Chapter 14	//
------------	----

Hearing that, the trio then agreed to head to Heartstone Manor together first.

Yul had come looking for Perla since the Sherwins had initially been quite a prestigious and influential family in Jenna City. However, due to the Dun family's schemes, the fall of the Sherwin family came shortly after. With that in mind, though Perla had initially driven a luxury car worth at least seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, she now only drove an ordinary BMW 7 Series.

Of course, Gerald didn't mind that at all.

On their way there, Perla began telling Gerald about the Heartstone Manor. As it turned out, the manor had a history of over a thousand years, and the earliest depictions of it stated that the manor had first been established by a prince and nobleman from ancient times.

Later on, the manor was eventually contracted by the Waddys who acted as the manor's developer. Following that, they began conducting many large-scale tourism projects there.

Aside from that, the manor was also used as the venue of the underground festival.

Regardless, since the Heartstone Manor was going to be closed up in just one more day, many people were already flocking the area by the time the trio got there.

Eventually, Perla managed to park the car in the crowded parking lot. Just as the trio was about to head off, all three of them suddenly heard a feminine voice sneering, "Who's car is this? Who allowed you to park here?!"

Turning around, Gerald saw that a high-end Mercedes Benz had stopped right in front of Perla's car, and several men and women had just stepped out of it. The one who had yelled at them appeared to be a woman who also seemed to be the leader of the group.

Before she could further ridicule the trio, however, both Perla and the woman suddenly froze in surprise.

After a brief moment, both of them called out each other's names in near-unison.

"Perla?"

"Jenny?"

The second after she said that, Perla's face instantly reddened in embarrassment as she stared at the woman who looked to only be a few years older than her.

On the contrary, there was a smug look on Jenny's face as she crossed her arms while sneering, "So it's you, Perla! Aren't you a bit too free to be having fun here at Heartstone Manor? Don't you have work to attend to or something?"

"Who is she, Jenny?" asked one of the young men from Jenny's group. All it took was a glance for Gerald to see that all of them were wearing clothes befitting fashionable nobles. It was also evident that they all had contempt in their eyes.

"You could call her my cousin, I guess... Her mother is my grandmother's adopted daughter, you see, and she eventually ended up getting married into the Sherwin family. I trust that all of you have already heard about what happened to the Sherwins, correct? With that in mind, I really hadn't expected her to still have the heart to come play around at Heartstone Manor! A place where only the wealthy can afford to come to!" replied Jenny.

It was really no secret that cousin sisters sometimes enjoyed comparing themselves with each other. Jenny, for one, had always been jealous of Perla. After all, she could never even come close to comparing with her in the past. Now that tragedy had befallen the Sherwins, however, she finally had the opportunity to mock Perla to her heart's content!

"You...!" growled the enraged Perla. However, she knew that there was nothing else she could really say.

A wry smile on his face, Gerald simply shook his head before saying, "Let's just go, Perla!"

Nodding in response, Perla was just about to leave with the other two when Jenny suddenly shouted, "Stop right there!"

"What is it now, Jenny..." asked Perla.

"What do you mean, what 'what is it now'? Move your d*mned car out of the way! How dare you have the guts to even park your cheap car in this expensive parking lot?!" retorted Jenny, feeling extremely frustrated.

"I know, right? To think that she even brought along that pathetic pauper!" chimed in another girl who had been standing beside Jenny.

The second they heard the words, 'pathetic pauper', Gerald and Yul instantly turned back to look at the girl.

"...Huh? Pathetic pauper? Who do you mean, Poppy?" asked Jenny.

"That guy, of course! He's from our university and he's as poor as a church mouse!" declared Poppy as she pointed at Yul.

Hearing that, Yul instantly blushed and lowered his head.

"You're really frustrating me, you know that, Perla? How did you ever manage to end up in such a pathetic state? To think that you'd actually bring two paupers along to have fun at such a high-end place! Couldn't you have just brought them to an amusement park or something? Hell, you could've just spent a little more money to bring them to Disneyland to have a look around! With that said, there was absolutely no reason for you to bring both of them here! I mean, just look at what both of them are wearing!"

Chapter 1478

Following that, Jenny and the others covered their mouths as they laughed.

While she hadn't confirmed whether Gerald was truly a pathetic pauper, she simply assumed that that was the case since he didn't actually look like someone who came from a good background. With that in mind, she simply ran her mouth without a care in the world.

"Jenny! You can insult me all you want, but you aren't allowed to insult my master!" retorted the enraged Perla.

"... What? He's your master?!" yelled Jenny as she and her group of friends roared out in laughter.

"Speaking of masters... I heard from my mother that your grandfather doesn't even seem to care about his business anymore. She mentioned something about him bringing you around to look for a famous master to teach you martial arts or something... Could it actually be that... That guy's the famous master that your grandfather got for you?!" added Jenny who was still covering her mouth from laughing so much.

Seconds after she said that, a strong-looking and muscular man—who was wearing a pair of sunglasses—suddenly walked forward from behind Jenny before saying, "Oh? This brother here's a master? With how thin he is, I'm sure he must be extremely skillful!"

Obviously into fitness, the man then added, "I apologize for not noticing a peer earlier! Speaking of which, I'm the general manager of the Styraburgh Entertainment Club, and I've also been the champion of the Jenna Province Fighting Champion for three consecutive years in a row! Hahaha! Regardless, why don't we shake hands since we're peers?"

After saying that, the man instantly straightened his neck, creating intimidating cracking sounds.

Startled by that, Yul immediately tried to advise Gerald to hurry up and leave.

He wasn't exactly a wimp, but since it was pretty obvious that this group of people had bad intentions, Yul felt that it would be best if they didn't mess with Jenny's group of friends. From that thought process alone, it was apparent that Yul had forgotten that he was actually richer than them now.

Regardless, the girls found themselves snickering among themselves as they witnessed the scene play out.

Benson had always been like this. He would ask to shake the other party's hand, and once they did, Benson's opponents would surely end up screaming in pain. If it was one thing Benson enjoyed the most, it was making his opponents feel humiliated. After all, he was a famous winner!

Either way, after seeing that Gerald's only response was a subtle smile, Benson then scoffed, "Come on, brother! It's just a handshake! What are you so afraid of? Hahaha! Speaking of which, I hope you realize that we had been eyeing that parking spot for a while now! Just so you know, all I need to make is a single phone call for your car to be turned into a pile of scrap metal~ Now, if we were friends, however, I'd surely allow you to continue parking your car here! With that said, let's shake hands already so that we can get better acquainted with each other! Once that's over, we'll head off to find another parking spot! How about it?"

