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Thomas looked at the three men and added, "You clearly know how cruel being a sacrifice is to Olivia. Not only will she get molested by others, but she will also be taken advantage of. You know that, yet you still want that for her. Are you even humans? Do you Pearsons still have an ounce of humanity inside you?"

"Who... Who told you that?"

Thomas' words shocked Duban and the others. That was a secret between the Six Greatest Families. Even if other families found out about it, they would tacitly remain quiet and not rat them out. So how did Thomas find out about this?

However, they only received Thomas' fists in response.

Since Duban had suffered serious injuries because he tried to go head-on with Thomas, he was now at his limit and had no chance of defending himself. Therefore, he could only watch as Thomas' fist grew closer and larger as it moved toward him. He subconsciously tried to raise his hand, but Thomas' kick had broken them, so he could no longer raise them.

Click!

Blood squirted everywhere, and even Duban's face was disfigured from Thomas' punch. At that moment, the Pearson Family's martial arts master, someone basically unmatched in the entire city, was dead.

Thomas kicked Duban's corpse away, taunting, "Do you think I would submit to the likes of you?"

Once he said that, he turned to look at the shocked duo, Terrence and Norman. He came here today to end their lives, after all.

"Ahh—" Following a miserable scream, the head of the Pearson Family, Norman Pearson, was dead.

Thomas looked at Terrence with cold eyes, thinking, This old b*stard deserves to die. Though Norman seemed frightening, he was all talk but no bite, and he

would not have devised the plan of impersonating Olivia with his pea-sized brain.

Bam! With one punch, Terrence was thrown to the ground while Thomas looked down at him from above.

“Terrence, do you remember what I said to you at the hospital? I will kill whoever dares to hurt Olivia! Who do you think you are? Do you think I care about the Pearson Family’s status? Do you think just because you’re Terrence Pearson that you can ignore my words? At first, I thought I should respect you all because you’re all Olivia’s relatives, but you just have to repeatedly challenge me, so you only have yourself to blame for this! Go to hell, but don’t worry. I’ll send your beloved grandson Gavin down to accompany you soon! Every core member of the Pearson Family will be with you soon!”

Crack! Thomas snapped Terrence’s neck.

Once he was done, he rose to his feet because this matter was not done yet. The woman named Shadow could no longer be kept around. Otherwise, who knows when she might appear and replace Olivia again? Thomas took out his phone to call Quincy and ask him to help with tracking Shadow down, but before he could make the call, he heard rushed footsteps coming from the door. When he looked toward the door, he saw it was Shadow!

“Master!” Shadow screamed when she saw the tragic scene inside the villa. Terrence had assigned her another task just now, and now that she was done, she wanted to return and report to Terrence. However, who would have thought that her master was now a corpse? She unconsciously approached the body, wanting to make sure that her master was really dead.

Slap! But before she could approach the body, Thomas appeared and slapped her to the ground.

“Thomas?” Shadow looked at him with vicious eyes, wondering, He... He came to find revenge? This is the Pearson Residence, the one Elder Duban would be guarding, yet he had killed them all. Does that mean even Elder Duban lost to him? This man is too terrifying!

However, Thomas was in no mood to talk nonsense with Shadow, so he went up to her and ended her.

She impersonated Olivia to spy on him and transferred half of Keyshire Property's business to Pearson Group. If Olivia hadn't cleverly escaped, he might have been fooled for his entire life.

Thomas tidied up his attire and left the Pearson Residence before taking out his phone to call Quincy, asking him to find the location of the other Pearson Family core members. He made it very clear that he wanted to know where Declan, Yukine, and Gavin were. Those three were on Thomas' hit list.

Meanwhile, Quincy was dumbfounded. Why did Thomas suddenly want to know where those three were? Was there some sort of dispute between him and the Pearson Family? But Thomas had hung up before Quincy could ask anything, so Quincy could only sigh and shake his head. He thought he should just look for what Thomas wanted.

If Yukine and Gavin deserved to die, what about Declan? Thomas did not know much about Declan, but judging from how he behaved when visiting Olivia at Northpine Villa, he seemed to have a good relationship with Olivia. Will Olivia be sad if I kill Declan? Or will she be mad at me? Maybe I should ask Olivia first.

Then, Thomas returned to his office at Keyshire Property. When he got there, he couldn't see Molly anywhere, and only Olivia was lying on the couch inside the large office.

Just as Thomas entered the office, he frowned, wondering why the room was so cold. Could Olivia have turned on the air conditioning? But that wasn't right because it wasn't cold but eerie cold, which was not caused by air conditioning.

Thomas ran to the couch. "Olivia, wake up!"

But Olivia didn't respond, so he placed his hand on her forehead and felt a bone-chilling coldness. He had guessed right. The eerie cold inside the office came from Olivia's body!

Immediately, he knew that Olivia's condition had relapsed. It had happened before, but something was not right. Ever since she began drinking his medication, the poison inside her body had decreased by 70 percent, so why would there be a sudden outbreak? It was simply abnormal! Could it be...

Thomas thought of a possibility—Olivia hadn't taken her herbal medicine for two straight days! The poison inside her body was very domineering, and she would suffer a backlash if she stopped taking her herbal medicine for three days. By then, Olivia would die because her body couldn't withstand the frost poison. But it had only been two days. Why did it suddenly have an outbreak?

Thomas put his finger under Olivia's nose to test her breathing and thankfully found her still breathing, albeit quite shallow. Not daring to waste any more time, he quickly took out his silver needles and began giving her acupuncture.

Just like that, one hour passed, but Olivia still did not respond.

Thomas stood beside the couch, watching the unconscious Olivia while frowning and falling into deep thought. He never would have expected the backlash of the poison to be so strong. Even his silver needles could not wake her.

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But what else could he do? Thomas knew he used the acupuncture technique in 'The Imperial Acupuncture.' If that method could not save Olivia, then ordinary herbal medicine would not do anything. That's right! I have Blood of the Blazing Sun! How did I forget that? There was something mysterious about his blood as it contained the ability to restore a nearly dead person's health!

Once he thought of that, he grabbed the knife on the table and slashed his artery without hesitation, then placed it next to Olivia's lips to ensure his blood flowed into her mouth. Luckily for them, Olivia escaped just in time. The backlash of the poison was already so serious after only two days of her not taking the herbal medicine. Olivia would probably lose her life if she went three days without the medicine.

However, after half an hour, Olivia still showed no signs of waking up!

Thomas' face was pale as a ghost at this point, and he might die of blood loss before Olivia woke up if this continued. So, he quickly pressed on a few acupoints to stop his bleeding.

"Olivia, wake up!" He tried waking her up again, but Olivia still did not respond. Then, he placed his hand on her forehead again.

Instantly, Thomas' eyes widened when he discovered her forehead was still icy. Didn't I just give her a ton of blood? Why isn't she showing any improvement?

Taking off his shirt to expose his arm, Thomas was still unconvinced and slashed his arm. Then, he ignored the dizziness and continued to feed Olivia his Blood of the Blazing Sun.

As time passed, Thomas closed his eyes tightly. His pale-as-paper face was filled with sweat.

Finally, he could not hold on any longer and fell on his butt.

"Phew! Phew!" While stopping the bleeding on his arm, Thomas breathed heavily. Even if he weren't an ordinary man, it was still tough for him to lose so much blood at once.

