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“How are you going to punish me?” Kai inquired calmly. He showed no fear despite being the target of Ivano’s gun. “By crippling your leg, of course.” After making that declaration, Ivano pulled the trigger without hesitation.

It was obvious he was a ruthless person. Bam!

A shot was fired, but Kai stood rooted to his spot as though the bullet didn’t hit his leg. Ivano stiffened. “What the f*ck? Did I miss my target despite being this close to him?”

Suspicious of his aim, he fired another shot, aiming at Kai’s leg.

Bam! Another shot was fired. However, Kai remained unscathed. The bikers turned to look at Ivano in disbelief. Did he miss two shots in a row at close proximity?

“F*ck it! I don’t believe this.”

Bang! Bang! Bang! Ivano fired a few shots continuously until he exhausted the bullets in his gun and was forced to stop. Kai stood there with a smirk on his face, unharmed. He showed no signs of being affected.

Everyone, including Ivano and The Chanaean Brotherhood’s members, stared at Kai, utterly dumbfounded. They were unable to comprehend how Kai was still unharmed.

Dale’s body was trembling profusely. If they weren’t in public, he would’ve dropped to his knees before Kai.

“W-What the f*ck is wrong with this gun?” Ivano tossed his gun to the ground, blaming it for not being able to harm Kai.

Kai explained calmly, “It wasn’t the gun’s fault. It was me.” He spread his palms, revealing several bullets that fell to the ground noisily.

Ivano staggered backward as he gazed at Kai in disbelief.

Never in his wildest dreams did he think he would witness someone catching bullets with their bare hands. The concept seemed far too ridiculous to be real.

“I don’t believe that you can catch dozens of bullets in one go!” Ivano hissed. He ordered his men to point their guns at Kai, ready to shoot him dead.

The moment these men raised their guns, they saw a shadow appearing before them in a flash. The next moment, the firearms suddenly disappeared from their grip.

Kai didn't even move from his spot. They swiveled their heads around to see Gilbert holding over ten guns in his hands. "Why are you so arrogant when all you own is a bunch of scrap metal?" Gilbert mocked.

As he spoke, he crumpled the guns into a huge metal ball! Seeing that, Ivano started trembling in fear. The color drained out of the bikers' faces, too.

They couldn't understand what kind of capable beings they had offended. "I'm in a good mood today and don't feel like killing anyone. You may scram now," Kai announced.

Hearing that, Ivano and his bikers spun on their heels and fled the scene hastily. Right after the bikers made their escape, Dale fell to his knees with a thud..

"Sir, please accept my gratitude. I apologize for offending you earlier. Please forgive me." Dale was trembling profusely as cold sweat dripped down his face.

"Mr. Thompson, what are you doing? You didn't offend me earlier," Kai replied as he raised his palm gently, sending a wave of energy to help Dale up. "Sir, I-

Before Dale could finish his words, Kai waved him off. "Mr. Thompson, you're older than me, so please don't call me that. That sounds really awkward!"

Hearing that, Dale quickly corrected his form of address. "Mr. Chance, are you the one who formed Deragon Sect in Jadeborough's martial arts world?"

Kai chuckled and nodded. He had revealed his ability, so there was no need to keep his identity a secret anymore. Dale's excitement grew when he saw Kai admitting to it.

"Oh, you're my idol, Mr. Chance! I can't believe I'm lucky enough to meet you. I believe you'll find the ancient ruins..."

Dale changed his mind to stop persuading Kai to leave.

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Kai merely laughed. "How could I have found it when so many others have failed to? An island of this size would take a year and a half to comb through."

"We don't have to search the entire Ice Bear Island to locate the ancient ruins, Mr. Chance. There is a spot more likely than the rest because people disappear there almost every year, never to be seen again. That is why some suspect that the ancient ruins are there. We just cannot find the entrance," Dale informed him..

Kai's eyes brightened. "Where is this place?" "Bring Mr. Chance a map."

One of Dale's men returned with a map soon after the order was given, and Dale circled a spot. "Over here, around the snowy mountains. Rumor has it that the ancient ruins are at the foothills of the snowy peak, but nobody has ever seen them."

Kai gazed thoughtfully at the location, asking, "Have you been there?"

"I've been there twice," Dale affirmed, "but I have never seen any signs of the ancient ruins. It's snowy plains as far as the eye can see." "Could you bring us there for a look tomorrow, Mr. Thompson?"