Looking at Benson as he continued pestering him—seemingly unwilling to leave him alone without a handshake—Gerald simply retained his smile as he replied, "Well, I guess things will turn troublesome if I refuse to accept anyway!"

"Hahaha! That fool actually doesn't realize that Benson's just playing around with him!" shouted one of the girls standing behind Benson, prompting the other girls to begin laughing again as well.

"Ready when you are!" said Gerald with a nod, ignoring the girls' mockery.

Following that, both of them extended their hands for a handshake.

Upon seeing that, Jenny and her friends instantly took a few steps back before covering their ears. After all, they were all sure that a certain someone was going to start squealing like a pig that was getting slaughtered the second Benson began squeezing his hand.

They knew how cruel the screams could get, and they were all cute, young girls. There was just no way they should ever have to hear such violent screams!

Regardless, they soon realized that no screaming was taking place. Finding that odd, they all turned to look at Benson... Only to witness his increasingly reddening face!

Though it appeared like Benson was already squeezing Gerald's hand as hard as he could, Gerald himself was still smiling!

"The hell?!" growled Benson, his eyes now fully widened. Despite already using his full strength, Benson hadn't been able to squeeze down on Gerald's hand in the least! It was almost as though Gerald's hand was made out of steel!

"I think you should apply a bit more force!" mocked Gerald as he momentarily glanced at Jenny before turning back to face Benson.

"You!" shouted Benson as he instantly began channeling all the energy in his body into his hand!
It was at that exact moment when an ear-piercing scream filled the air! However, it wasn't a scream that belonged to Gerald
No, the one screaming was Jenny! Clutching onto her chest, she sounded exactly like a sow that was being slaughtered!
Even so, Benson was too focused on saving his own face to care about her. Seeing how smug Gerald still was, Benson then began using his other hand to squeeze as well!
As Benson's force intensified, so did Jenny's screams. The pain was so much for her to handle that she ended up lying on the ground!
Chapter 1479
"N-no! Stop!" cried out Jenny, her face filled with tears by this point as she rolled on the ground in pain.
Finally realizing how much pain Jenny was in, Benson instantly released Gerald's hand before running over to Jenny's side.
"What's wrong?!" asked Benson as he stared at the pale-faced Jenny who was unable to even try hiding the immense pain she was currently feeling.

"I-it hurts...! The pain alone makes me feel like dying...!" cried out Jenny.

Seeing that they were no longer trying to stop him from leaving, Gerald simply shook his head with a wry smile on his face before leaving together with Perla and Yul.

Meanwhile, Poppy found herself asking, "How could this have happened though? Why would you be in so much pain for no reason?"

"Beats me! Actually, didn't any of you notice that Jenny's chest only started hurting when Benson started exerting his strength earlier?"

"That sounds freaky! Speaking of which, hold on. Where even are they?" asked Benson—who was already drenched in cold sweat—as he got up in anger.

"I think they escaped since they were worried that we'd continue making things more difficult for them!" said Poppy.

"What? They're really asking for it this time...! I guess I'll just have to get someone over to smash their car now so that they'll know how great I truly am!" growled Benson as he fished his cell phone out and instantly got ready to make a call.

However, the second he was about to press the call button, he suddenly shrieked in pain!

Everyone could only stare wide-eyed at him as his cell phone fell out of his oddly stiffened hand before falling to the ground...

Benson himself couldn't move an inch of his hand, and after about a second or two, his still-lifted hand suddenly began feeling an acute pain! It felt like it was being torn apart, and Benson was now in so

much pain that he instantly began rolling on the ground, clutching onto his hand while shouting, "I-it
hurts! My arm hurts so much!"
Meanwhile, Gerald and the others had already entered the manor as the underground parking lot fel

"Is Jenny going to be alright, Master...? Was her pain because of you...?" asked Perla.

"She'll be fine, and yes, I did that. I used a skill known as the Substitution Method!" explained Gerald.

"What does that do, master?"

into chaos.

"Essentially, it redirects damage inflections! For example, I transferred all the strength that the burly man had used on me earlier onto Jenny!"

Hearing that, Perla couldn't help but laugh when she recalled the scene from earlier.

"Regardless, I only did that to punish them for their crimes. Hopefully, that'll stop them from trying to commit even bigger crimes in the future! It certainly didn't help their case when they made all those insulting remarks!" explained Gerald, shaking his head with a wry smile on his face.

Just as he turned his gaze to look at the crowd inside, he suddenly heard a woman's voice saying, "...Huh? You're Gerald, right...? Xyrielle, look! It's that guy again!"

Hearing that, Gerald immediately found himself thinking, 'To think I'd actually run into these girls again... How frustrating...!'

Xyrielle herself could suddenly feel her heart palpitating again the second she saw Gerald... It couldn't be, right...? But if the first time was just a coincidence, then why would her heart still beat so rapidly this time...?

Why on earth was her heart pumping so fast just because of this ordinary-looking person...? The more Xyrielle thought about it, the more puzzled and embarrassed she got.

Either way, just as she was wondering if she should greet him, screams and shouts could suddenly be heard coming from within the audience. Hearing that, those from within the crowd—Gerald included—found themselves looking at the direction where the sound had come from...

Chapter 1480

The shouts weren't all that far away, and while it had been extremely packed in that area just seconds ago, everyone had already formed a path in the middle.

Of course, the person they were all aweing at was none other than Stetson, the young man whom Gerald had noticed when he was at the university back then! To think that he'd make an appearance here at Heartstone Manor as well...

Then again, it wasn't all that surprising since people who were training to attain spiritual enlightenment were all flocking to the manor with various methods anyway. With that said, Stetson—who was commonly referred to as the 'training boy'—was naturally also a person training to attain spiritual enlightenment. From what Gerald had heard, Stetson had already opened up his spiritual roots at the age of three, and that knowledge only solidified the fact that Stetson was someone with authentic talent.

Even when it came to strength, Gerald could estimate that he was as strong as Julian, a person who had trained to attain spiritual enlightenment! With that in mind, Stetson could very well already be a Rankone Master.

