

Conrad explained, "Mrs. Williams, you know that my son is a family man. He only helps his family, not outsiders. With the relationship our families have, I'm afraid that Ryker wouldn't lend you a helping hand."

Lucille panicked, "But..."

Conrad hurriedly assured, "Calm down, Mrs. Williams. Listen to me. What I mean is to let Robin and Zach marry soon. That way, Zach will become Ryker's brother-in-law. He'll be his family. When that happens, Ryker will definitely help him."

Upon hearing his words, Lucille was overjoyed.

This would save her grandson and form an alliance with the Lewis family through marriage. She would be killing two birds with one stone.

She hurriedly agreed, "Yes, yes. We'll do that."

Conrad continued, "Also, as the Williams family and the Lewis family are both wealthy families, so the wedding has to be grand. It'll be best if we invite prominent figures over to the event. What a coincidence that Ryker has told me that he was able to talk to the Great Marshal recently. Maybe the Great Marshal will be able to attend the wedding too."

What?

Lucille was close to tears.

Great Marshal was the legend of Eurasia.

If he were to attend the wedding between Robin and Zach, the Williams family would definitely rise in reputation.

They might even get the chance to become nobles!

Lucille laughed, "Ryker is a boy who's more capable than I'd thought he could be. He's the pride of the Williams and the Lewis family. No. He's the pride of Atheville."

Conrad muttered, "But there's a problem here. Great Marshal is stationed at the borders, and he's a busy man. We have to be sincere enough to invite him to the wedding."

Lucille immediately understood what Conrad was trying to tell her.

"Mr. Lewis, the Williams family will be responsible for inviting the Great Marshal. Tell me. How much does the Great Marshall want? Ten billion? Fifty billion?"

Conrad answered, "Ryker said, it seems like he wants ten percent of the Williams family's

shares at the very least.”

What?

Lucille shuddered. “Ten percent of the shares? T... This is too much. I’m afraid that the Williams family can’t give him that.”

Conrad answered, “Mrs. Williams, you’re foolish. Ten percent of the shares is a high price for the Williams family to pay now. But in terms of the future, this is beneficial for your family. Think about it. From now on, you’ll be associates with the Great Marshal. Just with that... Haha. I’m sure I don’t need to say anything else.”

Lucille brightened up. “That’s right. This is a great opportunity to be associated with the Great Marshal. Deal. I’ll do it. I’ll prepare the wedding gifts as soon as possible. I hope that Ryker will be picking up his speed as well.”

Conrad affirmed, “It’s a deal, Lucille.”

The change in his address made Lucille smile.

After ending the call, a sneer crawled onto Conrad’s lips.

It seemed like the first step of his plan to take over the Williams family had been successful.

After collecting himself, he called his son.
“Ryker, everything’s going well on my side. What about you? Did you manage to invite the Great Marshal?”

Ryker answered, “I’ve sent my men to invite him. All we need to do now is wait for the news.”

“Alright.” Conrad nodded.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“Zeke, I have the results of the investigation.”

Meanwhile, Wolf’s Greed had secretly contacted Zeke.

Zeke urged, “Speak.”

Wolf’s Greed continued, “There are no generals in the Williams family. The general Lucille mentioned should be the son of the Lewis family, Ryker Lewis. The Williams family and the Lewis family are about to unite in marriage. When that happens, Ryker will be part of the Williams family.”

Zeke hummed in realization, “What rank does Ryker have?”

Wolf’s Greed answered, “Major-General.”

Zeke huffed, “They’re using a Major-General against me? He’s barely a threat.”

Wolf’s Greed continued, “Oh, one more thing. Ryker’s trying to invite you to Zach and Robin’s marriage. Do I reject his invitation on your behalf?”

Zeke asked, “Is he inviting me, or the Great Marshal?”

Wolf’s Greed replied, “Great Marshal, of course.”

Zeke nodded. "Okay. Tell him that I'll be going. I'll be going as both Great Marshal and the abandoned son of the Williams family."

Wolf's Greed's eyes lit up.

Is Zeke going to show off for once?

After ending Wolf's Greed's call, Brent called.

"Mr. Williams, Major-General Ryker Jenkins is trying to bail Zach out. What do you think of the matter?"

Zeke gave his words a brief contemplation. "Let him go. He'll be back in jail in two days."

...

When the Williams and Lewis family found out that Great Marshal was attending the wedding, they were overjoyed.

This was their chance to be the glory of the family.

Although they had seven days before the wedding, the two families had started preparing.

They had to prepare a grand reception for the Great Marshal.

The news soon spread across the entire Atheville.

There was not a single soul in Atheville that was not envious of Zach and Robin.

It was the biggest honor for them to receive blessings from the Great Marshal during their wedding.

Time flew by.

Soon, it was the day of the wedding.

It was located in Atheville's grandest hall... Haven Hall.

The hall was already crowded early in the morning.

Everybody wanted to catch a glimpse of the Great Marshal in person.

The members of the Williams and Lewis family, including Zach and Robin, were waiting in the hall for Ryker and the Great Marshal's arrival.

Before both of them arrived, an uninvited guest appeared. It was Zeke.

The moment he stepped into the hall, the atmosphere grew tense.

Everyone was looking at him with mocking eyes.

“Huh? Why is this guy here?”

“Ha. He’s been chased out of the Williams family, and he had gone against them a while ago. I can’t believe he has the audacity to show his face on this wedding.”

“Hmph! I’m sure he’s here to butter up the Williams family. However, now that the Williams family has invited the Great Marshal, they’re someone he can’t butter up anymore.”

“How shameless.”

Lucille fumed, “B*****. Who’s asked you to come? Get lost!”

In a cold tone, Zeke announced, “You were the ones who’d invited me here.”

Huh?

The crowd froze before bursting into laughter.

He had been chased out of the Williams family, and he had beaten up the bride and groom earlier.

Why would the Williams and Lewis family invite him?

This guy's really pulled out all the stops to see the Great Marshal.

He'll say anything to achieve his goal.

Lucille fumed, "Get someone to kick him out of here!"

However, Conrad suggested, "Forget it, Mrs. Williams. I heard that he's a good fighter. I'm afraid our guards won't be a match for him. It won't be good for us if this ends up a bloodbath. Why don't I ask Ryker to get this man out when he comes instead?"

Lucille nodded. "Yes. That sounds good."

Zeke swept his gaze across the crowd to find only one seat empty... the front seat.

Beside the seats were Lucille and Conrad.

Without a doubt, that seat was reserved for the Great Marshal.

Zeke walked straight toward it and sat down.

"Whoa!"

An uproar erupted in the crowd, and some even gasped.

This guy just took the Great Marshal's seat!

He's ignorant and arrogant!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lucille lifted her cane, about to smack Zeke. “Y... You useless boy. Get lost! Who asked you to sit here?”

Zeke questioned, “Oh? Isn’t this seat for the Great Marshal?”

Everyone was stupefied by his words.

He knows it’s reserved for the Great Marshal, but he still sat on it.

In other words, he’s claiming to be the Great Marshal.

Haha! This is hilarious.

Soon, Ryker, in full military costume, entered the hall with dozens of soldiers.

His presence as a military officer made the atmosphere tense, and the crowd fell silent.

Ryker asked curiously, “What were you laughing about?”

Conrad quickly explained what had happened to Ryker.

After hearing his father’s words, Ryker snarled, “Damn it. How dare this person take the seat meant for the Great Marshal? How dare he claim to be him? This is disrespectful toward

the Great Marshal. Men, drag that young man out and send him to the military court.”

“Yes, sir!”

The soldiers that came with Ryker marched toward Zeke with murderous auras.

The crowd snickered louder.

It did not matter whether the soldiers could win against Zeke or not.

The moment Zeke made a move, he would lose.

Hitting a soldier meant that he was an enemy of the military.

Fearing that Zeke would cower in the last minute and avoid the fight, Zach provoked, “Zeke, aren’t you a good fighter? Come on. Try us. If you don’t fight back, you’re not a man.”

Zeke glanced at Zach and sneered, “You’re a clown.”

You f*****...

Zach’s fury spiked to its peak.

Both Lucille and Conrad stood up to move aside, worried that they would be caught in the upcoming fight.

The soldiers surrounded Zeke.

The leading man uttered in a monotonous voice, "Williams, I'd suggest for you to surrender. There's no point in struggling now. You should know the severity of the crime of assaulting a soldier."

Zeke reprimanded, "The nation has spent many resources in training you to defend the country and serve the people. Yet, you're nothing but tools for revenge. How can you wear your military suits with pride?"

The soldier hissed, "F*** you. You're not qualified to teach us any lessons. Charge, men!"

The soldiers instantly closed in. They then started kicking and punching Zeke.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

After a couple of loud thuds, the soldiers were all lying on the ground, bruised.

On the other hand, Zeke had remained untouched, without a scratch. In fact, he was still seated in his chair.

The crowd let out a collective gasp.

How strong is this guy?

Those were ten soldiers, but he didn't even move from his seat.

However, that was not the point.

The point was that he had assaulted soldiers.

That was enough for the death penalty!

Zach was elated as he shouted, "Ryker, this guy just assaulted several soldiers! He's looking down on the military. Quick, someone, arrest him."

Ryker nodded. "Zeke, do you think you're impressive? Even if you're that good of a fighter, you're no match for the national machine of power. Just you wait. I'll send you to the military court myself."

Zeke laughed, "I'm afraid the one who will be sent to the military court will be you."

Ryker hissed, "Preposterous..."

Conrad waved his hands. "Ryker, why do you bother wasting your breath on him? The Great Marshal must be arriving soon. Everyone knows that the Great Marshal treasures his men and treats every soldier like his family. This guy had hit the Great Marshal's family. I'm sure that the Great Marshal himself will deal with him."

The crowd gasped again as they widened their eyes.

Conrad Lewis is a ruthless man!

He's letting the Great Marshal execute Zeke.

Zeke's doomed for a terrible death.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Ryker nodded. "That's what I was thinking about too. The Great Marshal will be arriving soon. Let's have some patience."

Zeke uttered, "Actually, the Great Marshal has arrived. However, he didn't reveal himself. It's true that the Great Marshal treasures his men, but these few soldiers are bullies, and they've abused their power. They're not soldiers. It's impossible for the Great Marshal to stand up for you."

Ryker spat, "You're lying through your teeth. Whenever the Great Marshal travels, a troop of soldiers will be escorting him. How can we not know if he has arrived? Stop looking for excuses."

Zeke shrugged. "If the Great Marshal does come, you can consider yourself the winner."

Robin jeered, "I can prove that the Great Marshal is here. Didn't this guy just say that he's the Great Marshal?"

"Hahaha!"

Everyone laughed.

Before they stopped laughing, a group of men swarmed in and surrounded the hall.

Ryker recognized them with one glance...

Atheville's military.

The leading man was Colonel David Lowe.

Thinking that the colonel was the escort for the Great Marshal, the crowd swiftly stood up to welcome the Great Marshal.

Meanwhile, Ryker sped out in preparation to invite the Great Marshal into the hall.

However, David stopped him. "Stop right there. Do not leave the hall without permission."

Ryker anxiously uttered, "Let me out to welcome the Great Marshal. If the Great Marshal is neglected even for a second, you'll be the one to bear the consequences."

David shook his head. "Great Marshal? We're not here to escort him."

Huh? They're not?

Ryker's heart sank. "Then you must be here for the wedding. Please, take a seat."

Conrad was glad.

He had not thought that Ryker would be putting so much effort into the wedding.

Not only did he invite the Great Marshal, rather,

but he had also invited the army.

However, having the Great Marshal alone was more than enough for the event.

Inviting the men from Atheville's military was a superfluous act.

David shook his head again. "We're not here for the wedding. I'm here to arrest you."

Arrest me?

A shudder ran down Ryker's spine. "Why are you arresting me?"

David coldly replied, "Ryker Lewis, you have been reported for sheltering criminals and allowing your family to kill. Please come with us and cooperate with our investigation."

The color drained from Ryker's face.

F***. It's already been exposed?

It'll affect the wedding if I'm arrested now, but most importantly, I'll leave a bad impression on the Great Marshal!

No. I can't be arrested.

Ryker hurriedly spat out, "Y... You can't arrest me. I have to welcome the Great Marshal later.

You can't afford to bear the responsibility for making the Great Marshal upset."

As expected, David was put in a tight spot. "Great Marshal? He's coming to attend the wedding?"

Ryker answered, "Of course. He's about to arrive. I'm going to call him now."

At that, he took out his phone and called the general of Atheville, Wolf's Greed.

Previously, Wolf's Greed was the one who had helped him to contact the Great Marshal.

Soon, the call went through.

Ryker carefully asked, "Sir, is the Great Marshal here yet? Will I need to send escorts for him?"

Wolf's Greed's reply was said in a placid tone. "Great Marshal is already at the wedding. However, everything that has happened is making Great Marshal unhappy."

What?

The hairs behind Ryker's neck stood up.

"The Great Marshal is already here? Where?"

He quickly glanced around to look for him, and

so did the guests.

However, he could find no signs of him.

Right then, the words Zeke said earlier popped into everyone's mind.

They all turned to look at Zeke.

A fearful yet daring thought formed in their heads.

Is... Zeke really the Great Marshal?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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But how is that possible?

He's just an abandoned son of the Williams family. Without the support of the Williams family, how can he become a man as impressive as this?

A guest among the crowd abruptly jumped to his feet.

"I know! I know who's the Great Marshal!"

The crowd's gaze turned to him instead.

The guest cried out, "The guest beside me was odd earlier. He's wearing a fur coat, and his face was half-covered. He seems noble and mysterious. I even saw a few stars by his shoulders. However, when Zeke was stirring trouble earlier, he had left. If my guess is right, that man must have been the Great Marshal. Oh my god. I sat beside the Great Marshal!"

"Whoa!"

Everyone's minds were blown away.

The Great Marshal had just been in the same room as they were.

Yet, they had not noticed his presence, nor did they spare a glance at him.

It felt like they had blown their chances.

They would have stomped their feet and hit their heads on the wall in remorse if they were not at a wedding.

Conrad was close to grinding all his teeth flat as he glared at Zeke.

“Zeke, you b*****. You’re the one who made Great Marshal angry. That’s why he left. I... I swear I’ll destroy you with the Lewis family’s power!”

Zeke laughed silently.

Open your eyes wide and take a good look. I’m the Great Marshal.

That mysterious nameless man earlier is nothing.

However, now that someone had assumed that the mysterious man was the Great Marshal, he would not be able to clarify his identity.

Forget it. There’ll be other chances for me to announce my identity. There’s no need for me to be impatient.

David uttered, “Since the Great Marshal has left, Ryker, come with us and cooperate with our investigation. Men, arrest Ryker Lewis.”

David's men instantly restrained Ryker.

The latter roared, "I'm a general. How dare you arrest me?"

David sneered, "You're deliberately violating the law as a general. Your crimes are greater."

Ryker broke down as he continued bellowing, "Dad, save me! Save me!"

Conrad ran toward David, hoping to beg him to spare Ryker's life, but David gave him no chances.

He hurriedly left with his men and Ryker.

Conrad huffed angrily as his face reddened. He then gritted his teeth and glared at Zeke.

"B*****, y...you ruined my plan. I'll make you pay with your life!"

The guests did not know how to react.

Zeke was an excellent pot-stirrer.

Not only did he force the Great Marshal to leave, but he also indirectly caused the arrest of Ryker, ruining the wedding.

An insignificant character like him was nowhere close to capable of anything but messing with

others.

Lucille's face was grim.

The point for her to have a union marriage with the Lewis family was so that she could rely on Ryker.

However, now that Ryker had been arrested and no one was sure if he would live or die, the Williams family had nothing to benefit, from the Lewis family.

Moreover, if they continued with the wedding, the Williams family might be drag down into the depths with the Lewis family.

Lucille sighed, "It seems like today's not a good day for a wedding. Mr. Lewis, why don't we change the date of the wedding?"

Conrad ground out, "Mrs. Williams, what do you mean? Do you think that the Lewis family is no longer worthy of the Williams family now that my son's been arrested?"

Lucille quickly shook her head. "No. Mr. Lewis, you've misunderstood my words..."

Conrad interrupted, "Did you think that my son became a general because he's capable? You're wrong. It was because the Lewis family had pulled strings for him. Since we were capable

of making him a general, we're capable of solving this problem for him. Soon, my son will be out of jail without any charges, and he'll still be a general!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The reason for Conrad to form a union with the Williams family was so that he could take over the Williams family.

It was impossible for him to let go of this opportunity easily.

Lucille was delighted to hear his words. "Good. I'm relieved to hear this, Mr. Lewis. Let the wedding continue."

Conrad muttered, "Keep the wedding going. I'll think of ways to get Ryker out now."

After leaving the hall, Conrad hurriedly made a call. "Sir, please help me."

The one he was requesting help from was the head of the Luna family, Theodore Luna, who was also John's boss.

The Luna family were royals; they were a tier above wealthy families like the Lewis family and the Williams family.

Hence, Conrad addressed him as Sir, daring not to call him Mr. Luna.

After hearing Conrad's explanation, Theodore uttered plainly, "What he's done is a minor crime. It won't be a problem."

Conrad's heart finally came back down from his

throat. "Thank you very much, Sir."

Abruptly, Theodore pronounced, "But you'll have to do me a favor."

Conrad answered, "Sir, do tell me what it is."

Theodore uttered, "Kill Zeke Williams."

Huh?

Conrad was stunned by his words. "Sir, you know Zeke? You have a grudge against him?"

Theodore's tone was cold as he gritted out, "Do not ask what you should not know."

"Understood," Conrad quickly replied, "Sir, can I ask for another favor? Could you let Reinz Pharmaceutical open a branch in Atheville? Don't worry. I'll look for sponsors. All I need will be its name."

Theodore approved, "No problem."

"Thank you!"

After ending the call, Conrad had visibly brightened up.

Reinz Pharmaceutical opening a branch in Atheville was his second step in taking over the Williams family.

Meanwhile, after the call, Theodore huffed, “That Zeke has too great of luck. Even the Lewis family is suffering in his presence. He has not done anything to target me yet. He must not have found out my identity yet. I’ll let the Lewis family entertain him for a while longer.”

Theodore assumed that Zeke had survived until now because of his good luck.

...

The next day.

After Lacey was done with her breakfast, she went to Eurasia Pictures to continue with her business meeting.

Until now, she still did not know that Eurasia Pictures belonged to the Williams family.

Otherwise, she would not have wanted to collaborate with Eurasia Pictures.

Just as Lacey had left, Wolf’s Greed came.

“Zeke, major news. Theodore Luna has finally made a move. He came personally to protect Ryker. Do you want me to drag Ryker back myself?”

Zeke was surprised. “Oh? I didn’t know the

Lewis family knows that man from the Luna family. No wonder the Lewis family lasted so long. It turns out they're the Luna family's pawns. Don't drag him back yet. If the Lewis family is destroyed now, their assets will be confiscated, and I won't be able to get anything from them. We'll only deal with them after I get their assets for Lacey."

Wolf's Greed nodded. "Understood. Also, Zeke, I heard that the Lewis family had requested ten percent of the Williams family's shares as the price for your appearance. However, the Lewis family had mentioned no such thing to me yet. I think they've taken the shares for themselves."

Zeke nodded. "Okay. It doesn't matter. Both the Lewis and the Williams family are mine soon. It doesn't matter who takes whose things. It'll all be mine."

Wolf's Greed replied, "Understood."

Just then, Lacey suddenly called Zeke.

When he answered the call, he heard Lacey's sobs.

Zeke held his breath as he asked urgently, "Lacey, what's wrong?"

Lacey's voice was trembling as she murmured, "Zeke, come and save me at Eurasia Pictures.

Quick. T... They've trapped me here.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Zeke fumed, "They have a death wish! Lacey, don't panic. I'll be there right away."

After ending the call, Zeke instructed, "Wolf's Greed, bring a group to Eurasia Pictures."

Wolf's Greed replied, "Of course."

Grabbing his car keys, Zeke rushed out of his office and drove off toward Eurasia Pictures.

He was contemplating, during his ride there.

Even if the cooperation had failed, Eurasia Pictures has no reason to put Lacey in a tight spot.

It can't be the doing of someone from the Williams family, can it?

After all, Eurasia Pictures is one of the Williams family's businesses.

Zeke sighed.

He had not wanted to uproot the entire Williams family as they were his family, but it seemed like they were adamant about testing his patience.

I'll cut off one of your legs this time.

At Eurasia Pictures.

Lacey was trapped at the CEO's office.

Two burly men were standing by the doorway and blocking her exit.

Like a frightened sparrow, Lacey was trembling in a corner.

In front of her were fragments of Chime Bells scattered across the floor.

Earlier, when they had failed to come to an agreement during the talk, and when Lacey was about to leave, the secretary abruptly pushed the Chime Bells and broke them when she walked past them.

However, the CEO, Alec Matthews, had insisted that she was the one who had pushed it. He had then asked for compensation, going as far as threatening her.

In the end, she called for help from Zeke.

Alec took a drag of his cigarette before saying, "You pay for the property you damage. This is a concept even kindergarten children understand. As the president of a company, I'm sure you know a concept like this, right?"

Lacey argued, "Your secretary was the one who'd pushed the Chime Bells earlier. This has nothing to do with me."

Alec sneered, "But I don't have any secretaries."

Lacey's face reddened as she seethed, "Fine. Even if I was the one who pushed it, you can't be greedily asking for a billion. The maximum price of this thing is hundreds of thousands!"

"Ridiculous!" Alec fumed, "Do you mean what I bought was fake? My Chime Bell is a relic of the war, and it's a national treasure. Its conversation value is five billion. I'm already kind by only asking for one billion from you."

Lacey argued, "There is only one Chime Bells from the war, and it's in the national museum. Yours is a counterfeit."

D*** you!

Fury surged in Alec as he raised his hand, about to hit Lacey.

The burly men by the doorway swiftly stopped him, "Mr. Matthews, let's calm down and talk. I don't think she'll be able to compensate a billion. Why don't you ask her to compensate you in other ways?"

Alec nodded, "You're right. Alright. If you can't compensate through monetary means, you'll have to compensate with other ways."

To quickly settle the matter, Lacey asked, "Tell

me. How do you want me to compensate you?"

Alec replied, "It's simple. Sleep with my boss for one night."

Lacey froze. "Your boss? You aren't the company's CEO?"

Alec answered, "No. I'm just working under someone else. The real boss of the company is Zach Williams."

What?

Lacey was astounded.

Eurasia Pictures belongs to the Williams family?

If I had known about it, I wouldn't have collaborated with Eurasia Pictures!

Lacey stood up and walked toward the door. "Trust Media will not be collaborating with you anymore. Please let me go. As for the compensation, I'll tell my lawyer to contact you."

Naturally, the men by the doorway would not let go. With a push, Lacey fell to the ground. Her hands landed on the fragments of the Chime Bells, and she shrieked in pain.

That was the scene that had greeted Zeke, who soon rushed over.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Thud!

The fire in Zeke's eyes burned brightly as he clenched his fists and stormed toward the two security guards.

When Lacey caught sight of him, her eyes lit up with hope. "Zeke, you're here! Please save me!"

Zeke nodded. "Don't worry, Lacey. Everything will be alright with me here."

The two muscular men stood in front of the door, refusing to let Zeke enter. "Scram. Our boss is in a meeting right now. Outsiders are not allowed into the room."

Thump! Thump!

Without saying anything, Zeke punched the underside of the two guards' jaws.

Crack!

The two guards' jaws were fractured, and their bodies flew upward toward the ceiling.

Their heads crashed through the ceiling, forcing them to remain stuck in that position.

Their bodies were swaying side to side, making them look like puppets.

Zeke grabbed the first aid kit from the side and started treating Lacey's wounds.

Tears were brimming in her eyes from the pain. "Zeke, I'm sorry. If I knew Eurasia Pictures was one of the Williams family's businesses, I wouldn't have agreed to collaborate with them."

Zeke reached out to run his fingers through Lacey's hair as he muttered, "Lacey, do you like this company? I'll give it to you."

"Pfft!"

Alec could not help but mock, "You're just the abandoned son of the Williams family. Do you think you're the head of the family? Do you think you can just give one of the Williams family's businesses away like that?"

Zeke fixed his cold, piercing eyes at Alec. "Now, it's time for us to settle our scores."

Alec responded calmly, "Settle our scores? Sure. Let's do it. She's broken my historical Chime Bells from the war. That was worth 5 billion. I only wanted to ask for one billion in the beginning, but since you've hurt my men, it'll be 5 billion, no lesser than that."

Zeke muttered, "Chime Bells from the war? Those belong to the country. Don't you know collecting it for personal use is illegal?"

Fortunately, I have a friend working in the national museum. Let me ask him how long the sentence for this will be. Will it be ten years, or will it be twenty?"

At that, Zeke took out his phone.

In an instant, Alec panicked.

This damn man isn't playing by the rules!

Not wanting to be imprisoned, Alec swiftly waved his hands dismissively. "Forget it. Since you're the abandoned son of the Williams family, I'll call it even and let you off the hook this time. Now, scram!"

Zeke scoffed. "Call it even? You wish."

He then put on a pair of white gloves as he stalked toward Alec.

Feeling fearful, Alec rapidly took several steps back. "W-What are you doing?"

Zeke answered, "Tell me, who told you to do this?"

Alec mumbled, "No one did..."

Abruptly, Zeke raised his leg higher than the other man's head and swung it downward heavily.

Thump!

It landed right on Alec's head.

With a loud thud, Alec fell forward onto the fragments of the Chime Bells.

The fragments of the Chime Bells stabbed his face and made it into a gory mess.

"Ah!"

A shriek of agony echoed in the office.

Zeke repeated, "Speak. Who was the one who told you to do this?"

Alec gave him the same answer. "No one-"

Zeke stomped his foot onto Alec's back.

"Ah!"

Another even more agonizing shriek came from the man on the ground.

The pieces of the Chime Bells had pierced his stomach, and blood began gushing out of him.

"Now."

Alec broke down.

This man's the devil! He's too quick to act!

He hurriedly confessed, "It's Zach. Zach Williams made me do this. He wants to sleep with Lacey, so I had to blackmail her with the Chime Bells."

Bas***d!

Zeke clenched his fists tightly.

Technically, Lacey was Zach's sister-in-law.

How can he want to bed his sister-in-law? He's an animal!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Even Lacey's face was flushed red from anger.

Zeke then ordered, "Tell Zach to scram and tell him his plan has succeeded, just in case he doesn't have the guts to come."

Alec did not dare to disobey his order.

Now, his priority was to swiftly settle this matter so that he could go to the hospital.

The pain was killing him.

With trembling hands, he called Zach.

"Sir, everything has gone according to plan. All we need now is for you to make your appearance."

Zach was overjoyed to hear his words. "Very well. Watch that girl, Lacey. Don't give her any chances to escape. I'll be right there."

While waiting for Zach, Zeke messaged Wolf's Greed, Take down Eurasia Pictures.

Wolf's Greed responded quickly after. Copy that.

Soon, Zach arrived at Eurasia Pictures.

He rushed into the office with a barely concealable look of lust. "Where's Lacey? Bring

me... F**k! Zeke, why are you here?"

Zeke sneered, "I've been waiting for you."

Zach's heart skipped a beat when he finally realized that things had gone south.

Without losing a beat, he turned to escape.

However, Zeke would never let him leave.

He suddenly grabbed the cup from the table and threw it at Zach.

The cup landed right on Zach's knee and shattered.

At the same time, he fell to his knees.

With a dark expression on his face, Zach shrieked, "Zeke, you're going overboard this time! You were stirring trouble at my wedding yesterday, and you're here hitting me today. I'll make you pay the price!"

Zeke scoffed, "So you do know you've just gotten married yesterday? Yet you're out here looking for other women on the second day of your married life. Tell me, what do you think the Lewis family will do when they find out about this?"

Zach gritted out, "F**k. If you dare to speak a

word about this, I'll make sure your head will never reunite with your body."

Zeke hummed nonchalantly. "Sure. I'm fine about keeping it a secret. But you'll have to hand me the ownership of the company."

Zach ground out, "Keep dreaming! You're just an abandoned son of the Williams family. How could you have ever thought of inheriting the family's business?"

Zeke shook his head. "No, you've misunderstood my words. I've never thought of inheriting the family business, and I never will. I meant I want the company."

Zach laughed joyfully. "Do you actually think you can get the company without my permission? What a joke."

Zeke shrugged. "Alright, let's see if I can get the company without your permission, then."

Meanwhile, Wolf's Greed was on the move.

He had led a troop of soldiers to Conrad's house.

Conrad instantly recognized Wolf's Greed at one glance.

Isn't this the Great Marshal's disciple, General

Cosmopolis?

Even Conrad's son, who was a general, had to behave obediently in front of this man.

His heart started pounding; Conrad was unsure if the man was here as an enemy or as a friend.

He stepped forward to greet with a lowered head, "General Cosmopolis, you've graced us with your presence. Please forgive me for not welcoming you in a better way."

Wolf's Greed waved, dismissing his words. "Spare your pleasantries. I'm only here for one thing."

Conrad hurriedly replied, "Please, enlighten me."

Wolf's Greed continued, "I heard you asked for 10 percent of the Williams family's share as a gift for the Great Marshal's appearance. The Great Marshal did attend the wedding yesterday, but he received no such gift. I was wondering if you had taken the gift for yourself."

Conrad's mind went blank.

He had thought the Great Marshal would not be concerned with such a small amount, so he had been planning to keep the shares for himself.

He never thought the Great Marshal would notice his actions.

If the Great Marshal were infuriated by this, even ten heads would not be enough for the Great Marshal to behead.



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Conrad quickly explained, “General Cosmopolis, this is a misunderstanding. I’ve long prepared the transferal agreement. I was hoping to hand this to him personally. But since you’re here, let me hand the documents to you instead.”

Wolf’s Greed shook his head. “No need for that. The Great Marshal isn’t interested in the Williams family’s shares. However, he’s interested in Eurasia Pictures. This company would become of use for promoting the military. Since Eurasia Pictures is equivalent to 10 percent of the Williams family’s shares, why don’t you give Eurasia Pictures to the Great Marshal as the gift instead?”

Conrad nodded vigorously. “No problem. Let’s head to Eurasia Pictures to sign the transferal agreement now.”

Conrad did not have the luxury of choice in such a situation.

Even if the Great Marshal wanted both Eurasia Pictures and the shares, he had to hand them over without a word of complaint.

While they were on the way to the office, Conrad called Lucille and told her about the incident.

