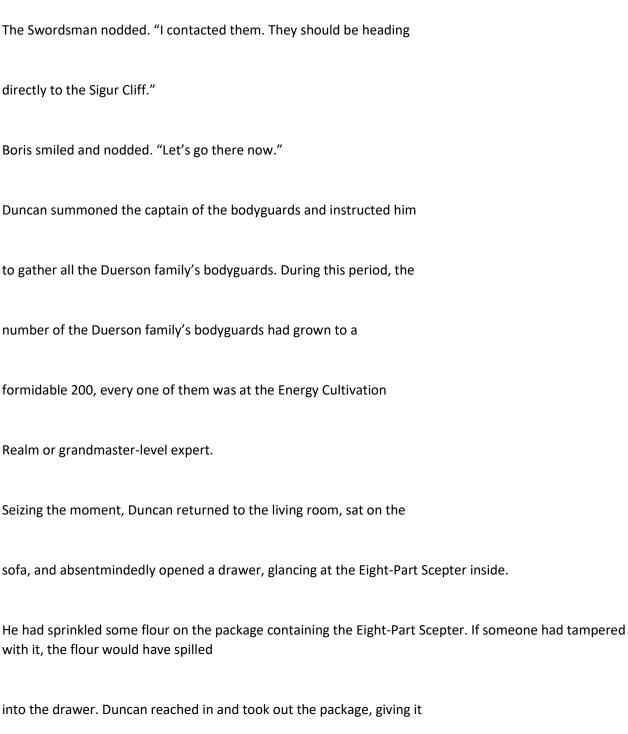
CEO Bride 861

a shake. The flour was undisturbed.

Chapter	861



At that moment, a maid placed a tray of tea on the coffee table."
Boss, have some tea!"
Duncan put down the package, closed the drawer, and asked, "Did
Mireille come down?"
The maid nodded. "Yes, she did."
"Did she behave strangely in any way?" Duncan asked again.
The maid quickly shook her head. "No, she just asked about how you
usually treat your subordinates and such."
Duncan raised a brow. He looked at the maid coldly and asked, "How did you answer?"
The maid felt a chill run down her spine under the boss's intense gaze and stammered, "I said our boss treats us very well!"
Duncan smiled with satisfaction. "You don't have to be so afraid of
As long as you do your job well and don't anger me, I won't
mistreat anyone under my command." He was strict with his subordinates, so as to establish his authority among them. He
wanted them to know his word was law.

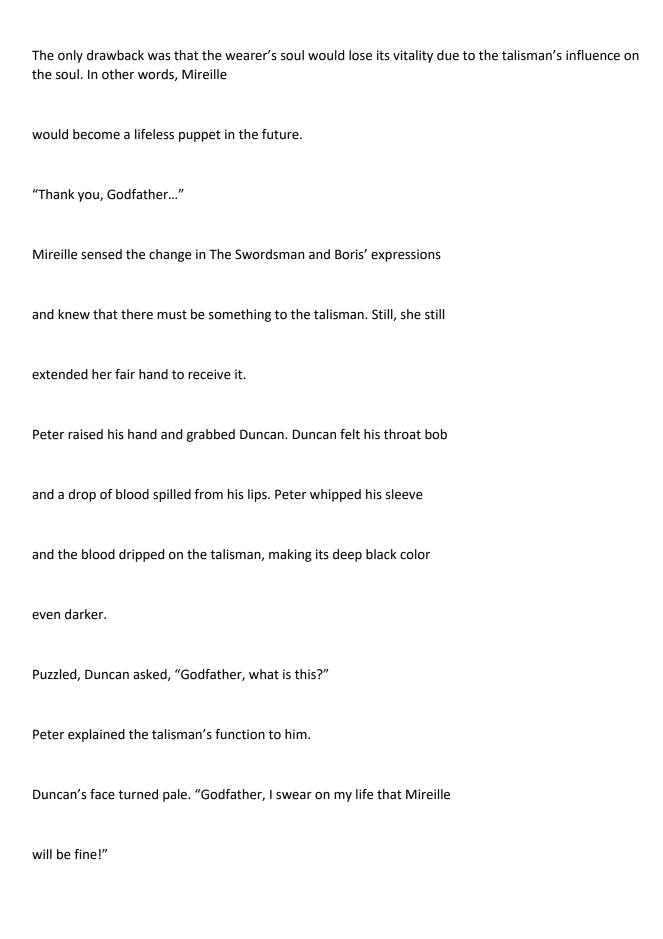
Duncan took a sip of tea, stood up, and headed upstairs. In the bedroom, Mireille was lying on the bed, sleeping on her side. Duncan sat on the edge of the bed, his well-defined fingers gently caressing.
her fair face, eyes filled with tenderness and affection.
Mireille, waking up with sleepy eyes, saw the man before her and
flashed a sweet smile, "You're back."
Duncan chuckled softly, "Did I wake you up?"
Shaking her head, Mireille said, "No, I've been sleeping for a while. I'm not sleepy anymore." Then, she cautiously added, "Will you
accompany me to see my grandfather later?"
Duncan hesitated for a moment but then regretfully said, "I might not have time today."
Mireille's eyes dimmed. "I've been away for so long. My grandfather
must be worried."
After a brief pause, Duncan smiled and said, "I'll take you back to the
Chark+ 361
pharmacy first. When I come back, I'll go to the pharmacy and look for you."

