

2017

Tosh was an idiot. Had all those years of guarding the borders made him stupid? He had arrested the real Prince Consort.

At the same time, the Empress and Quincy shuddered as well; they were shocked.

However, the Empress was quite delighted.

Quincy's expression, on the other hand, was ice cold. She could not hide the embarrassment, rage, and apprehension in her heart.

Hmm?

Tosh was stunned; his mind was filled with questions.

What had happened? Why did the Empress and the officials look at the man like that?

Was he really the Prince Consort?

Tosh's heart started to beat faster; he was nervous.

"General Tosh."

Someone amongst the officials chuckled and said, "What is with you? How can you arrest the Prince Consort and say that he is a spy?"

Many of the officials looked and smiled ambiguously at Tosh.

What?

Tosh felt as if he had been struck by lightning. He was utterly baffled. He looked at Darryl in a daze—he was speechless and filled with fear.

The man was their Prince Consort? The hero of the World Universe, the Sect Master of Elysium Gate, Darryl Darby?

“Tosh.”

The Empress snapped back to her senses. She looked at Tosh silently. “What is going on? This man is Darryl Darby. I appointed him as our Prince Consort. Why did you say he was a spy?”

Her voice was not loud, but it was suffocatingly authoritative.

Swoosh!

Tosh sweated profusely. He immediately knelt and said, “Your Majesty, this is a mistake—my careless mistake.”

Then, Tosh immediately turned to Darryl. He looked guilty as he said, “Prince Consort, I must be blind. I’m sorry if I’ve offended you; please don’t take it to heart, and please forgive me this time.”

Tosh was a general, and he had a high status. If it were anybody else, he would not apologize so humbly to them.

However, Darryl was different. He was the Prince Consort, a title appointed by the Empress, and he was Princess Long’s man. He would answer only to one person. How could he not apologize to him?

Then, Tosh stepped forward quickly to untie Darryl.

“General Tosh, you don’t have to be so nervous.” Darryl flexed his wrists. He smiled and said, “Those who are ignorant should not be blamed.”

“Thank you so much for your generosity.” Tosh wiped the sweat on his forehead; he was extremely thankful.

“Tosh.”

Quincy walked forward slowly. She frowned and said, “You don’t have to apologize to him. We’re currently in a tense situation with the North Moana Army; it is your job to be stringent about whoever enters the city. Even if you captured the wrong person, you were just doing your job. So where is the mistake?”

Uh...

Tosh smiled and nodded, but he wondered about that. ‘What is going on?’

It seemed like Princess Long and the Prince Consort did not get along well. He had mistakenly arrested the Prince Consort, but Princess Long was not angry; she even defended him.

Darryl smiled and said, “Princess, I haven’t seen you in a few days; how are you?”

A few days ago, Quincy had led a group of envoys to Westington to sign an alliance treaty. Darryl had teased her purposely and even forced her to call him hubby.

Darryl was highly pleased when he thought about that.

“Shut up!”

Quincy blushed as she yelled, “Darryl, stop trying to get close to me. From now onward, you are no longer the Prince Consort.”

Quincy could not hide the contempt she felt on her gorgeous face; she was embarrassed and angry.

Darryl had used his powers as the Westrington Emperor to force her to call him hubby—it was despicable of him.

Uh...

Darryl felt extremely awkward. He smiled bitterly, but he said nothing.

“Wow!”

The officers were in an uproar.

What had happened?

Did Princess Long want to call off her marriage with Darryl Darby?

2018

“Sister!”

The South Cloud Empress immediately frowned when she heard that her sister wanted to call off the wedding. Then, she said to Quincy gently, “Don’t joke about this.”

She had appointed Darryl and Quincy’s marriage, and the entire Nine Mainland knew about that. If Quincy called it off, then they would be the butt of everyone’s joke.

The Empress also thought Darryl and her sister were already in an intimate relationship when they were in Lu Bu’s ancient tomb. How could they break up just like that?

The Empress did not know that Quincy was in a psychotic break at that time. She felt too hot, and that was why she tore her clothes off. She did not do anything with Darryl.

“Sister.”

Quincy was extremely anxious; she stomped her feet. “I have no feelings for Darryl. I won’t marry him, no matter what.”

Then, Quincy glared at Darryl and continued to say, “Other people may think that he is a hero, but to me, he is nothing but a loser. He had been the Westrington Emperor, but Donoghue managed to snatch his throne in two days. He can’t even protect his throne; how can he protect his woman?”

Some people in the world of cultivators still did not know anything about Darryl and Donoghue's fight on Mount Emei. However, Quincy was the South Cloud World's Princess Long—she was well-informed. She had heard about that.

“Wow!”

At that moment, the entire hall erupted in a heated discussion. The officials whispered and discussed amongst themselves.

“What? Darryl lost his throne?”

“Princess Long is right. I heard of the news this morning. Donoghue took back his throne while he was on Mount Emei...”

“No wonder Princess Long is so against Darryl. If it were me, I would be unwilling as well.”

“Yes, Princess Long is right; he can't even defend his throne, so how can he protect his woman? No woman will want to marry him!”

Uh...

The discussions continued, and the Empress seemed conflicted.

She had been delighted when she heard that Darryl had become the Westrington Emperor. After all, he was the South Cloud World Prince Consort. If he sat on the Westrington throne, the South Cloud World would have an everlasting alliance with Westrington.

