

M Genius 2141

Chapter 2141 Billy to the Rescue as Senior of the Cathay's Union of Medical Practitioners

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At first, they thought that the Bene Family placed Billy's guest card on the table just for show. They never expected him to actually come to Bainbridge.

Nonetheless, they snickered as they exchanged glances once they recalled the feud between Billy and the Nolans.

So, they stopped talking and went back to their seats.

Billy scoffed disdainfully and ignored them.

"Matthew, come here. Take my seat."

However, before Matthew moved, footsteps could be heard from the door.

"Are you Dr. Matthew Lerson?"

The question could be heard even before they saw the people.

Everyone straightened their backs when they saw the few elders stroll into the living room as the elders were all elites from Cathay's Union of Medical Practitioners.

The one at the front was Gustav Beuer.

He was Longbeard's first disciple and the central figure of the union.

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"Mr. Beuer, it's been a long time. It's such a pleasant surprise to bump into you here."

"Mr. Beuer, it's been half a year since we met. Do you have time? I've prepared some wine for you."

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However, Gustev ignored everyone's flattery and walked up to Matthew directly.

"Dr. Larson, I've been waiting to meet you. Your Reconstruction Pill has truly saved the medical industry's reputation."

Then, he forcefully tugged on Matthew's arm without waiting for a reply and dragged him toward the CAUMP's table.

"Come. Come. Let's sit and have a chat."

At that moment, Billy taunted the crowd, "Tsk. Tsk. Indeed. Matthew couldn't sit with you lot. It'll bring down his status."

Then, he slowly sauntered to his seat.

The crowd stayed rooted to the floor and looked at each other awkwardly.

Before this, they were still ridiculing Matthew and even had the gall to declare that he wasn't worthy enough to sit with them. But now, he was sitting in the main guest area with the elders from the union, chatting away happily.

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Before her, stood Anthony with a plaster cast on his hand and the rest of the Bane Family, who were beaten up by Matthew.

"I heard Matthew had something to do with your injured arm?"

Anthony was about to answer when he noticed from the corner of his eyes that Roxanne, who was standing beside Marissa, was hinting at him.

He got the signal and said, "It's my fault. This has nothing to do with Matthew."

After he spent some time with Matthew, he realized Matthew wasn't as bad as he assumed.

Matthew was handsome and of good character. Besides, he was good at both medicine and martial arts. A man like him was a perfect match for Roxanne.

Originally, he wanted to use this opportunity to say something nice about Matthew, but Marissa shook her head at his answer. So, he immediately shut his mouth with a click.

"Matthew will be joining the birthday celebration. I'll know what he's made of when I see him."

Then, Marissa got up and walked toward the party with the others tailing behind her.

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Chapter 2142 Announcing the Gifts

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By doing this, not only would Anthony feel guilty, but he would also develop a liking for him. He's so skilled at playing 'carrot after stick' that nobody noticed anything amiss. He's still so young yet he's already so cunning. No wonder Roxanne is completely under his spell and he's on her mind all the time. Meanwhile, he couldn't be bothered to waste a second toward the other regular members of the Bane Family.

When she considered all these factors, she reckoned that Matthew was purposely trying to get into the good books of the Bane Family's main family. He probably figured that he would use the Banes as a stepping stone to expand his influence by leeching onto them since they were a powerful family.

At the other side of the party, everyone was already waiting in excitement. So, when Old Mrs. Bane appeared, they all stood up to welcome her.

Born in one of the top ten families in the country, Old Mrs. Bane was from the Herding Family and her maiden name was Merisse Herding. Her family had invested in the Mertiel League since she was young and had countless disciples within the organization. Over the years, many of those disciples were now important and influential figures in the Mertiel League.

Once she was seated in the center seat, everyone immediately started giving her birthday wishes on behalf of the group they represented. "Happy Birthday, Old Mrs. Bane! We wish you a long, healthy life!"

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After that, everyone took their seats, and it was time for an important part of the banquet—revealing the gifts.

This was supposed to be a way to express the thoughts of the guests attending the banquet, but it slowly turned into a competition due to selfishness and vanity.

"The Demron Family of Beinbridge presents a three-foot angel sculpture." When the master of ceremonies started speaking, the noises from the crowd died down and the room turned silent before a round of surprised gasps echoed.

As everyone watched curiously, the sculpture made of gold was carried into the room by ten strong men with great difficulty.

The sculpture shone brightly and had lifelike features. In addition, it was made of gold and sculpted by the renowned national sculptor of the country, Chris Morris.

The value of this gift was no less than 290 million, and what made it even more precious was the sincerity behind such a present. After all, Chris Morris had already announced his retirement a few years ago because of his age. Yet, Aurelius was able to persuade him out of retirement.

