

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0101

When Faye saw how Ruby spoke as if it were the truth, she could not help feeling touched. ‘Could the chairman of Violet Vision really feel differently towards me?’

At the thought of it, Faye then turned around to look at Zayn who was in the kitchen. She gulped and said, “Mom, actually, there’s something that I haven’t told you about. A few days ago, I attended Ethan’s birthday, but...”

Next, Faye told Ruby everything from how she had attended Ethan’s birthday and how he had drugged her, to how she almost lost her virginity but was ultimately rescued by Violet Vision’s chairman. “I feel that the chairman of Violet Vision seems to know me.”

After Ruby heard everything, she excitedly clapped her hands and said, “Sure enough! The chairman of Violet Vision has feelings for you. Otherwise, why would he go through so much trouble to save you?! Plus, think about it yourself. If he wasn’t secretly protecting you, how could he have known that you were in trouble at Fireflies and needed rescuing? So, he definitely likes you! In fact, he’s trying to play hard to get and wants you to go look for him on your own!”

When she heard about the incident at Fireflies, Ruby’s face went completely red from excitement as she rubbed her hands excitedly. She then grabbed onto Faye’s shoulders. “We’re going to be rich, rich! The chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp, who is worth billions, has taken a fancy to you! Say no more! Hurry up and divorce that deadbeat and go look for the chairman!”

Zayn heard some commotion while he was in the kitchen, but he was unable to listen in on their conversation clearly. Therefore, he walked out, feeling a little curious.

Faye just so happened to see him walking out and could not help but feel nervous. She then dragged Ruby into her room and closed the door behind them. "Mom, I think this matter isn't as simple as you think it is. The chairman of Violet Vision knows that I have a husband. Furthermore, he's also told me numerous times to look for my husband. If he really fancies me, why would he keep on mentioning my husband? Plus, a man like him wouldn't even take an interest in a married woman like me."

After Ruby heard that, she fell into deep thought as she paced around in the room. Then, her eyes suddenly glistened. "I got it! He's definitely like Gaius!"

Faye was completely confused when she heard that. 'We're talking about the chairman of Violet Vision. How is he even related to Gaius?'

"Mom, what are you talking about? Why have you brought up Gaius all of a sudden?"

"Silly girl, Gaius is known for preferring other people's wives and has no interest in unmarried ones." Ruby pretended to be serious as she said, "From the way I see it, Violet Vision's chairman is the same as Gaius and covets other people's wives. So, if you don't divorce Zayn, maintain your married status, and go interact with him, you'll definitely be able to win him over with a little more initiative!"

Faye's face went red the moment she heard that. "Mom! How could you say that? That's so shameless! What do you take me for? Even if I don't like Zayn either, I'll never agree to do something like that! Plus, that's completely unfair to Zayn. "

Ruby poked Faye's forehead as she said, "That's why I said you're a silly little girl. Just don't tell Zayn! The both of you are only married by law, so there's no need for you to devote all of you to him. As long as you get into a relationship with Violet Vision's chairman, you can just kick Zayn away after that. Who'd find out about what you did in between?"

"No, absolutely not! " Faye shook her head ferociously and rejected Ruby's absurd idea.

Ruby wanted to knock some more sense into her but was kicked out of the room.

Faye was left alone in her room. As she looked at her wedding photo with Zayn hanging above their bed, she started to become consumed by her thoughts.

"Zayn, if only you were Violet Vision's chairman. How wonderful would that be? Then, I wouldn't have to suffer like this..."

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0102**

However, Zayn was unaware of what was going on inside Faye's mind at that moment. After he ate his lunch, he went off to work.

If he had known about it, he probably would have broken his facade and told Faye that he was the chairman of Violet Vision. He would have told her that he would take good care of her in the future.

Now that Zayn was already the chairman of Violet Vision, it would not be appropriate for him to ride his bike to work. He did not want something like the previous incident to repeat itself, which would only make things complicated.

However, he had not bought a car yet, so he had no choice but to hail a taxi for the past few days. Before he got out of the car, the taxi driver asked him curiously. "Hey, do you work at Violet Vision?"

Zayn nodded his head and asked, "Yes, is there a problem?"

"No problem, no problem at all!" The driver was a man who was probably in his 20's. After he parked his car by the roadside, he turned his head to talk to Zayn and said, "Violet Vision is a wonderful place where many of our local celebrities have been signed to. I've got many friends who want to work there, but it's a pity that the requirements to enter Violet Vision are just too high, so none of them made it."

After pausing for a moment, the driver had an envious expression on his face as he said, "Since you're working there, I'm guessing you're able to meet a lot of celebrities, aren't you? I envy you, I really do."

Zayn was dumbfounded as he said, "Well, it's alright. To be honest, celebrities are just humans who have the same mouths, pairs of eyes, and noses like you and I do. There's actually nothing much different about them."

After Zayn had bought over Violet Vision, he had always kept a low profile and had not had much interaction with the celebrities within the company. However, he truly felt that celebrities were humans who were specifically packaged before being promoted to the public. 'To put it bluntly, it's just a job to them, so what's there to worship about them?'

Unexpectedly, the driver was a little unhappy after hearing that, so he said in a stern tone, "of course, they're different. Celebrities are marvelous people who have a huge following from around the world, and it would be such a rare opportunity for commoners to meet them. Previously, I had a friend who managed to get his hands on Cristian's signature. You have no idea how many people were envious of him. He even managed to get two girlfriends because of that signature. That must have felt so amazing."

When Zayn heard that, he thought that it was a little exaggerated. 'It's just a signature, yet he actually managed to get a girlfriend because of it? I've just been enlightened.'

"Who's Cristian?" Zayn asked curiously. He was actually a little ashamed as he said that because despite being the chairman of Violet Vision Media Corp, he was actually unfamiliar with the celebrities within the entertainment industry. All he knew were the

older generation celebrities like Jason Statham. He was even less knowledgeable about those online celebrities who were the most popular at the time, probably even clueless.

The young driver instantly gaped with his eyes wide open as if he had seen a ghost. As he looked at Zayn, he was filled with surprise. "Are you being serious? You don't know who Cristian is? He's currently the most popular online celebrity. Have you seen 'The Priest' that was released a while ago? Cristian's the main character in that movie."

Zayn felt a little embarrassed. 'I've actually never seen it before.'

"Fine..." The young driver had a speechless expression on his face. "It seems that you really don't know who Cristian is, but it doesn't matter. There was some negative news about him recently, causing him to lose quite a number of fans. He's no longer as famous as he used to be. Half a year ago, he was so popular..."

The young driver kept on blabbering as he rambled on about a whole bunch of stuff. Zayn could not listen to him any longer, hence he had no choice but to say, "My friend, I'm going to be late if I don't get to work now."

"Ah? It seems I've already forgotten about the time with all my excitement. Anyway, this ride's free."

Zayn was not interested in Cristian in the slightest. He was someone with a lot of capital at that moment, so money was not a problem for him. In his eyes, those celebrities were

all just his employees. When he arrived at Violet Vision Tower, everyone was unable to recognize him as the chairman since he was very plainly dressed.

Just as he was about to enter, he suddenly heard loud screams from behind him. A bunch of young people around him suddenly rushed forward. When he turned his head around to look, he only saw a white Toyota Alphard parked by the roadside. Two men in black suits opened the door, revealing a young man in white, who had extremely thick bangs, walking out.

The man was very handsome, the complexion on his face was even fairer and cleaner than a lot of women, which was stereotypical for a young and fresh-looking male. The moment he walked out, the crowd instantly let out a high-pitched scream. Many young women rushed towards him like zombies, giving Zayn quite the shock.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0103**

“Cristian!”

“Cristian!!!”

“You’re so handsome, Cristian! I love you, Cristian!”

“I want to have your babies, Cristian...”

The women kept on shouting a name: Cristian. When he heard that name being called, Zayn was instantly stunned. 'This man who looks like a sissy... Is he the Cristian that the driver was raving about?

'He's not exactly very handsome. After sizing him up, I can see that he's got a very obvious scar on his face to prove that he's gone under the knife before. This young hunk has obviously had some work done.

'Celebrities nowadays... Instead of working on their singing or acting skills, they're more focused on the superficial stuff.

'However, I'm not looking down on them or anything. After all, I'm the chairman of the media company, so these celebrities are like my geese that lay golden eggs.

'The thing that keeps me skeptical is... Cristian probably isn't signed under Violet Vision, so what's he doing here? Could he be here to discuss a collaboration?'

Cristian enjoyed that feeling of being surrounded and worshipped. His lips were stretched into a wide grin. During the entire time he walked in, he kept on waving at his fans and exuding the feeling that he was very friendly and loved his fans.

After Zayn took a second look at Cristian, he had a slightly better impression of him. However, immediately after Cristian entered Violet Vision Tower, the smile on his face instantly disappeared, turning into an impatient expression. "This is so annoying. It's



always the same fans, especially that fat pig. She's so fat and ugly that just looking at her makes me sick! She even grabbed me just now. How utterly disgusting!"

Beside him, his personal assistant brought out a tissue for Cristian to wipe his hands as he respectfully said, "There's nothing we can do about it. The previous negative news has caused too much of an uproar. A lot of your fans have already left you, but it doesn't matter. Once you sign a deal with Violet Vision, their influence combined with your handsomeness is sure to make you popular again!"

After hearing that, the expression on Cristian's face instantly brightened as he regained his bright smile. He pushed his bangs back attractively as he strode into the building and responded with confidence, "You're right. With my strength, Violet Vision is sure to earn a profit by striking a deal."

At that very moment, his manager who was beside him said, "Cristian, when you meet the higher-ups of Violet Vision afterwards, you've got to be on your best behavior. You can't be as casual as you usually are, understand?"

Cristian protested. "I don't think that's necessary. Based on my current level of fame, Violet Vision will be at a great advantage by signing me unless they don't want to sign me because they have no intention of earning money. Haha."

His manager chided him sternly, "We can't say that for sure. Violet Vision now has a newly appointed chairman. A while ago, a wealthy person paid a lot of money to buy over Violet Vision. Within less than a month, the company's operations have managed to revive itself. Since the new chairman has taken up this position, Violet Vision is no longer what it used to be and its stock prices have climbed up steadily. Many artists

have tried to be signed under them already, so it's not guaranteed that Violet Vision will sign us on.

“Furthermore, with your current situation, how many more media companies do you think will be willing to sign you on?” The last part of the manager's sentence struck Cristian deeply.

When Cristian heard that, he became silent and looked embittered. ‘It's true. Although I may still seem popular, there aren't many media companies that would be willing to sign me on at a high price. Amongst them, Violet Vision is the one with the highest strength and is my best choice! Now that I'm here today, I must make sure that I get signed. Otherwise, my career as a celebrity might just end here.’

At the thought of that, Cristian felt frustrated, and he casually threw the wet tissue that he had wiped his hands with to the side. With a thud, the wet tissue just so happened to land on Zayn's body.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0104**

Zayn immediately frowned and said sharply, “Oi! How dare you litter at Violet Vision? Pick it up right this instant.”

Cristian, who was walking in front of Zayn, turned around after hearing what the latter said. When he noticed that Zayn was pointing at the wet tissue on the ground, he immediately said in annoyance, “Are you talking to me?”

“What a ridiculous person! Who else could it be if not you?” Zayn retorted without any courtesy.

‘When I saw Cristian being very friendly with his fans, I still had a good impression of him. Who knew that the moment he turned his head, he would not only curse them but even litter? What a person with poor virtues. If even he manages to become an artist, then I have to say that the bar for this profession is just being set lower and lower. In fact, I’ve even read in the news that quite a number of celebrities have faked their academic achievements or the likes.’

In fact, Cristian did not have much of an education at all. Initially, when he was scouted, he had not gone far in his education journey, hence he did not have that many virtues to begin with. Coupled with the negative news he had received half a year ago, his career was anything but smooth-sailing, leading to him feeling both frustrated and annoyed. When he saw that even a minor employee had the guts to shout at him, Cristian was instantly furious. He felt as if his ego was being challenged.

That’s right. In his eyes, Zayn was just a low-ranking employee. ‘He’s definitely not one of the higher-ups in Violet Vision.’

However, Cristian was not to be blamed because after living the life of being married into the Carters for four years, Zayn had been able to blend into the commoners perfectly. As long as he did not deliberately emanate his presence, he would only seem like a low-ranking employee. Furthermore, he was donned in normal clothes at that moment, hence no normal person would be able to link him to being the chairman of Violet Vision.

“Do you know who I am? How dare you speak to me like that even if you don’t?” Cristian challenged in an arrogant and disdainful manner as he walked back towards Zayn.

Zayn’s expression turned cold. ‘How can an outdated minor celebrity like him actually have the gall to behave so arrogantly in front of the chairman of Violet Vision?’

“Who you are doesn’t matter to me. This is Violet Vision Media Corp, not your trash can that you’re free to litter in,” Zayn said, standing his ground.

Cristian was furious. ‘I’m a huge celebrity with tons of fans who would crack their heads just to meet me. Yet, there’s currently a poor bimbo who actually dares to raise his voice at me. How outrageous! I’m going to show him his place right now!’

“I just littered, so what are you going to do about it? Bite me?” Cristian was so angry that he snickered as he forced a sneer. As he stared at Zayn, he then took a bag of tissues from his personal assistant and tore up pieces of tissues before throwing them all over the floor in front of Zayn. Then, he stepped on the shreds and provocatively looked at Zayn.

‘There’s neither anyone here anyway nor are there any surveillance cameras, so the possibility of being exposed doesn’t exist. I can humiliate this person as much as I want!’

Cristian was originally a mean person who was rather pessimistic. In fact, he actually had a very bad temper and did not uphold strong virtues. Even his personal assistant would be scolded by him more than ten times a day like a person without dignity.

Zayn took a deep look at Cristian. “Young man, you’d better not be so arrogant. Also, you’d best pick up all this trash and give me a proper apology. If you do so, you might just have a chance at this. Otherwise, you can forget about carrying on with a career in this industry.”

Zayn was not joking. With his current capabilities, it would be extremely easy to completely ban an internet celebrity from the industry. Based on his personality, he would not normally be bothered to do these kinds of matters. However, Cristian had truly infuriated him, and the consequences of making him angry were very severe!

However, his threats did nothing to cause Cristian to be fearful. Instead, Cristian even laughed. “Yo, are you actually threatening me? It seems you really don’t know who I am, do you, country bumpkin?!”

“I didn’t know you at first, but I do now. You’re a minor celebrity who’s outdated,” Zayn mocked.

When Cristian heard that, the expression on his face instantly changed. He clenched his teeth and glared angrily at Zayn. “Bulls\*it! I’m the most popular internet celebrity at the moment! What do you mean by ‘outdated’?!”

'He actually cursed directly. If his fans were to find out, they'd probably be completely shocked. When that happens, his number of fans would only drop even more.'

The manager frowned and walked towards Zayn before saying in an unfriendly tone, "Hand it over."

"What?"

The manager said, "Stop pretending. Hand over the recording pen. You don't have to deny it, but the way you were deliberately provoking Cristian shows that you're definitely a paparazzi from some media."

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0105**

Zayn found it hilarious, so he laughed. "Did I even have to provoke him? Clearly, he was the one who littered. With the kind of qualities he has, no wonder he's got negative news about him circulating around."

Cristian clenched his fists and scowled. "This is outrageous! Who gave you the permission to criticize me? I think you're trying to court death right now!"

After he said that, the two bodyguards behind him walked forwards and surrounded Zayn. on the other hand, the manager seemed to be muttering something silently, “Fine, have it your way. I don’t care about which media platform you’re from, but I’m giving you your last warning right now. Hand over the recording pan, or else!”

Zayn could not be bothered to waste his breath on them, so he directly said, “You’re crazy. I don’t have a recording pen on me, neither am I paparazzi. You’re here to discuss a collaboration, aren’t you? Don’t bother heading up. I’m rejecting you guys right now. Violet Vision will never collaborate with artistes with such sorry excuses for attitudes. P\*ss off!”

When the manager heard what Zayn said, he was startled for a moment before he sized Zayn up in detail and muttered in his heart, ‘Could this young man before me be a high-ranking director in Violet Vision? That can’t be possible. I’ve been in this industry long enough and have collaborated with Violet Vision a few times already, but I’ve never heard of someone so young being a high-ranking person here.’

However, maintaining caution, the manager still asked, “Who are you? What authority do you have to decide on behalf of Violet Vision?”

Zayn took a look at the time. ‘It’s almost 3 pm, and I still have lots to do.’

Feeling mildly impatient, he simply said, “On my authority as the newly appointed chairman of Violet Vision, p\*ss off right now.”

The atmosphere fell silent for a moment, and they were all in shock as they looked at Zayn. Soon after, all of them laughed out loud together as if they had just heard the biggest joke of their lives.

“Hahaha...”

“Did I hear that correctly? Did this guy just say that he’s the newly-appointed chairman of Violet Vision? This is so funny that I’m in stitches.”

“Well, I guess there are always fools every year, but there’s an abundance of them this year! I’ve seen my fair share of shameless people, but this is my first time seeing one as shameless as he is. How does a pauper like him have the guts to call himself the chairman of Violet Vision? When’s the last time since he’s looked in the mirror?”

“Anyway, he’s just putting on airs, so what’s there for him not to say? In fact, I could say that I’m the richest man in the world!”

“If he’s the chairman of Violet Vision, I’ll eat all of the trash on the floor. This is so absurd!”

Everyone continued howling as they relentlessly looked at Zayn with their scornful gaze. They literally seemed like they were looking at a fool.



Since Zayn had already faced a lot of such misunderstandings, he was not angry at all. Instead, he actually felt helpless. 'Now that I think of it, have I been overly low profile? I think before I come to the office the next time, I should wear a proper suit.'

When they saw that Zayn's expression sank as he went speechless, they thought that he was afraid of them, so they laughed even louder.

At that moment, the manager's cell phone rang. When she looked at the screen, her scornful smile immediately receded as her face became serious. Then, she gestured to Cristian and the rest with a "hush". With a whisper, she told them, "It's James, our director. Everyone, keep it down."

After that, she carefully answered her phone and had a flattering expression on her face while her voice was very respectful as she said, "Hello, James... Yes... Yes, Cristian and I have arrived. We're downstairs at the moment... What? You're going to personally come over to receive us? I don't think that's necessary. How could we possibly...? Oh... Oh... Alright then, we're at..."

After the manager hung up, her face was filled with excitement as she happily said to Cristian, "This is wonderful. James is going to come downstairs to receive us personally, and he seems extremely sincere! It seems like our luck is about to turn for the better. We're about to successfully sign a collaboration with Violet Vision!"

When Cristian heard that, anticipation filled his face as he pumped his tightly clenched fist. Suddenly, he seemed to have thought of something and teased Zayn, "What were you just saying just now? You're the newly appointed chairman of Violet Vision and you're kicking us out of here? Right now, James, the director of Violet Vision is going to

be arriving very soon. Let's see how you're going to continue pretending. I'm telling you now that your actions alone are already enough to be considered a crime. Just wait until you get booted to prison! What a shameless person! How could a minor paparazzi have the b\*lls to go up against me, Cristian?"

His face was filled with arrogance and disdain as if he had just won the lottery.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0106

Zayn was chuckling as if he had just heard the world's greatest joke. 'I was actually looking forward to seeing the look on their faces when James addresses me later as the chairman.'

When the manager noticed that he was still capable of laughter, she grumbled, "You're looking death straight in the eye, yet here you are, laughing like a child. There's truly not an ounce of shame in you..."

Her eyes were sparkling with excitement the moment she directed her attention behind Zayn. The bitter expression that plagued her features was replaced with an admiring gaze. Winking at Cristian, she brushed past Zayn and paced forwards with a spring in her step as she chirped jovially. "My goodness, James. You actually came down here to welcome us. We're so honored."

James had a cheerful smile on his face as he approached the two of them with three other superiors in tow. He responded good-naturedly, "Haha, Shannon. You and Cristian took the time to come all this way, so it's only natural that I'd see you in."

As soon as James mentioned Shannon's name, the smile on the manager's face grew brighter. Even Cristian felt respected in his presence—his eyes were wide with eagerness as he bowed and shook James' hand. He was flattered beyond belief. "You're too kind, James. I've always looked up to you, and now that I've met you in person, it's obvious that you're in character to your reputation!"

Cristian had ensured that he was very well prepared before they arrived, and now that James was in the palm of his hand, his grooming tactics were coming into play. This, of course, also included his superiors. He kept pandering to the four of them, humbling himself in the process.

It dawned on him that James was a very intimidating individual. When Cristian interacted with James, he found himself behaving more stiffly. The air had become almost suffocating. He found himself struggling to breathe around James. 'The director from the last media company was nowhere near as intimidating, but at least I feel more confident this way. As long as I'm signed under Violet Vision, I'm not going to have any problems at the end of the day. I have a higher chance of reclaiming my stardom. Plus, with Violet Vision's resources, I'm going to be famous in no time at all!'

Cristian was scheming to himself. 'If I ever have the honor of meeting the newly-appointed chairman in the future, I've definitely got to suck up to him! Actually, now that I think about it, James is already such a phenomenal director. The chairman must be a god amongst men!'

"Haha, you definitely know how to present yourself. As expected from an Internet celebrity like yourself, it was no wonder you were blowing up on the Internet. Not bad at all." James praised as he let out a good-natured laugh.

While Cristian was flattered, he felt an equal wave of embarrassment wash over him as well. 'He's implying that I'm not as popular as I used to be. Though, I can't say he's wrong either.'

Cristian's manager, Shannon, chimed in, "As long as Cristian's collaboration with Violet Vision goes according to plan, I think he'll be back on the popularity charts in no time, especially with Violet Vision's resources!"

James was not humbled at all. In fact, he straightened his back and puffed his chest out. "I don't think so—I know so. Ever since the new chairman's been in charge, Violet Vision's stock prices have increased in value exponentially. Our assets are so strong, we're nothing like the old Violet Vision at all. As long as Violet Vision revamps and remarkets Cristian's image effectively, he'll be back to his former glory in no time. He'll probably be bigger and better, even."

You could see the exhilaration written all over Cristian's face. His face had gone a bright red as he excitedly clenched his fists.

Suddenly, he burst into a fit of laughter, as if he had recalled something unbearably hilarious. "Speaking of which, I witnessed the funniest thing today. There was this poor numbskull who was posing as the chairman. He even told me to p\*ss off, haha!"

Both his manager and personal assistant followed up on his laughter, finding it hysterically outrageous, However, what they failed to realize was the sudden change in James' facial expression.

"Where's this young man you're referring to?" asked James lowly, raising his brows.

