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I'm Someone Else Chapter 211

Instantly, the young man was frightened into silence. Grandma is seriously angry this time. She doesn't usually shout at me like that. I should keep quiet now. After all, he knew his grandmother the best. He knew that it was not something to be taken lightly when she was angry.

"Come, Declan, Ophelie. Come over here and sit." Leah stepped forward and made a gesture to hold Ophelie's hand.

At once, Ophelie stepped back sharply, avoiding her. She had never had any emotional attachment to this grandmother who appeared all of a sudden, and now that she was bullied by her grandchildren, she naturally wouldn't give her good treatment. I have never experienced such humiliation before. Even though I was not favored in the Pearson Family, no one dared treat me like this. If Grandpa Harrison can't make me feel satisfied and get justice for me, I will call Olivia and ask Thomas to deal with these two arrogant young people.

The onlookers see more than the players. She could see clearly that Olivia had truly fallen in love with Thomas. Otherwise, she wouldn't have agreed to sever ties with the Pearson Family at his request. Even when Ophelie encouraged her to do so, she refused. In Ophelie's heart, Thomas was already considered her brother-in-law.

It's only natural for the sister-in-law to seek help from her brother-in-law when she's being bullied. I have witnessed the power of Thomas with my own eyes. Once he arrives, these two will definitely be miserable.

Seeing Ophelie avoid her, Leah couldn't help but feel a twinge of regret. It seems that not just Declan but even Ophelie doesn't recognize me as a family member. But who can I blame for this? After all, I have never taken care of them. It's only natural that they don't have any affection for me.

"Sigh." Declan shook his head and sighed. Although he didn't want to admit Leah as his mother deep down, after all, she was an elderly person. For her to be embarrassed by Ophelie was uncomfortable to

see, so he held Ophelie's hand and walked to the couch, sitting down.

"You remarried?" He couldn't help but ask. Although he was young when that incident happened and didn't have much understanding, over the years, that incident had become a joke among the various families in Irieson. It was especially difficult for Terrence. In his childhood memories, his father took a long time to recover from it. Regardless of how Terrence treated Olivia and Ophelie, he was still good to him and Norman. On the contrary, his biological mother immediately remarried and formed a new family after leaving his father. How could he accept that?

"I will explain it to you later, Declan. I had my reasons. Later..."

Without waiting for her to finish her words, he rudely interrupted, "Forget it. You don't need to explain it to me. I don't want to hear your reasons. You wanted to see Ophelie, and you've seen her now, so goodbye." With that, he stood up from the couch, pulling Ophelie with him, intending to leave.

"Don't you think you're quite shameless?" Even without Leah speaking, Leah's granddaughter couldn't tolerate it. How dare he interrupt Grandma? Who does he think he is?

At the same time, the young man walked up to Declan, towering over him with his height, and gently slapped Declan's cheek. "Being insolent in front of Grandma requires power, and your insignificant family obviously lacks that kind of power."

Seeing that, Ophelie pushed him away. "Don't touch Uncle Declan!"

Slap! A crisp sound rang out as the young woman slapped Ophelie across the face. How dare she push my brother? She must have a death wish! "Get lost, you b\*tch!" she scornfully cursed at Ophelie.

At this moment, Declan couldn't suppress his anger any longer. He shouted, "You need to be taught a lesson!" This is outrageous! I could tolerate their previous rudeness, but they actually laid their hands on Ophelie. As her uncle, it will be unforgivable if I don't stand up for her.

Bang! Yet, just as he raised his hand, he felt a sharp pain in his chest. Then everything spun, and his body flew backward, gliding through the air for six feet before crashing to the ground.

"Uncle Declan!" Ophelie disregarded the pain in her cheek and rushed to his side.

"Ugh!" Declan opened his mouth and coughed up a mouthful of blood. Clearly visible on his chest was a distinct imprint of a fist. His sternum had been dented by the young man's punch.

This frightened Ophelie. "Uncle Declan, are you okay?"

He shook his head and, with her support, struggled to stand up. "Ahem, ahem!" He coughed intermittently, and with each cough, fresh blood trickled from the corners of his mouth. It was beyond his expectations that this young man and woman would be so vicious. The blow just now was clearly aimed at killing him.

"Tch!" The young man snorted disdainfully. "You dare to shout in front of us? You don't know your place, you ignorant fool. Do you even know who we are?"

"You wicked brat! Stand aside!" Leah roared angrily. These two kids are becoming more and more despicable. Declan is my son, after all. According to seniority, they should address him as Uncle Declan. Yet, they actually dared to attack him? What do they take me for? Do they still consider me their grandmother?

Instantly, the young man and woman shrank back, obediently retreating to the side without daring to make a sound.

"Declan!" Leah walked toward her son with a concerned expression.

"Don't come over!" Although Declan's face was pale, his gaze was exceptionally resolute. "Since you left and formed a new family, you are no longer a part of the Pearson Family. Even if the Pearson

Family has declined, it still exists. So what if you lived overseas or in Capitalis? It's not like we have never been there. Even if the Pearson Family no longer exists, we don't need an outsider like you to meddle!"

When she heard that, she trembled all over. His determined expression reminded her of Terrence when he was young. Terrence back then was just like Declan now—stubborn, resilient, and filled with pride.

Declan slowly left the private room. With each step, his body swayed from the intense pain. If it weren't for Ophelie's support, he probably wouldn't be able to stand still at the moment.

Originally, he wanted to forgive his mother, but now his heart had turned cold. I never expected that she would actually form a new family and bring her grandchildren back with her. She asked me to bring Ophelie along, only to be met with disdain. And not only did they hit me, but they also laid hands on Ophelie. This is outrageous!

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As Leah watched her son and granddaughter leave, she felt a piercing pain in her heart. She wanted to call out to them and stop them from leaving, but when the words arrived at her lips, she didn't know how to speak up. She could only watch as they walked away.

"Evil creatures, look what you've done!" Leah shouted at her grandchildren.

At that moment, a fierce aura exploded from her. The young man and woman couldn't stand it, and with a plop, they all fell to the ground.

"What do you take this place for? Even though this place isn't as bustling as Capitalis and other overseas cities, it's not a place where you two can just do as you wish!"

Leah was considered half an Irieson resident, so she knew Irieson more than anyone else. While it was true that the economic development in Irieson wasn't as advanced as that of Capitalis and other overseas cities, it was a valuable land and also the gathering place for all the families in Droycore. There were various powerful families involved, and even Quincy, the head of Prescott Hospital, was an outstanding figure known throughout Droycore. His students were everywhere, both locally and internationally. He wasn't someone to be messed with.

Leah's grandson and granddaughter were geniuses in martial arts, the sort that would come by every hundred years or so. They were very young, but their capabilities were already out of this world. Even experts who were wellknown for a long time might not be a match for them. Because of this, the two were greatly pampered in the family.

Leah had the intention to punish them harshly, but she couldn't bear to do it. "Go and buy plane tickets right now and get your sorry butts out of this country! You're a disgrace to me in Irieson!" When the young girl heard that, she immediately pouted her little mouth. "Grandma, stop chasing us out of this country. We'll just return to Capitalis, okay?"

Capitalis was the headquarters of their family. Because of this, Leah could take good care of Declan's business in Capitalis. The two lived overseas in the past just so they could keep Leah company.

"Go back to Capitalis, then!"

Leah couldn't bear to chase her grandchildren out of this country either, so she could only settle for the second-best option and let them return to Capitalis.

The two were glad enough to know that they could return to Capitalis. They hastily turned around and left.

Their grandmother rarely got angry, but as soon as she did, even their grandfather had to take cover from her wrath. Who were they in comparison? They should just be obedient and leave as they were told.

After her grandchildren left, Leah returned to her room and put on some decent clothes. Her grandson had punched an indent into Declan's chest, so she had to rush over and check on him.