Merisse admired the statue before her as she nodded and said with a smile, "Thank you for the gift, Mr. Demron."

"It's just a small token of my sincerity. I'm glad that it brought a smile to your face. Again, I would like to represent the Demron Family and wish you a prosperous, long life!" Aurelius brimmed with pride as he returned to his seat while enjoying the stares of everyone from the crowd.

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The gifts from the Lullaby Family were announced one by one, followed by the gasps of astonishment from the crowd because those antiques were incredibly rare, especially the drawing from Micah Wikaedal, which was so rare that not even money could buy.

Alas, Marissa wasn't interested in these things, but she understood that the Lullaby Family was trying to use this opportunity to pass these gifts to her husband rather than giving it to her as her birthday presents. After all, it was a well-known fact in the city that he enjoyed collecting antiques.

"King of the South, Master Levi, presents a pair of jade, and the unrivaled swordsman, Mr. Heath Solis, presents a sword."

Their gifts paled in comparison to the ones from the Damron and Lullaby Families. Even though they were uncommon, they could barely compare to the ones before them.

Nevertheless, the Six Kings didn't have a friendly relationship with the Ten Greatest Families and they were always fighting against each other in the dark. This was an open secret, and the gifts today were mainly to maintain the facade of politeness and peace between each party.

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Chapter 2143 The Ultimate Tonic Liquor and Renewal Pill

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Meanwhile, Roxenne couldn't help but worry because she had already heard from the servants that some of her family members had caused some trouble for Matthew. She had just informed Matthew

about her grandmother's birthday banquet about a week ago. Plus, he had to attend training, so he barely had any spare time to prepare the birthday gift.

If the gift he presents is too humble, the others will just pick on him again, she thought, and the annoyance she had for her family deepened when she looked at them.

"Matthew Larson from the South presents two bottles of ultimate tonic liquor and a bottle of Renewal Pill."

These two gifts were the brainchild of Matthew after sparing time and effort to create them, and he only managed to get the main ingredients of the liquor by shamelessly asking the other disciples of the hidden sect for them. In addition to other herbs, there were a total of ninety-nine ingredients used for the concoction, and it was only completed after a week of catalyzation with nimbus. The liquor was efficient in nourishing and strengthening the body.

As for the pill, the other ingredients were actually quite simple to purchase; the only rare ingredient was the root of the snow lily from the mountains. However, more than four hundred subsidiary ingredients were used, and the production process was incredibly complicated.

Moreover, Matthew had to focus during the process, using his nimbus to adjust the medicinal effects of the pill, and it only came to its pill form after two days of continuous refinement. If he hadn't made a breakthrough in his cultivation, he wasn't confident that this pill would be a success at all.

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If this was sold in the regular market, it wouldn't be surprising to call this a miracle pill. Unfortunately, some people didn't know the value of it.

After the master of ceremonies announced Matthew's gifts, the room fell silent for a couple of seconds before it was soon followed by mocking remarks.

"He-he! Ultimate tonic liquor? That's what you find from people who sell fake alcohol in dodgy alleys, and you can get a full casket for peanuts."

"And what's that pill about?"

"Why did you even bother asking? You can just tell from the name itself. I can tell that it's another thing some quack is selling in the alleys."

"This is ridiculous. Isn't he ashamed to present something like these as birthday presents? He's not worried that the Benes will throw him out, is he?"

"That's so arrogant of him."

"How is this peeper able to sneak in? He's completely dragging our statuses down with his presence."

"If this Lerson guy has just a little dignity and self-knowledge, he should just get out of here by himself."

When the people in attendance saw the Demron Family picking on him, the others who regarded Matthew as an eyesore joined in on the fun. As a result, the emotional rife that they created induced the others who were just watching the show to gradually join in as well. It was as though they could only be a level above someone else as long as they successfully shamed them.

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When the people in attendance saw the Damron Family picking on him, the others who regarded Matthew as an eyesore joined in on the fun. As a result, the emotional rift that they created induced the others who were just watching the show to gradually join in as well. It was as though they could only be a level above someone else as long as they successfully shamed them.

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In contrast to the others, the experienced doctors from CAUMP wore solemn looks, falling into deep thought. There were no standard ingredients for a tonic liquor, and the effects vary greatly depending on the method and ingredients used. To put it simply, it had a very low bottom line but there was a lot of room for immense improvement. So, one could also create a tonic with outstanding effects.

As for the pill, Gustav had some vague impression of it in his mind, but he couldn't seem to recall it no matter what. Perhaps he was the only one who knew Matthew's skills at cultivating pills because even his master, Mr. Phantom, was amazed by the Reconstruction Pill.