Cristian turned his head and pointed to where Zayn was standing. His head was lowered as he was preoccupied with his phone. "There, he hasn't moved an inch. I could buy his entire outfit with my lunch money. His clothes look like they barely add up to 30 dollars, and he actually had the balls to call himself the chairman of Violet Vision, what a joke!"

"Unbelievable!" James cried, his face was hot with rage as he clenched his jaw. The look in his eyes depicted brewing fear in a raging firestorm.

Cristian had the gall to laugh even harder at James' reaction. "You took the words right out of my mouth, he's insane!"

Almost immediately, Zayn raised his eyes to meet James', a feigned smile plastered on his lips. He could feel his skin crawl as he took in the chairman's reaction. He tripped over himself to give Zayn a proper greeting. He bowed, before respectfully addressing

him, "Chairman!"

You could hear a pin drop in the dead silence that followed.

Cristian and the others had their eyes wide open in disbelief. It looked like their souls had just left their bodies as they stared blankly at Zayn. They were unable to process the scene that had unfolded right in front of them.

“What?”

“Chairman?”

“Do my eyes deceive me? Did James just call that pauper ‘chairman?’”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0107**

‘No, we must be hallucinating! This can’t be true.’

Zayn nodded slightly and said to James, “Were you the one who intended to bring Cristian over?”

James had learned what had happened from Cristian and Shannon, so there was no way he would admit to it at that moment. He hurriedly shook his head and said, “No... no, I wasn’t the one who wanted to bring them over. It was they themselves who wished to discuss a collaboration with Violet Vision.”

Instead of exposing his lie, Zayn merely looked past James and casually glanced at Cristian, whose face was ashen. He said, “I’m very dissatisfied with Cristian. Violet

Vision is forbidden from having any sort of business relationship with him. Otherwise, I'll be very displeased. Is that understood?"

"Yes, understood!" James nodded vigorously. "From today onward, Violet Vision will blacklist Cristian and is forbidden from collaborating with him!"

Only after Zayn had left did Cristian, Shannon, and the others regain their senses. They exchanged glances and saw the shock, regret, and despair in their eyes!

'Oh my God! The guy we scorned just now was actually the newly appointed chairman of Violet Vision!

'What have we done?!'

An intense feeling of regret shrouded their minds, especially Cristian's. He was covered in a cold sweat and desperately wanted to give himself a hard slap.

Zayn's final statement had left him horrified. 'Violet Vision has not only refused to sign me, they're even blacklisting me!'

'My situation is already bad enough. If I offend Violet Vision now, my chances of making a comeback are gone.'



Shannon seemed to have realized this as well. She hurriedly rushed toward James and said, “James, James, this was all just a misunderstanding. We didn’t know that he was truly the chairman of Violet Vision!”

James glared at her icily and there was a tinge of anger in his voice as he said, “Shannon Cruise, Cristian, I see you’re really quite bold. You managed to greatly offend Violet Vision’s chairman. You even called him a poor bimbo, didn’t you? Marvelous, just marvelous! Since you guys are so great, keep on being great on your own. I’d like to see how you guys can remain great after being blacklisted by Violet Vision!”

Cristian could feel James’s fury and started shivering so severely that he was on the verge of tears. ‘How could I be so unlucky? I genuinely wanted to discuss collaborating with Violet Vision, so how could I have insulted the chairman out of nowhere?’

‘I might as well kill myself!’

No matter how he begged James, his words fell on deaf ears. Eventually, Cristian and the rest were chased out by security.

When Cristian returned to his car, he was having a mental breakdown. He could no longer hold it in anymore and burst out crying. He then swore to himself, ‘If I get a chance to meet Zayn again, I’ll be sure to apologize to him no matter what. I’ll suck up to him so hard, I’d even grovel on my knees if I have to!’

‘I can’t imagine what I’ll be able to do if I lose this career.’

On the other, all of that was just dust in the wind to Zayn and did not affect him in the slightest. The moment he entered his office, he had forgotten about the whole ordeal and focused on the task at hand.

Meanwhile, Faye was dealing with a very troublesome situation.

A female classmate had just informed her that there would be a class reunion and she was invited. Plus, she could bring her family with her.

At first, Faye wanted to reject her classmate's offer. She had never been a fan of attending such events and was even less willing to go at the thought of having to bring Zayn with her.

She had not forgotten how Zayn had embarrassed her during the last gathering.

However, what her classmate told her next was enticing, "Faye, you definitely have to come. I heard that Moses has hired Cristian to sing for us during the gathering! Cristian, the huge celebrity! Didn't you always want to get his autograph? Now's your chance."

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0108**

"Is Cristian really coming?" asked Faye, a little tempted.

“Of course! Why would I lie to you? Moses is doing very well at the moment. Hiring Cristian is certainly within his capabilities.”

Faye considered for a moment before saying, “Alright then. I’ll give it a think.”

“What’s there to think about? Just come! We haven’t gotten together for a long time now. I imagine you’d be better off not bringing your family, after all...Hehe, you know why! Right then, I won’t disturb you any further. I’ve still got to call our other schoolmates.”

After she hung up the phone, Faye had a hesitant expression on her face. She was actually quite intrigued. Firstly, it has been a long time since she had met her schoolmates. Now that someone was finally organizing a reunion, she should participate. Coincidentally, she did not have any urgent matters to attend to.

Furthermore, the most important thing was that Cristian was going to be singing, making it exponentially more enticing!

Truth be told, Faye rather liked Cristian, not in a romantic way, but purely as a fan trying to worship her idol. She especially enjoyed his role in the television series, “The Priest”. Strictly speaking, Faye liked the character that he played in the show and not necessarily the man himself.

‘Of course, Cristian is very handsome. May as well get his autograph if I can, right?’

With that on her mind, Faye decided to attend the class reunion in two nights.

As for Moses, she had long since discarded any feelings she had for him. 'It's been so many years, I'm sure Moses forgot about me ages ago.'

In fact, when they were in middle school, Faye was somewhat close to Moses. Of course, they were not dating at the time. Back then, the study culture was still pretty innocent. Nevertheless, they were the couple with the best results in class. Both were in the running for first place among their peers. Hence, the other students would sometimes tease them about having a relationship, but that was as far as it went.

That being the case, both Faye and Moses did have feelings for each other during that period. Whatever it may have been, many years had passed, so they should have put all of that behind them.

Two nights later, Faye hesitated before finally asking Zayn, "Are you available tonight?"

Zayn said, "I'm available. What's the matter?"

Faye then said, "I've got a class reunion tonight in Apollo City. Would you like to come with me?"

Zayn looked surprised and sounded a bit doubtful when he asked, "Didn't you always say you don't want me tagging along at your class reunions? Why are you..."

Faye's expression turned cold and she was a little irked as she said, "Decide whether you want to go or not yourself."

"I'm going. Of course I want to go. I'm definitely coming!" Zayn said hurriedly.

'Are you kidding me? I know all too well what kind of gathering this is going to be. The wealthy ones get to show off. Faye's so beautiful that she's definitely going to be forced to drink. She might even get molested. How can I not go?'

Unnoticed, the corners of Faye's lips were forming a smile, but that vanished immediately. Cold once more, she said, "You can come, but you've got to listen to my every word. You're not to speak or eat casually, and you mustn't embarrass me, understand?"

"Got it, got it," Zayn answered while nodding quickly.

"Alright, then pick me up after you're done with work today and we'll go together," Faye instructed.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0109

“Sure, no problem.” Zayn nodded his head ferociously. He then took out his cell phone and sent James a text message to postpone his dinner gathering for that night.

‘Speaking of which, ever since I took over Violet Vision, we haven’t organized a proper dinner gathering for our company. Many employees still don’t know what I look like. The artists that signed with us have particularly wanted such an event to get to know their newly appointed chairman. They’re only hoping to butter me up, and even if that fails, they’d probably be happy with just the thought of me knowing who they are.’

This was especially true for those young female artists. They were all cooking up some kind of scheme to get on the chairman’s good side. Violet Vision’s reach was steadily increasing by the day. Therefore, if they were able to get in his good graces and utilize the company’s resources to give them a bit of a push, they would definitely become famous.

After James had received Zayn’s text message, he was frustrated, but he did not dare to utter a word of complaint.

Who had heard of such a thing? A director complaining about a chairman? Did this director not want to keep his job at Violet Vision?

Actually, James genuinely admired Zayn from the bottom of his heart. ‘Although he’s become a chairman at such a young age, he doesn’t indulge in any vices, let alone

interact with a single one of the company's starlets. Truth be told, I wouldn't be able to stop myself from giving in. That's probably why he's so capable, isn't it?'

That day, Zayn did not return to his office at Violet Vision. Instead, he used the time to tidy himself up and got a haircut which made him look refreshed. Furthermore, he even bought a suit to make himself more presentable. 'I can't let Faye feel ashamed of me after all.

'Of course, I can't buy a suit that's too expensive. I mustn't let Faye realize that something's amiss.'

Therefore, he bought a complete suit which was worth about 100 dollars and a pair of leather shoes for around 40 dollars. He then headed to Faye's company, waiting for her to finish work.

Faye left on time, only to find Zayn standing there in his suit. Her eyes could not help but sparkle as she almost could not recognise him. She was used to Zayn being in his messy state, so she was somewhat surprised to see him in a proper suit with a tidy haircut.

As it happened, there was another more crucial factor...Faye suddenly felt something familiar about Zayn.

"Fifi, you've finished work already," Zayn greeted her with a smile on his face.

Faye sized him up for a moment and asked, "Where did you get this suit?"

Zayn spun in a circle and said with a grin, "I bought it. How is it? Do I look good? All of this cost me close to 150 dollars."

However, instead of smiling, Faye's expression turned cold as she stared at him. There was even a hint of loathing in her eyes as she said, "You look hideous!"

"Huh?" Zayn was stunned. 'I don't look good like this? That can't be true! I'm dressed like the chairman of Violet Vision. Faye is interested in the chairman, so she should be pleased that I'm dressed up in his image, shouldn't she?'

In fact, Faye did see the chairman of Violet Vision in Zayn at that moment. 'I didn't realize before since Zayn's usually dressed so casually. Now that he's in a suit, I can't shake the feeling that he and the chairman have very similar figures.'

As she looked at Zayn, Faye felt that he was degrading the chairman of Violet Vision. 'What right does a deadbeat like Zayn have to look like him?!'

In her eyes, the chairman of Violet Vision was the perfect man, the greatest in all the world. On the other hand, Zayn was just a deadbeat. 'The two of them are nothing alike!'



“Why though? Don’t you think I look pretty good in this suit? Tonight’s your school gathering, so I thought I’d dress a little better and not embarrass you this time,” Zayn said with a confused and aggrieved expression on his face.

Faye’s eyes remained cold. She had apparently become even angrier. She swiftly dashed at him and grabbed the suit. “I’m telling you to take it off, so just do it and stop talking so much nonsense!”

“Alright, alright, I’ll take it off. Stop tugging…” Zayn said hurriedly. ‘Faye doesn’t seem to be herself today. Could it be because she doesn’t like the chairman of Violet Vision anymore? Is that why she’s so frustrated when she sees me dressed like him? If that’s true, it’s actually a good thing.’

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0110**

Thus, Zayn had to go home to change into the casual and messy clothes that he normally wore. Since they had been worn the whole day and had yet to be washed, they were crumpled pretty badly. In fact, some spots appeared quite filthy, so Zayn asked, “Are you sure you don’t want me to wear a suit?”

“Stop talking nonsense.” Faye glared impatiently and sized him up for a few seconds before finally smiling. “I still think you look better in this.”

Zayn was a little speechless. ‘What exactly is she seeing? I clearly looked better in a suit.’

Faye's class reunion was being held at a medium-sized resort in Apollo City, so it was anything grand or expensive. However, organizing it proved to be quite costly, approximately 600 dollars per person on average. They were a class of 40 people, making the total cost a few thousand dollars. Furthermore, there was also a rumor that Moses had been generous enough to bear all the expenses himself. That was why the reunion was able to be held so successfully with almost everyone attending.

The whole journey there, Faye was actually feeling rather excited. 'There are so many classmates that I haven't met in years. I wonder how they're doing now? Have they all successfully built up their careers and families?'

Zayn was the one driving that night. When he arrived at the parking lot at the resort, he managed to find a spot. Just as he was about to drive in, another car suddenly barged in from the side. It tried to snatch the parking spot from him and bumped into Zayn's car with a bang.

"What happened? Have you bumped into someone else's car?" Faye frowned and her demeanor instantly shifted.

Zayn shook his head and said, "We're the ones who've been bumped into. They were at fault here."

Faye heaved a sigh of relief. "That's better. See if you're able to resolve this peacefully. After all, the reunion's about to start. I don't want to be late."

“Alright.”

Zayn got out of his car, but he could not see anyone else. Suddenly, he heard a very haughty voice, “Oi! Do you even know how to drive? Are you blind? Can’t you see that I had my eyes on this spot? You kept backing up after I honked my horn at you. I’m telling you now, you’re entirely at fault!”

A short, fat man walked over with an indignant expression. As he approached them, he badgered on rudely, exuding the air of a pompous smartmouth.

‘This guy’s just cursed at me without so much as a word from me at all.’ Zayn’s polite face sunk. “You seem to have it the other way around. I obviously saw this spot first. You can see my car was already parked, but you still forced your way in. Just look at their positions. You’re the one who should be held responsible.”

“That’s f\*cking bulls\*it!” The fat man cursed and his expression grew even more hostile. He pointed angrily at Zayn’s nose and scowled. “You insolent scoundrel, how dare you fight for a parking space with me? Do you know what car I’m driving? A BMW 525, tens of thousands of dollars more expensive than your Lavidia! One checkup is enough to cover a whole year of your insurance. F\*ck!”

With all the fat man’s cursing, he had attracted a crowd and they began murmuring amongst themselves.

Zayn's features darkened immediately. 'I was initially planning to settle this civilly like gentlemen and resolve it in private, but this man's so arrogant and uncouth. The moment he opens his mouth, insults just pour out nonstop.' It did not matter if he was a cultured man, he would still be angered when faced with such a trivial situation. "Point at me one more time."

The fat man was shocked by how menacing Zayn's eyes suddenly became and the aggression on his face faded quite a bit. He tried to double down and said, "What did you say? You're in the wrong, yet you actually have the b\*lls to get violent?! Fine, come and try to lay a finger on me if you dare! I'll make sure you pay with your life."

In the face of such a shameless person, Zayn was truly furious. 'If I weren't accompanying Faye to her class reunion, I would have knocked you flat right here.'

When Faye heard the commotion, she got out of the car. "Zayn, why are you arguing with him? Didn't you say you were going to resolve it peacefully?"

Faye's appearance made the spectators fall silent as they all turned to her in surprise.

Faye had gotten dolle up for the class reunion that night. She had only put some light makeup on her face, but she was quite stunning and emanated a feminine aura.

When Zayn saw their reaction, he felt quite proud to be Faye's husband.

He then said, "Before I could even try to reason with him, he immediately came up to me and started yelling at my face!"

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0111

Staring at Faye, the fatso's beady eyes went wide, glimmering with wonder and infatuation. When Faye saw him, she gasped, "Fred Flint? Is that you?"

Fatty recognized Faye as well when she called his name. "Faye Carter?!"

"Yeah." Faye nodded with a happy smile. "I thought you wouldn't be able to recognize me anymore."

"Of course I do. How could I not?!" Fatty Fred checked Faye out, his eyes practically glued to her as he gulped discreetly. Long gone was his earlier belligerence and haughtiness. He patted himself down to look presentable and went to shake her hand. "You've changed so much. It's been years and you've come back looking gorgeous. I thought I would be bumping into a celebrity tonight."

Faye's smile grew wider at Fred's compliment, but she hesitated when he extended his hand. She disliked the perverted way he leered at her. Just as she was caught in that dilemma, Zayn stepped up and shook Fred's hand on her behalf.

"Nice to meet you, so you're Faye's ex-schoolmate, huh?"

When Fred saw how beautiful Faye had become, his mind began formulating plans to take advantage of her. He scowled and pulled his hand away when Zayn interfered. "Who are you? I'm talking to Faye. What's it got to do with you? We haven't settled things after you scraped my BMW."

Fred had always been an unsophisticated, nouveau-riche type.

Zayn answered, "Zayn Larson, Faye's husband."

Fred's little eyes widened and he gawked at Faye in surprise. "Faye, you're married?"

Faye glared at Zayn but did not deny it. She admitted it with a nod.

Fred's expression became much darker. He had a crush on Faye when they were in school. Now that he was making money and had hundreds of thousands of dollars in assets, he was planning to use this reunion to show off the new BMW 525 he had purchased the month before. Who knew he would get the chance to meet Faye and take the shot he had not taken in their middle school years?

He did not expect Faye would be married and would even bring her husband along. What chance did he have now?! Fred felt more upset since Faye was even prettier than before.

“Faye, we’re old friends, but we should still make things clear. Your husband’s driving skills are terrible. He ran into my BMW. You need to settle this with me,” Fred said with a straight face.

Faye was displeased. Anyone could see that Fred was the one who bumped into Zayn. He should be responsible, but he was now pushing the blame to Zayn and asking for compensation.

“Fred, are you thinking straight? Look at this. It’s obvious that you’re the one who run into my husband’s car. His car is already within the lines, but yours is still outside,” Faye stated matter-of-factly.

Fred sneered, “Faye, what do you mean? Be direct! You guys are driving a cheap car and mine’s a BMW. Why would I bother running into your car? It’s your mistake and you ran into me! Are you trying to deny responsibility?”

Running off at the mouth, Fred was unstoppable. Faye was unable to match his arguments and was becoming increasingly aggrieved. Getting more impatient by the minute, Zayn pulled Faye back to him. Just as he was about to call Gordon so he could send someone over to teach Fred a proper lesson, a deep voice echoed from behind them.

“Faye, is that you? It’s been so long!”



When they turned around, a well-dressed man in a branded suit who was being escorted by a group of people marched over. His expression was filled with delightful surprise when he saw Faye. She was also shocked and her eyes sparkled with joy at the unexpected sight. The name rolled off her tongue, "Moses?"

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0112**

Moses briskly strode over to Faye and looked at her longingly. "Fifi, it's been so long. I didn't expect you to remember me."

A little embarrassed from all his staring, Faye blushed and nodded with a smile, avoiding Moses' gaze.

Zayn noticed Faye's unusual reaction and wondered if she shared a secret past with this man called Moses. To be honest, he was a little unsettled by it. No man wanted his wife to be caught in an entanglement. Nonetheless, he did not display his jealousy directly. This was Faye's class reunion, and he was going to let her enjoy the night regardless.

Zayn scrutinized Moses discreetly, deducing he was a successful man with a decent enough background. It was obvious from both the way he oozed confidence and the deference that his escorts demonstrated.

Fred spoke up, "Moses, you came just in time. You were the class rep, so come be our judge. Faye's husband drove blindly and rammed into my BMW. He should take full responsibility, shouldn't he?!"

Catching the keyword from Fred's statement, Moses lost his composure, and it showed on his face. "Fifi, you're married?!"

It took Faye a moment to answer, "Yeah."

Her confirmation only made his changing expressions more interesting.

Truthfully, the main reason he had put so much effort into organizing the class reunion was not that he wanted to brag about his success to his old schoolmates— it was largely because he hoped to use the opportunity to seduce Faye!

After a female friend had shown him a recent photo of Faye, Moses was besotted. An idea quickly formed in his head.

The knowledge that Faye was already married came as a surprise to him and felt like a stab to his heart.

Moses tried to regain his composure lest he embarrassed himself and forced a smile. "Fifi, surely you must be kidding? You said you wouldn't get married until you're 26. You're only 25 years old this year."

Faye sighed, "I've been married for four years."

The corners of Moses' lips twitched violently, but he pushed through it. "No way? Where's your husband? I don't see him!"

At that point, he was getting quite flustered.

Zayn stepped forwards on cue and extended a hand to Moses, smiling as he greeted him. "Hello, I'm Zayn Larson, Fifi's husband."

The group's eyes turned toward Zayn in a flash. When they caught sight of his wrinkled clothes and stained patches, they were shocked to realize how worthless the outfit was.

An average-looking man who bore no significance whatsoever—no one bat an eye if he claimed to be a waiter—was the husband of Faye Carter, the most popular girl in class? Was this some kind of a joke?

Moses thought the same. He scrutinized Zayn from head to toe, realizing that he was just an ordinary man without deep pockets. He wondered how a man like that could be worthy of Faye. Moreover, as old friends, he was well aware of how high Faye had set the bar for her future husband. Whoever could marry Faye should definitely be exemplary.

Moses did not shake Zayn's hand. He ignored it and chuckled at Faye. "Fifi, you're up to no good again. Haha, there's no way that you're married yet."

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0113

Faye went to hold Zayn's arm. "Moses, I'm really married. He is my husband."

The muscles in Zayn's body went taut with excitement. Having been married for so long, this was the first time Faye took the initiative to hold his arm in front of anyone else! It felt... amazing!

Moses finally believed it. He took a long glance at Zayn before his smile returned. He diverted the topic, asking Fred, "What's the situation? The car got scratched?"

Fred was quick to answer, "Duh! It's all Faye's husband's fault. His driving skills suck b\*lls and he scraped my BMW! But he says that I ran into him—hmph! Please, I'm being reasonable here since we're old friends. If this were someone else, one phone call from me and I'd have a dozen men charging over!"

Faye frowned and was about to speak when Moses eyed her in a way that conveyed to her that he would take care of it.

"We're all old friends. No need to make it awkward for everyone. I don't think you guys need to fight over who's right or wrong either. Fred, the scratch on your BMW won't cost too much to repair at 48. I'll personally give you 800 dollars as compensation. We'll consider this over and done with."

Eight hundred dollars! The number astonished the nearby spectators. Moses was being so generous! Furthermore, the tiny scratch on Fred's car would cost 600 dollars to fix at most...

Fred grinned widely and nodded. "Sure, sure. I'll let this slide just for you, Moses. Eight hundred dollars... I'm taking a loss here."

Moses smiled and opened his bag to pull out a thick wad of cash. He counted the notes and passed it to Fred. "Check if the amount's right."

It was pretty normal for people to transfer money through whatever apps they had on their smartphones nowadays, but that was not what Moses did. He carried cash with him. A large transaction would emphasize how rich he was.

As expected, the thick stack of cash he brandished from his bag was actually just a few thousand dollars, but it elicited gasps around him.

"Haha, what do you mean check? I trust you, class rep." Fred accepted Moses' money, his smirk splitting his face in half. That was what he said, but he still thumbed through the cash carefully thrice.

Faye grumbled, "Moses, why are you paying him? This was an accident. We can call the police and leave it to them. We'll go through the proper procedure and sort this all out."

