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Chapter 624 Chaos Among The Respectable Families

"Sh*t!" Colton cursed.

He thought Jonathan, who was Asura and a prominent figure in both Chanaea and the globe, would be a person who valued his dignity, fame, and honor. He had never expected Jonathan to suddenly order his soldiers to fire at him when they were supposed to duel fair and square one-on-one.

What the f*ck!

Given that the tanks were stationed not far away from him and how sudden the attack was, he reckoned that dodging the shots was no longer possible.

He waved the Soul Suppressing Banner, and immediately, a massive black mist appeared in front of him.

With his spiritual sense, Jonathan could tell that the monstrous hand that had emerged from the black mist had started taking form again.

However, unlike its previous appearance, the monstrous hand dissipated after taking hits from the two cannonballs fired by the tanks.

Colton made a hand seal and kept the black mist into the banner.

It all happened in the blink of an eye.

When Jonathan looked at Colton again, he noticed that Colton's expression was dim. Colton was also channeling his spiritual energy rapidly into the banner in his hands.

The next moment, smoke could be seen coming from the banner as if it had been burned.

Colton spewed out a mouthful of blood and stumbled backward before falling onto the ground.

Seeing that, Jonathan and the soldiers around arched an eyebrow.

They could tell that the banner was a space elemental magical item, which allowed it to store the cannonballs and let it detonate inside.

You can actually do that with a space elemental magical item?

Jonathan was in a daze as he stared at the black space elemental ring on his finger.

However, the banner seemed slightly different from his ring and jade. After all, the two magical items he had found in Summerbank Abyss needed him to direct his spiritual sense on them to access them.

On the other hand, the Soul Suppressing Banner could form a door connecting the inside and outside of the banner.

In comparison, the banner was much better.

Jonathan was envious when he thought of that.

In the cultivator's world, there were four things that cultivators focused on. These four things were techniques, wealth, soulmates, and territory.

With the Ancient Sacred Dragon Technique and Summerbank Abyss in his possession, Jonathan did not lack techniques or territory.

With techniques and territory settled, what was left were soulmates and wealth.

In fact, he had been thinking of teaching Josephine some cultivation techniques after she gave birth to their children. His purpose in doing so was for her to get healthier and have a stronger physique.

Despite not being able to provide any actual help, Josephine was somewhat like an emotional support to him, refraining and keeping his thoughts together so that he could focus on his cultivation.

What Jonathan lacked the most was actually wealth, which had two meanings. One of the two definitions of wealth was money.

After all, a person who could not guarantee his daily needs would not be able to focus on his cultivation, and the easiest way to solve this problem was through money. The second definition of wealth was resources like magical items, pills, and other things that could aid in cultivation.

All of these were something Jonathan needed desperately.

Meanwhile, Lauryn was already standing beside Colton.

Though everything that Colton possessed right now told her that the people in the Blackwood family held different opinions on who would become the family's successor and that Colton was most likely going to become the most threatening competitor to Zidane, she still found herself completely lost. She had no idea how to react to the power struggle between Colton and Zidane that was bound to happen in the future.

But as of now, she definitely did not want to see something happening to Colton right before her eyes.

"Colton, are you okay?" Lauryn helped Colton up and channeled her spiritual energy into his body to protect his meridian.

With his face pale as a ghost, Colton turned toward Jonathan with madness flickering in his eyes. "Jonathan Goldstein! Fck you! You're fcking shameless!"

Lauryn was stunned, for Colton had always been calm and collected. He was known for his warm personality, yet he had lost himself at this moment because of Jonathan.

It was as if a feminine man had suddenly charged right into the battlefield with his top naked, revealing the insanely muscular body hidden beneath his clothes. No one could maintain their composure against such a drastic transformation.

At this moment, Jonathan approached them with a face full of smiles, and with a swing of his hand, he picked up the Soul Suppressing Banner.

Upon coming into contact with the banner, Jonathan could feel an icy aura seeping deep into his bones and toward his meridian.

"Not bad!" Jonathan smiled.

"Return!" Colton boomed. The banner turned into a black mist and escaped Jonathan's grasp, returning to Colton before coming together and taking form in his hand again. "Jonathan! You really are despicable! How could you!" He wiped away the blood on his face.

"I have to admit that I'm a little despicable for getting my men to launch a sneak attack on you," Jonathan replied with a smile. "But I also want you to know that I'm not the kind of person you think I am. I may not be able to bring myself into launching a weapon of mass destruction, but I, for one, still have a few tricks up my sleeves that I could use against those respectable families."

Right then, Harry came reporting to Jonathan. "Mr. Goldstein, we've received a message from Jason. He said Ms. Sophia's surgery was a huge success, and she's out of danger now."

