! Are you suspecting me as the one who siphoned that 1.5 million away?” Waine argued testily.

“Isn’t it obvious enough? Everyone knows what kind of man your precious Tommy is. He’s a little scoundrel whose hobbies consist of fighting, womanizing, drinking, and gambling,” Hector sneered. “He’s even taken to borrowing money from online loan sharks, hasn’t he? Please don’t insult us by thinking you can pull the wool over all of our eyes.”

Faye was quick to counter, “Uncle Hector, have you any concrete evidence that proves that we stole the money? Thomas might be a little wayward, but he’s just a young man who’s still confused. And his habit of borrowing money online is already long past him! We’ve even cleared the debt he owed! And that’s not counting the fact that all of you have kicked me out of the board of directors the day before yesterday. How could I possibly still possess access to the company’s funds?”

Howard rose to his feet and snickered. “It’s precisely because you were kicked out of the board that you have motive to do something so heinous! You wanted to get revenge on the Carters by embezzling that money! You might have lost your privilege, but your father retains his, no?”

Faye was seething from the man's accusation. "Howard Carter, don't you dare make unfounded accusations against me. I never planned any revenge against the Carters, and no one instructed me to take a cent from the funds!"

Waine and Ruby, too, were so exasperated by the turn of events that they leaped to their feet and launched their most blustering rebuttals. Unfortunately, a family of three was no match for the extended Carter clan and their salvos of savage, rage-filled censures. They were quickly becoming victims to the majority as their combined strength proved to be insufficient.

The more the Carters debated, the more they believed the narrative that Faye vindictively stole such a crucial amount of cash to get back at them. Howard even started floating the idea of reporting them to law enforcement and sending the family to prison.

Just then, from the main entrance, a large group of tall, muscular brutes sauntered into the shop. The one leading them was none other than Gordon, the same man who shared a meal with Zayn just two days ago.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0076

Gone was Gordon's humility and deference from when he ate with Zayn two days ago. His stride was confident and commanding. A powerful aura emanated from him, silencing everyone there as soon as they submissively looked at him.

As a gangster who built his empire from scratch, Gordon wore a suit in an attempt to dress himself up like a business mogul, but his belligerent air betrayed him.

"Wow, sounds pretty merry here. Looks like I came just in time," Gordon said with a grin. He held two walnuts in his hand as he sauntered in.

Howard's smile froze the moment he saw Gordon. The color visibly drained from his face as his pupils dilated. The man was so terrified that his legs were shaking. He could not understand why Gordon Hayes was there.

He had given Gordon 1.5 million dollars the day before. Why was he still coming after him? Was it because he had not gone to gamble that day?

Hidden among the crowd, Zayn had an enigmatic smile when he saw Gordon.

Why was Gordon Hayes here? Of course, it was because he had been intersected to do so by the chairman of Violet Vision.

Two million three hundred and sixty thousand dollars was not exactly a big sum to Gordon, and Howard had cleared 1.5 million two days ago. Going easy on him for a few days for the remaining 860,000 was not an issue. Nonetheless, he received Zayn's text asking him to come. There was no way he dared reject him, so Gordon rushed overnight leaving whatever he was doing behind. He had no idea why Violet Vision's chairman told him to come there and how the small-time Carters were involved but none of that mattered. He was just doing the chairman a favor.

After the meal that day, Gordon had tried investigating Violet Vision's chairman, but it was futile. He had only managed to find out that the man had acquired Violet Vision Media Corp from the Larsons for 350 million dollars.

According to Sean, it was for fun. This could only mean that the young chairman of Violet Vision was rich, incredibly so, and had a profound background. He was not someone an insignificant person like him could find out about.

Understanding as much, Gordon stopped his investigation on the chairman lest he find himself in a deadly dilemma if the latter found out. Coming to where he was now, he had a deeper realization of his minute presence. There were plenty of bigshots in this world who he could not afford to offend.

The message that Violet Vision's chairman sent was simple. He was to go there as soon as he could and put on a show with him. Gordon was befuddled about what the chairman was trying to do, but that was not important. He just had to follow the instructions.

George and the Carters cowered at the sight of Gordon's presence.

“Mr. Hayes, what brings you here?” As the patriarch, George represented the honor of the Carters. Although he was scared of Gordon, he had to keep his composure in front of his family.

Gordon rolled the walnuts he had in his hand. The noise they emitted made the Carters’ hearts lurch inexplicably, Faye included. The man did not speak right away. He scanned the crowd, hoping to find Violet Vision’s chairman, but to his disappointment, he did not see him.

The Carters felt their hearts quicken in fear when Gordon’s eyes passed over them. The trauma he brought them years ago still lingered.

“Oh, I’m just here for a meal, and coincidentally, to collect on a debt as well,” Gordon replied with a smile.

George’s eyes widened. The worst had happened. Someone from the Carters had gambled at Gordon’s and lost a large amount of money. Not even 1.5 million dollars could cover it.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0077**

At the thought of it, his gaze was sharp when he glared at Faye, dying to tear her apart.

“Mr. Hayes, you must be joking? Us Carters do not have any business with you. How could we owe you anything?” George plastered on a smile.

Gordon’s grin remained unchanged. “Oh? Looks like you still don’t know. Your charming grandson had a good time at my place recently. It’s too bad he got a little unlucky and lost some money. He promised to repay it the next day, but he disappeared yesterday. Can’t even get to him through the phone. What could I do? I have to come for him personally. It didn’t occur to me that tonight was a gathering dinner for you Carters.

Tsk, tsk, excuse me for intruding. Mr. Carter, you don’t mind, do you? ”

George could no longer keep his composure after that. The smile on his face froze and the corners of his lips kept twitching. Barely holding his fury in, he told Gordon, “Is that true, Mr. Hayes? I know nothing about it.”

Gordon’s expression took a swift turn, becoming icy as he reeled in his grin. “Are you planning to dispute the debt?”

George shook his head fervently, startled when he felt Gordon’s wrath. “No, no, not at all! Mr. Hayes, you’ve misunderstood me! I’d never suggest something like that. If the Carters owe you money, you have my word that I won’t deny it! I just wonder how much the debt is?”

It was only then Gordon looked slightly appeased and replied flatly, “Not much. Just 2.36 million dollars. Right, you guys repaid 1.5 million the day before yesterday, so it’s

860 thousand dollars now. The total is 1.01 million dollars in addition to the two days' worth of interest. Mr. Carter, money doesn't come easy nowadays. I'm in need of funds right now, and 1.01 million dollars isn't a small sum to me. It'd be best that you settle it today, or I'll be very upset."

Watching from the back, Zayn was amused. He did not expect Gordon to be so adept at threatening others.

George was already shaking like a leaf in fear.

"Wha-what?!" Hector gasped. "2.36 million? It's only been two days, but there's already 153 thousand dollars in interest?"

The other Carters who heard the figures were hopping mad, lambasting Faye and hurling insults at her one worse than another.

"Faye Carter, you wretched thing! You lost more than two million dollars gambling!"

"We only took back a portion of your shares and dismissed you from the board of directors for the time being. Did you have to take revenge on us like this?"

“You’re a Carter yourself. You’re part of the family. How could you do something like this? Are you even human?!”

“I told you, Faye was born traitorous. What does she know about being grateful? It’s true, isn’t it? She’s biting the hand that feeds her. She’s tossing the Carters down the drain! ”

“Vicious, she’s vicious. She’s diabolical...”

Faye was condemned all of a sudden. They had been saying that it was Thomas who went to gamble and lose a large amount of money to Gordon, but it was now Faye who was taking revenge on the Carters and intentionally lost over two million dollars at his casino since she was a vicious person.

Faye tried defending herself and countering the accusations, but her small voice was drowned out completely in the nasty upbraiding by the rest of her family.

Her eyes were rimmed red. Helpless and hurt, she finally cried. “It wasn’t me...Why are you accusing me? Am I truly so vile to all of you?”

Her pained cry came from the bottom of her heart, but no one believed her.



Nearby, the commotion got Gordon's attention. The sight of Faye was a shock and his eyes widened in surprise. The cogs of his brain spun rapidly, and he instantly understood why the chairman of Violet Vision made him come there...

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0078**

Gordon was a clever man. He looked all brute and brawn, but he was scrupulous and was especially prone to guessing the minds of bigwigs. He figured it out the moment he saw Faye. The chairman of Violet Vision must have fancied Faye. That was why he was needed to act alongside him. These hotshots were all cunning in tricks and games nowadays.

At the sight of a serious Gordon who spun the walnuts in his hand even faster, George hurried to say, "Mr. Hayes, this is a misunderstanding. Faye Carter isn't one of us anymore, so her debt has nothing to do with us Carters."

Faye's eyes went wide in disbelief. What did her grandfather just say? She had done so much for the Carters, including working in their family business before she graduated from college and had always been conscientious with her job. All in all, she had created so much value for her family!

If she had not sacrificed herself for the family and borrowed three million dollars from the chairman of Violet Vision recently, could the Carters have even become what they were today? Furthermore, she was not even the one who had siphoned off 1.5 million dollars! She was not the one who owed Gordon money! On what grounds was her grandfather doing this to her? Was she not a Carter? Was she not a granddaughter to the man himself?

The other Carters were quick to dissociate themselves from Faye, citing that she had married out of the family and had nothing to do with the Carters, thus the Carters had no obligation to pay for her debt. Someone took it a cruel step further and asked for Faye to return the L5 million dollars to Carters, or else they would call the police and send her to jail.

Faye was devoid of any expression. Her heart felt as chilly as winter frost.

Then, a large warm hand held hers and a voice spoke softly next to her ear, "Honey, don't be sad. Even if the whole world abandons you, I'll always be by your side."

It was Zayn who was speaking from the bottom of his heart while gazing at Faye seriously. The woman was moved. Although Zayn was useless and caused her plenty of trouble, the man was genuinely nice to her.

In spite of that, what was the use of it? She had no feelings for Zayn. On the contrary, she had a huge crush on the chairman of Violet Vision.

"Thank you," Faye uttered softly, sounding distant.

Gordon's expression was odd when he said, "George Carter, are you sure you want to cut ties with my debtor?"

Delightfully surprised, George hurried to answer, “Mr. Hayes, it’s not that I want to cut ties with Faye, but she’s a married woman. To be precise, she isn’t even a Carter anymore. We aren’t obligated to repay her debt. Mr. Hayes, as the understanding and principled man you are, you won’t make it hard for us, will you?”

Gordon was riled up. This old man, George, was shameless and cold-hearted. To shirk from his responsibility, he was willing to shove his granddaughter away. He was really inhumane!

“Sure. Now that you put it like that, of course, I have to do you a favor,” Gordon replied with a straight face as he patted the old man’s shoulder.

Elated, George thanked Gordon profusely. The other Carters were similarly overjoyed while Waine and Ruby panicked. Anxious and bewildered, they grumbled about Faye. Waine would probably have hit Faye to vent his anger if Zayn had not stopped him.

Faye was still expressionless as though she had lost her soul.

What Gordon said next, however, baffled everyone. “In that case, I’ll take the liberty to take action. Men, get me that little sh\*t, Howard Carter. I’m feeding him to the sharks! He mustn’t know what death is since he’s brave enough not to return my money!”

What? Howard?

Did they hear it right? Was the indebted one not Faye?

How come it was Howard now?

Howard, who was standing in the crowd, had been dying to flee. When he heard what Gordon said, he shrunk backward, feeling his scalp go numb. Without any hesitation, he turned and sprinted. He must not get caught by Gordon because the latter would really throw him to the sharks.