However, Darryl had lost his throne, and the Empress was quite disappointed in him.

Woo!

Darryl sighed as he looked at Quincy. Then, he smiled but said nothing.

Quincy had been quite obedient when she knew that he was the Westrington Emperor. However, her behavior changed when he had lost the throne.

Her demeanor had utterly transformed.

“Very well!”

Finally, the Empress let out a sigh and lifted her hands. “Everyone, be quiet.”

The officials immediately stopped their discussions.

“Sister, we will talk about your marriage later.” The Empress looked at Quincy and said, “Now is not the time to discuss this.”

Yang Jian wanted to conquer the entire Nine Mainland, and their first target was the South Cloud World. At that moment, Yang Jian and the North Moana Army were soon upon them. They had to discuss how to defend against Yang Jian—that was the most important thing.

“Very well!”

Quincy immediately gave in and dropped the subject. She lowered her head as she replied to the Empress.

However, Quincy still did not forget to glare at Darryl.

“Darryl, why are you suddenly in the South Cloud World?” the Empress asked as she looked at Darryl.

Uh...

Darryl was silent for a while before he smiled and said, “I heard that the North Moana Army is going to invade the South Cloud World, so I came to have a look.”

Darryl was there to look for Debra, but he could not tell them the truth. After all, Quincy had wanted to call off their marriage. If they knew that he was there to search for another woman, it might worsen the situation.

The Empress nodded and asked no more. Instead, she scanned her surroundings and said, “My fellow officials, let’s continue our discussions. Yang Jian and his army are attacking us. How should we defend ourselves?”

“Wow!”

The officials immediately erupted in heated discussions. They walked forward, one by one, to give their opinions and suggestions. Some suggestions worked, some others were impossible to execute.

The Empress frowned; the more suggestions she heard, the more indecisive she had become.

Darryl laughed at them discreetly. They had some interesting suggestions, but they wanted to be on the defense. However, their

opponent was Grandmaster Erlang—how could they defend against him?

Then, he laughed out loud.

Swoosh!

2019

At that moment, all of the officials' eyes were on Darryl; they looked displeased.

It was one thing for Darryl not to help them, and it was quite another for him to laugh at them.

“Darryl!”

Quincy could no longer take it. Her face was stern as she scolded him. “If you have nothing to do, then please leave. Don't cause trouble here.”

‘Trouble?’

Darryl did not know whether to laugh or to cry.

‘I only laughed a little and said nothing; how am I causing trouble?’

Darryl smiled and looked at Quincy. He said slowly, “Princess, I don't mean to cause trouble. I only think that the suggestions were very interesting, so I couldn't help but laugh.”

What?

The officials were embarrassed and furious; they glared at Darryl.

How dare Darryl laughed at their suggestions!

He had lost his throne; what right did he have to laugh at other people?

Then, an official said, “Darryl, do you have a way to stop Yang Jian from attacking us?”

“Of course.” Darryl smiled and nodded. His attitude was frivolous, but his expression was confident.

The entire hall was silent when they heard Darryl’s quick answer.

The officials looked at each other; they were stunned by his response.

However, after a few seconds of silence, the officials erupted into laughter!

“What nonsense is he talking about? He can defend against the North Moana Army?”

“Yes, with his powers, he could not even handle a single move by Yang Jian. How boastful of him! Haha!”

“He can’t even defend his throne, yet he thinks that he can defend against the North Moana Army? He must be dreaming! Haha!”

The officials would not have dared to mock Darryl as he was the Prince Consort.

However, since Quincy had openly expressed that she did not want to marry Darryl and how the man had made fun and belittled everyone else, the officials did not want to treat him so politely.

They continued to mock the man. Quincy was furious; her exquisite face was flushed red. She reprimanded Darryl. “Enough, Darryl! Can you shut up? Stop embarrassing yourself.”

Quincy did not take Darryl’s words seriously.

They had been discussing it for half a day, yet they had not found a solution. Then, Darryl claimed that he could defend against the North Moana Army. It was a joke.

Darryl smiled and ignored her.

“Darryl!”

The Empress looked at Darryl and said, “You have a solution to defend against the North Moana Army?”

The Empress’s face was calm, yet her eyes were full of hope.

When the New World Army had invaded the World Universe, Darryl had led the Elysium Gate disciples and other sects to defeat their opponent.

One could say that Darryl was talented in warfare.

Perhaps he did have a solution.

Darryl smiled and nodded. “Yes, if Your Majesty trusts me, then please give me the rights to command the army.”

Darryl had only wanted to find Debra quickly. He had not wanted to help defend the South Cloud World against Yang Jian.

However, when he saw the situation at the South Cloud World, he knew that a huge battle would erupt at any moment. Then, it would turn messy, and it would be harder to find Debra.

Darryl decided to help defend the South Cloud World against Yang Jian; it would be easier for him to find Debra when the battle had ended.

Swoosh!

Before the Empress could respond to him, Quincy immediately said, "Sister, don't believe Darryl's words. He is just asking for attention. There is no way he could help us defend against the North Moana Army."

The officials nodded in agreement.

The Empress did not say anything; she pondered in silence.

Yes, if she were to hand the rights to Darryl, and if he were to fail, then the entire South Cloud World would be finished.

2020

Darryl was furious when he realized Quincy did not trust him; he almost laughed out loud. “Princess, are you so sure that I would lose to Yang Jian?”

