

## Death 391

Death... and me

Chapter 391: How the Hell?

Back at the Formations Guild, Qia's expression completely changed when she heard that.

'Boy, we might be inside the Formations Guild Territory, but it doesn't mean you can just talk about anything. First of all, how did you find that about?'

Rean then explained.

'I believe you probably looked into me already, right? I'm a Light Element user. Light Element just so happens to be very good for these kinds of situations. That time when we did a handshake, I noticed the scar through your life force. Don't worry, I didn't use my Spiritual Sense to check your body.'

Qia's expression relaxed a bit after hearing that. Indeed, she did look into Rean. In fact, she did not only check on him but everyone who could be a difficult opponent in the next Formations Guild Exam.

'Hmph! Of course, you didn't. Any female cultivator with enough resources would have clothes that can protect against it. That's why I asked you how you found out.'

Qia then looked around before she looked back at Rean.

'Still, that offer greatly interests me. Can you really do such a thing?'

Rean nodded before asking.

'I can, but it would be better if you can tell me how you got that many scars. There was even some on your... more private parts... Of course, I can fix those too.'

Qia's went dark for a second.

'Shut up! You didn't need to mention those. Anyway, it's not like it's any secret. Any Sasamil Direct Young Descendant will always participate in a few trials around the Empire. It's to show to the other countries our presence. At that time, I went to the Demon Poison Hell to take mine.'

'Although I had plenty of purifying pills, there were still quite a few poisonous creatures with strength. In one of the battles, my group took way too long to defeat the demon beast. When I finally had time to take the pills, the poison had already made its way deep into my body. I was able to eliminate it later on, but the scars had the biggest concentration of poison in them. In the end, the pills were not enough to eliminate them. Demon beasts couldn't care less about a woman's body, so that's why I also have scars... in those parts...'

Qia was very self-conscious of her body defects. Because of that, she always wore clothes that covered most of them. Fortunately, not many cared about that since she made that style look good on her. Nevertheless, she had always been worried about what to do when she got to marry someone. Unlike men, women took notice of their appearances very seriously.

It was then that Qia thought about a possibility.

'Wait! Do you need to see my scar to heal them? If that's the case, forget it!'

Rean was taken aback for a second but then laughed out loud.

'Don't worry. I just need to touch any part of your body so I can send Light Element directly inside. You will also receive a good amount of Dark Element, which is quite painful. Don't worry about that, though. I'll use my Light Element to protect your body. Please give me your hand. Also, be aware that Light Element feels very soothing, so you better control your voice. Don't say that I didn't warn you.'

Qia narrowed her eyes. What did he mean by that? In the end, she thought that Rean said that because it would be painful, not because it was soothing. After some time, she gave her hand to Rean without much hope. She had tried to get rid of those scars before, but none of the methods worked. How could someone from a small country on the corner of the Empire be better at it than the Imperial Alchemists and Water Element cultivators?

Qia should really have heeded Rean's warning, though. At the very moment their hands touched, a burst of Light Element rushed into Qia's body. It quickly spread through all the meridians and connected to every pore of her skin.

'Life Style, Third Form, Purification!'

'Life Style, Second Form, Instant Recovery!'

\*Moan!\*

It was just way too good! She simply couldn't hold her voice back at all. As soon as she did that, she covered her mouth as her face went completely red. Although there weren't many people around, there were still quite a few. All of them immediately looked in her direction with shocked faces. Obviously, Qia took her hand back straight away after that.

Rean also felt helpless. He even went out of his way to warn her, but she didn't take his words to heart.

"Y-You! What are you trying to do with this princess?!"

Rean looked at her with a wronged expression.

"I told you to control your voice, didn't I? It was you who didn't take it seriously, not me. Seriously, why does everyone ignore my warnings? I'm just trying to make things right..."

In the end, Rean's Light Element only lasted for two or three seconds before Qia pulled it away. It was far from enough to heal her scars.

"Were you trying to humiliate this princess?"

"Like hell would I do something that idiotic."

Rean then switched back to using Spiritual Sense Messages again as he said.

'Take a look at your body. Even though I was only able to work for a moment, it should have already shown some effect. Even your private parts' scars should have changed a bit.'

Qia was taken aback and immediately used her Spiritual Energy to check her body. Sure enough, the change was minute, but her scars really did look a little better. It was the first time Qia saw that happening.

'This... It actually works!'

Immediately, an excited expression appeared on Qia's face. She even felt like crying but held that urge due to the current place they were in.

'This is great! I even began to think that I would need to cut all the flesh out to fix them. Hahaha!'

Rean couldn't help but think.

'Cut the flesh out? Women are terrifying when it comes to their bodies...'

Qia then looked back at Rean before asking.

'How did you do it? None of the Alchemist Pills I took before worked at all.'

Rean then explained.

'The problem was the poison itself. It hasn't really been eliminated from your body. It fused together with the tissue of the skin, which made it look like it was part of your body. Their damaging effects disappeared, but the side effects remained. That's why none of the pills worked. After all, they couldn't find any 'poison' there.'

'I first used my Brother's Dark Element to destroy the poison while I kept your body safe with my Light Element. You probably noticed that it also hurt quite a bit, right? It's just that the soothing feeling was a lot stronger.'

Qia nodded.

'Indeed. I felt the pain, but your Light Element was just too good that I completely ignored it.'

After saying that, Qia narrowed her eyes. She wasn't an idiot. For Rean to help her with it, there was definitely something he wanted.

She was right. In fact, even if she hadn't pulled her hand back, Rean would have stopped using the Life Style Second and Third Form before finishing the service.

Qia pondered for a bit when she suddenly remembered how Rean was all flirty with her at first.

'This boy, could it be?'

She couldn't help but feel a little embarrassed once again.

'Well, he's already sixteen while I'm nineteen. It's not like our ages are that far from each other.'

One must not forget that Rean and Roan lied about their ages when they joined the Dalamu Sect.

'However, that's not the point here--this healing ability of his... I had heard from the reports that it was very good, even above Water Affinity Cultivators. But I didn't expect that it would be this overpowered. That's what really matters!'

Several ideas began to pop out in Qia's head in a flash. She wasn't the only descendant in that kind of situation, after all. There were many other women she knew that would love to have a taste of Rean's skill. Well, Rean said that he knew the poison in her scars, so she knew it still wasn't guaranteed that he could heal the others.

Just as Rean was about to ask what he wanted, the onlookers finally came forward to ask what happened.

"Ahem... Qia, did he do something to you?"

Sure enough, Qia's loud moan and her angry expression earlier had caught too much attention. Naturally, the people around would come to see if everything was okay.

"What do you mean with that question? Do you think princess Qia would do such a thing of her own volition? It was obvious that the boy did something to her."

The female cultivators obviously tried to defend Qia. She was the princess while Rean was a nobody, after all.

The male ones only sighed as they looked at Rean.

"Brother. It's not good to bully women, you know? Let alone a princess of our Empire. You better give a good explanation."

Rean scratched the back of his head. It would be useless for him to explain. Still, he wasn't afraid. After all, if Qia wanted to have her body scars healed, she would need his help. He was sure she would fix this misunderstanding.

It was then that Qia smiled and hugged Rean's arm.

"Oh! Sorry, sorry. I just exaggerated a bit in my reactions. Don't worry, it was just a couple's personal joke. In any case, I already warned my boyfriend here to not do that anymore."

\*Boom!\*

Immediately, the surroundings went into an uproar!

As for Rean...

'HOW THE HELL DID I BECOME YOUR BOYFRIEND?!'

Death... and me

Chapter 392: Trapping Herself

"Boyfriend? This guy?"

"Princess Qia, is that true?"

"Isn't he younger than you? Is that really okay?"

"How come no one has heard anything about it?"

Qia showed an embarrassed expression as she replied.

"He only confessed his love recently. At first, I was in doubt. After all, he's a little younger than me. Still, I had to admit that he has been putting a lot of effort into it. In the end, he succeeded in moving my heart. So what if he's three years younger than me? Does love care for such trivial things?"

Rean almost cried. What confession? How come he wasn't present when he confessed? As far as Rean could remember, he never sleepwalked recently.

'What are you trying to do? Is it really okay for a princess of the Empire to say something like that?'

Qia smiled as she replied.

'Why the pretense? We both know that this is what you wanted. Don't worry. This healing ability of yours has truly caught this princess' attention. Congratulations, you have succeeded. I won't let any other girl claim you from now on.'

The thing he wanted? He had never intended for that at all. Sure, he did act a little overboard when he talked to her just a moment ago. Still, would a princess as smart as this one really fall in love with him with just that?

'What are you talking about? I did indeed want something from you, but that had nothing to do with a romantic relationship.'

Obviously, Rean was right. Qia wouldn't deny that she had a good impression of Rean. However, it was definitely worlds apart from reaching the level of love. It's just that Rean's healing abilities had way too many uses. If he succeeded in eliminating scars that the other alchemists can't, that would be a huge thing for Qia.

'Too bad, now that I've announced it, you can't escape anymore. You are this princess' property!'

Qia hugged Rean's arm even tighter. The 'oh-so-soft' feeling that he hadn't felt ever since he healed Tiria once again appeared once more. That obviously made his mind wander a little.

'Nonono, you're just nineteen. I'm a 45-year-old geezer already.'

Or so he wanted to say. However, at the moment, he looked like a typical 15 to 16-year-old teenager. Obviously, he couldn't say something like that. Let alone whether Qia would believe that. If she did, that would expose his identity as a reincarnator.

