

Chapter 41

Nevertheless, James was a Black Dragon. To him, cowering to evil for survival was worse than being dead. Back when he was covered in wounds, almost defeated by the enemy, he did not kneel.

When he married Thea and became the son-in-law of the Callahan family, he swore to never let Thea feel sad again.

“He was the one who insulted Thea, so he should be apologizing,” James said while pointing at Tommy.

“Thea had nothing to do with Alex. Alex only chose to work with Celestial Group because he owes me a favor for saving his life on the battlefield.”

James wanted to shield Thea from the insults, but he could not let them know his real identity.

Everybody was shocked to learn the truth. James continued, “If you want an invitation to the Blithe King’s coronation ceremony, I can get one. However, I hope you will stop insulting Thea. Let’s go, Thea.”

that, he left with Thea’s hand in his, not even looking

here, she would continue being the punching bag of her family. If it was other people, he could easily kill them, but they were the Callahans. Thea would never forgive him if

it.” Lex grew even madder watching

he wanted to do all along. It was just that he did not have the chance. Now, he only revoked part of Benjamin’s shares because

all, they would lose their business opportunity with Celestial Group forever.

millions of dollars. How she wished she could skin James

revoke

meeting commence. Now, let’s discuss how to get an invitation to watch the

Callahans began discussing.

said about him

that a military veteran had such influence on someone like Alex to get them a seat at

Megan’s boyfriend an Oswald? The Oswalds are just as powerful as The Great Fou. We should let Colson get us an invitation from

Chapter 42

Outside the Callahan mansion.

“Enough.”

Thea pulled away from James's grip and stared him in the eyes. "James, are you done throwing your fit? This is my family. If my grandpa wants you to kneel, just do it. Why are you being so stubborn?"

"Thea, ..."

"Go."

Thea turned and walked back into the mansion without another word.

James was dumbfounded. He was a Black Dragon. This was not something that should happen to him. However, for Thea's sake, he chose to swallow all of it. He knew Thea valued her family above everything else. That was why he did not run after her when she left. Instead, he waited outside.

He sat on the stairs outside the entrance, lighting a cigarette and taking out his phone. He made a call to Henry.

want to meet the

he could do now was to get Thea an

to

happy. Soon, Henry called back.

made. The Blithe King wants to meet you in

Central

call

After the call, James waited outside of the mansion

of the mansion after the meeting, Thea's family

upset. Gladys kept on criticizing James, saying that Thea should divorce

the angriest because he was the confirmed heir of his father's shares. James's fiasco

man." David gave

blaming James. He only did this to protect me." Thea had calmed down. She felt sorry for lashing out at James a while ago since he was the only

your respect from

again, you'll be dead!" Gladys yelled at

James was largely ignored. Hence, he went to the balcony for another

Chapter 43

Although he was at the same level as the Blithe King James never took him seriously.

The same went for the four other commanders-in-chief

“Hold on.” The Blithe King stopped him from leaving.

“Huh?” James looked back.

“Anything else?”

“Trent was my subordinate.” The Blithe king was quite angry. The murderer of his former subordinate did not even give him an excuse as to why he was killed.

“So what?” James only had apathy.

“Mind explaining why?”

“I told you, he deserved it. Also, I’m not begging you for an invitation. You can choose not to give me one.”

James left.

walked out of the dark after James

damn about you.” The Blithe king laughed it off, and said, “That’s how he is. He wouldn’t act any different even if Jesus came to Earth. Let this go. Trent deserved his death. You, go deliver

felt reluctant and asked, “Sir, you’re

“What else can I do? Kill him? He handed in his resignation letter but it is yet to be approved. Plus, he’s a Black Dragon, the general of the Black Dragon Army. Although his time in his post was the shortest, his army is by far the strongest among the other four

did not say anything more. The

restructuring has pushed the five regions to the center of the warzone

one designated by the higher-ups to handle this restructuring. It only happened because the Black Dragon sensed the upcoming storm and smartly applied for

of the mansion and gave a few knocks. Seeing the soldiers by his door from the surveillance,

immense caution. One of them handed a delicately

to his

“An invitation?”

one.” The man left after leaving him

stunned, Lex held the invitation in awe.

the door. Lex finally snapped back
they sent us an invitation.”

Chapter 44

James returned home. Before he could exit the elevator, his phone rang. It was Henry.

“James, news from the Blithe King. He sent his men to deliver the Callahans their invitation.”

“Okay.got it.”

James hung up.

He knocked on the door only to be greeted by Alyssa Myers, David’s wife.” Pathetic loser, are you not embarrassed enough to still come home”

James walked past her, entering the house. As soon as he saw Thea on the couch, a smile bloomed across his face.

