

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 501 -

Chapter 501

Julie was taken aback before she collected herself and stared at Dustin like he was an idiot. “Are you, now? Dustin, can you stop bluffing? Who do you think you are? The audacity to claim that you’re the leader of the gang!”

“Dustin quit it. You need to behave.” Dahlia glared at him. She didn’t look convinced either. After all, Dustin had only arrived in Millsburg a few days ago. It was impossible to claim the leadership position within that time frame.

“Why would I lie to you about this? If you don’t trust me, just go with me to the Flame Dragon Gang. I’ll get your money back for you,” Dustin swore.

“Hmph! Do you take us as fools? We’ll die if we ask the gang for our money back!” Julie told him off.

“Whatever. How about I go to the Flame Dragon Gang headquarters alone without the two of you?” He couldn’t be bothered to argue with the ladies, and he thought they were overreacting to a small issue.

“Wait! I’ll go with you.” Dahlia sprang up when she noticed that Dustin was leaving.

“Dahlia, are you crazy? Are you seriously going to follow this dude and meet with the Flame Dragon Gang?” Julie was frightened and wondered if Dahlia ever listened to her warnings.

“No matter what, we need to give it a try.” Dahlia had a serious look on her face. “In the best-case scenario, we get them to pay their debts. If we can’t, well, we’ll come up with a Plan B.”

“But

“No buts. If you’re scared, you don’t have to go together.” Dahlia held up a hand to stop Julie from talking them

out of it.

“Yes, I’m scared, but I can’t let you face danger alone!” Julie let out a **long** sigh. “I’ll have to reach out to some

of my contacts for your safety.”

While speaking, she made a call to someone. “Hey, darling. I need you to do me a small favor...!

Three minutes later, Julie hung up with a calmer demeanor. “Julie, I called up Terrence. He promised to help you out. He can’t guarantee that you’ll get the debts paid, but he can assure your safety.”

“Great. Thanks for going through the trouble for me. We’ll leave now. True to her word, Dahlia left with Dustin

soon after.

At noon, Nelson and Hank were enjoying a casual tea break at the office of Flame Dragon Properties. A s*xily-

clad secretary was tending to the men with great attention.

“Lord Horst, this **is a** limited-edition Rolex for a successful man like you. Check it out. Do you like it?” Hank

handed Nelson a gift box, which carried a watch gilded with gold.

“Not bad, Mr. Hoffman. That’s thoughtful of you.” Nelson beamed in satisfaction and asked, “What brings you here? I don’t think you’re just here to send me the watch.”

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“It’s all thanks to you that our company is doing well. It’s only fair to get you a gift.” Hank suddenly changed the topic of the conversation. “But I ran into some trouble recently, and I’ll need your help.”

“Oh? What trouble? I’m all ears.” Nelson downed the drink in his cup.

“Well, the headquarters sent a new chairman to keep us in check. The new chairman is pretty slick. To defeat her, I issued her a challenge to get you to pay the 70 million in debt. If she fails, she’ll have to vacate the

position.” Hank offered a loaded description of the problem.

“I got it.” Nelson caught up fast. “You want me to teach her a lesson. Is that it?”

“Indeed!” Hank nodded with a grin. “Do whatever you like to her, as long as you keep her alive!”

“What’s the background of that new chairman?” Nelson demanded more information before he agreed to it. Although the Flame Dragon Gang **was** notorious in the region, they could not afford to offend certain entities- for example, the branch families of the Fabulous Five or the disciples of the Tremendous Three.

“Lord Horst, I have looked into **her**. She’s nothing.” Hank was confident.

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Dahlia might have the backing of Regulus Nicholson, but the patriarch in Glenstead was too far away from

Balerno to pose any threat.

“Oh, it shouldn’t be a problem if she’s nothing special.” Nelson chuckled. “She’d better not show up! If she ever does, I’ll make it tough on her!” It **was simply** ridiculous for a person who wasn’t rich or powerful to demand

money from him.

“Lord Horst, I’ll have to trouble you for this. When it’s done, I’ll send you a gift.” Hank bowed to Nelson.

“Haha! Not a problem. We’re brothers. Take it easy.” A wide smile appeared on Nelson’s face. Based on his past experiences, the mention of a “gift” would imply at least a million dollars in monetary **reward**.

