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That caused Ginevra to fall into depression. Hester's kindness to her was evident, but the matters of one's feelings couldn't be forced, after all.

However, she couldn't be with Mason because of the longstanding disputes between their families. Despite their mutual affection, those sentiments were of no use. Ginevra soon found herself tangled in that emotional mess, unable to find a solution.

In the end, overwhelmed by the weight of it all, she chose to end her life, for only in death would she be free from those tormenting conflicts. However, after Ginevra took her own life, her divine soul didn't dissipate and was saved.

Still, her physical body vanished, leaving behind only her soul. If she could find another body, she could be brought back to life, but Ginevra was unwilling to live in someone else's appearance.

And so, Hester brought Ginevra's soul to Jipsdale. Using various resources, he established the Soul Nourishing Formation to ensure her soul wouldn't fade away.

She remained in the formation for many years. The Alchemist Fair held in Jipsdale was organized with the aim of searching for a pill that could help a soul regain a physical body.

Ginevra's demise led to a truce between the Archaic Body cultivators and Mason, as both parties tried to figure out a way to restore Ginevra's physical form.

Later on, Roman made a decision against his ancestors' wishes. He wanted to use the Ice Soul Pill in the treasure trove to restore his younger sister's body. Then the series of events experienced by Kai ensued. After all, not just anyone could access the treasure trove and acquire the Ice Soul Pill.

"Mr. Chance, we know that using you this way wasn't right, but to make amends, I offer you the Archaic Body cultivators' Demon Flogger, hoping you won't hold a grudge against us," Roman said apologetically.

.For Ginevra's sake, they had fabricated such a great lie, risking Kai's life and causing the death of many.

Yet, Kai wasn't mad. Despite the perils and lack of lucrative reward, he considered unlocking his nascence space and comprehending three types of nascence aura the most significant gain of overcoming the ordeals.

Besides, he had had the opportunity to witness the Archaic Body cultivators' elder display his most potent techniques in the treasure trove, which proved highly enlightening Kai now also possessed Demon Flogger, an ancient divine weapon.

"It's my pleasure, Mr. Ryder. Even if you had told me the truth, I wouldn't have refused," Kai said with a faint smile.

"Ginevra, since you've regained your physical form and are conveniently dressed in a red robe, why not marry Mason today? Your brother and I will be your witnesses. From now on, our families will unite. Our common goals will be to resist the demons and attain immortality in our cultivations!" Hester advised Ginevra.

"Hester, I- Ginevra gazed at Hester with sympathy since she was well aware of the feelings he had for her.

"You've said it yourself. I'm like your elder brother, so it's fitting that I stand as a witness to your union. Since Kai is also here today, let him call in his friends too to bear witness to your wedding." Hester suggested in a carefree demeanor.

Nevertheless, looking at Hester's facial expression, Kai fathomed his nonchalance was just a facade. Ginevra was, after all, the woman he loved, so how could he possibly watch her marry another man?

However, love works in mysterious ways at times. Perhaps letting go is also a form of love. Kai doubted he could be as noble if he were in Hester's shoes. He then called Quinley and the others to enter.

When Quinley saw Mason, she was taken aback. After she heard about Mason's impending wedding, her eyes nearly popped out in astonishment.

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Kai briefly recounted everything to Quinley, Feenix, and the others. Only then did they realize the intricate emotional entanglement between the Tall family

and the Archaic Body cultivators They couldn't help but regard Hester with a sympathetic look.

After all, Hester had put in so much effort, expending vast resources to maintain Ginevra's soul, even going to the extent of letting her become the countess of Jipsdale while he busied himself with all other affairs.

In the end, his efforts only benefitted another. Such sacrifice and devotion were truly beyond what an average person could muster

Hester and Roman took the main seats while Ginevra and Mason stood before them hand in hand. Their union was a testament to love eventually finding its way. Although the wedding was modest, it was apparent that the couple was overjoyed

With Kai and the others bearing witness, the duo knelt down and bowed deeply to Roman and Hester

At that moment, Mason truly submitted himself to Hester. They were love rivals in the past, but now, he willingly addressed the latter with respect Hester's magnanimity was not a trait commonly displayed by ordinary men.

After the simple wedding ceremony, Mason and Ginevra planned to leave. From then on, Ginevra would no longer be present in Jipsdale.

It was also time for the two-story building and the Soul Nourishing Formation to vanish.

