The Billionaire Alpha's Contract Lover by Caesar Erickson Chapter 1741

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Taya was awakened by the noise, and slowly opened her eyes to see an endless expan se **of** white – awhite ceiling, white walls, white floor, and nothing else.

The bright white light from the ceiling was blinding, and as she raised her hand to shield her eyes, sheheard the sound of handcuffs moving. She looked over and saw Johnny I ying next to her.

Taya pushed Johnny, wondering if he had offended Erebus's people. Johnny had been i njected with amuch heavier dose of sedatives, and despite her efforts, he didn't react. S he looked around the room, which was all white and had two white beds, looking very cle an and tidy.

She didn't see any electronic devices as Holden had described, so they must have been hiddensomewhere.

She got up from the floor and sat against the wall, waiting. quietly for Erebus to announc e the rules.

But after waiting for a long time, she realized that no one was coming, and there wasn't even a door. However, to her surprise, Erebus had brought her suitcase into the room **as** well.

When she saw her suitcase in the corner, she subconsciously touched her stomach. She didn't feel anydiscomfort from the sedatives, so Erebus's people must have shown mercy towards her.

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She couldn't understand it, but regardless, she was **now in** the place where Griffon had disappeared, and she believed she would see him soon.

She just didn't know what to say to him when she saw him. Should she tell him they fina lly had a pup,or just say, "Honey, I miss you"?

As she thought about this, she moved her hand from her stomach to the shiny white floo r, hoping to seeGriffon soon.

Just then, Johnny, who was lying next to her, stirred slightly, pulling her attention back t o him. He **was**groaning in pain and holding **his** arm.

Taya moved her hand to touch him, and Johnny opened his eyes to see her white face. She asked about the key to the handcuffs, and Johnny, still groggy, searched for it but o nly found a gold leaf. He couldn't find the key and was confused as to where it had gone

His handsome face showed a hint of confusion, and his sleepy eyes were filled **with** be wilderment.

"Strange, I remember the key was definitely here, how did it disappear?"

В

Write your comment

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The entrance of the operating platform **is** equipped with gears. that match the gears on t he edge of thegold leaf in order to be placed inside.

Taya and Johnny realized that the gaps along the edges of each golden leaf were differ ent, and itturned out to correspond to the

entrance.

Johnny touched the console and looked left and right again, finding no problems before nodding toTaya.

Taya took out the golden leaf and inserted it into the entrance **of** the operating platform as instructed.

At the moment of insertion, the gear began to rotate, followed by another electronic sound.

"Identity confirmation successful, inviter number – Group **2**, Group **7**, new player code – Lion"

The electronic sound fell, and the console vomited out the golden leaf again. Taya picke d it up andglanced at it. The front of the cash leaf **was** already engraved with the words' lion', and there **was**another small numbered number next to it **-2-7**.

That was to say, the person who invited her to Erebus had a code number of 2-7 on Erebus, so theygave the player a new code name based on the other person's cod e number, representing that shebelongs to the player under the name of

2-7.

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But his laziness seemed Dumbassish to Taya.

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She endured impatience and lifted Johnny's suit jacket to help. him find the key.

"You probably didn't bring the key"

"Impossible"

Johnny furrowed her brows and flipped through the layers and pockets again, but still di dn't find any.

"Someone from Erebus must have taken my keys"

He clenched his

fists in anger and said, "These bastards, it's best not to be found by me, otherwise I'llkill each one I see."

Taya frowned and said, "They even brought my box, can't they just take your keys."

"What?"

Johnny looked at Taya with a surprised expression on his face.

Taya raised her chin towards him and said, "Over there."

Johnny followed her gaze and happened to see a box in the

corner.

He couldn't believe it: "Even the box is allowed to come in, why

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Apart from the key, everything else on his body was also searched, such as his phone, shrink knife, poison, tracker, and other defensive items, all of which were missing.

Electronic devices would naturally be taken away, Taya didn't care, but if the key to the handcuffs wastaken away, wouldn't she have to be tied to Johnny all the time?

Johnny seemed to be aware of this and looked at Taya, who happened to be looking at him. The two ofthem looked at each other and then moved away.

They leaned against the wall, and after a long silence, Johnny slowly opened his mouth and said, "Doyou have a knife in your

box?"

Before entering Erebus, she spilled a pile of cash because of Johnny. After entering Ere bus, he lost thekey again, causing them to be tied together now.

Taya naturally had resentment and didn't want to talk to him at- all, but out of politeness, sheresponded to him, "No."

Johnny asked again, "Do you have any other tools

Taya glanced impatiently at him and said, "There's nothing, don't ask anymore."

Johnny lowered his eyes and stared at the handcuffs. After a while, he silently said, "I w ant to go to therestroom."

Taya took a deep breath, suppressed all her emotions, and coldly said, "Hold on."

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speaking and looked around the room, only to find two invisible doors.

Holden once said that Erebus respects the invitee, so there were basically all the neces saryphysiological equipment available.