Meanwhile, Ophelie drove the car as she hurriedly sent Declan to Prescott Hospital.

"Hello, Olivia?" Ophelie dialed her sister's number, then sobbed pitifully.

"What happened, Ophelie? Don't cry, tell me what happened." Olivia had just finished dinner, and she was sitting on the couch watching TV. When she heard her sister's sobbing voice, she instantly got worried.

"Someone injured Uncle Declan. We're rushing to the hospital now."

"What?!" Olivia was so shocked that her mouth fell open. Is Declan hurt? He was fine when I last saw him, though. Who did it?

"I'll be right there!" With that, she hung up the phone and went to the kitchen. She walked up to Thomas, who was preparing the medicine, and said, "Thomas, someone injured my Uncle Declan, so I'm going to the hospital now."

Thomas was stunned. He didn't do anything to Declan, so why did Declan get hurt?

Seeing how anxious Olivia was, Thomas knew it wasn't the time to be asking such questions. He hastily put on a coat as he followed Olivia out of the house.

In the emergency room at the hospital, Quincy was carrying out treatment on Declan. His medical skills had improved significantly, and when he thought about it, it was mostly thanks to 'The Imperial Acupuncture' Thomas had given him. Now, it was a piece of cake for him to treat wounds like this.

More than 20 minutes later, the treatment was complete. Quincy then ordered someone to transfer Declan to the VIP ward. "Alright, Ophelie, don't cry. Your Uncle Declan will be fine after he takes some medicine."

"Thank you, Mr. Hofstead." Ophelie was still sobbing as she thanked Quincy gratefully.

In the entire Pearson Family, save for Olivia, Declan was the one who treated Ophelie the best. In reality, Declan had already taken over the role of a father in Ophelie's heart.

"Rest here, and I'll prepare some medicine for your uncle."

"Okay!" Ophelie nodded obediently.

Just then, Ophelie's phone rang. It was a call from Harrison.

"Ophelie, where are you guys? I'm at the entrance of the hotel!"

Harrison was still mad. How could they harm his granddaughter? He would get back at them no matter what!

"Grandpa, I'm at the hospital. Come over."

"What? The hospital?"

Harrison was shocked. His granddaughter must have been seriously injured; she even went to the hospital!

"Don't worry, Grandpa, I'm not the one who got hurt. It's Uncle Declan."

When Harrison heard that, he was even more confused. Even though Declan wasn't as skilled as his father, Terrence, he had practiced martial arts since his youth. He should be quite capable, and he was also a core member of the Pearson Family. Who would dare touch him?

With a mind full of questions, Harrison hastily rushed to the hospital.

Harrison soon caught sight of his darling granddaughter sitting on a chair in the hospital corridor. "Ophelie, what exactly happened?"

Ophelie recounted the whole incident truthfully. She didn't notice that her grandfather's expression had turned especially dark.

Harrison's brows were tightly knitted, for he couldn't believe that Leah was back. No one else knew her reason for leaving in the first place, but the older generation like him knew it all too well. Leah was never as simple as she seemed to be. Also, she was probably up to no good if she chose to come back at such a sensitive time.

"Ophelie, don't cry. Relax, I promise I'll make them pay. However, you have to promise me that you can't tell the public about this yet."

Leah's return must be kept a secret, and no other soul should know about this.

After saying that to Ophelie, Harrison walked toward the dean's office. His most urgent task right now was to make sure that Declan was alright.

However, he had just opened the door when he stood rooted to the spot.

"You—"

Leah was found sitting on a couch opposite Quincy.

"Old Mr. Denver, please have a seat," Quincy said calmly.

He had just finished preparing the medicine when he ran into Leah. He asked a nurse to administer the medicine to Declan, then stayed behind to accompany the retired first lady of the Pearson Family. "Madam Wilkerson, you should tell Old Mr. Denver about the incident. After all, he is Olivia and Ophelie's grandfather. I am just an outsider, so I cannot say much about this."

Harrison glanced at Leah. What did she want to tell him? Also, by the looks of it, it had something to do with his granddaughters. Just as expected, he had guessed right. The woman didn't have any good intentions when she returned.

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Leah thought for a bit. Quincy was right. Harrison was Olivia and Ophelie's grandfather, so she should discuss the matter with him. She then said to Harrison, "Old Mr. Denver, or should I call you my in-law? We're all family here, so I shall be straightforward about this. I don't have to elaborate on the mission Olivia carries on her back, for you know it well. This concerns the traditions and rules of the Six Greatest Families. We can't say much about this, but as soon as Olivia becomes the sacrifice, only one ending awaits her—death! However, I have a way to stop her from dying."

Harrison's eyebrows creased tightly. Could Leah have a way? She might have, but he had a feeling that it wasn't as simple as it seemed.

"Tell me about your idea."

"Let Olivia and Ophelie go with me. I'll take them back to Capitalis, and when we're there, I'll—"

"No way!"

Before Leah could finish speaking, Harrison interrupted her loudly.

What did he say? This old hag never came with good intentions, did she? He was right! He couldn't believe that she wanted to take his darling granddaughters to Capitalis! In her dreams!

As for Leah's idea to prevent Olivia's death, Harrison ignored that completely. Did she think he was a three-year-old? Would he blindly believe her every word? It was a matter even the Six Greatest Families couldn't solve, so how could a word from Leah change anything? Moreover, now that Olivia had a capable man like Thomas protecting her, Leah's worries were unnecessary.

Leah remained calm. "Old Mr. Denver, please calm down and listen to me. Olivia became the sacrifice because she was poisoned with frost poison when she was young, and her blood turned into

something special. With my connections in Capitalis, I can raise another girl who has frost blood running through her veins in a short amount of time. She can just take Olivia's place. It's very simple."

"Hmph!" Harrison snorted. "If you're so capable, then go ahead and solve Olivia's problem. Since you can get someone to replace her, she doesn't have to go to Capitalis."

Leah explained patiently, "It's not the same. Olivia has to go to Capitalis with me because I want to matchmake her with someone. After all, people of that level are not to be trifled with. My power alone won't be enough to change Olivia's fate."

After learning that her son wasn't in mortal danger just now, she told Quincy about this matter. Quincy was much younger than her, but his position was in no way lower than hers. The Hofstead Family and the Pearson Family were on good terms with each other as well, so she found him an appropriate person to ask for help. With Quincy's supernatural position in Irieson, if he stood on her side, she could most probably take Olivia and her sister away.

However, Leah didn't expect Quincy to toss the matter to Harrison.

Harrison glanced coldly at Leah. No matter what the reason, Leah just wanted to take Olivia and her sister away. Nonsense! Leah wasn't even a proper mother, so how dare she meddle in his granddaughters' business?! What nonsense was this? What right did she have to take Olivia and her sister away?

"Old Mr. Denver, I know you may be biased against me, but at a critical time like this, please calm down and think about it. It's not that I'm looking down on the Denver Family. To be honest, be it the Pearsons or the Denvers, we are simply powerless when it comes to solving Olivia's problem." Leah's expression was abnormally confident, for she believed that Harrison was a smart person. It was almost time for the sacrifice, so if she didn't appear any sooner, only death awaited Olivia. However,

now that Leah was back, everything could be changed. She was confident enough to guarantee that as long as Olivia obeyed her, she would make sure that Olivia survived.

"Hah! Leah, do you take me for a fool? Let me say this right now—as long as I'm alive, and as long as the Denvers are still around, you can never take away Olivia and Ophelie!"

Arrange a marriage for Olivia, huh? In simpler terms, she just wanted to use Olivia as an asset to exchange for benefits. When she put it like that, however, she painted herself as a savior. How pretentious!

Leah raised an eyebrow. "Old Mr. Denver, do you know who the fiancé I arranged for Olivia is? It won't hurt for you to listen until the end. He is crowned the Genius of Capitalis, and his background is as mysterious as they come. He's the true chosen child who is loved by all. He learned martial arts when he was eight, and he became an expert at the age of ten. By the time he was 20, he was unrivaled in all of Capitalis. Now, he's 25, and he's the bona fide Genius of Capitalis! If Olivia marries a man as outstanding as he, she won't be at a disadvantage at all!"