Mireille shook her head quickly. "No, I want to take you home with me!
"How about this: once I'm done with my work, I'll come back, and then.
we can go home together, alright?"
"Alright." Mireille sweetly smiled.
Duncan bent down and kissed her soft lips tenderly. Just then, The Swordsman called out from downstairs, "Duncan, it's time to go!"
Duncan was about to leave, but Mireille wrapped her arms around his
neck and continued to kiss him.
After a while, Mireille blushed and said, "I want to go too!"
Duncan gently brushed Mireille's nose and said, "You're not feeling
well. Rest well."
Mireille pouted. "I'm fine now. I even went downstairs and walked
around just now."
Duncan also wanted to stay with Mireille, so he nodded and
conceded, "Alright, but you have to promise me to stay in the car and

not run around."
Joyfully, Mireille kissed Duncan on the cheek, then sat up from the
bed.
Duncan crouched down to help Mireille put on her shoes. It was a heartwarming scene and Mireille even found herself a bit lost in
thought. If he were not Duncan, perhaps he would have made a
Chapter 862
Duncan led Mireille downstairs. The Swordsman and Boris who were chatting on the sofa were momentarily surprised to see Mireille.
Was this not the woman Duncan brought back before who then. escaped? Back then, Nash had personally come to the Duerson family for her. Peter had not been with them at that time so when he saw that his godson had found such a beautiful girlfriend, his face lit
up with joy.
"Mireille, let me introduce you to my three godfathers!
"This is The Swordsman, my godfather!"
Mireille bowed, "Hello, Godfather!"
The Swordsman nodded calmly. Duncan then moved on to Boris.

"And this is Boris, also my godfather!"
"Hello, Godfather!" Mireille greeted sweetly.
Boris' face showed little expression as he asked straightforwardly,"
What's your relationship with Nash?"
Worried that Mireille might be frightened, Duncan explained, "Nash is her grandfather's grandmaster!"
Hearing this, Boris smiled faintly, "Then you should have a good relationship with him, right?"
Mireille calmly replied, "I've only met Nash a few times, and it was when I delivered him medicine on my grandfather's behalf."
In reality, she was feeling nervous to be facing the three of them.
In reality, she was feeling nervous to be facing the three of them. Fortunately, her grandfather often took her to meet important figures, which allowed her to cultivate the ability to remain composed in such
Fortunately, her grandfather often took her to meet important figures, which allowed her to cultivate
Fortunately, her grandfather often took her to meet important figures, which allowed her to cultivate the ability to remain composed in such
Fortunately, her grandfather often took her to meet important figures, which allowed her to cultivate the ability to remain composed in such situations.
Fortunately, her grandfather often took her to meet important figures, which allowed her to cultivate the ability to remain composed in such situations. Boris' eyes narrowed. "Do you really like Duncan?" Unconsciously tightening her grip on Duncan's hand, Mireille replied, I am now Duncan's woman. In the

Duncan was a deeply calculating person and must have investigated this woman thoroughly from various angles. Moreover, considering
their strength, even if this woman had some ulterior motives, she
would not be able to achieve them.
"And this is Peter, my other godfather!" Duncan said finally.
Mireille pursed her lips and greeted, "Hello, Godfather!"
"Alright, alright. Nice to meet you. I didn't prepare any gifts for our first meeting, I'll give you a protective amulet!"
SO
Peter took out a black crystal talisman from his bag and handed it to
Mireille.
The Swordsman and Boris frowned slightly. Peter had previously introduced this crystal talisman, it was a hypnotic talisman that he had personally developed. The talisman required human blood to
activate. The donor of the blood would be the master while the
wearer of the talisman would be loyal to the master.
Chang 662