Regardless, it really wasn't a surprise that his arrival would cause such a massive sensation within Heartstone Manor. It probably wasn't even a stretch to claim that he was the most high-profiled person there. Either way, it was also quite obvious—by this point—that he had a very powerful force backing him up.

As Gerald continued observing the scene, he suddenly heard a respectful voice say, "Master has already instructed you to go meet Young Master Laidler once he arrives...!"

Turning to see who had said that, Gerald saw that it had come from an old man who was standing next to Xyrielle. Appearance-wise, the old man looked to be an extremely kind person who was probably around the age of eighty. Aside from the small mole on his face, his most distinguishable feature was his beard that fell all the way down to his chest.

As the old man took notice of Gerald and glanced at him, Xyrielle simply nodded and—after thinking for a brief moment before finally dismissing the idea of greeting Gerald—replied, "I understand, Mr. Babel!"

Xyrielle had her reasons for not choosing to greet Gerald.

Even as a child, Xyrielle had lived a noble life as the eldest young lady of the Waddys family. Be it financial power or strength, the powerful Waddys had it, which meant that she had always been living a near-unimaginable life, at least to commoners. Aside from the moon and the stars, there truly wasn't much else that Xyrielle couldn't get her hands on.

Despite having all the power in the world, Xyrielle wasn't the happiest girl on the planet by a longshot. After all, due to certain rules in her family, she had lost the opportunity to choose her own lover.

Even so, Xyrielle was very reluctant to heed to that rule. After all, she had never experienced love before. With that in mind, she felt the need to experience what it felt like to be in love, which was why she had asked the fortune-teller—whom she had met by a river—to tell her her love fortune.

In response, the fortune-teller told her that her love would appear soon.

Upon hearing that, Xyrielle had cherished the thought and instantly began dedicating all of her energy to look for the person she would eventually fall for.

While it was true that Gerald had caused her heart to palpitate every time she saw him, it was quite obvious that he wasn't the one she was looking for. After all, her good friends had been accompanying and persuading her throughout the day to go for Stetson instead.

Eventually, she gave in, and Xyrielle was now convinced that the person she loved was actually Young Master Laidler. With any luck, she hoped that his feelings for her would slowly bloom after getting into contact with each other.

With that said, she also chose not to greet Gerald since she felt that both of them were from two completely different worlds.

Regardless, after nodding at Mr. Babel, Xyrielle then headed toward Young Master Laidler who was still making his way through the crowd.

Seeing that, Xaverie made a mocking face at Gerald before saying, "See that, Gerald? You don't really have a chance anymore so just give up already!"

Watching as Xaverie chased after Xyrielle, Gerald simply scratched the back of his head, wondering what that girl was even going on about. Whatever the case was, it's not like it mattered to him. After all, his focus here today was to get a good look at all the people—who were training to attain spiritual enlightenment—gathered here today, and who better to start with than Stetson.

From what he could see, despite being surrounded by a large crowd, Stetson appeared extremely cold and arrogant. Whenever he looked at anyone, he made sure to squint his eyes as well. It was almost as though he was viewing everyone as mere ants. Ants that weren't worthy of being in the presence of someone as extraordinary as he was.

He simply couldn't understand how these people—who were so small and insignificant—could actually have the dignity to continue living in this world despite being so worthless?

After all, this world should only belong to strong people like him, right? These were the thoughts that Stetson tended to obsess over when he saw people like these.

His train of thought was cut short when a servant—who had been following Stetson by his side—whispered, "Miss Xyrielle Waddys is here, Young Master Laidler!"

Upon hearing that, Stetson slowly opened his eyes... and when he did, he realized that Xyrielle looked as pretty as a fairy...

As his eyes brightened up slightly, Xyrielle found herself blushing slightly as she said, "I've heard many great things about you, Young Master Laidler! My name is Xyrielle!"

Xyrielle herself had a look of admiration in her eyes as she looked at the incredible and spirited young man standing before her.

As she extended her hand to shake his, Stetson barely hesitated when he reached out as well to shake her hand.

While they did so, Xyrielle felt slightly confused. Even after making skin contact, her heart wasn't throbbing in the slightest... Why was that?

Chapter 1481

Regardless, the person she had waited for more than ten years had finally appeared. So, Xyrielle truly cherished this kind of opportunity.

As they continued chatting, the both of them also began walking toward the interior of the manor.

Originally, the reason why Stetson had come here was just to take a stroll as well as to take a look at the situation.

When he saw that Xyrielle was very beautiful, he was naturally also willing to walk together.

At this time, there were very loud noises and a commotion at a large and empty field that was not too far away outside.

"What's going on?"

Stetson asked the servant who was following not too far behind him.

"Young Master, that is the fighting arena. Not too long ago, someone from North Africa caught some fierce bulls and sent them here to fight. This is also considered a feature of the Heartstone Manor!" The servant replied.

"Pfft! That is so boring. What is so great about watching these beasts fight? I do not know how bored and lifeless these people are!"

Stetson said as he shook his head and laughed bitterly.

However, these words seemed to make Xyrielle feel a little uncomfortable.
Stetson's words were originally not directed at her. After all, in comparison, Xyrielle's status was much higher than Young Master Laidler's. However, Stetson's arrogant attitude made Xyrielle feel a little uncomfortable.
Perhaps it was because she felt a little annoyed, so Xyrielle said, "Not necessarily. My father once said that these kinds of bulls have experienced certain nature experiences. So, all of them are extraordinary and unique. It would be good to take a look at them too!"
"Oh? Xyrielle, I never would have expected that you would be interested in these kinds of things too? Alright, then. I will accompany you to go and take a look!"
Stetson said as he shook his head with a wry smile on his face.
The both of them walked toward the fighting arena.
"Xyrielle!"
As for Xaverie and the others, they had already long been having some fun at the fighting arena here. So, they hurriedly greeted Xyrielle and called her to go over to them as soon as they saw her.
"Wow! Hello, Young Master Laidler! I have heard of you many times before, but this is the first time I an meeting you in person!" Xaverie said.

"Mm."

Stetson did not say much, and he simply nodded faintly in return.
Stetson was naturally very arrogant and cold.
This made Xaverie feel a little unhappy because she felt as though she had lost face. After all, she did not expect that he would be so arrogant and cold.
The entire atmosphere at the fighting arena also instantly became different with Stetson's arrival. Many people automatically moved aside and made way for him.
The original noise and commotion also disappeared.
Stetson and Xyrielle looked down toward the open space in the fighting arena.
Following that, they saw a black bull with a long golden horn on its forehead fighting in the arena.
Stetson simply glanced at the bull before he closed his eyes in disdain.
Alas, the rest of the people who were cultivating to achieve spiritual enlightenment felt as though this was an absolutely wonderful thing.
In truth, even after joining society, all of them had also had their own pain.
For instance, Stetson had had to face too many insignificant ants every day. This was actually very painful for someone like Stetson.

