The Emperor got angrier as he bellowed, "Yvette, no matter how much you like Darryl, he is dead now. You have to give up on him. Obey my will dutifully and wait for the martial arts marriage tournament. Then, live happily ever after with your Prince Consort."

After that, the Emperor strode out of the bedchamber.

"Darryl!"

Yvette looked painfully up at the night sky outside the palace. "I'm sorry, it's all my fault. It's all my fault..."

Tears streamed down her face uncontrollably; she was heartbroken!

...

Meanwhile, under the water in the moat...

Darryl felt his world spun, and his body continued to sink with the suction force of the vortex.

The water was cold, and Darryl was a little puzzled and desperate.

Oh, no!

'Why am I still not at the river bed? Is the moat that deep?'

It took quite some time before Darryl finally sank to the bottom of the river bed. He was extremely astonished.

'How deep is this moat?'

Even though he did not know for sure, his guess would not deviate too much from the actual number.

Still startled, Darryl looked around him; there was no more vortex at the bottom of the river, but the water quality was horrible. He could not see anything at all.

F*ck!

'I'm injured, so I can't swim past the vortex zone. I'll suffocate sooner or later if I stay under the water.'

Darryl was a Martial Emperor. Even though he was severely injured, he could still hold his breath underwater for quite a while. Nevertheless, it was not a long-term solution, especially when he was several thousand meters underwater. The depth would accelerate the deterioration of his injury! Darryl could already feel it as energy drained from his body.

'No, I've to go around the vortex and

try to swim upward!'

Darryl fumbled forward along the bottom of the river.

The river bed teemed with water plants; it did not help at all. Darryl's vision was blocked, so he could not see clearly. He could not tell the direction at all. He could only move forward blindly guided by his feelings.

Sometime later, Darryl touched a hard object. He felt it with his finger carefully; it felt like a wall.

Darryl wanted to laugh.

'New World Royal City's wall? I've touched the city's wall! If I swim upstream along the wall, there will be no vortex!'

Darryl was extremely excited, but soon, he sensed that something was

wrong.

That was not right!

He was a few thousand meters underwater. Even if the New World Royal City's wall was buried deep, would it reach that depth?

Darryl continued to swim upward as he muttered in his heart.

After he swam upward for a few more meters, he saw a deep and dark trench.

'Why is there a big trench under the moat?'

Darryl was stunned; he went to take a closer look. He was flabbergasted!

The trench led to a long walkway which was paved with bluestone. The opening was covered with sediment as it had

been underwater for a long time.

'Where is this?'

Darryl was curious. He went into the trench and swam forward along with it. He was surprised when he noticed that it had a very long aisle, but he did not know where it would lead to.

As he went deeper, the cavity gradually became wider. It finally came to an end after some time.

Darryl trembled when he saw the scene before him.

It was a massive ruin with torn walls and shingles everywhere. The space was huge, and there were many collapsed buildings.

'Why is there a large pile of ruin under the moat?' Darryl tried to contain his curiosity and continued to swim forward. After about half an hour, the surroundings brightened until Darryl saw a palace in front of him!

'This used to be a palace?' Darryl was excited to see the underwater palace; he guessed that it had used to be glorious. 'But we're at least a thousand meters from the ground level. The New World Royal City up there; why is there a palace buried underneath it?'

Darryl did not know that he had seen proof of an ancient dynasty—the Deguste Dynasty. It was the dynasty that had ruled the New World continent for nearly a thousand years. They were quite advanced too.

The New World Royals' ancestors had overthrown the Deguste Dynasty. Then they had rebuilt the Royal City on the site of the former Deguste Palace.

The events' timeline had proven that the Deguste Dynasty's ruin was hidden underwater for about two thousand years.

Darryl stared wide-eyed at the underwater palace in front of him. Finally, he snapped back to his senses. Then, he slowly went into the ruins.

Darryl's heart pounded as he swam around the abandoned palace to explore the area. The palace was about the same size as the New World palace. It looked like it had tens of thousands of rooms and dozens of halls!

After he traversed the area for a while,
Darryl arrived at a collapsed palace
room. He noticed that it was different
from the others—it had many elixir
cauldrons in it. Besides the cauldrons,
there were many jade bottles for elixirs
and pills on the shelves.