"Mr. Chance, I entrust my little sister to you. I hope you can protect her. She made the decision to walk down this path, and I won't stop her. I trust her judgment, too. Given your capabilities, you'll surely stand out in the future, Mr. Chance. If you're ever in need of assistance, come to the far north to seek me out. From now on, we're family," Mason said to Kai prior to his departure.

"Rest assured, Mr. Mason. I won't let any harm befall them as long as I'm alive. However, I cannot be overly emotionally invested in the girls at the moment because I still have many tasks on hand." Kai knew he couldn't always solely indulge himself in romance.

"A man should be ambitious and not be held back by women. Since Quinley chose to be with you, I trust she'll stay by your side no matter the challenges. I have faith in the daughter of the Tall family, but if you ever betray her, you

should be prepared to face the consequences." Even though Mason spoke in a gentle tone, a hint of warning laced his voice.

"Mason, what are you talking about?" Quinley was displeased when she heard her brother warning Kai.

Mason laughed in response. "You two aren't even officially dating, yet you're already speaking up for him. The saying that women's loyalty toward their family would sway upon growing up couldn't be more true."

"Kai, you should practice extra caution now that you've offended the Demon Seal Alliance. Also, Thunderhawk has been searching for you," Hester reminded Kai.

"The Demon Seal Alliance upholds the pretense of slaying demons and keeping peace but actually conspires with demons in secret, cultivating demons in hopes of harnessing their power to control the entire Ethereal Realm. As despicable as they are, I don't fear them at all! And now that Yuven has regained his strength, I believe our combined forces will be sufficient to .put up a fight against Thunderhawk," Kai said confidently.

If Yuven hadn't recovered, Kai would undoubtedly have avoided a confrontation with Thunderhawk, but now that Yuven had recovered, Kai had nothing to be afraid of.

"You may not be scared of the Demon Seal Alliance, but since they can collude with demons, they're capable of anything. Can you still ensure the safety of the women by your side?" Hester asked.

Kai immediately turned to look at Aislin, Feenix, Viola, and Quinley. Their cultivation levels are not high. If the Demon Seal Alliance truly targets them, I indeed can't be sure I can perfectly safeguard these girls.

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When Hester took in Kai's reaction, he continued, "Kai, you can leave the girls here in Jipsdale. No one will dare to target them if they stay here."

Right then, Yuven spoke. "Mr. Sparrow, these young ladies are Kai's trusted companions. While it will be safe for them to stay in Jipsdale, it will be difficult for Mr. Chance to meet them. I have regained my strength, and if they were to stay in Imperial Beast City instead, I am confident that the members of the

Demon Seal Alliance wouldn't dare to take any unwarranted actions against them."

He knew that it would be challenging for Kai to protect the young women. If Kai were to bring them everywhere he went, they would be in grave danger and might even become a burden for him.

The only way around this now was to let them stay in Imperial Beast City. It would be the safest option for them, and Kai would be able to reunite with the young women any time he wanted.

Although Jipsdale was a safer place than Imperial Beast City, it was too far away. It would be troublesome for Kai to meet the women.

Kai chimed in, "Thank you for your kindness, Mr. Sparrow, but I'll take them to Imperial Beast City instead. It's safe there too."

Hester stopped insisting otherwise. After all, even in Imperial Beast City, the men from the Demon Seal Alliance would not dare lay a finger on the young women without thinking twice.

After bidding farewell to Hester, Kai led the others away from Jipsdale. As he looked back, he felt a wave of melancholy wash over him.

He had never imagined a tragic love story like that to take place in a grand region like Jipsdale.

"Mr. Chance, I've already informed Stellaris Sect about our departure, and they've sent an airship to pick us up. We'll be able to travel back on the airship. It'll save our strength and time," Cloud said to Kai.

Now that the Alchemist Fair in Jipsdale had come to an end, there were few people who would travel to Jipsdale. Therefore, the airship heading toward Jipsdale had stopped its .service.

After all, Stellaris Sect provided airship services for the sake of profit. However, with only a limited number of travelers heading to Jipsdale nowadays, they deemed it impractical to continue the service.

As a matter of fact, they might never get to restart the service. Now that Ginevra had regained her physical body, there was no need for Jipsdale to hold any sort of Alchemist Fair anymore. Nonetheless, as the successor of Stellaris Sect, Cloud possessed the authority to have an airship dispatched to his location at any given time, irrespective of whether it would yield profits.

