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"Kai, is that true?" Gary glared coldly at Kai.

"Shut your mouth!" Gary cut Kai off. "Yes, we're poor. But we could still afford to buy others a meal! You have a job now because others have helped you. Show some gratitude and respect to the tradition of others, will you?" Gary didn't give Kai a chance to explain himself.

"Squad Leader, Kai did it to save money! It's no big deal. We shall congratulate Kai with dinner tonight!" Franklin eased the tension to avoid an awkward dinner. "Mr. Saunders, actually Maria and I don't mind if he doesn't buy us dinner. It's just that if he did, the staff would be more welcoming toward him." With that, Zayne had again emphasized Kai's pettiness.

"I agree. This is Kai's fault. I'll get him to honor the tradition by tomorrow," Gray responded apologetically.

"Actually, we don't have to wait till tomorrow. After dinner, I'll inform the staff and arrange a karaoke session. As long as Kai is willing to pay, I'm sure the others would be grateful," Zayne suggested.

"That'll do!" Gary nodded.

"Zayne, Mr. Chance's family isn't that well-off. Don't impose too much on Kai," Franklin advised.

"Don't worry, Mr. Saunders. Three hundred would be more than enough." A smile flashed across Zayne's face.

"Franklin, is this Maria's boyfriend? Not only is he handsome, but he can handle things very well!" Gary complimented Zayne.

"Indeed! He had even gotten back the money for my company because he's an acquaintance of Tommy Lewis, the underground king of Horington. With just an order, I've gotten all my money back!" Franklin couldn't hide his contentment as he was very satisfied with his future son-in-law.

Upon hearing that, Kai was stunned. Since when did Zayne have anything to do with that? I did all the work, but he got the recognition instead?

"Tommy?" Gary paused and continued, "Isn't he the infamous gangster in Horington? It's better to avoid these people. Although they seem to do good now, it's just a matter of time before they're dealt with by law enforcement." Having worked as a government servant, it was only natural that Gary had bad impressions toward outlaws.

"Mr. Chance, you're mistaken! It's an honor to have a relationship with Mr. Lewis, especially in Horington. How could you slander him? In fact, someone as insignificant as your son would never be a friend of the famous Mr. Lewis. You should refrain from talking in such a way. Otherwise, troubles may come to you one day." Zayne was angered by Gary's statement.

In response, Gary kept silent.

"He has a point, Squad Leader. Time has changed. We need these people nowadays," Franklin said placidly.

Still, Gary kept his mouth shut. No one could change his perception toward outlaws such as Tommv.

That was one of the reasons why Kai never revealed to his parents his relationship with Tommy. If my parents knew about Tommy and me, they might even disown me!

At the dining table, Zayne was indulging in alcohol while receiving praises from everyone.

[&]quot;Dad, I was..."

However, Kai had not taken a sip. Zayne wasn't happy with the fact that Kai had not offered him a toast.

"Kai, why aren't you drinking? You're being such a wimp!" Zayne teased.

"It's not that I can't drink. I just don't think it's worth the money! I'd rather have tea." Kai flashed a grin.

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Zayne burst into laughter and asked, "Oh? So you're saying that you can drink very well?"

"Well, I haven't been drunk before," Kai answered expressionlessly.
Kai's response had triggered Zayne's interest. "All right, then! Since I've never encountered a worthy opponent before, I shall challenge you to a drinking contest!"

As he spoke, he waved his hand and requested a crate of liquor from the waiter. "Kai, don't overestimate yourself. Since when did you learn to drink liquor? Don't make a fool out of yourself," Hannah cautioned with her furrowed brows.

"Don't worry, Mom. I know what I'm doing," Kai comforted.

The moment Gary wanted to advise against the challenge as well, Franklin said, "Squad Leader, let the youngsters be! Don't you remember the fun we had back then? We used to have drinking contests all the time!"

Upon hearing that, Gary had no choice but to keep his opinions to himself. All he could do was stare at Kai helplessly.