There were at least a few hundred jade bottles.

'Damn! Why are there so many elixir caldrons?'

Darryl's gaze flickered. He must be at a place where they produce the elixirs. He was excited. He quickly moved forward to check out the jade bottles—he half-walked and half-swam around the area.

Darryl was stoked when he saw the labels on the jade bottles.

'Jade Bone Pill, Infinite Elixir, Nine Drops Petal Powder. So many topgrade pills?'

Those elixir pills had been recorded in the Infinite Elixir Manual, but the materials needed to produce them were extremely rare.

For example, the Nine Drops Petal
Powder needed a rare Infernal Heart
herb to make it. One would only find
the herb near underground magma, so
it was extremely difficult to produce
that elixir.

The Deguste Dynasty's Emperor was addicted to the art of refining elixirs and pills. Hence, he had invited a lot of Elixir Masters to make the elixirs for him. Unfortunately, the dynasty was destroyed before he had time to enjoy them!

Darryl took a deep breath; he was unable to control his inner excitement.

One would be blessed after they survived a disaster. He was seriously injured and needed an elixir to recover. He was fortunate to stumble upon so many of them.

It seemed like he was blessed so abundantly, so he might as well not waste them.

Darryl picked up the jade bottles in front of him and swallowed the pills without any hesitation.

After that, he took the Nine Drops Petal Powder, Infinite Elixir and Jade Bone Pill.

Anyway, those were medicinal pills for nourishment. Therefore, it would not harm him even if he ate more of those pills, and Darryl had eaten hundreds of elixir pills in one go!

However...

Darryl had forgotten an important point. One should not rush to take elixir pills if one was seriously injured, especially if one wanted to take many

pills at once.

After he ate those elixir pills, Darryl regretted it when he felt a stream of heat raged all over his body. The burning sensation became stronger as they attacked Darryl's nerves.

"Argh..."

Darryl yelped as he rolled on the ground.

'Had I known, I wouldn't have eaten them so fast.'

Darryl muttered a complaint in his heart; he wanted to cry. After he continued to roll his body around, he finally fainted.

Darryl slept and had a long dream. He dreamed of complete darkness, but there was a stream light in front of him. He ran in the dark and toward the

light.

Finally, Darryl slowly opened his eyes.

Darryl realized that he was floating in the sea. The burning sensation in his body had disappeared, but an incomparable force had replaced it.

Darryl took a deep breath; he was unspeakably excited!

A level five Martial Emperor!

Unexpectedly, he had survived a catastrophe, but his strength had improved.

Darryl looked around the vast sea with excitement. Was he not in a moat when he was comatose? Darryl scratched his head as he tried to figure it out. He concluded that the moat must be connected to the sea!

Darryl dismissed his thoughts and quickly swam to shore. However, he felt that there was something amiss as he continued to swim.

'Is this Donghai City? F*ck! Did I drift from New World Palace's moat all the way to the World Universe?' Darryl laughed bitterly. When he reached the shore, he saw four figures approaching him from somewhere nearby. All of them looked very anxious.

They were his old mates—the four Dixon brothers!

"Sect Master?"

At the same time, the four brothers also spotted Darryl. They shouted in surprise and quickly dashed toward him.

When they reached him, Zephyr wiped the sweat from his forehead and exclaimed, "Sect Master, we've finally found you!"

Nimbus and the other two men beside him were also extremely excited.

Darryl was overjoyed as well. He asked,
"Why are you here?"

The four brothers glanced at each other, and then Zephyr sighed. "Sect Master, something has happened to the Carter family!"

Zephyr was ashamed when he reported the issue!

What?

Darryl was startled; he quickly asked,
"What's the matter?"

Zephyr clenched his fists as he

narrated the story to Darryl.

After the incident at Lu Bu's ancient tomb, all the sects returned to their respective continents, but Gonggong did not leave. She knew about the relationship between the Carter family and Darryl, so she deliberately went to their home and forced them to surrender Darryl to her.

At the same time, the Carter family also had to give her Diaochan. After all, Diaochan was Lu Bu's woman, and Gonggong believed that she would fight with anyone.