Upon hearing his words, Lucille was overjoyed.

The rest of the Williams family's businesses were more or less related to Eurasia Pictures.

Therefore, if Eurasia Pictures were really gifted to the Great Marshal, the Williams family would become one of his business partners.

With that, the Williams family would greatly rise in ranks in Atheville.

All she thought about now was not the reluctance of giving it away but the fear that the Great Marshal might not accept it.

After ending the call, she sped to Eurasia Pictures.

When she arrived, she was dumbfounded by the mess she saw.

"What's going on? What happened here?" Lucille impatiently asked Zach.

Zach immediately whined, "Grandma, you have to stand up for me. I wouldn't have been so upset if all Zeke did was mess up my wedding yesterday. He's now hitting my men and I because I didn't want to collaborate with him. This is too much! He's going too far!"

What?

Lucille exploded in rage. "Zeke, you're absurd! I

closed one eye on what you've done yesterday because it was Zach's wedding. Not only are you not feeling remorseful, but you're getting worse. You must have a death wish!"

Zeke sighed. "You're pinning this on me without even finding out what's going on. You're two peas in a pod."

Lucille huffed as fury overwhelmed her, "H-How dare you berate your grandmother? Why was a savage like you born in the Williams family? Forget it. I don't want to waste my time on you anymore. I have more important things to attend to."

Zach refused to leave it at that. "Grandma, are you letting him off the hook just like that?"

Lucille answered, "Remember, don't only focus on your feelings. Think about the big picture. Let me tell you this. Soon, the Great Marshal will be coming to purchase our Eurasia Pictures. This is a rare opportunity for the Williams family. We can't possibly let it slip past us because of this man. Quick, prepare the transferal agreement."

Zach's eyes lit up. "What? The Great Marshal will be buying Eurasia Pictures? Our family businesses are interrelated with Eurasia Pictures. If Eurasia Pictures really does become a business under the Great Marshal's name,

we'll be his business partners! From then on, Atheville- No. Eurasia, and even the world, will look up to the Williams family."

A wide smile was plastered on Lucille's face as she said, "Yes, that's what I was thinking too."

Beside them, Lacey worriedly muttered, "Zeke, let's leave. It'll be terrible if they talk bad about us to the Great Marshal."

Upon hearing her say that, Zach laughed. "Thank you for the reminder. I'll personally tell the Great Marshal that Zeke Williams had just tried to steal Eurasia Pictures from him. Grandma, I'm sure you don't know about this yet. Zeke actually said he'll be getting Eurasia Pictures just now."



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Lucille sneered, "You want to get your hands on Eurasia Pictures? Sure. Why don't you pry it from the Great Marshal's hands?"

Lacey tensed up further.

If Zach really did spout lies in front of the Great Marshal, things would not end well for Zeke and her.

However, Zeke patted Lacey's shoulder and reassured her, "Don't worry, Lacey. Maybe the Great Marshal will hand Eurasia Pictures to us instead."

"Haha!"

Lucille and Zach's laughter only got louder.

The Great Marshal had said he's interested in this company. Why would he ever give it to these two commoners?

This is the best joke I've heard all day.

Just as they were laughing, a group of people came rushing in.

The man leading the group was Wolf's Greed.

Beside him was Conrad, the head of the Lewis family. He had his head lowered subserviently.

Lacey glanced at Wolf's Greed and knitted her brows. "Why does he look familiar?"

Zeke immediately grew nervous.

A while back, when they were dealing with the four major families of Atheville, Wolf's Greed had been constantly by his side.

Lacey saw him?

Then, Lacey smacked her head and exclaimed, "I remember now! I always see him on television. He's the Great Marshal's disciple, General Cosmopolis. He should be here on the Great Marshal's orders to take over the company."

Zeke let out a silent sigh of relief.

Both Lucille and Zach hurriedly stepped forward to welcome the man.

"General Cosmopolis, you've graced us with your presence. Please enter and have a drink."

Wolf's Greed uttered, "I'm a busy man. I don't have time to spend drinking. After we're done with signing the contract, I'll be leaving."

Lucille nodded. "Of course. I understand. Zach, hurry up and bring the contract over."

“Got it.”

Zach rushed into the office to draft a transferal agreement before returning to hand it to Wolf’s Greed.

Without even glancing at the contract, Wolf’s Greed signed his name.

Then, Zach shot a cold look at Zeke.

He was about to speak ill of his brother when Zeke interrupted, “May I ask why the Great Marshal is acquiring this company?”

Wolf’s Greed turned to look at him curiously. Feigning ignorance, he asked, “Who are you?”

Zeke answered, “The average taxpayer.”

Wolf’s Greed then explained, “Oh, I see. The Great Marshal wants the company to film promotional videos for the military.”

Zeke nodded. “I don’t think that’s a good idea.”

His words shocked everyone in the room.

They all went wild with shock.

How dare Zeke question the Great Marshal’s decision?

He even said that the Great Marshal's plan was a bad idea!

He's outright disrespecting the Great Marshal!

He's just seeking death!

To appease Wolf's Greed, Zach hurriedly reprimanded, "Shut up! The thoughts of the Great Marshal are of a level higher than we can comprehend. Who do you think you are to question him?"

However, Wolf's Greed's interrupted Zach and said, "Continue brat."

The corner of Zeke's lips twitched.

This damn Wolf's Greed. Aren't you getting too full of yourself? Did you just call me a brat?

I'm definitely teaching you a lesson later.

Zeke then said, "This is a production company. It specializes in movies. They're inexperienced in filming promotional videos. However, my company, Trust Media, specializes in promotional videos, and many of our clients are satisfied with our products. Our company filmed a promotional video recently. Please have a look at it. If you think it's not bad, you can leave this task to us. Lacey, do show the general our recent work for the Linton Group."

Lacey's face had turned red from her nerves.

Zeke had been abrupt to promote their company.

However, his words had been spoken and could not be taken back.

Therefore, she had no other choice but to show the general the clip.



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Zach and Lucille could not stop their snickering.

He's shameless when he's trying to build a relationship with the Great Marshal.

How can he think of promoting himself to General Cosmopolis at a time like this?

Does he think General Cosmopolis is the average person?

Hmph. Just you wait. General Cosmopolis surely won't let you off easily.

After watching the video, Wolf's Greed exclaimed, "Very well! This is excellent work! The Linton Group is now vivid in my head after watching it once. It seems like your company has some capabilities in filming promotional videos. I'll leave this task to you. As for the reward... I'll give you half of Eurasia Pictures' shares. The Great Marshal doesn't have the time to manage Eurasia Pictures. You'll have to manage it well on his behalf."

What?

It was as if time had come to a standstill.

Everyone was staring at Wolf's Greed with widened eyes and slackened jaws.

General Cosmopolis actually agreed to it!

He just gave them half of Eurasia Pictures' shares!

This is unbelievable!

Lacey was the first to come back to her senses. With unconcealed delight, she exclaimed her gratitude to Wolf's Greed, "Thank you very much, Sir!"

Wolf's Greed waved his hand dismissively with a smile. "No need for any thanks. You deserve this."

"Depart!"

Wolf's Greed then led his men away.

A cold breeze blew into the room from the slightly opened window and straight into Lucille and Zach's heart.

If they had promoted themselves earlier, Zeke would not have stood a chance.

They had just lost an opportunity to build a relationship with the Great Marshal!

Zeke had used the Williams family as a stepping stone in achieving his goal.

Zach took in a deep breath before looking at Lucille. “Grandma, now... Now, what do we do?”

An awful feeling was overwhelming Lucille despite her attempts to keep it at bay.

She huffed as she glared at Zeke, “Zeke, we kicked you out of the Williams family because you were just an incapable black sheep of the family back then. However, now that you’re the Great Marshal’s business partner, you’re worthy of becoming a member of the Williams family. I now permit you to return to the Williams family. Of course, you’ll have to hand over the shares the Great Marshal gave you to the family.”

If Zeke returned to the Williams family, that would mean the Williams family was the Great Marshal’s business partner.

They could kick Zeke out of the family once they got their hands on the shares.

With a smile that did not reach his eyes, Zeke muttered, “Hm? Is this pity?”

Zach replied, “That’s right. We’re doing this out of pity for you. I hope you’ll be smart enough to take the opportunity before it slips away.”

“Pfft!”

Zeke could not help but laugh. “This is the

greatest joke I've heard in my entire life! The Williams family is unworthy of me! If you had begged me to return, I might have considered it, but since you said it's done out of pity for me... I'm sorry. You should stop dreaming about it from now on."

Lucille fumed, "Zeke, you should think this through before giving us an answer. Without the Williams family supporting you, it'll be tough for you to make a living in Atheville."

Without sparing them another glance, Zeke turned to Lacey. "Lacey, here's a task for you. End all business relations Eurasia Pictures has with the Williams family and fire every employee who's related to the Williams family."

Lacey nodded. "I understand."

Preposterous!

His words had stunned Lucille like a bolt of lightning.

Zeke was ruthless; he was not giving them any chances to build a relationship with the Great Marshal.

Now, not only did the Williams family hand over Eurasia Pictures without gaining any benefits in return, but Zeke had also taken advantage of the situation and made himself known to the

Great Marshal.

It was humiliation like never before.

A look of wrath was plastered on Zach's face as he seethed, "Grandma, what do we do now?"

Lucille gritted out, "If Zeke wants to send us to hell, we'll drag him there too!"

Right then, Conrad leaned over. "Mrs. Williams, there's no need to be so angry. It's bad for your health."

Lucille laughed bitterly. "How can I not be angry? That useless boy is infuriating!"

Conrad then continued, "Mrs. Williams, I'll be honest with you. There's a chance for you to build a relationship with the Great Marshal and even become his most loyal partner."



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Lucille inquired, "Mr. Lewis, please explain the situation clearly."

Conrad replied, "I've received intel that Reinz Pharmaceutical will be opening a branch in Atheville. Their main branch has already started to sell the shares of the Atheville branch, so anyone can buy them and become one of its shareholders. The man in charge of Reinz Pharmaceutical is Xavier to the public eye, but it is common knowledge that he's just a puppet controlled by the Great Marshal. Xavier is one of the Great Marshal's disciples. Fortunately, the Lewis family happens to be in charge of the auction. If the Williams family manages to get a hold of the shares, you will become a business partner of the Great Marshal. You must know that the Great Marshal values Reinz Pharmaceutical a lot. I'm sure a business partner in Reinz Pharmaceutical is much more valuable than Zeke."

Lucille's eyes lit up and exclaimed, "That's great! When I manage to collaborate with the Great Marshal, the first thing I'll do is drive Zeke Williams out of Atheville. Hurry. Let's prepare for the auction."

Meanwhile, at Eurasia Pictures, Lacey still had her reservations about that matter. She chided, "Zeke, you were being too reckless earlier. How could you correct General Cosmopolis like that? If you anger him, we'll be in trouble."

Zeke smiled. "Lacey, don't you know most military men like straightforward people the most? If you keep beating around the bush, it might tick them off."

Lacey slowly nodded. "I guess that's true as well. Alright, I'll continue with work."

Zeke headed over to a window and watched as Lucille and the others left with a look of disgust.

I only mentioned I knew the Great Marshal, and you want me back in the Williams family already. When you find out I'm the Great Marshal himself, you'd probably beg me to take over as head of the household!

Ten minutes later, Zeke found Wolf's Greed and gave him a good kick.

Wolf's Greed was perplexed. "Ouch! What was that for?"

Zeke sneered, "Who's the rascal again?"

Wolf's Greed laughed awkwardly. "Haha! It's me. I'm the rascal..."

"Oh right, I have something important to report to you," He suddenly perked up.

Wolf's Greed attempted to change the subject.

“Shoot.”

Wolf’s Greed reported, “Theodore of the Luna Manor has invited Reinz Pharmaceutical to open a branch at Atheville. As per his conditions, the shares will be auctioned to the public. The one in charge of this auction is Conrad from the Lewis family. According to my intel, the Lewis family has no intention to participate in the auction. They seem to be encouraging the Williams family to do so instead.”

Zeke fell into deep thought.

The Lewis family is in charge of the auction, so they have an overwhelming advantage. Yet, instead of participating in the auction themselves, they’re encouraging the Williams family to do so. There’s definitely something wrong with this. Perhaps the Lewis family is aiming for the assets owned by the Williams family by using Reinz Pharmaceutical.

Zeke said coldly, “The Williams family is my prey. I won’t let anyone steal my kill. When’s the auction beginning?”

“Tomorrow.”

Zeke smiled. “Well then. I guess I’ll go to the venue tomorrow to see what the Lewis family is up to.”

The following day, the auction for Reinz Pharmaceutical's Atheville branch shares was being held as planned.

Every influential figure in Atheville attended the auction.

A shareholder of the Atheville branch of Reinz Pharmaceutical would naturally be a business partner of the Great Marshal. That was something most people could only dream of.

However, the starting bid for the shares was high; it automatically filtered out a significant portion of people. Only the extremely rich and powerful minority had the right to participate in the auction.

Zeke had arrived early on.

However, he ran into Zach and Lucille before he could even enter the venue.



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Lucille glared at Zeke, planning to ignore him.

Zach, on the other hand, approached Zeke and snorted, "Hey, Williams! Why are you here? Don't tell me you're participating in the auction? Hahaha!"

Lucille scoffed, "He probably can't make it past the gates, much less participate in the auction!"

Zach slapped his forehead and exclaimed, "How silly of me! He's the child the Williams family won't recognize. He can't even set foot into the Williams residence, much less Reinz Pharmaceutical.

Zeke glanced at the two of them and commented indifferently, "I'd advise you against participating in this auction. It might be a trap. Don't end up losing all your assets to an outsider."

Nonsense!

Zach spat, "You must have eaten too many sour grapes to have such a sour attitude. Grandma, ignore him. Let's go."

Lucille snorted, "You're just worried we'd succeed and become the Great Marshal's business partners. Don't worry about that. When we become a shareholder of Reinz Pharmaceutical, the first thing we'll do is chase

you out of Atheville.”

Zeke shrugged indifferently. “I warned you.”

He then entered the auction venue.

Lucille and Zach were stunned. How did he enter so easily?

Zach snapped out of his shock and said, “He might have entered as the second boss of Eurasia Pictures. In other words, he’s one of the Great Marshal’s business partners.”

Lucille shook her head. “That’s not the point. More importantly, is he actually going to participate in the auction?”

Zach’s face fell. “That’s a strong possibility. We can’t let him succeed. If his connection with Great Marshal becomes stronger, the Williams family might not be able to deal with him any longer. Let’s head inside, quickly.”

Conrad was the man in charge of the auction. He had sided with the Williams family at every opportunity, and with his help, the Williams family managed to obtain thirty percent of the Reinz Pharmaceutical shares with fifty billion.

Everyone was envious of the Williams family; Lucille and Zach were ecstatic.

They were now the second boss of the Atheville branch of Reinz Pharmaceutical. In other words, they were the Great Marshal's right hand when it came to the pharmaceutical industry.

With this relationship alone, the Williams family would obtain a status equivalent to a noble.

Lucille jumped up in joy and instructed, "Zach, quick, inform the family of the news and announce a three-day-long celebration in the Williams family home!"

Zach laughed. "Haha! That's a great idea! Such an occasion is worth celebrating for thirty days, let alone three! Oh right, grandma. Let's invite Zeke to the celebrations. Wasn't he saying something about how this was all a plot against the Williams family? Did he really think he was better than us just because he owns fifty percent of Eurasia Pictures shares? We need to strike him hard and teach him a lesson. The Williams family is something that will always be out of his reach."

Lucille nodded. "Great plan! I'll leave it to you then."

At that moment, Zeke was meeting the man in charge of the Atheville branch of Reinz Pharmaceutical, Winston Golf, in secret.

Winston was kneeling in front of Zeke, not

daring to breathe too hard or even look up at him.

This man is the founder of Reinz Pharmaceutical, the nation's asset, the Great Marshal! I'm not even fit to be in the same room as him.

Zeke sipped his tea as he inquired, "You're the man in charge of the Atheville branch of Reinz Pharmaceutical. Why did you leave the auction to the Lewis family?"

Winston replied respectfully, "Mr. Williams, Theodore recommended Conrad to take over the auction. He's an influential man in Atheville, so... I didn't dare defy him."

Zeke questioned, "Do you know the reason for his behavior?"



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Winston shook his head. “No. However, Conrad told me he would use a large sum to fund the Atheville branch under my name in hopes of diluting the share of the Williams family. As for what they have in mind, I’m not sure myself.”

Zeke inhaled sharply. Looks like the Lewis family is aiming for the Williams’ assets after all.

Winston asked in trepidation, “Mr. Williams, shall I go against Conrad?”

Zeke shook his head. “No need for that. Just follow his instructions. We’ll wait and see what they have in store.”

“Alright.”

The moment Winston left, Zach phoned Zeke to ‘invite’ him to a celebratory feast hosted by the Williams family.

Zeke nearly burst into laughter. The Williams family is caught up in a scheme so big that their entire fortune might be all gone overnight, yet they’re hosting a celebratory feast!

Zeke accepted the invitation. I guess I’ll get to watch the Williams family make a fool of themselves.

The celebration feast began at seven in the

evening, but Zeke only arrived at seven-thirty.

The Williams residence was brightly lit with festive lights; the large courtyard was filled with tables for a feast.

Other than members of the Williams family, several influential men in Atheville had come to offer the Williams family their congratulations.

Even their servants were given a table and allowed to participate in the feast.

Zeke scanned the surroundings for his 'biological parents', but they were nowhere in sight.

He frowned.

I haven't seen them at all. It's understandable if I didn't see them during the celebratory feast, but they weren't present during Zach's wedding either. Something is definitely off. Are they avoiding me because they're too ashamed to meet me? No... The probability of that is minimal.

Zach was the first to notice him. He waved. "Zeke, why are you standing at the gate? Come, quickly!"

Lucille frowned, "Who invited him here? We disowned him long ago!"

Zach played along. “Grandma, I invited him. Didn’t he say this was all a plot to do us in? He even said that the Williams family doesn’t deserve him. I want to let him see for himself whether this was all a scheme and whether the Williams family is as worthless as he thought.”

The crowd burst into laughter.

“Haha! Is that disowned child so haughty now? He said the top family in Atheville doesn’t deserve to take him in!”

“You’d believe him? He’s full of bluffs!”

“It’s obviously a blessing to be able to buy the shares of Reinz Pharmaceutical. How could he say it was all a trap? How ignorant!”

“The Williams family was right to disown him!”

Zeke scoffed, “You all are like frogs who don’t know they’re being cooked in boiling water. How sad.”

Shut up!

Lucille roared, “That’s enough talk. Get seated and stop embarrassing yourself.”

Zach cut in snarkily, “There aren’t any more seats at the guest table. Oh well, I guess you’ll have to sit with the servants.”

Even the blind could see that the Williams family was doing this on purpose.

Zeke sneered, "You'll be begging me to take a seat at the host's table soon enough."

Pfft!

The crowd burst into laughter. Who on earth made this disowned child brazen enough to say something like that?

Zeke took a seat at the servant's table, but he did not touch or eat anything.

He wanted to wait for the Williams family to invite him to the host's table.

Soon, Conrad rushed over.

Lucille got up to welcome him personally. She greeted him, "Mr. Lewis, please have a seat. You're a great benefactor of the Williams family. I won't let you leave until you've had your fill of wine."

Conrad was breathless and reported in panic, "B-bad news. We're in trouble!"



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The crowd was perplexed. “Mr. Lewis, what happened?”

Conrad took a deep breath before he explained, “Earlier, the man in charge of Reinz Pharmaceutical’s Atheville branch injected three hundred billion worth of funds into the Atheville branch under his name.”

The crowd was confused and inquired, “That’s great! The branch has received even more funding now.”

Conrad replied, “It would have been a good thing if the shares held by the Williams family weren’t dilutable, but unfortunately, they are. The moment Mr. Golf injects three hundred billion into the branch, the Williams family’s shares will be diluted from thirty percent to three percent.”

What?

Lucille’s face turned pale.

Our shares worth thirty percent have been diluted to three percent? With just three percent, we aren’t even a shareholder, much less a business partner of the Great Marshal!

Lucille seemed to have aged at least a decade as she sighed, “Ah! Who could have seen that coming? Looks like we’ll no longer able to be

business partners with the Great Marshal. Fortunately, the shares are still worth fifty billion after dilution. We haven't gained anything, but there's no loss either."

Conrad replied, "Don't be disappointed, Mrs. Williams. I've managed to get a privilege for the Williams family. We can convert your dilutable shares to non-dilutable shares. That way, no matter how much others pour into the Atheville branch, your shares will always be at three percent. The more others invest, the more your shares will be worth. Your shares may eventually be worth fifty billion, one hundred billion, two hundred billion, or even more."

Lucille was overjoyed as she exclaimed, "Although we missed the chance to forge ties with the Great Marshal, we can earn a killing amount this way. Thanks for helping us with this, Mr. Lewis. Let's sign the contract now."

Conrad hurriedly nodded. "Sure."

The contract was signed, and Lucille invited Conrad to his seat after.

This put a slight damper on the celebrations, but the overall mood of the place was still joyous.

Although the Williams family had lost their opportunity to build strong ties with the Great

Marshal, they would still be able to earn a large sum of money.

It was something worth celebrating.

After the feast was nearly over, Conrad's phone rang.

He answered it and jumped in fright as he shouted, "What? Is that really true? Alright. I've got it. Bye."

Everyone stared at Conrad in shock. Some of them inquired, "Mr. Lewis, what's with the major reaction?"

Conrad turned to Lucille apologetically and reported, "I just received news that Mr. Golf has retracted his investment of three hundred billion."

What?

Lucille felt faint and nearly collapsed.

Three hundred billion! He really retracted it all just like that? If the Williams family's shares were dilutable, the shares would automatically go back up to thirty percent. But now that our shares are non-dilutable, it'll remain at three percent...

The net worth of the Atheville branch was a

little more than a hundred billion, so three percent would be three billion.

Now that their fifty billion had turned into three billion, the Williams family would have to cough up a fortune.

Zach panicked. "Mr. Lewis, quick. Destroy the contract we signed earlier. We can't afford to let our shares become non-dilutable."

Conrad rubbed his temples and muttered, "That's exactly what I've been worried about. I've already sent that contract to Winston. He's probably received it by now."

No way!

Lucille felt her legs go weak, and she collapsed into her seat.

She had only one thought on her mind -- The Williams family has really taken a huge blow this time. Hold on, didn't Zeke say that this was all part of someone's scheme against the Williams family...



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In hindsight, this really looks like a plot. In fact, the Lewis family is likely aiming to take the Williams family down!

She glared at Zeke and demanded, "Zeke, didn't you say this was all part of someone's plan? What's going on? Did you know anything about it? Who on earth is targeting the Williams family?"

This sentence came as a bolt from the blue.

This series of coincidences might have been planned by someone else.

Zeke scoffed, "Heh, do you still not understand what's going on? Do I really need to spell it out for you?"

Lucille's gaze fell upon Conrad.

Conrad was furious. "Mrs. Williams, what do you mean by your gaze? Don't tell me you suspect me of staging all of this?"

Lucille shook her head and responded, "No way. Mr. Lewis, you've misunderstood. W-What should we do now? We can't let the fifty billion go down the drain just like that."

Conrad replied, "Calm down. I'll contact Winston immediately and request that he destroy the contract."

A ray of hope lit up in the eyes of the Williams family. “Yes, please, hurry up and do so.”

The call connected almost immediately. Conrad talked for a while before he hung up.

He heaved a sigh of relief, “Winston has decided to come personally. Looks like we still have a chance.”

The entire Williams family was overjoyed.

If they voided the contract, they would be able to keep thirty percent of Reinz Pharmaceutical shares and become the Great Marshal’s business partners.

After a long time, Winston finally arrived.

All members of the Williams family rushed over to welcome him as though he was their great benefactor.

After all, he now controlled the fate of the Williams family.

Winston took a seat under the guidance of the Williams family. He did not notice Zeke, who was sitting with the servants. Otherwise, he would never have dared to take a seat at the host’s table.

After a short chit-chat, Lucille went straight to

the point. She inquired, "Mr. Golf, I know it isn't my place to ask, but why did you suddenly withdraw the three hundred billion you injected into the Atheville branch of Reinz Pharmaceutical?"

Winston shot them a false smile and replied, "Mrs. Williams, you sure are getting forgetful. Don't tell me you've forgotten who I am. Let me remind you then. I'm Loston Golf, a businessman who has worked with the Williams family in the past."

Hm?

Lucille took a closer look at Winston Golf and shuddered.

She remembered this man.

He used to be a business partner of the Williams family. The Williams family HAD made Loston go bankrupt during one of their collaborations, and he had disappeared after that.

They had not expected to meet him after a few years as an executive of Reinz Pharmaceutical who could fork out three hundred billion at any moment.

She almost refused to believe that this was the same man the Williams family had taken

advantage of back then.

Lucille stuttered, “S-So... this is all part of your plan to take revenge on the Williams family?”

Winston smiled wryly. “What do you think?”

Lucille felt like killing herself. Looks like the fifty billion we threw into the Atheville branch really is going to go down the drain.

Conrad glanced at Winston and then at Lucille. It finally dawned upon him what had happened.

He tried to reconcile the two parties and suggested, “I didn’t know Mr. Golf knew the Williams family in the past or about your conflict. Let’s do it this way. Mr. Golf, can’t you let the Williams family off on my account? I’ll pay for all your losses back then, alright?”



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Winston shook his head. “No. The Williams family made me bankrupt back then. I’m being nice by only making them fork out a small sum now. Mr. Lewis, please don’t make things difficult for me.”

Conrad snapped unhappily, “Mr. Golf, I was the one who suggested the Williams family take part in this auction. Although I had good intentions, I’m partly responsible for the state they’re in. If you can’t drop this matter on my account, what about my son, General Ryker?”

When Conrad mentioned his son, Winston grew conflicted.

Eventually, Winston gave in and said, “Alright then, I’ll forgive the Williams family on account of Mr. Lewis. I can nullify the contract and allow the Williams family to collaborate with Reinz Pharmaceutical. However, I have one small request.”

Lucille heaved a sigh of relief. “Mr. Golf, please state your terms.”

As long as she could have her fifty billion back, she would agree to a hundred conditions if she had to.

Winston stated, “I don’t trust Mrs. Williams. I don’t want her to be in charge of this collaboration. The Williams family must

appoint someone else to work with Reinz Pharmaceutical.”

Zach suggested, “Mr. Golf, why don’t I fulfill that role instead? I have a good reputation in the corporate world.”

Winston scoffed, “I’m sorry. I can’t trust any of you Williams.”

The Williams family turned pale when they heard this.

If you can’t trust a member of the Williams family, do you actually expect us to appoint an outsider to take charge of such an important task?

Winston fixed his gaze onto Robin. “I heard Ms. Lewis has married into the Williams family?”

Robin nodded. “Yes, I am Zach’s wife.”

Winston declared, “Alright. Since you’re Mr. Lewis’ daughter and a member of the Williams family, you should take charge of this project.”

Robin was overjoyed as she replied, “Thanks, Mr. Golf!”

The Williams family was at a loss.

Yes, Robin is a part of the Williams family, but

she just married into the family. To make matters worse, she's part of another influential family. She won't help the Williams family when it comes down to it!

The Williams family could not trust her.

Lucille suggested, "Mr. Golf, I'd like the Williams family butler to take charge of this project. He's not a Williams, and he's a capable man. He's the perfect choice for the job."

Conrad and Robin were fuming when they heard his words.

"Mrs. Williams, what do you mean by that? You would rather trust a butler than your own granddaughter-in-law? Furthermore, Robin was appointed by Mr. Golf himself. How could you change the person in charge so suddenly?"

Winston then added, "If the Williams family wishes to collaborate with Reinz Pharmaceutical, I will not accept anyone other than Ms. Robin as the person in charge."

The Williams family felt conflicted.

The collaboration with Reinz Pharmaceutical was one of the Williams family's core operations. It concerned the future of the Williams family. How could they simply leave it to someone else?

Yet, if they refused, the Williams family would suffer a huge loss...

At that point, Zeke scorned, "Heh, you're passing the most important business in the family to someone who isn't even a Williams? Pathetic!"

The entire Williams family glared at Zeke.

Ever since his arrival, he had done nothing but make snide remarks. It was infuriating.

Lucille bellowed, "Shut up! An outsider like you has no right to comment on the affairs of the Williams family."

Zeke shrugged indifferently. "Fine by me. Just don't beg me for help later on."

Zach screamed in rage, "Beg you? What can you do? All you do is bring shame upon the Williams family!"

Zeke smiled mysteriously. "I'll be sure to remember what you've said."

Meanwhile, Winston was astounded. Oh my gosh, why's he here? The boss of Reinz Pharmaceutical, the nation's greatest weapon, the Great Marshal!



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How could I have missed him! Argh, I have a death wish!

Winston rushed towards Zeke.

Everyone present thought he was surely going to berate Zeke. After all, the latter had acted outrageously.

Lucille hurriedly said, "Mr. Golf, please ignore him. He's just a brat disowned by the Winston family. He's ill-mannered and uncouth. I'll get someone to chase him out this moment. Security! Get this man out!"

Four to five guards headed in Zeke's direction, but they froze in their tracks.

Winston had bowed deeply towards Zeke and greeted him, "M-Mr. Williams, why are you here? I was blind not to have noticed you. Please forgive me for neglecting you this whole time."

Zeke nodded. "It's fine. I was seated in an unassuming corner, so it's only natural that you didn't notice I was here."

Winston stared at the table in confusion and inquired, "Mr. Williams, how can you share a table with the servants? Here, I'll bring you to the host's table."

Zeke waved him off and replied, "No need. The

Williams family arranged for me to be seated here.”

How dare they do such a thing?

Winston’s expression darkened as he turned to glare at the Williams family.

“All of you Williams, get off your seats! You’re insulting Mr. Williams by letting him sit with the servants. Get him back to the main table.”

The entire crowd had their mouths agape.

What on earth is going on? Are we seeing things? An executive of Reinz Pharmaceutical, someone under the Great Marshal’s charge, actually bowed to a man who had been disowned by his own family! Who on earth is Zeke?

Lucille rushed over with her cane. “Mr. Golf, did you get the wrong person? Zeke is just a child we disowned...”

“Shut up!” Winston roared. “Are you doubting me or Mr. Williams?”

Lucille hurriedly shook her head. “I wouldn’t dare. Zeke, I’m sorry for treating you with contempt earlier. I humbly invite you to take a seat at the host’s table.”