'Princess, do you have a screw loose? Think about the repercussions. First of all, I'm just someone who came from a small corner of the Empire. You are the granddaughter of the fifth prince. We are simply worlds apart.'

Qia shook her head.



'Don't worry, my grandfather has many descendants. I'm only one more of them. Of course, compared to most direct bloodline descendants, I'm quite high in the chain. Still, I don't think my father or grandfather would oppose our marriage.'

Rean couldn't help but say.

'How could that be? Your Sasamil Family is full of political marriages. Would they let you go just like that? Don't forget how different our backgrounds are.'

Eventually, Qia narrowed her eyes.

'Are you really worried about something like that, or are you thinking that this princess is not good enough for you?'

Rean felt like crying. However, he couldn't make her hate him either.

'Of course not! Even with the scars, princess Qia is still beautiful! The clothes you are using are obviously helping out in hiding them. However, they accentuate the nice curvatures of your body. Both your straight black hair and eyes are dazzling. Not to mention that the skin that doesn't have the scars is very smooth, showing how well you treat yourself even in this situation. Last but not least, the softness I feel in my arms is almost making me go crazy! I can guarantee it, you are not only good enough for me. You are way too good!'

Qia was only teasing Rean with that question. But she didn't expect that he would say so much. Every word made her feel more and more flustered. But it was when he reached the topic of her boobs that she finally realized how pressed against him she was.

Still, she noticed that Rean was just trying to find a way to escape, so she gritted her teeth and didn't let go.

'Hm-hmph! At least you know how to talk.'

Qia continued.

'Don't worry, there is no problem with your background. Once I say that you are the direct disciple of the man who invented the communication system, even my grandfather will be delighted to hear about our relationship.'

Rean still shook his head.

'That won't do. It's too risky. The one who invented that was my master, not me. What if it impacts my Dalamu Sect?'

Qia smiled playfully after hearing that.

'And what if I say that you dumped me after everything we had gone through? Which one do you think would affect your Dalamu Sect the most?'

Rean was taken aback.

'Y-You!'

Suddenly, Qia became teary-eyed.

"Rean, even though we had gone so far, I still feel that you are somewhat distant from me. Could it be that you don't love me anymore? Were you just using me and... my body?"

The uproar, which was already quite big, became even louder!

"What?! Did he actually do that?!"

"Holy crap! Who could have thought that these two have gone this far!"

"Not only that, but he has the guts to dump her after that too!"

"The Imperial Family will definitely skin him alive when they find out."

The female cultivators were even harsher than the men.

"Vile scum!"

"Princess, there is no need to pay attention to this kind of person."

"Don't worry, princess. One's virginity is important, but happiness is far greater. Leave this idiot and tell the Imperial Guards. They will take care of him for you."

Rean almost vomited blood!

'Who the hell dumped you? The guy over there, where did you hear the term 'do someone' to start with?'

Rean's plans to help Roan were getting even more out of hand as time passed. Qia totally had him under her palms. At first, there weren't many people around, but the commotion caught the attention of those passing by. If he didn't do something soon, he would really be making an enemy of the Imperial Family for sure.

"Ahem... My... Love... That obviously not the case. It's just that I was afraid that I couldn't be at your standard. However, how could I let you suffer like this? Don't worry, I'll find a way for us to be together."

And with that, Rean grabbed Qia's waist and... kissed her!

Qia was genuinely taken by surprise this time! She didn't expect something like that at all! She only wanted to make sure that Rean wouldn't find a way to escape the situation. After that, they could discuss the things she really wanted for him. That was still her first kiss!

Rean couldn't care less, though.

'Hmph! Two can play this game, you know? Since you went this far, don't blame me for going even further.'

Obviously, that display of affection calmed the enraged crowd. It worked better than Rean expected. However, Qia quickly came back to herself and immediately got away from his embrace.

"Y-You!"

Rean playfully smiled as he said.

"Is there a problem, my love? Why would you suddenly step back like that? We have done so much together, so you definitely wouldn't mind such a simple kiss, right?"

Qia was taken aback and immediately noticed everyone's puzzled expressions.

"O-Of course not! How could I?"

Rean did his best to hold his laughter as he continued his play.

"Oh, I see. It is because I did such a thing in front of everyone that you felt embarrassed, right? Sorry, that was the only way I could think to prove to you that I have never really thought about giving up on you."

Rean then turned to the spectators before saying.

"Qia Sasamil is this Rean's woman! I like the fact that she wouldn't allow any woman to take me. And in exchange, I won't let any man take her. That's correct! What's the point in hiding it now? The truth is that she might even be pregnant at the moment."

Qia almost passed out! Pregnant your head!

'What are you trying to do? Are you really thinking about going forward with this?'

Rean snorted in response.

'You were the one who started it. You knew that I wanted something from you, so you did all of that so that you would be the one in control. However, two can play this game. You said it yourself, your grandfather, the fifth prince, would be more than happy with our relationship.'

Qia felt helpless as she mentally cursed herself. She indeed did say that. Still, she didn't expect it to come back at her in this manner.

'Hm-hmph! It's very easy for me to expose your lie. I'm still a virgin, after all.'

Rean shook his head, though.

'You underestimate my healing abilities. It's a trivial matter for me to recover someone's hymen. I can only say that we were afraid of being exposed, so I used my Light Element to give your hymen back to you. If they ask me to test it out, I can simply do the same thing with any other woman who has just lost her virginity. Easy peasy.'

Qia just wanted to kill this guy already. Usually, no one would believe Rean. However, because of what she said about Rean using her body, she ended trapping herself.

Death... and me

Chapter 393: Shocked

Somewhere else in the Inner City, Roan had just arrived at a different building. That was the one indicated by Gval before he left the antique shop through the Dimensional Realm's Teleportation Formation. Roan didn't care about others seeing him escaping like that since he was using a different appearance. Naturally, he was also doing the same thing now that he had arrived here.

The building looked quite ordinary. It wasn't a shop or anything like that, just a typical house. Of course, Gval said that he was only responsible for one of the entrances, which was this one. He knew that there were several more scattered in the Inner and Outer City.

As soon as he entered the house, he noticed an old woman sitting at the door. She simply glanced at him before extending her hands.

"Gval sent me."

Roan said as he delivered the token Gval passed back then.

The woman nodded before checking the black token with her Spiritual Sense. Roan didn't underestimate the woman just because of her appearance. When he used his Spiritual Sense to check her, he couldn't feel her cultivation at all. Both he and Rean had pretty strong souls for their cultivation level. Because of that, they could at least tell when someone was in the Core and Soul Fusion Realm even without being able to say which stage they were in. However, he got nothing for this woman.

'Nascent Soul Realm, at the very least. As expected of the Capital. Even a doorkeeper can have such a level.'

A moment later, the woman threw the token back at Roan and said.

"It's disrespectful to pry into someone's cultivation without their permission. But since this is your first time, I'll let it slide. There will be no second time, understood?"

Roan narrowed his eyes but nodded nonetheless.

"Good! The fifth door on your left. Put the token on the formation, and it will teleport you to the place you want."

Roan didn't say anything and went straight to the room. He already confirmed with Sister Orb that there are formations in place, but none of them were active. After putting the token over the teleport formation, it flashed with silver light. Soon after, Roan disappeared from the house.

Still, the Teleport Formation wasn't that impressive. From what Sister Orb said, it could only teleport someone at most 50 kilometers or so away. That being said, the black market was still located inside the Outer City.

As soon as Roan appeared, he noticed that he was inside some kind of jail. However, it wasn't closed but opened instead. He didn't need to know formations to understand that this room where the teleport formation was located was full of it.

'Most likely, it was built this way in case someone entered without permission.'

[Correct. That old woman outside most likely communicated with the guys here to say that your entrance was verified.]

Roan then left that jail-like teleport room and appeared in front of a hall. There was only one attendant there who was also covering his or her face.

"Token."

Roan then passed the token and waited. A few seconds later, the person seemed to do something to his token before giving it back.

"You can stay inside for at most two hours. After that, you must leave, or it will incur a fee. I believe you know the rules, but I'll say it anyway.

No questions about the other part's identity;

All payments are made right away;

Don't lose your token;

Any losses caused by yourself have to be paid before you leave this place;

The Black Market gets 20% commission over everything you sell, whether it is an item or a piece of information.

That's basically everything you need to know."

Roan nodded before asking.

"Where can I buy information?"

The attendant then pointed in a particular direction.

"You can find the Dark Web building in the center of the black market."

After that, the attendant sat once again and ignored Roan.

Roan didn't mind that as he stepped out. It turned out that the black market wasn't small. However, it made sense that almost no one came to this place. That's because the market was built underground. He could see the formations above, preventing the ceiling from coming down. Simultaneously, it was perfect since they could simply let go of the formation, and the weight of the earth would get rid of everything in a flash.

Roan had three goals in his schedule. First and most importantly, it was the information regarding the Sasamil Throne Succession. That was directly connected to his life, after all.

Another thing was the so-called Yin Energy Skills. He had heard about how cultivators used Yin Energy to manipulate the Dark Element. Gval, for example, didn't seem surprised to see Roan using it either. All the skills he has used so far were based on his own comprehension and the skill manuals he read in the past. He wanted to see what kind of Dark Element skills the cultivators in the Capital came up with. That being said, the black market was the perfect place for that.

Last but not least, he wanted to check the Shadow Reapers. He had heard a lot of them but haven't found anything about these guys. Even the Dalamu Sect only knew how to contact them to acquire their



services. If possible, he would like to become one of their members as well. That would make things a lot easier.