"What? You... Are you seriously thinking of marrying Olivia off to him?!"

Both Quincy and Harrison exclaimed in surprise. They could hardly be blamed; after all, the man Leah spoke of was simply too famous!

He was a legendary person. Even though he was only 25 this year, they claimed that even the martial arts experts of the Six Greatest Families of Irieson were no match for him!

Even though Olivia was a beautiful woman, her background was far too different from that man's. Even if she married him, she could probably be no more than a concubine. Judging by Olivia's personality, how could she willingly become someone's concubine?

Also, what about Thomas? Could he possibly let Olivia leave just like that?

Harrison prioritized Olivia's opinions, and he knew that his granddaughter had fallen in love with Thomas. Compared to Thomas, what would it matter if that man was a genius in Capitalis or not? Olivia had always been a stubborn child. If she put her mind to something, nothing in the world could stop her. She would never abandon Thomas to become a concubine for the Genius of Capitalis.

When Leah saw the shocked expressions on the men's faces, she smiled in delight. That was the effect she was waiting for. "What do you think? It's a decent prospect, isn't it? No matter what, I'm Olivia's grandmother as well. I will never mistreat her."

Many girls dreamed of getting married to that genius, and many families wished they could be involved with him. If Olivia got married to him, Harrison would also get a piece of the pie as Olivia's grandfather. The Denvers might even rise in rank because of this! There was no way Harrison wouldn't agree to this unless there was something wrong with his head!

As for Thomas, who had been keeping watch by Olivia's side, he was but a mere gnat. Leah hadn't planned on doing anything to him at first, but he beat up her sons and grandsons, so she couldn't let him off the hook. She would just kill him. After all, it wouldn't take too much effort to kill a gnat.

However, the scene that took place next caught Leah by surprise.

"So what if he's a genius? I still won't agree to it. No, even Dr. Hofstead won't agree to that, let alone me!"

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Harrison also wanted to say that Thomas wouldn't agree with her suggestion, but after thinking about it, he decided not to mention Thomas at all. Thomas had done enough for Olivia, so it would be best if he wasn't involved in this matter.

Leah looked at Quincy in confusion. Why would Quincy be against this? He probably wouldn't. Even though the Hofstead Family and the Pearson Family were on good terms with each other, Quincy and Olivia didn't know each other that well. He had no reason to get involved in complicated things like this.

If Quincy insisted on getting involved, then Leah would have to rethink her plans. After all, his status was so special that even Leah didn't dare offend him without good reason.

When Quincy heard Harrison's words, he put on a bitter smile. He knew that Harrison wanted to say that Thomas wouldn't agree to it either. He didn't want to be involved in this, but when he thought about it, he felt like he would be dragged into the matter sooner or later. When Thomas was hot on their heels in the future, he would stand firmly on Thomas' side.

As such, it wouldn't matter if he became a shield for Thomas just this once.

"Old Mr. Denver is right. Leah, you have no right to make any decisions about Olivia's marriage. If you want to take Olivia away so that she can marry that genius in Capitalis, you're free to do so as long as you get Olivia's permission! If not, you will never take Olivia and her sister away!"

With that, Quincy stood up and looked down at Leah, who was sitting on the couch. The aura emanating from his body turned sharp as he continued, "Don't try to threaten anyone with Capitalis. Even though I usually lie low, I know Capitalis very well too. If my words work in Irieson, they will achieve the same effect in Capitalis!"

Before getting any response from Leah, he walked right out of the office.

Declan was injured, so Ophelie would surely inform her sister about it. If Olivia came here, Thomas would follow her here as well. It would be better if Quincy went out.

"Heh, messed up, didn't you? You didn't expect that at all, am I right? What a surprise for you!" Harrison grinned at Leah, then walked out of the office as well.

As soon as the two left, Leah's expression darkened. She couldn't care less about Harrison's opinions, for she didn't care about a family as insignificant as the Denvers. However, now that Quincy stated his stance, things had gotten much more complicated.

"Do I have to obtain Olivia's permission?"

Leah mumbled as she left the dean's office as well.

She knew the situation within the Pearson Family like the back of her hand. Her two granddaughters weren't on good terms with the Pearson Family, and the only person they acknowledged was her second son, Declan. Now that Declan was hospitalized because of an injury, Olivia would certainly be there. Hence, she would be meeting this granddaughter of hers.

Never did she imagine meeting her granddaughter for the first time in a hospital.

Just as she expected, Olivia was here. Olivia was standing beside Declan's bed as she listened to what her sister had to say.

Ophelie sobbed pitifully as she complained about the injustice to her sister.

She seemed to be complaining to her sister, but in reality, her words were meant for Thomas. Ophelie knew very well that the person who could truly avenge her was none other than her future brother-in- law.

However, Thomas' reaction disappointed her. Thomas simply crossed his arms and leaned against the window by the sickbed, smoking. He didn't look like he was even remotely interested in the conversation.

He had no interest in whatever was happening among the Pearson Family. As long as Olivia wasn't involved, he wouldn't want to be involved either. It wasn't like he had nothing better to do; he could get himself involved, but that would depend on Olivia's wishes.

Declan had already woken up, and he was taking the medicine Quincy had prepared for him. He looked much better compared to before.

Creak!

The door to the ward was opened. Quincy, Harrison, and Leah walked in.

Their appearance caught the attention of everyone in the ward, especially Leah's. Olivia stared at her, knowing very well that if she guessed correctly, this must be the legendary grandmother of hers.

Leah only took a glance at Olivia, but she was already blown away by the latter's beauty. How charming! Even though she had seen photos of Olivia before, she was still amazed when she saw Olivia in the flesh. Just as

expected of her granddaughter, Olivia had perfectly inherited her best features and was even prettier than she was in her youth.

"Olivia, it's me, your grandmother!" Leah seemed a little emotional as she took a few steps forward. She threw her arms open, intending to pull her granddaughter into her embrace.

However, Olivia took a few steps backward, dodging her discreetly.

"Please get a hold of yourself, old lady. I don't know you."

"Hm? Olivia, I'm your grandmother."

"I'm sorry, but I've never heard of you. My grandfather and father never mentioned your existence. How can you prove that you're my grandmother?"

Quincy and Harrison tried to hold back their laughter. What a genius move! Olivia wasn't the Most Beautiful Female Entrepreneur in Irieson for nothing; her words were guarded entirely. The two understood what she meant immediately; how could she accept that this old woman was her grandmother just based on verbal claims? In her dreams! Olivia could even claim that she was the old woman's grandmother if she wanted to.

Also, Olivia mentioned the deceased Terrence and Norman, blocking Leah's way out. If Leah wanted to prove that she was Olivia's grandmother, she could, but she would have to convince Terrence and Norman to explain things to Olivia. However, both men were dead, so how could they do that?

Olivia's intention couldn't be more obvious. She refused to acknowledge Leah as her grandmother!

"Um..." At that moment, Leah was at a loss for words. Before meeting Olivia, she had imagined dozens of reactions she might get, but she had no idea how to deal with this reaction. It was impossible!

Declan, who was lying on the sickbed, shook his head and said nothing. This was his niece's decision, so he had no right to interfere.

Leah looked at the people in the ward, then rested her gaze on Thomas. She quickly walked over to him. She needed a punching bag right now, but Olivia and her sister couldn't possibly fill that role. Now, she could only try to gain the sisters' favor. Declan couldn't fill that role either, for she was already feeling remorse toward her son. Also, she didn't dare offend Harrison and Quincy, so she could only direct her anger at Thomas.