Before the game started, he didb't have to worry about what Erebus will do to them. The only thing toworry **about** was how to open this damn handcuff.

He tugged at the steel hard handcuffs and bit them with **his** teeth. Unable to open them, he forcefullypulled Taya to the room to search for tools.

Two invisible rooms next to each other, one was a shower room. and the other was **a** re stroom. Apartfrom the dazzling white. shower nozzle and toilet, there was nothing, not e ven a window.

After turning around, Johnny kicked the wall **in** anger and said, "When I find them, I will definitely chopthem into meat sauce.

Taya took a deep breath to suppress her anger, "Think of a way to open this first."

Johnny became impatient and said, "If I knew how to open it, wouldn't I even be able to use therestroom?"

Taya was currently **a** pregnant woman with sensitive emotions. and unable to control he r temper. Shealso sent out her spleen and says, "I don't care, if you don't open this, Don 't go to the restroom again."

Speaking of this, Johnny's original needs were suddenly awakened, "Could you please make somesense? It wasn't my

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Taya scolded him, "If it weren't for your bad idea, could we be tied together

Johnny was just about to answer when a mechanical electronic sound suddenly came fr om the room:

"Dear players, welcome to Erebus. You are requested to place the Golden Leaf on the c onsole and confirm your identity."

The voice fell to the ground, and two entrances similar to inserting bank cards popped u p on the wall.

Taya and Johnny temporarily stopped the civil war and walked up to the control desk.

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need to number. Was it true that Erebus's behind the scenes was not just one person, b ut a group ofpeople, so they needed to divide the numbers and invite the players they w ant to invite? What was thepurpose of doing this? Just as she was puzzled, Johnny also put the golden leaf inside, and soon an electronic sound camefrom the console.

"Identity confirmation successful, inviter number – group 1, number 4, player new code – Dumbass"

Johnny remained silent for a moment, took out the ejected. golden leaf, confirmed that it was engraved with 'idiot', and slowly moved her gaze to the golden leaf in Taya's hand.

"Why is your code name a lion and mine a Dumbass."

"It's probably your inviter who thinks you're a bit... so."

"Shit!"

Johnny was so angry that he threw away the golden leaf and angrily looked **up**, searching for thecamera everywhere.

"Inviter of group 4, you shit."

The two groups of people in black sitting in front of the big screen looked at each other and thenchuckled softly when they

saw this scene.

"Venom, the person you selected matches the code you distributed very well."

Venom, hidden beneath the mask, was about to speak when he

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two groups of men, number 9, and suddenly got up quickly.

He lightly tapped his finger on his forehead with one hand, looking lazy and casual, but actually feelingthoughtful.

As Johnny angrily cursed **at** the inviter of group 1, number 4, another electronic sound c ame from theroom.

"Players, please keep your Golden Leaf safe. Golden Leaf needs. to be verified for ident ity in eachround of the game."

After being stunned for a few seconds, Johnny bent down. helplessly and picked up the thrown goldenleaf again.

"Now we are releasing the game rules. This time Erebus has changed the rules. Firstly, in the game field,only four spaces will be opened temporarily, with nine rounds of game s per space. Each round of thegame will gradually increase the difficulty starting from ch oosing between two Players can only choose game in one space. Once selected, it ca nnot be changed. **or** exited, and must continue until thegame ends."

"In each round of the game, there are rewards and punishments. There are two options for rewards. Thefirst option accumulates from 5 billion dollars, and the second option is unlimited. The punishmentranges **from** small to large, from birth to death, and the

ath method is not limited."

"Repeated, players who lose will die."

"Once again, the player who loses will die."

"Please confirm whether you want to continue. For players.

who choose to continue, please put the Golden Leaf back on the

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click Continue, and for players who choose to leave, please also put the Golden Leaf ba ck on theconsole, click Quit."

"Players who choose to give up, please sign the confidentiality agreement, and Erebus will sendsomeone to escort you safely away."

3/5

After listening, Taya and Johnny looked at each other.

"They had changed the rules, this gradually increasing difficulty game had a very low ch ance of winning. Do you still want to continue?"

Johnny asked Taya,

hoping she could consider it clearly. After all, this was not just for fun, but Tayadidn't he sitate and put the gold leaf on it, then quickly press the confirm button.

"No matter how difficult it is, I must stay here until I find him."

Her stubbornness infected Johnny, and he also put the golden leaf on it and quickly pre ssed theconfirm button.

After confirming each other, electronic sounds came in

succession

"2 groups of player 7, Lions confirmed."

"1.

1 group of player 4, Dumbass confirmed."

Taya carefully glanced at Johnny, his face turned black **with** anger, and his clenched fis ts were secretlyexerting force.

"From now **on**, in addition to helping you find him, I also need to find the inviter for Grou p 4."

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He wanted to tear off the label of 'Dumbass' and firmly stick it on the inviter!

Taya withdrew her gaze and stared at the control console without saying a word, mainly afraid ofsetting herself on fire.

