Bogus Billionaire by Shining Riviera (Caroline Evans) Chapter 161

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Chapter 161

When Kirk **went upstairs**, he saw no one in the master bedroom. Pinching his forehead, he

realized that making it up to Caroline would be tough this time.

The next day, Gwen rushed to the villa during her lunch break.

"I thought you went home to **your** family when **you** shared the address." Gwe n stared at the massive villa in disbelief. "Did Kirk buy this place for real?"

"Why would I lie to **you?**" Caroline led Gwen upstairs.

"I was worried that **you** might have **spent** a **fortune on** him because you fell f or his body and his

looks. But..." Gwen tutted.

"Think about it-

if a perfect guy like Kirk was willing to trade his body for money, you'd become upper class in no time!"

Kirk's perfect body flashed across Caroline's mind, causing her to blush.

"You talk a lot of nonsense nowadays." She pushed Gwen to the guest room a nd said, "I'll get **you**

the phone."

Gwen noticed

that there was only a new pillow on the bed. She gasped, "Do you sleep in se parate,

rooms?"

Caroline showed her the phone. "Do you want this or not?"

Gwen chuckled. "Of course! Let me try it out."

Caroline handed her the phone. She opened it eagerly and set it up. Then, she asked excitedly,"

Hey, have you slept with Kirk yet?"

Caroline's face reddened. "Gwen, you shouldn't waste your talent. Join the pa parazzi, perhaps."

"Just tell me." Gwen unabashedly inched closer to her friend. "I asked becaus e I care for you."

Caroline took a bolster and slapped it on Gwen's shoulder. "Let's not talk about him. He's annoying.

"What happened? Did you fight?"

Caroline turned away and grunted reluctantly.

"So, what happened?"

Caroline was unwilling to divulge the details and placed the phone in a bag. "Nothing. It was just a

squabble."

Gwen didn't notice the **change in Caroline's** expression.

+15 BONUS

She followed Caroline to help her out. All of **a** sudden, her attention was draw n to an exquisite gift

box.

"What's this?" Gwen picked it up and asked.

"Oh. It's a gift from Kirk's childhood friend."

"Does he have a childhood friend?"

"Yeah. She's really something."

"Did you fight over her?" Gwen suddenly conjured an image of a typical bitch, which riled her up immediately.

Caroline took the gift box from Gwen and opened it. "No."

Gwen wanted to prod more, but Caroline had unwrapped the gift. It was a pho to album.

"Why did she give you a photo album?"

Caroline had no idea either. She flipped through the album and saw photos of Avery and Kirk. The photos spanned the years from birth to their teens—throughout Kirk's adolescence.

In each photo, Avery smiled demurely, like a little wife who was doted on. Kirk, who stood beside

her in the photos, always showed an emotionless face.

They were a pretty girl and a cool boy. They looked like a good match when they were together.

Caroline felt a pang of pain in her heart.

Gwen grabbed the album and threw it into the trashcan. "That childhood friend is pretty bitchy. Ignore her. She did that on purpose."

Caroline bent over and picked up the album. "I'm fine."

Gwen felt bad when she saw the expression on Caroline's face. "Carol, don't. It's an eyesore. Just

throw it out."

"I can't throw it out." Caroline smiled. The photos were part of Kirk's life, which she didn't want to

miss.

Gwen forced a

smile. "Whatever. Let's drop this topic. I'll tell you some good news."

"What's it about?"

"Have you heard about it? Layla is in jail."

"I know." Caroline tried her best to ignore the album in her hand. "Mr. Strauss t exted me, saying

+15 BONUS

"Yeah! That's it. I heard she was sick and needed **a doctor**. After she was se ntenced, she cried and

begged Eddy to arrange for doctors and nurses at the prison. If only that would work **out**. Guess what happened?"

Caroline gave her **a** quizzical look.

"Mr. Morrison Senior heard about the fuss and ordered Eddy to stay out of the issue. He even

warned Eddy not to waste any resources on Layla unless he wanted **to** be dis owned."

Gwen added, "It gave me a good laugh! Layla was the greatest joke in Osbur y at that time! Too bad

you couldn't see it for yourself because you were abroad."

Caroline smiled, but she felt nothing. Her only wish was to steer clear of the Evans Family

"By the way, when are you visiting Mr. Morrison Senior?"

Caroline snapped back to reality. "In two days."

"That works. You're going to work tomorrow." Gwen said, "Have a good rest."

The thought of going to work made Caroline smile. "Right. I'm going to work."

She had never worked a day in her life. She looked forward to her new life.

The next morning, she woke up early to wash up and get ready. Half an hour I ater, she sat across

from Kirk, dressed in a beige skirt suit.