Although the black market was quite spacious, there were very few people there. Also, everyone was hiding their natural appearance like what Roan was doing. Still, there were a few confident cultivators that didn't bother to do such a thing. Of course, that wasn't Roan's problem.

It wasn't hard to arrive at the center of the Black Market. Sure enough, he found the building the attendant was talking about a while ago, the Dark Web. There were two guards that looked more like statues in front of the entrance as well. Once again, Roan couldn't see through their cultivation. Still, he ignored them and passed through the door. The guards didn't do as much as spare a single glance at him.

Inside, he saw several booths spread out in a circular room.

'Indeed. They wouldn't work with sensitive information out in the open.'

Roan saw that three of the ten available ones were occupied. He ignored that and selected one for himself. Inside, there was only a simple table with two opposite chairs. Each chair had one door behind them, the one Roan used to enter, and another used by the Dark Web Organization.

Roan then closed the door behind him before sitting on his chair. A few moments later, the other door opened, and a cultivator wearing black clothes came out. Just like the attendant, this guy was also hiding his appearance with some kind of Spiritual Energy Skill. The only thing Roan could see was his dark eyes.

"Token."

Roan passed it to the guy, who verified it for a moment. He nodded in the end before giving it back.

"Your information access is Class D. The price of the information will depend on the information itself. What do you want to know?"

Roan narrowed his eyes.

"Class D? What category is the Sasamil Throne War information classified at?"

The guy on the other side went silent for a moment.

"Class B at the very least. You can't buy this information."

"What do I need to do to improve my classification?"

"Simple. You just need to trade information with us. Depending on the value of what you say, your stand within the Dark Web Organization will rise. Still, don't look down on the Class D level. You came from a small country, right? I can tell since you didn't know about this categorization before. The Class D level is more than enough to buy most information related to the Royal Families and Sects of those places. Someone like you shouldn't pry into the Imperial Family's business."

Roan didn't care, though.

"What kind of information do you require?"

The attendant saw that Roan didn't give up before nodding.

"Anything sensitive that hasn't been spread out yet. It would be best if there's proof of what you were talking about. Of course, we have our own way of verifying it, so it would be in your own interest to not come up with just any bullshit. Trust me, those who tried to do that before didn't have a good ending."

Roan narrowed his eyes.

"Supposed that I have something good to say. What guarantee I have that you won't lie, saying that your organization already knew it before putting the new information for sale?"

The guy didn't seem surprised by Roan's doubt.

"Our reputation. If we really did such a thing, our Dark Web organization wouldn't have lasted until today. Of course, if you don't believe us, you can simply leave straight away. No one will stop you."

Roan pondered a bit and decided to give it a try.

"Is there no other way?"

The man nodded.

"You can come with someone who has access to this class of information. In that case, we won't stop you from buying it."

Roan shook his head. He did have some information about the Sasamil and Chrole Empires. He also had a few guesses due to what the Soul Gem System said. Still, there would be no way to verify his claims. Besides, he would rather not share what he knew.

However, it was at this moment that the man suddenly looked in a particular direction.

"Oh! That's quite shocking! It seems like you aren't that simple after all. Just now, you received permission to get access to Class A information. I don't know how you did it, but I won't pry either. Go ahead, what do you want to know?"

However, Roan was even more shocked than the man himself. Just how the hell did he get this permission?

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Chapter 394: Qia's Answers

Back at Rean's side, the two finally left the crowd behind and found a place to talk privately.

"Alright. Let's end this here. If we go out later and simply say that everything was a joke, the others can only trust that."

Qia looked at Rean as if he looked at an idiot.

"We could have done that before. However, do you think that'll work after you kissed me in front of everyone?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he replied.

"Why are you angry? Wasn't it you who started all of that?"

"This..."

Qia couldn't think of an excuse.

"Fine. I just wanted to make sure you wouldn't leave so easily. This scar healing ability of yours is too useful. Anyway, tell me what you want. What do you want in exchange for healing the scars present on my body?"

Rean nodded as he smiled.

"The truth is, our Dalamu Sect already knows about the hidden struggle for the Sasamil Empire's throne. However, it's quite a sensitive topic for our elders to bring up with Sasamil. Master asked me to stay out of this issue, but I can't simply let it go. What I want to know is how the situation is inside. As the Fifth Prince's granddaughter, one of the main contenders, you definitely know something, right?"

Qia was taken aback.

"I didn't expect that a small sect like Dalamu would know something about that. So far, the Imperial Family and the subordinate clans have been doing a great job in keeping things under wraps."

Rean snorted after hearing that.

"Good job? This is directly linked to the Chrole Empire. The First Prince wants to get rid of their bloodline in the Sasamil Empire and attack them. He thinks that Chrole wants to take the Sasamil Empire. Your grandfather didn't show it in public, but if our deduction is correct, he also wants to deal with Chrole, and so does most of the main contenders to the throne. They are just not as open about it as the First Prince."

"Chrole, on the other hand, already got wind of the events. They have been sending spies here all the time, trying to pry this information. The good job you talked about is only concerning the far-away countries. For the big and powerful nearby ones, they all understand what is happening already."

Qia was really shocked to hear Rean saying all of that.

"And how did you find about all of that? Your Dalamu Sect is part of these small far-away countries, isn't it? Such information shouldn't have reached that place yet."

Rean smiled.

"Very simple. That's because your Sasamil Imperial Family intends to use our communication system to help win this war. Did you know my master was almost kidnapped by the Chrole Empire's experts? Oh, well. I'm not sure if such information was passed to you anyway. However, our Sect informed the Imperial Family about the attack."

Qia indeed didn't know about such a thing.

"Alright, alright. It's obvious that the attack was the start of your Sect's suspicion. However, you should listen to your elders and not get involved with it. This situation is much bigger than what you or even I can put our fingers in."

Rean shook his head.

"Don't worry, I don't intend to act directly. I only want to help my Sect and Master. For that, we need as much information as possible. As long as you tell me what you know, I'll heal all your scars as payment. I don't even mind if you capture me after that."

Qia was in a dilemma. She did want to get rid of her scars, but she didn't want to yield to Rean either. Besides, it wouldn't be a good thing to talk about the Imperial Family's situation to outsiders. Qia continued to ponder as Rean waited for her answer. Eventually, she gritted her teeth before saying.

"I'll hear your questions, but if it's something too sensitive, I won't answer. In exchange, you need to heal me. Whether it will be worth it or not is up to you. Even I can't talk about the family's secrets."

Rean nodded, satisfied.

"Very well. My first question is--"

"Stop right there! First, you need to heal my scars. What if I answer your questions and you don't heal me in the end?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders, thinking that the statement made sense.

"Sure, no problem."

To Qia's surprise, Rean immediately grabbed her hand. She couldn't help but fluster a little this time. After all, the kiss scene was still in her mind. Still, before she could say anything, another burst of Light Element entered her body.

\*Moan!\*

Rean was so direct that Qia even forgot this side effect. Well, this time, he did it on purpose, though.

"You...!"

"Me? I'm just healing your scars. You knew that it was going to happen. In the end, you moaned because you wanted to."

Qia's face became even redder. Fortunately for her, there wasn't anyone around this time. Her scars on her body, including those on her private parts, began to heal at a fast pace. She also felt pain because of the Dark Element that entered her body to attack the scars' poison. It's just that the pleasure from Rean's Light Element was just that much higher.

Rean made sure to do a good job. When he finished, Qia's skin went back to be as smooth as before she got the scars. After finishing up, Rean retreated his hand before saying.

"My beloved princess, your knight has completed his mission."

Qia was taken aback for a second.

"Shut up!"

She checked her body with her Spiritual Energy and sighed in relief. Rean had really healed everything. Not a single scar remained anymore.

"You're quite direct. Were you afraid that I would simply renege on our deal?"

Rean smiled at her.

"My love is a princess of the Sasamil Empire. She would never do something that could tarnish the Sasamil Family's reputation. I trust that the love of my life would never go back on her word."

Qia's face burned with every word. Without her noticing, the shadow of the white-haired boy began to enter her heart.

"H-Hmph! You are lucky that you're right. This princess would never go back on her word. Go ahead, ask the questions you want to ask."

Rean nodded.

"First, I want to know the situation of the Emperor. Is he really close to death, as the rumors say?"

Qia shook her head.

"I'm not sure. I also heard about this rumor that the Emperor's health is not good. Unfortunately, almost no one has access to the Emperor's chamber. When he comes out to preside over the Empire's affairs, no one can see anything different either. Thanks to my grandfather, I have been present in some of the Imperial Court gatherings to learn. As far as I could see, he seemed to be completely fine."

Rean was happy to hear that. Different from everyone he had talked to so far, Qia was the first one who had really seen the Emperor recently, and not only once.

"Good. It seems like that Yulian Sasamil is fine. Even if he is pretending to be healthy, he is still appearing during the Imperial Court Session, showing that he hasn't reached a critical point yet."

Qia couldn't help but warn Rean.

"You shouldn't use the Emperor's name that lightly. Anyway, what else do you want to know?"

Rean pondered a bit and continued.

"Have you heard about a rebellion? I've got some rumors about it happening. However, it seems like it was over as fast as it started. It was to the point that there were almost no waves created by it."

Qia's expression became dark as she asked.

"How did you obtain that information?"

Rean shrugged his shoulders.



"I have a decently extensive network. Anyway, it seems like it did happen. Your reaction was more than enough to prove it."

Qia noticed that she really did that.

