

Chapter 171 Misery

Lily started laughing all of a sudden, "Unfortunately, my husband didn't leave me a legacy. To you, your husband and children are your life. But to me, only my husband is my world."

"It's enough, Ling'er" Daniuis sighed as he stepped forward.

"No, please wait a moment..." Su Hualing blocked him, her eyes held a pleading gaze to it.

He looked at her and then took a step back as he couldn't bring himself to see her cry. He knew that she was very kind and couldn't digest these kinds of tragic endings.

Su Hualing took a deep breath before she turned back and looked at Lily.

But before she could even say anything, a faint ruthlessness flashed in Lily's eyes as she shouted at Su Hualing, "I would rather kill myself than see myself become a whore!"

A dagger appeared in her hands before she tried to slit her own throat.

"No!" Su Hualing froze.

But just before Lily could slit her throat, a small hand suddenly grasped her hands, stopping her dagger just an inch away from her neck.

Lily incredulously looked at the boy who looked to be 15-year-old at first glance.

Her first thought was that she wanted to shout at him, but seeing that the other party looked like a 15-year-old, her expression turned to be one of confusion before slowly regaining clarity, "Leave me alone boy, I want to die..."

Davis gave a warm smile before he opened his mouth, "Elder sister, I think your late husband wouldn't like for you to kill yourself just because he died..."

Lily was dumbfounded for a moment before she faintly laughed as she shook her head, "I wouldn't have the face to meet him in the afterlife if I spend my life with another man..."

He then looked at her peculiarly, "Then how about spending your remaining lifetime alone?"

Lily laughed at his question again, "Young Child, you don't know how the world operates. Even if you want to live peacefully, trouble comes looking for you. Even if I live alone, my heart will unconsciously search for someone else to fill its hole. This elder sister has lived for 80 years already, you could say that I lived a perfect mortal life."

Davis looked at her eyes which held a faint determination to it.

He then opened his mouth, "Elder sister, you seem to be mistaken about something..."

"Oh, what am I mistaken about?" Lily narrowed her eyes.

He smiled, "I'm not here to convince you to live, I'm here to kill you..."

Lily widened her eyes in astonishment before she laughed as she shook her head, "Haha, child. Your scheme won't work on me. Trying to pluck out my will to live, are we?"

"That's not it... I thought your late husband will hate himself for making you attempt suicide. That's why I thought that I should kill you so I can gather his hate onto myself..."

Lily was startled, "Sigh, that's very kind of you, but I have not fallen so low as to make a child carry the burden of my death."

This was actually the reason why she asked Leader Daniuis to kill her. If he did, then she didn't have to kill herself incurring the wrath of the heavens.

"Now if you would be as kind as to stop grabb..." She suddenly stopped her words as her eyes lost its light.

She slowly fell sideways from her kneeling position before Davis grasped her shoulders, making her stop from collapsing.

"I hope elder sister reincarnates and gets to be together with your husband in your next life..." He muttered as closed her eyes and slowly laid her down on the sandy ground.

"Dead?" Su Hualing muttered with her eyes wide.

A tear trickled down from her eyes before she turned back and embraced her husband.

Daniuis embraced her tightly as she sobbed while her two sisters came forward to comfort her worriedly.

Although, his eyes were fixed onto the figure who looked like a 15-year-old.

Davis looked at Lily and sighed.

There were two reasons for killing her.

One, he sympathised with her and the second, most important reason was that he needed to heal his soul as soon as possible.

For that, he decided to grant her temporary, yet determined wish of wanting to die.

He suddenly sympathized with her feelings, causing him to take action for her.

He had killed her with the Death Note almost painlessly, absorbed her soul and also made sure to make his soul force fluctuate a little.

As to whether she will reincarnate or not, he knew that she will as he had asked about this matter from the Death Note a short while after it had said those who use it will not be able to reincarnate.

Apparently, the soul essence of a person has ten components, namely the seven physical souls and three spiritual souls.

When a person dies, the spiritual soul enters the cycle of reincarnation, while the physical souls remain and rot in or around the dead body.

What the Death Note absorbs are the physical souls which are Yin in nature as opposed to the spiritual souls which are Yang in nature.

So what he absorbed from all the victims were only the seven physical souls of their soul essence, not their three spiritual souls.

As for whether she will reunite with her husband or not, it was up to fate.

A few moments passed before Daniuis stopped embracing Su Hualing and stepped in front of her as he opened his mouth coldly, "Who are you?"

Hearing that, Davis turned to look at Daniuis, but before he could say anything, a worried voice echoed out.

"H-he's Davis, a child who has just left the mountains after his master died. I saved him from the clutches of the Ferocious Vulture!" Su Hualing introduced hurriedly.

She then explained what and all happened from the moment she met him.

The three of them were astonished to hear her part of the story though they had some doubts clouding their minds.

Chapter 172 Doub

"Are you for real? He managed to fight and kill the Ferocious Vulture's kins all by himself?" Su Huabing asked with a dumbfounded expression on her face.

She wore a red-coloured robe and had a veil on her face but her eyes were the same as Su Hualing's. She had short velvet-coloured hair that reached till her neck, unlike her first sister who had waist-length hair.

She is Su Hualing's second sister, while the other one is the third sister.

Su Hualing seriously nodded her head, causing them to blink their eyes in doubt. She could see that they didn't quite believe her.

"I see..." Daniuis held his chin and nodded. He then stepped forward and said, "Ling'er, with his Soul Cultivation being higher than yours, it is natural that you can't see through his disguise."

Davis narrowed his eyes as he uttered, "I'm a human..."

Daniuis glanced at Lily's body and uttered, "And he killed a member of our Cloud Spring Mercenaries..."

"Weren't you going to kill her too?" Davis asked with a calm face.

Daniuis replied while he started to emit a faint pressure, "That is different. I am the leader of the Cloud Spring Mercenaries, and in one way, I have the authority to decide her life and death."

"Are you implying that I have to join your Cloud Spring Mercenaries?" Davis gritted his teeth as slightly lowered his knees, unable to withstand even the slightest of pressure that Daniuis radiated.

"Not necessarily, we don't even know your true form. Besides, Lily asked me to kill her, not you..."

