

Chapter 951

When the three of them stepped out of the orphanage and were about to head toward the restaurant, a pleasantly surprised voice sounded in their ears, "Charlie, Lisa!"

The both of them turned around and saw several figures walking toward them.

These people were all the friends who had grown up with him in the orphanage.

However, there were many people from this group that Charlie had basically not seen again ever since he had left the orphanage.

The only person he had kept in touch with after leaving the orphanage was his close friend, Caleb.

During Charlie's early years in the orphanage, he had a very reticent attitude and personality because of his parents' accidental death. He was very introverted and withdrawn, and he would not even speak a single word to anyone else for the whole day.

He was often isolated by the other children because of his personality.

Charlie could still remember that Caleb, who was a little older than him, would always stand up for him and play with him whenever he was being isolated.

Over the years, the relationship between both of them had deepened a lot.

Caleb and Charlie were of the same age, but Caleb was a few months older than Charlie.

After leaving the orphanage, both of them had chosen to go to the construction site and work together. They endured hardships together and suffered a lot together. They became very close brothers because of that.

However, the only difference between Charlie and Caleb was that Charlie would always secretly donate all of his hard-earned money to the orphanage, whereas Caleb would save all his money for himself. When Caleb had finally saved up a decent amount of money, he had left the construction site and gone to Lancaster to start a small business.

Charlie could understand Caleb's approach.

After all, they were all orphans. Most of them were helpless after leaving the orphanage.

Everyone wanted to save some money and make more money so that they could lay out a foundation for themselves. This was simply because orphans were not the same as everyone else. Other people had parents, relatives, and a house to shelter themselves from the wind and rain. However, an orphan had nothing at all.

If they did not have any money today, they would not be able to eat anything at all for the day. Moreover, they would even have to sleep out on the streets at night.

The reason why Charlie did not solely think about himself after leaving the orphanage was mainly because of his father's teachings in the past. Charlie knew that the only reason why he could live until he was eighteen years old was because of Mrs. Lewis's kindness to him. Therefore, he naturally had to find a way to repay her kindness.

Moreover, Charlie's actions had a lot to do with the education that he received during his childhood.

Since Charlie was the young master of the Wade family and had spent his childhood there, he had studied ethics and manners ever since he was a young boy. Therefore, he had a very dedicated and compassionate spirit built up deep within himself.

It was also precisely this fact that made him different compared to everyone else in the orphanage.

At this time, Caleb stepped forward excitedly as he said, "Charlie, my good brother! I have not seen you in a really long time!"

Back then, Caleb and Charlie would sleep together in the shed at the construction site. They would also carry cement together and move cement bricks together. Both of them supported one another and had spent many years backing each other up.

After that, Caleb had saved up tens of thousands of dollars. He had met a girl that he liked on the construction site and eventually followed her back to Lancaster.

Charlie could not help but also feel very excited since both of them had not seen each other in so many years. He said, "Caleb, I think we have not seen each other for at least three or four years now, right? How has your life been in Lancaster over the past few years?"

As soon as Caleb heard Charlie's question, he laughed before he said, "I am okay! I am doing fine. I have good food to eat and clothes to wear!"

Charlie asked again, "Where is the girl that you met on the construction site? Are both of you married?"

"Sigh." There was a hint of sadness between Caleb's brows, but he smiled before he replied indifferently, "Get married? We dated for about two to three years, but we did not get married. After all, I could not afford to give her a dowry, and I do not have enough money to buy a house. The woman's parents despised me and would often advise her not to be together with someone like me. After some time, she fell under her parents' influence and started despising me as well. Then, she broke up with me."

Charlie frowned before he asked, "When did this happen?"

Caleb smiled slightly before he said, "Just last month."

Charlie nodded and said, "It is her loss for not choosing you."

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After he was done speaking, he said, "By the way, I haven't asked you. Aren't you supposed to be in Lancaster? How did you come to Aurous Hill so quickly?"

Caleb smiled before he said, "It is really very coincidental that my company has arranged for me to come over to Aurous Hill for a business trip. I only arrived here earlier in the afternoon today. As soon as I got off the bus, I saw all of you chatting in the group chat. That's why I decided to come here as soon as possible!"

Charlie asked curiously, "Didn't you start your own business? Why are you working for others again?"

Caleb smiled bitterly before he said, "Business is bad. How could anyone's business be doing well now? The economic situation in the past two years has not been easy, and it is not easy to run a business at all."

After he was done speaking, Caleb looked at Claire before he smiled and said, "Charlie, is this my younger sister-in-law?"

Charlie nodded before he said, "Yes. This is my wife, Claire."

After he was done speaking, he introduced Caleb to Claire, "Claire, this is Caleb, my best friend in the orphanage."

Caleb smiled again before he said, "Charlie, you are truly very blessed! Sister-in-law is so beautiful."

Claire smiled before she said, "Thank you."

Caleb nodded before he pretended to complain to Charlie, "Charlie, you are such a bad person! You did not take the initiative to contact any of us for so many years. After Mrs. Lewis suffered from uremia, I heard her saying that you would often visit her at the hospital, but it seems as though you were always intentionally avoiding all of our brothers and sisters! Why would you do that?"

Charlie chuckled before he replied seriously, "I had not been doing very well in the past few years, and I did not want anyone to see me when I was so destitute."

Charlie also had his own self-esteem. Ever since he married Claire, he had often been ridiculed by the people around him. They would say that he was a piece of trash, a pathetic jerk, and a useless live-in son-in-law. Although he generally did not mind what other people thought of him, he did not want his childhood friends who had grown up together with him to know of his dilemma.

Caleb replied seriously, "My dear brother, the both of us have lived together in a shack at the construction site for a long time. We could even break a steamed bun into half to share it between us. Why would you still be embarrassed in front of me? Besides that, brother, I have not been living a very good life for the past few years, but just look at me. Aren't I still living happily every day?"

Charlie nodded slightly.

At this time, Lisa also looked at Caleb with a smile on her face. After that, she said, "Brother Caleb, why aren't you saying hello to me?"

When Caleb saw Lisa, he stared at her for a long time. After that, he had a surprised look on his face as he said, "You...are you Lisa?!"

Just like Charlie, Caleb had never returned to the orphanage after he left at the age of eighteen.

At that time, Lisa was just a thirteen or fourteen-year-old teenage girl. However, Lisa had already bloomed into a young and beautiful woman. There was obviously a very big change in her.

Lisa smiled before she said, "Yes, it's me! Why are you so surprised?"

Caleb laughed as he said, "A young woman is really very different from the little girl that she used to be! In the past, you were so pale, thin, and short. You used to look like a tomboy. I really did not expect you to turn out to be such a beautiful young woman now!"

Lisa replied shyly, "Brother Caleb, stop praising me. How could I possibly be considered a pretty girl when my sister-in-law is here?"

After she spoke, Lisa could not stop herself from looking at Claire. She had a very envious expression on her face.

Caleb smiled as he said, "Don't belittle yourself. You are also a very beautiful young woman."

Lisa felt very embarrassed and did not know what else to say. At this time she suddenly received a phone call.

She answered the call and suddenly had a very anxious expression on her face after listening to the call. After that, she told everyone, "The owner of the restaurant just called me to tell me that the power in the restaurant tripped because of the aging wiring. It cannot be repaired today and they can only open and resume business tomorrow...."

"Ahh?" Caleb blurted out, "Then, we will have to look for another place to have dinner!"

Lisa said anxiously, "It's already dinner time now. I am afraid that it will be difficult for us to book a room anywhere at such short notice...."

When Charlie heard this, he was about to call Don Albert to ask him if there were any available rooms left at Heaven Springs.

At this time, a black Mercedes-Benz suddenly stopped beside the group of people....

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The window of the Mercedes-Benz was wound down. Charlie peered at the man behind the window and instantly recognized him.

He was Jeff Mowry, the guy who had taken the liberty to organize today's gathering in their messenger group.

However, Charlie and he were just normal acquaintances.

Jeff was dressed in a suit that seemed tight over his chubby figure and leather shoes. He stopped the car when he saw the crowd, poked his head out of the car window, and said, "Oh, hey, sorry guys for keeping you waiting."

A tinge of arrogance and hubris hovered in his eyes. He cleared his throat and explained in a smug tone, "Oh, there was a traffic jam on my way here, that's why I'm late."

Someone gaped in surprise, "Wow, Jeff, is this your car? When did you buy it?"

Jeff laughed pompously. "I just got it two days ago."

Charlie squinted in realization. No wonder this guy was so eager in organizing the get-together, he just wanted to show off his brand new car to his childhood friends!

Someone asked, "Hey, Jeff, what model is this car? It must burn a hole in your pocket, huh?"

Jeff laughed triumphantly yet said in a pretentious humble tone, "Nah, it's just a lousy E300L. Overall, it costs me around half a million."

“Whoa!!”

Everyone exclaimed in bewilderment.

“Wow, Jeff, you are so damn rich! You’ve only worked for a few years but you can already afford such an expensive car!”

“Yeah! We still have to take buses, but you are already driving a Merc! We’re really muddy in comparison!”

“It’s ‘pale’ in comparison.”

“Ah, same meaning.”

To be honest, children who grew up in an orphanage had literally no one to rely on in their lives.

Their headstart was much behind most people. If others started at 0, they started at negative.

From the looks of it, most of the children who left the orphanage at about the same time still struggled to meet basic needs. They couldn’t secure a good job with better benefits and welfare, let alone better opportunities, so most of them were poverty-stricken.

None of them could afford a car except for Charlie and Jeff, so they were very envious when they saw Jeff buy a Merc.

The smug smile never faded from Jeff’s face. He waved his hand and said, “Nah, it’s okay, to me, it’s just a small expense, nothing worth mentioning!”

Suddenly, his expression shifted when he saw Charlie standing in the crowd.

He didn’t expect that Charlie, his all-time rival, had arrived earlier than he did.

Back in the orphanage, he looked down on people like Charlie, so he always bullied him, but because of the difference in their strength and skills, he was often being beaten by Charlie instead.

As time went by, Charlie had become a traumatic existence in his mind that he couldn't shake off even until now.

He once thought that people like Charlie who was good at fighting would not do well in society.

He glimpsed at Charlie's attire and snorted. He was right! Charlie was still the same old loser with the lowly brands of clothing he wore.

However, the pretty Claire made him so shocked that his eyes lit up in astonishment!

He had never seen such a beautiful woman in his life.

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"Is she our friend from the orphanage too?" Jeff mumbled to himself.

He started to dig through his memories, trying to think of any fragments related to this beautiful girl.

Still donning the pretentiously polite yet smug smile on his face, he looked at Charlie and said, "Hey, you're Charlie, right? Long time no see!"

Charlie grinned and said, "Butt Trumpet?"

Butt Trumpet was Jeff's nickname back when they were in the orphanage. He used to be a chubby glutton who farted a lot, and more importantly, he farted wherever he went and whenever he felt like it. He would fart in classes, during game times, during meals, and when sleeping.

At that time, everyone was troubled and in misery due to his farts, hence the nickname—Butt Trumpet.

Jeff's face turned green when he heard Charlie mention his nickname, but before he could say anything, a young man behind him chided indignantly, "Hey, Charlie, watch your tongue! How dare you embarrass our Manager Mowry right in front of everyone? Jeff is now an executive of a listed company! Pay some respect!"

Charlie squinted at the man who had spoken and vaguely recalled his name as Harry Chambers, one of Jeff's lackeys when they were kids. He didn't expect that he would still take up the same role after so many years.

Charlie frowned and said flatly, "Oh, I'm sorry, I'm so used to calling him Butt Trumpet since we were young, I just can't help it."

Jeff glanced at Claire and was a little agitated when she obviously tried to muffle her laugh upon the mention of his nickname. He huffed angrily, "Hey, Charlie, I see that you're doing pretty well yourself. What car did you drive over?"

Harry interjected instantly, "Oh, Jeff, you go overboard. I heard that he became a live-in son-in-law who mooches off his wife. It would be great for him to have a mouthful of hot food. How can you ask what car he drives, you're humiliating him..."

"Oops, sorry, my bad!" Jeff slapped his forehead and said, "I'm sorry, Charlie, I'm quite straightforward, I hope you don't mind."

Inside, he grinned sinisterly and thought, 'Huh, Charlie Wade, let's see how you're going to respond to that!'

Charlie laughed out loud instead. "Haha, Butt Trumpet, I always thought that you loved to fart because your intestines were straight, but I didn't know that you are so straightforward just like how you fart. Is it the trachea that is used to speak? Your trachea is like your intestines, so straight and smooth!"