It was downright humiliating for Lucille to apologize to the grandson she despised the most.

Zeke got up and walked to the host's table, taking the main seat. He sneered, "I told you that you guys would invite me here soon, but you didn't believe me. You just had to make a fool of yourselves before doing this, huh?"

Once Zeke settled down in the main seat, the entire Williams family and guests felt less important than him.

This made most of them feel uneasy. Why should I let a man disowned by the Williams family sit at a better seat than mine!

Lucille had returned, but now that Zeke had taken her seat, she had nowhere to sit.

She sent a junior member of the Williams family to another table and took his seat.

She asked hesitantly, "Zeke, grandma has something to ask of you..."

Zeke laughed. "Zeke? Grandma?"

Lucille changed her choice of words almost immediately. "Mr. Williams, I have something to ask of you. Please help us convince Mr. Golf to change his mind about the person in charge of

Reinz Pharmaceutical. Reinz Pharmaceutical is now the main business of the Williams family. This concerns our very livelihood, so I feel that it would be better if I took charge of things personally.”

Zeke smiled wryly and glanced at Zach. He scoffed, “Someone said I would only humiliate the Williams family just now.”

Zach’s face drained of all color. He could not seem to string two words together properly. He stammered, “I-I...”

Lucille had no choice but to make a painful decision.

“Zach, you were insolent towards Mr. Williams earlier. Slap yourself!”



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Zach was livid. He felt humiliated that he had to slap himself because of this disowned child. Yet, he had no choice but to do so.

Zeke scorned, "Do you think once is enough?"

Zach gritted his teeth and continued slapping himself.

Conrad and Robin's hearts sank. They had not expected Zeke to appear and turn out to be someone more influential than even Winston. Will things still go according to plan?

Winston then asked humbly, "Mr. Williams, how do you think we should resolve this issue? I'll obey your every command."

Zeke spat out, "You're the man in charge of the Atheville branch. Why are you asking an outsider like me? Do what's beneficial to Reinz Pharmaceutical and don't do anything that doesn't profit. Surely you didn't need to ask me to know that!"

Winston nodded at once. "Understood."

The Williams family turned pale. Doesn't this mean he isn't going to help the Williams family? What did Zach slap himself for then? That darn Zeke treated us like fools!

Zeke got up and took a look around the

Williams residence. He commented, "I suggest you let me take over the Williams family before an outsider takes control of it. When that happens, the Williams family will be toast."

Zeke left after saying his piece.

He had missed this place. After all, he grew up here. He had many memories of this place. He could not say he felt no sense of attachment at all.

After Zeke left, Lucille sneered, "Now you're aiming for the Williams family? Over my dead body! At worst, I'll let Robin take over this project. She's my great-granddaughter. She wouldn't do anything against our interests. I'll need to rush Zach and Robin for a child. With a child, Robin will have to think for the family's best interests!"

Lucille straightened out her emotions and announced, "I agree to let Robin take charge of this project."

The other members of the Williams family nodded in unison.

They were not in a position to refuse.

Winston concluded, "That settles it then."

He tore the contract up in front of the Williams

family and turned to leave.

With that, the feast was no longer lively.

The celebration feast almost felt like a funeral.

Everyone was wondering how the disowned man had become so powerful in a short time span. Even the Williams family was at his mercy.

He sure is something.

When the guests dispersed, Zach approached Lucille. “Grandma, why do you think Winston treats Zeke with so much respect and even... fear?”

Lucille snapped, “Can’t you tell? Zeke is the second largest shareholder of Eurasia Pictures and the Great Marshal’s business partner. Of course, Winston would be worried about offending him. Zeke is filming an advertisement for the Great Marshal now, so he will naturally treat him seriously. Winston would have to respect him.”

Zach nodded. “I thought so too.”

Lucille gritted her teeth. “To the Great Marshal, Zeke will be worthless the moment the advertisement has finished filming. When that happens, Zeke’s status will plunge, but we will

remain the Great Marshal's most important business partner. When that time comes, I'll make sure to pay Zeke double the humiliation."

Zach snarled. "Hmph. How dare that bastard make me slap myself and apologize to him? I'll make him pay for it!"

Soon, all the guests had left. Conrad and Robin found a secluded corner to discuss their plans.

"Dad, our plan to take control of the Williams family has been successful thus far. What now?"



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Conrad replied, "Our next step will be for you to take over Lucille as head of the household."

Robin laughed bitterly. "You saw it for yourself. That old hag doesn't even trust me to take care of their central business, much less appoint me as head of the household."

Conrad chuckled. "That does seem unrealistic. But we can get her to pass the position to Zach for now. That man's an idiot. It's much easier to get the position from him rather than from that shrewd hag."

But Robin protested, "I don't think Lucille plans to appoint a new head of household anytime soon."

Conrad assured her, "Don't worry. We can do it by force."

Robin was confused. "By force?"

Conrad smirked. "We will get the Great Marshal to force her to give up her position."

"But we haven't even seen the Great Marshal before! How can we ask him for help?"

"If the Lewis family hasn't seen him, the Williams family definitely wouldn't have seen him! The Great Marshal is whoever I say he is."

Robin inhaled sharply. “Father, you want to get someone to impersonate the Great Marshal? T- That’s a major offence. We’ll get the capital punishment for that.”

Conrad smiled evilly. “Who will know, besides you and me? There’s definitely a risk to this plan, but with risk comes opportunity.”

Seven days later, the branch factory had started to take shape.

Conrad and Robin’s plan to take control of the Williams family was in full force as well.

Early in the morning, Robin gave Zach a call.

“Zach, bring grandma to the branch factory, quickly! The Great Marshal is pleased with our work! He wants to meet the two of you!”

What?

Zach was overjoyed. It was an honor for the Great Marshal to want to meet someone. He could brag about this for his entire life.

Zach replied, “Alright, I’ll bring grandma over immediately.”

Robin then added, “Oh right. From what I heard, the Great Marshal feels that grandma is getting on her age. He wants her to retire and enjoy her

retirement. When that happens, you've got to fight for the position of head of the household."

But Zach protested, "Robin, I'm still young and inexperienced. I can't possibly manage the entire Williams family. Let's try to convince the Great Marshal to let grandma postpone her retirement by two years."

Robin snapped, "Zach Williams! How can a man back down like that! Especially when I'll be supporting you the entire way! If you can't even be the head of the family, how can you be a good match for me or the Lewis family? I'll never be able to hold my head high in the Lewis family!"

Zach bit his lip and replied, "Alright then, Robin. I'll definitely get the position for your sake!"

Zach soon found Lucille and told her about the Great Marshal's arrival.

Lucille was moved to the verge of tears.

Thank the heavens! To think that I'd be able to see the Great Marshal before I die. The Williams family's position will skyrocket, and we might even become on par with nobles!

She quickly packed up and headed for the Atheville branch.

Coincidentally, they met Zeke along the way there.

As Reinz Pharmaceutical was concerned with the health and lives of the soldiers, Zeke treated it with utmost importance and came to inspect the work regularly.

The two parties had never been on good terms, so there were enraged when they saw each other.

Lucille and Zach were particularly angry as they glared at Zeke in spite.

Seven days ago, if Zeke had spoken up for them, they would be the ones in charge of Reinz Pharmaceutical.

Zach scorned, "Zeke Williams, who allowed you to come here? Please leave."



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They were about to meet the Great Marshal and establish friendly relations with him, so naturally, they no longer feared Zeke.

Zeke smirked. "Why should I leave just because you told me to?"

Zach sneered, "We're the second-biggest shareholders of the Atheville Reinz Pharmaceutical. Will that be enough?"

To which Zeke replied, "Well, I'm the boss of this place."

Pfft!

The two of them burst into laughter.

Everyone knew the Great Marshal owned Reinz Pharmaceutical. Is he implying that he's the Great Marshal? How brazen of him to insult the Great Marshal time and time again!

Lucille snapped, "How audacious! Do you dare to follow me inside and repeat what you said in front of the Great Marshal?"

Zeke was stunned. "In front of Great Marshal? What do you mean by that?"

Zach sneered, "I'll tell you what I mean. Great Marshal knows we've been giving our all for the Reinz Pharmaceutical project. He wants to

meet us. We'll be seeing him soon."

Zeke's brows furrowed even deeper. Since when have I said I wanted to meet you? Darn, don't tell me someone's impersonating me! The Great Marshal is the pride of the nation! No one is to humiliate him! I need to get to the bottom of this!

Zeke agreed, "Why not?"

Hahaha!

Zach and Lucille were elated. This man dares act this way in front of the Great Marshal! He must have a death wish.

The three of them headed to the reception room together.

Robin welcomed them, "Grandma, Zach, you're here?"

Lucille inquired, "Where's the Great Marshal? Is he here yet?"

Robin replied, "He's on his way. He should be here shortly."

Lucille nodded. "Alright. Let's arrange for an advance party to welcome him."

Robin hurriedly shook her head. "There's no

need. The Great Marshal likes to be low-key. He hates announcing his presence. It's enough if the few of us know. We don't need to send an advance party to welcome him."

I dodged a bullet right there. If the military found out that I got someone to impersonate Great Marshal, the Lewis family will be toast!

"That's true..."

"Zeke, why are you here?" Robin questioned as soon as she noticed his presence.

Zach interjected, "This man insulted Great Marshal earlier. I brought him here so that the Great Marshal can deal with him personally."

Robin inquired, "Zeke, have you met the Great Marshal before?"

If he has, this operation will fail! I'll be dead!

Zeke thought about it for a moment before he shook his head. If I reveal my cards now, I'd never be able to catch that imposter!

Robin felt a wave of relief wash over her as she snorted, "How dare you insult Great Marshal? I'll let him deal with you himself. You'd better get out of Atheville now. For all you know, we might not tell him about this matter."

Zeke smirked. "Since I dared say it, I wouldn't mind if he heard it."

Insolent! Audacious! Outrageous!

"I hope your attitude remains as unwavering as it is now when the Great Marshal arrives."

As soon as she said that, a man arrived and strutted into the room.

That man had a large build and dressed was in military attire. The five stars on his shoulder epaulette were especially striking.

Yet, Zeke could not feel a hint of a soldier's pride from him. In fact, he resembled a local gangster.

Zeke was indignant.

Damn all of you! If you want to get someone to impersonate me, at least get someone with a better aura! You actually hired a thug to do this? This is an insult!

Robin welcomed him. "Great Marshal, it is an honor. Please, enter."



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Zach and Lucille got down on one knee and bowed to him.

“I am Zach from the Atheville Williams family.”

“I am Lucille from the Atheville Williams family.”

“It’s an honor to meet you, Great Marshal.”

“Mmm.” The ‘Great Marshal’ nodded. He then took a seat at the center of the room.

Robin, Zach, and Lucille catered to him as though they were his servants.

They had a smug look on their faces.

It was their honor to serve the Great Marshal.

The ‘Great Marshal’ spoke first, “I’ve been very satisfied with the Reinz Pharmaceutical branch here. Keep up the good work.”

Lucille and Zach were overjoyed and bowed to express their gratitude.

“Thanks for commending us, Great Marshal. We will continue to work hard.”

The ‘Great Marshal’ nodded. “Right. I’m on a tight schedule and I don’t have time, so I’ll cut to the chase. Mrs. Williams, you’re getting on your years. You shouldn’t handle such stressful

work. I'd recommend you retire. During this period, I've monitored Zach and found him to be an honest and capable man. Maybe it's time you appointed him as the head of the Williams household."

Huh? Lucille was conflicted. The Williams family was in the middle of rapid development in terms of business. This was a critical period. She could not afford to let someone else take over. Although Zach was capable in the corporate world, he was not skilled enough to take control of the entire Williams family just yet. If she handed the title to him just like that, the growth of the Williams family would surely be stunted.

After a moment of contemplation, Lucille began speaking "Firstly, I'd like to thank you for being concerned about the affairs of the Williams family. My body is still going strong, and I'm still mentally alert. So, I'd like to contribute to society for a bit longer. At the very least, I'd like to watch over the completion of Reinz Pharmaceutical and lend a hand to you, Great Marshal, as well as the military."

The 'Great Marshal' was enraged and bellowed, "Are you trying to say I was wrong? How dare you, a mere civilian, doubt my judgement?"

Lucille was scared out of her wits and quickly got to her knees. She begged for forgiveness,

“Great Marshal, you’ve misunderstood me. I only said what I was thinking. Now that I think about it, I was being too narrow-minded. I agree that letting Zach take over as head of the household is a wise choice. You’re right.”

At that, the ‘Great Marshal’ calmed down and nodded. “Alright then, as long as you understand. I’ll be taking my leave now. Keep up the good work.”

Zach, who had remained silent the entire time, suddenly spoke, “Great Marshal, hold on.”

The ‘Great Marshal’ snapped impatiently, “What is it?”

Zach pointed at Zeke. “Great Marshal, this man insulted you earlier and even hinted that he was the Great Marshal. You have to teach him a lesson today!”

Sh*t!

The ‘Great Marshal’ flew into a rage. “I, the Great Marshal, am a pillar that holds up the nation! How dare you insult me, you scum! I’ll give you a chance to kill yourself. Don’t make me do it myself, or I’ll make sure you f*****g regret you were ever born.”

Pfft!

Zeke burst into laughter. “The Great Marshal would never use vulgarities so carelessly, you imposter. Impersonating the Great Marshal is punishable by death, especially after you’ve sentenced someone else to death with his name. You should turn yourself in before things get ugly. Otherwise, you’d be the one regretting you were ever born.”

Hahaha!

Zach and Lucille were overjoyed. This man must be mad to insult the Great Marshal in front of him. He’s a goner!



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Meanwhile, Robin and the 'Great Marshal' were nervous.

Zeke had just accused him of being an imposter with such certainty. Don't tell me... He's seen the Great Marshal before and knows he's a fake? Things won't end well if that's true.

The imposter wanted to leave and scoffed, "Just you wait and see. I'll order someone to finish you. You don't have the right to dirty my hands."

Zach nodded. "That's right! At least call a troop in and use him for target practice..."

Right then, an armed platoon dressed in camouflaged uniform barged in and surrounded them.

"Freeze!"

Hundreds of muzzles were directed at them.

They were led by General Cosmopolis, Wolf's Greed, who had come under Zeke's instruction to arrest the fake Great Marshal.

Darn!

The imposter and Robin were scared out of their wits. Don't tell me Zeke reported us and sent these troops after us! We're dead!

Lucille and Zach, on the other hand, had a completely opposite reaction.

They assumed these troops had been sent by the Great Marshal to deal with Zeke.

I'd like to see you escape now.

Zach pointed at Zeke and announced, "General, I'd like to report this man for impersonating the Great Marshal. Catch him and interrogate him! I'm sure he has accomplices!"

Wolf's greed exuded a killing intent as he slapped Zach without hesitation. He bellowed, "Silence! We don't need advice from people like you!"

Zach was stunned. I was merely reporting a crime! Why did he hit me?

He remained indignant and turned to the imposter for help. "Great Marshal, was I wrong for reporting a crime? Why are your men hitting me? You've got to exact justice!"

The imposter was livid and wanted to kill Zach on the spot.

You son of a b****, I was trying to conceal the fact I was posing as Great Marshal, but you just called me that... Argh, you'll be the death of me!

Wolf's Greed smiled wryly. "Great Marshal, is he one of yours? I hit a friend of yours. How do you think I should be punished? I have no complaints."

The imposter was on the verge of breaking down. You're a damn general, and I'm a hooligan. What can I do? Stop scaring me!

Zach burst into laughter. "Seeing as we're both working for Great Marshal, I won't pursue responsibility. I'll drop the matter if you apologize to me and let me slap you in return."

You imbecile!

Wolf's Greed sneered, "Shall I also thank you for letting me off the hook?"

Zach smiled. "That won't be necessary."

Lucille was experienced and noticed something was wrong immediately. The atmosphere, and the reactions of all parties...

She quickly tugged at Zach and whispered, "Zach, that's enough."

Zach frowned. "Grandma, what're you afraid of? The Great Marshal is on our side! There's no need to fear them."

Slap!

Wolf's Greed slapped Zach once again before he snapped, "Quit mumbling! Are you going to do it or not? If you won't, then I will!"

Zach was fuming with rage. How dare you hit me after knowing the Great Marshal is on my side? You deserve to die!

Just as he was about to burst out in rage and hit Wolf's Greed, Lucille held him back and ordered, "Stop! Something's up."

Zach was perplexed. "What?"



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Wolf's Greed shot him a look of contempt. "Is the Williams family full of cowards? How shameful."

He ignored the two of them and commanded, "Take the imposter down!"

Wolf's Greed's men swarmed the imposter and tied him up.

The imposter was frightened and screamed in hysteria, "Don't kill me... Please let me off..."

There was a stench of excretion and egestion in the air.

The man was so scared that he had lost control of all his biological functions.

Boom!

Zach and Lucille's minds were blown.

That man was an imposter! We, the Williams family, bowed to an imposter and served him like a slave... I can't bear to even think of it! Wait, that's not the point. How did Zeke know of this beforehand? It's as though Zeke is omniscient. What's with this mysterious ability?

Wolf's Greed stomped on the imposter and demanded, "Tell me who instructed you to impersonate the Great Marshal."

The fake Great Marshal had broken down mentally, so he quickly admitted, "It was Robin Lewis... Robin Lewis told me to do so."

Wolf's Greed's cold glare swept toward Robin, who was shuddering as she broke out in a cold sweat.

F***! This is the worst case scenario! What now?

Wolf's Greed strode towards Robin and asked, "So you're the mastermind?"

In her panic, she pointed at Lucille and screamed, "I'll admit everything, general! Grandma... grandma told me to do this! She told me she'll make Zach divorce me and ruin my reputation if I didn't!"

What? Lucille nearly threw a fit of rage.

I knew this granddaughter-in-law my mine was unreliable, but I didn't expect her to betray me outright! Firstly, you get someone to pose as the Great Marshal to deceive us, and then you dare try using me as a scapegoat? How cruel and despicable!

Lucille hurriedly defended herself. "General, don't listen to her. I didn't know about this imposter. Everything was planned by Robin."

Wolf's Greed snapped impatiently, "So, which one of you is it? If you don't confess, I'll just have to arrest both of you."

Robin pointed at Lucille. "It was her! Take her away! The Williams family bullied me, so I wanted to get my brother, a general, to stand up for me. To deal with my brother, grandma got someone to impersonate the Great Marshal to scare me."

Wolf's Greed commented, "That sounds logical and conceivable enough."

I...

Lucille began to cough up blood.

What kind of a granddaughter-in-law is this? Even a prostitute would be more loyal than her!

Lucille retorted, "She's lying! I would never dare get someone to impersonate Great Marshal! Zach, tell him the truth! You were here the entire time. You would know!"

Zach was torn between both sides. Robin was his newlywed wife and the daughter of the Lewis family, while Lucille was his grandmother...

He did not know who to side with.

Robin hurriedly sent Zach a message. If you accuse grandma, you'll be the head of the Williams family. Don't worry. My brother will get her out after.

The words 'head of the Williams family' put a blindfold over Zach's conscience.

Once he becomes the head of the Williams family, he would have the Lewis family on his side. No one would be able to offend him in Atheville.



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It had always been Zach's dream to be the head of the Williams family.

He gritted his teeth and turned to Lucille. "Sorry, grandma. For the sake of justice, I can't lie to the general anymore. You should admit to your crimes. Perhaps you'll get a lighter sentence."

What did you just say?

Lucille lost all strength in her legs and collapsed onto the floor. Her eyes were filled with spite as they drilled a hole into Zach's chest, hoping to see if there was really a heart inside.

I'm his grandmother! I've spoiled him since birth! I would feel bad even if he got a minor scratch! Now, for another woman, he's going to sacrifice me! That unfilial brat!

Wolf's Greed concluded plainly, "And with that, the truth is out. Arrest and interrogate them."

Wolf's Greed's men arrested Lucille. The latter did not fight back or even protest; her heart had been shattered, and she had lost all motivation to continue.

Wolf's Greed soon left with his men, putting Robin at ease.

Although there was a minor incident, she had

achieved her goal. Zach was now the head of the Williams family. All there was left was to snatch that position from Zach.

Zach had a guilty expression on his face as he turned to Robin, "Honey, have we gone too far? Grandma's getting old. She can't possibly take all the physical and mental stress."

Robin snapped, "Is this what you should be worrying about now? As head of the Williams family, you need to think of the entire Williams household. You can't spend all your effort on an old lady. Go home and establish your authority as the head of the household. As for grandma, I'll get my brother to do something."

Zach nodded. "Alright then. I'll leave grandma to you. I'll go back home now."

When Zach passed Zeke, he snorted, "Zeke, as the head of the Williams household, I hereby ban you. You're not fit to call yourself a Williams. I demand you to change your signature."

Zeke tutted, "I feel ashamed that such an unfilial, disloyal, and shameless bastard has the same surname as me. However, the one who should change his surname is you, not me."

Zach gritted his teeth and spat, "You impudent fool! Let me repeat myself. As long as I, Zach

Williams, am still alive, I'll make sure you can't set foot in Atheville. You should get out of here while you still can."

Zeke replied mockingly, "Let me give you a word of warning as well. A fool like you can't manage as head of the Williams household. Don't end up letting someone outside the family take over the entire Williams family."

Zach scoffed. "I can't be bothered to deal with you right now. Just wait till I've stabilized my position as head of the household. I'll deal with you right after."

Zach left and Zeke was filled with lament. We're twins. Why's there such a great difference between us? One of us is the most important marshal in the nation and is respected by all while the other is an idiot who doesn't even know he's being used.

Zeke soon left as well. Along the way, he received a call from Wolf's Greed.

"What should we do with the hag?"

Zeke thought about it before he replied, "Just lock her up, for now, but don't make life difficult for her. She must feel terrible after being betrayed by her favorite grandson. She's already gotten what she deserves. I just hope... she can repent in jail."

“I understand,” Wolf’s Greed replied. “Why didn’t you let me arrest Robin, though? It’s obvious she’s the one behind all this.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Zeke explained, “The Lewis family is slowly taking over the Williams family. I want to let them succeed before I take over the Lewis family myself. In that case, the Williams family will be mine too. I’ve grown up in the Williams family. I can’t bring myself to bring harm upon it.”

“Understood,” Wolf’s Greed answered.

...

The members of the Williams family were extremely unhappy when they found out Zach had become the head of the household. He was ignorant and incompetent; he would not be able to manage the entire Williams family properly.

The only reason why he was able to survive in the Williams family was because Lucille was biased towards him.

However, with his wife Robin and the entire Lewis family siding with him, he had become the head of the household within seven days.

The elders in the family who had ignored Zach in the past had to now bow before him. All matters of the Williams family, big or small, had to gain his approval before they were executed.

His cousins, who had always looked down upon him, were now fawning over him.

This inflated Zach's ego and made him feel like he was the king.

All he did was get with bad company and drink all day. He did not even return at night sometimes.

Robin did not disapprove of his behavior. She even encouraged it, claiming that it was good for establishing connections.

One day, Zach headed to drink with his friends as usual.

The moment he left, Robin called her father, "Dad, that idiot has just left."

"Good, I'll get your brother to take action.

He then hung up and called Ryker, "Ryker, you're set. We're but one step away."

To which Ryker replied, "No problem."

Ryker then hung up and drove to Neon Nights, a bar that Zach frequented.

Before long, Zach had arrived with a few friends.

Ryker smirked and called someone on his phone. "Lily, take action now."

A sweet female voice rang from the other end of the line. "Mr. Lewis, just watch me."

Zach and several of his friends entered a private room and began drinking several glasses of wine.

It was their habit to get drunk before they called in a hostess or two to have fun with.

For some reason, Zach hit his limit relatively early that night. He felt giddy, and there was a sudden sharp pain in his abdomen. He began burning up and felt a libido stronger than anything he had ever experienced.

At that point in time, a hostess entered to refill their wine.

Zach, who was driven by lust, pinned her down and said, "Hey lass, come and satisfy me tonight."

His friends cheered him on. "It's your good fortune for Mr. Williams to pick you. Take care of him well! He'll definitely make it worth your time!"

The hostess did not fight back, and no one knew if she was just shocked or willing.

Only when she was stripped naked did she suddenly scream, "Help! Rape! Rape!"

The one word 'rape' sobered Zach up.

He hurriedly placed a hand over her mouth and hushed her, "Shut up! Don't scream! I'll give you money..."

However, it was already too late.

The door to the private room had been kicked open, and a tall figure rushed in.

"How dare you try to rape my girlfriend, you b*****d! You must be tired of... F***! It's you, Zach Williams? That's your sister-in-law!"



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Upon realizing that his brother-in-law, General Ryker Lewis, had arrived, Zach grew so terrified that he wet himself.

Caught in the act, with his wife at that...

I'm screwed. I'm totally screwed!

Half an hour later, a completely bruised and battered Zach was brought in, before Robin and Conrad.

Robin sobbed incessantly. "You jerk. You're nothing but scum, Zach Williams. How dare you cheat on me? I'll... I'll never forgive you."

"What a good-for-nothing piece of trash you are," Conrad lamented. "To think that the Lewis family had tried to help you to become the leader of the Williams family. Is this how you repay us for all the opportunities and trust that we'd given you?"

"Dad, Robin, why even bother speaking to him?" asked Ryker. "He'll pay for bullying my wife!"

With that, he sent Zach flying with a kick.

Zach fell to the ground, writhing in intense pain.

"I'm sorry... It's... It's all my fault."

"You'd committed such a disgusting crime. Do

you really think a word of apology will suffice? I want you to pay with your life!” Ryker demanded.

Soon enough, he took out a dagger and approached Zach menacingly.

Zach was utterly horrified.

Ryker was someone who had fought on the battlefields. Killing someone was a piece of cake for him.

“I’m sorry! Please forgive me, Ryker,” Zach cried out in tears. “I won’t do it again. I promise!”

“Stop it!”

Eventually, Conrad’s voice rang out.

“Control your emotions, Ryker. The deed’s already been done; what good would there be in killing him? You and Lily aren’t married yet, and Zach didn’t know any better either. It’s not like what he did is unforgivable. What needs to be done for now is to come up with a solid way to solve this.”

Robin proceeded to defend Zach too, “He’s my husband in name, so you can’t kill him. You don’t want me to end up a widow, do you?”

Zach was touched.

At the end of the day, it was his wife who always had his back.

He now felt increasingly remorseful.

The rage in Ryker's heart was slowly put out. "He gets to live, but he can't escape punishment. I won't do anything to him illegally, but we'll have to do things according to the law, which is to place him behind bars."

"Are you willing to comply, Zach?" asked Conrad.

What was jail time compared to having his life taken?

Zach hurriedly nodded. "It's no problem. I'll willingly do that."

Conrad sighed, "To think that you're going to prison for sexual assault right after earning your place as the leader of the prominent Williams family. Everyone's going to laugh if word gets out."

Zach lowered his head in shame.

He had just become the new head of the Williams household, but now, he was about to serve jail time.

He and the entire Williams household were

bound to be the butt of everyone's jokes.

Robin sighed too, "Their tarnished reputation will be nothing compared to their economic losses. Without a head, the Williams family is going to be in chaos. Not only might they go bankrupt, rather, but they might also even end up in extinction. However, don't worry, Zach. I'll be sure to manage the Williams family well. I won't let it fall into a mess."

"How are you going to manage the Williams family? You have no power or authority to do that," Conrad remarked.

At that moment, Robin gazed at Zach lovingly. "Do you trust me, Zach? If you do, let me take over as head of your family."

The woman finally revealed her true colors.



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She wants to head the Williams family!

Even Zach, in all of his foolishness, now realized that something was up.

The renowned Williams family was about to be taken over by an outsider.

Zeke was right.

He told me countless times not to let the Williams household fall into the hands of outsiders.

Now that I think about it, Robin got the fake 'Great Marshal' to back her up.

Thereafter, I got wasted even though I can normally hold my liquor well.

And why would the wife of a General do such things at a pub, to begin with?

F***!

I've fallen for their trick!

"It was a trap. Everything was a trap!" With a roar, Zach shoved Robin aside.

Bang!

Ryker fired a gunshot in the air. "So do you or

do you not agree to it, you f***** idiot? If you don't, I'll gun you down right here!"

Zach was in so much despair that he wanted to cry.

Eventually, under everyone's threats, he could only sign a pledge and hand the Zeke family 'throne' over to Robin, despite having only ascended it himself a few days ago.

The Williams family was in an uproar the moment Robin showed up at their manor, declaring herself their new leader.

The prominent Williams household was now being headed by an outsider... A woman who had only just got married into the family several days ago.

How embarrassing would that be for the Williams family?

The household strongly objected and refused to obey her.

However, with Zach's personally written pledge and the pressure from General Ryker Lewis, the Williams family had no other choice.

Robin ultimately became the Williams family matriarch with ease.

The moment that happened, she decided to set up a close collaboration between the Williams family and the Lewis family. Then, she signed an imparity clause on behalf of the Williams family.

The Williams family was now the Lewis family's puppet.

It could also be said that the Williams family had merged to become part of the Lewis family.

The news shook Atheville to its core and the renowned Williams family was now seen as nothing but a joke.

Mdm. Williams, who was in prison, grew so worked up that she spewed blood.

I'd always thought Zach was incompetent, but I've really underestimated him.

He's practically given the Williams family, right after taking over as the head.

Rather than let the family crumble in his hands, I might as well have been the one to do it.

I was wrong about him.

Had I known that this would happen, I never would have supported him all this while.

Perhaps, the Williams family would have been in a much different situation than it was now if she had given Zeke her support instead.

Unfortunately, there was no use crying over spilled milk.

Using her connections, Mdm. Williams had Zach sent to her own jail room so that she could personally beat him up.

Aware that he was in the wrong, Zach did nothing to fight back.

He was the one who had caused the Williams family's downfall, after all.

...

With the Williams family as their stepping stone, the Lewis family swiftly made its way up the ladder of wealth and power.

It was even said that they were on their way to becoming 'nobles'.

The outside world had already begun comparing Conrad Lewis to Theodore Luna.

Conrad was secretly delighted because of this.

On this day, Conrad received a mysterious phone call.

It was from Theodore Luna.

Conrad hurriedly answered the phone, “How may I help you, Mr. Luna?”

Theodore smiled subtly. “Looks like you’re doing well as the head of the Lewis family now. Have you forgotten about our deal?”

Conrad was instantly reminded of the pact that they had once made.

Back then, Ryker had been captured by the Military District.