Peter smiled but said, "I trust no one in this family apart from you
your other two godfathers." Chapter 863
"For safety reasons, it's better to let her wear it. Don't allow problems to occur just because of a woman," The Swordsman advised.
Duncan looked at Mireille helplessly as she immediately hung the talisman around her neck. Instantly, her eyes went from white to black, and the sweet smile on her face gradually stiffened. She stood
next to Duncan like a lifeless shell.
Peter chuckled. "Duncan, you don't need to worry. You can remove the talisman once we kill Nash. Now, you can ask her any questions and she will reply with the truth!"
Duncan sighed and smiled bitterly before turning to Mireille and asking, "Do you like me?"
Mireille nodded gently. "A bit"
A smile lit Duncan's face while at the same time, his eyes filled with
guilt. "Did you come for the Eight-Part Scepter?" he asked again
Mireille shook her head. "No, I just happened to pass by the D
Villa and wanted to find someone to chat with to pass the time.
Duncan finally relaxed. He looked at Peter and said, "I'll take of talisman now. I love her, and I don't want her to become a soull



dead, I'll remove the talisman." Mireille nodded mechanically. On the surface, it did not look like anything was wrong. However, she was sneering on the inside. powerful individuals were not very smart for revealing the funct the talisman. The protective talisman Master Eric gave her had worked. Before coming to the Duerson family, Angelica had informed her about powerful and sinister Path taker who had joined the Duerson famil Later, Atlas insisted that she carry the talisman with her. To prevent the Path taker from discovering the talisman, she wrapped it in a type of digestible herbal paste and then swallowed it. It was perhaps due to the talisman in her stomach that it could not completely counteract the effects of the hypnotic talisman. She now felt an overall chill run through her body as her memories turned hazy. Outside the Duerson Villa, rows of black cars were parked. When the head of the security team saw three Rolls-Royce pull out, he immediately spoke into his earpiece, "We can depart now!" Leading the way were over 30 black cars, followed by three Rolls-Royces, and behind them, another thirty-plus cars. Finally, a small

cargo truck brought up the rear, carrying a well-crafted sandalwood

coffin.
Duncan, Boris, and Mireille were in the same car. Duncan held Mireille
in his arms, using his warmth to keep her body temperature up.
Meanwhile, Mireille pondered how to get hold of the Eight-Part Scepter and escape from Duncan's control.
"Duncan, you must keep a close eye on the Eight-Part Scepter. Don't
let it fall to Nash or his group!"
In the end, their greatest trump card was the ghoul overlord while the Eight-Part Scepter could counter the ghoul overlord. If it fell into their hands, the consequences would be unimaginable.
"Don't worry, Godfather. I've recruited enough warriors during this time. I've also grasped how to use the Eight-Part Scepter somewhat. As long as they're not Mystique Loyalty Realm experts, no one will be able to take the scepter."
Duncan took out a silk scarf from his pocket that was covered in
Paganish writing and said with a smile, "There are still some parts left that I haven't committed to memory. Once I fully remember them, I'll
burn it!"
A glimmer of clarity flashed in the depths of Mireille's pitch-black
eyes. Her eyeballs slowly moved downward as she joined the man in reading the Paganish script on the silk scarf.

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Nash's duel with The Swordsman had long spread throughout the

martial arts world. Martial arts forums featured this explosive news

prominently, with the moderators pinning the thread for all to see. The post's comments exceeded a million and the number of shares

had soared above ten million.

Ordinary martial arts schools and fighters were unfamiliar with The

Swordsman in the secular world. When informed individuals disclosed The Swordsman's background, phrases like Black Wind Mountain and Mystique Loyalty Realm expert invoked awe.

Someone in the comments section asked, [Who is Nash?]

The informed person replied with just five words: [Johnathan Calcraft's successor!]

Once again, the comments section erupted. In the martial arts world, while one might not know the martial arts grandmasters Aria Winfeld or Wren Bosja, everyone knew Johnathan Calcraft.

His legend could be traced back to the Light Dynasty. He legend who had lived from ancient times to the present, a existence spanning nearly eight centuries. In the modern era great medical practitioner, Thomas King, and Drakonia's p Francis Dunn, were his disciples.

Rumors spoke of Johnathan taking on a third disciple, but no one knew who this third disciple was. Now, the truth was finally revea

His name was Nash Calcraft. A netizen named Lord Morale in the cultivation. At the revelation, Nash gained widespread approval from martial artists.

It turned out that Nash was 24 years old and was in the Profound $\,$

Reality Realm. The comments section went completely wild.

[Profound Reality Realm at 24? How is that possible?]

[I also find it unbelievable. Our family spent a billion in annual salary

to invite a Profound Reality Realm expert, and he is over a hundred

and thirty years old!]

[He must be one of those young masters from the top ten families in

Capiton. My apologies!]

[Achieving the Profound Reality Realm at a hundred and thirty is

already a remarkable feat. My grandfather is only a stage six great-

grandmaster and he's 95!]