Q

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They remained silent and waited for ten minutes before the wall next to the console sud denlyseparated from the left and right sides, and the external environment of Erebus su ddenly appeared infront of them.

1/5

Taya and Johnny saw the door open, took a step forward, and as they were about to ste p out of theroom, two red lines aimed at their forehead.

"Players who have not chosen to leave, please return to your room, otherwise you will b e shotimmediately."

Taya's heart froze and quickly pulled Johnny back a step, the red line on her forehead d isappearing **in**an instant.

"It seems that they are monitoring us.

Johnny swept in the direction of the red line and looked at the eye– catching **wall** in the distance like asnowy mountain. It was too far away to see where the surveillance was. All she **knew** was that they hadalready been fully monitored when they stepped into this area.

"Next, pay attention to what they say."

Taya nodded and the two of them were inside the infrared **range**, surveying the environ ment outside the room.

There was **a** corridor outside, with rows of neat rooms on both sides, The interior of eac h room was thesame, and the door

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Their room **was** number **9**, opposite them. The door over there was also number 9, and the man inside**was** looking at them in surprise.

"Why are you two people?"

"We came together."

Taya responded briefly, while Johnny was disdainful. He glanced at the man and moved her gazedirectly to room 10 opposite, where there was a middle– aged man in gorgeous attire, his hands in hispockets, looking at them from afar.

He didn't know **why**, at first glance at this man, Johnny had a bad feeling.

Perhaps it was because the man looked too scary, with several terrifying scars on his fa ce, and his caglelike **sharp** eyes gave him an indescribable sense of ferocity.

The key was that he still stared at Taya, although he couldn't tell what the purpose was. Anyway, thelook in his eyes **was** strange and eerie. Taya **was** a bit scared when she sa w **it**, and instinctively loweredher head.

However, **in** the moment she lowered her head, a tall and majestic body suddenly block ed in front ofher, casting **a** thick silhouette under the white light. Taya hid beneath this si lhouette, avoiding theterrifying gaze of the middle–aged man.

Players in each room were looking at each other's surroundings. and the people in the r oom, as well asthose who chose to **give up**. After seeing the door open, they followed t he electronic- sound promptand quickly stepped out of the room.

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Before they came, most of them didn't know the rules. After receiving the Golden Leaf, t hey came outof curiosity to see what kind of casino Erebus was. Now, after listening to t

he rules and knowing that they would die, they didn't want to gamble their lives, so they chose to leave.

"Hello."

The middle–aged man in room 10 suddenly shouted at Johnny and Taya.

"Why do you stay here, you don't look poor."

Johnny, who protected Taya behind her, raised his eyes and looked coldly at the malicious man inroom 10.

"So why are you staying here?"

The middle–aged man leaned against the door and spoke calmly.

"I have cancer and I am incurable. Let's see if we can find a

miracle here."

"I also have a terminal illness and want to **play** with exciting things before I die."

The topic seemed to open **up** like **this**, and Taya and the room next door also began to hear voices.

"I lost all my wealth and came to get a huge bonus."

"I just love gambling, and whenever it's an exciting casino, I'll give it a try."

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"I am wanted for murder, and if I go back, I will also die. It's better to choose an interesting way todie."

4/5

"I offended a boss, and if I go out, I will be pursued and killed."

So, the people who came here were either wealthy individuals. with terminal illnesses s eekingstimulation, gamblers on

the brink of death, or murderers. There were basically no normal people, except Taya an d Johnny.

As the group chattered and discussed, the door of the room. closed again, indicating tha t the personwho had chosen to give up had left.

The people sitting behind the scenes, seeing their chosen inviter choose to give up, thre w away their signs one after another.

"It's really useless. I lost before I even started."

"I have advised you to invite more people, so that the odds are lower."

"But the chips are bigger, I don't want these bastards to win over my things."

"You have always been cautious in your actions."

When group 1 and group 2 were talking with each other in black, a female voice sudden ly sounded.

"Where is Cobra from Group 2?"

The two groups of people immediately stopped joking and looked at the position of Grou p **2**, 9th,empty.

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At the same time, Taya's console suddenly popped up a note of

paper.

The font above was printed, with a few words printed on it: 'Get out of here'.

Taya furrowed her brow slowly. Who asked her to leave?

Johnny saw the note and seemed to have guessed something. He quickly grabbed it an d stuffed it intohis pants pocket.

As soon as he inserted it, a three-

dimensional mechanical male voice suddenly sounded from thebehind the scenes cons ole.

Room 9's surveillance screen suddenly goes black. Who wast operating in the dark

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The people in black remained silent and looked towards. positions 2-9.

Room 9 was in charge of Venom's people

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The first group of black clad people were about to say that Cobra from the second group was missingwhen they were interrupted by **a** female voice.

The female voice, clearly trying to protect 2-9, intentionally

shifted the blame onto Venom.

Venom didn't say a word, only gave the other person a cold glance.