Conrad begged Theodore to save Ryker. He also requested the man to invite Reinz Pharmaceutical to open up a branch in Atheville.

As repayment, Conrad promised to kick Zeke out of Atheville, even going as far as offering to kill him.

Theodore had already fulfilled his part of the deal.

Yet, Conrad had yet to complete his side of the deal.

He instantly turned red in embarrassment.



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“Don’t be upset, Mr. Luna. Let me explain. I’ve always kept this in mind and I’ve been constantly looking for an opportunity to get rid of Zeke Williams. Now, the time has finally come. Give me three days and I’ll be sure to kick him out of Atheville.”

Theodore’s tone softened, “Alright. I’ll await your good news.”

Upon hanging up, Conrad pondered for a moment before quickly coming up with an idea.

He whipped out his phone and dialed a number. “Do me a favor, Lucius. Bring me a few A-list celebrities that’ve signed with Trust Media. I have some business to discuss with them.”

“Sure thing.”

Lucius Johansson was Trust Media’s top agent.

He managed all five of Trust Media’s A-list celebrities.

In less than half an hour, Lucius brought the five artists over to the Lewis family home.

These artists were in high demand and received offers every day.

However, the fact that Conrad could gather all of them, was proof of his power.

The moment Conrad entered the lounge, Lucius and the five artists immediately stood up to greet him.

With a smile, Conrad urged them to take a seat, as he jumped right into the subject after a few quick exchanges.

“To be frank, I’ve run into a slight problem and was hoping that you could help me out.”

Lucius was the first to speak up, “Just say the word, Mr. Lewis. We’ll do whatever we can to help.”

The five artists nodded in agreement.

Conrad’s status was now roughly equal to that of Theodore Luna.

It would be extremely beneficial if this man were to owe them a favor after helping him out.

Conrad smiled. “Alright, then I’ll get straight to the point. I want you to terminate your contracts with Trust Media, the reason being that you refuse to accept the unspoken rules established by its new boss, Zeke Williams.”

The artists immediately tensed up as their eyes widened.

All this while, they had received the support of

Trust Media.

Nonetheless, they were now being requested to frame and terminate their contracts with their pillars of support.

This was simply too... Unscrupulous.

Upon seeing how distressed they appeared, Conrad had no choice but to pull out his trump card.

He placed a stack of agreements on the table and muttered coldly, "Take a look at these documents. It won't be too late for you to decide after going through them."

The artists skeptically glanced at the agreements and were instantly mortified.

This was an under-the-table tax evasion deal.

The amount allocated was several billions.

If this agreement were to be exposed, they would have to fork out ten times the amount as a penalty, subject to facing jail time as well.

By then, there was no way that they could remain in the entertainment industry.

Having been put in such a tight spot, they could only steel themselves and sign the agreements.

Conrad smirked.

Hmph. I'd like to see how you'll be able to remain in Atheville after your artists get caught, Zeke Williams.

At Trust Media.

"What? You want to terminate your contracts?"

Lacey's head began to pound, as she gazed at the five artists before her.

They're our A-list celebrities... The souls of Trust Media!

We'll be nothing but an empty shell without them.

The artists nodded. "Yes, Ms. Hinton. Please give us your signature."

"Why are all of you suddenly doing this?" Lacey hurriedly asked. "Is there something you're not happy with, about the company? We can always talk about it."



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The five artists fell silent.

There was no way that they could reveal the truth.

Ultimately, it was their agent, Lucius, who spoke up. "To be honest, Ms. Hinton, your company can longer accommodate them. They want to take a step further and expand their respective careers. You don't intend to strip them off of their livelihood, do you?"

Lacey sighed.

Trust Media had always belonged to the Williams family. All of these artists were signed with them too.

Due to Zeke's awkward relationship with the Williams family, Lacey had anticipated that the artists would eventually leave.

She just did not expect it to happen this quickly.

"Alright then," she responded. "Since you've found yourselves a better path, I'm not going to stop you. I wish you all the best."

With that, she signed their withdrawal agreements.

The five artists sighed with relief.

They were initially worried that Lacey would demand compensation since they had violated their contracts.

This woman is such a halfwit.

Upon that thought, Lucius left, along with the artists.

He stopped in his tracks, as he walked past Mia Young, a celebrity who had just made it big.

“I’d like to cordially invite you to join us in leaving the company, Ms. Young,” he suggested with an ambiguous smile. “Would you happen to be interested?”

Had he suggested this earlier, Mia would have excitedly taken him up on his offer.

After all, Lucius was a top agent in the entertainment industry, who had many resources within his grasps.

He could have easily made Mia famous all over the entire region.

Unfortunately, Trust Media was in a difficult situation. In addition to that, she was indebted to Zeke.

How could she abandon Trust Media at such a time?

“Sorry, but I think that Trust Media suits me better,” she answered, shaking her head.

Lucius instantly appeared displeased. This was the first time an artist had turned him down.

“You should give it some thought, Ms. Young,” he sneered. “This company’s going to be mine soon. When that happens, you’ll be my employee. Those whom I take by force will certainly be treated differently from those who’ve voluntarily chosen to seek shelter with me.”

Upon saying that, he walked away with a laugh.

Lacey froze momentarily.

What did he mean by his last sentence?

The company’s going to be his soon?

Mia walked up and assured her, “Don’t be upset, Ms. Hinton. I know a lot of people in the industry. I can introduce them to Trust Media.”

Lacey smiled bitterly. “Thank you so much for believing in me and staying with us, Ms. Young. Don’t worry. We’ll never mistreat you in any way.”

Lacey thought that the entire ordeal was over.

Unbeknownst to her, this was simply the beginning.

By evening, Lucius and the five artists who had just left suddenly held a press conference.

In the conference, they criticized Trust Media for mismanaging accounts and pocketing commercial fees.

They also claimed that their new boss, Zeke Williams, had tried to tie them down with unwritten rules.

Because they refused to give in, Zeke threatened to 'ban them from the entire industry'.

Left with no other choice, they could only resort to leaving Trust Media and starting afresh elsewhere.

The news spread like wildfire amongst the entertainment industry and fanbases.

Everyone began to condemn Trust Media, as they started to probe into the incident.

Many fans even went the extra mile of throwing bricks and turd at the company building.

With that, Trust Media was instantly thrust, into its most unprecedented crisis.

Lacey was beyond exasperated.

This is simply too much!

They're clearly talking crap about us, defaming our name on purpose.

Mismanaging accounts and pocketing commercial feels? What is all this nonsense?

Unwritten rules by Zeke?

Zeke probably wouldn't do such a thing.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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She suddenly recalled Lucius saying that the company would soon become his.

So he's had it all planned out.

Lacey went looking for Zeke while clutching the newspaper in anger.

Zeke was in the midst of thinking of a way to take the Lewis family down.

Now that both families had been merged, it was about time for him to make a move.

Lacey handed the newspaper over to Zeke. "Would you care to explain further on this issue, Zeke? What's with your unwritten rules?"

Zeke was puzzled. "What unwritten rules?"

His gaze turned dark immediately, upon reading the news. "S***! They're slandering me along with Trust Media. You trust me, don't you, Lacey? There's no way I'd do something this crude."

Lacey rubbed her temples in discomfort, sighing, "I trust you, Zeke, but the world doesn't trust us. Our reputation's fallen completely down the drain. It's going to be really hard to prove our innocence."

"Lucius and these five artists have always had

promising futures,” Zeke replied. “They’d never do anything that would only harm others, bringing no benefit to themselves... Unless they’ve been threatened or lured. You should go home and rest, Lacey. Don’t worry about this. Leave it to me.”

Okay.

“Zeke, if it really doesn’t work out, we should just retreat,” Lacey admitted gloomily.

“Connections run deep in Atheville, and the entertainment is even tougher to navigate. We may have chosen the wrong field to dive into.”

Upon Lacey’s departure, Zeke immediately called General Cosmopolis, Wolf’s Greed. “I need you to find out where Lucius Johansson and his five artists had gone today, Wolf’s Greed.”

“Roger that,” Wolf’s Greed answered.

He called Zeke ten minutes later.

“I’ve got it, Zeke. Lucius and the five artists had dropped by the Lewis family home earlier today. After leaving, they headed straight to Trust Media to terminate their contracts.”

The Lewis family?

Zeke was instantly filled with murderous intent.

He was just having trouble finding a way to act against the Lewis family.

Fortunately, the Lewis family had just handed him the perfect opportunity.

If not now, when?

Zeke instructed Wolf's Greed immediately, "Dig up all the dirt that you can, about Lucius and these five celebrities."

"No problem."

This time round, Zeke had to wait a little longer.

He received a document from Wolf's Greed roughly an hour later.

Gazing at the information on the document, a cold smirk appeared upon Zeke's face.

Godd***. These scoundrels sure are full of dirt.

How are these celebrities worthy of all the love and glory that they get?

What an insult!

The next day, Zeke and Lacey headed over to Trust Media.

Before they could even get into work mode,

loud noises resounded from outside.

The two ran out in a flash.

There were suddenly over a dozen people gathered outside the building, loudly hurling insults at Trust Media.

The security guards tried to stop them, only to get beaten up instead.

It was a complete mess.

“Frauds like you should just leave Atheville! How could you leech off, from the hard work of your artists?”

“Furthermore, you’d tried to tie my idols down with your unwritten rules? Disgusting! You should take a look in the mirror.”

Lacey’s head began to pound. “Listen to me,” she quickly explained. “The truth is... You’ve all been tricked. Our company has always been transparent with its accounts and we only keep the commissions earned from the commercials. As for the unwritten rules, that’s pure nonsense...”

The crowd was instantly furious. “S***! You’d dare to slander our idols even more? Beat her up!”

They proceeded to hurl rotten eggs and vegetables towards Zeke and Lacey.

Godd***it!



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Zeke dragged Lacey back into the building and sealed off the entrance.

“These fans are too much. They can’t be reasoned with at all,” Lacey lamented, sighing in frustration. “Look at how they’re attacking us, without getting their facts straight.”

“Fans? Can’t you tell yet, Lacey? They’re not even fans,” Zeke replied.

Lacey was surprised. “Then why are they bashing us for their idols?”

“Look at their shabby clothes and disheveled appearances. They’re bottom-class citizens in their thirties who struggle to even feed themselves every day. How can they have the energy, desiring to be fans of celebrities?”

Lacey came to a realization. “You’re right. Then why are they causing a ruckus here?”

“Can’t you guess?”

“You mean they’re trolls who have been hired by Lucius Johansson to deliberately cause us trouble?”

“Of course,” Zeke answered with a nod.

Lacey’s headache grew. “We may be aware that they’re trolls, but the outside world doesn’t.”

Zeke stroked Lacey's head and responded, "Just get back to your work, Lacey. Leave this to me."

Lacey grew anxious. "How do you intend to deal with this, Zeke? Violence isn't going to solve anything."

"Don't worry. Let your husband take care of everything."

With that, Zeke headed outside, taking out his phone as he phoned Alfred Booth, the street fighter of this area.

"Come over to Trust Media with your men. I've got some troublemakers outside here."

Alfred was instantly enraged.

S***! Who dares to cause a ruckus at Master Williams' workplace? Are they tired of living?

Alfred quickly agreed and rushed over to Trust Media with about thirty henchmen.

The trolls happened be yelling up a storm outside the building.

Upon glancing at Zeke and receiving permission to act, Alfred immediately sent his men to tackle the trolls to the ground.

Thereafter, Alfred approached Zeke. “What should we do next, Mr. Williams?”

“Take them back to your place for now. We still have some use for them.”

“Understood.” Alfred sped away after taking all of the troublemakers along.

He left almost as quickly as he had arrived.

In a corner nearby, a few reporters had captured the entire ordeal.

Zeke gave them a cold glance before turning to walk back into the office.

The moment he entered, Lacey, who had witnessed the entire scene, began to reproach him, “That was too reckless, Zeke. A few reporters had captured what had just happened. I’m not surprised if they had been arranged by Lucius to come over too. Our reputation’s going to be even worse if today’s incident ends up on the news.”

“Don’t worry,” Zeke assured. “I know what I’m doing.”

Lacey pouted. “I simply can’t believe you. What shall we do next?”

“We’ll await our prey.”

Not long after, a group of people barged right into the building.

They were Lucius and the five A-list celebrities... The 'prey' whom Zeke had spoken of.

The six of them haughtily sat down.

Lucius even called out to Mia Young, "Get me a cup of coffee, Mia. More sugar and no milk."

Mia ignored him, causing him to turn unhappy.

"Hmph! You'd dare to be rude to your superior? Just you wait. I'll make sure that you won't survive in the industry."

Mia began to tense up.

She knew that Lucius was indeed capable of doing such a thing.

Zeke sat across Lucius and remarked coldly, "You sure are full of yourself, Mr. Johansson. I don't have much to say about you storming in uninvited, but threatening my employee as if you're her boss? That's a little too much."



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Lucius smirked with disdain. "It's thanks to me that your company's made it this far. What's wrong with having her make me a cup of coffee? You can't stand me? Come hit me then."

Zeke sighed, "You're right. You're a veteran of the company, so I'll naturally have to ensure that you're happy."

Slap!

He slapped Lucius across the face without any warning.

The slap was so powerful that Lucius had spat out a broken tooth.

Mia was touched.

I was right to stay here, working for Mr. Williams.

Lucius clutched his face and stared at Zeke in disbelief. "You... You'd dare hit me? You'd f***** dare to hit me?"

"Didn't you tell me to? You're a company veteran; how could I turn you down?" Zeke replied.

S***!

Gritting his teeth, Lucius spat out. "I'd like to

see how long you can keep this up, Zeke Williams. Well, I'm not going to beat around the bush with you. Trust Media is in utter chaos now. With its reputation completely gone, you'll never be able to sign any more artists. You're bound to be bankrupt sooner or later. When that happens, not only will you not gain a single cent, you'll also be left with a huge sum of debt. However, I'm now offering you a chance to reduce your losses as much as possible."

"How disgusting," Zeke remarked frostily. "You're still being thoughtful of me after I'd hit you? You're despicable."

You motherf*****...

Lucius was infuriated.

He would have stormed off long ago had he not been given this task.

Nonetheless, for the sake of accomplishing his mission, he could only endure the humiliation and stay.

"I suggest that you do something about your company before it goes bankrupt, Williams. I can get you connected with someone. Trust Media is in hot water right now. Anyone who takes over it will have massive losses to deal with, but the fact that someone's willing to buy your company over is a blessing."

Zeke feigned a smile while gazing at Lucius. "Oh? Why don't you tell me who wants to buy Trust Media?"

Lucius was secretly elated.

Looks like he's enticed.

"She should be here soon," he replied, glancing at the door.

Lacey sighed despondently and retreated to her office.

Zeke's decided to sell out the company. Looks like it really can't be saved.

It'd be best to pack up as soon as possible, to return to Rivermouth.

Soon, a fashionable woman dressed in a white-collar office lady attire, with red heels walked in.

It was Robin Lewis.

With an arrogant look upon her face, she sat down, without even glancing at Zeke when entering.

Lucius quickly welcomed her, "You're here, Ms. Lewis."

Robin nodded. "How are things going?"

“We’ve discussed matters with Zeke Williams. He’s decided to sell Trust Media to salvage his losses.”

Lucius turned to Zeke. “This is the one whom I’d mentioned, the lady who was willing to buy Trust Media from you, Williams.”

Zeke gazed at Robin and asked faintly, “So this was all a part of your plan? Which is your real intention... To acquire Trust Media, or to kick me out of Atheville?”

“I don’t know what you’re talking about,” Robin replied unwelcomingly. “Hurry up and sign the agreement. I’m a busy woman. I don’t have time to hang around here.”

Upon uttering those words, she tossed an agreement at Zeke.

“Name your price,” Zeke proclaimed, without even looking at the document.

“Twenty million.”

Zeke chuckled. “You’re thinking of buying a company worth three billion for a mere twenty million? That’s a little too unbecoming of you.”



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“Shut it,” Robin responded indifferently. “Trust Media is worth nothing, now that all its lost all its reputation and artists. You should be thankful that I’m even offering you twenty million.”

Zeke shrugged. “And what if I choose not to sell it off?”

“You don’t want to sell it? Then I’ll make sure you go bankrupt, believe it or not.”

Zeke shook his head. “I don’t believe you.”

“Stop fighting a futile battle, Williams,” Lucius threatened. “I saw with my own eyes how you’d beat up some fans, restraining them by force. If this news ever gets out, you won’t simply be bankrupt. You’ll be punished by the law too.”

“Enough of your nonsense. Just bring out whatever tricks you have up your sleeves,” Zeke responded. “If a single frown appears on my forehead, you win.”

“You just don’t know when to give up!” Robin yelled.

Then, she took out her phone and dialed a number. “Come on in.”

The moment she finished speaking, Ryker walked in, accompanied by ten skilled fighters.

“Seize him!” Ryker demanded, pointing at Zeke.

“Wait!” Zeke shouted. “Why me?”

“Do I really have to explain myself? You’re being suspected of attacking and abducting civilians. You should be thankful that you’re only getting arrested.”

“Even if I did attack someone, there’s no need to alert the military about this,” Zeke argued.

“Bulls***,” Ryker answered. “Some of the men you’ve attacked are veterans, so I certainly have the right to be involved.”

“Hehe. The Lewis family’s really worked hard to craft such a perfect plan. Unfortunately, even a perfect plan always has its loopholes.”

“Hmph! You have the right to remain silent, but everything you say will be used as evidence. Capture him!”

“Wait!” Zeke called out once again. “Perfect timing. I happen to have someone I wanted to introduce to you, General Lewis. It won’t be too late for you to give your order then. Come on in.”

The door was pushed open once again, and Brent Jenkins, the head of the police, walked in with about ten officers.

He glared at Lucius and the five celebrities before ordering, "Arrest them."

Lucius and the five celebrities remained nonchalant.

So, he's just getting Brent Jenkins to help?

Hehe. Doesn't he know that Brent is nothing compared to Ryker Lewis?

Lucius shifted his gaze to Ryker, signaling for help.

"Hold it, Brent Jenkins," Ryker called out. "Why are you arresting them?"

Brent quickly approached him. "I didn't think I'd see you here, General. I just received numerous reports that Lucius Johansson's five artists have signed an under-the-table agreement for tax evasion purposes. It's a huge sum and a terrible plot. I'm here to investigate the matter."

The five artists continued to remain calm.

Their secret agreement had already been burned to ashes, back at the Lewis family home.

Without any evidence, Brent could never convict them.

“Do you have any proof?” asked Ryker. “If you don’t, what you’re saying is pure nonsense.”

“Yes, of course I do,” Brent hurriedly answered.

Then, he turned to a subordinate. “Bring in the evidence.”

The man rushed outside, as he soon returned with over a dozen men.

These were the trolls that Zeke had beaten up earlier.

Lucius and his team were bewildered.

What kind of sick joke is this? These are our witnesses!

How did they end up as yours?



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“Are you sure they’re the ones who’d reported Lucius Johansson?” asked Ryker.

Brent nodded. “Yes. Why don’t you guys explain it yourselves?”

The group of men immediately began to grumble about Lucius and his artists.

“I’ll confess everything. Lucius Johansson bribed us to cause trouble at Trust Media.”

“We’re just a bunch of small traders. We’re not even fans of these celebrities, but they’d threatened us, saying that Lucius would kick us out of Atheville if we didn’t pretend to be their fans.”

“We also have enough proof that Lucius and his celebrities are evading their taxes.”

“We hope that you’ll give us our justice!”

The expressions on Lucius’ and his team’s faces changed drastically.

What the f*** is going on?

How did Zeke Williams win them over?

What Lucius was unaware about, was that General Wolf’s Greed had just reprimanded these ‘witnesses’.

He told them that Trust Media was owned by the Great Marshal.

Causing a ruckus in front of the Great Marshal's place was punishable by death.

The men broke down upon hearing that. To save themselves, they could only switch sides, becoming the Great Marshal's witnesses.

Lucius took a deep breath and forced himself to calm down. "You're spouting nonsense without any proof. I'm going to sue you for libel!"

"Proof? We have proof!" the men shouted. "Please uncuff us, Mr. Jenkins. We have the proof with us."

Brent gave his subordinates a glance, signaling them to immediately remove the men's handcuffs.

Each witness took a document out of their pockets and handed it over to Brent. "This is our proof, Mr. Jenkins."

Lucius' and the artists' heads began to spin at the sight of the documents.

S***! Those are our secret agreements.

The ones Ryker had destroyed were Part A of

their agreements.

Meanwhile, the one these 'witnesses' had were Part B.

However, all of these documents had been kept safely in Lucius' home.

How did they manage to get them?

He must have sent someone to steal them from my place. That was Lucius' first thought.

With trembling hands, he called his butler, "Has something happened back at home?"

"Help, Mr. Johansson. I've... I've been held captive." The butler's voice quivered.

Bang!

The phone fell to the ground.

"How dare you send someone to rob my house, kidnapping its residents in broad daylight, Williams? This is unforgivable!" Lucius raged while pointing a finger at Zeke. "Hurry up and arrest him, General Lewis!"

Zeke shrugged. "Don't spout nonsense without any proof, or I'll sue you for libel."

Zeke had assigned Rosie White of the

Necromancer Assassin Organization to carry out the job.

There was no way that she would leave any traces of evidence.

Lucius was unaware of what to say. "I..."

"I don't have much time to waste, Mr. Jenkins," relayed Zeke. "Please enforce the law as quickly as possible. I don't want my company's operations to be affected by this ordeal."

Brent apologized sincerely, "I'm sorry for taking up your time, Mr. Williams. Hurry! Arrest Lucius Johansson and his five celebrities."

The police officers immediately cuffed the group, pulling them away.

Lucius and his team were dumbfounded.

They were superstars who were treated like royalty wherever they went. How could they ever endure the pain of living behind bars?

Moreover, upon being imprisoned, they were bound to lose all their reputation and livelihoods.

"Help us, General Lewis! Please save us," they pleaded to Ryker.

Ryker was at a loss.

With such conclusive evidence, there was no way that he could help them... Not for now, at least.



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Zeke turned to Ryker with a smile. "Could you explain why they were begging for your help the moment they were arrested, General Lewis? You must be close friends with them. According to the rules, you should fall back if your close ones break the law. I hope you won't interfere with this case, lest you get yourself into trouble."

Ryker gnashed his teeth while glaring at Zeke.

This b***** sure is sly.

"I suppose I've underestimated you, Williams. Still, no matter what you do, you're nothing but a clown to me! Leave Atheville in three days, or you'll never be able to get out of here alive."

Zeke's gaze was full of contempt. "Let me give you a warning too, then. Hand the Lewis and Williams families over, or I'll wipe your entire household out."

"P*** off!" Robin shrieked. "Who has given the abandoned son of the Williams family the right to make such insolent statements? Just you wait. The Lewis clan is now practically royalty. It'll be a piece of cake to get rid of you! Let's go, Ryker."

After the two left, Lacey walked out, with a few bags full of belongings.

“Let’s go, Zeke... Hmm? Where did everyone go?”

Zeke smiled. “Where are we going, Lacey?”

“Back to Rivermouth, of course. The company’s not ours anymore.”

“Robin Williams had only offered us twenty million. I turned her down.”

Lacey sighed, “With the situation that we’re in, even twenty million would be more than enough. We can’t ask for too much, or we’d end up with nothing.”

“Hmm? What situation are we in now?”

“Our reputation’s all gone! How will we survive without any word of mouth?”

Zeke smiled and handed his phone to Lacey. “For some reason, I don’t think we’ve lost our reputation. Take a look.”

Lacey glanced at a news article and was instantly thrilled.

According to the article, fans of the five A-list celebrities had arrived at Trust Media to cause a stir.

However, they ‘stumbled upon’ a few

documents on their way over.

These documents were the under-the-table agreements that the artists had signed for tax evasion purposes.

Feeling hurt about their idols breaking the law, these fans came to regret their actions and eventually turned against their idols, before clarifying the incident with the media.

They explained that they had been hired by the five artists to cause a scene at Trust Media.

The artists wanted to ruin Trust Media's reputation so that they could buy the company over at a low price.

They even wanted their bosses to be placed behind bars.

The collaboration between these five artists certainly brought about huge repercussions.

This piece of news instantly made headlines on every major news outlet. The topic ended up trending multiple times within the same day.

Public opinion soon switched over to Trust Media's side, condemning the five A-list celebrities instead.

The five artists' reputations plummeted entirely.

Some industry leaders even proceeded to publicly boycott them.

Lacey was on cloud nine. “The company will survive now that it’s gotten its reputation back. We won’t be able to sell it off at its original price of three billion, but surely it can be sold off for at least two billion.”

“Why should we still sell the company off?” Zeke asked in confusion.

“What’s the point if we’ve gotten our reputation back? We don’t have any more outstanding artists signed to us. Don’t underestimate Lucius Johansson’s network. Even if he’s been arrested, no one will work with us, as long as he puts his word out.”

Zeke nodded thoughtfully.

Lacey has a point.

Looks like I’ll have to make use of my identity as the ‘Great Marshal’ to protect Trust Media.



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Over on this end, Ryker drove Robin back to the Lewis Family's home.

Feeling blue, Robin's face was full of indignation.

"Gah, those rabbles refuse to stick to their own promises, switching camps so easily. These kinds of people deserve to be poor their entire lives. They've ruined our great plan, so I won't be letting them off so easily!"

Ryker chided, "Robin, don't do anything to them for now. Zeke is a sly fellow and he's definitely onto us. As my identity is rather unique, if we were to harm those rabbles, gaining his attention in the process, he'll definitely refuse to let us go."

Robin felt desolate upon hearing his words. "Nonetheless, I'm unwilling to let Zeke off so easily."

Ryker sneered, "Even if you're willing to do so, it wouldn't sit right with me. So what if he has a good reputation? If no artists are willing to sign under his company, they wouldn't be able to operate smoothly."

Robin murmured, "However, we don't have any connections within the entertainment industry. How are we to influence a large number of artists, spanning across the whole of Eurasia?"

Ryker reminded her, "Although we don't have any connections, Lucius does."

Robin asked, "The question is, now that Lucius has been captured, how can he be of help to us?"

Ryker sucked in a deep breath. "It looks like I'll have to use the power of my status in the military."

Robin's eyes lit up.

Nothing was more powerful than one's status.

Everything else was useless, in the face of an individual with high status.

With Ryker's status, it would be a piece of cake for him to blacklist an entertainment agency.

On the same day, Ryker personally bailed Lucius and five of his artists out of jail, handing the police a large sum of bail money.

However, Lucius and the others remained down in the dumps.

So what if they'd regained freedom?

Their image had been destroyed in the eyes of their fans.

Without fans, they could no longer remain in the entertainment circle.

In that case, their futures were bleak, as they no longer had a place to turn to.

Ryker announced to Lucius, "Lucius, I want you to blacklist Trust Media and disallow all collaborations of artists with that company."

Lucius sighed, "This would've been a piece of cake for me in the past. Unfortunately, now that I've just gotten out of jail, with my reputation in shreds, I'll be certain that nobody in the entertainment circle would be willing to listen to me."

Ryker answered, "If your reputation is in shreds, all you need to do is to rebuild it from scratch."

Lucius smiled bitterly. "It's incredibly challenging to build one's reputation in the entertainment circle. I'd only gotten this far after such a long time. If I wish to get back up to where I was before, I'll need at least five years of time."

Ryker replied, "What if I personally help you to rebuild your reputation?"

Lucius' eyes lit up. "General Lewis, do explain further."

Ryker proclaimed, "In the name of the military, I shall provide you the necessary funds to direct a military documentary."

What?

Lucius could not believe his ears.

With a military background, he would truly earn a distinguished reputation in the entertainment circle!

If he were to direct a military documentary as such, even the bigshots of the industry would have to bow down to him. What more, if it were regarding the management of small matters, such as, ordering artists around?

This is a blessing in disguise!

Lucius immediately saluted Ryker. "Thank you for the help, General. Don't worry. I'll guarantee you that Trust Media won't be able to survive in the industry after I'm finished with them."

Without haste, Lucius immediately took action.

He called all the bigshots in the industry, telling them that there was a project that he had wanted to discuss, with them.

Initially, most of them declined, using the excuse that they were busy. Nonetheless, upon

discovering that this project was being funded by the military, they immediately changed their minds and agreed to come over at once.

Even their manner of speech became polite, as they kept humble.

After informing the bigshots of his plan, Lucius called Trust Media's employees.

Not only did he intend to sever all business collaborations of Trust Media, but rather, he had also wanted to clear the company out from within, so as to accelerate its destruction.



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“Is this the photographer Mr. Count? May I know if your work has been going well recently? Oh, I don’t have anything important. I just wanted to say that the military has just commissioned me to produce a documentary. As we’re currently lacking a photographer, I wonder if you’re up for the job? Yeah, you should quit your current job then. A good opportunity as such, is hard to come by.”

“Hello, is this Mr. Leonard? Oh, you’re still busy editing, huh? I have a huge project funded by the military, and I was wondering if you were interested... Okay, I’ll wait for your good news.”

At Trust Media.

To make a name for the company, attracting more artists to sign under it, Zeke decided to use the name of the Great Marshal to fund a military movie, that would be produced by Trust Media.

The movie would also help to promote the military.

Since he knew nothing about the movie industry, he decided to let Mia Young handle the project.

He walked out of the office and was about to look for her when he found Mia and Lacey arguing, with a group of employees.

Zeke hurriedly approached them and asked, "Lacey, what's going on?"

Lacey sighed and relayed the previous incident that had occurred.

These employees had suddenly received Lucius' invitation to join a new project of his.

The project was funded by the military, so, it was a very tempting proposal to them.

They had decided to quit their jobs, going over to Lucius' side.

Zeke finally realized what was happening. "Is Lucius' project really that enticing? You guys would rather breach your contracts to join his project?"

The photographer, Adam Count, replied, "Of course. If we join this project, we're serving the military, gaining its protection. This is the opportunity of a lifetime!"

Zeke announced, "If that's the case, then you guys don't have to quit. The Great Marshal has also entrusted a military movie project to our company. I think that the temptation coming from the Great Marshal would be much more, than the one coming from the military, right?"

The crowd was startled. Then, everyone burst

out, into laughter.

Adam Count mocked, “The Great Marshal is busy defending the borders. How will he have the time or mood to shoot a movie? Mr. Williams, even if you want us to stay, you really don’t need to lie.”

Lacey and Mia had awkward expressions upon their faces too.

