## Chapter 854 Shareholders

Julie finally breathed a sigh of relief after leaving Blackgem Bank.

The twenty-million-dollar loan finally came through. This allowed Pearl Company to continue its collaboration with Joy International Media and Red Murray Group, and it temporarily resolved her financial crisis.

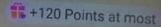
Once they began working on the projects together, it would not be too difficult for Julie and the Pearl Company to repay the loan.

But there was still something that was bothering her. The turning point in the conflict came when Liam used the black card. What kind of a card was it? And how did Liam get the card?

Thinking about this, Julie asked softly, "Liam, can you show me the card you just used?"

When Liam passed the card to her, she examined it closely and noticed its fine craftsmanship. She could tell that the card held a lot of value just by looking at it.

"Liam, where did you get this card? Why haven't I seen it before? And how come Nichol was so nervous when he saw the card?" she inquired.



Liam explained with a small smile, "This is a unique black card issued by the Padilla family's bank. They've only given it to a few people, so it's very rare. It's exclusively for top-level VIP users."

Baxter, who was listening to the conversation, was shocked to hear this. "The Padilla family's bank? That's a high-ranking bank, which has considerable power over Blackgem Bank!" he exclaimed.

It suddenly dawned on Julie that the Padilla family's bank was the largest banking group, and Padilla was one of the four most powerful families. Several banks here were affiliated with it, including Blackgem Bank.

Julie recalled the past connection between the Hoffman family and the Padilla family. Considering that the Hoffman family used to be one of the top four families, it made sense for Liam to have such a card.

Maybe he never had a reason to use this card, and that was why she had not seen it before.

Julie realized that Liam might not be considered a VIP by the Padilla family anymore. After all, they were no longer in the same social circles.

She was grateful to Liam for using it to solve her problem. If it weren't for him, she would not have received the loan today.

But still, Julie pointed out, "Liam, I don't think you should use this card again. After all, you haven't been

Chapter 854 Shareholders +120 Points at most in touch with the Padilla family for many years. It's not right to use their things."

Liam nodded in agreement, but he didn't disclose the truth about where the card came from. He didn't want to keep it a secret from Julie. If he told Julie about the truth, it would be too complicated to explain the whole story.

Liam was confident that once his true identity was revealed and everything worked out in the future, Julie would be understanding about his actions.

Baxter, on the other hand, wasn't too pleased to find out that the black card came from the Padilla family's bank. He was worried about the connection Liam had to a powerful family.

This was not good news for him. After all, if Liam was well-connected to the right people, it would be difficult for him to get close to Julie in the future.

But after hearing what Julie had said, he realized that Liam was only using his past reputation to intimidate people. Baxter's confidence returned.

Just then, Julie's phone rang. It was from her mother.

"Julie, grab the contracts for Joy International Media and Red Murray Group quickly. We need to head to the Williams Group's office. The general shareholder's meeting is about to start!" Yesenia said in a rush.

## Chapter 855 Insatiable Greed

When Liam and Julie entered the meeting room of the prestigious Williams Group, they found the room filled with people.

The Williams Group, a prominent conglomerate in Salem, operated more like a family-run business. So, whenever they had shareholder meetings, it was more like a family gathering.

All members of the Williams family, direct and extended, came together and sat based on their family rank. The central table was for the direct descendants, while the adjacent tables accommodated the extended family members.

Surprisingly, Yesenia, an outsider, occupied the seat next to Newell at the central table, visibly signaling her close ties to him.

Yet, even in this arrangement, the hierarchy was evident. Newell and Yesenia, seated far from Derek Williams, the family head, imply their peripheral roles among the direct descendants.

Upon seeing Julie's arrival, Yesenia swiftly stood up and took the two contracts from her.

However, Yesenia had her agenda. She retained the contract with the Red Murray Group, presenting only

the one involving Joy International Media to Derek Williams.

"Mr. Williams, our Pearl Company is genuinely excited about collaborating with the Williams Group. We've brought the contract, complete with the official seal!"

Yesenia's demeanor exuded flattery and deference, yet Derek's countenance remained composed.

After scrutinizing the contract, Derek nodded approvingly and smiled, remarking, "Impressive, a genuine cooperative contract with Joy International Media."

Having expressed that, Derek shifted his gaze toward Julie, a sudden idea sparking within him.

He paused for a moment and said, "Considering the relatively small scale of your Pearl Company, sharing this contract might not be the most practical. As you'll be part of the Williams family in the future, I'll entrust this contract to our group. We'll appoint someone to take control of the Pearl Company. Both you and your daughter can join the Williams Group, and I'll arrange managerial roles for you."

These words left Yesenia utterly shocked.

She understood Derek's intentions clearly. He aimed to monopolize the contract, making her and Julie from positions of authority to mere employees.

This was a stark deviation from Yesenia's initial

expectations. She had planned to leverage the cooperative contract as a bargaining tool to secure her place within the Williams family, not to hand over the contract as if it were an inconsequential dowry.

She was caught in a dilemma. Refusing outright would surely offend Derek, yet agreeing was not an option. Yesenia found herself momentarily speechless, not knowing how to navigate this unexpected turn of events.

At this moment, all she could do was place her hopes on Newell.

After all, securing the contract also aligned with Newell's own interests. If Derek took the contract, the Williams family would reap the benefits. Being a not significant member of the family, the benefits he could get from it would be limited.

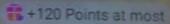
Should the union between the two come to fruition, retaining the contract within Yesenia's grasp would undeniably be more advantageous for Newell.

At that moment, Yesenia kept glancing at Newell, wishing he'd say something to help resolve the situation.

However, Newell was indifferent and clueless about business matters. He didn't care or understand the silent plea in Yesenia's eyes and remained entirely unresponsive.

Derek, being astute, noticed Yesenia's hesitation and

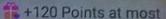
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the consistent glances she directed towards Newell. It was clear that she was grappling with reluctance.

With such a lucrative opportunity, Derek couldn't let it slip away. He pressed, "What's the issue? Are you really torn over such a trifling matter? Since you're about to marry Newell, you'll become part of our family. Shouldn't we prioritize unity and not get caught up in trivial issues? Now, it almost seems you're seeking to exploit the Williams family!"

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