"Oh well, whatever. You were right. It was over even before it started. Even if I tell you about it now, it would be of no use anymore. The two main contenders for the Throne are my Grandfather and First Granduncle. Few between the direct bloodline princes and princesses can put some threat to that. Because of that, one of the less powerful princes tried a desperate move some time ago."

Rean nodded.

"Who was it? And why did he try such a thing?"

"His name was Vagro Sasamil. He received information that his daughter was killed in a trial before. However, it seems like it was a move of the Shadow Reapers. Like many descendants, his daughter also had a half Chrole Imperial Family bloodline. Recently, these descendants have been targeted by the First Prince's faction, and she was one of them. Vagro became enraged and decided to settle things with his own hands. Anyway, the situation went out of control and ended in a coup. Vagro knew he didn't have a chance to succeed. But he did that nonetheless."

Rean's smile disappeared after hearing that. He obviously knew very well who Qia was talking about. Still, he had to at least confirm.

"What was his daughter's name?"

Qia pondered for a bit.

"If I'm not wrong, her name was Saline? Valona? What was it... errr... Ah! Calina, that was her name. Vagro and her are quite behind in the direct bloodline, so I don't know them that well. I only remembered Vagro's name because of what happened to him."

Rean felt a headache already. He didn't expect that Calina's father would do such a thing.

"I can already imagine the result, but I will ask it anyway. What happened to Vagro after he failed?"

Death... and me

#### Chapter 395: Not Going Back

On Roan's side, he was still perplexed by what he heard. Obviously, he wasn't the least bit happy. Since he obtained Class A access, that meant that someone was observing him up to now. There was Gval, but he doubted that man would do such a thing. Perhaps even Gval doesn't even have Class A access.

"Who gave me this permission?"

The man shook his head as he said.

"Rules of the Black Market. No questions about anyone's identity. You better not ask that question again."

Roan narrowed his eyes as he listened to the statement. There was nothing he could do about it since he knew that it was an actual rule. Well, it's not like Roan didn't have an inkling of an idea. Roan then pondered for a bit and decided to go ahead with his questions.

"I want all the information regarding the throne succession and those involved in it. Things like people with the best chances, decisions that have been made, Chrole's reaction, etc."

The man on the other side of the table nodded.

"That information won't come cheap. You got the access, that's true. But you still need to pay for it."

Roan didn't mind as he asked.

"How much?"

The man then extended all his ten fingers.

"Ten thousand Rank Three Spirit Stones. We also accept Rank Four ones. If you have them, I can give you a discount and sell you the information for just 800 Rank Four Spirit Stones. Oh, and also, we can't guarantee that you'll be satisfied with what we know or not. If you don't like what you see, you won't receive your money back."

Sure enough, Rank Four Spirit Stones were rare even in the Black Market. One Rank Four Spirit Stone had Spiritual Energy equivalent to ten Rank Three stones. That information then should cost one thousand Rank Four stones. However, due to its rarity, even the Dark Web was willing to reduce the price.

Roan then connected to the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and looked at the amount of Spirit Stones available they had. Rean always divided the number of Spirit Stones equally for them to cultivate. However, Roan's part alone wouldn't be enough to pay for it. So, without any other choice, he contacted Rean.

'Hey, Nightingale, I need 10000 Rank Three Spirit Stones to buy information. I'll need to take some of yours to buy it.'

Rean, who had been talking with Qia, was taken aback for a second. Though, it did not take long for him to reply as he said.

'10000?! That's almost everything we have together. Are you sure it's necessary to spend this much?'

Roan confirmed.

'What's more important? Spirit Stones? Or our lives?'

Rean sighed and immediately agreed. Sure enough, Spirit Stones would have no meaning if Calina doesn't become the Empress.

'By the way, I found something that you'll want to know.'

Roan stopped Rean in his tracks as he replied.

'Leave it for later. I need to finish my part here first.'

'Alright.'

Roan then took a few bags from his waist and threw them at the information merchant. Naturally, the guy was taken aback after seeing that. Roan looked very young, so he didn't expect him to have this many Spirit Stones.

"Check it. There should be 10000 Spirit Stones inside these bags."

After Roan was finished talking, the man came back to himself as his eyes lit up. As the one selling information, he would also get a commission for it.

"Sure! Give me a second."

His Spiritual Sense immediately entered the bags. Sure enough, he found 10000 Rank Three Spirit Stones inside them. After that, he tapped on the table. Not long after, the door behind him opened up before another man in black entered the room. They talked about something through their Spiritual Sense for a bit. Following that, the man took the bags with Spirit Stones and retreated.

"The payment has been received. The information you requested will be delivered soon."

The man then got up and left through the back door as well. Roan waited in the room for a few moments until, after some time, a compartment opened on the side of the room. There, Roan found three Jade Slips. Without wasting time, Roan took those Jade Slips and put them in his bag before leaving the room.

After finishing that, Roan gave up going shopping. He wanted to find a few of the Yin Energy Skill Books related to the Dark Element. Unfortunately, he didn't have the money to buy those things anymore.

'Leaving that aside, I need to check this thing about getting Class A identification...'

Roan pondered for a bit but shook his head in the end. If there was someone following him, he really couldn't tell. It would be useless to use Rean's Radar Skill to perceive Spiritual Senses since everyone literally had their Spiritual Senses active.

'There's no way to identify which one of those hundreds or even thousands of Spiritual Senses is the one observing me. Even if there was one, I doubt this person would have continued to do so after revealing his existence in the Dark Web Organization. I might as well go through the third part of the plan.'

Roan didn't have to walk for too long. He stopped in front of another building. This time, however, there were no guards in front. The only thing he could see was a worn-out board with a name written in dark letters.

-Shadow Reapers-

Roan faintly smiled and made his way inside. Surprisingly, he wasn't alone there. A few other people were waiting in a queue in front.

'I guess it can't be helped. In this cultivation world, being an assassin should be quite a profitable job.'

Sure enough, these people on the queue were all waiting to contract the guild to kill someone for them. One didn't need to think too much to know that not a single person used their actual appearance. There were business assassination, revenge assassination, inheritance assassination, you name it. The Shadow Reapers took them all.

Of course, it was freaking expensive in exchange, especially in a city like the Sasamil Capital. Otherwise, this queue would definitely be much bigger.

There was a reason for the Shadow Reapers to charge so much. The lack of personnel! The number of cultivators willing to become assassins was surprisingly very low. The problem was that the Shadow Reapers didn't just accept anyone. If you wanted to join, you had to be stronger than those at your level.

After all, the Shadow Reapers worked based on reputation. Their assassination attempts almost always succeeded.

Rean and Roan were quite lucky back then since Tiria was there to help them out. It also increased to price to have them killed since a Nascent Soul Realm cultivator protected the twins. In the end, the Umbral Sect wasn't willing to pay for the increase.

That being said, the requisites for becoming an assassin of the Shadow Reapers were relatively high. Also, you couldn't take missions straight away. The Organization would test you beforehand to guarantee that you had both the resolve to kill and the power to overwhelm opponents of the same level.

The queue moved slowly. After all, you can't expect an organization like this one to have many 'employees' working. Every time someone was attended, he would be brought inside where the Shadow Reapers would hear your request, calculate the price, and receive the payment.

Roan's turn finally arrived, and he was also brought inside a private room. There was only one old man sitting on the counter with his eyes closed, waiting for the request. The surprising part was that the man didn't seem to be hiding his appearance.

The man didn't give Roan time to think much, though, as he asked.

"Who's the target?"

It was as simple as that.

Roan then shook his head as he replied.

"I'm here to join the organization."

The man behind the counter finally opened his eyes and looked at Roan from top to bottom. He didn't care about how young Roan seemed, only his cultivation.

"Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm. Just barely enough to receive requests. Why do you want to become an assassin?"

Roan shook his head.

"That's my problem. All you need to know is that I will accomplish the objective as long as it isn't ridiculous. By the way, do I have the right to select the missions I take as I wish?"

The man behind the counter nodded.

"Yes. We work based on reputation. If the assassin isn't even confident in accomplishing the mission, what's the point? Here, we only receive requests and payments. Then it's solely up to the assassins to get that mission or not. Even if one of them fails, we will simply repost the assignment until someone succeeds. Of course, if it is found out that the mission is much harder than what we previously thought, the reward is increased, and so is the requisite to take the task. Also, there are pre-determined levels for each mission. If your Assassin Rank is too low, you can't apply for higher-level missions either."

Roan nodded, satisfied. That was indeed a good way of keeping the system with a high rate of success.

"That's good enough. I wish to take the test right away."

The man nodded as pointed to a door on the side.

"Just go through this door. There will be someone there to test you shortly."

Roan didn't waste time and headed to the door. However, the old man gave him a final warning.

"There is no coming back after entering that place. You better be sure you want to do it."

Roan snorted in response.

"Is that so?"

Soon after, he opened the door and passed through. Not going back? He didn't intend to go back to start with.

Death... and me

Chapter 396: I Demand!

Once again, on Rean's side, Qia answered his question.

"Hmm... there was something a bit strange about the event. The fact is that I don't know what happened to Vagro after that. I didn't hear about any execution or anything. Grandfather also didn't make any comments related to it. It was as if the event never happened in the first place."

Rean didn't know what to say. The normal thing to do in that situation would be to execute the main perpetrator and their allies. But if that happened, it would have been made public to serve as an example of what would happen to those who tried the same thing.

"What about his wife?"

Qia looked at Rean with a puzzled expression as she asked.

"Why would you want to know about her?"

"Isn't that obvious? She is part of the Chrole Imperial Family. If Vagro was killed or not, his wife probably suffered the same fate."

