

After Prison 1551

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Many looked on enviously at the colossal flying sword. When they thought of how easily the Gregories' had been killed just a few days ago, their impulses were promptly quelled. While such a treasure was undoubtedly very desirable, anyone who wished to seize it would need to be stronger than its owner.

our flying sword is truly remarkable. It can expand to such a colossal size in addition to maintaining such an impressive speed. I never imagined I'd have the opportunity to ride something like this. It's an anecdote I'll brag about for lifetimes to come," the second elder of Sus Hall remarked while standing on it

Severin smiled wryly and replied. "It can travel at a rather decent speed, but its increased size makes it heavier. This, in turn, required more spiritual energy and mental energy, particularly when there's a sizable number of people riding it."

"Won't we need to take plenty of breaks along the way then?" Diane asked concernedly.

Severin smiled and assured her, "Not necessarily. As long as we follow the same approach we used when we came here, I can manage the increased energy consumption without issue. A bit of rest on a deserted island during the night would do just fine."

Diane nodded in understanding

Three days later, Severin and his companions arrived back in. Larry, Rachel, and others were already waiting outside South County Mansion.

When Luke and his group arrived, Severin had everyone introduce themselves to the others. He then instructed Larry and the others to arrange some accommodation for Luke's party.

"Mom! Dad! You're finally back!" Selene exclaimed with excitement. She rushed over and immediately threw herself into her parents' arms.

"You've made a lot of progress, Selene! You're now a level seven profound master," Diane praised as she discerned Selene's attainment. "Was my assessment correct this time?" she then asked

Severin.

Severin nodded in affirmation. "Very much so. It appears you've grown incredibly skilled in utilizing the Mind's Eye technique. Selene has reached the attainment of a level seven profound master. She secured this breakthrough during our absence, which shows just how remarkable her

+15 BONUS

Diane felt elated. That's fantastic! My mastery of the Mind's Eye technique has improved so much compared to before."

"Really? Let me give it a try too!" Sheila immediately attempted to assess her own proficiency. Her expression soon sank as she said, "Looks like I'll need further practice. My reading gives Selene's attainment as being that of a level nine profound master."

Severin offered a subtle smile and reassured her. "The difference isn't that great, so that's an indication of good progress on your part. Your mastery of the Mind's Eye technique will improve further, and when that happens, your assessments of others' attainments won't be that far off anymore."

Sofia stood to one side and remarked with a pout, "You're already far better than I am. I'm only at the level of a grandmaster when it comes to this technique. There's still much for me to catch up to all of you." As soon as she said that, she immediately realized that she had misspoken.

Sheila promptly caught on and exclaimed, "When did you learn the Mind's Eye technique?"

Diane, too, was taken aback for a moment. However, she soon covered her mouth and giggled. "

Looks like you couldn't resist the allure of it."

Sofia realized her secret had been revealed and smiled awkwardly. "Well, both of you learned it already anyway, so I thought I should follow suit too. I can't be the only one who never learned it, right?"

"We have only four months left. I asked Rachel and the others, but they did not have any news yet about Lepus Hall and Simia Hall. These are the only two halls remaining. I'm not sure if we'll be able to find them," Diane said.

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Severin replied somewhat helplessly, saying, "Well, it's not like there's anything else we can do to speed things up. They're actively making inquiries about the two halls. Dracodom might be big, but we only have a few cities left. We probably will receive news soon, if we look at it from that perspective."

Sofia grinned slightly and asked, "When do you plan to visit my father at the Stormy Moon Sect? You said you'd come with me, didn't you?"

"Let's rest for a couple of days first. We just returned, after all. I'll take this opportunity to refine some pills and catch up with the other hall masters. Give me three days before we set off," Severin replied with a smile.

"I'll come along!" Sheila promptly declared.

"Me too! I haven't seen the sect yet, and I'm curious to know what it's like," Diane added enthusiastically.

"Can I come along?" Elsa appeared out of nowhere with her hands behind her back. She was smiling slyly after overhearing their conversation.