He wanted to laugh.

Was that a joke? Did he mean he could defend against Yang Jian?

The crowd laughed out loud.

At that moment, Quincy also laughed in anger. Then, her expression turned serious, and she said, “Darryl, the South Cloud World is in a life and death situation. We do not have time to play with you.”

Darryl smirked furiously. “Princess, why don’t we place a bet?”

A bet?

Quincy frowned and said curtly, “What are we betting?”

“Let’s bet if I can defend against the North Moana Army.” Darryl smiled confidently.

Quincy had looked down on him since forever. He had to let her witness his real powers.

Darryl had memorized the Bai Qi Formations completely. It was not a problem to use those formations when he faced Yang Jian’s army. Even if the situation worsened, he would have Pang Tong’s help. He did not need to worry.

“Very well!”

Quincy thought for a while before she said to Darryl coldly, “If you lose, we will call off our marriage. From then onward, you are not allowed to step into the South Cloud World.”

Since he wanted to bet, then Quincy would play along with him. After all, he would not win. It was a good chance for her to get rid of him.

Woo!

The officials were in an uproar. They looked at Darryl with complicated expressions and their eyes full of mockery.

Yang Jian’s army was too strong; how could he defend against them? That was obviously a chance for Princess Long a chance to call off the marriage.

The Empress frowned as she looked at Darryl; she shook her head discreetly.

Darryl was too arrogant. She had helped him with the marriage issue, yet he provoked her sister again.

Darryl let out a sigh. It was one thing not to want a relationship with him, but Quincy even tried to bar him from entering the South Cloud World.

‘Sure, since you do not want to see me so badly, I will not give in to your wishes.’

He looked at Quincy, smiled, and said, “Sure. But, if you lose, you will have to admit that I am your husband. Also, in the future, you will have to serve me wholeheartedly in our daily life. You cannot be dismissive about it.”

“Wow!”

The officials gasped. Darryl knew that Princess Long hated him, yet he still came up with such demands. How arrogant of him!

Swoosh!

Quincy’s exquisite face immediately blushed. She glared at Darryl—she was extremely embarrassed and furious.

She was the high and mighty Princess Long, and she was highly respectable—how dare Darryl asked her to serve him?

Darryl did not panic even when he felt Quincy’s rage. Instead, he smiled and looked at her. “So? Princess Long, do you dare to place that bet against me?”

“Of course!” Quincy sneered and asked coldly, “Why not?”

She was sure she would not lose.

The North Moana Army was too strong—how could Darryl possibly defend against them?

“Your Majesty!”

A soldier entered the hall in panic; his face was pale. “Your Majesty, something bad has happened. The North Moana Army is attacking us again!”

The soldier sweated profusely, and he almost passed out.

What?

Everyone’s expression changed.

“Quickly! Send out my orders!” The Empress shuddered as she stood up. “Gather the soldiers and prepare to meet the enemy.” Then, she quickly walked out of the hall.

Darryl, Quincy, and the officials immediately followed suit.

2021

Hiss!

They drew in a sharp breath when they arrived at the city gate and saw what was happening on the outside! Darryl was startled; he felt as if his bread was buzzing.

There were a few hundred thousand of the North Moana soldiers in a neat square formation at the foot of the city gate with their long sabers. There were so many of them—one glance across the field, and it was packed with black-haired men far and wide. It was an intimidating sight.

Yang Jian stood at the top of the lineup. He was in golden armor as he hovered in mid-air; he looked grand and majestic.

Gonggong, Ambrose, and Eira stood quietly at the front of the line. Ambrose was there with Yang Jian, and Eira tagged along because she was worried about her brother's safety.

Ambrose... Eira!

Darryl was taken aback when he saw Ambrose and Eira—he was dumbfounded.

'Why are these two siblings with the North Moana's camp?'

Darryl did not know that Ambrose had become Yang Jian's right-hand man after the fall of the New World Continent.

Ambrose and Eira were also equally dumbfounded to see Darryl at the city gate.

Soon, Eira snapped back from her senses, but she was still shocked.

‘Why is Dad here? Isn’t he supposed to be in the World Universe Continent?’

Ambrose still resented the man. He had heard that Darryl was the South Cloud World’s Prince Consort, but he had not believed it. So when he saw Darryl there, he had no choice but to accept the gossip.

Ambrose’s hatred for Darryl got even stronger.

He thought about his mother, who had suffered so much for Darryl while he had a jolly time with other women. He was perplexed that the man was there to assist the South Cloud World’s Princess to defend against the North Moana Army. Ambrose thought that Darryl was a despicable man.

Suddenly, Yang Jian, who was suspended in mid-air, looked at Darryl surprisingly. He said coldly, “Young man, you are here too! Where’s Chang Er?”

Yang Jian had issued an imperial decree and sent search parties to comb everywhere for Chang Er, but there was no news of her. That had annoyed Yang Jian very much. He could not hold his anger anymore after he saw Darryl.

‘What?’

The civil and military officials had their gazes locked on Darryl in surprise.

‘Does Darryl and Grandmaster Erlang know each other?’

Yang Jian had also asked Darryl about Chang Er. Were Darryl and Chang Er related?

Darryl ignored the gazes around him, and his face remained calm.