"Zayne, I know you can hold your liquor. Don't be too harsh on Kai, okay? Besides, it's just for fun." Franklin knew of Zayne's drinking capability. Because he once witnessed Zayne drinking a whole bottle of liquor and could still drive on his own. "Don't worry, Mr. Saunders. For every glass Kai drinks, I'll down two!" As Zayne was speaking, he opened a bottle and started pouring it into his glass.

"What a ridiculously small glass! Bring us two bowls instead!" Kai ordered the waiter.

Upon hearing that, Zayne was stunned as he stared at Kai with his bewildered eyes.

"You can handle it, right?" Kai asked with a faint smile.

"Of course! I can even drink from the bottle!" Zayne scoffed. He's just bluffing to scare me off! In that case, it means that he can't hold his liquor!

Soon after that, the waiter brought over two empty bowls. The bowls were so big that each of them could fit a whole bottle of liquor.

"Okay, so how should we do it?" Zayne asked with a provoking tone.

"Well, we'll do it the fast way." As soon as Kai finished his sentence, he downed the whole bowl of liquor.

Everyone present was in shock upon seeing that. Gary frowned worriedly and said, "Kai, why would you drink like that? It's not good for your body! Enough, slow down."

"Dad, I'm fine!" Kai assured. He then flipped his empty bowl over and said, "Zayne, it's your turn."

Zayne was still in shock. He didn't know Kai could do that. Although I can drink, that's just not the way!

"It's all right if you can't do it. Don't force yourself, Zayne." Gary was genuinely worried about Zayne.

"Yeah, it's okay if you don't drink, Zayne. But that'd mean you've chickened out."
Kai couldn't help but taunt him.

"Chickened out?" Zayne was infuriated by the insult. "I've never chickened out from a drinking contest!" He then shut his eyes and downed the bowl of liquor. By the time he was done, his face was flushed.

Then, Kai proceeded to pour out another two bowls of liquor.

Having noticed that things were getting out of control, Gary stood up and shouted, "That's enough, Kai!"

While ignoring Gary, Kai stared at Zayne with contempt.

"Stay out of it! Let's continue drinking!" Unable to swallow his pride, Zayne insisted that the contest should continue.

Kai then downed another bowl of liquor expressionlessly.

Actually, the liquor had no effect on Kai. The spiritual energy in his body was able to absorb the alcohol he consumed.

Again, everyone present was astounded as they watched Kai drink another bowl of liquor, especially when he did it with such ease.

"It's okay, Zayne. Please stop now before you hurt yourself. Don't entertain Kai's stupidity." Maria was worried about Zayne's well-being.

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"Exactly, Zayne. Don't drink anymore. Prioritize your health!" Frieda suddenly stood and tried to stop Zayne. She was worried that another bowl of liquor could endanger his life.

Zayne was so intoxicated that he was already starting to lose consciousness. Pride was in his way. He couldn't stop himself when he saw Kai staring back at him with provocation. He clenched his teeth and forced another bowl of liquor down his throat.

After that, Zayne's face turned sickeningly pale. In fact, he looked terrible. Upon seeing that, Kai sat down with satisfaction written all over his face. If this continues, he might actually die from alcohol poisoning. Besides, I doubt Mom and Dad would allow me to take another sip.

"W-Why have you sat down? I... I can still drink!" Zayne couldn't even speak without stuttering.

As soon as he finished his sentence, Zayne vomited all over the place. Some of it even splash onto Frieda.

"Ah!" Frieda yelled in disgust. She even gagged when she saw the mushed-up and half-digested food all over her.

Upon seeing that, Franklin's expression was distorted.

Gary glared at Kai before he stood up and said, "Franklin, send Zayne home now. We should leave as well. These two are out of line!"

By then, Franklin could only comply.

When Gary was about to leave with Kai, Zayne got up and stopped them. "Hey, you can't leave..." Zayne couldn't even stand straight anymore. He looked at Kai with his blurry eyes and continued, "I've arranged a karaoke session. Are you leaving again so that you don't have to pay?"

"Zayne, you've had one too many. How about some other day?" Franklin stressed. "No! It has to be tonight! I've already informed the others. I'd be embarrassed if he doesn't go and pay for the session!" Zayne shook his head and insisted. Franklin was in a tight spot as he looked at Gary helplessly.