Quincy pouted but remained silent. This old woman wasn't a decent fellow. If she could even control someone as influential as Terrence, Quincy knew very well that she would talk to Thomas with ill

intentions. However, if she wanted to cause trouble for the man, she could forget about it.

"So, you're Thomas, eh?"

Thomas nodded.

"I've heard about you. Hello." Leah extended a hand with a seemingly gentle smile on her face.

When Thomas saw that, he reached out and took her hand. Regardless of how Olivia treated her, he decided to be polite at the very least. After all, Leah was quite old.

However, their hands had just touched when Thomas immediately sensed something amiss. A great force surged toward him from Leah's hand.

"Are you trying to take it out on me?" Thomas instantly understood Leah's thoughts.

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In an instant, Thomas felt both angry and amused. He was mad for becoming the target after Leah failed to communicate with her granddaughter. Ever since he came to the hospital, he hadn't said a word, but he became her punching bag for some reason. What had he done to deserve this? At the same time, he was amused that Leah chose him as a punching bag out of all the people in the room. It was like challenging the strongest player in the room right away. Was she trying to get herself hurt?

Even though Thomas' body hadn't returned to its prime, he wasn't scared of Leah at all. No matter how strong Leah was, she was advanced in age. She was no longer as gutsy as she used to be. Thomas expended a little force as he returned the energy that came from Leah's hand.

Leah was secretly shocked. She had used up all her energy, but Thomas seemed unaffected by it. No wonder Thomas had no mercy for Terrence, for this young man seemed to be quite capable.

Thinking about this, she tried to retract her hand. Since she couldn't stagger him, she would forget about it for now. She would have all the time in the world to get back at him, after all.

However, Thomas wouldn't let her have things her way. Who did she think she was, trying to shake his hand just to pinch him, then try to retract her hand when she realized he was unaffected?

Thomas increased his grip, and raging energy spilled forth. "Hmm?"

This time, Leah was stunned. As Thomas' strength increased, she felt pain as if her palm was about to shatter into pieces. She wanted to resist, but she realized that her strength was like a small creek compared to the ocean of strength that belonged to Thomas. They were on completely different levels!

He had a faint smile on his face as he thought to himself. This old lady seems like she can handle some pressure. Alright, then. Let's see how long she can endure it without making a sound.

If it was a contest of pure strength, Thomas would never be intimidated. His weakness was his lack of experience in close combat. If they had to fight, he might even be wary of this old lady. After all, his body was far from fully recovered, so he would avoid any fights if he could.

Meanwhile, Leah's forehead was filled with beads of sweat. It was simply too painful. She thought that Thomas was a young man who only had some basic knowledge of martial arts. She didn't think he would be this strong!

She had truly kicked a wall. Did she have to speak and beg for mercy? That would be too humiliating!

Quincy and Harrison were veterans, so they could more or less guess what was happening based on the expressions on Thomas and Leah's faces. They tried to hold in their laughter. They couldn't believe that she would try to cause trouble for Thomas. Was she trying to die? "Thomas, do you know this old lady? Why are you shaking hands for so long?" Olivia looked up and noticed that Thomas was still shaking Leah's hand, so she couldn't help but ask.

She wasn't experienced like Quincy and Harrison, so of course, she couldn't understand what was going on between them. She simply didn't want Thomas to get into too much contact with Leah.

When Thomas heard Olivia saying that, he let go.

"Whew!" Leah let out a long sigh. She had her granddaughter to thank this time. If Thomas let go of her any later, she wouldn't be able to bear it, and she would've screamed in pain. When that happened, imagine how ashamed she would be! Her granddaughter was still her granddaughter, after all. No matter how cruel Olivia might be, she was still on Leah's side.

Leah looked at Olivia gratefully, but she was just overthinking it. Olivia had no intention of speaking up for her. If she knew that Thomas was giving Leah trouble, she wouldn't have said anything.

"Thomas, send this old lady away. No one here is related to her, so it's not right for her to stay here." Olivia meant to chase Leah out.

Thomas nodded, then gestured toward the entrance. His intention was obvious—he would personally escort Leah out the door.

Leah sighed. Judging by Olivia's attitude, she wouldn't acknowledge Leah as her grandmother, so Leah could only leave for now. When she had another chance in the future, she would work on her granddaughter.

Moreover, Thomas would be personally seeing her off. She was now wary of Thomas. The young guy was extremely skilled in combat, so if he knew that she insisted on staying here, he might do something terrifying to her.

Leah turned around and went out, but she didn't leave right away. Instead, she called out to Thomas, who was about to return to the ward.

"Hang on, Thomas. I have something to say to you."

Thomas glanced at her and stood where he was, waiting for her to talk.

"If you know what's good for you, leave Olivia alone. I know that you may be a little capable, but that's not important. Crudely speaking, you're just a driver who used to be in the army. You're not worthy of Olivia, so stop blocking her way and leave her right now. If you're still reluctant to go, you'll be in deep trouble. When the time comes, don't blame me for not reminding you."

Leah was straightforward about it, and she spoke both nicely and cruelly. However, her last sentence was already a bare threat.

"Hah!" Thomas curled his lips, his face filled with disdain. He had met no lack of people who threatened him, so Leah was just one of many. She said that he would be in deep trouble, didn't she? She could try if she was bold enough. He wanted to see how she would cause trouble for him!

Thomas had no intention of humoring the old lady, so he turned around and went back to the ward.

"That b\*stard!" Leah was pissed by Thomas' reaction. Didn't he know who she was and the status she held? Be it overseas or in Capitalis, no one had ever ignored her before!

She was almost enraged to death today. She failed to communicate with her granddaughter, and even Thomas, whom she never considered a threat, had rendered her helpless—twice in a row, at that!

She had planned to get a few subordinates to kill Thomas, but after testing Thomas' strength just now, she realized the man wasn't someone she could mess with. If she sent her subordinates, their lives would be sacrificed for nothing.

Leah refused to accept this, but she had no other way. With Quincy around, she didn't dare act recklessly. She would leave first for now, for she had all the time in the world. She would be taking Olivia away no matter what.

She had already agreed to this marriage arrangement, and the man was the Genius of Capitalis as well. If she couldn't take Olivia back, it would be an offense to the genius and the forces behind him.

In other words, she had no way of turning back!

It was midnight. Olivia remained silent as she sobbed silently beside Declan's sickbed. By the looks of it, she wouldn't be going home tonight.

Just as Thomas was wondering if he should convince Olivia to go back and rest, Quincy walked up to him and said in a low voice, "Come to my office for a bit. There's something I want to talk to you about."

"Okay." Thomas nodded in agreement.

He glanced at Declan, who was lying on the bed. Now that he was the person in charge of the Pearson Family, it was about time he reclaimed the things the Pearsons had taken away from him.

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"Mr. Pearson, I believe it's time to return the businesses your family previously took from the Keyshire Property."

Declan nodded as he knew about this and was prepared for such a thing. "I've already informed my employees about this. You may collect your dues whenever you wish."

Thomas smiled as he was pleased with his reply. It seemed that Declan was significantly better than Norman, who liked to haggle when it came to business deals.

"Olivia, you'll be in charge of retrieving it, then."

"Okay."

Then, Thomas bid goodbye to Olivia before heading to Quincy's office.

Quincy immediately relayed the intention of Leah's visit.

Thomas' face darkened as a fire burned in his eyes after hearing Quincy's words. Where were you when Olivia was bullied? Where were you when she was helpless? Where were you when she was injured and admitted to the hospital? Yet, now you dare. You dare to jump out of some crevice to arrange her marriage? How shameless! Who do you think you are to decide Olivia's future for her?

Quincy took a sip of water and continued, "Harrison knows about this as well and rejected Leah's suggestion immediately. Now, only Olivia's still in the dark. I bet she will have a huge reaction when she hears about this, especially about that mission of hers. You shouldn't blame Leah since this arranged marriage can help Olivia escape from becoming the sacrificial lamb, so to speak. The guy she's going to marry is the genius of Capitalis. With his background, it's a piece of cake to settle Olivia's problems."