Xyrielle glanced at the arrogant Stetson. At this time, she did not know why she had a strange feeling in her heart.
She began to doubt whether the fortune teller had told her the truth.
Would she truly fall in love with this person and end up taking him as the love of her life?
Xyrielle was beginning to have serious doubts about it.
However, she did not say anything. Instead, she placed her focus on the fighting arena.
At the same time, Gerald had also just arrived.
"The fighting arena! Moreover, these bulls seem to have undergone some sort of mutation These are bulls with a demonic spirit!"
Perla had also come here.
When he saw that Perla was staring at these strange bulls, Gerald gave her a simple explanation.
They naturally stood at the periphery to watch the fight.
"Bulls with demonic spirit? It's no wonder why they all look so fierce and vicious! Moreover, they seem to have a very strong attacking power! I guess watching these bulls fight is indeed the main attraction, then!"
Perla could not help but nod.







Before Perla and Yul could come back to their senses
"Roar!"
A loud roar suddenly sounded.
The sound was so loud and deafening that even the surrounding ground began trembling violently at this time.
It felt as though heaven and earth were breaking apart in this instant.
"Ahhh!!!"
Many people at the scene were all shouting in shock at this time.
After all, this sound was indeed a little too shocking and horrifying.
"What's wrong?"
The expression on Xyrielle's face also instantly changed, and she could not help but stand up in unison along with her few friends as they looked toward the big black steel cage.
"Mr. Babel, is there still something else inside that big cage?" Xyrielle asked Mr. Babel, who was next to her.

Mr. Babel's eyelids twitched slightly. "Yes, Miss Xyrielle. There is a huge black bull inside the cage. That is the only bull with a white horn, and it looks a little strange and eerie. That is the reason why it has not been released yet!"
As Mr. Babel spoke, he hurriedly used his body to block Xyrielle's body.
"Miss Xyrielle, I feel that the situation has changed. We should retreat quickly!"
Mr. Babel spoke with a tense expression on his face, almost as though he had already sensed that it was the birth of some kind of huge crisis.
At this moment, he had a horrified and fearful expression on his face
Chapter 1483
Before anyone could even react
A violent explosion suddenly sounded. In an instant, the iron cage that was refined out of steel suddenly broke apart, and because of this huge impact, the broken segments of the cage began shooting out in all directions.
The broken pieces ruthlessly embedded themselves into the surrounding open platform. At this time, it felt as though the impact of these broken pieces were even more powerful than a bullet itself.
Following that, a pile of dust began swirling upward.

In an instant, it felt as though heaven and earth were collapsing, and the whole area was about to be destroyed.
"Ahhh!!!"
Loud and terrifying screams suddenly sounded.
The crowd began scattering in all directions.
After the dust had finally settled, an extremely huge bull walked out from within the large cage.
Every step it took seemed to carry an extremely shocking force. It was taking its own time, and it even had a white bull horn.
As it emerged, it began to chase several smaller calves around it.
"Roar!"
A thunderous roar sounded.
Everyone felt so frightened that they were all trembling in their hearts.
All of them were motionless.
Even Xyrielle was surprised to see the scene in front of her.

No one dared to move because no one could guarantee that they would not end up becoming the first target of the bull's attack if they were to make even a single move.
"Mr. Babel…"
Xyrielle was extremely nervous.
At the same time, she looked at Stetson, who was sitting quietly at the side.
His eyes were still closed, and it looked as though he was resting.
Could it be that he had not noticed the scene before him?
No!
He had already realized the scene before him. How could he possibly not notice it?
However, his attitude already said it all. The creature before him was just like an ant. It was simply a bigger ant to him. It was merely a scene where the bigger ant was attacking the smaller ants around it!
Ridiculous! It was simply too ridiculous!
Stetson thought to himself, 'Why do such ridiculous things constantly appear in this world?'
"Young Master Laidler, this demonic beast is attacking people!"

When Xyrielle saw that he was unmoved, she could not help but remind him at this moment.
At the same time, she also had great expectations of him.
As for Stetson's name, many ordinary people had already heard about him before on the internet.
At that moment, they slowly began to move behind Stetson.
This was clearly the most dangerous place.
Stetson could only smile bitterly in a helpless manner.
At this moment, the white-horned demonic bull suddenly tilted its head as it roared.
Immediately after that, it raised two of its hooves up high.
It seemed as though it was trying to provoke someone.
It was obvious that it had somehow been captured some time earlier, and it looked like it was a king about to make its comeback. It was roaring as it waited for the humans in front of it to appear before it again.
It wanted to exact revenge to regain the face it had lost.
However, the people in front of it did not move at all, and this made it feel very indignant.



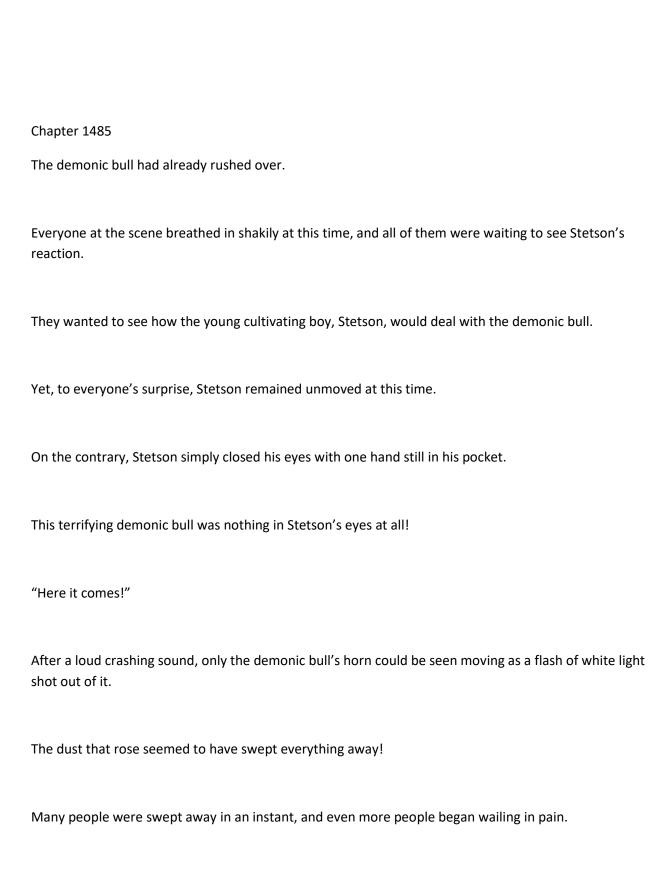
He was obviously a person who was cultivating to achieve spiritual enlightenment.
When the demonic bull saw that someone had appeared, it was immediately filled with the urge to battle.
At that moment, it began charging directly at the old man.
"Pfft! After I am done with a sinful animal like you, I will cut you into pieces and eat you up!" The old man sneered.
Chapter 1484
At that moment, he instantly cast a spell to return the attack.
It could be seen that this old man wanted to use a powerful sword light to maneuver and penetrate the demonic bull directly.
However, just then, there was a sudden flash of white light from the demonic bull's white horn, and a spiral-shaped light suddenly flew directly at the old man.
The two rays of light collided, and the old man's sword light dissipated in an instant.
"What?!"