The next second, Darryl smiled at Yang Jian. “Have you got no dignity at all? You took the opportunity to usurp the power after Emperor’s Hou Yi’s death. You wanted to make Chang Er your Empress after you ascended the throne. No one would respect someone as unscrupulous and as ambitious as you even if you have everything under the sky.”

“You should retreat as soon as possible if you know what’s good for you, lest you suffer God’s condemnation.”

Darryl smiled; his tone was full of mockery when he suggested that.

Anyway, he and Yang Jian were on the opposite sides, so there was no need to fake courtesy.

“Whoa.”

There was an uproar throughout Lilydale City—whether it was the Empress or the civil and military officials, they had panicked.

‘Darryl must be crazy.’

'How could he threaten the powerful Grandmaster Erlang? Does he not want to live anymore?'

Quincy stomped her feet in a panic.

South Cloud World was the weaker opponent—there might be even worse chaos if Darryl provoked Yang Jian deliberately.

Next, everyone's eyes were on Yang Jian.

Yang Jian's expression turned somber in an instant. He glared at Darryl for a few moments before he sneered at him. "Very well. You were chased around by my army like a dog, yet you dared to talk so big. Darryl, you are too arrogant. You ought to know that an arrogant person will not end well. After I wrap up my attack here at Lilydale City, I will cut off your head."

2022

Yang Jian spoke in a loud and booming voice. His voice resounded throughout the space between heaven and earth. “Everyone, listen up! Attack!”

“Attack!”

Ambrose took the lead; he wielded the Tyrant Hammer and charged toward the South Cloud Army.

At the same time, the few hundred thousand North Moana soldiers also moved like a tide toward Lilydale City.

The Empress’s delicate face paled. The South Cloud World only had about a hundred thousand soldiers. How could they beat Yang Jian’s few hundred thousand soldiers?

“All the soldiers, listen up. Let’s defend our land!” the Empress yelled.

The Empress looked extremely solemn on the surface, but she was a little panicked.

The South Cloud Army did not plan on how to defend their position, so they could only try their best to defend against their opponent.

“Argh!”

The two armies collided with each other, and many South Cloud soldiers screamed as they fell into pools of blood.

The North Moana Army was stronger than the South Cloud Army. Hence, the latter was no match to the North Moana Army when a battle broke out. The vast difference in army strength did not help the South Cloud Army at all.

“Darryl!”

Quincy bit her lips and scolded Darryl angrily, “This is all because of you. If you had not angered Yang Jian, the situation would not get so out of control. If the South Cloud World were to fall in the hands of our enemy, then you’re to be blamed.”

‘|—’

Darryl was baffled. He said, “Your Majesty, are you saying that Yang Jian would not have launched the attack if I did not anger him?”

Quincy was speechless; she could not answer Darryl’s question.

She knew that Yang Jian would still attack Lilydale City even if Darryl were not there—the South Cloud Army was simply no match to the mightier North Moana Army.

Quincy was annoyed; she felt furious as well. Finally, she thought of something and glared at Darryl. “Didn’t you say you have a way to stop the North Moana Army? Come on and do something about it.”

Suddenly, Darryl laughed as he looked at Quincy with a smile. “Did you not believe that I could do it? Why? Have you changed your mind now? Why don’t you beg me?”

“You—”

Quincy shook in anger—how she wished she could kill Darryl!

Darryl's mischievous behavior was inappropriate at such a critical period.

Darryl knew he had to stop goofing around and teasing Queency.

Then, Darryl walked toward the Empress and said solemnly, "Your Majesty, the battle is at a critical stage now. Please give me the commander's badge and let me command the army. We may still have a hope to turn things around."

The commander's badge was the South Cloud Army's supreme token—whoever had the badge could mobilize the army.

Quincy had always had the commander's badge, but since the North Moana Army's attack on the South Cloud World, the Empress had temporarily retracted the commander's badge as she wanted to command the army personally.

'What?'

Quincy's face changed, and she quickly interrupted, "Sister, you can't give him the commander's badge."

She had always thought of Darryl as a flamboyant person. The South Cloud World might be in a much more miserable plight if Darryl were in control of the army.

The Empress frowned, but she did not respond to them. She was very hesitant to do that.

“Your Majesty, the opportunity to retaliate comes and goes in a blink of an eye. Trust me; I’ll find a way.” Darryl continued to persuade her.

The Empress was no longer hesitant; she nodded and said, “Very well, Darryl. Please don’t let me down.” She took the commander’s badge and gave it to him.

The Empress was no less worried when she gave Darryl the commander’s badge.

However, there was no other way out. The battle looked to be a one-sided war, and the South Cloud World had no resistance.

They had to do what they could to turn it around; the Empress decided to trust Darryl one time, in case he had a chance to succeed.

Whoosh!

Darryl took the commander’s badge, mustered his internal energy and flew toward the sky.

‘This—’

Quincy stomped her feet anxiously. ‘How could the Empress believe in this rogue?’

Darryl flew into the air. Then, he announced in a loud and booming voice, “South Cloud Army, listen up!. Move 50 steps to your left!” Darryl raised the commander’s badge in his hand as he barked the command!

The South Cloud Army had many casualties—many were wounded and had fallen into pools of blood. They had more than 10 thousand people. Their morale was greatly defeated, and they could not find the courage to resist.

2023

After they heard Darryl's command and saw the commander's badge in his hand, all the soldiers acted in haste and moved to the left according to his instructions.