His legs were trembling, but he still had a calm expression on his face, "Oh, so you won't believe that I'm a human? Then what exactly do you want, Cloud Spring Mercenaries Leader, Daniuis?"

"I want you to withstand a single strike from me! If you do, you're free to leave or join my Cloud Spring Mercenary!" Daniuis stopped emitting pressure on him.

Davis widened his eyes, unable to keep a calm expression anymore, "Are you kidding me? You want me to die? I can't even withstand your pressure..." He knew he would be killed if Daniuis even casually attacked him.

All he understood was that the other party was likely stronger than a Low-Level Sixth Stage Cultivator!

"Of course, I'll be using my Soul Cultivation!" Daniuis

"Husband! You can't do this!" Su Hualing stood in front of Davis and blocked her husband.

"Then I'll gladly take up on your offer, Mercenary Leader Daniuis..." Davis smiled.

He had the confidence to defend a soul attack from the other party. After all, the soul was the hardest to cultivate. He knew there shouldn't be too much disparity between their Soul Cultivation, but he didn't dare to probe either.

"Good!! Stand aside Ling'er!" Daniuis said and flicked his hands.

Su Hualing looked worriedly at Davis, only to see him nodding his head with a smile.

To this woman who saved him from the clutches of death, he was grateful and didn't want to cause her any trouble.

"Wait!" Davis shouted.

Daniuis looked at him, "What?"

"Give me a few minutes. My soul is injured and I have to recover it, or your attack might leave me retarded for all we know..."

Daniuis narrowed his eyes, "... Alright."

Su Hualing shook her head as she moved aside, "I'm telling you, he's definitely a human child!" She sent a soul transmission to Daniuis.

"I'm just making sure..." Came back a reply, causing her to relax.

In the few minutes he got, he pretended to swallow a pill but instead, refined the Peak-Level Young Soul Stage he absorbed from Lily.

From the looks of it, he guessed that Lily had been giving equal attention to all her cultivation systems.

Soon, he healed his soul from the refinement and stood before Daniuis.

"Davis, withstand my attack!" Daniuis uttered as he made a hand gesture and pointed at him.

Daniuis shouted, "Variable Feather Thrust!"

A silvery glowing feather formed before his finger before it silently floated. It then moved slowly towards him.

Davis's expression changed, 'Not good!'

He could feel the enormous amount of soul force contained in that feather and now he could deduce his opponent's Soul Cultivation level.

Daniuis had reached the Low-Level Elder Soul Stage, the Fifth Stage in Soul Forging Cultivation.

Davis whispered and a glowing light surrounded him, "Sacred Soul Shield..."

The silvery glowing feather approached the barrier and suddenly enlarged, causing his pupils to dilate.

Boom!

A large explosion echoed out, causing Daniuis to have a dumbfounded expression on his face as he uttered, "Mid-Level Adult Soul Stage?"

He wanted to stop but it was already too late.

Daniuis sensed his Soul Cultivation level when he cast the soul barrier and couldn't believe his senses.

Last time, he vaguely felt Davis's soul force fluctuate when Davis killed Lily, but couldn't deduce his Soul Cultivation when he probed. So he was half sure that Davis was an old expert disguising as a human child to do something, but now it didn't seem like the case.

Even though Su Hualing had already told about his Soul Cultivation level, he just couldn't understand how Davis managed to hide his Soul Cultivation from him as he was almost a major realm above, leading to his current suspicions.

The silvery light which engulfed Davis disappeared and an unharmed glowing figure appeared in everyone's sight.

Davis smiled as a proud grin could be seen on his face, "I successfully withstood your strike..."

The Sacred Soul Shield shrank until it was only a few centimetres apart from his body, and the result was its defensive prowess increased to a tremendous degree.

With that, he was able to successfully withstand the soul attack from the other party without getting harmed.

Daniuis smiled as he watched his move get blocked but inside he was quite shocked by the fact that a human child of this age could block his attack.

Since Davis had revealed his Soul Cultivation, Daniuis could at least confirm that he hadn't disguised his race and age.

Now that he had confirmed that Davis was a kid, he confidently believed that a junior couldn't possibly put a disguise in front of his cultivation level.

"Since you have successfully withstood my attack, you are either free to leave or join us." Daniuis calmly uttered, his tone was more like a command.

Su Hualing came forward and smiled, not at all surprised by his strength, unlike her other two sisters who had their mouths wide open in shock.

Chapter 173 I'll Be In Your Care

"Davis, I apologise for the rudeness my husband has shown. Please understand that we must deal with unknown and suspicious people before the situation is irreparable." Su Hualing uttered with a helpless expression on her face.

Davis smiled back at her as he shook his head in understanding, "I understand, being a mercenary has its disadvantages as well, especially in a desert."

Besides, he was well aware of what he did to one of their members. Other than fulfilling her wish, he also had a faint sense of insecurity since his soul was wounded.

Whether he acted on her with ulterior motives or not, even he couldn't say it.

"That's right, our husband didn't mean to hurt you. He just wanted to see if you were really a human child." Su Huabing's voice sounded out like a piece of melodious music causing one to be mesmerised.

"It's just as second sister said, he really didn't mean harm. The reason he was harsh to you was that you were not one of us. If you were, then he would've treated you differently..." Su Huajing said, her voice slightly seductive and filled with quite a bit of arrogance.

She wore a blue-coloured robe and had a veil on her face but her eyes were the same as her other two sisters. She had long velvet-coloured hair that reached till her waist, tied up in a ponytail.

Davis looked at their unique traits and felt envious of Daniuis.

He was cursing him right now for having all three beauties in his lap, especially because they were triplets.

It seemed as if they all saw him as their life too, 'What kind of luck did this bastard have?' He fumed, but his face on the surface was as indifferent as ever.

"I didn't take any offense, nor do I have the capability to offend you guys..." Davis uttered as he looked at them, his childish demeanour was nowhere to be seen.

Even with the Death Note, he was not completely sure that he could kill them as their Essence Gathering Cultivation was almost three major stages higher than his Soul Forging Cultivation.

Could he actually kill them if there was such a wide difference between the two cultivation systems?

What if he suddenly encountered a rare cultivator who had a Ninth Stage Cultivation in either the Body Cultivation System or Essence Gathering Cultivation System, but possessed a measly First Stage Soul Cultivation System? Could he kill that cultivator as well?