He swallowed hard. This was his first time seeing Caroline in a professional o utfit. She **had** a great figure, and it was accentuated by the tight suit. It was a I ovely view for Kirk on such a serene

morning.

He felt an urge rise in him. He asked in a low voice, "Do you need me to drive you to work since it's

your first day?"

She quietly ate her breakfast and ignored him.

The photo album from Avery had hurt her even more. Even though she knew there was nothing between Kirk and Avery, her emotions overpowered her rationality.

She thought of Avery and Kirk spending their precious teenage years together. The fact that Avery had been there to watch his growth sent Caroline into a dark place.

Suddenly, she was enveloped by Kirk's shadow. She could smell his familiar s cent

Frowning, she was about to speak when he lifted her in his arms. She frantical ly wrapped her

arms around his neck. "What are you doing?"

He pressed his face against her nose and grinned playfully "You finally spoke to me

Placing her on **a** countertop, he confessed, "I shouldn't have said that **to** you t hat day."

+15 BONUS

She turned her face aside. Her neck was as graceful as a swan's. He left some bite marks on her neck, causing her to inhale sharply. She shooed him in a teary voice, "Get away from me! Get a way

Kirk always **took** pride in his self— **control**. But he lost control of himself at that moment.

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The morning **sunlight** scattered across **the** land and cast a golden glow on Ki rk and Caroline through the door **and** windows. **They** looked like **they** were in a lovely oil painting.

After a while, Kirk stopped in his tracks and smiled. Then, he entered his bedroom with her in his

arms.

She recovered from the shock and kicked hard to protest. "Kirk, stop fooling ar ound! I need to go to work!"

He took her into the bathroom. "I know. You probably wouldn't want to go to w ork looking like this, would you?"

As he spoke, they reached the mirror. She saw her blushing face and the sultry look in her eyes. Embarrassed, she wanted to dig a hole to hide.

He grinned and placed her in the bathtub. "Take a bath."

She was reluctant to listen to him, but she had to take a bath to wash away the desire and lust. When she emerged from the bathroom, she changed into a black suit.

He narrowed his eyes at her new look. She stayed a distance from him and an nounced, "I'm

heading to work."

Then, she quickly went to the first floor. A car was waiting for her. The driver came out upon seeing her. "Ms. Evans."

She was taken aback. "Who are you?"

"The company sent me. I'll pick you up before and after work."

She wondered, "Does the company offer such a benefit?" She hadn't been ma de aware of it.

The driver smiled and opened the car door for her. Seeing that she was close to running late, she

didn't ask questions and hopped into the car.

Once the car left, Kirk looked away and picked up a call.

"Sir." Charles reported, "The Collins family is investigating your background. Shall we send them

a warning?"

Kirk played with Caroline's flowers and plants on the balcony. He said crossly, "No."

"Got it." Charles could tell

that Kirk was in a pleasant mood. Had he made up with Mrs. Morrison? Charl es couldn't help but marvel at Kirk's ability to coax her.

After the call, Kirk was about to turn around and leave when the phone rang again. Checking the

+15 BÔNUS

"Uncle Jude."

Jude Morrison chuckled. "Are you back?"

"Yes."

"Your dad called me a few days ago. He was satisfied with his daughter—in—law. What now? You've introduced her to **your** dad. Isn't it time **to** introduce her to me?"

Kirk curled his fingers and rested them on the railing. "Fine."

"You can set up a date and time."

"I'll leave it to you, Uncle Jude. We're **free** most of the time."

"Great. I'll call you once I arrange it.

Kirk agreed to it. Jude chatted with him a bit before hanging up. Beside him, E ddy said in excitement, "Grandpa, is Uncle Kirk willing to introduce us to his w ife?"

There was an undecipherable look in Jude's eyes. "Yes."

"I wonder what she looks like and if she's easygoing." Eddy chuckled. "I'm really curious about the woman who conquered a perfect man like Uncle Kirk."

Jude gave him a side eye and angrily asked, "Do you know that Caroline's back?"

The smile froze on Eddy's face. "Of course."

"Have you thought about how to win her back?"

"Grandpa, **don't** worry about it. She loves me a lot. As long as I promise her, she'll divorce her

husband in no time."

Jude scoffed. "Are you that charismatic?"

"Grandpa, **you** know how much Caroline loves me. Look at her, hiding her hu sband from everyone. It shows that he's way beneath me."

Eddy added, "Women are vain. After she compares him to me, she won't be a ble to stand that loser.

Besides, I'm making the first move here."

Jude frowned in disagreement at Eddy's confidence. "What if her husband out shines you?"

"That's impossible!" Eddy sprung up from his seat. "Grandpa, have you come across anyone better than your grandson?"