The total he owed Gordon now was 1.01 million dollars. Howard would not be able to come up with this sum even if he sold his own body!

How could he have run off though? Zayn had been keeping an eye on him. When Howard sprinted past him, Zayn stuck his leg out and tripped him.

Finally, Gordon spotted Zayn and there was a thrill on his face. When his gaze met Zayn's, he understood what he meant and nodded slightly in deference.

The two brawny men behind Gordon pounced forward immediately and hoisted Howard up without much grace. A big slap landed on Howard's cheek, making his face swell.

"You owe me money, yet you have the gall to run away?!"



# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0079

The sudden turn of events stupefied the Carters, specifically George and Hector. They were befuddled, was it not Faye who owed the money? Why was it Howard now?

Hoisted up like a frozen turkey by the two brutes, Howard was forced to kneel before Gordon.

“Howard Carter, huh? Very bold of you... You owe me money, yet you refuse to answer my calls?” Gordon looked down at Howard and said coldly.

Scared witless, the latter pleaded incessantly, “Mr. Hayes, it’s all a misunderstanding! A misunderstanding! How’d I dare to refuse your calls? My phone broke yesterday! It wasn’t working!”

Tears and snot ran down his face. Howard looked pathetic as he begged Gordon like a stray.

Gordon’s gaze flitted to Zayn, silently asking him what he should do. As their eyes met, Zayn was quick to direct him with his gaze as well. Gordon grabbed Howard’s hair and yanked his head upward. “I’ll cut the crap with you. Pay up what you owe. Clear the remaining 1.01 million dollars today and I’ll let you go.”

Howard's hair was pulling against his scalp. "Mr. Hayes I... I... Can't come up with so much money right now. Can you give me a few more days? I'll make sure to collect 1.01 million and return it all!"

"Do you take me as a fool? You're repaying this sum to me today! Otherwise, I'll feed you to the sharks..."

Gordon said sharply, "You Carters are rich, no? You can ask your family to pay the debt for you. Oh-hoo! Look at my memory. I forgot. George kicked you out of the Carters. They cut ties with you, so they won't repay the debt for you. Looks like the only choice left is feeding you to the sharks."

Howard was hauled up violently by the two muscular men once more. No one doubted Gordon's intent to feed him to the sharks. The latter resisted with his all, twisting back and crying for help, "Grandpa! Grandpa! Help, Grandpa! I don't want to die! Sob..."

George was stunned. His limbs were cold while his scalp was tingling with numbness. He felt a pang in his heart. Howard was Hector's only son, thus the latter ran out to kneel before Gordon. His head hung low against the floor as he pleaded, "Mr. Hayes, Mr. Hayes, please let my son go. We'll repay the debt for sure."

Gordon kept a straight face. "Huh? Didn't you guys say you're cutting ties with Howard and won't be held responsible for his debt? Why? Are you backing out of your word now? Or is Faye trash, to throw and be done with, but Howard's a gem that can't be treated roughly?"

Hector and George stayed mum. Shameless as they were, it still felt awkward now.

A few of the Carters were grumbling, except they dared not be as loud as when they had criticized Faye.

George stepped up and stated grimly, “Mr. Hayes, we were mistaken just now. Howard’s still a Carter. We hope you can be magnanimous and pardon Howard’s life. We shall pay you 1.01 million by book or by crook, Mr. Hayes!”

Gordon chuckled. “Excuse me. I hate misogynists the most in my life. I can forget about 1.01 million, but Howard goes to the sharks!”

Appalled, George’s hackles were raised as he gritted his teeth. “Mr. Hayes, we know that you’re powerful, and we can’t afford to offend you, but don’t force us into a corner! Desperate people will resort to desperate measures. Corner us and we’ll call the police to expose all of your unlawful deeds! We can all forget about living in peace!”

As if he just heard the funniest joke, Gordon guffawed. “The police? You want to pull me along to your doom? Hahaha, ludicrous. Call them, then! You’re a coward if you don’t dare do it. Let’s see if we’re doomed together! This son of a b\*tch, Howard, won’t be the only one the sharks are mauling by then. It’ll be all of you!”

Gordon’s sudden dominance and bloodthirsty tone scared all the Carters. They shuddered, none of them doubting his words.



Zayn held Faye's hand and asked her softly, "Honey, do you want to take back what you've lost from the Carters and make them repent and apologize to you?"

Confused, Faye was unable to understand what Zayn meant, so she asked in shock, "What are you talking about?"

Zayn looked at her longingly and replied, "Honey, do you remember what I told you? I said that I'd protect you. I'll avenge the grievances you had to go through with the Carters."

He then marched out with that statement, prompting Faye to pull him back in fright. "What are you doing, Zayn?! Are you causing me trouble again?!"

Zayn turned back to flash her a bright, confident grin. "Don't worry. I'm not giving you any trouble this time. Just watch."

He shrugged Faye's hand away and stepped out from the crowd.

"Gordon Hayes, so you think you're amazing for being able to intimidate so many people, huh?" Zayn sauntered over to Gordon while wearing a meaningful smile.

His voice attracted everyone's attention. When they looked over and saw that it was Zayn, they were horrified that he dared to address Gordon by his full name directly. In their minds, they cursed him as an imbecile. Could he not see how influential Gordon was?

How dare he act all high and mighty in front of him?

When Gordon saw Zayn, he heaved a sigh of relief. This man was finally willing to act his part now!

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0080**

"Zayn Larson! What on earth are you doing?!"

"Piss off! This is not your place to speak!" George and Hector berated.

Faye stomped her foot, loathing Zayn to her core. The fellow thought too highly of himself. This was Waltz City's big gun. What could a man like him, who married into her family, say anything significant to Gordon?

Zayn was trying to get himself killed!

Faye was worried and anxious about Zayn, but she dared not step up and pull him back. She knew that the man had stepped forward because of her, but this was such a stupid thing to do! He was throwing himself into the flames!

When Gordon saw that the Carters knew Zayn and were telling him off like nobody's business, he was dumbstruck and a little puzzled. Was this not the chairman of Violet Vision? How did he get involved with the Carters? From the looks of it, he seemed to have married into the family too!

Holy sh\*t, this piece of news was mind-boggling!

"Zayn Larson, are you trying to get yourself killed for speaking to Mr. Hayes like that? Get on your knees and apologize right now!" George blew his top, afraid that he would be implicated by Zayn, so he told Gordon instantly, "Mr. Hayes, don't get mad! He married into my second son's family and isn't quite right in the head. Please don't mind him."

Gordon glowered, his eyes maintaining a glare at George, as he huffed icily, "Old Carter, that's very bold of you!"

That accusation came with a slap to George's face, slamming him to the floor and eliciting a pained cry from him.

What Gordon did next shocked everyone. He looked careful and deferential as he jogged to Zayn and took a deep bow, calling out politely, "Mr. Larson!"

Zayn answered in nonchalance and gave a slight nod.

The scene made everyone's jaws drop. They were in disbelief and seemed like they had seen a ghost. Faye was no different. Her eyes were widened in a stupor. She doubted her sight. Why was the rough and savage Gordon Hayes so respectful toward Zayn and even called him Mr. Larson? This...world was going insane!

Zayn awarded Gordon an approving glance, happy with his performance. Gordon was quick-witted to have addressed him as 'Mr. Larson' instead of 'sir'.

Otherwise, he might have been found out by Faye.

"Mr. Larson, I didn't know that you're here or that Howard's your family member. My apologies. I'm sorry..." Gordon was subdued before Zayn as if he was deferential toward him. The picture it painted felt as jarring as it was shocking to the rest.

They were bewildered. Zayn was a good-for-nothing.

Why was Gordon so scared of him? Could Zayn be holding something against him?

Zayn wore a small smile in reply. "It's fine. I'm not close to Howard, so do what you want to with him."

Gordon inhaled in relief and straightened up. "I'll do as I wish if that's the case. I'm not letting Howard off the hook. He owes me money and hasn't returned it. Mr. Larson, I shall excuse myself if that's all. It'll be my treat the next time."

"Mm, run along now," Zayn answered casually with a nod.

It was then that the Carters snapped out of their daze. Hector saw hope. Clenching his jaw, he plastered on a toadying smile and jogged over to Zayn. "Oh, Zayn, you know Mr. Hayes? That's wonderful! Marvelous!"

Hector gave Zayn a big thumbs-up and assumed a subservient stance. He was incredibly compliant and groveled to Zayn continuously.

Zayn wore a half-smile, well aware of Hector's plan. "Not at all. I'm just a useless man who married into the family. It's not even my place to speak here. How am I any wonder or marvel?"

Hector's expression froze before he quickly recovered his toadying front. "We were just joking. Surely you wouldn't mind me?"

Zayn chuckled without saying anything and turned to go back to Faye.

“Hey, Zayn, wait! Hold on!” Hector held onto Zayn’s arm. “Zayn, it was my fault just now. You’re the bigger person. Forgive me this time, hmm?”

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0081

Zayn chuckled. “Uncle Hector, you must be kidding. You’re my elder. It’s not my place to be forgiving you either. I wouldn’t have the guts to lose my temper.”

Hector gritted his teeth at Zayn’s indifference. Steeling himself, he gave himself two harsh slaps-his face swelling as a result and pleaded, “Zayn, I’m wrong. I really know that. I won’t make fun of you anymore. Can you talk to Mr. Hayes? Get him to let Howard go?”

Gordon, who was leaving, obviously slowed down, which the Carters noted. They knew that he would let Howard go with a single word from Zayn. They did not understand, however, why a gangster like Gordon would act so meekly in front of Zayn though it was not important because the current reality was that Zayn was the only one who could save Howard.

“No,” Zayn refused resolutely. Hector slumped in defeat while Gordon continued walking away. Zayn then spoke again, “But I’ll listen to my wife. If she approves, I can speak to Gordon.”

Everyone directed their gaze to Faye at once.

Hector ran to Faye and begged, “Faye, please talk to Zayn. Ask him to save Howard. Whatever it is, he’s your cousin. Are you really gonna watch him die?”

Faye was silent.

The other Carters came over and began pleading with her as well.

“Oh, so you remember that I’m a Carter now? Why didn’t you think of it when you bit my head off earlier?” Faye scoffed indignantly.

She was never the cold-blooded one. On the contrary, she was kind and had a strong sense of kinship. As time passed, however, her family’s actions let her down and repulsed her! Now that the Carters needed her and yielded like poor strays, she finally felt like her grievances had been vented.

“Dad, come and talk to Faye. Are we just going to watch Howard die?” Hector urged George.

After having gotten slapped just now, the old man looked pathetic. He was someone with a lot of pride, but Gordon’s slap had taken all of that away. He came to Faye and relented.

“Fifi, Grandpa’s was wrong for taking away your share and kicking you out of the board of directors. I’m sorry. Be the bigger person and let this go, okay?”



The rest of the Carters came to grovel at Faye, especially her peers, with endearments rolling off their honeyed tongues.

Faye had never been at the receiving end of such treatment in the Carters. She felt nothing but gratification now. It was a sense of accomplishment and triumph that she had never experienced. The resentment she held from within dissipated.

When she looked over to Zayn, her gaze turned even more tender. Even though she had despised him in the past, she had now moved by him. Meeting her gaze, Zayn wore a genuine smile.

Faye walked over to him. "Let Howard go this time."

"Okay." Zayn nodded with a smile and turned to tell Gordon, "Do me a favor and spare Howard's life this time. Let him off of the interest of his debt too."