Everyone laughed out loud at Charlie's remark.

Jeff's face twisted into a disdainful grimace. He didn't expect Charlie to grab his straightforward argument and turn it into sarcasm.

However, his main concern for the moment was that he didn't want Claire to have a bad impression of him because of Charlie's remark, so he turned to Claire and asked with a coy smile, "By the way, you look quite unfamiliar, I can't recognize you. Is it because I haven't returned to the orphanage for so many years? Nice to meet you, may I know your name, please?"

Lisa chided, "Hey, Jeff, are you blind? Do you know who she is? She is Charlie's wife!"

"What?!"

Jeff gaped in extreme horror as if he was struck by lightning. He couldn't believe that the beautiful woman, the woman whom he had fallen for at first sight, was actually Charlie the loser's wife!

He turned his head stiffly at Charlie and eyed him. His Armani coat alone was more than enough to buy two sets of Charlie's cheap and lousy attire!

Then, he turned stiffly toward Claire who stood next to Charlie, tall and elegant. He couldn't help but feel extremely annoyed and irritated.

Damn it!

Claire was so pretty and charming, her body was exquisite and hot, she was the best among the best! She was hundreds, thousands, or even a million times stronger than those women he had met!

However, she was Charlie the deadbeat loser's wife! Goddamn it!

Chapter 955

Jeff was getting more agitated when he saw Charlie's beautiful wife, so he put on a sarcastic smirk and said, "Hey, Charlie, I haven't seen you for years, you have changed a lot, man. You look so polished and shiny, a typical toyboy and moocher face!"

Then, he scanned Charlie from head to toe, shook his head, and said in a mocking tone, "If only I knew how easy it was to be a live-in husband, I wouldn't have had to spend years working my ass off. Just look at me, after working so hard for years, ruining my health in the process, I've finally been promoted to a director position. It's so shameful to compare myself to the king of moochers like you!"

Jeff deliberately teased Charlie in such a cynical way because he wanted to boost his social status as well as discriminate against Charlie.

He couldn't help looking at the young and attractive Lisa.

Since he couldn't get his hands on Claire, the younger Lisa with her tender skin and flawless face was the second-best choice!

When they were in the orphanage, why didn't he notice that this little girl could turn out to be so beautiful! He would have had his way with her back then!

At this moment, the guys behind Jeff smirked sarcastically when they heard Jeff mocking Charlie. They didn't say anything, but the disdain in their eyes was as clear as crystal.

As for Charlie, he stood in place, his expression as calm as the lake.

Claire, on the other hand, was annoyed, and said coldly, "Mister, can you watch your tongue, please? My husband didn't provoke or mock you, why do you speak so rudely to him? Besides, what does it have to do with you whether my husband is a moocher or not, anyway? Does he mooch on you?"

Jeff's eyes widened in shock. He didn't expect such a comeback from Charlie's beautiful wife!

Life was so unfair!

He was a hardworking and excellent man, why couldn't he have such a perfect wife?

Was it true what the saying suggested, 'marriage goes by contrast'?!

He was feeling even more agitated and said with a sneer, "Sweetie, I'm not mocking your husband, I'm simply telling the truth. For a beauty like you to marry such a deadbeat loser, it's like putting new wine into old bottles!"

“You’re just an outsider! Whatever goes on between my husband and I is none of your business! You have no place to judge us!”

Jeff gaped in bewilderment and shock. Claire was not only beautiful, but she loved and adored her husband so much! It made him very jealous!

Lisa was also annoyed and chided, “Hey! Jeff Mowry! What do you mean? Did Charlie bother you before? Why are you so rude to him! You never change, you are just as bad as you always were!”

Jeff was infuriated by her remark.

Why did Lisa take Charlie’s side as well? What was so good about this loser anyway? Why were all the pretty ladies taking his side?

It was still understandable for Claire to take Charlie’s side since she was his wife, but Lisa was not related to him, why did she behave like this too?

The more Jeff looked at Lisa, the more he felt that the girl was a gem!

She was tall and slender at the tender age of her early twenties, and her physique was impeccable!

Moreover, her pouty face was so adorable and appealing, he wanted to pull her into his arms and kiss her!

It would be great if he could get his hands on this cute girl!

Chapter 956

Jeff smiled coyly and said, “Oh, Lisa, don’t get me wrong. I’m just joking with Charlie. You know us, we used to tease each other a lot back in the days, actually, we’re buddies!”

Lisa snorted and turned her head, ignoring him.

At this moment, a woman with grey hair and a kind face walked out of the orphanage's entrance. She asked as she saw the crowd, "Eh, why are you all still standing here? I thought you went to the restaurant already."

The crowd hurriedly looked back and was surprised to see that it was Mrs. Lewis who was talking to them.

Mrs. Lewis donned a gentle smile on her face. She was pleased to see them. When her eyes settled on Charlie, they were immediately filled with gratitude.

Everyone was looking at Mrs. Lewis with earnest and excited eyes.

With the ability he had obtained from the apocalyptic book, Charlie could see at a glance that Mrs. Lewis had completely recovered and she was doing perfectly fine!

He felt extremely relieved and sighed at the same time. If he had obtained the sooner, Mrs. Lewis didn't even have to undergo the kidney transplant surgery! The Rejuvenating Pill would have been enough to cure her and also make her a few years younger.

Mrs. Lewis shared the same feelings. For her, every child in front of her was like her own child whom she adored wholeheartedly. She had dedicated all her life to the orphanage.

She didn't expect these children to treat her like their mother, but she was pleased and grateful to see them visiting her.

The crowd marched forward and greeted Mrs. Lewis. Some of them were sincere, while others just did it for the sake of formality.

Regardless, Mrs. Lewis was very grateful for the children to still remember her.

Charlie also stepped forward and said, "Mrs. Lewis, congratulations on your recovery and discharge!"

Claire smiled sweetly and said, "Mrs. Lewis, congratulations on your recovery!"

Mrs. Lewis was smiling from ear to ear when she saw Charlie and Claire. "Charlie, Claire! I haven't seen you for months! I miss you! How are you doing?"

There were a lot of children who came and went in the orphanage, and she treated each and every one of them as her own. Still, in all honesty, Charlie was the only boy whom she adored dearly.

When Charlie was in the orphanage, he was the most obedient, sensible, and considerate child.

Besides, although the other children would often come back to visit the orphanage and occasionally sponsor them, Charlie was the only one who did his best to help the orphanage.

When she was ill, even her family had been irked by the hefty amount of medical bills, but Charlie was the only one who stood up for her and sponsored her.

Had it not been for him, she would have died long ago.

Even more so, thanks to Charlie's sponsor, she could receive the best treatment at the Fairview Hospital in Eastcliff, and thus, she was genuinely indebted to Charlie's kindness and generosity.

She felt the same for Claire in terms of her gratitude. They had both helped her a lot in raising the money for her medical bills.

Mrs. Lewis took Claire's hand and looked at her just as she looked at her daughter-in-law and praised, "Claire, you are more beautiful than before. Tell me, does Charlie bully you or cause you trouble? Both of you are a match made in heaven, you must respect each other and get along well. Don't ever let anyone talk badly about you."

Chapter 957

Claire quickly said, "Don't worry, Mrs. Lewis. Charlie and I are doing great."

Then, she blushed and said apologetically, "Mrs. Lewis, I'm sorry for not being able to visit you in Eastcliff. I wouldn't even have known that you had recovered and were back to Aurous Hill if Charlie hadn't told me. I'm terribly sorry..."

“Oh no, please don’t, honey. You guys have helped so much. You took care of me in the hospital when I was seriously ill. I may have already died from the illness if it weren’t for you two helping me with the bills...”

Mrs. Lewis’ eyes reddened with tears and she choked up, “I’m ever so thankful to you, Claire. You had to take care of the Wilson family affairs as well as me, it must have been very hard on you. I feel very thankful and guilty at the same time. I’m a burden to both of you. It should be me who says sorry!”

Claire grabbed her hands tight and said, “Mrs. Lewis, don’t forget that I am Charlie’s wife! You are his fairy godmother, which means you are my fairy godmother too!”

Mrs. Lewis shed grateful tears upon Claire’s remark, and she felt that the young lady was a little different from the past as she saw her again this time.

Although it was not the first time Claire had accompanied Charlie to visit her in the orphanage, previously, there was always a vague feeling of alienation and coldness between them that indicated that they had no feelings for each other.

However, when she saw them again this time, they were holding hands, and it seemed that their relationship had improved a lot.

In the past, Mrs. Lewis often heard a lot of worrisome rumors about them that made her concerned about their relationship, fearing that someday Charlie would be kicked out of the Wilson family when they divorced.

She could finally heave a sigh of relief upon the sweet sight of them together.

Meanwhile, everyone gaped in astonishment upon listening to their conversation.

Only now did they learn about the things Charlie and his wife had done for Mrs. Lewis when she was sick.

Charlie was humble as always. He was sincere in helping Mrs. Lewis for the sake of repaying her unconditional love and favor. Never did he think of doing this to show off in front of others.

Jeff was utterly depressed though!

He had taken the liberty to organize this reunion, which was also why everyone had come together to visit Mrs. Lewis today!

He thought that as a successful man, he could make a spectacle of himself in front of others during the reunion and shower himself with compliments as well as have a fling with Lisa.

Unexpectedly, Charlie had come out of nowhere and stolen his limelight, making him look like an insignificant billboard in the background!

Jeff glared at Charlie with a tinge of resentment.

Mrs. Lewis patted Claire's hand and said, "Claire, you and Charlie are not young anymore, it's about time for you to have a kid. Charlie is the only one married among the kids that left the orphanage at the same time, the rest of them are still single. Hurry up, I can't wait to cuddle my little god-grandchildren!"

Claire blushed timidly.

She and Charlie had been married for three years, but no one had ever urged them to have a baby. Her entire family except her grandfather had looked down on him and prayed that she could divorce Charlie someday. No one had wanted them to have a child together.

However, as Mrs. Lewis pushed the idea into her thoughts, in addition to being shy, she had some peculiar feelings brewing inside her.

Claire would soon be 26 years old, the optimal age of childbearing. At this age, motherhood and motherly senses started to grow inside of her.

Even when she saw other people with children, maternal love would overflow in her heart, and she wondered when she could have a baby of her own.

However, her complicated family affairs stopped her from considering this issue.

Hence, she said shyly, "Mrs. Lewis, we haven't had much thought about children yet, I have just started my business, and it is the busiest time right now."

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At this moment, as Lisa locked her gaze on Claire, there was a dash of jealousy and anguish in her eyes.

She had liked Charlie ever since she was a child and always dreamed of being Charlie's bride. She hadn't forgotten this dream, but from the looks of it, her dream could never come true.

That was why she envied Claire even more. In her opinion, Claire was the happiest woman in the world because she had married the best man in the world.

Mrs. Lewis smiled gently and said, "Yes, building your career is important, but so is family. It's better to have a baby when you are young, as it will affect your health otherwise."

Claire nodded, her blushing face as red as an apple.

Lisa then said apologetically, "Mrs. Lewis, the owner of the restaurant just called, he said that there was a problem with their electricity in the restaurant, so they had to close for business today. Looks like we have to find another place to eat."

Mrs. Lewis said with a motherly smile, "It doesn't matter. The most important thing is that I'm glad to see all of you today. I haven't seen some of you for a long time, I'm very happy."

Jeff, who had been neglected the whole time, blinked mischievously upon hearing this. He immediately marched forward and blurted, "Mrs. Lewis, let me arrange the dinner venue for us tonight."

He took out his phone and made a call, and then announced to the crowd, "Guys, I've reserved a table at the five-star Hyatt Hotel. Let's go!"

The crowd sucked in a breath in surprise upon the announcement!

Someone started in an awkward tone, "Hyatt is a five-star hotel, it's a little too extravagant to dine there, right? It will cost at least twenty to thirty thousand per meal, right?"

“Yeah! Even if we go Dutch, it will cost one or two thousand per person! We can’t afford such high expenses with our current salary!”

Everyone nodded in unison, frowning and mumbling.

Only the people from the upper-class social circle could frequent places like a five-star hotel and afford the luxury the hotel provided.

As for the people present, they were all orphans with lower academic qualifications and no family, so they could only land jobs with mediocre pay.

The jobs they could land were mostly blue-collar jobs. Their salary was only enough for their daily needs, and they could not afford an extra luxury in their lives.

Therefore, they were very anxious and worried when they heard about dining in a five-star hotel for fear that it would exceed their monthly budget and increase their financial strain.