Zeke’s bragging was getting out of hand. They themselves refused to believe it, let alone what more, of Adam Count and the others?

This is so embarrassing!

Zeke frowned.

Why are you guys reacting like this? Are you treating me as a joke?

Adam pressed forward, “Ms. Young, Mr. Lucius Johansson specially asked me to invite you to join this project. This is a once-in-a-blue-moon opportunity, for you to become even more successful. He hopes that you will grab it. Otherwise, you’ll regret it, for life.”

Mia immediately rejected his offer, without hesitation. “I’m sorry, but I’m indebted to Mr. Williams. It’s impossible for me to leave him during such times.”

Adam rolled his eyes at her. “Hmph, you really don’t know what’s good for you. You’ll regret it soon enough. Let’s go.”

He was about to leave with the others when Zeke spoke up.

“Wait a minute, you guys have breached your contracts, quitting your jobs without advanced notice. You need to cough up the penalty for that.”

Adam taunted, “We’re now serving the military. How dare you ask for the penalty? Are you trying to court death?”

“Fine.” Zeke shrugged. “In the future, the penalty that you’ll pay will be twice, thrice, or even four times the amount of what you’d needed to pay today.”

Adam and the others roared in laughter. “Haha, sure! If you’re not afraid of death, you’re welcome to come and claim the money from us. I guarantee you that for every time you ask for it, you’ll die at least once!”

Soon enough, the group of employees left.



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Lacey instantly felt dejected and sighed heavily, “The artists have all left. Now that even our employees have quit, our company can’t operate at all. What should we do now? Zeke, why don’t we just think of a way to sell the company off?”

Zeke comforted her and murmured, “Lacey, didn’t I tell you that the Great Marshal has appointed us to make a movie?”

Lacey rolled her eyes at Zeke petulantly. “You’d believe it? Not even a little kid will believe you.”

Then, she turned to leave.

Zeke was dumbfounded.

Mia asked in a soft voice, “Mr. Williams, what should we do next? Since our technical staff has quit, most of our company’s jobs can’t be finished within the stipulated time. I’m afraid that we’ll have to breach most of our job contracts.”

Zeke responded, “I guess we’ll have to absorb more artists and technical staff then.”

Mia smiled bitterly. “Mr. Williams, I’m afraid that you’re still unaware of what’s going on. Lucius Johansson has gathered all of the bigshots in the industry to discuss the military project. However, his true intention is to curry favor with

them, having them blacklist Trust Media. None of the artists nor technical staff would dare to work with us anymore. It will be difficult to attract anyone at all.”

Zeke answered, “Who told you to attract them? I’d said that we are to absorb them. Don’t worry, they’ll take the initiative to join us.”

Mia was speechless.

What nerve he has, speaking in such a manner!

Zeke stretched his body. “Let’s go and check out the fun.”

Mia asked, “Where are we going?”

Zeke announced flippantly, “To meet Lucius.”

Mia was speechless yet again.

Lucius has gathered all of the bigshots in the industry to blacklist you, yet you’re going to watch the fun? You’re going to walk directly into their trap!

After a while, the two of them reached their destination, Golden Pictures.

It used to be Lucius’ phantom company, which was only used as a front to market Trust Media’s business. After getting its

commissions, it had Trust Media do the jobs, while it pocketed the high middleman fees, earning millions in the process.

Trust Media's founder, the Williams family, was wealthy enough to turn a blind eye to Lucius' actions.

However, the boss of Trust Media was now Zeke Williams.

He decided to force Lucius to spit out all of the money that he had ripped off, from them.

Zeke and Mia entered the company, which was brimming with excitement, as many people had arrived.

The media industry's bigshots were all gathered here today.

All of these people held much power and influence within the industry.

In the crowd, Mia even found her ex-bosses.

As of now, these bigshots were surrounding Lucius, trying hard to curry favor, as they built their connections with him.

If they had the opportunity to work with Lucius' military project, they would certainly prosper in their respective professions.

After all, the ordinary actor who had later worked on a military project, Tom Paget, had made a name for himself in just a few years after collaborating with the military.

They had failed to grab the previous opportunity, so they couldn't let this chance slip by them now!

The photographer Adam Count, along with the others who had just quit their jobs at Trust Media were unable to get close to Lucius at all.

Unexpectedly, Adam suddenly noticed Zeke. His eyes lit up at once. Here's a chance for me to get close to Lucius!

He quickly shouted, "Zeke, Mia, why are you guys following me here? I've already said it before and I'll say it again, I'm going over to Mr. Johansson's side! Don't expect me to work with you anymore!"

Everyone turned to look at Zeke and Mia.

They wondered why these two had come.

Lucius was elated.

Zeke had caused him to get sent to prison before, so he was going to take the opportunity to avenge himself.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lucius shouted, "Mia, have you thought things through? Do you want to join me now? Unfortunately, you'd rejected my offer earlier, making me very upset. You'll have to apologize to me and insult Zeke before I decide to forgive you."

Mia hurriedly explained, "You think too highly of yourself. I've got no interest in working with you."

Everyone felt pity for her.

This girl is good at everything, but she's simply too headstrong.

If she's able to trim her sails to the wind, grabbing hold of this opportunity, she would definitely become the top gun in the entertainment industry.

Upon being rejected by Mia for the second time, Lucius grew furious. "Hmph, when the military project is done, you'll truly understand what regret means. On the other hand, you, Zeke Williams; the day this project completes, is the day you'll go bankrupt. When that time comes, I don't mind sending someone over, to help you move out of your building."

Zeke appeared calm as he ignored Lucius, heading over to sit down with a glass of red wine in hand.

A man wearing a suit walked out from the crowd and jeered, “If you want them to feel regret, there’s no need to wait for the project to be completed. Now is good enough. Zeke Williams, the deadline for the order I’d commissioned Trust Media is tonight. As far as I know, your employees have already quit, so I’m afraid that this order won’t be finished on time. How about this? Bow and apologize to Mr. Johansson right now, and I’ll stop myself from pursuing legal action.”

These words came as a bolt from the blue.

One after another, bigshots from the film industry who had collaborations with Trust Media stood up.

“The deadline for our film editing job we’d given you is tomorrow. Unfortunately, your film editor has defected over to Mr. Johansson’s side. How are you gonna finish it? If you don’t want to go to jail, kneel and beg for Mr. Johansson’s forgiveness now!”

“I’d also commissioned a post-dubbing job...”

“My film marketing job...”

In an instant, Trust Media became the target of verbal attack.

Mia wished that the ground could swallow her

whole. I wouldn't have come if I knew that this would happen!

Surprisingly, Zeke remained composed. "Don't worry, your orders will be completed by the deadlines, as promised earlier. Anyway, I have another project that I would like to open to all of you. The Great Marshal has commissioned our company to produce a military film, as a means of promoting the military. If anyone's interested, just let Ms. Mia Young know, and she'll register your interest. It'll be first-come, first-served, so if you register too late, you might miss the chance."

The crowd exchanged glances.

Then, they burst into a mocking laugh.

"Hahaha, I'm dying of laughter. The Great Marshal has commissioned your company to make a film? Does he think your company is Hollywood quality?"

"The Great Marshal is an important man who has a busy itinerary every day. He wouldn't have had the time to pay the film industry any attention."

"I can't believe he'd actually try, to bluff us, for the mere sake of fulfilling his own pride!"

"He's simply imitating Mr. Johansson, who

actually has a military project. Since he's green with jealousy, he has no choice, other than to boast his lungs out!"

Zeke shrugged. "Well, since you guys aren't interested, I'll blacklist your names then. Mia, take their names down and disallow them from joining the Great Marshal's project in the future."

Haha!

The crowd laughed even harder, upon hearing his words.

Mia felt utterly embarrassed.

Boss, may I quit my job temporarily?

Impatience rose in Lucius' chest as he announced, "Everyone, please have a seat. Let's not waste any more time on him. We have more pressing matters to attend to."

Yeah, that's right!

Everyone then took their seats and stared at Lucius eagerly.

Lucius began explaining, "I have three collaboration proposals here. You may choose to contribute by money, manpower, or talent. Here are the three respective types of

contracts. Everyone, please have a look and choose which type of collaboration you'd like best."



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The bigshots had all decided in advance, on how they would have liked to collaborate on the project.

They did not even spare a glance at the contracts, before fighting to voice out their plans. “Boss Johansson, I’ll add on one hundred million worth of investments. As for the share of the box office earnings, I’ll pass. Just decorate my company’s name as the top sponsor for the project.”

“Boss Johansson, the artists under my company will shoot for this project, free of charge. I’ll fork out the commercial fees myself.”

“Boss Johansson, I’ll handle the promoting, as well as the post-editing for this project.”

“Mr. Dawson, that’s not cool. This is a military-funded project. Why would it even need promoting? Are you trying to gain the benefits without doing anything?”

“How could you say that? This film will definitely become international. What I mean by promoting, is promoting it overseas.”

Lucius was elated.

I don’t have to fork out anything, to earn huge box-office sales. I’m literally the most favored

man, by the gods!

After everyone had finished signing their contracts, Zeke suddenly blurted out, “Guys, I have an important question to ask.”

Everyone looked at him in confusion. “What question?”

Zeke asked, “If the project suddenly fails, are your contracts still effective? The investments you guys have just made will go down the drain, right?”

Everyone immediately glared at him.

“Shut up. Don’t jinx us.”

“Hmph, other than making sarcastic remarks, you are an incapable man!”

“Boss Johansson, why are you still keeping him around? Drive him out!”

Lucius rolled his eyes at Zeke impatiently. “Didn’t you hear what they’d just said? Get the hell out! Do you want me to get the security guards to kick you out instead?”

Mia looked embarrassed. “Let’s go, Mr. Williams.”

Zeke grinned. “The show is about to start. We

can't leave now."

"You're really stubborn as a mule." Lucius rolled his eyes at Zeke again. Ignoring him, he started to discuss the project details with the other bigshots.

Zeke turned to Mia. "Wait for me here. I need to use the restroom."

Entering the restroom, he dialed Ryker's number, using 'The Great Marshal's Special Number'.

At this moment, Ryker was waiting for Lucius' good news, when suddenly, a mysterious call came in.

When he saw the number, he immediately sat up solemnly.

The number started with the '100' prefix.

This was a prefix that only the five most senior officers of Eurasia had the right to use.

He hurriedly cleared his throat and collected his thoughts, before answering the call. "Major General Ryker Lewis speaking. Ready for your orders, Chief."

Zeke replied, "I'm the Great Marshal."

What?

Ryker's hands trembled.

The Great Marshal, who was the second-in-line bigwig of Eurasia, even well-known overseas, had personally called him!

This is such an honor!

He hurriedly greeted respectfully, "Good day, Great Marshal. I await your orders."

Zeke answered, "I'd heard that you've entrusted Lucius Johansson to shoot a military film. As far as I know, he merely has ownership, over a phantom company. A military film is related to the military's good name and reputation. Do you think that it's suitable for a phantom company to take on such a project? Hundreds of thousands of soldiers had exchanged their blood and lives for the military's excellent reputation. This isn't child's play! If the military's reputation ends up being destroyed by you, how are you going to face your fellow comrades who'd sacrificed their lives when you meet them after you'd died?"

Initially, Zeke used a questioning tone. However, nearing the end of his speech, his tone had turned into a tirade.

The hairs on Ryker's neck stood up on ends.

Oh God, why does the Great Marshal have the time to worry about this all of a sudden?

If I end up offending him because of this, I might lose my life!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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In order to appease the Great Marshal, Ryker decided to use Lucius, as his scapegoat.

He hurriedly tried to placate Zeke, "Please calm down, Great Marshal. I wasn't aware of this matter at all. I believe that someone has been parading my name around to hoodwink others! Don't worry. I'll investigate this thoroughly, ensuring that justice is served."

Zeke mused, "Oh, you weren't aware of this? Then I guess Lucius Johansson is the culprit. Hmph, how dare he use the name of the military to deceive others, conducting an illegal fundraising? He must be severely punished!"

Ryker answered, "Please don't worry, General. I'll definitely ensure that he gets punished."

The call then ended.

Only then did Ryker realize that he was drenched in a cold sweat, from head-to-toe.

He was both regretful and terrified!

On one hand, he was regretful that his plan was foiled, meaning that he was unable to drive Zeke out of Atheville.

How did that brat Williams get such a stroke of good luck?

On the other hand, he was terrified, that if he did not handle this matter well, he and his family would both have to pay a huge price.

He sighed, "I guess that I'll have to sacrifice Lucius, for the sake of both me and my family."

Thus, he gathered a team, as they made their way over to Golden Pictures.

Along the way, a thought kept surfacing within his mind.

Why does the Great Marshal's voice sound so familiar? I'm sure that I've heard it somewhere, but I can't remember where.

After Zeke made the call, he headed back to the hall.

Lucius rolled his eyes at him. "Why are you still here? Are you still waiting for the Great Marshall to entrust a military film to you?"

Zeke nodded. "Yeah."

Hahaha!

It made everyone roar with laughter.

Lucius was speechless. "If the Great Marshal really arrives to commission you to shoot a film, I'll cut off my own head."

Zeke replied, "Unfortunately, you won't get the chance to see the Great Marshal anymore. You'll be arrested in just a moment!"

Lucius snorted. "Get out! Other than making sarcastic remarks, what else are you capable of?"

Suddenly, the door to Golden Pictures opened, and Ryker barged in with a huge team.

Lucius was overjoyed. "Just you wait, you brat! How dare you make a ruckus here. I'll get General Lewis to arrest you this instant."

At that moment, he quickly turned to greet Ryker, along with everyone else.

Rushing up to Ryker, Lucius respectfully greeted, "General Lewis, it's an honor for us to be graced by your presence. Please, come and take a seat."

However, Ryker questioned him in a forceful tone, "Lucius Johansson, I'd heard that you'd paraded my name around with the intention of deceiving people, by illegally raising funds for a film project?"

Lucius was confused. "Huh? What do you mean? You're the one who'd entrusted the film to me..."

Slap!

Ryker gave Lucius a tight slap without hesitation. “How dare you slander me! I’m going to sue you for slandering a military officer. Men, arrest him and the five celebrities beneath him!”

In a flash, Ryker’s men had arrested Lucius, along with the five other celebrities.

The crowd was stunned.

What the hell is going on?

What is Ryker trying to do?

How can he kill the chef after being fed?

Have we been fooled by him?

Why is he causing harm to us?

Worried that Lucius would continue to defend himself, implicating him, Ryker hurriedly signaled to his men to bring Lucius and the others away.

As they were dragged away, Lucius and the others stared at Zeke in shock and fear.

Zeke was right.

But how did he know?

Or, was he the one who'd arranged for all of this to happen?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Oh God, who in the world is this brat? He's such a mystery.

Ryker glanced around and announced, "Lucius' military film project has nothing to do with me or the military. He has deceived everyone, using the military's name. I will definitely investigate this thoroughly. You people should refuse to work with him, otherwise, you'll get yourself involved in this mess."

Thereafter, he took his men and left.

The crowd could feel nothing but blind terror.

Oh God, Lucius is becoming increasingly bold!

How could he dare to provoke the military?

He almost got us implicated in the process!

The bigshots who had just signed contracts with Lucius quickly destroyed all the evidence, in fear.

Most of the people present then turned their attention to Zeke.

He seemed to know everything from the beginning until the end.

No matter whether he was the one who arranged for this, or he had gotten wind of this

beforehand, it still proved how powerful he was.

So, was that film project that was entrusted to him by the Great Marshal real after all?

At this moment, Mia's phone suddenly rang.

Mia glanced at the number, before frowning.

"Huh? What's going on? I've never seen a number with a 100 prefix before."

Someone gasped amongst the crowd. "A 100 prefix number! It's a prefix that only the five most senior officers of Eurasia have the right to use."

A commotion broke out amongst the crowd as everyone stared at Mia.

One of the five most senior officers of Eurasia was calling a film star... This was unimaginable!

Mia was rather confused.

However, Zeke merely grinned and patted her shoulder. "Put it on speaker."

Okay!

Mia then answered the call in a trembling voice, "H... Hello, my name is Mia Y... Young. M...May I know who's speaking?"

Wolf's Greed, the General Cosmopolis' voice came over the phone, "I'm the General Cosmopolis, a disciple of the Great Marshal. The Great Marshal is planning to produce a film, to promote the military. He has investigated dozens of female film stars and has concluded that you're the best choice, as our female lead. He thinks that your straightforward and upright personality will bring out a female soldier's character perfectly. Is Ms. Mia Young interested in the role?"

What?

In an instant, the crowd erupted.

The General Cosmopolis had personally called Mia and invited her to be the female lead of the film that was personally planned by the Great Marshal!

It only took one call for Mia to rise above the rest, reaching a higher status in society!

Mia was so overwhelmed that she stammered, "I... It's a g...great honor to w... work with the G... Great Marshal. O... Of course, I... I'm willing to."

Wolf's Greed replied, "Good. I'll arrange for someone to discuss the details with you."

After he hung up, Mia was instantly surrounded

by the crowd.

If they could join this military project through Mia, they would definitely make it big soon!

To their misfortune, Zeke laughed coldly. “Earlier, most of you had looked down on this military project. Since that is so, you guys are already blacklisted. The rest of you who are interested shall each prepare a bid proposal for a fair competition!”

The bigshots who were blacklisted regretted their actions immediately.

Such a missed opportunity!

D*** it, it’s all Lucius’ fault!

Adam Count and the others who had just quit their jobs at Trust Media approached Zeke sheepishly.

“Mr. Williams, we beg your pardon! We hadn’t any idea of who you were at all and we’d looked down on you earlier. Please pay no heed to what we have said! Do give us one last chance!”

Zeke questioned, “Do you think that an opportunity like this is something that you can come across everywhere? I gave you a chance, but you didn’t cherish it. Your penalty for

breaching your contracts will be four times the original amount.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Waves of desperation crashed over Adam and the others.

Four times the original penalty amount? That could be up to millions!

Where do we get our hands on ten million?

In addition to that, we would be banned by the entire industry after what had just happened! We wouldn't even have the money to feed ourselves then.

They started to plead pitifully, "Mr. Williams, please let us off this once. We're willing to work hard for Trust Media in the future!"

Upon consideration, Zeke agreed.

They were senior employees in the company, so they knew how everything worked. If he changed out the whole batch of employees at once, it would take a long time for the new employees to get used to the company, which would negatively affect its development.

Adam and the others heaved a long sigh of relief. They felt as though they had just returned from a trip to hell.

Then, Zeke left with Mia.

The crowd watched them leave with mixed

feelings.

Through all of this, Zeke had exuded an aura of mystery and inscrutability.

He must be someone important!

In the car, Mia was still so stunned that she could not speak.

She glanced at the number with the '100' prefix and felt as though she was dreaming.

Zeke could not help but laugh. "Mia, do you people really think of the Great Marshal as someone so sacred and mighty?"

Mia nodded. "Of course. The Great Marshal is a living legend and the faith of all Eurasians. He's our guardian, so of course, he's sacred! By the way, I was wondering, why did he choose us, out of all the other top film companies? We're merely a small, unknown company."

Zeke replied, "You're so dumb. Remember that promotional video that we'd made for the military? The Great Marshal gave us half of Eurasia Pictures' shares then. We're his long-term collaborator, so that's why he wants to work with us again."

Mia facepalmed, "Oh yeah, why did I forget about that?"

The two of them quickly returned to Trust Media.

Lacey was talking to a man with a great mustache at that moment.

Mia immediately explained to Zeke, "That man with the big mustache is a famous director, Jared Hunt. Is he here to work with us?"

When Lacey noticed them, she hurriedly stood up and made her introductions. "Zeke, Mia, let me introduce you to Mr. Jared Hunt. He's a famous director. Mr. Hunt wishes to buy over half of our company's shares at the price of one billion. I think that it's a good proposal. What do you think?"

Zeke shook his head. "I don't agree with this. The market price for half of our company's shares is at least ten billion."

Jared burst out into laughter, disdain written all over his face. "Mr. Williams, let me be honest with you. Considering Trust Media's current situation, I'm already making a loss, by buying over half of its shares for one billion. I hope that you guys will be wise, not being so outrageously greedy. Otherwise, you'll be left with nothing."

Zeke answered, "Oh, then, do tell, what's the current situation of Trust Media right now?"

Jared replied, "Do I really need to elaborate? Your celebrities have terminated their contracts, and your technical staff has all quit. Trust Media is nothing but an empty shell without them. To put it bluntly, you're worse than a phantom company."

Zeke refuted, "Nonetheless, I think that our company has strong potential. Who knows? Perhaps a lot of A-list celebrities and directors will be fighting to work with us very soon."

Pfft!

Jared burst out laughing again.

Lacey's face reddened as she warned, "Zeke, our company's bad situation is known to all. Please don't cover it up. I guess I'll decide now. I agree with your proposal, Mr. Hunt..."

Mia hurriedly interjected, "Ms. Hinton, you mustn't agree! We'll be making a huge loss if you do."

Lacey was perplexed.

Why is Mia siding with Zeke now?

Just as she was in the midst of confusion, a large group of people suddenly barged in.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The group of people walked up to Lacey and greeted her respectfully.

“May I know if you’re the person, in charge of the company, Ms. Lacey Hinton?”

“I’m the singer, Leslie Dawson. I wish to work with your company. Please consider me, Ms. Hinton.”

“My name is Harry Bojack and I’m an actor. I would like to collaborate with Trust Media, after seeing the company’s high potential. Please give me a chance, Ms. Hinton.”

“I’m the director-cum-actor Jacob Lowe. My comedy series is looking for a platform. If you’re interested, Ms. Hinton, I’m willing to work with you.”

“My name is Patrick Morray. I’m a director...”

Lacey and Jared were stupefied at their words.

What’s going on?

These were all A-list actors and celebrities.

It would be a great honor for a small company like Trust Media to work with any one of them.

Unexpectedly, they were all begging, to collaborate with Trust Media!

I'm dreaming! I must be dreaming!

Zeke flicked Lacey's forehead. "Silly girl. Do you still wish to sell the company for one billion?"

Lacey retorted, "I'd rather sell you off than sell the company!"

Zeke was speechless. What a materialistic woman!

In the army prison, Lucius and the rest were begging, for Ryker to release them.

They regretted their actions now.

After all, they had held good jobs at Trust Media, up until recently, when they were bewitched by Conrad Lewis to quit their jobs, going against Zeke.

Conrad even promised them a bright future ahead.

As of now, not only did they not get their bright futures, but they were also running the risk of losing their lives.

Conrad has really gotten all of us in deep trouble!

Ryker sighed, "To be honest, the Great Marshal is the one who'd told me to investigate this

matter.”

What? The Great Marshal?

Lucius and the others were devastated.

They knew that there was no way out now since they were being targeted by the Great Marshal.

Lucius started crying. “General Lewis, you have to save us. We’d followed your orders, so you mustn’t give up on us.”

Ryker replied, “Don’t worry. I’m not that kind of person. At midnight, I’ll lower my guard on purpose. By then, you guys may take the chance to escape from here. I’ll arrange for someone to meet you outside, sending you off to Southeast Asia together, with one billion apiece.”

Okay, okay!

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief.

They did not care much about the money. All they wanted was simply to continue living.

Ryker left the prison and informed his assistant, “Tonight, Lucius and the others will escape from here. Kill them then. Remember, don’t keep any of them alive.”

The assistant nodded. "I understand."

These people knew too much.

If they remained alive, Ryker would not be at ease at all.

After the arrangements were made, he returned to the Lewis family mansion.

Robin had already informed Conrad of everything that had happened.

As of current, Conrad was frowning in displeasure.

Ryker murmured to him in a low voice, "Dad, I think that there is more to Zeke than what meets the eye. We've gone up against him many times now, yet we've lost every single time. I can't help but feel that he's hiding his powers, which seems to match the Great Marshal's. I don't think we should go against him anymore if there's no real need to."

Conrad sighed, "Well, he must surely be someone important, for Theodore Luna to see him as a threat. However, we've already promised Theodore that we'll get rid of him. If we give up like this, Theodore won't forgive us."

Ryker asked, "Dad, do you have any good ideas then?"

Conrad explained, “There’s a tactic we can use. We may relieve the besieged by besieging the base of the besiegers. Looking at the current situation, I don’t think that it’s realistic for us to drive Zeke Williams away from Atheville now. So, we’ll adopt a roundabout strategy to get rid of him.”

Ryker agreed, “Okay. I’m eager to hear more.”



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Conrad continued, "Zeke's base is the Linton Group at Rivermouth. If you bring some men over to destroy it, Zeke will definitely leave Atheville to protect his base at Rivermouth."

Then, Conrad whispered the rest of his plan to Ryker.

The latter's eyes lit up as he praised, "What a great plan! I believe that this will successfully drive Zeke out of Atheville."

Conrad replied, "Also, you should think of a way to save Mdm. Williams from the prison."

Ryker frowned. "Dad, why should we save her? Aren't you afraid that she'll make a comeback, snatching over the position as the head of the Williams family?"

Conrad answered, "Don't worry. She wouldn't dare to. Since we were able to send her to prison once, we'll definitely be able to send her there a second time. I'm saving her because I want her to help us get rid of Zeke. With this two-pronged strategy, I believe that Zeke will have to admit defeat this time."

Ryker nodded. "Okay. I'll do as you bid."

On the very same day, he bailed Mdm. Williams out of the prison, before he soon brought her to Rivermouth.

When they arrived at Oakheart City, they split up to carry out their respective tasks.

Ryker traveled to the Whiteridge tourist spot under Linton Group, while Mdm. Williams headed to the headquarters of Linton Group.

Meanwhile, Zeke and Lacey had no idea about the Lewis family's roundabout strategy to get rid of them.

They were busy with planning and carrying out the military film project.

However, Zeke suddenly got wind of the news that the Lewis family had bailed Mdm. Williams out of prison.

He was slightly puzzled by this. Could it be that they'd found their conscience, now wanting to return the Williams family back to her?

It sounded absurd, no matter how much he thought about it.

However, Zeke did not think too much about it.

After all, no matter whether Mdm. Williams was released from prison or not, he was still going to take down the Lewis family. Besides, the Williams family would be his anyway, and he would definitely refuse to allow her to take over control of it again.

The people-in-charge of the Whiteridge tourist spots were Sofia and Nancy.

However, Sofia's parents were feeling under the weather, meaning that Sofia had gone to accompany them to the hospital.

Only Nancy was left at the tourist spot.

It was the off-peak season, so business was slow. Nancy was enjoying a rare, stress-free day.

She started to daydream about her hero and their wonderful future together.

As she daydreamed away, a group of men in camouflaged uniforms barged into the office.

The leader had a general-rank star on his shoulder, signifying his rank as a general.

It was none other than Ryker and his team.

Nancy was both nervous and confused.

Are generals so free nowadays that they have the time to bring their teams out for a tour?

Do they know my hero?

She hurriedly went up to open the door, greeting them.

“May I know which division are you from? Are you here for a tour?” asked Nancy curiously.

Ryker coldly replied, “We’re from the Atheville Military District, here for a workplace inspection.”

Nancy was increasingly confused.

Why is a general from Atheville inspecting work in Rivermouth?

This is rather illogical, isn’t it?

However, she dared not doubt them as she hurriedly invited them in.

Ryker glanced at the scenic spot and proclaimed, “Hmm, it’s gorgeous here. It’s a good tourist spot, I’ll give it that. Which one of you is the person in charge of this place? Give us a tour, will you?”

Nancy quickly responded, “That’s me.”

Ryker asked, “What’s your name?”

Nancy answered, “I’m Nancy Hinton.”

Ryker frowned deeply.

Isn’t the person in charge here called Sofia Callum? She’s the sworn sister of Zeke.

He had intended to threaten Zeke by bullying Sofia.

However, the information that he had gotten, had shown that Nancy had a good relationship with Zeke and Lacey too.

Okay, she'll be the unfortunate one then.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Alright. Just bring us for a tour then,” said Ryker.

“Okay.” Nancy quickly agreed.

She was hoping to obtain some news about her hero from them.

Nancy led them along the tourist route.

However, she realized that these people seemed to be in a hurry, as they could not care less about the beautiful scenery surrounding them.

Nancy introduced the scenic spots to them, but they barely paid her any attention, as they appeared completely disinterested.

These people are really odd.

Nancy quickly dismissed the idea of inquiring about her hero, since she speculated that they would refuse to give her the time of day if she posed this question to them.

When they arrived at a more secluded area, Ryker abruptly stopped in his tracks.

Nancy curiously queried, “Is something wrong?”

“I’m just tired and I need some rest,” Ryker answered.

Nancy was speechless.

I'm a woman, but you don't see me huffing and puffing. Meanwhile, you military guys are complaining about being tired, and need to take a break?

What a bunch of losers.

You guys aren't even worthy to carry my hero's sandals.

Everyone lowered themselves to sit on the ground.

Ryker asked, "Is this tourist spot of yours safe?"

"Of course. All of the wild animals have been evicted, and all the hidden safety hazards have undergone a thorough inspection, to which reinforcements have been implemented. Hence, it's completely safe," Nancy reassured.

"That's not what I meant," Ryker corrected her.

"There are no bandits or robbers here, are there?"

Nancy was unaware of how to react to his absurd question. "What century are we in already? How can there be bandits and robbers?"

A meaningful smile took residence on Ryker's face. "That's not necessarily true."

"Do you really think we're here for a vacation? You couldn't be more wrong."

"I heard some people say that there were bandits and robbers around the area, so I specifically visited, to get rid of them."

Nancy could barely stifle her laughter.

I'm a Riverdale local. Why have I never heard about bandits and robbers roaming around the area?

You guys came on a vacation using this as an excuse, right?

While Nancy was distracted, Ryker took out his phone and sent a message, move out!

Five minutes later, a group of masked brawny men swarmed out and surrounded them.

Each of these strong-looking men had a gun in their hands, pointing them at Ryker and the rest.

Their leader was a one-eyed man who called himself Cyclops.

He yelled fiercely, "Get on your knees with your

hands behind your head!”

“Who are you? How did you get in?” Nancy was terrified.

Cyclops sneered and muttered, “Ms. Hinton, you sure do have a flair for acting dumb.”

“Don’t pretend that you don’t know us. We’re the bandits around the area, and we’ve even worked together before.”

Nancy’s face paled. “Bulls***! I don’t even know you!”

“Damn you, Nancy Hinton! You’d colluded with these bandits,” Ryker cursed viciously.

“It seems that we were right, to come this time.”

Nancy started to panic and struggled to form a coherent sentence, “They... They’re lying... We’ve never had any bandits here...”