There was no way Gordon could refuse, so the gangster readily agreed.

Ten minutes later, everyone stared at Zayn with thoughts of their own when he came back. He basically stole the spotlight that night.

On the way back home, Faye told him softly, “Thank you for what you did for me tonight.”

Zayn was startled before he flashed a gentle smile. “Aren’t you silly? I told you I’d protect you.”

There was a wash of complicated emotions in Faye’s eyes as she paused before telling Zayn, “Don’t sleep on the couch tonight. Come back to sleep in the room.”

Zayn’s heart skipped a beat as her touching words melted into his ears.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0082**

Zayn got to sleep in their bedroom again. This was news worth being happy about. Although he still slept on the floor instead of on the same bed with Faye, he was more than satisfied.

The room was silent late night into the night. Hearing Faye’s soft breathing, Zayn slept soundly.

Faye went back to work in the office the next morning as George reinstated her status in the board of directors last night, returning her shares that he had taken away as well.

As for Zayn, he went to work at Violet Vision too.

Gordon had helped him last night. For whatever it was worth, Zayn had to thank him, so he went to him directly after work. When Zayn had called him, the gangster was drinking in a bar and was delightfully surprised to answer his call. He thought it was brazen to have Zayn come for him and insisted on going to Zayn instead, but the latter rejected.

Half an hour later, Zayn arrived at RUSH. It was pretty huge and had a tasteful interior. It was buzzing and teeming with people. Their bar girls were incredibly beautiful in their own right too.

Before Zayn went to the bar, he changed into his regular choice of clothing and went back to his usual low-profile appearance. According to Gordon on the phone, he had booked a deluxe room at RUSH. When Zayn arrived and was about to enter, he was stopped by two brawny men outside at the door.

“Hey, you must be at the wrong place, pal. Scram!” shoed one of them coldly.

Zayn answered faintly, “I’m here for Gordon Hayes.”

Another brawn scoffed, "Who are you? How dare you address our boss by his full name? Do you want a taste of death?"

Zayn frowned, affronted. Did Gordon not tell his lackeys that he was coming?

Not wanting to be petty with the underlings, he responded, "I'm Zayn Larson. Tell Gordon Hayes this and he'll come to me personally."

The men exchanged a look before both of them broke out in laughter like they just heard a joke. "Do I need to clean my ears? Did this loser just tell me that the Boss will welcome him personally? Fools are everywhere. We sure have a lot of them this year."

"P\*ss off right now. You should ask around about who our boss is. Do you think a loser like you is worthy of seeing him?"

The two muscular men rolled up their sleeves to intimidate Zayn. If he was not out of sight by the count of three, they were going to teach him a lesson.

Zayn sighed. "Looks like there's a reason why Hayes is having fun inside while you guys are here as watchdogs. You're too stupid. You don't even have tact."

Infuriated, the beefy men rubbed their palms together and cursed, “Do you want to die, you loser? How dare you call us watchdogs? Stick around and find out if we’ll snap your head off!”

“You’ve p\*ssed me off. Get down on your knees and apologize to me. Otherwise, trust me when I say I’ll break your legs!”

Both men circled Zayn as they spoke. They were hunky and tall at six feet and were akin to wild bears. Some passersby in the hallway were attracted by the commotion and were now gloating as they watched Zayn.

The door to the room opened just then and out walked Gordon who was flushed from being intoxicated. He was holding his phone, about to call Zayn, when he spotted him to his delight. Before he could say anything, the two brawny men spoke like they were flashing their merit, “Boss, you came out just in time. This loser’s actually looking for you and calling you by your full name. How brazen is that!? We took him down though.”

Gordon was stunned, his mind unable to catch up with the situation.

Zayn looked at him with a meaningful smile, but tingles only ran down Gordon’s head and the color drained from his face.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0083**

Cursing loudly, Gordon charged forwards to kick the muscled man on the left away and slap the burly man on the right. “You blind fools! This is my VIP! How dare you burden him with inconveniences like yourselves?!”

The thugs were bewildered. It was too much for their slow brains to process. Why was their boss so furious? Zayn looked exactly like a nobody.

The spectating crowd in the hallway was stunned as well.

Gordon was seen bowing deeply to Zayn as he spoke anxiously, “Sir, don’t be mad, please. This is my fault. I didn’t educate my underlings well. It’s all my fault, sir!”

The two thugs looked like they had just seen a ghost when they saw their boss bowing to Zayn in apology while looking tensed and edgy.

Zayn chortled. “Mr. Hayes, that’s too much. You’re the boss here. How could I ever blame you?”

His reaction made Gordon hysterical. Gritting his teeth, he was ready to give himself a slap when Zayn said, “It’s fine. I was joking. As a friend, though, I have a word of advice for you. There are many big shots in this world that you can’t afford to offend. Keep a good watch over your lackeys. It’d be an insufferable loss if you offended someone notable because of them.”

Clever as Gordon was, he understood the meaning between the lines. A chill ran down his back as he shuddered in lingering fear. It was true. If he had not known Zayn prior to this, he would have been held accountable for the humiliation his underlings put Zayn through.

Although Gordon was rather influential in Waltz City, he lacked too much in comparison to a business titan like Zayn. If the latter wanted to end him, it would take nothing more than a beckon of his hand.

As the thought ran through his mind, Gordon was drenched in cold sweat. He bowed to Zayn in gratitude.

“Thank you for your pointers, sir!”

He kicked his men after that and made them kneel and apologize to Zayn, bowing as low as they could. The burly men were fearful of Gordon. When they saw how reverent their boss was in front of Zayn, they realized that they had offended some big shot. Despite how daft they were, they were quick to go down on their knees to beg for his pardon.

Zayn said nothing as he maintained an unpredictable expression and entered the room while being escorted by Gordon.

There were slightly more than a dozen people in the booked room with two-thirds of them being pretty girls. As expected, the room seemed rather chaotic.

A frown sat between Zayn's brows when he saw the situation. Gordon, who had been observing his expression, noted the scowl and told the occupants of the room instantly, "Hey, what are you guys doing? Backup and act properly!"

These people listened to Gordon. When he barked his order, they generally got up and obeyed. However, one of them, who had a lot more to drink, did not back down. Instead, he laughed exaggeratedly. "Boss, why are you being such a hypocrite? Didn't you have the most fun just now? Hahaha..."

Before he finished, Gordon launched a kick at him, flinging the man to the floor as he cussed coldly, "I'm not joking around. All of you, act decently!"

The man sobered up instantly when he was kicked to the floor, and so did the rest of the men.

Gordon continued, "Allow me to introduce this man next to me. He's Violet Vision's..."

Zayn cut him off, "No need for introductions. I'm here to thank you. I owe you a favor for what happened last night."

Thrilled, Gordon waved his hands. "No, no, nothing like that. Sir, you're too nice. This is my obligation."



Zayn chuckled. “Gordon, I won’t beat around the bush. I know that you’ve been wanting to clean your business up. I’ll be making some investments next they won’t be much, just several hundred million dollars. If your performance is satisfactory, I’ll consider counting you in.”

Gordon flushed in anticipation. He straightened up quickly. Already in his sixties, he suddenly regained the energy he had lost all those years as he exclaimed loudly, “Don’t worry, sir. I’ll make sure you’re happy with me! I’m at your beck and call from now on. A word from you is all it takes!”

Zayn smiled and patted his shoulder, and without another word, turned to leave.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0084**

Yvonne had been frustrated recently. She had finally gotten into Violet Vision Media Corp, but other than getting to meet Zayn on her first day, she did not even see him the rest of the time-she could forget about seducing him.

Since she knew about Zayn’s identity, every other man paled in comparison. For example, there was a rich kid who was currently pestering her. He was the heir to a small company in Waltz City with assets worth millions. When compared next to Zayn, however, he lacked far too much.

In the past, Yvonne might have made something out of it when she encountered a rich heir like him, but she was disinterested now. Not only were the heir's family assets insignificant compared to Zayn's, but the millions of dollars also belonged to his father and was not for the heir to use as he wished.

Zayn... Zayn was different. He had hundreds of millions of dollars to acquire Violet Vision Media Corp. He decided where to spend his own money. It was a different scenario altogether.

Yvonne had not wanted to drink at the bar tonight. She was here purely because her friend made her come. Once she arrived, she was plagued by the man in question, the Rivera heir, much to her annoyance.

She chatted on and off with the man, wearing a perfunctory expression and wanting to leave several times in the midst of the conversation. The man's gaze revolted her. He was staring at her salaciously like he wanted to see through her clothes. Ugh, how nauseating.

Just then, her bored gaze brightened up and she sat up straighter. She looked on in disbelief, doubting her eyes and quickly rubbing them to open them wider. Yvonne's eyes did not trick her. She jogged to her target excitedly.

"Miss Keller, you're so pretty. Of the many women I've met, you're the most..." Drake Rivera gazed at Yvonne with the most longing gaze he could muster and was set to woo her with his honeyed words. Before he could finish though, he saw Yvonne enthusiastically running off and froze.

With his gaze trailing after her, he watched as Yvonne jogged up to a man with a pleasant smile while looking both shy and blissed. It was like she had come alive and turned radiant.

Drake scowled at the sight and grumbled to a plump woman beside him, "Patricia, didn't you say that Yvonne's single?"

Patricia answered, "Yeah, she is single. You can ask her if you don't believe me... Eh? Where's Yvonne?"

Drake pointed to the said girl a short distance away and glowered. "Look, her boyfriend's here. F\*ck, Patricia. Forget about me footing the bill if I'm not sleeping with Yvonne tonight. Pay me back the eight thousand dollars you owe me right now too!"

Patricia followed his gaze and frowned when she saw the man's face. She insisted in certainty, "That man's not Yvonne's boyfriend for sure! I stay with Yvonne. She's 100% single right now. That man doesn't look rich anyway. Why's she so close to him?"

Patricia clapped suddenly. "I know! He must be her cousin or something. Yvonne's even more materialistic than I am. She won't pay a poor man any mind."

Drake was rather appeased by Patricia's explanation and kept his eyes on Yvonne, jealousy and lust dripping off his gaze.

Yvonne had an amazing figure. From the moment he first set eyes on her, he coveted her and made it his goal to sleep with her tonight!

Patricia was a small-time employee at Drake's company and owed him several thousand dollars. She opted to repay her debt with her body but Drake eventually grew bored of her. He deducted a portion of the debt and stopped touching her. Being a menial employee, there was no way Patricia could clear her debt.

In a flash of wit, she showed Drake a photo of Yvonne and came to an agreement with him. If she could give Yvonne to him, her debt would be cleared once and for all. It did not take Drake much hesitation to say yes when he saw how pretty and hot Yvonne was.

Drake got a picture of Yvonne's character from Patricia's sharing-she was a classic materialistic girl. As long as he was generous, it was not difficult to win Yvonne over, so he kept flaunting how rich he was in front of her, how many properties he had all around the world and what luxury cars he had bought recently...

Unfortunately, Drake did not know that Yvonne's appetite had grown even bigger. She was no longer wowed by his shallow parading of wealth. She thought it was childish instead and far too embarrassing compared to a wealth titan like Zayn.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0085**

When Zayn left Gordon's room and was about to head home, when he saw a pretty face appear suddenly before him. It stunned him.

“Zayn, what a coincidence! I didn’t expect you here. Is this what they mean by fate? Hehe!”

“It’s you, huh, Yvonne?”