Frowning, Jude waved his hand. "Whatever."

He decided **to** wait until Kirk **introduced** his wite. He hoped his guess was wr ong.

+15 BONUS

When Caroline arrived **at the** office, she frowned at the vast number of rose b ouquets **there**. She asked an assistant, "Who sent the flowers here?"

The assistant was a quiet intern and a fresh graduate named Cheryl. She stared at Caroline enviously. "It's from Mr. Eddy."

Caroline rubbed her forehead and instructed Cheryl, "Get someone to clear the roses."

"Why?" Cheryl thought it would be a waste to throw out the huge amount of r oses.

"That's because..." Vivian Patterson smirked when she walked past the office . "Our dear Design Director is married. It would be inappropriate to receive gift s **from** other men. But..."

Vivian changed the topic and turned to Caroline.

"Caroline, you're quite something. How did you make your ex miss **you** even after **you** got married? No wonder you managed to bag a directorial position w ithout any work experience."

Cheryl couldn't take it anymore and retorted with a flushed face, "Vivian, how can you speak to her like that?"

"Is Viv wrong?" Vivian's best friend and assistant, Susan, chimed in. "It's impossible to be appointed director without work experience at most companies. She must have pulled some tricks to get to where she is!"

Caroline stopped Cheryl from arguing. She replied calmly, "I'll prove my capab ilities to **you**. Everyone

knows I landed a designer job at Thorne Corporation through the Novitius Contest. If you spread fake gossip about me, shall I accuse you of harassing me? Are you badmouthing me because you think the company's contest was unfair?"

Caroline had associated Vivian's accusation with the company's reputation. E veryone fell silent

for a moment.

After a while, Vivian said with a smirk, "Caroline, you're pretty good at argume nts, but that won't help **you** at work. Only your talent matters!"

Caroline smiled. "Right back at you, Vivian!"

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Vivian clenched her fists After a moment, she sashayed out of the office.

Susan **hurriedly** followed **behind** her.

Once they left, Cheryl couldn't help but look at Caroline. Her eyes were shinin g. "Ms Evans, you're

amazing!

Cheryl had only started working here two days ago. Since she was a newbie, Susan had frequently bullied her.

Yesterday, Cheryl had heard the older staff **say** that Caroline was an inexperi enced person. They had also said that Caroline had only gotten the position of Design Director due to her connections with the Morrison family.

Apparently, Vivian would certainly give Caroline lots of trouble too.

Cheryl had felt hopeless thinking about her superior being bullied. When she h ad come to work today, she'd planned to resign in a few days if things didn't w ork out.

Who would have thought Caroline was so unrelenting?

She was

also completely different from what the others had said. Caroline didn't seem like someone who didn't have working experience.

Caroline smiled a little. "Hurry and get someone to take these roses away."

"Alright." Cheryl happily went to get one of the janitorial staff.

Someone quickly came to clean Caroline's office.

When Caroline walked back inside and saw a necklace on the table, her eyes narrowed.

Eddy had sent it, and there was even a card. It read, "Caroline, I admit that yo u're very important to me. Can you come back to my side now?"

Just by reading those words, Caroline could imagine Eddy's haughtiness.

She threw the card into the bin without a care. Then, she shoved the necklace in her bag. Once

she got to Jude's place tonight, she would return it to Eddy.

After settling this **annoying** problem, Caroline called for Cheryl. She took one phone and

rest to Cheryl.

"There are 41 phones here. Give one to everyone in the design department."

gave the

"But there are 44 people in the design department..." Cheryl realized this bela tedly. "Are Ms.

Patterson and Susan not getting any?"

+15 BONUS

Caroline **nodded** in affirmation. Tell them these **phones** are souvenirs I broug ht from abroad.

Cheryl walked out with all the phones. Then, she called for the others to come in and get **their**

gifts.

When **everyone** heard

there **were** gifts, **they** all came forward. Even though they knew Vivian wouldn 't like **it**, they went ahead anyway.

Those who **had** a good relationship with Vivian couldn't help but comment sni dely, "It **won't** be nice gifts. They're probably cheap!"

Cheryl took out the phones. Someone with sharp eyes saw the logo on the bo x and said in shock, It's Dragon!"

"What's Dragon?"

"It's a new gaming phone developed by Sarcozia's largest corporation, SY Gr oup, **for** gamers. I heard it's not even available overseas yet. Only business p artners with a good relationship with SY Group can get this phone! That's only a few hundred people!"

"Oh, I remember now. I heard they're selling it for three thousand dollars each overseas! The pre- orders are already full. It's just what you might expect from someone as good at doing business as SY **Group's** president!"