Ignoring Zayn's presence, Moses turned to Faye and replied affectionately, "Fifi, we're good friends. Are you going to be a stranger to me? That would be upsetting. Besides, it's just 800 dollars. That's no more than what I spend on a meal. It's fine."

The extravagance laced in Moses' tone made the eyes of plenty of women around him sparkle.

Faye shied away from his stare, feeling heat creep up her cheeks.

Moses then pulled out another 600 dollars and handed it to Faye as compensation for the scratch on her car. Of course, Faye was reluctant to take it and insisted on returning it.

Moses feigned annoyance and chided, "Fifi, I'll get upset if you keep this up. I organized tonight's reunion. It's my mistake for overlooking the arrangements for everyone's parking. I should take responsibility for your losses."

His words immediately won over the crowd, and even Faye had a better impression of him.

Nevertheless, she was still reluctant to accept the compensation. It was then when Zayn came over and took the 600 dollars out of Moses' grip, saying with a chuckle, "Haha, since the class rep has said so, we should just go along with it, no?"

Everyone was taken aback, not expecting Zayn to accept Moses' money so shamelessly. They turned scornful, and Faye's expression soured instantly as she glared at Zayn.

Catching Faye's minute movements, the corners of Moses' lips formed a gloating smirk. It seemed that Faye's husband was not much of a threat, so that would make things easier.

Faye was married and had brought her husband, but this was a class reunion, opportunities to get people drunk were abundant. Faye would still be his after he knocked her husband out...

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0114**

“Didn't I ask you not to shoot your mouth off? Why didn't you listen to me?!”

Faye gave Zayn a hard pinch when they entered the hotel together and huffed, “You embarrassed me again. I should've known not to ask you to come along!”

Zayn hissed from the sharp sting, gasping, “Ow! Not so hard! I was just playing along when your class rep was trying to act cool. I was fulfilling his wish. How's that being embarrassing?”

Faye let go of Zayn. Of course, she realized that Moses had done what he did in order to show off and appear impressive. In fact, she was pretty disappointed. The number of years that had passed had turned a pure-hearted youth into a jaded, worldly man.

“What he did was his business. You just have to behave yourself!” Faye shot Zayn a dark look and ordered, “When the gathering starts later, you’re not allowed to run your mouth off carelessly. You mustn’t embarrass me again, understand? Or else... or else...”

When Faye was unable to come up with a threat, Zayn chortled. “Or else what?”

Enraged by Zayn’s mirth and giggling expression, Faye pinched him again. “Or else, I’ll ignore you!”

Zayn chuckled to himself. Faye was adorable when she got angry. Nevertheless, he told her seriously, “But as your husband, I can’t just sit around and watch some pervert try to take advantage of you like that, can I?”

Faye thought about it and answered, “You still need to check with me before you do anything. You mustn’t speak your mind freely without a filter!”

A while later, people started arriving at the hotel, and it was teeming with life. Most of them had gotten married and had children, so they brought their families. There were already a handful of children of about four or five years old running around in the lobby.



Faye's attendance brightened up the lobby as plenty of men focused their attention on her and dashed over to extend their greetings.

"Wow, Faye, you look much prettier after so many years!"

"Yeah, with your looks, you could be a movie star!"

"How do you maintain your figure, Faye? Why do I feel like you're in better shape now than when we were in school? Look at me. I've been getting out of shape after getting married. It's so sad..."

"Faye, I heard that you're married. Is this man beside you your partner?"

As they walked along, people greeted Faye left and right. It was obvious that she was rather popular in class. The guys all gawked at her in astonishment. The women did not seem hostile—at most, they were a little jealous.

Since Faye had come in with Zayn, he also drew attention to himself. Her ex-schoolmates could guess his identity, but when they noted his rather shabby clothes, they were slightly skeptical. They thought he might have been her chauffeur or something.

After all, Faye's family had been pretty well-off when they were in junior high school. She had grown so beautiful as well. It seemed highly improbable that she had gotten married to someone common...

Faye regretted bringing Zayn more and more by the second. The man was just embarrassing her.

There was a commotion by the entrance, and many attendees clamored. "It's Moses!"

"Moses is here! Let's go say hi! I heard that he's gotten rich! His business has been going well, so he's a big boss now!"

"Not bad, eh? Among everyone in our class, Moses is probably doing the best, huh?"

"I'd say so. I heard that he's driving a Maserati now. Filthy rich b\*st\*rd..."

"I also heard that he isn't married yet. Most eligible bachelor, guys..."

"Ah, it's too bad. I'm already married. Otherwise, I'd definitely go for him..."

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0115

“Forget about it. He won’t even bat an eyelid at you. Moses likes someone the level of a goddess like Faye, but Faye’s actually married, too—to an average Joe, at that. I don’t get it.”

“Maybe her husband has somewhere better than the average person that we don’t know of, heh heh...”

“Sh\*t, you dirty-minded fella...”

As the crowd spoke, Moses entered through the door, escorted by a group of people. In the center of attention, he relished the attention as he exuded a triumphant air, taking in the limelight of the school gathering.

Moses was quite handsome himself. He was fair and had a sense of grace, except he was slightly on the shorter side, only a little over 5.5 feet. It made a whole lot of difference next to a 6-foot-tall Zayn.

As Moses made his way over, he greeted his old friends continuously while raking his gaze over to Faye. His chest was puffed out and his chin was tipped, intending to catch the girl’s attention. If Faye looked over at him, he perked up in spirit, almost like a rooster that had won a fight.

A while later, their ex-homeroom teacher came by invitation as well, and the atmosphere turned livelier.

It was apparent that Moses was doing well. All the schoolmates, including their old homeroom teacher, fawned over him. As he basked in the treatment, the smile on his face threatened to break it in half.

After some drinking, their homeroom teacher exclaimed, "Moses, I've thought highly of you in the past, knowing that you'd succeed when you grew up. The reality has proved me right! You've just graduated not too long ago, and you've achieved this much success. I'm impressed!"

Their homeroom teacher raised a toast to Moses, making the latter very pleased with himself. He put on a humble disguise anyway. "Not at all, no. You flatter me, sir. I've managed to get to where I am today because you've taught me well."

As they chatted, a friend asked, "Moses, you eligible bachelor, aren't you planning to get married? Are you waiting for a certain someone?"

The schoolmate vaguely glanced at Faye who was by the side as he spoke, his intention blatant.

Moses waved. "My fated one hasn't appeared. I'm still waiting for my goddess."

As he said that, he stole a glimpse at Faye as well.

Lowering her head, Faye pretended like she did not hear anything though she blushed.

Zayn frowned. He was piqued. Were these people blind? Did they not see that her husband was here?

The homeroom teacher spoke again, "Faye, you and Moses scored the best in Class 3 last time. I had the highest hopes for both of you too. Moses is already successful, what about you? I heard that you've gotten married. What does your husband do? Why haven't you introduced him to me?"

Everyone's gaze fell on Faye who made a surprised sound before answering quite awkwardly, "I'm helping out in my family's company."

Nevertheless, she did not answer about Zayn. A girl gave her a playful shove and asked in a gossiping manner, "Faye, what does your husband do? Introduce him to us."

"Yeah, Faye. He must be a successful businessman to be able to marry someone beautiful like you!"

"He must be at least at Moses's level, yeah?"

As the center of the topic, Faye looked awkward and was at a loss for words.

A scoff was heard then. "All of you have guessed it wrong. Faye's husband isn't some tycoon. He married into her family. He's famous where we are, actually... known for being trash, haha."

When the voice spoke up, everyone was startled.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0116

Faye jolted as the blood drained from her face. She paled and her expression was caught between a grimace and embarrassment.

Zayn creased his brows as he looked toward where the voice was. It was a depraved-looking man who was making his way toward them with a smirk. He made eye contact with Moses amidst everything, looking obsequious.

Moses had not come into the hotel right away just now because he had stepped away to make a call to look into Zayn. His probing did not disappoint him. In fact, it was a huge surprise to him!

Faye was not married to 'someone.' Her husband had gotten married into her family instead! This husband of hers was a loser and was rather infamous in Waltz City for that very fact. A lot of people knew him. Moses also found out that Faye was not close to her husband because the man had done plenty of things to embarrass her in recent years.

To be honest, he was elated when he heard the news.

This was a chance sent by the heavens. He still had high hopes of winning Faye. After all, a gem like her was rare everywhere. It did not matter even though she was married. Youngsters these days were open-minded, and cohabitating couples were more than common. Truthfully, dating and being married seemed to feel the same. Moses did not have a virgin complex, so it would be wonderful if he managed to court Faye!

Certainly, there was no way he would keep this piece of information to himself.

From Faye's reaction, she was not quite ready to let her ex-schoolmates find out about it. If it came from someone else's mouth, however, it would embarrass her and prompt her to resent Zayn. Moses would then have the opportunity to take advantage of the situation.

That was how the scene just now came by. Moses dropped the bomb through a flunkey's mouth.

"What?"

"Did I hear it right? Faye got her husband to marry into her family?"

"Shocking... Isn't Faye the most gorgeous thing ever? Why is she getting someone to marry into her family? With what she has, she could marry any successful businessman she wants!"

People began to talk, the discussion growing more heated than it had been earlier, and their gazes toward Zayn changed in nature.



Faye was mortified. She really regretted coming with Zayn. 'Faye, oh, Faye. Did a donkey kick your head? Why would you ask Zayn to come along? Isn't it great now? You're getting embarrassed now!'

Their homeroom teacher coughed and tried to mediate the situation. "John Holmes, stop with the nonsense. Nobody gets married into families anymore in this era."

The perverse-looking John chuckled. "Teach, I'm not making this up. Faye's husband did marry into the family. Why else do you think she wouldn't introduce him?"

Faye kept quiet. She wanted to maintain a natural expression, but it was too hard, and she simply could not do it.

Noting Faye's reaction, the group understood that John was speaking the truth and that this man beside her was her husband who married himself off. The discussion broke out louder with more mocking and gloating.

John supplied the details in the midst of this, citing how useless Zayn was as a man who had married into his wife's family and could not get a job. When he got to the funnier bits, it amused a good number of people and the mood livened up, except that it was still torture to Faye.

Zayn wore a dark expression as he stood up to say, "Are you guys done? Shut your trap if you are!"

He was loud. In addition to his seriousness, it intimidated a lot of the gossipers and they stopped their teasing.

Zayn continued to say, “Yes, I married into Faye’s family, but I’m not a loser! What’s between me and Faye isn’t something for you to comment on either!”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0117**

John laughed. “Right, you aren’t a loser. Losers can find themselves a job, but you can’t even get one. Hahaha...”

His guffaw caused others to laugh as well while Moses was already roaring with laughter.

Just when Zayn wanted to say more, Faye tugged at his shirt and glared at him with a pale face, puncturing all of his vehemence.

Seeing that he had achieved the effect he wanted, Moses clapped. “Alright, alright! Don’t cross the line, guys. We should stop now. Faye’s our long-time friend. Whatever she’s chosen, it’s her business. We should be supporting her instead of mocking her.”

Since he held a significant status, everyone else kept quiet since he had voiced out his opinion.

After a slight pause, Moses stood up and said with a grin, "It's been so long since we've gathered. I asked all of you to be here tonight because I was thinking about having a reunion for us to reconnect. Secondly, I'd also like to let all of you know that you can call me if you face any challenges in the future. I'll help however I can."

The old schoolmates hooted in delight and adored Moses even more. The single ladies, especially, wore sparkling eyes and were dying to throw themselves at him.

Moses continued to speak, "Alright, I know that a lot of you quite like Cristian, so I've invited him over tonight to sing for us and sign a few autographs. I hope that you guys are happy with the arrangement."

"Holy sh\*t! Moses, did you really get Cristian to come here?"

"Whoo! Terrific! Moses, I love you!"

"Moses, let me bear your children..."

"That's amazing! You mean the hotshot Cristian who sang 'Happy', right?"

"Yeah, what other Cristian do you have in the showbiz?"

“This is over the top! We’re talking about a celebrity! An appearance like this has got to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars!”

“Money’s not an issue now. This is a matter of pride. Moses is awesome!”

The news dropped like a revelation to the group. Everyone, even the homeroom teacher, was ecstatic as they called their families to ask them to come over and watch the singer. This was a noteworthy moment, and they were going to look so good when they recorded a clip and uploaded it to their social media.

Moses was pleased by his schoolmates’ response. This was something he had prepared a long time ago. It was by chance that he got to know Cristian. Combined with his friend’s acquaintance, he got to ask Cristian over with a lower price, accomplishing this reputable feat!

Moses also knew that Faye liked Cristian. When the latter came to sing, Moses would surely earn Faye’s favorable impression. As for the loser Zayn who married into her family? He was trash, an unworthy opponent

Faye turned in anticipation when she heard the news. There was finally some color to her blanched face. On the other hand, Zayn was puzzled. What was going on? Moses had booked Cristian? What a coincidence... He had no idea how many Cristians there were in show business and was unsure if it was a similar sounding name, so he asked curiously, “Is the Cristian they’re talking about the small-time star who acted in ‘The Priest’?”

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0118

Zayn's question was posed to Faye, but the people around them heard him and widened their eyes. "What? You don't even know Cristian?"

"Goodness, no way! Don't you know who Cristian is? Faye, does your husband come from Mars?"

"Hold on, what did he say just now? Cristian's a small-time star? Ha, hilarious not! He isn't that capable, but he's pretty capable of shooting his mouth off."

People around them started to mock him and stared at Zayn like they were looking at some idiot. Cristian's female fans, specifically, did not have even an inkling of positive feelings for Zayn. They thought that he was ignorant and arrogant. How dare he call Cristian a small-time star? Although he had been caught up in a scandal half a year ago and kept a low profile now, he was still a celebrity who ordinary people could hardly meet.

Faye seethed and pinched Zayn. "Can you please talk less? Don't you think you have embarrassed me enough?"

Zayn looked back at her innocently. "I was just asking if it's the Cristian who starred in 'The Priest.' How's that embarrassing you?"

“Are you talking back?” Faye glared at him. “Which young person wouldn’t know about Cristian? And you called him small-time. What are you doing if not embarrassing me? I knew that I shouldn’t have brought you along!”

Zayn rolled his eyes, feeling rather exasperated and helpless. “I wasn’t wrong. Cristian is a small-time star, one who’s past his fame, too. If he sees me, he’s going to have to bow down to me.”

The man was not boasting. He had just met Cristian two days ago and clearly remembered that Cristian looked like he was about to burst into tears at the end of their encounter. If Cristian saw him now, he would probably have to kneel down and beg for Zayn’s forgiveness.

Ah, who would know that this world was so small sometimes? Who would have thought that Zayn would be seeing Cristian when he was attending a school gathering with Faye?

In spite of it, Zayn’s honesty seemed like the face of shamelessness to Faye. Others who heard him were laughing uncontrollably, deeming him as a lunatic.

“Hey, hey, quiet down, guys. I have something to tell you!”

A plump woman stood up with a clap to announce loudly, pulling everyone’s attention to her instantly. She continued to say, “Faye’s husband, who married into her family, said that Cristian is just a small-time star, one who’s gone past his fame, and that Cristian

would have to be deferential toward him when he sees him! So... all of you have mistaken him just now. He's no loser. He's a secret mogul! Even Cristian has to show respect to him, hahaha..."

Her tone was taunting. She even glanced at Zayn in mockery when she finished.

The rest of them broke out in a guffaw at her words, making the hall incredibly joyous in the blink of an eye. Moses was startled before a chuckle escaped him, and he hooted with laughter with tears collecting in his eyes. Zayn was a fool. There was probably something wrong with his brain for him to even say something like that! Faye, too—her taste was really something to have selected someone like this to marry into her family!

Faye flushed instantly. She could no longer stand Zayn. If there was a crack on the floor right now, she was going to bury herself there and then without any hesitation. It was humiliating! What sin had she ever done in her past life to have to marry Zayn? Right now, Faye's eyes were red while her nose seemed pinched. She really wanted to cry.

Taking in how she looked, Zayn went silent and heaved a long sigh. He had already maintained a low profile. Why were there always idiots provoking him? He could not help feeling like he attracted drama and caused chaos wherever he went, just like

people said.

Zayn held Faye's hand and said seriously, "Fifi, don't fret. I won't embarrass you this time."

Unfortunately, Faye did not believe him at all. She flung his hand away and barked, “Don’t touch me. I’ve had enough!”

With that, she stood up and left, leaving Zayn to call out, “Fifi, where are you going?”

“It’s none of your d\*mned business!” Faye made a beeline to the washroom without turning back.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0119**

Zayn remained as the gathering’s laughing stock after Faye left. Nonetheless, he was, of course, unaffected by them. Not only was

he not angered, but he also smiled meaningfully. He was rather interested now. What would these people look like when Cristian came later?

His calm composure, to them, became the sign of shamelessness, and they were further peeved by him.

Moses received a call at that moment and sprang up, looking surprised and giddy. “You’re here? Okay, alright. I’ll come out to welcome you right now!”



Hanging up, he took a deep breath and flashed a grin at everyone. “Good news, guys. Cristian’s here and he’s coming right up.”

“WOW!”

“The celeb’s here!”

“I’m sooo excited!”

The mood peaked as everyone got ecstatic over the arrival of the singer. Zayn was the only one shaking his head in discretion, thinking that these people were boring. Was there a need to look like they were meeting a deity when they were, in fact, only seeing a small-time star?

Moses went out to welcome Cristian though not before glancing at Zayn in contempt.

A short moment later, a group of people appeared at the entrance. Practically over a hundred people were escorting a young handsome man inside, and who else would it be if not Cristian who Zayn had met not too long ago?

Cristian had recovered his sophisticated charm now. He looked fresh and clean with thick bangs covering his forehead, going for a youthful popstar aesthetic. Other than

him, his manager, Shannon, assistant, and two bodyguards from the other day were present as well.

Cristian looked radiant with his bright smile. Faced with the admiration of so many people, his initial glum mood was finally perking up. Since he offended Zayn and got blacklisted by Violet Vision, he had been in a slump. He had been frustrated, even lost sleep, and felt incredibly awful. He had thought that his career was coming to its end.

He wanted to apologize to the chairman of Violet Vision. He would do it even if he was asked to get down on his knees and bow in acknowledgment for his mistake!

Alas, the chairman was elusive! Cristian did not even have the chance to see him. His manager had pulled a lot of strings in these two days but failed to contact him nonetheless. They were also blocked by Sean.

Cristian was immensely regretful about the consequences today. If he were given an opportunity to start over, he was never offending that common-looking young man again!

Sigh... If he had not offended the chairman of Violet Vision, he would not have come to sing here for a mere couple of hundreds of thousands of dollars no matter how badly he was faring.

Obviously, Moses had no idea about this. When he welcomed Cristian and stepped into the venue with him, he felt enlivened it was like his stride was boosted- at the sight of so many admiring and impressed faces.

“Cristian, it’s great that you’re able to make it to sing for us. It’s our honor to have you!” Moses fawned over him.

“Ha, Mr. Belon, you’re too kind,” said Cristian, keeping up with his uppish appearance.

It was undeniable that he was pretty good-looking. Women were flocking and pushing to get themselves closer to him, shouting his name. If it were not for Cristian’s bodyguards, they would probably have pounced on him by now.

As they chatted and entered the hotel, Moses made a sharp turn in their conversation and his tone turned teasing as he announced, “Cristian, I’d like you to meet someone before you sing.”

“Oh, who’s that?” Cristian was curious.

As Moses faked a cough, the grin on his face widened. “This is my friend’s husband who married into her family. He told us that you’re a small—time star just now, and that you’d be deferential toward him when you see him and not dare to act up in front of him...”

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0120

Moses could not hold it in and guffawed first after he said the words. The rest of his old schoolmates followed, the chorus of laughter loudly bubbling through the hotel.

Cristian was taken aback. He did not join in the laughter, suddenly feeling a sense of foreboding. “Mr. Belon, where’s this person you mention?”

Moses jabbed a finger. “There, that’s him.”

When Cristian’s eyes followed Moses’ finger, he saw a man dressed casually with his legs crossed sitting on a chair and munching on some nuts. There was no one around him and he looked lonely by himself.

Despite that, the man did not appear awkward or upset by his situation. Instead, there was an easy smile on his face like he was unfazed by any of it.

Cristian felt a tremor run through him when he got a clear view of the man. His eyes bulged and he could not believe who it was!

Was that not Violet Vision’s chairman who he had just met two days ago? Why was he there?

Cristian dared not trust his senses. His first instinct was that his eyes were playing a trick on him. The chairman of Violet Vision was a man of great prestige. There was no way he was mixing around with these commoners.

Shannon, his manager, was equally shocked by the sight of him. They both saw the same disbelief reflected in each other's eyes when they exchanged glances. Then, they were struck by delight, surprise, terror, anxiousness, and all sorts of complicated emotions.

They were certain that the person munching on nuts over there was Violet Vision's chairman, but they could not figure out why they were meeting him at that location. Was this a coincidence or was the man forcing them into a corner?

For a moment, the star and his manager were quite nervous.

As the group witnessed Cristian and Shannon's roller coaster of emotions, they thought their celebrity guest had gotten angry. Moses was quick to try to remedy it. "Haha, it's a joke. I was just joking. He's out of his mind. We can ignore him."

Moses simply ignored Cristian and whispered to his manager, "Shannon, what do we do now?"

Shannon let out a wry chuckle. "What else could we do? We go there and greet him! Hopefully, this is just a coincidence..."

Suddenly, Shannon's eyes glowed when she recalled something. "I think it is a coincidence. From the looks of it, Violet Vision's chairman keeps a low profile and these people don't know about his status. We must show our reverence and humility and work with him to wow these people! If we play our cards right, who knows? We might break through this dead end and sign with Violet Vision Media Corp!"

Shannon's words thrilled Cristian. He nodded vigorously and composed himself before briskly walking over to Zayn.

"Eh, Cristian?" Overcoming his surprise, Moses gave chase.

The others gloated in Zayn's anticipated misery, assuming that Cristian had been offended and pinned the blame on him.

"Faye's husband is going get his butt kicked, haha!"

"One's misfortune comes from careless talk. I really don't get it. Faye's got everything going for her, so why did she get an idiot to marry into her family?"

"He's clearly a dimwit for even saying what he did. Serves him right. He brought all this trouble on himself."

“Just you wait Grab the popcorn. The show’s starting.”

The crowd chattered as they followed Cristian.

When the star arrived before Zayn, he took a deep breath and did something that baffled everyone else.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0121

All they could see was Cristian standing upright as he faced Zayn. Then, with a 90-degree bow, his voice was extremely respectful and humbled as he shouted, “Sir, it was my mistake for behaving like that previously. I’m sorry for being so rude and offending you. I hope that you won’t keep the matter to heart and be merciful by giving me another chance, sir.”