Kai wanted Dale to take them, as the latter was familiar with the route. "No problem. It is my honor to serve you, Mr. Chance, Dale answered eagerly.

After leaving The Chanaean Brotherhood, Kai and Gilbert did not return to the hotel but began wandering around the shopping district instead.

Due to the cold weather, there were virtually no. animate wares in the shopping district, though it somehow had gemstones and magic swords for sale, given its size.

The items on sale were possibly caused by the sheer number of martial artists who come in search of the ancient ruins every year. Demand fueled the market, after all.

"All their wares are junk. Besides, we have not run into many experts. Could they all have left after failing to locate the entrance to the ancient ruins?"

Gilbert noticed the poor quality of the shopping district's wares and the lack of experts they had encountered. Logically speaking, the ancient ruins would attract many skilled warriors, yet they scarcely met any.

He inferred they were sent home in defeat following their failure to locate the ancient ruins' entrance.

Just when Kai and his companion were about to head back after their round, a hum reverberated through Kai's skull. As if sensing something, Dragonslayer Sword began to vibrate.

Kai froze in his tracks. He gazed up and discovered a vendor packing his things, seemingly ready to head home. At that moment, Kai's attention was arrested by one of the swords the vendor was packing away.

The wispy aura emanated by the sword drew him toward it. "May I see the sword in your hand, sir?" Kai asked upon walking over. "This sword? Here, have a look. You can have it for five million if you like."

The merchant handed the sword to Kai. "What kind of sword is worth five million? Are you robbing us in broad daylight?" Gilbert glared suspiciously.

“My woefully ignorant friend, this sword slices through steel like clay. It’s the pride of Engarder Sect.”

The vendor’s words stunned Kai, as he did not expect a lowly peddler to be acquainted with Engarder Sect. “How do you know that this sword belonged to Engarder Sect?” he asked with a curious gaze at the merchant.

“It’s written on the hilt, isn’t it?” the merchant replied as he glanced at the sword. Kai took a closer look. The sword had become rusty, which made it look old and worthless.

However, the bottommost spot of the hilt bore the inscription “Engarder Sect” in bold letters, plainly engraved when it was forged. When Kai picked up the sword, Dragonslayer Sword within him seared powerfully. He grinned with excitement.

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“If I may, sir, how did this sword come into your possession? Kai asked. In response, the merchant gazed toward the distant snowy peak. “I was picking some snow lotus a few years ago when I found this sword.

Starting off exceptionally sharp, it became dull and rusty because I didn’t know how to maintain it. I wouldn’t sell it for five million if it were not in this condition. Do you want it or not? I want to close up and go home.”

“I want it.” Without another word, Kai transferred five million to the ecstatic merchant, stunned with disbelief that he had sold the sword for five million.

Kai could not keep his hands off the sword. At the very least, he was sure that Engarder Sect was close and that the ancient ruins were very likely it

“I can’t believe you spent five million on a rusty old sword. Have you struck gold?” A woman’s voice sounded behind Kai, who froze at its familiarity though he could not place a finger on it at that moment.

Then, he remembered after turning around and getting a clear look at the girl’s face. “How strange to see you here, Princess Anne!” Kai exclaimed.

“This is my country. Why shouldn’t I be here for a holiday? I, on the other hand, am surprised to see you here. I’d even thought I was mistaken!” Anne answered, similarly excited.

Behind Anne came the hulking Andrew, whose aura became discernible from a single gaze by Kai. He did not expect Andrew to have achieved Martial Arts Marquis in as little as a year.

Though it was miles behind compared to Kai, it was an impressive enough pace.

A year ago, Kai had participated in the international competition at Theodore's request. Andrew was only a Martial Arts Grandmaster then. Kai had killed Ichiro and finally avenged the Watanabe family of Jetroina.

"You have made tremendous progress, Andrew, Kai said to Andrew with a smile.
"You're doing well yourself, Mr. Chance," Andrew replied while reciprocating the grin.

He did not ascertain Kai's strength but instead said it out of politeness. After all, Kai had subdued him during the international competition.

Given the Senerisians' explosive temper, it would have been impossible for Kai to speak to them in this manner. "Are you here on vacation, Kai?" Anne asked. "Something like that." Kai did not know how to tell her.