“Lord Horst ...” One of Nelson’s men knocked on the door during the conversation. Nelson raised his brows unhappily. “What? Can’t you see that I’m in a business meeting with my client?”

“A few visitors demanded to see you. They would like you to pay your debts,” the man reported the situation.

“Oh, they sure act fast! Speak of the devil!” Nelson rubbed his chin.

Hank cracked a smile. “Lord Horst, I shall be the audience for your show.”

“Open your eyes wide and see how I teach her a lesson!” With a slap on the table, Nelson rose and marched out of the room. At the same time, Hank went to the window and watched the situation unfold from the gap

between the curtains.

Meanwhile, Dahlia was standing at the entrance to the Flame Dragon Properties with Dustin to her left and

Julie to her right.

“Dahlia, should we call it off? Look at the men in there! They are scowling and glaring at us. It’s so terrifying!” Julie cowered behind them and swallowed hard in fear. The Flame Dragon Gang was known for its

ruthlessness, and she was gravely concerned that the gang might s*xually assault her after she entered their

nest.

“We’re already at the entrance. We can’t give up at the last minute, right?” Dahlia, however, was calm and

composed.

“Dahlia, the gang is violent! What if Julie stammered because, at that moment, she saw Nelson emerging with a bunch of men in tow, ready to fight. She was shaking at the sight of his contracted brows and his deathlike stare.

“Who’s the daredevil who asks me to pay up?” Nelson marched forward fearlessly.

“It’s me.” Dahlia took a step forward and announced in a shrill voice, “Lord Horst, it’s only fair to pay your debts. It’s time for you to pay the 70 million you owe to my company.”

“Haha! You’re quite bold!” Cackling, Nelson gestured at the men. “Someone get me my saber!”

“Yes, Sir!” The men replied and immediately hauled out a brass ring saber for him.

“Crap! We’re done for!” Looking pale, Julie seemed ready to faint. Similarly, Dahlia was nervous about Nelson’s

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actions.

“Hmph! They overestimated themselves!” A gleeful smile spread on Hank’s face as he stared down from the

windows above.

“Nelson Horst, are you seriously going to slash people when you’re in the wrong for not paying your debts?” Dustin suddenly emerged from behind Dahlia.

“Hmm?” When Nelson saw Dustin, he appeared to be struck by lightning and dropped the brass ring saber

onto the ground. Realizing the gravity of their situation, he turned around and slapped one of his men on the face as he yelled, “Why the f*ck did you even bring that saber to me? Quick! Get me a check!”

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“What?” The man was in a state of confusion after being slapped. He held his cheek, looking lost. The other

men exchanged looks of shock. No one had expected that outburst from Nelson, who one second ago was

screaming about slashing the visitors. And the next second, Nelson appeared frightened, as though he saw

ghosts. What was going on?

“What are you doing there? Hurry up and get me the check!” Nelson gave the frozen man a nervous kick.

“Okay...” The man hurriedly stumbled his way back to the office. He had no clue about the situation, but one thing was for sure—Lord Horst was fearful.

During the wait, Nelson went up to Dustin and squeezed an apologetic smile. “Sir Rhys, when did you arrive? You should have informed me earlier, so I could send someone to pick you up.”

“Sir Rhys?” Dahlia and Julie were stunned by Nelson’s obsequious behavior. They looked at each other in disbelief. Why would the cruel Lord Horst of the Flame Dragon Gang act in such a humble manner after meeting Dustin?

“Nelson Horst, it’s only fair that you pay off the debts of the Flame Dragon Gang. Understood?” Dustin scolded Nelson. The latter nodded fervently as he wiped the sweat off his forehead. “Right, Sir Rhys, you’re right. I was acting without thinking just now. I promise I won’t do that again.”

“That’d better be the case. By the way, you were a hooligan just now. You should apologize to the debtor.”

Dustin warned him.

“Chairman Nicholson, I’m very sorry. I was rude to you just now, and I can only hope that you show me grace and forgive me this time.” Nelson plastered a smile on his face as he continuously bowed and apologized. However, his behavior came unexpectedly for Dahlia. She had mentally prepared herself to fight a gangster, but never had she expected the fierce-looking Lord Horst to turn into a tame animal this soon.

She wasn’t the only one who received a great shock. To be honest, Julie was at a loss for words as well. She

questioned if Nelson Horst was still the same man as the notorious and formidable Lord Horst she knew.