[At least he is Johnathan's disciple. Question Nash and question the

master himself!]
The Kleins were one of the top Ten Families in Capiton. Timoth
Klein, the head, and his seven sons sat together on the couch.
Everyone had worried expressions on their faces while the main himself was sipping tea calmly.
The atmosphere in the living room was a bit oppressive. Finally, Marvin could not help but speak up first. "If Nash dares declare w on The Swordsman, it means his strength has surpassed the Mystique Loyalty Realm!"
The fourth brother, Moses, sneered. "Brother, you're just spreading
alarmist talk. Nash is so young, how could he possibly reach the
Mystique Loyalty Realm even if he started cultivating from the womb? That's only 20 years of cultivation he's got."
Marvin laughed coldly. "Didn't you all think the same when we
discussed him being in the Profound Reality Realm before?"
With this statement, Moses was immediately speechless.
The third brother, Melvin, smiled and said, "This kid is growing too
fast, but he's also too arrogant. Even if he has broken through to the

Mystique Loyalty Realm, he can't possibly be a match for The
Swordsman!"
The fourth brother nodded in agreement. "Melvin is right. The Swordsman has been famous for a long time. How could a fledgling
kid like him challenge him?"
Marvin did not refute him. Nash's growth was indeed a bit terrifying in
terms of talent, but he was still a bit too presumptuous for daring to challenge The Swordsman.
Chapter 865
Others might not know The Swordsman, but the Ten Families of
Capiton knew of him. There were very few people in the world who
could withstand the completed Seven Deadly Sword Technique.
Timothy slowly set down the teacup and looked at his seven sons,
asking, "How do you all view the Duerson family?"
The seven looked at each other, their expressions changing slightly.
Not only did today's events cause a sensation in the martial arts

world, but the business world had also been stirred up into a storm. The Duerson family established a business alliance, absorbing the top three families, which were the Watsons, Zells, and Lees. From now on, Jonford would be under the Duersons' thumb. Marvin gloomily said, "The Duerson themselves aren't formidable, but what's frightening is that they have two Mystique Loyalty Realm powerhouses with them." The second son, Merlin, squinted his eyes and said, "They also ha that evil Path taker, Peter Sontag. His ghoul overlord is the bigge threat!" Timothy stroked his snowy white beard while gazing at his eldest and second sons with a smile that was not quite a smile, "The enemy of our enemy is our friend. If they can kill Nash, they will be helping us remove a thorn from our side!" Nash posed a significant threat to the Klein family. With their Great Ancestor currently breaking through the seal, the Klein's martial (Chapté: Bos forces could not be easily deployed, which allowed Nash to continue growing. Fortunately, the sudden rise of the Duerson family stirred up

trouble in Jonford, creating chaos.
In this decisive battle now, Nash would still be unable to deal with the
Duerson family despite his strength. The only outcome for him in this
battle was defeat.
The fourth son, Moses, chuckled, "Father, if the Duerson family can. get rid of Nash, perhaps we can join forces with them. With their
assistance, our family would not be far from becoming the next
Young family!"
The Klein family was one of the Ten Families of Capiton, possessing
trillions in wealth as well as controlling Drakkonia's crucial economic sectors. The family has a complete and independent business chain and does not need to worry about money. What they needed to do was to make the Klein family an immortal family like how the Young
family once was.
If, in their lifetime, they could accomplish the grand goal of unifying the business world under the Klein family, their graves would be worshiped by future generations and their names would be remembered in the family's history for generations to come.
Timothy paused and glanced at Moses, smiling faintly. "Duncan is decisive and ruthless kid, he is indeed a rare talent. But he acts recklessly and without regard for consequences. He'd only bring
trouble upon himself!"

The deaths of thousands at Quiet Winds Church and within the Watson and Lee families would surely not escape the scrutiny of the National Martial Bureau and the Special Security Department. Even a powerful entity like the Young family did not have the gall to go against the country. No matter how enormous a family might be, it was but a tiny existence before a nation. Timothy believed Duncan was making himself too high-profile and would ultimately struggle to achieve greatness. Although he gathered quite a number of strong individuals, the National Martial Bureau and the Special Security Department were not to be underestimated. While a ghoul overlord was powerful, it still would not be able to withstand the army's nuclear weapons. Marvin understood what his father's words were implying and smiled." You've thought this through." The seventh son, Martin, narrowed his eyes and laughed. "Father, do you think they will win or lose this battle?" Timothy sat back on the sofa, lifted the teacup, took a sip, and then replied with a faint smile, "Whether they win or lose doesn't have much to do with us. We'll just enjoy the show!"

Royal Bay, Villa 14.

