

Chapter 856 Tense Contract Dispute

Yesenia, undefeated in battles of words until now, was stunned into silence by Derek's swift retort.

When Julie saw the situation escalating, she couldn't contain herself any longer. Rising to her feet, she declared, "Our Pearl Company is fully capable of fulfilling this contract independently. All my years of hard work will be in vain if the Williams Group takes the contract from us. Moreover, this contract has nothing to do with my mother. I fought for it myself. If you refuse to cooperate, we'll manage it ourselves!"

Upon hearing this, Derek's tone turned icy as he remarked, "Do you believe your Pearl Company, at its scale, can handle this contract alone? Can you truly execute it? And if your mother seeks to join the Williams family through marriage, shouldn't there be a price to pay?"

Quick as lightning, Julie retorted, "If the Williams Group joins this collaboration, you'll undoubtedly reap significant benefits. Alternatively, if you insist on taking over the project, you must exchange it with shares from your Williams Group!"

Derek fell silent instantly, stealing a glance at Newell's younger brother, Niko Williams, and his family, hoping

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They quickly got his point. Niko sarcastically remarked, "I'm curious why my brother and his family, who haven't been interested in business affairs for ages, suddenly made it to the meeting on time. It seems they've been influenced by these bitches! They aim to split up our family's property among strangers!"

At the sting of such humiliation, Liam could no longer hold back. While he didn't care about business disputes, insulting Julie challenged his boundaries.

Liam stepped forward, glaring at the Williams family members present. Taking Julie's hand, he prepared to leave, stating firmly, "Julie, there's no need to entertain these people. Come with me."

Claribel Williams, Niko's wife, immediately exclaimed, "Who are you? How did you manage to enter our meeting?"

Liam replied coldly, "I am Julie's husband, Liam Hoffman!"

When Liam mentioned his name, discussion buzzed throughout the Williams family. Back in the day, Liam's renown had reached every corner of Salem.

To take the contract from the Pearl Company, the Williams family had extensively researched Julie's background. Naturally, they were also well aware of the past accomplishments of her husband, Liam, in Salem.

At this point, Niko couldn't resist laughing and taunting, "So, you're Liam, huh? You used to be someone to admire, but now you're just a sinking ship after your family fell apart. How dare you cause a scene in our family?"

Then, Niko turned to Derek and urged, "Dad, don't let my brother marry this woman. Their family has a reputation for bringing misfortune to their spouses. They've already drained the immense wealth of the Hoffman family. Our Williams family cannot bear such a burden!"

After hearing this, knowing that he couldn't take the contract from them, Derek quickly commanded, "I was going to show mercy, but since you're so ungrateful, leave. Your small company couldn't handle such a big project without our support. Get ready to cover the liquidated damages!"

Yesenia felt anxious upon hearing this. She had put in a lot of effort to secure this chance for cooperation with the Williams Group, and now it seemed to be slipping through her fingers.

Instantly, she turned to Liam and scolded, "What are you doing here? Do you realize the consequences of messing with this matter?"

Liam's expression darkened as he clenched his fists. But Julie, noticing his shift in demeanor, quickly reached for his hand, signaling him with her eyes not to react impulsively. Her silent cues eventually helped

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him regain his composure.

Otherwise, considering Liam's temper, this pointless meeting would never proceed.

Yesenia, on the other hand, quickly adopted a servile expression and addressed Derek, "Please, don't be upset. This man isn't recognized as part of our family. He's just shameless enough to linger around. He's not involved in our family matters."

Derek scoffed, "Regardless, I've laid out my terms. If you're willing to meet them, we could keep talking. If not, there's no point in continuing."

At that moment, Yesenia panicked. After a prolonged silence, she clenched her teeth and spoke. "Regarding the contract, I believe we could accept your terms. We are family, after all. However, I have one condition. Since the contract was between Joy International Media and our Pearl Company, and it involves various matters related to our collaboration, I request that Baxter take charge of it."

She continued, "The Pearl Company, once the leading player and now transitioning to a supporting role, should still have a stake in the collaboration. What do you think?"