Gerald, who was quite a distance away from the old man, could also sense the panic in the old man's voice at this time.
This was because the latter had only just realized that their strengths were not on the same level after they had already exchanged blows with one another.
The white halo light quickly hit the old man in the chest and sent him flying out, smashing heavily onto the bleachers.
"Ahhh!"
At this time, all of the people present truly felt fear.
Even a powerful old man like that was actually knocked down in just one hit. This was simply a demon! A demonic beast!
The demonic bull did not care about the bystanders at all.
It simply glared at the old man lying on the ground with a mocking look in its eyes.
It lifted its feet as it began to step on the old man's body in an insulting manner.
"Uncle Mace seems to be in danger!"
At this moment, Xyrielle seemed to be extremely nervous.

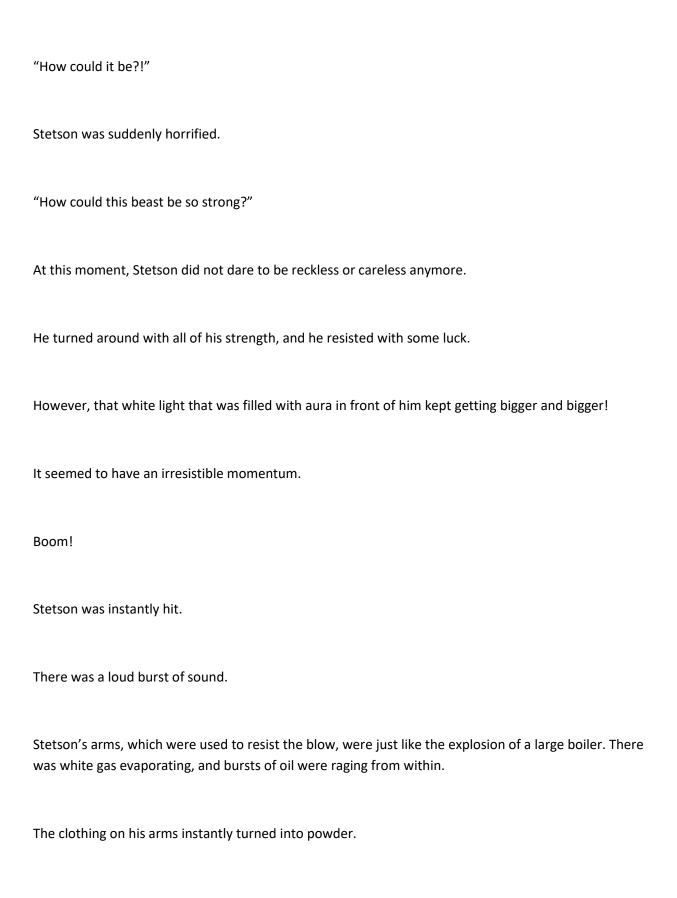
"Uncle Mace is a top prestigious guest in our family, and he is also my father's friend. Young Master Laidler, I wonder if you have a way to defeat this demonic bull and save Uncle Mace?" Xyrielle asked nervously.
"Of course! It is nothing more than an ant in my eyes!"
Stetson replied indifferently as he opened his eyes slightly.
"Then, can you please save Uncle Mace?!" Xyrielle asked anxiously.
Xaverie and the other girls were all looking at Stetson with a hopeful expression on their faces.
Although this person was very arrogant, there was naturally a virtue to his arrogance.
At this moment, everyone was already pinning their hopes entirely on Stetson.
"You want me to attack a beast that is nothing more than an ant to me? Xyrielle, I once vowed that I would never make a move against an ant! This is because both the beast and that old man are simply too small and insignificant to me!" Stetson said as he frowned.
Would he really have to force himself to make a move because of these small ants?
No!
Stetson was struggling deep down in his heart.

At this moment, the demonic bull was stepping fiercely on the old man, and the old man spat a mouthful of blood.
This stance was clearly a challenge. Did anyone else dare to come up?
"Young Master Laidler, it is better to save one life than to build a seven-storied pagoda. I beg you, please save Uncle Mace! Otherwise, he will truly die in the demonic bull's hands!"
Xyrielle's eyes were filled with tears of anxiety.
"Okay then, Xyrielle. I'll make an exception this time because of you. I'll get rid of this small ant today!" Stetson said as he smiled lightly.
"Thank you, Young Master Laidler!"
Xyrielle nodded heavily.
"Oh, my God! The cultivating boy, Young Master Laidler, has already stepped up!"
"We will have to record the scene today! It seems as though the rumors before this were all true! This world is really not that simple!"
Everyone started discussing loudly.
Meanwhile, Stetson simply shrugged as he leaped directly into the air.
When he landed, his back was facing the demonic bull, and he had one hand in his pocket.