Why? Why is this happening? Is the Blood of the Blazing Sun not working? But that's impossible! I've even used it to save Chloe from near death. If even the Blood of the Blazing Sun wasn't working, then Thomas was out of methods to save Olivia.

Click! Thomas lit his cigarette and took a draw while shivering uncontrollably.

Olivia must not die! He had had enough after Zachary's death! Even if someone had to die, he would die before her! But what other method could there be? Even his trump card, his Blood of the Blazing Sun, could not cure Olivia's condition, so there was no other way! What was the use of having such great medical skills when he couldn't save the people he cared about?

At that moment, Thomas felt devastated. He knew now to read his body's condition well. He knew blood was extremely important to a person and that he was at his very limit.

Powerless. That was how he felt both physically and mentally. If his enemies, like the Hinds or Xalmars, came at this moment, they would easily kill him because he was now extremely weak from losing too much blood.

"Olivia, I'm sorry. It's all my fault. I failed to keep my promise to protect you..." Thomas felt great remorse as tears began welling in his eyes. If this condition persisted, the only outcome for Olivia would be death.

Olivia would not have ended up in this situation if he hadn't been careless and failed to discover that Shadow was an imposter.

To think of it, he had an unshakeable responsibility for Olivia's death, and from a particular level, Olivia's death was the same as Zachary's. They died because of his incompetence.

"Wow!" At that moment, Molly came in and shivered, wondering why the office was so cold. But when she looked up, she froze.

Olivia was lying on the couch with disheveled hair and unkempt clothes, while Thomas was sitting and smoking on the side, all sweaty. Most importantly, he was half-naked. Molly could not help but wonder what had happened there. Could it be that Thomas and Miss Pearson were having...

A possibility came to Molly's mind that could perfectly explain why the two were in such a state.

It seems like Thomas likes Miss Pearson more... It makes sense because Miss Pearson is such a great woman, a beautiful swan, while I'm the ugly duckling! Molly could no longer hold in her emotions, and tears began running down her eyes. Even if she had expected it was impossible between her and Thomas, she had been secretly admiring him for so long, so it was still heartbreaking for her to see this. She thought, No wonder he has been quite cold to me lately, rejecting my invitations and keeping our conversations to the minimum. It turns out he and Olivia had already gotten together.

While looking at Olivia lying still on the couch and her disheveled hair, Molly thought they must have engaged in that sort of activity.

Thomas turned to look at Molly and ordered strictly, "Stay away!"

Since he was frustrated, he did not pay attention to his tone.

When Molly heard what was said, she looked deeply at Thomas' unfriendly face before turning around and running away. She hid in the corner of the hallway and cried her heart out. The moment she heard him say, "stay away," she felt like her heart had cracked into pieces.

Molly did not think deeper into this matter. Both Thomas and Olivia were not insatiable people who would sleep together in the office during the day. Also, the two lived together, so they would have slept

together long ago if they did have something going on. They didn't have to engage in such activities in the office.

While Molly was bawling her eyes out, Thomas had brought Olivia back to Northpine Villa.

To his surprise, Thomas discovered some changes in Olivia's body. Some faint traces of blood could be seen through her shirt, and it was not only confined to one spot. That discovery startled him, and he wondered, What's this? Olivia's not injured, so where did the blood come from?

He could care less about gender taboos at this moment and quickly took off Olivia's shirt to check on her. What he saw was Olivia's skin had dried, and there were a lot of fine cracks on her skin. The blood was seeping out from those cracks.

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It was evident that this was somehow related to the rebound of toxins within Olivia's body.

Judging by the appearance, it seemed that the cracks had started forming long before she was taken away; it was only today that they began to bleed.

One could only imagine the kind of pain Olivia had endured during those two days.

Plop!

A teardrop fell to the ground as Thomas whispered, "I'm sorry, it's all my fault. I failed to protect you."

He fetched a basin of warm water and brought a clean towel, gently wiping Olivia's body in an attempt to alleviate her pain. Deep down, he knew it wouldn't make much of a difference.

"Thomas, my birthday was ruined because you stood me up. You owe me a birthday celebration!"

"Orange cake, of all things. How did you know I love oranges?"

"Thank you, Thomas. This has been the happiest day in the past ten years for me because you are by my side."

“Thomas, will you keep on protecting me?”

Images of the moments shared with Olivia replayed in Thomas’ mind like scenes from a movie.

Pure and untainted, Olivia was like a clear spring that had gradually seeped into his heart without him noticing.

Though she appeared cold and proud on the surface, she was incredibly innocent. She seemed fragile, yet there was an inner resilience within her.

That was the kind of woman she was.

If, at the very moment he first saw her, he had thought of giving her medicine, perhaps there would have been a chance to turn things around. But his mind was clouded by anger and revenge, and he only focused on seeking justice for Olivia. It was now too late for regrets...

Hmm? As he continued to wipe, Thomas suddenly realized that Olivia was different now compared to before! Her body was no longer as cold as ice; she had some warmth to her skin!

“Is...”

It is probably my Blood of the Blazing Sun that has finally taken effect over time. It seems I didn’t waste all that blood for nothing. That also means that Olivia hasn’t recovered because she hasn’t consumed enough Blood of the Blazing Sun! Olivia won’t have to die if he could just feed her more of my blood!

But he didn’t have more blood he could spare. Even with his healthy hematopoiesis, he couldn’t possibly fully recover in such a short time.

Thomas stood up, furrowing his brow as he tried to come up with a solution. As long as he could save Olivia, he was willing to take any risk, even if it meant draining the last drop of blood from his body.

He hurried back to his bedroom and soon returned with a set of silver needles used for acupuncture. Without any hesitation, he directly pierced the acupoints on his body.

Prick! Prick!

When the final needle pierced his skin, Thomas' forehead veins bulged, and his teeth were grinding noisily.

It was excruciatingly and unbearably painful!

Those acupoints stimulated the bone marrow within his body. He wanted to ensure that the bone marrow produced enough blood in an extremely short time to guarantee Olivia's safety!

This kind of pain that came from the bone marrow was reminiscent of a certain legendary general's bone-scraping treatment that had been praised for generations since ancient times. However, the suffering Thomas endured at this moment far exceeded the pain the general had experienced back then. In fact, it was a hundredfold worse.

The mere thought of scraping the bone's surface with a knife was already unimaginable. One could only imagine how much worse it was to forcefully stimulate the bone marrow. After all, the bone marrow was inside the bones!

It didn't take much to know the excruciating pain Thomas was putting up with.

Any ordinary person would have long been rendered unconscious by such agony. However, Thomas, with his extraordinary resilience, gritted his teeth and persevered through.

Being well-versed in medicine, Thomas was well aware of the risks of forcibly stimulating blood production. A slight misstep could lead him straight to the underworld, and even if he managed to survive the ordeal with the utmost caution, there was a great chance he would be paralyzed for life.

If Quincy knew what Thomas was doing at this moment, he would undoubtedly stop Thomas without hesitation. Thomas wasn't saving Olivia; he was toying with his own life!

The moment he fainted from the pain, there would be no hope of waking up! Not in this lifetime!

"Gah!"

After more than ten minutes, Thomas' complexion gradually regained a healthy flush. It was a sign of his blood replenishing itself. When he couldn't bear this piercing agony any longer, he removed the

silver needles from his body.