At the thought of this, he wanted to ask around secretly, but this idea was interrupted before he could execute it.

"I'm the one who invited Matthew. Does anyone have anything to say about this?"

Roxanne breathed a sigh of relief when she saw the person that arrived. Grandpa is finally here!

When Old Mr. Bane asked the question, the people who were still making fun of Matthew instantly shut their mouths. None of them had the guts to question the guest whom Old Mr. Bane personally invited.

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Chapter 2144 Old Mr Bane Arrives

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Initially, they thought that Matthew could only make it to the banquet because of his connection to Roxanne. It was never within their calculations that it was Old Mr. Bone who had personally invited him. Not only did they end up with no benefits, but they also left a bad impression on Old Mr. Bone. At the end of the day, it was all they could do to stop themselves from sleeping their faces for speaking more than needed.

Meanwhile, Old Mr. Bone headed to the main guest area in quick steps and approached the CAUMP table. Suddenly, a smile spread across his originally expressionless face when he caught sight of the people there.

"Thank you for making time to attend this banquet despite your busy schedule, Mr. Beuer."

That was the truth. Recently, CAUMP had been head over heels as they were swamped with the preparation of the Holy Doctor Competition. In addition, a few superior elders from the union had gone to deal with some emergency and hadn't been seen in public for a long time, which in turn piled up the workload for Gustav and the others.

"You're welcome, Old Master Bene. This is an important event, and even if I'm busy, I'll have to make time—" Before he finished his sentence, he stopped abruptly with a stunned look in his eyes as he observed the energetic Old Mr. Bene radiating a healthy glow. "Old Master Bene... you're cured?" he asked in disbelief.

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The smile on Old Mr. Bene's face deepened. "I met a miraculous doctor by chance and he healed me completely. What's more, I even made quite a few breakthroughs in my mortal arts with his help."

His answer stunned Gustev because even his master couldn't do anything about Old Mr. Bene's stubborn ailments. Is Mr. Phantom back in the city? That can't be because we'll be the first to hear about his return. Could it be Matthew, then?

Almost immediately, he shot down the ridiculous idea in his head. Even if Matthew started practicing medicine in his mother's womb, he wouldn't be so highly skilled at such a young age.

The others didn't notice the change in Old Mr. Bene at first, but after Gustev brought it up, they realized that there was a tremendous improvement in his health and energy.

As the head of the family, Old Mr. Bene initially had unfathomable talents in the field of martial arts. Unfortunately, ninety percent of his energy was restrained due to the ailments he suffered. But now, he was fully cured and there was even progress in his training, which made the already powerful Bene Family even more terrifying.

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As long as they possessed even the flimsiest of connections to the Bane Family, any of their influence would soar to the skies and join the ranks of the Ten Greatest Families of Bainbridge, which was a rank unlike any other. Just one difference in ranking meant a massive difference in strength and power, and all of a sudden, the focus of the banquet shifted.

After Old Mr. Bane finished his casual chat with Gustav, he went to the host table and sat next to his wife, Marissa. Over their years of marriage, he knew her personality like the back of his hand and knew that she was unhappy with Matthew because of what happened with Roxanne. Those fiends definitely noticed this as well, or else they wouldn't be so impudent during the banquet.

At the thought of this, he leaned in close to Marissa and whispered something into her ear, and after she gave him a doubtful nod, he stood up and scanned across the room. "Where's Matthew?" he asked in a strict voice.

The crowd assumed that Old Mr. Bane wanted to reproach Matthew because of the gifts he brought. Although birthday gifts were meant as a token from the guests on the surface, it would seem contemptuous if the gift was too casual.

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Chapter 2145 Rite of Apprenticeship

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Young lad, prepare to suffer the wreath of Old Mr. Bene!

The next second, everyone couldn't help but look forward to seeing Matthew getting told off by Old Mr. Bene.

Just then, Matthew slowly stood up amongst the crowd. While everyone watched gleefully, he straightened his clothes and adjusted his posture before bowing slowly. "Yes, Mester."

What?!

After he said that, everyone's eyes grew as big as golf balls, and some even jerked upright. All of them had heard him address Old Mr. Bene as 'Mester'.

Before they could register what was happening, Old Mr. Bene nodded and said in a serious tone, "Come forward, Matthew."

When the words left his lips, Matthew's heart skipped a beat. Judging from the way Old Mr. Bene carried himself, he reckoned that he wanted to formally accept him as a disciple now. Unfortunately, he was busy with cultivation and training recently, and the only time he could free up was used to prepare Merisse's birthday presents, so he didn't have time to prepare the customary emolument for the rites. Now that things had come to this point, he could only bite the bullet and walk forward. "Here I am, Mester," he said, kneeling with one knee on the floor.