Cristian was extremely earnest as he said that, his eyes had gone red and he had a sincere attitude as he begged desperately. He was completely different from how he had been cold and arrogant previously. ‘If the chairman still refuses to forgive me, I’ll get down on my knees without a second thought.’

The crowd had become so eerily silent that anyone could have heard the sound of a pin dropping.

Everyone was stunned and their minds went blank momentarily. They could not believe that whatever had just happened was true. ‘Cristian actually bowed respectfully to Faye’s husband and even desperately begged for forgiveness? What’s going on here? Isn’t her husband a useless deadbeat who married into the Carters? Wasn’t he unable to even secure a job?’

‘Why does all this seem so unreal?’



This was especially true for Moses. He was completely shocked as his mind was in turmoil. He was completely unable to understand why something like that had happened. 'This doesn't make sense at all!'

Shannon, Cristian's manager, who stood aside hurriedly bowed as well and said in an extremely humble manner, "Sir..."

Then, Zayn spoke out to interrupt her, "Please call me Mr. Larson."

Shannon instantly rephrased her sentence and said, "Mr. Larson, whatever that happened previously was our fault. No matter what it was, we shouldn't have offended you, Mr. Larson. We hope that you will be merciful and give us a second chance. Is that alright?"

It was at that moment that Zayn raised his head to look at them and revealed a slight smile on his face. "I heard you're here to sing, aren't you?"

When Cristian saw Zayn's smile, he was able to relax his nervous mood a little and hurriedly said, "Yes, that's right, I'm here to sing today. Is there anything that you would like to ask of me, Mr. Larson?"

Zayn then said, "Then, carry on and sing your songs."

“Sure, sure!” Then, Cristian probingly asked, “So, sir, have you forgiven—”

Before he even finished his sentence, Shannon instantly nudged him and shot him a look. Cristian trembled and did not dare to ask any further.

It was at that very moment that the crowd was able to regain their senses. They finally realized that this turn of events was real and not part of their hallucination!

For a moment, they were unable to say anything as they gaped at Zayn in shock.

No matter how foolish they were, they would have definitely realized that Zayn was not some kind of deadbeat but a hugely influential figure, the huge owner of a company! Otherwise, why would Cristian, a major celebrity, behave so respectfully in front of him?

In fact, even a person like Moses, who was also the owner of a company, was treated completely differently when Cristian addressed him.

Instantly, everyone’s attitude towards Moses became much colder, and they no longer held the worship and admiration they had for him a moment ago. Instead, some of them even felt that Moses was terribly fake. ‘How could Moses actually flaunt that small amount of profit he made when Faye’s husband, a largely influential figure, has kept such a low profile?’ When he met their gazes, Moses’s expression became extremely ugly, worse than when someone had accidentally eaten something extremely foul!

'For the life of me, I just can't figure out why a major celebrity like Cristian would actually have such a huge difference in attitude towards Zayn.'

Even Fred, who had a run-in with Zayn a while ago, had turned completely pale. As he trembled, he hurriedly ran towards Zayn and lowered his head as he apologized, begging for the latter to forget about everything that had just happened.

Zayn merely waved his hand and chased him away.

At that moment, Faye walked out of the washroom. When she saw a bunch of people surrounding Zayn and frantically currying favor with him, she was stunned.

In her heart, she began to be suspicious. 'Did something happen?'

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0122**

"Faye, you're really something else! How could you not have told us that your husband is so awesome?"

"That's right. You've clearly married into a wealthy family, yet you were so modest by saying you weren't. That's just absurd. Were you afraid that we would snatch your husband away from you?"

“That’s what I was saying. Faye used to be the prettiest girl in our school and is perfect, so how could she have been married to a commoner?”

“Exactly...”

The moment Faye walked over, she was surrounded by a bunch of her female classmates who were continuously currying favor with her. This dumbfounded Faye completely since she did not know what had just happened. “What are you talking about? Why don’t I understand a word you’re saying?”

“Look at you, still feigning ignorance. You’re actually afraid that we’d snatch your husband away from you.”

“That’s right. Your husband was so cool just now. Even Cristian respectfully called him Mr. Larson just now. That was so freaking awesome! Speaking of which, Faye, What does your husband do? Why didn’t we hear about it from you before?”

The women began trying to find out more about Zayn’s identity.

However, Faye merely frowned as she wondered, ‘Why can’t I make a single sense of what they’re trying to say?’

Soon, after her female classmates explained things to her in an incoherent ramble, Faye was finally able to understand the gist of everything. At that moment, she was also very surprised.

'After being married for four years, I should be the person who understands Zayn the most. But why didn't I know that he and Cristian knew each other? He even made Cristian call him Zayn politely? This all seems like a dream!'

Faye was very confused at that moment. She then walked over to pull Zayn to one side before she asked with a frown, "What happened?"

"What do you mean what happened?"

Zayn blinked his eyes.

"Stop playing dumb with me!" Faye pinched him. "Hurry up and explain clearly!"

When Zayn saw that she had actually become angry, he stopped building up the suspense and said with a smile, "Didn't I save Jordan once previously? Later on, I met up with Jordan and coincidentally got to know Cristian. Cristian thinks that I'm Jordan's relative, so he was just courteous to me when he saw me just now."

“Is that true?” Faye was slightly skeptical. ‘I can’t shake the feeling that Zayn’s become much more secretive than before. It’s like he’s hiding something from me.’

Zayn then said without batting an eyelid, “Of course, it’s true. Why would I lie to you? Besides, aren’t you the clearest about my background?”

Faye then believed his words. ‘Indeed, I know Zayn’s background very well. He’s just a poor kid from the countryside. I suppose this can only be the reason then.’

Faye then stopped thinking too much about the matter and rolled her eyes at Zayn before she said in a bad temper, “I see you really do know how to put on an act. If Cristian finds out that you’re lying to him, he’s definitely going to hate you.”

“Hehe, would he dare to?”

“What did you say?”

“Nothing, nothing at all.” Zayn shook his head and pointed at Cristian who was singing on the stage and said, “Let’s listen to some music.”

'I must say, as a famous celebrity, Cristian really does know a thing or two about singing. I can see that many people have taken out their phones to record a video of him to send to post on their social media to show off.'

Noticing Zayn's gaze on him, Cristian sang with even more motivation.

After that song, he took it upon himself and loudly said, "Next, I'm going to sing a song called 'Happy' which I would like to dedicate to Mr. Larson and his wife. I wish that their marriage will be everlasting and everloving till death do them apart!"

Instantly, the spotlights were all directed at Faye and Zayn as everyone cast envious gazes at them. This was especially true for Faye's female classmates whose eyes were red with jealousy.

The audience then gave them a heated round of applause.

Faye's face instantly turned red as her heart raced non-stop. Lub—dub...Lub—dub...

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0123**

Zayn grabbed the opportunity to hold her hand and revealed a warm smile to her.

Faye struggled for a moment, but when she noticed that she could not break free, she allowed Zayn to hold her hand as he pleased.

‘Speaking of which, this is actually the first time Zayn has held my hand since we were married for so long. It actually hurts a little.’

Then, some people amongst the crowd were happy while some were sad. Many of Faye’s male classmates who secretly loved her could not help but feel jealous. When they saw that their female goddess for many years had finally found her other half, they could not help but feel envious and jealous of Zayn.

This was especially true for Moses, whose eyes had turned icy-cold as he clenched his fists tightly with his teeth grinding against each other.

‘I’ve gone through so much to prepare for tonight’s gathering, even going so far as to bear all the expenses incurred and even inviting Cristian over to perform, just to show off in front of everyone with a huge bang. Then, I was going to win over Faye in one fell swoop and walk the path of the greatest victory in life. Unfortunately, Zayn’s appearance has ruined all of my plans and snatched the fruits of my labor away from me.’

At that moment, Moses’s envy and hatred towards Zayn had reached its peak.

‘I’m clearly supposed to be the one to enjoy everyone’s admiration, yet Zayn ended up taking all of that away. I hate this. I refuse to admit defeat!’



When humans faced extreme distortion in their emotions, they made very extreme decisions easily.

Moses took a deep look into Zayn's eyes and then walked to the side to make a phone call.

"Hello, is this King? It's me, Moses...Here's the thing. Are you free at the moment? I would like to borrow some of your men to beat someone up for me..."

After he hung up, Moses had a snicker on his face as he revealed a cold smile on his face. 'Hmph, Zayn, is it? Just you wait! No one has ever made me feel so much shame in my life before. Your retribution is coming for you right now!'

At that moment, there was a complete turn of events at the school gathering. No one went up to curry favor with Moses anymore. Instead, their eyes were set on Faye and Zayn.

That was the first time Faye actually felt like she was the main character, hence her mood became better because of it, especially when Cristian, the major celebrity had behaved so courteously towards her. All of these made her feel like she was in a dream.

After the school gathering was over and she returned to her car, she regained her senses and exclaimed, "No wonder everyone dreams of becoming a famous and respectable person."

Zayn started the car and had a deep, meaningful expression as he responded, "We can also become famous and respectable people as well."

Faye rolled her eyes at him and said sourly, "Heh, in our next life, you mean?"

Zayn faintly smiled and did not explain much to her.

After they left the resort and drove on another road, Zayn suddenly frowned and took a look at his rearview mirror before an interesting smile crept onto his face.

'Someone's following us.'

Zayn suddenly said to Faye, "Sit tight. I'm going to speed up now."

Faye said, "Why would you drive so fast? It's still early. There's no hurry for us to reach home."

"Someone's following behind us."

“What?!” Faye was stunned for a moment. “Who is it?”

“I’m not sure,” Zayn said, “But it’s likely that Moses sent them.”

“Moses?” Faye frowned and said, “Why would he send someone to follow us? You’re probably thinking too much about this. Moses has an excellent character and is a decent person.”

“I wouldn’t be so sure. I stole his spotlight tonight, so it’s likely that he’s coming after me for revenge because he can’t swallow his pride,” Zayn explained with a smile.

Faye disagreed angrily, “Stop being so petty. I know Moses’s character very well. He wouldn’t do this.”

However, right after she said that, a car suddenly appeared right in front of the road and directly parked horizontally to stop them in their tracks.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0124**

Zayn was able to react quickly, thus he instantly stepped on the brakes.

The air was instantly filled with the sound of his tires screeching and rubbing on the floor, followed by a faint burning smell.

However, even so, Zayn was still unable to brake in time, and he crashed into the car in front of him, causing the other car to have a huge dent in the middle.

Due to the huge inertia, Faye could not help but lean forward, causing her chest to be lacerated by her seat belt.

“Oh, no, how did we end up hitting another car again?” Faye cried nervously.

Soon, the two cars behind them surrounded their car. At the same time, two to three large hunks got out of all three cars and surrounded both Zayn and Faye.

“Where are your eyes? Do you know how to drive? You’ve completely wrecked my car! Get out of the car right now!”

A large and tall hunk slammed Zayn’s car bonnet with a loud bang. He had a very fierce expression on his face, and it was obvious that he was definitely hostile.

When Faye saw this, her face instantly became very pale and she became horribly frightened.

However, Zayn patted her hand and said to her in a gentle voice, "Don't worry. I'm here."

Faye looked at Zayn and was a little hateful as she said, "I told you not to drive so fast. Look, we've gotten ourselves into trouble again and crashed into someone else. If I'd known, I'd have done the driving."

Zayn rolled his eyes and was completely speechless. 'It's become her natural reaction to be so hateful towards me, isn't it?'

He then said in a deep voice, "Stay in the car. I'll go down and settle this."

Faye nodded her head. After biting her lip, she then added, "Be careful."

Zayn felt a warmth in his heart instantly and said with a smile, "Don't worry, I'll be fine. If you're bored, you can just take out your cell phone and play with it."

When Faye saw how confident Zayn looked, she could not help but feel a lot more relaxed. 'He's actually giving me a sense of security that's never been there before!'

After Zayn got out of the car, he sized up his surroundings. 'There are eight of them altogether, and they're all large hunks with a domineering and intimidating presence.'

Just one look at them is enough to tell that they're hostile and are here specifically for me.'

The large hunk leading them pointed at Zayn's nose and scowled rudely. "You little rascal, do you know how to drive? Are you blind?!"

Zayn was completely unfazed as he took a look at the car behind him. Sure enough, he saw Moses sitting inside. There was a sly expression filled with hatred on his face as he stared at Zayn.

Zayn then revealed a fake smile on his face as he said, "Guys, there's no need for you to put on an act anymore. You guys deliberately hit me."

"What did you say? Try saying one more word if you aren't afraid to die. You're the one who crashed into my car, yet you still dare to say that I'm the one who hit you?" The large, bald hunk's acting skills were absolutely bad. A single look at him was enough for anyone to tell that he was faking it.

The other large hunks began to point at Zayn's nose and scowled as well, spitting out very harsh words. Then, they boldly demanded that Zayn paid them 30 thousand dollars. Otherwise, he could forget even leaving that place.

Their expressions were very fierce as they cracked their knuckles. However, instead of scaring Zayn, Faye, who was inside the car, was horrified.

“30 thousand dollars? Are you guys robbing me? Are you actually telling me that that piece of metal junk you have is worth 30 thousand dollars?” Zayn said in disdain.

“I suppose you aren’t going to pay up if we don’t teach you a lesson!”

“Boys, let’s teach this man here a good lesson.”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0125**

“Boss, leave it to me!” One of the large hunks who had very ripped muscles had a cruel smile on his face. He then cracked his knuckles as he walked towards Zayn, glaring at him with an extremely arrogant expression on his face. “Hey there, boy, be a good boy and pay up that 30 thousand dollars. Otherwise, don’t blame me for being rough on you!”

Zayn looked at him like a village idiot and said, “Fool.”

“What the f\*ck!” The large hunk raised his fist in a rage and was about to swing it at Zayn’s face.

As Faye watched the whole thing very clearly from inside the car, her heart seemed to skip a beat. She opened the door and loudly said, “Stop! You’re racketeering right now! I’m calling the police!”

When the men heard that, the expression on their faces instantly changed. “B\*tch, you guys were the ones who hit my car, yet you have the nerve to call the police? Do you even value your lives?!”

As he said that, the bald hunk walked forwards and intended to grab Faye.

However, before he even managed to take two steps, he realized that someone was grabbing his shirt to pull him back. Then, a cold voice followed, “If you dare lay a finger on her, I’ll break your bones!”

The bald hunk did not know why, but when he heard that voice, he suddenly felt nervous and did not dare to make a move anymore.

Faye then rushed towards Zayn’s side and grabbed onto his arm. Her expression was extremely nervous. “Are you alright?”

Zayn shook his head and revealed a faint smile. “I’m fine. Didn’t I ask you to stay in the car? Why are you here?”

Faye lowered her head. ‘There’s no way I’m going to tell you that I was worried about you.’



The bald hunk turned to look behind him and locked eyes with Moses. Then, he spoke loudly, "I'm asking you one last time: are you going to pay up or not? If you don't, I'm going to break every single bone in your body and all of us are going to take turns raping your wife!"

When she heard that, Faye's face instantly turned pale as she began to tremble.

However, there was not an ounce of nervousness on Zayn's face. Instead, he had a look of disdain as he said, "Enough! You don't have to put on an act anymore. Ask Moses to come out this instant."

A hint of surprise flashed across the bald large hunk's eyes. 'I never expected that he would actually be able to see through it. I'm sure I acted very realistically.'

Faye was also surprised.

"Little boy! What nonsense are you on about?! Who's this Moses that you're talking about? You're trying to stall for time, aren't you?" The bald hunk's expression turned extremely dark as he tightly clenched his fists. As he did so, the muscles on his body shuddered and he looked very intimidating.

Zayn had a look of disdain on his face as he chuckled. He then looked at Moses, who was in the car, and said loudly, "Moses, you don't have to hide there anymore. Come out. I know it was you who sent these men after us."

Faye was shocked. 'Is Zayn actually telling the truth? Could Moses have really sent these people to seek revenge? But the Moses I know isn't like this!'

However, there was no reaction as Moses still refused to leave his car.

Just as Faye thought that Zayn was being oversensitive, Zayn looked towards Moses's direction and provoked him by sticking out his thumb and pointing it downwards. As he did that, he waved his hand around and had an extremely scornful expression on his face.

When Moses saw that from within his car, he instantly became mad. He was already extremely furious at Zayn, but now that Zayn had humiliated him like that again, how could he possibly swallow that pride of his? As a result, he opened the car door and walked out.

"Zayn, I see that you're quite the smart one. You actually managed to guess that it was me." There was a cold smile on Moses's face. "However, so what if you found out? You're not going to be able to escape tonight! How dare you steal my spotlight? I think you've grown tired of living now!"

Moses had a cruel look on his face as he gave Zayn a death stare. At that moment, he had completely dropped his entire act.

When Faye spotted Moses, she was so shocked that her eyes flew wide open. Zayn then smiled at her and said, "Honey, I wasn't lying to you, was I? I told you that it was Moses who sent people after us, but you just wouldn't believe me."

Faye clenched her teeth. "Moses, why are you doing this? You weren't like this in the past."

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0126

When Faye said that, apart from being shocked, she was mostly disappointed in him. Her impression of Moses had always been pretty good. As one of the top students when they were in school, he could not have become that much worse after graduating.

'However, after tonight, I'm utterly disappointed in Moses's behavior. Not only was he a grandiose and a show-off during the school gathering, but he also even sent some gangsters to exact his revenge.'

Moses's character had already been distorted, hence when he faced Faye's question, he revealed a menacing expression on his face. "Why am I doing this? You actually still have the nerve to ask me why I'm doing this?!"

"Just now, at the school gathering, you must've been extremely elated to be able to show off like that, weren't you? Even Cristian has to behave so respectfully towards your husband. You must feel so proud! Now, I want the both of you to behave the same way as you did in front of me again!"

As Moses spoke, he became more and more agitated and angry to the extent that the menacing look on his face became more and more intense. At that moment, apart from looking like a beast, how could he even have a hint of elegance and graciousness?

Faye clenched her teeth tightly. "Then, what do you want us to do? Apologize to you? If that's what you want, I can tell you now that I'm sorry."

Moses laughed coldly. "Do you really think you're able to put this all behind us with just an apology? Heh, Faye, are you truly that naive, or are you trying to insult me?"

As he said that, he leisurely walked towards them and said to Zayn, "I'll admit that I underestimated you. I never thought that you'd actually know Cristian. So what? You're still within my grasp at the moment, hehe."

Zayn squinted his eyes and said in a deep, meaningful tone, "Moses, I advise you not to act rashly and be more broad-minded. I didn't intend to steal your spotlight tonight. How could I have known that you were going to invite Cristian over?"

When Moses heard that, he became even more frustrated. "Taking things for granted now, are you? I think you really don't understand the value of life at all! King, go and take him down for me!"

"Yes, Mr. Belon." With a wave from King's hand, all the burly men were ready to pounce on Zayn.

"Wait!" Zayn shouted.

Moses then yelled for them to stop and said in disdain, "What's the matter? Are you afraid now?"

Zayn had a sunken face as he said to Moses, "What exactly do you want?"

"Simple." Moses portrayed the attitude of a victor as he began to chuckle. "As long as you knee] and apologize to me and crawl between my knees, I'll let you off."

Faye's expression instantly changed as she scowled. "Moses, we're both ex-classmates. Do you really have to do this?!"

Moses laughed in disdain as he looked towards Faye. "Ex-classmates? So what?! I'm just going to be forthcoming with you. He's going to get down on his knees and admit his mistake. I'll also be recording a video of it to send to our group. Wasn't he pretending to be oh so awesome just now?! Now, I really want to see how he's going to put that show on again in the future. As for you..."

Moses snickered as he revealed a lecherous expression. He sized Faye's body up with his eyes and gulped. "As for you, why don't you forget about going home tonight and let's go to a hotel to have a reunion as ex-classmates? Haha."

When she heard that, Faye was both angry and panicked. She was so furious that her body trembled.

When she heard that, Faye was both angry and panicked. She was so furious that her body trembled. “I haven’t got that much patience. I’m going to count to three. If you still won’t get down on your knees, don’t blame me for what happens next!” Moses’s tone became extremely cold as he began to count, “One, two, ...”

At that moment, Zayn sighed and said, “I’ve given you your chance, but you just won’t take it. What a shame.”

“I think you just won’t admit defeat until you’ve got the lights beaten out of you. King, get him!” Moses lost his patience and once again revealed a menacing expression on his face.

After King received his orders, he had a cold smile on his face as he gave his two subordinates beside him a signal. Then, they began to stride towards Zayn as they began to imagine how this cat and mouse game was going to pan out.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0127**

“Kiddo, you asked for this.”

With one person on his left and another on his right, they both reached out their hands to grab onto Zayn. Their actions were very casual as they had completely underestimated Zayn.

Faye was so frightened that she had gone completely pale. She was shivering as she covered her face. However, before they were even able to lay their hands on Zayn, with two loud bangs, they yelled out in agony as they directly knelt before Zayn with painful expressions.

When the crowd saw that, they were all stunned. 'What just happened?'

Zayn's actions were so quick that he hit the two large hunks at their weak spots with utmost speed, accuracy, and ferocity when he suddenly attacked. Thus, the two of them sprawled on the ground immediately.

"Ouch, this hurts so badly..."

"My hip!"

The two large hunks fell onto the ground and groveled in pain.



When Faye heard their groans, she opened her eyes. Upon seeing the sight before her, she was immediately dumbfounded.

No one else was able to see Zayn's movements clearly, but King did. He retracted his underestimating gaze which was replaced with a grave expression. Then, he said to Zayn in a deep voice, "It seems like I've underestimated you. I never thought that you'd have trained before. Where did you train, boy?"

Zayn laughed as he taunted, "What's the matter? Are you scared?"

"Scared? That word doesn't even exist in my dictionary!" King snorted coldly and began taking off his jacket, revealing the undershirt inside. His lean and ripped muscles instantly filled the sight of anyone present. Just a single glance was enough to discern that he was a hunk who knew how to fight.

Faye hurriedly pulled at Zayn. "What are we going to do now?"

"It's fine, I'm here." Zayn patted her hand and had a calm look on his face.

"A runt who doesn't value his life! Just go to hell! "

King's voice was very rough and domineering as he emanated a huge presence. He had decided to deal with Zayn and take him down personally.

Regardless, King was still pretty ferocious. Under normal circumstances, three to five people ganging up on him might not even be able to take him down.

However, as swiftly as he attacked, he retreated even quicker. Just as he rushed in front of Zayn, before he was even able to attack, Zayn suddenly launched a kick and sent him flying immediately.

King then fell onto the ground with a loud thud.

Faye's mouth was wide open as she stared at the scene in disbelief. 'Since when was Zayn able to fight so well? Isn't he just a deadbeat who only knows how to do house chores?'