Next, he strode toward Olivia, took off his shirt, slice his wrist, and began feeding her the Blood of the Blazing Sun.

Another half an hour passed, and Thomas slumped to the ground. He felt like the whole world had turned black and white, devoid of any color. Even the objects before his eyes seemed to spin incessantly. This was a symptom of excessive blood loss.

Despite this, Thomas didn't go and get rest. He remained by Olivia's side and constantly observed her reactions.

He would check Olivia's body temperature every ten minutes.

He had done everything in his power. As long as Olivia could safely endure the rebound of the toxins this time, he would have a way to completely rid her body of them.

After the Blood of the Blazing Sun entered Olivia's body, it rapidly merged with her blood and voraciously devoured the toxins. It was safe to say that Thomas wasn't just treating Olivia's illness; he was giving her an exchange transfusion using his own blood!

Thomas' blood was different from that of ordinary people. The Blood of the Blazing Sun was the nemesis of all toxins. Otherwise, Olivia would undoubtedly meet her doom.

Finally, on his sixth check on Olivia, he could clearly feel that her body temperature had improved significantly. Thomas checked her pulse again. Fortunately, it had stabilized this time. Olivia should be able to wake up with a little more rest.

As Thomas stood by the window, a satisfied smile tugged on the corners of his mouth. Thank goodness, Olivia is fine. I'm glad I can still see her without harm.

If there had been any mishap just now, Thomas could have waited for Olivia in the underworld.

After Thomas covered Olivia with a blanket, he got up and left. The toxins in Olivia's body were only suppressed by his Blood of the Blazing Sun. To

remove them completely, she would need to continue taking medicine. The previous prescription had lost its effectiveness, so he had to prepare a new one. Fortunately, Thomas was skilled in medicine. He formulated another prescription by simply giving it a thought.

Additionally, he needed to prepare an ointment for Olivia's dry and cracked skin. He knew Olivia too well. If she woke up and found her body in its current state, she would most likely lose her mind. After going through all the trouble to save her, Thomas would have too much to lose if she were to take her own life.

An hour later, Thomas, dragging his incredibly weary figure, returned to the villa. The first thing he did was rush into the kitchen and began brewing the medicine. Once it was ready, he personally fed it to Olivia.

Thomas was exceptionally weak at this moment. He felt his eyelids fighting to stay open, but he couldn't rest, at least not until Olivia woke up.

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Olivia only opened her eyes at 8.00PM.

After expressing her gratitude to the kind-hearted older woman who helped her, she returned to the couch in her office to rest. Little did she know that as soon as she lay down, a piercing pain would surge through her body as an intense wave of dizziness hit her. In just a matter of minutes, she fell unconscious. She found herself in the bedroom of the Northpine Villa when she opened her eyes again.

Thomas, who had been anxiously waiting for Olivia to wake up, finally felt relieved when he saw her open her eyes. He feared he would never see Olivia wake up again if he hadn't possessed the Blood of the Blazing Sun, which was an invaluable treasure.

"Lie down, and don't move," Thomas instructed.

He took out the prescribed ointment and lifted the blanket to apply it to Olivia's body.

"My... my body hurts so much..."

Although she had regained consciousness, she could still feel the pain coursing through her body, especially in the areas touched by Thomas. It was an uncomfortable sensation akin to being pricked by needles.

Instinctively, she lowered her head and saw that her clothes had already been removed by Thomas for the convenience of applying the ointment. She immediately noticed the cracks covering her body.

“Ahh!” She couldn’t help but cover her mouth in shock as she let out a piercing scream.

This did not look like a person’s body. It would be easier to believe that she was a mummy that had been exposed to all kinds of dreary weather for hundreds of years.

“What happened to me?!”

Thomas forced a bitter smile. He had warned her not to move, fearing that she would see her current appearance. Yet, she had still looked down.

“Don’t worry, once the ointment is applied, you’ll feel better by tomorrow morning.”

Thomas was confident in his medical skills. It was not like it was a serious condition. “It’s just a complication from the toxin’s rebound,” he quickly reassured her.

“Really?” At this moment, Olivia felt despair creeping in. Just as Thomas had suspected earlier, she would rather not live if she couldn’t recover.

“Of course. When have I ever lied to you?”

Olivia glanced at Thomas with sincere eyes. If he said she would get better, then she would definitely get better.

“Oh!”

It was only now that Olivia realized she was completely naked. Thomas was applying ointment to her, which meant that... he had seen everything.

Although she liked Thomas, it was still incredibly embarrassing!

Feeling embarrassed, Olivia turned as red as an apple.

Thomas finally noticed then that he might have overstepped the line. While he didn't have any ulterior motives and was only trying to prevent Olivia from seeing her body, she was, after all, a woman.

"Here, you can apply it yourself. Try to spread it evenly," Thomas said while handing the ointment to Olivia. He had already applied it to her upper body, but it would be inappropriate for a grown man like

him to help with the lower part. They were just ordinary friends, not a couple living together...

"Okay!" Olivia nodded, accepting the ointment from Thomas. She then cast a seductive glance at him.

Thomas walked out of the room. He desperately needed rest. He had lost so much blood and had been enduring to wait for Olivia to wake up. At this point, even his temples were throbbing painfully.

As soon as he lay down on his bed, he fell into a deep sleep. He was utterly exhausted.

He slept soundly until noon the next day. Even so, his head was heavy and foggy. It seemed that he was truly weakened now.

On the contrary, Olivia had woken up way earlier than him. As soon as she opened her eyes, she checked her body and cheered. She turned out perfectly fine like Thomas said she would! Thomas would probably give me the cold shoulder if things hadn't gone well, right?

She intended to wake Thomas up after preparing breakfast carefully. But when she entered his bedroom, she found him sound asleep, completely unaware of her presence. Though she didn't know what had exactly happened, she didn't want to disturb him when she could clearly see from Thomas' face that he was exhausted. After she had her breakfast, she watched TV for a while before she started preparing lunch.

Thomas woke up by the time she was done preparing a hearty lunch.

After he finished washing up, he began to ponder as he watched Olivia's lips move. Should he tell her about what he had done to her father and grandfather? Since Quincy hadn't replied yet, Thomas couldn't press for an answer. After all, Quincy was helping him, and if he pushed too hard, he might

cause Quincy's displeasure. Besides, considering his current state, he wasn't in a hurry to continue hunting down the important members of the Pearson Family.

With that, he decided to set all that aside for now.

"You're up. Come and have your meal. I've just prepared it. It's still hot."

Olivia waved at Thomas, her eyes filled with gentle affection like that of young girls who had fallen in love.

She had made a decision the previous night: no matter what, she wanted to stay by Thomas' side for the rest of her life. Since he had seen her body, she belonged to him. He must take responsibility for her!

Deep down, Olivia was a traditional and conservative woman.

Just the thought of Thomas applying medicine for her last night filled her heart with immense sweetness. If he had seen her body, he had to take responsibility for her! She had been worried about not having a legitimate excuse to get close to him, but unexpectedly, he had walked right into her trap! All pretenses and shyness should go to hell. The most important thing for her was to strive for happiness.

Thomas took a sip of soup and spoke calmly, "I want to tell you something."

To be honest, Thomas felt apprehensive. He had been consumed by anger at that time and didn't even hesitate to kill the people from the Pearson Family. If he hadn't killed them, they would have continued to target Olivia.