"Get the ruler!" Old Mr. Bene said and reached out his hand. Then, someone next to him hurriedly placed a wooden ruler with the word 'Bene' carved on it onto his outstretched hand.

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"By joining me as my last disciple, it is necessary for you to inherit the martial arts and spirit of the Banes and bring glory to the name. Herewith, I have three admonitions as your teacher. One, always place kindness first, never do evil, and have no evil thoughts," he said and tapped the ruler on Matthew's left shoulder heavily. "Two, abstain from pride, refrain from complacency, and stay true to your heart." The second tap landed on his right shoulder. "Three, respect your teacher and elders, and love the young." Finally, the last tap fell on his back.

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Then, Matthew bowed and saluted. "I have kept your admonitions to my heart, Master."

When martial arts were at the peak of their influence, this rite of apprenticeship was essential, and the three admonitions reflected the way to be a human, the way of martial art practice, and the way of the master. Furthermore, this wasn't merely just a verbal statement because anyone who went against the rules would be expelled by their master.

The highlights of the rite were over, and now, the disciple would have to present the emolument to his master, which was also an important part. Alas, this placed Matthew in a dilemma because he hadn't prepared anything at all.

When seconds passed by without anything happening, everyone noticed what was amiss—it seemed like Matthew hadn't prepared anything as an emolument!

Matthew was the only one they knew that had the cheeks to acknowledge the master with empty hands. Although the emoluments were just a token, they reflected the sincerity and attitude of the disciple. At the same time, it represented the face of the master.

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As they waited in anticipation, Old Mr. Bane spoke again. "Let's forget gifts and such. Didn't you bring the liquor and pills with you earlier? We'll take those as the emoluments."

Huh? The moment Old Mr. Bane announced his decision, everyone's jaw dropped in stunned silence. Is this really happening? Did he really just use his wife's birthday gifts as emoluments?

Although they all thought that this was unheard of and utterly ridiculous, the meaning behind this gesture made their hairs stand on its end.

The conservative and strict Old Mr. Bane actually broke the rules, showing how he doted upon his newly acknowledged last disciple. The longer people dwelled on that fact, their jealousy grew uncontrollably.

Just a minute ago, everyone was making fun of Matthew, but his status shot to the skies now that he was Old Mr. Bane's last disciple. What did he do to deserve such an honor? Alas, they could only grit

their teeth in seething anger. They could only watch begrudgingly as Matthew kneeled on the ground and performed the rite.

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Chapter 2146 The Effects of the Ultimate Tonic Liquor

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There wasn't anything extraordinary with the pecking for the liquor, but when the bottle was opened, the thick aroma filled the air.

Everyone couldn't help but feel a jolt of energy just by getting a whiff of the sweet aroma wafting from the liquor bottle. So, when they saw the amber-colored liquid slowly flow into the glass, the alcohol lovers in the room couldn't help but salivate at the sight. Alas, their statuses also restricted them into confinements of dignified poise. Thus, they could only stare at the liquor with longing eyes.

However, Old Mr. Bane merely took things in stride. Although he hadn't known Matthew for long, he knew Matthew's character well. If it was something ordinary, his lost disciple wouldn't have brought it to the birthday banquet.

Moreover, Old Mr. Bene was an alcohol lover, to begin with. Unfortunately, he was forced to swap his drinks for tea due to his declining health. Hence, when such fine alcohol was placed in front of him, the yearning which he had hidden for years was awakened.

The second his hand touched the glass, Albert, who was next to him, hurriedly stopped him. "Master, you can't drink anything alcoholic." This was the advice Matthew gave, and Albert remembered it to this day.

The initially enthusiastic Old Mr. Bene became hesitant at Albert's timely warning and turned his gaze to Matthew.

Matthew understood the questioning look in his eyes. So, he stepped forward and explained, "Don't worry, Albert. This liquor has been specially processed, and the alcohol content will evaporate through the pores and breathing even before it reaches the stomach. So, Master Bene's health will not be affected if he takes this liquor."

Old Mr. Bane had always been decisive and efficient. So, right after he finished speaking, he instructed a server to bring over the birthday presents Matthew brought.

There wasn't anything extraordinary with the packaging for the liquor, but when the bottle was opened, the thick aroma filled the air.

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Old Mr. Bane immediately tossed all his worries out the window as he picked up the glass and finished it in one go. Then, under everyone's anticipatory gaze, he breathed out heavily and roared, "Delicious!"