“Lord Horst, I’m only here to collect the debts. Please forgive me if I offended you in any way.” Dahlia politely

responded to him.

“Don’t say that! It’s all my fault for owing you the payments in the first place.” Nelson was rather surprised and moved by her manners. Anyone could tell that at Dustin and Dahlia shared an unusual relationship. Nelson revered and feared his new leader at the same time.

“Lord Horst, the money’s here.” The man returned in a hurry, carrying a check in his hand. Nelson wiped the sweat off his forehead and carefully handed Dahlia the check.

He said with much respect, “Chairman Nicholson, this is the amount I owed you. Please take a look.”

“80 million?” When she checked the figures, she was slightly surprised at the extra money. “Lord Horst, did you accidentally pay me more?”

“No, no, I didn’t. I’ve owed you the money for a while now. Just see it as interest payments.” Nelson smiled at her.

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Dahlia was speechless; this was just perplexing and troubling. She was grateful and lucky enough to have

recovered the 70 million in debt, but now, she received 10 million more.

“Dahlia, since it’s for the interest payment, you should accept it,” Dustin chimed in.

“That’s right. Chairman Nicholson, please accept the check, so I can sleep well tonight.” Nelson had a pleading look on his face.

“Well, okay then. Thank you, Lord Horst, for your generosity and help.” No longer insisting, Dahlia pocketed the check. She could tell that Dustin was the sole reason behind Nelson’s humble attitude, and she couldn’t help but wonder if Dustin was telling the truth earlier today.

“Nelson Horst, keep in mind what you said today.” After warning Nelson once again, Dustin left with Dahlia

and Julie.

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“Have a good day, Sir Rhys!” Nelson bowed deeply to the trio as they left.

“Have a good day. Sir Rhys!” The members of the Flame Dragon Gang mimicked Nelson and chanted loudly.

Hank had run down to the first floor from his viewing point when he figured that something was off. He confronted Nelson. “Lord Horst, what’s wrong? Why did you pay her back?”

Nelson had promised to teach Dahlia a lesson, but upon the meeting. Nelson obediently paid the debts without a word of protest. Since when were the Flame Dragon Gang such losers?

“Oh, ‘why’ you f*cking ask?” Nelson turned around and glowered as he hissed, “Did you know who’s the guy beside that lady just now?”

“Wasn’t he just a bodyguard? What’s so special about that?” Hank frowned, confused by Nelson’s reaction.

“Just a bodyguard?!” After the initial shock, Nelson smacked Hank hard on the back of his head and rebuked, “You blind f*ckwit! That’s our new gang leader!”

“What? Your new gang leader?” Hank was stunned.

“Son of a b*tch! I almost died because of you. Don’t you ever show up in front of me. Now, get lost!” Incandescent with rage, Nelson flung the Rolex watch in Hank’s face. Hank was simmering with anger but dared not talk back. So, he left with his tail between his legs. Never had he expected Dahlia to be acquainted with a powerful figure like Dustin.

“Dustin, are you really the new leader of the Flame Dragon Gang?” Unable to suppress her curiosity, Dahlia blurted out the question. She was still in disbelief, but she figured out that something was not quite right judging from Nelson’s behavior.

“You saw it with your own eyes just now. How could that be fake?” Dustin shrugged his shoulders.

“I mean, how did you become the leader?” She **gave** him a funny look.

“I was acknowledged for my outstanding moral integrity. Did you seriously think I fought my way to the

position?” He asked her with a straight face.

“Is that true?” She shot him a doubtful glance. He gave her a half-smile. “What do you think?”

“Whatever. I don’t care how you ended up as the leader, but I only have one thing to ask of you—do not stir

trouble!” She stared at him with a serious face.

“Don’t worry. I won’t hurt others as long as they don’t hurt me. From now on, the Flame Dragon Gang will not

commit any sort of crime,” he vowed.

“That’s good to hear that.” She let out a relieved sigh. Before this, she was genuinely worried that Dustin had been led astray and committed crimes like murder or robbery.

“Dustin Rhys, I couldn’t tell that you were related to the Flame Dragon Gang!”

Julie

suddenly spoke up. “But you shouldn’t get ahead of yourself. The gang isn’t made up of good guys, and they will get themselves into

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trouble sooner or later. I advise you to get back on the right path before you get arrested and jailed for some crime.”