But how would Olivia react when she hears about the truth? Bah, she can think whatever she wants. After all, what's done is done. There is no point in regretting it. She will find out about what happened even if I don't tell her now. I might as well confess.

"Go ahead," Olivia urged. She thought he was going to talk about something important when she noticed the solemn look on his face.

"I killed the elderly man who was guarding you. And also... I killed both Terrence and Norman Pearson too. You... you're not angry with me, are you? I warned them not to try anything with you, but they didn't listen. I had no

choice but to do this, or else they might have come up with some other plans to harm you again.”

“Pfft!” Seeing how nervous Thomas was, Olivia couldn’t help but laugh. “You look so silly! You don’t have to explain it to me; I’m not angry. I am no longer a part of the Pearson Family from the moment I left the Pearson Family with you. I belong to you now.”

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Through this incident, Olivia had come to accept an unpleasant fact: that her so-called family was never truly hers. She thought of them as her father, grandfather, and relatives, but all she was to them was just a tool for their own benefit.

They had managed to deceive her and exploit her trust to bring her home and arrange for a woman who looked exactly like her to stay by Thomas’ side. Their intentions were malicious.

Any remnants of fantasy Olivia had about having them as her family was utterly shattered.

“Okay.”

Upon hearing Olivia’s words, Thomas finally felt relieved. He was happy as long as she wasn’t angry with him.

He took a few bites of his meal before realization struck him. What did Olivia just say? She belongs to me? What... did she mean by that?

With that thought in his head, Thomas felt his heart beat noticeably faster, and he started zoning out as he ate.

Meanwhile, Olivia couldn’t help but joyfully steal glances at Thomas. He didn’t refute when I said I am his! He must have agreed that I am his woman! Yay!

After lunch, the two of them drove to Keyshire Property.

“That reminds me. You have to take back half of Keyshire Property’s business! The entire Keyshire Property is a gift from you to me. Nobody else can touch it! It’s mine!”

During the meal, Olivia was so preoccupied with looking at Thomas that she completely forgot about this matter until they were about to go to Keyshire Property for work.

Hearing that, Thomas turned his head and looked at Olivia sitting in the passenger seat. With her palms on her hips, she looked like an overbearing president of a company. "Alright," he replied, amused. "Don't worry. It's all yours. No one can take it away from you."

Thomas wouldn't let the Pearson Family take advantage of him even without Olivia's reminder.

Halfway through the journey, Thomas' phone rang when Quincy called.

"Dr. Hofstead," Thomas greeted.

"Thomas, come to the hospital. There's something I have to tell you." It was hard to read Quincy's expression. The man still couldn't believe the news he had heard.

The whole Irieson was abuzz because of the rumors. Terrence and Norman were dead, but no one knew who killed them. Quincy was also puzzled by how it was possible for anyone to kill two core members of a powerful family like the Pearson Family, especially when the murder happened in broad daylight at the Pearsons' villa.

However, Declan told Quincy that the person who killed Terrence and Norman was Thomas! Declan returned shortly after Thomas left the Pearson Residence. He had planned to inform his father and leave Irieson to return to Capitalis. To his unpleasant surprise, he found his father and older brother's cold corpses. He quickly checked the surveillance footage inside the villa, only to discover that it was all Thomas' handiwork!

Quincy couldn't believe it, but upon careful consideration, he realized that this was indeed Thomas' way of doing things. It didn't matter who or where his target was; he would go straight to their door and kill them!

He quickly warned Declan not to tell anyone about this.

Fortunately, Quincy was the first person to be informed of this by Declan. The Hofstead Family and the Pearson Family had always been well acquainted. Even though Quincy had a falling out with Norman because of Thomas, it was

just personal beef between him and Norman. Declan understood this well, so after discovering that Thomas was the culprit, he immediately sought out Quincy, hoping that this brilliant figure of Irieson would help him seek justice.

Only then did Quincy realize why Thomas had asked for his assistance in investigating Gavin, Declan, and Yukine's whereabouts the previous day. It turned out that Thomas, unsatisfied after killing Terrence and Norman, wanted to eliminate all core members of the Pearson Family.

Isn't he too ruthless? What on earth happened for Thomas to resort to such extreme measures? Even if there was a falling out between Olivia and the Pearson Family, it shouldn't warrant the annihilation of her entire family, right?

Upon hearing Quincy's words, Thomas frowned slightly. From the looks of it, it seemed that Quincy had found out about his involvement in the killings of Terrence and Norman, and he wanted to confront Thomas about it.

But Thomas had to take Olivia to the company now. He couldn't make it to Quincy's.

"I have something to take care of right now. I'll come to see you after I'm done."

"Alright, I'll be waiting," Quincy replied and hung up the phone.

Olivia, who was sitting in the passenger seat, looked at Thomas unhappily. Why is he going out again? What is he going to do? How long will he be away?

Olivia wished she could be attached to Thomas' side, not having to separate from him even for a second.

Thomas didn't notice Olivia's reaction. After dropping her off at the office, he bid her farewell and drove away.

As Olivia watched Thomas' retreating figure, she let out a long sigh and quietly thought, "Please come back soon, or I'll start missing you."

When Thomas arrived at the hospital, he hurried to Quincy's office and pushed the door open.

However, he froze in place as soon as he opened the door. Quincy wasn't the only one in the office; John Morton and Samuel Peralta were also sitting there, and their expressions mirrored Quincy's dark and gloomy one.

Thomas forced a bitter smile and walked in. It seemed they already knew about it.

"Thomas! Are you sick of living? You actually killed Duban Pearson?" Quincy stood up and asked, his voice sharp and demanding.

Thomas froze. "Duban Pearson? Who's that?"

"What..." The corners of everyone else's mouths twitched. Thomas didn't even know that the person he killed was an expert from the Pearson Family! Does he even have a heart?!

"Ahem, Duban Pearson was an elderly man with profound and unfathomable strength. He was a martial arts expert of the Pearson Family," Samuel explained to Thomas.

"Ah, you're talking about him!" Thomas exclaimed as the realization sunk in. No wonder that old man possessed such formidable skills; I didn't think he would be someone respectable in the Pearson Family.

"Forget how you killed a martial arts expert from that family; you actually went as far as killing both Terrence and Norman! Do you have any idea how reckless you were? The entire Irieson knows about this now. The other Five Greatest Families are discussing how to find the culprit together! Luckily, I had Declan destroy the surveillance in the villa in advance. You might already be a lifeless corpse by now otherwise!"

The Six Greatest Families of Irieson were not as simple as they appeared to be. Behind them were cunning old foxes who pulled the strings. Quincy wouldn't have gotten angry if Thomas had merely killed Duban or Norman. But Thomas just had to lose his temper and almost wipe out the core members of the Pearson Family in one go! It would be a miracle if this incident didn't force those cunning old foxes to get involved.

The rest of the people in Quincy's office didn't understand why Thomas had to do something like this. Just how deep were his grudges and resentment toward the Pearsons?

This was the first time Thomas had seen Quincy so furious at him. He quickly waved in an attempt to tell Quincy and the others not to get worked up for now.

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Even if they were reluctant to accept the current situation, it was a fact that the men had been killed. What's the use of getting worked up? Thomas didn't regret killing Terrence and Norman. After all, they were the ones who attacked Olivia first. If it weren't for his Blood of the Blazing Sun, Olivia would have already met a tragic end.