“Hmph! I’ll deal with you later,” Ryker growled in a low voice.

“Listen up. We are from the Atheville Military District, and I am Major General Ryker Lewis.”

“I suggest that you lay down your weapons and surrender. Cooperate if you want to live, because resistance will only make things worse

for you!”

Cyclops scoffed with disdain, “I don’t care if you’re a major general or an admiral. You’re nothing but an ant beneath my boot.”

“Throw all of your valuables over to me. If you don’t have money, you’ll pay with your life.”

Ryker immediately ordered, “Throw all of your valuables to them. Where there’s life, there’s hope. Our lives are what matters the most.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Everyone quickly did as he had ordered.

After the bandits stowed away their valuables, Cyclops glanced at a dazed Nancy with an evil glint in his eyes.

“Ms. Hinton, the boys, and I haven’t been getting any action for several months now. Please come over and give us our fill.”

“You’ll be heavily rewarded if you manage to please us.”

Nancy’s face blanched in horror.

These bandits were nothing but monsters that devoured everything in their path.

Death would be better than falling into their hands.

Nancy was close to having a mental breakdown as she shouted, “No... I’ll give you money. I’ll give you as much as you want...”

However, Cyclops picked Nancy up in one go, without another word.

Nancy screamed desperately, “Help! General, help me...”

“Put her down! Or else, I’ll wipe out your entire group,” Ryker bellowed angrily.

Cyclops shouted, "Don't move! If you come one step closer, I'll make sure you never live to see another day!"

Ryker strode forward fearlessly. "A soldier who isn't ready to sacrifice his life to protect innocent lives doesn't deserve to be a soldier..."

Bang!

Cyclops fired a shot without hesitation, and the bullet went through Ryker's thigh.

"Ah!" With a yelp, Ryker fell to his knees.

Then, Cyclops left with a mocking grin.

Ryker's men were startled and hurried towards him. "General, what should we do now?"

"Should we call in fire support?"

"Those bandits are getting out of line. They must be eradicated."

Ryker waved his hand and shushed them.

"Don't cause a stir. If we alarm the bandits, they'll have no qualms about killing the hostage."

He took out his phone and called Zeke, castigating him when the call connected, "Zeke Williams, you sure have some balls of steel!"

“Just get to the point.” Zeke sounded slightly annoyed.

“I’ve long caught wind that there were bandits near the Whiteridge tourist area, so I led a team of men here to deal with them,” Ryker gritted through his teeth.

“But I’d never expected that the people in charge of the Whiteridge tourist area were in cahoots with these bandits. We were tricked and held at gunpoint. I was even shot.”

“But life doesn’t always go according to plan. The tourist spot’s person-in-charge, Nancy Hinton, had an internal conflict with the bandits because of an unfair distribution of spoils, and was kidnapped by them...”

What!

Zeke’s mouth twitched violently.

In cahoots with these bandits? Unfair distribution of spoils? It’s all bulls***.

It did not take a genius to figure out that this was all arranged by the Lewis family.

They wanted to use Linton Group and Nancy to force him out of Atheville, so that he would return to Rivermouth.

He never thought that they would target Linton Group!

Zeke clenched his jaw and growled, "Ryker Lewis, you and your family can continue deluding yourselves."

"I swear on my life, that if you so much as touch a hair on Nancy's head, I'll erase you and your whole family from the face of the earth!"

Ryker's voice sounded slightly guilty when he refuted, "Hmph. I don't know what you're talking about."

"Nancy Hinton's life is in the hands of those bandits. The Lewis family has no say in it."

"You stay where you are. I'll be there soon," Zeke responded in a clipped tone.

When Lacey heard about Nancy's kidnapping, she instantly starting crying, out of anxiety.

"Zeke, what should we do?"

"Nancy has fallen into the hands of those people... I can't even bear to think about the consequences." Lacey sobbed through her words.

"Zeke, hurry. We have to save Nancy."

Zeke tried to soothe her, “Lacey, don’t worry. The Lewis family is gunning for us, so they probably won’t harm Nancy.”

“Leave it to me. I’ll definitely bring Nancy back in one piece.”

However, Lacey insisted on accompanying him.

Under Zeke’s consistent persuasion, Lacey finally agreed to stay behind to wait for his news.

Zeke hopped into his car and sped towards Rivermouth.

Along the way, he made a call.



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“Lone Wolf, gather the Rivermouth military and meet me at Whiteridge’s tourist area.”

“Wolf’s Greed, take the Atheville military and converge at Whiteridge’s tourist area.”

“Sole Wolf, Serpent...”

Upon relaying his instructions to his team, a murderous air surrounded Zeke.

He had originally only planned to swallow the Lewis family’s fortune.

Unfortunately, they kept pushing his buttons.

Very well. I’ll turn the Lewis family into ash and dust!

Soon, Zeke arrived near the Whiteridge tourist spot and rendezvoused with the Alpha Suicide Squad.

The squad comprised of Lone Wolf, Sole Wolf, Wolf’s Greed, and the one who was addressed as ‘Serpent’. He was previously known as Drake, Eurasia’s number one master.

Lone Wolf and Wolf’s Greed each led their own team of ten thousand men, making the scene appear glorious and magnificent.

“Wolf’s Greed, have you investigated the

matter?" Zeke cut straight to the chase.

Wolf's Greed nodded in answer. "Yes. There have never been any bandits in the area."

"I also discovered that Ryker had left the military base with a hundred men. However, only fifty of them had arrived with him. The remaining men could have been arranged by Ryker to pose as bandits."

Zeke smashed his fist against the stone beside him. "Hmph. He's a disgrace to the military for instructing soldiers to pose as bandits."

"This time, he must be eliminated for good."

"Have you discovered where the bandits are hiding?"

Wolf's Greed answered, "They are on a barren mountain around the Whiteridge tourist spot. The locals call it Wild Boar Mountain."

"Move out!" Zeke commanded.

The large group of men marched purposefully towards Wild Boar Mountain.

On the way there, Zeke received a call from Ryker.

"I'm currently negotiating with the bandits on

Wild Boar Mountain and I'm trying to rescue the hostage," Ryker informed.

"Come alone, if you're planning to come. You might set them off by bringing too many people. And if they hurt the hostage because of it, you'll have to take full responsibility."

Zeke calmly answered, "Noted."

He paused in his stride and instructed, "Get the majority of the men to covertly surround Wild Boar Mountain, and tell them to ensure that their presence isn't discovered."

"You guys secretly follow me up the mountain, and quietly get rid of the bandits taking watch outside."

After giving out his orders, Zeke headed towards Wild Boar Mountain without breaking stride.

Half an hour later, Zeke climbed up Wild Boar Mountain.

A few bandits who were standing watch restrained Zeke and brought him into a cave.

In the cave, Ryker was confronting the one-eyed man, and the fake tension in the air was so thick that it could be cut with a knife.

The gunshot wound on Ryker's thigh had been bandaged, but blood was still oozing out from it, staining his pants red.

Nancy was tied to a stone pillar. Fear and distress were sprawled across her features as she shivered violently like a frightened kitten.

Upon spotting Zeke, Nancy immediately yelled hysterically, "Get out of here, Zeke! Don't try and save me!"

"If you die, Lacey will be forced into a living hell. I don't want to feel sorry towards her for the rest of my life."

Zeke took a deep breath and warned her, "Nancy Hinton, you'd better remember what I'm about to say. After I save your life today, you need to stop holding a grudge against me, and stop picking on me every chance you get."

He was really fed up of getting bullied by her at every turn.

Nancy felt frustration, as tears welled in her eyes. "How can you talk bulls***, even at a time like this?"

"I'm warning you, if you die before Lacey does, I'll not only pick on you, rather, I'll cut your corpse into tiny pieces and feed you to the dogs."

“Shut up!” Cyclops was irritated, snapping at them, “Both of you will die today!”

“Cyclops, we had an agreement,” Ryker spoke up just then.

“You’d said that if Zeke Williams were to withdraw from Atheville, remaining in Rivermouth for the rest of his life, you’ll let us safely leave.”

“Are you going back on your words now?”



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Cyclops answered, "Of course not."

Nancy was slightly baffled. "What does Zeke withdrawing from Atheville have to do with you letting us go?"

"Of course it does," Cyclops replied.

"Zeke Williams' development in Atheville is affecting our interests."

Zeke glanced at Ryker with an amused gleam in his eyes. "I think it's the interests of the Lewis family that is being affected by me."

"People are smarter than what you give them credit for. Everyone can clearly see your little agenda, so you can drop the act and fess up."

Ryker wore an indifferent look as he muttered, "I don't know what you're talking about."

Of course, he knew that Zeke must have long uncovered the truth that he was the one who had come up with this conspiracy.

However, he could not admit to it.

If this guy has a recorder on him and I admit that I was the one behind this, he could use it to blackmail me.

Zeke drew in a long breath before saying, "What

if I don't want to withdraw from Atheville?"

Cyclops roared, "Arrogant fool! If you don't withdraw, I'll kill Nancy Hinton right here and now!"

"No. You know what? I'll let my men torture her slowly until she begs for death."

"It would be a waste not to have a little fun with a beautiful woman like her."

Ryker interjected, "Notwithstanding, if word spreads that the higher-ups of the Whiteridge tourist spot had colluded with bandits, injuring a soldier in the process, your Linton Group will be sued."

"Either withdraw from Atheville, or allow an innocent citizen to die. Your choice."

"I choose to destroy the bandits and the Lewis family," Zeke nonchalantly stated.

F***!

Outrageous!

Cyclops flew into a rage. "You're the one asking for death, so don't say that I didn't give you a chance!"

Nancy was dumbfounded. "Zeke, all they're

asking is for you to withdraw from Atheville, right? So just agree to do it!”

“Which is more important? Our lives or money?”

“Both,” Zeke answered with a straight face.

Nancy was utterly speechless.

You can only choose one or the other!

Cyclops shouted to his men outside, “Come in and beat this guy into a pulp!”

To his surprise, there was no response.

Cyclops frowned and shouted again, “Where the hell is everyone? Get you a**es in here!”

“Coming!” Someone finally answered.

However, the person’s voice sounded slightly unfamiliar to Cyclops.

Thud, thud, thud...

Soon enough, one person after another was thrown into the cave, while the sound of them landing on the hard ground reverberated throughout the enclosed area.

They were the men whom Cyclops had arranged to guard the cave, stationed outside.

Only, his men's faces were beaten black and blue and had already passed out.

After all of his men were thrown in from outside, four muscular men entered together.

Four of them were none other than Lone Wolf, Sole Wolf, Wolf's Greed, and Serpent!

F***!

Cyclops and Ryker were thrown into a panic.

These four people had actually gotten rid of Cyclops' men in such a short amount of time.

The scariest part was that they had not even made a sound, so no one had noticed what was happening outside!

These four were so skilled that it was frightening!

Cyclops was first to snap out of his momentary state of shock, and he quickly lunged towards Nancy.

As of now, Nancy was his only bargaining chip to get out of this alive.

Zeke also moved, the same time that he did.

Whoosh!

He seemed to vanish, before soon reappearing in between Cyclops and Nancy within a second.

He moved faster than lightning, so fast that the naked eye would fail, to catch his movements.

“Die!”

Cyclops whipped out a dagger, intending to stab Zeke with it.

When the dagger was inches away from penetrating Zeke, his leg flew out to kick Cyclops in the armpit first.

Splat!

A muffled sound was heard before Cyclops dropped the dagger in his hand; Zeke had snapped his arm with just a kick.

Blood splattered in all directions.

Cyclops' ear-splitting shrieks bounced off the cave walls.

Nancy's jaw had connected with the ground.

He broke a person's entire arm with just one kick. What in the actual f***?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Zeke untied the ropes around Nancy. "You okay?"

Nancy sucked in a sharp breath and exclaimed, "Zeke... You... were so cool!"

She could not find a better way to describe him after what he had just done.

Zeke's eyes fell on Ryker again.

Ryker was utterly petrified by now.

His gaze was fixed on Wolf's Greed.

General Cosmopolis!

Isn't this f*****General Cosmopolis?

Why has he come to a remote area like this?

Did he really need to come personally to deal with a bunch of petty bandits?

Isn't he overqualified for the job?

Ryker's fell to his knees before Wolf's Greed.

"General Cosmopolis, why... Why have you come?"

"I have failed as a soldier if you felt the need to come personally to deal with some petty

bandits, General Cosmopolis.”

Nancy covered her mouth in shock. “General Cosmopolis!”

Wolf’s Greed coldly spat out, “Hah! Ryker Lewis, you’re really something, aren’t you?”

“You ordered soldiers to pose as bandits to kidnap a civilian. You’re a disgrace to the military!”

Ryker tried to defend himself by saying, “General, I don’t know them at all, so how could I possibly have ordered them to post as bandits?”

“Look. I was even shot by them.”

Wolf’s Greed spat, “You may be able to fool others through this pity ploy of yours, but you won’t fool me!”

“I...” Ryker did not know how to get himself out of this mess.

Wolf’s Greed and the other three walked towards Zeke, before they soon got down on one knee.

“Head of the Provincial Military District, Lone Wolf.”

“General Cosmopolis, Wolf’s Greed.”

“General North, Sole Wolf.”

“Drake from Northern Xinjiang, Serpent.”

“Here to report to the Great Marshal. The bandits have been eliminated, and the culprit has been apprehended!”

“Good.” Zeke calmly nodded, sweeping a glance towards Ryker.

Boom!

Ryker’s whole body froze up, and he felt as though he had been plunged into ice-cold water.

The Great Marshal!

Zeke Williams is the renowned Great Marshal!

No wonder he could wipe out the four major families in Atheville with such ease!

No wonder he isn’t afraid of the Williams family or the Lewis family at all!

No wonder Theodore Luna saw him as a threat!

It’s all because he’s the Great Marshal!

He bends the law as he wishes, and reigns above the authorities!

F***! How could Theodore Luna send an opponent like him towards us!

We had actually sought to destroy the Great Marshal... How stupid!

This is the joke of the century!

Thud!

Ryker's body went limp, and he fell forward, with his hands supporting his body.

Zeke looked down his nose at him. "Ryker Lewis, what else do you have to say now?"

Ryker had run out of excuses, so he lowered his head to the ground in a kowtow.

With a look of despair on his face, he begged, "Great Marshal, I... I committed an unforgivable sin. I'm willing to end my own life."

"I only ask that you spare the Lewis family. I, Ryker Lewis, will be eternally grateful for that."

Zeke pressed his lips into a thin line. "The Lewis family has challenged the Great Marshal, yet, they ask to be spared? How absurd."

Ryker suddenly thought of something and quickly suggested, "Great Marshal, please allow me to make amends."

"I have very important news for you. I hope that you'll accept it as compensation, sparing the Lewis family."

"Speak," Zeke ordered.

Ryker did not need any more encouragement, as he instantly answered Zeke, "Your grandmother, Mdm. Williams, has also followed me to Rivermouth. She has probably gone to Linton Group to cause trouble."

He gulped before continuing, "So, you... You better hurry to Linton Group. She may be a threat to the safety of your family!"

D*** it!

Zeke's eyes turned murderous.

That old lady is f*****stubborn!

Zeke suppressed his rage and growled, "Carry out your own sentence."

"Great Marshal, can you let me talk to my family one last time?" Ryker pleaded.



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Zeke nodded and warned, "Don't reveal my identity."

Ryker hastily took out his phone and dialed his father, Conrad Lewis' number.

Conrad swiftly picked up the call. "Ryker, how's everything going? Is Williams dead yet?"

Ryker raised his voice and sounded hysterical, "Dad, stop going against Zeke Williams. We're not on the same level as him at all, and we can't win. Surrender everything to him, then run for your lives."

Conrad was momentarily stunned. "Ryker, what are you going on about? Did Williams threaten you to say this?"

"Dad, I have to leave this world before you. I'm sorry for not being able to be there for you until you grow old," Ryker choked through the lump in his throat.

"Let's meet again in the next life. And remember, drop everything against Zeke Williams, otherwise, it'll be the end for the Lewis family."

Then, he took out his gun and shot himself in the head!

The gunshot echoed in the cave for a long time.

After the sound finally died down, Conrad's cries drifted over the other end of the line.

"Zeke Williams, you'd killed my son. I'll make you pay with your life!"

"No, I'll make your whole family pay with their lives..."

Zeke stomped on the phone with his foot. "Let's go to Linton Group."

He sighed and mused, "I hope the old lady didn't do anything too serious."

When Zeke walked to the entrance of the cave, he realized that Nancy was not following.

He looked over his shoulder at her. "Nancy, what are you waiting for? Let's go."

Nancy had not snapped out of her shock yet.

Zeke Williams, whom she had always mocked and called a kept-man, was the Great Marshal!

Believing that ghosts existed was much easier than believing this!

The Great Marshal who is revered by thousands, is my brother-in-law...

That was not the point either.

The point was, that in the past, she had picked on the Great Marshal every single time they crossed paths.

Now this is a story that I can boast about for the rest of my life!

She followed Zeke out of the cave in a daze, feeling as though everything was nothing but a dream.

At the foot of the mountain, tens of thousands of soldiers bowed respectfully to Zeke.

Zeke remained unruffled as he enjoyed the respect shown by the soldiers.

As Nancy observed Zeke's figure from behind, a shiver ran down her spine.

Why does his back look so familiar?

Isn't this... my hero?

Nancy swallowed hard before stammering out a question, "Zeke, are... Are you my hero?"

Zeke answered, "Will you believe me if I say no?"

Nancy shook her head.

Zeke nodded with a helpless expression. "Then,

fine. I'm your hero. But sorry, I already have a wife."

He was about to turn away when he remembered something. "By the way, call Lacey and tell her that you're safe. She's worried sick."

An array of conflicting emotions swelled in Nancy's heart, and she felt like bawling her eyes out.

Ultimately, she was unable to control her emotions and two fat tears rolled down her cheeks.

Fate was messing with her, and it was impossible to prepare for whatever card life dealt her.

She found it hard for her to accept what had happened today.

She took out her phone and dialed Lacey's number.

Her voice sounded through the phone almost instantly, "Nancy, are you safe? Did they hurt you?"

"I'm fine. You don't need to worry, Lacey," came Nancy's reply.

Lacey sighed in relief on the other end. "That's

good... Wait. Nancy, why are you crying?"

Nancy sniffled slightly. "I found my hero."

"Then what are you crying for? That's great news!" Lacey exclaimed.

Nancy cried out, "Unfortunately, my hero already has a girlfriend!"

"Oh. Are they married yet?" Lacey asked.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Nancy muttered, "Not yet."

"Then there's still hope for you. Compete fairly against her," Lacey piped up.

Nancy blinked. "Compete fairly? Won't you mind it, Lacey?"

"Mind what?" Lacey asked confusedly.

Meanwhile, Lucille had arrived at Linton Group, which caused an uproar in the whole company.

Even Daniel and Hannah both rushed over to meet Lucille.

No one had expected Zeke to hail from the Williams family, which was a high-born family in Atheville!

It was no wonder Zeke was able to thrive in Rivermouth; he had used the power and influence of the Williams family to do so.

Until now, no one knew about the carnage that had befallen Atheville during this period of time.

They thought that Atheville and the Williams family were still the same as before.

Lucille was arrogant and impertinent towards the company's higher-ups, as well as Daniel and

Hannah.

She carried herself as if she was Empress Dowager Cixi.

Although everyone was displeased by her attitude, they did not dare to express it.

She had the right to act as such.

Lucille spoke in a conceited manner, "I don't have time for useless chit-chat, so I'll get straight to the point."

"I came here this time to ask you all, whether you want your lives or your money."

Everyone was puzzled by her odd question.

Daniel said cautiously, "I hope you don't mind my forwardness since we are in-laws..."

Lucille's expression immediately turned sour. "You will address me as Mdm. Williams. It's too soon to be calling each other in-laws."

Daniel winced in embarrassment before correcting himself. "Mdm. Williams, what do you mean by that? Please explain."

Lucille let out a snort of contempt. "That punk with my family's surname is ignorant and full of himself. He came to Atheville and provoked the

Lewis family.”

“There is a general in the Lewis family, and even my family is inferior to theirs.”

“My family was barely able to save Zeke and Lacey previously.”

“Who would’ve thought that the punk wouldn’t repent, instead, he’d made things worse by provoking the Lewis family again!”

“Now, the Lewis family is seeking revenge on Zeke and Lacey. They don’t have long to live.”

What?

Everyone’s faces turned ashen.

Zeke had provoked the prominent Lewis family, which even had a general as one of their own.

This was a serious offense, and his life could be in danger.

However, Dawn was doubtful.

She knew that Zeke was the Great Marshal.

It did not make sense for the Great Marshal to be afraid of a measly family such as the Lewis family.

With a skeptical frown on her face, Dawn reassured them, “That’s impossible. Mom, Dad, don’t worry. If they really are in danger, they’d definitely give us a call.”

“Shut up,” Mdm. Williams glared at Dawn. “Where did this unruly girl come from? Doesn’t she have basic manners?”

Then, she curled her lips in disdain. “You have no right to speak here.”

“I’m only speaking the truth,” Dawn refuted.

“Why don’t I call Zeke right here and now?” she challenged.

Lucille countered in a frosty voice, “I advise you against it, or he may die.”

“Zeke and Nancy have been kidnapped by bandits. If you make the call, you might alert the bandits and end up jeopardizing the hostages.”

What’s going on?

The others started to panic.

Hannah’s voice trembled violently when she asked, “Mdm. Williams, what do you mean kidnapped by bandits? Tell us the details.”

“I guess none of you know about this yet,”
Mdm. Williams said.

“General Ryker from the Lewis family went to
the Whiteridge tourist spot under Linton Group
for some supervision work.”

“They encountered a group of bandits there.
Not only did the bandits rob them, but they’d
also even shot General Ryker.”

“The bandits admitted to General Ryker that
they were working together with Linton Group
to rob tourists.”

“It’s a dog-eat-dog world, so Nancy was
captured by them because of the unfair
distribution of spoils. Zeke went to save her,
and was also captured.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Holy s***!

Everyone was stunned.

Working together with bandits? Injuring a general?

They knew that there was no way out.

They were doomed, totally doomed.

Dawn was the only one who still maintained a last thread of rationality.

She questioned, "What century are we living in now? How can there still be bandits?"

"Besides, Linton Group is doing well now. Why would we collude with a bunch of bandits to make some small profit at the expense of innocent lives?"

Realization struck the others; there was indeed very something fishy going on.

Lucille snapped, "Don't forget. The one whom you're up against is a general."

"To someone like him, it doesn't matter whether there really are bandits and whether you colluded with them. He can easily create problems even when there are none."

The underlying meaning behind her words was clear as day.

The bandits were actually arranged by Ryker Lewis himself, to frame Zeke and Linton Group!

This revelation only brought about more despair.

They were powerless against a general, and they would be utterly annihilated.

Daniel began pleading, "Mdm. Williams, please help us... You're the only one who can."

Lucille inhaled deeply. "Zeke is my biological grandson, so of course I want to help him."

"Unfortunately, I lack the power to help. The Williams family isn't a match for the Lewis family."

"Unless you agree to two of my conditions, then perhaps I can work something out and settle the matter peacefully."

Daniel quickly urged, "Mdm. Williams, please speak freely."

Mdm. Williams wasted no time and said, "Sign this agreement. Vow that Zeke and Linton Group will never expand their businesses to Atheville, not in this lifetime."

“Also, transfer fifty-one percent of Linton Group’s shares to me as an incentive to the Williams family.”

Everyone fell deep into thought.

To refrain from expanding to Atheville was still doable, but transferring fifty-one percent of Linton Group’s shares was a completely different story.

“You only have a minute to think it through.” Lucille gave them an ultimatum.

“When your one minute is up, I won’t help you even if you give the entire Linton Group to me.”

“Fine. I’ll sign it,” Daniel answered decisively.

What use was money in the face of life and death?

Dawn felt uneasy. “No, we can’t. She must be lying to us.”

“Now I’m wondering if she really is Zeke’s grandmother and from the Williams family.” Dawn narrowed her eyes suspiciously.

Hannah hastily stopped Dawn. “That’s enough now, Dawn.”

“Money can be earned back, but lives can’t.”

“Susan, please prepare a contract. I’ll take responsibility for this entire matter.”

Susan nodded, then inhaled a breath before leaving to carry out her task.

It did not take her long to draft a share transferal agreement.

After Lucille skimmed through the agreement, she signed her name on it.

Hannah begged once again, “Mdm. Williams, please save Zeke and Nancy now.”

Lucille nodded and took out her phone.

However, when she was about to make a call, two figures walked in.

It was Zeke and Nancy.

Everyone was dumbstruck.

What is this?

Haven’t they been captured by bandits?

Mdm. Williams hasn’t even made the call to rescue them, so how did they come back unscathed?

Hannah immediately ran over to them and

scanned them for injuries. When she did not find any, she heaved a sigh of relief.

“Zeke, you’d almost scared me to death. If something happened to you... I really don’t know how I could go on living.”

Zeke comforted her, “Mom, what were you so worried about? I wasn’t in any danger.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Hannah sighed sadly, "Zeke, don't lie to me. I know that you and Nancy were kidnapped by bandits."

Zeke quickly explained, "Mom, we weren't kidnapped. Nancy and I went to investigate the matter regarding the bandits ourselves."

"Yeah. We weren't kidnapped, but went to investigate the matter instead." Nancy also backed Zeke up.

Hannah's face scrunched up with confusion. "But your grandmother said that you were both kidnapped by bandits and that your lives were at stake."

Zeke's eyes snapped towards Lucille.

Lucille's heart was thumping violently against her ribcage, and a bad feeling rose within her.

D*** it. I haven't even given Ryker the green light. Why did he let these two go already?

Could something have happened to him?

But the agreement has been signed, so my job here is done.

Whether Ryker lives or dies has nothing to do with me.

She coldly stated, "I'll take my leave now since you're safe."

She was about to leave with her walking stick.

"Wait. What's that in your hand?" Zeke asked in a frigid tone.

"It's none of your business," Lucille answered.

Dawn anxiously shouted, "Zeke, destroy the documents in her hands!"

"She used both of your lives to threaten us to sign a share transfer agreement."

D*** it!

Zeke's arm shot out in a blur of motion as he snatched the documents from her hands. Then, he tore it to pieces on the spot.

Lucille was overwhelmed with rage and she gritted her teeth. "You unfilial grandson! How dare you disrespect your grandmother?"

"You... You'll be banished to the lowest level in hell sooner or later."

Zeke scoffed derisively. "Grandmother? You have the audacity to call yourself my grandmother?"

“Which grandmother in the world would knowingly send her innocent grandson to prison?” He roared.

Daniel and Hannah were both shaken to the core.

It was Zeke’s grandmother who had sent him to prison back then?

Zeke has gone through so much in life.

Lucille gnashed her teeth together and replied, “Yes, yes, yes! Now that you’re all grown up, we can no longer control you.”

“Nonetheless, don’t be so sure of yourself. General Ryker from the Lewis family will teach you a lesson.”

Zeke smiled faintly and admitted, “General Ryker is already down. I’m afraid he can’t help you anymore.”

Lucille’s face brightened. “General Ryker is downstairs? Thank God! I’ll call him now and get him to deal with you.”

Nancy arched a brow and curiously asked, “Zeke, is your grandmother cuckoo in the head? When you said ‘down’, didn’t she get that you meant down in hell?”

Zeke's smile broadened and he shrugged. "Many things can't be explained with mere words."

Everyone present was shocked beyond comprehension.

In the past, Nancy had always called Zeke a 'kept-man'.

When did she start calling him by his name?

It was unbelievable!

Lucille looked at Zeke with a complicated expression. "General Ryker... is dead? You... You killed him?"

Her eyes widened in disbelief. "You're all finished! The military definitely won't let you go. You can all wait to receive your punishments!"

"General Ryker knew that he had committed an unforgivable sin, so he ended his own life. It has nothing to do with us."

"Do you expect me to believe that he ended his own life just because you said so?" Lucille retorted.

"I know that all of you harbored a deep resentment towards General Ryker, which no doubt intensified when he discovered your

collusion with the bandits. I'm more certain than anything that you had all killed him to bury this matter..."

Nancy, who was a self-proclaimed bringer of justice, could not take it anymore. With a frustrated sigh, she muttered, "Zeke, I think this grandmother of yours was an old witch in her past life. She's evil through and through."

"What kind of person forces her grandson off a cliff repeatedly?"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lucille's face turned bright red from anger. "Did you just call me an old witch?"

"Yeah. Repeat after me... An old witch," Nancy answered, drawing out the last three words in emphasis.

Dawn blinked dumbly.

Hahahaha!

Here I was, thinking that this old witch was mean. Nancy is on a whole different level, and in a really satisfying way!

Lucille was so furious that she could not speak.

Nancy pressed forth, "Zeke, show the evidence to this old witch and prove our innocence."

Zeke threw his phone towards Lucille.

Lucille felt nothing but blind terror after she finished watching the video.

In the video, Ryker was kneeling on the ground with a gun pointed at his own head, with a look of remorse sprawled on his face.

"I'd colluded with bandits and framed innocent civilians. I have committed a grave crime. I have broken the principles of the military and also the trust of the people."

“I’m willing to offer my life as penance!”

Bang!

A gunshot sounded and Ryker fell onto his own a pool of blood.

His eyes were still wide open as though his soul was in eternal torment!

The phone in Lucille’s hand dropped to the ground.

Her face paled with disbelief.

Ryker took his own life? How is that possible?

He must’ve been forced by Zeke!

It turns out that I’d greatly underestimated Zeke’s capabilities!

She took a deep breath and recomposed herself before gritting out, “Very well. It seems like I have underestimated you, Zeke Williams.”

“Just you wait. Now that you’ve driven Ryker to his death, the Lewis family will do everything in their power to destroy you.”

“Don’t forget, the Lewis family has a secret weapon!”

“You and your Linton Group will perish!”

She walked out on unsteady feet, looking like she had just aged at least a decade.

Before she was out of the room, Zeke spoke, “This is my last warning to you. You’d better give up your control over the Williams family...” He paused abruptly.

“Oh, I forgot. The Williams family has become the Lewis family’s puppet, and you don’t have a say in anything.”

“I will take down the Lewis family first, then make you watch as I take over the Williams family.”

“I want to prove to you that you made an extremely stupid decision for sending me to prison back then, supporting my twin brother as the head of the family.”

Lucille looked at Zeke with conflicting emotions. She wanted to say something but stopped herself.