“You don’t have to worry about that. Just take care of yourself,” he replied blandly.

“Hmph! You little ingrate!” Julie pouted. Even though she held Dustin in higher regard, he was still far behind Terrence.

“Alright now.

Stop the bickering. We have settled the first challenge, but that still leaves us with the second challenge—

the business deal with Brooks Corporation.” Dahlia steered the conversation.

“Dahlia, I can’t promise to be of help in most cases, but I can totally help you out on this one!” Julie patted her chest confidently.

“What’s your plan?” Dahlia was curious to know.

“Have you forgotten that my Terrence is a manager at the Brooks Corporation? If he’s willing to speak up for us, there’s no deal we can’t seal!” Julie sounded proud.

“Is that so?” Dahlia’s eyes lit up with joy.

“Of course!” Julie put on a smug smile. “Given Terrence’s connections, he’ll only need to put in a good word, and it’s a done deal!”

Hearing that, Dustin smiled wryly and gave them a shake of the head. “Oh, you shouldn’t get ahead of yourself, Julie. Terrence can’t even save his own ass in that company. How is he going to help Dahlia?”

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“What? What do you mean he can’t save his own ass?! What nonsense is that?” Julie glared at him crossly. She was annoyed with the way Dustin had poured cold water on her suggestion.

“If I’m not wrong, Terrence Stone will be fired by the Brooks Corporation today,” Dustin proclaimed breezily.

“Bullshit!” Julie was irked by his prediction. “Our Terrence is good at his job. Why would he get fired?”

“Whether you believe it or not, it’s all up to you. Anyway, Terrence Stone can’t help us on the second challenge.” Dustin shrugged.

“If he can’t help, are you saying that you can do it? What a joke! Julie stared at him icily, thinking that he was only a reckless man who shouldn’t be bragging around.

“Sorry to tell you, but I can do what Terrence Stone can’t.” Dustin grinned at her.

“Oh, you’re getting cocky now, aren’t you?” Julie was burning with rage.

“Dustin Rhys, I wanted to respect you, but if you’re such an arrogant twat, I’ll prove you wrong!” Then, she immediately made a call to Terrence and told him the situation, albeit embellished with dramatic elements.

“What? Is he saying that I’d get fired? That’s hilarious! I’m in a position of authority in the company. No one

can touch me here!” Terrence scoffed with arrogance.

“Terrence, this brat is looking down on you. Why don’t you show him the power of your professional

connections today?” Julie fanned the fire.

“No problem! It’s just a business contract, right? I’ll make a call to Mr. Suzman, the manager of the Sales Department, and I’ll get him to settle it for you. Just come to the office and sign the contract!” Terrence was bursting with confidence.

*Terrence, thank you for your help!” Delighted, Julie hung up and tossed her hair. “Weren’t you acting all smug just now? Do you want to go with me to the Brooks Corporation office?”

“I don’t see why not.” Dustin was nonchalant.

“Great! I will show you the difference between you and Terrence today.” Julie sneered at him. Brook Corporation, with hundreds of billions worth of assets, was the most prominent company in Millsburg. Even

the notorious Flame Dragon Gang was nothing compared to Brooks Corporation. Terrence was not only the manager at the company—he had strong backing from some higher-ups there. Openly challenging Terrence

was a futile and humiliating attempt.

30 minutes later, the elevator doors at the entrance of the Brooks Corporation Sales Department slid open with

a chime, and the trio emerged from the elevator.

“Dahlia, this is the place. Terrence has given them a **heads**—up. I’m sure everything will go fine.” Feeling confident, Julie went to the front desk and rapped her knuckles on the tabletop in a conceited manner. “Hey

Get Mr. Suzman for us! Just tell him that his guests have arrived.”

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“Excuse me. Do you have an appointment?” The front desk staff inquired politely.

“Only regular visitors need appointments. We don’t.” Julie argued.

“I’m sorry. Our manager has informed us not to let any visitors in unless they have made an appointment.” The

secretary shook her head.

“You need to be more sensible! Do you know who I am? Or who my darling is? How dare you speak to me like

that?” Julie glared at the secretary.

At that moment, a slightly overweight middle-aged man walked out of the office. Dressed in a suit, he

appeared **distant** and authoritative. “What’s with the commotion?”