"Dad, it's all right. You guys head home. I'll go meet the others," Kai said.
Judging by the circumstances, Gary had no choice but to agree. "All right. Come home early, then. Remember not to drink anymore." He then took out some cash

from his pocket and gave it to Kai. "Take it. I know how expensive karaoke sessions can be."

Although the amount was just a little over three hundred, Kai wanted to reject Gary. But he knew how persistent his dad could be. Hence, he accepted it and kept the money in his pocket.

Suddenly, Franklin took out his wallet as well before handing a thousand to Kai. "Kai. take this. Just in case you need more."

"Dad! You were never so generous toward me!" Maria snatched the cash out of Franklin's hand.

"Silly girl! Hand it over to Kai, now!" Franklin thundered.

"No! I'll keep this. I'll top up for him later if needed!" Maria then kept the money in her pocket.

"Mr. Saunders, I have enough on me. If needed, Maria will top up. Don't worry," Kai said calmly.

Franklin sighed in response.

After they got out of the private room, Franklin headed toward the cashier. Zayne caught up to him from behind, threw his work pass onto the counter, and said drunkenly, "I have a work pass. and can get a twenty percent discount." Without taking a glance at the work pass, the cashier told Franklin politely, "Sir, your bill has been waived."

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Franklin was dumbfounded. Who paid for us?

Zayne overheard the cashier and chuckled. "Haha. Who would've thought that my work pass has such privilege! Thanks to the Sullivan family, we've got a free meal!"

Franklin nodded upon hearing that. He had also assumed that the meal was covered by Zayne's work pass. Well, he does work for the Sullivan family. However, the cashier rolled her eyes at Zayne because she knew that was far from the truth. The bill was waived because of Kai. Everyone at Glamor Hotel knew about his relationship with Josephine. Hence, no one would dare to collect money from their future boss.

Shortly after, everyone had gotten out of the hotel. Franklin and Gary were bidding goodbyes to each other.

"Enough. Let's go already. The vomit on me stinks! It's all Kai's fault. He shouldn't have drunk so aggressively. Zayne had no choice but to comply!" Frieda muttered while glaring at Kai.

Although Kai didn't speak of a word, Gary was apologizing profusely. Then he left with Hannah.

At the same time, Franklin and Frieda had also gone home. Only Kai, Zayne, and Maria remained.

Maria gave Kai a cold stare and said, "Kai, you stink of alcohol. Get yourself a taxi. You're not getting into my car smelling like that."

Indeed, Maria was still blaming Kai for the state Zayne was in.

"Kai, we're going to Dynasty Karaoke Bar. Don't you dare bail on us..." Zayne mumbled as he swayed from left to right. Maria dragged him into her car and drove off.

As Kai watched them driving away, his eyes were gleaming with anger. Zayne, since you keep looking for trouble with me, I'm going to teach you a lesson! And Maria, if it weren't for Franklin, you'd be dead too!

After hailing a taxi, Kai wanted to go to Dynasty Karaoke Bar. However, his phone rang.

After seeing that it was Hilda on the line, Kai answered his phone hastily.

"Kai, where are you guys? My mom made some ravioli. But when we brought it over to your house, no one answered the door."

"We've gone out for dinner!" Kai explained.

"Oh? Are you guys done? I'm so bored! I was wondering if I should go out for a walk." It was obvious that Hilda was trying to get Kai to ask her out.

Kai hesitated for a while said, "My interview was a success. So, I'm going for a karaoke session with my colleagues now."

"Oh, I see. It's fine, then." Hilda was disappointed.

"Where are you now? Would you care to join me?" Kai had already planned to bring Hilda along to his work the next day. Hence, he thought that the karaoke session would be the perfect opportunity to introduce her to his colleagues. "I-Is that appropriate?" Deep down, Hilda was raring to go. But she felt bad to intrude.