Jeff chuckled and said while patting his chest, “Guys, relax. I’ll pay for half of the meal, and you guys can share the other half. It will only cost a few hundred per person. What do you think?”

Everyone instantly sighed in relief.

Indeed, based on Jeff’s suggestion, they could save a lot of money and feel less burdened.

Someone started, “Hey, is it really okay for you to cover half of the bill? It doesn’t seem fair to you.”

Jeff waved his hands indifferently. “Ah, no problem at all! We are here mainly to celebrate Mrs. Lewis’s recovery, it’s no big deal!”

What they didn’t know was that meals and entertainment expenses were reimbursable expenses in his company.

Jeff had a plan sketched out in his mind. It seemed like he was extremely generous to pay half of the bill while the others shared the other half. In reality, he would ask for the bill from the restaurant later and reimburse his expenses from his company. By then, not only could he get back the money he spent, but he could also earn the extra half that he obtained from them!

In this case, if the meal cost them thirty grand, he paid fifteen grand and everyone paid fifteen grand, then, he would reimburse thirty grand from his company. By doing so, he could save his reputation and gain some fame for his so-called generosity as well as earn fifteen grand at the same time!

Why not?

Chapter 959

Mrs. Lewis hurriedly interjected, "Jeff, I can understand your kind intention, but we don't have to go to such a high-end place just to celebrate my recovery. It's too expensive!"

She continued, "Besides, it's just a meal. I can cook for you guys, let's just eat in the orphanage. This way, you can save your money for other purposes. Don't spend it on me, it's not worth it..."

She had been thrifty and frugal her entire life that she had never been to such a luxurious place before. Moreover, she would feel awkward and uneasy to dine at a place that would cost so much money.

However, Jeff smiled and said, "Mrs. Lewis, please don't say that. You literally brought us up, it's about time for us to repay your favor. Besides, I'm not the only one to cover the bill, I'll share it with them!"

Seeing Mrs. Lewis's hesitation, he persuaded, "Mrs. Lewis, don't worry, it won't be too expensive. The Hyatt Hotel is my company's client, I can get some discounts on my visit, so it will cost them only a few hundred dollars for the meal!"

Everyone was relieved upon hearing his remark. Indeed, a few hundred dollars was still within their budget, thus, they could be at ease.

Besides, if they could spend very little money to experience the upscale and luxurious five-star hotel, it was totally worth it.

Mrs. Lewis was still a little reluctant. Jeff checked his watch and said, "Mrs. Lewis, it's already 6 o'clock, we'd better hurry. Other places might be full already."

Mrs. Lewis looked at the crowd. It was rare to see them all at the same time, and it would be a disappointment if they couldn't dine together.

Finally, she couldn't withstand Jeff's overwhelming enthusiasm and said, "Alright then, let's go to the Hyatt."

Jeff grinned triumphantly and said, "Okay, let's go now."

Someone asked, "Hey, we have a dozen people here, how do we get there?"

Jeff smiled and said, "My car can fit four more people inside. Mrs. Lewis can sit in my car, Lisa too, and two more people."

Then, he turned his gaze toward Charlie and asked with a coy smile, "Charlie, do you want to ride in my car with your wife? I can take you there. Your wife is so pretty, she should sit comfortably in a Merc or BMW, you can't take her for a bus ride!"

Charlie smiled faintly. "Thanks but no thanks, we drove here."

"Oh, really?" Jeff asked in an exaggerated expression, "Aren't you a househusband? How could you afford a car? What car is it? An Alto or Charade?"

Charlie took out the BMW car key emotionlessly and pressed the unlock button. The yellow lights on the BMW 760 that was parked on the side of the road not far away blinked twice.

Everyone looked in the direction where his car key was pointing and gaped in extreme astonishment when they saw that he had literally unlocked a BMW.

These orphanage youngsters could only afford blue-collar jobs with a mediocre salary. They were already amazed at Jeff and his Mercedes-Benz and set it as the ultimate goal of their lives, but none of them expected that Charlie drove a BMW.

Jeff instantly gleaned indignantly. He was supposed to be at the center of attention because of his Merc, but because BMW and Merc were basically at the same class and range, it made him feel uneasy and awkward.

He was supposed to be the only one among these orphanage friends who could afford such exquisite car brands, but Charlie had come out of nowhere with his BMW!

He took a closer look at Charlie's car anxiously and finally grinned coyly when he saw the '520' imprinted on the back of the car.

Chapter 960

The BMW 5 Series and the Mercedes-Benz E-Class Series were quite equivalent in their range, but Jeff knew very well that Charlie's BMW 520 was the lowest model in the 5 Series, while his Merc E300L was closer to the most premium model in the E-Class Series. There were also the E260 and E200 models below him.

In other words, Charlie's BMW 520 was of the same grade as the Merc E200, while his E300L was more advanced than his car in terms of its performance.

He grinned coyly and said, "Hey, Charlie, I don't want to condemn you, but you are being so vain. Experts have said that you must never buy the cheapest and lowest model in the series. Why did you buy this lousy beggar version 520 instead of the better model with the higher-spec in the 3 Series? Are you trying to show off?"

Some asked curiously, "Jeff, what is the beggar version?"

Jeff answered with a smug smile, "The beggar version means the car with the lowest specs in the series, the entry-level, the basic of them all."

Everyone nodded knowingly.

Right at this moment, a portrait struck Charlie's mind. He remembered Clinton Tucker, the guy who drove a BMW 540 to Douglas's newly opened restaurant and acted as though he flew a plane.

He remembered how Clinton had teased and agitated him, even challenging him to a race, trying to crush his 520 with his 540.

A light bulb was switched on in his mind! Clinton was the one who had teased him into a car race, but this time, he wanted to agitate Jeff so that he would want a race himself!

He cleared his throat and started, "Jeff, I wonder if you've ever heard this saying, 'Hamilton doesn't win all his titles because he has the best car, but because he is Hamilton'. It means that if you are an excellent driver, you can drive any car faster than others, but if you are a mediocre driver, you can't outrun anyone even if you drive an F1."

Then, Charlie donned an egotistical smirk and continued, "Jeff, I don't want to brag, but my driving skill is the best in the city. I even earned a nickname—Schumacher of Aurous Hill!"

Jeff curled his lips disdainfully. "Damn it! You? Schumacher of Aurous Hill? Do you even know what Schumacher looks like?"

Charlie sneered contemptuously, "Suck it, pal."

Jeff snorted, "Huh! It's your mouth, you can say whatever the hell you want to say! I don't believe you! Schumacher of Aurous Hill driving a BMW 520? Oh my God, you've gotta be kidding me! A simple press on my accelerator and you will only be able to smell my exhaust smoke!"

Then, Jeff arched his eyebrows arrogantly and asked, "Hey, do you want to bet?"

"Huh? Again?" Charlie laughed. "Honestly, I just defeated a BMW 540i not long ago. 540 is more powerful than your E300L, just so you know."

Jeff spat contemptuously and growled, "Hey, did you sketch your dialog first before you started bragging? Your lousy car defeated a 540? Do you really expect me to believe in that bullshit? If you can defeat my E300L, I'll take your last name!"

Charlie asked deliberately, "How much horsepower is your car?"

"258!" Jeff stated proudly.

Charlie nodded as he gave a thumbs up. "Awesome! I'm not your opponent then, my car is just a mere 184-horsepower! My car is nothing compared to yours!"

Jeff smirked, "What? Do you want to back off now? What did you just say? You defeated a much more powerful BMW 540 with 340-horsepower, and you're afraid of my 258-horsepower Merc E300L? You're such a coward!"

Charlie replied, pretending to be afraid and timid, "Eh, I told you that I'm not on par with you, you win! You win by walkover! Aren't you happy?"

Chapter 961

"No can do!" Jeff shouted. When he saw Charlie start to back off, he jumped on him instead and said in a loud voice, "Guys, you heard him, right? You said it yourself, Charlie, 'Hamilton can win because he is Hamilton, not because he has the best cars'. If so, let's race and see if you really deserve the Schumacher nickname.."

Charlie waved his hands timidly and said, "Hey, Jeff, just forget about the whole thing. We are not even at the same level, it's not fair."

It truly wasn't fair. A BMW 760 vs a Merc E300L was like sending a wolf after a Husky.

Jeff assumed that Charlie was trying to talk him out of the race because he was scared, so he teased again, "Charlie, you were showing off just now, why have you become such a coward suddenly? Can't you man up in front of your wife?"

Charlie replied, pretending to be annoyed, "Hey, Jeff, don't say that. We're childhood friends, why must you be so aggressive toward me? Yeah, you drive a great car, stop bragging about it! Do you think you can win just because your car is better than mine?"

Jeff thought that Charlie had fallen into his trap, but little did he know that he was the one falling into Charlie's trap. He quickly said, "The winner is decided from the race, but the point is, do you dare to take up the challenge? Well, I can't do anything if you are a wuss and decide to back off."

Charlie stomped angrily. "Alright! Let's race then! I'm not afraid of you!"

Jeff grinned delightfully. "Awesome! Let's race! Here, we'll drive to the Hyatt, and whoever arrives first wins. Deal?"

Charlie nodded. "Alright, but we can't race for nothing. What about a bet?"

"Come on!" Jeff said confidently, "I'll bet whatever you suggest!"

Charlie pondered for a while and said, "Lisa told me that the orphanage has limited funding. So, whoever loses must donate his car to the orphanage and let them do whatever they want with the car, no backsies. What do you think?"

Caleb tugged Charlie's arm and blurted, "Buddy, don't be fooled! He is playing tricks on you!"

Charlie smiled gently and told him that everything was going to be okay, but he thought to himself, 'Brother, I'm the one playing tricks because I want him to fall into my trap!'

Of course, he didn't say it out loud.

Jeff giggled, already foreseeing his winning. "Charlie, is this car's ownership under your name? I thought you are a live-in husband, so this should be your wife's car, am I right? How can you bet with your wife's car? What if you lose and your wife doesn't want to donate the car to the orphanage?"

Claire gritted her teeth in irritation as she found Jeff very arrogant and annoying, thus, she said, "Although I own the car, don't you worry. I can guarantee you that if my husband loses, I will donate the car to the orphanage, but you have to do the same if you lose! Everyone here is our witness! Do you agree?"

Jeff was relieved after hearing Claire's remark, thinking, 'Huh, do you really think my Merc E300L can't outrun your BMW 520? Since you want to bring disgrace upon yourself, be my guest and get ready to say goodbye to your car!'

Jeff said pompously, "Okay, beauty, I agree to the terms. Everyone, you are our witness, including Mrs. Lewis. Whoever loses donates their car to the orphanage, this is our deal!"

Mrs. Lewis said frantically, "Oh, you guys, what's with all the betting and races and whatnot? You guys grew up together, why can't you sit down and talk nicely? Why do you want to fight like children? Listen to me, forget about the race and the bet, let's just eat dinner peacefully, chit chat and socialize, okay?"

Chapter 962

Jeff said, "Mrs. Lewis, please stay out of it, this is between Charlie and me. Besides, no matter who wins or loses today, the orphanage is the biggest winner. The resale value of my car is about four hundred grand, Charlie's car is slightly cheaper, around two or three hundred grand. You can use the money to improve the facilities and buy things for the children in the orphanage."

Charlie said with a warm smile, "Mrs. Lewis, don't you worry about us, Jeff and I will handle it personally."

Mrs. Lewis was actually afraid that Charlie was at the losing end of the stick, however, looking at Charlie's confident smile, she felt that it was not as simple as she thought.

Frankly, while she was receiving treatment in Eastcliff, she noticed something strange and peculiar.

Firstly, she noticed that the doctors in the hospital were very polite and respectful toward her, almost as though she was a VIP patient.

When she was in the hospital, a famous celebrity had come to Fairview Hospital to see a doctor who happened to be her doctor in charge. Surprisingly, she found that the doctor's attitude toward the celebrity was far less friendly than his attitude toward her.

She couldn't help but wonder why the doctor and hospital staff treated her in such a gracious manner. She was just a normal employee of an orphanage, and she has come to Eastcliff for the first time in her life. She didn't have any connection with anyone significant nor any influential background. What was with the special treatment anyway?

The second peculiar moment was when she was on the operating table and had been injected with anesthesia. Before she passed out, she had heard the conversation between her doctor and his assistant.

Amid her dizziness, she had heard the doctor say that she was the young master's benefactor, so they must be extremely cautious in her procedure.

She never knew who was this 'young master' that they were talking about. It could be possible that she had misheard it when she was passing out.

However, every time she thought of this, Charlie immediately came to her mind.

She couldn't explain why, but she felt that this boy whom she had brought up was not as simple as he seemed to be.