"Since you're here on my turf, I must fulfill my responsibility of a gracious host. I'll show you around and have you as a guest in my house. It's a short flight of several hours to get home from here," Anne declared happily as she came forward to tug on Kai's arm.

Kai was at a loss with Anne's generosity. She laughed at his expression. "Did you not bring both your girlfriends along? Have you already gotten married and had children?"

Kai became tongue-tied at Anne's inquisitive questions. Though Lizbeth had come, Josephine was still locked in the dungeon. "You can't have broken up with them, have you? Men are pigs and scoundrels!" Anne chided him with a giggle.

Kai sighed without retorting. Since she called me a scoundrel, then a scoundrel I am. He did not wish to let down any of the girls who had fallen for him.

Cecilia's sad gaze, especially, was one he could not refuse. If possible, I would go into hiding after this matter is resolved and keep these girls as backups. Kai wondered if that notion constituted as being what he was accused of.

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Anne held Kai's arm and strolled happily while Andrew and Gilbert followed closely behind them. "Kai, are you here for anything else aside from coming here for a vacation?" Anne asked all of a sudden. Kai was momentarily stunned before shaking his head. "What else can I do here?"

"Aren't you here because of the ancient ruins?" She gazed at him with a smirk, seemingly wanting to read his thoughts..

Hearing that, he flashed an awkward smile and stayed silent. Still, Anne understood his intention by simply looking at his facial expression.

“Actually, I’m also here for the ancient ruins. Otherwise, I would never have come to such a small place for a holiday,” she said. “You’re also here because of the ancient ruins? But it’s just the two of you?”

Kai was slightly taken aback. After all, Anne was not a skilled fighter, while Andrew had just become a Martial Arts Marquis. How can they wish to search the ancient ruins with such limited capabilities? This is no different from seeking death.

The smile on Anne’s face faded away at once after she listened to Kai’s remark. The next moment, a sorrowful look spread across her countenance.

Kai was at a loss as he didn’t know if he had said anything wrong.

“I heard the ancient ruins contain the King of Herbs, so I’m trying to acquire the King of Herbs to save my father,” she bit her lip and uttered softly. Kai hastily asked, “What happened to your father? Is he sick?”

She shook her head. “That’s not it. Someone poisoned my father, and it is rumored that only the King of Herbs inside the ancient ruins can save him.”

“Poisoned?” Kai was shocked. Anne’s father was a duke. He wondered who would dare to poison a country’s duke.

“Someone is targeting my father’s position as the duke, so they wanted to kill him to seize the title,” Anne quickly explained as she could sense Kai’s confusion.

“Who’s the daredevil?” he asked. She gazed at him solemnly. “Who do you think can gain the duke title after my father dies?” Clarity washed over Kai after he heard her words. “Could the culprit be your elder or younger brother?”

Kai was astonished because he knew only the duke’s sons could inherit the noble title. Still, it is inhumane for them to poison their father to death to acquire the position of a duke!

However, Kai was swiftly reminded of how Ryker had poisoned his father to death just to obtain the position as the head of the Deragon family, not to mention the title of a country’s duke. That rank of nobility was much more tempting, after all.

At that thought, Kai couldn’t help but sigh inwardly. They say all kinships are mere facades in a political family. It seems like that is indeed the truth. These people can truly disregard their familial bond for the sake of garnering power for themselves.

"I suspect my elder brother for now, but I do not have any evidence to support my claim. After I find the King of Herbs and save my father, I'll know the culprit who poisoned him."

Anne's eyes shone with determination. "Are you so sure you can locate the King of Herbs?"

Although Kai admired Anne's courage, bravery alone could not equate to capabilities, as not everyone could survive the ancient ruins. "I have to try even if I'll die."

Anne appeared to have made up her mind. Just like that, Kai and Anne chatted as they walked. Before they realized it, they had moved away from the lively market and arrived at a rather desolate place.

A vast expanse of whiteness spread out ahead of them. They could even see some people playing and cheering happily on dog sleds.

"Your Highness, we should head back now. It's not safe here," Andrew said to Anne warily after scanning his surroundings. Taking in his grim expression, Anne grew nervous as well. "Did you sense something, Andrew?"

As a Werebear, Andrew had superhuman senses and could perceive the existence of dangerous beings in advance. He nodded and shielded Anne.

Kai asked with a frown, "What's the matter? Is someone trying to kill you?"