

Astral Apostle

Chapter 211: Historical Meaning and Promise (2)

“If we use this ability to hunt, it will be very convenient. We have always lacked the means to control mutant beasts, nor are we good at long-range attacks. If every team has a special hunter like you, fewer hunters will die every year.

“Perhaps in the future, among the hunters, a special hunter like you who takes the V3 Potion will be the backbone.”

As he spoke, Keriber felt a little regretful.

“Unfortunately, I’ve already undergone five enhancements. If I continue, I’m afraid I’m more likely to die than survive. Looks like I won’t have the chance to use the V3 Potion. The future belongs to you young people.”

“Don’t be discouraged. It’s only because I started off stronger. Even if others take the V3 Potion, they might not be able to defeat you.”

Zhou Jing spoke the truth.

Bill would definitely not be as concerned about making the perfect and powerful potion for other hunters as he was for himself. Moreover, others did not have the initial attributes of an .

Keriber thought that Zhou Jing was only comforting him and ignored him. He looked at Raging Inferno on Zhou Jing’s waist and changed the topic.

“Is this weapon a Miraculous Armament? A gift from the King?”

With his status, he had naturally heard of the workshop’s new technology.

“Yes, this saber is called Raging Inferno.”

Zhou Jing pulled out his saber and briefly introduced it to Keriber.

Raging Inferno was made from special ore materials and mutant beast materials. They would continuously heat up during the collision of weapons until the fire core in the hilt was ignited. Then, the flame wave could be slashed out.

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Originally, he needed to continuously clash against the other weapon to heat up the metal, so it could not be used immediately in battle.

However, after Zhou Jing obtained the [Lightning Release] characteristic, he realized he could directly infuse lightning into the blade to fill the “heat tank” for the metal. This way, the special effect of the Raging Inferno could be freely controlled. He could slash out the flame wave at any time, and its practicality would be greatly increased, making it suitable for his combat strategy. Keriber clicked his tongue in admiration, “What a good weapon.”

“The King didn’t give any to you?” Zhou Jing was puzzled.

“I refused. I’m too old to use fancy weapons.” Keriber shook his head, “And they haven’t made a hammer that suits me.”

“That’s the main reason right ...” Zhou Jing grumbled to himself.

The two of them chatted for a while before walking up the platform to meet the king.

Becky glanced worriedly at Keriber injuries.

“Are you alright? Guards, bring the medicine over.”

“It’s a small injury. Your Majesty, don’t worry about it.” Keriber took the medicine and casually wiped it on the wound. He then wrapped it with a bandage and treated the injury himself.

Only then did Becky feel relieved. He looked at Zhou Jing with an approving expression. “Jace, you exceeded my expectations. I didn’t expect you to force our Chief Hunter to this extent.”

“I relied on the convenience of my weapon to fight the commander... I haven’t thanked Your Majesty for your reward. It’s very convenient to use the Raging Inferno.” Zhou Jing didn’t want to continue this topic. It was not appropriate to be humble or proud, so he simply changed the topic.

Hearing this, Becky laughed happily.

“A powerful weapon is meant for the strong. I’m glad to see the Raging Inferno in your hands. This proves that I made the right decision to give you the Miraculous Armament.”

Becky paused for a bit before he continued,

“Of course, you don’t have to be humble. We’ve all seen your performance. The V3 Potion gave you the power to release lightning, and it was quite stunning. It suits you... As the first hunter with special abilities, your success has great meaning! It will definitely be recorded in history!”

Compared to Zhou Jing’s strength, Becky valued the success of the new potion more.

Everyone nodded. No one questioned it.

Jace’s own strength was another matter. More importantly, he was the first hunter in history to obtain a special ability, proving the feasibility of the V3 Potion. His existence meant that they had officially unveiled the new Mutant Blood Warrior. It was a milestone in history.

After watching Zhou Jing’s battle, the higher-tiered Imperial Hunters could not help but have the desire to use the V3 Potion.

“It’s mainly thanks to Master Bill,” Zhou Jing deliberately spoke out.

“Well, Master Bill’s contribution is irreplaceable!” Becky waved his hand and smiled at Bill. He laughed and said, “It’s the Empire’s luck and the hunters’ luck to have a genius like Master Bill!”

Looking at the two talents in front of him who were extremely outstanding in their respective fields, Becky felt high-spirited. He felt satisfied as if all the heroes in the world had joined him as if he was personally witnessing the Empire walking towards a new peak.

“Unexpectedly, both of them are me...” Zhou Jing smiled without saying anything.

Becky was happy for a while before he calmed down. Suddenly, he thought of something and smiled, “Irene, you saw Jace’s strength too. Do you think he can defeat you?”

Everyone looked over curiously.

Irene hesitated, then said, “Maybe it will be a draw.”

“If you have time, you can spar,” Becky said with a chuckle. “Jace, what do you think?”

“It doesn’t matter to me,” Zhou Jing replied casually. It was a fight anyway, so it didn’t matter who came.

“We’ll talk about it later.” Irene looked away and subconsciously tucked her hair behind her ear shyly.

“Cousin, I created an opportunity for you, but you’re really useless...”

Becky cursed inwardly but kept his expression neutral. He turned to Keriber and changed the subject to avoid any embarrassment, “What do you think of Jace’s strength?”

“Very strong, not much weaker than someone at the Fifth Enhancement.”

Chapter 212: Historical Meaning and Promise (3)

Keriber was not embarrassed and answered honestly.

“Is there anyone stronger than Jace among the Imperial Hunters?” Becky was curious.

Hearing this, Keriber pondered for a while before slowly shaking his head.

“Other than me, there shouldn’t be any Imperial Hunters who are a match for Jace at the moment.”

“So Jace is already the de facto No.2 of the Imperial Hunters?”

Becky smiled and turned to look at the senior hunters who were also watching the battle.

The many Fourth Enhancement hunters looked at each other. Thinking of Zhou Jing’s strength just now, they realized that there was really no problem with his title.

Among the Empire’s hunters, Jace’s combat strength was basically enough to stabilize his position as the second strongest.

Hunters respected the strong. Although Jace had just joined and had just become a fourth-time Enhancer, as long as he was strong enough, many hunters would acknowledge his position.

Seeing this, Becky nodded in satisfaction and smiled.

“Such a talent needs to be nurtured. Keriber, you’re not young anymore. It’s time for you to find a successor. Cultivate Jace as the next commander of the Imperial Hunters.”

“Alright, I’ll do my best.”

Keriber laughed heartily.

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Due to the high death rate, hunters didn't live very long. Keriber was already close to 60 years old, which was a rare age for hunters. It was also time for him to find a successor. All the Fourth Enhancement Imperial Hunters were possible candidates, but for now, Jace had the most potential.

Keriber did not have much desire for power. He already had high hopes for Jace, and after the battle just now, this thought was even firmly planted.

Only then did Becky look at Zhou Jing. He stopped smiling and solemnly spoke out,

“Jace, I think highly of you and trust you. The responsibility of the Commander of Imperial Hunters is huge. I hope you can bear it in the future. When you further prove your talent, I will personally bestow you the title of the next Chief Hunter of the Empire!”

Zhou Jing's heart skipped a beat, but he did not refuse. He nodded calmly, “Alright.”

The benefits of displaying his strength this time seemed greater than expected.

He had thought that he would at most be further valued by the royal family and leave a deeper impression on Becky.

He did not expect Becky to directly appoint him as the successor of the Empire's Chief Hunter!

Although it was a surprise... Zhou Jing felt that the King treated him differently not only because of his strength but also because of other factors.

He did not know if it was an illusion, but the way the King looked at him seemed to be a little scrutinizing and testing... Zhou Jing had seen extremely similar gazes on the lousy blind date shows in the main world.

“Does he plan to give me a marriage package like he did to Bill?”

“However, with Jason's physical fitness, ordinary people would be tortured to death.

“Only a Mutant Blood Warrior could withstand the impact... Irene?”

“I knew it! She was looking at me differently!”

“If Bill and Jason both agreed to the marriages, in the future, they would pull their wife along for exercise every day and work hard to sow seeds and give birth to many children. In a few decades, would the royal family of the Terra Empire change their surname to Wood instead?”

“Speaking of which, does the have a fertility function? I haven't tried it yet...”

Zhou Jing quickly stopped his imagination from running wild.

He would not consider sacrificing his reputation for the time being.

“Stop thinking about all this nonsense. In short, with the King’s promise, I’m closer to completing Jason’s new life objective.”

Becky encouraged him for a while, and Bill pretended to check Jason’s body again before everyone dispersed.

The hunters surrounded Zhou Jing and Keriber as they left the arena together.

In the stands, Irene stared at Zhou Jing in the crowd, her eyes shining.

“Let’s go back too,” Becky called to the guards.

“Ok.”

Hearing this, Irene looked away reluctantly. She pressed down on her sword hilt and escorted the King and Bill back to the palace.

Chapter 213: Engagement (1)

In the blink of an eye, two months passed.

Following the consumption of a large number of resources to practice, the proficiency of the Imperial Workshop’s pharmacists towards the new blood potion formula finally increased a little, and the output gradually went on the right track.

Bill gradually reduced the number of times he made potions himself and spent this time learning the various potion formulas in the Empire Workshop.

Because his current status was special, and he had the promise of the royal family and the title of Chief Pharmacist, there was no need to exchange his contributions for knowledge. All the formula knowledge accumulated by the Empire was free to be read by him.

Because of this, the research and development of the potion was temporarily delayed. Zhou Jing used Bill to claim that he wanted to find inspiration from the various formulas, but for the time being, he had no idea how to improve the potion. The king understood this and did not rush him.

In addition, the news of the new potion was finally announced by the Empire.

When the residents of the capital first heard this news, they were first surprised, then enlightened, and finally overjoyed.

They finally understood why Bill had become the Chief Pharmacist. It turned out that he had made a groundbreaking improvement to the blood potion.

It was a misunderstanding!

Not only was Bill good at aphrodisiacs, but he also had achievements in the field of proper potions... He was a master of pharmacology!

In the capital, Bill's reputation rose rapidly, and he received praise from the citizens of the capital. His reputation gradually spread to the other cities as well.

The world knew the importance of the blood potion. Even farmers knew the significance of this breakthrough research and development. More mutant warriors would be born to protect the city—the people of the Terra Empire almost unanimously agreed that Bill deserved to be the chief pharmacist.

The effects of the two new potions were also announced, reigniting the yearning of many civilians who wanted to obtain supernatural powers but were afraid of failure.

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The safety of the V2 Potion allowed many civilians to finally have the courage to try.

The hunters and Mutant Blood Warriors everywhere also had their eyes on the new potion. The effect of the V3 Potion that gave special abilities surprised many hunters.

As long as one had dealt with mutant beasts with special abilities, there was no one who did not want to have similar abilities.

However, these two new potions were only produced in the Empire Workshop in the capital. If one wanted to use them, they had to join a direct unit of the Empire, such as the Imperial Army or the Imperial Hunters, and receive a certain number of years of training.

There were no new potions being sold in the other cities, so they had to come to the capital. As a result, after the news spread, more and more people rushed to Tarn City.

The response caused by the new potion made Bill's daily Information State Particles skyrocket. In the foreseeable future, he would continue to obtain this benefit for a long time.

As the number of users of the new potion increased, it would have an increasing practical impact on the hunter's ecology. Information State Particles would also be produced continuously.

Although the strict control of the new blood potion by the royal family caused the number of the actual users to be limited, reducing the total amount of Information State particles Zhou Jing obtained every day, it was also equivalent to obtaining a channel to automatically and steadily increase his apostle settlement value.

Zhou Jing had already achieved his goal of getting Bill to study potions. The benefits of affecting the world through his actions were greater than completing his life objectives.

According to his analysis, an apostle's life objectives were considered a guarantee to succeed. If he wanted to greatly increase his settlement evaluation, he had to take the path of causing trouble and change the current world in a certain field.

In the past two months, Zhou Jing lived a peaceful life in the Golden Castle through Bill. The following and surveillance of the guards had relaxed a little as a result.