Charlie was the one who had settled her medical bills that cost millions of dollars. How did he do it? Where did he get so much money in such a short period of time?

She didn't know how and why, but she still felt that it was very incredible.

Today, when she saw Charlie again, she genuinely felt that he had indeed changed a lot from before. The biggest change was that he was so much more confident than he used to be!

This also made Mrs. Lewis feel very pleased and happy. In the past, she had always hoped that Charlie could gain more self-confidence, but he had failed. From the looks of it now, though, it seemed that he had successfully passed the hurdle and manned up.

Hence, she nodded and decided not to intervene in the bet between Charlie and Jeff.

Jeff grinned smugly and uttered, "Charlie, to be fair, five people will fill both our cars, and let the passengers, including Mrs. Lewis, be our witness in case the person who loses breaks his promise!"

Charlie nodded and said, "Okay, deal! Then, Mrs. Lewis, Lisa, and Caleb will sit in my car."

"Okay!" Jeff laughed. "My buddies will sit in my car!"

Chapter 963

The nosy guys cheered delightfully and hopped into the car, but since they only had two cars there, the rest had to take a taxi to Hyatt Hotel.

Charlie got into the BMW 760. Claire sat in the front passenger seat while Mrs. Lewis, Lisa, and Caleb sat in the back.

Charlie said after starting the car, "Guys, sit tight. Later when I reach the straight road ahead, I can win the race with just a step on the accelerator."

Then, he looked at Mrs. Lewis and said, "Mrs. Lewis, please hold on to the handrails. Once I accelerate, I will win a Mercedes-Benz for the orphanage! You can sell it for three hundred thousand dollars, then use the money to buy toys and books for the children!"

Mrs. Lewis nodded with a gentle smile. "I thank you on behalf of our children!"

Meanwhile, five people were inside Jeff's car, all of whom were his lackeys.

Jeff drove and stopped beside Charlie's car, wound down the window, and said with a smirk, "Hey, buddy, whenever you're ready, man! I'll give you a three-second head-start."

Charlie said humbly, "Oh, please don't, we're friends. I don't need a head-start, let's go together."

"Haha!" The five people in the Mercedes-Benz laughed out loud. Jeff said, "Charlie, you are very interesting, do you know that? If so, on my mark, okay?"

Charlie nodded. "Alright, go ahead."

Jeff laughed and said, "On my mark, one, two, three, go!"

Jeff stomped on the accelerator and sped off.

Charlie intentionally went a second later than him, then, he too stepped on the accelerator, and his BMW 760 sped off like an arrow shooting from a bow. It only took him a second to overtake Jeff and leave him far behind.

The road was as straight as a ruler. He increased his speed a little bit and the car was nowhere to be seen.

Jeff didn't even realize that Charlie had overtaken him until someone in the car reminded him, "Hey, Jeff, Charlie overtook you!"

“What? Where?!” Jeff’s heart skipped a beat. He looked up and stared with a dazed expression, “Shit, how could he be so fast...”

A guy in the back seat sighed, “Hmm, Charlie didn’t bluff, he is truly good!”

“Good my ass!” Cold sweat drenched Jeff’s forehead. “It’s nothing about the driving skill, he just has a very good car! Damn it, that fucker set me up!”

The guy asked frantically, “What do you mean?”

Jeff’s face turned red and green in annoyance. “I already stepped on my accelerator to its maximum but he is still so much faster than me, that means his car’s horsepower is higher and stronger than mine! I estimate that it’s at least 400 horsepower!”

Then, he mumbled anxiously, “Damn it, I’m screwed! I fell right into Charlie’s trap...”

The guy in the front passenger seat asked, “Why, Jeff? Are you sure you can’t win?”

“How can I win...” Jeff was so anxious he almost burst into tears. “It’s obvious that his car is on a different level than mine, I can’t even approach his tail even if I go all out. Look, you can’t even see his shadow now! The Hyatt is just two or three kilometers away, how can I catch up! I’ll be damned!”

“What?!” A guy in the back seat blurted, “If you lose, you have to donate your car to the orphanage...”

“Donate my ass!” Jeff shouted, “Do you know how much effort it took to buy this car? No way! I’ll donate the car over my dead body!”

“But you’ve already made a bet with Charlie just now right in front of everyone. It will be nasty if you break your promise.”

Jeff was aware of this problem as well.

If he really went back on his words, he would be a laughingstock forever!

However, he didn't want to give away his brand new car to the orphanage!

For an instant, he even thought that he would simply drive away, skip the dinner, and never interact with his orphanage friends again in the future!

Something struck his mind again and he had a change of plans. He shifted to the right lane swiftly and tailgated the car in front of him!

Jeff had the perfect plan laid out in his mind, and that was to stage a car accident! That way, the race would be forfeited due to unexpected circumstances, so he would not lose!

Thus, he eyed the cars on the road, searching for a scapegoat.

At this moment, the guy in the front passenger seat yelled in horror, "Jeff! Jeff! You're going to hit the car! You're going to hit it!"

Jeff smirked and thought, 'Yeah, I want to hit it!'

However, as he got closer and closer, he realized that it was a black Porsche Cayenne. He stepped on the brakes immediately!

A Porsche Cayenne cost about one million dollars, while he had only bought five hundred thousand dollars of insurance for his car. The insurance might not be enough to cover the repair cost if he crashed into the Porsche.

It just so happened that there was a Volkswagen Passat on the other right lane. Hence, he turned his steering and headed toward the Passat!

With a loud bang, the Passat skidded for a few meters before stopping, while Jeff's Mercedes was crushed beyond recognition. Luckily the airbag exploded, so no one was injured.

After the accident, Jeff stopped his car and got off. He immediately took out his phone, turned on the video mode in WeChat, and started recording.

He aimed his camera toward the crumpled front of his car and the Passat in front of him, saying, "Guys, please tell Charlie that I had an accident here and crashed into a Passat. I'm afraid that the race has to be forfeited today. Tell him that we'll race again after my car is fixed!"

Then, he clicked 'send' and the video was sent to the chatting group of his orphanage friends.

He grinned triumphantly and thought, 'Damn, I'm so bloody smart! I can think of something like this to solve my problem in such a short time! I'm so clever that I'm impressed with myself!'

Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to do anything anymore if he drove all the way to Hyatt. He wouldn't be able to mingle with his orphanage friends anymore even if he didn't donate the car.

Initially, he wouldn't mind losing these friends since he had no real feelings for these people as well as Mrs. Lewis, but he had a change of mind when he saw Lisa today. He felt as if he had a new goal in life.

He was looking for ways to get his hands on Lisa no matter what it took, but it would not do him any good if he lost the race and broke his promise today.

Just as he was gloating in his brilliance, a man walked up to him and shouted, "Hey, are you fucking blind?! Who told you my car is a Passat? It's an imported w12 Volkswagen Phaeton! This fucking car cost me 2 million dollars! Did a donkey kick your head or something, you fucking idiot?!"

"What the hell?!" Jeff gaped in extreme horror. "Phaeton?! Isn't it a Passat?"

The man cursed in the worst way. He then grabbed Jeff's collar, pulled him toward the back of his car, and screamed, "Look, you fucking idiot! Spell it. P. H. A. E. T. O. N, Phaeton!"

Blood drained from Jeff's face, his heart pumping violently!

Was this the most underrated Volkswagen Phaeton? Why the hell did it look like a Passat?!

Chapter 965

Although the Porsche was a luxury car brand, an ordinary Cayenne was just over a million.

German's Volkswagen was considered a common car brand too, however, the Phaeton was a very rare and expensive model.

The top-spec Phaeton was worth more than two million dollars which were equivalent to the top-spec Audi A8, Mercedes-Benz S-Class, and BMW 7-Series.

Earlier, Jeff was so taken aback by the Porsche Cayenne's logo that he had instinctively tried to crash into a cheaper car. When he saw the Phaeton, he only recognized the Volkswagen logo and the car looked like a cheap Passat, so he ran into it swiftly.

Never did he expect that it had turned out to be the underrated Phaeton...

When he thought of the car's price tag—2 freaking million dollars!—he was so depressed that he wished he could die right there and then.

The parts-to-whole price ratio was an important element in a car that would reflect the auto maintenance cost in ordinary use. In other words, if the parts of a car were taken apart, the auto parts would be two or three times the price of the whole vehicle or even higher.

After the collision, the Phaeton's two taillights, trunk, and anti-collision beams were severely damaged. It was an imported car too, so all its parts and accessories needed to be imported, and might cost hundreds of thousands to repair.

Besides, his Mercedes-Benz was horribly damaged too.

Mercedes-Benz was one of the brands with the highest parts-to-whole price ratio. If you dismantled the five hundred grand E-Class according to the parts listed by the workshop, it would come to a total of one million and more!

Just the two automatic headlights cost more than sixty grand!

In addition, the front engine cover, water tank, radiator, and anti-collision beams were all gone, plus the two exploded airbags. He estimated that the insured cost would be around two hundred grand.

If he ran into a Passat, the combined damage of the two cars would definitely not exceed five hundred thousand which would be covered under his insurance and there was nothing to worry about.

However, he had crashed into a Phaeton like a blind idiot...

He estimated that the damage of the two cars might be close to one million!

His insurance could only compensate up to five hundred thousand, he had to figure out the rest of the money by himself.

Jeff felt as if the sky had crumbled upon him. He looked devastatingly at the owner of the Phaeton and said with a painful grimace, "Boss, why do you drive this car on the street? Are you trying to scam others?"

"Did you just say that I'm a scam?!" The man slapped Jeff's face angrily and shouted, "You crashed my car, you are responsible for this, and you dare to say that I'm scamming you?! Believe it or not, I can get someone here to chop you up with a simple phone call!"

Jeff covered his face in shock and blurted as he reflexively stepped back, "You... how could you slap me?!"

"I can't slap you?" The man cursed, "Do you have any idea who I am?"

"I don't know..." Jeff shook his head sheepishly.

The man grabbed Jeff by the collar, pulled him closer to his face, and growled, "Look clearly. My name is Caesar Hilton. Have you heard of my name?"

Jeff's face was as pale as a sheet of paper when he heard the name.

Of course, he had heard of Caesar Hilton.

Don Albert had four right-hand men which he called the Four Great Guardians. Their position was just below Don Albert, and they were his most powerful assistants.

Chapter 966

The Four Great Guardians were well-known figures in Aurous Hill, and Caesar was the most famous of them all.

His nickname in the underworld was Chief Caesar.

Jeff never expected that he would run into Caesar's Phaeton in order to avoid a Porsche Cayenne.

He regretted his decision very much. If he knew that it would end up like this, he would have crashed his car into the Porsche!

No! If he knew it would be like this, he wouldn't agree to race with Charlie! It was a trap!

Yes, that's right!

Charlie was to blame for all of this! The bastard had tricked him! His BMW 520 must be a modified car since it was surprisingly powerful.

If Charlie hadn't set up the trap, he wouldn't have made such a decision!

Jeff hated Charlie very much as he thought of it.

Caesar snorted at Jeff's pale and shaky face, and growled, "Hey, show me your driver's license and ID!"

Jeff nodded profusely, went into the car to retrieve all the cards, and handed them to Caesar respectfully. Caesar glanced at the cards briefly and put them into his pocket.

He looked back at Jeff and said coldly, "Jeff Mowry, right? I've been in the underworld for so many years, I really don't want to handle such messy stuff. Look, I've had the car not even

for a month and you've crashed it into a bunch of twisted metals. No matter how you fix it, it is a damaged car and no longer the new car that I owned."

Caesar huffed a breath and continued, "So, I have a very simple solution for you. From now on, this car is yours."

Jeff blinked in confusion.

What did he mean? Why did he say that? Why did he want to give him the Phaeton? It didn't make sense.

Caesar squinted darkly and said, "My solution is simple, I give you the car, and you get me a new car with the exact same specs, then, I'll drop this case. You should count your lucky stars because I'm in a good mood today, or else, for what you just did there, you can say goodbye to your legs!"

Jeff collapsed on the floor, feeling extreme misery and despair.

He had asked for a new car which could cost more than 2 million dollars! Where could he get so much money?

Besides, what good was it for him to give him this car? The repair alone would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, not to mention it would lose its resale value after the repair. All in all, he would need to shell out a large sum of money just for this mess!

And this wasn't even including his own car's damage cost!

The auto insurance could only cover half a million dollars, yet the combined losses were estimated to exceed one million.

Jeff was on the verge of collapse. He had bought the Merc with a loan, and his monthly payment for the car was ten grand for three years.