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Such a condition was clearly disadvantageous for the Pearl Company. Hearing what Yesenia said, Julie tried to refute it at once.


Yesenia, realizing Julie's intention, quickly pulled Julie aside before Julie could say anything. Anxious but determined, Yesenia whispered urgently to dissuade her.

"Julie, I know it's a loss for the Pearl Company to accept this kind of cooperation. But if we can successfully integrate into the Williams family, this sacrifice will be worth it. Please, Julie. Do this for my sake. I've suffered all my life, but now I have the chance to integrate into the Williams family. Please grant my wish!"

Seeing how desperate her mother was softened Julie's heart, and she had no choice but to compromise despite her reluctance.

There was a sharp and disdainful expression in Liam's eyes. At this moment, he was disgusted with Yesenia's behavior and wanted to stop the cooperation at once. However, Julie realized what he wanted to do.

Julie turned to him and whispered in a low voice, "Liam,

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forget it. It has been hard for my mother all these years. Just think of it as the last time you'll help her."

Derek, who was sitting at the head of the table, lapsed into silence. While Yesenia's request was slightly different from what he had initially planned, the general direction had not changed.

After all, this deal was so lucrative that Derek didn't want to let it slip away. So, after a moment of thinking it over, he conceded, "Alright, here's what we'll do. From now on, Baxter will be in charge of this project. The specific tasks will be handed over to him."

After making the proclamation, Derek turned to Baxter and gave him a meaningful look.

Baxter didn't need words to understand that Derek was telling him to do a good job on this project. He flushed, feeling flattered that his grandfather trusted him so much. He didn't expect he would become the biggest beneficiary of the argument. He nodded quickly and promised, "Grandpa, I will fulfill the mission without fail!"

Derek nodded, and with that, the argument about the cooperation was over. He took a sip of his tea and continued, "Since the cooperation has been settled, let's move on to the highlight of today's meeting."

Shocked by the statement, Newell gaped at Derek and said, "Dad, aren't we here just to discuss the cooperation?"

Derek shook his head and replied, "No, there's something more important. I received news that a five-star general recently arrived in Salem. Even the richest man, Tristan, is willing to be this five-star general's foot soldier. Moreover, I've heard from reliable sources that this five-star general intended to stay in Salem for development. If we can establish a good relationship with him, our Williams family will easily reach a higher level!"

All the members of the Williams family were shocked by this news. Truthfully, the cooperation they just discussed was insignificant compared to the man who could turn the richest man, Tristan, into a subordinate.

While his family members were busy grasping the news and its implications, Derek continued, "Right now, the news is still tightly sealed. Apart from a few top figures in Salem, no one has ever seen the general. Today's meeting is to announce that whoever can find out who this general is will be rewarded with ten million dollars! And if you can establish a good relationship with him, you will be rewarded with ten percent of the shares of the Williams Group!"

A heated discussion ensued at Derek's announcement. Excitement was the prevalent emotion amongst all the Williams family members.

"Oh my God! Ten million dollars just to find out the identity of the general? This reward is incredibly generous!"

"What do you know? If we can establish a connection with someone like the general, we could become one of the big families that dominate not just Salem, but also the federation. Ten million dollars and ten percent of the company's shares are nothing at all!"

Even Julie and Yesenia were not left out of the excited conversations. They whispered to each other to discuss the topic. The only person in the room who was unaffected by all of this was Liam. He stared at them all with an aloof expression.

Even if they were to take a wild guess, no one in the Williams family would ever come close to realizing that the five-star general who could make Salem tremble with his influence, whom they were desperate to establish a connection with, was none other than Liam!

After several minutes, Doyle Williams, Niko's son, volunteered, "Grandpa, I promise to help the Williams family establish a relationship with this five-star general!"

Among the younger generation of the Williams family, Derek liked Doyle the most. He was immensely pleased with Doyle's promise. "I believe in you. If you succeed, you will be the future successor of the Williams family!"

Yesenia couldn't sit still after such a declaration.

She had worked so hard to marry into the Williams family with the goal of becoming the head of the

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Williams family's wife. If Doyle were to become the family head, her dream would be shattered. Given Newell's passive and unthreatening nature, it was possible that he would be driven out of the Williams family sooner or later.