However, after he "fished up" Roman last time, when they met again, Roman did not mention anything about their conversation. He only chatted and communicated with him without taking any further action.

Zhou Jing knew that Roman still had to test him, so he planned to wait patiently.

However, something happened that made him anxious.

On this day, Becky invited Bill to meet and meet in the garden, chatting as they walked.

"Master Bill, have you gotten used to living in the Golden Castle these past few months?"

"It's quite good. I can focus on researching potions... It's just that I was just a peasant in the past and had never enjoyed the service of a servant. I'm a little terrified." Zhou Jing pretended not to be used to it.

Becky laughed, "You've contributed so much to the Empire. What's wrong with enjoying yourself a little?"

At this moment, he changed the topic and asked,

"You and Shuni seem to have met a lot recently?"

"She occasionally comes to look for me and asks me about the outside world. Her Highness is very curious about the outside world," Zhou Jing automatically replied.

Becky nodded, "What do you think of her?"

"... She's quite cute, but she's a little shy." Zhou Jing roughly guessed what Becky wanted to say.

As expected, Becky smiled, "Shuni has a good impression of you. Have you considered my original suggestion? Are you willing to marry her?" When Zhou Jing heard this, he felt helpless. He knew that this day would come sooner or later.

In the past two months, Becky had often created opportunities for him and Shuni to spend time together and interact. Becky was probably behind the fact that Shuni kept coming over to chat with him.

In the end, the other party was a princess. Thus, Zhou Jing had always been polite to her, maintaining a certain distance to stall for time.

Unfortunately, although the King gave him a certain amount of time to develop feelings for the women of the royal family, he could not wait forever. After a few months, he finally could not help but urge them to get married.

"Your Majesty, I don't have any plans to marry yet. I just want to focus on researching potions," Zhou Jing tried to thoughtfully push

it off.

Becky's face darkened, "Do you hate Shuni that much?"

"Uhhh, no."

Becky immediately performed a 180° change in expression, "That's good. As long as you don't hate her, you can get along. Shuni will make a good wife. After you get married, you can still focus on your research. It won't affect anything."

In the past, it was difficult to survive in the tribal era, so even though the Empire was created and they had already enjoyed a few years of peace, In the mindsets passed down, love was not important. As long as a man and a woman did not hate each other and felt that the other was a reliable partner, they could form a family and reproduce.

"But I'm not ready to be a husband yet." Zhou Jing shook his head.

Becky didn't understand. He only felt that this was some kind of confusing speech.

"What preparations do you need? Are you afraid that you won't be able to satisfy your wife? Don't you know how to make aphrodisiacs? Can't you just take one yourself?"

"Cough, I didn't mean not ready in that way..."

Zhou Jing was helpless. He realized that the Mutant World had a different understanding of the relationship between husband and wife. It was not as complicated as the main world. He did not have to think too much about it, nor did he have to make any preparations.

Becky narrowed his eyes, "You have to get a wife in the end... Do you think the royal family isn't good enough for you?"

"Of course not."

Since he said so, Zhou Jing could only deny it.

From the perspective of an ordinary person, there was indeed no more suitable marriage partner than the royal family.

Now that Bill had already "made a name for himself", he should already be thinking about getting married. In this world, the concept of not marrying was abnormal.

If he was too against it and refused, in the King's opinion, it would be a sign that he did not have the intention to submit to the royal family. It would mean that he had ulterior motives, and was most likely considering running away.

— Although this was indeed the case, revealing his intentions before taking action would only arouse the King's vigilance and increase the difficulty of him pulling off a prison break.

Hearing this, Becky made a firm decision.

"In that case, I'll make the decision. You and Shuni will be engaged. In two months, you'll officially get married and hold a wedding banquet in the palace!"

He had not specified a marriage before because he was worried that Bill would hate a marriage partner he had never met. Now that they had nurtured a relationship for a few months, Becky decided that it was enough for Bill.

Since the two of them did not hate each other, Becky directly gave betrothed a marriage... He did not know how long it would take for Bill to take the initiative to move the relationship along, so he might as well take the initiative to push his butt.

"... Thank you for your kindness, Your Majesty." Zhou Jing felt a headache coming on. At this point, he could only agree for the time being to prevent the King from being alarmed.

At this moment, an embarrassed cry suddenly sounded from not far away.

Both turned to see Shuni run out from the corner of the garden, her face red.

Hiding in the garden, she heard their conversation, and her heart pounded like a deer in headlights.

She did not like Bill, but she didn't hate him either. She just did not have any feelings for him.

Bill was an extraordinary potion master with outstanding abilities. Such a companion was naturally qualified for her, so she was not averse to accepting the King's arrangement to marry Bill.

Looking at Bill and thinking that this man would become her husband in the future, Shuni's heart raced. She subconsciously covered her blushing face and quickly ran away.

"Eh, I didn't expect her to be hiding here. Looks like she heard it." Becky shook his head and smiled.

Zhou Jing rolled his eyes. "Why are you pretending to be surprised? There are guards everywhere in the garden. How can a little girl hide here silently?"

If it weren't for your arrangements, I would have stood upside down on the spot and let you experience what it's like to have shit on your head!"

Becky looked away and waved his hand, "Just agree. You don't have to worry about pre-marriage works. The royal family will take care of it. They won't waste your time. You just have to wait until the day of the wedding banquet to marry Shuni."

"It's my honor." Zhou Jing remained expressionless.

Hearing this, Becky smiled and nodded, feeling satisfied that everything was under control.

Everything had been going well recently, and Becky was in a good mood. Even his footsteps were much lighter.

Zhou Jing stayed a step behind him. Looking at Becky's back, he secretly made up his mind.

He had to run away before he got married!

On the one hand, he could kill two birds with one stone; escape the control of the royal family, and also think of a way for Bill to obtain new growth and supernatural powers.

On the other hand, although Zhou Jing used the body of an apostle and played different identities, he had never forgotten himself. He was only 20 years old, so the concept of marriage was a little distant to him.

Even if he was using an apostle's body, it was very difficult for him to treat marriage as a child's play. He was also at a loss about marriage and was subconsciously unwilling to obtain his life's big milestone like this.

"Looks like I have to go find Roman again and rush him to show his cards. I have to let him know that these two months are his last chance to get me!"

Zhou Jing suppressed his thoughts as his eyes flashed.

Chapter 214: If You Want To Learn, I'll Teach You (1)

At night, the warm light from the brazier shone on the outer wall of the Golden Castle. The blue bricks were tinted orange-red in color.

Most of the people had already retired to rest. The castle was silent, and the occasional scraping sound of armor pieces colliding could be heard as the guards patrolled.

In the Privy Chancellor's bedroom, Roman was reading at night, flipping through the information.

Thud thud thud...

There was a sudden knock on the door.

Roman looked up in confusion. After confirming that he did not send a trusted aide to report tonight, he immediately became vigilant.

"Who is it?"

As he spoke, he stood up and threw the information into the furnace. He activated the power of sorcery and quietly completed the fusion of the paper with the furnace.

Whoosh! The fire suddenly intensified, quickly burning the paper to ashes.

At this moment, Bill's muffled voice came from outside the door, "Minister Roman, it's Bill. I'm here to chat with you."

"*Why is he here so late?*" Roman was surprised. He opened the door cautiously.

Outside the door, Bill stood crookedly, his face flushed and reeking of alcohol. He was carrying a wine bottle, and two guards followed him.

"What's wrong with you? Why did you drink so much?"

Roman was surprised. He remembered that Bill did not seem to have a fetish for alcohol.

“Burp, today... I’m happy!”

Zhou Jing staggered through the door. Roman was confused and welcomed him into the room.

The two guards also wanted to follow him in, but Zhou Jing suddenly turned around and shouted.

“I’m here to drink with a friend. Do you want to follow me too? Will the Minister Roman do anything bad to me? This is someone else’s room. It’s too disrespectful for so many of you to come in. Stay away!”

Brainless Hudd and Unhappy Lake looked at each other. Helpless, they retreated, not bothering to argue with a drunkard.

Although it was a surveillance in the name of protection, it could not cause too much dislike from Bill. Moreover, the past few months had been peaceful, and the guards were no longer as tense as they had been in the beginning.

“It’s fine. You don’t have to worry about Master Bill’s safety. I have guards here too.”

Roman smiled at the two guards and told his men to guard the door so that the two guards would not need to gather in front of it. Then he closed the door.

He and Bill were the only ones left in the room.

“Master Bill, what brings you here so late?” Roman turned to look at him, his tone curious.

Zhou Jing staggered to a seat and sat down. He took another sip of wine and stuck out his tongue. “I’m happy today! I wanted to chat with you! Come, let’s drink!”

“Are you drunk or something?”

Roman cursed in his heart. He felt that Zhou Jing’s state was not right, but he casually took out a bottle of wine from the cabinet and clinked glasses with Zhou Jing. He carefully probed, “Then why are you so happy today?”

Zhou Jing slammed the bottle on the table and pressed his thumb against his chest.

“Today, His Majesty has given me a marriage betrothal to the princess. In two months, we will be married! Don’t you think I should be happy?!”

Roman's eyes narrowed. He had not received the news yet, and this was the first time he had heard of such a thing.

It was actually a marriage alliance, and so soon... Could Becky not wait any longer?

There was not much time left...

Many thoughts flashed through Roman's mind, but he did not show it on his face. He raised his glass and smiled.

"It's indeed worth being happy to marry a princess. Congratulations."

"That's right. Other than being happy to have the honor of marrying into the royal family, what else can I do?"

Zhou Jing took another gulp, but his tone now sounded a little desolate.

"*What does this mean...*?" Roman's heart skipped a beat when he heard his tone.

"Princess Shuni is very beautiful. Are you not satisfied?"

"I have to marry whoever the King wants me to marry. Does it matter if she's beautiful or not?"

Zhou Jing spoke with his tongue hanging out, his face full of drunkenness. The content of his words gradually became sensitive.

Was he dissatisfied with the King's betrothal?

Roman subconsciously tried reading more into it.

But why did he come to vent his emotions on him? Was he not afraid that he would snitch on him and tell the King these things?

Roman was secretly suspicious, but when he saw Zhou Jing's drunken appearance and recalled the results of his probing a few months ago, he felt that it could be explained.

He was afraid that Bill had been suppressing himself for too long. Now that he had drunk wine, he finally subconsciously revealed his true feelings.

Noticing that Roman's expression had changed slightly, Zhou Jing maintained his drunken appearance, but his mind was fully clear and lucid.

He had deliberately drunk a lot before coming to look for Roman, just to pretend that he was spilling his heart after drinking.

Alcohol was a good disguise. If he came over completely sober, Roman would definitely suspect something. For example, why didn't he find someone else to "spill his heart" and say bad things about the King? Did Bill discover his background?

As for the drunk, even if he said some extreme words, Roman would be less suspicious. At the same time, he would be more confident in probing for more responses.

Bill was not a Mutant Blood Warrior, but because his initial physical fitness exceeded that of ordinary people, his resistance to alcohol was not bad. He reeked of alcohol, but he was actually still sober.

"Alright, I'll drink with you tonight."

Roman felt that this might be a good opportunity, so he took the chance to continue chatting with Zhou Jing.

Zhou Jing poured himself a ton of wine. Although he said that he was happy, there was no joy on his face. He looked like he was in pain now.

The two of them chatted casually, mainly because Zhou Jing was talking and Roman kept agreeing.

"Minister Roman, you're the only friend I have in the Golden Castle. It's good to have someone to talk to."

Zhou Jing pretended to show his true feelings.

Roman smiled, "It's my honor to make friends with Master Bill... but you know so many people in the Golden Castle. Are there not any others who are your friends?"

Chapter 215: If You Want To Learn, I'll Teach You (2)

He was indeed very curious. He had a feeling that Bill's attitude towards him had always been different. He was overly enthusiastic, as if the two of them had been friends for a long time even without talking much.

Zhou Jing pretended to be excited and patted his chest, "Hey, what kind of friends are those? They're just trying to curry favor with me! I can feel that you're different from them!"