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It was just as Matthew said, a sweet, mellow taste spread out when the liquor entered the mouth and it glided smoothly down the throat. However, the instant it managed to arrive at the stomach, all the alcohol had evaporated. To his immense delight, Matthew had also ingeniously replaced the strong, pungent taste of alcohol with the sweet blend of herbs.

Gustev, who was seated close by, squirmed restlessly when he noticed just how Old Mr. Bene was enjoying himself. He could identify no less than thirty herbs used just from the aroma alone. He knew everything there was to know about tonic liquor after spending decades upon decades studying medicine. The more herbs that were used, the stronger medicinal effects they would have, but blindly adding any herbs into the brewing process was not enough.

Every herb had its medicinal properties, and the medicinal properties of each herb would influence one another. Therefore, if they were not processed properly, the tonic would turn into poison.

Old Mr. Bene naturally caught sight of the eager expression on the faces of the CAUMP members. So, he instructed the servers to serve the liquor to Gustev and the others, who were already tapping their feet impatiently. They didn't hesitate to pick up the glass and took a sniff before closing their eyes, analyzing carefully. During this brief process, they were pleasantly surprised that they felt more refreshed than before.

Old Mr. Bone immediately tossed all his worries out the window as he picked up the glass and finished it in one go. Then, under everyone's anticipatory gaze, he breathed out heavily and roared, "Delicious!"

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As an elder of the medical union, Gustav was more concerned about the harmonization and pharmacology of the liquor. His worries were placed to rest just after a sip—a small little sip—his body gradually felt energized. As he was tied up with work recently, various parts of his body were beginning to show signs of fatigue, but even those symptoms of stress were slowly receding after a taste.

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Gustav's brows shot up in surprise at the change. Finally, after he spent some time detecting the herbs through taste, he inquired, "May I ask how many herbs you used for this tonic, Mr. Larson?"

"Ninety-nine types of herbs," Matthew said honestly.

"Very impressive. You've surpassed many elders, and I can only distinguish eighty-five herbs." Then, Gustav gave him a smile of approval before finishing the liquor in one gulp.

He didn't ask about the remaining fourteen ingredients that he couldn't distinguish because that was Matthew's secret recipe, and asking about it was a huge taboo in their industry.

After Gustav finished speaking, anyone who knew anything about medicine was flabbergasted. It's a liquor made out of ninety-nine ingredients. Is this still just a tonic? It won't be an exaggeration to call this a panacea. Now that they were forced to face reality after hearing an elder of the CAUMP's testimony, everyone could only accept this as the truth.

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Chapter 2147 Matthew Takes a Seat, Roxanne Is Unsettled

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After Gustav finished the liquor, he was shocked by the effects. He was aware that refining pills was an incredibly tiring thing on the mind, and some pills required the refiner to maintain a high level of alertness for days on end. The slightest distraction might wash all the work that was done previously down the drain.

But with this liquor as support, all these problems will be easily solved, Gustav thought and asked expectantly, "Mr. Lerson, do you still have more of this liquor? I'll trade it with the Youthful Pill from CAUMP."

Everyone was stunned and wondered whether Gustav was addicted to the liquor upon hearing those outrageous words.

Just as the name suggested, the Youthful Pill was efficient in retaining youthful looks, but it was more than difficult to get a single of this pill. As a result, it drove women around the world utterly nuts.

It was then that the horrifying truth dawned upon the crowd—the value of the tonic liquor that Matthew presented was far above what they imagined.

Derk elley? Fake liquor?

Gustav's behavior was akin to raising a hand on Matthew's behalf and sleeping it across the people who sneered at him earlier.

As for the Youthful Pill, Matthew was very interested in it because he thought it would be a good gift for his wife, Seshe. Unfortunately, he had already finished using the ingredients he had. Besides, he had also requested someone to pass Hildegard the extra bottle. Thus, he could only shake his head helplessly.

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Old Mr. Bane regarded it as a favor to Matthew, and the banquet now had turned into an event with Matthew as the main event while others watched in envy and jealousy as Old Mr. Bane showered him with adoration.

As for the Renewal Pill, Old Mr. Bane glanced at Matthew, who closed his eyes and shook his head slowly. The former immediately understood that the pill wasn't meant to be disclosed in public.

Meanwhile, Roxanne was overjoyed to see everyone's stunned and gagged faces. Hmph, that should teach you guys a lesson for picking on Matthew earlier! she thought gleefully.

Alas, before she could revel in triumph, the things Old Mr. Bane said the next second made her so frustrated that she stomped her feet. "Matthew, since you're now my disciple, you're just like my son and nephews. Come and join me at the host's table."