Crackle! Thomas lit a cigarette and took his time with it before opening his mouth after a moment, saying, "Tell Olivia about this, but don't tell her about the mission. I'm afraid she won't react well."

"Tell Olivia?" Quincy was stunned. "She will never agree to it."

However, Thomas just shook his head in resignation. "I know her better than you do. She's very nice, naive, and filial. Even though she had claimed that she wouldn't consider Leah as her grandma, we don't actually know what she thinks. Blood is thicker than water, so I think she will soften her attitude toward Leah once the horrid woman treats her better. Besides, Leah doesn't seem like the type to give up without making a huge fuss. Even if we don't tell Olivia about the marriage, Leah will beat us to it sooner or later."

Quincy nodded in agreement. "Then, are you going to tell her? Or, should I be the one to break the news?"

"Neither of us. Doesn't Harrison know about this as well?"

"Okay. I'll ask him to tell Olivia."

Then, Thomas fell into deep thought as he wondered how Olivia would react when she heard about the marriage Leah had arranged for her without her knowledge. Would she accept it quietly or fight against it furiously?

The man Leah chose for her had the title of Genius of Capitalis. He was definitely the creme de la creme in the country. So, perhaps it would be a good choice for Olivia to marry him.

Still, Thomas didn't know why he was angry when he found out about Leah's arrangement regarding Olivia's marriage prospects. Why was I so angry? Did I fall in love with Olivia?

He shook his head to stop such absurd notions. Olivia should have the right to decide her life choices. If she was willing to marry this man, then he would leave quietly. This was better than becoming a sacrifice. If she didn't want to marry that guy, Thomas would stay by her side come hell or high water.

To hell with the Six Greatest Families and that genius. This is bullsh\*t. If they dare touch Olivia, I'll kill them!

In the corridor outside the ward, Olivia and Harrison stood face to face.

She looked at him in confusion as she wondered what he wanted to tell her. He had asked her to come out, saying that he had something to tell her. To her utter bafflement, they had been standing there for five whole minutes yet he had not spoken. He just stood there with a hesitant expression on his face.

Harrison indeed didn't know how to even begin explaining things to Olivia, but they couldn't just stand there the whole day. So, he inhaled deeply, bit his lips, and told her what Leah wanted. Of course, he didn't tell her about the sacrifice as Quincy had placed a gag order regarding that little horrifying tidbit.

"What did you say?" Olivia bellowed right after Harrison finished talking. "Who does she think she is? How can she decide on my behalf? F\*ck Grandma. She's just an old h\*g. Why can't she just die and leave me alone?!"

Olivia was fuming. She had neither seen Leah since she was young nor had she heard of Leah. Regardless, this harpy just appeared out of thin air and dared to arrange a marriage for her without even consulting her!

Is that woman too free? What does it matter to her who I want to marry? Does she think I'm easy pickings that she could just arrange a marriage and I'll accept this placidly like a little doll?

Olivia had just reached a phase in life where she was precisely where she wanted to be. She had a career of her own and the freedom to pursue whatever she wanted. Most importantly, she had a man who was willing to protect her with his life. Leah had just threatened her idyllic life in one fell swoop. She would never allow such a thing to come to pass!

"I'm not going to marry him! I don't care if he's a genius or an idiot. It has nothing to do with me! My life. My rules. I'm not her tool!" Tears streamed down Olivia's face in her ire as she grabbed tightly onto Harrison's arms and snarled angrily.

Harrison sighed in response and pulled Olivia into his arms. He was a constant in her life and had been there for every single milestone in her life as she grew into the woman she was now. So, he knew very well what type of person she truly was. He had never seen her curse, but her fury toward Leah

was so deep that it actually loosened her tongue. Frankly, it was apparent to even a deaf man just how angry she was.

Now that he had the time to consider this, if he was placed in her shoes, he couldn't even promise that he wouldn't react as strongly as she did. She was living a good life and a woman claiming to be her grandma popped up out of the blue and wanted to take her away to marry some guy she didn't know, jeopardizing her peaceful life. If such a thing happened to him, he would have lost it as well.

Harrison also grew up in a big family, so he also knew what Leah was planning. All of Leah's claims to help Olivia and save her from becoming the sacrifice were pure nonsense. Leah only wanted to use Olivia to sate her selfish whims.

Unfortunately, that man with the title of Genius of Capitalis had a powerful background that made one shudder. Not many in Irieson could stand a chance against him and his family. Nonetheless, it didn't matter as Harrison would use all he had to protect Olivia from such an undesirable marriage.

"It's alright, Olivia. You don't need to marry him if you don't want to. If Leah or that genius dare come here, I'll chase them away!" Harrison rushed to comfort her as he didn't want her health to be affected by the fluctuation of her emotions.

Olivia finally tired herself out after sobbing in his arms and she eventually fell asleep in his arms.

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Harrison carried Olivia up and placed her down in a VIP ward. Then, he pulled the covers over her and sat down quietly beside her. He watched the drying tear tracks on her face and sighed.

Olivia had always been a perfect girl in his eyes. She was beautiful, sensible, obedient, filial, and most importantly had exceptional talent in managing a business. Yet, this perfect girl had to become a sacrifice?

Harrison blamed himself as he thought of that. He lived a straightforward life and rarely regretted anything. The only thing he did regret was allowing his daughter, Eira, to marry Norman. If he had disagreed back then, they wouldn't have had so many problems. Just as Harrison was immersed in his turmoil, Quincy entered the room. He was standing at the corner of the corridor where Harrison and Olivia couldn't see him. Nonetheless, he was close enough that he heard their entire conversation clearly.

Honestly, he had expected Olivia's answer. It didn't matter if the guy was a genius as Olivia's heart was set on Thomas. She could care less about any other guy.

"Old Mr. Denver, I've heard of Leah Wilkerson. She probably has some strong connections in the Capitalis for her to be able to talk to the genius. If she comes again, I'm afraid the Denver Family isn't capable of going against her. I can help you when the time comes."

Quincy said in a low voice, "Even though I've stayed in Irieson these few years, I've still got some connections in Capitalis. You don't need to be too worried even if you have to go up against Leah in Capitalis."

Quincy had thought this through. Since Olivia had made it clear that she didn't want to marry some stranger, Thomas would never allow her to be taken away against her will. At that time, he would have

to help Thomas. So, why shouldn't he make himself known to Harrison just to gain a good impression of it as well?

"Thank you, Dr. Hofstead!" Harrison thanked him with his hands clasped together as he felt a considerable amount of relief after hearing those words.

It would be challenging if Harrison had to deal with Leah all on his lonesome. However, things would be different if Quincy could lend him a hand as no one dared to look down on this influential figure in the medical world who had many students scattered around the world in Droycore.

Quincy waved his hands in dismissal. "You're welcome, Old Mr. Denver. I'm going to get Thomas to come over."

Then, he returned to his office and recounted what happened as a warm feeling coursed through Thomas' heart. He was glad that Olivia had vehemently refused to marry.

"Thomas, don't worry. If Leah Wilkerson dares to do something, I'll deal with her!" Even Quincy couldn't stand for such a backward notion. Leah was married off and had grandchildren of her own. So, why didn't she ask her other grandchildren to marry that genius and was forcing Olivia to do it instead? Besides, she just had to pick this sensitive time to take Olivia away. It was as if she was taking advantage of Olivia after the fall of the Pearson Family.

What does Olivia have to do with you wanting to make friends with the influential people behind the Genius of Capitalis? Crazy woman!

Thomas smiled and lit up a cigarette before taking a deep puff, "Honestly, I'm quite interested in that genius. I would like to meet him if we have the chance."

"Don't worry. You will and it might be anytime soon too." Quincy pondered for a while and saw through Thomas. Even though Thomas was young, his achievement in the medical field was at a terrifying

level. If a man such as himself had never called himself a genius, it was natural that he would be displeased to hear someone else calling themselves one.