Skadi and the others were browsing the martial arts forums phones just when Eric came down the stairs with Cillian. At this moment, Cillian's face was pale, his silver hair dry and disheveled. He lacked the immortal spirit he once had. Seeing his master coming down, Atlas impatiently said, "Master, Duerson family has gone to Sigur Cliff!" Eric nodded. "We should leave too." i tapter bes Atlas was surprised. "Aren't we waiting for Nash?" Eric sighed. "Let's go first. He still needs some time before breaking through to the Mystique Loyalty Realm." Chapter 866 A group of people arrived at the entrance only to see about a hundred others there. There were martial artists in martial arts attire, Path takers in their robes, and some elite bodyguards in suits, all exuding a murderous aura. Olivia, Kai, and Sydney stood at the forefront. The

bodyguards were the three families's core forces.
Sydney was furious. She had just attended a graduation ceremony,
and when she returned, her family had been robbed. Even her treasury
was frozen, and her family members were taken to the Sigur Cliff by
the Duersons' people. She mobilized all of the Zell family's bodyguards to rescue her family. The Watsons and Lees were also equally unwilling to take any of this lying down.
Today, they were determined to settle the score with Duncan.
Eric looked at Kai, Helena, as well as Olivia and Sydney, and said, "You. guys don't need to join, you'll just increase casualties!"
Infuriated, Sydney retorted, "All my family members have
must rescue them!"
taken, I
Eric gave Sydney a disdainful look. "Your lot isn't enough
with The Swordsman."
Immediately, Eric looked at the group behind him and said below the great-grandmaster level are not allowed to go!"
At the back, Jezebel and Winnie silently lowered their heads.

"I have the Unicorn Arm!" Ken called out nervously. Eric glanced at Ken's right hand and said, "You can go!" His face immediately lit up with a smile. Finn turned to Melody and said, "Your internal injuries haven't healed. yet. Maybe you shouldn't go either." Melody's eyes turned cold and an immense aura instantly pressed down on Finn, making it difficult for him to breathe. Although her injuries were not completely healed, being in the Profound Reality. Realm made her more than capable of dealing with great- grandmaster and grandmaster-level martial artists. Skadi cautiously said, "Mr. Cillian, maybe you shouldn't go either. Stay at my place and recover peacefully." Cillian's face darkened. He fixed his gaze on Skadi and replied, "Can you stop bothering me?" Quiet Winds Church suffered tragic destruction by the Duerson family's forces, and now this woman was telling him to stay behind. and recover peacefully. How could he not avenge his dead disciples. and fellow martial brothers? Skadi timidly took two steps back, not daring to speak again moment, a BMW stopped near them. Jasper poked his head out of the car window. "When are we lea

Eric said calmly, "We are leaving now." A moment later, a dozen luxurious cars headed towards the Sigur Cliff in a grand procession. The scene at Royal Bay appeared in Nash's mind. His spiritual power could now cover an area of abou three thousand meters in radius. S At his core, the golden liquid was undulating irregularly. The room was filled with smoke and the dense aura formed a swirling cloud around Nash. The ring on his finger continued to release spiritual energy continuously. Nash, however, was feeling distressed. One Golden Onyx Pill should have been enough for him to break through to the Mystique Reality. Realm. He had already consumed two of it and the ring in his hand.

was releasing a large amount of spiritual energy, yet he could not

form a cold core. Was the pill not right or what was required of him much higher?

On the rooftop of the villa, the Bladesman was standing with his
hands behind his back, his brows slightly furrowed. The unkempt old
man beside him sighed. "If an ordinary person took two Gold Crow
Pills, they would probably have already exploded and died. How is it
still not enough for that Nash kid? How did he manage to do it?"
The Sword Emperor suddenly relaxed his brows and chuckled, "He. has dragon's blood in his body, his physique far surpasses an ordinary person."
The unkempt old man nodded vaguely, then asked, "Can we hel
The Bladesman shook his head. "We can't help. He has to rely o
himself."
If they wanted to help Nash, they would need to find a large num of spirit-infused herbs, but such herbs were rare, and ordinary spiritual herbs were like a drop in the ocean for him.
The unkempt old man sighed helplessly, "If he can't break through to
the Mystique Loyalty Realm, he'll probably become a joke in the
Chatfction
martial arts world."

If Nash failed to break through, there would be no showdown with The Swordsman. The entire martial arts world was now discussing the decisive battle between them and if Nash avoided the battle, he

would only become a laughingstock in the martial arts world.

"He's not a child, why bother caring so much about what others think? "The Bladesman smiled faintly, then leaped into the air, turning into a streak of light and disappearing.

"True," the unkempt old man muttered and his figure gradually faded

away.

Inside the room.

"My Substitute CEO Bride" is a romantic novel that unfolds as a determined protagonist steps into the corporate world, facing unexpected challenges. Amidst professional complexities, a marriage of convenience emerges, weaving a tale of love, ambition, and unforeseen connections.