Hearing this, Roman could not help but fall into deep reflection.

What did I do wrong to make you think that I'm not currying favor with you?

I'm clearly trying to please you too. How is it different?

Without waiting for Roman to respond, Zhou Jing suddenly sighed and added,

“And for some reason, I felt close to you the moment I see you. Perhaps it's because of our looks. I've always felt that we're very similar.”

Roman couldn't help but look down at his big belly and then at Bill, who resembled a little fatty.

Putting aside their looks, the both of them did look quite similar...

Roman held back his speechlessness. He did not intend to argue with a drunkard. He echoed, “The first time I saw you, I actually felt a sense of familiarity. I was thinking that if only I had a brother as capable as you. I'm very happy to be able to make friends with someone like you.”

“Haha, it's good to chat with you!”

Zhou Jing gave him a thumbs up.

At this moment, he suddenly sighed, “Unfortunately, by the time you're old and no longer the Privy Chancellor, we won't be able to meet again.”

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“...Why do you say that?” Roman was surprised.

Anger appeared on Zhou Jing's drunken face, as if he could not control his emotions.

“When you're old and step down as a Privy Chancellor, you won't need to live in the Golden Castle any more. However, I can only stay in the Golden Castle for the rest of my life. Even if there's only a thin wall between us, we won't be able to see each other.

The royal family locked me in the castle and asked me to marry into their family. In the end, they just wanted to deprive me of my freedom. I'm not even allowed to leave the city alone. Who knows if it will be worse in the future?

Now, they're insisting that I marry a member of the royal family. Who knows if the wife I marry will also monitor me next time like that group of guards? Although the King painted a beautiful picture, the truth is that I'm actually still an outsider!”

“He even said that he wanted me to inherit his family, but he just wanted to tie me up here and use my child in the future as a hostage. The King promised me many benefits and felt that he could buy my freedom and make me willingly be 'imprisoned' ... Yes, I love money and fame, but I don't want to be a tool for the rest of my life.

However, now, even if I'm unwilling and regret it, I can only obediently accept their arrangements like a puppet and be manipulated by them. I can't even make a decision about my own marriage! Perhaps I'll only be able to regain my freedom when I'm so old that I can't walk anymore. But at that time, what's the point?"

Zhou Jing spoke "from the bottom of his heart" in Bill's tone, indicating that he actually knew his situation very well.

Roman's expression changed as he shouted, "Bill, you're drunk!"

Zhou Jing immediately jolted. He instantly sobered up as if he had woken up from a dream and realized that he had said something treasonous.

He deliberately became terrified and stammered,

"I'm just spewing nonsense. Don't tell the King... I'm just an ordinary person. I'm powerless to resist. If I have to be a tool, so be it. At least I don't have to worry about food and clothing. Anyway, after the marriage, I've resigned myself to my fate. This is it for the rest of my life. There's no other hope."

"Don't worry, we're friends. I won't tell anyone... but don't say such things to outsiders!"

Roman stood up and gave a stern warning.

"Bro, that's enough. Do you really think you're a loyal subject..." Zhou Jing secretly rolled his eyes.

In the past few months, Roman had not taken action. It was obvious that he was hesitant and worried about the risk.

Zhou Jing deliberately said this to give Roman a clearer and firmer signal that he could truly fight for him without worry and urge Roman to hurry up.

Seeing Roman's uncertain expression, Zhou Jing secretly curled his lips, but his face showed regret and helplessness for saying the wrong thing. He tried his best to get up, as if he was guilty.

"Sorry for disturbing you for so long. I should go."

With that, he patted his face to sober himself up before walking towards the door.

Roman looked at Zhou Jing's back, his heart in turmoil.

All this time, he had been having someone test Bill's credibility, and there was no problem at all. He had basically ruled out the possibility that Bill was a pawn for the King to fish out those uprisers.

Now, Bill had revealed his thoughts in front of him, expressing his hatred and powerlessness towards the royal family's restrictions on freedom... He had already fulfilled all the conditions for him to fight for this person!

The only thing he wasn't sure about was whether Bill was just talking or if he really had the guts to change the situation and was willing to pay the price.

All kinds of thoughts flashed through his mind. Just as Zhou Jing was about to touch the doorknob, Roman finally made up his mind.

"Master Bill, if you're really unwilling, I might be able to help you."

Zhou Jing turned around with a confused expression, "What are you helping me with?"

Roman said slowly, "So long as you're not someone's tool, you don't have to be manipulated like a puppet and regain your freedom."

Zhou Jing deliberately froze on the spot.

At this moment, Roman said in a low voice, "However, it depends on what you can give up for freedom. If you escape the control of the royal family, the wealth, power, and status you have now will disappear and turn into hostility towards you."

"W-What are you talking about?" Zhou Jing pretended to be shocked.

"You've already heard it." Roman put away his amiable smile and nodded calmly, "I have the ability to help you, but if you don't dare to accept such a price, it's better for you to live your current life obediently. It's more suitable for you."

Chapter 216: – If You Want To Learn, I'll Teach You (3)

"What's there to be afraid of? Compared to everything the royal family has promised, I want freedom more. If I don't have freedom, I'd rather die!"

Zhou Jing's tone was decisive.

However, he immediately expressed strong doubts about Roman and threw out a series of questions.

“But why should I believe you? You’re the Privy Chancellor. You’re in a high position. What right do you have to ruin the royal family’s plans to help me? Aren’t you afraid that the king will find out? Aren’t you afraid that I’ll tell the king about this now? Do you trust me that much?”

Roman smiled. The more worried Zhou Jing seemed, the more at ease he felt.

“I naturally have my reasons for helping you. You just need to know that I’m the Privy Chancellor in name, but I’m not on the same side as the royal family.”

Hearing this, Zhou Jing’s expression changed as if he had calmed down. He spoke out,

“Since you’re not on the same side as the royal family, you’re helping me because you don’t want the royal family to monopolize a potion master like me alone and the new blood potion formula in my hands... Therefore, you also need my pharmacology skills.”

“I don’t deny that, but I do treat you as a friend. I understand what you’re worried about. I won’t control your freedom like the royal family.” Roman nodded.

“And why should I believe you?” Zhou Jing frowned.

“I’m not like the King. He wants to hold everything in his hands, and I never wanted to control anything.”

As he spoke, Roman suddenly laughed,

“Besides, I’m confident that you won’t leave me.”

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“Is it because you think that after I escape the control of the royal family, I will have nowhere to go and no other choice but to stay by your side?” Zhou Jing deliberately replied coldly.

Roman chuckled, “No, I’m the one who can provide you with what the royal family doesn’t have to satisfy your dreams.”

“What dreams do I have?” Zhou Jing pretended to be puzzled.

Roman slowly walked to the fireplace and casually touched the bricks.

“Do you still remember a few months ago? We were talking about what wealth and power are. You said that power is the greatest power, but you don’t dare to take the risk to obtain power in the way of a Mutant Blood Warrior.

The royal family's offer is indeed very high, but it's all superficial. What others give you can be taken back at any time and never truly belongs to you. And I can give you something more valuable, something far more important than money and status. The thing that can control your own fate is... a riskless power!"

Just as he spoke...

Whoosh

The fire transformed into three fire pythons that soared into the sky, emitting astonishing heat. The temperature in the room instantly soared.

The heatwave pounced towards their faces.

Zhou Jing's heart skipped a beat, and he pretended to be shocked and leaned against the wall. He said in surprise, "What is this?!"

"In this world, Mutant Blood Warriors are not the only source of power. What I have mastered... is called sorcery!"

Roman smiled and raised his palm. The three fire pythons quickly shrank and turned into three obedient balls of fire that floated in his

palm.

In the light of the fire, he looked at Bill as he slowly enunciated,

"If I want, I can kill the two Mutant Blood Warrior guards monitoring you in a few breaths.

Sorcery doesn't have to risk your life like a Mutant Blood Warrior. Master Bill, this is the power you dream of training without risking your life!"

Roman waved his hand and the little fireballs fell into the fireplace, turning back into a warm fire.

After displaying all of this, he looked at Zhou Jing with a burning gaze.

"If you want to learn, I'll teach you!"

"This guy was indeed a sorcerer!"

Zhou Jing's eyes lit up as he heaved a sigh of relief inwardly.

You're finally showing your cards!

Chapter 217: Revealing One's Hand; Cooperation (1)

After a friendly display of talent, the two of them sat down again.

Roman placed his hand on his knee. The rings on his hand looked like jewels under the light of the fire. He put away his smiling disguise. At this moment, his bearing was heavy and dignified, and he truly looked like he had unfathomable strength.

Zhou Jing seemed to have sobered up. He grasped the mentality of a character and displayed the nervousness of thinking that his friend was an ordinary person but not a hidden expert.

After restraining himself for a while, Zhou Jing could not help but speak first.

“What’s with this power called sorcery? Why haven’t I heard anyone mention it?”

Hearing this, Roman slowly began to explain,

“Sorcery doesn’t have a long history. It appeared at the end of the tribal era. No one knows how the first sorcerer in the world discovered this power. Everyone only knows that he taught this power to his three disciples and instructed them to keep the secret of sorcery. He believed that this power was not suitable for large-scale transmission.

Therefore, the three disciples decided to set a rule. In the future, a sorcerer could only take in three students at most. In this manner, the disciples secretly inherited this mysterious power each generation... This is already the sixth generation.

Sorcerers usually hide among the people or live in seclusion. They don’t reveal their sorcery, so it’s normal that you haven’t heard of it. Moreover, for safety reasons, sorcerers rarely contact each other. They leave on their own after completing their apprenticeship. Unless they meet by chance, they won’t deliberately look for others. I only met other sorcerers once with my teacher in my early years, and I haven’t seen anyone else since.”

Zhou Jing was a little surprised. The history of sorcery was actually so short, far inferior to that of mutant beast hunters... He wondered if this power system was born locally or brought about by the lifeforms of other dimensions.

Lynen was an unorthodox sorcerer. He was just lucky to have picked up an introductory manual on sorcery. He did not know anything about the background and current situation of sorcerers. Now that Roman, an insider, had spoken, naturally Zhou Jing could obtain more information.

According to Roman, sorcerers usually lived alone and would not contact each other. In other words, they were not organized at all and were scattered among the masses.

Zhou Jing thought about it and pretended to be surprised, "So there are many sorcerers in the world?"

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According to this inheritance rule, based on the multiplier of three students to a teacher, the sixth generation would mean there are more than 200 sorcerers.

Roman however shook his head, "Not everyone is willing to take in students. Compared to teaching, most sorcerers would rather spend their time on themselves. Moreover, due to some special reasons, taking in students is not good for sorcerers. In addition, sorcerers often go into the wilderness. Sometimes, when they encounter mutant beasts that are difficult to deal with, they will also die. Therefore, there are not many sorcerers left."

"What's the special reason?"

Zhou Jing pricked up his ears and asked curiously.

Roman pondered for a moment before explaining, "Alright, I can tell you first... Although practicing sorcery is not as dangerous as the blood potion, you have to appear in the wilderness to find a special existence called a nature spirit. The power of sorcery mainly comes from it.

"Nature spirits are very rare and are distributed in some strange areas. Their numbers are not infinite. Once they are obtained by sorcerers, they will disappear. The regeneration of nature spirits in an area is extremely slow, and they might even never regenerate forever.

Therefore, every time a new sorcerer is nurtured, there will be one less nature spirit. This is the reason why the first sorcerer instructed his disciples not to spread sorcery on a large scale. Later on, it became a consensus among sorcerers."

Zhou Jing blinked. This matched the information he had obtained from Lynen.

Nature spirits were limited. If a person wanted to become a sorcerer, they had to fuse with at least one nature spirit. In order to become stronger, they had to fuse with more nature spirits. Therefore, nurturing students was equivalent to nurturing competitors.

He felt that only sorcerers who no longer needed the nature spirit to become stronger would have the mood to accept students.

"What kind of power is sorcery?"

Zhou Jing suddenly appeared to be a curious baby.

Roman was not stingy and explained a little more. It was similar to the contents of Lynen's sorcery guidebook, but more detailed.