"Venom, please have your people immediately go to the detention room and be investigated."

The mechanical sound disappeared, Venom put down hist overlapping long legs, got up and walkeddown from a high position, pausing slightly for a moment as he crossed positions.

2-7.

The commanding aura is quite intimidating, but the woman **in** position **2-7** is wearing her handsaround her chest, looking forward without even raising her head.

"You wait."

Venom dropped this, stepped down the steps, and walked

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As the two passed by, they glanced at each other.

"You are one step late."

The program on the Erebus console was difficult to decipher, and although Cobra was a bit late, he wasquite capable.

At least he could turn off the surveillance screen of the player room, even if the time wa s short.

2/5

The man

named Cobra didn't pay any attention to Venom and walked back to the viewing area.

Venom turned around and stared at Cobra's tall figure, narrowing his eyes slightly under the mask

He stood for a while and arrived at the program room. After successfully verifying his pal m print and ris, the door of the program room opened.

He went in and asked the person in black who was responsible for the program in Room 9 toimmediately go to the detention room and then return the same way.

At the same turning point, Cobra was standing there waiting for him.

Upon seeing it, Venom walked slowly over without speaking first.

The other party doesn't intend to make him speak, just say a few

words.

"Go down there."

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Cobra's voice was very low and his words were concise, but Venom knew what he was saying.

He looked up at the surveillance and tapped the Morse code with his fingers on the side of his pants.

"The game has started, and none of us have permission to continue unless we crack th e 1-1 program."

3/5

Cobra seemed to understand the message he was conveying and wanted to ask anything else.

Venom instinctively glanced at him and then glanced up towards the surveillance directi on.

Cobra understood, nodded at him, turned straight around, and quickly left

Venom stared at his back and slowly curled up the corner of his lips. If this kid were **in** Group 1, it wouldbe great.

In room 9, Taya stared at Johnny, while the other person shook his head and signaled h er not to speak.

Realizing that they were under surveillance, she stopped speaking and instead began to wonder in hermind who had made her leave?

The only possibility that came to her mind was Griffon and Zack.

But they came in **as** players and would only be controlled by Erebus, unable to become Erebus'smanipulators.

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However, no matter who it was, this note was passed on too late. She had already confirmed it andcouldn't leave again.

As Taya pondered, the electronic sound rang again:

"Players who stay, please start selecting the game area.

Electronic sound drops, and on the wall next to it, an electronic screen appears, displaying gameintroductions in four areas,

Taya and Johnny are still handcuffed together, so they must have chosen the same are a, but which areashould they choose?

Pup period, youth, middle age, old age, the names of these spaces are quite casual.

"Could it be the difficulty level of the corresponding game?"

"So let's choose by name, Pup period space. It feels simpler, should we choose this?"

Taya pointed to the lower right corner plate while soliciting. Johnny's opinion.

"In old age, actions are already very slow, and intelligence is also deteriorating. Perhaps the space forold age is simpler."

Taya thought for a moment and felt that Johnny was also right.

Then choose old age.

After the two had finalized, simultaneously click on the confirmation button at the bottom of thescreen.

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About a few minutes later, the electronic sound rang again.

Pup period space, difficulty two stars.

Youth space, three stars in difficulty.

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Middle age space, difficulty four stars.

Old **age** space, difficulty level five stars.

Taya slowly lifted her cold eyes and looked at Johnny.

The other party quickly moved away after touching her line of sight.

"Next time you ask me to choose anything, I won't choose it."

"Do you think there's another chance?"

They picked the most difficult one as soon as they came **up**, and it's not certain if they c an survive ninerounds of the game.

В

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Johnny lowered his head and apologized to her in a low voice.

"Sorry old **age**

Taya wanted to complain, but when she touched his gaze, she suddenly thought of Griff on.

Every time he did something wrong, he always kept a low voice and apologized to her.

She didn't say anything in the end, just glanced at him and continued to stare at the con trol console.

"Now, players, please go to the selected area."

The electronic sound disappeared, and the door reopened. However, after opening it thi s time, it wasnot the scene we had just seen, but an upward staircase.

The white light, projected from above the four stairs, resembled the intersection of heav en.

"Players, please come to the selected area within one minute."

"Those who do not arrive on time will be shot."

"Repeat, those who do not arrive on time will be shot."

Now let's start the countdown, 60, 59, 58."

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They quickly took a step and walked towards the stairs, taking **a** total of four turns, equivalent tocrossing the space of Pup period, youth, and middle **age** and directly entering the elderly

space.

When they arrived at the fourth floor, many people had already arrived, about ten of wh om werechatting with each other. One of them was a richly dressed Scar Man, who raised hist eyebrows slightly when he saw the two of them coming up.

"Why are you two still wearing handcuffs?"

This statement attracted other players, and everyone turned to **Taya** and Johnny.

"You're not supposed to be tied up, are you?"

"Isn't this game a voluntary participation?"