Zephyr continued angrily. "During that time, Gonggong went to the Carter family and threatened to destroy them if they did now give her you and Diaochan."

F*k!

Darryl was furious.

Gonggong had overstepped the line.
She had failed to catch her target, so she decided to threaten the Carter family because of her own failure.

That was horrible!

As he cursed in his heart, Darryl asked,
"By the way, how's Dax and
Chester?"

His brothers were surrounded before they could leave Lu Bu's ancient tomb. Sonya had captured Darryl while Dax and Chester were detained in the siege.

"Dax and Chester were injured during the battle at the ancient tomb; they should still be cultivating in seclusion now," Zephyr responded.

Darryl hoped that Dax and Chester

were fine.

He exhaled before he thought of something. "What about Brother Zhu? Zhu Bajie, who was with me before."

If Zhu Bajie was around, would Gonggong still be so presumptuous?

Zephyr scratched his head and said, "I didn't see Mr Zhu after the sects left the ancient tomb. I don't know where he is now!"

Zephyr could not conceal the anger in his heart. "Sect Master, Gonggong had harassed the Carter family twice now. I apologize for my incompetence; I knew that we were not her match, so we did not act rashly. That was why we were looking for you instead. And we finally found you on this beach, Brother

Darryl!"

Darryl nodded and then began to ponder the issue.

Yvette still waited for him at the New World Palace. At the same time, the Carter family was in trouble again!
Darryl was upset when he asked,
"What's the date today?"

"Today is the 24th, Sect Master!" Zephyr quickly responded.

Darryl had an idea.

It looked like he was only in a coma for half a day. That meant Yvette's martial arts marriage tournament would only be held in a few days. He could use that time to help the Carter family first!

After he made up his mind, Darryl looked at Zephyr and said, "Four of you can head back to the New World first;

you should leave soon. Then, wait for me near the New World Royal City."

"Yes, Sect Master!" The four Dixon brothers did not hesitate; they immediately rushed toward the New World Royal City direction.

As they disappeared into the distance,
Darryl jumped and flew toward the
direction of the Carter family. When
Darryl flew up, he was stupefied! He
had eaten hundreds of miraculous
elixir pills, and his body had absorbed
them completely. He could feel that his
internal energy was much stronger
than before, and his cultivation rank
had improved!

He was at the peak of a level five Martial Emperor!

Darryl was pleased. He was only one small step away from the Heaven Ascension level! One small step away. If it were someone else, they might take a long time to make such progress, but Darryl was different. He could do it with the Godly Pill! Darryl was extremely excited. He could not wait to refine that pill when he got back to the Carter family later!

Darryl sped up. After several hours of flying, he had finally returned to the Carter family.

Oh ...

The moment Darryl landed, he frowned when he saw the scene in

front of him.

The door was closed tightly; the entire Carter family mansion was empty!

'How could this be?'

Darryl was shocked!

Then, Darryl quickly walked into the mansion and looked around. True enough, there was no one in the entire Carter mansion!

F*ck!

Had Gonggong launched an onslaught and wiped out the entire Carter family?

Darryl wiped the cold sweat off his forehead; he was anxious and angry!

"Godfather, Debra, Sara—where are you?"

Darryl continued to shout as he walked from the front yard to the back garden. He sensed something around the Peach Blossom Forest in the forbidden place.

Then, he discovered many footprints at the entrance; they were messy, as if those people were in a hurry.

His godfather must have taken the family into the Peach Blossom Forest; it was probably the only way they could avoid Gonggong!

Darryl was excited as he dashed in that direction!

In the Peach Blossom Forest.

Nearly a thousand people gathered at the center of the Peach Blossom Forest. All of them were weak and weary! It was Zoran and his family members.
There were others too, like Diaochan,
Yvonne, Debra, and Jewel!

Five days! They had been trapped for five days already.

Gonggong had been at the mansion a couple of times; she was there to look for trouble. Zoran knew that he was no match for her, so in his desperation, he brought everyone to the Peach Blossom Forest to avoid her.