No! If Matthew becomes Grendel's disciple, he'll be in the same generation as my dad and uncles, Roxanne realized in horror, watching as Matthew stood up and paced composedly to the host table.

Suddenly, she was struck by panic. If that happens, I'll not have a chance at all, she thought, rushing to her grandfather's side and taking his arm.

"What a shame." Gustav sighed in disappointment, and the generous Old Mr. Bone offered the other bottle of liquor to them.

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No! If Matthew becomes Grandpa's disciple, he'll be in the same generation as my dad and uncles, Roxanna realized in horror, watching as Matthew stood up and paced composedly to the host table. Suddenly, she was struck by panic. If that happens, I'll not have a chance at all, she thought, rushing to her grandfather's side and taking his arm.

Even though she was intimidated by Old Mr. Bane's authoritative manners, she couldn't care less when things had come to this point. "No, Grandpa. If this happens, then I'll have to address Matthew as my uncle after this and I don't want that," she whined as tears started to well up in her eyes.

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The guests, especially the young men, were almost heartbroken by this scene. She reacted this way precisely because she was worried that there was no chance for her to develop a romantic relationship with Matthew due to the differences in their standing in the family.

On the other hand, the older guests glared at Matthew with resentment in their eyes as he took a seat at the host table. From now onward, he would be Old Mr. Bane's disciple, and his status was high enough to be on the same level as everyone else. Not only did he win the favor of Old Mr. Bane, but he also secretly won the heart of Roxanne, the little princess of the Bane Family.

What on Earth did Matthew do to get all the good things in this world served to him on a silver platter? Many in the crowd felt a sharp stab of bitterness at that thought and reflexively clutched their chests in frustration.

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Chapter 2148 The Fairy Dances

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Merisse noticed that he was caught between a rock and a hard place. So, she covered for him by suggesting, "Roxanne, didn't you prepare a dance for my banquet today? Why don't you dazzle us with your performance, and I'll let your grandfather tell you the solution to this fix later." Although she disliked Matthew, she doted on Roxanne, and it broke her heart to see her looking so sad.

Roxanne obediently went to prepare for her dance after hearing Merisse's reassurances. Nevertheless, she wasn't to say that she didn't have a few doubts in her heart. A few minutes later, the lights in the hall dimmed. Under the spotlight, Roxanne, dressed in a traditional long dress with long sleeves, stood alone in the center, and traditional music started playing.

She moved and swayed gracefully while accompanied by serene music. Coupled with her beautiful face, the hearts of the young men in the room skipped a beat when they watched her in admiration. The silvery and mellow music made it appear as though a fairy was dancing on Earth.

Just when everyone was mesmerized by the performance, she waved her slender arms softly, turning her sleeves into flying rainbows that struck the leather drum strongly, and the rumble from the drum echoed through the hall.

While the laymen were merely watching the performance with awe, the experts were watching her skills. When the low rumble reached Old Mr. Bone's ears, he thought in amazement, Isn't this the Cloud-Chasing Sleeves from our family's Twenty-One Swordstyles?

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Old Mr. Bane's eyes sparkled at this realization because he wasn't expecting his eldest granddaughter to have such talents in martial arts. At the same time, he suddenly had an idea of how he could solve the generation problem between Roxanne and Matthew.

At the end of the song, Roxanne's graceful dance captured the hearts of many young men in the room, and her talents in martial arts also amazed the crowd.

"Grandma, I wish you good health and happiness every day."

Marissa was smiling from ear to ear as she praised, "Well done, my dear child. You're probably tired. Come, sit next to me."

Pempered, outspoken, and bold—this was the little princess of the Bene Family.

Roxenne had small beads of sweat on her face as she approached her grandparents jauntily and asked, "How did I do?" Behind those words, she wanted to ask them what they were going to do about the difference in generations between her and Matthew.

But Merisse had no answer to her question and didn't say a word. I've already dragged the time for this old man. I'll let him take care of the rest, she decided because she couldn't handle it when Roxenne threw a stubborn fit. To her surprise, Old Mr. Bene had really come up with a solution.

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Marissa stared at the yellowed-cover martial arts guide and thought in bewilderment, I can't believe that this stick-in-the-mud is actually giving the unique martial arts of the family to Roxy!

Unbeknownst to her, Old Mr. Bane was overjoyed at Roxanne's sudden display of talent in martial arts. With talents such as hers, she might go a long way in the martial arts world. Of course, this was also his solution to the generational issue.

Roxanne merely stared at the martial arts guide in bafflement. This isn't my biggest concern right now!