"You seem to be in a very good mood, Elsa. How has your progress been during our absence? Have you managed to understand the recipes and materials?" Sheila asked curiously upon seeing Elsa's

cheerful demeanor.

Elsa smiled and replied, "I am in a good mood! I've become an alchemist now. I might just be a first-grade low-rank alchemist, but that's already more than enough for me."

"What?! You're already an alchemist?"

Sheila, Diane, and Sofia were not the only ones who were surprised. Even Severin was taken aback by what he heard. He had hoped Elsa would be able to digest the information he shared with her over the past few days, and he did not expect her to become a first-grade low-rank alchemist in such a short time.

"It's all thanks to my senior who visited me a few days ago and gave me some guidance. I started experimenting and managed to successfully refine a pill last night, so that would make me a first-grade low-rank alchemist now," Elsa explained.

Severin smiled in satisfaction. "Not bad! Your talent has exceeded my expectations. In that case, +15 BONUS

Elsa rolled her eyes at Severin. "Sounds like a half-hearted reward to me."

Severin shrugged his shoulders and asked, "Is that so? What kind of reward would you prefer then?"

Elsa pondered briefly and exclaimed, "How about a sumptuous meal?"

"A sumptuous meal, you say? He can do that with a lift of his finger! Tell him to prepare some barbecued rabbit meat for you. I'm sure you'll find that rewarding. Sheila chimed in with excitement.

Severin blushed slightly when Sheila brought up his barbecued rabbit meat again.

"Barbecued meat? That sounds a little greasy. I don't like greasy food, Elsa blurted out without much thought.

Severin immediately agreed, "It is, and it's also quite troublesome. Barbecuing takes a lot of time. Shall we dine at a five-star hotel instead?"

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When Sheila heard that, she panicked and hastily said to Elsa, "Don't believe a word he says, Elsa. His barbecued meats are the best. They're better than any dish you find at a five-star restaurant! You'll regret it if you don't get a taste of it."

Diane immediately chimed in and said, "Absolutely! He's just saying that to avoid going through all the trouble. His barbecue is the best I've ever had."

Sofia then gulped and added, "Stop it, you two. Just thinking about the aroma is enough to trigger

my inner carnivore.”

Elsa had a puzzled expression as she responded, “Aren’t you exaggerating? I guess I’ll have to give it a try then.” She then turned to Severin and said with a smile, “Looks like your three wives love your barbecue very much. Guess we’ll have to go with that for today’s reward then...”

Severin was speechless. He raised his eyebrows playfully as he retorted, “But didn’t you just say you don’t like greasy food?”

Elsa grinned mischievously and said, “That was then and this is now. The main has spoken, so I’ve decided to be the bigger person and sample your culinary skills.”

“Can’t run away from it now, can you?” Sheila chuckled heartily.

“I want to eat some too!” Selene jumped for joy several times.

Diane concurred and said, “Oh yeah! Selene hasn’t tasted your cooking yet! You are obliged to make that today.”

“Let’s head to the forest at the city outskirts for this barbecue then. It’s a little difficult to do so at home, and there’s no suitable location either. The nearby mountains will do. We can catch a wild rabbit when we get there,” Severin finally gave in.

“Awesome! Let’s head there now!” Sheila could not wait any longer.

The six of them soon took flight and headed straight for the woods just outside the city. It did not take long before Elsa and Selene were drooling at the mouthwatering aroma of the barbecue.

“It smells heavenly!” Elsa exclaimed excitedly as she eagerly accepted the piece of meat Sheila handed to her.

“Haha, the aroma itself is already irresistible, right? Take one bite and you’ll remember this taste

+15 BONUS

“Wow, Dad! It is very delicious.” Selene took a bite at that moment. Her eyes immediately lit up and radiated with an innocent charm.

Severin chuckled. His heart felt warm, following his daughter’s adorable enthusiasm. “Eat as much as you like then!”