Johnny was used to being arrogant and lazy to talk to these people.

Taya, on **the** other hand, was cold and standing aside.

A few men suddenly lit up their eyes when they saw Taya's face and figure.

"Hello, beautiful, have you have been kidnapped by this man?"

Taya remained silent.

"Hey, you look quite proud, I don't know how it feels to play- with you."

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foot and aiming it at the man's lower body, kicking him hard.

"Ah –."

3/5

The man who was kicked off guard suddenly covered his lower body in pain and fell to t he ground, howling loudly.

"Clean your mouth."

After Johnny finished warning, he kicked him hard a **few** more times until he kicked the other person tobeg for mercy, and then he stopped kicking.

Other players, seeing Johnny's irritable temper, settled down and dared not look at Tay a with coloredglasses again.

Taya, on the other hand, raised her eyes **to** Johnny, who was dragging her, and sudden ly felt his backgradually becoming more majestic.

"Thank you."

"So you're not angry with me anymore?"

Johnny lowered her fan-

shaped thick eyelashes and stared into Taya's eyes, shining with a sparklinganticipation

Taya nodded lightly.

Johnny saw that she was no longer angry and curled her lips, revealing a happy are.

"Dear players."

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At the moment when the electronic audio system started, the originally empty floor slowl y rose to thefour grid game hall.

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"Each game hall has three positions, with a square white table in front of them."

"Across the table, there is a square red gale."

"There are four game halls that appear in front of you now. Please choose your own ga me location."

Taya and Johnny, before taking a step, the people next to them rushed to seize the goo d seats.

After being snatched by this group of people, only Game Hall 4 remained.

Taya and Johnny looked at each other and walked over, while Scar Man followed their s teps.

Johnny had just stood in position when she saw Scar Man following her and instinctively furrowed herbrow.

"What are you doing with us?"

The Scar Man spread out his palm.

"There are only twelve people in total, four game halls, cach with three positions. I don't have tochoose anymore."

Johnny was speechless and could only guard against him, as their positions were quite close together.

Johnny remained twelve percent vigilant, and Taya also rose to

5/5

Chapter 1746 guard.

After all, in such a place, the heart of guarding against people was indispensable.

В

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After the players had selected their respective positions, the mechanical sound sounded again:

"Please insert the invitation card into the console and confirm your identity."

There were **two** small openings on the desktop, and the console. popped up. Johnny st ared at theconsole, some of whom didn't want to insert a card.

"Please insert the card within five seconds. Those who have not completed it will be sho t." After **a** curse in her heart, Johnny took out the golden leaf and inserted it into the consol e.

"The player with the code name 'Dumbass' has been confirmed."

Puff-

The Scar Man next to him, hearing his code name, immediately laughed back and forth.

"Did you offend the inviter by giving you a stupid code name?"

Johnny clenched her fists and stared at the scar man who laughed until his stomach hu rt.

"Shut up."

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gave me, Scar, it sounds so good."

2/5

Johnny **was** so angry that he swung his fists and rushed towards him. Scar Man quickly retreated a stepback.

"I won't laugh anymore."

The Scar Man raised his hands to surrender, and Johnny turned. to face the control con sole, holdingback the raging anger.

Taya carefully glanced at Johnny, but she wasn't worried that Johnny would get angry b ecause of thecode name.

But she didn't expect Erebus to start the game directly after publishing the rules, and du ring this time, she didn't know how much time it would take, nor did she know if Johnny c ould resist the urge to go to bathroom.

However, Johnny, who was extremely angry, had long forgotten about wanting to go to t he restroom and now wished to catch Group 1, Group 4, and vent his anger.

When they each had their thoughts in mind, the mechanical sound of the fourth floor sp ace echoedagain:

"Players, before the first round of the game begins, I'll release the game's win or loss m echanism."

"Rewards for the first round of the game: first option, 5 billion dollars **bonus**, second opt ion, running ahorse."

When playing electronic music, the clean and tidy desktop becomes a screen, displayin g bonuses andhorse racing videos.

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Taya still didn't understand what running a horse was. After seeing the video, she quickl y moved hereyes **away** and looked at Johnny.

He was expressionless, staring at the group of naked women dancing on horseback, as if he didn't feelanything about it.

The Scar Man next to **him** was just like the men in other game halls, excited and whistli ng, only Tayacouldn't adapt and lowered her head.

"Am I not the only female player here?"

"Then you can choose a bonus after you win."

Before Johnny could answer Taya's question, he was interrupted by the Scar Man.

"How do you know she will win?"

Taya couldn't help but ask Scar Man, who was quite elegant and spread out her palm.

When she looked suspiciously at Sear Man, the screen image disappeared and slowly p resented other images, while the electronic sound reappeared.

"The punishment for **the** first round of the game will be for our robot Mech X to remove one arm from the player."

The screen demonstrated how the robot Mech X could instantly tear off a player's arm.

Taya moved her gaze away from the screen and looked at the red

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If these players made the wrong choice, the robots behind the red gate would come out and take offtheir arms.