“Mr. Suzman, you have a few visitors who insisted on meeting you despite not having an appointment,” the secretary hurriedly explained.

“Haven’t I told you before? I’m not seeing anyone without an appointment! Get them out of here!” The man waved his hand impatiently. He would have no time left if he were to entertain every single visitor who didn’t

have an appointment.

“Sir, madam, please leave, or I’ll have to call security.” The secretary urged them to leave.

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“Wait!” Julie ran up to the middle-aged man just as he was about to leave. “Mr. Suzman, you might not know me, but you must know Terrence Stone.”

*Terrence Stone?” The man lifted an eyebrow. “What do you three **have** to do with him?”

*Terrence is my boyfriend!” Julie beamed proudly. “Mr. Suzman, I believe that he has already given you **a** heads

-up. Now, can we go to your office?”

“No, you can’t.” The man put on a frosty look. “I’ll repeat: you have to make an appointment to meet with me.”

“What?” Julie was slightly taken aback by his attitude. “Mr. Suzman, did you not **hear** me? I’m Terrence’s

girlfriend, **and** I’m here to talk business.”

“So what?” The man snickered. “Even if it were Terrence who came to see me, he’d have to make an

appointment too!”

“You-

” Julie choked on anger and refused to believe that Mr. Suzman would shut her out. He wouldn’t even

budge at the mention of Terrence.

“Julie, it looks like name-dropping won’t work around here.” Dustin flashed her a half-smile. Her **eyes**

twitched, and her expression crumbled. She showed up confidently, only to be let down.

Still she glanced at the man. “Mr. Suzman, you’re colleagues with Terrence. Do you **want** to get on bad terms

with him?”

“So what? Get lost now, or else!” The man bellowed at them. Julie’s cheeks burned in shame **as** she huffed

and puffed. “You’re a bully!”

“Cole Suzman! Acting like you’re something, aren’t you?” Terrence snorted and marched toward the group.

Julie was overjoyed to see her boyfriend and instantly went up to him and started complaining. “Terrence, you came at the right time! I was bullied by that guy just now!”

“Yes, I saw everything. Let me handle this from here.” He nodded and cast a sharp look at the middle-aged man. “Cole Suzman, you’re getting bolder these days. I haven’t seen you in a few days, and now, you don’t even show me respect.”

“And who are you? Why do you **deserve** my respect?” Cole Suzman wore an indifferent expression,

“Hah, you’re acting like you don’t have a clue.” Terrence sneered at him. “Suzman, apologize to my girlfriend now, or I’ll make you regret it! Don’t blame me for not giving you a chance!”

“Hmph! Did you hear him? Apologize to me **now**! Julie grinned gleefully. Although both men were managers. Terrence had stronger support from upper management. Getting on top of Cole Suzman **was a** piece of cake for him.

“Terrence Stone, are you dumb or what? Do you think you deserve an apology from me? Who do you think you are, the human resources manager?” Cole merely smirked at the ridiculous demand.

“What?!” Frowning, Terrence questioned, “What was that?”

“Ah, it looks like you’re still in the dark. The company issued a notice this morning to fire you and put you under investigation immediately. You are no longer **a** manager now.” Cole informed him.

“What did you say? Fired and put under investigation? How could that be?!” Terrence’s expression stiffened.

“Don’t trust me? Just check your phone. They should have sent the notice of termination to you by now.” Cole snickered.

Terrence quickly checked his phone, and he seemed to be struck by lightning. Sweating profusely, he realized that he had indeed been fired.

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“H—how could that be? I— impossible!” Terrence’s eyes were bulging with disbelief. Although he did not put much effort into the job, at least he didn’t make any mistakes. On top of that, he **was** carefree during his time

with the company because he had the backing of the higher—ups. Given his social connections, it wouldn’t

make sense for him to get fired. He couldn’t wrap his **head** around the situation.

“Terrence, you’re fired?” Julie was bug—eyed when she noticed the change in Terrence’s expression. He had promised her the business contract, but how did he end up losing his job instead?

“It looks like there’s trouble.” Dahlia furrowed her brows and appeared pensive. She had pinned her hopes on Terrence, but he wouldn’t be of any help anymore.

“Cole Suzman, be honest— were you playing dirty behind my back?” Terrence fixed **his** gaze on Cole.

