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I'm Someone Else Chapter 151

Felice stared at Thomas, at a loss for words. It was at that moment she realized that the lad she once knew was no more. Thomas was a man now, and a terrifying one. No. I won't let this slide. He humiliated me and ruined my ex-boyfriend. I'll get back at him for that! I have a group of bodyguards with me, and I'll make sure he dies! He deserves this for what he did to me. He only escaped with his life because he was lucky, but there's nowhere to run today.

Fury washed over her soul, and Felice stood up and called her bodyguards. Her black, black heart was beyond saving. Despite Thomas' repeated acts of mercy, she didn't feel grateful and was even more determined to kill him.

Thomas continued shopping with Olivia, but his mood had turned sour. No matter what he did, he couldn't cheer up. Olivia noticed that, of course. She would steal glances at him, and her heart would ache a little. That woman's his ex, isn't it? I can't believe she cheated on him. Is she stupid? Why did she let go of someone so nice like him?

Olivia felt for Thomas. She could imagine how hard it must have been for him. He was an orphan who joined the military with almost no hope to cling to. The only light in his life was his girlfriend, and it warmed him over countless nights, but when he came back, he found out that he cheated on her. The only reason he's living is because of his sister? That must be Chloe. I think I should befriend her. "What do you think of these shoes? I think they look fine on you." Olivia tried to distract him from his bad mood.

"It's alright." Thomas nodded.

Olivia puckered her lips cutely. "You didn't even look at them."

"Um..." Thomas didn't know what he should say. The only thing that lingered in his mind was Felice's case. He didn't really care for what kind of question Olivia had for him.

Olivia chuckled, amused by his dumbfounded look. "What's in the past should stay in the past. Don't let it ruin your mood. Every day is a new day." She tried her best to stop feeling embarrassed as she crouched down with the shoes in her hands. "I'll change your shoes out. You see if they're fine."

"No. I'll do it myself." He couldn't ask Olivia to help him with this. That's...

"Don't move. You don't have to be a stranger," Olivia chided. "Be happy. I feel down when you're unhappy too. You should live your life as happily as you can. Chloe's not the only person in your life; I'm here too. No matter what happens, I'll be with you."

I might've been absent for most of your life, but from now on, I'll always be here. No matter what kind of trouble you've gone through, you're now working for me. I won't let you be unhappy. I want you to live your life as happily as you can.

Thomas paused for a moment. He knew that was a form of confession, but it came too suddenly. He had no idea what to say, so he simply stared at her.

Only God knew how much courage she had to muster just to say that. She was already embarrassed, to begin with, and now she just wanted to hide in a hole because Thomas was staring at her. "D-Don't stare at me like that."

Olivia was a gorgeous woman, and she looked even more alluring when she was embarrassed. Even Thomas was mesmerized, and he stared at her closely.

Olivia had changed his shoes by then, and she stood up. "W-Why are you still staring at me?"

"Because you're gorgeous," said Thomas.

Olivia turned redder, and she thumped Thomas' chest lightly.

"Oh, is that a couple?"

"Duh. Who'd change a stranger's shoes?"

"They look so happy together."

"That girl's gorgeous. She's like an angel."

"And that guy's hot. I bet he's rich as well, or women like her wouldn't have fallen for him."

The retail assistants started a discussion, and Olivia pretended she heard nothing. "Why don't you check yourself out in the mirror?"

Thomas didn't want to give an offhanded reaction this time, so he quickly checked his shoes. "Not bad. We'll take it." Thomas paid for the shoes.

Olivia purred, "Why don't you pick my shoes too? I'd like to check your fashion sense."

Thomas smiled. "Sure."

They came to a women's fashion store. Thomas put everything down and made his way to the pair of most conspicuous shoes. It was a classic model from Chanel. "Try these on, Olivia."

Olivia's eyes shone. Oh, he has sense. "Sure."

Thomas only noticed those shoes because Zachary showed a photo of them to him before. It was Chloe's birthday then, and she had stared at the shoes for a long, long time in the mall. Unfortunately, Zachary didn't make enough money to buy these shoes, but he told himself he would get her the shoes once he saved up enough.

That day would never come, but Thomas would fulfill his friend's promise for him. "I'll buy this pair. Do you have any other sizes?"

"Of course, sir."

Thomas nodded and called Chloe. "What size of shoes do you wear, Chloe?"

"5.5. Why do you ask?"

"I'm shopping with a friend and saw some shoes that I think you'd like."

Chloe felt warmth in her heart. He still thinks of me.

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Olivia stared at Thomas, feeling a little jealous. He's shopping with me, but he's thinking of another girl instead? I know she's his sister, but they're not related by blood. Will they... Oh, what am I thinking? This isn't some sort of anime.

Thomas paid for the shoes. Since Olivia didn't have anything else to buy, they got ready to leave, but the moment they emerged from the mall, eight burly

men stopped them, and the one in the lead mocked, "Didn't think you'd be a rich guy, punk. You bought a ton of good stuff, huh?"

Thomas' first reaction was to pull Olivia behind him. He would not let any harm get to her.

The man in the lead said coldly, "You brought this on yourself, punk. Shouldn't have crossed someone powerful. You're going to die, so don't resist. Make it easy for us. Maybe we'll give you a quick death if we feel like it."

Thomas looked at the men, fury burning inside him. Damn it, who sends all these clowns after me anyway? They won't stop coming. I still have no idea who broke into the villa, and then I had to fight off an assassination attempt at the market, and now all I did was go for a shopping trip, but I still have to face off against another group of killers? They really think I'm easy prey, don't they?

A Mazda sat near the entrance of the mall, and Felice was inside it. A smirk curled her lips. I said I'd kill you, and I will. She trusted these bodyguards. Leslie spent a ton of money on them to protect her. If they couldn't even get rid of Thomas, they should kill themselves.

A confused Philip asked, "Hey, aren't those your bodyguards? Why are they fighting Thomas?"

Unlike Philip, Beatrice and Draco looked at Thomas coldly. How dare that trash say something like that to Felice? You're going to pay for your arrogance.

Before Felice could say anything, her phone rang. It was from Leslie.

"Where are you, babe? I'm bored."

"Coming home." Felice looked at Thomas again, frustrated she couldn't see him die. Leslie was already urging her, so she must go back. If she wasn't there when Leslie needed her, he might find another woman to satiate his needs, and then her position would be compromised. He's going to die anyway, so it doesn't matter if I don't see this.

Felice was a smart woman—she knew where her edge was, and she knew how to use it. Thanks to that, Leslie fell for her easily. She drove away. After she sent her family home, she quickly went to Leslie's place. The moment she

walked through the door, Leslie picked her up, and they quickly went down to business.

Felice knew how to please in bed, so much so that even a playboy like Leslie couldn't forget about her.