"Now that you all know that I killed Terrence and Norman, I won't hide it from you anymore. I considered Olivia my friend. Don't worry, she is just a friend. I haven't fallen in love with her, at least not yet. Whether we will become a couple in the future remains uncertain. As for what you mentioned about how there is no need to protect her or treat her well to such an extent... I'm sorry, but I can't agree with that. I once witnessed my close friend die in front of me, and the reason for all of that was my own incompetence. Since that incident, I swore that no one can harm my friends, not even a hair on their body, unless I'm dead.

"Olivia is my friend, and I will protect her! It doesn't matter who it is; as long as someone dares to have any ill intentions toward her, I will kill them regardless of who they are. Also, I know about her being a sacrifice for the Six Greatest Families of Irieson. You don't need to persuade me. I am already doing what I can to prevent her from becoming a sacrifice.

"The frost poison in her body will completely disappear in another two months. It should have already disappeared these past few days, but that fox Terrence pretended to be sick and deceived Olivia into returning home before he replaced her with someone who looks exactly like her, making Olivia stop taking her medicine for two days. If it weren't for me using a secret technique last night, she might have already died! And that old thief shamelessly transferred half of Keyshire Property's business to Pearson Group. Would you not have killed him if you were in my position?"

The more Thomas spoke, the colder his tone became. It got to the point that Quincy and the others shivered involuntarily at his last sentence.

If time could be reversed, Thomas would definitely kill Terrence again! And this time, he wouldn't let him die so easily. He wanted to torture and kill him, only then could he relieve the hatred in his heart!

What is the point of having people like Terrence and Norman in this world anyway? No one gives a sh*t about the damned "family interests". If any of them is willing to become a sacrifice, then go ahead, but if that person happens to be Olivia, that's not going to happen on my watch!

I'll make sure anyone who dares to lay a finger on Olivia pays with their life!

"Uh..."

Quincy and the others were astounded upon hearing Thomas' words. With their mouths gaping open, they stared at him with incredulous expressions.

It wasn't their fault, really. It was Thomas' words that contained too much information!

Samuel was the first to regain his composure after a long while. In a shaky voice, he asked, "Thomas, do you have any idea what consequences your actions will bring?"

"Exactly!" John chimed in, "Thomas, I'm sure you've also heard about what makes the Six Greatest Families of Irieson so fearsome. It's not just how powerful they look, but the fact that they have a group of old foxes backing them up. Olivia becoming a sacrifice is the rule of the Six Greatest Families! Now that you have gotten in the way of their rule, do you intend to openly confront the Six Greatest Families of Irieson on your own?"

John had heard of Thomas' exceptional medical skills, but he never imagined that they had reached such a profound level. Thomas didn't even have a problem getting rid of the frost poison in Olivia's body!

But did he not consider what could end up happening to him before he did the things he did?

He is going to get himself killed!

Thomas held a cigarette between his lips, lit it, and took a deep drag. "What's so scary about going against the Six Greatest Families? I'm right here. If anyone wants my life, come and take it. If they can manage to, go ahead and

take my life. If they can't, I'll kill them. It's as simple as that. I didn't hesitate to kill even the core members of the Pearson Family. It's going to be the same for the other five families! In short, there is only one thing I have to say—I'll kill whoever dares to touch Olivia!"

Even though John and the others were men well acquainted with the ways of the world, they were still astounded by Thomas' arrogance.

He doesn't even regard the Six Greatest Families with any importance. He is trying to climb to the very top? Not even gravity can hold him down anymore!

Then again, he had the right to be arrogant. Even Duban, the martial arts expert of the Pearson Family, was killed by him. The Five Greatest Families would have to think twice even if they wanted to take action against him.

Quincy poured a glass of water and took a sip. He then asked, "Have you made up your mind?"

Thomas nodded.

Seeing this, the three of them shook their heads and smiled bitterly. Thomas was clearly declaring that he would single-handedly confront the Six Greatest Families!

"What are your chances of winning?" John pondered for a moment before asking.

Terrence was just too greedy. Since he dared to make a move against Keyshire Property, it was understandable that Thomas killed him. John didn't know what the Peralta Family and Quincy were thinking, but if Thomas truly intended to openly oppose the Six Greatest Families, the Morton Family

would not stand idly by. John silently scolded, Six Greatest Families, I've been displeased with you for a long time now!

After John said that, both Quincy and Samuel stared intently at Thomas, waiting for his answer.

They were eager to know if Thomas was confident about his decision.

Keyshire Property was the undisputed leader in the real estate industry in Irieson!

The former CEO, Rafael Mazer, was an enigmatic figure. Even today, no one knew his background. Yet, with just one phone call, Thomas had made Rafael come and submit himself, ultimately handing over Keyshire Property to Thomas.

This showed that Thomas held some hidden cards that few knew about.

Thomas shook his head slightly. "I'm not sure how likely I am to succeed."

Thomas had no idea about the true strength of the Six Greatest Families, let alone the old foxes supporting them from behind. He couldn't provide an answer because he knew nothing about them.

"What?" John and the other men exchanged glances. The Six Greatest Families were not to be taken lightly. How was Thomas supposed to go against them if he didn't even know how likely he was to succeed?

"Thomas," Quincy sighed, "others may fear the Six Greatest Families, but I don't. From today onwards, I will stand on your side. Just say the word if you need anything. Even the Six Greatest Families have to show me respect!"

He owed Thomas a great debt of gratitude. The book 'The Imperial Acupuncture' had greatly benefited him, and his medical skills made remarkable progress. Just based on this favor, he was willing to step

forward to help Thomas.

"I am far inferior to you in terms of medical skills. Since you have already treated Olivia, I won't ask too much. You alone are enough to help her recover."

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Quincy understood that Thomas couldn't simply back down since he was already treating Olivia. Even if the Six Greatest Families spared him, those of their level wouldn't let him go. Thomas' only choice now was to confront them head-on and fight to the bitter end.

The Six Greatest Families had become increasingly audacious in recent years. Even someone as low-key as Quincy found many things hard to tolerate. It might be a good thing if someone could repress them now.

Thomas was deeply moved. He hadn't known Quincy for long, but Quincy had been incredibly helpful to him. Thomas hadn't done much in return, except for giving him a copy of the 'The Imperial Acupuncture.' There was no need for Quincy to go to such lengths to help him.

The Six Greatest Families were not to be taken lightly. It was evident from their involvement in the sacrificial ceremony that they had connections to people at that level.

To step forward and help him at this time was a risky move! Yet, Quincy had decisively taken a stand. This friend was worth having!

"Thomas, the Mortons will also lend a hand, but unlike Dr. Hofstead, we won't openly support you. At most, we'll help you deal with some troubles behind the scenes. After all, we are a big family. Any carelessness could drag the entire family down. I hope you understand where I'm coming from," uttered John in a resolute tone.

"The Peralta Family too! I'd like to see how the Six Greatest Families have improved after all so many years of sitting still!" added Samuel as he exchanged a smile with John.

Far from resembling old men, the two of them exuded a youthful vigor. They appeared more like spirited young individuals ready to take on any challenge.

The old men decided to go all out like youngsters would. There was nothing wrong with taking a gamble for Thomas' sake!