Next to them, Albert noticed the hidden subtext behind Old Mr. Bane's actions and said, "Miss Roxanne, if you accept this guide, that means your grandfather is teaching you martial arts, and that makes you Matthew's peer."

"You sure talk a lot, don't you?" Old Mr. Bane grumbled, and Albert retreated with a smirk.

When Roxanne understood the situation, her face broke into a bright smile. "Thank you, Master Grandpa! I'm going to change," she said and bounced away with a skip in her step.

Old Mr. Bane chuckled helplessly as he fondly gazed at her mischievous behavior. "This little lass.

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Chapter 2149 Death Upon the Banes

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Sure enough, Matthew, who sat at the main table, could see everything that happened at the banquet very clearly.

His mind was full of doubts when he noticed Merisse's displeased gaze. Have I done something wrong?

Toest after toast, every guest present wished Merisse a happy birthday. At the same time, many insincerely congratulated Old Mr. Bone for his success in gaining an outstanding disciple.

They had no choice in the matter. It didn't matter whether their hearts were filled with jealousy and reluctance or not. If they did not congratulate him, it would mean that they were mocking Old Mr. Bene for selecting the wrong disciple.

Halfway through the banquet, the other great forces also sent a representative to deliver their birthday gifts and wishes to Marissa.

The banquet slowly came to an end. So, the guests left the venue, one after another.

As for the whole Roxanne incident... None dared to bring up the topic of the marriage proposal. They were well aware of the final answer just based on Old Mr. Bene and Roxanne's attitudes toward this topic.

Therefore, why should they get themselves into hot water when they were well aware that the situation would backfire on them once they infuriated Old Mr. Bene?

Yet, toward the end of the banquet, Albert suddenly brought in two mysterious-looking gift boxes and handed them to Old Mr. Bene, informing him that they were gifts from a stranger.

Old Mr. Bene opened the boxes doubtfully. Then, he caught sight of a longevity peach, which had been gnawed out by worms, on the left side of the gift box.

Meanwhile, the gift box on the right side contained a bottle of medicinal wine, and in the bottle was a long snake with ginkgo fruit in its mouth.

Furthermore, 'Death Upon the Benes' was vividly written on the gift box's lid.

When Old Mr. Bene saw this, his initially delighted expression turned extremely gloomy.

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He composedly closed the gift boxes, slightly shook the boxes in his hands, and handed them to Albert as he ordered, "Throw them away."

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Before the servant threw the gift boxes into the trash can, they couldn't hold back their curiosity and opened it to take a peek.

However, what came before their sight was completely different from what Old Mr. Bene had witnessed earlier. At present, the medicinal wine in the bottle had evaporated into thin air, while the other gifts in the box had already turned into powder.

As for Matthew, he was ready to bid his farewell after the birthday banquet was over. "Pardon me, Master Bene. I shall take my leave first. I will visit you again when I am free."

Old Mr. Bene nodded. "Sure, sure. Go home and train well during this period. You are highly talented in both medical and martial arts yourself. Hence, I hope that you can perform well in the two competitions. After all, a peerless genius who triumphs in medical and martial arts has never existed before."

His face was painted with faint anticipation as he spoke.

"I will definitely try my best," promised Matthew. Although many in Beinbridge seemed as though they were congratulating Old Master Bene for accepting me as his disciple, deep down, I know Old Mr. Bene will be facing quite a number of criticisms. Hence, the best way to shut all their doubts down is to crown myself as the champion in these two competitions.

Old Mr. Bene nodded after he heard Matthew's words. At the same time, he knew what was on Matthew's mind. But unlike Matthew, he didn't care about others' opinions at all. In his perspective, the Benes didn't need to pass others' judgments for their actions.

"Okay. That's it for today. We shall get together again next time. Also, now that you have become my disciple, remember that you aren't alone any longer. So, if you ever encounter something that you

cannot solve, just come and look for me at the Bene Menor," Old Mr. Bene said as he patted Matthew on the shoulder. Although he was smiling, it wasn't as genuine as before. Instead, there was a hint of gloominess in his eyes.

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Regardless, since Old Mr. Bane was being tight-lipped about this matter, Matthew naturally saw no need to probe further, so he left after he respectfully bid the Banes goodbye.

However, someone stopped him in his tracks before he approached Renew Pharmaceuticals.

"Uncle Billy!"

Immediately after Matthew saw Billy, he had already guessed the purpose of Billy's visit.

After all, Brittany had arrived in Bainbridge. Therefore, as her father, Billy would definitely be worried about her safety.

Just as he expected, Billy immediately asked, "Is Brittany doing alright now?"

"Everything is fine. By the way, Uncle Billy, why don't you meet Brittany now that you are here?"