“Yup, it’s me. Surprised?” Yvonne’s smile was bright and sunny.

He never would have thought he would bump into Yvonne here. He creased his brows lightly and said faintly, “I’m going home.”

“Okay. I’m going home too. The air here is so congested and it’s so noisy. I actually hate coming to bars. It’s because my friend, Patricia, insisted I should come tonight,” Yvonne explained swiftly, clearing the air and pretending to be a goody two shoes.

Zayn realized just as much, but he could not be bothered to expose her.

Then, a man waltzed in from the side and blocked the two of them. Drake’s eyes had never left Yvonne. When he saw that she was leaving with Zayn, how could he just stand there? He hurried over to stop the two of them.

“Miss Keller, didn’t we agree to drink together? Where are you going?” Drake asked with a grin, checking Zayn Otiti at the same time. When he noted Zayn’s plain clothes and

cheap leather shoes, he breathed in relief as he was certain that Zayn was just an ordinary Joe.

Yvonne quickly explained when she saw Zayn's light frown, "Zayn, don't misunderstand. I just met him tonight. We aren't even considered friends."

She then told Drake, "Drake, please don't breathe down my back anymore. I have someone I like. Things between us are impossible!"

With that, her gaze turned tender with gleams of longing and shyness as it lingered on Zayn.

Drake glowered darkly. He pointed a finger at Zayn and cursed, "F\*ck! Where did you even come from, son of a b\*tch?! How dare you snatch a girl from me? You're asking for a beating of your lifetime, I see."

A few men closed in on Zayn and Yvonne from the side the moment he finished speaking.

Noting the situation, the frown on Zayn's face grew even deeper. "I'm not Yvonne's boyfriend. You've gotten the wrong person," Zayn said.

Drake barked a loud laugh. “Why, I haven’t done anything and you’re already caving? How is trash like you wanting a girl I’ve set eyes on? Crawl through my legs right now and I’ll consider letting you go.”

As he spoke, Drake propped his leg up on a chair beside him haughtily.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0086

The people surrounding them were laughing as well while gazing at Zayn with a sense of schadenfreude. Drake Rivera was a rich man's son. He was the only child and was thoroughly spoiled by his parents. Since he was young, he created countless trouble, contributing to his arrogant mannerism. He had no regard for anyone.

Now that he was an adult, he still idled around and was frequently seen fooling around in places like bars and clubs. He hired a few thugs to work for him, so if anyone ever had the courage to provoke him, the person would only end up being beaten up.

After he set his eyes on Yvonne, he was planning to take her down tonight originally. However, a new man suddenly came into the picture and stole the woman who was supposed to be his. How could he put up with that? So, he decided to beat Zayn up first regardless of the consequences.

He had no lack of experience in this kind of skirmish in the past few years.

Yvonne tensed up at once. She hastily wrapped her arms around Zayn's arm and scolded Drake, "Hey! What are you doing? Drake, I'm warning you not to do anything reckless! It's against the law to assault a man."

She seized the opportunity to hold Zayn's arm, and when she noticed that he did not shove her away, she rejoiced in her heart.



“Against the law?” Drake chuckled disdainfully. “What’s wrong with me beating up a man? Why don’t you take a look and see who has the courage to testify that I’m the one who beat him up?”

Before his voice died away, the voices of people echoing his statement were heard coming from the crowd. It was very apparent that Drake was a regular customer at this bar. Many people were acquainted with him, and they expressed their support for him through their voices.

Yvonne’s expression changed ever so slightly. When she noticed Patricia, she hastily called out to her, “Hey! Patricia, make him stop! Hurry.”

Patricia’s gaze glimmered as she pretended not to see Yvonne and scurried into the crowd.

Yvonne called out to her a few times, yet Patricia did not respond to her. She came to realize that she had been betrayed by her friend.

Drake’s remark in the next moment turned her heart icy cold. “There’s no need for you to ask for Patricia anymore. She asked you out today so that you can come here to accompany me. After all, she still owes me tens of thousands of dollars.”

“What?” Yvonne immediately gasped aloud. “Patricia, how dare you betray me? I treated you like family!”

Noticing that Yvonne had already found out about her situation, Patricia did not bother to hide anymore, so she stepped forward and said, "There's no need for you to act naive anymore, Yvonne. You're the most materialistic person of all, and you throw yourself at any wealthy man you can find. Mr. Rivera is a super-wealthy rich kid and his family is worth millions. You should thank me for introducing him to you."

Yvonne widened her eyes in panic and anger. "Patricia, stop bullsh\*tting! Don't insult me. I'm not a materialistic person."

Then, she hastily explained to Zayn, "Don't listen to her nonsensical talk, Zayn. I'm totally not materialistic and my feelings for you are real."

Impatience could be seen emerging in Zayn's expression. "Are both of you done quarreling? Leave if you're done!"

Upon hearing that, the entire scene turned silent momentarily. Everyone looked at Zayn in shock and felt that he must be mad. Despite being on the verge of death, he still had the courage to scold others?

The corners of Drake's lips twitched a few times. He clenched his fists tightly and burst out laughing in extreme rage. "Very well! You're very impudent! How dare you scold me and ask me to leave? I've never been scolded by someone like this in my life, and you're the first to do it. Very well, very well!"

Anyone could see that Drake was losing his temper.

Yvonne felt a chill run down her spine. She could not help grumbling about Zayn in her heart now. 'You're the chairman of Violet Vision. It's true that you're rich, yet you're in RUSH now and you're surrounded by so many drunk gangsters. These people don't care who you are. They will charge at you and beat you up out of their foolish impulsiveness.'

She regretted rushing things now. She should not have offended Drake if she had known how things were going to turn out. It was still fine had it not been for Zayn's callousness, but she was about to be implicated as well now.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0087**

"F\*ck, get him! Kill that son of a b\*tch!" Immediately after Drake issued that order, men began surrounding him. Their eyes were fiercely locked on him, and they immediately pounced towards Zayn to take him down in one fell swoop.

Although Zayn was facing such a dire situation, he merely snickered and had an expression that contained both disdain and faint excitement. 'Come to think of it, it's been a long time since I've gotten some action. This feels kind of nostalgic.'

As for Yvonne, she was so terrified that her face had gone pale. She hurriedly released Zayn and let out a shrill scream.

At lightning speed, the few gangsters had already rushed to surround Zayn, and they bared their fangs as they launched punches and kicks at Zayn who was already surrounded.

Right at that moment, Zayn reacted. His movements were so swift that under the neon lights of the bar, none of them were able to see his actions. Instead, all they could hear was the sound of forceful pummeling. Then, every single one of the gangsters who had been aggressively charging at him had all flown away, lying down on the floor as they groveled. They were unable to get up anymore.

Zayn had spent no less than five seconds during the entire skirmish. To everyone, everything happened in a mere blink of an eye, completely stunning them.

This included Yvonne, whose mouth was agape in shock. She just stared dumbly at Zayn, who was just standing there while the gangsters had all fled. For a moment, her mind went blank, rendering completely dumbfounded.

Next, Zayn walked towards Drake before grabbing his collar and pinning him down on the table.

Drake was so shocked by Zayn's fierce performance that his alcohol flush instantly receded and his face became pale. His body was shivering as he could not stop swallowing his saliva. "Oi, I'm warning you not to act rashly. I'm the young master of the Ladon Group and my father's Maximus Rivera, so if you lay a finger on me..."

Before he could even finish speaking, Zayn had already delivered a slap squarely on his face. The sound of the blow was very crisp and Drake was completely stunned.

“You ramble too much. Did I give you permission to speak?”

After Drake had been slapped, his mouth immediately twitched as his eyes reddened. He had never been beaten by anyone in his life, so it was only natural for him to burst into tears.

Zayn was a little speechless. ‘I’ve only slapped him. I’ve barely done anything serious, yet he’s already crying? He’s a little too fragile, isn’t he?’

Yvonne, who was standing to the side, witnessed the scene unfold right in front of her. Hearts could literally be seen in her eyes as her heart began to thump non-stop.

‘Zayn looks so cool right now. How in the world does he look like a deadbeat at all? I feel like Cupid’s just shot his arrow at me. I’m truly in love with Zayn now.’

When Zayn saw that Drake was actually crying, he instantly lost interest in him and could not be bothered to deal with him anymore. Consequently, he released him and scanned the entire area before saying with an intimidating gaze, “Is there anyone else who still refuses to give up? All of you can come at me at the same time. I’ll deal with all of you.”

Everyone who saw his intimidating gaze could not help but feel a shiver running down their spines as they hurriedly lowered their heads. None of them had the guts to meet Zayn's eyes.

Then, Zayn snickered, unsurprised by their reactions.

As the most exceptional person among the Larsons, Zayn has shown outstanding talent since he was a child. Whether it was in business or his learning capabilities, he was always one step ahead of everyone else. He had begun learning how to fight since he was young, thus his skills were akin to a veteran MMA fighter, but he was just too lazy to show them off.

Since these people were challenging him, they were basically asking for him to end their lives.

After that, Zayn shoved both his hands in his pockets as he walked towards the main entrance. Everyone that was originally blocking his way hurriedly backed away in fear as they cleared a path for him.

Yvonne's face was now completely red. She was so excited that she was at a loss for words as she hurriedly rushed behind Zayn.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0088**

“Zayn...Zayn...Slow down. I can't catch up with you...”

Yvonne was unable to run fast due to her high heels, so she gasped for air as she ran behind Zayn. When she saw that Zayn had no intention of waiting for her, she frantically called out to him.

However, Zayn still did not stop in his tracks, hence Yvonne had no choice but to quicken her pace. ‘Since I've met Zayn tonight, I have to seize this opportunity no matter what. Argh, but there really isn't much I can do with these high heels on.’

True enough, just as she began running, her heel broke off. As a result, Yvonne fell onto the ground as she screamed in shock,

“Ouch!”

When he heard the shriek, Zayn stopped and turned to look back, only to see that Yvonne had fallen onto the ground. Her knee was bruised and there were tears in her eyes as she looked at him pitifully.

Zayn sighed faintly and retraced his footsteps before kneeling down in front of her. “Why were you running so fast?”

When Yvonne saw that Zayn was willing to show his concern for her, she was secretly delighted and she put on an even more pitiful look. Her tears were falling non-stop. "I was just trying to catch up with you. You're the one who just had to run so fast."

Given her aggrieved tone and her tears, coupled with her beautiful face, any man would feel pity for her when they saw her and would not be able to bear to see her hurt. They would want nothing more than to protect her to the best of their capabilities.

Zayn was a man as well, hence at that very moment, he had that same reaction too. However, shortly after that, he was able to return to normal. He then checked her injury, and when he realized that it was not that serious, he spoke in an annoyed tone, "Why would you chase after me? Are you crazy?"

Yvonne then said, "You saved me just now, so can't I express my gratitude to you? My mom has taught me since I was a child to always be grateful, so from here on out, you're my savior."

When Yvonne saw that Zayn was getting closer to her, her heart raced as she became nervous. 'I've never experienced this kind of feeling before, but Zayn's performance tonight was just too attractive. He's completely replaced the image I had of him previously.'

"You can stop that as that's not going to work with me. I'm only writing everything off because you're Faye's best friend. Otherwise, I would've kicked you out of Violet Vision a long ago."



Yvonne clenched her teeth as she met Zayn's cold eyes. She felt extremely unconvinced within. 'I'm clearly on par with Faye in terms of looks, so why can she marry into a wealthy family while I'm all alone on my own?'