"The first 20 thousand people, 50 steps westward." Darryl took a deep breath and continued to yell out the commands. "The last 20 thousand people, 50 steps eastward. The remaining ones in the middle spread out in a fan shape. Hurry! Do it quickly!"

Darryl looked solemn, and he was extremely nervous.

He knew that it was risky for him to do that, but if he succeeded, he would be able to turn the tide of battle immediately.

The South Cloud Army was very cooperative. They followed Darryl's instructions and got in their positions without any hesitation.

However, during the movement, the South Cloud Army temporarily lost its combat effectiveness, and several thousand more people fell in pools of blood.

"Darryl!"

Quincy looked anxious and shouted, "What the hell are you commanding blindly? Return the commander's badge quickly and stop messing around."

She knew that Darryl had no constructive plan at all; it was pure nonsense.

The Empress and the civil and military officials were also in distress.

‘Will Darryl’s command work? Would we lose the battle faster?’

The Empress bit her lips hard; she felt a little regretful in her heart. She thought she should not have given the commander’s badge to Darryl.

Darryl pretended not to hear Quincy’s complaints and continued to command the South Cloud Army.

Yang Jian chuckled.

He was floating in mid-air as he studied Darryl closely. Then, a scornful smile appeared at the corner of his lips. “What lame strategy! Does he think he can help the South Cloud Army with such ability?”

Like Quincy and the others, Yang Jian also thought that Darryl was commanding blindly.

‘What?’

Soon, everyone saw a scene that held everyone enthralled.

Initially, the South Cloud Army had been besieged by the North Moana Army, but after they moved quickly under Darryl’s command, the South Cloud Army became the one that surrounded the North Moana Army instead.

That was right—A mere hundred thousand soldiers had surrounded the few hundred thousand soldiers instead.

‘What just happened?’

The Empress and all the officials, and even Yang Jian, were surprised and shocked.

‘What’s going on?’

“This—”

Quincy shuddered as she stared at Darryl, who was suspended mid-air, closely. Her delicate face was full of shock, and she was at a loss for words.

‘He had turned the situation around. How did he do it?’

Yang Jian had finally recovered his senses and stared at the South Cloud Army’s formation; his eyes flashed with surprise, and his tone trembled. “This seems like Emperor Hou Yi’s Thousand Woods Mystery Formation!”

That was right—Darryl had directed the South Cloud Army to form the Thousand Woods Mystery Formation. A thousand years ago, Emperor Hou Yi had used the same formation to trap Zhu Bajie and got him held in detention for a thousand years.

Yang Jian recognized it as he had served Emperor Hou Yi faithfully for many years, but only the Emperor could crack the formation—Yang Jian could not figure it out at all.

Yang Jian was shocked and puzzled when he saw Darryl deploy the Thousand Woods Mystery Formation.

‘Where did he learn the Thousand Woods Mystery Formation?’

Yang Jian did not know that Darryl was familiar with the Bai Qi Formation and the Thousand Woods Mystery Formation was only one of the slightly more advanced formations. Nevertheless, it was an easy skill for Darryl.

“Everyone!”

Suddenly, Darryl roared, “Retaliate now!”

“Attack!”

The South Cloud Army acted without hesitation when they heard the command. They mustered their internal energy and started a counterattack.

“Argh!”

The North Moana Army was surrounded, and they were lost in the large formation. They had no strength to fight back when faced with the counterattack from the South Cloud Army. They shrieked and fell into pools of blood.

Yang Jian’s eyes were blood-red when he saw what had happened. He shook while he gripped onto his Tri-point Double-edged Saber tightly. He was angrier than before!

2024

“Everybody, listen up! Let’s not lose ourselves in the battle and focus on breaking through the besiege...” Then, a roaring command came from Yang Jian that revealed his deep reluctance for a retreat! The South Cloud World was losing the battle, but Darryl’s order for a formation had turned their defeat into victory.

Yang Jian resisted the strong urge to enter the battlefield.

With Yang Jian’s strength, it was possible to help the North Moana Army regain the upper hand. However, if he were to do that, the North Moana Army would have to pay a heavy price.

After all, Darryl’s Thousand Woods Mystery Formation was too confusing.

Yang Jian intended to conquer the other continents. It would not do him any good if he were to lose too many soldiers in one day. On the other hand, a quick withdrawal would warrant minimal casualties for North Moana.

Upon Yang Jian’s command, many North Moana soldiers began to break through the blockade. However, many generals and soldiers were still trapped within the formation, and Ambrose was one of them.

The young man was covered in blood. Even though most of the blood was not his, he had consumed a lot of internal energy—he felt weak.

“Ambrose!”

Darryl was dismayed when he saw his son. He said, "You can't win today. Please give up and stop following Yang Jian. Come to me, okay?"

Darryl's eyes showed guilt when he said that.

He felt sorry for the mother and son. If Ambrose were injured because of Darryl, he would have to carry that guilt for the rest of his life.

Darryl had thought about it. If Ambrose were willing to give up, then he would find a way to bring Monica to them and reunite their family.

"Shut up!"

Ambrose did not appreciate Darryl's words. He roared and glared at Darryl. Then, he said, "I will never surrender to you even if I have to die on this battlefield."

Ambrose went all out and swung the Tyrant Hammer to push the South Cloud Army back.

Many of the North Moana Army had broken through the blockade and went with Yang Jian toward a large camp in the far distance.