At the same time, the bodyguards Felice thought could take down Thomas failed miserably at their job. They were screaming like pigs about to be slaughtered, but Thomas showed them no mercy. He brought them down low in an instant, and even though there was a crowd nearby, none would come forth to help the men. They knew that these burly men were the ones trying to pick a fight, though they certainly didn't expect the burly men to be taken down so easily.

Thomas looked at them coldly and went ahead to break a few bones that could easily land these people a lifetime on beds. He wouldn't kill them, though punishment must be doled out. After he was done, Thomas drove Olivia back to the villa.

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Eventually, Olivia fell asleep. All the work and shopping sapped her energy greatly. When they returned home, Thomas carefully picked her up and brought her to her bedroom, making sure he didn't wake her up. He stared at the sleeping Olivia, wondering, She seems so frail, but she sure can shop hard. It's like she won't get exhausted. I'd have thought she was a perpetual motion machine if she hadn't fallen asleep right after shopping. Women are fascinating.

Thomas shook his head and went to the kitchen to make the meds. When Olivia woke up the next morning, Thomas had already made breakfast and was waiting for her at the table. They finished their food and went to work.

Once Olivia finished her meds, Thomas said, "I need to go out for a bit. Stay in the company and don't run around."

"Sure." Olivia nodded. She knew he was going to Chloe's place to give her the shoes.

Thomas drove away, and he glanced at the shoes in the passenger seat. I bet Chloe's going to be really happy when she receives this.

It was then four Hummers surrounded him, and Thomas looked at them. Again with the clowns. Fine. I'll play along. Let's see what you're after. He followed the Hummers along until they stopped at Irieson's outskirts, then six masked men came out of the cars.

"Hm?" Thomas looked pleasantly surprised. That's the same outfit the killers who tried to kill me and Olivia wore. Just when I was about to look for them too Must be luck

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Thomas got out of the car and looked at the killers. I better not kill them off too quickly this time. I have to make sure they're alive so I can find out who their master is.

"What? That punk's our target?"

"He's the guy who did them in?"

"And I thought he'd be some sort of war machine. This guy's just a punk."

The men started mocking Thomas the moment he stepped out of the car.

"I can't hold it anymore. Letting this punk live for another second longer is nothing but an insult to us!"

One of the masked men charged ahead, and his blade sliced across the air as fast as lightning, aiming at Thomas' throat.

Thomas moved to the side, easily dodging the blade. Then, he lashed out and grabbed the man by his wrist. It didn't even take a moment for him to break it, and the man let out a bloodcurdling scream. Before the assailant could do anything, Thomas held the fallen sword with his other hand and sliced off the attacker's head.

"H-Holy sh*t!"

"He's dead?! Just like that?!"

The other five were flabbergasted. The six of them were fearsome fighters of this city. Yet, Thomas managed to kill one of them without breaking a sweat. It was as if an adult was beating up a bunch of weak children, in which Thomas was the adult, whereas they were the kids.

"Take him out together!"

The killers only spaced out for a moment before snapping out of it and charging ahead together, thrusting their weapons at Thomas' vitals.

Unfazed, Thomas swung his blade around, blocking the killers' attacks with ease. I guess I don't have to worry about Olivia today. These pricks are like maggots. I can stomp them out easily.

The killers worked seamlessly as they launched their attacks at Thomas' vitals. These men were veterans, but they were no match for Thomas. An opening appeared, and he lashed out quickly, swinging his blade. Just like that, two more heads were sliced off.

He then leaped into the air and slammed his feet into the heads of two more men. The crack of bones pierced the air, and the men fell without so much as making a sound. Their skull was cracked, and they convulsed for a second before going still. There was no sign of life in them anymore.

"What?"

Only one killer was left. Without him realizing it, all his companions had died. He was shocked to the core. While he was still in a daze, Thomas grabbed his throat. Coldly, he asked, "Who sent you?"

The man's eyes went wide as he stared at Thomas. He couldn't believe the man he thought was trash could be so strong. He's a monster. A monster we can't fend off.

Thomas tightened his grip. "Talk, or I'll break your neck."

The man smiled at him eerily, and then black blood trickled from the corner of his mouth.

Thomas knitted his brows and let the man go. The killer collapsed in a heap, life flowing out of his body.

"Dammit!" Thomas cursed. The man had poison hidden somewhere in his mouth so that he could kill himself at the most crucial moment. Thomas wasn't feeling bad about the man's death; he just didn't think these people would be so loyal to their employer. They must be a suicide squad someone raised.

Who could it be? Who keeps sending these people after me? He shook his head and set the question aside. Now is not the time. I've wasted enough time. I still need to see Chloe.

He then called Sean and told him to clean up the mess before heading to Pearson Group. He parked his car at the entrance, and a while later, Chloe showed up. Olivia and Thomas might be gone, but she was still working there. Fortunately, she was just a regular employee of the administrative department, so Norman didn't make things hard on her.

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Thomas looked at Chloe and asked, "How are you lately?" It's been days since I went back to her place.

"It's alright. Dad's living well. He spends his morning playing chess with the folks in the park. Then, he chills out at home when night comes. TV and some tea are all he needs," she answered with a smile.

Thomas shook his head. "I'm asking you. How are you?"

"I'm alright, of course. As long as my family's happy, I'm happy. But you haven't been coming back as of late. Are you busy?"

"Yeah." He nodded. "And I might be busy for a while longer. Anyway, try out the shoes I got you. I think you'll love it." He then whipped out the box and handed it to Chloe. This was one of Zachary's wishes, and he would fulfill it for him.

Chloe happily opened the box, but when she saw what was inside, she teared up instantly. "This is..."

"Zachary told me you wanted this, and I saw it when I went shopping yesterday."

She could no longer hold her tears back and let them stream down her cheeks. Are you alright out there, Zachary? Thomas is back, so when will you come home? I miss you.

Thomas felt stuffy at the sight of Chloe crying. He looked away and started smoking, fearing he would cry if he kept watching her. Chloe had no idea Zachary was dead. She had no idea she could no longer see her brother and that it was all Thomas' fault

"This must've cost a lot, Thomas."

Thomas rubbed his cheeks as hard as he could to force the tears back. Then, he said, "Just take them. It's not like we're short on money."

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Chloe nodded and smiled sweetly. "Thank you, Thomas."

"You're my godsister, so it's my responsibility to keep you happy always. No need to thank me for the gifts. Now, try them out and see if it suits you."

"Alright." She got out of the car to try on the shoes. "They fit perfectly." After that, she took them off and changed into her old shoes again.

Puzzled, Thomas asked, "Why'd you change them out?"

"I'm going to wear these when Zachary comes home. I'm going to welcome him back while wearing these shoes."

Unbeknownst to her, Thomas felt his heart shred into pieces upon hearing that, and he froze up. She has no idea her brother's never coming home.

"What's wrong, Thomas?"