"Zayn, you've misunderstood me. What I have for you is real. I'll admit that I might have treated you slightly badly in the past, but that's only because Faye treated you that way. Therefore, as her friend, coupled with the fact that I didn't know you at the time, I had to join her! What else could I have done?" Yvonne blinked her eyes and had a miserable expression on her face.

After Zayn heard that, he thought that it did make sense. 'Faye did treat me pretty badly previously, hence anyone who's her friend would also put on a scornful expression when they looked at me.'

Yvonne was observing Zayn's expression as she carefully said, "Zayn, can you send me home? I can't walk now, and I'm a little scared..."

Zayn immediately frowned and rejected her without a second thought. "No."

"What?" Yvonne's face instantly turned bitter. She shook Zayn's sleeve as she both cajoled and pitifully begged, "Zayn, please... I can't even stand up at the moment. Are you really willing to watch me get bullied by bad men? There are so many gangsters around here. I'm scared..."

Her cajoling tone as she spoke made Zayn shiver.

Zayn raised his head to look. 'There are indeed quite a few people staring in our direction and having thoughts about Yvonne in their mind. If I actually leave, Yvonne's probably going to be in a bit of trouble.'

"Call your family and ask them to pick you up. I can wait for them to pick you up before I leave," he said in a deep voice.

Yvonne was very delighted when she saw that Zayn had actually loosened up and could not bear to see her being bullied by other men. 'I've got a huge chance now. I can convince him to send me home!' However, on the surface, her face remained dejected as she said forlornly, "My family is currently traveling abroad. Plus, they're already having trouble protecting themselves, so how could they be bothered with me?"

Then, Zayn fell silent. Because Yvonne had had her head lowered, he was unable to see a hint of slyness flashing in her eyes. "What about your friends? You could ask your friends to pick you up."

"My friends?" Yvonne said self-deprecatingly, "Since my family's been in trouble, when have I ever had any friends?"

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0089**

Suddenly, she seemed to have thought of something as she said, "The only friend who is truly willing to pick me up now would only be Faye, but it's so late at night now. It won't be safe for her to come either..."

'How're you going to refute me this time, Zayn?'

After pondering for a moment, Zayn glared at her and said, "Just this once!"

Yvonne instantly cheered happily in her heart as she ferociously nodded her head. "Of course, of course!"

Zayn rolled his eyes since he was in a bad mood. Then, he helped Yvonne up on her feet and asked, "Can you walk on your own?"

Yvonne tried to walk a few steps, but her face was filled with agony as she was unable to make her legs move at all. Her eyes were filled with tears as she said, "I can't."

Zayn took a look at her. 'She's probably not going to be able to move for a while.' Therefore, he said, "I'll send you to the hospital. You can go home by yourself once you're healed."

'Like hell I'm going to the hospital! It took everything in me to get my hands on this opportunity to try and get you to send me home. In fact, if I play my cards right, I might even be able to win Zayn over.' "I don't need to go to a hospital. I'll just put an ice pack on when I get home and I'll be fine tomorrow."

“Fine.” Zayn took a look at her. ‘Based on her injuries, there’s really no need for her to go to the hospital.’

Thankfully, they were on a street that was filled with pubs, so there were plenty of taxis parked on the street. After hailing one, Zayn helped Yvonne into the taxi. After traveling for about 20 minutes, they arrived at Yvonne’s place.

Under the taxi driver’s envious gaze, Zayn helped Yvonne out of the taxi. “Are you able to walk now?”

“No.” Yvonne’s eyes were glistening.

Zayn sighed and had no choice but to continue to help her move forward. However, after taking two steps, she seemed to be very tired as she gasped for air. Her face was covered in sweat and was filled with agony. “I can’t walk anymore.”

“What’s the matter?” asked Zayn.

Yvonne said, “It’s too painful. I can’t move anymore. You weren’t even paying attention when you were helping me. It’s like you think of me as the plague. I really can’t move anymore. It hurts so badly.”

Zayn felt a little embarrassed because he actually did not use much strength while he had held onto Yvonne. 'After all, there should be some reasonable distance between people of different genders. I can't just carry Yvonne in my arms and walk, can I?'

Zayn coughed to cover his embarrassment before he said, "Why don't you put your hand on my shoulders and hop on one foot. We're already almost home anyway."

Yvonne's eyes were wide open as she looked at him in shock. It was as if she did not expect Zayn to say something so cold-hearted. She seemed extremely aggrieved as she said, "I'm already injured this badly, yet you... Forget it, just go home. I'll manage by myself!"

She had a pissed off expression on her face.

"Alright." Zayn immediately nodded his head and agreed without the slightest hesitation.

"Hey, wait!" Yvonne immediately called out to stop him, and her lips twitched as she said, "Do you really have it in you to leave me like this?"

Zayn pretended not to hear her and continued moving forward, causing Yvonne to feel very aggrieved. She could feel her nose burning up as she started sobbing uncontrollably.

## When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0090

When Zayn heard the noise, he turned over to see Yvonne sitting on the floor with her face buried in her knees and her shoulders twitching. 'It looks like she's crying.'

Once again, he walked back and said, "Hey, what's wrong with you?"

Yvonne did not say anything. Instead, she cried even louder. Her sobs just so happened to attract an old couple who was passing by. Although the old couple pointed their fingers at Zayn, he did not seem to be embarrassed at all. Instead, he kicked Yvonne's feet and said, "Alright, alright, stop crying. I'll send you home. Are you happy now?"

"Just go. Let me die alone out in the cold," Yvonne remarked angrily.

Zayn rolled his eyes as he felt helpless. "Fine, just stay there then for the rest of the night."

Yvonne sniveled as she said, "I'll tell Faye that you bullied me."

The edge of his lips twitched. “How did I bully you?”

“I don’t care. You bullied me!” Yvonne continued to cry.

Zayn wanted to leave numerous times and let Yvonne be by herself. However, he still did not have the guts to do it. ‘If this crazy b\*tch actually does complain to Faye, I’m done for.’

“What do you want me to do then?” Zayn sounded a little more willing this time.

She said, “I want you to carry me upstairs.”

Zayn immediately frowned and his voice deepened as he said, “Don’t you take advantage of me, Yvonne!”

“How am I taking advantage of you? I seriously can’t move anymore. Look how swollen my foot is!” said Yvonne aggrievedly.

Zayn lowered his head, realizing that Yvonne’s foot was indeed swollen. ‘While we were walking here just now, I really didn’t use much energy to carry her around. After all, I’m a man, and she’s naturally lighter because she’s a woman. So, in a way, I’m partially responsible for that’

He pondered for a while and said, "I can carry you upstairs, but you mustn't use Faye as an excuse to threaten me anymore. Also, you can't tell Faye about my identity."

Yvonne immediately raised her head and nodded fiercely. "Ok, sure, I promise!"

She was completely over the moon. 'I never thought that he'd actually be willing to carry me. As for the condition he named, I was never planning to tell Faye his true identity anyway. I'm not that stupid.'

Zayn then knelt down before her and said, "Get on."

Yvonne was extremely elated as she hurriedly got up and rested her weight on Zayn's back.

She actually had absolute confidence in her figure. 'I'm definitely going to be able to get Zayn to see me differently!'

Sure enough, the moment she laid on Zayn's back, his face instantly became red.

When Yvonne noticed this, she deliberately whispered something into his ear, causing Zayn to be extremely nervous. He hurriedly asked her to shut up.



After finally sending Yvonne back to her house, Zayn heaved a sigh of relief. He realized that he was a little useless. 'Sending a woman home is honestly way more tiring than fighting hooligans at a pub.'

'But the most difficult part is that Yvonne is really good at flirting. During the whole journey, I've been fighting my inner demons. There were times when I almost lost control of myself. Thank goodness I'm strong-willed.'

After placing Yvonne down, he gave her no opportunity to make him stay and immediately ran away. Despite how much Yvonne called out to him, he did not turn back.

Yvonne called out to him a few times but was unable to stop him at all. Angrily, she picked up her bolster and punched it in frustration. 'If I'd known, I wouldn't have gotten down from Zayn's back just now.'

After a while, she seemed to have thought of something as her lips slowly raised into a sly snicker. "Zayn, so what if you managed to escape this time? Do you think you'll be able to escape from me a second time? I've already figured out your weakness, so the next time I attack, it will definitely be a critical hit! Hehe..."

After Zayn left Yvonne's house, he realized that he was finally outside, and that he was also drenched in sweat. 'The pressure that Yvonne put on me earlier was just too much.'

At that very moment, his cellphone rang. After pulling it out to have a look, he saw that Faye was calling him. He took a look at the screen once again in case his eyes were playing tricks on him. 'Faye rarely calls me.'

After answering the phone, Faye's pleasant voice could be heard from the other end. "Where are you? Why aren't you home yet?"

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0091

Zayn took a look at his surroundings and was not able to recognize where he was at that very moment, so he said, “I went out on a sales trip, but I’m coming home now.”

“Buy a bottle of shampoo. We’ve run out at home.”

Directly after telling him that, Faye hung up the phone.

A moment later, Zayn received a notification that she had sent some cash over via Venmo, accompanied by the brand of the shampoo and the address of where he could buy it.

However, Zayn did not acknowledge receipt at all. ‘I’ve got my own money now. Forget buying a bottle of shampoo, I can buy over the entire manufacturing company of any brand of shampoo I want within minutes.’

After he returned home from buying the shampoo, Faye said, “Why didn’t you accept my money?”

Zayn smiled as he said, “I’ve started working already, haven’t I? I’ve got the money for it.”

Faye nodded her head and walked over to grab the shampoo from his hands. However, she was immediately able to smell a woman's perfume on him. Instantly, she frowned and her face darkened as she questioned, "Where did you go for your sales trip?"

Zayn had not caught on to what Faye was implying, "I brought a client to look at a house. It's a unit just nearby here."

Faye seemed to be smiling as she said, "Was the client a man or a woman?"

He responded, "Of course, it was a man. Don't worry, honey. I won't accept female clients."

However, Faye's face instantly turned cold as she stared at Zayn hatefully. "Zayn Larson, could you at least clean the perfume off of your body after you're done fooling around?!"

Startled, he said, "Honey, what are you talking about? I don't understand what you're saying."

Faye's expression became even colder while her eyes were filled with hatred and disdain as she glared into Zayn's eyes. "Are you still going to feign ignorance? Then, tell me how did a woman's perfume get on your body?"

Zayn silently cursed. 'I must've gotten Yvonne's perfume on me when I carried her last night!'

"Honey, listen to me. It's not what you think it is..." said Zayn hurriedly.

Faye folded her arms in front of her chest. "Fine, try and explain it to me. What happened?"

However, Zayn could only mumble incoherently.

"What's the matter? Can't explain yourself?" Faye had a scornful look on her face as she coldly laughed and said, "Zayn Larson, I knew you weren't a decent man. The moment you get some money, you've gone out to entertain your vices. Yvonne was right. There's no such thing as a decent man anymore, and you're no exception!"

As she said that, she immediately recalled the tall and cold figure of the man of her dreams as she secretly added, 'Except for the chairman of Violet Vision.'

Zayn was forced to suffer in silence as he could not explain himself. He desperately wanted to explain that the perfume on him belonged to Yvonne and that he and Yvonne did not have any kind of relationship whatsoever.

However, he knew that the moment he blurted that out, the consequences would only worsen!

He was not good at lying, so in spite of thinking for a prolonged period of time, he was unable to come up with a perfect excuse.