After talking so much, he changed the topic and said, "Master Bill, have you considered it? Are you willing to accept my conditions?"

Zhou Jing thought for a moment, "If a sorcerer can only teach three people in his life, can I learn it?"

Roman nodded, "I've never taken a student. If you agree to my conditions, I'll teach you sorcery. You don't have to worry about the risk of obtaining a nature spirit. I'll help you."

Zhou Jing pretended to hesitate.

"But can I learn sorcery? Does this power really not need any talent?"

If Roman replied that there was no need, it meant that he had no intention of teaching him at all. He was just using sorcery as bait to lure him in.

However, Roman shook his head, "Sorcery isn't something anyone can practice. It requires talent, but you have no problem with it."

"How can you tell?" Zhou Jing was puzzled.

Roman sized up Zhou Jing and calmly stated,

"Sorcerers have a simple way to determine if a person can learn sorcery. First of all, it's your perception of nature. Your analysis of the special talents of various herbs and potions is a mutant manifestation of this aptitude. It shows the basic conditions to become a sorcerer.

"Secondly, sorcerers need strong mental strength... In words that you can understand, they need to be energetic and their thoughts have to be active for a long time. If you can work without sleep or rest in the workshop, it proves that your mental strength is stronger than ordinary people."

Hearing this, Zhou Jing's expression became a little strange.

Chapter 218: Revealing One's Hand; Cooperation (2)

So those who could stay up late and work hard had the potential to become sorcerers?

The standard was not just down-to-earth, it was basically hellish!

The [Item Analysis Function] had always been regarded as his special talent, and in the workshop, the reason why the apostles could work non stop was largely dependent on the placement mechanism... These two made Roman misunderstand his aptitude. In Roman's eyes, he was probably a genius in the sorcery world.

No wonder this person was not worried that he would not be able to learn sorcery after he was roped in. It turned out that he had directly determined that he had the aptitude for sorcery through these two misunderstandings.

Zhou Jing seemed to be in a dilemma. After more than ten seconds, he gritted his teeth and said, "Alright, I agree to your conditions. If you can let me learn sorcery and have a reliable plan to let me regain my freedom, I'll be under you."

Only then did Roman smile in satisfaction, "Believe me, when compared to the power of sorcery, everything the royal family promises is worthless... You don't have to worry about me restricting your freedom like the royal family. Only the ruler wants to control everything. I don't need you to work for me forever. Our relationship is more like a partnership. You provide the craftsmanship of the potion, and I'll give you strength."

Zhou Jing did not respond. There was not much trust between the two of them, and their understanding of each other was limited. He was worried that Roman would fall out with him after he escaped, and Roman was also worried that Bill would sell him out after he laid his cards on the table.

However, if he did not show off his sorcery, it would be difficult to convince Bill with empty words. There was no reason to tempt him.

After receiving all the information, Bill was already considered to have boarded the pirate ship. If he backed out, Roman would not allow it. He just did not say the threat out loud.

Even if it was a cooperation where each party took what they needed, they had to take the risk at the beginning and worry about the what-ifs. If one party could completely avoid the risk, it would only prove that the other party was most likely at a passive situation in the cooperation... In the current situation, neither of them could obtain a 100% guarantee. They could only accept that there was a gamble involved.

At this moment, Zhou Jing asked what he had been curious about.

"You said you were a powerful sorcerer, but why did you come to be a court minister and go against the royal family? What goal do you have and what are you planning?"

Hearing this, the smile on Roman's face disappeared, "Just take it that I can't stand the so-called royal family."

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Seeing that the other party did not want to elaborate, Zhou Jing did not give up easily. "But I don't know anything about your goal or your faction. How can I be at ease to rely on you? At least tell me which side you represent."

Roman thought for a moment and said casually, "The Terra Empire has never belonged to the royal family of Tarn, but to all the tribes... I represent the interests of the various tribes and have a legitimate standpoint, so you don't have to worry about the hostility of the royal family. Outside the capital, it's not up to the royal family to decide."

"He didn't hide his faction, but he didn't mention their goal. However, there's a high chance that this person won't reveal it so easily..." Zhou Jing thought to himself.

Thus, he changed the topic and asked, "Then how are you going to bring me out of the Golden Castle? You won't bring me out of the capital through the main entrance, right?"

Roman was amused as he shook his head, "It's too much effort. There's no need to make such a big fuss. I have a few ideas you can consider."

"... Tell me."

"Don't think that the Golden Castle is heavily guarded. In fact, my people are everywhere. There are also some secret passageways. It's not difficult to send you out of the Golden Castle. The difficult thing is not to be discovered. The most troublesome thing is to avoid the two guards who are following and monitoring you. Try not to have a head-on conflict with them as much as possible after this."

Zhou Jing agreed. It was only because the Brainless + Unhappy combination had been monitoring him that it was difficult for him to take any action. Even now, the two teams of guards were still waiting outside, and he could see them the moment he went out.

"So what do you plan to do?"

Hearing this, Roman ticked off with his radish-like fingers as he whispered,

"The first method is to slip away at the wedding banquet. Two months later, you will be married to the Princess and the King will hold a palace wedding banquet. At that time, the guards will not monitor you as usual because this will make you look like a prisoner, so you will be given the chance to move freely.

At the wedding banquet, you might seem to receive the most attention, but in fact, everyone will be the least guarded against you. The King will feel that you were about to marry a member of the royal family, while the others will not think that you would actually want or dare to leave your wedding... It will be the right time to act. My people could take the opportunity to take you away."

Zhou Jing did not approve or reject this idea. “Try not to delay until the wedding banquet... Are there any other ways?”

Roman rubbed his chin as he continued to ponder out loud “The second is a stupid method. Find a chance to escape the surveillance of the guards within two months and let my men take you out of the Golden Castle through the secret passage. It’s just that the chances are not high. Your two guards are not weak, and they take shifts day and night. There are usually no gaps. Even if I get my men to swap with you and disguise as you, with the sense of smell a Mutant Blood Warrior has, they can immediately tell the difference.”

“Then it’s the same as not saying anything. Anything else?”

“The third method is to take advantage of a period of chaos. If you can persuade the King to let you travel, I can arrange for people to intercept and take you away. If you can only stay in the Golden Castle, you can try to set fire to the city or assassinate the King. In short, cause chaos and find a way to lure the guards away... Of course, they might also be more vigilant to protect you.”

Zhou Jing held his forehead.

After listening to everything, the most reliable thing was actually to escape during his wedding

Did he think this was a drama? Runaway groom?

“Why don’t you bring me along and fight our way out? Even if we fail, I can still argue that I was kidnapped.”

“Heh heh.”

Roman did not even want to respond.

He paused and suggested, “There are still two months. You can consider what method to use. I’ll make some preparations first.”

“Alright, I’ll go back and think about it.”

Zhou Jing nodded in response.

Roman nodded and suddenly leaned forward. He said seriously, “We’re on the same side now. Don’t leak the news we talked about tonight.”

“Don’t worry, I understand. Don’t doubt my determination to regain my freedom.’ Zhou Jing also pulled a long face and pretended to be serious.

The two of them discussed the details for a while and completely confirmed their intention to cooperate before ending the meeting

Zhou Jing opened the door and disappeared into the darkness under the escort of the guards.

Roman watched his back disappear before calling over a few trusted aides, closing the door.

“Activate everyone in the Golden Castle. Make sure everyone is on standby and ready to receive orders.”

His trusted aides nodded in agreement.

Roman knocked on the table and pondered for a while before continuing, “Also, contact the various tribes and inform them that the plan can begin. The King has already vaguely sensed the threat of the tribes, so he’s planning to use the new potion to strengthen the royal authority and nurture a larger army.

Tell the various tribes that it will be increasingly difficult for them to become independent in the future, so they can’t wait any longer. The longer they delay, the greater the difference in strength.

As long as we get the formula for the new blood potion, or a potion master like Bill, we’ll immediately start our plan!”

“Understood!” His trusted aides agreed solemnly.

Roman lowered his voice and said in a deep voice, “Also, tell our spies to pay attention to Master Bill’s behavior these days. Report to me all the information about him.”

It was impossible for him to trust Bill completely. He still had to send someone to monitor him, afraid that Bill would sell him out and cozy up to the royal family once more.

His trusted aides followed his orders and left, leaving Roman alone in the room.

Roman sat behind his desk, rubbing his temples, his eyes shifting.

After preparing for so long, he was finally going to make a move... He did not expect a mere pharmacist to trigger this change.

Chapter 219: Make Bill Fall In Love With You (1)

Chapter 219 – Make Bill Fall In Love With You (1)

A few days later, the Empire announced that Bill was about to marry a princess. The wedding date was set to be in two months. At that time, there would be a celebration in the royal city for the citizens to enjoy.

Under Becky's instructions, this news spread to the streets and alleys of the capital, causing the residents of the capital to discuss fervently.

There had long been rumors of a marriage alliance, but there were many opinions about the candidates. Some felt that it would be a random woman from the royal family, while others felt that it would be the "Royal Blade", the old woman Irene. Only now did they find out that the marriage alliance was with the princess. This was something many people had not guessed.

This was because although King Becky had many children, a total of nine of them, most of them were men. He only had three daughters, and most of them had twisted fates.

The eldest daughter had married, but died in childbirth. The second daughter was strong and was nurtured to be a Mutant Blood Warrior. Unfortunately, she died suddenly after taking the blood potion. Only the youngest daughter, Shuni, was alive and accompanying Becky. She was very doted on.

In an era where there was a lack of entertainment, the power class was the best gossip channel. Countless people had a natural curiosity and desire to pry into the private life of the mysterious palace. The topic of discussion was very popular, especially among the residents of the capital who were closest to the palace. Be it rich craftsmen or the poor people living on the streets, they all loved gossip about the royalty.

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Many residents of the capital had always thought that Princess Shuni would marry into another tribe, but they did not expect her to be betrothed to Master Bill instead.

Although Bill was not a blood relative of the tribe, his potion results would result in the lives of the people of the Empire being safer. Although most people were surprised, on second thought, they felt that this was a suitable marriage. Bill was worthy of the royal family.

The princess had a noble status, and Master Bill was talented. Weren't they a match made in heaven?

Moreover, considering Master Bill's skills, their married life would be quite harmonious.

Bill's reputation was extremely high now, and the residents of the capital could not help but be happy about their marriage. They looked forward to the celebration of the entire city on their wedding day.

Inside the Golden Castle, when the court officials heard the news, there was an endless stream of people coming to congratulate Bill.

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Zhou Jing received the guests one by one. As long as someone congratulated him, he would show his anticipation and yearning for this marriage, showing his harmless attitude. He was an experienced actor.

Two months later, the day before the wedding banquet, in the afternoon.

There were servants running around in the Golden Castle. The venue for the palace wedding had already been set up in advance.

In the garden, Zhou Jing and Becky were walking side by side, chatting and laughing.

"Master Bill, tomorrow is your wedding day. Don't research your potions tonight. Rest and recuperate."

Becky was in a good mood and laughed.

"I'll listen to His Majesty." Zhou Jing smiled, "Speaking of which, why haven't I seen Her Highness recently?"

"Haha, she's deliberately hiding. She's too embarrassed to see you. You'll see her tomorrow."

Becky waved his hand dismissively.

Zhou Jing casually said an expectant polite sentence. Then, he turned to look at the two guards following closely behind him. After thinking for a moment, he said, "Your Majesty, Hudd and Lake have been protecting me these past few days. They've worked hard. However, I'm very safe in the Golden Castle. It's quite awkward for me to keep letting them follow me. Can you ask them not to follow me all the time?"

Ever since the showdown that night, Zhou Jing had been secretly planning his escape. After discussing with Roman, he finally decided to use a decoy to fool the guards and quietly slip away. This way, he could buy more time to escape.

After all, escaping from the Golden Castle was only the beginning. Once his disappearance was discovered by the king, the entire city would definitely be under martial law, and it would be difficult for him to leave the capital.