He snapped out of it and heaved a long sigh. "It's nothing. You should go back to work."

"It's almost lunchtime, anyway. How about I treat you to lunch?"

Unfortunately, he was in no mood for lunch, so he waved her down. "You go ahead. I have something to settle."

"Okay." A dejected Chloe nodded and walked back into the building while holding her new shoes. Every time I talked about Zachary, he would have a weird look on his face. It was almost as if Thomas was feeling sad. Why, though? Does he not want Zachary to come home? That's not likely. They're buddies, after all. He should be looking forward to it. Chloe was starting to suspect something, but she couldn't put her finger on what it was.

Thomas saw her off and drove away, though he had no idea where to go. He came to a quiet spot to calm himself down. Then, he started burning through his stock of cigarettes, and soon, tears streamed down his cheeks. "I'm... sorry, my friend. I owe you a debt that can never be repaid, but please watch over us. I promise I'll make your family happy. I swear, so just wait a little while longer. When they no longer need me, I shall meet you in the afterlife and confess my sins."

Everyone thought Thomas was a brave, undefeatable man, but he was not. He only made sure he hid his weakness carefully. Even now, Thomas still had dreams of that failed mission, especially the very moment he shot Zachary. Since then, he had developed somniphobia. He was afraid he might dream of that day again if he slept.

This was clearly a case of post-traumatic stress disorder, but he never told anyone about it. He had a lot of things to do and so many people to protect. There was no way he could show his weaker side to anyone.

It was already 3.00PM when he came back to Keyshire Property. He then went into Olivia's office.

"You're back." Olivia smiled.

"Yeah," Thomas responded.

"Does she like the shoes you got her?"

"Very much."

"Good to hear."

Thomas was in no mood to talk. He plopped down on the couch and started resting his eyes.

Olivia gazed at him. She had a feeling he just went through something incredibly heartbreaking. It seems like he didn't just go to give Chloe some shoes. He's trying his best to hide it, but I can feel a

hint of depression coming from him.

Molly felt that, too. She wanted to ask him if he was alright, but she had no courage to do that. After all, Thomas and Olivia were the perfect match, not her. She might be seen as a third wheel if she did anything stupid.

Meanwhile, at the Hind Residence, Blake was fuming. He thought he was about to explode from rage. How the f*ck?! He had sent four killers to Northpine Villa to take out Thomas once, but they failed. Not only did they fail, but they also ended up giving their lives for it! I spent so much time and effort training them! Not one to give up easily, Blake had sent out six more killers just to take out Thomas this time, but he still received no news even after so long.

Five minutes ago, his curiosity and impatience got the better of him, so he called the leader of the six, but no one took the call. He was no idiot. He knew that the mission had failed once again. How is that possible? He's not a god!

"Blake..." Jake called out to his brother quietly. He's furious. I think I can see the fire burning in his eyes. Gods, that's scary.

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"Tell them to keep hunting Thomas down. We'll send out eight—no, ten killers this time. There's no way he can keep getting away with it. I won't stop until he's dead!"

Jake's knees almost buckled out of the fear that he was feeling. "Calm down, Blake. He's scarier than we thought. If he manages to take out a few more of the killers, he'll destroy our trump card. We need that to stand tall."

The killers were the Hinds' trump cards. Training even one of them up required a lot of time, effort, and money. Thomas alone had taken out ten of

those killers, and they didn't have many of them left. This was a risk they must not take.

Blake calmed down a little after hearing that. Jake has a point. If I keep doing this, I'm going to ruin the family's foundation. But what about Drake? Thomas killed him, and he humiliated me. I won't let this slide until I have my revenge! But how?

"Blake, that man is no ordinary person. Our trump cards are powerful enough to run this city by themselves, but you saw what happened. Thomas is more terrifying than we thought. Besides... um..." Jake trailed off. If he kept going on, he'd be rubbing salt into his brother's wound. He didn't want to do that when Blake was furious, or Blake might take it out on him.

"Besides what? Spit it out!"

"Fine, but don't get mad." Jake mustered up his courage and continued, "Back when he charged into our house, he had taken you out without so much as breaking a sweat. You're the strongest fighter among us. If not even you can defeat him, I don't think anyone in the family can."

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Blake jolted in realization. That's right! Even I can't defeat Thomas, let alone the family's hidden forces. Wouldn't they be sitting ducks?

He berated himself for being so silly as to forget such an important detail! The ten of them wouldn't have had to die if I thought of this sooner!

The Hinds spent many years training them to become the family's core strength.

"I know what you're thinking, Blake. No matter what happens, we must seek vengeance against Thomas! However, we can't be reckless. I haven't been wasting my time, you know. I thought of an excellent way to get rid of that b*stard Thomas without bringing any harm to the family!" Jake declared smugly.

He spent several sleepless nights racking his brain before he came up with this plan and was immensely in awe of his own cleverness. He even thought he would've beaten Albert Einstein if he had been born sooner. "Tell me your idea."

Blake didn't know what to do anymore. He had always been obsessed with martial arts and paid no attention to anything else. While he was perfectly capable of killing off his opponents, he was no match for Jake when it came to schemes and nefarious plots.

"The key to killing Thomas lies with Olivia! We know what Olivia's identity is. It's no secret in Irieson. According to the reports we received, Thomas is currently staying with Olivia. Since they're always together, why don't we spread some news about them? We can say that they're dating and have moved in together and that Olivia has even lost her virginity to Thomas. How do you think the other families of the Six Greatest Families will react?"

Blake's eyes lit up. "They will kill Thomas no matter what the cost! They might even get so furious that they move against the Pearsons!"

Jake nodded. "That's right, Blake. When the time comes, it won't be just Thomas who's doomed. The entire Pearson Family would be goners, too! Hahaha! Isn't that exactly what we want?"

Blake was thrilled as he stuck his thumb up at Jake. "Genius! You're a genius! But the other families aren't fools. Will they truly believe us? After all, Thomas and Olivia aren't actually dating."

"You're too naive, Blake. It's almost the day of the sacrifice. I'm sure the six families are extremely sensitive right now. If they want to look into it, so be it. Olivia and Thomas have been getting very close, anyway. Who would believe that nothing's going on between a young man and a young woman living together?"

Blake nodded excitedly as he thought Jake had a point.

After the events of today, Blake began to see Jake in a whole new light. He finally understood why their late father instructed the two of them to work together to ensure the Hind Family would soar to new heights. They were a perfect complement, with one as the brains and the other as the brawn!

With how powerful Thomas is, we're not powerful enough to touch him, but that won't be the case if the six families banded together to attack him! All six families have their own hidden forces and strength. Even if Thomas had nine lives, he wouldn't stand a chance against the might of the six families!

"Let's not waste any time, Jake. Get it done right away!"

"Got it, Blake!"

Jake turned to leave as a sinister smirk crept onto his face. You're done for this time, Thomas. I'll make sure of it. Otherwise, I'll eat my own sh*t!