He had used up all his savings to pay the down payment of the car, and his monthly salary was only about twenty grand, how could he manage such a hefty sum of money?

When he thought of this, Jeff sobbed and said, "Brother Caesar, I'm all to blame for this matter, I am solely responsible, I admit it! But I really don't have much money, I can't afford to compensate you for such an expensive car!"

"I don't care!" Caesar shouted furiously, "You crashed into my car, you have to give a satisfactory compensation. Did you say that you have no money? Find a way! I'll give you a week, tops! If I don't see my new Phaeton in a week, I'll order someone to chop you off."

Then, Caesar glared at him and continued, "I have some business to tend to. This car is yours now. You have one week. If you can't solve the problem, I'll cut you up. If you dare to run, I'll kill you!"

Chapter 967

Jeff shivered in fright and horror. His mind was in a big mess, he didn't know what to do.

Caesar shrugged him off indifferently. He went back to his Phaeton to take his personal belongings and then tossed the car key to Jeff.

"I have a spare key for this car, I'll give it to you when you hand me the new car. Don't worry, although I'm a mobster, I never blackmail anyone. I'll take what's mine, I won't take anything that is not. We in the underworld have a principle—honesty!"

"However, if you don't fulfill my demand, I'll track you down!"

Then, he raised his hand to hail a cab, got in, and left like a gust of wind.

Jeff's friends watched the scene in awe and bewilderment.

Caesar was truly the boss in the underworld, acting very decisively and with a no-nonsense attitude. He had simply tossed his 2 million dollar car here and left. He was so awesome.

On the other hand, Jeff was crouching on the floor, wailing and crying.

Where could he get the money to buy a new Phaeton? Even if he sold these two cars, it was far from enough!

However, Caesar was too influential and dangerous. If he didn't solve the problem in a week, it was highly likely that he might order someone to kill him!

Jeff didn't know what to do now. He stared at the two damaged cars in front of him, wishing that he could just die in a car crash.

His buddies surrounded him and asked in concern, "Jeff, what should we do now?"

Jeff grabbed his hair in agony and screamed, "How would I know?! Oh my God, how did all of this happen? Why did I crash into a Phaeton? I don't understand why someone would spend 2 million dollars just to buy a car that looks like a cheapo Passat!"

He buried his face in his arms and cried out loud.

In the meantime, the message group was bombarded with questions.

Since Jeff had posted the video, a lot of people in the group had been asking him in concern. [How are you? Is everything okay? How's everyone? Are you injured?]

After all, all of them had grown up together in the orphanage. Despite being a busybody, everyone was genuinely worried when they learned about Jeff's accident.

However, Charlie knew that it was just Jeff's trick to pull himself off the bet in a reasonable manner.

When he simply stepped on the accelerator of his BMW 760, he had overtaken Jeff's Merc and sped off at a high speed. Under such circumstances, everyone knew that Jeff would not win the race.

Jeff himself must have known it too.

Charlie was positively certain that Jeff didn't want to donate his car to the orphanage, so he had decided to create a car crash as an excuse to terminate the race.

In truth, if they strictly followed the rule, no matter what happened in the middle of the race, he would lose as long as he arrived later than Charlie.

He had to fulfill his promise if he lost.

But since Jeff had created a car crash in order to avoid the embarrassment of losing the race, Charlie knew that he should stop pursuing this matter. If he didn't, his friends would think that he was inhumane for treating Jeff so cruelly after the accident.

In the BMW, Mrs. Lewis anxiously asked, "Call Jeff, see if he's okay. Hopefully, no one is hurt."

Lisa pouted in disdain. "Mrs. Lewis, I think Jeff rear-ended the car on purpose! He must have known that he couldn't win the race and he didn't want to donate the car to the orphanage, that's why he came up with such a lousy idea!"

Mrs. Lewis chided, "Hush, Lisa, you can't make such ill-intended presumptions about others. What if you misunderstand him? Besides, traffic accidents are a serious matter, nothing is more important than everyone's safety."

Chapter 968

"Alright." Lisa nodded indifferently. She called one of the friends who was sitting in Jeff's car.

"Hey, Jeff said that you had an accident, right? How are you guys? Is everyone okay? Mrs. Lewis is very worried!"

The man cleared his throat and stuttered awkwardly, "Um... Jeff ran into a Phae..."

Before he could finish, Jeff snatched the phone off the man's hand and blurted, "Lisa, I'm fine, we crashed into a Passat. I'm negotiating with the driver now to resolve the problem. Don't worry, we're almost done here, I'll be there soon."

Lisa said flatly, "Okay then, we'll wait for you at the hotel entrance. We've been here for a long time."

Jeff quickly said, "Ah, I'm so sorry for the delay. Please tell Charlie that I'm sorry for not being able to complete the race, we'll race again in a few days!"

Lisa mumbled a reluctant 'Okay' and ended the call.

The man who had received Lisa's call asked, "Jeff, are you still going to the reunion after what happened?"

"Of course!" Jeff blurted, "I came up with the plan to treat Mrs. Lewis for dinner tonight, how could I be absent?"

In truth, inside Jeff's head, he was brewing a plan on how to get more money to cover the one million dollar shortfall.

He could earn at least half of the price difference from this meal. He could simply order more dishes or opt for the more expensive menu to increase the amount of the bill to forty or fifty grand, then, he could earn twenty grand from it! He could figure out the rest of the money later!

He turned to his friends and warned them, "Hey, don't tell anyone about what just happened, do you hear me?"

"Okay!" They nodded hurriedly.

Jeff spoke with a gloomy face, "My car's airbags have exploded, I can't drive it now. Push the car to the side of the road, then we'll go to Hyatt with the Phaeton. It was just rear-ended, its engine should be okay."

"Alright!"

Jeff drove the Phaeton to the hotel. His friends were mesmerized by the luxurious interior of the Phaeton so much so they looked around like a group of children visiting the chocolate factory.

One of them said, "Wow, the Phaeton really stands up to its reputation—underrated and luxurious. This car is so cool and comfortable, I feel like a millionaire in an instant!"

Jeff frowned in great dismay.

A few minutes later, the depressed Jeff finally arrived at the Hyatt Hotel with Caesar's Phaeton.

He dared not drive the car to the entrance, but parked in a secluded place in the parking lot and then walked over with others.

At this moment, Charlie and the rest were waiting at the entrance.

Everyone started approaching Jeff as they came over and asked about the accident.

Although extremely upset, Jeff waved his hands, pretending to be indifferent, and said, "Everything's fine, it's just a minor crash, the insurance will cover the cost."

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief.

Charlie looked at Jeff in amusement and asked with a coy smile, "Jeff, the accident is so coincidental, don't you think? It's just 2 to 3 kilometers away from here, we could have decided the winner very soon, how did the accident happen at such perfect timing?"

Chapter 969

Jeff glared at Charlie indignantly and said, "Do you think I'm afraid of you? If it wasn't for the accident, I would have won!"

Lisa said with an irritated pout, "Yeah, keep up with your bluff! Just now, Charlie simply stepped on the accelerator, and you were nowhere to be seen! In my opinion, you would definitely lose if that accident didn't occur."

"Huh! Are you kidding me?" Jeff huffed, trying to make an excuse, "Charlie was able to overtake me in the first place because I forgot to switch the function into sports mode."

Then, he quickly changed the subject, "Ah! You don't understand cars, this conversation is meaningless. Hurry, let's go in. I've made a reservation."

Charlie shrugged nonchalantly and entered the Hyatt Hotel with the crowd.

The Hyatt Hotel was a comprehensive hotel integrating dining, entertainment, and leisure, but due to its remote location, its popularity and scale paled in comparison to Shangri-La and Glorious Club.

Jeff led the group into the hotel. A waiter greeted him politely, "Good day, sir. Do you have a reservation?"

Jeff was feeling very bitter, but he spruced himself up, trying to look cool and smart, and said, "I'm Mowry. I booked table no. 03 in the hall."

Then, he turned to the group and said, "I'm sorry, guys, it was quite late when we decided to eat here, they only have the tables in the hall available today."

The others waved their hands and said that they didn't mind. For most of them, it was their first time visiting a five-star hotel and having a meal here, thus, they were already very satisfied even in the hall.

The waiter checked the reservation list and said with a diplomatic smile, "Alright, Mr. Mowry, your table is ready, please follow me."

As the waiter led them into the restaurant, Jeff couldn't help but tease, "Hey, Charlie, you must have never been to such a high-end place. You're lucky this time that you get to come in here because of me. I bet you'll never have a chance to enjoy these things, loser. You should count your blessings."

Charlie couldn't help but muffle his laugh upon Jeff's sarcastic remarks.

His family owned the Shangri-La, the most exclusive hotel in Aurous Hill. He could buy the entire Hyatt Hotel with the balance in his account. He didn't even bother to refute a person like Jeff.

Hence, Charlie simply smiled, ignoring Jeff entirely.

Jeff was even more infuriated upon seeing Charlie's nonchalant attitude.

Charlie had never taken him seriously since they were kids, not even now! He was just a shabby live-in househusband, where did he get the courage and confidence to ignore him like this?!

He had to find a way to disgrace him today!

A light bulb appeared in Jeff's mind as he suddenly thought of a good idea to kill two birds with one stone.

He had to do everything he could to embarrass Charlie, and at the same time, he must also let his buddies worship him even more. When the time came, he would suggest a Ponzi scheme to them, trying to get his hands on their savings to solve Caesar's problem!

The more he thought about it, the more he felt that this was an excellent plan!

He felt more relaxed after sketching such a plan in his mind. He walked in the forefront proudly and invited Mrs. Lewis to sit on the main seat when they arrived at their table.

When Mrs. Lewis was seated, Jeff sat on her left-hand side, while Harry and the buddies who had been flattering Jeff took the seat next to him one by one.

Chapter 970

Charlie and Claire sat down on Mrs. Lewis's right-hand side at her request. The others took their seats one by one.

As soon as everyone sat down, Mrs. Lewis glanced at all of them and donned a gentle smile. "Kids, I'm so happy and thankful that you still remember me for all these years and even visit me!"

Everyone on the table quickly said, "Mrs. Lewis, what are you talking about? It's what we should do."

Mrs. Lewis asked, "How have you all been all these years?"

They answered with a smile, "Thanks for your concern, we are doing quite well."

After leaving the orphanage for many years, everyone led their own lives in the direction they could head, but in general, they were just ordinary people. Regardless of the ideology and ambitions in the past, all of it diminished by the cruel reality. They eventually returned to ordinary life.

Everyone had changed a lot. As they talked about their lives, they sounded casual and relaxed, but the listeners fell silent. Apparently, not all of them were leading a happy life.

Without family support and background, they could only rely on themselves in a harsh and realistic society. It was considered good for achieving what they were at now, but it was unrealistic to dream big and far.

Someone asked, "Jeff, I heard that you are now the director of a listed company, is it true?"

Jeff laughed in delight. "Yeah! I've been a director for six months now!"

Many people gaped in astonishment. "Wow, a director in a listed company! Your annual salary must be at least a few hundred thousand, right? Jeff, you're amazing, no wonder you can afford a Merc!"

Jeff said in a smug tone, "So-so. Frankly, my annual salary is only several hundred thousand, it's just enough to make a living!"

Then, he pretended to sigh regretfully and said, "You may think it's a big number, but it's just enough to pay for my necessities. I depend heavily on the commission and bonus."

He sucked a breath and continued, "I have an insider deal, I am currently in charge of a big project. Once it is completed, I'll be able to share a million dollars bonus!"

Everyone gaped their mouth wide, astounded. "Wow, Jeff! Oh, wait, Mr. Mowry! Where do you work? A million dollars? They are so generous with their bonus!"

A smug smile was pasted on Jeff's face. "Hold your jaw. I'm now working under the famous White Group! They have a very diversified business division, for example, Spikeworth Corps is also one of their subsidiary companies. Sometimes, the profit of a project can hit up to tens of millions of dollars, and the bonus of the project I'm partaking in is considered less!"

Charlie frowned. The White Group... wasn't that the company under Zeke White's family?

Was Jeff the White family's employee? It was getting more interesting now.

Since Charlie was awfully silent, Jeff asked in a mocking tone, "By the way, Charlie, what do you do now? Don't tell me you've been mooching on your wife ever since you married into their family."

His lackeys laughed sinisterly upon his remarks.

No matter how patient Charlie was, he was starting to get annoyed by Jeff's continuous provocation. He glared at Jeff and said flatly, "Yes, I have to do the laundry, cooking, and clean the house every day. It is quite a busy yet fulfilling life, I don't have the time to find a job."