"Wow!"
Everyone at the scene was already screaming.
As for Xyrielle, Xaverie, and the other girls, although they did not really like Stetson's attitude, they were all filled with admiration for Stetson at this moment.
All of them were staring at him with a look of admiration in their eyes at this point.
True enough, the demonic bull was simply trying to provoke. As soon as he saw that Stetson was already here, he casually kicked the old man aside in a very uninterested manner as he turned around to look at Stetson.
After that, it let out a provocative roar.
"Beast! Do you want to kill yourself, or do you want me to make a move? As soon as I make a move, you will certainly end up in a very miserable state!"
Stetson spoke with his eyes closed and one of his hands was still in his pocket.
As for the demonic bull, it seemed as though it could understand human language, and it suddenly became very angry at this moment.
All of the furs on the bull's body stood upright like countless sharp thorns.
Then, it rushed directly at Stetson wildly



Xyrielle was also on tenterhooks.
Meanwhile, Gerald was simply observing the scene in front of him quietly.
This was because he was very puzzled. He could tell that Stetson was indeed extremely talented.
He was a One-rank Master at such a young age, and he had already reached the same level of cultivation as Julian.
This was especially rare.
However, what made Gerald feel truly puzzled was the fact that the old man just now was also a Onerank Master, so there was not much difference in their strength.
But why did Stetson have so much determination? He must have something that he could rely on!
Otherwise, he would not be so unflustered despite the powerful strength that was in front of him!
Gerald's eyelids twitched slightly as he observed Stetson.
Stetson could feel a strong aura coming from behind him.
At this moment, he opened his eyes fiercely.
This was because this strong aura instantly locked him in place, and it seemed as though it was several times stronger than him.



Poof!
Stetson spurted a mouthful of blood, and his whole body flew backward immediately.
The red meridians on both of his arms looked like earthworms lying directly on it.
"So powerful!"
Stetson was gasping for air.
He now looked at this demonic beast as an opponent.
"Master said that there was a kind of demonic beast that exists in this world, and they had coincidentally gained the spirit of heaven and earth through some kind of spirituality, eventually becoming very deceitful. Moreover, their bodies might also develop strangely. Since they are demons, they would become demonic beasts. Therefore, they would certainly be unbeatable when they face people who are cultivating to achieve spiritual enlightenment!"
"But now, this is the other situation that master had spoken about. This kind of demonic beast can also evolve to a certain point where they have already reached a certain level where they are able to cultivate. When the time comes, they would have very strong and incredible combat power, but this kind of situation is extremely rare!"
"As for this beast, it is clearly a demonic beast that has already evolved to a standard where it was able to cultivate. A spirit demon!"
Stetson was horrified.
He had truly underestimated his opponent.

He had only had light protection and defense for his own body, and with just that one strike earlier, it had been directly shattered because of the impact, and he now suffered a deep internal injury.
If he were to take another blow, he would be in the same state as the person who had been cultivating to achieve spiritual enlightenment and had just ended up there.
Stetson only had one thought in mind.
Run!
However, the demonic bull seemed to have sensed that Stetson wanted to escape, and it immediately began to attack again.
"Thunderstrike!"
Stetson's pupils dilated nervously.
At this moment, he pulled out an orb from his chest, and he threw it directly toward the demonic bull.
As soon as the orb came out, it instantly magnified itself.
Moreover, it carried a purple thunderbolt with it.
The demonic bull's body was then covered in lightning bolts.

Stetson took advantage of this opportunity as he placed all of his strength and power in both of his legs so that he could escape into the air!
"Young Master Laidler is escaping!"
"Even Young Master Laidler is not its opponent!"
Chapter 1486
At this time, everyone on the scene was extremely terrified as they started fleeing in all directions.
Countless people were getting trampled on for quite some time.
"This does not look good! Miss Xyrielle, we should also run as fast as we can!"
Mr. Babel shielded Xyrielle.
Xyrielle nodded heavily.
At the same time, she felt very disappointed deep down in her heart.
She never would have expected that the person who was her one true love would abandon her just like that all so he could escape on his own first.

However, at this moment, it was already too late to even try and escape.
This was because everyone was panicking and pushing each other in the chaos.
Very soon, Xyrielle was also pushed and squeezed down to the ground. Right after that, she fell toward the stage.
"Ahh! Xyrielle!"
Xaverie and the other girls shouted anxiously.
However, there were many people in the crowd, and they had no way to go over to pull her up at all!
As for the demonic bull who had been struck by the lightning bolts, at this moment, the formation around it had finally dissipated.
It roared as it looked up to the sky.
It was venting its dissatisfaction because Stetson had plotted against it and caught it by surprise.
The pain that it was feeling in its body instantly turned its eyes scarlet.
It was filled with killing intent, and its first target was none other than Xyrielle, who was the closest to it
"You abominable humans! Die!"

The demonic bull actually spoke in human language!
Its voice was as loud as the ringing of a bell.
Subsequently, it began walking toward Xyrielle.
At this moment, Xyrielle was already scared to death. She was completely dumbfounded on the spot, and she did not know how to respond at all.
As for Mr. Babel, Xaverie, and the other girls, they were all so anxious that they had already burst into tears.
"No! Don't!"
Xyrielle stumbled as she tried to get up from the ground, and she began to retreat toward a certain spot.
The demonic bull did not care at all, and it simply charged directly toward Xyrielle.
Just then, Xyrielle arrived at the edge of a high platform, and there was almost no one else left on this side of the high platform.
Only Gerald, Perla, and Yul were left standing here.
Xyrielle raised her head and looked at Gerald, almost as though she was crying out for his help.
Nevertheless, Gerald did not move at all.

Perla, on the other hand, quickly took action, and she hurriedly rushed down as she pulled Xyrielle up onto the high platform.
At this moment, Mr. Babel, Xaverie, and the other girls had just rushed to this side as they protected Xyrielle and hid her behind them.
What was really strange was that the crowd had initially thought that the demonic bull was about to launch an attack. Instead, it simply stood still for a moment without moving at all.
This was because it had suddenly seen a person, and this person was very powerful.
The demonic bull felt that if it were to take one more step forward, it would be completely pulverized
Yes. If it were to take one step forward, it would certainly die.
The demonic bull could feel it very clearly.
It was precisely because of this that the demonic bull was simply staring at this person with a fearful expression in its eyes.
And who else could this person be if it was not Gerald?
After staring at him for a long time
The demonic bull suddenly roared out loud as it jumped straight out of the high platform, fleeing elsewhere as it brought a calf together with it.