The remaining large hunks all revealed shocked expressions. They knew very well how strong King was.

'How could he be so powerless in the face of this guy?'

'What...?'

Moses's victorious expression froze, and he even stopped smoking. He suddenly felt a bad omen welling up within!

Zayn then hooked his finger at the remaining large hunks. "All of you can come at me at the same time. At least, I won't have to deal with you one by one."

"Gulp!"

The remaining large hunks swallowed their saliva at the same time. They then took a step back with surprise written all over their faces. How could they even have the guts to make a move on Zayn? They were not stupid. How could they not realize who was the strongest among them?

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0128**

As Faye's mouth gaped wide open, she felt that everything was unreal. 'Is he actually the Zayn I know?'

When Zayn saw that the large hunks were all terrified of him, he began walking towards Moses.

Moses's face instantly became pale and a horrified expression was painted on his face as he staggered backward. "What... What's happening?" he muttered in confusion, unable to understand why that was happening.

He was well aware of the abilities King, who was a professional fighter, had.

'In the end, in the face of Zayn, King was unable to even spar with him for a second? This is so unreal!'

'If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I would've even suspected that there was foul play! I would've suspected that King and Zayn were both putting on a show for me to watch.'

However, with the truth dangling itself right in front of Moses's face, how could he not believe it?

When Zayn stood in front of him, he revealed a bright smile on his face. "Did you want me to get down on my knees and crawl between your legs?"

"I..."

Bam!

A slap landed on Moses's face, instantly sending his glasses flying. He spun around on the spot once before falling onto the ground.

That slap directly sent Moses and all the arrogance and confidence he had in him flying. At the same time, Zayn had also woken him up from his drunken state with that slap. Moses sniveled for a moment and his eyes had gone completely red. He was actually crying!

Zayn then kicked him over and stared down at him from up above. "I warned you not to act rashly, yet you decided to let my words fall on deaf ears."

In the face of Zayn's intimidating presence, Moses was having a complete mental breakdown. "I'm sorry. I was wrong. Please let me go and not find fault with me."

"Did you just realize that you're wrong? Too bad. It's already too late," Zayn rebuked him. Then, he took his cell phone out of his pocket. "Save those words for the police."

When he heard that, Moses became even more terrified, and he immediately got down on his knees to desperately beg Zayn for mercy. "Please, please don't call the police! I'm begging you. I don't want to be sent to jail!"

With his runny nose and tears all over his face, Moses looked extremely dreadful, unlike how slick and cool he was a moment ago during the school gathering.

When Faye saw the scene, she actually felt pretty smug. ‘When we were in middle school, Moses was still the top student and a decent person whereby we both studied hard and saw each other as rivals and motivated each other. However, now, he’s a completely different person.’

“Zayn!” Faye called out to him.

“Yes?”

“Let him go.”

“Are you sure?” Zayn had a slight frown on his face.

Faye nodded firmly.

“Alright” Zayn then released Moses.

During the journey home, no one said a word. Faye had a frown on her face and was deep in her thoughts. When they arrived home, she spoke up to Zayn, “Thank you for tonight.”

Zayn laughed as he said, “Don’t be silly. We’re married. What’s there to thank?”

When she heard the word “married”, Faye’s lips moved as if she wanted to say something. However, she remained silent in the end.

“I’m a little tired. Come in and sleep tonight.”

‘I can finally sleep in the room tonight! I wonder when I will be able to level up and sleep in the same bed as her.’

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0129**

‘Right, if I work a little harder, that dream will definitely come true someday!’

Because Faye’s car had been hit last night, the front of the vehicle now had a huge dent in it and its headlamp was completely broken. Therefore, when Ruby woke up that morning, she went completely mental when she saw the state of the car. Then, she grabbed Faye as she scolded, “Zayn, you moron, how did you drive last night? You’ve wrecked the car completely. Are you deliberately going against our family?!”

Zayn remarked, "It's not that serious, is it? Besides, someone crashed into me, not the other way around."

Ruby immediately slapped the back of Zayn's head and placed both her hands by her hips. Then, in a crazed state, she pointed at his nose and scowled very severely, "You've got quite some nerve. How dare you talk back to me?!"

'She's so aggressive this morning. Did she just consume some kind of explosive medicine?'

Faye, who was by the side, could not listen to her any longer. "Morn, stop scolding him. I was the one who drove last night, and I was the one who smashed the car. Furthermore, so what if it's wrecked? We can still claim compensation from our insurance."

Ruby angrily glowered. "Do we not have to pay to claim from our insurance? Our premium is going to be even more expensive next year. Won't I be the one who'll have to pay for it in the end?"

Zayn grew impatient after hearing that, so he said, "You don't have to pay for it. I'll pay for the insurance premium next year."

Unexpectedly, Ruby became even angrier and attempted to slap him on the back of his head once again. "Hmph! You deadbeat, have I been giving you too much leeway recently? How dare you talk back? How dare you retaliate against me?!"



Instead of being hit on the back of his head though, Zayn turned around and steadily grabbed Ruby's hand before reprimanding in a deep voice, "Mom, can you not keep on slapping my head from now on? I have my pride too, you know?"

Ruby's expression instantly changed to become dark. "Well, well! It seems like the deadbeat has learned how to retaliate now. He actually has the nerve to fight back! Waine, your wife is being bullied. Hurry up and come beat this guy up!"

Her loud screams and rude behavior caused Zayn to have a headache.

Waine, who was reading the newspapers in the living room, said in a foul mood, "Ruby, can you stop messing around? It's just a car that's been damaged. It'll be fine once we repair it. Do you actually need to behave like that?"

"Great, you're both ganging up on me now!" Ruby's expression turned menacing.

"Enough!" Faye suddenly slammed the table ferociously as her expression turned cold. "Shut up, all of you! I'll pay for the insurance premium next year. You don't have to fork out a single cent for it."

When Ruby heard that, the look on her face evened out. Apart from letting out a heavy snort, she did not say anything else.

After they were done with breakfast, Faye said to Zayn, “Drop me at work, then send it for repair at 4S right away.”

Zayn nodded his head and said, “Alright.”

‘I guess I won’t be able to head to Violet Vision today.’

After sending Faye to the office, Zayn immediately drove to 4S.

Because the car had been banged up pretty seriously, it would take a much longer time to repair at least five to six hours. Zayn would be bored stiff if he were to stay there, hence he thought he might as well do some shopping nearby and see if there was anything worth buying.

‘Speaking of which, I haven’t actually bought a proper gift for Faye, have I? When I was at the jewelry store previously, I bought her ‘Eternal Heart’ and was going to give it to her. In the end, because she misunderstood me, I wasn’t able to give it to her.’

Coincidentally, there was a street filled with shops upfront, so Zayn went over to try and see if he was able to pick out something suitable for Faye.

After walking for a moment, he arrived at an antique store and suddenly noticed many people surrounding its entrance. It seemed to be very happening which piqued Zayn's interest, so he walked over to see what was happening.

"460 thousand dollars! I can't go any lower than that!"

A determined male voice sounded from within the crowd, causing others to think that the price could not be lowered any further.

Instantly, there was the sound of someone taking a deep breath. "460 thousand dollars! That's not a small amount."

Then, there was another woman's voice that came from behind the previous voice, "If that really is Picasso's work of art, 460 thousand dollars is small change."

'Picasso's work of art?'

Zayn was startled for a moment and was instantly attracted. He squeezed through the crowd, and his eyes instantly sparkled because he saw a very beautiful man. No, to be more precise, she was a woman, a woman in man's clothes...

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0130

Actually, besides just Zayn, everyone at the scene was able to distinguish her as a woman. Furthermore, she did not have an Adam's apple. Plus, her makeup was not done well enough to cover up her feminine charms.

She looked exactly like how the characters in television dramas would cross-dress, but the audience would instantly be able to tell except for herself. Instead, she would think that she had done a very good job, leaving everyone speechless.

However, Zayn was also able to tell that the cross-dressed woman was from a wealthy family. That was because she had two bodyguards amongst the crowd.

Soon, he shifted his gaze from the woman and looked at the painting in her hands. The painting was about a meter long and about half a meter wide. Despite it being abstract art, anyone would be able to notice what kind of hidden meaning the painting had through its distinct colors and patterns. Just one glimpse at it and anyone could tell that it was a masterpiece. .

As everyone knew, there were many famous painters in the past with Picasso being one of the outstanding ones with "Mona Lisa". Therefore, it was a rare sight to be able to see his paintings on the streets. If it were genuine, the price of 460 thousand dollars would be considered a very good deal.

However, many people would begin to suspect if it was genuine at all. If it really was genuine, why would it be sold at a place like that? Would it not be safely kept somewhere instead?

Many people among the crowd had begun to ask this very question, hence the store owner calmly said, "I know you won't believe me. Hmph, did you think you wouldn't be able to see Picasso's work being distributed on the streets? Let me tell you then. This painting that I have is 100% genuine. It was once owned by a good friend of mine, but because his business was failing, he sold me this painting for 400 thousand dollars. I'm now merely trying to sell it for a profit of 60 thousand dollars. I don't suppose that's too much to ask now, is it?"

The slightly plump store owner was donned in a violet suit, but he gave off the aura that he was a professional.

"What do you think, Mr. Smith? Would you like to purchase this painting? If you don't, I would like to offer this to someone else now." The store owner took the painting away from "Mr. Smith's" hands.

"Mr. Smith" remained silent as he began to ponder. 'I can't tell whether this is genuine or not, but 460 thousand dollars isn't actually that expensive. If I were to actually buy a fake, that would be so embarrassing. If I took it back with me, I'd definitely be seen as a laughing stock. I must be careful.'

However, at that moment, a man in a suit with a strange presence walked over. He was a middle-aged man who seemed to be successful. The man then said to the store owner, "Sir, sell me this Picasso's painting for 460 thousand dollars. You have a deal!"

The store owner had a delighted expression on his face as he said, “You really are magnificent, kind sir. You’re able to buy it for 460 thousand dollars without a single negotiation! You’re much more generous than some other people. In that case, this Picasso’s painting is now yours.”

The middle-aged man was instantly elated as he hurriedly accepted the painting. As he studied the painting in detail, he revealed an ecstatic and infatuated expression on his face as he shouted out “Very good” a few times.

“This really is Picasso’s painting. What a rare gem! How rare a find! Picasso was one of the famous artists for his paintings. Many people only know about Leonardo Da Vinci’s paintings, but not many know that Picasso’s work is actually much better than Leonardo’s! I’ve been searching for genuine art by Picasso for many years now. Never would I have thought that I’d actually find it here. This is such a rare find, such a rare find!”

The middle-aged man was very excited as both his hands trembled uncontrollably. It was very hard for anyone to suspect if he was putting on a show.

If it was not because Zayn was born from a wealthy family and being forced by his parents to study art since he was young, thus allowing him to have profound knowledge about it, he would not have been able to tell that it was a fake painting and that it was all just a scam.

Sure enough, “Mr. Smith”, the woman who cross-dressed as a man, was the first to fall into their trap.

Immediately, she became anxious as she hurriedly said, “Excuse me, sir, I was the one who saw this painting first! So, it’s only natural that you should let me have a say first!”

The store owner frowned and had a calm expression as he said, “Didn’t you not want it anymore? Now that another client has laid his eyes on it, how can you actually stop me from doing business?”

“Of course I want it! Who said I didn’t? “Mr. Smith” hurriedly said, “My old man loves Picasso the most. So, if I buy this back, I’ll definitely be able to make him happy.”

Her words made many people sympathize with her. Clearly, everyone could tell that she was a woman. Only she was still tricked by her own self and thought that she had been very successful in her disguise.

A hint of glee flashed in the store owner’s eyes, but it very quickly turned into an aggrieved one as he frowned. “About that... Why didn’t you tell me sooner? Now that another client has laid his eyes on it, you’re just making things difficult for me!”

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 131 - 135

Mr. Smith stood up straight and said, “I don’t care then. I’m the one who had my eyes on the painting first, and I hadn’t declared precisely that I’m not buying earlier.”

The middle-aged man on the side was displeased as he said, “Boss, here’s 500 thousand dollars. Sell me the Picasso piece. Your original price was 460 thousand dollars, and now I’m making you a higher offer, so there’s no need for you to prioritize the first- come, first -serve basis anymore, is there?”

The sound of people gasping in shock could be heard coming from the crowd at once. “Whoa! 500 thousand dollars is enough to buy a luxury villa. He’s filthy rich!”

“This shows that this really is a genuine artwork of Picasso’s. He is a renowned painter after all. If he is so famous, it seems that 500 thousand dollars isn’t considered expensive.”

“It’s not considered pricey, of course. Look at the painting. It’s impressive. Hanging it on display in one’s home will taint the home with its artistic value, and perhaps it can even boost the family’s impressiveness. Sigh, what a waste that I’m poor. Otherwise, I would’ve bought it too!”

“That’s right. If you have friends over at your house, they’d be really impressed to see Picasso’s original work too.”



Mr. Smith heard the audience's remarks and felt even more determined. She clenched her teeth and said, "600 thousand dollars! Boss, I'll get it for 600 thousand dollars and I'll make the payment now."

600 thousand dollars!

Upon hearing the number, the joy in the owner's gaze could not be concealed anymore. Moreover, he looked straight into the eyes of the middle-aged man and they exchanged glances. He had already come up with an idea.

The painting was actually a forgery, and its cost price was only about 4,600 dollars. If the painting could be sold at 600 thousand dollars, it would be a hefty profit! Moreover, judging by the buyer's foolish behavior, the person would not be able to do anything even if he were to discover that it was a forgery.

"Hey, you, you must be trying to compete with me to see who's richer, aren't you?!" The middle-aged man feigned anger.

Mr. Smith immediately said, "Sir, I really need this painting. Please just let me have it, alright?"

Noticing the person's sincerity, the middle-aged man hesitated for a long time before he said with great difficulty, "Alright, I can see that you're a nice person, so I shall let you have it then. Boss, sell it to him. 600 thousand dollars is a steal, sigh..."

The crowd was discussing how it was a good price in a timely manner too, which pleased Mr. Smith very much upon hearing that. She felt as if he had truly gotten herself a huge bargain.

“Boss, do you accept card payment here? I don’t have that much cash on me now.”

“Yes, we do! ” The owner hastily took out the POS terminal.

Just as Mr. Smith took out her credit card and he was about to make the payment, Zayn could not bear to watch anymore. He stepped forward and clapped while laughing. “Impressive, impressive. It’s been a long time since I’ve witnessed a fraud that involves so many people.”

In an instant, everyone looked toward him.

Apart from the owner of the antique store and the middle-aged man from earlier looking at him with a hostile gaze, most of the crowd was also gazing at him with murderous intent.

Mr. Smith froze in the midst of swiping her card subconsciously.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0132

“What kind of nonsense are you going on about, huh? You good-for-nothing brat!” scolded the owner of the antique store as he peered down at Zayn rudely. He was seething with rage.

Mr. Smith had her brows furrowed as well as she glanced over at Zayn in equal puzzlement and indignation.

As she came from a wealthy family, she was raised to possess a refined palate and impeccable taste. She occasionally dabbled in the world of paintings and murals as well. From what she had to go off of, the Picasso painting looked like the real thing, and she was sure that it had not been tampered with at all. On the other hand, the man in front of her was claiming that it

was a fake. Was he really challenging her expertise? In a certain sense, he was also trying to humiliate her.

Zayn kept a level head despite the many murderous gazes staring back at him. He casually circled the room, a relaxed smile playing on his lips. “I’m the one talking nonsense? You’re the ones who are asking me to pay 600 thousand dollars for a phoney painting that’s worth what three to four thousand dollars? You have some real nerve. That amount of money could land you in jail for years.”

The owner of the antique store became even more infuriated, though you could see a twinge of guilt in his eyes. Refusing to drop his act, he spat back coldly. “You’re crazy.

You're just here to stir up trouble, aren't you? I'm starting to think that you're a pathetic competitor of mine who can't make a deal for his life, so instead you come over and harass me because you're jealous I can make over 150 thousand dollars without getting on my knees and begging!"

Despite his untruthfulness, one had to acknowledge his quick thinking. The owner of the antique store had whipped up a lie on the spot by accusing Zayn of being a fellow competitor who was only here to stir up trouble because of his uncontrollable envy.

The tomboy nodded to herself, considering the possibility by the owner's side of the story due to his rather convincing statement. Zayn was rendered speechless upon noticing her reaction. What was going on in that tomboy's brain? How could she not see through such a poorly-crafted ruse? It did not take much for her to be swayed.

At the same time, a voice was heard shouting out from the crowd of onlookers. "Hey, I know him! Everyone in Waltz City knows him because he married into the Carters. What is he doing here anyways?"

"Is that so? Why haven't I heard of him then? What is he even famous for?"

"He's infamous for being a good-for-nothing deadbeat! Hah-hah-hah. You're not from there, so you wouldn't know. Everyone knows him for being a worthless loafer."

"Hah-hah, now that you've said that, I have a rough idea. His wife is an absolute doll, isn't she? He's well-known for all the wrong reasons. I heard he's close to useless, and

that he just hides out in the Carter family home while relying on them for everything. He's an embarrassment to all men!"

"Ain't that right. That's no way for a man to live. If I were him, I would've pulled the plug on myself a long time ago."

"Speaking of which, if he's hiding out at the Carters, why is he outside?"

Simply because someone had recognized Zayn, he was now being bombarded by an endless torrent of verbal abuse.

"Married into the Carters?" The tomboy, Mr. Smith, was rather surprised. Her glare was laced with spite as her eyes dug a hole into Zayn's despicable face. She hated nothing more than when men who had no desire for self-improvement paraded their terrible attitude. A man who was willing to marry and live with his wife's family, could there be anything more pathetic?

Zayn was unbothered. It was not due to a lack of dignity, but the many years of disrespect that had left him desensitized. Many people misunderstood him, and he had long given up on trying to change their many biased opinions of him.

The owner of the antique store breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing the crowd's unanimous discussion. It seemed like he had nothing to fear, Zayn was merely a good-for-nothing deadbeat who married into his wife's family. There was nothing threatening about him at all!

“Not so tough now, are you? P\*ss off, get out of here and stop disturbing my paying customers!” cried the owner triumphantly.

At his command, two burly staff members marched over to escort Zayn outside.

The owner directed his attention to the tomboy, “Mr. Smith, he’s a lunatic. Ignore him. You can swipe your card at the register, and I’ll wrap the painting up personally. I know for a fact that your father-in-law will love this painting!”

The tomboy kept her hands on her credit card. She was starting to suspect that something was off. The owner was rushing her to make the transaction. Even if she had no concrete proof of the painting being forged, she recognized the owner’s strange behavior.

“I’m not in a rush. How about we listen to his explanation?” The tomboy asked Zayn curiously. “What’s the basis of your argument? Why do you think this painting’s forged?”

There was a brief flicker of apprehension in the owner’s expression, but he hid it well. His features darkened as he exchanged glances with the middle-aged man who stood before him. They sensed the hatred in each other’s eyes, acknowledging they had a shared loathing for that freeloading deadbeat.

“Alright. Since you believe this painting’s forged, what part of it is forged exactly? If you can’t back up your claim, you’ve basically committed slander! Don’t come crying to me when I stop going easy on you.” The owner sneered threateningly.

Zayn chuckled softly. Despite every pair of eyes being trained on him, he did not falter in his confidence. One would expect him to be overwhelmed with fear and dread, but in fact, it was the complete opposite. Noticing his cool demeanor, the tomboy could not help but wonder whether his behavior was expected of a deadbeat who married into his wife's family. She doubted so.

“Can you please hand the Picasso painting over? I need to take a closer look.” Zayn requested of the tomboy, a well meaning smile on his lips.

The tomboy considered for a moment, nodded, and passed the Picasso painting to Zayn obediently.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0133**

“Thank you.”

Zayn placed the painting flat on the table. He made note of the canvas material being very worn. It looked quite old. The linen canvas had yellowed with age, but the material was thick and rough. The oil paint was dried and hardened, giving it the effect of being painted from a past century.

Judging from the material, there were no weak points. Moreover, the piece of artwork was painted with cubism in mind. A layman would have no way of telling the real from the fake.

In fact, even an art lover would have a hard time recognizing it was forged. Anyone who could confirm it to be a counterfeit was certainly a connoisseur.

It was such a waste that Zayn specialised in such a niche field. As a young boy, he was pressured by his father into pursuing cultured pastimes such as music, chess, and painting. It also helped that he was exceptionally gifted in the arts. Combined with his honed skills and dedicated training, an average expert was no match for a prodigy like himself.

“Boss, I would like to inquire-how long has it been since the Cubism period?” questioned Zayn with an unsuspecting smile.

The owner grunted once before retorting, “You’re just a simpleton, just as I expected. Why accuse me of selling a fake painting when you don’t even know how long it’s been since the Cubism period?”

Zayn was not at all deterred by his brash remarks, instead he continued to smile. “Since you haven’t given me an immediate answer, I can safely assume that you don’t have a clue either. Is that right?”

The owner grimaced, confirming Zayn’s theory. He was, in fact, spot on. The owner of the antique store knew little to nothing about the Cubism period.

The middle-aged man from earlier chimed in, “The Cubism period spanned from 1909 to 1919, it’s been close to 100 years.”



Zayn maintained his smile, just as he had prior. “In other words, you’re claiming that this painting is at least 100 years old.”

“You can say that.”

“You’re lying!” Zayn objected abruptly, startling quite a number of people.

The owner lowered his voice threateningly. “How could I be lying? If you don’t manage to explain it concisely, you’re not walking out of this store alive!”

The corners of Zayn’s lips curled ever so slightly into a disdainful smirk. “I assume that it is common knowledge to everyone here in this room that a painting’s authenticity, besides examining the artwork itself, is determined by a number of other factors. For example, the material of the canvas, the original stretcher, and the layering of the paint which act as indicators during the painting’s appraisal. On the other hand, the latter indicators are significantly harder to forge, which means that they play the most crucial part in the whole process.”

The tomboy nodded to herself as she digested his words. She had a sneaking suspicion that whatever Zayn was talking about actually held an inkling of reasoning behind it.

“That’s true,” she said.

Zayn continued on, “ Everyone is aware that it’s been 100 years since the Cubism period. Picasso’s artwork has been preserved for an eternity. However, even well preserved pieces will wear from time, and this piece is supposed to be very old indeed. Don’t you find it strange that the painting before us looks so new?”

The middle-aged man spat with a cold glare, “That’s all you have to back up your accusation? It’s obvious you’re just a layman!”

“What an attention seeker.”