"Okay. Got it." Jonathan nodded slightly before turning toward Colton with a complicated look, only to heave a sigh in the end. "You know, I really want to kill you and rob you of your magical items."

Lauryn and Colton tensed up at that, but Jonathan quickly waved a hand upon catching a glimpse of their gloomy expression. "Oh, forget it. Go home and tell the Blackwoods to look out for themselves."

"You're unfit to talk to us respectable families in such a manner," Colton scoffed before looking at Lauryn. "You're on your own here. The respectable families will be making their moves soon, so my suggestion for you is that you conduct your activities in another identity, or you'll bring trouble to the Blackwood family."

With that, Colton gave Jonathan one last look before he left and disappeared into the woods with a few leaps. Lauryn merely watched on and sighed at his departure.

"When you say you wanted to kill him and rob him of his magical items, you were joking, right, Jonathan?"

"Of course not," Jonathan replied with a smile. "I spared him because you're one of us now, or I would've struck him down for the fuss he kicked up today."

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Chapter 625 Power Struggle

Meanwhile, Joshua was reading an ancient manuscript in the garden of his mansion in Zedfield, Yaleview.

As he was reading, a young man slowly approached, holding a tray with a teacup and a teapot. "Commander, here's your tea. It's quality tea that arrived today. Please try it."

"Okay." Joshua leaned against his chair and nodded slightly.

He put away the ancient manuscript in his hand and looked at the teapot and teacup on the table.

Picking up the teacup and lifting the lid, he asked with a smile, "John, how long have you been working with me?"

The young man hurriedly bowed and replied, "Almost one and a half years, Commander."

"One and a half years, huh?" Joshua picked up the teacup and blew on the tea leaves floating in the teacup. "Now, that's a long time."

Just as he put the teacup beside his mouth, he stopped and looked at John. "Why? Is the weather very hot today?"

"No. Maybe it's my clothes. I might have tied them up too tight, so I feel a little suffocated."

Joshua nodded in response, but after a sigh, he put down the teacup on the table. "John, do you know why you're the only one who managed to work with me for over half a year?"

"W-Well…" John looked at Joshua hesitatingly, and words eluded him. Joshua pointed to the seat opposite him and said, "Come. Have a seat. There's nothing to be nervous about."

"I wouldn't dare, Commander." John was visibly panicking. "Commander, did I do something wrong? Please tell me what I did wrong, and I'll make it right this instance!"

"Just sit down. Don't worry about it." Joshua gestured to John with a smile on his face. Although Joshua was far away, John could feel as if he was pressing on his shoulders, forcing him to sit down.

It's the force field of a Grandmaster! How is this even possible? John widened his eyes in shock at this sight and stared right at Joshua.

Sitting on the chair, John exclaimed, "Commander, y-you are-"

"A cultivator? I've always been one." Joshua smiled. "John, let me talk to you about something from the bottom of my heart."

With his spiritual energy wrapped around John, he restricted John's movements and said, "Sitting in my place I'm at right now is very tiring. You have to worry about the threat Asura's Office poses and the internal conflicts caused by the eight respectable families. Then there's Wilbur, the man I trained so hard only to have him become a traitor. Yaleview has become a dangerous place for me now. I dared not give anyone the chance to get near me, so I had to replace the people around me from time to time. I fear they would learn about my habits and exploit them if they stayed around me for too long. I'm worried that they would be bribed into betraying me. I'm drained."

As he said that, he reached out for the teacup and swirled it in his hand. "John, you're the person I trust he most. I've also treated you nicely when you served me, so why don't you entertain me for a bit because I can't understand the reason for your betrayal?"

"I-I didn't. Commander, please let me explain." John panicked, as he was being pressed onto the chair by Joshua's spiritual energy.

Ever since he was transferred to Joshua's side, John had witnessed three assassination attempts on Joshua, with the third assassination being the most severe case. The assassin's blade was already dangling on Joshua's neck, yet he did not unleash his spiritual energy.

Joshua had shown no sign of panic or nervousness, so everyone thought he was a man of sheer will with a strong mind.

They, too, did not think that Joshua was a cultivator. A cultivator might be able to conceal the spiritual energy fluctuations in him for some time through techniques, but he could not maintain it forever. After all, a cultivator had to breathe and cultivate throughout the years. Even if he did not intend to cultivate, his presence would still draw spiritual energy to him. Hence, there was no way Joshua could conceal the fact that he was a cultivator.

However, it was the same man who had pulled off an incredible move.

"I could tell that your heart skipped a beat the moment you entered the garden." Joshua smiled. "Who is it? Is it Wilbur? I think it is. He's the only one in Yaleview who can make you betray me."