"I saw that guy a long time ago. He had just made a name for himself and was strutting around like a peacock because he was talented. I reckon he would come looking for Olivia once he hears that she isn't willing to marry him. So, there's no need to rush over there when the prey would fall into our laps on a silver platter."

Then, Thomas nodded. "Well, I hope that day isn't too far from the horizon."

Quincy had mentioned that this person was almost the same age as he was. For him to have such a reputation at a young age meant that he truly had the skills to back up his bragging. Thomas truly couldn't wait to meet this guy.

## Genius? We'll see!

After that, Thomas went to Olivia's ward and told Harrison, "I promised Olivia that I will take care of her for life. If she doesn't want to marry him, I'll take care of this. You don't need to worry."

Harrison looked at Thomas as his lips twitched as if wanting to say something. Alas, he couldn't bring himself to say anything in the end as he turned around to exit the room and went to Declan. On the other hand, Thomas sat by the hospital bed looking after Olivia. She finally woke up when the sun started to rise and let out a sweet smile when she saw Thomas beside her.

"Go back to sleep. It's still early. You should rest well today. Don't even think about work," Thomas urged.

Unfortunately, Olivia immediately thought about the mountain of documents waiting for her if she didn't go to work today. "It's fine. I'm going to clean up. Let's go to the office."

"It doesn't hurt to rest a day."

"Okay." Olivia stopped resisting Thomas' determined stance in forcing her to catch up on rest as she knew she wouldn't be able to work at her current state as well.

"Thomas... Do you know about it?"

Thomas nodded. "Yes."

"I... I'm not going to marry him!" Olivia exclaimed firmly. She wanted to know what he thought about it since he was also in the know.

"Whatever this genius does has nothing to do with me. I'll only marry... marry..."

That last word 'you' was like a fishbone stuck in Olivia's throat as she couldn't force the word out her throat.

She was afraid that Thomas would reject her. If he did, it would make things way too awkward. Once that happened, she couldn't even imagine what she was going to do, then. Could she avoid seeing him? Impossible. Just an hour of not seeing him would make her heart anxious. Yet, if he rejected her, how would the both of them get along in the future?

Hoo! Thomas let out a long sigh when he saw Olivia trailed off at the very end of the sentence. Even if she didn't, he already knew what she wanted to say as he could clearly see her love for him.

He didn't want to, nor did he dare to get into a relationship. He didn't want to as the situation at the moment was far too complicated for romance. He was afraid that if anything happened to him it would waste Olivia's time. Moreover, he couldn't bring himself to accept another budding relationship as he was still traumatized by Felice.

When he was young, he foolishly gave everything in the name of love. Alas, his naivety saved his life when his heart was torn into pieces. He lived on while his youthful wishes died that day and he never dared to fall in love again. One shouldn't laugh at his empty expression as no one had experienced the turbulence in his heart firsthand.

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Perhaps unrequited love was a compulsory life lesson every adult had to experience at least once in their lifetime.

"Don't marry if you don't want to. As I have said before, you only need to live for yourself from now on. No one can force you to do anything out of your will!" Thomas said with a serious demeanor.

"Really?" Olivia, who wasn't exactly in the brightest of moods after learning the truth behind Leah's machinations, suddenly became enlightened after hearing what Thomas said. He's right! I have to live for myself. It doesn't matter whether that person is Grandpa or Leah, no one has the right to arrange my life for me!

Thomas nodded as he added, "I've told you not to worry and I never go back on my words. If they dare to come again, I will drive them away. I will even kill them if they dare to take you away by force, be it one or many! I will get rid of them all until no one dares to take you away without your consent!"

At that moment, Olivia felt as though spring had come as she felt the love in her heart bloom. Her heart felt strangely full as though an actual flower was going to burst out of her chest. Such a bad\*ss statement! Thomas is willing to go against the whole world in order to protect me! Congratulations, dear self! You have indeed chosen the right man. Then again, no woman can resist falling in love with a fine man like Thomas!

Then, she silently declared in her heart, Leah! I'm telling you—whoever wants to marry that so-called Genius of Capitalis can just proceed to marry him! Either way, I will not marry him! What's so great about him? He's not even near as good as Thomas!

Finally, she vowed solemnly, I will only marry Thomas in this lifetime!

"Stay in the hospital and don't go anywhere. I'll return to the villa to grab the medicine and bring you breakfast upon return."

"Okay."

Olivia got out of bed and went to find Declan after watching Thomas depart.

At 12.00PM, Blake, Kirk, Quentin, Taylor, and Isaac Zane, the elder of the Zane Family, gathered in a hotel owned by the Hind Family. They were here today for a meeting amongst the Six Greatest Families of Irieson. Originally, the Pearson Family was a part of this gathering. Nonetheless, ever since the family suddenly underwent drastic changes, they now only had mere nominal existence. For that reason, they naturally lost their eligibility to attend this meeting. Furthermore, the main purpose of today's meeting was to draft a detailed plan to kill Thomas.

Blake took the lead and announced, "Making sacrificial offerings has always been a rule inaugurated by the Six Greatest Families since its establishment. Not to mention, it symbolizes the existence of the Six Greatest Families. Therefore, do you guys mind sharing your views on how to deal with Thomas?"

"That's right! We all shall be condemned as traitors throughout the ages if that b\*stard ruins our sacrificial offering ritual. As I see it, our current top priority is to kill Thomas so as to avoid more unexpected troubles caused by the undue delay!" Quentin immediately echoed.

Meanwhile, Kirk picked up the wine glass in front of him and took a sip. In truth, he did wish for Thomas' death. After all, his son died in Thomas' hands. Regardless, Kirk was also well aware that he was incapable of pulling off such a stunt, especially when his father, Logan Xalmar, and the Xalmar Family's martial arts experts were currently out of Irieson and handling affairs in Capitalis.

"I'm down to getting rid of Thomas, but my father will not return to Irieson until next week." Although Kirk was in this meeting as the head of the Xalmar Family, just like the other Greatest Families, he was merely a representative. This was the same for the others in attendance as well for the ones who truly held any sway in their family and had the right to make any decision regarding their family were their fathers. Meanwhile, Blake was the only exception to this rule.

Once Kirk expressed his views, only Taylor and Isaac were the ones who had yet to voice their thoughts. Hence, Blake, Kirk, and Quentin stared at the two intently, waiting for them to speak. It's their turn to express their opinion. Yet, why are they keeping silent? Could it be that they have a different view? As for Blake, he was immensely frustrated with Taylor and Isaac. These two are always the least active whenever we decide to hold a meeting. What the hell? Do they not regard themselves as a part of the Six Greatest Families too?

"Old Mr. Saunder, may I know how you view this matter?" Although Blake was frustrated with Taylor, he still did a decent job of hiding his impatience. After all, the Saunder Family was highly influential in Irieson. Furthermore, they had another powerful family, the Zane Family, following as their vassal.

"Is it necessary for us to make such a big deal out of this matter? As far as I know, Thomas is simply Olivia's friend and not her boyfriend. Their relationship is not as it is rumored," Finally, Taylor spoke.

Unknown to Blake, Quincy had visited Taylor prior to this. During his visit, he told Taylor that Thomas was his friend and asked Taylor not to pick on Thomas out of respect for him. Since Taylor had already promised Quincy, he undoubtedly would not agree to the proposal of killing Thomas.

"I beg to differ, Old Mr. Saunder. As someone who has had experience in this matter, you and I know there is a chance a young lad such as Thomas will fall in love with a young maiden such as Olivia after living together under the same roof for a long time. What if the two accidentally got together and brought serious consequences upon us? It would be too late for us to fall into despair when that happened," Blake retorted.

"I agree with Blake."

"Blake is right!"