“Calm down, I wasn’t done talking yet.” Zayn smiled as he explained, “The work of any renowned artist can be preserved for an extensive period of time, on the grounds that high-quality paints are applied. Despite this, such high quality paints will inevitably age over the course of a century. The oil paint on this painting looks like it hasn’t aged a day-how abnormal. This is an indicator.”

“Secondly…”

Zayn went on to elaborate his points with proper terminologies only a connoisseur would be eloquent with. The crowd consisted largely of art lovers, so the majority could roughly understand his long expositioning. Mr. Smith’s eyes lit up with each word that left Zayn’s lips. It finally confirmed her suspicions of the painting being a counterfeit.

“With all of that being said, I can affirm that this so-called Picasso piece is nothing but a counterfeit!” Zayn declared assertively, his voice resonating throughout the space, “The

jig is up, you'll be put to jail all because of your sad excuse of a counterfeit. You'll be paying 600 thousand dollars for your crimes, so you're not going anywhere for eight or ten years."

As the words hung in the air, you could see the color drain from the owner's face.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0134**

Many of his accomplices in the crowd were severely taken aback as well.

Resentment grew inside the tomboy as she tried to swallow the fact that someone had attempted to swindle her. They truly were a bunch of audacious con artists!

600 thousand dollars would not leave a dent in her pockets at all, but it would be mortifyingly embarrassing if news of the incident were to circulate. She was just about to burst from humiliation just thinking about it. "You very well had the audacity to try and swindle me with your counterfeit! You must be tired of living-let me relocate you to a living hell!"

She ordered her two bodyguards to contact the police so that the owner of the antique store could be detained and tried. Realizing this, the owner of the antique store fled hurriedly in the other direction. Though, he could not outrun the tomboy's bodyguards, as he was quickly captured before he managed to gain distance.

Meanwhile, the middle-aged man who had been his co-accomplice was starting to lose his cool. He seized the opportunity to slip into the crowd and escape once he knew everyone was distracted amidst the chaos.

“It’s a little too late to be hatching your escape plan, isn’t it?”

The voice piped up from behind him, before a hand grabbed at the man’s shirt aggressively.

The middle-aged man’s features contorted unhappily the moment he was seized. He turned around to face the menace, staring daggers at him vindictively. “Hey, why is your hand on my shirt?”

Zayn said, “You did a great job pulling off that act of yours and tampering with the authenticity of the painting. Everyone thought you were a real buyer. Why are you panicking now that your accomplice is in cuffs?”

Zayn’s remark had drawn the attention of a couple of people.

The tomboy asked in disbelief. “You’re saying that he’s an accomplice to the owner?”

“Of course, he’s his co-accomplice,” confirmed Zayn mockingly.

“That is of course. He is the supporting accomplice,” said Zayn mockingly.

Many from the crowd began degrading the middle-aged man. Anyone with a brain could realize that he was an accomplice, and he did it all in an attempt to swindle the tomboy.

Once the situation had escalated beyond proportion, the middle-aged man could not suppress his rage anymore. He panicked before throwing an unexpected punch at Zayn. “F\*ck you!”

It was evident that the middle-aged man’s reaction speed was rather impressive, and that his punch was also painfully strong. Anyone besides Zayn would have taken his punch right to the face.

It was such a shame that it just so happened to be Zayn.

Zayn dodged the punch like it was just like a practice session, and as a return gift, he delivered a kick to the man’s knee that was so hard it made him fall to his knees. He gritted his teeth as cold sweat started to drench his forehead.

It had now dawned on the middle-aged man that fleeing was no longer an option. He scowled at Zayn. “I’ll remember you, son-in-law to the Carters! How dare you ruin our master plan! Our organization won’t let you off so easy, just you wait!”

With that, he burst into hysterical laughter, as if the concept of fear had suddenly just escaped him.

Zayn walked forwards to deliver a few slaps to his face, glaring at him with disdain. He had hit him so hard that he was already experiencing heavy swelling. The murderous intent in Zayn's eyes was enough to snap the middle-aged man out of his frenzy, and instead make him beg for forgiveness

Zayn called the police in advance, so it did not take long before the police had arrived.

It was discovered through a quick investigation that the duo were wanted criminals with padded criminal records. They committed crimes of forgery and counterfeiting in the past, but managed to evade capture on numerous occasions. They happened to be cornered by Zayn this time around.

Zayn's act of noble courage and quick wit was recognized immediately. The police wanted to present him a medal to honor his contribution to society. There were even journalists who wanted to interview him on his heroism, yet he turned them all down. He did not want to keep a high profile.

"Hang on!"

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0135**

Just as he was about to leave, someone called out from behind him. He turned around to find that it was the tomboy, Mr. Smith.

Zayn stopped in his tracks. "Anything else?"

The tomboy had very delicate features, and her complexion resembled the pure, driven snow. She was a very beautiful woman, and anyone could make that conclusion in just a glance, which was why she dressed the way that she did. Ironically enough, she was far more attractive than most of the young male artistes on the entertainment scene.

As she walked over, Zayn noticed a faint scent radiating off of her body. Zayn was curious, was she unaware of how masculine she appeared in the mirror before leaving the house?

"Thank you for your help earlier. If it wasn't for your timely rescue, I would've gone home with a fake painting." The tomboy thanked Zayn sincerely, expressing her heartfelt gratitude to him for his assistance.

Zayn said, "Don't mention it, it's no trouble to me at all."

The tomboy continued sheepishly, "Goodness, it's all my fault for jumping the gun like that. I had no idea that they were con artists. By the way, I hope you don't mind me asking, are you a connoisseur? How could you tell that painting was a counterfeit? I didn't suspect a thing, and I was looking at it for quite some time."

It was something that the tomboy could not wrap her head around. From what she had heard from the crowd, Zayn was a married man who lived with his wife's family. Plus, he was apparently notorious for being unable to hold a stable job. He acted nothing like the man the crowd was claiming him to be.

In fact, Zayn's confidence and sensibility was something that many successful young men had yet to master.

Zayn responded, "I was only throwing out wild guesses, I'm not whatever connoisseur you think I am."

Realizing that Zayn refused to entertain any of her further queries, the tomboy was slightly displeased, but she respected his wishes. After all, they barely knew each other if at all.

"Please, allow me to introduce myself. Call me Alex Smith," said the tomboy amicably as she offered a handshake. In truth, her birth name was Alexandra Smith, but she went by a more androgynous contraction of her name when she was masculine presenting. She was rather proud of herself, as she believed that no one could see through her carefully crafted guise.

Who would have thought that Zayn saw right through her.

Faced with a gorgeous, confident woman who was masculine presenting, Zayn had no idea what to feel about her frankly, he found her rather strange. It took a moment of



consideration before he accepted her handshake as he introduced himself as well. "I'm Zayn Larson, pleasure to meet you."

"Zayn Larson, what a nice name." Alexandra spoke in an impressively deep and resonant voice that easily fooled most people. "Hey, dude. I bet you're starving too, aren't you? I could go for some good food right about now. Maybe we could have a beer or two, so what do you say? Hah-hah-hah..."

Zayn felt uncomfortable. She was fully committing to her identity, and while admirable, it was starting to feel slightly off putting.

He shook his head as he politely declined, "No thanks, I'm actually quite full..."

However, his stomach betrayed him. Before he could even finish his sentence, his stomach growled in protest. To say that it was awkward would have been an understatement.

Alexandra punched his chest playfully as she burst into a fit of laughter. "Hey, dude. What? Do you think you're too good for me? Come on, there's a Hadesian restaurant nearby that serves killer food. Who knows when I might see you again, so let's celebrate and bond over a good meal!"

Zayn insisted helplessly, "There's really no need, I still have to..."

“Yikes! If you decline my invitation one more time... We’re both men, we’re supposed to be open! We’re supposed to be reckless!” Alexandra just could not help herself. She pounded at her chest as she boasted rather haughtily. “Otherwise, what makes us different from the women?”

Zayn’s jaw almost dropped. “Woman, you do realize you’re a woman too, right?”

Alexandra was doing everything in her power to prevent Zayn from getting away. She had actually wrapped her arm around Zayn’s shoulder, and dragged him forcefully along with her.

She was four inches shorter than Zayn, so when she clung onto him, she was practically hanging off of Zayn’s body. It made Zayn unbelievably tense.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 136 - 140

After an hour had passed, Zayn was finally back at 4S. He heaved a sigh of relief, it was almost impossible to get away from that relentless tomboy.

Zayn felt very uneasy during their meal. Alexandra was obviously a woman, but she desperately tried to mimic the mannerisms of a man. It would have been dismissible if she was decent at it, yet she was far from being convincing.

What made matters worse was that she was completely oblivious to her poor performance. She interacted with him with blind confidence as she butchered her identity. The way she went about conversing with Zayn frequently throwing in curse words for no apparent reason and touching Zayn all too comfortably rendered him speechless.

As a result, when Alexandra offered to keep him company after the meal, he hastily declined and retreated to 4S as he waited for his car to be repaired. Alexandra was swelling with pride as she watched Zayn's departing silhouette fade into the distance. "Heh! What an idiot. He had no idea that he was talking to a woman!"

Her two bodyguards rolled their eyes in unison upon hearing her unbelievable conviction. 'Miss, he was well aware that you're a woman. Your disguise gave it away immediately. You're the one who's being ignorant.'

Of course, none of them had the courage to point the fact out to Alexandra. They knew her temperament very well. Trying to talk any sense into her would only result in a firestorm of rage.

It was not long before she arrived home to her elegant manor. The entrance was crowded with servants and helpers looking on in worry and concern. However, they were relieved of any anxiety as soon as they caught sight of Alexandra.

“Goodness, miss. Where did you run off to? Sir and madam were worried sick!” chided a middle-aged butler as he approached her in short and swift steps.

Alexandra coughed, straightening up. “What is there to be worried about? I’m home already, aren’t I?”

The butler responded, “Miss, sir and madam were worried because they care for your safety. It goes without saying that you’re a very important figure. If anything were to happen to you, we would be killed!”

“That’s such an exaggeration. We’re not trapped in the past, you would never be killed for something like that anymore.” Alexandra shot back impatiently. “Alright, alright. We can drop it. I’m back home, so none of that matters anymore.”

They continued to speak as Alexandra made her way towards the manor, followed by her many servants as they attended to her diligently. It was quite the scene.

As soon as she had set foot into the living room, she was met with the gazes of her family members. All of them donned a different set of expressions.

The middle-aged man who sat on a large chair glared at Alexander unsmilingly. He had a square face and maintained a sombre disposition. In fact, he looked rather similar to Alexandra. His deep voice boomed throughout the space as he chastised her. "You're insane for dressing like that. Where's your sense of dignity? Shame!"

He was Alexandra's father, Victor Smith.

The handsome young man seated opposite Victor exuded an air of pose and grace. You could tell that he was a man of great wealth and refined mannerisms with a single glance. Upon witnessing Alexandra's grand entrance, he gazed at her in admiration. Though, Alexandra's attire left him raising his brows.

Alexandra spared a disapproving glance at the young man. She furrowed her brows ever so slightly, suggesting her ill feelings towards him. She approached Victor to greet him obediently. "Good evening, Daddy."

With that, she turned to head upstairs. Alexandra completely disregarded the other young man in the room who obviously admired her.

The Smiths established very strict family practices to maintain order and discipline. For example, not only are the servants required to greet the masters, but the children were to greet their parents as well.

This practice applied to outsiders as well.

“Come back, you haven’t greeted Mr. Brown yet,” commanded Victor sternly.

Alexandra rolled her eyes, turned around to face William, and forced the joyless words out of her mouth. “It’s a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Brown.”

She did not bother to meet his eyes, and she was as curt as she could be without getting into trouble. William was slightly aggravated at her behavior, and he could not suppress the dissatisfaction that plagued his features. Despite this, he bottled his anger and relaxed his lips into a gentle smile. “There’s no need for such formalities, Ms. Smith. I…”

However, before William could even finish his sentence, Alexandra had already stormed out of the room without another word. William was left speechless as he watched her disappear, frozen with wide eyes.

Victor called out to her twice, but was unable to stop her leaving. Flushed from embarrassment, he apologized guiltily to him. “William, it’s my fault for spoiling her. My daughter’s not one for politeness, please don’t mind her.”

“It’s no problem, it’s no problem at all.” William waved his hand dismissively with a well-meaning smile. “Ms. Smith’s direct attitude makes her rather adorable. Though, I have to say that she has a very unique choice of fashion.”

“It’s fine, it’s fine.” William waved his hand and said with a smile, “Ms. Smith’s forthright attitude makes her very adorable. However, her attire earlier is rather unique actually.”

Victor heaved a helpless sigh, “My daughter is a mischievous one indeed. She disguises herself as a man so she can go out and ‘have some fun’, at least that’s what she tells me. There’s nothing I can do, even if I am her father. I’m sorry for her behavior, William.”

William said, “Oh? I didn’t know that Ms. Smith engaged in such an eccentric pastime. That’s interesting, very interesting indeed, hah-hah.”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0137**

They chatted for a while more before William abruptly took on a grave tone of voice. “Sir, in all frankness, I paid you a visit because I have something important to discuss with you.”

Victor responded earnestly, “What is it? If it’s anything I can be of use for, I won’t back down from an opportunity to help a friend.”

William glanced in the direction in which Alexandra had stormed off, and cracked into a sheepish smile. “It was love at first sight with me and Ms. Smith. I’ve spent countless

nights tossing and turning in my bed because she's always on my mind, and so after mustering enough courage, I've come here today to ask for your daughter's hand in marriage!"

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Howard was having a tough time because of his recent demotion. Not only had he been demoted, but his authority had been stripped from him as well. He could well be considered as nothing but a miserable bum now. What made matters worse was that he still owed Gordon an outstanding amount of a few hundred thousand dollars. He had to resort to maxing out his credit cards and loaning all the money he could scrounge up from his friends before he could finally return the money.

While he wallowed in his misfortune, Faye was the polar opposite, her company was thriving and she was making a name for herself in the industry. She had full authority over the company treasury, and she was making waves as a powerful figure in her family as well. Howard was painfully jealous of her.

And in an attempt to vent out his pent up frustration and hatred, he had turned his home upside down by smashing and breaking everything in his wake.

He hated Faye with a passion. That f\*ck\*ing b\*tch took everything that was in his name. She was the root cause of his abjection. He hated Zayn even more because that good-for-nothing freeloader was acquainted with Gordon, yet he refused to beg for his mercy that day. Zayn was to blame for his fall from grace too!



He swore to himself that if the opportunity ever showed itself, he would certainly seek revenge on the two and reclaim all of what had been lost in one fell swoop!

At last, the opportunity did indeed show itself.

Through a friend's connections, he was able to befriend a big shot business magnate and angel investor whose net worth exceeded a few hundred million dollars at the very least. If the magnate could grant him an investment, the Carter family business could be resurrected to its former glory. In fact, it could even be revived to greater heights!

Now that the Carters were stuck in another financial crisis, the rupture of the capital chain had resulted in some of their partners cutting ties and abandoning their contracts. If they could not obtain the necessary funding needed to operate the business in a week's time, going bankrupt would be the least of their worries! They would also need to fork out large sum of money as compensation, and their predicted loss would amount to over eight million dollars!

As a result, it had caused quite a stir in the Carter family as everyone frantically tried to come up with a feasible solution to circumvent the situation. Faye was in a state of nerves as well.

She wanted to meet Violet Vision's chairman so they could discuss the possibility of him investing in the business. However, she could not bring herself to do it.

Howard finally found the opportunity one day to have a meal with the business magnate. They were able to find time to talk about the Carter family financing situation as well.

“Mr. Brown! The Carters are considered a rather large scale company in Waltz City, and we’re certified experts on anything and everything that there is to lighting. We’re in possession of the world’s most cutting edge technology and we have the skills to back it all up. Invest in us and you won’t regret it one bit!”

Howard procured the documents and passed it to the young man before him politely before he continued, “Mr. Brown, this is our…”

“Alright,” Mr. Brown rubbed his eyes as he crossed his legs and picked up his cigar from the table. He pressed his lips against the cigar, and Howard dutifully got up to light the cigarette for him. “I will invest 15 million dollars into Neotech Co. Ltd., but I require 51% of the company’s shares to be under my name.”

Howard was rather taken aback by such an outlandish request He protested, “Mr. Brown, Neotech belongs to the Carters, after all. If you take 51% of the company’s shares in exchange for 15 million dollars of investments, I consider it a bit much. I’m afraid that my grandfather may not agree to that.”

“Heh-heh, you’re up to your neck in debt and your capital chain is in shambles again. If you don’t show up with more than a million dollars by the end of the week, you’re going to have to file for bankruptcy. Isn’t that right? How much will Neotech Co. matter to you when you’re on the streets and penniless?” asked Mr. Brown disdainfully.

Howard was at a loss for words as he stared at Mr. Brown glumly. He could not believe his ears.

Mr. Brown, on the other hand, was casually checking his phone before he cracked into a meaningful smile. He held the phone up to Howard. “The woman in this photo, it’s your younger sister, is that right?”

Howard was stunned. Was that not Faye?

“Mr. Brown, what are you implying here?”

“Send her over so we can have a friendly conversation, and I might just ask for only 40% of your shares.” Mr. Brown narrowed his eyes as he conveyed words that only a man could truly understand.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0138**

As a man, Howard clearly understood Mr. Brown’s intentions. Mr. Brown obviously wanted to sleep with Faye!

If it had been in the past, Howard would have blindly agreed to it without the slightest hesitation at all. However, it was different now. It was not because he was unwilling, but it was because he was not in the position to make such a decision.

Now that the Carters held Faye to such a high regard, even George would be tentative to force her into doing something so salacious. Now that Faye's status in the Carter family was different, even George would not necessarily be able to force her to come to do this if she refused to. And even then, he still feared Zayn to a certain extent. As of late, Lady Luck seemed to be on his side. Not only did he manage to save Jordan's life, he had even gotten acquainted with George.

George Hayes was a malicious man with too much power for his own good. The ordinary people of Waltz City knew better than to offend someone so disreputable. Of course, what mattered the most to him was that the contribution in question was in his name. At the end of the day, he was the man who befriended Mr. Brown. In case Faye did manage to close the deal, wouldn't she be credited for the deal?

"Why? Are you troubled?" said Mr. Brown, furrowing his brows as he stared at Howard in displeasure. Howard was quick to bounce back, "No, no, no. I don't mean that all, of course. I'm not making the decisions here. Even though Faye's my cousin, she's always been stuck up and proud. I can't just demand she'd show up here. Plus, she's married already. Her husband's acquainted with Gordon."

"Gordon?" Upon hearing the name, Mr. Brown cracked into a disdainful smile and said, "So what if it's Gordon Hayes? He's just a witless brute. He's less than nothing to me!"

Mr. Brown was so domineering that he had no respect for Gordon.

Howard heaved a sigh of relief. As long as Mr. Brown was unafraid of Gordon, it should all play out according to plan.

Mr. Brown continued to say, "This is a good opportunity for your family think about it."

Howard hesitated for a moment before he spoke up, "Mr. Brown, in case I do manage to get Faye here, wouldn't she get all the credit? I'm not scared of telling you this. My relationship with Faye is honestly on the rocks. In fact, she's the reason why I'm in this mess in the first place!"

Mr. Brown chuckled before assuring him, "Don't worry. I'm only interested in having a drink and dance with her. When I do end up investing in your family business, there will be ample opportunity for you to take the credit."

"Thank you for your help then, Mr. Brown!" Howard was over the moon.

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The next day, Howard marched back to Neotech Co. as if he had become a hero overnight. He walked toward the meeting room in long, confident strides.

The situation with the Carter family business was becoming more dire by the minute. Two more of their partners paid a visit to the company demanding for payment. Had it not been for their respect for George, the company would have been sued long ago.

However, the company was still powerless when it came to affairs concerning other companies, regardless of their respect for George. The two partners provided them a grace period of three days, and if the Carters were unable to pay the hundreds of thousands of dollars needed to appease them, they would meet in court.

The Carter family members were all on their toes, and for good reason. They held meetings every day in an attempt to devise a strategy that would resolve the situation once and for all.

A layer of darkness shrouded the meeting room as everyone exchanged looks of harrowing dismay. George sat in his seat with a solemn expression upon his features.

“Now that the company’s capital chain has ruptured once more, I would like the members of the floor to provide any effective solutions that will pull the Carters out of this critical situation.”

His question was left unanswered as everyone lowered their heads in shameful unison. They were at their wits’ end.

“Faye, do you have any ideas?” George looked to Faye with an ounce of hope.

Faye looked up, only to shake her head and respond dejectedly, “Grandpa, I’m tight on funds as well.”

Someone from the crowd suddenly piped up. “Why don’t we ask Mr. Wilson for help again he might loan us some more money!”

As the words left his lips, he glanced over to Faye expectantly.

An ounce of hope arose in the hearts of everyone present in the meeting room. They looked to Faye as if she were a beacon of hope.

It was true that Faye was able to borrow three million dollars from Mr. Wilson previously, so if Faye could sacrifice herself for the greater good once more, she could possibly dig the Carters out of their hole.

However, George shook his head before explaining, “That’s off the table. I’ve already asked Mr. Wilson and he won’t be loaning us any more money. Moreover, if we don’t return the three million dollars within the agreed three years, we’re going to have to bear the legal consequences!”

Someone muttered softly, “I thought there wasn’t an IOU?”

It was none other than Hector.

George immediately stared daggers at him, causing Hector to tuck his head away guiltily.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0139**

As soon as she laid her eyes on the scene, Faye felt immediately discouraged.

“You idiot, do you think we can just walk away from paying the three million dollars just because there wasn’t an IOU? Fifi loaned the money from the chairman of Violet Vision. He’s so powerful that the Carters could never afford to resist him. We are obligated to return the money, even if it means loaning more of it from a loan shark! ”

George paused before directing his attention to Faye. “Oh, Faye, aren’t you on friendly terms with the chairman? Would you like to meet with him again? We’re not loaning money from him this time around, instead we’re looking to strike a business proposition with him that will benefit the both of us. What do you say?”

Faye considered George’s words for a moment before bursting his bubble, “Grandpa, my relationship with the chairman honestly isn’t all that intimate. If I pay him a visit, he would most likely disagree with our proposal.”

In truth, Faye met with the chairman of Violet Vision yesterday. It was such a waste, she did not even have the permission to meet him. She even waited for a few hours to receive a response, yet to no avail.



In the end, she did meet Sean, however. Though, Sean told her explicitly that the possibility of the chairman investing in the Carter family business was near to none, so she could only leave empty handed and disappointed.

The room fell into a hush upon hearing Faye's disheartening words, and it was suddenly back to square one.

Out of the blue, a clamor was heard from behind the door. "Mr. Carter, you've been removed from the board of directors. You have no authority to enter the premises during an ongoing meeting..."

"Move! I'm back to save the Carters!"