Elsa then took a bite and commented, “It is delicious. It’s not greasy at all even though it looks like it.

As the former senior director of the auction house, Elsa had savored countless delicacies throughout the world and was thus a connoisseur of flavors. However, Severin’s delectable rabbit.

meat was simply out of this world. She indulged in it without much ado and wolfed everything down like there was no tomorrow.

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“How do you find it, Elsa? It’s worth all that trouble, don’t you agree?” Sheila asked with a smile midway through the meal.

Elsa nodded, but she managed to squeeze in a little complaint. “Yes. It’s amazing. But it is a shame that we don’t have any wine to accompany this meal. It’ll be even better with wine.”

Severin’s memory seemed to have been jolted, and he immediately produced a few bottles of wine with a wave of his hand. “I almost forgot I had some spiritual wine with me. We can all share some, but be warned: this wine can easily get you drunk, so don’t drink too much.”

“That’s great! I didn’t expect you to have wine too! Don’t mind if I do, then.” Elsa said with a smile. She took a bottle and sipped some from it. “Whoa, it tastes amazing! It goes well with the barbecued meat. This is honestly quite enjoyable.”

Selene pouted when she watched all the adults enjoying the wine. “Why can’t I get any? I want some too.”

Severin smiled at Selene and said, “You’re young to drink. You can try it when you’re older, okay?”

“Okay,” Selene replied with a pout.

They returned to the city after finishing their meal, and it was already nightfall by the time they arrived. Severin took a bath and immediately began refining some pills.

Three days later, Severin gathered all the hall masters of the ten halls, distributed some pills to each of them, and then set out for Stormy Moon Sect with Sofia and the others.

“I’m a little surprised that your dad hasn’t met Mister Severin yet. Don’t you think it’s a little like putting the cart before the horse that you’re with him before he’s even met your father?” Elsa asked Sofia out of boredom midway through their journey.

Sofia glanced at Severin before replying to Elsa, “My dad hasn’t met him in person yet, but I have mentioned Severin to him before. My father knows that Severin is a very talented person with good character. He’s given us his approval.” Sofia paused briefly before continuing, “Besides, I met someone I like, so it’s only natural for me to put in the effort to make it work. We can’t let our parents have the final say when it comes to these things.”

“That makes sense! You should strive to get work toward your happiness,” Elsa agreed.

+15 BONUS

Severin then asked Sofia, “Based on our current speed, how much longer do you think we’ll need

before we reach our destination?”

After a moment's consideration, Sofia replied, “I estimate we'll arrive before nightfall. Your flying sword is significantly faster than my flying speed.”

Severin nodded and continued to move forward. As the daylight grew dim, Sofia pointed ahead and said, “Do you see those two large mountains? That's where the Stormy Moon Sect is located.”

Sheila, Diane, and Elsa immediately stood up when they heard that

Severin expanded his mental energy and smiled. “It's quite lively there. I'm surprised that there are several streets teeming with disciples there.”

Sofia explained with a smile, “Yes, there are several small towns at the base of the mountain. Some disciples were recruited from there, while some of the disciples' family members set up shops on that street to sell stuff like spirit beast meat. It's good because they can go shopping and visit their families.” Following a pause, Sofia added, “Although practitioners are supposed to be detached from worldly affairs, they're still human, after all. Family bonds can never be completely abandoned, and that was why my father implemented this system.”

Birk, who was sitting in one of the halls, frowned and stood up. He remarked, “Someone's mental energy is probing into our sect”

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Birk was in a meeting with several elders when he suddenly detected a faint trace of mental energy sweeping across their sect before disappearing. He was able to sense it even though the fluctuation was quite weak and hard to detect.

“Is that so? I didn't feel anything?” A middle-aged man frowned, appearing somewhat puzzled.

An elder who was an alchemy master chimed in with a solemn expression, “I felt it too. The person retracted their mental energy in just a moment, but there's no doubt that someone was observing our sect using their mental energy.”

