

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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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

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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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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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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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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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!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

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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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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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!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

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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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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“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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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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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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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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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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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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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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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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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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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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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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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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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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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 lighting 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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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-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