Charlie was telling the truth, but it became the funniest joke when it resonated in Jeff's ears. He laughed out loud and mocked, "Oh please, Charlie, stop saving your face. Everyone knows how awful it must be to you, stop pretending as if being a househusband is the most enjoyable life you can have!"

Then, he said in a deliberate tone, "Oh yeah, since we are childhood buddies, I'm offering you a job. I am looking for an assistant recently, why don't you come and join Harry to help me out?"

Chapter 971

Harry was one of Jeff's lackeys who had been following him around for years.

Charlie asked curiously, "Oh, does Harry work in the same company as you?"

"Yes," Jeff answered with a smile, "He is one of my assistants."

Then, he turned to Charlie and said, "Come and help me. I don't need any working experience from you nor do I expect you to have any, you just need to do some errands for me. You know, make me coffee, clean my office, etc. You are the best at serving people. I'll give you three thousand dollars a month. What do you think?"

Make him coffee, clean his office, etc?

Three thousand a month?

Charlie answered with a smile, "Oh, your offer is so lucrative. I don't deserve it, I'll pass."

Jeff nodded triumphantly and said, "I don't want to brag, but trust me, you'll make a lot of money if you work for me. Just look at Harry. He would have starved to death if it weren't for me."

There was a tinge of embarrassment on Harry's face, but he dared not contradict Jeff.

Jeff said with a smug face, "How is it? It's a great offer, right? Tell me if you're interested. I can simply make a call and you can come to work tomorrow!"

Despite Jeff's 'sincere' job offer, Charlie shook his head and uttered, "Thanks for the offer but no thanks, I'm used to being a moocher now, so I'll pass."

Jeff's face turned red sullenly as he was agitated by Charlie's refusal. He suppressed his anger and huffed, "Charlie, don't take my kindness for granted, can you? I'm offering you a job. What is with that attitude?"

Mrs. Lewis hurriedly interjected, "Boys, that's enough, stop arguing. It is supposed to be a happy reunion, don't ruin the mood. If you keep on fighting like this, I think we'd better cancel the dinner. I don't want you to turn into enemies after this!"

Jeff whined aggrievedly, "Mrs. Lewis, I'm doing this for Charlie's good. I don't simply give the offer to anyone. If only he can be more humble and come work with me, I can guarantee that I'll guide him to be rich and successful."

Then, he turned to the others and said seriously, "Guys, we grew up together, I don't have to lie to you. Truth be told, I am now a director in an investment company that is owned by the White Group."

"I think you all must have heard about investments. It can generate a lot of money in a very short period of time. Sometimes, when you invest one hundred thousand dollars, it will become hundreds of thousands the next day and two hundred thousand in a month. Those of us who have worked in this field, we have a lot of insider tips, but I don't normally reveal it

to anyone, let alone make money with them. I sincerely think that Charlie is too pitiful to be a househusband, that's why I'm offering him a way out for himself."

Someone quickly asked, "Jeff, are you really working as an investor now? Can you offer us some insider tips?"

Jeff nodded, grinning secretly as his friends bit his bait, and said, "Honestly speaking, I do have a lot of insider tips. I also made some money from these tips, which is why I can afford the Mercedes."

Then, he added, "Oh yes, in fact, I have more than one car. This car is quite rare and underrated. You guys may not have heard of it."

Someone hurriedly asked, "What car is it? Do tell!"

Jeff answered with a laugh. "Volkswagen. The Volkswagen Phaeton."

Jeff took out Caesar's car key from his pocket, slammed it on the table, and said with a smirk, "See, there's the Volkswagen logo and the name 'Phaeton' on the key, but many who don't know cars will assume that it's a cheap car, some may even think of it as a Passat. This is why I bought this car!"

On the contrary to his smug tone, he felt as if someone had stabbed his heart with a dagger as he said it.

Chapter 972

Jeff was literally illustrating his personal experience.

He was the one who had assumed the car was a Passat simply by seeing the Volkswagen logo, missing the 'Phaeton' entirely, and crashing into it.

He was in a hot mess now. He now had millions of dollars of debt that he didn't know how to settle.

He would be so screwed if his conning strategy failed.

“Damn it!!! It’s really a Phaeton?!”

A guy recognized Phaeton's car key. He blurted in excitement when he saw the word W12 on it, “Damn it, this is Volkswagen’s most expensive model! The top-spec model costs more than 2 million dollars! It is known as the most underrated super luxury car. Damn, Jeff, you actually bought the legendary Phaeton! You’re damn awesome, man!”

On the other hand, the guys who had come in Jeff’s car and witnessed the entire incident exchanged awkward glances with each other.

They didn’t expect Jeff to literally use Caesar’s story and start to brag.

But, of course, they wouldn’t expose Jeff’s lies as they were all his lackeys.

Jeff smiled nonchalantly and said, “Actually, the people in our field try to keep a low profile as much as possible because this business is indeed very profitable, and that will attract a lot of unwanted attention. When someone knows that you have insider information and a way to make money, they want to ride with you and get a piece of the pie.”

The man asked again, “By the way, Jeff, what model is your Phaeton?”

Jeff arched his eyebrows arrogantly and answered, “W12, the model with a 12-cylinder engine.”

“Goddamn it!” The man shrieked, dumbfounded. “Jeff, it is the top-spec model, at least 2 million dollars, am I right?”

Jeff waved his hand indifferently. “Well, it’s not that much.”

Then, he continued in a rather mysterious voice, “Actually, I’m just keeping a low profile, that’s why I never revealed my actual income. In investment, we usually focus on 1 or 2 shares. If they perform well, each of these shares can bring us hundreds of thousands or even higher returns.”

A guy asked eagerly, “Jeff, we’ve been friends for so many years, you have such an amazing way to make so much money, can you please help me? I’m going to get married soon, but my mother-in-law asked for a three-hundred-thousand dollar betrothal gift, where could I find

so much money? I've only managed to save a total of hundreds of thousands after years of frugal and thrifty life. At this rate, my wedding won't happen anytime soon..."

Charlie recognized the man. His name was William Becker, who was also an orphan.

Jeff's heart fluttered wickedly when he heard that William had a hundred thousand dollar savings. He muffled his grin and said, "Investment is like building leverage. The more you invest, the more you generate. A hundred thousand dollars as your starting capital is really too little."

William pleaded, "Jeff, this is all I have, I can't even come up with a penny more..."

He started to sob, "Jeff, honestly speaking, a deadbeat orphan like me who doesn't have a family, money, skills, and even lacks educational background, I'm considered half illiterate. I can only do manual labor to make a living. I can't even get married as I wish. Please, for my sake, please be merciful and help me!"

Jeff uttered, sounding pained and awkward, "Well, brother, I have to be honest. Despite sounding rude, you have to have an enormous capital to invest. Anything below a million dollars is considered too little. I can't bring you in without that much money."

He spread his hand apologetically. "I'm sorry, brother, I can't help you."

Chapter 973

The reason why Jeff was rejecting William's request was simply because he was putting on an act and trying to play hard to get.

He was the investment director of a scam fund, just like those thunderous P2P. His job was to do everything within his ability to try to fool those who did not understand this so they would invest all of their money in this so-called fund.

In fact, none of these funds would possibly make them any money. As long as anyone invested in the fund, they were doomed to lose all their money and they would not even be able to get back a single penny.

When Charlie's mother-in-law, Elaine, was previously defrauded of her investment, she had also been deceived by this kind of fake funding company. As long as the money had already

been entered into their company's account, it would be completely impossible for them to get back their money.

However, what Jeff was trying to do today was not to get them to invest in his own fund. Instead, he wanted to trick them into giving him all of their money under the pretense that he would be investing their money in the funds on their behalf. After that, he could use their money to save himself first!

When William heard this, he felt so anxious that he was about to burst into tears. He was really desperate. He wanted to make more money. He had initially thought that Jeff would be able to help him to make more money. However, he really did not expect Jeff to say that he had too little capital.

Therefore, he could only plead, "Brother Jeff, please help your younger brother. Otherwise, I really don't know what to do anymore. I've already failed so miserably in my life. You can't do nothing at all and watch my girlfriend leave me just like that."

When Jeff saw that William had already taken the bait, he continued acting. "Brother, it's not that I don't want to help you. The main point is that your capital really is too small and it isn't easy for me to do anything at all!"

As he spoke, Jeff's eyes suddenly lit up as though he had just thought of something. "By the way, I have a way to help you."

William hurriedly asked, "What is the solution? Brother Jeff, please tell me!"

Jeff hurriedly said, "Well, I know some friends who engage in providing loans online. As long as you can provide your identification card, they'll then be able to loan you a small sum of money. Although you might not be able to borrow much, you would be able to raise a sufficient amount of money if you borrow money from a few platforms. You'd probably be able to borrow about four to five hundred thousand dollars. If you add it up to the money that you have in your savings, you'll be able to raise at least six hundred thousand dollars. If you put six hundred thousand dollars into the fund, then you'll definitely be able to double your investment in less than a week!"

When William heard this, he choked with excitement as he said, "Brother Jeff, I will do as you suggest then. Could you please introduce me to some of the online creditors?"

Jeff smiled before he said, "I will introduce you to some online lending platforms later."

William replied excitedly, "Brother Jeff, I really don't know how else to thank you. You really are my benefactor and my parent on this earth!"

He was an orphan and he was illiterate because he had never attended school. He had finally found a girlfriend and they were already talking about getting married. However, his future mother-in-law refused to let him go. He was already desperate.

Therefore, he really had no choice but to pin all of his hopes on Jeff.

Jeff had already spotted William's mentality from the start and that was the reason why he was prepared to cheat a big sum of money out of him. First, he was going to trick him into borrowing a few hundred thousand dollars. After that, he would trick William into giving him the entire sum of money, including his own savings. That way, he would be able to solve the six hundred thousand dollar funding gap for himself.

If he could trick two such persons today, he would basically be able to resolve his own problem.

As for William, Jeff did not care whether he would be chased to death or hunted down by these major online loan platforms in the future. That had nothing to do with him at all. After all, who had asked him to be so foolish? He did not deserve to be pitied.

At this time, a few of their friends from the orphanage heard that Jeff could easily double a six hundred thousand dollars in just one week and they could not stop themselves from thinking about it.

Someone asked, "Brother Jeff, can you include me in this investment too?"

Jeff replied seriously, "As long as you can raise enough funds, I can definitely help you to invest your money in the funds. However, if you don't have enough money, then you should do the same as William and borrow some money from the online loan platforms first. You can then return the money for your loan after you make a huge profit. You're simply borrowing money to make a big profit!"

Chapter 974

The man blurted out, "Brother Jeff, count me in! Count me in!"

Mrs. Lewis had not said anything so far but when she heard this, she could not help but say worriedly, “Jeff, there are a lot of online loan platforms with high interest rates which have been exposed on television nowadays. Their profitable interest rates are really scary. I think that it would be best not to get involved with any online loan platforms if it isn’t a last resort.”

Jeff really did not expect Mrs. Lewis to come out and try to spoil his own plan. After that, he said, “Mrs. Lewis, the interest rates for the online loan platforms that you’ve mentioned are indeed very high. However, the online loan platforms operated by my friends are all very formal and upright. Their interest rates aren’t that high compared to the interest rates of other loan companies. In fact, their interest rates are almost negligible.”

After a pause, Jeff said again, “Actually, under any normal circumstances, I wouldn’t do this kind of thing at all. I don’t stand to benefit from doing all of this. However, since we’re all friends who have grown up in the orphanage together, I really can’t bear to watch them continue to suffer from poverty. Therefore, I’m only offering to help them out in whatever way that I can.”

William hurriedly blurted out, “Brother Jeff, you don’t need to worry about anything else. You can just recommend all those online loan platforms to me. I’ll take out the loans from them immediately before putting the money together for you!”

Charlie, who had not said anything, looked at Jeff before he asked with interest, “Jeff, you said that you’re working for a company under the White family but as far as I know, the White family isn’t involved in any funding businesses at all.”

The expression on Jeff’s face changed slightly before he blurted out, “Charlie, I’m not despising or looking down on you. However, the White family is a big and powerful family and they have a wide range of business. What do you know anyway?”

Charlie did not get angry and he simply smiled before he asked, “Then, what is your company’s name?”

Jeff blurted out, “The name of my company is Axel Insurance.”

As he spoke, Jeff took out his business card immediately. In addition to his company name, Jeff’s position was printed on the business card: ‘Investment Director’.

Charlie could not help but feel that the name Axel Insurance sounded really familiar.

After thinking about it carefully, he suddenly remembered something. Wasn't this the name of the company that had tried to scam his mother-in-law in the past? The boss of this company was Axel Jordan and the person backing this company up was none other than Don Albert.