The great elder clenched his fist in anger and exclaimed, “This is outrageous! Who would dare to do such a thing? Don't they realize that we're a secluded sect? How could they just sense our location on a whim with their mental energy? It's a blatant act of disrespect!” The great elder continued with a request, “Please allow me to teach this intruder a lesson. They shall be made to understand that mental energy should never be used for indiscriminate acts.”

“This is a direct provocation to our sect! We are a formidable sect, and the intruder ought to have known that to begin with. Given our reputation, I am inclined to believe that they were courting danger when they ventured so far as to try and gather information on our sect,” the second elder added, clearly agitated.

“This intruder’s mental energy is very strong, perhaps the both of you should go there together to give the person a stern warning. Avoid escalating things further if they realize their mistake. After all, this isn’t a particularly terrible offense,” Birk suggested after pondering over the situation.

The great elder and the second elder exchanged glances. After nodding in agreement, they swiftly took flight. Not long later, the two elders spotted a group of people on a flying sword up ahead.

“I am quite certain that the glimmer on that flying sword is a sign that it is a spiritual weapon, and a very strong one at that,” the great elder commented with a hint of coveting even though he had not identified the individuals yet.

The second elder wore a mischievous smile as he said, “We should teach them a lesson and have them offer the flying sword as an apology gift. They’ll hand it over if they fear for their lives.”

“Wait a minute... That pretty girl looks familiar. It looks like our hall master’s daughter!” He exclaimed with eyes wide open.

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+15 BONUS

“I... I think you’re right,” the second elder said.

The great elder was left speechless. The hall master’s daughter had returned with her friends, and given the circumstances, it would be entirely inappropriate for them to snatch the flying sword away.

“Great Elder! Second Elder! Did you two come out and fetch me after knowing that I’d be returning? Sofia’s eyes lit up, and she called out to them.

The great elder and the second elder exchanged a glance and found themselves somewhat at a loss. In the end, the great elder chuckled awkwardly and replied, “Hehe, yes! Your father sensed the presence of several people outside and realized that you had returned. He’s currently in a meeting, so he sent us to come and welcome you.”

Sofia then began to introduce the elders to Severin and the others I suppose a bit of introduction. is in order. This is our great elder, Jeanluc, and this is our second elder, Wyatt. They hold a prominent position in our sect and were among the founders when the sect was first established ”

“And who might this young man be?” Jeanluc asked.

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The two elders looked at Severin’s appearance, which belied his considerable level of attainment. After all, he was the one controlling the flying sword. By their estimation, Severin had reached the attainment level of a warrior emperor

Before Sofia could say anything. Sheila was one step ahead of her in introducing Severin. “He is Severin Feuillet, husband to Miss Sofia. You could consider him your nephew–in–law. I’m Sheila, his second wife. This is his first wife, Diane, and this is his apprentice, Elsa...”

“Nephew–in–law? Miss Sofia’s husband?” The two elders were so taken aback that they began to question their hearing.

Several seconds passed before Wyatt finally reacted. He turned to Sheila and said, “Are you playing a prank on us? Our eldest lady has never mentioned a boyfriend before, and now you’re saying that she has a husband?”

Jeanluc chimed in and said. “This isn’t a joking matter, young lady. You might be in for some serious trouble if her father were to learn of this.”

To their surprise, Sofia covered her mouth and giggled. She later said to them, “She’s telling the truth, you guys. He is my husband. I’ve returned so I can introduce him to Dad

Under the two elders’ astonished gazes, he said, “My father has known about Severin and me for quite some time. He probably just never mentioned it to you

“Goodness me! You have a husband?” Jeanluc exclaimed in disbelief.

Wyatt was also taken aback. “Couldn’t you have chosen one of the many talented young men in this sect? Is he the son of another secluded sect’s master? Or a distinguished scion of a secluded sect?”

Sofia maintained a mysterious smile and did not provide further explanation. Instead, she stated, Please take me to see my father. You’ll soon witness what an extraordinary talent Severin is. His genius surpasses even those from other secluded sects in this area.”