It wasn't until this moment that these players felt nervous.

But Erebus didn't give any players a chance to buffer and started the game directly.

"First round of game starts now."

After the mechanical sound was played, the screen on the desktop faded and four black boxes quickly popped up.

"The question for the first round of the game, which box is the apple in?"

"Players, please make a choice and press the number keys to confirm."

"Players who have not made

a choice within five minutes will automatically admit defeat."

Players who heard the rules clearly took a step forward and stared at the square box.

"The number keys **are** located above the black square box. After making a selection, pr ess the numberkeys above **to** confirm."

After the game started, the entire game **hall** was constantly surrounded by the ticking c ountdownsound.

In this urgent environment, everyone began to be cautious.

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At the same time, mechanical sounds **also** sounded in the behind the scenes viewing ar ea:

"Please start betting."

The black clad people sitting on the luxurious sofa all picked up their hands to bid the m oney to theinvitee.

After Venom placed his bet on the invited player 'Dumbass' and 'Scar', he looked towar ds positions 2-9.

Cobra, who was sitting straight on the sofa, didn't make **any** movement, just stared at **th e** screen.

Venom stared at him for a moment, then slowly moved his gaze away and repositioned i t on the bigscreen.

В

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Johnny **was** so angry that he swung his fists and rushed towards him. Scar Man quickly retreated a stepback.

"I won't laugh anymore."

The Scar Man raised his hands to surrender, and Johnny turned. to face the control con sole, holdingback the raging anger.

Taya carefully glanced at Johnny, but she wasn't worried that Johnny would get angry b ecause of thecode name.

But she didn't expect Erebus to start the game directly after publishing the rules, and du ring this time, she didn't know how much time it would take, nor did she know if Johnny c ould resist the urge to go to bathroom.

However, Johnny, who was extremely angry, had long forgotten about wanting to go to t he restroom and now wished to catch Group 1, Group 4, and vent his anger.

When they each had their thoughts in mind, the mechanical sound of the fourth floor sp ace echoedagain:

"Players, before the first round of the game begins, I'll release the game's win or loss m echanism."

"Rewards for the first round of the game: first option, 5 billion dollars **bonus**, second opt ion, running ahorse."

When playing electronic music, the clean and tidy desktop becomes a screen, displayin g bonuses andhorse racing videos.

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Taya still didn't understand what running a horse was. After seeing the video, she quickl y moved hereyes **away** and looked at Johnny.

He was expressionless, staring at the group of naked women dancing on horseback, as if he didn't feelanything about it.

The Scar Man next to **him** was just like the men in other game halls, excited and whistli ng, only Tayacouldn't adapt and lowered her head.

"Am I not the only female player here?"

"Then you can choose a bonus after you win."

Before Johnny could answer Taya's question, he was interrupted by the Scar Man.

"How do you know she will win?"

Taya couldn't help but ask Scar Man, who was quite elegant and spread out her palm.

When she looked suspiciously at Sear Man, the screen image disappeared and slowly p resented other images, while the electronic sound reappeared.

"The punishment for **the** first round of the game will be for our robot Mech X to remove one arm from the player."

The screen demonstrated how the robot Mech X could instantly tear off a player's arm.

Taya moved her gaze away from the screen and looked at the red

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If these players made the wrong choice, the robots behind the red gate would come out and take offtheir arms.

It wasn't until this moment that these players felt nervous.

But Erebus didn't give any players a chance to buffer and started the game directly.

"First round of game starts now."

After the mechanical sound was played, the screen on the desktop faded and four black boxes quickly popped up.

"The question for the first round of the game, which box is the apple in?"

"Players, please make a choice and press the number keys to confirm."

"Players who have not made

a choice within five minutes will automatically admit defeat."

Players who heard the rules clearly took a step forward and stared at the square box.

"The number keys **are** located above the black square box. After making a selection, pr ess the numberkeys above **to** confirm."

After the game started, the entire game **hall** was constantly surrounded by the ticking c ountdownsound.

In this urgent environment, everyone began to be cautious.

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At the same time, mechanical sounds **also** sounded in the behind the scenes viewing ar ea:

"Please start betting."

The black clad people sitting on the luxurious sofa all picked up their hands to bid the m oney to theinvitee.

After Venom placed his bet on the invited player 'Dumbass' and 'Scar', he looked towar ds positions 2-9.

Cobra, who was sitting straight on the sofa, didn't make **any** movement, just stared at **th e** screen.

Venom stared at him for a moment, then slowly moved his gaze away and repositioned i t on the bigscreen.

В

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In contrast to the carefree spectators above, the players below in the socalled "Hell Game Zone" werehovering over the number **keys** 1-4, trying to save their arms. The countdown sounded like a death knell, causing them to break out in cold sweats but not daring totake the first step.

Everyone was watching the players in other game rooms, wanting to see which player w ould make thefirst choice and whether they would get their arm chopped off by the robot Mech–X like in the **video**.