They had hidden in the forest where
Gonggong could not reach them, but
they also could not escape that place!
The Peach Blossom Forest was a
forbidden place in the Carter family
mansion; it was also a high-level
formation. For so many years, except
for Darryl, anyone who entered the
forest had not managed to escape it!

"Sir Carter-"

Diaochan's exquisite face wore an ashamed expression when she said, "This is all my fault. I've caused this to happen to all of you."

Even though they had not been together for long, Diaochan could feel the Carter family's kindness. That was why she felt very guilty!

If one of their family members were harmed because of her, she would not rest easy for the rest of her life!

Zoran smiled. "It's not you; it's Gonggong!"

He was furious when he said that.

The Carter family was well known in the World Universe, and yet a woman had embarrassed them!

Yvonne approached Diaochan and

comforted her gently. "Diaochan, don't blame yourself. We'll find a way out of here."

"Yeah!" Debra smiled and added,
"We'll cross that bridge when we come
to it. We will find the way to leave the
Peach Blossom Forest."

Diaochan smiled as she felt touched by their words.

'I was lucky. Even though I lost my beloved Lu Bu, I get to meet so many kind people!'

"Hehe..." A sarcastic sneer echoed from the side; it was made by someone with a delicate face but a mean heart.

It was Rachel!

Rachel had returned to the Carter family after Ewan died in the ancient

tomb.



"Do you think that it's that easy getting out of this Peach Blossom Forest?" Rachel said in an angry tone. "This is the Carter family's forbidden area. Without a solution, we'll be trapped in here forever."

When Rachel said that, her gaze swept across Debra and Yvonne—it had deep hostility and contempt.

Yvonne and Debra looked at each other, but they did not speak. They had stayed with the Carter family for so long, so they were familiar with Rachel's temper. They did not want to argue with her.

"Shut up!" Zoran yelled with a scowl.

His eldest daughter had gotten worse

and out of hand.

Rachel stopped talking when she realized that her father was angry. She muttered to herself before she sat aside in a fury.

For a while, the atmosphere was inexplicably awkward.

"Godfather! Debra! All of you are really here!"

A cry of surprise came from somewhere nearby, and then a handsome figure walked toward them quickly.

It was Darryl!

"Darryl?" Zoran was delighted. He quickly stood up to greet the man.

However, he wobbled and almost fell after merely two small steps.

They had not eaten or drunk anything

for five days, and it had taken the toll out of Zoran's body, who thought that he was quite tough! Darryl had survived without food for a year when he was trapped in the volcano crater because of the strong spiritual energy there. On the other hand, the Carter family had starved as they hid in the Peach Blossom Forest for five days.

Darryl was quick to support Zoran. He said embarrassingly, "Godfather, I'm sorry I'm late."

Darryl's eyes were wet when he said that.

Zoran smiled and waved his hand.

"You don't need to blame yourself. But
it's good that you're back. It's good to
have you back."

"Darryl?"

"Brother!"

"Mister!"

At the same time, Debra, Yvonne, Sara and Jewel felt extremely surprised. They immediately gathered around the man and exclaimed excitedly, especially Debra and Yvonne, who could not care less about the gazes of the people around them. They plunged into Darryl's arms excitedly.

"Darryl, you are finally here!" Yvonne hugged Darryl tightly. She was excited to see him.

Debra pressed her face against Darryl's chest.

Thankfully, Darryl had returned to them.

Jewel tugged Darryl's sleeves as her tears continued to stream down her cheeks. "Mister, it's great that you're fine! Do you know... I thought I wouldn't be able to see you again after I learned that they had taken you away..."

"It's alright. I've come back, haven't I?" Darryl embraced Yvonne with one hand and wrapped his arm around Debra's waist affectionately with the other.

Darryl noticed that Debra, Yvonne and Jewel all looked a little haggard and piteous.

Darryl said ashamedly, "I'm sorry to have made you all suffer."

Avonne and Debra did not say anything. They hugged Darryl tightly, unwilling to let go for a long time. They were relieved to see Darryl home safely, and they would not mind

suffering a little for that.

Diaochan sat there quietly as she observed the scene in front of her. She was confused.

'How did Darryl get so many girls to fall head over heels for him?'

The stressful atmosphere became relaxed and warm all of a sudden.