Severin stowed his flying sword, much to the amazement and puzzlement of numerous sect disciples. The group then headed toward a hall.

“Who is that guy? Are all those women his wives? They’re so beautiful!” one disciple could not

help but exclaim

+15 BONUS

A female disciple chimed in and said, "I just came back not long ago and flew past them. I deliberately slowed myself down and was near enough to hear their conversation. Guess what I overheard?"

"What?" several female disciples eagerly asked

The female disciple grinned and divulged, "Miss Sofia is his wife too. Tsk, tsk, tsk! All his wives are incredibly beautiful. Who would have thought that he could even win Miss Sofia over!"

"Impossible! How did he win Miss Sofia's heart? What's so special about him?" Some male disciples felt upset and frustrated. After all, marrying Sofia and becoming her partner was their dream. A dream that had all but shattered since Sofia already had a spouse.

"Why are the great elder and the second elder taking so long? We haven't heard any signs of a conflict," someone in the hall questioned. There was a growing sense of unease after the extended absence of the two elders and no signs of a battle.

"I'm back, Dad!" a familiar voice called out. Sofia flew in, followed by Severin and the rest of the group.

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"Sofia! You're back!" Birk expressed his joy upon seeing Sofia's return. He stood up right away and approached her.

"Is this Severin, your boyfriend?" Birk noticed Severin's presence at once and was struck by the young man's handsomeness. Having been told about Severin's impressive talent in alchemy by Sofia, he began to understand why she was so captivated by him.

Severin smiled and addressed the Birk, saying. "I'm Severin. It is my pleasure to meet you, father-in-law."

A faint smirk appeared at the corners of Birk's mouth after Severin addressed him as father-in-law with no hesitation whatsoever.

The other elders exchanged slightly bemused glances. From the looks of it, Sofia's relationship with Severin was more complex than that of a simple couple.

Sheila chimed in with a smile, "Uncle, Sofia is now Severin's third wife."

Birk laughed and said, "Oh? Sofia told me earlier that he needed to provide a betrothal gift. I'm appalled that she is already his third wife even though I haven't seen that gift yet"

Sofia was aware of her father's jovial character and rolled her eyes at him. "Relax, Dad. You won't be left empty-handed."

Severin was intrigued by Birk's sense of humor and could not help but smile. He produced two small porcelain bottles and offered them to Birk. "I hope you find these acceptable. They contain several third-grade pills."

Birk laughed heartily, raising an eyebrow as he continued in a casual tone, "Haha, as I said before, I'd require at least ten third-grade medium-rank pills." He casually opened one of the porcelain bottles and glanced inside, where he was met with a stupefying sight. "There's so many! What's the exact number?"

Severin smiled and said, "A hundred!"

Birk gasped in astonishment. Severin had gifted him a hundred third-grade medium-rank pills, no doubt a gesture of incredible generosity!

"A hundred?!" Even Sofia was taken aback by Severin's generosity. She had anticipated that

+15 BONUS

"I'm not hearing things, am I? A hundred? Is this young man a third-grade medium-rank alchemist?" Two of the grand elders approached him in excitement. Even the most accomplished alchemist within the sect was only a third-grade low-rank alchemist, and that individual was already very highly regarded for his impressive talent. Severin's generous gift of a hundred third-grade medium-rank pills suggested he might be a third-grade medium-rank alchemist, a talent that left them profoundly astonished

"My goodness! These pills will be able to help level four and level five warrior emperors make easy breakthroughs. A hundred pills will be of immense benefit in the progress of our sect's elite disciples!"

"You're right! One pill per disciple will already assist them greatly." The other elders soon joined the discussion. Their amazement at Severin's generosity was evident, for his actions had taken them all by surprise.

"Does that mean the other bottle contains third-grade low-rank pills?" Birk asked tentatively.

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It was already getting difficult for Birk to contain his excitement as he opened another bottle and peered inside. His hands trembled slightly, and the porcelain bottle nearly slipped from his grasp.