My Substitute CEO Bride

The master descended from the mountain to fulfill his marriage contract, but was rejected by the eldest young lady. Unexpectedly, the second young lady of the house was willing to substitute for her cousin and marry the husband.. My Substitute CEO Bride Novel review My Substitute CEO Bride" is a romantic novel that revolves around the intriguing dynamics of corporate life and unexpected romance. The story unfolds as a capable yet unconventional woman finds herself thrust into the corporate world, assuming the role of CEO as a substitute. As she navigates the challenges of corporate leadership, she encounters a charismatic and enigmatic counterpart. The narrative explores the complexities of their professional and personal relationship, blending elements of business intrigue with the emotional nuances of romance. The characters grapple with professional expectations, personal growth, and the unpredictable nature of love, making "My Substitute CEO Bride" a captivating journey through the intersections of work and romance, revealing how unexpected circumstances can lead to profound transformations in both the boardroom and matters of the heart.

Posted by Admin00, Released on February 24, 2024

Chanter 867

Nash was drenched in sweat. His spintual power was insufficient and he was not able to form the energy center. He was stuck at the half- step to the Mystique Loyalty Realm and was unable to progress or
PaOress.
ootd not break through, then it meant that he would not be having teeneecssivel battle with The Swordsman. Withoun defeating The
weresnaan, Duncan would only become more ruthless, slojoaford wooldussuffer.and everyone around him, including nimisedelfy would be at
lash's dazze tuned ofoodshot. His deep-seated grudge was ststill
nresolveailliss revenge against the Kleins undone. How catduin he lose
b Duncea??
lutside the witbaltegra got out of the car and walked into thele
ourtyard.
uddenly, an exootdestonsstartled her, causing her to sit on the ground
i shock. A streak of apoteen light burst through the titanium all
oor of the baserneanbaru dew into Nash's room.
lera patted her chest, still baripped by fear.
Miss, what happened?? Marital hurriedly walked out of the house

elped Hera up/

It's nothing, Nash's practicingo" "Heera smiled weakly with a pale fac Maria asked again, "Why dickyouumishwork so early today?"

Hera sighed lightly. "Jonfordissimotlages. The Duersons took over the

23

Watsons, Zells, and Lees, causing a mess in the entire business

chain. Now, all the big and small companies have suspended work,

and there are large numbers of workers protesting on the streets!"

"How could this happen?" Maria exclaimed.

Hera shook her head with a bitter smile. "I don't know. I want to ask

Nash about it but it seems like he's not really available at the

moment. By the way, where are Melody and the others?"

Maria shook her head. "I don't know. They went out last night and

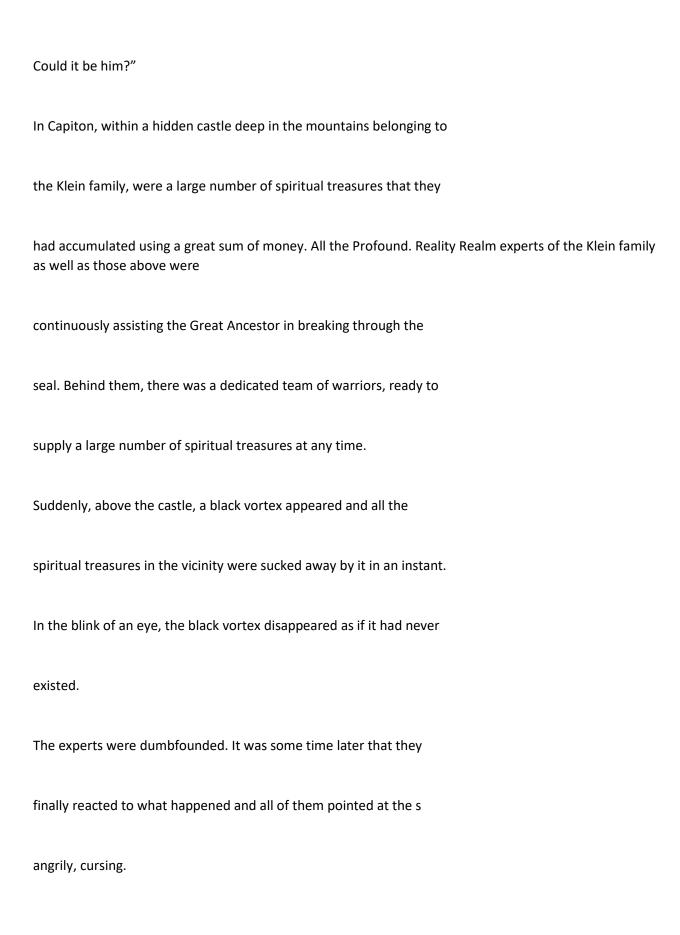
haven't come back today."