“Thea, I already got people to send us an invitation.”

was in disbelief, as she asked, “Those are men from the Western Border Patrol. How did you get those was a soldier? I have some connections in the military higher-ups.”

in the Southern Plains. What does the South have to do with the army at the

my ex-superior has ties with a big shot at the western border. Anyways, I managed to get the invitation for the

not believe him. She questioned him snarkily, “Relying on connections, you? Although you served for a decade, you were a mere soldier. What connections could you possibly have? James, I’m warning you,

Gladys’s degrading

Callahan mansion now. I

too, was unsure about James’s capability to get

very coveted. The rich and wealthy in the five regions were dying to get themselves an

you buying this guy’s words?”

riches, mansions, and sports cars. His dreams of living

of those people and brought Thed away

along because

Chapter 45

“The Oswalds are the best.”

“That goes without saying. Their business, Grandeur Pharmaceuticals, is one of the biggest in Cansington. Colson’s father Stefon Oswald is a social butterfly. He has a lot of connections.”

“Thank god Colson is with us, or else we would never get an invitation.”

“Megan got herself the right boyfriend. Look at how he’s helping her family.” The Callahans were flattering Colson, almost making him trippy.

“It’s just a small contribution.”

Just when everybody was bathing in the celebratory mood over getting an invitation, James and Thea entered the house, followed by Gladys, Benjamin, David, and Alyssa. Their presence made the atmosphere drop to a low. Megan stood up, rather bothered.

“What are you doing here?” Thea called, “Megan, sis...” Megan screeched, berating her, “Don’t regard me as your family.”

wonderful mood was spoiled by seeing Thea’s family in his mansion, especially when he saw James, away.” He pointed to the

border patrol to send us an invitation. I came to make sure if we have received it

Lex, waiting to watch how he responded.

him, “You’re saying James made the Western border patrol send us this invitation? Are you even serious? This is clearly the Oswalds helping us, and Colson was the one who made

sneered at

the executives in the Western border patrol? You only came to take credit once the invitation is here. How shameless of you.” James said nothing to the insults. He just

Colson glared back at him, yelling, “What are you looking at,

“Shame on you!”

stealing their credit for getting us

to defend the Oswalds, he would’ve gotten what he wanted.”

nasty comments about James, without forgetting to prop Colson up at the same time.

stand the criticisms anymore. She smacked James on his head and demanded, “You fool, you’re embarrassing us again. What are

Chapter 46

All James wanted was to make Thea happy. He asked the Blithe King for an invitation, but he had not expected someone else to take the credit for it and cause Thea to misunderstand the situation. He ran after her when his call with Henry ended.

“Thea.”

He caught up to her and grabbed her arm.

“I wasn’t lying to you,” he tried to explain.

“I had someone send that invitation, but I wasn’t expecting them to take the credit for it.”

“You’re still trying to steal credit? You’re useless!” Gladys snapped.

“Haven’t we been humiliated enough?!”

retired soldier,” David said to

capable as he says.

pooling

how well you treated me, and I’m forever grateful you

around,

had never felt so helpless, even when he faced thousands of enemy troops.

took in a deep breath. He chased after them to their home but was forbidden from entering. With no other choice, he chose to leave. He decided he would explain

“James? What brings you here?” Henry asked as he entered the building, but stopped when he noticed the expression on James’s face. Henry wordlessly tossed him a cigarette. James was frantic. He wanted to

Henry?” He asked, taking a drag of his cigarettes. Smoke wafted upwards from between his

“What happened, James?”

can’t help you there. But, if you want, I can get rid of the Oswalds for

forget it,” James sighed, waving

serious. Besides, this is Cansington. It’s a peaceful city, not the southern border. The tactics we use against enemies can’t be

you’ve been handling my assets this whole time. How

Chapter 47

“Hm?”

“Buy that newly built trade center in Cansington.”

“What???”

Henry stared at James in shock.

The Trade City Center was a newly built commercial city. In it, there were over 50 buildings that were 50 floors tall, as well as a night market, a pedestrian zone, and an antique street.

The city center was complete. It was a joint effort from several real estate tycoons to turn it into the grandest commercial city in the country.

“What? Do we not have enough money? Then use our connections to do so.” Henry stared at James.

you planning, boss?” he could not help but

billion if we added our funds together, but do you know how big that commercial city is? Just the land it’s built on is worth a fortune! I heard the real estate tycoons

it’s going to cost.” Henry

into it. Even at the lowest price with them not turning a

there’s not enough, get the rest of the six hundred billion from the wealthy at the southern border as soon

not a small amount of money. I might have to make a trip to the southern border myself.”

“Go.” James waved.

the

you still hesitating, Thea? Just divorce James

sis. Even being Alex Yates’s mistress is better than being with that retired soldier!” The family surrounded Thea, urging her

said, then left to go to her room. She sat on the bed, lost in thought.

lost, as if something important had disappeared. She knew James only wanted to make her happy, but it backfired

made a mistake. He should be the one that calls me

her bed in annoyance. However, she glanced at her phone sporadically, hoping he would call.