Thomas' eyes turned red and moist. True friends were not those who surrounded and cheered you on when you were successful. It was those who resolutely stood by your side and pulled you up when you faced difficulties or needed help. And right now, these three individuals in front of him were true friends!

Thomas didn't know how likely he was to succeed, but he had already made up his mind.

After all, Duban's skills as the martial arts expert of the Pearson Family were truly impressive. It was safe to assume that the other Five Greatest Families would also have formidable experts. Thomas wouldn't stand a chance if they all attacked him together.

If worse came to worst, he would have to resort to using firearms. As long as he had a gun in his hand, Thomas had nothing to fear!

The King of Marksmen no longer wielded his weapon because he had once shot and killed his closest friend. But now, he was picking up the gun once again to protect his friends. This battle allowed for no defeat, only victory. Thomas represented not only himself but also Olivia, Quincy, and both the Morton and Peralta Families.

“Zach, if you know about this in the realm beyond, I hope you won’t blame me,” Thomas silently murmured in his heart.

“Thank you!” He wasn’t the best speaker. Even though he had a thousand words in his head, a simple “thank you” was the only thing he could utter.

The three of them smiled lightly. To them, Thomas’ ‘thank you’ was worth more than a thousand words.

“There were six at first, but now that the Pearson Family has now practically fallen, there are only five families. But in reality, you only have to deal with three of them.”

“That’s right. Dr. Hofstead is right. The other two families will most likely remain neutral.” John nodded in agreement.

The Six Greatest Families were not united. In fact, those two families had often distanced themselves from the Six Greatest Families system.

“Oh?” Thomas’ eyes brightened when he heard that. He was clearly intrigued by the intricacies of the situation. “Did something happen?”

Quincy smiled and began explaining. “The Six Greatest Families consist of the Pearson Family, the Xalmar Family, the Hind Family, the Yam Family, as well as the Saunder Family, and the Zane Family. Among them, the Pearson Family is connected to the Saunder Family by marriage. Declan Pearson’s wife is the daughter of Taylor Saunder, the former head of the Saunder Family. I know you wanted me to investigate Declan and the others to get them out of the picture, right? But you don’t really need to do that. Now that Terrence and Norman are dead, Declan will inherit the position of the family head. Unlike Norman, he has never been interested in family affairs. Furthermore, he and Olivia are close. He genuinely cares for her. As for Gavin Pearson, you can kill him if you want. It doesn’t matter.”

Thomas frowned deeply; he couldn't believe that Quincy would actually plead for mercy on behalf of Declan.

No, Declan has to die. He can't possibly not hate the person who killed his father and brother. Thomas wasn't afraid of retaliation from him, but there was no guarantee that he wouldn't harm Olivia like his father and brother had, all in the name of protecting the interests of the Pearson Family.

Upon seeing Thomas hesitate, Quincy continued, "I assure you, as long as you don't kill Declan, the Saunder Family won't get involved in this fight. The Saunder Family has been uninvolved with a lot of

things for many years. If I personally intervene, they will grant me that favor. And the Zane Family has always had close ties with the Saunder Family. They will follow the Saunders' lead. They, too, won't take any action."

John and Samuel also chimed in with the persuasion, "That's right, Thomas. We can't touch Declan. Losing two families in one go would significantly reduce our pressure."

"I'm somewhat familiar with Declan as well. He is different from his older brother. For our sake, please, spare his life."

Thomas was caught in a dilemma. "It's not that I don't want to respect your request, but I'm sick of being targeted. I'm sure you didn't know this, but people have snuck into Olivia's bedroom to hurt her when she was asleep. If I let Declan go, I'm afraid Olivia will still be in danger."

Quincy's gaze shifted. "How about you go back and ask Olivia for her opinion?"

He was well aware of the internal affairs of the Pearson Family and knew that Olivia had a close relationship with her uncle. He believed she would definitely stop Thomas from doing Declan harm.

Thomas eventually nodded in agreement.

Quincy and the other two breathed a sigh of relief when Thomas agreed.

It was hard to imagine the three of them joining forces to persuade a young man with no status or background not to kill a core member of one of the Six Greatest Families. Moreover, they were earnestly asking him to spare

Declan's life. They would surely become the laughingstock if word got out. People would think they had gone mad. They should have let him kill whomever he wanted to because he firstly had to have the ability to do so!

However, it was exactly because he was Thomas that everything was different. Nothing seemed absurd anymore.

As for Gavin, there was absolutely no room for mercy. He had to be killed. A beast like him who wore human skin deserved no pity.

"I'll visit the Saunder Family later and gauge their stance. Over the years, they have been the most honest among the Six Greatest Families. They have never done anything too excessive. I believe that it won't be any different this time. They won't stand against you," Quincy reassured as he stood up.

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Thomas glanced at Quincy as he raised his hands to massage his temples. He wasn't in a good state right now. He was truly exhausted. Yesterday, he had used the Blood of the Blazing Sun twice, and he had even taken a risky move by forcibly using a secret technique to regenerate his blood. The fact that he was alive and able to stand up was considered fortunate.

At this moment, all he wanted to do was get a good night's sleep.

Thomas greeted the three people and bid them farewell as he got up.

"John, we need to make preparations in advance. We need to deploy some elite soldiers to protect Thomas' family," Samuel said earnestly.

John nodded in agreement.

Although the news about Thomas murdering Terrence and Norman hadn't been revealed to the public yet, it was only a matter of time before the other Five Greatest Families would find out the truth with their resources. Once they learned the truth, Thomas' half-sister Chloe would undoubtedly become the primary target of their revenge. She would become the first person those families retaliate against.

Quincy leaned back on the sofa and sighed deeply while looking up at the ceiling. "I feel sorry for Thomas. He's an orphan and he only has a girlfriend. After finally ending his eight years of military service, he discovered that his

girlfriend betrayed him. Tsk tsk... No wonder he once said that the only motivation keeping him alive now is his half-sister Chloe."

After he finished speaking, he suddenly sat up as if he had just realized something.

"I've figured it out!"

His sudden reaction startled both John and Samuel.

"Dr. Hofstead, what have you figured out?"

"To be frank, I once had someone investigate what Thomas went through during his eight years in the military. Can you guess what I found out?"

John and Samuel exchanged glances. They had heard their grandsons mention some things about Thomas' military career, but all they knew was that Thomas was formidable, and that was about it. They had no knowledge of his unit's code, his military specialization, or the specific tasks he had carried out.

"Don't beat around the bush. Just tell us."

"I couldn't find anything at all! Do you know what that means? It means that with all my resources, I couldn't even get a glimpse of the unit he belonged to! I even received a mysterious warning from the military. It was just a single message with one sentence, 'You are not qualified to know!'"

"What?" John exclaimed. Even Quincy wasn't qualified to know? How was that possible? After all, Quincy was a renowned figure in the medical field of Droycore and he had an extensive network. If even he couldn't find out with his resources... Then, what kind of unit had Thomas served in?

Quincy continued while ignoring their reactions, "If it weren't for what he said today, that his incompetence led to the death of his closest brother, I would still be clueless about his eight years in the military. I believe that the brother he mentioned about was Chloe's biological brother."

There was only silence. An almost suffocating silence settled in. At that moment, they finally realized the significance of Chloe to Thomas.

The three of them took out their phones and gave orders to their subordinates. This time, they used all their resources to ensure Chloe's safety.