Axel specialized in fraudulent activities and he would always cheat all of the investors out of their money. It was useless for the investors who had suffered huge losses to come up and cause trouble for them because no one could deal with Axel when he had Don Albert's support.

Unexpectedly, Jeff was working for Axel's company!

When he had gone to collect the debts on behalf of his mother-in-law in the past, he did not see Jeff there. If Jeff had seen him there the other time, he would definitely be much more humble when he saw him today.

As he thought about this, Charlie looked at Jeff before he asked curiously, "Isn't the boss of your company Axel Jordan? He doesn't belong to the White family! Are you talking nonsense?"

Jeff really did not expect Charlie to know of his company or even the name of his boss. He suddenly became very nervous.

If Charlie knew about his company, then he would probably know what his company was specializing in. If that was really the case, then Charlie would definitely know that he had been lying to William all these while.

As Jeff was panicking because he did not know how to explain himself, William looked at Charlie before he rebuked him angrily, "Charlie, what are you trying to say? Brother Jeff is showing us kindness by teaching us how to make some money. Why are you questioning him? Are you upset because Brother Jeff isn't including you in his investment or helping you make more money?"

Charlie looked at William in surprise. He could not help but sneer from the bottom of his heart. This pathetic jerk was really hopeless. He has no education and he did not have the ability to judge what was right or wrong. Charlie was simply being kind when he tried to rescue him from making this kind of useless investment but he did not want to accept his kindness at all.

Since that was the case, then he could just do as he pleased.

So, Charlie immediately said to Jeff: "Sorry, maybe I recalled wrongly then."

Chapter 975

Charlie had never been a good person anyway.

He would only try to save someone if he pitied them.

However, the premise was that the other party should be able to differentiate between the good and bad.

However, if the other party did not know what was good for himself, then he would not allow himself to be snubbed despite his good intentions.

Since some people were so stubborn, then it would be best for them to experience misfortune for themselves.

Anyway, they had made the decision on their own and they would not be able to push the blame on anyone else for their misfortunes in the future.

Therefore, Charlie deliberately changed the topic. At this time, he immediately said, "If you want to talk about making money, then I think that you should go back and talk about it in private. The reason why we're here today is because we want to treat Mrs. Lewis to dinner. We haven't even ordered any food after sitting here for so long."

Jeff immediately smiled as he said, "Come, come. Let's hand the menu over to Mrs. Lewis so she can order some dishes that she likes!"

Mrs. Lewis hurriedly waved her hands before she said, "No need. No need. I've never been to such a good place before, so I don't know what dishes to order here anyway. You young people should order the dishes instead."

Jeff took the menu in his hand before he smiled and said, "I'll order the dishes then!"

After that, he called the waiter to come over immediately before he said, "Come! I want to place our order now."

The waiter came over immediately. After that, Jeff quickly ordered the dishes. He was very scheming at this time and he only ordered all of the expensive dishes.

The first dish that he ordered was a premium abalone for everyone. This dish alone had cost \$ 1,888.00 per person.

When William caught a glimpse of the menu, he could not help but exclaim out loud, "Oh, Brother Jeff! This dish is just too expensive. This dish alone would end up costing more than twenty thousand dollars! We...we can't afford this!"

Jeff proposed that he would be paying half of the bill for the dinner tonight. After that, everyone else would still have to split and pay for the remaining half of the bill for the dinner. In other words, everyone would still have to pay for the dinner tonight even though it would be slightly cheaper.

However, this meal would be too expensive. Even if Jeff offered to pay half of the bill for the dinner tonight, the remaining half of the bill would be very burdensome for everyone else.

Jeff looked at William with a look of disgust before he said, "It's no wonder why your future mother-in-law insists on getting a high dowry. Just look at the expression on your face now. You're already this frightened when we are simply having a meal together. Your mother-in-law must be asking for a high dowry so her daughter wouldn't suffer any grievances in the future. What if you were actually having dinner with your future mother-in-law tonight? What would people think of you if you're so scared to even order any dishes at all?"

William looked a little embarrassed and depressed as he said, "Brother Jeff, I don't have as much money as you do. To be honest, in an effort to save money, I'm only spending about one hundred dollars on my living expenses every week. I would only drink cold water and eat some steamed buns in the company dormitory every day. I can't even bear to spend any extra money to buy an electric kettle..."

Jeff replied coldly, "It's no wonder why you're still so poor. How can you possibly make any money with your kind of mentality and consumption philosophy? Who would ever be poorer than you?"

After pausing for a moment, Jeff said again, "What is money anyway? You have to spend the money for it to be called money. What is money if it isn't spent? It's only paper in the wallet and a series of numbers in the bank account. Besides that, I've already agreed to help you to make some money. If you can't even afford to pay for this meal today, then I am really sorry but I don't want you as my friend."

When William heard this, he quickly kept his mouth shut.

He has already regarded Jeff as his benefactor and he would not want to disobey him in any way.

Otherwise, there would be no hope for him in this life anymore.

The other people also felt that Jeff was being too extravagant when he was ordering the dishes. However, after listening to him scolding William, everyone felt too embarrassed to say anything anymore.

After all, Jeff was going to pay for half of the bill for dinner tonight. After that, they would be splitting the remaining half of the bill among so many of them. If they said that they could not afford it, they would not be able to save their own faces at all.

At this time, Jeff said to the waiter, "Bring us a lobster that is about five catties!"

The waiter nodded before he said, "Sir, our premium lobsters cost \$688.00 per catty. Is that okay?"

Chapter 976

Jeff waved his hand before he said, "Yes, of course! Why not? Just serve us the dish!"

After he was done speaking, Jeff continued saying, "Oh, by the way, please bring us two bottles of Ace of Spades champagne!"

The waiter replied, "Sir, a bottle of Ace of Spades champagne is \$18,888.00. It is also non-refundable once the bottle of champagne is opened. Is that okay?"

Jeff replied immediately, "Yes! Hurry up and serve it as soon as possible!"

When they heard that he had just ordered two bottles of champagne which cost \$18,888.00 each, all of them could no longer sit still.

After doing the calculation, this meal had already cost more than sixty thousand dollars. Even if they would only have to pay for half of the bill for dinner tonight, wouldn't they still have to pay thirty thousand dollars then?

Even if they were to split the bill equally among the rest of them, each of them would still have to pay two thousand dollars each!

Caleb was a little embarrassed as he said, "Jeff, we don't have to eat so extravagantly. The reason why we are having dinner with Mrs. Lewis today is because we want to welcome Mrs. Lewis back home. Mrs. Lewis has just recovered from her illness and she wouldn't be able to drink any champagne anyway, so why are we ordering two bottles of champagne?"

Jeff replied contemptuously, "Caleb, this is the reason why I look down on you for being poor. Why are you so afraid when we're just having a meal together?"

After he was done speaking, Jeff did not wait for Caleb to speak and he immediately told the waiter, "Bring us a plate of big grouper and also a set of one abalone and sharks fin for everyone!"

Jeff hoped that he would be able to order as much as he can. If that was the case, he would be able to earn more money today.

Everyone else could not help feeling a little worried because even if they were to divide the bill among themselves, each of them would also have to pay a huge sum of money for the dinner tonight.

However, they were all too embarrassed to say anything at all. No one dared to say that they no longer wanted to eat this dinner anymore. After all, Mrs. Lewis was still here.

Mrs. Lewis could no longer sit still at this time. She said nervously, "Jeff, we really don't need to be so extravagant when we eat. You're ordering too many expensive dishes. I'm serious. I can feel my heart shaking simply by looking at the price of the dishes that you have ordered. Could we order some simpler and cheaper home-cooked dishes instead?"

Jeff was unwilling to let go of any opportunity that he could use to make more money. Therefore, he naturally would not be willing to eat just a simple meal that would only cost a few thousand dollars tonight. If that was the case, he would not be able to make much money at all.

So, he hurriedly said, "Mrs. Lewis, you just have to relax and enjoy this meal tonight. You can count on us to treat you to this meal tonight. You were the one who raised us up. How could we ever forget your kindness? Why would it matter to us if we have to spend a little more money to treat you to a nice meal? Even if I have to pay thirty, forty, or fifty thousand dollars for this meal tonight, I'll be more than willing to do so!"

After he was done speaking, Jeff deliberately looked around the table as he looked at the expression on everyone's faces.

In fact, Jeff was intentionally trying to occupy the moral high ground just so he could dictate how everyone should be acting. The context was already very clear. Mrs. Lewis had been so kind towards each and every one of them, so why would any one of them be unwilling to treat her to a nice dinner tonight?

Sure enough, as soon as he said this, no one dared to oppose his words or express any dissatisfaction at all.

Everyone could only secretly think in their hearts that since they were treating Mrs. Lewis to dinner tonight, then they should just be willing to splurge a little.

At this time, Charlie suddenly sensed that something was amiss. Judging from how Jeff had deliberately crashed his car in order not to honor his bet, he already knew that he was not a generous person. On the other hand, he was definitely a villain.

If he was not a generous person, then why was he being so generous when he was ordering the dishes tonight?

Would it be more advantageous for him to order the more expensive dishes?

However, Jeff had already said that he would have to pay half of the bill. Therefore, he would not be someone who was hired to lure customers to dine in an expensive restaurant.

Then, there could only be another possibility—that Jeff could claim for reimbursement for this meal!

It turned out that Jeff was taking advantage of everyone. If this was the case, then Charlie should just beat him at his own game then.

As he thought about this, Charlie said, “Everyone, why don’t we do this? I’ll split the bill with Jeff for dinner tonight. Each of us will pay for half of the bill. Even if this meal costs us two hundred thousand dollars, it will be split between the both of us!”

Chapter 977

As soon as Jeff heard Charlie’s words, he smiled before he said sarcastically, “Oh, Charlie you’re really good at bragging!”

Charlie smiled faintly before he said, “What is there to brag about? If you don’t believe me, then we can both just pay one hundred thousand dollars in advance so we can spend two hundred thousand dollars for dinner tonight. What do you think?”

After Jeff heard Charlie’s words, he said excitedly, “Is this true?”

Charlie took out his cell phone before he opened his mobile banking app as he told the waiter, “Come and scan the QR code for payment first.”

When Jeff saw this, he really wanted to jump up in excitement!

He was originally planning to spend more money on dinner tonight. After that, he would be able to claim more money when he was trying to claim reimbursement from his boss. However, his group of friends from the orphanage were really very pathetic. They kept making noise as he was ordering the dishes and they were really being very annoying.

However, Charlie was now willing to split the bill equally with him. Moreover, he was even willing to pay as much as one hundred thousand dollars! Wasn’t he simply giving him money for free?

He would also be paying one hundred thousand dollars but he would be able to claim for a reimbursement of two hundred thousand dollars! After he was done with this meal, he could go back and tell his boss that this meal was for a very big customer. Moreover, he could simply tell his boss that it was possible for him to negotiate a sale of ten million dollars from

this customer! His boss would definitely be more than willing to reimburse this amount of money to him.

He has already figured everything out. It was most important for him to stay alive!

First, he had to trick and cheat two of his friends who wanted his help to make more money. After that, he would return to the company and get the two hundred thousand dollar reimbursement from his company. That way, he would be able to resolve the issue with Caesar Hilton.

As for whether his boss would settle the score with him after, he would just worry about that later.

After all, Caesar was the biggest threat to him now.

At this time, Jeff hurriedly took out his cell phone as he said to Charlie, "Okay then. Since you are so agreeable, then I shall also pay one hundred thousand dollars in advance!"

Mrs. Lewis wanted to dissuade the both of them. However, Charlie waved his hand at her, signaling for her not to worry about it.

For Charlie, it did not matter whether this meal had cost one hundred or two hundred thousand dollars. After all, this small sum of money meant nothing to him at all. He simply did not want Jeff's plan to succeed.

At this time, the waiter brought the POS machine over to them before they used the function of scanning the QR code to receive payment. Both of them swiped a hundred thousand dollars from their own mobile banking apps.

After confirming that they had already paid the two hundred thousand dollars in advance, Jeff smiled before he said, "If that's the case, then let's order more good food tonight! Waiter, could you bring us all the good wine, expensive and good dishes, and seafood that you have here? We're going to spend the entire two hundred thousand dollars for this dinner tonight!"

The waiter really did not expect to serve such an expensive table today. Therefore, he immediately smiled as he said, "Don't worry, I will make all of the arrangements for you. I will serve the wine immediately!"

When they heard that they were about to enjoy a meal that would cost two hundred thousand dollars tonight, many of their friends seated around the table were all very excited.