Finally, she left without another word.

A sense of foreboding filled her heart. What he said, might very well become a reality!

As soon as Lucille left, everything surrounded

Zeke.

“Zeke, I really never expected that you’d come from a wealthy family such as the Williams family.”

“Zeke, did that old witch really personally send you to prison?”

They sighed, “Zeke, you must’ve suffered a lot in the Williams family.”

Zeke was peppered with questions, one after another.

He patiently cleared all of their doubts.

Hannah heaved a sigh, “Zeke, I have also heard of the Lewis family. They are amongst the top powerful families in the whole of Eurasia.”

“We’re now being targeted by them. What are you planning to do next?”

Zeke replied calmly, “I’m planning to move the Linton Group Headquarters to Atheville.”

“Atheville has a bigger market and more opportunities. The Linton Group can expand into a conglomerate. We can become nobles or even royalty!”

Hannah looked slightly worried. “But Atheville is

the Lewis family's territory. Won't we be walking into the lion's den by venturing there? It'd be even easier for them to bring us down."

"Do you all know what I'm most worried about now?" Zeke asked.

Everyone shook their heads.

"What I'm most worried about is that they won't come to me, looking for trouble."

"If they don't, I won't have an excuse to take them down."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Everyone laughed bitterly. Where did Zeke get his confidence from? Even the rich and powerful Williams family was no match for the Lewis family. He won't stand a chance alone.

Zeke instructed everyone to prepare to relocate the headquarters to Atheville and headed there himself.

He was worried that the Lewis and Williams families would target Lacey.

After Zeke left, Dawn probed Nancy, "Nancy, your opinion of Zeke seems to have changed a lot. Could it be that you learned of some secrets?"

Dawn was sharp and could tell that Nancy knew about Zeke's identity as the Great Marshal.

Nancy interrogated Dawn, "You already knew Zeke was the Great Marshal, didn't you? Why didn't you tell me? Well then, it feels great to know that I've been teasing the Great Marshal this entire time."

Dawn burst into laughter, "I was just worried that you'd fall in love with your cousin-in-law."

Scram!

Nancy pulled Dawn's ear and snapped, "I'll

never fall in love with that good-for-nothing.”

“That’s right, you already have your hero, don’t you?” Dawn nodded.

Nancy was lost for words. Perhaps you wouldn’t believe it, but my hero is Zeke!

...

In the meantime, Lucille left Rivermouth and headed straight for the Lewis residence.

The head of the family, Conrad, was throwing everything within his reach in a fit of rage.

Ryker, Conrad’s beloved son, was the pillar of the Lewis family and the future of the Lewis family. However, he had been killed by Zeke!

Conrad was going mad.

When Lucille arrived, she stood by the side at a loss for what to do, as though she was a servant.

Now that the head of the Williams family was a Lewis, Lucille was but a servant in front of the Lewis family.

Just then, the door to the Lewis residence opened, and the servants carried a coffin inside.

Conrad rushed over to the coffin and gritted his teeth, "Ryker, my son! You can rest in peace because I'll definitely get revenge for you! Zeke, I'll make sure I slaughter your entire family for killing my son."

Lucille suggested, "Zeke caused General Ryker's death, so we mustn't let his death be painless! Why don't we report this to the military and let them handle Zeke?"

"Shut up!" Conrad snapped at Lucille. "You must be trying to do the Lewis family in! Zeke must have concrete evidence that Ryker instructed his men to pose as bandits and kidnap civilians. If the military got involved, the Lewis family would be done for!"

Lucille's face fell and replied, "Sorry, it was my oversight."

Conrad wiped the dust off the coffin and snarled, "If I can't use legal methods to deal with him, I'll have to deal with him using the underworld!"

"Zeke is quite powerful. Normal members of the underworld won't be able to touch him." Lucille reported.

Conrad inquired, "Then, will the Tulle organization be enough?"

The Tulle organization!

Lucille gasped, “That’s the top band of mercenaries overseas! Legend has it that it was established by one of the Great Marshal’s disciples! If they’re willing to help, Zeke will be a goner! However, I heard that Tulle primarily provides national defense. Will you be able to convince them?”

Conrad explained, “I have a brother named Conseal.”



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Lucille nodded, "I'm aware of that, but didn't he pass on twenty years ago?"

Conrad shook his head, "No. He didn't die, and he's somehow managed to join Tulle."

Huh? Lucille was taken aback by the news. Conrad's brother, Conseal, was a member of Tulle! No wonder the Lewis family has been doing so well in recent years! They had Tulle backing them!

Conrad dialed a number using his phone, "Conseal, your nephew has been killed, and the Lewis family is out of options! You've got to stand up for us!"

Conseal roared from the other end of the line, "Which bastard dares to bully the Lewis family and even killed one of our own! He must have a death wish! Don't worry. I'll get a few friends and return immediately."

"I'll be waiting." Conrad replied.

Meanwhile, at Trust Media.

Zeke told Lacey about his plans to relocate the headquarters of the Linton Group to Lacey, but she strongly objected, "I disagree. The Williams and Lewis family are targeting us now. We can't even manage a film company properly. If we shift the headquarters here, we'd be asking for

trouble.”

Zeke assured her, “Don’t worry, Lacey. The Williams and Lewis families are about to be annihilated soon. They won’t have the time to stir trouble with us.”

When Lacey heard what Zeke said, she was lost for words. After a while, she patted Zeke’s head then replied, “Zeke, you must be out of your mind. Those families have been around for over a century. They won’t be annihilated so easily. How about we do it this way? When the Williams and Lewis families are gone, I’ll agree to shift the headquarters to Atheville.”

Zeke smiled, “Deal.”

Suddenly, Zeke’s phone started ringing. His expression soured when he saw the number - it was from his disciple, Bloodthirsty Wolf.

Bloodthirsty Wolf also had another identity - he was the leader of Tulle.

Looking at Zeke’s phone, Lacey inquired, “Zeke, do you have friends from overseas?”

Zeke smiled, “It must be a scammer. Let’s ignore it.”

He then hung up in front of Lacey.

Naturally, she had not suspected anything and continued with work.

Zeke found a quiet corner and returned the call.

An eerily high-pitched male voice called out, "Zekky! Why did you hang up on me earlier?"

Zeke was speechless.

The seven foot tall leader of Tulle was a sissy!

He had warned Bloodthirsty Wolf several times to kick this habit of his, but Bloodthirsty Wolf only ended up worse every time they met.

However, despite being a sissy, Bloodthirsty Wolf was a capable man who outclasses even Sole Wolf and Lone Wolf in combat.

Zeke queried, "What's up?"

Bloodthirsty Wolf replied, "Oh, nothing much. It's just that a man named Conseal Lewis from Tulle wants to return to Eurasia to visit his relatives. You told me not to bring mercenaries into Eurasia, so I was wondering if I should approve of his leave."

Bloodthirsty Wolf had no need to trouble Zeke over such trivial matters, but he missed Zeke dearly and wanted to use this as an excuse to call him.

Zeke repeated, "Conseal Lewis? Is he related to the head of the Lewis family in Atheville, Conrad?"

Bloodthirsty Wolf exclaimed, "Zekky, you knew Conrad? Conrad is Conseal's brother. The reason why the Lewis family was able to gain power so quickly was because they had Tulle as their backer."



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Zeke smiled. Conseal's real reason for returning must be to deal with me for Conrad.

Zeke replied, "Approve of it. The Lewis family sought trouble with me several times, and I've been wanting to take them down. Since Conrad won't hand me the Lewis family, I'll use Conseal instead."

What?

Bloodthirsty Wolf was livid, "Damn you, Conrad! How dare you touch my Zekky! Zekky, I'll summon the top men from Tulle to steamroll the Lewis residence! I'll rip Conseal into shreds as well!"

Zeke felt relieved. Finally, Bloodthirsty Wolf sounds like a man. He's not a lost cause after all. At least he's capable of acting like a man, even if it's only for my sake.

Zeke warned him, "Don't interfere. All you're allowed to do is approve of Conseal's leave."

Bloodthirsty Wolf agreed reluctantly.

At the Atheville International Airport, Conseal entered Eurasia using a fake passport.

To Tulle, forging a passport and ID was child's play.

At that moment, Conrad sent someone to pick Conseal up, then he headed for the Lewis residence straight after getting off his plane.

The moment Conseal set foot into the place, he saw Ryker's coffin and altar.

The sight of Ryker's lifeless body instantly threw him in a rage. It was so intense that he even exuded a murderous intent.

Everyone was intimidated by this aura and did not dare to move.

Tulle's mercenaries were the elite amongst the elite.

Conseal offered some flowers and muttered, "Ryker, rest in peace. Leave it to me; I'll avenge for you. Conrad, get me the details of the enemy."

Conrad hurriedly passed him Zeke's data file.

After checking the data file, Conseal burnt it and sighed, "Conrad, help me prepare some offering to the gods so that I can pray for forgiveness."

Conrad was confused, "What crime did you commit?"

Conseal replied, "Our enemy is a businessman.

I once vowed that I'd never harm a civilian, but... looks like I'll have to break it today."

Conrad replied, "Got it."

Following that, Conseal inquired, "Also, the data shows that Zeke is close with a street fighter named Alfred Booth? Get Alfred to invite Zeke over. I want to assassinate him when his guard is down."

Conrad frowned, "Brother, you're a top mercenary in Tulle. Do you really have to resort to assassination for a simple businessman?"

Upon hearing that, Conseal berated him, "Rubbish! Ryker was a general, but he still died under the hands of a businessman. There's only one possibility -- he underestimated the enemy. If you continue underestimating him, you'll have a heavy price to pay!"

"I understand. I'll work on it," Conrad responded earnestly.

Conrad hired a few men to kidnap Alfred and his family, then he hid them in the basement of a hotel.

It was at Contour hotel, owned by the Lewis family.

Alfred was but a gangster, so it was child's play

for him to kidnap him.

He was frustrated being locked up and started swearing, "Damn it, who are you! If you want revenge, let's have a one on one! Coward! The rules of street fighting are that you don't touch people's families! The martial arts association will get you for this! Show your face, and I'll be sure to spit on it!"

Snap!

All of the lights in the basement turned on, forcing Alfred to squint.

He only got used to the lighting after some time and noticed a figure in front of him.

When he took a close look, he was stunned.



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Conrad.

The head of the renowned Lewis family!

“I have no feud with you. Why did you kidnap me?” Alfred asked in trepidation.

Conrad replied, “My business isn’t with you. Unfortunately, you’re acquainted with Zeke Williams.”

Alfred scoffed, “Heh! You can’t beat Mr. Williams, so you’re targeting the people around him instead? That’s despicable! I didn’t expect the head of the Lewis family to do something so disgusting.”

Conrad spat, “I don’t have time to argue with you. I’ll let you off if you help me with something.”

Alfred roared, “Never! I, Alfred Booth, have lived as a righteous man my entire life. I’ll never harm a friend!”

“Very well, then. You leave me with no choice - Kill Alfred’s mother!” Conrad bellowed.

“Roger!” Conrad’s subordinate replied.

Alfred flew into a state of panic and yelled, “Stop! Hold on! Don’t harm my family! You... What do you want me to do?”

Conrad smiled, "Simple. Invite Zeke to Contour Hotel for a drink."

Alfred frowned, "You're going to poison his drink?"

"You underestimate Williams. If my son, Ryker, can die in his hands, such a petty trick won't work on him." Conrad scoffed.

What? Alfred was bewildered. Ryker is a general and even he died against Zeke. Even if he were Master Williams, surely he couldn't go against a general! There must be more to Zeke than meets the eye! It's almost laughable that I tried to teach him a lesson on Fatso's behalf!

Alfred queried, "From what I understand, the Lewis family's greatest trump card is General Ryker. If even he's no match for Zeke, how are you going to deal with him?"

Conrad explained, "Ryker is not my trump card. My trump card is Tulle!"

Tulle? Alfred's eyes widened. The Lewis family knows people from the top international band of mercenaries, Tulle! Looks like everyone has underestimated the true power of the Lewis family. Atheville is full of powerful men and families!

Since Conrad had threatened Alfred with the

lives of his family, he had no choice but to agree to help the Lewis family.

Soon after that, he headed to Trust Media dejectedly.

He mulled it over, but he felt that he was insignificant in Zeke's eyes. If he had invited Zeke himself, Zeke would not attend for sure.

Hence, he decided to approach Lacey instead.

If he could convince Lacey to put in a good word for him, Zeke would surely agree to attend.

He knew that to Zeke, Lacey was more important than his own life. Thus, he would never defy his wife's wishes.

With that, Alfred decided to avoid Zeke and talk to Lacey. When he found her, he explained the situation, "Ms. Hinton, can you get Mr. Williams to help me? I've gotten myself into a spot of trouble that only he can help me with. If Mr. Williams doesn't help me, my entire family's lives are in danger."

Lacey hurriedly questioned, "What's wrong, Mr. Booth? Tell me about it in detail."

Alfred sighed, "My wife and family were kidnapped by someone who wanted to kill

them. I have arranged to meet them in Contour Hotel for negotiations. But I'm worried that I won't be able to handle them alone, so I'd like to ask Mr. Williams for help."

After thinking about it, Lacey agreed to help.



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After all, Alfred had helped them a lot in the past, especially when there were enraged fans surrounding Trust Media. Alfred was the one who took care of them and helped Trust Media out of a difficult situation.

Now that Alfred was in trouble, they would have to help however they could.

Lacey consoled him, "Mr. Booth, don't worry, I'll call Zeke immediately."

Before she could take out her phone, Zeke approached the two of them.

Lacey waved him over, "Zeke, come here. Mr. Booth needs your help."

Zeke walked over and queried, "What's up?"

Lacey then explained the situation to Zeke. After listening to Lacey, Zeke frowned as he knew things weren't as simple as they seemed.

He glanced at Alfred and saw that Alfred was indeed looking suspiciously uneasy.

Something's definitely up.

He scoffed. A small fry like you dares to sabotage me? You must have a death wish. This must have something to do with the Lewis family. Oh well, I'll use this chance to settle the

score with them.

With that, Zeke replied, "Lead the way."

"Alright," Alfred agreed and brought Zeke to Contour Hotel.

Along the way, both of them remained silent.

Zeke simply smoked and looked out of the window.

Meanwhile, Alfred was tormented by his conscience and had a troubled look on his face. Not only that, but he was also drenched in cold sweat.

Zeke finished smoking and leaned back against the chair. He instructed, "I'll be resting for a bit. Tell me when we reach."

"Hold on," Alfred held him back.

He finally could not stand it and told him the truth.

Zeke was targeted by the Williams and Lewis families, but he trusted Alfred enough to fall asleep in his car.

Yet, Alfred had chosen to betray him!

Zeke inquired, "What's up?"

Alfred slammed the brakes and confessed, "Mr. Williams, I'm sorry. I was leading you straight into a trap..."

Zeke interrupted him, "A trap set by Conrad?"

Alfred was stunned and queried, "H-How did you know? Conrad hired someone to deal with you, so he wanted me to lure you to Contour Hotel so that he could attack you..."

Zeke inquired, "Someone from Tulle?"

At that moment, Alfred's heart was beating out of his chest, and his face was white as a sheet.

Zeke knew that this was a trap a long time ago and even knew the details! My 'elaborate plan' was nothing to him! How foolish of me...

Alfred nodded, "That's right. Mr. Williams, since you know this is a trap, why did you agree to help me?"

Zeke replied, "Even if the Lewis family didn't make a move on me, I'd make a move on them sooner. Let's go, or we'll be late."

Huh? Alfred was bewildered, "You're still going? Perhaps you don't know what Tulle is capable of, but..."

However, Zeke interrupted him, "Go!"

Alfred swallowed, "A-Alright then."

Where did Zeke get his confidence from? Don't tell me he has no regard for Tulle? That's the world's greatest band of mercenaries, Tulle...

Zeke inquired, "What exactly did the Lewis family offer you to make you betray me?"

Alfred explained, "Conrad kidnapped my wife and family. Then he threatened me with their lives."



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Zeke scoffed, "What a despicable act. Is this all the Lewis family is capable of? In that case, I'll spare you."

Alfred stammered, "T-Then, my family..."

Zeke assured him, "I'll help save them."

Alfred was relieved and thanked Zeke, "Thanks, Mr. Williams. I'm grateful to you and will continue to serve you..."

Zeke waved him off, "Shut up and drive. You're disturbing my rest."

Soon, they had arrived at a private room of the Contour Hotel.

Both of them took their seats and were served good food and wine.

Zeke was hungry, so he helped himself.

Alfred, on the other hand, was worried that the food was poisoned. Hence, he tried hinting at Zeke, but Zeke ignored it and continued chowing down.

Alfred was lost for words. How did Mr. Williams survive until this age with his guard let down like this?

After the banquet was nearly over, Zeke was a

little drunk. He demanded, "Why aren't your guests here yet?"

"They should be here soon," Alfred replied in trepidation.

The moment he said that there was a cracking sound coming from above.

Soon after that, the ceiling caved in, and a figure with a sword slashed Zeke from above.

But Zeke merely smirked and caught the sword with two fingers of his left hand while shielding his glass with his right.

The assailant was none other than Conseal from Tulle.

When Conseal saw that Zeke had attempted to stop his sword with two fingers, he was overjoyed.

He had completed countless assassinations using this trick and had not failed a single time.

Thus, he knew that it was not something that could be stopped using two fingers.

However, his smile froze almost immediately when he witnessed something impossible in front of him.

Zeke's fingers had stopped the sword, and it would not budge no matter how much he pulled or thrust it.

F***!

Conseal's eyes widened. What is he, Iron Man? How could an arm made of flesh and blood have such immense strength?

Before he could react, Zeke bent his fingers.

Snap!

The sword was broken cleanly into two.

With a flick of his fingers, the broken sword flew towards Conseal!

Conseal panicked and attempted to evade it, but the blade was too fast and stabbed right into his chest.

The sudden turn of events had Conseal roaring in pain while losing his balance. He crashed into the dining table, smashing the table into pieces.

After all the ruckus, Zeke grabbed the glass, took a few steps back, and lamented, "What a waste of good food. Luckily, I managed to save this glass of wine."

He downed the glass in one shot.

At the same time, Alfred was petrified. It was only when Conseal's blood spurted onto his face that he came back to his senses. He took a few steps back and felt his legs go weak. Eventually, he fell backward and leaned against the wall.

The events had happened before Alfred even had time to react!

That was so fast! The outcome was decided in an instant! It's Zeke's overwhelming victory! Are these two even humans? A mercenary from Tulle lost to Zeke in one move even though he attacked without warning! Calling him Master Williams is an understatement! He's already a god!

After a while, Conseal got up while supporting himself against the wall.

He then removed the blade and applied some medicine to stop the bleeding.

Fortunately for him, the broken blade had not stabbed his heart, so the wound was not life-threatening.



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He glared at Zeke, "Williams, I've raised my expectations of you, but it seems that I've still underestimated you. You have earned the right to be an enemy of Tulle."

Zeke scoffed, "Sorry, you don't have the right to be my enemy."

Outrageous!

Conseal gritted his teeth, "Do you think you've already won? Well, you're wrong!"

Zeke shrugged, "Quit your yammering. My time is precious, so I don't have time to waste on you. Go ahead and use whatever tricks you have left."

"Very well then. Since you're so eager to die, I'll grant your wish! Come in!" Conseal smirked.

Right then, the door was kicked open, and four thin men barged in. They blocked the windows and doors to prevent Zeke from escaping!

Though they were all thin, all four of them were as strong as Conseal.

Zeke was furious, "You guys are from Tulle as well? Why did I only receive the application for Conseal to enter Eurasia but not the four of you?"

There were only two possibilities. One, Bloodthirsty Wolf did not tell him about the other four. Two, these four men had not applied to enter and had simply snuck into Eurasia.

Overall, the latter was more likely.

All mercenaries who enter Eurasia without permission shall die, including those from Tulle!

Thus, at that point of time, Zeke had already set his mind on killing the four of them.

Pfft! Conseal burst into laughter, "You weren't notified that they'd be coming to Eurasia? Do you think you're the leader of Tulle? Why should we report our movement to you? You're right, though. The four of them have not applied to enter Eurasia because the Great Marshal has banned all five of us from being in Eurasia at the same time. Do you know the reason why?"

Zeke nodded, "I know."

Conseal smirked, "You sure know a lot. The five of us are the Tulle Terrors. We've learned the fifth move of Ammo Needles from the Great Marshal himself, Heaven's Wrath! If all five of us use Heaven's Wrath together, no one other than the Great Marshal can survive it. Brat, unless you're on the Great Marshal's level, you're dead!"

Zeke scoffed, “Is that so? Back then, I taught you this move in hopes that you’d use it to help others and treat injuries. I didn’t expect you to use it to kill... It was my oversight. But it doesn’t really matter now because I’ll be killing all of you to correct my mistake.”

The Tulle Terrors burst into laughter. This man hinted that he was the leader of Tulle, and now he’s saying that he’s the Great Marshal. Is he schizophrenic?

Just then, Conseal roared, “Enough talk! I’ll give you two options. Enter!”

Conrad walked into the room holding an urn filled with ashes.

He glared spitefully at Zeke, “Williams, we meet again. I wanted to get my brother to kill you, but he said you were a man and wanted to let you die in a dignified manner. Please cherish this opportunity.”

He placed the urn in front of Zeke and commanded, “Kill yourself to apologize to my son, Ryker. Otherwise, I’ll get my brother to sever your limbs and throw them into this urn to bury with my son. Then, I’ll torture you to death!”

Zeke inhaled, “I present you with two options as well. One, the Tulle Terrors are to commit

suicide, and you are to hand me ownership of the Lewis family. Two, I'll kill the Tulle Terrors myself, and you'll still have to hand the Lewis family over to me."



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Insolent!

Conseal burst into a rage and bellowed, “Looks like you’re not convinced of the power of the Ammo Needle! Very well, let me teach you a lesson!”

Zeke instructed Alfred, “Get out of the room for now.”

Conseal is right. Only I can take their combined Heaven’s Wrath. Alfred will end up looking like a porcupine if he stays.

With that, Conrad and Alfred hurriedly left the room.

The Tulle Terrors whipped out the cases holding their needles.

Under Conseal’s command, the five of them started raining silver needles upon Zeke.

In just a short while, this concealed space was immediately filled with silver needles.

Hundreds of silver needles showered upon Zeke endlessly. It was inescapable, like the wrath of the heavens.

A fly that remained in the room was impaled and split into two by the barrage of needles.

Nonetheless, Zeke stood in the center and did not move an inch.

When the needles had almost hit him, he suddenly started dodging unpredictably like a phantom. Even then, the Tulle Terrors were certain that Zeke would have died from that.

So what if he's good at dodging? There's not enough space to dodge the needles!

Soon, a thousand needles had been fired. The Tulle Terrors took a glance at Zeke, and their expressions were then replaced by a look of horror.

There Zeke was, standing calmly with both hands behind his back and did not show any signs of pain at all.

What was even more impossible was that there was not a single needle on him.

W-What's going on?

The five of them stared at Zeke in doubt.

Just then, Zeke casually took a seat and commented, "You guys can stop looking. I didn't get hit."

Impossible!

Conseal screamed like a maniac, "You must have been hit! You're just faking it, aren't you?"

"Faking? What a cute excuse," Zeke laughed bitterly. He picked up five silver needles from the floor and tossed them casually.

Before they could comprehend what was happening, the five needles had struck the five of them at their weak spots, making them shriek in pain.

Zeke smiled, "Do you think anyone can maintain a calm expression after being hit by the Ammo Needles?"

The five of them glared at Zeke in shock.

They couldn't believe what Zeke said was true. In actual fact, he was not hit by a single needle in Heaven's Wrath!

They then thought about how Zeke shot the needles at them. It resembled the Ammo Needles...

A horrifying thought entered their minds.

Don't tell me he was telling the truth! Is he really the Great Marshal?

The five of them were scared out of their wits!

Conseal stammered, “W-Who are you?”

Zeke spat, “I’ve said that I wouldn’t interfere in Tulle’s affairs before. Give Li’l Blood a call! He’ll deal with you!”

Li’l Blood!

The five of them sank into despair. Only those who knew Bloodthirsty Wolf personally would know that his nickname was ‘Li’l Blood’. The only one who dared to say it aloud would be the Great Marshal himself.

So he really is the Great Marshal!

They did not dare to defy the Great Marshal and dialed Bloodthirsty Wolf’s number.

Bloodthirsty Wolf interrogated, “Conseal, the Tulle Terrors have left Tulle. Did you bring them with you? Not bad. Since when did you find the courage to defy my orders? You’ve disobeyed the Great Marshal’s orders, so you should know what to do.”



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Even though they had seen this coming, the five of them still sank into despair upon hearing it.

Conseal stuttered, "Sir, there's a man who claims he's the Great Marshal right here..."

Zeke spoke, "Li'l Blood, are you going to take responsibility for allowing the Tulle Terrors to sneak into Eurasia? You're on house arrest for a month. Go reflect upon yourself."

Bloodthirsty Wolf replied fearfully, "Zekky, I'll be sure to reflect upon my mistakes!"

It's true. He really is the Great Marshal!

Thud!

The five of them knelt on the floor.

They had not dared to escape and prepared to commit suicide as they knew full well that no one could escape from the Great Marshal!

When Conrad and Alfred heard that there was no sound of a commotion inside, they charged inside.

Conrad was dying to see Zeke's corpse.

However, the scene in the room made him shudder.

The Tulle Terrors were kneeling on the floor with their face drained of all color while Zeke stood upright and remained unharmed.

“W-What’s going on?” Conrad asked in shock. “Brother, why are you kneeling to him?”

Conseal was furious and instantly punched Conrad, “Bastard! You must be blind! How could you have angered such a god? If the Lewis family dies off under your hands, you’ll have to take full responsibility!”

After taking in that punch, Conrad’s nose was broken, and his blood flowed freely with his tears.

He ignored the pain and roared hysterically, “Conseal, what did Williams do to you? Why are you siding with the enemy?”

Argh!

Conseal kicked Conrad onto the floor and bellowed, “He’s the Great Marshal! The hero of Eurasia, the Great Marshal! My boss’ boss!”

What? Everyone’s gazes turned to Zeke, and the atmosphere seemed to freeze.

Nothing but horror remained in their eyes!

H-He’s the Great Marshal! The Lewis family

made an enemy out of the Great Marshal! No wonder Ryker died against him! We're finished... The Lewis family is finished!

Thud!

Conrad and Alfred got on their knees as well.

Zeke commented, "The ultimatum I gave you guys still stands. You may choose now."

At that moment, the Tulle Terrors knew that they had no choice. Thus, they took out a dagger to end their lives.

The blood slowly dyed the carpet a deep red.

Zeke turned to Conrad, "Your turn."

Conrad was mind-blown. Do I still have a choice? Of course not!

He bowed down and replied, "I offer the Williams and Lewis family to you."

"Saves me the trouble," Zeke scoffed.

Zeke's phone suddenly rang.

It was the Williams butler, so Zeke answered it.

The butler screamed, "Sir, run! The Lewis family sent the Tulle to kill you..."

Before he could finish, Lucille snapped, "Darn it! How could you tip that imbecile off! Destroy the phone and tie the butler up!"

The phone hung up mercilessly.

After receiving such a phone call, Zeke had mixed feelings about this.

If there was one thing he missed about the Williams family, it was Ben. When he was young, Zeke was treated worse than a dog, and only Ben would treat him with proper respect and protect him.

If it were not for Ben, Zeke would be dead.

Therefore, he had always been thankful to Ben.

This time, he even ran a huge risk to tip him off!

Therefore, Zeke had to repay the favor no matter what!

He glared at Conrad and ordered, "Follow me to the Williams Manor. Alfred, clean up the place, and do not reveal my identity."



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Alfred nodded vigorously, heeding to Zeke's orders.

Then Zeke brought Conrad and left while Alfred trudged out of the room.

He did not want to stay in that room for a moment longer. It was too horrifying!

Meanwhile, at the Williams Manor.

Ben, who had tipped Zeke off, was tied up and kneeling in the middle of the hall.

There was a red mark on his cheek where he had been slapped, and he was bleeding from his mouth. Ben was merely holding on to his last breath, barely alive.

The entire Williams family, including the head of the household, Robin, had surrounded him.

Lucille felt frustrated that her seat was now taken by someone from another family.

Hence, she vented her anger on Ben.

Lucille roared, "How dare you tip that bastard off? If the bastard manages to survive thanks to you, I'll make sure to kill you!"

Even though Ben was barely breathing, he argued, "Madam, sir's name is Williams as well!"

The blood that flows within him is the Williams' blood! He's not an enemy! I can stand it if you abuse him, but why must you kill him?"

Lucille roared, "That rascal doesn't deserve the Williams surname! He's disgraced the Williams! We'll only be free from the shame when he's dead!"

Ben laughed bitterly, "He's your grandson! How laughable!"

Lucille's face darkened, "How dare you mock me? Slap him!"

"Halt!" Robin commanded. "Grandma, please remember your place. I'm the head of the household now. Your words hold no weight."

Instantly, Lucille's face flushed red, and apologized, "Sorry, I couldn't keep my emotions in check. Very well then, please present your verdict."

Lucille's heart bled when she said that.

Robin mentioned, "I heard that the Williams family raised a few Tibetan Mastiffs. They're ferocious, aren't they? Feed him to the hounds!"

Everyone present inhaled sharply. What a vicious woman! Ben simply tipped someone off, but she wants him dead! That's

unreasonable!

Ben had served in the Williams family for a long time, and most of them no longer treated him as an outsider. Thus, none of them could bear to feed him to the dogs and turned to Lucille for help.

Seeing that no one moved, Robin flew into a rage, "Did I stutter?"

Lucille sighed, "What are you waiting for? Didn't you hear the head of the household?"

Two members of the Williams family stared at Ben with a pained expression.

Ben burst into laughter, "Hahaha! The noble Williams family that had hundreds of years of history had produced many outstanding men! However, the head of the household is now an outsider, and you guys have to listen to her! You're all a disgrace to the ancestors! None of you are fit to call yourself a Williams!"

These words had hit the Williams family hard. In order to save their pride, they started attacking Ben.

"Shut up. You're but a servant! You've got no right to interfere in the family affairs!"

"Ms. Robin is married to Zach, so she's part of

the Williams family, not an outsider!”

“What’s more, the Lewis family is so powerful and has a general! They’re even related to the Tulle organization! It’s a blessing for the Williams family that they’re willing to back us up!”