"It doesn't look like it to me. Didn't you say only those with a good relationship with SY Group

can get it? How could Caorline possibly know SY Group's president?"

Not everyone in the country

knew that SY Group's president was Eddy's second uncle. Even those

in elite circles didn't know about it.

When Cheryl heard everyone's discussions, she was so stunned that she couldn't speak.

She'd originally

thought that these were ordinary phones. But as she listened to the others, she

realized just how valuable these phones were.

"I'm **pretty** sure these are fake Dragons," Susan said confidently. "Caroline m ust know how highly

we view Vivian. And she also knows how hard it is to get Dragons. That's why she's gotten fakes to

trick us."

"Yes, they must be fake."

"What's fake?"

Vivian had long

before noticed the commotion outside her door. Thus, she walked out and ask ed

about it.

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The person who spoke saw that Vivian had come over and happily walked over to her, acting like e proud puppy. Viv, Caroline bought us take Dragons to get on our good side. What a joke

Vivian had heard about this Dragon thing too Many people around her wanted to get one, but they weren't available locally. Even overseas, one had to mak e a pre—order

She huffed softly "Only those who don't work hard rely on such tricks"

After she said that, Caroline's office door slowly swung open

Caroline saw that the phones hadn't been given out and asked Cheryl, "What's wrong? Does nobody want them?"

Cheryl was so angry that she started crying As the sobbed, she said, "Ms. Evans, they all sad than

these phones are fake

All of these people were just too mean to Caroline

Caroline frowned. She looked over at Vivian and guessed what had happened . She gave a light

laugh "These are gifts. If they don't want them, I'll take them back."

Seeing how calm Caroline was, Cheryl found her own strength. She wiped the tears from her face

"Those who want one, please line up

Many people didn't make a move because of Vivian's influence

Noticing this, Caroline said, "Since no one wants them, I'll take them back."

It worked out well since she didn't want to gift them anymore

Right then the door to the office opened

Jules walked in, dressed in a blue suit. He smiled and said, "Why is everyone standing around? Are

you welcoming your new Design Director?

Vivian smiled Her tone was mocking as she said, "No. We're watching our new Design Director

gift us fake phones'

Jujes could feel a headache coming on Before Caroline came, he'd called Vivi an in to talk with

her. He'd told her to support Caroline since it would be beneficial to her

From what Vivian was saying now, it seemed that she hadn't taken his words to heart

He smiled to cool things down "How nice of Ms. Evans to bring everyone gifts.

Caroline smiled back. They're just phones.

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* epoke se med de tend to bus office se mu out another phone box and hande d it to

Budes Tile bad en spil packaged, the Thas does for you"

"I got nor for Jules we pleasantly surprised. When he accepted it and saw the I ogo, he was teken shack "Drag

As canetze with a fagh position, he knew post how difficult it was to get a Drag on

"Yes, I hope you like it 1: Hawk"

Jules looked up and then back down at the phone box in the package Both had been printed with

the Dragon logo. He was so stunned that be nearly couldn't speak

Still, he asked, "Are these sil Dragons?

"Yep

Jules mouth twitched violently. He looked up at Caroline. Was this the affection the older

generation showed to the younger?

The boss really treated his niece—in—law very generously!

Vivian gave a fake smile "You don't need to be so touched, Mr. Hawkins. It's fake. You can have as

many as you want

When Jules heard this, he frowned and told Vivian off. "Vivian, enough. These phones are all

genuine How can they be fake?"

Vivian was disdainful "How do you know they're genuine?"

"Each product has a marking on it to prevent counterfeits. You just have to scan it to find out,"

Jules said "It's simple. How could you not know about it?"

As he spoke, Jules took his phone out. He scanned the anticounterfeit marking on the box.

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The results loaded quickly, revealing **the** phone to be genuine.

When Vivian saw this, her face turned pale.

Everyone else was shocked too. They suddenly felt like they'd suffered a loss.

This phone was being sold for three thousand dollars for pre—orders. It would cost more than ten thousand dollars, at least locally.

They had lost **out** on something so valuable just because they didn't dare offend Vivian.

When Cheryl saw how everyone was looking at Vivian viciously, she smiled br ightly. "Ms. Evans, I'll take all these phones back then."

"Sure, alright." Caroline nodded.

The others could only watch hatefully as Cheryl took the phones away.

When Jules saw this happening, he couldn't help but see Caroline in a new light.

It was a decision from higher up to choose Caroline as the Design Director. A nd this position.

would be hers for life.

Honestly, he had suspected Caroline's capabilities too. Although she was exc eedingly skilled in

design, she had no other work experience.

That was why he had kept nagging Vivian to get along with Caroline. But it se emed that Caroline

was able to deal with Vivian's troublemaking.