"This... This..."

"What is it?" One of the grand elders could not hold back any longer and rushed over. He took the bottle from Birk and inspected its contents. As he beheld what lay within, he gasped in shock and exclaimed. "These... These are third-rank high-level pills! This means that the young man here is a third-rank high-rank alchemist!"

“What?!” The other grand elder hurried over with an astonished expression. “You’re right. There’s no doubt that these are third-grade high-rank pills, and there’s a hundred of them!”

“His talent is simply extraordinary!”

“Agreed! Where did you find such a prodigy, Miss Sofia? His alchemical skills are beyond comparison!”

“These pills could even allow our sect to cultivate several saints!”

The elders engaged in a lively discussion after being thoroughly impressed by Severin’s gift.

“Third-grade high-rank pills? You’re not joking, are you?” Even Sofia and the others were unaware of Severin’s advancement to a third-grade high-rank alchemist. They eagerly examined the pills, after which Sofia shot Severin an incredulous look. “You rascal! When did you make a breakthrough to become a third-grade high-rank alchemist? Why didn’t you tell me about it?”

Severin grinned and admitted, “Well, it happened a few days ago before we we wanted to surprise you, so I kept it a secret.”

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“You surprised me all right!” Sofia said. She pursed her lips and felt a gush of sweetness in her heart. Severin had truly outdone himself and made her proud.

“Haha, you’re an exceptional son-in-law. Your talent is simply astonishing.” Birk laughed heartily. “These third-grade high-rank pills might be just what I need to break through to level two saint. I’ve been stuck at the level one saint for far too long now.”

The first grand elder chimed in, “Both the great elder and the second elder are level nine warrior emperors. These pills would make it much easier for them to ascend to the level one saint. Even the third elder, who is now at peak level eight warrior emperor, would do well. Their breakthrough.

+15 BONUS

“Yes. This all but solves our crisis,” the great elder, Jeanluc, agreed with a smile.

After some consideration, Birk suggested, “We ought to keep these pills to ourselves for now and secure the breakthrough before anything else. We’ll see what to do next once we’ve achieved that.

We don’t want the Unbeaten Wind Sect to find out about this too soon. Or else, they’ll make a swift move to deal with us before we can get stronger.”

Sofia appeared puzzled. She frowned and asked her father, “What’s going on, Dad? Why are you so concerned about the Unbeaten Wind Sect? Are they plotting something against us? Haven’t we always been on good terms with each other?”

Birk smiled wryly and explained to Sofia, “The meeting that we had earlier was to discuss the

Unbeaten Wind Sect. This issue has become quite a headache.”

The first grand elder added, “The Unbeaten Wind Sect was only slightly stronger than us before, but they no longer view us as equals now that two of their members have reached level two saint.”

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Sofia frowned and retorted, “Do they intend to turn against us simply because two of their guys have reached level two saint? Aren’t they afraid of our strength if we throw everything on the line to defend our sect? Our disciples are almost on par with theirs in terms of attainment.”

Birk then explained, “They haven’t declared war against us yet, but the son of the Unbeaten Wind Sect’s leader is interested in you. He pleaded with his father to arrange marriage.”

Sofia was flabbergasted. “Didn’t you tell him that Severin and I are already together?”

Birk responded, “I did inform them, but their attainment is so high that they hardly take us seriously. They even threatened to attack our sect if you didn’t return within a week to accept their marriage proposal.”

They’re crossing the line “Severin’s face soured, his anger simmering to a boil.

“This is utter ludicrousness. Forcing a marriage? These people are unreasonable,” Sheila added. indignantly.

Diane reassured Sofia, “Don’t worry, Sofia. We have Severin. Those goons would be asking for trouble if they came.”

Jeanluc, the great elder, asked Sofia, “What is Severin’s attainment level, if I may ask? We’ll probably have to consume some pills in the next couple of days to raise our attainment. That is our only hope of contending with the Unbeaten Wind Sect.”