However, the guards were usually responsible and took turns to guard. Although they were not always by his side, it was very difficult to find an opportunity since they were always guarding the key entrance and exits. Even if he were to visit the washroom, he would see Brainless and Unhappy the moment he opened the toilet door. This made Zhou Jing feel like he was a depression patient that had to be monitored 24/7.

“You’re not happy with them?” Becky raised an eyebrow.

Zhou Jing deliberately said loudly, “Hudd and Lake are very responsible, but they are after all Third Enhancement Mutant Blood Warriors. It’s a waste to just protect me in the Golden Castle. Let them do something that befits their statuses.”

Becky thought about it for a few seconds and nodded slowly, “You’re right. It’s not a good idea for them to keep following you. After the wedding banquet, I’ll change your guards.”

While Becky had called it protection, it was actually for surveillance. However, it was so safe inside the Golden Castle, and Bill had probably come to his senses after a few months and felt a little dissatisfied with the extreme protection. Becky felt that it was time to adjust the intensity a little.

In any case, his goal had been achieved. During this period of time, he had cut off Bill’s channels of contact with the outside world. As long as the wedding goes through tomorrow, the dust will settle... Bill had already chosen to stand on the same side as the royal family by marrying the princess. In the future, there was no need to go through so much trouble and make people unhappy just to monitor him. Otherwise, it would only make Bill feel that he was always an “outsider”.

Hudd and Lake looked at each other with relief.

The past few months of constant surveillance had not been easy for them either. They had no time to exercise and were quite bored. Besides, following him for a long time had already made Bill unhappy. They had been worried that this life would last for years or even half their lives.

At this moment, Bill’s suggestion was exactly what they wanted. They could not help but look forward to being free.

Becky chatted with Zhou Jing for a while more. He mainly instructed him on the things to take note of for the wedding tomorrow and chatted with him about family matters. After that, both parties separated.

Watching Zhou Jing’s back, Becky nodded in satisfaction.

Finding a wife to tie up Bill and give birth to a child would basically ensure that Bill firmly supported the royal family.

The royal family also had different blood branches. Since Shuni was his daughter, Bill would only support the king's line and be completely at his disposal.

"By the time the wedding banquet ends tomorrow, Bill will be completely mine."

Becky was delighted. He stroked his beard and smiled.

In the princess's bedroom, a group of tailor servants was busy helping Shuni change. They were trying on gorgeous wedding clothes, choosing one for tomorrow's event.

Shuni looked at herself in the mirror and asked shyly, "How about this?"

"Great!"

"Her Highness is beautiful no matter what she wears."

The servants hurriedly flattered her.

"... You guys say that every time." Shuni was helpless to their praises.

She turned to the side and showed this set of clothes to her close friends who were also members of the royal family. She asked curiously, "What do you think?"

"This is too thick. It looks too conservative."

"I think you can wear something more revealing. It would be a sense of accomplishment to use your chest to attract Master Bill's gaze during the wedding banquet."

"Trust me, men love breasts the most. Every man is the same."

Her best friends laughed as they gave their opinions.

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"Stop it!" Shuni was embarrassed and then a little uncertain, "I-I don't know what style Master Bill likes."

"Then why don't we ask him directly?" Her best friend teased.

"How can you ask such a thing!"

Shuni blushed and quickly waved her hand.

At this moment, there was a knock on the door and the Queen walked in.

The servants and royal women present hurriedly bowed.

“No need to stand on ceremony. You can leave first. I want to talk to my daughter.” The queen smiled.

Everyone immediately filed out, and soon, only the Queen and Shuni were left in the room.

The Queen came to Shuni and smiled as she straightened her clothes. “Tomorrow is your big day,” she said softly, “You must be well-prepared.”

Shuni nodded obediently.

The Queen pulled her to sit down by the bed and looked at the beautiful Shuni. She suddenly said, “What do you think of Master Bill? Do you like him?”

Shuni was stunned for a moment before she hurriedly said, “Master Bill is a hero of the Empire, a potion master who has left his name in history. He’s so talented. Of course I like him.”

“Silly child, I’m asking about the kind of love between a man and a woman.” The queen blinked and pressed her hand on Shuni’s chest. She said mischievously, “When you’re talking to him, will your heart beat faster and your throat go dry? Will you want to hug him and rub yourself against him? Will you miss him when you’re free? Will you have difficulty sleeping at night? When you think of him, you can’t help but tighten your legs...”

“Mom! Why are you saying this!” Shuni’s face turned red as she heard this, and she quickly covered the Queen’s mouth.

The mother and daughter pair joked for a while before sitting down again.

“You haven’t answered me,” the Queen asked again with a smile.

Shuni suppressed her shyness and pressed her lips together for a few seconds before saying with uncertainty, “I don’t think I have any such thoughts about Master Bill. I don’t like him either way. I just don’t hate him... Is this bad? Will it make Master Bill unhappy?”

The queen took Shuni’s hand and said seriously, “No, I’m glad you don’t like him. Because that’s the only way you won’t be controlled by your emotions and can guarantee calm judgment.”

Shuni froze.

At this moment, the Queen said earnestly,

“Bill has a huge meaning to the Empire and the royal family. Your marriage to him is not simple. The King betrothed you to Bill because he wanted you to tie him down tightly. I know that this might ruin the beauty of marriage that you yearn for, but this is your mission. You can experience love and a good life with Bill, but don’t forget your purpose in marrying him.

Only by not liking someone will you understand how to treat them rationally. What you have to do is to tease their emotions and make them fall madly in love with you and you only.”

Shuni’s mouth was agape in shock.

All along, she had been living an almost carefree life under the protection of the royal family. Occasionally, she would look forward to marrying a hero one day, but now, the Queen’s straightforward words had a strong impact on her entire worldview.

As a member of the royal family, the Queen was akin to a deity that had descended from the sky and shattered her fantasies. In the end, her destiny had still found her.

She suddenly felt that the gorgeous wedding clothes in the room were no longer as dazzling as before.

Shuni looked disappointed, “Is my marriage just for my Royal Father to utilize me?” “No. It was a consideration your father had to make as King, but not entirely out of profit.”

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The Queen pulled Shuni’s head into her arms and explained gently.

“If you don’t marry Bill, you’ll have to marry another tribe in the future and leave the capital. And Bill can’t leave the Golden Castle easily. If you marry him, you can stay here and not be far from home... Your father is doing this for your own good.”

“I-I understand.” Shuni hugged the queen and whispered, “I’ll try my best to make Bill fall in love with me.”

Only then did the Queen smile and whisper, “I’ll teach you a few moves. You have to learn to grasp the preferences of men. The more accomplished a man is, the more he likes to be admired by women. You have to learn to look at him with admiration and pretend to be infatuated with him, but you also have to learn to throw a tantrum and let him please you. In bed, you have to learn to pretend and give him a fresh feeling every time...”

The Queen imparted her experience with all her might, not hiding any of her explicit words.

In the past, Shuni would have long blushed and quickly covered her ears.

However, at this moment, she listened to the Queen's teaching quietly and tried her best to remember all these skills in her heart.

The sun was setting, and the starry sky hung high.

After wandering around the Golden Castle until evening, Zhou Jing returned to his room under the urging of the guards.

There were several tailor servants waiting in the room. They had originally agreed to try on tomorrow's wedding clothes in the afternoon, but Zhou Jing had stood them up, so they could only wait until night.

Seeing Zhou Jing return, these servants immediately stood up to greet him. They bowed and took out the clothes they had prepared.

Seeing this, Zhou Jing stopped in front of the door and turned around to speak to Hudd and Lake.

"You guys go and rest too. Don't stay here to guard. I'll just stay here alone after I'm done trying on my clothes."

"It's my duty," Lake replied calmly, unmoved.

"What duty? After tomorrow, you won't have to be my guards anymore. Besides, I'm getting married tomorrow. Can't I even have a night alone?"

Zhou Jing pretended to be unhappy and said in an angry tone.

"You follow me every day. Can't you let my eyes be free for a night? Go further away. Otherwise, if I fall sick from boredom and can't get married tomorrow, then that will be on you."

Hearing this, Hudd and Lake were at a loss for words.

At this juncture, they really did not dare to provoke Bill. If Bill threw a tantrum and affected the marriage tomorrow, they would be in deep trouble.

After tomorrow, he would become one of the royal family's people. It would not be right to tail him so forcefully. Besides, Bill had been very obedient for the past few months and had basically been fine. It was better to avoid trouble.

After a few months of peace, the guards had finally relaxed.

Unable to dissuade Zhou Jing, they did not want to offend him anymore. The two of them simply retreated with the guards and stopped guarding the door. They obediently returned to the room beside him... This was the room where the guards usually lived.

Seeing that there was no one standing guard at the door and the corridor was empty, Zhou Jing closed the door and turned to look at the few servants waiting in the room.

The several servants immediately threw away the wedding clothes in their hands and nodded at him. They were all Roman's people!

"Let's hurry up." Zhou Jing lowered his voice.

The servants who usually lived here had long been arranged by the royal family. They would not be easily replaced, and thus it was difficult to plant people here.

Under Roman's operation, this batch of tailor servants who were in charge of fitting the groom's wedding clothes were all replaced by his people.

Tonight was the agreed time for him to escape!

Chapter 221: Picking Up The Pail And Running Away (1)

Chapter 221 – Picking Up The Pail And Running Away (1)

(TL Note: In China, many of the staff workers tend to stay in dorms around the workplace, and hence have to buy pails/large buckets to use for their washing of clothes. The title talks about how those workers, when fed up with their work conditions, would just throw all their items into said pail and make a run for it.)

Zhou Jing quickly took off his clothes and took down a bottle of medicine from the shelf. He poured out the ointment and smeared it on his body.

This was a homemade potion used to change one's body odor. As a high-level pharmacist, concocting such a potion was child's play. He came up with the formula within two months.

Through Little Black #1's sense of smell, he repeatedly tested the effects. Now, the disguise effect of the "Scent Change" potion was already very outstanding. Even the dog could not recognize him after he put it on.

He quickly changed into the clothes of a servant and dressed up slightly to make his appearance less eye-catching. Then, he adjusted his posture in front of the mirror. His entire body was like a balloon that had been deflated. From a tall and straight posture,

he lowered his head and bowed his shoulders. From a confident form, he turned into a servant-like person. His temperament had changed drastically. If one did not look carefully, it was difficult to recognize him as the same person.

In the past two months, Zhou Jing had been observing carefully. He had imitated the expressions of his servants and honed his acting skills. He was already very proficient at this.

It did not take long for him to change his clothes. Standing with his servants, he was almost indistinguishable.

A servant changed into his clothes and pretended that Bill was still in the room, leaving someone behind so as to match the numbers.

If Zhou Jing was lucky, he would be able to move for about a night's worth of time. His absence would definitely be exposed when day arrived. The servant that he left behind was most likely dead, sent over as a death warrior arranged by Roman.

Little Black #1 squatted on the ground, while the Sword-Tailed Eagle stood on the bird stand. The dog and bird tilted their heads and looked at Zhou Jing.

“Stay here and don't run around.”

Zhou Jing instructed in a low voice.

He definitely could not bring two pets with him when he ran off in secret. It would only increase the risk of being exposed.

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However, he did not intend to throw them away. After all, he had nurtured them for a long time. The moment his disappearance was exposed, the Golden Castle would be in chaos. No one would care about Bill's two pets, so he asked Roman to take care of them and let his subordinates take the two pets away in the chaos. They would send them to him when they met up later.

Because he was closer to Roman, if he disappeared, Roman would also be suspected, so the latter also had the intention to run away. However, Roman did not leave for the time being. He still had some motives for staying in the palace. He was not worried that he would end up being trapped in the castle. After all, with his strength, it would be much easier for him to leave.

The group was ready to go. Zhou Jing carried the clothes basket and mixed in with the servants. He felt a wave of nervousness and excitement. This kind of stealth action was exciting. He took a deep breath and composed himself. He patted the lead servant and signaled for action.

The door creaked open, and the empty corridor came into view.

