

The Legendary Man Chapter 615 -

Chapter 615 The Blackwood Family

“Extremely important?”

Josephine deshelled another boiled egg and placed it on Jonathan’s plate. However, there were residual eggshells on it this time.

“Don’t you still have a lot to do? In that case, hurry up and eat. No matter how busy you are, you can’t neglect your health.”

“Josephine...”

Staring at the egg with shells still hanging from it, Jonathan was filled with dismay.

Ever since we knew each other, Josephine has always behaved in an aloof manner. Never once was she ever this attentive. Just look at that eggshell the size of a fingernail. Can she not be any more vengeful?

Sitting opposite him with her hands cupping her chin, Josephine looked exceptionally gentle when rays of the morning sun bathed her face.

“What’s wrong? Do you not like the egg I peeled for you?”

“How is that possible?” Jonathan replied without hesitation before stuffing the egg into his mouth.

Following a loud crunch, the egg, together with its shell, was chewed into pieces by Jonathan before being swallowed.

“Even if you fed me poison, I’ll willingly eat it.”

Josephine nodded with a slight grin. “I’m glad you know what’s good for you. Anyway, I’m going to take a nap. You... just remember to be careful.”

Just as she spoke, Josephine turned around and left. However, she didn’t get far before she turned back around again.

“Jonathan!”

“Yes?”

Jonathan turned his attention to her upon hearing her call his name. He was greeted by the sight of Josephine gently stroking her still-flat stomach.

“No matter what you do, remember that your child and I are waiting for you.”

A lump emerged in Jonathan’s throat despite the extraordinarily casual comment.

Three years.

That was the amount of time he spent in the army so that he could enjoy a peaceful breakfast with his family and live a stable life with Josephine. When Jonathan left Asura's Office and returned to Jadeborough, he had the intention of slowing down Asura's Office's expansion.

Obviously, he considered using the opportunity to retire and spend the rest of his days with Josephine.

Unfortunately, the situation in Chanaea had changed so rapidly that he was unable to disentangle himself from it.

Given that he had established Asura's Office, the other factions were definitely not going to allow him to disband the organization, let alone leave.

Consequently, Jonathan let out a deep sigh as he watched Josephine's leaving silhouette.

In order to achieve a sustainable sense of stability, I'll have to resolve the problem posed by Karl and the respectable families as soon as possible. As for Yaleview...

Jonathan strode out of the house.

Even though Edenic Heights was placed under restrictions, he was still within the confines of his house.

As a result, it was advisable for him, in his capacity as Asura, to stay outside the compound.

Upon leaving the yard, he saw Harry waiting for him outside.

"Mr. Goldstein, Lauryn has been assigned to No. 129 Villa for security check."

"Security check?"

Jonathan was slightly stunned.

"There's no need for that. She's a Grandmaster. If she had wanted to cause trouble, none of you could have stood in her way. If that isn't her intention, a security check would be redundant. Therefore, just bring her here."

"Yes, Mr. Goldstein!"

No sooner had Harry acknowledged the instructions than a soldier beside him contacted No. 129 Villa to let Lauryn pass.

As Jonathan and Harry walked down the hill and passed by No. 2 Villa, they saw Donald sitting on the outdoor swing and kicking his legs in the air.

“Donald? What are you doing here?” Jonathan asked curiously.

Ever since Jason was injured, Donald had taken over Edenic Heights’ medical team. The mountain resort was filled with injured soldiers, including some in critical condition that couldn’t be moved. Based on Donald’s character, he would never leave these men unattended.

“Nothing much, just waiting for Jason.”

When Donald saw Jonathan, there was a sense of contempt in the air, which Jonathan could detect from the former’s tone.

“Isn’t Jason recuperating at No. 8 Villa? Why did you come here?”

“Since you’ve brought the pill back, Jason insists on carrying out Sophia’s surgery. He says that the earlier it’s completed, the higher the chances of success,” Donald replied matter-of-factly.

After throwing No. 2 Villa a glance, Jonathan went on his way. However, his response triggered a slight change in Donald’s gaze.

As for Harry, he quickly caught up with Jonathan.

“Ms. Goldstein, why don’t you rest here? We can go and see Lauryn after Ms. Sophia’s surgery is completed.”

“That’s not necessary,” Jonathan replied softly.

“I’ll only be waiting here and will be of no help at all. Furthermore, Jason will be performing the surgery despite his grievous injuries, which is a testament to his confidence. Thus, there’s no reason for me not to trust him.”

While both men were leaving, Donald watched their disappearing silhouettes with his lips curling into a smirk.

“I’m intrigued by this person to whom Jason has pledged his loyalty,” murmured Donald to himself.