He didn't know the answer to these questions.

The Death Note wouldn't answer him unless he used a chance from his level up in Soul Forging Cultivation, which he didn't currently possess, not even one.

Or maybe even if he did ask, the Death Note might not know the answer.

"Besides, I, Davis, am greatly indebted to Miss Su Hualing for saving my life." He glanced at her as he said, a faint smile lingering on his face.

During the travel, she treated him like a child, possibly because she said that she has two children around his age. Unknowingly, this created a good impression of her on him.

"Does that mean I can request you of something?" Su Hualing asked, her eyes had a faint glow to it.

"Of course... If it isn't anything exaggerated." Davis said confidently but quickly returned a wry smile.

"It isn't anything exaggerated... I just want you to join our Cloud Spring Mercenaries!" Su Hualing smiled widely, causing his expression to change.

"Of course, you can decline if you want. It doesn't matter if you accept or not, but with this, you will have cleared your debt." Before he could reply, she added in a gentle tone.

Davis looked at her and thought that he was seeing an illusion, 'Do kind people like her exist in this world? Or is it because she is treating me like a child?'

He felt suspicious of her words.

"Join us. If you do missions with us, you'll be able to earn plenty of resources. Plus, you'll get to experience the world rather than cultivating all day long in the mountains." Su Huajing uttered, her tone slightly forceful.

Davis looked at her. He could see that she didn't look down on him but rather, it seemed as if it was her character, 'Maybe she is like a spoiled lady because of her two sisters?'

He thought that they pampered her, but didn't know that he guessed right.

"Don't be so forceful, Jing'er. It's his decision to make, not yours..." Su Huabing interjected, causing Su Huajing to pout with a harrumph.

Davis laughed dryly in his heart. He then stayed silent as he thought about it. There were no disadvantages in joining this mercenary group from what he had seen. They all looked like nice people to him.

"Can I leave your mercenary group whenever I want?" Davis asked as he looked at Daniuis.

"Naturally, unless you did something that counts as a betrayal to us..." Daniuis replied, causing Davis to nod.

"Then I'll be in your care, Leader Daniuis..." Davis clasped his hands and instantly replied.

The three sisters face lit up in a smile as they looked at their husband. They knew that their husband only allows certain people to enter their mercenaries if personally scouted by him.

If Davis was able to enter their mercenary group, then it means that his character was acknowledged by their husband.

Besides, the fact that Davis, an unprecedented soul cultivation genius who joined their mercenary group was itself a matter to celebrate; on the scale of a festival.

Chapter 174 Lucas and Lucia

The matter ended smoothly and Davis had been assigned a place to stay in their camp along with a slight introduction of himself.

Two days passed within the flick of a finger.

To his astonishment, Davis was greatly surprised to see how cultured these people were unlike the rag tags or rogues he thought them to be.

It was more like they belonged to a single family where each and one of them enjoyed the other's company as far as he could see.

This sight gave Davis the chills, 'This shouldn't how a mercenaries base is supposed to be like, right?' Was his thought, but didn't let it bother him anymore.

He did consider the thought if he was trapped in an illusion formation, but after a probe, that didn't seem to be the case.

Before long, he didn't stay put but gathered information on how things worked here from the members of the Cloud Spring Mercenaries.

His presence invited a lot of doubt from the others as their leader didn't tell them that he was a genius, but it didn't take long for the rumours to spread that the newbie killed a lot of Ferocious Vultures below the Fifth Stage with a single attack.

This caused them to laugh, and seeing how this newbie was just a Peak Energy Condensation Stage Cultivator, they brushed off the matter like it was just another joke.

That said, they treated him well and didn't make things difficult as they saw him as one of their own.

"Something weird you say? Now that I think of it, there was an intense energy fluctuation near the borders of Desolate Plains, in the southern direction. Father said that it was a spatial fluctuation that was either caused by some treasure coming into existence or some powerful existence breaking into the void to enter the legendary Immortal Stage! A person who looked like a 15-year old, young and charming, said with a reverence glowing in his eyes.

"At that time, it was a hot topic for everyone here to talk about, haha."

"I see, it must be most likely a treasure no?" Davis questioned back with a profound gaze.

"Haha, I'll have to disappoint you. Experts swarmed to that place but there was not a single treasure there, much less a powerful existence breaking through..." The youth wryly laughed.

Hearing his answer, Davis smiled as he thought, 'Looks like she escaped...'

"What's with that smile? Oh! Could it be that when you said that your master died, you meant that he is no longer in this world but ascended to the Immortal Stage!?" Banging the table, the youth stood up and shouted with his eyes widened.

Numerous eyes shot towards them but Davis just laughed and shook his head, causing the youth to be disappointed.

"Damn..." With his guess denied, the youth looked sad.

This youth was the son of Su Hualing who was near to Davis in age.

He wore a golden robe, tinged with white that made him look like a young master of some big family.

"Hehe, big brother Lucas is delusional and insensitive. I apologise on his behalf." A 14-year old charming girl with a clear voice and whose eyes pretty much resembled Su Hualing, uttered with a smiling expression on her face as she sat beside them.

Her eyes and hair were deep black while her nose was adorable. She wore a green-coloured silky robe that looked good on her.

Naturally, she was the daughter of Su Hualing but Davis couldn't see her smiling expression as she was also wearing a veil.

"No need to apologise, elder sister Lucia," Davis uttered with a laugh.

He no longer wore a black robe but changed his attire to the mercenary uniform that was common to the Cloud Spring Mercenaries.

His mercenary attire was shaded blue and green while his chest part was embroidered with the symbol that looked like a spring with clouds on top of it.

The symbol looked faded as though it was there for a long time, giving off a feeling of dullness.

This kind of symbol was nothing but the lowest tier of existence in the Cloud Spring Mercenaries and now he was nothing but a recruit in it.

To rise through the ranks, he has to earn enough Cloud Spring points and increase his cultivation simultaneously.

And to gain Cloud Spring points, he needed to do a lot of missions.

To get plenty of Cloud Spring points, he needs to do higher-level missions.

And to do higher-level missions, he needs a higher cultivation base.

To reach a higher cultivation base, he needed more resources which are bought by using Cloud Spring points.

He smiled knowing that it was a circle; a circle of development, for both himself and the mercenaries.