He had seen his son die at Thomas' hands. His hatred for Thomas was more than words could describe. Therefore, he was determined to see to it that Thomas was turned into a pile of ashes!

At 7.30PM, Thomas and Olivia walked out of Keyshire Property, but as soon as they got into the car, Thomas received a call from Quincy.

"Did you need something, Dr. Hofstead?" he asked.

"There's no time to waste, Thomas. Hurry up and come to the hospital at once. I'll be waiting for you!"

Quincy sounded panicked. They had a monumental crisis on their hands. Which b*stard was it that started spreading the rumors about Thomas and Olivia being in a relationship?! They're even claiming that Olivia lost her virginity to him! Isn't that just a blatant attempt to stir up resentment of the Six Greatest Families toward Thomas? Damn it, Irieson's going to be thrown into upheaval! Quincy thought.

I am greatly indebted to Thomas; I have just started studying the book 'The Imperial Acupuncture,' but my medical skills have already improved! I have to inform Thomas about this impending crisis right away so he can prepare himself for it. But... the rumors sounded so real. Could it be that Thomas and Olivia have already...

As soon as the thought came up, he quickly banished the thought. No! That's impossible! Others may not know Thomas, but I do! He's not the kind of man who would be controlled by his lower half!

As soon as the thought came up, he quickly banished the thought. No! That's impossible! Others may not know Thomas, but I do! He's not the kind of man who would be controlled by his lower half!

Meanwhile, Thomas was puzzled. What does he mean by there's no time left to waste? Did something major happen?

Nevertheless, he couldn't leave right now since he had to stay with Olivia. She worked hard all day, and it was time for her to rest.

"Is it urgent? Why don't you just tell me over the phone?"

He wouldn't mind letting Olivia stay at home alone during the day, but he was too worried to do that at night.

"It's an extremely serious matter, Thomas! I can't explain it over the phone. Stop dallying and hurry up!"

Quincy ended the call right after that.

"Oh, well!" Thomas sighed. I guess I'll have to drop Olivia off at Denver Residence. They should be able to keep her safe.

"Olivia, I'll drop you off at your grandfather's place. Stay there for a while. I'll come and get you once I settle something."

"Huh? Do you have something to do?" She was taken aback. Why would he still have matters to attend to so late in the day?

"Why don't you just drop me back home instead?"

"No, I can't leave you alone at home," he rejected the idea without hesitation.

"Okay, then. I'll go along with whatever you decide."

She smiled sweetly. He cares so much about me. He's so domineering yet so manly at the same time!

Along the way, Olivia informed Harrison that she would be dropping by for a while. Harrison was so happy that he instructed the household staff to prepare a table full of Olivia's favorite food.

Thomas drove up to Denver Residence. Olivia got out and waved goodbye. "Drive safe, Thomas. I'll be waiting."

"Got it."

Harrison had complicated feelings as he watched this scene play out before him. Someone of his age could clearly tell that Olivia had developed feelings for Thomas. While Thomas was a good and capable man who treated his granddaughter well, Harrison knew full well that she wasn't allowed to date anyone!

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Over at Prescott Hospital.

In the hospital director's office, Quincy filled Thomas in on the situation, and Thomas simply nodded in silence. Then, he stood up, walked over to the window, and opened it, feeling the cool breeze against his skin as he lit a cigarette and took a drag. It looked like he was considering how to deal with this.

His reaction did not surprise Quincy. Ever since the day he met Thomas, he had never seen the young man being flustered by anything. He keeps calm even in the face of calamity. That's the kind of man he is.

Quincy remained quiet as well. He didn't want to distract Thomas, so he sat on the couch and waited.

Soon, a new cigarette was lit up to replace the last. There was only a single table lamp turned on in the entire office, and the light it cast made it seem as if Thomas was shrouded in a cloud of smoke. It added a sense of mystery to him.

Thomas had long since prepared himself for the day he went against the Six Greatest Families. He thought it would only happen on the day Olivia was supposed to be sacrificed, so he didn't expect the day to come so quickly.

Nevertheless, it was bound to happen someday, and it couldn't be avoided. Since it arrived ahead of time, Thomas was perfectly capable of dealing with it in advance too.

He wasn't worried about his safety. Even if he had to go up against the combined forces of the Six Greatest Families, he didn't think it was anything worth fearing. After all, throughout the eight years he spent in the army, he experienced situations far more perilous than this and survived them all.

However, he was worried about Olivia and his godsister Chloe.

No matter how strong he was, he was only one man. He had nothing to fear if the Six Greatest Families targeted him and him alone, but what if they went after Olivia or Chloe? What am I supposed to do if that happens? I can't stay by their sides at all times!

With that in mind, Thomas turned around and said respectfully to Quincy, "I need to ask you for a favor, Dr. Hofstead."

Quincy swiftly waved his hand and said, "Thomas, I consider us great friends despite our age differences. Asking me for a favor only makes our relationship seem more distant than it is. Just go ahead and tell me what you need me to do."

Thomas nodded. "I know you're a powerful man of great social standing in Irieson. I would like you to help me protect my family."

"Protect your family? What about you?"

"Me? Hah!" Thomas smirked. "I'm going to have fun with the so-called Six Greatest Families, of course!"

Quincy gasped. Does Thomas intend to openly engage the Six Greatest Families in a fight?! We're talking about the Six Greatest Families here! If they combine forces, they'll be even more powerful than the people behind the Minacia Oito Irieson! How could Thomas possibly go up against them by himself? He would be courting death!

There had been another who offended the Six Greatest Families before, but in that instance, it had only been one of the six. Nevertheless, even just one family alone was enough to make that person come to a devastating end. Yet, Thomas was trying to stand against all six families alone. He must be joking!

Quincy looked up. He wanted to convince Thomas to change his mind. He figured that at a time like this, the best course of action would be something that ensured his safety.

However, when he saw the look in Thomas' eyes, he couldn't bring himself to say the words he planned on saying.

There was no trace of fear or panic in the young man's eyes—only the steely resolve to take his enemies on!

It was as if the Six Greatest Families were nothing to him. In fact, at this very moment, Thomas looked like the king of the world, looking down at everyone! As if everything and everyone were nothing more than ants to him!

What of the Six Greatest Families? What of their alarming power? That was all nonsense to him!

Even Quincy was moved by Thomas' air of dominance.

"Go ahead and do what you wish to do. I will send people to protect the Hahns," Quincy promised.

Considering his standing and prestige in Irieson, even the Six Greatest Families would show him some respect.

Thomas didn't make any response. Instead, he bowed deeply to Quincy as a show of gratitude.

Apart from Olivia, Quincy was the only other friend he had made ever since he left the army, and from the looks of it now, he was certain that Quincy was a friend worth making.

Someone willing to lend him a hand in such a dangerous situation had to be a true friend!