Nevertheless, Ben ignored them and continued laughing hysterically, “The Williams family has a powerful man who’s able to save the family, but the Williams family refuses to acknowledge him and even wants him dead! Alas, is this our fate?”



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Everyone turned pale at once because it was obvious that Ben was referring to Zeke Williams.

Ben might be right, but they decided to refute his words so they wouldn't humiliate themselves.

Hence, they continued hurling accusations at him.

“Shut up! If you continue talking nonsense, I'll tear your mouth apart!”

“Zeke Williams is nothing but a disgrace to our family! He doesn't deserve to be our head!”

“Yes! He is not worthy of even carrying Robin's sandals.”

Right then, a deep and resounding voice sounded from the door.

“Is it that hard to admit someone else is capable?”

Everyone's heart skipped a beat.

It's Zeke Williams!

Shit, he's still alive!

He must've escaped because Ben told him

about it.

Robin flew into a fit of rage and gave Ben a tight slap. "Old fool, you've ruined my plan! I'll make sure you die a horrible death!"

Just then, Zeke went towards them.

To their surprise, Conrad, the head of the Lewis family, was right behind Zeke.

He seemed desperate, disheveled, and utterly humiliated.

Fear and despair were written all over his face.

The crowd was shocked. What happened?

When Zeke noticed Ben's miserable state, rage boiled in his heart.

The Williams family are so ruthless!

He hurried to Ben and apologized, "Uncle Williams, I'm so sorry that I've arrived late."

Ben's voice trembled as he replied, "Sir, why are you back? You have to leave now. The Lewis family had just hired someone from Tulle to kill you!"

Zeke then helped Ben into a chair and assured, "Uncle Williams, don't worry. I'll deal with the

rest. We'll be fine."

Ben was still anxious. "But—"

Zeke patted his shoulders and beckoned her to stay calm.

He swept his gaze across the crowd and announced, "Who did this to him? Step forward."

Right then, Robin took a step forward. "Me. What are you going to do about it?"

Zeke nodded. "Your courage is commendable."

Having said that, he moved as swift as lightning and gave Robin a slap!

The sheer force of his slap sent Robin flying as her body hit the wall forcefully.

When her body hit the ground, she parted her lips and spat out blood. Her stomach started churning, and she couldn't utter a word.

The crowd became chaotic that instant. It was as if hell broke loose.

The Lewis family is the cutting board, and Zeke is the meat.

How dare he hit Robin?

He really doesn't know who he's dealing with, huh?

The Williams family then started reprimanding him to get on the Lewis family side.

"Insolent fool, how dare you slap Robin?"

"Who are you to harm her?"

"Mr. Lewis, please take action and punish this fool on behalf of the Williams family."

Robin snapped back to her senses and let out an agonizing scream.

"Dad, beat him up! Ask uncle to beat him up! He slapped me in front of you! Is this not a sign of disrespect of both our family and Tulle?"

Zeke turned to Conrad and asked, "Your daughter wants you to beat me up. What do you think about that?"

Shivering, Conrad walked towards Robin slowly.

Everyone in the Williams family could barely conceal their delight.

Look, Conrad is shaking with rage. Just wait and see. The Lewis family will order Tulle to kill him!

When Conrad arrived at Robin's side, her voice grew louder. "Dad, hurry! Where's uncle? Why isn't he here yet?"

Slap!

Under everyone's watchful gaze, Conrad gave Robin a resounding slap.

"Apologize to Mr. Williams now."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Huh? What is going on?

Silence ensued the whole room, and the crowd thought they were imagining things.

Not only did Conrad not teach his enemy a lesson, but instead, he slapped his daughter in public. What is happening?

Robin herself was confused. "Dad, did you just slap me? But Zeke is our enemy..."

Slap!

Conrad gave Robin another tight slap. "I said - apologize to Mr. Williams. Now!"

Robin was about to go crazy from the turn of events. "Dad, wake up. Do you know what you're doing..."

Slap!

Following that, the third slap from Conrad landed on Robin's cheek. "Get on your knees and apologize."

As he said that, he signaled Robin to follow his order.

Upon seeing Conrad's actions and signal, Robin was about to lose it.

Seems like Dad has been controlled by Zeke.

Damn it, how did he do that?

She didn't know why her father ordered her to do so, but she got on her knees anyway.

"Mr. Williams, I am ignorant, and I apologize for offending you. Please don't take it to heart."

As soon as she said that, the Williams family was on the verge of going mad.

It was only then they realized Zeke had something on the Lewis family!

Turns out Zeke has a lot of tricks up his sleeve.

Zeke replied, "I won't take it to heart if your actions pleased me."

Conrad immediately understood what he meant and suggested, "Mr. Williams, I'm willing to transfer all the Lewis' and Williams family's assets to you. Please accept my kind intentions!"

What?

Everyone was shocked to the core.

Did Conrad just hand the two most prominent families' wealth to Zeke?

D-Damn it, what did Zeke do to Conrad? He seems so terrified!

Robin hurriedly stated her disapproval. "I disagree. Dad, why are you so afraid of him?"

"Shut up!" Conrad hissed. "If you don't want our entire family to die, shut up!"

Die?

Robin's face ashen at once. Is it that serious?

Just then, Zeke spoke, "I've promised to spare a Lewis. One of you has to die, so it's time to pick that person now."

After a while, Conrad took a deep breath and requested, "Mr. Williams, I have some last words for my daughter. Can I?"

Zeke nodded.

Conrad pulled Robin's arm and brought her to a corner hidden from everyone's sight.

Robin was still furious. "Dad, what are you afraid of? Even if Tulle can't get rid of him, we don't have to be so terrified..."

"He's the Great Marshal!" Conrad revealed.

W-What?

Robin stuttered, "What? I didn't hear you clearly."

"He's the Great Marshal! The National Treasure!" Conrad repeated.

Oh dear!

Robin grew limp as she collapsed on the ground in disbelief.

Their family had just offended the Great Marshal.

They wouldn't be able to defeat the Great Marshal even if they were a hundred times stronger!

Conrad continued, "Robin, be careful. You'll have to survive on your own."

"Remember, you have to bear a son and give him the Lewis surname. You must carry on our family's surname. As for me, I have to go and meet our ancestors. It's time for me to apologize to them."

After saying his last words, he took out his gun and shot himself in the mouth.

The sound of the gunshot reverberated throughout the entire Williams residence.

Looking at her father falling into a pool of blood, Robin burst into tears.

She was dejected and terrified, full of regrets about what she did.

Turns out the Great Marshal used to be my fiancée!



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However, I called off our engagement and even threatened to die when things didn't go my way.

If I hadn't been that foolish and had married him obediently, I would've been the capable and powerful Great Marshal's wife by now!

Ugh... I've ruined my chance.

In the hall, everyone was stunned by the gunshot.

Did Conrad or Robin die?

However, that wasn't important anymore.

What was important was that Zeke had taken over the Lewis family and Williams family single-handedly!

He even destroyed the Lewis family!

Zeke was once disowned, but he was now the head of the Williams family and had an edge on them. Thus, of course, they were upset about that.

Right then, Zeke touched a pillar right beside him and lamented, "I remembered this pillar collapsed when I was five. It fell on top of me, and I fainted at once."

"The pillar also injured my so-called brother,

Zach, but he only got a scratch on his head. He only bled a little. However, everyone in the Williams family surrounded him in concern, and no one came to me. I was lying in a pool of blood and almost died!”

“In the end, Uncle Williams was the one who sent me to the hospital,” he uttered.

Everyone in the Williams family lowered their heads. However, it was not in shame because the only thought that popped out in their minds was that Zeke should have died back then.

“Forget it,” Zeke sighed. “There’s no point talking about the past. Now, I’m the head of the Williams family. Hence, I hereby declare that from now on, everyone here is no longer part of the Williams family!”

The entire Williams family fell into a debacle.

The person their family despised the most was going to chase them out of the family!

No one could understand their despair.

However, none of them dared to stand up against Zeke as they were afraid they’d end up like Conrad.

Although Conrad didn’t die here, they could still smell the stench of his blood from a distance.

At once, the Williams family started pleading for forgiveness.

But Zeke remained indifferent and shot them a mocking gaze. "This seems familiar, huh?"

Back then, Zeke had pleaded with them not to bring him to jail, but they were cold-hearted enough to ignore him.

Since it was obvious that Zeke wouldn't listen to them, they ended up asking for Ben's help.

Ben sighed. "Well, don't blame him for being heartless. He had gone through all kinds of obstacles growing up, so naturally, he now loathed evildoers."

"He's merely treating you the way you treated him back then. So you can't blame him for doing this."

"However, Sir, please don't draw a conclusion now. Come with me. I'll show you something. You can make a decision after this," he turned to Zeke and told him.

Zeke nodded, and Ben brought him to the Williams Hallow at the back of the house.

He noticed how Ben was limping slowly and smiled. "Uncle Williams, you're much older than I remember. You should retire and spend the

rest of your life here in the Williams Manor.”

Ben’s lips curled into a content smile. “Yes, I’m old and useless now. If another pillar falls on you, I’m afraid I can’t save you anymore.”

“However, Sir, you’re untouchable now. So I don’t think that any pillar will be able to fall on you.”

They soon arrived at Williams Hallow, which housed tombstones of the ancestors of the Williams family.

Ben brought Zeke to a corner in the graveyard where a small tombstone was erected with the engraved words: In loving memory of our beloved son, Zeke Williams.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Zeke found it hilarious. “The Williams family are that thoughtful, huh? They even prepared a tombstone for me.”

He reached out and was about to destroy the tombstone when Ben stopped him.

“Wait!” Ben interrupted. “You can’t destroy it. If you do, you’ll die. But if the tombstone remains here, you might survive.”

Oh?

Zeke was surprised. “What do you mean?”

Ben suddenly turned sorrowful. “Sir, aren’t you curious why you didn’t get to see your parents even though you’re in Atheville?”

Zeke nodded. “I was just about to ask you that. Why didn’t my parents come to me? They didn’t even attend Zach’s wedding back then.”

He guessed, “Do they feel guilty or ashamed to meet me?”

Ben shook his head. “You’re wrong. To be honest, your parents erected this tombstone to save your life.”

Zeke was confused. “What does my tombstone have to do with saving my life? I don’t get it. Uncle Williams, please do explain.”

“This is a long story,” Ben uttered.

“Your mother is a Sullivan, a noblewoman.”

“The nobles are so powerful that they are comparable to a seigneur in ancient times. The prominent families were no match for them. Even the Lewises and Williamses are considered peasants to the nobles.”

“Your mother married below her station. Back then, their marriage stunned the entire world. No one could understand why the nobles would marry their daughter to a mere Williams.”

“Later, your mother mentioned the reason to me briefly. It turns out that the Sullivans are well versed in black magic. They found out that your father has a rare physique with a heart pure enough to rear the King Worm.”

“The reason they married their daughter to your father was that they wanted your father’s offspring’s heart. Either yours or your brother’s.”

“However, since your brother’s heart turned out to be normal, they didn’t fancy him. Your heart turned out to be the perfect vessel they needed urgently to rear the King Worm.”

“But your mother didn’t want to see you being a vessel to rear the King Worm, so she sent you to jail. Then, she erected this tombstone and

lied to the Sullivans, telling them you had died.”

“However, nothing in the world is predictable since you’ve grown to such heights and caused a huge commotion. The Sullivans ended up discovering that you’re still alive.”

“To protect you, your mother went to the Sullivans to ask them to spare your life, but she never returned. Your father went there to save your mother too, but he also went missing.”

He sighed. “The Sullivan family is ruthless. And since your parents lied to them, I’m afraid they might’ve killed them.”

At that moment, Zeke was incredibly moved as he didn’t know about this at all.

Looks like I’ve misunderstood mum and dad. They didn’t abandon me and even risked their lives to protect me.

“Who else knows about this? Do the Williamses know?” Zeke questioned.

Ben replied, “No, they don’t.”

Zeke nodded. “As expected. If they knew about this, they would’ve sent me to the Sullivans ages ago.”

With a hard kick, Zeke crushed his tombstone.

“I need to take responsibility since they abducted my parents because of me. Besides, this tombstone is unnecessary.”

“Can you contact the Sullivans? Send them this message: I, Zeke Williams, am still alive. Come to me if you want my heart. If you dare to hurt my parents, I’ll slaughter all the close and extended kin of the Sullivans!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Ben smiled bitterly.

Zeke was capable, but he was also arrogant.

The Sullivan family were nobles, so the Lewis family and the Williams family were no match for them.

Even though Zeke might've destroyed the Lewis family and the Williams family, he was nothing but an ant before the Sullivans.

Ben said, "The Sullivans are nobles, and I have no right to contact them. Aside from your parents, no one in Atheville can contact them."

Zeke smirked, "That's not true. From what I know, those who use black magic have the same ancestors. Theodore Luna from the Atheville Lunas is skilled in black magic, so I believe he can contact the Sullivans."

Ben pondered. "Mm, I think there were rumors that Theodore is the representative of the Sullivans in Atheville."

"Oh? Seems like the Sullivans are, indeed, special. Even Theodore is just a representative for them."

"Alright then. Let me get rid of Theodore before going to the Sullivans."

Ben smiled wryly.

Looks like Zeke hasn't realized how capable Theodore and the nobles are.

Ben told him, "Let's not talk about the Sullivans for now. Sir, are you going to expel everyone from the Williams family?"

"Actually, they have been telling everyone you are dead. They might be cursing you, but if you think of it, they had helped you to lie to the Sullivans who never came to you."

"Besides, I owe a favor to Lucille. She's old, and I can't bear to see her homeless at this age."

Zeke agreed. "Okay, sure. You can call the shots."

"By the way, I need your help to merge the Lewis family into the Williams family. I want Linton Group to take over both families gradually."

Ben nodded. "Sure, no problem."

When the Williamses knew they could remain in the family, they were utterly relieved.

However, instead of being grateful to Zeke, their hatred for him increased.

If Zeke didn't appear, they would still be a prominent family, enjoying their power and wealth.

Since the Williams Manor was a sad place for Zeke, he refused to stay there any longer.

After that, he drove to Trust Media in search of Lacey.

"Linton Group will take over the Lewis family and the Williams family before taking over the nobles—the Sullivan family. Lacey will be regarded as a nobility, then."

"Hmm, she'll gain more experience and knowledge after this. Perhaps she can accept that I'm the Great Marshal by then. Good. I can tell Lacey my real identity after we take over the Sullivan family," he mused.

Suddenly, Zeke's phone started ringing with a call from an unknown number.

"Who is this?" Zeke answered.

A pleasant female voice greeted him. "Zeke, I'm your mother, Faith Sullivan. I'm being held against my will. Listen, the Sullivans had found out you're still alive. They will send someone to get you. Escape as soon as you can—"

Suddenly, it sounded noisy on the other end of

the line. It was as if someone had grabbed the phone away from Faith.

Mother?

To Zeke, the term was both strange yet sacred.

An awful feeling overwhelmed Zeke despite his attempts to keep it at bay.

Soon after that, someone else's voice sounded from the other side of the phone - it was a vicious-sounding old woman.

"Zeke Williams, I am your grandmother..."

Zeke cut her off icily. "Grandmother? Ha! You're nothing but a wolf who wants her grandson's heart."



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The woman erupted in anger. “B*****d! How dare you talk to me rudely? Lying to the nobles is a sin! In three days’ time, come to us with your heart to atone for your sins. Otherwise, I’ll make you regret your actions.”

Zeke chuckled. “You want my heart? Sure, I’ll be waiting for you in Atheville. You can come anytime to get it.”

The woman retorted coldly, “Okay. I hope you keep your word. By tonight, I want your beating heart in front of me.”

Slam!

The line was cut.

Zeke pocketed his phone and smoked, sighing while he looked out of the window.

Damn it, what’s this world coming to?

All I wanted was to live a peaceful life, but why do I have so many heartless relatives?

Zeke returned to Trust Media and hurriedly went to Lacey.

“Lacey, both the Lewis family and the Williams family are exterminated. According to our promise, you’ll have to move Linton Group’s headquarters to Atheville.”

Lacey was astounded. “Exterminated? How could that be possible?”

Zeke showed the evening papers to her. “Read this.”

After reading the news, Lacey lamented, “The Lewis family had brought this onto themselves. As a general, how could he instigate his soldiers to pretend to be bandits to kidnap civilians? It would be unfair if they weren’t exterminated.”

“The Lewis family had been exterminated, but the Williams family is still standing. They even grabbed the chance to take over the Lewis family.”

“Now, the Williams family is much stronger than before after they appointed a new head. However, they are still the same.”

Zeke smiled.

The Williams family isn’t the same anymore because I am the head of the Williams family now.

However, to keep his identity a secret, Zeke prohibited the papers to announce he was the new head.

Hence, the papers only reported about them

having a new head of the family. No names were mentioned.

Zeke persuaded her. "Lacey, the Williams family might still be standing, but their new head isn't like them. He didn't collude with any of the Williamses. Besides, I know him well. He won't make things difficult for us."

Really?

Lacey was delighted. "As long as the Williams family doesn't make things difficult for us, we can establish ourselves in Atheville. Okay, I promise I'll move our headquarters here."

Zeke grinned. "Good.. I'll make the arrangements."

At once, Zeke called Dawn and Nancy to order them to prepare for the matter.

Meanwhile, at Williams Manor in Atheville.

The Williamses' influence and status had plunged to a new low. It showed when they had their dinner.

Now, their dinner wasn't as lavish as before.

Everyone was furious and cursed Zeke for the change.

They were eating dinner when a deafening noise erupted from above all of a sudden.

Looking up, they saw a helicopter circling the Williams Manor before landing on their golf course.

Stunned, they thought, Where did this helicopter come from?

They ran over to the golf course to see what was going on.

The doors of the helicopter opened, and a man in black got off it.

The Williamses thought he looked familiar, but they couldn't figure out where they had seen him.

However, since the man was dressed elegantly and even arrived in a helicopter, they assumed that he must be from a prestigious background.

Lucille went over to greet him. "You are?"

The man swept his gaze over her and said, "Mdm. Williams, you're so forgetful. Back then, when milady married below her station to your son, I was the one who escorted her here."



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Milady?

Married below her station?

His words came as a bolt from the blue, and they immediately realized who he was.

He must be from the Sullivan family!

The 'milady' he referred to must be Zeke's mother, Faith Sullivan.

The Sullivans were nobles, so Faith had indeed married beneath her station.

Lucille remembered this man's name was Harry Sullivan. Back then, he was the one who escorted Faith here.

He was just a servant, so his original surname wasn't Sullivan. However, since he had contributed a lot, the Sullivans allowed him to change his surname to Sullivan.

Even though he was just a servant, the Williams family was still no match for him.

Hence, their respect for him grew even though Harry seemed irritated at their politeness.

He retrieved a box from the helicopter and gave it to Lucille. "Where's Zeke Williams? Give this box to him. Tell him to take out his heart and

put it inside the box.”

“Hurry up, because I need to bring his heart back!” he added.

Huh?

The Williams family were very confused.

He wants to bring Zeke’s heart back?

Why does the Sullivan family need his heart?

Lucille inquired cautiously, “Mr. Sullivan, why does the Sullivan family need his heart? Is there someone who needs to undergo a heart transplant?”

Without hesitation, Harry told them about how the Sullivans need Zeke’s heart to rear the King Worm.

Upon hearing his explanation, the Williamses were overjoyed.

They thought they would have to be oppressed and enslaved by Zeke forever.

Who would’ve thought the Sullivans had set their eyes on Zeke and wanted his heart?

The nobles had set their eyes on him. So Zeke has to die. Thank the heavens!

Thus, Lucille hurriedly told him, "Mr. Sullivan, please wait for a moment. Zeke isn't here right now, so I'll ask him to come over at once."

With that, she took out her phone to call Zeke.

"Zeke, come over to Williams Manor now. An important figure is here to see you."

Since Lucille knew Zeke was about to die soon, she was no longer polite to him.

"Hmm? Important figure? Which one?" Zeke asked.

Lucille replied, "He's from a noble family. People would spend all their money just to meet him, but even so, they wouldn't get to meet him. But you're in luck because a Sullivan is here to see you. Hurry, come now!"

Upon hearing the word 'nobleman', Zeke knew what was going on.

It was obvious the Sullivan family was there to get his heart.

Well, that's quick, he thought.

So after hanging up, he hurried over at once.

Lucille suggested, "Mr. Sullivan, why don't you wait for Zeke in the living room? He'll be here

soon.”

However, Harry shook his head. “No need. I’m a busy man. I need to return as soon as I get his heart.”

He added, “By the way, Mdm. Williams, I heard Zeke took over the Williams family from you? He must be a capable man, huh?”

The Williamses immediately turned beet red as that was a huge humiliation for them.

Then Lucille tried to justify themselves instantly. “Zeke isn’t capable at all. He resorted to despicable tricks and took over the Williams family from me.”

“How dare you!”

To their surprise, Harry reprimanded them. “Zeke is a half Sullivan. We’re of noble lineage, so being a half-blood makes him a remarkable man.”

“The Williams family is nothing compared to the Sullivan family. It’s understandable how he successfully became the head of the Williams family.”

He was obviously proud and revered the Sullivan family’s noble lineage greatly, even though he himself wasn’t a direct descendant

of them.

Lucille was so shocked that she could only nod profusely in agreement.

Before long, a car drove into the Williams Manor.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The door opened, and Zeke emerged from the driver's seat.

He studied the seemingly elegant Harry and realized he was nothing but a mere servant.

Did the Sullivans send a servant to take my heart?

Well, I wonder how much they're looking down on me.

Harry scorned, "You're Zeke Williams?"

Zeke answered, "Yes. Did the Sullivan family send you here?"

"That's right." Harry puffed his chest up arrogantly.

"Nonsense! As a servant, why aren't you kneeling at your master's feet?" Zeke demanded.

What?

Harry nearly exploded in anger.

How dare he call me a servant? And ask me to kneel at his feet?

He's humiliating me!

I, Harry Sullivan, had always been treated as an honored guest. No one had ever dared to humiliate in the outside world!

He bellowed furiously, “Ha! You’ve been disowned by the Williams. You’re just a vessel for us to rear the King Worm. Who are you to ask me to kneel at your feet?”

“Remember, I am a Sullivan while you are just a lowly Williams. You are nothing but a peasant to us Sullivans!”

“Oh? Look here, the Sullivans’ dog is barking madly. It doesn’t seem like they trained it well, huh?” Zeke responded.

What the f***...

Harry flew into a howling rage.

If the Sullivan family wasn’t in dire need of Zeke’s heart, he would’ve used a cannon and blasted Zeke into smithereens.

At the same time, the Williamses also joined in, hurling accusations at Zeke.

“Shut up, you fool!”

“How could you insult Mr. Sullivan? Hurry, kneel and apologize to him!”

“The Sullivans are nobles, comparable to a seigneur in ancient times. How dare you insult a noble family? Your actions are extremely wretched and unforgivable!”

The Williamses seemed to be furious, but deep down, they were utterly delighted.

The more arrogant Zeke was, the more he'd suffer later!

Disappointment showed on Zeke's face. “Well, no wonder the Williams family had declined. Look, you said nothing when he insulted you.”

“Did you forget how you got on your knees and begged for my forgiveness? Looks like I didn't beat you up enough.”

You...

Lucille was rendered speechless.

“Mr. Sullivan, he's arrogant and ignorant because we did not teach him well. It's all our fault. Please take action to remove him from our family.”

Harry answered icily, “I won't need to deal with someone minor like him. Zeke Williams, take out your heart and place it in the icebox obediently. Otherwise, don't blame me when I take action and torment you immensely.”

Zeke smirked. “My heart is right here. If you want it, then you’ll have to work for it. If you are that capable, that is.”

Damn it!

Harry yelled, “Then we’ll do things the hard way.”

He grabbed a dagger from his belt and strode towards Zeke.

“Zeke Williams, I am here to take your heart on behalf of the Sullivan family. If you resist, it means you’re going against the entire Sullivan family.”

“When that happens, all those by your side, including your friends and family, will die! We will slaughter all your close and extended kin!”

Suddenly, Zeke moved.

In the blink of an eye, he appeared right in front of Harry.

He stretched his arm out and gave Harry a tight slap.

“Do you know how much I hate it when my family is threatened?” he uttered coldly.

Harry was rendered shock by his slap.

Cradling his cheek, he stared at Zeke in disbelief. “D-Did you just slap me? How dare you slap a Sullivan!”



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Slap!

Without hesitation, another slap landed on Harry's face. "The previous slap was for you. This slap is for the Sullivan family!"

He's a lunatic!

Harry was so infuriated that he plunged his dagger into Zeke's chest. "B*****d, die!"

At once, Zeke's right hand came to his chest.

Using only two fingers, he managed to stop the dagger from plunging into his chest.

Harry was stunned once again.

He's so powerful!

Did he just stop my dagger with two fingers?

Harry pulled his hand back, trying to snatch the dagger out of Zeke's hand.

However, Zeke did not budge at all.

Right then, Zeke exerted some force onto the dagger, breaking it in half.

Crack!

With a flick of his fingers, the broken dagger

flew towards Harry's chest!

Before Harry even realized it, the dagger had already pierced through his heart.

Instantly, his blood gushed three meters high.

Harry glared at Zeke with bloodshot eyes before he fell to the ground, his back landing first with a loud thud.

Even when he breathed his last breath, his eyes remained wide open. It was as if he refused to believe Zeke was bold enough to kill a Sullivan in public!

At that instant, time seemed to have come to a standstill.

Everyone watched Zeke with wide and terrified eyes. The same thought was running through their minds.

Is he crazy?

How dare he kill a Sullivan?

He's taunting the entire Sullivan family!

Bending his body, Zeke's hand reached into Harry's chest and took out his bloody heart.

Throwing the heart to one of the young men of

the Williams family, he ordered, "Put his heart in the icebox and hand it to the pilot. Tell him to send this back to the Sullivan family."

When the young man saw the bloody heart being flung in his direction, his eyes rolled up, and fainted at once.

Zeke gazed at the Williamses amusedly. "Looks like you're extremely unhappy with me being your head. Good. I love how stubborn you are."

"Come on, hit me with your tricks. I promise you'll admit defeat willingly."

Zeke picked up Harry's body and headed to the exit.

Meanwhile, Lucille took the bloody heart and placed it into the icebox before handing it to the pilot.

The pilot was already terribly shaken by the turn of events. After getting the icebox, he turned the helicopter around and left at once, afraid that Zeke, who he thought was evil, would come and take his life.

Then, the Williamses turned to Lucille and stuttered, "Grandma, w-what will we do now?"

Lucille remained calm. "Why are you panicking?"

“Now, Zeke has become the enemy of the Sullivan family. Do you all think that they will show him any mercy? Of course, he’ll die!”

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief.

Lucille was right.

A peasant targeted by the nobles wouldn’t be able to survive.

Right then, Zeke dragged Harry’s body to the Williams Manor’s entrance and hung it on the wall.

He then found a corner to hide as he waited for his prey to come to him.

He wanted to see if Theodore of the Atheville Lunas will come to rescue the body.

If he showed up, it would prove he was the representative of the Sullivan family in Atheville.

By then, I’ll kill him before I go and meet the Sullivans, he decided.

Meanwhile, on an island in the southernmost tip of Eurasia.

This island was huge enough to be a country, and it belonged to the Sullivan family.

It was apparent they were wealthy and powerful, being from a cultured background.

The head of the Sullivan family was Zeke's grandmother, Lady Esme Sullivan. When the pilot handed her the icebox, a look of satisfaction appeared on her face.



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“My good grandson, since you gave us your heart obediently, I will forget how you treated me rudely.”

The pilot stuttered, “Lady Sullivan, a-actually, this isn’t Zeke Williams’ heart. It’s Harry’s heart.”

What?

Esme’s hand trembled, and she dropped the heart on the ground. “What is going on? Explain!”

The pilot hurriedly explained what had happened at the Williams Manor.

Esme flew into a rage. “B*****d! He is challenging the power of us, Sullivans!”

“Prepare the helicopter. I will head to Atheville myself to get the scum’s heart,” she ordered.

One of her grandson, Lennon Sullivan, suddenly spoke, “Grandma, he’s not worthy for you to deal with him personally.”

Esme nodded. “You’re right. It’s unnecessary for me to deal with him personally. Lennon, you’ll be in charge of this. This is a great opportunity for you to train yourself.”

Lennon smiled. “Sure, no problem. Actually, I don’t even have to head there myself.”

“We can ask Theodore Luna, our representative in Atheville, to deal with him. It should be an easy task for him.”

Esme was taken aback. “We have a representative in Atheville? Why don’t I know about him?”

Lennon told her. “I was the one who chose and trained him. However, he is merely a peasant who is slightly more powerful than the Williamses. You don’t have to know about him.”

So even Theodore Luna of the Atheville Lunas wasn’t important enough to be known by Lady Sullivan.

Esme nodded. “Okay. It doesn’t matter who takes action as long as we can finish Zeke Williams off. Inform Theodore Luna that I’ll allow him to change his surname to Sullivan if he gets the job done.”

“By the way, tell him to get Harry’s body, too. He might be useless, but he’s still our servant. Leaving his body there will only tarnish our reputation.”

“Okay!” Lennon agreed.

He took out his phone and dialed Theodore’s number at once.

“Theodore, it’s time for you to do your job. My grandmother agreed to allow you to change your surname to Sullivan if you get Zeke Williams’ heart for us.”

“Besides that, don’t forget to retrieve Harry’s body as well.”

Meanwhile, at the Luna Manor in Atheville.

Theodore was delighted when he received Lennon’s phone call. At the other end of the phone call, he could not believe the opportunity that was just offered to him.

This was his chance to be the glory of the family!

At the same time, he was shocked that his enemy, Zeke, was related to the Sullivans.

No wonder I lost to Zeke so many times, he thought.

Being a half Sullivan, Zeke was powerful enough to crush the opponents I sent to him.

“So what if you’re a half Sullivan? I have the whole Sullivan family behind my back! Once I take action, you’ll die without a doubt!”

“For now, I have to retrieve Harry’s body,” he mused.

At once, he summoned John.

When John found out his boss was about to deal with Zeke personally, he was utterly glad.

He knew the Black Pentagon alone could turn Zeke into ash.

Theodore ordered, "Bring a few men with you to retrieve Harry's body. I need to come up with a plan to kill Zeke."

"Okay," John agreed readily.

Soon, he brought a few men with him and arrived at the Williams Manor's entrance to get Harry's body.

After what had happened, Harry's body appeared to be a complete mess.



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