Qia pondered for a bit before saying.

"Well, she probably received the same punishment, right? You already know that the interactions between the two empires aren't going very well. It would be weird if she was left out. In fact, chances are that she might have been the one to instigate Vagro to do such a thing. Who knows?"



Rean narrowed his eyes after hearing that. Somehow, the story didn't seem to match. It was just way too quiet.

"This throne succession seems to be a lot more complicated than I thought."

It was then that he remembered.

"Oh, right! You are also a direct descendant of the family, aren't you? Are you not interested in becoming the next empress?"

Qia laughed in response to that question.

"Hahaha! Are you crazy? That would mean going against my Grandfather. Trust me, my Grandfather is anything but merciful. If I really try such a thing, he would immediately use all his powers and connections to fight me, just like what he's doing against the other candidates. Although the family members without rights to the Throne are several times bigger in number, those who have it are also plenty. Nonetheless, only a handful of them is still fighting for it."

"My own background is none other than my Grandfather, who is also contending for the throne. Do you think he would support me if I decided to enter the fight?"

Rean shook his head.

"There you go. Although I won't say I don't have my own contacts, it's far from enough to enter the fight for the throne. That being said, I might as well stay a safe distance away from it."

Rean understood.

"That makes sense."

Just as Rean was about to ask Qia something else, Droman contacted him through a Spiritual Sense message.

'Rean, what the hell are you doing? You already had enough time to rest. Come back inside so that we can continue your training.'

Only then did Rean notice that he and Qia had spent quite some time together.

"Well, my Master is calling me back. Princess, we will see each other during the next break."

Qia was taken aback.

"Wait! We need to talk about what others will think about us. We can't let it continue like this!"

Rean didn't mind, though.

"Leave them thinking whatever they want. It will serve as an excuse for us to meet each other again."

Before Qia could even complain, Rean had disappeared already.

"Idiot! What fucking excuse?! People are thinking that I might be pregnant!"

Unfortunately for her, Rean was gone already.

Qia could only grit her teeth and come go back to the repository as well. However, she immediately noticed everyone's eyes on her... or her belly, to be more specific.

'Qia! Come see me right now!'

Suddenly, a Spiritual Sense Message entered her mind, which made her entire body tremble.

'Ma-Master...'

Since Qia could enter the repository without being a member of the Formations Guild Main Branch, that meant that she was also helped by a member of them. This member just so happened to be her Formations Teacher. Her name was Tulia Sasamil, a member of the Imperial Family, but not a direct descendant. Different from Qia, she had no rights over the Throne.

Tulia was in a separated chamber in the repository when she suddenly heard what happened in the tea shop. Naturally, she thought it was a joke. After all, she knew her disciple's mischievousness very well. However, when she heard about the kiss and Rean proclaiming that she might be pregnant, even she couldn't help but come out.

The master and disciple duo met each other in a private place.

"What the hell is that pregnancy story? Is it true? Did you also kiss the guy in front of everyone in the tea shop?"

Qia felt helpless.

"Master, it was not my fault. He was the one who grabbed and kissed me."

Tulia didn't seem to believe it at all.

"Then how come I heard that you were the one who said he was your boyfriend first? Not only that, but you even hugged him on your own volition before that kiss happened."

"That..."

That was the biggest problem. The fact that the one who started this confusion was Qia and not Rean. It's just that she didn't expect Rean to take a step forward and do that soon after. Up to that moment, everything was under her control. At most, it would become a rumor that could be resolved later. Unfortunately...

"Forget about it. We need to resolve this issue before your Grandfather finds out. Don't forget that he's extremely busy with the fight for the throne. If a scandal like this appears right now, it could affect his work in getting the other clans on his side."

"First, tell me, who was this guy who kissed you? As long as we get rid of him, we can salvage the situation. As for the baby in your belly, I will deal with it later."

Qia couldn't help but shout.

"I'm still a virgin! I have no baby whatsoever!"

Tulia narrowed her eyes in response.

"Are you sure?"

Qia felt like crying already. Can her hymen be faked? No, wait! Rean said that he can! But can he really do it? Nevertheless, Qia nodded. After all, they really never had a sexual relationship. In fact, they have never had any relationship at all.

"I'm 100% sure. Master can even check my hymen if you want."

Tulia finally sighed in relief before returning to the main topic.

"That's good, then. So, who did it? I'll have the Imperial Family Guards ready when he steps out of the Formations Guild."

Qia shook her head.

"But Master, I still need him."

"Need him? Wait, are you really in love with him?"

"I'm not! But his abilities are too important to me."

"Abilities?"

Tulia couldn't see where Qia was going with her explanation.

"Forget it. Tell me his name. I'll hear your explanation after confirming his identity."

Qia nodded.

"His name is Rean."

Tulia pondered a bit but really couldn't remember anyone who had such a name.

"Is he someone's disciple?"

"Yes. Do you remember that guy who invented the Communication System? The old man called Droman from a sect Called Dalamu? He's that man's direct disciple. Droman got a free month to visit the guild's repository with his disciple, so they are here now."

Tulia was taken aback.

"Wait! That Droman? His Communication System has been the talk of the Formation Master Guild in the entire Empire! Not only that, but his Router Formations that came one after another right after stirred the Formations Guild even more! The boy you got involved with was his direct disciple? For real?"

Qia sighed before nodding.

"Yes. It seems like he was present during the entire process of the development of the Communication System. See, it would be a bad thing to have him captured because of what happened. Especially since it was my fault that things went out of control."

Immediately, Tulia understood what was happening... or so she thought.

"I see... You were trying to get the boy for yourself since he was directly connected to Droman and might know more secrets of the Communication System."

Qia was taken aback for a moment. That was not the reason she glued to Rean at that time.

'Oh well, that will do.'

Qia then looked at her Master.

"Sorry, Master. I know what I did was not right. Don't worry, I will fix everything very soon. So just go and tell my Grandfather that this is all just a misunderstanding. Father and Mother will also want to hear it from you as well."

However, contrary to her expectations, Tulia began to laugh.

"Hehehe... Hahahaha! Great! You did a good job, Qia!"

Qia was surprised to hear that. However, a thought suddenly appeared in her mind right after. Following that, Qia felt a chill on her back.

"Wait, Master couldn't"

Before Qia had the chance to finish her sentence, Tulia enveloped her with Spiritual Energy and pulled her away. It was so fast that Qia even felt somewhat dizzy. Sure enough, Tulia's cultivation was several times higher than her own.

When she finally came back to herself, Tulia stopped right in front of Rean and Droman, who resumed their training. Obviously, the two of them were taken aback by the two girls' sudden appearance—especially Rean, who had just separated from Qia a few moments ago.

Droman then saw the badge on Tulia's clothes and asked. Different from him, she was a real member of the guild.

"Errr... Is there something we can do for you?"

Qia finally recovered her bearings just in time to hear her Master's voice.

"Your disciple violated my girl. I demand a marriage."

Rean and Qia almost vomited blood.

Death... and me

#### Chapter 397: The Shadow Reapers Test

The room Roan entered was almost pitch black. Without any other choice, Roan had to spread his Spiritual Sense. Unfortunately, it didn't help that much. There seemed to be some kind of formation in place that restricted one's Spiritual Sense. Roan's sense could only go around a meter away before being stopped.

Roan narrowed his eyes as he brought a random sword out. He didn't want to reveal his identity, so he obviously didn't use his White Star. As he walked forward, only silence followed his steps.

'So there's no explanation whatsoever. The test starts straight away, just like this.'

He didn't find it weird. After all, assassinations were usually made without anyone noticing.

It was then that Roan noticed a shadow passing by. Also, that was only because the room still had a little bit of light. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to notice.

'I see... No wonder the old geezer outside said I could die. The test is basically preventing oneself from being assassinated.'

Suddenly, Roan moved his sword in a flash.

\*Clang!\*

The sound of two metallic weapons hitting each other came out. Sadly, it didn't stop there.

\*Clang, clang, clang...\*

Several more sounds appeared as Roan moved his sword everywhere. The sparks generated by the hit faintly illuminated the form of the weapons attacking Roan.

'Daggers...'

Several daggers fell on the ground around Roan's position. Obviously, they had been thrown at him instead of being used in melee combat. Still, Roan was feeling quite bored. This kind of test could have killed or forced others to dire straights. However, darkness was basically useless against Roan. In fact, thanks to their Soul Connection, it would be pretty much meaningless against Rean as well.

After a few more of them, the attacks finally stopped. At the same time, a voice came from everywhere in the room.

"Oh! It seems like we got quite a good new recruit. They told me to decrease my level to that of an Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm cultivator. However, you are taking it so easily that it's even making me feel sad."

However, Roan snorted as he looked in a particular direction in the room.

"Is that so? It could have been hard for some other trash. I can understand why the test can have many testers dead. Unfortunately, you just had to meet me today."



The guy who had just talked was taken aback. He was sure that he didn't leak his location, so Roan couldn't see him. However, it was apparent that Roan was looking directly into his eyes.

"Good! Usually, I would send you to the next test since we only ask for the new recruits to survive this part. However, it would be a waste to not play with you a little further."

Once again, the room returned to its silence as the man's figure disappeared from his position. This time, not only was he moving much faster, but he also increased the level of his power to the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm.

Nonetheless, Roan didn't seem surprised.

"I was looking for new Dark Element Techniques to use with my Yin Energy cultivation. Who could have thought that I would find someone good at it right from the start? I can tell how well you can merge with the darkness around you to hide your presence. It's also very effective against the Spiritual Senses. Unfortunately, your level is still lacking."