Still, he wasn't bothered by it as he thought that it will take only a few years for him to rise in position.

Besides, he wasn't even sure if he will stay here till he finally becomes the top existence in this place.

Then again, thinking of a certain wager, he shook his head.

After all, he plunged into it himself.

With the basic uniform, he couldn't even earn a single Cloud Spring point as he doesn't even have a Cloud Spring mercenary badge.

To get that, he needed to complete his first mission.

"Don't say that, Davis. Our Cloud Spring Mercenary should've treated you better but..." Before she could finish her words, she got interrupted.

"It was I who accepted his challenge. No need to dwell on it..." Davis replied as he smiled. His smile contained a trace of greed.

Daniuis was worried that Davis would hold a grudge against him once he grows up, so to make up for his offense, he threw a wager.

The wager was that Davis should reach the Captain position in a year without using any Soul Attacks and Soul Defense.

If he passes, then he gets to choose a treasure from the Cloud Spring Mercenaries, regardless of the quality; grade.

Davis had no intentions to lose this kind of opportunity, nor was he so naive as to decline this kind of wager just for maintaining face or reputation.

Originally, he thought that he should increase his Essence Gathering Cultivation, but with this, his plan changed.

Chapter 175 Creating a Team

"Davis, you do have the capability to attain the captain status but isn't it too difficult to do that without utilising your Soul Forging Cultivation?" Lucia blinked her eyes as she curiously asked.

Davis looked at her and smiled with a shady grin on his lips, "Secret..."

Lucia backed off suddenly as a wave of discomfort hit her mind but she quickly harrumphed, "Hmph, feigning mystery!"

Davis took a cup and changed the topic as he felt embarrassed about releasing a slight wisp of the dark energy to intimidate her, "That's right, where is your mother? I need to discuss something with her."

Lucia and Lucas's face expression simultaneously turned red before they quickly shook their heads.

"I don't know..." Lucas replied with a stiff expression on his face.

Lucia looked at him and gritted her teeth, "My mother is probably cultivating in seclusion, you could probably see her tomorrow morning."

"You are right. Since it is already night, I shall not disturb your mother. I will go meet her tomorrow morning then..." Davis nodded his head he agreed with her.

With their reply, he felt that it would not be wise to visit a married woman in the night.

They both heaved a sigh of relief when they saw that he didn't notice their expressions change as he looked up at that time.

"You know, we two will be attending the disciple recruitment event of the Falling Snow Sect in a year. Do you want to come?" Lucia asked in a proud tone, absolutely confident that they will pass the disciple recruitment test.

"Not interested..." Davis sighed as he said.

Falling Snow Sect was one of the three major powers in the Desolate Continent; also known as the Tripartite Alliance Territory.

Joining it would be only wasting his time as he had the Death Book. Even the sole reason he had decided to join this mercenary group was nothing other than him feeling indebted to Su Hualing.

Otherwise, he would've just left after being acquainted with them.

Now with joining it, he gets to have a freebie if he secured the captain status.

What a lovely deal!

"Che... Don't get arrogant just because you're a Soul Forging Cultivation genius. If you underestimate the three major powers, then you won't know what killed you the next day." Lucia uttered, her tone laden with dissatisfaction.

"Father always tells us to be beware of the three major powers, and I think he is extremely right!" Lucas said in a powerful tone as if he believed in whatever his father said.

"Oye, I'm not underestimating them. I just don't want to be a part of them." Davis uttered as he wryly laughed.

A place as powerful as that is bound to be filled with internal factions fighting over for power, creating internal disorder. He didn't want any of that for that matter.

"So you're not coming?" Lucas asked disappointedly. He wanted Davis to accompany him to the Falling Snow Sect.

"I'm not..." Davis replied instantly as if it was a matter of fact.

Lucia sighed and rested her chin on her hands, "Don't worry brother. We would be here for around 8 months, we can help Davis with his missions in the meantime."

She smiled as she could see her brother's feeling of wanting to be friends with Davis. After all, in their age group, they hadn't had equals who they can call as friends.

Lucas's eyes lit up, "You're right, we could help Davis in the meantime."

He wanted to be friends with Davis as he found no one around his age in this place. It made him extremely bored, making his sister the only one he could open up to.

His eyes suddenly went dim as he couldn't help but doubt, "Would you think that father and mother would allow it?"

Lucia looked at him and glared silently as she laughed.

Lucas blinked and laughed wryly after he thought of something.

His mother was the one who sent them to form friendly relations with Davis.

Davis sighed as he found it difficult to decline their good intentions after declining their previous invitation, "Alright, we could form a team..."

Besides, he agreed only because he knew that they were strong and their talent could compare to Shirley.

...

"Aaaan~ Mhmm~" An amorous moan escaped from a curvaceous figure currently underneath a manly silhouette.

The curvaceous figure who was undoubtedly a beautiful woman, trembled from the intensity of the orgasm as she embraced the man with her legs wrapped around his back.

Perspiration and sweat accompanied her hurried breaths as her sharp eyes deeply looked into the eyes of the man who had joined together with her.

"Husband, you're going to get me pregnant..." Her voice sounded out incredibly seductive and her body shook lustily from the after-effects of their climax.

"Then get pregnant with my child, you have only given birth to two of my children while your sisters had already given birth to dozens..." The man whispered into her ears while her lower part twitched in pleasure from the feeling of his breath tickling her ears.

The man smiled as he looked at his woman and deeply kissed her lips causing her to give out a deep muffled moan.

These two were none other than Daniuis and Su Hualing.

He separated from her lips and started moving his hips as he thrust, causing her to moan.

After what seemed like a long time, they climaxed together as she trembled from the pleasure, seeking to wreak havoc in her body.

A few moments later, they separated and laid down side by side as they hugged each other.

"I'm going to get pregnant, jeez, that was the 16th time you let it inside me..." Su Hualing drew circles on his abs as she pouted embarrassedly.

Daniuis happily laughed as he held onto her waist.

He kissed her forehead and uttered, "If that didn't happen, then you would've been able to give birth to more of my children than your sisters."

Su Hualing smiled as she shook her head, "Don't mention that. Long ago, you saved us, you worked hard to cure me and finally, I was able to give birth 15 years ago. That's all that matters..."