Besides, it was just a phone. And yet, it had successfully dispersed all the power Vivian had.

He had to admit that this was a power move.

Seeing that Jules hadn't left, Caroline asked, "Is there anything else, Mr. Haw kins?"

"Yes." As he held the phone, Jules was even more respectful of Caroline. "Yo u reminded me, Ms. Evans. There's a meeting being held at 2 pm today. Rem ember to attend it."

"Okay, sure."

Caroline nodded and watched Jules leave.

After Jules left, Vivian glared at Caroline from her office door. She turned sharply and slammed

the door shut.

The sound was so loud that the entire design department heard it.

This time, no one dared to watch the show.

12

415 BONUS

as the vaga heels

The then was ready led with people They were sil directors and assistant directors of vancus departons

Despite everyone looking at her, Caroline sat down calmly

Vivian set to her right he acted as if the dodatkow Caroline

Caroline didn't mind it. She opened the meeting pamphlet and started reading

Jules was the last person to enter the conference room

"Before we start the meeting, let me introduce our new colleague. She's the n ew Design Director,

Caroline Evans"

Caroline stood up and nodded lightly.

Everyone shot her disdainful looks

Caroline could understand it in the workplace, one's capabilities were one's most convincing weapon Thus, she maintained her smile She would not be intimidated.

"Alright Next, I have to announce something very important"

As Jules walked to the podium, he was missing his usual friendliness and cas ualness. He became

stem

"We originally had a contract with a skincare expert renowned for antiaging work. His name is Corvin French. Once the brands merge successfully, he will help us come up with a brand new

anti-aging eye cream

He continued, "But since the scandal during the Novitius Contest, he's been in a bad mood and

decided not to work with us anymore."

Everyone exchanged glances

After the merger, the brands had planned on putting their efforts into producin g a shocking line

of products

This way, the new combined brand would gain popularity. Now that the skinca re expert didn't want to partner with them anymore, it wasn't clear whether the y could produce the new products.

"Don't panic, everyone." Jules cleared his throat.

*After endless effort by some of the directors and I, Mr. French has changed h is mind. He says that if we can design a packaging that can move him, he will cooperate with us!"

Everyone turned to look over at Caroline and Vivian

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Right then, someone spoke up. "I think Vivian has worked with Mr. **French** be fore?"

Vivian smiled **happily.** "Yes. Three years ago, when I was still a designer ove rseas, I was **lucky enough to** design the **packaging** for **Mr.** French's antiaging face mask."

"I remember now/I heard Mr. French couldn't stop praising your design. He even wanted to sign a long—term contract with you. How come that fell through?"

"I had some family issues then, so I had to come back to the country."

Everyone present seemed to find it a shame.

Then, someone suggested, "Since Vivian has worked with Mr. French before, she should handle this task. Mr. French will surely be happy with the design s he produces."

The others nodded in agreement.

Jules' gaze fell on Caroline. "What do you think, Ms. Evans?"

At that moment, the others finally remembered that Caroline was the Design D irector.

But it wasn't their fault for **forgetting** Caroline. After all, Vivian had skills and e xperience.

There had to be something wrong with the higher—

ups. Why else would they appoint someone without experience as the Design
Director?

"Since this is an important matter, I don't think it should be given to **just** one p erson. I think we can get a few other designers to join this project."

Caroline knew that this was an opportunity for her too.

"Forget it then." Vivian folded her arms and tilted her chin up. Condescendingly, she said, "Design is a private matter. I prefer doing it alone. If others have to join, I might as well step down."

Everyone could tell that Vivian was directing her words against Caroline.

"Ms. Evans, Vivian has worked with Mr. French before. Besides, he likes her work. She's more experienced than us all. I think we should hand the project o ver to her. What do you think, Mr. Hawkins?"

The man who spoke was the director of the finance department.

Jules rubbed his forehead. He had figured that this would happen before he'd even come here.

"How about this: why don't Ms.

Evans and Ms. Patterson both come up with a design? We'll see which one M r. French likes when the time comes. What do you think?"

+15 BONUS

Vivon Was the higt to agree that works! I think this is a great idea. It will also s how the higher-

ps who has real skills and who's a fakel

The others hurtedly agreed.

Caroline didn't mind it either

"Alright then, let's decide on

that Mr French will be leaving Easton in three days. That means you only have three days to design something he likes Are you confident?"

"Of course!" Vivian was sure she could do it.

Caroline nodded slowly as well.

"Alright, meeting adjourned!"

It was only after everyone else left that Vivian got up to walk out.

Susan was already waiting outside. When she saw Vivian come out, she cam e

over with a cup of coffee. She smiled and said, "Viv, I heard about what happe ned. You'll win for sure."