They

were all quite scared. Only the player who had verbally harassed Taya carlier, being mo rehot-tempered, tapped number key 3 after watching for a while.

The moment he tapped it, the four black boxes simultaneously opened, **but** unfortunatel y there were**no** apples in boxes 2-4. The red apple was clearly in box 1.

"Damn!"

He had just cursed when the words "You Lost" instantly appeared on the red door acros s from him. Atthe same time, the robotic arms of Mech– X reached out swiftly from inside towards

him.

He turned and ran, but his reaction **was** a beat slow. Plus **a** human could never outrun a machine. Sobefore he got more than a **few** steps, the robotic arm grabbed him back.

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chopping it off in one clean cut, with blood splattering

2/4

everywhere. The cut was smooth and neat without any shreds of flesh.

The moment Mech–X chopped at his arm, a piercing pig–

slaughtering shriek echoed throughout thesenior center, sending chills down everyone's spine.

His game room 3 was right across from Taya and the others. Seeing him writhing in pai n on the ground, reaching out with his left hand to grab his severed arm, Taya's heart sta rted pounding furiously.

Although this guy was quite hateful, such punishment was overly cruel. What was even more terrifyingwas that they would soon face the same punishment after making their ch oices.

As Taya clenched her fists with a pale face, Johnny's steady **voice** sounded in her ear, "Don't be afraid."

She slowly lifted her eyelashes to look at Johnny. Seeing the resolute look in his **eyes**, s he relaxed hertrembling hands and suppressed **all** fear to calm herself down.

The black boxes didn't reveal any flaws. In this situation, they could only rely on intuition and luck. Butshe wasn't sure if her intuition and luck were correct.

As she stared at the black boxes indecisively, Scarface next to her seemed to hear a ce rtain number. He quickly glanced at the monitor, then at a specific time, leaned in close t o whisper:

"Lion, choose 2. Dumbass, you choose 1."

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3/4

suspicion. But after giving them the numbers, Scarface slapped the 1 key.

The moment he tapped it, the words "You Live" instantly appeared on the red door acro ss from him, meaning he had chosen correctly.

"Trust me!"

Scarface didn't give them **a** good impression. Plus Taya had been lured into this game b y Tara, so howcould they know if Scarface **was** sent by Tara to harm them?

After all, the mastermind behind Erebus emphasized the rules and wouldn't allow their **o wn** people tocheat during the game. But **if** someone was planted in, the mastermind wo uldn't know.

If Scarface was sent in advance by Tara, then following his words could get their arms c hopped off in the first round.

Johnny thought about it and realized the only way to test if Scarface was sent by Tara w as to take a riskhimself. In any case, it was blind choosing.

"Taya, I'll go first. If I'm wrong, just listen to him directly."

Before Taya could stop him, Johnny tapped the opposite number to what Scarface spec ified-

Number 2.

As Scarface looked on in shock, the words "You Lost" instantly appeared on Johnny's red door.

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suddenly looked up, and inside the red gate, as expected, he' extended two robotic arm s and rushedtowards him at an

extremely fast speed-

В

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Just as the two arms were about to grab Johnny, Scarface lowered his voice again and said, "Serpentinemovement!"

Johnny **now** completely believed Scarface **and**, dragging Taya, quickly ran out of the ga me room using the serpentine movement.

1/4

The mechanical arms not only could move **in** a straight line but also could turn. Under J ohnny's skillfulcontrol, they extended infinitely and turned endlessly.

Mech-

X's program was clearly set to chop off an arm before retracting. Otherwise, Mech-X wouldcontinue to chase him until it chopped off his **arm**.

Unfortunately, Taya was handcuffed to him, and she didn't have the strength to keep ru nning.

She thought about using Mech-

X's steel blade to cut the handcuffs, but the blade was too wide, andthe handcuffs were too close to their arms. It was too dangerous and not worth **the** risk.

In addition, Mech-

X's program was set to only be effective when. it touched a human body, so this plan**wa s** quickly dismissed in her mind. She could only grit her teeth and run with Johnny while thinking ofother ways.

Seeing that the two were gradually losing their strength, Scarface **quickly** rushed to the opposite gameroom and

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put the severed arm into Mech-X's hand.

Tasting the blood, Mech–X quickly retreated back into the red door.

2/4

Johnny's danger was instantly resolved, and Taya's heart, which had been in her throat, also suddenlyrelaxed. Only the man was left cursing on the ground.

As for the other players who had not yet made a choice, they all followed suit after seein g theiractions.

In game room 4, only **Taya** had returned and had not yet pressed the number key. Whe n the otherstried to rush in to grab her, Scarface and Johnny kicked them out.

Under the protection of the two men, Taya quickly pressed the number 2 key as Scarfac e hadpreviously suggested, and the **red** door in front of them indeed displayed the word s "You win."

Seeing these words, Johnny breathed a sigh of relief and his. suspicion of Scarface turn ed into trust. "Why?" he asked.