Chapter 176 Ashton's Visit

Daniuis smiled and patted her head, he then laughed, "You love kids so much that you even saved a brat of unknown origins... Well, it isn't your first time anyway, other than the kid being powerful than the other kids you saved in this Desolate Plains."

"Now that I think about it, the last time I saved a kid was like 30 years ago..." She replied as she made a cute face.

"Whatever you do, I know it's for the best... But I'm just not sure about this new kid you saved. Davis... huh? He gives me a vague uneasy feeling that I just couldn't get it out of my head." Daniuis sighed as he narrowed his eyes.

"I'm telling you, there's nothing suspicious about him. He might've said some lies to conceal his origins but I don't think he is a bad person..." Su Hualing said as she pouted.

"Alright, alright. I believe your instincts and it will be better if it's just as you said. I just want to protect you all and build a new family for us once the time is right."

"Husband, it won't take long before you reach the Law Sea Stage. Once you attain it, you will just be a step away from reaching the Ninth Stage."

Daniuis lifted his eyebrows, "Except that step is incredibly distant, you know..."

"I'll wait, we'll all wait..." She replied as she closed on his lips while she closed her eyes.

Daniuis reciprocated and kissed her deeply.

They both opened their eyes later when Daniuis eyes flickered with a wild expression while her face went shy as she felt something hitting her lower body.

"Hyaah!~" Su Hualing let out a sound of surprise as he lifted her and entered from her back. Her eyes went up as her facial expression changed to an erotic display.

...

In the Second Layer, Loret Empire's Royal Capital.

After Davis left, Logan and Claire had a good talk and managed to save their relationship.

Claire knew that it wasn't his fault as he had not betrayed her in the first place. His relationship with Violet was something that had happened a long time ago, and the result out of that relationship was none other than Ernest.

Because of that she also felt that it would be irresponsible of him to send them out. That left her with little choice.

Either to make it difficult for him and herself by sending them away or to make him take care of that woman in good health by keeping her in the Royal Castle.

Claire felt that both were unfair to her after much thought, so she decided to choose the latter to save her marriage with Logan.

Moving on, she busied herself with improving the Empire's forte, even establishing an intelligence department.

Everything turned out well for good, or so she thought as she resumed her life with Logan.

...

A month later after Davis left for the First Layer.

An entourage from the Ashton Empire showed up in front of the Royal Castle.

Logan quickly dressed himself up as he looked at Claire.

Claire sat on the bed naked, her lithe figure obstructed by a sheet that she used to cover herself.

"You heard it, right? Emperor Ashton is here for some reason. I'll go first, you come later okay?" Logan asked and after he received her nod, he left.

Going out the Empress's Quarters, he walked along the corridor. Halfway through the intersection where all ways connected to the Throne Hall, he surprisingly met with Emperor Ashton.

"Emperor Ashton!"

"Emperor Loret!" Emperor Ashton's brows lifted as he neared him.

They both laughed as they arrived beside each other, interacting as they made their way to the Throne Hall.

Behind them was Shirley who silently followed them like an obedient and filial daughter.

Logan had tried to get information from the location of the secret entrance yet it was of no use because he still hadn't been promoted to be a member of the Guardian Alliance.

He was curious enough, and once Claire arrived, the two went straight into the matter.

"Emperor Ashton, is it possible to know what had happened to my son in that place? Logan asked in a worried tone.

Emperor Ashton boisterously laughed, "The truth is... The reason I'm visiting your place is simply because of your son..."

Once he said that in a jovial tone, he slightly eyed Shirley.

Shirley came closer to Claire and stretched her hands a container appeared on her palms.

Claire blinked, "What is this?"

She waited for Shirley's reply but seeing as there were none, she took it and opened it.

Once she did that, her eyes narrowed to a greater degree as she had recognized the design and the structure of the spacial rings in the container.

Most of them were from her place, the Alstreim Family Territory while the others were from the other two territories adjacent to the Tripartite Alliance Territory.

"How?" Claire asked with a dumbfounded expression on her face.

Emperor Ashton nudged Shirley to explain, so the latter did so in pure intentions, leaving any superfluous details that might seem advantageous to her.

After she had finished her explanation, Logan and Claire both had their faces proud.

Even a tear fell from Claire's eyes as she had realised Davis's real prowess from Shirley's vague, yet detailed explanation.

Emperor Ashton congratulated them and told them about Shirley's achievements in being able to move the influential masses to contribute to the right cause, such as giving a share to Loret Empire because these spatial rings had been possible all because of Davis.

Logan and Claire both knew how the world worked. They instantly saw through Shirley's actions as something that was done out of love for someone.

And to them, that someone couldn't be any more obvious.

They awkwardly thanked Shirley for her actions and even vaguely consoled her, albeit indirectly.

After the two left after some time of talk, Logan and Claire felt awful about Shirley's predicament.

"Dear, what do you think?" Claire gave a side-eye.

Logan shook his head, "You should leave the youngins to deal with their own mess..."

"Like how you're dealing with it right now?" Claire glaringly asked.

Logan obediently shut his mouth.

Chapter 177 First Mission

In the First Layer.

A day passed rather quickly while Davis cultivated his soul in peace. His exhausted soul completely recovered from the damage he took from Daniuis's move.

On the next day, he spotted Su Hualing on the training grounds and spoke with her for a few minutes, gaining some tips on how to get more Cloud Spring points.

With her advice, he first went to the Cloud Spring Recruitment Hall to register his team and went to the Cloud Spring Mission Hall to apply for a mission.

Accompanying him right now were Lucia and Lucas.

They had participated in some missions before with some experts protecting them, but now, they were a little excited as this was their first time that they would experience venturing out without having any experts to protect them.

That is if their parents let them go with him.

Davis stood in front of a receptionist lady who was dressed neatly in a blue robe, her cleavage was partly visible but he paid it no mind.

"You can't take that mission, you are not even a..."

"I know, I just wanted to know when I will be able to accept that mission..." Davis cut her off directly.

The receptionist lady who was also a mercenary, faintly frowned, but didn't mind as the other party looked like a teen.

She opened her mouth and pointed at the scroll on the table which he brought, "You'll be able to accept that mission when you reach the Vice-captain position."

"I see..." He held his chin and contemplated as he took hold of the scroll in one hand while he read it.