“Why would I do so when there’s nothing between us? Plus, even if I wanted, I wouldn’t have the power to do that. You should look at yourself for the reason,” Cole said impassionately. He had long been frustrated by employees who were coasting at work, and he was more than pleased to see Terrence fired.

“Bullshit! No one else could have done that except for you! You must have rattled on me!” Terrence glowered at him. He had embezzled money when he was on the job, and Cole must have found the evidence.

“Well, if you insist on thinking so, I can’t do anything about it.” Cole could not be bothered to explain himself. After all, he couldn’t care less since Terrence was no longer an employee.

“You’re wicked, Cole Suzman!” Terrence’s features contorted into a threatening scowl. “If you think you’ve won, you’re wrong! I’ll let you know— I have backing within the company. Even if I’m fired **today**, I will get rehired tomorrow!”

“Oh, really? And who’s that person backing you?” Cole questioned him.

“You might want to sit down for this. My uncle is the CEO of the company!” Terrence announced proudly.

“That explains why a guy like you would work your way into a managerial role. It’s all thanks to your connection!” Cole’s expression fell. He heard about Terrence’s jaw-

dropping social connections, but he never thought that Terrence was a relative of the CEO. He worried that he might be in trouble.

“Are you afraid now?” Terrence sneered.

“Suzman, if you were the one who ratted me out, you made the dumbest mistake in your life. Apologize to me now, or you’ll be the one who’s kicked out tomorrow!” Given his uncle’s authority in the company, getting rid of a manager was an easy task.

“Terrence Stone, don’t be smug. Do you think you can do as you wish just because you have connections?” Cole frowned disapprovingly.

“That’s right! I can do anything I wish with the backing of my uncle. Why? Are you unhappy about it? What are you going to do?” Terrence threw his head back and laughed, knowing that he’d be fine in any crisis as long as his uncle was in the company.

“Terrence, I didn’t know your uncle was the CEO! That’s amazing!” Julie gave him a look of adoration. A department manager was nothing compared to the CEO.

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“Hmph, I’m doing well in the company, it’s all thanks to my connections!” Terrence held his head high.

“See that. Dahlia? That’s how amazing Terrence’s connections are! He can easily take care of a business

contract for us!” Looking conceited, Julie turned her attention to Dustin. “Dustin, do you have anything else to

say? Are you convinced now?”

Dustin just smiled back at her. At first, Terrence was the only one who got into trouble. After this commotion,

Terrence unknowingly dragged his uncle down. He bet Terrence's uncle would cry at the thought of **having**

Terrence as his nephew.

“Suzman, what are you standing there for? **I** said to apologize to me now! I can take **everything** from you by making **just** one call!” Terrence grew aggressive.

“You’d better not go too far!” Cole shot him a stern look.

“So what if I do? I can afford to do that anyway!” Terrence snickered.

Cole stammered at his audacity. “Y–you–”

Terrence wasn’t wrong—
he was able to do what he liked with the CEO’s backing.

“You ran into a wall didn’t you? It’s all your fault for being cocky, and it’s too late to regret your actions now!” Julie smirked gleefully.

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For Terrence, it was an exciting moment for him to show off his authority in front of everyone.

However, things changed when Cole received a text on his phone. Cole was momentarily caught off guard by the content and checked it a few times before breaking into a grin.

“Why are you smiling?” Terrence had a haughty look on his face.

“Terrence Stone, say goodbye to your good life. I just received a company-wide notice stating that your uncle has been terminated as well. You’re both on a sinking ship together. You’re finished!” Cole declared boldly.

“Bullshit!” Terrence shot him a glare. “My uncle is the CEO. Who would have the guts to fire him?”

“Mr. Brooks did that, of course.” Cole said righteously.

“Nonsense!” Terrence refused to believe it. “My uncle is one of Mr. Brooks’ right-hand men. Why would he be fired for no good reason? You should stop spewing lies!”

“It’s up to you if you believe it or not.” Cole didn’t want to waste time with Terrence anymore. Although he had no clue about what happened behind the scenes, it was clear that Terrence and his backing within the company were both removed.

“Are you trying to trick me now? Great! I’ll call my uncle now and get him to teach you a lesson.” While speaking, Terrence pulled out his phone, ready to tell on Cole, but he was stopped short when he heard a

scream coming from the entrance. “Terrence Stone!”