Suddenly, Roan also disappeared as he merged with the darkness as well.

'Death Style, First Movement Form, Shadow Steps!'

"What?!"

Unlike Roan, the enemy didn't have his Spiritual Sense restricted. Still, Roan had completely disappeared from both his vision and Spiritual Sense. It was then that the guy felt a chill on his back as a sense of foreboding overcame his soul.

'Not good!'

Immediately, the guys tried to change the direction he was moving in. Unfortunately, it was too late.

'Death Style, Third Form, Three Claws of the Dragon!'

Suddenly, three dark swords appeared right in front of him. Not only that, but the guy couldn't tell which one was real or false.

'Hmph! Let's see if I can't find the real one.'

As fast as lightning, the man threw three knives at the three swords. It was so fast that even Roan was a little surprised by his move. However...

\*Clang, Clang, Clang!\*

All three knives were sent flying away!

'What?! All three are real?!'

The man was ready to block one real sword, but definitely not three!

Suddenly, Roan's voice appeared in his mind.

'You can die during this test, right? So I guess no one here will complain if the one to die is you either.'

During that moment, all three of Roan's swords aimed for his critical points. His plan was to parry Roan's 'real sword' and use the direction from where the attack came to catch Roan. However, because he decided to use the daggers to test Roan's swords first, he lost time in a critical moment. He couldn't dodge anymore. Without a doubt, he would die if things continued like that.

Surprisingly, there was no panic in his eyes, only excitement.

'How long has it been since some real assassin material appeared in this branch?'

At the same time, his power, which was around the Middle Stage of the Core Formation Realm, soared!

\*Swish, swish, swish!\*

The man didn't try to defend this time. With that, all three sword attacks hit the position of his heart, neck, and head. However, neither of the attacks could go as far as a single millimeter inside the guy's body before being stopped by a Spiritual Energy barrier.

Soon after, a burst of Spiritual Energy came forward, sweeping everything around the man like a giant wave. Roan might have merged with the darkness, but it didn't change the fact that he was still present in that room. The Spiritual Energy wave then hit his body, almost sending his body flying.

'Death Style, First Energy Form, Shadow Bind!'

However, several dark vines materialized in thin air, attaching themselves to Roan's body and keeping him steady on the ground.

"Impressive! Even in this situation, you didn't allow yourself to show an opening. Truly beyond my wildest expectations."

Roan sighed and then dispersed his Shadow Bind. However, he didn't try to attack or move anymore. That's because he could tell that the man in front of him had a cultivation several times higher than his.

"It seems I've never had a chance of winning this fight."

In front of absolute power, all tricks were meaningless.

As soon as Roan said that, the room lit up, showing nothing more than a big arena with two entrances. The one Roan came from and the one the elder in front of him used.

"Hahaha! Why so sad? You forced this old man to release my own cultivation to avoid being sent to the underworld by your sword. Do you have any idea how many could have done it? Not to mention that I was fighting you while suppressing my cultivation to one stage above yours in the end. You should be proud of yourself."

The man then carefully sized Roan with his Spiritual Sense before saying.

"Sure enough, you're using some Spiritual Energy Skill to hide your real age and appearance. Well, that's the right thing to do when you join an organization like our Shadow Reapers. How old are you exactly?"

Roan then sheathed his sword and didn't answer that question. He had no intention of being friends with anyone in this organization to start with.

"So, what's the next test? I have limited time, so let's move on with it."

Roan looked at the man, who didn't seem to be using any kind of disguise whatsoever. The man noticed Roan's focus on his face and could tell what he was thinking.

"Don't worry, I'm not hiding my real face. At my level of cultivation, only those not confident in their own power would do it. Don't take it the wrong way, okay? For someone at the Initial Stage of the Core Formation Realm like you, hiding your real identity is the right thing to do. We are in two different leagues."

"As for the next test, there is none."

Roan narrowed his eyes.

"Didn't you say that usually, you would have sent me to the next test after I succeeded in surviving it? How come there's none now?"

The man shook his head.

"There are indeed more tests, but they are meaningless for someone like you. We would first test your attack power to see if you could really fight above your own level. Naturally, there is no need for that anymore after what you just showed me."

"The second part was to see if you really had the determination to kill without hesitation. Man... even I felt a chill on my back when I saw those three swords of yours. Determination to kill? If there is something you don't lack, it's definitely that."

The man then turned around before gesturing for Roan to follow him.

"Do you think our tests are too simple? That we should check if you would be loyal to the Shadow Reapers or anything like that?"

Roan snorted in response.

"Loyalty? Between assassins? What a joke! This is a gathering for the sake of mutual benefits. Loyalty had never been part of an organization like this to start with."

The man looked at Roan, surprised.

"Hahahaha! Good! Good! As long as you know that, you won't die too quickly. Let's go ahead and finish the procedures then. By the way, you can call me Palbei."

Death... and me

Chapter 398: No child!

Meanwhile, Droman was trying to wrap his head around the situation in front of him. Well, both Rean and Qia were having the same problem. Just a moment ago, Qia was convincing her Master that she would resolve the misunderstanding about her relation with Rean. How come it turned into a demand for marriage all of a sudden?

Rean had indeed said all of that. But in the end, he was just trying to get back at Qia for the boyfriend thing. Still, by looking at the surprised expression on Qia's face, it was evident that she was also oblivious to this situation.

Droman then tried to calm down before saying.

"Ahem... Fellow... Errr... How should I call you?"

"You can call me Tulia."

Droman nodded.

"Lady Tulia, can you explain what is happening here?"

Tulia nodded before talking about everything that happened in the Tea Shop. Droman, of course, was taken aback when he heard that as he looked at Rean.

"Did you really do it with that girl? Wait, when did you have time for that?"

It was then that he remembered the night Rean asked to go out.

"Ah! You told me that you were going back to cultivate with your brother. I found it strange since it wouldn't be wise to waste the repository's time with it. Still, you were quite adamant, saying that you didn't want to slack in any field. So that's what's happening. You went out to see this girl! Not only that but you also... also... put your seed in her!"

Rean almost vomited blood!

'Seed? What seed? My seed hasn't been used yet, okay?! Even in my entire previous life, my seed stayed as unused as it is today!'

[Hahahaha! Why don't you just go with the flow? It's not like having a princess of the Empire as a wife would be a bad thing. If Calina succeeds in conquering Roan, both brothers would be part of the Royal Family! Isn't that perfect?]

It was then that Tulia narrowed her eyes.

"Qia, now that I think about it, you also decided to go back to the Palace earlier than normal. So that was the day when you lost your hymen, huh?"

Qia wanted to shout.

'My hymen is still here! If I could, I would even show it to you all!'

Of course, she couldn't do such a thing with so many people watching. Sure enough, Droman and Tulia's group weren't the only ones present in the repository. With the next exam so close, it was obviously packed with Formations Masters.

"Unbelievable... That boy dared to put his hand on a princess of the Empire."

"Can't you see? He's the direct disciple of the guy who invented the Communication Formation. The Imperial Family would love such a marriage."

"Indeed. Otherwise, do you think Tulia would come here and demand marriage?"

"I know, right? Considering the Imperial Family's strictness, she would have cut that boy's head once he went out. Considering that she is asking for his hand in marriage, it means they have a lot to gain."

"So, it won't be long before one more princess is married off. Well, it's quite a common thing in the Imperial Family, so I can quite understand."

Rean and Qia felt like they were falling deeper and deeper into the abyss. Even the people around them were already considering them as a married couple.

"Ahem... Senior Tulia. Qia and I were just joking when we said that in the tea shop. Right, Qia?"

Qia immediately came back to herself and nodded vigorously.

"Yes, yes! First of all, we had never met outside before. Sure, I left earlier that day, but I was simply tired."

The fact was that Qia indeed asked for an early leave from her Master on the same day Rean left to capture Tissan. It's just that instead of going back to the Palace, she went to one of the tea shops she liked the most in the Core Region.

Droman was taken aback as he looked at Rean and Qia suspiciously.

"You two seem quite synced with your words. Rean, can you prove that you were really just cultivating that day? Oh! We can ask your brother!"

Rean almost fainted. If Roan really heard about what was happening to him, he would DEFINITELY say that he didn't see Rean at all. Why? Because Rean would have done the same thing to him, obviously. Nothing entertained the twins more than pulling each others' legs in the worst moments!

"This... I think my brother is not at home at the moment."

Droman was more and more sure that Rean had really done it.

"Since that's the case, let me confirm it with young lady Qia. After all, Princess Qia is known by everyone. Sure, the palace guards or other people can confirm that she was somewhere else that night, right? Right?!"

Rean then looked at Qia as if he was pledging to her.

However, Qia's face went red before suddenly turning purple.

"I..."



Qia was a princess of the Empire. Not only that, but she was also the granddaughter of the fifth prince, so everyone recognized her. Because of that, she often disguised herself when she wanted to leave alone. Almost no one knew about it either, including her Master. Unfortunately, that also killed her alibi. After all, no one would remember to have seen her during that time.

Tulia only wanted to force this marriage to get a good relationship with the Dalamu Sect, especially Droman. She was sure that the Fifth Prince would love to know that his granddaughter got such a good deal. However, she still believed that Qia hasn't done anything with Rean... or so she thought. However, after seeing Qia's face when she was asked that question, she began to think that perhaps Qia and Rean had really gone that far.

"Ahem... Do you know anyone who can prove that you weren't with Rean that night?"

Qia suddenly went silent, much for Rean's despair!

Seeing that scene, both Droman and Tulia looked at each other with awkward expressions.