The contents of the mission were to slay a Bone Naga and obtain its magical beast core.

Giving the corpse of the Bone Naga and the magical beast core would award him with 10,000 Cloud Spring points.

To Davis, it should be doable as long as he uses his Silver Stage Cultivation to take down a Bone Naga, which is a Spirit Beast Stage Magical Beast.

But his confidence in taking it down didn't stem from his cultivation but rather, his Death Book.

He remembered how the Death Book said it could make him see the name of Magical Beasts through his Death God Eyes and Death Sense.

He actually used it on Magical Beasts before but could never once see their names.

So he asked the Death Book about it before a long time ago.

It just left him hanging with a sentence, "If the heavens haven't granted it a way to identify itself, then I wouldn't know either."

This statement of the Death Book made him realise that it was not omnipotent.

Fortunately, this Bone Naga was an Earth Grade Magical Beast, meaning that it would have gained sentience when it reached the Spirit Beast Stage.

Different from Earth Grade Magical Beasts, the Sky Grade Magical Beasts possess sentience from birth and the ability to process thought in a few days from birth.

'Did that Ferocious Vulture possess sentience since it was a Mortal Rank - Grand Beast Stage Magical Beast?' He pondered for a while and felt that it should be the case, but didn't feel any pity for its death.

It attacked him, so he didn't have any qualms about causing its death, and besides, it seemed the Cloud Spring Mercenaries were already out for revenge at that time.

"Then can you recommend a mission that is suitable for me..." Davis glanced at the receptionist and said.

The receptionist faintly smiled and took out a scroll from her spatial ring, "Well, as a new recruit, you always have to do this mission to get a badge..."

Davis took the scroll and opened it.

He smiled wryly and couldn't help but think that they were making things difficult for him but knew that they weren't since he noticed everyone present looking at him in a meaningful way.

[

Mission Name: New Recruit's Test

Description: Offend a Young Master from a Low-Level Earth Grade Clan or above, and successfully escape singlehandedly.

Reward: Cloud Spring Mercenary Badge.

Limitations: You are to act as a rogue cultivator and not as a member of the Cloud Spring Mercenaries.

]

Other than this method to gain a position in the Cloud Spring Mercenaries, he could actually be recommended by the ones in the higher position just like some powerful people, but since he accepted that deal with Daniuis, he had no choice but to do this.

Without saying anything else, he left the Cloud Spring Mission Hall and looked at the two figures who were waiting for him.

"Where can I find an Earth Grade Clan in this Desolate Plains?" He asked in an indifferent tone.

Lucas and Lucia looked a little flushed as they looked away. It was clear that they were laughing at him for getting that mission.

They knew what kind of mission he would get yet didn't warn him beforehand. This was clearly bullying, albeit there were no ill intentions in their actions.

Davis was unperturbed as he waited for them to calm down their emotions.

Finally, Lucia took a deep breath and said solemnly, "Do..."

Davis narrowed his eyes, waiting for her reply.

"Do you..." She gazed at him as if she was measuring him.

He blinked and questioned curiously, "Do what?"

"Do you dare! Plebeian!?"

"Pfft, hahaha!" Lucia and Lucas burst into another round of laughter as they pointed at him.

Davis maintained an indifferent face, although he was on the verge of bursting into laughter himself.

A few moments passed before Lucia finally calmed down and spoke, "It's enough, Lucas. There's no meaning in continuing with this joke as Davis won't understand it."

Hearing that, Lucas stopped laughing and smiled lightly, "Yeah, he is from the mountains. Of course, he won't understand..."

'Excuse me?' Davis's eyes twitched as he looked at them like how one would view country bumpkins.

He felt like opening up his knowledge to them and let them know about Mt.Tai but gradually calmed himself down and maintained an indifferent expression as he opened up his mouth again, "Umm... Where can I find..."

"Ah that, don't worry about it. I'll lead the way..." Before she could say anything about it, a voice echoed in her mind.

"Young Miss, master has called you back." A middle-aged man who looked neatly dressed in brown robes suddenly appeared beside them.

Davis narrowed his eyes. He wasn't even able to detect the presence of this man.

Chapter 178 Border Town

"Oh... Captain Gyrus, is it time? Then I'll head back." Lucia uttered as she sighed.

She turned to look back at Davis, "Sorry, I won't be able to accompany you and show you the way as I have something to do..."

Davis shook his head and said, "It's fine."

"25,000 kilometres to our North is the Loseris Kingdom, a Low-Level Sky Grade Kingdom. You can find plenty of Low-Level Earth Grade Clans, Families there..." Lucia said and looked at Lucas, "Let's go, elder brother..."

Lucas nodded and bid farewell to him before uttering, "Move as she said and you will see prairies and grasslands enter your sight, and at that moment you will know that you have left the Desolate Plains.

The Desolate Plains took the entire south of the Desolate Continent, painting the scenery with deserts and mountainous regions.

Davis looked at their disappearing silhouettes and sighed as he understood their disappointment from not being able to leave this place.

...

Lucia and Lucas arrived at their home. They then stood there in the hall, awaiting someone.

The place they stayed at was a luxurious big mansion that was capable of housing more than 40 people.

"Father!" Lucia's eyes lit up as she saw Daniuis coming towards them.

She immediately ran towards him and threw herself in his embrace.

"Lucia, you've been a naughty girl!" Daniuis smiled and pulled her cheeks wide.

"Oww! Sorry! I won't trespass again!" She replied as she now knew that she had been caught listening to her parents nightly affairs.

"Sorry, father! I won't do it again as well!" Responded Lucas as he was on the verge of tears, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

He was quite scared that his father would punish him now.

It was originally Lucia's idea to peep on them.

"Next time I see you trying to peek on us, I'll give you two a heavy punishment!" Daniuis replied in a harsh tone.

They both looked remorseful but Daniuis shook his head a moment later as he knew that these two were always naughty and bold.

"Father, why have you called us? Didn't you say that we should build a good relationship with him?" Lucia asked with a curious face.

"I did say that but who said that it was fine to go with him outside? We can't protect you outside but here, he won't be able to do anything to you two." Daniuis replied.

"Father, although he acts quite haughty and indifferent, I don't think he means any harm..." Lucas said as he slightly furrowed his brows.