"Commander, please. I can explain. I wasn't thinking—"

Before he could finish, the tea on the table turned into a stream of water rushing toward John.

The cup of tea was supposed to be poisonous, but it did not matter much to Joshua anymore.

The stream of water made its way into John's nose and entered his lungs under Joshua's control.

John's eyes widened, and his face was swollen. He was in great pain.
The water blocking his windpipe made him cough, but Joshua waved his hands as soon as John opened his mouth, unleashing another wave of spiritual energy that sealed John's nose and mouth and, alongside that, the final opportunity for John's survival.

As he was being choked to death, John clenched his hands firmly around the armrest. His body stiffened, and the process lasted for two minutes until Joshua heaved a sigh and dispersed his energy.

Looking at his lifeless subordinate, Joshua picked up his ancient manuscript and looked outside the garden. "Since you're here, why don't you show yourself? Do you expect me to welcome you personally?"

Nothing could be heard around the surroundings except for the howling of the wind. "Weapon." Joshua flipped the ancient manuscript open and heaved a sigh. He reached his hand into the manuscript and pulled out a longbow.

With his left hand grabbing onto the bow firmly, he slowly pulled the bowstring with his other hand.

As he channeled his spiritual energy, an arrow took form in his hand. It looked as if it was made of ice. From afar, the arrow looked real but also nonexistent at the same time.

His eyes cold, Joshua let go of his right hand, and the arrow made of spiritual energy vanished into thin air.

Following the vanishing of the arrow, the pillar to the entrance of the garden exploded and shattered into pieces. At the same time, Wilbur threw a jet-black dagger.

"Break!" Wilbur muttered to himself, and the dagger struck the arrow.

After coming in contact with the arrow, the dagger flew right back into Wilbur's hand while the arrow shattered into pieces and fell into the pond beside them.

The explosion of spiritual energy caused a mist to form around the surrounding. Wilbur's face that was filled with bloodlust twitched.

"The advanced phase of God Realm? Hah, you're good at keeping secrets, aren't you? Everyone, listen up. Whoever kills him will take over my position as the commander of the Yaleview Army! Charge!"

As Wilbur gave out his order, the spiritual energy of at least thirty Grandmaster Realm cultivator burst into the sky, aiming straight at Joshua who was in the garden.

Beside Wilbur sat a woman who was occupied with her phone.

"So Joshua is now in the advanced phase of God Realm after keeping a low profile for ten years. You're sending your men to their demise," the woman said absentmindedly as she stared at the information of the stock market on her phone.

Hearing this, Wilbur turned around and said, "Eva, I, for one, am very interested in the power of the Salladay family. Why don't you take this chance and show me your prowess?"

Eva raised her head, a disdainful look on her face. "Wilbur, you'd better get your mind straight. We're not working with you. I'm here to evaluate your capabilities. We'll only talk business with you if you manage to kill Joshua. If you fail, however, you will, in turn, be worthless to us."

Wilbur snorted at her words. He swung his dagger as he marched into the garden. "Then you'd better prepare yourselves. We'll talk business after I take Joshua down."

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Chapter 626 Fight Until The End

Edenic Heights, No. 2 Villa.

Jonathan stood in the living room, staring at Sophia who was in bed.

The woman had life-sustaining catheters stuck into almost every part of her body. On the side, Jason bled so much that the gauze on his chest turned crimson-red. Still, he was casually holding a cold can of beer in his hand.

"Jason, are you sure my aunt's condition is stable now?" inquired Jonathan somewhat helplessly, surrounded by a thick smell of alcohol.

"Of course. Don't worry, Mr. Goldstein. Ms. Goldstein may not look like it, but her vital signs have stabilized. I can't do anything about her scar, though. You'll need to get a plastic surgeon for that," replied Jason after downing the rest of his beer.

"Thank you." Jonathan turned around to nod slightly at Jason, who lazily leaned back on the couch.

"You don't have to thank me, Mr. Goldstein. I would've been a dead man if it hadn't been for you. There's nothing I want more than to see the day you told me about," muttered Jason as he looked up at the ceiling.

Jonathan nodded once again. "The respectable families have started making their moves. It may not be a perfect time, but we should take action too."

Even though Asura's Office was powerful, there were not many who Jonathan could trust.

Besides the Eight Kings of War, only a handful of people knew what was going through Jonathan's mind.

Jason was one of them.

The fact that Jason had saved Jonathan before was enough reason for him to trust the man unconditionally.

"Many will die when the respectable families and Asura's Office go to war," stated Jason calmly to Jonathan.

"True," responded Jonathan in his deep voice. "Many will die indeed. Even you and I might not make it back alive."