"Thomas, you must stay vigilant. The rumors that you and Olivia are dating have spread. With how powerful the Six Greatest Families are, they should undoubtedly hear about it by now. Perhaps they've already begun plotting their revenge against you."

"Who are the other four families of the Six Greatest Families besides the Pearsons and the Xalmars?"

"Who are the other four families of the Six Greatest Families besides the Pearsons and the Xalmars?"

"There's also the Hinds—whom you've offended—and the Yams, who are the top criminal underworld family."

Thomas nodded. He didn't think the Hinds would be one of the six. And the Yams, too? He hadn't forgotten about Leslie sending people to kill him and

was still waiting to get his revenge. He didn't expect to cross paths with Leslie again so soon. "And the other two?"

"The other two are the Saunders and the Zanes, who keep a much lower profile. They rarely appear in public, though they're not to be underestimated either. Furthermore, both families are extremely close- knit and will stand united."

Thomas smirked. He had no idea he had inadvertently exchanged blows with four of the Six Greatest Families. Based on his experience, they were nothing to be afraid of.

Quincy seemed to have deduced Thomas' thoughts and warned, "Don't underestimate your opponents, Thomas. Every single one of the six is a formidable enemy, especially the Yams. They're extremely hard to deal with. The family has been a part of the criminal underworld for generations now. They're a ruthless bunch. You must take the utmost caution."

"Don't worry, Dr. Hofstead," Thomas replied. "I will."

He was curious to know who had spread the rumors that he and Olivia were dating. It was obvious that the person wanted to get him killed.

Just who on earth is it? The Pearsons? No. I'm not the only one in danger, thanks to these rumors. Olivia would suffer, too. The Xalmars? The Hinds? Or the Yams?

Thomas was beginning to get a headache. Since he couldn't figure it out, he stopped wasting time on it. Oh, whatever!

Though the path ahead of him seemed to be leading him into the valley of death, he was going to keep moving forward anyway.

I'll kill whoever comes my way!

It was getting late, so Thomas stood to leave. Quincy escorted him to the hospital entrance. Once the Maserati drove off, Quincy sighed. "Irieson's long spell of peace is finally about to break. Don't let me down, Thomas!"

The rumors spread like wildfire. Quincy wasn't the only one who heard them. The Mortons and the Peralta Family found out about the rumors, too.

I'm Someone Else Chapter 157

Thomas pulled up outside Denver Residence, but he didn't head in as his phone started ringing with a call from Sean.

"Hey, Sean. What's up?"

"How could you, Thomas?!" Sean cried out disapprovingly. "You landed yourself the Most Beautiful Female Entrepreneur in Irieson without even telling us a single word! Shouldn't you at least treat us to some drinks to celebrate?!"

Aren't we buddies?! Why didn't he tell me the good news?

Sean was genuinely happy for Thomas. After all, Olivia was the woman of many fine young men in Irieson's dreams, especially due to her angelic face and devilish figure. Since Sean's buddy managed to get involved with the city's loveliest rose, he thought it was well within his rights to brag about it too!

Thomas is such a handsome and strong man, and Olivia's a gentle and beautiful woman. They're a match made in heaven!

"That's not true," Thomas refuted with a dry smile. "Olivia and I are just friends."

"Just friends?"

Sean sounded doubtful. "You don't need to lie to me, Thomas. This isn't something embarrassing. It's perfectly normal for a young man and a young woman to fall in love, and neither one of you is married anyway, so it doesn't matter if you get involved. It's the talk of the town already and the stories all sound so believable."

"I'm telling you it's not true," Thomas insisted. "Why would I need to lie to you?"

"Oh, alright..."

As soon as the call with Sean was over, it was followed by one with William who ask the same questions Sean did. Thomas felt a little exasperated. He wouldn't have bothered to entertain these questions if the person asking them hadn't been William. However, as William was a good friend of his, he forced himself to be patient and give an explanation all over again.

Once this call ended, Thomas immediately turned his phone off without wasting even a second.

Since Sean and William knew about the rumors, John and Samuel would have caught wind of them too. If I don't turn off my phone, I'll probably be fielding their calls next.

His friends were young and couldn't pick up on the fishiness of the rumors, but their grandfathers were undoubtedly astute enough to realize what was happening. It'll be even more of a hassle for me to give them an explanation.

Thomas knocked on the door and was surprised to find that it was Harrison who opened the door for him.

Alas, Harrison's expression was grim as he surveyed Thomas with a complicated gaze.

A fleeting pause in thought was enough for Thomas to deduce the reason for Harrison's expression. He must've heard the rumors.

"Where's Olivia?"

"She's resting upstairs."

Thomas nodded and head for the stairs. He wasn't interested in having a chat with Harrison.

"You heard about the rumors, right?"

The rumors had spread like wildfire. While it was plausible that the ordinary pedestrians on the street knew nothing of them, Thomas was one of the subjects of the rumors, so he had to have heard them by now.

Thomas glanced at Harrison. It went without saying that he knew what Harrison was referring to, but would the confirmation of whether or not he knew about the rumors make any difference now?

"Nope," Thomas replied before he carried on walking.

"Thomas!"

Harrison stopped him. "Do you think what you're doing is in Olivia's best interests? You're only making things worse for her!"

Harrison knew full well what Olivia's feelings were. He had to put a stop to everything before it was too late.

Thomas' footsteps halted. He lit up a cigarette. "What are you trying to say? Just come out and say it."

"Stay away from Olivia. You know very well that she doesn't have much time left. I don't want any accidents happening during this time. I just want her to enjoy the time that she has left!"

For some reason, the stern look on Harrison's face amused Thomas.

Let Olivia enjoy the time she has left? And? How many days is that? Olivia is only in her twenties. How can you just stand by and let her die?

"Olivia will only truly be safe if you stay away from me. At the very least, she'll be safe until the day of the sacrifice. After all, she's very important to the Six Greatest Families. They won't do anything to her."

"Hahaha!"

Thomas couldn't hold back his laughter anymore. The Six Greatest Families won't do anything to Olivia, huh? What a delusional thought!

Even setting aside the Pearsons for now, the Hinds had kidnapped Olivia with the intention of killing her and the Xalmars had also sent hitmen after her.

The Six Greatest Families, huh? Don't make me laugh. Sure, on the surface, they pretend to be of one mind, but in reality, they're all selfish b*stards who care about nothing other than their own desires. Their family's interest is the only thing they prioritize. Why would they care whether Olivia stays alive or not?

"What are you laughing about?" Harrison questioned.

"What are you laughing about?" Harrison questioned.

Thomas shook his head. He didn't answer the question. "Do you think Olivia will be safe once I stay away from her? Or, do you think she'll be happy?"

"Of course. She'll be safe if you would only just stay away from her. If you leave, I know she'll be sad for a while, but that doesn't matter. Nothing matters more than her life!"