With that, the door to the meeting room was practically forced open as Howard strode into the meeting room exuberantly. He had a proud smile playing on his lips as he paraded around the room acting high and mighty.

"Howard! We've kicked you out of the board of directors. What are you doing here, leave now!"

"That's right. You're the reason we're in this mess in the first place, yet you still have the guts to just stroll right in!"

“Can someone call security to remove him?”

Almost everyone was glaring at Howard bitterly as they verbally attacked him.

Many people were glaring at Howard ferociously and they were scolding him in anger.

The Carters were supposedly saved with the three million dollars that they had loaned from the chairman of Violet Vision, but that selfish b\*st\*rd Howard just had to throw a wrench in their plans by gambling away more than a million dollars. He was the reason the Carters were in peril once again! Numerous Carter family members loathed him with a passion. Had it not been for George’s protectiveness, Howard would have been beaten up more times than he could count. Yet here he was standing right before them in such a pompous manner. The mere presence of him ticked everyone off.

Faye was no exception as well, in fact, she looked like she was out for blood.

George demanded in a deep voice, “How dare you come back, Howard?”

Howard was no longer his demoralized self. As soon as he entered the room, he pulled a chair to sit right next to Faye. He even nudged her twice to make room for himself.

“Hey, make way, make way. Where are your manners?”

“You still have the nerve to come back, huh, Howard?” spat Faye coldly.

“Hah-hah, of course I do!” Howard’s arrogant gaze swept past everybody in the room. He insulted the lot of them, “Look at all of you, it was only a little over a million dollars. Did you really have to arrange a full blown meeting to talk this through? What a bunch of losers.”

His insensitive remark triggered a firestorm of angry threats from the crowd once more.

“There’s no need for you to look at me like that. I’m back this time to save the Carters!” Howard announced loudly. He extended a finger. “I, Howard Carter, have acquired an investment worth 15 million dollars!”

“What?”

“F\*ck!”

“For real?”

His statement sent the room into a frenzy of discussion. Faye was stunned as well. She had never expected that someone as useless as Howard was capable of getting his hands on such a large investment.

It was known that Neotech Co. was only worth a few million dollars.

“Howard, explain it to me in detail. Where on earth did you acquire 15 million dollar investment? You can’t be lying, can you?”

George was quickly excited by the news. “Stop beating around the bush. Tell us, quickly! Who’s the investor who’s so graciously providing us 15 million dollars?”

Howard relished the sensation of being revered. He narrated the details of the events slowly. Noticing the uncontrollable excitement that filled the room, he bragged on haughtily. “That’s what I’ve been saying all of you are the worst! Even after forever, no one’s ever managed to get a single investor on board, yet you still thought that removing me from the board of directors was a good idea! Heh-heh.”

Everyone felt ashamed by his statement, though they could not bring themselves to refute it either.

When he was done gloating about his success, Howard finally began to elaborate on the particulars of the investment. “My investor’s big on coffee, and that’s why he’s specifically requested that Faye accompanies me to his office and makes him coffee before we sign the contract. If you know what I mean.”

Everybody in the room was a grown adult, so they immediately understood exactly what he meant.

Upon hearing that, Faye's expression darkened at once.

"No way!"

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0140**

During the previous financial crisis, Faye had already felt disheartened enough. There was absolutely no way that she would agree to do something like that!

She still remembered how she sacrificed herself for the greater good in order to loan the three million dollars from the chairman. It felt even worse knowing none of the Carter family members believed her they went as far as calling her an embarrassment to the Carters.

They still harbored those prejudices against her, and she knew. Plus, who did these people take her for?

She was a proper lady!

Howard had already expected Faye to say that. He sneered at her, "What kind of attitude is that, Faye? I was only going to ask you to come with me when I sign the contract, and now you're overreacting and being the drama queen like you always are. Are you even a Carter?"

Faye stared down at him coldly. “Howard, don’t try that stuff with me again! I sacrificed myself when we were going through tough times back then, and guess what happened to me? I managed to get my hands on the money, but all of you refused to believe me. Some of you even accused me of tarnishing the Carter family reputation! Let me remind you, I’m not the one who threw over a million dollars out of the window because of my gambling addiction, and be the whole reason we’re in this predicament at all!”

Howard was infuriated by Faye’s provocations. He wanted to prove her wrong, but nothing came to his mind when he tried to think of an appropriate rebuttal.

Meanwhile, George chimed in, “Alright, break it up. Howard, who is this investor of yours? And why does he want Faye to make his coffee?”

“Grandpa, the investor’s name is Mr. Brown, William Brown, to be exact. The investment genius whose name is known far and wide, who was a net worth of over 150 million dollars, that William Brown! He earned it all by himself. Plus, William has the Browns as his backers. With William’s investment, the Carter family business will definitely expand exponentially! By then, not only will our business operation focus on offline marketing, but we’ll also be exploring online marketing as well! It’s a long term investment. Think of it this way, he’s only asking for 40% of our shares in exchange for his 15 million dollars. If we don’t take up his offer, the family business will be done for,” said Howard loudly.

His statement piqued the interest of the crowd.

Yes, the Carters were already on the verge of destruction. Without an investment, they would surely be doomed.

It sounded too good to be true. The investor was only asking for 40% of their shares for 15 million dollars.

George was tempted as well.

Faye interjected, "You know, I'm not the only woman in our family. You could have Eve or Skye make the coffee instead."

"That's different, William is requesting for you specifically." Howard countered, "In addition, you're just going to be there to buy some time. We're not asking you to do anything else, what are you scared of?"

"There's no way that I'd go regardless!" said Faye coldly. She could not be bothered to involve herself in Howard's mind games anymore.

"You!" Howard was infuriated. He grunted heavily before insisting, "Alright then, watch the Carters go bankrupt since you're so full of yourself! Don't blame me when all of this comes crashing down on you. Your father's the legal representative of our company. If we don't have the money by then, he's going to jail for commercial fraud."

Howard was no longer panicking, instead he was sneering at Faye maliciously.

Faye faltered as she tried to deflect Howard's contemptuous words, but you could clearly see the hurt in her eyes. However, she quickly jeered back at him. "Howard, is that your pathetic attempt at scaring me? The legal representative of our company is your father, not mine, so technically your father's the one getting put behind bars."

"Heh-heh-heh-heh, we shall wait and see then."

Howard leaned back on his chair and put his feet up on the table. He looked unsettlingly calm.

Faye hated to admit it, but Howard's confident disposition made her mildly anxious. She glanced at George. "Grandpa, is he... right?"

George did not respond. It took him a few seconds before he nodded slowly to indicate his acknowledgement.

Faye flew into a panic. She clenched her teeth as she took out her phone and shakily dialed Waine's number.

"Hello, Dad? It's me. Are you the legal representative of the company now?... Ah, no, I thought it was Uncle Hector. Why... Alright, I understand, it's fine."



As soon as she hung up on him, Faye felt like the air was knocked out of her lungs. She was furious, but her rage was quickly replaced by unimaginable desperation.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 141 - 145

The legal representative of Neotech Co. was now Faye's father, Waine. It did not help that the switch had only happened a few days prior. Waine agreed to take up the position when he was in a drunken stupor, after sharing a meal with Hector.

There was definitely something suspicious about it!

Faye was not a fool, in fact, she was wise beyond her years. It did not take her long to figure out that the switch had been made because Hector had realized that the company was in hot water, and that he would be at risk of being imprisoned if the company was unable to pay off their debt. As a result, he made it so Waine was the legal representative to the company instead to evade any form of liability!

Waine was Hector's biological brother. He was actually willing to throw his younger brother under the bus just like that!

Faye was left feeling even more resentful and equally as demoralized. If familial love is supposed to feel like a warm embrace,

why did Faye feel nothing but the agonizing grasp of an empty, hollow husk?

“So? I told you I wasn’t lying to you.” Howard started to cackle at her misfortune.

He was having the time of his life watching Faye’s sanity spiral.

Faye did not say a word.

Howard promptly ignored her, “It’s high time I was in charge of the Carters’ survival. I admit stealing 1.5 million dollars was an oversight on my end, but I’m a changed man! I’ve acknowledged my shortcomings, and I plan on doing better in the future. I’ve been running around everywhere trying to get an investor onboard. I’ve stayed up until the crack of dawn for nights on end, and I’ve had so much alcohol that my liver’s been begging for mercy. I want to make up for all the damage I’ve caused to our family. Fortunately, I’ve found a way! William’s everything we could ever ask for in an investor. If everything goes according to plan, the Carters will reclaim their former glory once more!”

Everybody was visibly moved by Howard’s emotionally charged speech, with George being no exception. His gaze was filled with affectionate admiration as he looked on from afar.

There was a brief pause before Howard said, “As a product of my endless effort and sacrifice, I’ve gotten ourselves a hefty 15 million dollar investment now, huh? Our company’s only worth a few million at best, and the man’s only asking for 40% of our shares. Where on earth would you be able to find a better deal than that? Now I just need Faye to accompany me when I sign the contract, and the 15 million dollars will be in ours. Our survival depends on you, Faye. Are you really that cruel, huh?”

Howard forced a couple of crocodile tears from his eyes in an attempt to guilt trip Faye.

Suddenly, Faye had been painted to be the villain in this family conflict of theirs.

Everybody in the meeting room began to persuade Faye.

“That’s right, Fifi. Howard made a mistake, but he’s already turned over a new leaf. You’ve got to forgive him.”

“Oh, Faye. The fate of our family rests in your hands now. You’re just going to make some tea for William. It’s not like you have to do anything else. There’s no way you would say no to such a simple task like that, would you?”

“No, Fifi is anything but cruel!”

They all talked at once, voicing out all sorts of opinions that created a field of dissonance in Faye’s disoriented mind. She was all alone with no one to sympathize with her. She had the urge to cry.

There was only one person running through her mind-the man in the clown mask. Maybe the pain would be dulled if he was here to comfort her. She would not need to suffer any more than she already had, would she?

Realizing she had yet to consent, George heaved a discouraged sigh before imploring, “Fifi, I’m begging you, as your loving grandfather. Go with Howard when he meets with William to sign the contract, won’t you? Please.”

She could only tune out the incessant pleading of everybody in the room for so long. Faye finally gave in to the pressure as she slowly nodded her head in surrender.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0142**

“Faye, it’s time to go home.”

Zayn drove over to pick Faye up from work once his car had been repaired.

Faye did not hear his call, but continued to walk ahead inattentively.

Coincidentally, there happened to be a small pothole in her way, and as Faye was not paying attention to where she was walking, she stepped on it and stumbled forwards into a woman with a face caked full of makeup. The woman was in the middle of retouching her lipstick, so the collision had left a long streak of smudged lipstick from the impact.

The woman was practically fuming with rage. She was going to give Faye a piece of her mind. “Watch where you’re going! Are you blind? Were you born without any eyes?”

Faye was jolted back to reality by the screaming lady in front of her. She realized she had just landed herself in some deep trouble. Before things could get any worse, she hastily began to apologize, "I'm really sorry, I truly am! I was lost in thought so I wasn't watching where I was walking. I bumped into you by accident."

"What's the point of apologizing when the damage is already done? My makeup is ruined, and I was on my way to a huge business meeting!" The woman had her hands on her hips while she took on a jarringly sarcastic tone of voice. She could only point fingers at Faye's nose as she unleashed a deluge of insults and her spit.

From a glance, people could tell that she was an uneducated hoodlum. "Let me tell you this. You better pay up or I'm never putting this behind me!"

Faye furrowed her brows. She regretted not paying attention to where she was walking earlier. Now that she had landed herself in some hot water, she felt even more agitated than ever, especially since she was the subject of ridicule amongst the onlookers. She was humiliated. Faye was admittedly very sensitive, and she absolutely hated being the centre of unwanted attention. She did the only thing that could be done. "It's my fault for ruining your makeup. Here, how much would you like in compensation?"

A look of pleasant surprise took over the woman's features before she raised a finger. "This much."

"1000 dollars." Faye furrowed her brows in bewilderment. She was asking for an outrageous amount of money from Faye. The bump was quite gentle, if Faye were to be completely honest The only notable damage could be seen on the woman's face in the

form of some smeared lipstick. It could easily be removed with a napkin and makeup remover too, so her appearance was still salvageable.

Plus, judging from the way she presented herself, Faye had a hard time believing that the woman was headed for a huge business meeting. In fact, she was most probably an escort. In spite of this, it still did not mitigate the fact that Faye was at fault. Faye was not unreasonable, so she tried to convince herself that she was simply buying peace. She dug her phone out of her

handbag and offered, "I don't have much cash on hand, so I'll pay you through Venmo."

However, after the cash had been transferred to the woman's account, she was less than thrilled to see the number that appeared. "1000 dollars? Do you think you're talking to a bum? I asked for 10000 dollars!"

"10000 dollars?" Faye could not suppress the gasp that escaped her lips. The woman had such an exorbitant price in mind. Forget that, it wasn't just exorbitant, it was daylight robbery!

The onlookers who had been watching the scene unfold before them were a choir of murmurs and gasps. She was demanding 10000 dollars as compensation, and that was more than just unreasonable, it was criminal!

"That's right-10000 dollars. If you're even a penny off, I'll make sure you'll never hear the end of it," threatened the woman menacingly.

Faye clenched her teeth as she tried to negotiate with her, "It's only a small smudge of lipstick on your face. Just use a napkin and it'll come off in one wipe. I hope you realize you're basically extorting money from me by asking for 10000 dollars."

And while her reaction was hard to place under the thick layer of makeup sitting on her face, you could tell that she was displeased. "Extortion? B\*tch, you're so full of yourself. Don't you dare disrespect me like that, huh! You were obviously the one who bumped into me and cost me my huge business deal. I was being generous by only asking for 10000, and you still have the audacity to accuse me of extorting money from you? Looks like I have to teach you a lesson so you know who you're dealing with!"

Faye had always been an obedient little girl. She never took part in fights, and she was barely ever caught in a quarrel. She was completely out of her element in a situation like this, what could she do? Faye's face was drained of all its color. She barely knew how to dodge if at all, so she could only watch helplessly as she braced for the slap that had her face as the trajectory.

But the slap never connected. A huge hand had suddenly appeared out of nowhere to stop the woman's hand with impressive accuracy and speed. "That's very bold of you to try and slap someone in broad daylight."

It was Zayn. He pushed through the crowd just in time to stop the woman's vile attempt at slapping Faye. Zayn was absolutely seething with rage.

Faye had already prepared herself for the slap, so when she witnessed Zayn swooping in to save her, she was mesmerized.



# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0143

## PART PROGRESS

0% Complete

The woman who had a face full of makeup was ultimately apprehended by Zayn. She glared at Zayn scornfully, “Now who is this little motherf\*ck\*r, and how dare he stop me? You ’re just asking for me to end you!”

While she barked aggressively at Zayn, she raised a leg and aimed for his lower body as she ferociously tried to kick him in the b\*lls. She had the reaction speed of no ordinary woman, and she was abnormally strong as well. It was apparent that this was because she was frequently involved in street brawls. Had Zayn not picked Faye up from work in advance, she would have been at a huge disadvantage.

Zayn let out a rough grunt as he used his knees to shield the targeted area in advance. An audible thud resonated through the air. The woman kicked her legs up and down strenuously as she continued to assault Zayn’s knee. A wretched screech came out of her mouth as she hissed in pain, “Ouch, that f\*ck\*ng hurts! Are you asking for a death sentence, you’re already a dead man, do you hear me?”

She had slammed her shin against Zayn’s knee earlier, and her eyes were still watering from the pain. She glared at Zayn and Faye, her rage and contempt remaining evident despite being clouded by her tears. She whipped out her phone and made a quick phone call. “Hello, Skyler. Come here quickly! I’ve been hit...”

Even after she had hung up, she continued to glower at them viciously. “Just you wait, b\*tches. My man’s on his way to grind you into pieces, and he won’t stop until the both of you are paralyzed!”

Faye was so threatened that she immediately began to tug at Zayn frantically. “Oh no, we’re in deep trouble. Let’s just make a run for it, quick!”

“It’s fine. It’s going to be fine, I’m here,” consoled Zayn as he pat Faye’s hand soothingly.

Out of the blue, a familiar face appeared from the sea of onlookers. It was Ruby. At the sight of Zayn and Faye, she had a plethora of questions to ask. She furrowed her brows. “What are the both of you doing here? Zayn, I thought you went to go get your car fixed. Is it fixed already?”

“Mom, the car’s already been fixed. It’s parked over there,” answered Zayn as he gestured towards the car parked next to the road.

“Then why are you just standing there? Go home! And what’s with the crowd surrounding the both of you? What happened here?” interrogated Ruby curiously. She had just left the company headquarters, so she had been unable to witness the incident.

Faye clenched her teeth. She was about to explain herself when she heard a malevolent voice call out to her from the crowd. “I remember now. It’s that Faye Carter and her good-for-nothing husband who married into her family.”

The statement immediately drew the attention of all the onlookers. They were taken aback by its boldness, though it quickly incited an animated discussion amongst them.

The Carters were not a powerful family in the slightest. They were already weaklings in comparison to the Browns or the Smiths, so you could imagine how large the disparity would be if you added the Larsons into the equation.

However, the Carters were widely known due to the existence of Zayn and Faye.

Faye had always been well recognized for her breathtaking beauty. As soon as she had blossomed into a young adult in high school, there was no shortage of suitors vying for her hand in marriage. In fact, many of them were the sons of wealthy families. Everyone was convinced that Faye would marry into a wealthy family. In spite of that, Faye never did marry anyone famous, instead she found love in a pauper from the countryside a good-for-nothing deadbeat.

It was the talk of the town at the time almost everybody on the street knew of the event in question, even if they had never seen the couple with their own two eyes.

“I was just asking myself why they looked so familiar, turns out it is Faye and her deadbeat husband. Hah-hah-hah, this is going to be good!”

“I was asking around and apparently that woman’s name is Charlotte. She seems to have quite a number of connections!”

“You’re right. I think she might be Skyler Moore’s plaything!”

“What? Skyler Moore... Isn't he that burly gangster? Oh no, oh no, Faye is in huge trouble this time...”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0144**

Hearing the crowd, Ruby was practically quivering from anger as she stared daggers at Zayn. “It's you again, huh, you piece of trash?” she fumed under her breath. “How many times do you have to embarrass us, huh? You've gone and challenged the wrath of some underground kingpin? Why don't you just keel over and die right now?”

Zayn was speechless. How poor did his mother-in-law's comprehension skills have to be in order to get to that conclusion? It was obvious that Faye was the one who provoked them!

Not that he wanted to waste his time explaining something like that to a rock.

Faye's panic multiplied. “We should go!”

“Go?” Charlotte echoed, her voice thick with derision. “Sure, just try and escape, I dare you. I know who the two of you are now one of the Carter family's little ladies and her infamously useless husband, huh? You two sure deserve each other. You can escape me, but don't think you can escape us.”

“Don’t... Don’t take another step in our direction! If I feel like I’m in danger, I... I’ll call the cops!” Faye cried.

Charlotte threw her head back and guffawed as though she had heard a really good joke. “The heat? You’re gonna call in the heat? Thanks, now I’m thoroughly aware that you have no idea who my darling Sky Lord is. Go on, call the cops. Back out of your threat, and I’ll have to treat you like a pretty little puss. Of course, I should probably also warn you that if you get the police involved, then say goodbye to sweeping all of this under the rug with only 10000 dollars!”

With that, she crossed her arms and snickered, her eyes trained on Faye like a hawk. Charlotte was not at all concerned about the possibility of her calling the cops at all. She was right, in fact-her threat had gotten to Faye so much that despite having her phone already in her hands, Faye could not bring herself to punch in the numbers.

It was then when an imperious voice rose above the din. “Get the hell out of my way!”

A look of pleasant surprise shadowed Charlotte’s mien before dark amusement displaced it the moment she turned to look at Faye and Zayn. “Oh, you two are dead. My baby Sky Lord is here... Your pathetic 10000 dollars can’t help you now!”

The color was fully drained from Faye’s face. Ruby, too, panicked, and immediately broke out into yet another one of her endless whines, “Oh, what should we do now? From the looks of it, they’re all gangsters and underworld kingpins! Those aren’t the sort of people we normal, law abiding folks should ever irritate! God, Faye, it’s all your fault. How can you be so careless? Now look what you’ve done!”

Faye clenched her jaw as she hung her head in silence.

“Zayn, you stay here and keep them at bay for as long as you can,” she continued, “While Faye and I go!”

“What the... Mom!” Faye blurted out in disbelief.

“What’s with that look? This useless son-in-law has been leeching off of our family for so long! We’ve spent a fortune just to feed him! And how many times have we been humiliated because of him? Now is a great time for him to finally be of use and repay all that we’ve given him!” Ruby argued matter-of-factly. “Besides, he’s got an iron-made hide for skin anyways, so it’s not like he’s going to die from being beaten up this one time.”

Faye could not believe her ears. What sort of mother-in-law was she? What other mother-in-law would so readily dispose of her son-in-law as bait and use him as a meat shield as though it was a perfectly normal thing to do.

Zayn, however, had seen enough of Ruby’s shameless feats that he was no longer surprised. “Fifi, go with Mom if you’re scared. I’ll handle it,” he told Faye.

His words enraged her. “How are you supposed to handle this, genius?! Do you even know who we’re up against? And this was my mistake, all mine. I should be the one fixing it!”

“Even if it was your mistake, I should still be the one trying to fix it by the virtue of being your husband. Protecting you is my duty,” he replied. “Remember? This was something I swore to do from the moment we exchanged our wedding vows.”

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0145**

Faye’s heart skipped a beat.

Six large men walked out of the crowd led by a man with the pudgiest face she had ever seen, a big frame, and a very prominent beer belly. He looked to be about 200 pounds. His friends sported very similar physical attributes too, and all of them possessed large swathes of tattoos.

It was telling that their lives revolved around the criminal underworld, especially so when they emanated the aura of a cutthroat. Many onlookers who had joined the crowd looked on fearfully as they carefully kept their distance between these newcomers and themselves. Those who had taken to snapping pictures and recording videos made sure to be a lot more subtle about their actions too.

“Sky Lord, oh, you’re here! I’m saved!” Charlotte exclaimed and dove into Skyler Moore’s arms before bursting into audible sobs that were hideously dramatic. “I was so scared of being beaten to death by these thugs! Sniff, sniff...”

Skyler patted the young woman on the back with his large hands and squeezed her against his chest for a bit, before declaring heroically, “Don’t be scared, I am here! Anyone who dare lay their finger on you will be squashed like a bug!”