Meanwhile, along the road up the mountain, the surrounding trees had already been felled, leaving only waist-high shrubs.

Inside a pavilion, Jonathan and Lauryn sat there quietly together, locking gazes with each other.

While Lauryn scanned the strange-looking surroundings, Jonathan scrutinized her from head to toe instead.

Dressed in loose track wear and a baseball cap, Lauryn looked exhausted.

“Jonathan, did the Osborne family do this?”

When Lauryn finally broke the silence, Jonathan gently shook his head.

“Not exactly. Previously, the Osborne family sent three Grandmasters to attack my family. Even though there was chaos, they weren’t responsible for the devastation. Instead, it was my subordinates who cleared the trees to prevent any more surprise attacks. I guess they have learned from their mistakes.”

“Three Grandmasters?” Lauryn sighed softly. “It seems the Osborne family is hell-bent on war against you.”

As Jonathan stared at Lauryn, the look in his eyes changed minutely.

“Are you injured?”

The moment both of them met, Jonathan could tell that Lauryn’s spiritual energy wasn’t circulating smoothly.

Also, her rigid sitting posture and the repeated subconscious stretching of her left shoulder cemented his suspicions further.

But Lauryn drank the sap from the Flaming Tree before leaving Summerbank Abyss. Shouldn’t she have fully recovered from her injuries? As for going back to her family, who would have the gall to bully the eldest daughter of the Blackwood family? It seems that not everything is right at home after her return.

Just as expected, Jonathan’s question caused Lauryn to instinctively glance at her left shoulder.

“It’s no big deal. It’s just a minor injury.”

Jonathan nodded slightly. “I guess you failed to persuade your father?”

“How did you know?”

Lauryn widened her eyes at Jonathan.

“The only person within the Blackwood family that dares to strike you is your father.”

Lifting the coffee pot, Jonathan poured Lauryn a cup.

After pushing it toward her, Jonathan spoke candidly. “Since you’re already here, go ahead and tell me. What is the Blackwood family’s stance?”

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Chapter 616 The Eight Respectable Families

Given the current state of matters, war could break out between Asura’s Office and the respectable families at any time. As a result, if Jonathan could recruit one of the families as his ally, they would be of tremendous help to him.

Even if the Blackwood family wasn't willing to help, Jonathan still wanted to know the reason for the decision.

Since Lauryn had chosen to side with him, he wanted to know the Blackwood family's true intentions before deciding what kind of attitude to adopt toward them.

Face with Jonathan's candor, Lauryn hesitated momentarily. Nevertheless, thinking back to the events that happened in Summerbank Abyss elicited a helpless wry smile from her.

"Jonathan, if it wasn't for your mind-blowing performance in Summerbank Abyss, you wouldn't have caught my eye, let alone that of my family."

After downing the coffee in a single gulp, Lauryn added, "The Blackwood family's position is simple—they will never submit to Asura's Office. When I returned home, I tried my best to convince my father to not participate in the actions against you. Unfortunately, he locked me up and wanted to force me to marry Jay. Why can't he see that I've trained so hard just to show him that I'm not weaker than anyone else? I do not need this so-called marriage alliance to prove my worth. However, why does he not recognize all the effort that I've put in—"

"You're digressing!"

Jonathan quickly stopped her when he noticed her veering off-topic. Upon being interrupted, Lauryn gently shook her head.

"I'm sorry. My emotions got the better of me."

"It's fine. I understand." Jonathan poured Lauryn another cup of coffee. "By the way, who are you supposed to wed for the marriage alliance again?"

Despite Jonathan's casual tone, Lauryn felt a faint sense of murderous intent from him.

"Jonathan..."

"I'm asking you who it is!" Jonathan repeated his question, his voice icier than before.

"Jay Osborne!" Lauryn replied with a slight hesitation.

At that moment, behind Jonathan's indifferent expression, an uncontrollable amount of spiritual energy began to swell within him.

Subsequently, waves of spiritual energy burst out into the open. Lauryn—who was sitting opposite him—felt as if she was a directionless ship thrown about in a thunderstorm and was at risk of being swallowed by his raging energy.

"Release!"

Upon Lauryn's barely audible command, a Grandmaster Realm force field cocooned her and blocked Jonathan's spiritual energy on the outside.

Sensing the fear within Lauryn, Jonathan—with gritted teeth—finally calmed himself down.

Utilizing the Ancient Sacred Dragon Technique at full force, his spiritual energy was tamed within a few breaths.

"It wasn't aimed at you. It was Jay. Anyway, please continue," Jonathan remarked in a deep voice although the murderous intent in his eyes had yet to recede.