"That's fine. We all die eventually. If I can take those people with me to the grave, it'll be worth it."

The two were still talking when they heard a voice from outside.

As soon as Jonathan turned around, he saw Harry at the door.

"Mr. Goldstein, I bring you the latest battle report from Mysonna."

"Speak!"

"Yes, Sir." Harry straightened his back and saluted. "Mysonna has successfully captured more than seventy-three thousand West Region soldiers. They're waiting for your orders, Mr. Goldstein."

Still lying on the couch, Jason smiled and slowly shut his eyes after hearing about Mysonna's victory.

On the other hand, Jonathan furrowed his eyebrows at Harry. "Orders? Why the heck are they waiting for my orders?"

When Harry heard those words, his smile immediately faded away. "Mr. Goldstein... I believe Tiger and the others want to know what to do with the captives..."

"What's there to do?" questioned Jonathan.

Harry then fell silent, afraid to respond to the man.

After glancing at Harry, Jonathan walked outside. "Call Tiger for me at the command center. Let's see what he decides to do with the seventy over thousand captives." "Yes, Sir!" responded Harry loudly before running straight to the command center.

There, Jonathan gazed at the three figures on the large screen. They were Hayes Yeager, acting Commander of the Mysonna Army, Kane Dunst, the Thunder King of War of the Shusonna Army, and Jeremy Yates, the Western King of War of the Zaidham Army.

Jonathan had ordered the Shusonna Army and the Zaidham Army to each send seventy thousand men to provide support in Mysonna. However, he did not expect Kane and Jeremy to take the opportunity and lead their own armies to attack their enemies.

Seeing how bloodied the three were, Jonathan knitted his eyebrows tightly. "Kane and Jeremy, you two left the fief without permission, so you're to receive eighty lashes when you return to base."

"Yes, Sir!" responded both the men as they saluted Jonathan. Seated on a chair, Jonathan took out the battle report. "What do you plan to do with the seventy-three thousand five hundred and two captives?"

"Sir!" called out Hayes after straightening his back. "The reconstruction of Northern Crimson Prison requires a lot of manpower. We can use these prisoners as free labor."

"What will you do with them after the reconstruction? Kill them all? They are prisoners of war. Murdering unarmed prisoners is against the laws of war," voiced Jonathan. "Let them go? They helped build Northern Crimson Prison. Letting them go would be no different than telling the world the defense layout of the prison, wouldn't it? Keep them? Do you have any idea how much it'll cost us to feed seventy-three thousand people?" Jonathan spoke calmly, but it was enough to enlighten the three, whose eyes widened in realization.

"We understand, Mr. Goldstein," said Kane on the side while Jeremy and Hayes nodded in response.

Jonathan turned to Hayes. "How many of the West Region Army surrendered?"

"Sir, they resisted to the very end. None surrendered, so we wiped them all out!"

"Very good." With that, Jonathan ended the video call.

Standing aside, Harry quietly gulped because his throat felt dry.

As Zachary's subordinate, Harry had always thought that he was qualified enough to lead an army and march into battle.

He was convinced that he would have been something more if he had met Jonathan sooner.

However, after following Jonathan for two days, Harry finally realized the difference between him and a King of War.

Even though Hayes was not a King of War yet, it was obvious that Jonathan planned to groom the man into one. Jonathan had even temporarily given Hayes control of the entire Mysonna.

Because he thought his enemies should be killed, Hayes had swung his weapon and murdered twenty thousand people.

On the other hand, Jonathan was able to decide if seventy thousand people live or die with mere words.

Even if Harry were ten times bolder, Jonathan would still be more decisive than he was.

Even though he had been to many battlefields, Harry still could not imagine seeing tens of thousands of people getting slaughtered.

Jonathan stared at the blank screen in silence.

The man had established Asura's Office to stop wars with wars. Even though there had been civil unrest for the past few years, Jonathan had always chosen peace over violence.

With Karl's betrayal in Asura's Office and the threat of respectable families and neighboring countries, Jonathan had no choice but to be ruthless. Otherwise, people would think that he was a pushover.

With his head turned toward Doveston, Jonathan said, "You can just tell me if you want to leave Asura's Office, Karl. I won't stop you. Now that you've indirectly caused the death of more than fifty thousand of us, how can I let you live?"

At Doveston Lunar Airport, a Jetroinian tourist group was getting on the airport bus. After the tour guide made sure all the tourists were accounted for, he raised his little flag and greeted them with a slight bow. "Welcome to Chanaea! I'm your tour guide, Junyuko Ono. However, since we're in Chanaea, please call me by my Chanaean name, Nina Chastain."