On the second floor, the Divine Farmer's Cauldron was inverted above

Nash's head and a large amount of spiritual energy was pouring from it like a waterfall. The vortex above Nash's head was like an unfilled abyss. No matter how much spiritual energy there was, it was all devoured by the vortex. Half an hour passed and the golden liquid in Nash's energy center became more rounded. The spiritual energy pouring down from the Divine Farmer's Cauldron was decreasing. Nash sighed. At this rate, he still would not be able to break throu to the Mystique Reality Realm. Just when he felt despair, a dazzli light suddenly appeared before his eyes. Nash's eyes widened in astonishment as the entire room was engulfed by the glaring light. The room went stark white and it was as if he had entered another realm. "What... is this?" Nash mumbled as he gazed into the distance. Suddenly, a figure appeared and it was walking toward him through.

the blinding light. The figure was an old man dressed in white. He had
white hair and a benevolent expression, giving off an ethereal and
wise aura.
"This what" Nash stammered, staring into the distance.
The old man approached him with a smile, and Nash exclaimed with
tears in his eyes, "Master!"
Johnathan smiled. "Little brat, allow me to help you one more time!"
Chapter 868
Johnathan raised his withered hand and made a grabbing motion. Four pitch-black vortexes appeared around Nash, surrounding him.
from all sides.
At the same time, in a luxurious villa located in the heart of Phoenix
Island, Francis was sitting cross-legged on a mystical ice bed,
breaking through to the Mystique Loyalty Realm. The bed was inscribed with a mysterious array and various peculiar stones were arranged within it. The formation activated, drawing in vast spiritual energy and turning the entire room into a sea of clouds

In Francis's energy center, a gold core had already taken shape. The man was extremely excited; he had been waiting for this day for 30
years.
Suddenly, a black vortex appeared in the sea of clouds. In an instant, all the spiritual energy in the room was sucked away, leaving nothing
behind.
"Damn it!!" his deafening voice echoed through the sky and the
luxurious villa instantly crumbled into pieces.
The others on the island were immediately excited as well when they saw this scene. They all got down on one knee and exclaimed in unison, "Congratulations to the Island Lord for breaking through to the Mystique Loyalty Realm!"
However, Francis's face turned as cold as ice at their wishes. "Save
your congratulations! Someone stole my spiritual energy!"
The moment he said that everyone looked at each other in shock. They were all part of the same island and the nearest shore was
about 500 miles away. What kind of existence could steal the Island
Lord's spiritual energy from such a distance?
Francis looked up at the sky, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes. "



In a deep bottomless abyss somewhere, lies a transparent coffin
containing a miserable white skeleton. The area around the skeleton
was filled with crystal-clear small stones. They were spiritual stones containing spiritual energy in the secular world.
are
A black vortex appeared above the abyss and a powerful suction
force slowly lifted the coffin lid. The skeletal figure inside the coffin. gripped the sides of the coffin tightly as the lid was lifted
Boom! The coffin lid slammed back down. The black vortex spun.
wildly and the entire coffin slowly rose. The skeletal figure clenched
its teeth and forcefully patted the inside of the coffin, causing it to
Irop and sink hundreds of meters deep.
"Why so stingy? I'm just borrowing a few spiritual stones?" came a
lazy voice from the vortex.
The skeletal figure's jaw unhinged and closed as it replied, "You call



Chapter 869
As if having come to an answer, the skeleton grinned and said, "You
can go now, don't disturb my sleep!"
The black vortex slowly disappeared into the air, taking the skeleton
and the coffin with it into the depths of the earth.
At Quiet Winds Church's forbidden grounds, another black vortex
appeared above the spirit lake out of nowhere.
Jupiter was on guard duty in the forbidden grounds. When he saw the
vortex in the air, his expression changed instantly.
Suddenly, a deafening roar echoed from the spirit lake. Following that,
a phantom of a giant dragon head emerged from the water. The phantom was extremely massive, and Jupiter felt like an ant in front
of it. The shock he felt was beyond description.

"Huh, why are a few ribs missing?" came a puzzled voice from

vortex.



radius.

He opened his eyes that looked like the unfathomable starry sky. The world was still snowy white and his master was smiling contentedly in front of him.

Nash knelt before his master, bowing. "Thank you, master." Without him, he could not have broken through to the Mystique Loyalty Realm.

Johnathan was about to reach out to help Nash up but thered

sadly at his illusory figure. He could only smile faintly and sa child, get up! $\!\!\!\!^{\prime\prime}$

He turned around and slowly added, "This is the last time I car $\,$

you."

Nash stood up. "Master, did you ascend to the immortal realm f

tribulation?"

Johnathan smiled faintly. "There is no such thing as an immortal



With that, a beam of light shot into Nash's mind with a flick of Johnathan's fingers.

Nash's consciousness tingled with pain. When he opened his ey again, he was back in his room. He abruptly sat up from the bed, touching his brow and murmuring, "Heavenly Martial Technique – Eight Desolate Crumbling Fist!"

The screen of his phone nearby lit up. Hera had sent him a message. asking if he was coming out of seclusion.

Nash put the phone in his pocket, and in a flash, leaped out of the window. He landed at the door, took a step, and appeared directly in

the living room.