When Yesenia came to this realization, she summoned her courage and asked, "Derek, if Newell and I establish a relationship with the five-star general, will we also have a chance to be the heir?"

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When Yesenia uttered those words, laughter erupted from Niko and his family members.

"That's hilarious. Yesenia hasn't even gotten married into our family, and she's already eyeing the position of the heir to the Williams family. Quite ambitious, isn't she? Newell, you better think carefully. Can you handle a woman like her?"

Despite being the eldest son, Newell was accustomed to playing the role of the obedient one in the family. Instead of directly responding to Niko's inquiry, he remained silent.

To be honest, it wasn't that he lacked ambition. At that moment, he found himself acknowledging the truth in Yesenia's words. He recognized that he couldn't solely rely on his own abilities. His son, Baxter, being Derek's grandson, deserved the recognition and opportunities that came with his lineage.

Before Derek could respond, Doyle seized the opportunity, suggesting, "Why don't we settle this with a fair competition? The one who proves to be more outstanding can take charge and be the heir."

Though Doyle's proposal seemed fair on the surface, there was a subtle acknowledgment within him that

despite Baxter's capability, he didn't possess anything outstanding.

This realization explained why Baxter had remained on the fringes of the Williams family's inner circle for so long.

Furthermore, considering Newell's limited connections, attaining the status of a high-level general seemed like an unattainable feat.

Doyle's apparent generosity stemmed from his confidence that both Newell and Baxter would fall short in the competition against him.

However, there was a hidden agenda. Doyle intentionally left room for Derek to intervene. He hoped Derek would support him and complicate matters for Newell and his family.

Derek, being astute, swiftly grasped Doyle's underlying message.

Without missing a beat, Derek responded, "Certainly, we're open to fair treatment. However, it's worth noting that Doyle doesn't possess personal assets. Newell, considering your family also has a cooperation contract with Red Murray Group, perhaps extending it to us would be a fair move, don't you think?"

Upon hearing Derek's proposal, Yesenia and Julie's expressions paled. Yesenia silently cursed Derek for his cunning insight.

She had strategically hidden the contract with Red Murray Group to secure an exit strategy for herself, only to find that Derek had astutely discerned her intentions. Now, he seemed eager to exploit the full value of the Pearl company.

Observing their discomfort, Derek felt a sense of satisfaction. Maintaining a facade of generosity, he assured them, "We're family. Besides, your small company would find it challenging to take on that project anyway. Rest assured, I won't let you incur any losses. The Williams Group will also allocate some projects to Pearl company."

In support of Yesenia, Julie had already lost the contract with Joy International Media. The unexpected request for the contract with Red Murray Group from the Williams family caught her off guard, and she was on the verge of refusing vehemently. However, before she could express her frustration, Yesenia intervened.

"Don't act impulsively. I don't want to jeopardize our chances. We've already lost the deal with Joy International Media, and things are still unsettled. If we make a wrong move now, all our efforts will be in vain. Trust me, Derek will not be the head of the family for long. Once I assume control of the Williams family, everything will be returned to you. Just endure this for my sake, alright?" Yesenia urged in a hushed tone.

With the situation reaching a critical juncture, Julie found herself caught between her own career

aspirations and her allegiance to her mother. The internal turmoil was evident.

Recollecting the years when her mother had single-handedly cared for her and her child during Liam's absence, Julie made up her mind. She sighed and reluctantly agreed to Derek's unreasonable demand.

As Julie's car sped along the highway after they left the meeting, a heavy silence enveloped the interior. Julie refrained from uttering a single word, opting to head straight home with Liam and her mother.

Throughout the journey, Julie remained silent, and despite Yesenia's attempts to offer comfort, it proved futile. The gloomy atmosphere in the car was palpable.

Sensing the heavy mood in the car, Liam felt a sense of discomfort. "Julie, try not to be too disheartened. Don't worry. Even if the contract is handed over, the Williams Group can't cooperate with the Red Murray Group. I give you my word on that," he reassured, attempting to ease Julie's distress.