Scarface just shook his head at him, and Johnny knew they were being monitored, so h e didn't ask anymore questions.

"The first round of the game is over. Please select your rewards, victorious players."

Five minutes later, the mechanical voice sounded again, and the screen on the table dis played tworeward options.

Taya **and** Johnny both chose the first option, a 5 billion reward, while Scarface chose th e second.

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3/4

"Players, please retrieve your invitation cards and proceed to the Gate of Life and Death ."

After the electronic voice disappeared, the black box on the console retracted, and a gol d leaf poppedout.

Taya and Johnny retrieved the gold leaf and, before entering the gate, looked at Scarfac e who wasfollowing closely behind.

Not only did Scarface help them, but he also knew which box the apple was in, indicatin g that he hadreceived the information in advance.

Or, after the game started, someone passed on accurate information to him based on the countdownnumbers.

If that's the case, it meant Scarface knew the person behind the

scenes.

Johnny remembered the note that popped out of the console when Taya operated it. Co uld it beGriffon?

Impossible.

If it were Griffon, he would have stopped them before they entered, instead of sending S carface to helpthem from the side.

He wouldn't have waited until after they entered, **or** even confirmed the game, to pass a note tellingthem to leave.

Johnny thought that if Griffon were still alive and had the ability to go behind the scenes, then thatnote was

from him. Griffon must have seen their images on the monitor and found a way to **pass** them anote to leave, but it was too late.

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4/4

As for Scarface, he appeared in the room before the game. started, indicating that he en tered as aplayer and assisted them from the beginning.

Under the all-

around surveillance, Johnny couldn't ask Scarface alone, so he could only wait for a noi syenvironment and an opportunity to lean in and ask a few questions, just like Scarface had told themwhat to choose carlier.

In the backstage viewing area, the four game screens closed, showing the win– lose interface and thebetting amounts.

Out of the 18 invited people, only Venom's invitees had won big, and naturally, people w ere suspicious of him.

"Venom, your two invitees cooperated quite well. Could they have known each other bef orehand?

"Yes, especially the Sear, he knows how to avoid risks. Isn't **he** the one you planted in a dvance?"

→Write your comm

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Hearing these questions, Venom casually smiled. "If I remember correctly, the rules for t he game areaare set by 1-2. You are questioning whether 1-

2 broke the rules by revealing the game arca's rules to mein advance, so that I could ins ert Scar in order to win your chips?"

1-1 to 1-

3 were the founders of Erebus. To ensure the fairness. of the invited players' bets, the r ules of the game area were managed by 1-2. Each round had different rules, and only 1-2 knew them.

"You should be very clear that I am only responsible for transporting the invited players andmonitoring the player rooms. I have nothing to do with the game area. Don't talk non sense in thefuture, so as not to tarnish 1-2's reputation."

After Venom's words hit the mark, he gracefully stepped down

the steps.

As he passed by 2-

9, Cobra slowly raised his eyes to look at him. In that moment of eye contact, itseemed I ike they reached some kind of agreement.

After the game area closed, the manipulators were free to move around. Venom returne d to hisresidence, took off his mask, and

sat down on the sofa.

There was a knock on the door from outside. Venom picked up his mask, put it back on, and thenopened the door.

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what brings you here?"

2/3

Venom sat on the sofa, lit a cigarette, and looked at the man who came in without sayin g a word.

The man remained silent, and Venom didn't rush him. He

slowly played with the burning cigarette in his hand through the mask...

After a while, the man walked up to him and sat down

across from him. He tapped the table, using Morse code to communicate. "I can't speak, so I can onlycommunicate with you this way."

Even if there were no monitors in the room, there were some things he couldn't say out I oud. Venomknew his situation and didn't mind, nodding to indicate that he should contin ue. "Did you arrange theScar?"

Venom paused with the cigarette between his fingers, and a hint of killing intent appeared in his eyesbehind the mask. "So what?"

Cobra's fingers continued to lightly tap on the table. "I want to know, how long will you p rotectJohnny?"

Venom's eyes darkened again, and he instantly extinguished the cigarette he was playing with. "Whyshould I tell you?"

Faced with Venom's distrust, Cobra hesitated for a few seconds, then directly took off hi s mask. Afterseeing who the other person was, Venom furrowed his brow, seemingly su rprised that Cobra was theman.

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addressed each other based on their assigned numbers.

3/3

The closer to 1-1, the higher the level. For example, Venom, 1-4, was the first to join Erebus and issecond only to the three founders.

Originally, Venom was a powerful figure **in** Erebus, but after **two** new members joined, 2-7 and 2-

8, **a**man and a woman with a **list** of S's members, they contacted the three founders an d pushed him out of the spotlight.

Now, all Venom could do was transport the invited players and manage the monitoring r ooms for theplayers.

Otherwise, when 2-

7 slandered him today, he wouldn't have been so passive that he could only say aharsh word.

В

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С