Jay was one of those on Jonathan's kill list, for he was the main reason why Sophia was lying in the operating room then.

After dispelling her force field, the traumatized Lauryn stared at Jonathan.

Working with someone like Jonathan is extremely dangerous. The slightest mistake might end up costing us our lives.

"Jonathan, even though I've failed to persuade my father, I'll still support you with everything I've got. However, can I ask this of you? Please don't harm the Blackwood family if they have not laid a finger on you."

"Lauryn, ever since we worked together, you have never provided me with any useful information. Hence, you're in no position to negotiate," Jonathan rejected her with furrowed brows.

"Don't you know the location of the Osborne family? Tell me."

Jonathan's words caused Lauryn to subconsciously lower her head.

"I'm sorry... Actually, I have no idea where they are."

"What?"

Amidst the crisp crack of his coffee cup, Jonathan locked his hostile gaze on Lauryn.

"Back at Summerbank Abyss, you told me that you knew where the Osbornes were. And now, you claim ignorance? Are you taking me for a fool?"

"Of course not."

Lauryn frantically explained, "Jonathan, I only know that they are somewhere in Drieso."

"Drieso?" A frosty expression descended on Jonathan's face. "Drieso is almost two hundred and fifty thousand square kilometers. Are you asking me to comb the entire place?"

In response to Jonathan's reaction, Lauryn quickly clarified, "A respectable family's ancestral home is their biggest secret. Even their core members who are not even

eighteen don't know where it is, let alone an outsider. There are eight respectable families in Chanaea in total. Other than the Blackwood and Osborne families, the other six are the Henderson, Leeson, Mallory, Gray, Welsh, and Salladay families. All of them are hiding in their respective hideouts. All these while, the respectable families have always fought against each other for a larger piece of Chanaea. Hence, whenever one of them shows themselves, the rest will hunt them down like predators. That's how the respectable families have survived all these years."

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Lauryn's rapid answer finally placated Jonathan's anger.

At the same time, he was further intrigued by them.

"When you mentioned that the core members do not know the location of their respective families until they're eighteen, what do you mean?"

Jonathan's question elicited a long sigh from Lauryn.

Compared to the Jonathan in Summerbank Abyss, the one she was facing now had grown significantly more dangerous.

Although she had no idea what had happened, it was clear to her that Jonathan's state of mind was now different from the time he was at Summerbank Abyss.

After gathering her thoughts, she continued, "Before any of the core members of the respectable families are eighteen, they are not told of the location of their ancestral home—a form of security mechanism that works both ways. Not only is the ancestral home of a respectable family protected, but it also sends out the message that it's useless to take advantage of the children. In other words, the children are inadvertently protected by the arrangement too."

Upon hearing Lauryn's explanation, Jonathan knitted his brows. "Are you saying you don't return to your ancestral home until you're eighteen?"

"What do you mean by return? We grew up there, for that's the best place to raise us."

Cognizant that Jonathan had misunderstood, Lauryn quickly clarified, "We grow up on our ancestral land and leave to see the outside world too. It's just that during the journey back, we will be blindfolded and have someone to guide us. That way, the children will never know their exact location."

Lauryn's words caused Jonathan to be briefly stunned.

This method... where have I heard of it before?

When Jonathan turned to look at No. 8 Villa, his mind began to delve into the matter.

Previously, Yasmin and I talked about Paradise Island before. As the true mastermind who controls Xiara—ninth on the Heaven List, Paradise Island wields significant power.

Also, to prevent their location from being discovered, they too adopted the same method as the respectable families. Is this just a coincidence? It's certainly too much to be one!

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Chapter 617 The Whitley Family

Still, I have to admit, what the respectable families and Paradise Island did was useful in solving the problem. Children are too weak-minded to keep secrets, so it's best to not let them know any secrets. That way, it would be pointless to target them when going after the respectable families. If I'm not mistaken, the core members around the age of seventeen and eighteen have all been brainwashed by their families. It's just like with Yasmin and the other assassins from Xiara. Even Agent 99, who practically grew up with Yasmin and treated her like an older sister, pulled a knife on her without any hesitation. It seems the many years of brainwashing are powerful enough to make them prioritize Paradise Island's safety over that of their family and friends. I'm guessing it's the same for Lauryn over here. I may be able to have a decent conversation with her right now, but I know I can't ask her anything about her family's location. I bet she'd rather kill herself than risk revealing any information about them.

By brainwashing them to place their family's interest above everything else, the families are able to keep them under control for the rest of their lives.