Darryl sighed; Ambrose was determined to die rather than surrender to him. He raised the commander's badge and shouted, "Listen up. Withdraw and retreat to the city; let's not fight anymore."

If it had not been for Ambrose, Darryl would never let any trapped North Moana soldiers go.

His hands were tied because his son was among them.

The South Cloud Army moved quickly as they withdrew to Lilydale City.

Ambrose took the opportunity to get out of the besiege and quickly trailed after the North Moana Army without another glance backward.

He knew Darryl had deliberately let him go, but he did not feel any gratitude toward the man.

The remaining North Moana Army managed to escape. It was an embarrassing scene.

Whoa!

Everyone in the entire Lilydale City, no matter the officials or the common people, cheered triumphantly.

‘We did it! We have successfully defended against the attack from North Moana.’

They had never thought that they would succeed.

Amid the excitement, many eyes gathered on Darryl in surprise and admiration.

He was worthy of his title as the World Universe Continent’s hero. He was powerful, indeed.

However, Darryl did not look happy at all. Instead, he breathed a sigh of relief when Ambrose was finally out of danger. Then, he moved and slowly landed on the city gate.

“Darryl!”

Quincy approached him quickly and said displeasingly, “We could have wiped out all of our enemy troops just now. So why did you order them to retreat?”

2025

Darryl smiled, but he did not respond.

Quincy was in a fit of anger.

Then, Quincy thought of something, and her eyes burned in a rage. She stared at Darryl. "It's that young general just now, isn't it? He seems to be the New World Prince, and I heard that he is your biological son. Is that why you let him go?"

"That's right!"

Darryl did not avoid the question. He nodded and admitted to it. He felt extremely bitter when he responded.

His son had treated him like an enemy. As a father, he felt woeful.

Quincy chuckled; her delicate face showed an unruly contemptuous look. She mocked him. "Your own son is against you. Darryl, you have truly failed in your life."

Darryl was not angry at all. Instead, he smiled and said, "Your Highness, let's not talk about this. I've successfully resisted the North Moana Army's invasion. You would honor our bet, wouldn't you?"

Oh...

Quincy's lips quivered when she was prompted; her face flushed embarrassingly.

'What do I do now?'

She thought that Darryl was only a rascal who could never oppose Yang Jian's invasion. She did not expect that he would manage to do that. He even deployed an impressive formation that surprised the crowd.

'But there are so many people here, and Darryl's conditions were too bizarre. How can I agree with him?'

Quincy was reluctant to honor the bet—she was not willing to serve Darryl.

All the officials had their eyes focused on Quincy as if they anticipated what would happen next.

The princess had lost the bet with Darryl. Would she honor the bet?

"Sister."

The Empress smiled and said to Quincy, "You are a princess; you must be responsible for your words and actions. You have to honor your words after you lose a bet. Besides, Darryl is your Prince Consort, and you should be serving him."

The Empress was disappointed when she heard that Darryl had lost the throne to Westrington, and she questioned herself for arranging the marriage between Quincy and Darryl.

However, Darryl had impressed her again when he led the South Cloud generals and soldiers to resist Yang Jian's invasion.

The Empress had decided that the arranged marriage between Darryl and Quincy must not be called off. On the contrary, she should retain such a talented person.

“I—”

Quincy bit her lips when she heard the Empress' comment. She felt dispirited, but she did not know how to refute it.

The next second, Quincy approached Darryl and whispered, “Darryl, I'm sorry. I have offended you earlier. I was wrong; please don't take it to heart.”

Her voice was so faint that it was almost inaudible.

Darryl looked relaxed as he smiled at Quincy. “Who said that I was a failure in my life? I was also told not to step into the South Cloud World again for the rest of my life.”

“I was wrong. I was very wrong.” Quincy bit her lips so tightly that it almost bled.

“Forget it!”

Darryl smiled and said, “How would I dare to put any blame on Your Highness? But, what should you call me?”

Darryl moved closer to her deliberately; his eyes flickered as he teased Quincy.

“Hubby,” Quincy bit her lips as she whispered.

Quincy blushed.

She thought that after Darryl had lost the Westrington throne, the Empress would see through him and let her call off the marriage. However, she did not expect that the man would win the Empress' trust again after he defended their continent against the North Moana Army. It seemed like she was fated to call Darryl her hubby; she blushed when she did that.

2026

“Darryl!”

The Empress said, “It was an eye-opening experience today to watch your tactical strategy in commanding the army. From today onward, you shall hold the commander’s badge. I hope you can defeat the North Moana Army completely and kill off Yang Jian’s idea of conquering the South Cloud World.”

Darryl was very talented; he was the only one who had successfully stopped the North Moana Army from advancing toward South Cloud World. Therefore, it was appropriate to hand the commander’s badge to him.

He was also her sister’s Prince Consort—he was not an outsider.

“Thank you for trusting me, Your Majesty.” Darryl accepted it, and he nodded with a smile.

Then, Darryl turned to the generals around him and said, “Gather the soldiers and wait for my deployment.”

“Yes, Prince Consort.” The generals responded hurriedly before he quickly went off.

Initially, those generals had looked down on Darryl. They changed their minds after they saw his outstanding commanding ability—they admired him very much. They were eager to follow his lead and command.

“Your Highness.”

Darryl turned around and looked at Quincy with a smile. "I'll go and deploy the defense plan first. Maybe you can head back and clean up the room; it'll be even better if you could prepare some hot water for me to take a nice bath later."