“Honey, please believe me. I really didn’t do anything to wrong you!” Zayn gazed deeply into Faye’s eyes in the hopes of being able to move her with his sincerity.

However, it was a pity that he failed. Faye did not even want to look at him. Instead, she snorted impatiently and said, “Enough, you can stop being a hypocrite. I don’t care about what you do outside of this house. All I want to say is, this is my house, so please, if you’re going to do things of that sort, don’t bother coming back. I don’t want to dirty my place!”

Zayn was panicking now. “Honey, I already believe that there’s nothing going on between you and Violet Vision’s chairman. So, why can’t you believe me?”

The moment he said that, Zayn felt a little regretful. Sure enough, Faye’s expression instantly darkened.

“Honey, I didn’t mean it like that...”

Faye stared dead into his eyes. “Zayn Larson, is this how you take your revenge against me? You think that I’ve gone and sinned, so you wanted to do the same as revenge against me?”

Zayn was panicking even more now. He hurriedly tried to explain, “Honey, you’ve misunderstood. I really didn’t mean that!”

“Enough!” Faye took a deep breath. Her face was expressionless and her eyes did not have any emotions in them. “I knew you wouldn’t believe me. None of you do, but I don’t care anymore. Tonight’s your first offence, so I won’t kick a fuss about it this time. Next time, if you’re going to fool around outside, unless you clean yourself of all that ungodly stench, don’t come

home! I won’t interfere with your private life, but I insist on you respecting me as well!”

After she said that, Faye immediately turned around and left. Before she entered her room, she added, “You’re sleeping in the living room again tonight. I don’t want to smell that disgusting perfume.”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0092**

Zayn opened his mouth with the intention of stopping Faye, but the words just could not come out. Therefore, he slapped himself hard. ‘That was very careless of me. Why didn’t I clean myself before I came home? Where are your brains, Zayn?’

Despite being frustrated, Zayn had no other choice. 'Faye is obviously very angry right now, so it won't do me any good to go in and explain myself. It would only make matters worse. I guess I can only wait until tomorrow when she calms down before I properly explain it to her.'

'However, on the bright side, this isn't a bad thing. At least, it shows that she still cares for me, doesn't it?'

After Zayn had taken a shower, he thought to himself. 'After putting in two nights' worth of effort, I was finally able to sleep in the room. Now, I've gotten chased out again barely after a day's passed. I'm such a failure.'

That night, Zayn was struck with insomnia again. It was not until after 3 AM was he somewhat able to finally get some sleep. The next day, while he was in a deep slumber, he was rocked by a slap, causing him to wake up in shock. Then, he heard his mother-in-law's voice, "What the hell are you doing, Zayn? It's already the afternoon, yet you're still fast asleep. Even a pig isn't as lazy as you are. Hurry up and get up!"

When Zayn heard that voice, a cold shiver instantly ran down his spine and he immediately sat up. Then, he rubbed his eyes and saw that aside from his mother-in-law, there were two other people there who were looking at him in disdain and scorn.

He was able to identify them instantly. 'Those are my mother-in-law's relatives. Why are they here as our guests today?'



“Ruby, why is your son-in-law sleeping in the living room? Shouldn’t he be sleeping together with Fifi?” asked a middle-aged woman.

Ruby said, “Son-in-law, my \*ss! He’s just a person who married into the Carters and has no standing in our family at all. How could Fifi possibly be willing to sleep together with him?”

The other middle-aged man laughed as he said, “I’m guessing you took him into the Carters to be a slave who just does your house chores? Your idea’s holding up to be pretty solid.”

Instead of feeling embarrassed, Ruby was proud of herself as she nodded her head and said, “Of course, he normally does all of the chores in the house and it’s easier to order him around compared to a maid. All we have to do is feed him three meals a day.”

Had it been in the past, Ruby would not have belittled Zayn in front of her relatives. Furthermore, Zayn had just helped her family vent their frustration and retrieved whatever it is that had been snatched away from them. However, Ruby later found out that the only reason why Gordon had shown Zayn any face was completely because of the Larsons. Therefore, now that favor had been used, Gordon would not be bothered with Zayn anymore. In other words, Zayn was still the same deadbeat who had married into the Carters, and everything was status quo.

Also, when she woke up that morning, she noticed that Faye had dark circles under her eyes as if she did not have a good night’s sleep. After probing, Ruby found out that Zayn was fooling around last night, and even had the smell of a woman’s perfume on

him when he got home! Ruby was furious. They were already being gracious enough to feed Zayn, so he should be nothing but a loyal dog to the Carters.

However, that dog of theirs had actually gone out to do unspeakable things, which was completely unforgivable.

“If it wasn’t for the fact that we’ve got guests, I would’ve beaten you to a pulp a long time ago!”

When the guests heard what Ruby had said, they all laughed out loud and the house was instantly filled with a joyful atmosphere.

“Ruby, Fifi is still young and beautiful. Plus, she’s rightfully still eligible. She can’t tolerate this deadbeat who’s married into the Carters forever, can she? It just so happens that there are a few men in my unit who are single and are pretty decent in terms of personality, appearance, and family background. I can introduce them to Fifi so that they can get to know each other,” suggested Ruby’s brother, Lewis, with a smile on his face.

“That’s right, Ruby. Fifi is so very eligible that it’s a complete waste for her to be with this deadbeat,” Lewis’s wife, Diana, echoed as she added fuel to the roaring fire.

## When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0093

Ruby had an embarrassed expression on her face as she sighed and said, “How could I not know that? However, the Carters refuse to allow it. Fifi has always had very good business acumen since she was young, even working in the Carters’ family business before she even graduated from college, and she has been rather useful to the company. The only reason why Fifi’s marriage is matrilocal is that the Carters treat her like a son, hence they forbid her from being married off.”

True enough, when Faye had a matrilocal marriage with Zayn, that had been the main reason. She was talented in business, and the Carters did not have anyone else at the time since Howard was a stereotypical playboy who was not useful in the slightest. Consequently, the Carters did not have anyone to inherit the business. Therefore, under an angry whim, George agreed to allow Faye to have a matrilocal marriage and nurtured her as his granddaughter.

Otherwise, given how beautiful Faye was, there was no way she would have married Zayn.

However, after Faye had gotten married to that deadbeat, she initially thought that she would actually be able to be eligible to inherit the Carters’ business. However, she later realized that her marriage was just George’s method to agitate Howard into working diligently. Faye was saddened because of that for quite a while.

In truth, cases like Faye's were literally everywhere in society. Many daughters of large businesses would have matrilineal marriages. Otherwise, they would lose all their usefulness when they were married off. Then, families would end up losing outrageous amounts of money if they were unable to split their inheritance.

When Ruby noticed that Zayn was eavesdropping, she glared at him and scolded, "Why are you standing over there like an idiot? Hurry up and get a shower before making some tea for all of us!"

"Oh, right" Zayn hurriedly nodded and went off to shower before making tea for the guests.

When Diana noticed how Ruby was ordering Zayn around like a slave, she was slightly envious as she said, "Ruby, I see that deadbeat of yours really does listen to you. He's doing everything you tell him to do. How obedient."

"Of course, he knows who's feeding him," said Ruby in satisfaction.

At that moment, Faye's room door opened and Faye walked out. She had actually been long awake and had just been busy putting on her makeup. When she heard how Ruby's words were becoming more and more distasteful, she could not take it anymore. When she walked out, she said to Ruby unhappily, "Mom, could you please find a better way of wording it? Zayn's a human, not a dog."

Ruby then said, "Have I said anything wrong? Would he be able to survive if I stopped feeding him?"

After that, she said to Zayn, who was washing up in the bathroom. "Hurry up! We're all waiting for your tea!"

Zayn had no choice but to hurry up and walk out from the bathroom to make tea for everyone.

After a while of chatting, the doorbell rang, and Diana's eyes immediately sparkled. She was pleasantly surprised as she exclaimed, "That must be Ted. Zayn, hurry up and open the door for Ted."

Nodding, Zayn went to open the door. Then, he saw a plump man wearing a suit whose hair was neatly combed back. The man looked like an intermediary realtor standing by the door. When he saw Zayn, he did not even bother to greet Zayn and entered on his own accord. In fact, he even pushed Zayn away. He certainly was a man with no manners at all.

When Ruby saw the man, she said, "You're here, Ted. I just heard from your parents that you've recently struck gold!"

Ted did not show the slightest courtesy as a guest as he strode into the house before sitting in the homeowner's seat. He then picked up a teacup on the table and drank it

before he announced with arrogance written all over his face, “It’s actually not that much, just a few hundred million dollars.”

Ruby instantly felt envious, and she stuck her thumb out at Ted. “That’s wonderful! I heard that you’ve even gotten yourself involved in the entertainment industry!”

Ted chuckled, unable to hide his pride as he showed off and said, “I guess you could say that. A while ago, I joined Violet Vision Media Corp. They’re the biggest media company in Waltz City. Many of the current popular celebrities are all signed under them, hehe...”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0094**

After hearing Ted’s words, Ruby’s eyes flew wide open as she said in shock, “My goodness, Violet Vision Media Corp? That’s a large-scale public listed company. You truly are a capable person to be able to join them, Ted. However, I heard that the company’s requirements are anything but reasonable, and not just anyone’s able to join them.”

As his parents, both Matthew and Diana revealed an extremely boastful smile on their faces with no intention of concealing their sense of superiority. Ted then raised his head and said, “To many people, the bar that Violet Vision Media Corp has set is indeed very high, and many top students aren’t even able to join them. However, to me, it’s just a simple case. All I had to do was make some calls and I got in immediately.”

Zayn was completely startled after hearing that. 'Violet Vision Media Corp, isn't that my company? Ted, you parasite, you've actually managed to get yourself hired? What's going on here?'

'Honestly, the reason I'm unhappy about this isn't because you're such a show-off, Ted. I know all about your capabilities, you useless ox. The fact that you're able to join my company shows that bribery still exists in my company. As the chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp, it's only natural for me to put a stop to such an awful practice. If it isn't dealt with properly, the consequences are going to be very severe.'

Think about it, if there were acts of bribery in a company that consistently brought useless people into the company, it would only be a matter of time before the company crumbled. In fact, if a useless person managed to secure a high position, the situation would become even worse, probably going as far as dragging down the entire company with them. This is exactly why any sort of liability should be eliminated before it escalates to something even worse. This was also why many of the companies that have been able to survive over long periods of time were very much against nepotism.

Meanwhile, Faye was frozen still from ecstasy when she heard that. Obviously, she had been agitated by the name "Violet Vision Media Corp". In her mind, she could not suppress the thought of the tall figure who wore a clown mask, the chairman who was cold yet passionate. For a moment, her heart began to race. Ruby instantly felt jealous. She looked at Ted before turning to Zayn. 'There's such a huge difference between them.'

"Ted, what position do you hold in Violet Vision Media Corp? What's your salary like?" Ruby asked.

A hint of embarrassment flashed through Ted's eyes, but it quickly vanished. Apart from Zayn, no one else had noticed it because they were not observant enough.

“My position, eh? It's not very high. I'm just a little division leader. As for my annual salary, it's a few hundred million dollars after taxes, just enough for me to spend. However, my superior told me that I've been performing quite well recently, and the sales report looks rather good. So, he's going to give me a promotion and an increment the next season, cough cough.”

When he said that, he deliberately coughed and took a look at his empty teacup to hint at Zayn for the latter to pour more tea.