If truth be told, Matthew was also deeply troubled by Billy's reluctance to meet Brittany in the past few days. He feared he couldn't come up with an answer when Brittany asked him about Billy's situation.

To Matthew's dismay, Billy declined, "There's no need for that. It's inconvenient for me to meet Brittany at this juncture."

After a long hesitation, Matthew expressed his concern by asking, "Uncle Billy, can you tell me about your affairs? Perhaps I can help you out."

Billy smiled and shook his head after he heard that. "I cannot get you involved in this, especially since the other party is Cathay's first-ranked aristocratic family, the Nolans."

As soon as Billy said that, Matthew's eyes instantly widened in shock.

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Chapter 2150 The Popular Brittany

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Billy suddenly stopped, and a profound look could be seen in his eyes when he mentioned his master—men who had achieved considerable heights in martial arts and always did things in a style that was incomprehensible to the others.

"Forget it. There's no point for us to discuss this. Take good care of Brittany for me. Of course, you should also watch out for your own safety," Billy patted Matthew on the shoulder as soon as he stated his wish.

The next moment, his figure disappeared right before Matthew's eyes.

When Billy reappeared, he was already on top of a tree branch, which was tens of meters high. He quietly stared at the nearby Renew Pharmaceuticals' backyard for a long time before a smile tinged with fondness slowly surfaced on Billy's face. Then, after he gazed at the scene before him for a long time, he finally left without a trace.

As for Matthew, who remained on the spot, he was at a loss for words. From the moment Billy disclosed the secret he had kept for the past 20 or more years; he knew the bloody feud between Billy and the Nolans was about to end. Not to mention, Matthew had a faint feeling that Billy was settling his affairs through his words earlier. Yet, Matthew was powerless even if he wanted to help. After all, Matthew was just a half-step grandmaster level martial artist. With his strength, he would surely fail if he went up against Cathay's first-ranked aristocratic family.

Meanwhile, in the yard, whether it was thanks to her lively and optimistic personality or her beauty, Brittany managed to get along very well with all the hidden sects' disciples in just a few days.

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"Brittany, I'm telling you, the Tower of Babel in the Shrewsdon Valley Sect is 99 meters high and has a

total of 33 floors, which symbolizes the 33 celestial levels. In addition, you could enjoy a panoramic view of the entire Shrewsdon Valley Sect when you stand on top of the tower."

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Britteny's gleaming eyes were full of longing as she listened to Rolend vividly depicting the Shrewsdon Valley Sect's beautiful scenery.

As for Easton, who was around Britteny, a sense of dissatisfaction instantly crept into his heart when he saw her getting captivated by Rolend's tale.

"What's so good about the Shrewsdon Valley Sect that is full of herbs? Miss Britteny, the Mountain Breeze Sect definitely tops the chart in terms of scenic landscape. The picturesque scenery of mountains and rivers that you notice when you stand at the top of the highest peak will astound you. Not to mention, we have countless birds and waterfalls."

Meanwhile, the rest of the hidden sects' disciples refused to be outdone. One after another, they took turns describing the scenic landscape of their respective hidden sect. As a result, the crown prince of Mightwater could only watch on anxiously. Alas, there was nothing he could do. He couldn't just show off Mightwater's population to Britteny, or he would end up as a laughingstock among the disciples.

The more these hidden sects' disciples depicted the scenery of their respective sect, the more Britteny yearned to take a look. "Wow! The places you stay are so divine. I have to check them out when I'm free to travel."

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"A guide? Big deal. I will personally pick Brittany up upon her visit."

"F*ck all your nonsenses. Brittany, come to our sect with us once the two competitions in Bainbridge end."

"Why don't we set off now? After all, the Holy Doctor Competition won't start for a while. I suppose one trip should be fine."

The more they spoke, the more outrageous they sounded, which made Matthew feel extremely abashed.

At the same time, he couldn't help but feel as though their squabbles were filled with youthful energy.

As for Brittany, who was initially paying attention to the disciples, she immediately stood up when she caught sight of Matthew.

"Matthew, you are back," she cheered as she stepped forward and hugged Matthew's arm without delay.

Such an intimacy resembled a young lady who was deeply in love.

The disciples of the hidden sects gritted their teeth when they saw this, releasing an unusually stinging sense of jealousy in the air at this very moment.

Salazar donned a fatherly smile as he watched these young men before him. I used to be young too. When he thought of that, he involuntarily started reminiscing all the memories of his youth. However, before he could have a good long stroll down memory lane, he suddenly had goosebumps.

While everyone was caught off guard, only Salazar yelled loudly, "Who's there?!"

Like a shot, figure after figure showed up around the courtyard.

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