Vivian beamed. "Of course I will."

Susan replied, "Then does that mean we don't have to do anything anymore?"

Just as Vivian was about to nod, she recalled Caroline's designs. She frowned . "Go and change the

company's internal research records on Corvin French."

Susan understood immediately. "Should I change it all?"

"No need. Just change what Corvin likes in package design. Change it from what he likes to what

he hates."

"I got it. I'll do it right now." Then, Susan happily went off.

Vivian watched her leave. She leaned against the wall and took a sip of coffee . As she did, she

slowly let out her annoyance.

Now, she would only have to wait and see how Caroline embarrassed herself.

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Caroline got **back** to her office and massaged her temples.

This was a fight that would allow her **to** prove herself. She had to do well.

She took a deep breath and turned her computer on. She went to the internal records and searched for Corvin's information. Then, she downloaded and printed everything.

According **to** the information, Corvin had unique preferences for the packagin g design of his products. He liked bright colors with a bold and avant—garde style.

Caroline clicked on the displayed products and frowned.

She really didn't understand his taste.

However, this design needed Corvin's approval. Thus, Caroline had to force herself to keep looking.

Even when working hours ended, Caroline still hadn't come up with any ideas.

She organized her documents and took Eddy's necklace from the **drawer**. **Then**, she got up to go

downstairs.

Downstairs, many other colleagues were getting off work. When they saw Caroline, they couldn't

help but give her a few extra looks.

Caroline calmly swiped her card and left. She got into the car that the "compa ny" had arranged for

her.

"It can't be! She even has a car to take her around? Is she a princess here to experience the real

world?"

"Do you think she could have had this treatment if it hadn't been for the Morris ons? After all, the

Evans family is ruined."

"I heard the secret boss **of** the company is Mr. Eddy's second uncle. Did he make the contest's

prize the Design Director position here because of Caroline's relationship with the Morrison

family?"

"It's very likely. In any case, someone without skills like her could only have go tten in through

nepotism!"

In the car, Caroline said to the driver, "Mr. Jack, please take me to Morrison M anor."

The driver was named Jack Hobbs, but he insisted that Caroline call him Jack. Still, since he was

more than ten years older than her, she felt it was better to call him Mr. Jack.

"Alright," Jack started the car and drove toward Morrison Manor.

+15 BONUS

Caroline lowered her **head** and **flipped** through **Corvin's** information. She continued studying it.

Soon, the car arrived at Morrison Manor.

Jude had known that Caroline would be coming over. Hence, he'd gotten the s taff **to** prepare a rich meal beforehand.

"Grandpa!" Caroline called warmly as she walked in.

"There you are!" **Jude** was glowing as he pulled Caroline over. "You're finally here. I missed you so much while you were gone!"

"I missed you too, Grandpa," Caroline said sweetly, holding onto Jude's arm. After a

while, she brought out some supplements she had specially bought for him. "Grandpa, these are for **you**."

"Thank you." Jude took a look and said, "You're the best, Carrie."

For someone with money and power like Jude, there was nothing he didn't ha ve.

The only thing he lacked was care.

Caroline smiled. Just as she was going to speak, the butler, Simon, walked in.

"Sir, Mr. Eddy is here."

Caroline's expression shifted.

Jude didn't miss this change. He said to Simon, "Let him in."

After he said that, he told Caroline, "Carrie, we haven't had dinner together in a long time. Stay and "

have a meal with me."

Caroline didn't plan to stay. "Grandpa, I still have unfinished work, so ... I won't intrude."

Jude was disappointed. "I see. Is work so busy?" After a pause, he asked inquiringly, "Why don't you quit the job? I'll have Eddy arrange an easy job for you.

Caroline replied, "No need, Grandpa. This is the first job I've gotten with my o wn abilities. I can't

just give up."

There was some confusion in Jude's heart. Had he really misunderstood thing s?

Was Caroline not related to Kirk at all? And she'd gotten the Design Director position at Thorne

Corporation all on her own?

Posted by **Hamaaa**, ? Views, Released on October 9, 2023

Chapter 168

Right then, Eddy's displeased voice came from the door 'Grandpa I'm home."

The next second, he saw Caroline standing next to Jude and froze.

Dressed in office clothes, Caroline had lost her cautious persona She looked like a confident

professional It made it impossible for Eddy to look away from her.

Eddy swallowed. He asked, "When did you get back? 2

Caroline said blandly, "A few days ago"

Then, she turned to Jude "I'm leaving now, Grandpa"

Since Jude was there, Caroline could only ask Eddy as she walked past him, "Mr. Eddy, could you

step out with me for a second?"