However, Zayn just stood there. Annoyed, Ruby immediately kicked him in the leg as she scowled, “Are you blind? Don't you know how to pour tea for our guests? You're such a blockhead, you st\*pid fool!”

Zayn felt helpless. 'I'm the chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp, yet I still have to pour tea for Ted. If Ted finds out about the truth, he'd probably be shocked to death, wouldn't he?'

However, Zayn knew that he should not expose his true identity, hence he had no choice but to serve Ted, and he even filled Matthew and Diana's teacups as well.

Ted took a glance at Zayn with arrogance and disdain written all over his face, completely looking down on Zayn.



“By the way, Ruby, has Zayn found a job yet?” Ted asked as he turned to look at Ruby.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0095**

Ruby rolled her eyes and said, “Now that you’ve brought this up, I’m so frustrated. This useless deadbeat has been married into the Carters for four years already, yet all he knows is how to stay at home and wait to be fed, looking for a job is out of the

question.”

Faye could not stand to listen to another word. ‘Mom is being so disrespectful towards Zayn in front of these outsiders. It’s so uncalled for.’

“Mom, what nonsense are you on about? Zayn found a job a while back.”

Ruby criticized unhappily, “That intermediary realtor job? How’s that even considered a job? Is that even something that a human should be working as? What’s good about a job that barely pays 600 dollars? It’s nothing compared to Ted’s job.”

Diana chuckled when she heard that, and there was an exaggerated expression on her face as she said, “Are you serious? An intermediary realtor? Are you even able to earn money from that?”

Ted laughed in disdain as he said, “Mom, you mustn’t put it like that. An intermediary realtor is also a job. At the very least, it beats being a delivery boy, doesn’t it? Well, he’s able to wear a suit, isn’t he? Moreover, he’s only so capable, so you can’t expect him to find a job that has high requirements, can you? Aren’t you being too tough on the man? After all, there are definitely differences among people, so you can’t use me as a standard to compare against others, can you?”

Matthew also smiled as he said, “Ted’s right. The fact that Zayn’s able to be an intermediary realtor proves that he can do more than just sit at home and wait to be fed, at least he has a job, doesn’t he? Haha...”

After he said that, the family of three took a glance at one another before they could not hold it in anymore and guffawed out loud.

Instantly, Ruby’s expression darkened. However, instead of being angry at her brother, she was mad at Zayn for being such a deadbeat who humiliated her.

Faye also frowned. ‘I’ve never liked Matthew and his family. They’re too realistic and are especially fans of criticizing others. Every time they visit, they never fail to chastise Zayn and gain a sense of superiority from doing so. Even if I dislike Zayn, he’s still my husband, so they should at least recognize that. They’re disrespecting me by behaving like this.’

She then turned to look at Zayn, hoping that he would grow a pair and refute them. However, she saw that not only was Zayn not angry, but he even had a smile on his face as if he did not care at all. As a result, Faye’s anger began to well up as she had a desperate urge to kick him. ‘How can a man with no dignity like him exist?!’

In fact, Zayn was not angry at all because what was there to be angry about? He clearly knew the situation he was in and that he was not a deadbeat. In fact, it was just the opposite. He was now a successful man, a business tycoon who had several billion dollars of assets under his control. Violet Vision Media Corp was just one of his smaller companies. Next, he was going to increase his investment size and buy over another company that was even larger.

“According to my knowledge, the requirements of hire for Violet Vision Media Corp are very strict whereby applicants need to have at least an undergraduate degree before they are even eligible for hire, don’t they? Ted, didn’t you only graduate from high school? How did you end up being eligible to enter Violet Vision? Did you sneak in through money and connections?” said Zayn as he smirked.

Ted’s expression instantly changed, and he seemed a little guilty and nervous. ‘Zayn’s right. I did manage to enter Violet Vision by spending money and using my connections. Otherwise, how could I have entered the company with my current capabilities and achievements?’

However, Ted was not going to admit it, hence he immediately scowled. “Nonsense, I joined the company fair and square through my own capabilities, not with whatever outlandish connections you claim I have! I’ve got outstanding capabilities, and any company would be eager to have me, so do I even have to leverage on any connections at all?”

The expression on Zayn’s face did not change as he continued to say, “But you said that all you had to do was make some calls and you were able to enter, didn’t you? Aren’t you shooting yourself in the foot with your previous statement then?”



# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0096

Ted was instantly speechless after being refuted by Zayn. He was never an articulate person to begin with, and would even stutter easily when he was nervous. Now that he had been aggravated by Zayn so much that he was rendered speechless, he began to stutter as he panicked. “Y-you... S-shut up... Shut up!”

Matthew ferociously slammed the coffee table. “Zayn Larson! What right do you have to speak to my son that way? You’re just a deadbeat who can’t even find a job!”

Diana angrily glowered as she chimed in as well. “As expected of a deadbeat, you’re clearly jealous that my son is able to enter Violet Vision Media Corp while you’re just an intermediary realtor with no future at all. You’re just jealous of him. That’s why you deliberately offended Ted. You good for nothing freeloader!”

The three of them were enraged. Any previous formalities were thrown out of the window as they spat out all kinds of scornful words at Zayn.

However, Zayn was completely unfazed by all of that. In fact, he even wanted to laugh.

Matthew complained to Ruby, “Ruby, how can you not control your deadbeat son-in-law? He may not be capable at all, but he’s got a very envious character. He’s even got the guts to criticize Ted. You must make him apologize to us!”

Ruby then slapped Zayn at the back of his head and scowled. “Zayn, you useless fool, hurry up and apologize to Ted.”

Zayn now became annoyed. “Mom, I was just saying that on a whim. Who’d have known that he would have such a huge reaction to it? Why do I have to apologize?”

Ruby then glared at him and rolled up her sleeves as she spoke with a straight face, “Hmph, so you’ve actually gained the guts to retaliate now, have you? I’m going to count to three. Hurry up and apologize to Ted. Otherwise, you can get out of here and never come back!”

When he saw that Ruby was truly angry, Zayn knew that he would only be on the losing end if he continued to be stubborn. ‘I suppose there’s no need for me to stoop to his level. I’ll just have him fired with a phone call later.’

“I’m sorry,” Zayn said to Ted, although quite perfunctorily.

Ted revealed a smile on his face, but he was still unsatisfied as he said with a frown, “What kind of apology is that? There’s no sincerity in it at all.”

Once again, Ruby kicked Zayn’s legs again and said, “Louder!”

Helpless, Zayn could only raise his voice and repeat again, “I’m sorry for misspeaking. You did not enter Violet Vision through money and connections. You entered with your ovum capabilities.”

After Ted heard that, he was still unsatisfied. It was as if Zayn was still insulting him silently, so he felt no complacency from such a poor apology. However, he could not find any fault with Zayn’s apology at the time, so he could only reluctantly acknowledge it.

After that, Ted began boasting about how large-scaled Violet Vision Media Corp was, how much profit they made, and how many popular celebrities were signed up to them, and so on.

As the chairman of Violet Vision, Zayn thought that it was pretty interesting as he heard Ted go on boasting.

“I’m telling you, a new chairman was recently appointed to Violet Vision Media Corp not too long ago. He’s a really wealthy person who’s inherited his wealth from his parents. He’s so rich that it’s beyond your imagination!” Ted then deliberately took a sip of his tea to feign mystery. “Also, I found this out when I first entered Violet Vision, but our new Chairman paid 700 million dollars to buy over a large portion of Violet Vision Media Corp shares from the Larsons! 700 million dollars! Exactly 700 million dollars! Do you know how much that is? If it were converted into 100 dollar notes, this house probably won’t be able to contain all of it!”

Zayn was startled when he heard that. ‘Didn’t I spend 350 million dollars to buy over Violet Vision? How did it suddenly become 700 million dollars? That’s double the original amount.’

When Ruby heard that number, her jaw dropped from extreme shock. “My goodness, 700 million dollars! He’s just too wealthy for his own good, isn’t he? If I were to combine everything that the Carters have, we would only have 7 to 8 million dollars.”

Ted said in disdain, “Ruby, you jest. How could the Carters’ small company measure up to Violet Vision Media Corp? They’re in totally different leagues!”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0097**

Ruby pursed her lips. She was miffed by what she had heard, yet she had nothing to use as a rebuttal.

Faye, on the other hand, was different. Her eyes were dazzling brilliantly in anticipation as she hit her lip.

“700 million dollars? That sounds like an exaggeration , you know?” Zayn piped up, “The way I heard it, the new Chairman bought Violet Vision with just 350 million dollars.”

Ted shot him a glare before retorting snippily, “Are you the expert on Violet Vision, or am I the one who knows what I’m saying? You’re just a real estate agent. What do you know? See, Violet Vision is the city’s biggest film company. It’s absolutely gargantuan!



And you really think a mere sum of 350 million would be enough to buy all of that? Fat chance!”

In a way, he was right. Under Zayn’s leadership, Violet Vision had taken a complete one-eighty from its negative growth to its current positive one. By now, its market value had gone up to about 540 million dollars, and a humble sum of 350 million would not possibly have been enough to own the company.

“No one asked you to spew your ignorance!” Ruby snapped. “Violet Vision is Ted’s domain. What’s it got to do with you? Do you even know what Violet Vision Media Corp is?”

Zayn was speechless. Who else in this world could possibly know the company’s every nook and cranny except the chairman himself?

Seeing Zayn being knocked down a peg delighted Ted. He could not resist adding even more to his bluff. “It might be hard for all of you to imagine, but the new chairman of the company is super young as in, we’re the same age. He’s also incredibly handsome and tall- a real bachelor of the ages, if you will. In fact, just a few days ago, I had lunch with him personally, and he praised me for my work and performance. Ha! ”

Ted ended his fib beaming with the most self—satisfied smirk he could muster.

Zayn listened to the fabulist's shameless story in amusement. He, the actual chairman of Violet Vision, was right there yet he could not recall any time when he had praised Ted for anything.

Faye's eyes were trained on Ted as she blurted out, "You 've really seen him before?"

Ted straightened his back and proclaimed without the slightest trace of embarrassment, "Of course! We even had a long chat after!"

Faye could feel her heart beating faster as her face flushed. She balled her hands into fists in uncontrollable excitement and continued to question him, "Then, do you remember how he looked like?"

it was the sort of question that, after being asked, would make a woman's heart speed up to its limit. Faye was practically gushing to know the answer, as was evident in how her eyes were nailed on Ted's face.

A faint hint of awkwardness shadowed Ted's mien for a millisecond before it passed, and the man smiled. "Oh, please. of course, I remember! What? Do you think I was lying to you?"

"What does he look like then?" Faye said with bated breath.

Ted mused about his answer for a while before answering, “Well, you should feel lucky that I’m the guy you’re asking because no one else in Violet Vision would be able to answer you. Our chairman is a very private man. We as employees hardly get the chance to see his true face. Only the higher-ups have a better chance of seeing him.”

At the very least, Ted was being truthful about that. Zayn liked to keep a low profile while he was at the company, so he usually went to work in casual clothing before changing into his business suit in the office. This was why most employees did not recognize him, and those at the top of the management like Sean had never seen his face.

He did all this because he just liked to be without fanfare.

Right now, though, Zayn was doing his best to remember his time in the company. He did not recall seeing Ted at all. He could not have possibly exposed himself, could he?

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0098**

With everyone in the room as his audience, Ted put his fabulist’s skills to the test, beginning his account by straightening himself and feigning coughs. “Ahem!”