Severin responded with a smile. I’m currently a level three saint. It’s not that high, but it shouldn’t be a problem to deal with the Unbeaten Wind Sect’s leader.”

“A level three saint? That is remarkable! Your achievements are incredible, given your age! The attendees were once again astonished.

“We’ve been so focused on alchemy that our attainment progress has taken a bit of a hit. Refining pills consumes too much time, and I am very surprised that Mister Severin’s alchemical talents haven’t hindered his overall progress. To think that he is already a level three saint,” the first grand elder said.

Birk, as well as both the grand elders, were level one saints, the only three saints. The great elder and second elder were level nine warrior emperors, while the third elder was peak level eight warrior emperor. The rest of the elders had only reached the level seven warrior emperor.

+15 BONUS

By contrast, the Unbeaten Wind Sect boasted two each of level two and level one saints, providing them with a sort of impetus to behave unreasonably.

Severin reassured them, "Be at ease, everyone. With me around, they'll leave here empty-handed if they show up now and try to pull a fast one." He glanced at Sofia, then grinned coldly and said protectively, "They're pushing their luck if they think they can snatch my woman away."

Birk beamed with delight. "A level three saint! How amazing! I ought to address you as 'senior' if we go by attainment."

Severin was speechless. That was quite the remark from his father-in-law.

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Severin chuckled awkwardly and replied, "Oh, you jest. I'd be uncomfortable if you, my father-in-law, addressed me as senior."

Birk joined in the laughter and said, "You're quite the joker! Just like I am. Haha!*

Glancing at the elders and Grand elders, Birk continued, "I guess it's no longer necessary to continue with today's meeting then. I will hand each of you a third-grade high-rank pill, and we'll gather tonight for a toast to my son-in-law—our guest of honor! When tomorrow comes, we'll focus on our training and do our best to secure a breakthrough in our attainment."

He then said to Severin, "I won't have a lot of free time tomorrow, but Sofia will be with you and she can show you around the sect too. When I'm available, we can grab a drink or two. Do enjoy your stay here!"

Severin nodded with a smile. "Of course. I'll make the most of my time here. You and the rest of the sect can focus on advancing your attainment. Don't worry about me.

Sofia playfully interjected with a grin, "Are you satisfied with the betrothal gift, Dad?" Her hands were clasped behind her back.

Birk laughed heartily and said, "You bet I am! These precious pills are something I can't even begin to ask for "

He paused for a moment and frowned, saying, "But I'd be even more delighted if there were a few fourth-grade low-rank pills."

“You’re getting greedy, Dad. Fourth–grade pills are highly sought after even by saints,” Sofia teased

She later turned to Severin and the others, saying, “Shall we? It’s getting late, so I’ll show you to your rooms.”

Word quickly spread within the sect about Sofia’s return with her husband, with her as his third wife.

“You can’t be serious. How did she become a third wife?” Meldrick clenched his fists in horror, and his face twisted in disbelief. He had recently reached level four warrior emperor and was hoping to impress Sofia with his progress upon her return. The unexpected news of Sofia being someone else’s third wife almost made him vomit blood.

+15 BONUS

Draven, who by then had reached level one warrior emperor, flew over and commented. “I don’t know if you’ve heard this, but Miss Sofia came back with a man. She became his third wife, which I think isn’t befitting of a sect leader’s daughter. She ought to have married someone more reputable. Even if the guy has a good attainment, it’s still unlikely that he might be fit to be the sect leader’s daughter.”

Meldrick’s face soured as he said, “I’ve heard. I’ll check this with our sect leader.”

He flew to Birk’s residence without a second to waste.

Meanwhile, Birk was in high spirits as he lounged in his yard.

“I heard that Sofia returned, and she’s now the third wife of an unaffiliated practitioner. Is that true? Meldrick posed the question to Birk immediately after arriving.

Birk glanced at Meldrick and nodded, saying. “That’s right. I’m impressed by how swiftly you’ve gotten that information when it’s only been less than half an hour since she arrived!”