Charlotte was beyond ecstatic. Quickly, she pointed at Faye and cried loudly, “This is the b\*tch who knocked me down! Instead of apologizing to me like she should, she shouted at me. And you know what’s the worst? She had her husband beat me up! I told her I’m Sky Lord’s girl, but it only made her hit even harder, and then she said... ‘Sky Lord? He’s just an ass!’ L-Look at my leg... Her husband left bruises all over it and I just... Sniff!”

She added so much disinformation into the retelling that Faye had become a ruthless, insensible termagant in her account. It was so untrue that Faye, shaking in fury, screamed, “Bullsh\*t, everything she’s said is a lie! You disgusting, contemptible skank!”

Skyler was livid. “Picking on Sky Lord’s babe? You’re just asking for it! Suicidal pig!”

Curiously, Skyler seemed to suffer from a serious case of myopia, because it was only after he took a few steps closer did he finally manage to see how Faye looked like. His eyes twinkled as a pleasant shock overcame his erstwhile scowl. “Whoa, who knew she’d be a piece of eye-candy?”

The way he ogled at Faye was brimming with so much lust and lewdness that anyone subjected to his gaze would instantly feel violated. Faye herself was so revolted that she ducked behind Zayn.

“Oh, oh no, no, no! What are we going to do now? We just made him an enemy! Zayn Larson, this is all the fault of you and your useless brain! Why the hell did you fight back? You should have just let her slap you back then, you’re a grunt with tough skin, aren’t you? You really think a few slaps from a woman like that will hurt you? Now look



at what you've done! You just have to make this happen! ” Ruby whined, unleashing a tirade as she stabbed her finger into Zayn's back in accusatory exasperation.

“Look, Mom, chill. This is hardly a big deal, okay? I'll protect you and Faye, I promise,” Zayn replied with little resignation.

Immediately, Ruby jabbed him with her foot. “We're about to die and all you can think of is to pretend to be a hero?! As if you have anything inside that empty skull of yours that can help! God, I shouldn't have let Faye marry you, this was a total mistake in my judgement! A complete mistake!”

Even now, the woman's jeremiad saw no sign of ending. It was to the point that Faye herself was greatly irritated that she snapped, “Can you shut up already, Mom? Just run away if you're scared. I'll stay here and stand with Zayn. Then you don't have to worry about being dragged into this mess!”

“Excuse me, young lady? Is that a way to talk to your mother?!” Ruby retorted angrily with her arms on her waist.

While all of this was going on, Skyler was standing right in front of Zayn already. With his finger trained at his nose, the former barked, “So, you're the bastard who had the guts to touch my baby girl, huh? You think wearing big boy pants makes you tough, huh?”

Zayn returned his gaze with a penetrating one of his own. “ She lied to you. I didn’t accost her, she hit me first. I was only defending myself,” he replied grimly. “And my wife did bump into her by accident, but it only caused her lipstick to smear onto her own cheek. There was never any injury at all, and yet she touted 10 thousand dollars for ‘compensation’. What, you don’t think that’s ridiculous?”

“Self defence? Man, who says you’re entitled to self defense? My girlfriend doesn’t lay her hands on just about anyone, for your information. You should feel honored that she deems you worthy of slapping! You should have let her... You’re a criminal the moment you retaliate!” Skyler retorted with all the grandeur of a self aggrandizing jack\*ss.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 146 - 150

Zayn's expression darkened. This man was unbelievable! "What, you're saying you're above the law?"

Skyler laughed. "Good, good! You're catching on. This is my turf, dumbo, and I'm the boss around here I am the law!"

He sounded so domineering when he asserted his rule that his five companions joined in on the boisterous cackles. In an instant, the air was filled with a terrible mire of lawless tyranny, causing many of the onlookers to back away in fear.

"Hey, isn't that Sky Lord? Why are you here?"

Suddenly, a man had walked forward from the crowd of people.

It was Howard Carter. He was looking at Skyler with pleasant surprise on his face.

Skyler, too, was a bit bemused at his appearance. "Howard? Didn't think I would see you here, punk."

Howard stepped forward and lit up a cigarette before passing it to Skyler. "What's the matter, Sky Lord?"

"Nah, nothing big. Just two blind dumb\*sses provoking my baby girl. Of course, I'm gonna teach them a lesson!" he answered smugly.

Seeing that Howard knew him lightened Faye's mood. Instantly, she stepped out from Zayn's shadow and said, "He's your friend, Howard? That's great news! Please tell him that this was all a huge misunderstanding."

Ruby was quick to chime in, "Oh yes, Howard, what a great coincidence that you know our guy. Tell him it was all just a funny stroke of misfortune, it's all a misunderstanding!"

Skyler's expression darkened as he furrowed his brows. "You know them, Howard?"

Faye and Ruby trained their hopeful eyes on him. They felt as though much of their panic had subsided the moment he appeared. It initially felt like there was no way out, after all. Since Howard appeared to know this thug, he could put in a good word or two and probably put this whole thing to rest.

When Howard finally understood the situation they were in, an unreadable expression shadowed his pate. Ignoring Faye and Ruby's eager looks, he shook his head and denied with a smile, "You're joking, right? of course I don't know them."

Faye was the first to erupt exasperatedly, “How could you, Howard Carter! I’m your first cousin!”

“What are you talking about, Howard?” Ruby added hotly. “We’re your relatives!”

Skyler frowned and turned to him. “What’s this?”

“Well, Sky Lord, they are my relatives all right. But you don’t have to pull your punches for my sake, just give them whatever it is they deserve,” Howard replied, chuckling. “I was never close to them anyway.”

Skyler understood his implication and cackled. “You’re an interesting kid, aren’t you? If they aren’t your favorite relatives, then I’ll go all in!”

“Suit yourself, Sky Lord,” A twisted smile played on Howard’s lips as he stepped aside, taking up the best position to watch Faye and Zayn suffer.

He loathed the both of them with every fiber in his core, he always wished the worst upon them. How could he possibly want to save them? Besides, Skyler Moore was infamous for his shameless arrogance. Even if Howard were to plead mercy for those two, Skyler was likely to refute it. Why would a shrewd, cunning man like himself risk crossing Skyler?

Skyler raised his head and straightened his back, causing his bloated belly to be lifted as well. With the same arrogance he displayed since his debut, he commanded, "Get on your knees and apologize to my right hand woman right now, or else I'll crush your legs into dust!"

Faye could feel a sharp kink in her heart.

Faye could feel a sharp kink in her heart.

Everyone thought that Zayn was doomed. A useless failure of a son-in-law who had provoked the ire of a gangster that was the sort of thing that basically sealed one's fate.

Once again, the Carters were about to suffer another blow to their reputation.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0147**

Just as everyone was expecting Zayn to wet his pants in fear, he shocked them by showing no trace of fear. Instead, he flashed a smile.

An unexpected word left his lips, and uncanny silence filled the air around them. The crowd widened their eyes and stared at Zayn in palpable shock. No one had thought that Zayn would not only refuse to beg for mercy, but also insult Skyler to his face.

If this was not an act of suicide, then what was? Skyler was the leader of a gang, he had wealth, power, and manpower. Any businessman would know better than to raise his ire, but this sorry excuse of a son-in-law had the b\*lls to call him a buffoon?!

The muscles around Skyler's lips twitched. His face was visibly turning red.

Ruby almost fainted at the height of her fury. Was Zayn a straight up moron? How could he have looked at the situation that they were in and thought it was a good idea to say something like that?! He had doomed them, the idiot had doomed them all to death!

Ruby was beyond livid. How she wished she could just slap the living daylights out of Zayn!

Faye, too, lurched to regain her footing. She was so mad at Zayn that she could hardly stand still.

Howard was the only one who could not stifle his desire and let it out as a cackle. Zayn Larson was as brain dead as he was a useless piece of trash, he concluded. He was just born with a brain, was he? He was almost going to die, and yet instead of admitting that he had done wrong, he decided to use this chance to pretend to be a hero one last time! Ha-ha-ha!

Thanks to his so-called 'valor', Howard knew he was in for a good show.

Many of those in the audience thought Zayn was crazy, too. That, or he was suicidal.

Finally, Skyler laughed, he was so bilious that it came out as a scornful laughter. "Okay, okay! So you wanna show us that you have a pair, don't you? You think talking tough alone makes you a big boy! Fine, then I should teach little punks like you how much of a jungle this world can be!"

Just like that, Skyler swung his big, thick palm at Zayn's cheek.

A lot in the crowd closed their eyes. They were sure Zayn was done for, Skyler's hand was so huge that, if it decked on the man's face, at least half of his cheek would burn and swell!

What they expected did not come, however. Instead, what happened next absolutely blew their minds.

Zayn had attacked the same time Skyler did, his hand taking a form of a deck across the man's face. He was faster, too, with a crisp, loud smack, he hit the man on his flabby cheeks.

It was hard enough that Skyler pirouetted, before he fell forward and crashed onto the floor with half of his cheeks swelling and bleeding. Two of his teeth had been knocked out of their places.



“You’re not just a buffoon. You’re trash,” Zayn finished, his tone brimming with spite.

It was at this moment when Zayn looked nothing like the useless son-in-law the rumors had painted him to be which was why many of the onlookers were absolutely flummoxed. They could not believe what they were seeing at all. What was happening? Was Zayn not supposed to be a doormat who never fought back? Why did he retaliate now?

Howard was flabbergasted. Suddenly, it felt as though this was the first time he knew Zayn.

“Damn it, f\*ck! You... You..!” Skyler struggled for a bit before pushing himself back to his feet. He shook his head hard, and two teeth fell out, causing him to sound like he was lisping. “What are you people doing, standing right there?! Get that punk! Snap his damn neck! Make him pay!”

Hearing Skyler’s command, his five underlings lunged at Zayn, their mouth busy with aneg curses and battle cries.

The crowd thought this was it for him. No one would bank on Zayn and his lucky hit to save him from five burly men’s concerted onslaught. It might have made him look cool when he counterattacked Skyler, but in truth, everyone thought it was the move of a madman.

# When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0148

Ruby did not waste another second launching into her next vitriol. “Zayn, you suicidal idiot! How could he think it’s alright for him to hit him?! Was his brain smooth? Or was he so blind that he had no idea what he was looking at! Well, isn’t this just dandy! He’s pissed someone off, and now there’s no way we can recover out of it. We’re doomed! We’re dead! The entire Carter family is gonna be dragged through hell because of a single person’s dumb decision!”

“Can you just stop it already, Mom? No matter how useless Zayn is supposed to be, he’s still your son-in-law. You shouldn’t disparage him like that, you know?” Faye replied, frowning.

“Son-in-law? Son-in-law, my as\*! He has always been just a glorified slave to the family! Also, the two of you never consummated your marriage anyway. You two are only married on paper! How does that make him my ‘son-in-law’?” Ruby retorted.

Faye opened her mouth to defend him only to realize she could not. Ruby was right. Faye had never consummated her relationship with Zayn, they hardly counted as husband and wife. In that sense, Zayn was not exactly Ruby’s son-in-law either.

“Don’t worry, Morn. Zayn is actually a very skilled fighter. None of these could match him at all,” she said instead. Faye had seen Zayn’s martial prowess that night, and so she knew better than to worry.

Ruby snickered in conceited disbelief. “Haha, and pigs can fly, can they? Really? Zayn Larson, a well-known useless waste of space, who couldn’t even beat someone up even if you give him a bat. You’re telling me this guy can fight? If you ask me, all it takes is five seconds, and these men will beat him up so hard he would have to beg for his life while grovelling on his knees!”

“No, I think we might need to call Ethan. At least that one’s an influential figure in this entire city. With him around, we’ll most definitely be protected...”

Before Ruby could even finish, though, Zayn’s battle was already over, fast, complete, and without any hesitation. All five of the seemingly unbeatable brutes were now lying on the ground, too enfeebled to even get up to their feet.

Zayn clapped the dust of his hands as though he had just finished a really small chore. “Skyler Moore? It seems to me that your underlings are pretty trash,” he stated noncommittally.

Skyler had only just climbed to his feet, and already he was witnessing the end of what should have been a brutal smackdown. Instantly, his eyes widened in disbelief. His body began quaking as his knees threatened to give up.

“B-B... But h-how...” He stuttered so hard he could not finish his own sentence. His shock was immeasurable. He knew each and every one of his underlings, knew their capabilities and prowess. All five of them were famously good fighters even within the criminal underground. Each of them could face off three average Joes alone and unassisted. So how could five of them together not overwhelm the useless son-in-law of the Carter family?

How skilled could this 'useless son-in-law' truly be?

Skyler had never felt so much regret in his life. A man this good at fighting was a far cry from any definition of uselessness!

Watching from the sideline, Howard's mind was just as blown. He quickly rubbed his eyes, thinking he must be hallucinating things, because there was no way someone as useless as Zayn Larson could have performed any feat like this. He already knew how utterly useless Zayn was, and now, he beaten up five brutes by himself without faltering even once?!

Ruby, whose sentence was cut short precisely by how quickly the fight had ended, was now gagging to find the right words. With her eyes widened to their largest, she blurted out, "What the hell?!"

Faye was the only one who was relatively more composed, but that was only because she had seen him fight before. Still, she could not help but feel rather aggravated by yet another display of his skills despite being his wife for four years, she still had no idea the extent to his skills.

In other words, Zayn was deliberately keeping secrets from her! And as his wife, she hated the feeling this revelation elicited.

Zayn cast his eyes on Skyler and strolled toward him as the latter turned to make a run for escape. Before he could, Zayn caught his shirt and halted him, smiling. “Where do you think you’re going, Sky Lord? Thought you said you wanted to snap my neck.”

He clutched his collar so tightly that Skyler felt as though he could not breathe. Coughing, Skyler turned his face back to Zayn and scrambled to his captor’s good side. “Oh, but it was all just a misunderstanding, sir! Simple misunderstanding!”

“Just a misunderstanding? Why didn’t I get the impression of that back then? I mean, you were pretty braggadocious, weren’t you? I even distinctly remember you ordering me to be on my knees for an apology,” Zayn replied with a smile that did not reach his eyes.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0149**

“Hell no!” Skyler cried, swinging his hands wildly in an attempt to dismiss his claims. “Come on, brother! I was only joking around! Heh-heh... Ha-ha-ha..?”

The way he cracked his jaw wide for a forced fit of laughter somehow looked even worse than if he just broke down and cried. After all, when had Skyler ever been so humiliated before? The looks the crowd was giving him right now peeved him. It summoned a spring of rancor in his head.

Today was the day that he finally knew how it felt to mess with the wrong guy.

Either way, a wise man would know when to retreat to Skyler, this was the time. He would pretend to relent this time around, but once he was safe, he would find another chance to return Zayn this brutal humiliation!

Zayn could tell exactly what was going on in his head, but he would not deign himself to the mindset of a scum of society and give a damn about what Skyler thought. “Get out of my sight,” he said brusquely. “And don’t ever let me see your face again. Or else... I’ll knock your teeth out as soon as I see you.”

Skyler was working so hard to suppress his spleen that his cheeks turned brilliant red, and yet, he was too terrified to let loose even a hint of his anger. He had to grit his teeth, crack a smile out of his reluctant lips, and let out a horribly unnatural chuckle before turning away and fled.

He was so eager to run, he did not even make time to care for his underlings, still lying on the ground, groaning and his right hand woman, Charlotte.

Zayn returned to Faye’s side and smiled. “That takes care of that. Let’s go home.”

Faye leveled a penetrating gaze into Zayn’s eyes. “When did you learn how to fight this well?”

“Oh. Er...” Zayn began before faltering into a loss of what to say. Faye had seen him fight during the incident with Moses, but she never inquired anything about him back then. It made him think that she did not care about it at all.

He could not bring himself to just admit to Faye that as one of the scions to the Larson family, he learned close quarter combat since he was just a child.

The wait for Zayn's answer was too long to Faye's liking. Her expression turned steely before she snapped, "If you don't want to talk about it, fine! I don't give a damn either way!"

There was an undercurrent of embarrassed bluster in her words.

"Wait, Fifi! That wasn't why!" Zayn began, his tongue mounting an explanation, when he suddenly heard a voice coming from behind him.

"Who knew a good-for-nothing like you could have known some performative fighting skill, huh? You must feel pretty cool and mighty when you managed to slap Skyler in the cheek!"

Faye's eyebrows furrowed. "What's that supposed to mean, Howard? Honestly, I've never seen a cousin as callous as you. Your family was literally being bullied back there, and what did you do? Nothing! You didn't help even when we needed it the most! Just you wait, I'm telling Grandpa about this, and he will punish you for sure."

Howard laughed. "Sure, please do! Then let us see if Grandpa would punish me as you clearly hope! You know what's the more important issue at hand? It's the fact that you people managed to cross Skyler. You think hitting back at him and getting him to run away means the end of your trouble? Ha! Think again! You people have basically set

yourselves up, because Skyler is famous for being vindictive to a fault! Of course, most importantly, he's Mr. Hyde's inferior. That's right you people have really brought a calamity onto yourselves now."

Faye's heart skipped a beat. "No, we'll be fine. Zayn knows Gordon Hayes personally."

Howard cackled as though he had just heard a joke. "Gordon Hayes? That man has to bow down before Mr. Hyde too, for crying out loud! You think Gordon's gonna be able to save your hide? Hahahaha!"

Ruby was frightened out of her wits. She lunged and grabbed Howard by his hands, pleading, "Oh no, Howard! You have to help us! You can't just leave us to die like that!"

Howard swung her hand off his own and sneered. "No offense, but 'leaving you to die' is the best course of action in this case. See, Mr. Hyde is one of the biggest guns in the entire city. Even Grandpa's social capital wouldn't earn him a lick of favor from him, let alone mine! Oh, Zayn. You really outdid yourself, didn't you?"

"Faye? Aunt Ruby? I sincerely think the two of you should kick this useless jerk out of your family while you still have the time. Sever your ties with him and maybe you might not be dragged into a bloodshed!"

Ruby was beyond panicked. She dug the nail of her index finger into Zayn's chest as hard as she could and shrieked, "Zayn Larson, you goddamned scourge! You are a bane to this family whose every action just breeds more menace to us by the day!"



Yesterday, you ruined our car in a crash. Today, you ruined our safety with this! I don't give a damn about what you think, I want you to go back to Skyler and apologize! Do whatever you need to do so that you don't drag us down a hellhole. Have I made myself clear?!"

"Don't worry, Mom. I won't drag you down at all," Zayn replied. "Besides, there's no reason why I should be afraid of Mr. Hyde."

"Seriously? You're about to have the life crushed out of your skull, and the only thing you care about is to sound tough?"

Howard jeered. "Zayn Larson, you think that just because you were struck by a fool's luck and saved Jordan Larson's life that one time makes you some sort of big damn hero? That everyone around you has to worship the ground you walk on? You really are weak in the head. Now, as your in-law, let me give you a suggestion, run! Run as far away as you can starting from tonight, and don't ever think of coming back to Waltz City. It's probably the only means for you to preserve that worthless life of yours!"

Honestly, at this point, Zayn was too lazy to demonstrate how little he feared Mr. Hyde.

## **When Life Takes a Turn – Chapter 0150**

Even when they were on their way home, Ruby's grating billingsgate never once stopped. She kept whining about how much trouble he had gotten themselves in, or why Zayn should have just let the thugs rearrange his face, or how irritating it was that Zayn

chose to showboat his skills 'just because it looked cool', and now he had offended Skyler Moore and everything was going down to the drain.

Her philippic against Zayn never once ceased. In fact, she kept arguing that Zayn should go back and apologize to Skyler right now. Regardless of his methods, Zayn was not supposed to drag the Carters into this feud.

Zayn had gotten so chaffed by her endless vitriol that he finally snapped, "Mom, seriously, can you just shut up already? I've said I won't drag the family into this, for crying out loud! What's the point of your drivel if nothing of that sort was gonna happen anyway?"

Unfortunately, his retaliation only served to enrage her.

"Oh, so this is what happened! You useless piece of trash can't even bear to listen to the truth anymore, can you? If it weren't for my family feeding you, boy, you would have died out of starvation ages ago! But now that you're all fed and full, you think you can lord over me now, can you? Think you have the rights to talk back at me, huh? I always thought that you're a no-good, ungrateful little loafer, and not a single one of you believed me. Well, now the proof is right there in front of you, isn't it?!"

The corner of Zayn's lips twitched against his will. How he wished he could just knock her out- old for two days straight, but he knew better than to put his desire to motion. No matter how asinine this woman might be, she was still his mother-in-law.

He tried his best to block all of her words from entering his ears and ceased talking.

After reaching home and returning to his room, he finally felt some semblance of peace.

Faye was unnaturally pensive, though. Even after they had gone home, the graveness in her face was hardly lifted, and her eyes kept staring straight on, unseeing and in a daze. When she did eventually act, she was forgetful and clumsy. She was taking a shower now, and yet she forgot to bring fresh clothes into the bathroom with her.

Faye opened a crack in the door and had Zayn help fetch her clothes, a thing that had never happened in the past. It was so unprecedented, in fact, that Zayn became excited. His heart was racing!

Just as Ruby had acridly pointed out, the two of them had been married on paper. It had been four years already, and yet intimacy eluded them. Still, living together with her for four years managed to add more and more fuel to his ardor for Faye, and so his desire for her triumphed whatever arousal any other woman in the world could theoretically bring him.

Even after he passed her clothes, Zayn's mood refused to retreat into dispassion. In the end, it cost him a night's rest. Luckily, his physical state had always been pretty hardy and brimming with vim, so a night's loss hardly damaged his focus.

While they were having breakfast, Waine said something that immediately attracted Zayn's attention. "So, Fifi? I've heard from the office rumor that Howard found an investor who agreed to invest 15 million dollars into Neotech."

Faye's motion halted for half a beat as a look of hesitance crossed her face. Just as quickly, however, she feigned indifference and nodded. "Yes, that's true."

"How on earth does Howard know so many of these people? How did he even manage to find an elite who was willing to invest a whopping 15 million? That's hardly a smile feat at all, is it?"

Ruby was quick to chime in with envy induced ire, "Howard has it easy. Even after the hoo-ha he had created, even after he was exiled from the Carters, he still managed to find an investor this wealthy..."

At that thought, she furtively kicked Zayn's foot under the dining table, before ranting with an accusatory inflexion, "Unlike a certain good-for-nothing loafer who's camping in this house, I will bet! That one only knows how to attract all the worst possible troubles to himself, all while being utterly useless!"

By this point, Zayn had gotten so used to the vixen that he already knew how to feign deaf while tucking his foot back to himself in silence.

"Who's this investor?" he asked in curiosity.

Waine glared at him and hissed, "Who cares? It's not like you would know him."

"William Brown," Faye suddenly said, answering his question.

Zayn churned the name in his mind and realized he did not know who this was, after all. He had never heard of his name even in the past.

And if someone was unheard of by Zayn, then that person was likely not at all an important figure of the city.