“The chairman of Violet Vision is a hunky man with a tall physique. He’s incredibly, positively handsome, with an air of manly dignity written on every single one of his facial features. His eyebrows are sharp, and his eyes! They draw you in—they mesmerize you. He looks even more handsome than any one of those male celebrities out there! If our chairman debuts in the entertainment industry, you bet he’s going to be the only thing that can unite the nation!”

Every word in his description only served to make her heart gallop. Just the thought of their two previous interactions brought out her bashful side, amplified by suspicious pink shades on her cheeks.

Who knew that the mysterious chairman would be so hot?

Ted caught onto the changes on her face and teased, “Now, now, Faye. Don’t tell me you have the hots for the chairman! Hahaha.”

The pink shade on her face deepened to become crimson. “N-no way!”

She was not fooling anyone because her expression was too indicative, it was the look of a smitten young woman. The chairman of Violet Vision had possessed her heart, to no one’s surprise. Faye was only twenty years old, which meant that she was at the peak of being physically attractive. When compared to her useless, good-for-nothing husband, the chairman’s outstanding talent, wealth, and good looks were only going to attract the most yearning of hearts.

At that thought, they turned their attention to Zayn in scornful delight. To their shock, the man was not infuriated. In fact, he was chuckling aloud. They concluded that Zayn must have been too far gone as a piece of walking trash because he did not show even the faintest sign of a man's instinctive clinging to self-worth. His wife was literally infatuated with another man right in front of him, and still, he did not seem bothered in the least.

Of course, unbeknownst to them, Zayn had a perfectly normal explanation as to why he could not possibly be mad, he was the chairman of Violet Vision. The chairman who Faye was falling head over heels for? That man was just his alter ego. How was he supposed to be mad about that?

"Faye, I think you should give up on that dream of yours," Ted spoke up, "The chairman of Violet Vision is the most sought-after bachelor. He's worth at least a few billion dollars and is impossibly comely...All he needs is to beckon to the air and a whole tidal wave of women will eagerly lunge into his lap. You wouldn't make the cut at all, Faye. Besides, you're married, remember? How can you be so in love with someone else in this state?"

His flippant comment drew storm clouds on Faye's expression, but before she could offer a retort, she noticed Zayn and his obnoxiously wide grin as he stood beside her. Suddenly, a burst of forlornness seized her, compelling her to recognize the truth in his words. She was a married woman, and it was impossible that the chairman of Violet Vision would even reciprocate her feelings.

She should really abandon that dream!

Ted continued spinning insane tales of himself, the bluff growing from how much his future in Violet Vision supposedly held for him, to how much the company's leadership

extolled his performance, and how soon he was before he would get promoted, paid more, and brought to the apex of a promising young man's life.

Ruby listened to his tall tales in earnest envy. She was so impressed that she asked Ted if he could help get Thomas hired in the company, even if her son had to start from the lowest of office bureaucracy. After all, Thomas was nearing his graduation, and as her precious little baby, she had always hoped against hope that he would one day become a success story.

Ted was so absorbed in his bluff that he convinced even himself. In the same smug, assured breath, he promised he could get her wish fulfilled without batting an eyelash. He made it sound as though it was hardly a problem, though the way he agreed to Ruby's request hinted at some sort of cost possibly a monetary one.

By this point, Zayn thought he had gone too far. He quickly texted Scan to stop it, but instead of being forthcoming about anything, he simply warned the man that not a single employee in the company must be hired through private favors and bribery. If Zayn ever found out about it, then he would make sure the consequences were beyond severe.

The content of his text made Sean jump. Quickly, he broadcasted a warning across the departments, warning them to not sully the company with nepotistic practices, as well as reminding them of Violet Vision's commitment to thwart any of them.

Ted's direct supervisor quickly received the announcement from the company's higher-ups. It gave him quite a fright as it reminded him that he had just hired a talentless back under his wing a while ago. If this instance was discovered by any of the higher-ups at all, he could expect to lose his job immediately.

At that thought, he quickly called Ted.

Meanwhile, Ruby was still in the middle of her pitch. “I’m putting my faith in you, Ted, okay? When Thomas graduates, you’ll help get him a job in Violet Vision, alright? Thank you in advance. I owe you one.”

Ted waved. “Don’t worry, Aunt Ruby. All someone like me needs to get a Thomas a position in Violet Vision is to put in a good word or two; that’s literally all. Of course, there is a caveat—Violet Vision is a prestigious company with great emphasis on rules. Thomas might get himself kicked out of work if he slacks off, and let me be clear- I won’t try to defend him at all if that happens.”

Ruby nodded as vigorously as she could. “Understood. Nothing embarrassing will come to you, I promise.”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0099**

Pleased, Ted nodded and feigned another few coughs again, this time as a hint to Zayn to refill his drink. Seeing the man ignoring him altogether annoyed him, but before Ted could squeeze in a few stern words, his phone rang.

When he pulled it out and glanced at the screen, a smile blossomed on his face. “Aha, looks like my superior has decided to give me a call. He must be thinking of promoting me.”

With that, Ted turned on the speaker and let everyone hear his conversation. “Hello? Sir? Oh, what a coincidence! I was just about to call you!”

Ted was grinning from ear to ear, obviously extremely pleased with himself. He even managed to find a window of time to raise his eyebrow at Zayn just to squeeze in a moment to gloat.

A middle aged man’s voice boomed from the other side, “Are you free to talk? I have an important matter I need to discuss with you.”

His words were a shot of vim and vigor. Ted was so galvanized that he could not stop his voice from quaking a little. “Oh, of course, I am! I’m very free right now! If there’s anything you need from me any important task requiring skillful hands I’m all ears!”

A few days ago, his superior had hinted about promoting him to a managerial position, and Ted had been waiting for that windfall ever since. Finally, his spending 30 thousand dollars on his superior was bearing fruit!

The best part was how opportune this call was to have his boss call him while he was talking about his career in his aunt’s house! This was a golden opportunity for him to squeeze in one last moment to show them who he was!

Ruby and everyone else in the room listened closely with bated breath. Matthew and Diana, his parents, could not stop their grins from cracking across their faces. They were truly proud and gratified by their son’s clout.



The superior's voice rang out again, but it sounded grimmer than anyone had expected. "Listen, Ted. The higher-ups are tightening their regulations lately, and, uh ... You're only a high school graduate, you know, which gives you a precarious position that I—sorry to say this—doubt is safe from scrutiny. So, I'll return all 30 thousand dollars to you when I have the chance, and you, uh...don't have to show up for work starting tomorrow."

Since Ted had his phone on loudspeaker mode, everyone in the room became the audience to the superior's words. Zayn aside, the sudden turn of tables baffled everyone in the room, though the one who seemed the most flabbergasted was Ted himself.

He was shocked out of his wits as his mind raced. 'How could this have happened?' Zayn nodded to himself. He was pleased with Sean's executive ability, at the very least. He had only just given his directive and already the new order was spread within the company. Not bad.

As soon as Ted recovered, his erstwhile shock turned into panicked horror. "But, sir, you must be joking, right? I've just started this job. Why am I being fired?!" he cried out, "Didn't you guarantee me that my job in Violet Vision will always be secured?"

Ted's actions during his plea were very animated, and indeed, he ought to be. He had only just bragged about his career, and almost immediately, his superior had called him and told him he was fired right in front of everyone. How embarrassing was that?!

"It's a directive from the higher-ups. They are scrutinizing employees to ensure that no one like you is hired into this company through nepotism and bribery. It really is out of my control."

“But you told me...You promised-”

“I didn’t promise you jack!” the other side snapped, cutting his sentence short. “Ted Lewis, I’m warning you: make sure your tongue behaves. If you rat me out, I’ll make sure you won’t live to see another day! Besides, do you honestly have no idea just how lacking your abilities are? Do you really think you and your pitiful capabilities would make you a viable member of Violet Vision?”

“Alright, I’ve wasted enough time talking. This is all I wanted to say. I’ll transfer the money back to you. Meanwhile, your job is to come to the office later to pack up.”

Just like that, the call ended.

Ted was still holding his phone despite the silence. He looked harrowed, as though he had just witnessed his mother dying right in front of him.

The looks on his parents’ faces were also rather interesting... to say the least.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0100**

Embarrassed, the Lewis family excused themselves from Ruby’s house earlier than they planned.

They had initially planned to stay for lunch, but that was before the humiliating call from Ted's superior. Of course, no one except Ted suffered the worst blow. After practically having eggs thrown at his face, he could not bring himself to stay here for even a second longer!

Too ashamed to stay for the meal, the Lewises fabricated an excuse and fled.

Zayn waited until their silhouettes vanished into the distance before bursting into laughter. Faye, too, came very close to giving out a guffaw.

Only Ruby seemed unamused. "Is it that funny to you? He might have been fired by Violet Vision, but at least, he has the heart to improve and be useful and become a success! He's already miles better than you just for having those qualities, Zayn Larson!" she snapped sourly, "You, on the other hand, could never hold any job for a self-respecting man. Instead, you can only work in real estate! You're an embarrassment to our family!"

Her outburst puzzled Zayn. Since when was going into real estate a humiliating profession? He personally thought it was not too bad a job, at least, any money he earned was from his earnest work and merits. He was not doing anything illegal. Based on that metric alone, his job was already way above those who operated in grey or even black areas.

"Come on, Mom. Being a real estate agent isn't embarrassing at all. I'm still earning money through honest means anyway!" Zayn retorted pointedly.

“oh, who knew that a doormat could talk back?” she clapped back “Real estate isn’t exactly doing very well these days, so tell me, how much do you even earn in a month? Face it. A job that can’t earn you tons of money is automatically a humiliation!”

Zayn was hard-pressed to answer Ruby, given her extremely skewed values. In the end, he just remained silent.

After Zayn had disappeared into the kitchen to prepare their lunch, Ruby yanked her daughter to a corner with an expression that could only belong to a Nosy Nancy’s. “Who knew the chairman would be so rich, huh?”

Faye knew exactly what was brewing in her mother’s head. “Please, Mom. Get rid of that thought. He would never like me.”

While the bitter words left her lips, a pang of desolation and despair about her circumstances stung her chest.

“Well, let’s not dismiss it as impossible yet!” Ruby said, “You must have more faith in yourself, Fifi! Look at you. you’re beautiful. Way more beautiful than many of those so-called celebrities, anyway. You have a sexy figure, you’re educated and intelligent, and you’re graceful and simply alluring. Every man who has ever laid their eyes upon you wants you. And since the chairman of Violet Vision is a man, I’m sure he fell for you at first sight, too. Just like every other man.”

Her mother's words rekindled the last ember of her dying hope though she ultimately shook her head with a mirthless smile.

"No, no. It won't work. Didn't you hear what Ted said? He's the city's most popular bachelor! He could just beckon to no one in particular, and all kinds of women would flood into his arms. How could someone like that even notice a woman as nondescript as me? Then, there's the fact that he's the chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp. That means there are always gorgeous female celebrities around him. I'll never stand a chance. Ever!"

Ruby sniped a glance at Zayn. After making sure he was not eavesdropping, she raised her voice and rebuked, "Now, now. That's hardly a certainty. Your mother knows what men think, and she can say this confidently: it's precisely because the chairman has seen enough of these loose wildflowers around him that it makes women like you—women who are prim and proper wife material—so intriguing!"

"Besides, weren't you the one who said it yourself? That day when you were in the Violet Vision office, he didn't even touch you...yet he still lent you a hefty sum of three million dollars. Without any conditions or bonds, at that! Doesn't that imply that he has feelings for you?"