"It seems like their joke wasn't really a joke. Do you agree with me?"

Droman nodded.

"I do. It's way too suspicious that the two of them just so happened to disappear at the same time."

Rean then gritted his teeth and shouted what Qia couldn't do.

"There is a way to prove that we didn't have anything. Just bring two representatives of each side and check her hymen! She should still be a virgin!"

Qia felt like breaking Rean's neck for shouting such embarrassing words in front of everyone. It was one thing for her Master to touch that topic since she was a woman, but it looked much worse when Rean did that. However, she had to admit that their only escaping route now was to prove that she was still a virgin.

Rean told her that he could even restore a woman's hymen if he wanted to. However, there will be no need for him to use that as a threat anymore since they didn't want to go ahead with this marriage thing. In the end, they could prove that nothing happened. However...

\*Pah!\*

Droman suddenly slapped the back of Rean's head.

"How could you ask such a thing from a princess of the Empire? Are you looking to die? First of all, don't forget that I know your healing abilities very well. Even a recently torn hymen wouldn't be anything hard for you to fix."

Rean was already crying.

'Why do you have to open your mouth at this point? Couldn't you just stay quiet?'

Those words initiated another uproar, though.

"What?! He can repair a woman's hymen?!"

"Holy shit! Just wait until a few certain people hear that."

"That boy will make a fortune!"

Rean wanted nothing more than to break those people's heads. Who would work as a hymen restorer? He didn't need that type of money at all! No, first of all, he didn't even want it in the first place!

Tulia nodded, satisfied.

"Rean and Qia seem quite unwilling to go ahead with it. However, they should have thought about it before doing the deed. Now it's too late. I'll go ahead and talk with Qia's parents. Droman, do you have any objections?"

Droman immediately shook his head. Are you kidding? Even if that was a rumor, that was the Imperial Family they were talking about. Besides, deep inside, he was jumping in happiness. His disciple's marriage with the Imperial Family would bring a ton of benefits to him and the Dalamu Sect. Why would he do such a thing as refusing that?

"None. Rean, a man should bear the consequences. Now that you have done it, you have to take it to the end."

"But we really didn't do anything!"

Qia agreed with Rean.

"Yes! It's all a misunderstanding!"

Tulia narrowed her eyes.

"You still dare to deny? Who the hell would kiss each other in front of everyone, say that one is her boyfriend while the other is his woman, just to go back on their words later? Are you taking Droman and me for fools?"

Droman nodded.

"Enough with it already. Lady Tulia, I'll bother you to prepare the arrangements."

Tulia smiled.

"No problem. I hope Sir Droman will also do the same on your side."

It was then that an idea popped into Rean's mind.

"Wait!"

Tulia and Droman narrowed their eyes as they looked at him.

"What now?"

Rean ignored it and then explained.

"Ahem... The Formation Master Guild exam is just around the corner. Both me and Qia can't think about marriage at the moment. Let's at least wait until it is over."

Qia's eyes lit up after hearing that.

"Right, Master! I also want to focus on the exam so that I can get a slot. Rean and I only denied our relationship because we wanted to focus. After the exam is over, we can take our time to talk about it."

"This..."

Droman and Tulia had to admit that their words made sense.

"What do you think, Droman?"

Droman pondered a bit before nodding.

"I think it's a good idea. In any case, those two had finally confirmed that they are in a relationship. I can also understand why they wanted to hide it. After all, I'm pretty confident in Rean's ability to pass the exam. We should indeed not put more burden on them before the exam is over."

Tulia sighed but agreed with the idea. After all, she also put a lot of effort into Qia so she could pass the exam.

"Very well. Then, I'll see you again after the exam, Sir Droman."

Droman agreed with Tulia.

"I'm looking forward to it. Make sure to treat lady Qia well since she might be carrying Rean's child."

Qia and Rean almost fainted from those words. When will they understand that there's no child!!!

Death... and me

Chapter 399: Hagen

The Shadow Reapers' building in the Black Market wasn't that big to start with. Roan and Palbei only crossed one corridor, and they were already in the right place. Surprisingly though, there were a few people already there. Obviously, all of them were hiding their own identities. Assassins like Palbei, who didn't need to be afraid, were just too rare.

Roan then saw an enormous board with hundreds of notes. Each and every one of them was an assassination mission. They had the full description of the mission and what the assassins should expect.

"Does this board have the missions for everything in the territory of the Empire?"

Palbei nodded.

"Indeed. You can find missions located in the many countries of the Empire here. Of course, our Shadow Reapers Organization also has a few other branches in other countries where you can find more missions. The ones posted here are usually for the Capital and the surrounding countries."

Roan nodded before asking.

"Can I know the location of the Shadow Reapers in the other countries as well? I might need to get access to one of them."

Palbei shook his head.

"As a new member, you lack the prerequisites to know all of them. But you can opt for a specific region if you're not from the Capital. We will simply transfer you there."

Roan was satisfied with that. Even if he selected his own region, it would probably cover many countries at once. It would be too difficult to find him just based on his territory of choice.

Palbei then arrived at a counter.

"New recruit. Give the identification badge."

On the other side, the person nodded before throwing a black plate with a scythe engraved on it to Roan.

"To get access to orders, you need to show this badge beforehand. If you try to enter the Shadow Reapers' building without it, you will be killed, no questions asked."

Roan nodded as he looked at the badge. There, he could see his number and level.

-12897-

-Earth High Rank-

"What's this about?"

The guy then explained.

"Here, you don't have a name, just a number. That number is your identity. Earth High Rank is your current level according to the combat test you went through. It meant you can accept any mission at the Earth High Rank and below. Check the notes on the board. Each mission's level requirement is listed on the top."

Roan then glanced at the board where the other assassins were choosing missions.

-Earth Peak Rank-

Target: Loyal Trak from Trak Clan.

Target's Cultivation: Core and Soul Fusion Middle Stage.

Location: Waskon City, Xastan Country.

Reward: 4000 Rank Three Spirit Stones

-Heaven Initial Rank-

Target: Sue San from Vindict Sect.

Target's Cultivation: Nascent Soul Initial Stage.

Location: Vindict Sect, Earghit Country.

Reward: 300 Rank Four Spirit Stones.

-Earth Middle Rank-

Target: Galol Samikil.

Target's Cultivation: Foundation Establishment Initial Stage.

Location: One of the Imperial Subordinate Clans, the Samikil Clan.

Reward: 2000 Rank Three Spirit Stones.

'Sure enough. Important targets like the Sasamil Imperial Family and the Protector Clans need a much higher rank even though the target itself is many times weaker. Also, the reward is very enticing since the assassin knew that he would be buying a fight against a behemoth whether he succeeds or not.'

It was then that Roan found something.

-Earth High Rank-

Target: Tissan Sasamil.

Target's Cultivation: Energy Gathering Middle Stage.

Location: Capital, Inner City.

Reward: 4000 Rank Three Spirit Stones.

Roan couldn't help but snort.

'The Sasamil Imperial Family itself is a lot more expensive. Even a simple Energy Gathering Realm like that drag already costs 4000 Rank Three Spirit Stones. Then again, that should be because of their higher-leveled protectors like that Core and Soul Fusion Realm old man. Still, judging by the task submission date, no one seems willing to target a Sasamil Family Member.'



All of a sudden, a man came out of a room with some papers in his hand and looked at the board. Soon after, he used his Spiritual Energy to remove several notes from there. Roan didn't need to think much to understand that those were the missions that had been concluded or couldn't be taken anymore for some reason. That wasn't all, though. The guy also sent a few more notes back on the board after that.

Between those notes, Roan could tell that the majority were new missions. A few of the old tasks had also been updated and now offer more or lower payments with their requirement levels modified. Roan also noticed that Tissan Sasamil was one of the removed notes. Naturally, it was because he and Rean had taken Tissan away and got his Identification Plate. Everyone was probably thinking that he was dead.

Last but not least, there were the missions that no one wanted to take until the end, or that the assassins failed many times. Those ones were then removed, and the payment of those who posted it will be given back later.

"Oh! Someone actually killed a Sasamil Family Member."

"Indeed. There are a few missions to kill people of the Sasamil Family, but they're rarely taken."

"I heard that this Tissan was quite trashy. Perhaps the perpetrator risked taking this mission because of that."

"Even so, as trashy as that guy might have been, he was still a Sasamil Family member. Few would dare to offend them. He was probably quite desperate for the rewards."

Roan smiled and then returned his attention to the counter. Palbei, who was still there, then said.

"Anyway, this is it. I'll go back since I have more things to do."

Palbei then disappeared in a flash before Roan could say anything.

Roan didn't care, though. He simply returned his attention to the counter before asking.

"Can I select my region already? I don't intend to stay in the Capital for too long."

The guy on the other side nodded and passed a list to Roan. It only showed the regions available, not the location of the Shadow Reapers in those places. Roan quickly scanned it, and sure enough, he found the area where Jialin Country was located.

After choosing his new region, the attendant took Roan's badge back. A few moments later, he gave it back to Roan and used a Spiritual Sense message to tell Roan the location where he could find the Shadow Reapers. There was no physical memo, so Roan had to memorize it straight away.

The attendant then explained a few more rules.

"You must not use the missions on the wall to warn the targets about the assassination. If it is found that you did that, the organization will use its full power to get rid of you first."

"If you recognize someone on the board like a family member or even yourself, you can apply for the remotion of the task. However, you will need to prove your claim, which would also hint at your real identity, so be careful if you decide to do so."