The few of them immediately closed the door and left as if nothing had happened. Although the guards were not guarding the door, they were all in the house next door. The door was wide open... Compared to guarding his security, they were more like a group of prison guards.

Sensing the commotion, Hudd, Lake, and the others subconsciously turned to size up the group of servants.

Zhou Jing's back tensed up. Using the bodies of the other servants, he covered his face without leaving a trace. The clothes basket was deliberately carried in the direction of the guards.

Every step seemed to take seconds, under his fear that the guards would notice something amiss.

However, the guards only took a glance before looking away. They did not suspect anything.

It was only when he turned the corner and no one suddenly stopped him that Zhou Jing relaxed slightly.

The hardest part was over. As long as he could hide it from his personal guards, he would be half safe.

After putting on a show, the few of them carefully traveled. The patrol guards they encountered on the way only casually sized them up before looking away.

Although the huge Golden Castle was heavily guarded, it was impossible for the patrolling guards to interrogate every person they encountered. That would be too energy-consuming, so many servants could move freely in the Golden Castle. They would only be interrogated when they entered and left important places.

After all, the Terra Empire was primitive and did not have any surveillance facilities. Even if it was heavily guarded, it could only be judged from the standards of the Mutant World. It was inevitable that there would be mistakes and loopholes to be exploited.

Zhou Jing followed the servants and quickly left the main castle. He arrived at an auxiliary castle and found a hidden stairway before turning along it.

Soon, they arrived at a storage room that seemed to have been abandoned long ago. The wooden shelves were overturned, and many of them were already rotten. A team of patrolling guards was waiting at the door. The guard captain greeted the servant before looking at Zhou Jing. He lowered his voice and said, "I'll take you the rest of the way."

Change to a guard. The guard's full equipment is ready. Master Bill, please change into it."

This patrol guard was also under Roman's employment.

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Zhou Jing was not surprised. In the past two months, in order to prove the feasibility of running away, Roman had revealed a portion of his background... He was in charge of the palace and had sent people to infiltrate it for many years. He had long planted his own people in every position in the Golden Castle.

Furthermore, Roman had established a huge piece of information. He had figured out all the various secret passages in the Golden Castle and formulated Bill's escape route. He was so precise that he could determine when the real patrol guards would change shifts, which route they needed to change their disguises to avoid attention, and so on.

He walked into the storeroom. Not long after, he changed into an old guard uniform and walked out, blending into the guard squad. After making several twists and turns in the Golden Castle, Zhou Jing finally arrived at the entrance of a secret underground passage.

To reach this place, he had to find a cracked wall and take down the loose bricks, revealing a stone staircase. He had to go deep down the castle before he could find this place.

The entrance to the tunnel was blocked by a rotten iron fence. Inside, it was dark like a giant mouth that could swallow people. At this moment, in the narrow empty space in front of the entrance, there was a masked man holding a torch and a short blade at his waist.

Seeing Zhou Jing, the masked man walked forward and took off his mask, revealing a weathered face.

"I'm Anzar, one of Lord Roman's secret guards. This tunnel is long and complicated. You have to follow me closely."

Zhou Jing nodded, "Where does this tunnel lead to?"

"Outside the Golden Castle, the exit is the wine cellar of a standalone property in the Green Tree District of the capital. That is one of our strongholds. This tunnel is also one of our main channels to enter and exit the Golden Castle," Anzar answered expressionlessly.

The Green Tree District was actually a wealthy district in the capital. All the high-ranking officials and nobles had property there, and the blood descendants of the various tribes

that stayed in the capital usually lived there. Because they retained the beautifying plants, it was called the "Green Tree District".

Roman's subordinates relied on similar secret passageways to travel around the Golden Castle. After all, it was impossible for them to swagger through the main entrance when he sent spies out to receive information.

Zhou Jing followed Anzar into the dark tunnel and felt his way forward.

In the silent tunnel, only their monotonous footsteps echoed.

Zhou Jing looked at Anzar's back and habitually cast a detection spell. He realized that this person's strength was actually at the third enhancement.

After thinking for a moment, Zhou Jing said, "You should be a Mutant Blood Warrior with quite a few enhancements, right?"

"Yes." Anzar nodded.

"You said that you're Roman's secret guard. How many people are there like you?" Zhou Jing deliberately asked directly.

"You should ask this question to Lord Roman yourself," Anzar said.

Zhou Jing was not surprised. He asked again, "Do you know what Roman does? How powerful is he?"

Anzar shook his head, "You don't have to test me. Although I'm Lord Roman's trusted aide, I don't know much. Lord Roman usually only instructs us to do things and rarely mentions his intentions. Everyone is only responsible for their own piece. I'm mainly responsible for protecting his lordship, protecting the stronghold, carrying out assassinations, and so on."

"Then why are you working for him? Is it because he gave you too much, or do you agree with his philosophy, or is it because of emotional factors... There has to be a reason."

Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows. This was the first time he had come into contact with Roman's close subordinates. However, Roman had instructed him not to reveal any information about sorcerers. Even his subordinates did not know about this.

"I respect Lord Roman. That's the reason."

Anzar did not want to continue this topic. After saying that, he changed the topic.

“When we walk out of the tunnel, someone will pick us up and escort us out of the city. After we leave the capital, you will follow us west, far away from the capital. After passing a few cities, you will reach our important base in the wilderness. Lord Roman will rush there later and meet you.”

Zhou Jing had no objections. In any case, he would leave Bill’s 50 kilograms of meat to the other party to care for.

The two of them stopped talking and continued on their way.

After walking for a long time, there was finally light in front of him. When he walked out, he saw a cellar. Another group of Roman’s subordinates were already here to receive him.

Zhou Jing changed his clothes again. This time, he dressed up as a merchant and followed Anzar and the others out of the stronghold. He bypassed the curfew patrol team and rushed to one of the city gates.

The captain of the guards here had already made preparations. The group disguised themselves as members of the caravan and expressed that they wanted to quickly leave the city to go to the town near the capital to meet the caravan leader. After paying a generous sum of money, they successfully left the city. After walking out of the capital city gate, Zhou Jing heaved a sigh of relief. He was secretly surprised that the operation went so smoothly.

It was almost impossible for him to walk out of the Golden Castle easily by himself. Without intelligence and power, even if he could escape the surveillance, he would not be able to find a way out.

Even Jason would have a hard time dealing with it. It was more likely that he would have to fight his way out of the main entrance, causing a huge commotion. He could not do it as silently as he did now.

It was only with the help of Roman, who had infiltrated the Royal City for many years and was known to have a grasp on everything, that he could run away so easily.

He turned around and looked at the capital in the night, his mood inexplicable.

Although he was very depressed about being grounded by the royal family, he had also made a name for himself in the capital with Bill. He was already quite familiar with this place.

This time, he had made a choice that would change his “life”. He would probably not return after leaving and would have to go to a new environment to start a new life. He felt a little emotional.

However, the royal family wanted to turn him into a canary in a cage. For the sake of freedom, he could only pick up the pail and run.

However, with Jason staying in the capital, Zhou Jing did not panic at all. He had a base to fall back on.

“Jason can see the response to Bill’s escape and the reaction of the royal family. It’s enough for him to continue wandering in the capital... This wave of escape will probably cause my Information State Particles to explode.”

Zhou Jing retracted his gaze and followed Anzar and the others into the long night.

And at the same time...

Shuni lay in bed with her eyes open, tossing and turning. The Queen’s words during the day repeatedly appeared in her mind. The joy of marriage faded, and her heart felt heavy. She could not sleep at night. On the other side, King Becky, who was sleeping, could not help but smile, as if he was dreaming of the future of the Empire.

The clear light from the same moon covered every face like a soft veil.

Chapter 222: Where’s My Big Bill?! (1)

Chapter 222 – Where’s My Big Bill?! (1)

The next day, early in the morning on the day of the wedding, the entire Golden Castle was bustling with life and activity.

The venue of the wedding banquet had long been set up. Servants were busy preparing the dishes for today’s banquet.

Actually, in the tribal era, marriage was very simple. There were no complicated rituals. The wedding ceremony of the royal family was only something that was invented later on.

King Becky woke up early and changed into his formal suit under the Queen’s service. He had a faint smile on his face the entire time, clearly in a good mood.

“Sigh, in the blink of an eye, Shuni is getting married. Time really flies. I feel like yesterday, she was still the child who hugged my calf and called me mother.”

The Queen adjusted Becky’s lower back as she spoke with emotion.

“That’s right. In the blink of an eye, I’m old too.”

Becky sighed, but quickly pulled himself together,

“The significance of this marriage is huge. A master who can change the ecology of the Mutant Blood Warriors already has the effect of a ‘legal system’ to a certain extent. Now that Master Bill is in-laws with the royal family, he can protect the royal family’s position for the next few decades. If he can continue to improve the Mutant Blood Potion, the Empire under the royal family will become stronger and stronger until no one can shake it.”

The Queen smiled in agreement, “Yesterday, I instructed Shuni to learn to hold a man’s heart and make Bill loyal.”

Becky snorted, “With your experience, you can only deal with young, ignorant kids like Bill.”

Hearing this, the Queen walked up to Becky and gave him a teasing look. Her fingers drew circles on Becky’s chest as she teased him.

“Is that so? Don’t say that you don’t like it ~”.

Although she was no longer young, she was still charming

Becky immediately had a reaction.

Recently, everything had been going smoothly and he was in a good mood, so he was full of energy every day. After being teased like this, a wave of heat rose in his abdomen.

Sensing Becky’s abnormality, the Queen smiled, winked, and reached out to gently pinch him.

“Stop fooling around. There’s a lot to do today.”

Becky suppressed his desire and slapped away the Queen’s mischievous hand.

“If not for the fact that we can’t delay the wedding banquet today, I would definitely have done it with you now...”

Speaking of which, I’m getting old, and I’ve been a little out of my depth recently. After the wedding banquet today, I can get Bill to take a bottle of energy potion to nourish myself...” Becky thought to himself.

“By the way, is Bill awake?” Becky suddenly thought of this and called the guard to ask

“I don’t know. He should be awake.” The guard was uncertain.

“Go and urge him. It’s not good to be late for him to be late to his own wedding banquet. Invite Master Bill to see me while you’re at it. I have some instructions for him.”

Becky laughed.

Bill’s residence was also in the Golden Castle, so it was only a matter of going around a few floors to inform him.

The guard agreed and retreated to do his work.

Becky didn’t leave the room as he waited for Bill to visit.

Today was the day of the wedding banquet, and it was also the day to change his method of address. Later, he would no longer speak to Bill as the King. Instead, he would encourage his son-in-law in the tone of a father-in-law and further engage in casual conversation so that Bill would feel the change in them as family...

Becky was looking down at the busy wedding banquet venue, thinking about the words to say to Bill in a bit when...

“Bang!”

The door suddenly burst open!

Becky jumped and turned to see Hudd and Lake rushing into the house. They didn’t even knock, their faces anxious.

“Your Majesty, something has happened! Master Bill is missing!”

Becky was stunned. In the next second, his expression changed drastically. He rushed in front of the two of them and shouted angrily,

“What do you mean by missing!”

“Just now, His Majesty’s guards came to urge Master Bill to wake up, but after knocking for a long time, there was no response. When we opened the door, we realized that Master Bill was not in the room. There was only a corpse that had committed suicide with poison lying on the ground!”

The queen, who was dressing up, also stopped and turned around in shock. “What happened?!”

“Show me!”

Becky felt that something was wrong. Ignoring everything else, he pushed past the guards who were blocking his way and hurried to Bill’s room.

The guards quickly followed behind.

The group quickly arrived at Bill's door. The room at this moment was in a mess. The guards had already searched every corner of the room.

The first thing Becky saw was the unfamiliar body lying on the bed. His face was purple, and his arms hung off the edge of the bed. An empty potion bottle was not far from the ground. He had obviously taken poison to commit suicide.

The black-spotted hyena and sword-tailed eagle that Bill had tamed were sleeping quietly in the corner.

Only Bill was missing.

Where's my Bill? Where's that big Bill?!

Becky's face was ashen as he turned around, "Did you see Bill go out last night? When was the last time you saw him?"