Hera stared at Nash wide-eyed. She had just sent the message and

the chat window was still open on her phone.

Nash smiled, opening his arms, and Hera happily jumped into his

embrace. "Have you become powerful again?"

Which part are you referring to?" Nash teased with a smile.

What else? I'm referring to your martial arts of course!" Hera blushed

sslightly, pouting. "The situation in Jonford is getting chaotic and here you are still talking nonsense!"

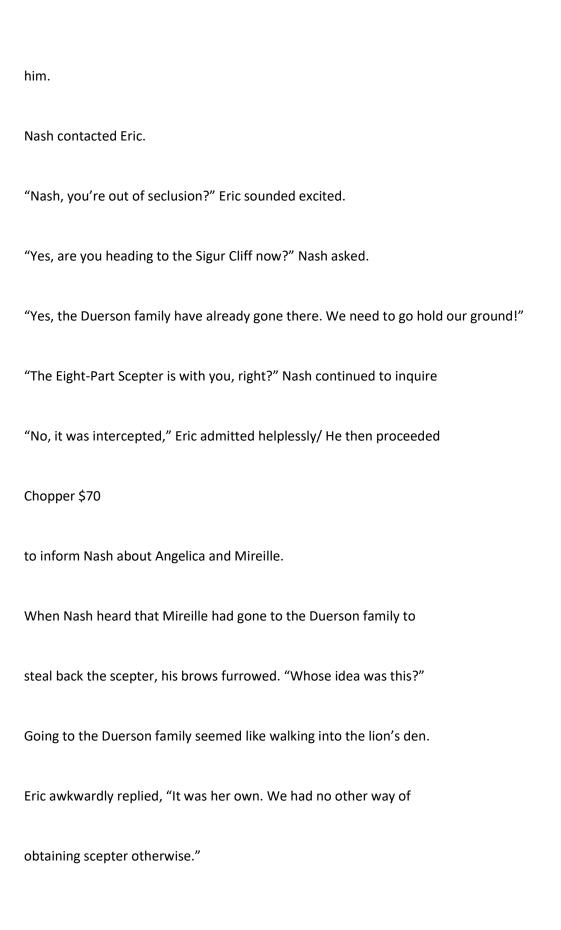
How chaotic is it? Tell me about it."

Nash reached out into the air and an apple from the fruit tray on the coffee table flew into his hand. He took a bite and chewed thoughtfully.

Meanwhile, Hera disclosed the events that happened to the Watsons, Zells, and Lees to him. The three families had transferred 70% of their assets. In an attempt to resist Duncan's dominance, the families' trusted subordinates shut down all their companies. These three families controlled 60% of the commerce in Jonford. Once their companies shut down, it would trigger a butterfly effect, affecting all industries in Jonford, big and small.

"When did this happen?" Nash inquired.

Nash had considered that Duncan might target the top three families, but he had not expected the assault to occur before his showdown with The Swordsman. It was as if Duncan completely disregarded



Before Nash could even start pointing fingers, Eric continued, "Quiet
Winds Church did not escape disaster either."
After taking another firm bite of the apple, Nash asked, "How many
casualties?"
"Except for Cillian and a five-year-old disciple, everyone else perished,
Eric revealed heavily.
Nash did not ask about the reason behind it. At this point, all the
questions would be meaningless.
Seeing Nash silent, Eric spoke again, "We're almost there; you should
come over quickly!"
With that, he ended the call. Nash put down his phone. He lost appetite for the remaining apple and casually tossed the half-eat
fruit into the trash bin.
Turning around, Hera hugged Nash's neck and asked, "Are you goin to fight Swordsman?"
Holding Hera's soft waist in his arms, he smiled faintly and replied, There will be no peace in Jonford until we deal with the Duerson

family."
Hera worried. She had witnessed The Swordsman's methods and did not want Nash to take such a risk. "Can't anyone from the other departments handle them?"
Nash tightened his embrace around Hera and smiled, "Are you talking about the National Martial Bureau?"
At these words, Hera's eyes dimmed. The National Martial Bureau had recently used her to capture Nash. They would not likely lend a hand to help him after Nash retaliated.
At that moment, a group of people walked in, they were Skadi, Bianca, Olivia, Helena, Kai, Zakariah, and Brian.
Hera quickly got out of Nash's embrace and sat down next to him,
blushing.
"Nash, did you break through to the Mystique Loyalty Realm?" Skadi approached and asked.
Everyone looked at Nash with anticipation. They knew that only Nash could reverse the situation and save Jonford
Nash nodded with a smile. "Fortunately, I managed to break
Everyone's expressions relaxed at that.
Nash stood up and said, "I'm going to Sigur Cliff. Stay in Jonfor

don't go anywhere!"

With that, he walked toward the door.