Eddy could just about smell her womanly scent. It made his heart skip a beat. He nodded almost

Instinctively

After he nodded, Eddy regretted it a bit. He quickly said, "Whatever you have to say can be said

here"

Caroline's eyebrows furrowed She ignored Eddy and walked out.

Eddy thinned his lips. He groaned but followed Caroline anyway.

Seeing this, Jude shook his head helplessly. When would his silly grandson re alize that he'd

fallen in love with Caroline?

When he recalled the gathering with Kirk a few days later, Jude's eyes turned cold.

He hoped that he was overthinking things.

Eddy stopped after following Caroline outside.

"What's so important that you can only talk about it outside?" Eddy leaned against the doorframe and asked coldly. There was amusement in his eyes.

Caroline took the necklace out of her bag and held it out to Eddy. Then, she to ok out a stack of money. "I had someone to clean up the roses. This is the mo ney for the flowers."

The amusement in Eddy's eyes disappeared. "Caroline, I've already given in. And I don't mind that this will be your second marriage. Shouldn't you give it a rest?"

Caroline was amused by his words. "Thank you, Mr. Eddy, but I don't need to."

With that, Caroline turned around and left.

1/2

+15 BONUS

Indy went up and caught Carotines hand 'What else do you want? Do you want me to beg before you stop playing hard to get?

He admitted that he'd panicked when Caroline met her husband's parents

He wanted people to do as **they** had **in** the past and think of him when **they** s aw Caroline And not her useless husband

Caroline frowned and flung Eddy's hand off. "I don't know why you think I'm pl aying some sort of game I already gave up on you when you asked me to give my kidney to Layla"

Eddy was taken aback. He wanted to hold Caroline again, but he missed her.

The disappointment within him rose Eddy felt pained, and he raised a hand to press against his

heart.

When Caroline got into the car, she rubbed her forehead.

"Ms. Evans?"

"Let's go home."

"Alright."

Jack started the car and drove off.

Caroline slowly calmed down. As she looked at the changing scenery outside, she suddenly felt

like laughing.

Eddy's acting skills were superb.

For a second, she had really believed that Eddy had fallen for her.

As she mocked herself, the car suddenly shook.

Before Caroline could react, the car sped off faster. It flew like an arrow down the street.

Caroline gripped the seat belt and asked, "Mr. Jack, what's going on?"

Bogus Billionaire (Shining Riviera)

Posted by Hamaaa, ? Views, Released on October 9, 2023

Chapter 169

After taking a few turns, the car finally slowed.

Jack looked **in** the rearview mirror to check for the car he'd been trying to sha ke off.

He said expressionlessly, "It seems like there's a bit of a problem with the car. I'll take it for a

check tonight. It shouldn't be anything big. It won't affect your going in and out , Ms. Evans."

Caroline frowned. She didn't quite believe Jack when he said it wasn't a big problem.

But during the next half **of** the car ride, the car indeed did not experience any hiccups. Thus,

Caroline didn't mention it. She told Jack to drive home carefully and walked int o the villa.

At the Collins' residence, Howard Collins yelled, "Useless! You're all just usele ss trash!"

He was so mad that he kicked the bodyguard who'd returned to report.

"What's the point of paying you? You couldn't find out who that person was, e ven though you

spent so much time investigating them! I made you wait at the airport, but you still let them go

right under your nose! I asked you to follow a woman, but she still threw you o ff! Tell me what

use are you?"

After shouting, Howard fell into a seat on the couch. He huffed in huge breath s.

His fury would really drive him mad.

He'd thought he would find Caroline and her husband in no time.

But after a round of investigations, he'd found out that they'd gone abroad. Once they got back,

they had mysteriously disappeared from the airport.

The worst part was that Howard knew Caroline was working at Thorne Corpor ation. Yet, he

couldn't get in there.

Not being able to get in was fine, though. After all, Thorne Corporation belong ed to Eddy

Morrison's second uncle. Howard had to show that man some respect.

But **he** really wondered whether his bodyguards were of any use at all, considering they had lost

Caroline when they were supposed to follow her.

The bodyguard felt wronged. "Mr. Collins, it's really not that we're incompetent . It's just th—that...

The target's not so simple."

"What bullshit! Do you think I'm stupid? I'm giving you one week. You better find Caroline's new address and dig **her** husband out. Otherwise, all of you can get lost!"

Sounding pained, the bodyquard said, "Yes, sir."

+15 BÔNUS

When

Caroline **got home**, she saw Kirk sitting in **the** living room, looking at his **table t**. Thinking of

what happened this morning, her cheeks **burned**.

Kirk sensed movement and looked up. "You're home?"

Caroline walked past him without answering. She went up to the second floor.