This was especially so for William, who was feeling very bitter initially. He was so happy right now that his mouth was hanging open!

He was really worried earlier as he really did not want to spend so much money. However, he was about to enjoy a good meal worth two hundred thousand dollars that has already been paid for in advance. He did not even have to pay a single penny for this meal. William was so excited that he felt like going to the restroom to vomit out everything that he had eaten before this.

After emptying his stomach, he would be able to eat even more good food later.

Many of the pathetic jerks had this kind of similar mentality. If he had to spend his own money to do something, he would feel even more uncomfortable than when he was getting beaten up. However, if he did not have to spend any money on this matter, or if someone else was spending this money instead, he would be happier than anyone else.

To put it plainly, he was simply a freeloader.

Shortly after, the waiter served the lobster, abalone, and all sorts of other seafood. He even brought them a whole roasted suckling pig, which did not only exude a fragrant aroma but was also crispy on the outside and tender on the inside.

William frantically ate all of the good food that was served on the table as he desperately drank as much good champagne as he could.

Chapter 978

He has never smelled or drank any champagne that cost nearly twenty thousand dollars a bottle. Therefore, he wanted to take advantage of this good opportunity to drink as much as he could.

At this time, Jeff's lackey, Harry was eating the roast suckling pig as he said in a flat tone, "Why do I feel as though I have become Daryl Wayne's good brother in *The Richest Man in Zion*? I feel as though this scene is really similar to the scene in the movie when they were eating and drinking in the restaurant!"

As soon as he said this, everyone immediately agreed. They nodded and laughed before they said, “Yes, you’re right! This is really similar to that scene!”

Harry smiled before he said, “This is all thanks to Brother Jeff! Thank you, Brother Jeff!”

Lisa said indignantly, “Why are you only thanking Jeff? Brother Charlie is also paying half the bill for tonight’s dinner, okay?”

Harry replied disdainfully, “I’m eating the half that Brother Jeff has paid for while you’re eating the half that Charlie has paid for. So, you can thank him all you want. It has nothing to do with me at all.”

At this time, William, who had already eaten to the point his mouth was greasy all over, suddenly reacted to the topic that everyone else was talking about. He was still chewing and gnawing on his meat as he asked vaguely, “By the way, what were you guys talking about? What is The Richest Man in Star City? Why can’t I understand what you are talking about?”

Caleb frowned before he asked, “The movie The Richest Man in Star City! The actor, Tom Cruise, acted in the movie. It was shown in cinemas some time ago and it made so much money in the box office. Didn’t you watch it?”

“A cinema?” William replied contemptuously, “I don’t usually go to the cinema to watch any movies. Why should I be spending so much money to watch these movies that they act in? Are those people crazy about money? They should just show us the movie for free! I always go online and beg for people to share resources so I can just watch movies for free! When I go home tonight, I’ll go online to beg for some resources and links to watch this movie.”

“Foolish!” Caleb replied coldly, “William, don’t you think that you’re taking too much advantage of others? People are investing hundreds of millions of dollars just to make a movie. Furthermore, the directors, cameramen, makeup artists, and actors put in a lot of hard work over a long period of time just to produce these movies. If they release their movie for free just because of people like you, wouldn’t the film and television companies be making losses then?”

When William heard Caleb reprimanding him, he replied disdainfully, “You don’t have to tell me all this. I like to take advantage as much as I can. I don’t like to fork out any money that I don’t need to. What’s the matter? Am I not allowed to do that? I’m even going to go on the Internet to scold them. I am going to scold them for their bad filming, their bad acting, and also their slow production! What can you do to me? You’re really very meddling.”

Caleb said angrily, "You're still scolding others after taking advantage of them? You're so shameless! Aren't you afraid of the retribution you'll face if you say this?"

William curled his lips before he said, "Retribution? What retribution? I'm an orphan anyway. What would I be afraid of? Would I be afraid that my parents will die because of me?"

Caleb choked because he was completely speechless.

When a person was this shameless, it would be useless for anyone to say anything to him.

Therefore, he could not be bothered to continue talking to this kind of person.

Charlie sighed as he watched this scene. Although some people came from a lowly and humble background, they would be able to improve their own life by putting in effort, little by little. However, some people would only become a pathetic jerk at the bottom of society.

William was not a pathetic jerk for no reason at all.

He did not have any respect for others or himself. All he thought about was how he could make money or take advantage of others. This sort of person would usually suffer in life.

After enjoying this meal, William would definitely be desperately trying to lick Jeff's boots.

And Jeff would not hesitate to squeeze everything out of him.

At that time, William would probably have no tears left to cry.

However, it was not that Charlie did not want to help him.

The main point was that this person did not know what was good or bad for himself. He did not know his own strengths or weaknesses at all.

Charlie really could not wait to see what would happen to William in the end!

Chapter 979

As everyone was enjoying their meal that was worth two hundred thousand dollars, Charlie walked up to the front desk before he said to the waiter, "Hello, I am a guest from Table 03 in the lobby. Please give me a receipt for my table."

The waiter hurriedly asked in a respectful manner, "Hello, sir. May I ask whether you're referring to the table that has just spent two hundred thousand dollars tonight?"

"Yes!" Charlie nodded immediately.

The waiter asked again, "Would you like me to issue the receipt under a company or a personal name?"

Charlie replied, "A personal name."

"Okay, sir. Could you please give me your name?"

Charlie nodded slightly before he said, "Charlie Wade."

The waiter hurriedly typed on the computer before he started printing the receipt out from the printer.

There was the sound of the printer at work before a receipt with Charlie's name and the amount of two hundred thousand dollars was printed out.

As soon as Charlie received the receipt, he checked the accuracy of the receipt. After confirming that there were no problems with the receipt, he thanked the waiter before he returned to his table.

At this time, Charlie secretly sneered in his heart. 'Jeff, you probably would never have expected me to make the first move, right?'

After that, Charlie returned to the dinner table before he continued enjoying his meal with everyone else.

At this time, Claire asked in a low voice, "Charlie, tell me the truth. Are you up to no good?"

Charlie replied, "No. I am such a good person. How could I possibly be up to no good?"

Claire lowered her voice before she said, "I have a feeling that you seem to have some tricks up your sleeve to deal with Jeff..."

Charlie nodded before he smiled and said, "My dear wife, you are right!"

Claire smiled before she nodded and said, "This kind of person is really annoying. I support you!"

Charlie smiled before he said, "You are really my good wife!"

Claire blushed and she felt very shy.

After drinking for three rounds, Jeff stood up in a dizzy manner as he said, "I will make a trip to the restroom now. You guys should continue drinking. All of you should drink more tonight. That Moutai, we shouldn't leave any of the Moutai left! We should also finish the bottle of champagne that costs twenty thousand dollars a bottle!"

When William saw this, he hurriedly stood up and said, "Brother Jeff, let me help you to the restroom!"

After he was done speaking, he stood up as he supported Jeff with a brazen attitude.

Jeff waved his hand before he smiled and said, "I did not drink that much so I'm not drunk at all."

After that, William said, "Then, I'll go to the restroom with you!"

On the way to the restroom, William smiled as he said, "Brother Jeff, I've already secretly finished downloading all of the online loan platforms that you've asked me to. There's no password for the restaurant's WiFi and their Internet speed is really very fast! It's so much faster compared to the Internet at my company's dormitory! I feel as though I've just made a huge bargain!"

Jeff looked at William contemptuously. He knew that William was even more shameless compared to him when it came to taking advantage of others. Moreover, he was an even more pathetic jerk than he was.

It was also precisely because he liked taking advantage so much that Jeff actually had the opportunity to easily take advantage of someone like him.

After that, he told William, "You should register on the platforms before filling in all of your personal information there. After that, you can start applying for a loan from them. You should borrow as much money as you can before you withdraw the money and transfer it to my bank account. After you do that, I will help you to make an investment with your money. I will transfer your profit and principal back to you in a week!"

William nodded hurriedly before he complimented, "Brother Jeff, you're really amazing. I'm really fortunate to have a friend like you. It seems as though I'll finally be able to get married because of your help!"

Jeff replied, "Hurry up and take the money out first. I will be starting a new fund soon. If you do not manage to raise the money on time, then don't blame me in future because you missed out on this opportunity to make more money."

Chapter 980

William replied immediately, "Brother Jeff, I had already checked out the online platform just now. They requested for me to upload the front and back of my identity card on the online platform but I left my identity card back in my dormitory. Don't worry. The first thing I'm going to do as soon as I get back to my dormitory is to upload my identity card information as soon as possible so I can get the loan as soon as possible!"

"Okay." Jeff nodded as he was relieving himself. After that, he said, "You have to do this as soon as possible. Do not miss out on such a good opportunity such as this. In fact, I can teach you another method to make even more money."

As soon as William heard this, he trembled in excitement and he accidentally peed on his own hand. However, he did not care too much about it. Instead, he hurriedly wiped his hand on his trousers before he turned around and asked Jeff, "Brother Jeff, what's the method that you're talking about? Brother Jeff, please give me your advice!"

Jeff replied, "It's very simple. If you can raise six hundred thousand dollars for me, then I can help you to make another extra six hundred thousand dollars a week. However, if you can raise one million dollars for me, then I'll be able to help you earn another one million dollars!"

"When you're trying to request for a one million dollar loan, you can simply promise that you'll repay the money with two hundred thousand dollars' worth of interest. That way, you'd be able to make a net profit of eight hundred thousand dollars. Wouldn't you be very satisfied then?"

"Don't talk about the three hundred thousand dollar dowry. At that time, you'll even have more than enough money to pay for the down payment for a three-bedroom apartment then!"

When William heard this, he was extremely excited.

However, he did not know where he would be able to borrow so much money from.

After all, he was an orphan who had no relatives at all. Who would be willing to lend him so much money for no reason at all?

When Jeff saw the worried expression on his face, he knew that William must be considering this issue. Therefore, he deliberately gave him a suggestion. He said, "In fact, you can go back and tell your girlfriend about this. You can tell your girlfriend that you have some insider news and that you'd be able to make two hundred thousand dollars in interest in one week as long as you invest one million dollars!"

"You can wait for her to tell her mother—that is, your future mother-in-law—about it. If your future mother-in-law is interested, then she wouldn't only be more than willing to loan you the one million dollars but she'd also be very happy when she gets the two hundred thousand dollars interest. She would think that her future son-in-law is really very good and capable."

"That way, you wouldn't only be able to earn a profit of eight hundred thousand dollars, but you'll also be able to win the favor of your future mother-in-law. Wouldn't that be killing two birds with one stone then?"

William became very excited.

His future mother-in-law had always looked down on him. He finally had an opportunity to prove himself now!

Therefore, he immediately said, "Don't worry, Brother Jeff. I'll call my girlfriend and talk to her about this when I get home tonight."

Jeff nodded before he put on his pants. He did not even wash his hands but he simply told William, "I'll go to the front desk for a short while. You can go back first."

William did not wash his hands either. He hurried over to Jeff before he asked with concern, "Brother Jeff, why are you going to the front desk? Hasn't the bill already been paid for in advance?"

Jeff replied impatiently, "I have something that I need to do. Just go back and leave me alone."

William nodded before he said respectfully, "Okay then, Brother Jeff. I'll go back to our table first. To be honest, that bottle of champagne is really good. I did not drink enough of it yet. Hehehe."

Jeff started humming as he thought to himself that a pathetic jerk would always be a f*cking pathetic jerk. Moreover, William was the type of pathetic jerk who really liked to take advantage of everything.

However, he liked this kind of pathetic jerk who had no IQ at all. It was really easy for him to cheat this kind of pathetic jerk.

After leaving the restroom, Jeff started humming a little song as he walked towards the front desk.

After arriving at the front desk, he took out his business card before he handed it over to the waiter at the front desk. He was really pretentious as he said, "Table 03 in the lobby, which is the table that consumed two hundred thousand dollars today. Give me the receipt for that table according to the company information on this business card."

The waiter hurriedly replied, "I'm sorry, sir but the receipt for your table has already been issued to another gentleman just now."

"What?" Jeff felt a little dizzy as he blurted out, "Who asked for the receipt?"

The waiter replied, "It was issued to a gentleman named Charlie Wade. I think he's a part of your group?"

"Damn it!"

Jeff felt the blood surging within him when he heard this!

If Charlie has already taken the receipt for the table, this meant that he would not be able to get a reimbursement!

Instead of making money from this meal, he had to spend one hundred thousand dollars instead!

As he thought about this, Jeff gritted his teeth as he said, "It is that bastard Charlie again!"