Xyrielle knew that Mr. Babel was also an expert. However, he had failed to step into the legendary cultivation realm.
At this time, he exclaimed in surprise.
"Could it be that you did not notice it just now, Miss Xyrielle?"
Mr. Babel looked at Gerald's back with a solemn expression on his face as he spoke solemnly.
"Notice what?"
"That demonic bull just now was indeed extremely ferocious. Even Young Master Laidler and Mr. Mace were not this beast's opponents at all. Moreover, it could have easily gone on a killing rampage, and you could have lost your life just now, Miss Xyrielle. However, the demonic beast suddenly stopped at the most critical juncture!" Mr. Babel said.
"Yes! That's right! Xyrielle, you might not have had the time to see it just now, but that demonic beast not only stopped in its tracks suddenly, but it looked as though it had seen something truly frightening!" Xaverie also chimed in at this time.
Xyrielle felt even more surprised.
"What you guys mean to say is that this demonic bull only fled because it was afraid of this guy called Gerald? That is the reason why our lives were spared?" Xyrielle asked curiously.
How could that be possible?! This Gerald looked extremely ordinary!
To be honest, when Xyrielle had initially thought that Gerald was her one true love that the old fortune-teller was talking about, Xyrielle had actually felt that Gerald was just not good enough for her.

How should this be explained?
Well, a girl would always have certain expectations that they would want to see in their true love.
This was especially so since the fortune teller himself was the one who had made Xyrielle have even higher expectations of her one true love.
So, if there was a huge difference between her expectations and the person appearing before her, it was inevitable for her to feel a little emotionally lost and disappointed.
She would naturally not be interested in him either.
Therefore, Xyrielle was obviously a little against the fact that Gerald could actually be her true love.
"I still find it hard to believe that he was the one who scared the demonic bull away. I believe that there must be some other reasons"
Xyrielle said, "Nevertheless, no matter what it is, I really have to thank that young lady just now. If it weren't because of her, I would not know what would have happened, then!"
Xyrielle's pretty face was slightly flushed as she spoke.
At the same time, she also began to feel a certain interest in Gerald.
However, she refused to admit it.

As for Mr. Babel, he simply said that he must have seen wrongly then, and he did not continue saying anything else.

Immediately after, the people from the Waddys family also heard about this matter, and many top masters from behind the scenes also came forth to protect Xyrielle. Some of them also went out to search for the whereabouts of the demonic bull.

After all, the underground festival would be held soon, and the Waddys family attached great importance to it.

As for Gerald, after he had left Heartstone Manor, he returned to Sherwin Manor.

As soon as he came back, he saw a group of people leaving the Sherwin Manor in disdain.

Terrance, who had sent them out, also had a very embarrassed look on his face.

It was only after Gerald asked that he found out that those people were, in fact, executives from the Waddys family.

Since Gerald had arranged for Terrance to help him handle the matter related to the admission tickets to the underground festival, Terrance naturally took the matter very seriously. So, he had even specially invited the Waddys family to come over to check their qualifications.

As a result, the Waddys family simply did not look up to the Sherwin family at all. Thus, they would not even consider the matter related to the admission tickets at all.

Chapter 1488
That was why

That was why there was that scene just now.

Even if he did not have an admission ticket, Gerald believed that he would be able to break in easily based on his strength and power.

However, there was truly no need for that.

Moreover, Gerald already understood the importance of hiding his true identity based on many of his previous experiences.

He would not be acting so recklessly.

"Mr. Crawford, I am so sorry that I could not even complete such a simple thing that you have entrusted to me!"

Terrance was filled with self-blame.

"Uncle Sherwin, you don't need to apologize to me. In truth, based on the current situation, it would indeed be a little difficult for us to be able to get into the underground festival using the Sherwin family's name. Why don't I take Julian with me to another prestigious and influential family so that it would be easier for us to act with discretion?" Gerald said.

"Sir, do you mean to say that you want us to enter the Waddys family? Since you have already annihilated the entire Dun family, within Jenna City, the only other decent prestigious and influential family that we can depend on is the Waddys family! Not only that, but they are also the organizer of the event!" Julian, who was standing aside, said.

"Yes. That's exactly what I meant. Julian, do you know the head of the Waddys family?" Gerald asked. "Well, I can't say I do. Although the Waddys family looks like an extremely powerful family on the surface, there seem to be many cultivating families supporting and backing them up. Therefore, many people in the cultivation realm also dare not mess with the people from the Waddys family because of these cultivating families. Of course, there are also a high number of top masters who willingly surrendered and joined the Waddys family. There are about four to five One-rank Masters like us in the Waddys family. I heard that there is also a strong existence such as a Three-rank Master in the Waddys family!" Julian explained. "I understand!" Gerald nodded. As he thought about it, some forces behind certain families really should not be underestimated. As for the Heartstone Manor, as Julian had said, there were indeed many top cultivating experts present, and it seemed as though this underground festival would certainly be extremely lively, then. At this time, a luxury car stopped in front of the entrance of the Sherwin Manor. An old man stepped out of the limousine. "It's him!" Perla was stunned.

This person was not just anyone else, but it was the old man that they had just seen just now. He was

Mr. Babel, who had been standing beside Xyrielle.

"I have been commissioned by the eldest young lady to invite Miss Sherwin and Mr. Crawford to head to Waddys Manor to attend the eldest young lady's birthday banquet tonight!"
After Mr. Babel was done speaking, he held out two invitation cards.
"Eh?! She was the eldest young lady of the Waddys family?" Perla asked in surprise.
Mr. Babel nodded. "That's right. The eldest young lady managed to come back from the dead today. It was all thanks to both of you for saving her life! So, I would like to ask both of you to make sure that you attend her birthday banquet tonight!"
Gerald took the invitation card and looked at it.
At this time, Julian also came forward as he whispered to Gerald, "Sir, you really did not have to put in any effort at all. Xyrielle Waddys is Yaakov Waddys' most beloved daughter. So, if you can get invited to attend her birthday banquet, you will most certainly be able to get your hands on an admission ticket to the underground festival!"
Gerald nodded.
Although he did not know why Xyrielle would extend her invitation to him out of the blue, he wanted to go to Waddys Manor to personally take a look at it too.
So, this was simply perfect.
On one hand, he could find out what Xyrielle's purpose was, and on the other hand, he could try and take advantage of this opportunity to get an admission ticket.