A man dressed in a **suit** with a bald spot on his head charged in.

“Uncle?” Terrence’s eyes lit up in delight, and he cackled. “Suzman, you’re dead meat! My uncle’s here. No one

can **save** you now.”

Then, he readily jogged toward the man. “Uncle, you showed up at the right time! That Suzman guy is a two-faced snake. He’s purposely shifting the blame onto me. You’ve got to stand up for me this time!”

“Stand up for you? How about you f*ck off!” The man’s nostrils flared, and he slapped Terrence across the cheeks, sending the latter tumbling onto the ground. One might think he had a vendetta against Terrence

based on his furious expression.

“Why did you hit me?” Terrence pressed a hand on his cheek helplessly. Julie and the others quietly exchanged looks of confusion.

“Oh, if only I could tear you into **pieces!**” The man unleashed his wrath on Terrence. “Who the f*ck did you

insult this time? I am in hot water because of you!”

“What happened?” Terrence **was** utterly lost.

“How dare you f*cking **ask** me?” The man was a ball of fire **as** he gave Terrence

a second slap. “Mr. Brooks fired me all because of you! I have to clear my desk; worst of all, I’m about to be investigated!”

“What? What happened?” Terrence froze. How could his uncle, the pillar of support for the company, be kicked

out all of **a** sudden?

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“Don’t you know what you did?” The man continued impatiently. “Didn’t you call Mr. Brooks yesterday and

insult him in **various ways?**”

“Yesterday?” After a slight pause, Terrence suddenly came to a realization. He recalled that he had chided a man named Big Bucks Brooks over Dustin’s phone. **Was** that guy the real deal, not a scammer **as** he had believed?

“Oh, I’m done for thought Terrence, who slumped onto the floor with a ghastly **look** on his face.

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“How could that happen?” Terrence slumped onto the ground as he grew despondent. He did not expect Roderick Brooks, his boss, to be the subject of his wrath yesterday

day. Not only was he fired, but he also dragged his uncle down with him as they got kicked out of the company.

“You brat! What are you standing there for? Come with me to apologize to Mr. Brooks now! The man grabbed Terrence by the hair and violently dragged him out. The whole time, a cowering Terrence didn’t utter even a single word of protest.

“What?” Julie’s jaw dropped to the ground at the sight of it. It **was** hard to fathom how Terrence had fallen from a place of authority and honor to one of shame.

“He totally deserved that! It was his fault for acting like a thug!” Cole scoffed and disappeared into his office.

“Your dear Terrence can’t even save himself,” Dustin remarked with amusement.

“It’s all because of you and your stupid predictions! He wouldn’t have been fired if it weren’t for you!” Julie started to lose it.

“How do you even pin that on me? You’re unbelievable.” Dustin shook his head, thinking that Terrence deserved everything that had happened. One could see it coming because of Terrence’s impudence, which was fueled **by** his faith in his uncle’s power and backing.

“That’s enough. Can both of you shut up for a **moment**? Our top priority is to figure out a solution to that challenge!” Dahlia reminded them of the matter at **hand**.

“Dahlia, I think we have no choice but to get back and brainstorm. Terrence is fired, and Mr. Suzman isn’t going to budge.” Sighing. Julie decided that this was her unlucky day, suffering one loss after another.

“What’s the point of heading back when we’ve already made our way here? Isn’t it just a business deal? Leave it to me,” Dustin remarked.

“You?” Julie scanned him from head to toe with a disdainful look. “Who do you think you are? Do you think you could do whatever Terrence failed to do? Stop kidding me!”

“He failed to help, but that doesn’t mean I’ll fail too.” Dustin smiled at her. “I’m acquainted with Roderick Brooks. This shouldn’t be too difficult.”

“You? How could you be a friend of Roderick Brooks? You’re a fool.” Julie did not believe any words that came from him. Roderick Brooks was the top business magnate in Millsburg. A man of his wealth and power was godlike and out of reach for the **average** citizen.

“You don’t believe me? I’ll call him up.” Instead of explaining further, Dustin immediately went into action.

“Hello? Mr. Brooks; I have a favor to ask of you. A friend of mine wanted to collaborate with Brooks Corporation. I hope you’ll consider her proposal.”