Chapter 48

The bank liquidated the Xaviers’ other villas, and now most of them were either homeless or renting houses to live in.

This remaining villa was Rowena Xavier’s personal property.

Trent’s plan to heavily inflate the prices of worthless artifacts and sell them off to people worked. Most of the attendees had spent money in that auction and bought something from the Xaviers, intimidated

by Trent's power, Trent may have died, but the money fell into Rowena's hands. Rowena was a woman, but she became a pillar of hope after Warren and Trent's deaths. The Xaviers all turned to her, in hopes of her pulling them back up into wealth.

Villa, room on the second floor.

An old man, around 50 years of age, lay on the bed. Beside him was a woman clad in a white dress.

That woman was Rowena Xavier. She was in her 30s but looked no older than 19 thanks to her high-maintenance lifestyle. She was slim and had delicate facial features. She was an attractive woman in every sense of the word, with her long hair flowing down her shoulders and her slightly see-through dress only accentuating her seductive charm.

"Mr. Bertrand, when are you going to make good on your promise?" Rowena said as she looked at the old man on the bed that was wearing only his underwear.

This man was a big shot, with connections in high places.

The Xaviers were bankrupt. Most of their assets had been liquidated, so Rowena too was using every connection she had in order to get back some of their properties.

at the gorgeous Rowena and smiled.

you know, Alex Yates used the proper channels to bankrupt you. I need to be able to deal with every aspect of

walked over to him and snuggled into Charles's arms.

million,

long. Give me an accurate time

Within a few days."

her, but he was secretly

woman,' he thought.

is dead. There's no way the Xaviers will be able to return to being one of The Great Four. I've long since used up the money you had given me. Did you actually think I'd humor you if it weren't for money?"

I get my family's

Just then, the bedroom door was kicked

Charles jumped, startled, and crawled to his knees.

he saw the person that kicked the

clothes back on as he said, "I- I have nothing to do with

was the one that

trembled as well when the man

Chapter 49

Rowena's expression darkened. She finally knew who destroyed her family.

"What the hell do you want, James?"

"Haha..."

James started laughing, but there was no humor in it. His laughter was terrifying.

"You're asking me what I want, Rowena?"

"You're the reason my grandfather was falsely accused and turned into the laughingstock of the entire town.

"You're the one that caused my father to have a heart attack, then pushed him off the third floor and lied to everyone that he committed suicide.

Great Four, tied my entire family up and set fire to our home. You

so scared. Rowena was a smart woman. James killed her father and brother, but the news about it had been suppressed. She knew the man standing before her was no longer the helpless

not bother holding back. Rowena recoiled from the force and fell spread eagle onto the

into the bed. He put out his cigarette on her face. He showed no mercy, not caring that Rowena was a woman. He recalled how aggrieved his grandfather was before he passed. He recalled what his father looked like

could never forget the memory of watching his loved ones burn

"Ahh!"

in pain.

off the bed in fright. He cowered by the wall, not even daring to breathe

think your reckoning would come when you destroyed my family?

to die, Rowena Xavier, so all thirty-eight members of my family can finally be put to rest!"

am! You've ruined my family! Please let

now, Rowena was no longer the noble and elegant woman she was. She begged for mercy shamelessly, throwing all dignity

Chapter 50

James's roar was like cracking thunder, making Rowena's ears ring and leaving her in a daze.

All she could do was sob, not knowing how else to respond. After a while, she finally calmed down enough to say something, her face a look of despair.

“I don’t know... I really don’t... I - I think Trent took the painting to the Capital as a gift for someone.”

Slice!

James picked up the switchblade from the bed and swung it at Rowena’s hand, splattering blood everywhere,

Rowena opened her mouth in agony, but no sound came out. Her expression twisted hideously in pain and she trembled.

James casually pulled out some silver needles and inserted them into Rowena’s body.

Rowena could not die yet. Not without the painting back in his hands. Her palm stopped bleeding after the needles were inserted, but the pain was still there. It was an unbearable kind of pain.

all she wanted was to die.

worse than death,

sat back down and stared at Rowena,

you’ve suffered is nowhere near enough to atone for your

ask you again. Where is

said through chattering teeth, barely able to get her words out.

James frowned.

of a primal need for self-preservation. If Rowena was saying that she had no idea passed down through his lineage for countless generations. His grandfather even said that fell incredibly lightheaded but was stuck in consciousness, unable to truly

on her face and arms, tormenting her by

The fear she felt of him ran deep into her core. She kept pleading

you tonight,” James

went. If by the time I come back for you, you can’t tell me where

covering man up. Charles trembled, and a pool of liquid grew under him. He

I have nothing to do with this! I d-don’t