"Oh."

Thomas puffed his cigarette and nonchalantly responded, "Is there anything else you wish to say?"

"No." Harrison stared at Thomas. Now that he addressed the matter outright, he assumed that a smart man like Thomas would know what to do if he truly wanted what was best for Olivia.

Thomas ignored Harrison and proceeded to head up the stairs.

He didn't want to waste his breath on Harrison.

How can you still be so naive at your age? What's the point of me trying to talk to you? It'll only be a waste of my time.

"Hey, you!"

Harrison was furious. He's impossible!

What does he mean by leaving just like that? Is he ignoring me? Or, is it because he can't even be bothered to talk to me?

Either way, Harrison took it as a slight!

I'm the head of the Denver Family! If I say jump, the people of Irieson will ask how high! He's the first person who's ever disrespected me like that, and it's not the first time he's done it!

That young man is far too arrogant!

Alas, Harrison could only gripe about it to himself. Even Quincy was courteous and respectful with Thomas, and Rafael was also subservient to him. Harrison knew he couldn't afford to offend Thomas, at least not now.

Thomas headed straight for Olivia's bedroom. He found her sleeping soundly.

He gently picked her up without waking her and took her back to Northpine Villa.

Naturally, he ignored the glares from Harrison.

Think you can scare me off just by glaring at me, old man? What a joke. Go ahead and start a fight with me, why don't you?

I was only willing to entertain you briefly for Olivia's sake.

Soon, they arrived at Northpine Villa. Thomas brought Olivia up to the bedroom and tucked her in before heading to the kitchen to prepare her medicine.

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Thomes hed to esk himself, Do I reelly think of Olivie es nothing more then just e friend?

If he hed esked himself this eerlier, he would've been eble to give e cleer enswer. However, he could no longer tell whether he hed romentic feelings for Olivie.

Especially efter thet dey et the mell when Olivie subtly confessed her feelings to him. Thomes' heert, which seemed to heve turned to stone by now, stirred ever so slightly.

While he couldn't sey for certein thet he liked her, he did seem to cere for her in e wey thet went beyond friendship.

Thenkfully for Thomes, he hed e hebit of not dwelling on things he couldn't figure out.

He shook his heed end focused on prepering Olivie's medicine.

The night pessed in peece. By the time Olivie woke up the next morning, Thomes elreedy prepered breekfest.

Olivie rubbed her eyes end looked eround to confirm thet she wes beck et Northpine Ville.

Although it wesn't her first time being cerried home by Thomes, the thought of him pulling her into his erms mede her cheeks flush end her heert pound.

They hed e simple breekfest before heeding over to Keyshire Property.

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They felt sefe when they sew him sitting on the couch in front of them.

At 11.00AM, Thomes got to his feet end seid to Olivie, "Remember to eet your lunch on time. I need to heed out for e bit. I'll be beck in the efternoon."

"Alright. Drive sefe."

Olivie fleshed him e sweet smile. She wesn't going to be foolish end esk whet Thomes wes going to do. She understood thet he wes e men who needed his freedom end independence. He would only tire of her if she kept trying to hold onto him.

Either wey, he has elreedy promised me that he'll elweys protect me. He's not going to leeve me, so why would I need to be efreid?

Thomes drove to the plece thet Zoe picked out which wes e resteurent in the city center. He promised to heve lunch with her todey.

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If he had asked himself this earlier, he would've been able to give a clear answer. However, he could no longer tell whether he had romantic feelings for Olivia.

Especially after that day at the mall when Olivia subtly confessed her feelings to him. Thomas' heart, which seemed to have turned to stone by now, stirred ever so slightly.

While he couldn't say for certain that he liked her, he did seem to care for her in a way that went beyond friendship.

Thankfully for Thomas, he had a habit of not dwelling on things he couldn't figure out.

He shook his head and focused on preparing Olivia's medicine.

The night passed in peace. By the time Olivia woke up the next morning, Thomas already prepared breakfast.

Olivia rubbed her eyes and looked around to confirm that she was back at Northpine Villa.

Although it wasn't her first time being carried home by Thomas, the thought of him pulling her into his arms made her cheeks flush and her heart pound.

They had a simple breakfast before heading over to Keyshire Property.

Just as always, Thomas waited until he watched Olivia finish off the medicine he made before smiling in satisfaction.

Molly came to the office early too. Just like Olivia, she kept stealing glances at Thomas from time to time no matter how busy she was. It had become a fixed part of both women's work lives.

They felt safe when they saw him sitting on the couch in front of them.

At 11.00AM, Thomas got to his feet and said to Olivia, "Remember to eat your lunch on time. I need to head out for a bit. I'll be back in the afternoon."

"Alright. Drive safe."

Olivia flashed him a sweet smile. She wasn't going to be foolish and ask what Thomas was going to do. She understood that he was a man who needed his

freedom and independence. He would only tire of her if she kept trying to hold onto him.

Either way, he has already promised me that he'll always protect me. He's not going to leave me, so why would I need to be afraid?

Thomas drove to the place that Zoe picked out which was a restaurant in the city center. He promised to have lunch with her today.

Zoe stood at the entrance waiting for him. She was dressed in a long, white dress that made her look like a princess who stepped out of a fairytale. Many eyes were drawn to her.

Her enchanting beauty captivated them.

However, Zoe paid no attention to the looks she received from the passersby. She kept looking around in the hopes that Thomas would arrive earlier than the appointed time.

Initially, she wanted to cook for Thomas herself. As they said, the way to a man's heart was through his stomach.

Nevertheless, she changed her mind. It was going to be her first time having a meal alone with Thomas and a homecooked meal at home seemed too casual for such an occasion. She thought it was better to have a meal with him at a proper restaurant instead. It would be even better if we could have dinner together. We could get them to light a few candles for the table. It'll be a romantic candlelit dinner!

Alas, Thomas told her that he was busy at night, so she had no choice but to settle for lunch instead.

Screech.

Thomas parked the car and walked over to the restaurant.

"You're here at last, Thomas! I've been waiting for you for quite some time now." Zoe teased.

Thomas scratched his head awkwardly. "I ran into some traffic on the roads just now."

They walked into the restaurant and Zoe ordered for them. They conversed as they ate.

"My brother can rest in peace now and it's all thanks to you, Thomas. I don't know how long it would've taken me to avenge him without your help."

Zoe raised her wine glass and toasted Thomas.

The infamous Minacia Oito Irieson had killed Dominic, and Zoe was nothing more than an ordinary woman without any power or influence. She would never have been able to avenge Dominic.

"Dominic was my friend," Thomas replied. "Avenging him is what I should do. You don't need to thank me."

Zoe nodded. The thought of her brother made her eyes a little teary.

Thomas noticed her reaction and sighed.

While he did avenge Dominic, there was no turning back time. Dominic was dead. He couldn't come back alive.