Hudd and Lake were also nervous. They quickly explained what had happened last night.

"... The last time we saw him was when we first returned. He told us not to guard the door... So we've been in the room next door. We can only confirm that Master Bill didn't go out all night."

"If he doesn't let you watch over him, are you really not going to watch over him? Why didn't you inform me about his abnormal behavior!" Becky was furious.

It's a little belated for you to say this now... Hearing Becky's tirade, Hudd and Lake felt helpless.

At that time, it was already late at night. Who would disturb your sleep over such a small matter? Was it not because we didn't know that such a thing would happen... Even if we told you, you would most likely reprimand us for not grasping the proper distance monitoring, causing Bill's dissatisfaction and causing the marriage to go wrong. It would definitely be a different story despite what you said just now!

However, since the subject in question had run away, no matter how they tried to explain, it was all wrong. Hudd and Lake could only suffer the scolding, feeling rather regretful.

They should not have thought about not offending Bill last night and insisted on guarding his door...

No, even this was not safe enough. They should have gone into the house and stood by Bill's bed all night to watch him sleep!

Becky pointed at the body on the bed and said angrily, "What's with this unfamiliar corpse? Who entered his room last night!"

"I have an impression of this person. He should be the servant tailor who came to try on Bill's wedding clothes last night!" Hudd hurriedly replied, "After Bill returned last night, only that group of tailor servants went in and out. Bill must have slipped out among them!"

"Then capture the servants from last night and the head servant who distributed the manpower for interrogation! Bring all the patrol guards from last night over for questioning. I want to know if anyone saw Bill! Even if Bill slipped away, he can't have gone far! Seal the Golden Castle... No, seal the capital! No one is allowed to leave!"

Becky was furious, almost roaring those words out.

"Now, immediately, right away, find him!"

The guards were shocked and quickly dispersed.

Becky stood in the messy room, unable to restrain his anger. He swept everything off the table with his masterful table cleaning technique.

"This kid actually ran away! Why?! I treated him so well, what else is he dissatisfied with!"

Becky's eyes turned red.

He had already given such generous conditions and even wanted to marry off his daughter. Why did Bill run away?! He had never mistreated him! Wasn't it just a little restriction on freedom? However, what he received was a blessing that ordinary people would never be able to enjoy in their entire lives!

Without the Empire Workshop and the support of the King, could Bill have developed the new blood potion? Everything he had now was obtained with the production resources of the Empire. This was his reward. How dare he run away?!

He did not show any gratitude at all!

He did not have the slightest dedication and loyalty to the royal family!

If he had known, he would have locked Bill in the dungeon and imprisoned him.

To think he was so trusted and allowed to roam free. This person was an ingrate!

Images of Bill's obedience over the past few months flashed through his mind...

Becky got more furious the more he thought about it. Suddenly, his heart ached and his vision darkened.

Plop!

"Your Majesty!"

In the last second before he fainted, he could only vaguely hear the cries of the guards beside him before he fell into complete darkness.

At this moment, at the wedding venue.

Many court officials and members of the royal family had already arrived and were chatting with each other. Everyone was smiling as they waited for the palace wedding banquet to begin today to send their blessings to Master Bill and Her Highness.

Roman stood in the crowd with a glass of wine in his hand. From time to time, he would say a few words. Every time he spoke, everyone would listen quietly. He was quite popular even amongst the officials.

Last night, he had planned Bill's escape, but at this moment, he acted as if nothing had happened. He was all smiles as he interacted with the ministers.

"After today, Master Bill will be a royal in-law. How enviable." A court minister's tone was envious.

"Sigh, it's really the blessing of the royal family and the Empire to be able to obtain such a talent." Another person sighed.

"Hehe, then let's toast to the long-term peace of the royal family and the prosperity of the Empire." Roman raised his glass with a smile.

"I wish the royal family long peace and prosperity."

Everyone repeated their words and clinked their glasses with a smile. Their pretentious style made them seem like actual nobility as well.

However, at this moment, a group of Golden Castle guards suddenly rushed into the banquet hall. Under everyone's puzzled gazes, they quickly sealed the venue and angrily chased away the busy servants, taking them away.

"What... what's going on?"

Everyone was dumbfounded.

Wasn't today the palace's wedding banquet today? What is going on now?

At this moment, the strong and burly deputy guard captain came to the group of court officials. His face was cold as he spoke in a deep voice.

"Everyone, Master Bill is missing and suspected to have escaped. All of you, follow me to be interrogated one by one!"

As soon as he finished speaking, the eyes of the court ministers and members of the royal family widened in shock.

What was going on? Bill had actually run away?!

He was courting death!

Roman looked surprised and let out a long sigh.

"That's really... too regretful!"

On the other hand,

The residents of the capital walked onto the streets, preparing to participate in the celebration of Bill and the princess' marriage. The entire city was filled with laughter.

However, when the citizens were waiting for the celebration to begin, the city guards stationed in the entire city came out in full force and directly announced the cancellation of the celebration today. They also sternly chased away the citizens who had originally planned to participate in the celebration. As long as anyone was slow, they would kick them without hesitation.

The crowded street immediately became chaotic. Many people quickly dodged after being kicked.

The sudden change confused the residents of the capital.

Everyone had been happy today, waiting to congratulate Master Bill. What was going on now?

Didn't you agree to have fun with the citizens? Why, are they not even worthy of congratulating the newlyweds?

However, soon, the entire city was under martial law. No one was allowed to enter or leave.

As for the city guards and the royal guards, they searched the streets and alleys one by one. Only then did the residents of the capital realize that something was wrong.

From these searching guards, someone finally asked for the reason.

Bill, the Chief Apothecary of the Empire, was

gone!

He had become a runaway groom!

Such explosive news stunned the residents of the capital.

When most people heard this news, their first reaction was...

What had the royal family done to make Master Bill run away?!

And the second reaction was quite realistic.

– Can we still buy energy potions in the future?

Chapter 223: Kill Bill! (1)

Chapter 223 – Kill Bill! (1)

Bill's escape shocked the entire capital. The wedding banquet that they were preparing to celebrate turned into a citywide hunt.

Irene led the team and hurriedly searched the interior of the Golden Castle. After analysis, many people felt that Bill could not have gone far. There was a high chance that he was still hiding in the Golden Castle and could not walk out.

However, the royal guards had turned the interior of the Golden Castle upside down, but they could not find Bill. In the end, they could only accept this fact and report it.

Becky had fainted from anger earlier and only woke up after some treatment. He lay in bed weakly at this moment.

He had some hope at first, but when he heard the report from the guards, he could not help but be shocked and furious. His heart ached from anger, and he could not hold back his bearing. He roared for the guards to increase the search and control everyone in the Golden Castle to find out who was the mole who cooperated with Bill's escape.

Orders were sent out one after another. The various teams of the Empire immediately acted, attempting to track down Bill's whereabouts in different ways.

Just as the Golden Castle was in chaos, Shuni, who was supposed to be the main character of today's wedding, was standing on the balcony in her gorgeous wedding clothes, silently looking at the chaotic scene below.

The banquet hall that had been carefully decorated was already in a mess. Broken bowls and plates were everywhere, as well as all kinds of food that had been trampled into meat paste.

"Bill, I hate you..."

Shuni's eyes were red and swollen, and there were still tears on her face. Her hands, which were pressed against the railing of the terrace, were clenched into fists.

After receiving the Queen's teachings yesterday, she thought about it for the entire night before she secretly made up her mind to live with Bill in peace after marrying him. She would work hard to capture Bill's heart for the sake of the royal family and herself.

Today, she woke up early and changed into her wedding clothes before nervously for the wedding to begin, but she did not expect to finally receive the tragic news of Bill escaping

The first thing she did was to be stunned. Then, she felt wronged and disappointed. She covered herself with the blanket and cried, feeling angry as she sobbed.

After experiencing a series of emotions, she was only left with unwillingness and humiliation as she looked down at the chaos in the Golden Castle.

Bill would rather run away and be hunted by the royal family than marry her... Shuni couldn't stop thinking about it.

She did not like or hate Bill. She knew that Bill might not have run away because of her, but her feelings had already been hurt. She only felt that this was a humiliation.

The biggest psychological difference was that no one cared about her current situation.

As soon as Bill ran away, everyone was looking for him. As a bride, she suddenly became ignored. No one cared about her feelings at this moment.

Even the King and Queen were too busy looking for Bill to comfort her, the bride who was supposed to marry and have a family today but had lost her groom.

It was as if she, the person involved, was air that was transparent.

Shuni bit her lower lip. She understood completely.

The smiling faces said their blessings, but in fact, in everyone's hearts, she was just a tool to win Bill over. Now that Bill had run away, the tool had lost the meaning of being paid attention to and returned to its original position.

The King and Queen had also arranged this marriage for her out of exploitation. Even if there was a portion that was for her sake, it was only as a byproduct.

The next time she would receive attention was when she got betrothed again to a new stranger. Perhaps it would be a big shot in the tribe, or perhaps it would be another talent.

This way, she would benefit from it and be noticed again because of the value of her new marriage partner. Everyone would put on the same smile as they had for the past two months and congratulate her on having a "good marriage" or along the same line.

No one cared about her feelings. She was just a tool to win over others, a "benefit" that was allocated.

In the end, it was still because she was of little importance. The significance of the princess identity tag was greater than her entire being

At this moment, Shuni felt an unprecedented desire.

For power, for strength.

"One day, I want everyone to look up to me. They won't ignore me anymore..."

Shuni wiped away her tears, took off her wedding clothes, and crumpled them into a ball before throwing them out of the balcony.

Pak!

Looking at the wedding dress falling heavily to the ground, she felt relieved, as if an invisible weight had been lifted off her shoulders.

The things that she cared about in the past no longer seemed important at this moment.

Those naive, childish, and carefree thoughts were all sealed away, leaving only a heart filled with desire.

The past me was dead, and a new me was born in this body.

And this only needed one tragic day.

The search of Bill continued from morning to evening

All the servants had been thoroughly investigated, but the group of tailor servants from last night seemed to have disappeared. Even after the head servant who arranged the work was interrogated, he still begged bitterly and explained that he knew nothing.

The patrol guards from last night were all questioned, but everyone insisted that they had never seen Bill hanging around the castle at night.

The court ministers and members of the royal family were all restrained and questioned about their connection to Bill.

Among them, the court ministers were the most suspicious. The King thought that there must be a mole who had helped Bill escape, otherwise it would be impossible for him to escape from the Golden Castle. Therefore, despite the panic and complaints of the ministers, he had the Golden Castle guards search their rooms directly and even seized the attendants of the ministers.

Roman had packed up all the clues before he decided to take action. Although he was closer to Bill, the guards could not find any evidence that he had helped Bill escape, nor could they torture the minister at will.

As for the residences in the various districts of the capital, they had all been kicked down by the city guards and searched. Even the residence of the minister was not spared. However, Roman's stronghold property was not under his name, but belonged to the blood relatives of the different tribes left in the capital. These people had complicated backgrounds, but were all his allies, so it was difficult to trace them back to him.

In addition, the city guards of the capital were also gathered and interrogated if anyone had left the city last night.

The guard captain who had been paid to open the door last night was so scared that his legs went limp.

Originally, this was the unspoken rule of the guards. If they received money, they could violate the curfew and let the residents who missed the opening hours of the city gate leave the city at night. Usually, no one would expose them, but when such a big matter happened, no one dared to hide it.

The captain of the guards could not hide it even if he wanted to. He was directly reported by a group of colleagues and taken away as he cried and screamed.

Not long after, the gains from the search were completely gathered in the King's hands.

The royal guards, city guards, and other higher-ups of the direct line of descent, led by Irene, were all gathered in the King's bedroom.

Becky didn't have the strength to go move to his study to listen to the reports. He sat on the edge of the bed and quickly listened to everyone's report, his face dark.

He covered his heart and took a few quick breaths before he spoke angrily,

"Bill left of his own accord and wasn't coerced by anyone. He has been confusing me during this period of time, but he actually wanted to escape long ago! I've never treated him badly, but he actually treated me like this!"