Even if the other great families were unaware that Thomas was the killer, Chloe was still in danger. After all, there were still rumors circulating about Thomas and Olivia.

After everything was arranged, Quincy took off his work uniform. "I won't accompany the both of you any longer. I'm going to pay a visit to the Saunder Family and meet Taylor."

He had a plan in mind. He wouldn't bring up the matter of the Pearson Family with Taylor. Instead, he would discuss his views on the rumors about Olivia.

"All right. We should take our leave as well. Let's act separately, but remember to stay in touch at all times."

Thomas returned to the company and stood directly in front of Olivia. Quincy and the others had already spoken up in support of Declan, but he also wanted to hear Olivia's opinion.

He wanted to say something, but in the end, he didn't as Molly was still in the office, and she was just an ordinary girl. It would be best not to involve her in this conflict.

Sometimes it was better for ordinary people to know less.

He would wait and ask her when the both of them finished work and went home together. There was no need to rush at this moment.

Quincy and the others personally pleaded for Declan, so it wouldn't be justifiable if he didn't ask for Olivia's opinion.

Everything was up to Olivia to decide.

At this moment, Olivia was still unaware that Declan's life and death hung in the balance of her decision.

It was already 8.00PM and Molly had left a while ago, but Olivia was still reviewing the documents on her desk.

"You haven't finished yet?" Thomas walked over to her desk and asked.

“I’m almost done. These two documents need to be completed tonight as they’re required next morning.”

He felt a pang of distress. “There’s no need for you to personally handle everything. Let your subordinates handle it. If necessary, I can hire a couple more secretaries for you.”

“That won’t do.” Olivia raised her head. “You gave me Keyshire Property. For important contracts like these, I can’t help but want to personally review them. I don’t trust anyone else.”

As she spoke, she changed the topic. “By the way, when are you going to take back half of the business? It’s mine, and I won’t allow anyone to interfere with it!”

Thinking about it now, Olivia was still angry about that. That woman who had undergone plastic surgery to look exactly like her was despicable. Not only did that woman disguise herself as Olivia and stay by Thomas’ side, but she also tried to take over her company! This was unbearable. Olivia would take it all back. It was Thomas who had given the company to her, so why should others benefit from it for free?

“Pfft!”

Thomas burst into laughter at the sight of Olivia’s pouting mouth as he was unable to hold back. “Don’t worry. I’ll take it back within the next couple of days.”

“Hmph! That’s more like it. Thomas, can you wait a little longer? Just ten minutes, okay?”

There was no way he would refuse her. Thus, he sat on the sofa and shut his eyes to rest.

“All right. It’s time to get off work! I’m exhausted. I want to take a hot bath and get a good night’s sleep!” Olivia rubbed her reddened eyes as she had been busy the whole day.

Thomas stood up and willingly took Olivia’s handbag. Then, they walked out of the office side by side.

He casually asked while driving, "Olivia, how's your relationship with Declan? Is it good?"

She was puzzled. Why did he suddenly ask her about Declan? After all, they had only met once.

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"Uncle Declan and I are very close. We have been good since I was young. The clearest memory I have was that every time he returned from Capitalis to Irieson, the first thing he did was to come and visit me. Every time, he would bring me lots of food and clothes. It was the same even when he came to the Northpine Villa last time. Over the years, he still remembered my favorite snacks. He is someone that my father and grandpa cannot compare to."

"However, his daughter is terrible. It was she who stole Grandpa's favorite thing and sold it for money, but she blamed it on me. Grandpa and everyone else believed her and not me. However, as long as Uncle Declan is at home, he would stand up for me."

"I can ignore anyone in the entire Pearson Family except Uncle Declan."

As Olivia spoke, tears welled up in her eyes. She was indeed quite pitiful. The whole family, including her father and grandfather, treated her as a tool. They were devoid of any emotions. If there was anyone who genuinely treated her as family, it was Declan.

Declan truly treated Olivia and Ophelie well. He genuinely liked this pair of sisters, especially Olivia.

After hearing this, Thomas nodded. It seemed that he couldn't kill Declan. He couldn't kill Yukine as well. He didn't have a good impression of this scheming woman, but he spared her life only because she was Declan's daughter, and Olivia was close to Declan.

Gavin, on the other hand, wasn't as lucky as them. He had to die!

Previously, Quincy had sent him information about Gavin's location. Once he had the time, he would go and end that b*stard's life! It was too kind of him to leave Gavin disabled in the past. If he had known that this day would come, he would have killed Gavin back then!

During the two previous visits to the Pearson Family, Thomas didn't see Gavin. As a disabled person, he should have stayed at home obediently. Where could he have gone?

It seemed that Terrence spared no expense for his grandson. Not only did he find someone to heal Gavin's broken bones, but he also restored Gavin to normal. There was no doubt that he had wasted a lot of precious resources.

Thomas became extremely angry at the thought of this. Gavin's injuries back then were much more severe than Olivia's, yet Terrence spared no expense to heal him. But when it came to Olivia's life and death, Terrence turned a blind eye and allowed her to suffer on her sickbed without any concern!

How can you do that as a grandfather? Is it just because Gavin is a boy but Olivia is a girl? Terrence, you deserve to die. It was perfectly correct to have you killed!!

After the two returned to the villa, Olivia asked, "Thomas, are you hungry?"

Thomas shook his head. "I'm fine."

"All right. I'll go take a shower then. It'll be quick, and after that, I'll cook." She felt uncomfortable. She was a slight germophobe and couldn't stand having sweat on her.

"You go ahead and take a shower. I'll do the cooking."

"No!" Olivia refused instantly. "Cooking for you is what I should do. How can I let you do it? You just wait there. I'll cook for you in twenty minutes."

In her heart, she had long regarded Thomas as her man. She was a traditional woman of Droycore. Cooking and doing laundry for her man were her duties. How could she let her man do such things?

He looked at the domineering Olivia and couldn't help but smile wryly. He could only sit on the sofa helplessly and wait for her to prepare dinner.

Sure enough, after a short time, she hurriedly returned. Her hair was still damp as she ran out without drying her hair to ensure that he wouldn't go hungry.

“There’s no need to be in such a hurry. You should dry your hair properly, so you don’t catch a cold.” He quickly picked up a clean towel and wiped the water droplets off her hair.

She gave him a sweet smile. She felt that at this moment, she was the happiest woman in the world.

These peaceful days wouldn’t last long. The day of the tribute was approaching, and the Six Greatest Families of Irieson would surely come knocking to get him. A great battle was inevitable.

Just after Thomas finished dinner, his phone rang. He picked it up and saw that it was a call from Chloe.

“Hey, Chloe. What’s up?”

Just the thought of Chloe made Thomas feel particularly guilty. She had almost been violated before and was frightened. It was evident from the fact that she hadn’t started working at Keyshire Property yet. As her older brother, he couldn’t be by her side to comfort and protect her. He truly felt inadequate in his role as a brother.

“Thomas, do you remember Lester, the manager of Twilight Bar?”

“Yeah, I do.”

“Well, he’s getting married tomorrow and he invited me to attend the wedding. He specifically mentioned that he hopes I can bring you along. Thomas, can you... accompany me tomorrow?”

Thomas wouldn’t refuse Chloe’s request. Moreover, he knew that Lester had been taking good care of her. It was his big day, and it was only appropriate for Thomas to express his gratitude.