"Don't worry, Zoe. Although Dominic is no longer with us, you still have me. From now on, I'll be your brother. You can tell me whenever you need my help. I'll look after you in Dominic's stead."

Thomas tried to console Zoe.

Thomas tried to console Zoe.

"You'll be my brother? I'll be your sister?" Zoe looked up and asked.

"That's right." Thomas didn't notice the strangeness of Zoe's reaction.

Her eyes flashed with disappointment.

I see. He merely thinks of me like a sister. Just a sister...

The atmosphere between them was a little awkward throughout the remainder of lunch. Zoe was distracted and didn't speak up again.

Thomas was never a chatty person, so since Zoe wasn't speaking, neither did he.

He was rather confused. What happened? Did I say something wrong? Why do I get the feeling that Zoe became rather sad all of a sudden?

Alas, a clueless and imperceptive man like Thomas would never be able to discern a woman's thoughts.

Ever since coming to blows with Thomas at the hospital, Terrence moved into Pearson Residence. He had no choice as his son was seriously injured and Thomas had left his grandson permanently disabled. Despite his old age, he was the only one who could lead the family now.

He had a stormy look on his face. The Pearsons were under immense pressure due to the rumors of Olivia being in a relationship. After all, she was also a Pearson.

If she was dating and lost her virginity, it meant that the rules of the Six Greatest Families had been broken. How was he going to provide the other five families with an explanation?

"Thomas Clifford! I, Terrence Pearson, will see to it that you pay for this!" Terrence snarled.

Why would we, the Pearsons, have ended up in this mess if it hadn't been for Thomas' arrival? We would still have control over Olivia and the Pearsons wouldn't be at the mercy of the other five families.

The Pearsons were in a terrible state now. They had already been engaged in a fight with the Hinds, and now, after this incident, the Hinds were bound to target them even more. If it's true that Olivia's dating someone, then we Pearsons might even be removed from the Six Greatest Families! All the generations of hard work would have been for nothing!

Just then, there was a knock on the door.

Terrence snapped out of his thoughts and went to open it.

A white-haired old man just like him came in.

"It's been a while!"

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Terrence had a bitter smile on his face as he nodded and greeted, "Yes, it's been a while."

Even he has come. The news of Olivia dating someone has a far greater impact than I thought!

The elderly man took a seat on the couch and Terrence personally served him a cup of tea.

The elderly man took a sip and complimented, "Excellent. This is exquisite tea. You sure know how to enjoy yourself, Old Mr. Pearson. Hahaha!"

Terrence quickly demurred, "Not at all. This is just ordinary tea. If you like it, Taylor, I'll have someone send some over to your place."

The elderly man was Taylor Saunder, the head of the Saunders.

Taylor and Terrence were in-laws as Taylor's daughter, Yuna Saunder, married Terrence's second son, Declan Pearson. Yuna was Yukine's mother.

Taylor waved his hand and said, "I didn't come here for tea. Let's not beat around the bush. How do you plan on dealing with Olivia's situation?"

Terrence had a pained smile. Naturally, he knew why Taylor was here. All of Irieson knew that Olivia was dating someone. It went without saying that the Saunders, as one of the Six Greatest Families, would have heard about it too.

"Since you're here, Taylor, I'm sure you must have some thoughts about the matter. Let me hear what you think first."

Taylor nodded and said, "I think we can't keep that Thomas Clifford guy around! Unlike the other families, I didn't come over to question you without doing my due diligence first. I looked into the situation. Although things haven't gone too far between that man and Olivia, they are indeed a bit too

close for comfort. They're certainly closer than friends would be. If he sticks around, sooner or later, something major will happen!"

His tone gradually hardened. As the head of such a prominent family, other people's lives were inconsequential. Why would Thomas be of any importance in comparison to the interest of the family? He could kill dozens of people without even blinking, let alone just one person.

"I want him dead too, Taylor. Ever since he showed up, we Pearsons have not had any peace..."

Just the thought of Thomas now was enough to make Terrence grind his teeth. Not only did Thomas take Olivia away, but he even turned Gavin into a disabled man and left Norman, the chairman of Pearson Group heavily injured! Terrence wanted nothing more than to rip Thomas apart, drink his blood, and eat his flesh! But... he couldn't actually do any of that...

"Why haven't you done anything then?"

Taylor was confused. Since Terrence wanted Thomas dead, why was Thomas still alive and kicking now? It didn't make sense!

"Thomas Clifford is extremely powerful. I exchanged blows with him once and he knocked me down with just a single blow..."

"What?" Taylor's eyes widened at once. Terrence was knocked down with just a single blow?

Although Terrence was getting up in the years now, he hadn't lost his martial arts abilities. In his youth, he was one of the top martial arts experts in Irieson. How could a young brat possibly knock him down? How is that possible?

Terrence noticed Taylor's shock and continued, "It's true, Taylor. It's not just me. That Clifford fellow even struck down Blake Hinds with a single blow, and he even killed Drake Hinds, Blake's most

beloved nephew, right in front of Blake!"

At the mention of this, Terrence was reminded of the four men from the Pearsons' hidden forces. Each one of them had been extremely valuable to the family. A lot of time and money had been spent on training them. However, after heading out to assassinate Thomas, they were never heard from again while Thomas was alive and well. That was enough to prove that Thomas had killed them!

How silly of me! If Thomas Clifford can defeat Blake in a single blow, what could those four guys do to him?

"W-What?"

Taylor gasped. After all, Blake was a martial arts expert through and through and was unanimously considered the best fighter in Irieson. Thomas Clifford defeated too? And with just a single blow!

He also heard about Drake's death, but he didn't know it was Thomas' doing. Thomas Clifford is inconceivably arrogant!

However, how strong is he that he's able to defeat Blake with a single blow? Who in Irieson can possibly stand against him? Taylor was too stunned to dwell on that question.

"The biggest problem is that Thomas' background is shrouded in mystery. You know who Rafael Mazer is, right?"

"Of course," Taylor replied. "He's the head of Keyshire Property and one of the most important men in Irieson!"

"That's right, and let me tell you what I saw at the hospital that day. All Thomas Clifford did was make a call and Rafael Mazer immediately had a contract brought over to the hospital. He handed Keyshire Property over on a silver platter! Rafael Mazer already comes from an immensely powerful

background, but even he takes orders from Thomas Clifford. Think about it, Taylor..." "That's right, and let me tell you what I saw at the hospital that day. All Thomas Clifford did was make a call and Rafael Mazer immediately had a contract brought over to the hospital. He handed Keyshire Property over on a silver platter! Rafael Mazer already comes from an immensely powerful background, but even he takes orders from Thomas Clifford. Think about it, Taylor..."

"Goodness me!"

Taylor felt his entire worldview crumbling around him. Even his breathing grew harder. He was well and truly scared of Thomas now.