"Darryl, how do you still have the cheek to come back?"

Rachel, who stood at the side, stepped forward and said coldly, "All of these happened because you brought Diaochan back with you. If it weren't for her, the Carter family would not be in this mess with Gonggong. She almost wiped out our family, do you know that?"

First, Darryl had killed Ewan. Then, he

had brought trouble to the Carter family. Rachel was too annoyed to see him.

Darryl smiled faintly at Rachel's judgment.

He knew that Ewan's death was a massive blow to Rachel. She thought that Darryl was the one who killed Ewan. However, Ewan was burned to death. What did that have to do with Darryl? He had wanted to argue with her, but he brushed it off when he saw his godfather's expression.

However, Rachel thought that Darryl was guilty, and she continued to shout, "I'll tell you what! When we finally leave this Peach Blossom Forest, you should just leave with your women and Diaochan. Don't come back to the Carter family anymore."

'He is just a godson. Did he really think of it as his own home? He brought his family here to set up home, and it has been almost ten years already. Such thick skin!'

"Sister-"

Sara, who was next to Rachel, rebutted anxiously. "How can you say that?

Isn't it good that our brother lives with us here? Sister Debra and everyone else can also live with us happily."

Rachel ignored Sara and continued to shout at Darryl. "I don't want to carry on this nonsense with you. If you have a little self-awareness, go quickly!

Don't trouble the Carter family."

"Slap!"

Zoran walked forward and slapped Rachel on her face!

Suddenly, there was silence all around them!

"Father! Why did you hit me?"

Rachel covered her face with her palm as she felt aggrieved and angry.

"Darryl killed Ewan, and now because he had brought Diaochan home, our family is trapped here. Am I wrong to say that?"

"You ungrateful thing! How dare you mention Ewan?" Zoran trembled with

anger; his lips paled. "I've already found out about that matter. It was Darryl who found Lu Bu's ancient tomb. However, you and Ewan took advantage and stole the Blood Battle Eight Directions Scripture when he did not pay attention to it. Ewan strayed into the Nine Star Flame Formation and was burned alive. He died because of his greed! How could you say Darryl killed him? Darryl wanted to save him, but it was too late! He only managed to save you! If it weren't for him, you would have been burned to death as well!"

Zoran was extremely furious when he pointed at Rachel and cursed, "How could you not know what's right and wrong? How did I raise you to be so ungrateful!"

Zoran trembled and almost fainted. He

was weak and feeble as they had been trapped for a few days. He was also angry, so he could not hold his emotion.

"Father!"

Rachel yelled as she went to help her father up.

"Get off me!" Zoran roared. He fixed an indignant gaze on Rachel and said, "You and Ewan caused Darryl to fall into the volcano crater, and still, you showed no remorse for that. I don't have a daughter like you!"

Rachel froze; she felt aggrieved!

'How could you treat your daughter like this for the sake of your godson?
I'm your biological daughter...'

Zoran got even angrier; he pointed at Rachel and scolded her. "If you still have a little conscience, then apologize to Darryl!"

'What? Apologize to him?'

Rachel trembled in a fury. She finally reacted; she shouted, "I will never apologize to him! Even if he didn't kill Ewan, it still has something to do with him. If he had saved Ewan, he would not be burned to death! So I will not apologize to him, never in this life!"

"You... you beast..." Zoran was furious.

He pointed at Rachel; he almost
fainted!

Susan, who had been silent all that while, walked toward them quickly and slapped Rachel!

"Your father is right. You must apologize to your godbrother!" Susan snapped. Then, she winked at Rachel.

'My eldest daughter is wayward!'

There was no need to mention who was right or wrong. How could she kick up a fuss when Darryl was the one who rescued them after they had been trapped for several days. That was too annoying!

"Mom-"

Rachel was utterly dumbfounded. She looked at Susan blankly; she did not expect that her mother would not be on her side!

Susan interrupted her and said firmly,
"There's no need to say anything else.
Apologize to your godbrother!"

For a moment, there was only silence. Everyone looked conflicted; no one dared to give anyone any advice. After

all, Rachel had acted unreasonably. No one could stand her attitude!