Irene hesitated.

"If you hadn't pushed Bill so hard, maybe nothing would have happened..."

However, this kind of thought could only be thought about in one's heart. After all, no one knew what Bill was thinking.

Becky said solemnly, "Bill is willing to give up the benefits I promised and run away with someone. Then the person who helped him must have offered a higher price than the royal family, but I haven't thought of what it is yet. This force must have a need for Bill. They probably want him to work or they desire the new blood potion formula in his hand. These people have a huge scheme... I suspect it's the various tribes. Only they have the ability to infiltrate the Golden Castle."

When everyone heard this, they did not dare to speak.

Becky took another breath and said coldly,

"Do they think that by taking Bill away, they can keep it a secret forever... Get me information. As long as there are traces of the new blood potion in any city controlled by a tribe, Bill's disappearance will most likely be related to that tribe. Ask them for him directly. If they dare not hand him over... Hmph!"

"What if new blood potions appear in many cities?" Someone could not help but ask.

"Then call them all to the capital for interrogation. Whoever doesn't dare to come will have a problem!" Becky was furious.

As he spoke, he became agitated and his heart ached again.

Becky hurriedly panted and rubbed his chest. It took him a while to calm down.

He took a deep breath before speaking, "Now that Bill has left the city, he won't be able to go far in one night. Inform the Imperial Hunters to move out immediately! They're good at tracking. Find Bill!"

At this moment, Becky paused and gritted his teeth.

“If we can’t capture him and let him fall into the hands of others, then... kill Bill!”

Everyone’s hearts skipped a beat.

He actually wanted to kill Bill...

The King was completely ignoring the backlash and acting on his own...

If he could not get him, he would destroy him. It was a pity that the other party was such a genius potion master.

With different feelings, everyone received the order and left.

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Becky was left alone in the room. He could not sit still in the pain. He lay back on the bed, feeling indignant.

With Bill gone, the royal family could no longer monopolize the resources of the new blood potion. His plans were completely disrupted.

The opportunity to stabilize the royal family for another few decades was gone.

The future of the Empire and the royal family that he had dreamed of last night seemed to have disappeared.

And for some reason, Becky had a faint intuition that Bill’s departure would be a turning point in the Empire’s decline...

At the Imperial Hunter Base.

When they received the news that Master Bill had fled, many Imperial Hunters were equally shocked.

Bill had a high reputation among the hunters. His departure made many hunters feel complicated.

Just as the hunters were watching in shock, the King’s order for the hunters to pursue was quickly conveyed.

— Try your best to capture Bill... If you can’t, kill Bill on the spot!

Upon receiving this order, the Imperial Hunters exploded. The crowd was riled up and planned to disobey for the first time.

Many Imperial Hunters rejected this order from the bottom of their hearts. Even though Master Bill left, his achievements in improving the blood potion were real.

From the perspective of a hunter, they did not think that Master Bill's unwillingness to serve the royal family was anything heinous. It was just a choice.

It was just that the royal family was furious that they had failed to monopolize the new potion. If they could not obtain it, they would want to kill such a master. In the eyes of the Imperial Hunters, this was simply a selfish and ridiculous act... As long as such a master was alive, there was a chance that he could improve the blood potion again. This was beneficial to everyone.

Now, the royal family placed the dirty and boring political struggle above the interests of everyone. The Imperial Hunters did not agree at all.

Even as Imperial Hunters, the word "Hunter" was more important. How could they attack a potion master who had given them the power to protect their people! Keriber stepped forward and comforted everyone before he persuaded the Imperial Hunters to carry out half of the orders. In other words, he sent a team to track him down and try to bring Bill back. Even if they failed, they would not kill him.

Only then did the Imperial Hunters reluctantly accept it. However, their morale was low, and they all planned to dawdle. Before long, dozens of hunters gathered at the entrance of the base, preparing to set off.

Keriber was not good at speed and had to stay in the headquarters, so he did not intend to move out together. And the commander of the tracking team was Jason.

Now, Jason had already secured his position. He could command a large number of Imperial Hunters, completely confirming his status as the second-in-command.

"Jason, it's fine if you can't catch up to Bill. If you do, you have to play it by ear."

Before they left, Keriber patted Jason's shoulder and instructed him earnestly.

Jason nodded, his tone calm.

"Don't worry, I definitely won't be able to catch up to him."

Keriber was speechless.

It's good that you understand, but there's no need to be so direct...

Chapter 224: Independence (1)

Chapter 224 – Independence (1)

Just as the Imperial Hunters set off to track them, Bill and the others had already left the capital and were speeding along in the carriage.

After escaping last night, he followed Anzar and the others to the suburbs. There were already people arranged by Roman to wait there and prepare the carriage carrier for the escape. This was to take care of Bill since he was an “ordinary person”. The journey would be too slow if they traveled based on his speed.

Because they were worried that they would be caught up by the royal family’s pursuers, the group traveled through the night. The carriage ran from night to the next afternoon without stopping.

Fortunately, the journey was quite smooth without any obstruction... It was so smooth that it did not seem like he was escaping, making Zhou Jing mistakenly think that he was on an outing.

If they were in a more developed civilization, there would definitely be interceptions everywhere. Unfortunately, the Terra Empire had developed primitively, and many times, their legs could run faster than news. Perhaps the towns they passed by later had not received the rumors when they arrived.

Realizing this, Zhou Jing was no longer tense.

The only thing to worry about was the pursuit of the Imperial Hunters, whose physical fitness was different from ordinary people. However, with Jason there, even if someone really wanted to chase after them, they would be dealt with.

“I wonder how the royal family is doing. Becky should be very angry, right? Unfortunately, Shuni is quite innocent, but I still have no choice but to run away...”

Zhou Jing sat in the carriage, bouncing up and down along with the movements of the vehicle. He chewed on the dried meat and speculated about the chain reaction that took place after he ran away.

Speaking of which, Roman was still in the capital. Would he end up with any problems?

Although this person was hiding his strength very well, he would probably not be able to gain anything in the other party’s base camp. If he was exposed, his fate might even be knocked out from him.

Zhou Jing did not care if Roman died or not. The main thing was that he was still waiting for him to fulfill his promise of learning sorcery.

“Speaking of which, I’ve already gathered enough to achieve Permanence. I’m no longer afraid of sacrificing myself.”

He opened the interface and took a look. Ever since he ran out of the capital, he had triggered a series of new achievements.

(Triggered achievement: Abandoning the Darkness, Surrendering to the Light]

(You have obtained 1000 Astral Points, 10 Information State Particles.]

(Triggered achievement: Defector)

(You have received 500 Astral Points, 5 Information State Particles.]

(You have received a new Life Episode – (Defected Empire’s Chief Pharmacist]

[Rating: National Tier]

[+3 Current Legendary Point Count]

“What a good naming sense, abandon the dark and surrender to the light. I’m afraid it’s the opposite.”

Zhou Jing took a look at the details. The trigger for this achievement was to join the opposite faction while having a certain level of status in the opposing one.

As the Chief Pharmacist of the Empire, he actually betrayed the Empire. The nature of his betrayal was terrible. Just like when he created the new blood potion, it produced a new “life episode”. In a sense, it was akin to a life milestone for Bill.

However, he was not born and raised in the Terra Empire. He did not fall for feudalism, nor would he be bound by the concept of the country. Therefore, he did not feel any psychological burden when attempting to get better benefits for himself while sacrificing the country.

As the new blood potion was put into use, Bill would receive an additional Information State Particle every time he obtained his daily settlement. Coupled with the rewards from these two achievements, he had already reached the requirement of 120 points to achieve Permanence. As soon as Bill died, he could start the clearance settlement and transform into an Eternal Apostle.

Of course, it was still the same as he had imagined. He wanted Bill to live as long as possible.

After Jason's example, Zhou Jing already had experience. The longer he lived, the more possibilities there were. The higher his evaluation, the higher the benefits he would obtain.

Mentally, however, he relaxed even more. This was equivalent to having insurance.

After all, working with Roman was also similar to asking a tiger for its skin. Bill had escaped with Roman's help, and now that he was in the hands of others, once Roman felt that he could knead him at will, he might not fulfill his promise.

If Roman did not fulfill his promise, Zhou Jing did not mind exploding into fireworks on the spot and letting Roman rebel for nothing. With his insurance of continuous respawns, he would be even more confident.

...

Half a month later, Zhou Jing followed Anzar and the others to one of Roman's strongholds.

This stronghold was hidden in the sparsely populated forest, and there were many supplies stored there. Most of the living facilities were complete, and there were more than a hundred people on standby. They were all well-trained people, and there was no lack of Mutant Blood Warriors.

Zhou Jing was temporarily placed here, protected by hundreds of people, waiting for Roman to arrive.

He had stayed in the stronghold for two months. During this period, many things had happened in the outside world, blowing up into a great storm. The news of Bill's defection spread out with the capital as the center. More and more cities learned of this matter, causing an uproar.

All kinds of rumors spread. Some said that the royal family had gone too far and forced Master Bill away. Some said that Master Bill was not satisfied with the marriage and eloped with his sweetheart.

The Empire mobilized the Imperial Hunters and royal guards to form special search teams to search for Bill's whereabouts in every city. They also issued a bounty as if Bill was a fugitive.

At this juncture, many tribes that controlled the cities announced their independence one after another, breaking away from the Empire's control and claiming that they did not recognize Tarn as the legitimate Empire any more.

It was as if Bill's defection was the fuse that ignited the plans of the various tribes.

This matter shocked the entire Empire. The citizens of the Empire were originally eating up the drama wrought by Bill's disappearance excitedly, but they did not expect themselves to suddenly become the focus of the drama now.

The royal family was caught off guard. The products and resources of many cities were directly confiscated by the tribes in charge of each city and town.

A few days after the various tribes announced their independence, King Becky Tarn responded. The general meaning was that this was a premeditated rebellion that did not recognize the independence of the tribes. He severely criticized this as regressing backwards in history and causing the country to miss the opportunity to move into feudalism.

The Empire could not be bothered to spend too many people to search for Bill at this point. They quickly retracted their combat strength and mobilized their troops to prepare for the rebellion.

However, some tribes took the initiative to attack and directly armed themselves to surround the cities directly under the Empire. As more flowers of rebellion bloomed, the Empire could not adapt quick enough to the situation. The area that the royal family controlled quickly shrank.

At the same time, the various tribes announced the establishment of an unbreakable alliance. As long as the Empire sent troops to attack any tribe, the various tribes in the world would attack together.

For a time, the empire's territory was divided. The royal family and the various tribes were in a stalemate, as if they had returned to the era of the tribes. They were even less united than back then.

Many residents of the cities under the rule of the tribes were at a loss. When they woke up and realized that their nationality had changed, they were all puzzled... It was clearly a prosperous empire, and better days were about to come. Why did it suddenly become like this?

The turmoil in the Terra Empire caused many industries to stop. For example, the Empire workshops everywhere stopped their operations, and the craftsmen could only work for the local tribes.

As the various regions announced their independence, the royal family and the various tribes did not have the time to focus on dealing with the threat of the mutant beasts. There were more and more rumors of the mutant beasts wreaking havoc in the village. Almost no more lords gathered hunters to suppress the mutant beasts, and they could only rely on the spontaneous actions of the hunters.

However, even the hunters could not stay out of the storm.

The confrontation brought about the need to expand their military forces. The various tribes began to rope in the freelance hunters as well as those Imperial Hunters in their cities, inviting them to join their tribes. They wanted to turn the hunters who were responsible for dealing with the mutant beasts into knives to deal with the other factions.

Many hunters were unwilling to point their blades at the people, but not everyone valued the rules of the hunters. The various tribes were willing to spend money and could give too much, which still moved many hunters.

Batch after batch of hunters jumped ship to join the armed forces. The strength of the two opposing factions became stronger and stronger, and the hunter group gradually shrank in the process.

The Terra Empire was divided and in turmoil.

In this chaos, Roman, who was the mastermind, finally arrived late and met up with Zhou Jing.