He had traveled all the way to the South Cloud World and helped to counter the North Moana Army; he wanted to take a bath and rest after that.

Then, Darryl walked past the city gate and dispatched the soldiers to deploy a defense mechanism.

Quincy shuddered; she blushed.

'How can this bastard talk to me about taking a bath in front of so many people?'

That was too embarrassing.

...

At the same time, at the North Moana Army camp.

Yang Jian sat in the commander's camp with a grim face; he was enraged.

He thought that he could capture Lilydale City before the sun set that day. To his surprise, Darryl's sudden appearance had disrupted all his plans.

Not only that, but the battle had also caused him to lose many of his soldiers.

As Grandmaster Erlang, he was known as the almighty figure in all nine continents for thousands of years. He had never been put in such a miserable situation.

Yang Jian got angrier as he thought about it; his eyes filled with malicious and terrifying spirit.

The generals stood on two lines between his throne; they bowed their heads silently with a solemn expression on their faces. Ambrose and Eira were among those people.

Who would dare to make a move when the Emperor was angry?

Eira felt complicated at that moment.

Her father had helped the South Cloud World to defend against the North Moana Army's invasion. Yang Jian would certainly not spare her father that easily.

It was a tense situation. If she and her brother continued to help Yang Jian, would they have to go against their father?

'Should I persuade my brother to leave and go to our father?'

Eira pondered that when she stole a glance at Ambrose. She had decided to dismiss the idea temporarily when she saw Ambrose's gloomy and frightening expression.

"Your Majesty."

A soldier walked into the hall quickly and reported in horror. “Your Majesty, there is a strange man by the creek behind the camp. We don’t know what to do—”

There was a creek behind the camp, and Yang Jian had sent his soldiers there to keep the surrounding area under surveillance. A water source was essential to the army.

“Useless scum!”

Yang Jian became angry and roared, “Can’t you handle such a petty thing? Why do I keep any of you useless scum anyway?” Yang Jian had only been defeated, and he was furious. He got even angrier when he learned that someone had trespassed their water source.

Thud.

The soldier was so frightened that he knelt immediately in a panic. “Your Majesty, please forgive us. That weird man is very powerful; he had wounded a few of our soldiers.”

2027

Yang Jian interrupted bluntly before the soldier could finish his words.

“It’s fine. Take me there to check out the man. I want to see how powerful he is,” Yang Jian said coldly as he stood up and strode out of the camp.

Ambrose, Eira and the other generals went after Yang Jian.

Soon, Yang Jian and everyone else arrived at the creek behind the camp.

What?

Yang Jian and his generals frowned as they looked at the man from a distance.

The man was dressed in a black robe, and he sat leisurely as he fished by the beautiful creek. The man had long grayish-white hair, and he had a carefree vibe. He was emanating a powerful aura even when he was sitting there very peacefully.

It was Zhang Jue!

After he had left the ancient tomb and separated from Eira, Zhang Jue began to travel around the world!

He spotted the beautiful scenery and a clear stream with many fish in it when he passed by, so he decided to make a fishing rod on a whim and enjoyed the leisure time.

Zhang Jue was an arrogant man. He knew that he was trespassing the North Moana Army camp, but he could not be bothered. He did not fluster even when he saw Yang Jian and his generals approached him.

Yang Jian's face turned somber, and anger seethed within him when he saw Zhang Jue remained seated leisurely in his presence.

Yang Jian enjoyed being treated with respect as the North Moana Emperor and Grandmaster Erlang. Yet, the person before him had ignored him completely. Not only did he not kneel to pay obeisance to Yang Jian, but he had also completely ignored Yang Jian's presence!

'Master?'

Eira, who stood next to Yang Jian, trembled. She was pleasantly surprised to see the man, and she kept her eyes glued to him. When they parted ways, her master told her that he had been locked up for too long and that he would like to explore the world. She did not expect to meet him there.

Eira was about to step forward to greet Zhang Jue, but she was interrupted by an angry yell before she managed to say anything.

"Hey you, bold man!" A captain of the royal guard stepped up immediately and yelled at Zhang Jue. "His Majesty is here; why aren't you kneeling to pay obeisance? Do you want your head to roll?"

The captain, whose name was Keith Wasley, was a level five Martial Emperor!

What?

Zhang Jue frowned when he heard that. A scornful smile appeared at the corners of his lips.

‘Kneel? No one in this world is worthy enough for me to kneel before them!’

Zhang Jiao thought that to himself; he did not even look at Keith. Instead, he remained seated and continued to fish.

Yang Jian could no longer contain his anger when he saw Zhang Jue’s response. ‘What an arrogant hillbilly! So unruly!’

Zhang Jue was dressed in ordinary garments, and he looked like a homeless wanderer—he did fit into the description of a hillbilly.

Keith was also angry. He drew his long sword and roared, “You’re looking for death to be so disrespectful to His Majesty!”

Then, Keith rose into the air and went straight at Zhang Jue.

Buzz!

A powerful breath of aura erupted from Keith’s body. His dazzling long saber was aimed at Zhang Jue’s heart. The air seemed to have been torn apart by that shocking aura.

Zhang Jue greeted Keith’s attack with disdain.

“So full of yourself!” Zhang Jue spoke coldly.