Daniuis shook his head, "I know but I still can't risk your two lives just based on the fact that he holds no animosity towards you. It is still far too soon to make you two go on a mission with him. Let's wait a little bit..."

He turned his head and called out, "Gyrus!"

A silhouette materialised near them and bowed, "Yes, master!"

Captain Gyrus looked like a middle-aged man but he was over eight hundred years old. He had a slight scar on his cheeks while his lips were pale.

"Keep an eye on Davis and see if he does anything suspicious. If you deem his actions are harmful to us then kill him without any hesitation! If not, just don't let anyone kill him..."

"Yes!" Gyrus disappeared into thin air.

"Lucia and Lucas, start placing importance on your cultivation. If you keep looking down on everything, then one day you will find yourselves lose sight of your footing." Daniuis waved his sleeves and left.

Lucia raised an eyebrow at Lucas, causing him to spread his hands out and shake his head.

...

Davis left the Cloud Spring Mercenaries Base after a while, not bothering to even ride a magical beast mount.

He headed north by himself as he left a trail of heavy footprints on the ground which got gradually buried by the sand.

With his Silver Stage Body Cultivation, he required only half a day to travel to the Loseris Kingdom's border.

In a single minute, he was able to travel up to 20 km after all.

He decided to run at full speed without even taking a rest so that he could reach the borders as soon as possible and complete the mission.

Besides, this kind of dashing... the wind that grazed his face, making his hair flutter... He loved this kind of feeling.

Too bad that he just wasn't able to fly as he still hadn't reached Revolving Core Stage.

Halfway through his journey, he left the Desolate Plains.

Half a day passed as his vision reflected the night.

Davis finally stopped as he looked at the scenery in front of him.

People roaming around the streets, buildings of unknown, yet human architecture reflected in his eyes as he blinked.

Looking behind, he saw some soldiers draped in poorly designed armour patrol around the enlarged fences.

Looking ahead, he started walking again. He had arrived at this border town just a second ago.

Even without using his soul cultivation, he was able to get past these soldiers who looked shabby as roadside thugs.

While walking ahead, he frowned.

'Guess it might be difficult to find my target here...' Davis thought as he shook his head.

As he kept walking, he saw a building which vaguely resembled an Inn.

He walked towards the Inn and entered it, causing the door to ring a bell, alerting the people inside.

"Welcome to the... Oh... You are a child? Do you want a place to stay?" An old lady who looked slightly aged blinked her eyes as she asked in a worried tone.

Davis just nodded his head silently.

"That would be 10 gold coins then..."

He extended his hands and opened his fists where 10 gold coins could be seen.

The old lady took it and handed him over a key, patiently instructing him of the direction he needed to take to enter his room.

Davis nodded and went to his room without even saying a single word.

Chapter 179 Young Master

Davis naturally wanted to take rest now that he knew he wouldn't be able to find a young master in this place.

Even if he found one, it might be useless to him as that young master might hail from a Low-Grade Clan or Family.

That said, after entering his room he rested for a few minutes before slowly spreading out his soul sense.

His soul spread out, completely enveloping the border town.

Tons of information, images, the scenery were being processed in his mind as he listened and concentrated on many conversations.

He came to know that this town was named as Elmer Town, one that had a Town Lord who was a Body Transformation Stage Cultivator, the Fourth Stage of Essence Gathering Cultivation.

He saw two young master-like figures squabbling with each other, plenty of fights, nightly affairs and even assassinations.

He retrieved his soul sense and took a deep breath.

At first glance, this town seemed rather peaceful but now he understood there were many undercurrents just as any place where experts were present.

"A year... I'll finish the challenge he gave me in a year and leave the mercenaries..." Davis uttered as he contemplated and made his decision.

If he wanted to become stronger soon, then it will be better if he plays solo in the near future.

At least, that's the conclusion he had reached from staying for a few days in the Cloud Spring Mercenaries.

Even though the people there seemed nice and friendly, the leader seemed to be too suspicious of him.

He knew it was perfectly alright for the leader to be suspicious of him and it would get better as he proved his innocence but he had no such thoughts.

All because it seemed like a tedious task.

So he just decided to leave after getting the rewards which he would only gain after getting enough Cloud Spring points.

With this, they would both gain, not leading to a loss with the decision he had taken.

He extended his soul again, curious to learn about the common sense of this town.

There were only a few conversations that peeked his interests but most of them were full of adult conversations.

He filtered those out with his control and listened to multiple conversations at the same time.

"I heard that the twentieth princess of the Loseris Kingdom has been married off to the second prince of the Feloer Kingdom to be his concubine. Why would they do that?" A middle-aged woman who looked beautiful questioned while her brows were frowning faintly.

"Don't you know? I heard that she was violated by the second prince during the banquet half a year ago. Being the lecherous and cunning man he is, he must've held some dirt on the Loseris Kingdom making them obediently compromise. Otherwise, do you think that he will dare to be this presumptuous?!" Another middle-aged man who looked quite handsome said with a sneer on his face.

"Sigh, poor princess. We woman have it hard..." Then the woman shook her head.

The man raised his brows and uttered, "Huh... You could say that..."

"What? You don't agree?!" She narrowed her eyes and questioned as she glared.

The middle-aged man gulped before saying, "It's not like that. I do agree that woman have it hard here but that applies the same to the men."

"Oh... care to explain?" She had a 'enlighten me' expression on her face.

The man tidied his clothes and uttered a single name, "Empress Ariana..."

"..." The woman went silent all of a sudden.

"Hmm? Empress Ariana? Who is it?" Davis muttered as he eavesdropped on their conversation.

He wanted to know more so he continued listening to them, but after that name was mentioned they never neared that topic again.

Davis waited for the man to bring it up again but the atmosphere slightly went ambiguous before they started engaging in nightly affairs.

He sighed and filtered them out of his soul sense, searching for other interesting information.

He gained some knowledge of illustrious characters as well as some characters who had an extremely bad reputation, but the discussions were not too many as it was night time.

Most of them cultivated while others engaged in nightly affairs while some others did both. Only a few were engaged in conversations at this time.

He retrieved his soul sense back and laid down on the bed.

With all the information he got, he rather felt either disgusted or admiration for some characters.

"Well, who am I to judge?" He laughed and closed his eyes as he slept.