"Why not? I meant to bring you along to work tomorrow. It's good if you get to meet some of them beforehand. I'll go get you now." After Kai hung up the phone, he went to fetch Hilda in the taxi before heading to Dynasty Karaoke Bar. Meanwhile, Zayne and the others had already arrived at Dynasty Karaoke Bar.

They had even gone ahead and reserved a spacious private room.

"Where's Kai? We've been waiting for so long! Judging by how much of a cheapskate he is, I wonder if he'd bailed!" Lydia complained.

Everyone else was also anxiously waiting for Kai because if he did bail, one of them had to fork up for the private room.

Zayne was lazing on the couch when he squinted and said, "Hey, Troy. Just in case Kai fails to show up, you'll have to pay for our expenses tonight. That's because you're on the same team as he is."

Troy quickly nodded. Even though he was dissatisfied, he didn't dare to turn Zayne down.

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Upon Troy's confirmation, the room turned lively. Everyone started to indulge in food and alcohol because they knew that Troy was going to pay.

On the other hand, Troy was praying for Kai to show up. If he doesn't come, I might be broke by the end of the night!

Still hungover, Zayne was lying down on the couch while Maria massaged his temple gently. Although he felt better, his head was still spinning.

"Guys, if Kai does show up later, I want all of you to try to get him drunk.

Whoever succeeds, his monthly bonus will be doubled," Zayne declared.

Everyone was jumping for joy when they heard about the extra monthly bonus.

"Don't worry, Mr. Carlson. I'll make sure he gets drunk!"

"If he dares to come, he'll get so drunk that he won't be able to find his way home!"

Everyone was excited at the prospect of getting the extra monthly bonus. Although Troy wouldn't try to get Kai drunk, he was tempted by the reward. While everyone was having the time of their lives, the door to the private room was pushed open. Kai and Hilda had arrived.

Everyone was startled by their arrival. Although they were surprised that Kai eventually showed up, they were keener on the lady he'd brought along. Most of

the men in the room were captivated by Hilda's beauty. Zayne, who was still hungover just a minute before that, suddenly got up from the couch and stared at her with his bewildered eyes.

Although Maria was pretty, she didn't have the desirable aura Hilda possessed. Despite having worked as an exotic dancer, Hilda had an innocent look.

"Kai, I thought you'd be too stingy to come!" Zayne took a glance at Kai before shifting his gaze toward Hilda. "Who's this lady?"

"Hi, everyone, I'm Hilda Wallace. I'm Kai's neighbor. I hope I'm not intruding!" Hilda introduced herself politely.

"You're absolutely not!"

"Come! Come sit next to me!"

"Here! Have some fruits!"

The men were throwing themselves at Hilda while ignoring Kai.

Zayne then cleared his throat and said, "Hi! I'm Zayne Carlson, Kai's manager." The moment Hilda heard that Zayne was Kai's manager, she reached out her hand nervously and greeted, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Carlson."

nervously and greeted, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Carlson."
"Nice to meet you too!" Zayne's eyes glittered when he shook hands with Hilda.
Everyone in the room saw how attracted Zayne was to Hilda. Maria was utterly infuriated.

"Where do you work, Ms. Wallace?" Zayne asked with a bright smile on his face. He definitely didn't notice that Maria was already glaring at him.

"I-I'm jobless now," Hilda answered awkwardly.

Upon hearing that, the smile on Zayne's face grew even wider. He then took out his name card and exclaimed, "Here's my name card, Ms. Wallace. Come work with us if you're interested!"

"Really?" Suddenly, Hilda's eyes widened.

"Of course! I'm a departmental manager. I have a say in recruitment!" Zayne was filled with pride.

"Zayne Carlson!" Finally, Maria couldn't take it anymore and shouted at Zayne. Suddenly, Zayne remembered that Maria was right next to him. He immediately backed away from Hilda and said, "G-Go on and have a seat!"

Having noticed that awkward moment, Hilda smiled and walked toward Kai. She then casually put her arm around Kai and said, "Kai, why don't you introduce your colleagues to me?"

Kai was stunned by Hilda's intimate touch.

However, Hilda did that on purpose so that all the other men present wouldn't make a move on her. Besides, she did that to show Maria that she had no reason to get jealous.