Immediately afterward, Zhang Jue raised his hand and waved nonchalantly. His internal energy surged, and a protective shield quickly formed to enshroud Zhang Jue.

Bang!

The long saber immediately slammed on the protective shield, yet it was not broken. On the contrary, Keith let out a muffled grunt and was sent several meters backward by the powerful force of the protective shield. The impact broke a few trees before he fell in a heavy thud onto the ground.

Puff!

Keith's face paled, and he spouted a mouthful of blood. His breath was weak as he stared wide-eyed at Zhang Jue.

2028

Keith had his eyes fixed on Zhang Jue as cold sweat beaded on his forehead.

‘Who is this? He’s so powerful.’

Zhang Jue had been merciful. Had he mustered all of his strength, Keith would have been killed by the impact.

At the same time, Yang Jian and the generals around him were also equally stunned—they looked baffled.

Keith was a level five Martial Emperor. The man had warded off his attack easily with a protective shield. That was unbelievable.

Besides, the man looked so relaxed.

Who the hell was he?

Yang Jian reacted; his eyes riveted on Zhang Jue and his expression was extremely ugly. Finally, he said coldly, “Take that person down.”

No matter who the opponent was, they should be ready to face the consequences and death if they cause trouble in his camp.

Whoosh... whoosh...

Dozens of royal guards immediately rose into the air and surrounded Zhang Jue.

Those royal guards were responsible for the safety of the palace. Hence, they were not weak. Most of them were level four Martial Emperor, and they should be at least a level three Martial Emperor.

In an instant, the royal guards' breath of aura distorted the air—the force was astonishing.

However, Zhang Jue was indifferent, and he did not panic. Instead, he muttered annoyingly, “It looks like you people are not going to let the matter rest, are you?”

Zhang Jue waved his palm and blasted the massive tree next to him. The tree broke into several wooden stakes. Then, Zhang Jue placed those wooden stakes around him.

All his movements were done in a smooth flow—it was fascinating to watch.

Yang Jian, Ambrose and the others frowned when they saw what had happened. The wooden stakes around the man seemed like a simple defense mechanism, but they looked mysterious and unfathomable.

‘Could this be a formation?’

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The royal guards dashed forward and displayed their attacking skills on Zhang Jue, but the older man calmly and quickly moved the stakes around. Before the royal guards realized what had happened, they were all trapped by the wooden stakes.

Yang Jian's guess was correct. Zhang Jue had used those wooden stakes to set up a formation called the Inverse Five Elements Formation.

A thousand years ago, Zhang Jue was known as the General of Heaven. He led an army consisting of the Yellow Turban Rebellion and fought everywhere; he took the world by storm. In addition to his formidable strength and outstanding commanding ability, Zhang Jue was also very clever in formations.

The Inverse Five Element Formation was one of the formations that Zhang Jue had learned.

Ten minutes passed in the blink of an eye, and the royal guards were still trapped within it as they spun around in circles.

Ugh...

Yang Jian, Ambrose and everyone else was utterly stunned; they could not believe what they had seen.

The man had simply placed a few wooden stakes in random positions, and it had such a magical effect to trap a dozen of royal guards?

How incredible!

Yang Jian recovered from the shock, and he was extremely annoyed. He had so many royal guards, but they were unable to capture one person. The miserable failure should embarrass everyone in North Moana.

Yang Jian thought that to himself, and he could no longer hold back his emotions. He glared at Zhang Jue; his tone was laced with murderous intent. "Very well. I thought you're just a hillbilly. I didn't expect you to be such an accomplished master. Show me what you've got."

Buzz!

Yang Jian discharged a scary burst of aura after he said that. For a moment, the air seemed to be stagnant!

His unfathomable and mighty power was horrifying!

Oh?

When he felt the terrifying aura from Yang Jian, Zhang Jue's face changed slightly, and he immediately became vigilant.

'Grandmaster Erlang is a world-renowned expert, indeed. He is extremely powerful.'

Zhang Jue knew that he was at the North Moana Army camp, and their commander was Grandmaster Erlang Yang Jian even before he started his fishing expedition.

Zhang Jue mustered his internal energy, and he stood on guard to greet Yang Jian's attack.

Bang!

Yang Jian charged at Zhang Jue without any hesitation as he clutched his Tri-point Double-edged saber.

“Your Majesty, please don’t—”

Eira yelled in the nick of time. Her delicate face looked anxious and worried. “I beg Your Majesty to stop attacking him. He is my master. This must be a misunderstanding—”

Eira felt as if her heart had leapt out of her throat when she said that.

She knew that her master was very powerful, but his opponent was Yang Jian—Grandmaster Erlang. Her master might not be Yang Jian’s match. As a disciple, how could she let her master be in trouble?

What?

Yang Jian stopped and looked around at Eira. Then, he said in surprise, “Is he your master?”

Eira nodded quickly and replied nervously, “Yes, I beg Your Majesty to be merciful.”

‘What?’

Ambrose, who was in the crowd, was shocked and surprised to hear that.

‘The expert is my sister’s master? Why haven’t I heard anything from her?’

Yang Jian said nothing. He merely nodded before he landed on the ground and stowed the Tri-point Double-edged saber away.

Eira was Ambrose's younger sister. She went along with the army and even contributed to the army. She should be credited for her hard work and dedication. If the man were her master, then Yang Jian would let the matter slip as he considered the man part of his team.

“My apprentice?”