“Sure. I’ll come to get you tomorrow morning.”

Chloe had mentioned this during their shopping trip that day. Thomas still remembered it. She had even asked him to dress handsomely. On that day, Chloe had bought him five to six sets of clothes which ranged from casual wear to sportswear to suits.

“Okay!” Chloe hung up the phone and sat alone on the sofa while staring into space. She was lost in thought.

“Silly child. You’re thinking of Zach, aren’t you?”

At some point, Adam had come to the living room and looked at Chloe as he asked her.

In a few more days, it would be Zachary’s birthday. Chloe shared a deep bond with her brother, so it was natural for her to think of him and miss him.

Chloe nodded and threw herself into her father’s arms while silently shedding tears.

“Dad, do you think Zachary knows that we’re doing well now? Thomas took such good care of us. Zachary should be happy if he knew, right?”

Adam let out a bitter smile. “Thomas and Zach are the best of brothers. Zach must know. He’s lucky to have a friend like Thomas.”

“Dad, I miss Zachary. It’s been several years since I last saw him. Sometimes I dream about him and wonder how he’s doing in the military. Is he eating well? Is he in any danger? Has he gained or lost weight?”

After Adam heard this, his eyes welled up with tears. How could he not miss his son?

“Don’t cry. Your brother is defending our country, and he is our pride. When he comes back after his military service, you’ll find out if he’s gained weight or not.”

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“I really miss Zachary... When will he be discharged from the military? I don’t want him to defend the country anymore. He has been in the military for eight years. It’s time for him to come home.”

“Silly child. Do you know what you are talking about? Without a country, where would there be a home?”

Adam spoke as he gently patted Chloe’s back.

Ever since Zachary joined the military, it had caused a lot of hardship for Chloe. He had witnessed everything she had done, especially after he fell ill and was hospitalized. Chloe worked tirelessly, often sleeping only two hours a day. She had to work, pay off debts, and take care of him. She even dropped out of university.

If it weren't for Thomas' timely appearance, those dark days would have continued for who knew how long.

Perhaps tired from crying, Chloe fell asleep in her father's arms. Adam gently carried his daughter back to her bedroom.

Then, he opened a bottle of wine alone in the living room and drank by himself.

"Adam, you are truly useless. Not only can you not earn money, you even got sick and hospitalized. You can't be of any help and only cause trouble. Because of you, Chloe couldn't even attend university... Sigh!"

Drinking alone could make one very drunk. After only a few drinks, Adam fell asleep on the sofa.

At that moment, Thomas was in the bedroom of Northpine Villa, diligently practicing kicks.

The battle with Duban Pearson had alerted him. He indeed had a weakness in his lower body's strength compared to his upper body. He barely won against Duban, but what if the martial arts experts from the other Five Greatest Families were even stronger than him? By then, his lower body would undoubtedly become his weak point.

If he wanted to protect Olivia's safety, he had to improve his own strength.

Although he was strong in using firearms, he didn't want to resort to using them unless necessary.

After losing a lot of blood twice, his body was incredibly weak. Compared to his peak physical condition, he had only recovered less than 20 percent. There was no hope of returning to his peak if he did not rest for at least half a month.

Thwack! Thwack!

He continuously executed a set of kicks. These were refined and adapted from military combat boxing. They were domineering, fierce, and filled with killing intent.

Thomas wholeheartedly immersed himself in the practice. He not only wanted to improve his lower body strength but also wanted to enhance his close-quarters combat abilities. Only by doing so could he ensure zero mistakes in close-quarters combat.

He was like an emotionless machine, repeatedly kicking again and again. He was not aware that his clothes were drenched in sweat. It wasn't until 3.00AM that he finally stopped while gasping for air.

He turned and entered the bathroom to take a refreshing shower and change into clean clothes. He walked to the bedside and drank water in large gulps while flipping through the calendar placed on the nightstand.

Thomas shook his head, took a cigarette, and lit it silently.

"Zach, your birthday is approaching, but this time, I won't be able to be by your side to celebrate with you."

"Thomas, just live your life. I don't need you to accompany me. Haha!"

Suddenly, an extremely familiar voice sounded, causing Thomas' body to tremble. Then, he quickly turned his head and looked at the empty bedroom. It was only then he realized that perhaps due to missing his good friend too much, he had experienced an illusion.

This was already the second time it had happened.

"Thomas, don't smoke too much. You have such a strong addiction, constantly smoking throughout the day. You're still young. You can't do this. Smoking is harmful to your health."

The voice didn't dissipate; it continued.

Thomas smiled. This time, he didn't turn back because he was afraid that if he did, the voice would disappear. He casually extinguished the cigarette butt. "Zach, there's something I want to discuss with you."

"Sure, Thomas. Go ahead."

“In the near future, if someone close to me is in danger, I want to use a gun...”

The battle with Duban had been enough to make Thomas take it seriously. Each of the Six Greatest Families had extraordinary strength, and this time, even he had no confidence. Although his close-quarters combat skills were not weak, his practical experience was lacking. He was bound to be at a disadvantage if he faced opponents of equal strength. However, if he could use a gun, he would have no fear.

“Nonsense! Thomas, you are the King of Marksmen. It’s perfectly normal to use a gun to protect the people close to you. Why are you discussing this with me?”

Thomas shook his head. “I made a vow back then that I would never use a gun in this lifetime.”

The familiar voice did not speak again as if contemplating something.

After a moment, Thomas urged, “Zach, are you still there?”

“Thomas, don’t blame yourself. I have never blamed you. Using a gun is so much simpler to solve things that could be resolved easily. Why bother with complicated close-quarters combat? I believe that as long as you have a gun in your hand, you are invincible.”

“I’m leaving. Take care of yourself and smoke less.”

“When it’s necessary to use a gun, use it. Don’t always get tied down by my matters. Take good care of the people close to you at this moment and ensure their safety. That’s the most important thing.”

“Thomas, a person who lives in the past has no future. It’s been such a long time. You have to come out of it...”

Thomas could sense Zachary’s voice growing distant as if he was speaking while moving away. By the time the voice completely disappeared, Thomas was already in tears.

After a while, Thomas stopped crying and retrieved the SR-25 sniper rifle he had taken from the assassin sent by the Hind Family. He had long moved the rifle from the rented house and concealed it under his bed. He gently

caressed the gun. His gaze was filled with immense tenderness as if he was touching not a cold firearm but the tender skin of a loved one.

“A person who lives in the past has no future... Zach, for all these years, you’ve listened to me. This time, I’ll listen to you. With this gun in my hands, I will protect all of my friends.”

That night, Thomas slept with the gun in his arms. No one could understand his obsession with firearms. For him, a gun was not just a weapon to take lives, but also a loyal companion. As the commander of that mysterious special force unit had said, Thomas was a complete gun fanatic.

The next morning, when Thomas woke up, Olivia had already prepared breakfast. After they finished eating, they drove to Keyshire Property.

Molly, who usually arrived early, was absent. Olivia was feeling overwhelmed with her work as she held a stack of reviewed documents, ready to deliver them personally.

Thomas asked, “Why hasn’t Molly come?”

“Oh, she said she has something to attend to today and took a day off,” she replied.

He nodded without thinking much of it and took the initiative to take the documents. “Let me deliver them.”