"The organization only accepts the targets' heads as proof of their death. Any other way of identification is useless. As to how you will carry the head around, that's not our problem. Everyone has their own methods."

"Last but not least, each Shadow Reaper must take at least three missions per year. The level of the mission doesn't matter. If you fail, your membership will be revoked. You can also take a single task only, but it has to be one at your own level, and you must succeed."

"However, it isn't forever. As long as you do that for ten years in a row, you will be promoted and then removed from the minimal killing requirement. From there on, you can take any amount of missions as you wish or not take any at all. You will still be considered a member unless you apply to leave the organization."

Roan then asked.

"Is there any repercussion if I lose my membership?"

The attendant on the counter nodded.

"Yes. You won't be able to return to the organization anymore. If you try to do so and we find out that you were a previous member, you will also be killed. Trust me when I say that even though we don't know your identity, we can definitely find out you were part of us in the past. Changing appearances won't work."

Roan couldn't help but say.

"That's quite a lax repercussion, no? I thought anyone who failed would be killed as well."

The attendant shook his head.

"There is almost no assassin who wishes to be with it forever. This is a way one can use to leave the organization without repercussions. Of course, you better keep your mouth shut about the time you spent in the organization. I don't need to tell you why right?"

"Anyway, that's all you need to know."

Roan nodded before turning around to go to the board.

'Since I need to keep a minimal killing rate, I might as well take a look at what I have available here.'

In a separated room inside the Shadow Reapers' Building, Palbei had just closed the door behind him before looking at a particular person drinking tea on the table.

"You were right. That's quite a good seed you got there."

The man's expression didn't even change after hearing that. He just gave a simple reply.

"Obviously."

Palbei scratched the back of his head as he looked at the emotionless figure in front of him. If Roan was here, he would have immediately identified him. He was none other than Old Worm!

"Can't you at least show a smile, Hagen? Oh, right. You are using another name now. Should I call you Faulk instead?"

Old Worm didn't even bother answering as he got up and left the room.

"As always, you are no fun."

Death... and me

Chapter 400: Fake

Rean and Qia finally got some time to think about a solution. From a game of who can control who to a real engagement was quite a massive jump, and they wanted to see if they could jump back.

Unfortunately, Droman and Tulia didn't give the new couple any time and pulled them into Formations Training.

As soon as Tulia left with Qia, Rena looked at Droman with a dark expression.

"Elder Droman, what the hell are you trying to do? Don't tell me that you really believe I did her because I know you don't."

Droman laughed out loud, not trying to hide his intentions at all.

"Hahaha! Obviously, I'm thinking about your safety. Even today, the Umbral Sect still wants your head. In fact, the other sects are quite wary of you and Roan. However, if you marry a princess of the Empire, things will completely change. You won't need to be afraid of them trying such a thing anymore."

"Also, this is a good thing for both me and the sect. With so many positive points, why should I refuse? Besides, what are you complaining about? That Qia girl is a beauty! What kind of man wouldn't have any interest in her?"

"Wait! Do you perhaps like to frolic on the other side?"

Rean felt like crying.

"Who the hell frolics on the other side? I'm ten thousand percent certain I'm straight, okay?!"

Rean then calmed down before continuing.

"In any case, I have no intention of marrying anyone, especially someone from the Imperial Family. Did you forget that something seems to be an internal conflict in their family? I might as well tell you this. The reason I approached her was that I wanted to investigate this exact issue. It's just that the plans went a little, very, very little, out of line."

Droman's mouth twitched as he said.

"Kissing the girl in front of everyone is just a little? Like hell it is! Then what? If your plans had gone sour, would you have impregnated her for real?"

Rean scratched the back of his head. He couldn't think about an answer to that question.

Droman then sighed and continued.

"Anyway, you said that you approached her to find more about this situation. Did you find anything relevant?"

Rean nodded. Now that he had made this 'contact' with Qia, he didn't need to expose Calina's existence by telling the truth.

"Yes. It goes like this..."

Finally, Rean was able to tell everything related to the Sasamil Empire's fight for the throne. However, after Rean finished recounting the story, Droman's expression didn't change at all.

"Aren't you twins way too smart? You even found out about that already."

Rean was taken aback.

"Wait! Did you know about all of that?"

Droman nodded.

"Yes. After that attack over a year ago, Sect Master had made a thorough investigation. She also had a certain contact that could help her understand the Imperial Family's situation much better. We even found out that the Communication System had accelerated a lot of things on their side."

Rean's expression went dark after hearing that.

"And why didn't you tell me?"

Droman didn't care about what Rean felt as he said.

"We have been involving you two in these kinds of issues a lot recently. Sect Master didn't like that, so she asked to keep it on the down-low unless there was really a need to tell you two about it. Don't forget, you and Roan might be weird, but you are still two low-level disciples. It's the elders' problem to deal with the important matters."

Rean felt depressed. They still treat him as a kid even after all that happened so far.

"Then, why didn't you try to stop this marriage bullshit?"

Droman shrugged his shoulders as he replied.

"I told you, didn't I? This marriage could bring many benefits to you and the sect at the same time. The main one is the fact that with you there, we can investigate even further. We will have an easier time finding when and if the Emperor will really die. We can find out when the new Emperor will take the throne. We can see when and if the war against Chrole will really happen."

"But above all of that, we can make any of the sects back home think ten times before they decide to do something to you, especially the Umbral Sect. If war really starts after the new Emperor rises to the throne, the Sasamil Empire will not join it straight away. It will start with the border countries and will slowly spread as time goes. Unless you want to go out and participate in the war, staying in the Imperial Family would probably be one of the safest places when it happens."

"If you are worried about our research on Circuitry Formations, know that it's the Imperial Family marrying their girl to you, not the opposite. You would bring her back to the sect, where we could still proceed with our research."

Droman then looked seriously at Rean.

"Can you give me any reason why you shouldn't take this marriage deal?"

Rean nodded as if stating a fact.

"Yes. I don't love her."

Droman's expression froze at that moment.

"That's it?"

Rean narrowed his eyes.

"What do you mean with 'that's it'? That's the most important thing!"

Droman sighed as he shook his head.

"This is just a political marriage, idiot! There is no need for either you or the girl to consummate the deed. You can simply be married on paper and have your own lives after that. You don't even need to do Qia at all. In fact, you two can still go ahead and love whoever you want after the marriage contract is made. Even if you ignore each other for the rest of your lives, neither the sect nor the Imperial Family will give a damn!"

"This... Isn't this too irresponsible? Would the Imperial Family really not bother if I suddenly found another woman after marrying their princess? I find it really hard to believe."

Droman nodded.

"Of course, if you go out there and announce to the world that you are betraying the princess, the Imperial Family would definitely intervene. After all, you would be stepping on their face. But as long as you keep it under wraps, they won't mind even if they find out."

Rean began to ponder about it. He and Roan had this ridiculous mission of connecting the two halves of the Universe. Sooner or later, they would have to leave this planet. Well, they had no idea how it would be possible yet. Once they were gone, such a thing as a fake marriage would indeed be of little concern for either Rean or Qia herself.

The Sasamil Empire was still considered one of the strong powers on the planet they were living on. Being connected to them would also be a good thing.

"Still... as a man, I don't mind it too much. However, would it be a good thing for a woman like Qia?"



Droman couldn't help but feel a headache coming.

"Why do you always have to be this naive? You could be a little bit more like your brother at this point. Without a doubt, Roan would take all the possible advantages that he could."

Rean's mouth twitched as h said.

"If there is one thing I'm proud about, it's how I'm not like that guy."

Droman really had some difficulty understanding the twins' relation.

"Sometimes I wonder why the hell you two are together even though you hate each other this much. I don't think your cultivation slowing down is the only reason."

Rean smiled after hearing that. Obviously, it wasn't the only reason.

Droman then continued.

"Whatever. Why don't you talk with Qia later? You two could reach an agreement that would make both the Imperial Family, Dalamu Sect, and you two happy."

Rean pondered a bit and nodded. He had to admit that all the advantages of this fake marriage were huge.

"Alright. I'll talk to her later."

At the same time, Tulia and Qia were having a similar conversation.

"Alright, I can see how determined you are that you really don't have anything to do with Rean. Besides, as far as I can see, that Rean boy doesn't really want to have children with you or anything like that either."

Qia finally let out a sigh of relief. However, her Master didn't stop there.

"In that case, you two can simply have a fake marriage. All we need is the contract, nothing else."

Qia then looked at her Master with her wide eyes.

"I still need to marry him in the end?! No can do!"

Tulia then looked at Qia as if she was looking at an idiot.

"Are you really that dumb? Can't you really see the great opportunity presented right in front of you?"

Qia, of course, was taken aback.

"What is Master talking about?"

Tulia sighed as the look in her eyes became hazy. Tulia couldn't help but remember her own past. Still, she quickly recovered and explained.

"You just found a husband that the Imperial Family definitely won't complain about. This exact same husband doesn't want anything with you. As long as you marry him with a fake marriage, you will be free of any possible marriage contracts since you already have a husband."

Tulia then put her hands on Qia's shoulders.

"Qia, this is a freedom pass. You will be able to do whatever you want as long as it doesn't damage the Imperial Family's face. Do you think the other princes and princesses have this chance? Why would you let such an opportunity pass up?"

Qia couldn't help but rethink about this issue. Perhaps, that was really not a bad thing.

"I... I need to talk with that boy again to confirm his intentions first."

Finally, Tulia showed a sincere smile.

"Sure thing. But for now, it is time to rehearse your Formation Skills."

Qia also smiled.

"Yes, Master!"