“Mr. Rhys, don’t mention it! A business deal is just a small matter! I can even hand the company over to **you** if that makes **you** happy. Where are **you**? I’ll send someone to pick you up.” Roderick sounded very friendly.

“It’s alright. I’m at the **Sales** Department of Brooks Corporation. Just send a word and get Mr. Suzman to

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assist me.” Dustin replied,

“No problem! On it!”

“Thanks.” After exchanging some formalities, Dustin hung up and turned around. “It’s done. We can sign the business contract soon.”

“That’s some good acting. Do you really think that someone will agree on a 500 million dollar megadeal over a phone call? Stop daydreaming!” Julie smirked.

“Oh well. Let’s head home now. We’ll talk about the business deal tomorrow.” Dahlia gave Julie a soft shake of the head. They were at the center of attention at that moment, and with each second they stayed there, they’d only humiliate themselves more. She did not take Dustin’s words seriously, thinking that he was only putting on the act for his ego.

“What’s the rush? We’ll get it done if we wait for a little while.” Dustin reassured them.

“Are you telling me to wait here?” Julie snickered. “Even if you kneel here for a day, you will not get the attention of Mr. Suzman.”

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Right after that, they heard a click as the door to the manager’s office flung open. Then, Cole ran out in a great

hurry and almost stumbled over.

“Who’s Dustin Rhys? Is there a Mr. Rhys here?” He searched high and low with an anxious look.

“That’s me.” Dustin took a few steps forward.

“Mr. Rhys, I’m so sorry for not recognizing you just **now**. I didn’t properly greet and receive you and **your**

guests. Please forgive me.” Cole jogged up, his previous arrogance wiped off as he bowed deeply at Dustin.

His respectful demeanor came **as** a surprise for Julie and Dahlia. A while ago, Cole was acting all righteous and refused to show Terrence leniency. Why did he suddenly grovel at Dustin? They were left scratching their heads at the reason behind his abrupt change.

“Mr. Suzman, that wasn’t necessary. Let’s talk business.” Dustin went straight to the point.

“Right, right Cole nodded furiously and plastered a smile on his face. “Ladies and gentlemen, this way. please.”

“Ladies first.” Beaming, Dustin led a confused-looking Dahlia into the manager’s office. Cole immediately served tea and ordered his secretary to print out the contract. He was extremely attentive, **as** he was told they were VIP guests of Mr. Brooks. Ten minutes later, they had a deal following a smooth discussion.

When Dahlia wandered out of the office with the signed contract in her hand, she felt like she was deep in a daze. Never in her wildest dreams had she expected the deal to proceed this smoothly. Without unnecessary exchanges, the staff from Brooks Corporation merely asked for her signature on that 500 million deal. In fact, it was so ridiculous that she would question the **veracity** of the process if she had not witnessed it.

“Dustin, how **did** you pull that off?” Dahlia glanced at the hero of the day with a bewildered expression.

“I told you I am acquainted with Roderick Brooks, and he’d probably do me a favor,” Dustin was cool about it.

“A— and how did you get to know him?” Julie blurted out. It was unbelievable that Dustin would be acquainted with Roderick Brooks.

“I treated his illness, which I mentioned to you yesterday, but you didn’t believe me.” He shrugged.

“You treated him? That’s some dumb luck!” Julie shot him a funny look.

“That’s why you shouldn’t look down on people.” Dustin casually reminded her .

“What’s so great about that?” Julie rolled her eyes in disdain. “You treated Big Bucks Brooks’ illness thanks to some dumb luck! Sure, he repaid your help **by** doing you a favor, but it won’t be easy to ask him for help the second time!”

Roderick Brooks had returned the favor to Dustin, and common sense dictated that it wouldn’t be appropriate to keep asking for favors after that. Dustin might have played the hero on that day, but that might not happen again the next time.

“No matter what, we have to thank Dustin for his help today.” A smile lightened Dahlia’s face. ‘Tell me your

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wish, and I’ll try my best to fulfill it.”

“My wish?” That suggestion caught him off guard. “I haven’t thought of any. I’ll let you know when something pops **up**.”

“Sure. I owe you one.” She chuckled.

While they were chatting, Dustin’s phone started ringing. When he picked up, he heard Natasha’s voice from

the other end. “Dustin! This is bad! Our family’s in trouble!”