Kirk raised an eyebrow.

It seemed that Caroline's displeasure had yet to dissipate.

He looked outside. The **car** was still there. Jack stood by the car door and nod ded toward him.

Kirk quickly went to Jack with large strides.

"What is it?"

"Sir, there were people following the madam when we were returning."

"Did she notice it?"

"No."

"Alright. You've done well. Go off then."

"Yes, sir."

Jack got into the car, started the engine, and left.

Kirk looked up to find a light on in the guest room on the second floor. He frowned and headed

upstairs to Caroline.

He knocked on the door. "It's time for dinner."

Caroline was currently changing. When she heard him, she said coolly, "I'm n ot eating."

"It's not good for you if you don't eat," Kirk said in concern.

"I'm not hungry."

Kirk leaned against the door. Even from there, Kirk could sense the distance Caroline felt toward

him.

Kirk got impatient. "Is it because of me?"

Caroline tugged on her clothes, covering her fair skin. She went to stand by the door. After some hesitation, she finally said, "I have something to do. You should eat first."

Just as caroline thought Kuk would insist, he said, "Alright, it put the food in the inage when

you're hungry, just heat them up"

After a second, heavy footsteps faded away at the end of the corridor

Caroline leaned against the door. She closed her eyes tiredly

Downstans, Kirk called Sean Let's go out for a drink

Posted by **Hamaaa**, ? Views, Released on October 9, 2023

Chapter 170

Sean wasn't very excited about it. "I don't feel like going."

Kirk didn't say more to Sean. He hung up and sent Sean an address.

About an hour later, the **two** met up at the bar.

Sean had reserved a VIP room. When he saw Kirk come in alone, he curled his lip. "Why are you alone?"

Kirk took out a cigar from his cigar box and put it between his teeth. He lit it and sunk lazily into the couch. "Did you expect more people?"

"Caroline didn't come with you? She had nothing to say about you coming to a bar?"

Kirk's tone was blank as he smoked and said, "She doesn't know I'm here."

"You're fighting again?"

Kirk flipped open his lighter with a crack. A bright flame lit up his sharp feature s. He looked down and hummed. It was impossible to tell how he was feeling.

"Why are you fighting?" Sean was curious and scooted closer.

Kirk let out a mouthful of smoke. He didn't answer Sean and only smiled. "The y say men are

heartless creatures after getting what they want. I think women are the same."

Sean was immediately intrigued. "She used you and discarded you?"

Kirk looked sideways at him and said nothing.

Sean took a sip of his drink and said meaningfully "Who says that isn't true? Women are all like

that."

After all, he hadn't seen Gwen since that last incident.

Kirk's eyes narrowed. He looked at Sean through the wafting smoke. "Were you used and

discarded too?"

Sean hurriedly took another drink. He stuttered out, "H-how could I p-possibly be used and

discarded?"

Kirk stared at Sean in silence for a long time. Then, he **looked** away and put o ut his cigar. He

opened a bottle of beer and threw his head back to finish it.

Quickly after, he finished a second bottle and a third.

Seeing this, Sean swiftly stopped him. "Are you crazy? If you keep drinking lik e this, do you plan.

+15 BONUS

Kirk shook Sean off forcefully **He** finished off another **bottle**.

Kirk had a high alcohol tolerance. He **was** still alert after all those bottles of b eer.

He sniffed himself and found the light **scent** *of* alcohol.

Kirk looked up and said to Sean, "Call Carrie."

"What for?"

"Call her and tell her I got drunk!" Kirk was impatient.

Sean was shocked for a moment, but he quickly understood what Kirk wanted to do..

He laughed. "You're really a man who's full of tricks."

Then, he took out his phone. After a second of hesitation, he walked out of the room to call

Caroline.

Caroline was currently going through the information on Corvin French. When her phone buzzed

on the bedside table, it gave her a fright.

She grabbed it and looked at it, only to see that Sean was calling. She answer ed the phone.

"Caroline, Kirk got drunk at a bar. Can you come over and pick him up?"

"Just get him an Uber."

Sean was speechless. Were they really in that big of a fight?

Sean was silent for a moment. Then, he said, "But it's really secluded here. It's not easy to get a

ride. Caroline, won't you just come over? He's drunk and feeling really bad. He keeps calling your

name."

Caroline caved. "Alright."

"Oh, right." Sean's voice became low. "I ... Um, I also drank a lot. I can't drive either. Can you call

someone to take me home?" 1

This time, Caroline didn't hesitate. She agreed immediately.

Joy shot through Sean. He thanked her profusely.

Caroline looked at her dark screen in confusion.

Sean didn't have to be so grateful, right? All she was doing was getting another person.