Taylor looked at Blake and then at Quentin. As for Kirk, since Logan was absent, Taylor couldn't be bothered to talk to him as he deemed Kirk alone wasn't eligible enough to discuss matters with him.

Shortly after, Taylor sneered, "Since you insist on killing Thomas, I have no choice but to agree."

"Good! How about you, Old Mr. Zane? Do you agree?"

Isaac simply smiled as he waved his hands and said, "You don't need to ask me. Everyone knows our family has always held the Saunder Family in high esteem. We would be there with them during the good and the bad. Taylor's words represent the Zane Family's stance."

"Excellent! Let's discuss our plan now that everyone has reached an agreement. I hate to admit it, but Thomas is fairly skilled in martial arts," Quentin said with a smile. My son is likely to be disabled for the rest of his life. So, I have to avenge him no matter what!

"Since Thomas is not an easy opponent, I suggest all five of our families join forces and fight him. That way, he will definitely lose his life. If he manages to escape unscathed, then I might as well renounce my name entirely!" Blake's facial expression twisted into a gloomy scowl. Amongst all Five Greatest Families, the Hind Family was one of the first to start a feud with Thomas. For that reason, Blake wanted Thomas to die with every fiber of his being; the quicker, the better.

"That's a good idea! The Xalmar Family supports it fully!" As the nominal head of the Xalmar Family, Kirk could still make decisions regarding trivial matters like this. In addition, Kirk figured Logan would have also wanted to kill Thomas if he found out that Thomas had killed Harvey.

Suddenly, Taylor sighed. "Us five families join forces solely to defeat a young man? Are you guys not afraid of getting ridiculed for your dishonorable actions? Besides, do you guys honestly think that Thomas is someone we can easily mess with? Does he not have any good friends or connections with influential families? Have you guys forgotten the Morton Family, the Peralta Family, and the Elliott Family? Will they not side with Thomas when we come to blows? What if the news of us overtly joining forces to kill Thomas reaches these three families? What should we do if they decide to help Thomas?"

"The reputation of the Six Greatest Families has gone from bad to worse in recent years. Are you saying that our families' reputations aren't damaged enough? Or, are you saying that our families have not suffered enough shame? Take Minacia Oito Irieson for an example. Why did those eight b\*stards dare to commit all crimes and heartless acts in Irieson? That's because they have the three of you as their backers! Are you guys not guilt-stricken knowing that you have wrecked livelihoods and families, causing complaints to rise all around Irieson for the sake of your self-interest? Heed

my advice— behave, for the Six Greatest Families won't be able to keep our foothold in Irieson once we arouse public anger!"

Indeed, very few knew that the Yam Family, the Hind Family, and the Xalmar Family were the biggest backers of Minacia Oito Irieson.

Blake, Quentin, and Kirk looked at each other upon hearing Taylor's stern words. Then, Blake asked, "Old Mr. Saunder, why are you so agitated? Could it be that Thomas had scared you out of your wits?"

"Scared me out of my wits?" Taylor was so offended by Blake's words that he ended up laughing. "Blake, let me tell you—the person who can terrify me has yet to be born. That's all I have to say. It's your choice whether to proceed with this farce."

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Taylor stood up and left the private room after he said his piece. It was a great relief to him that Minacia Oito Irieson was gone, and he wondered who was the hero that killed them because they had done a great service to the people! Truthfully, if he knew who that person was, he would buy that hero a drink and compliment them for a job well done.

Meanwhile, Blake, Quentin, and Kirk were still trying to find out who the murderer was. The deaths of Minacia Oito shouldn't be in vain because they had brought a lot of benefits to the three families over the years, and they couldn't sit by and do nothing about their deaths.

It was Isaac who spoke first, "I guess all of us understood what Old Mr. Saunder meant. Since you guys have decided to hunt down and kill Thomas Clifford, we won't go against your decision as we're one of the members of the Six Greatest Families. Even though we agree to this decision, we're not going to be involved in any execution of it at all. Okay, I gotta go now or else I can't catch up with Old Mr. Saunder. Goodbye, everyone."

Pin-drop silence fell over the room as the three of them looked at each other with long faces. All of them were the core members of powerful families and received respect wherever they went, but now, they had to tolerate the lecture by one of their own. If someone else was in their shoes, they wouldn't feel good about this situation, either.

"Damn, that old geezer Taylor Saunder! He's so arrogant!" Blake bellowed, breaking the silence.

"Exactly. Does he even remember that the Saunder is one of the Six Greatest Families? Besides, they're always the ones dragging us down whenever something crops up, and it has happened more than once or twice," Quentin huffed in frustration.

Everyone knew that the Saunders were highly influential, but they usually only hung out with the Zanes and couldn't be bothered with the remaining four families. If there was anyone else in the four who were closer to the Saunders, it would be the Pearson Family. After all, Declan was Taylor's son-in-law.

It was all fine and understandable to the other families that the Saunders would like to keep a low profile, but whenever their help was needed, they would always go against the majority. It was fine if it scarcely happened, but the frequency of their refusal to participate and remain neutral didn't seem so appropriate anymore. As a matter of fact, the Saunders were getting worse! This was evident by Taylor's complete disregard when it came to their collective interests today! Not only did the Saunders go against their idea, but Taylor also told off the others. He might as well call them fools before he flounced off. Who the hell did he think he was?

"Isaac is another problem. One of the Six Greatest Families my \*rse. He doesn't even have an opinion of his own. Instead, he's always following whatever Taylor says as though he's the leader. Disgusting!" Kirk grumbled with indifference.

It was undeniable that these three families—the Hinds, Yams, and Xalmars had been backing up Minacia Oito Irieson over the years. As reputable families in Irieson, every move they made was always under the scrutiny of the public and they couldn't do a lot of dirty jobs. Hence, Minacia Oito Irieson was formed.

The value of their existence was to help the three families with those unsavory, under-the-table dealings.

It didn't matter how sickening the job was, it was fine as long as they got paid, and they were profitable jobs involving violence and underhanded tactics. Throughout the years, Minacia Oito Irieson had brought countless benefits to these three families. So, it was only natural that they would lend them some support in return. At the end of the day, nobody would complain about having more money.

If the Saunders and the Zanes were jealous, they could have easily asked to join them because they wouldn't mind having another business partner. Yet, it bewildered the three families that they were told off by Taylor for their success.

Quentin waved his hand in frustration. "Since the Saunders and the Zanes don't want to be involved, the three of us will join forces. We're speaking about an immature brat here, and I'm confident that we can get rid of him if we join forces. Once he's killed, we'll settle our scores with that old geezer! As for the Zanes... Hah, they're nothing. Once Taylor is dead, they'll be as helpless as a lamb."

"You're right, it's about time we settle our scores with that annoying geezer," Blake said in agreement. It wasn't the first day that he found Taylor an eyesore, and if they didn't teach him a lesson soon, he might start getting it in his head that he's the leader of the Six Greatest Families.

"I concur. Let's kill Clifford first, and then Taylor Saunder," Kirk growled menacingly.

They weren't the cause that the Six Greatest Families had a bad reputation since the public didn't know that they were the puppeteers behind Minacia Oito Irieson. It was the other three families who were spreading the rumors about that, resulting in a drastic drop in public favor. In the end, the other families in Irieson knew that Minacia Oito Irieson was on friendly terms with three of the families from the Six Greatest Families.

Nevertheless, they had completely forgotten that it was because of their support and connivance that Minacia Oito Irieson was capable of all sorts of outrageous acts. How shameless could these people be!

None of the three were fools; Taylor and Isaac didn't want to be involved because they never had a confrontation with Thomas before. It wasn't a problem for them that they weren't joining them because, with the combined forces of the remaining three families, they could still eliminate Thomas quite easily.

"That brat, Thomas Clifford, isn't an easy target," Quentin said in a solemn voice. "We'll have to take things seriously."

Blake frowned as he inquired, "Is that old geezer going to leak our plan to kill Clifford?"