He knew that eavesdropping was an immoral act but he needed information so he couldn't care less about it as long as it didn't harm anyone.

In his mind, he only marked eavesdropping as a slightly immoral act. After all, without hearing some information in certain situations, he's the one who's going to get screwed over mercilessly.

...

The next day morning.

When he woke up, he immediately extended his soul sense again.

As he expected, he was able to gain a lot of information by hearing some conversations from the patrol guards who were falling asleep while guarding yesterday night.

As he listened for a while, his eyes lit up as he got what he needed.

"Keep your eyes open! We've got information that Young Master Jackson Lars is on his way to the Desolate Plains to hunt magical beasts. Don't do something to incur his displeasure lest you face a calamity!" A head guard warned his subordinates as he went to do something.

"Yes!" Came the reply from the guards as they started whispering to each other after the head guard left.

"Isn't Young Master Jackson from the Lars Family of the Loseris Kingdom Capital?" A young guard asked with a confused expression on his face.

Another guard who looked experienced and wise, replied, "Yes, they were not part of the capital five years ago, but after Young Master Jackson secured the affection of Miss Katrine from the Blackwell Family, he was able to migrate his family into the capital."

Chapter 180 Ambushed

"Such luck and destiny! If only I had a son like him..." Another middle-aged guard lamented in an annoyed tone.

"Dream on... If Young Master Jackson isn't talented, would you think that he will be able to gain Blackwell's Family approval?" The experienced guard sneered but continued, "Young Master Jackson is only about 30 years old but he tri-cultivates, giving him an advantage over cultivators who have the same cultivation base as him."

"Tri-cultivates? F**k!"

"Shh... Lower your voice... Someone might snitch us!" The young guard trembled as he looked left and right.

"I know newbie... It's just that, I'm also 30 years old but I'm not even worthy to clean his shoes..."

"We're doomed to be lowly all our life, might as well as make full use of ourselves by trying to curry favour with the people of high status, rather than offending them." The experienced guard said in a light voice as if he understood how the world operated.

"Sigh, you're right..."

Davis smiled, "Since that Jackson is from the capital, his family must be at least a Mid or High-Level Earth Grade Family but he has a backing that is of higher grade... What should I do?"

He wasn't worried about his life but rather the trouble that will ensue after offending Young Master Jackson.

He contemplated for a second before rolling his eyes, "I'm going to do this in disguise... What's the use of even worrying since it won't even affect me?"

...

Another half a day passed.

Tian Long patiently waited as he looked for the right time.

He was gonna wreck the sh*t out of this Jackson one way or another, so he didn't mind waiting for this poor soul.

At the very least, it saved him the trouble of going to another town or city.

A few minutes later, a smile crept upon his face as he opened his eyes, "He arrived..."

Near the North Gate of the Elmer Town, a convoy could be seen approaching.

The convoy consisted of carriages bounded to magical beasts which looked like a mix of a horse and a buffalo.

Its muscles were bulging, its eyes red as smoke came out of its nose.

"Haa!" The drivers whipped the Magical Beast, making it stop as its eyes turned blue all of a sudden.

"This is the convoy of the Lars Family, let us pass through!"

But before the driver could even finish his words, the wooden gates which could withstand attacks from Second Stage Experts, opened.

Seeing that the gates were opening, the driver's face automatically turned into a smile as a proud grin was revealed before the guards.

"Haa!" He whipped the magical beasts causing them to roar out and rush forward.

Bang!

Suddenly, a crate fell on the roadway, dropping different types of equipment and weapons, causing the driver to hurriedly stop the convoy, "What the hell?"

"Forgive us! We'll immediately move this away!" A young guard approached.

"Hurry up! We haven't got all day long!" The driver shouted angrily though a slight amount of worry was visible on his face as he took a glance back.

Ten seconds passed...

"What's taking you so long?" The driver shouted.

"Please wait for a few seconds!" The young guard was having trouble collecting and accidentally dropped the equipment.

Twenty seconds passed...

"You're still not done!?"

By this time, other guards were also helping him collect the boxes of equipment as he explained.

Thirty seconds passed...

"Move the crate away! Fast!" The driver was losing patience as well as extremely nervous.

Just when the guards finished piling up all the equipment into the crate, a door opened from the carriage.

A blue-robed young man stepped out of the carriage. He looked quite hot, and handsome with his facial features, combining with his temperament, he looked suave.

He had lush black hair that was tied up in a ponytail which reached till his waists.

The driver looked behind as his back began to get drenched with sweat in fear of being a disservice to his young master. More than that, there was the fear of losing his position as the young master's loyal servant.

"Hmm? Marc, what's taking so long?" The blue-robed young man questioned with a calm gaze.

"Young Master! Forgive this lowly servant for making you wait. It's just that there's a blockade that's being cleared out in front of us. We should be able to leave in a few minutes." The driver trembled and explained even though he knew that the young master knew what was going on outside by using Soul Sense.

Whoosh!

The driver's eyes wide opened as a silhouette flew past him with blinding speed.

"Die!" A shout echoed out causing the surrounding people to freeze momentarily from the shock.

The blue-robed young man panicked as he looked at the incoming silhouette.

"Stop!" Shouted the guards and the people from the convoy but it was already too late.

A severed head flew out causing blood to splash all over the carriage while a wave of shockwave spread over the surroundings.

"Young Master Jackson!!" The people from the convoy shouted in shock before they all relaxed and got closer to him.

"Seriously? Dropping an obstacle to stop me from moving forward? Even if this is an assassination, it's quite lame..." Jackson said as he sneered.

The head dropped to the ground with a bloody 'thud' sound causing the onlookers to wince.

"Be on the lookout!" Jackson shouted to the convoy and turned to the direction of the garrison.

"Surprisingly, Elmer Town has assassins trying to assassinate me?" He questioned in a calm tone.

"We don't dare! Young Master!"

"Please spare us!"

"That assassin just joined us as a guard a few days ago!"

Shouts came out from the garrison that piqued his interest. He then commanded in a fierce tone, "Marc, go and investigate."

"Call the Town Lord!" Marc shouted as he went forward to investigate.

'Weird... Who was it? It looked like instead of assassinating me, they were probing or provoking me? Who can it be?...' Jackson contemplated as he spread out his soul sense, looking for the mastermind, and even accomplices.