This was especially so for demonic beasts, who could actually perform demon magic. Gerald's knowledge in this area was still limited to the understanding of the possession of the beast soul. Since it was going to be evening soon, Gerald also had to rush to attend Xyrielle's birthday banquet. So, Gerald asked Julian to come along with him so that they could continue chatting on the way there. It turned out that in this world, in addition to a very small number of people who were cultivating to achieve spiritual enlightenment, there was also the existence of some magical demonic beasts. However, they mostly existed underground or in certain caves. It was very difficult for any ordinary person to see them. Even if any ordinary person were to stumble upon one, they would certainly lose their lives. Therefore, there was very little information about demonic beasts.

A demonic beast who could condense its essential qi was also known as a master.

However, since it was actually very difficult for a demonic beast to reach this cultivation realm, it was only natural for them to be much more powerful and stronger as compared to any humans who were on the same level.

If a One-rank Master were to meet with a One-rank Master demonic beast, he would certainly be crushed by this demonic beast.
Gerald instantly understood everything after listening to Julian's explanation.
It was no wonder why Stetson and that person called Mr. Mace had seriously underestimated the demonic bull when they observed its aura.
The demonic bull had actually defeated both of them in just one round.
This was the reason.
After that, Gerald chatted with Julian about the Waddys family.
At the same time, at Waddys Manor.
With the advent of the evening, a special garden was decorated with colorful lights.
This was because it was the birthday of the eldest young lady of the Waddys family, Xyrielle.
"Xyrielle, you look so beautiful today!"
"Happy birthday, Xyrielle!"
At the same time, many rich heirs from Jenna City also came to congratulate her with gifts in hand.

Of course, many of these rich heirs also came here with other intentions, that was to show off how handsome and privileged they were in front of Xyrielle.

After all, if they could end up as the son-in-law of the Waddys family, they would have already soared all the way to the top for their future.

Regardless, Xyrielle was obviously only responding out of politeness. Even if these young gentlemen were all extremely handsome, none of them were good enough for her, and none of them could touch her heart at all.

"Xyrielle, why does it seem like there is something on your mind today?"

Xaverie could not help but ask when she saw that Xyrielle was simply greeting the others with a very distracted look on her face.

"No... no, I'm not!"

Xyrielle's beautiful face was flushed red, but she could not hide the look of disappointment on her face.

"Hmph! Why are you still denying it? I feel that you are rather disappointed. Are you still thinking about why Young Master Laidler abandoned you today? Moreover, you are also thinking about why he is not here even though he knows that it is your birthday, right? You feel that he should at least come over to give you an explanation, don't you?" Xaverie said.

"You... what nonsense are you talking about?!"

Xyrielle replied anxiously as though Xaverie had guessed it right.

"Hahaha! I must have guessed it right! Besides, I know much more than that!"

"What else do you know?" Xyrielle asked gloomily.

"I also know that if Young Master Laidler is willing to come tonight and give you a certain explanation, you will certainly forgive him even though he abandoned you at that time! I know your character very well. When you have identified and made up your mind that a certain person is your one true love, then no matter how he treats you, you will always be in love with him!"

"But, Xyrielle, I have to remind you that I don't really like Stetson's character. He is way too arrogant. I feel that even if you end up together with him in the future, he will only be together with you because he is greedy for the Waddys family's unique resources! I know that you might not want to hear this, but as your friend, I have no other choice but to say it!" Xaverie said.

Xyrielle frowned slightly, but she also held Xaverie's hand gratefully as she nodded.

Chapter 1490

"Then... what about that Gerald? Since you have already chosen Young Master Laidler to be your true love, why did you choose to invite Gerald here today?" Xaverie asked as she smiled.

Xyrielle pondered for a moment before she replied, "I don't know why either, but I just feel very curious about Gerald. It is not only because of what happened in the afternoon. So, I want to see him again, and I want to get in touch with him so that I can find out what kind of person he is. In fact, at the very beginning, I even thought about setting you up with him. Hahaha! But after thinking about it, I felt that he is not from the same world as us anyway. So, I decided to simply invite the both of them here as a way to thank them for what they had done for me today!" Xyrielle said as she took a deep breath and smiled.

"You are truly very bad! Hmph! Xyrielle, you are thinking of pushing a guy that you think is not up to your standards over to me like you are throwing garbage away?! I don't want it! Pfft!"
Xaverie began jostling with Xyrielle.
As the both of them were speaking, Xaverie pointed to the front.
"Xyrielle, look! Gerald is here!" Xaverie shouted.
At that moment, Xyrielle raised her eyes as she looked toward the door.
When she saw Gerald walking toward her with a gift in his hand, Xyrielle felt her heart palpitating again for no reason at all.
"Miss Xyrielle, happy birthday and thank you for the invitation!" Gerald said as he smiled.
"Well, you're welcome! I would also like to thank you for saving my life at Heartstone Manor today. Make sure that you stay and have a few more drinks tonight!"
Although Xyrielle felt some disdain for Gerald, she could not help but look at him a few more times because of her throbbing heart.
This was because she was not sure whether her heart was throbbing because of him.
"Okay!"
Gerald nodded.

The both of them exchanged glances with one another.
At this moment, the sky suddenly lit up with colorful fireworks that covered the entire sky and seemed to sweep right through the entire Jenna City.
"Wow!"
Many people began to exclaim.
After the fireworks had ended, a few words began condensing and forming in the air.
"Happy birthday, Xyrielle!"
These few words were extremely dazzling and eye-catching in the air.
Xyrielle could feel her heart throbbing.
What was even more surprising had yet to come.
At that moment, a red cloth was seen floating down from the air, and it slowly floated until it fell before Xyrielle's eyes.
The red cloth exploded in an instant, and many colorful ribbons exploded in front of Xyrielle.
As soon as the ribbons appeared, a round high platform also appeared on the ground.

Stetson, who had long hair and was wearing a tuxedo, was standing on top of the high platform with one hand in his pocket.
The scene in front of Xyrielle was filled with fantasy and romance.
Everyone at the scene was also very excited, and their emotions had been lifted to the highest point.
As for Xyrielle, she was also very surprised and moved.
This was because Xyrielle felt that at this moment, she was witnessing the arrival of a hero.
The hero in her heart.
As for Stetson, his eyes were still closed, as though he was enjoying the crowd's cheering for him.
In his eyes, the only role that these mortals in front of him played in addition to eating and sleeping was just to cheer excitedly for a great god like him! That was all!
After a long time, Stetson slowly opened his eyes slightly.
Yes, just slightly.
This was because he had sworn that he would never open his eyes completely unless he were to meet with a decent expert.
This was simply because he did not want any mortals to tarnish his sight