"Fret not. The Saunders are still a member of the Six Greatest Families and will just stay out of it, at the most."

"Okay, there's nothing to worry about, then. This time, we must kill Clifford! Cheers!"

After the meeting was adjourned, Blake went home in his car with mixed feelings. Who would have imagined that Terrence and Norman are dead just like that? That time, when I bought Terrence breakfast, turned out to be my last meeting with him.

Truth be told, the Pearson and Hind Families went back a long time, all the way back to Blake's father, Bence. At that time, Bence and Terrence fell for Leah at the same time, but the one who got her hand in the end was Terrence. It was due to this that Bence suffered acute depression for a long time.

On the other hand, it was very simple why Leah chose Terrence over Bence. Back then, Terrence was single while Bence already had a wife and even Blake was no longer a toddler.

When he thought about it, Bence and Terrence wooing Leah simultaneously had caused quite a ruckus in Irieson and was the gossip for the adults in their free time.

"Terrence and Norman Pearson, finally, both of you are dead!" He chuckled in excitement. Besides, Bence had wished for the failure of the Pearson Family, but sadly, even after all the efforts he and Blake had put in, they couldn't topple the Pearson Family. Unexpectedly, a hero appeared out of nowhere and killed the Pearson duo, to his great satisfaction!

Back home, right after he stepped into his house, he saw his younger brother, Jake, chatting with an elderly woman on the couch and was shocked when he approached them and had a closer look at the woman.

"It's you!"

This woman had left a really deep impression on Blake, and even after decades had passed, he could still recognize her with one glance.

"Blake, do you know each other?" Jake asked the first question that popped into his mind, but upon giving it a second thought, he remembered that the elderly woman already mentioned at the door that she was there to look for Blake. So, they were certainly acquainted.

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Leah was seated on the couch as she flashed Blake a smile. "It's been a while, Blake."

Indeed, it had been a very long time. The last time she saw him, he was still a child, but he was the head of the Hind Family now.

"Give us some privacy, Jake." All Blake could feel now was astonishment. This woman wasn't as simple as she seemed. Back then, she alone was enough to cause chaos in the entire Hind Family. Nobody will believe it if I tell them that. Yet, they'd have no choice but to believe that it is the truth.

Bence was head over heels in love with her, and the Hind Family sank into chaos because of that. Regardless, it's been decades since she disappeared. Why did she suddenly return? And she even came straight to my house. What does she want?

Meanwhile, Jake was full of questions as well because Blake had never once hidden anything from him, but why was he asking him to leave the room today? Nonetheless, he nodded and obediently walked out of the room.

Jake wasn't even born when Bence was utterly obsessed with Leah. So, it was only natural that he didn't recognize her. By the time he grew up, nobody dared to bring up this matter because it was truly a humiliating ordeal for the Hinds.

The living room was so eerily quiet that Blake could almost hear his own heartbeat. He didn't conceal the wariness on his face as he demanded, "What brought you here?"

"I'm here to ask you about something."

"What is it?"

"Why did you try to assassinate my granddaughter?" Leah's voice turned cold. Even though she had left the Pearson Family a long time ago, she was once in love with Terrence, and Olivia was her

granddaughter. So, of course, she had to interfere when someone kept trying to get at her granddaughter.

Her ex-husband and son were murdered, and she was in the midst of finding out just who was the killer. So far, the biggest suspect she had was Blake, and she was here today for two reasons; one was to find out whether Blake was the murderer and secondly, she wanted an explanation from him for Olivia's predicament.

"Huh?" For a second, Blake was lost because he never expected her to show up here for this. Although he did send assassins after Olivia, it had been a while since he did anything to her. Instead, he had now devoted all his attention to killing Thomas.

Leah shot him a look from the corners of her eyes. "Blake, your father and I were friends. Yet, you sent someone after my granddaughter's life. I guess there's no need for me to tell you how dearly I value her, right? Well, you have to give me an explanation today!"

Blood rushed to Blake's face. Why did he try to assassinate Olivia? This was a question he couldn't answer. How could he bring himself to say that he and Bence had been using underhanded means in the dark to eliminate the Pearson Family because Bence hated them after he failed to win Leah's heart? It was upon Bence's order that he sent someone after Olivia's life because her death would cause the Pearson Family a severe blow. There was no way he could say all these out loud!

Meanwhile, the instant Leah caught sight of the look on his face, she thought with a fire of fury burning in her eyes, If it weren't because of your father, I'd have you killed today! "I'll ask you one more question. Did you kill Terrence and Norman?"

"I killed them?" Blake snorted coldly. "Leah, you can come directly for the Hinds if you want to make things difficult for us. We're not afraid of you, so you don't have to try to frame us with that crime."

Although he had to admit that he had sent assassins after Olivia, there wasn't a single shard of connection between him and the death of the Pearsons. He

did want to kill Terrence very badly, but he wasn't that capable. Otherwise, why would he waste all that effort on Olivia instead?

From his reaction, Leah reckoned that he wasn't pretending and sighed in relief. It looks like he's not the one who killed Terrence.

Leah was anything but an ordinary girl because she was born into the most influential family in the capital city, the Wilkerson Family. For some unknown reason, she ended up in Irieson decades ago and somehow lost her memory, which then led to her marriage to Terrence. However, she recovered her memories after she gave birth to Declan. When she finally recalled her identity, she didn't even leave a letter as she left without a word.

At that time, she was already engaged to someone else, and her fiancé at that time was her current husband. If she hadn't returned, her family's interests would be compromised, so she toughened herself and left Terrence and their sons behind.

Harrison knew a little about Leah's background whereas Quincy knew all the sordid details. Once, Quincy visited an old friend in Capitalis and saw the legendary Leah at a party. Just like Blake, he had only seen her in his childhood, but he could immediately recognize her with just one glance. So, he asked his friends for help before learning about her true identity.

After he returned to Irieson, he never brought this up to anyone from the Pearson Family because he knew Terrence's temper. Terrence was exceptionally obstinate and would start a fight in Capitalis if he learned that his wife who left without a word for years had returned to Capitalis and gotten married to another man. If that happened, then things would definitely get out of hand.

It was true that the Pearson Family was wealthy and powerful, but what about the Wilkerson Family? The Wilkerson Family's status was beyond their imagination. They were the most influential family in

Capitalis, and when two tigers fought, one was bound to be hurt.

"Leah, I admit that I did send assassins after Olivia, but don't ask me for a reason. As one of the Six Greatest Families of Irieson, do I need a reason just to get rid of a person? You have got to be kidding me! I was about to succeed, but Thomas Clifford appeared out of nowhere and ruined my plans. If he hadn't, Olivia would have been long dead!"

Blake was already in a foul mood today after getting a lecture from Taylor, to begin with. Then, he was practically interrogated by this old hag after he returned to his own home. Why should I tolerate such an insult? The one who loved you was my father, not me. Father may give in to your whims, but why should I do the same? How dare she question me, the head of the Hind Family? She's not taking me seriously at all, is she? If I don't teach her a lesson, she'll never learn who's in charge here!

"Oh?" Leah narrowed her eyes as fury engulfed her. "Blake, don't think that I have no idea what you're planning! Terrence may be dead, but I'm still around! Today, I'm letting you live for your father's sake, but if you dare lay a finger on my family again, I'll wipe out your entire family, including every living thing that breathes. Try me if you don't believe me."

All her intense aura exploded out of her and into Blake's face, as sharp as knives and as speedy as a gust of whirlwind. How could Blake even come close to her? That was shown as he felt a shudder in his chest, and his knees buckled as he stumbled to the floor, looking utterly unseemly.

Finally, she pointed a finger right at him as she bellowed, "To kill a mere family like the Hinds is as easy as killing an ant for me. I've already given you a great deal of respect by informing you about this. Since you've decided to poke the bear, you'd better accept the consequences as well!"