Terrence let out a helpless sigh. He hadn't even mentioned the fact that Rafael also handed over a large sum of cash, though he figured it wasn't worth mentioning since even Keyshire Property itself was gifted away.

"It's impossible for us to bring Olivia back by force. We can only try to get her to return by choice. I've contacted Declan. Now that Norman's at home

recuperating and can't move around, Declan's the only one who can try to talk to Olivia."

Taylor nodded. "That's the only thing we can do now."

Initially, Taylor thought he would be able to lend a hand in this matter. He didn't mind using the Saunders' hidden forces either. After all, they were related by marriage and he couldn't just stand by and watch when the Pearsons had a crisis on their hands.

He never thought Thomas would not only be an expert fighter himself but would come from a mysterious yet powerful background. That was not someone the Saunders could afford to offend! If what he heard from Terrence today had been nothing but the truth, then even if the Saunders joined hands with their allies, the Zanes, it could still be insufficient for them to deal with Thomas!

Just then, a middle-aged man walked into the house. It was Terrence's second son Declan.

He was based in Capitalis, but he got a call from his father last night. Terrence filled him in on everything. The Pearsons were currently in a precarious position and at risk of being targeted by the other five families. Terrence had no choice but to summon Declan back from Capitalis in the hopes that Declan could reason with Olivia. After all, when Olivia was young, Declan had doted on her quite a bit. Terrence hoped that Olivia would take that into account and return to the family voluntarily.

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"Dad! Taylor!" Declan Pearson greeted the two elderly men.

"Declan, Olivia lives at Northpine Villa's Villa No. 66. You should head over there. Maybe there's still a chance to change things around if you're there to deal with the matter."

Others might not know this, but Terrence knew very well that although Declan was Olivia's uncle, he and Olivia were way closer than Oliva and her father!

When Olivia was still young, Terrence would either bring her a well-thoughtout gift or bring her out for a sumptuous meal whenever he returned from Capitalis. That was something the entire family knew about. At this moment, Declan seemed angry because his father had called to tell him about what had happened with Olivia yesterday. His father-in-law, Taylor Saunders, might seem like a kind man, but if Olivia continued to stay out of the Pearson Family's control, the other five families of the Six Greatest Families would definitely knock on their door and demand an explanation, including Taylor.

No matter whether they were in-laws or not, such a relationship was nothing when it came to family interests!

Moreover, his father had made it clear to him on the phone yesterday that the Hind, Yam, and Xalmar Families had come to ask for an explanation, but the Pearson Family had yet to give them one. If he couldn't persuade Olivia to return home, the Pearson Family might face their toughest crisis yet—To be besieged by the other five families!

"Don't worry, Dad. I'll do my best to get Olivia to come home. Don't be nervous. I'll head home to rest and then go to look for her."

After giving the others his promise, Declan left. He had rushed all the way home, so he needed to take a rest and prepare a nice gift for his niece. That way, their meeting wouldn't be too awkward.

Now that he thought of it, he hadn't seen Olivia for many years and wondered if she would still see him as a respected elder. Then, he couldn't help but feel curious about Thomas. Who on earth is this Clifford guy? We Pearsons wouldn't be in such a mess if he didn't appear!

Seeing that Declan had left, Taylor spoke up. "Hey, Terrence, there's something I have been keeping in my mind for a long while, but I'm afraid it might hurt our family's relationship if I say it aloud."

"Taylor, what is there to be worried about? Don't be shy and just say what's on your mind!"

"The Pearson Family is in this situation because of your own doings!"

"What?" Terrence became slightly agitated. "Taylor, what do you mean to say?"

"Don't you understand? Let me ask you this, how are Olivia's management skills? Forget the future, and let's focus on the period after she became Pearson Group's president. How was her performance?"

"She did well. I couldn't compare myself to her." Terrence was honest with his answer.

Taylor nodded. "Olivia is indeed a once-in-a-lifetime genius, and that is something the entire Irieson has witnessed. Otherwise, she wouldn't be dubbed the Most Beautiful Female Entrepreneur in Irieson! The Pearson Group's profits are influenced by the past, so it's impossible for Olivia to change anything. Even though I'm Yukine's grandfather, I'll put in a fair word and say Olivia is the most talented amongst all the youngsters in the Pearson Family.

"But what did you do? Have you ever shown her any consideration or taken care of her? I'm sure it's a no. Since her mother's passing, you guys have pretended to care for her before the public when, in

fact, you all see her as a money-gathering tool!"

He continued, "I know you guys dislike the Denver Family, and they do behave overbearingly, but honestly, the Denvers had done nothing wrong to the Pearson Family, and they have been even protecting the Pearson Family for many years. Do you think it's fair for Olivia to get such treatment because her mother failed to bear a son for you Pearson Family?"

As the Pearsons' in-law, Taylor knew all too well about what went on in the Pearson Family. Among everyone in that family, only Declan and Ophelie—not even Norma—truly cared about Olivia! No matter what, Olivia was a part of the Pearson Family. She had the Pearson Family blood flowing inside her, yet they treated her so unfairly. Those oblivious to the situation might think the Pearsons were very nice to Olivia, but only the Pearsons know the truth.

- "I... That..." Terrence was so shocked by what Taylor said that he stammered but couldn't say anything in full. That was because what Taylor said was true, and Terrence had no way of refuting it.
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"Terrence, ask yourself, have you ever considered yourself a grandfather when it comes to Olivia? Would she have been so determined to leave the Pearson Family if you guys hadn't done something to hurt her? Yet now, you want her back after something happened. Mind me for being blunt, but even I feel embarrassed for you!"

Then, Taylor rose to his feet and said, "That is not how humans should behave, so I'll leave you to think about it."

Once that was said, he left the villa.

Meanwhile, Terrence sat on the couch, entranced. Have I really gone too far? Have I? I didn't care much about her, that's it. Is that too much? It's not like I refused to provide for her. I've given her the best I can offer since she was young and even sent her to the best schools. But even an outsider like Taylor couldn't stand it, which means I have indeed gone too far, right? Wait! I have done nothing wrong. Isn't this how prestigious families should be? What right does Taylor have to accuse me of not doing well enough? Also, since Olivia has decided to leave the family that brought her up, it means that she has openly declared to sever ties with us Pearson Family! Doesn't she feel guilty about that? And now she's even dating that Thomas guy. She's harming the family! How malevolent! All in all, it's all Olivia's fault. She's an unloyal and ingrate child, so I have done nothing wrong.

If Olivia found out about her grandfather's thoughts, she would certainly regret not leaving the Pearson Family sooner because what was the point of having such a family? If Thomas hadn't appeared, she would have lived in such a heartless family until she became the sacrifice! How cruel was her family to sacrifice her and still want to gain every ounce of profit from her? She was lucky to have left the Pearson Family!

Meanwhile, when Declan returned home, Yukine opened the door for him.