With that in mind, Jonathan flashed Lauryn a smile as he asked, "I'm curious. If all eight respectable families see Chanaea as a cake, then you would definitely see each other as competitors. Take Jadeborough for example. Given how large the total market share is, there's no way the families will be satisfied with occupying just a portion of it.

Someone will likely get greedy and start plotting against the other families. I know there's an alliance between the respectable families, but I doubt you guys are all that honorable. Surely, there must've been a lot of backstabbing going on in secret. With the amount of power the respectable families have acquired after being around for thousands of years, it shouldn't be a problem for them to investigate each other, right?"

Lauryn frowned when she heard that question.

"According to the archives, there were fifteen respectable families in Chanaea about three hundred years ago. However, the Chanaean market took a huge hit when the involvement from the western countries increased about two hundred and eighty years ago. That resulted in a complete makeover for all the respectable families. No one knows what happened throughout the twenty years, but only nine respectable families remained after that."

Jonathan paused in surprise. "Nine? Hold on, didn't you say there were eight respectable families just now? Where did this ninth one come from?"

"There's one more that got wiped out ten years ago. It's the Whitley family," Lauryn replied.

The look on Jonathan's face turned solemn when he heard that.
The timing matches perfectly!

"Ten years ago? That was when Chanaea was in chaos, right? The respectable families were in control of the armies, but all the commanders disappeared mysteriously all of a sudden. Everyone thinks they were called back by the respectable families. Was it because of this?"

"Yes, it was precisely because of the Whitley family. I was only twelve at the time, so I didn't know much about the relationships between the respectable families. The only reason I know this is because I heard my elders talking about it after the Whitley family was wiped out," Lauryn replied with a nod.

She frowned as she tried to recall what she heard from her childhood.

"My grandpa was the head of the Blackwood family at the time. He told my father that the Whitley family from ten years ago was a lot more powerful than the Salladay family today. In case you didn't know, the Salladay family is currently acknowledged as the most powerful of all the respectable families. According to one of the theories, Chanaea used to be split into ten parts, four of which were owned by the Whitley family alone. The remaining six were shared among the other eight families. That should show you just how terrifyingly powerful the Whitley family used to be."

Jonathan felt his heart sink when he heard that.

I first came into contact with the respectable families during the three-year battle. I tried to gather as much information on them as possible after Asura's Office was established, but there wasn't much I could find. When I went to Lumonburg a while back, Philip handed me a chip right before he died. That was when I made official contact with the respectable families. That was especially the case when the Goldstein family got involved. I got a taste of the power of the respectable families when I fought Garrison of the Osborne family. It wasn't until I met Lauryn and Irving that I truly learned the truth behind the respectable families. The Goldstein family's influence can be found in pretty much every field, and they also have tons of businesses all over the world. Even so, it is nothing compared to the respectable families. The Osborne family was able to drive the Goldstein family out of Yaleview simply by sending one of its elders after them, and that happened while I was backing them up too. Ordinary prominent families wouldn't even stand a chance against the respectable families. I thought the Osborne family was powerful, but the Salladay family turned out to be even more powerful. Given all of that, it's really hard to imagine the Whitley family owning four parts of Chanaea ten years ago. I bet they could squash the Osborne family like a bug if they so much as wanted to! How the heck does a powerful family like this get wiped out?

With that in mind, Jonathan asked, "Who wiped out the Whitley family?"

He was really curious as to who could possibly eliminate the Whitley family, who owned almost half of Chanaea.

Lauryn looked him in the eye as she replied, "The eight families teamed up to wipe them out."

A combined effort from the eight families, huh?

Jonathan was a little shocked when he heard that, but he shook his head and let out a chuckle moments later.

"One has to be very careful when at the pinnacle of success. It makes perfect sense that the other families would try to take them out. After all, no one likes being suppressed and dominated forever," he commented.

Lauryn nodded in agreement.

"Yeah. The Whitley family was far too powerful, so they had to get rid of it. But that incident also took a toll on the eight respectable families. It took five years of planning, three of which were spent cautiously locating all the Whitley family's members. The eight respectable families then spent the next two years hunting down and killing all core and direct members of the Whitley family. The Whitley family had three hundred and ninety-eight core members and eleven thousand and sixty-two members who shared a direct bloodline. All of them died tragically in those two years, and that's not including the countless guards and underlings they had trained."

Jonathan felt a shiver down his spine when he heard those numbers.

I wiped out the Turner family when they kidnapped Josephine back then, but they only had a few hundred members. The Whitley family had over ten thousand direct family members, and we haven't even included those from their branch families... Now that I think about it, the Goldstein family is nothing but child's play compared to the respectable families. It makes sense why the Osborne family never took me seriously.