"All right, we'll wait for the airship, then," Kai said. He knew that much time would be wasted if they were to travel back on foot, and Yuven must be anxious to return to Imperial Beast City.

Kai wondered what sort of damage Tigerus had inflicted upon Imperial Beast City during this time. While Kai's group was waiting for the airship to come, terrifying waves of an aura abruptly came from all directions.

The second Kai sensed the aura, his heart lurched. He knew that Thunderhawk had come. Others paled when they sensed the aura too. A shudder even wracked Yuven's body at that. In the next second, he enveloped the others with a powerful layer of aura.

Now that he had regained his strength, he had to protect Kai and the rest.

"Kid, you've finally shown up."

Soon, Thunderhawk's figure appeared in the air. Hundreds of Bloodthirsty Thunderhawks were flying behind him.

Upon seeing the number of Bloodthirsty Thunderhawks, Kai and Yuven grimaced. If Thunderhawk was alone, they would have stood a chance against him.

However, things would become significantly tougher with the large flock of Bloodthirsty Thunderhawks behind Thunderhawk.

At that moment, Thunderhawk was staring intently at Kai, his eyes filled with rage. Back in Jipsdale, Hester had been in his way, so he couldn't do anything to Kai.

Therefore, he had been waiting outside. Yet, to his annoyance, he saw no signs of Kai after a long while.

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Fortunately, he persisted in his wait. Days after, he finally met Kai. "How dare you steal my heavenly thunder fruits? You deserve to die for that!"

Thunderhawk hissed. "Thunderhawk, how dare you try to lay a finger on Kai when I'm here? This is absurd!"

Yuven shielded Kai, his aura surging within his body. Thunderhawk merely glanced at Yuven and scoffed, "Yuven, I can't believe you have recovered. But that doesn't matter. It's not as if you can stop me."

Thunderhawk raised his arm and spiritual energy rushed in from all directions to form a gigantic shadow of a palm. Bolts of lightning were even crackling within . that shadow. It was a palm much like Kai's Thunder Palm.

Boom!

When Thunderhawk pressed it down, the shadow palm sliced through the air and slammed downward at Kai's group. Yuven waved his hands and created a flawless shield around them.

He understood that, given Thunderhawk's capabilities, any imperfections in his shield. could lead to the demise of the others.

At the same time, lightning nascence shone in Kai's eyes as he threw a palm strike in retaliation. With Yuven protecting the others, he could go all out in fighting Thunderhawk. Although he was aware of the power gap between him and Thunderhawk, he would not resign to his fate.

Thunder Palm materialized in the air, accompanied by flashes of lightning. Subsequently, these bolts of lightning coalesced into a massive dragon. The dragon let out a deafening roar and flew toward Thunderhawk's shadow palm.

A hint of disbelief appeared in Thunderhawk's eyes when he saw that. He could sense the power of lightning within Kai's attack, and it seemed more formidable than his own attack.

In fact, Thunderhawk started to question his capability to outmatch Kai in a contest of lightning prowess. He snapped his brows together.

Nevertheless, fury coursed through his veins as well. This stemmed from his knowledge that Kai must have acquired such formidable lightning abilities through the consumption of his heavenly thunder fruits.

The two palm strikes detonated in the air, releasing shockwaves of their auras in all directions. The surrounding foliage and boulders were blown away, and even the nearby hill was flattened by the force of the shockwaves.

Fortunately, Kai's attack had countered Thunderhawk's strike, so the shockwaves did not harm Viola and the rest, who were being protected by Yuven's aura shield. However, the assault had left Kai deathly pale as the blood rushed into his head.

"I didn't think you had it in you. No wonder you could steal my heavenly thunder fruits. Now, I'd like to see if you can withstand two of my attacks!"

With a vicious glint in his eyes, Thunderhawk began readying himself for the next palm strike. Simultaneously, the Bloodthirsty Thunderhawks started shrieking, making preparations to attack at any time. The expressions of Kai's party grew solemn.

"Mr. Chance, take the others and make a swift exit. I'll hold off Thunderhawk. If I don't return alive, I entrust the fate of Imperial Beast City to you," Yuven said.

He braced himself for the possibility of death. He was prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice to ensure Kai and the others survived this ordeal.

Kai cast a silent look at Yuven and didn't utter a word. He recognized that Yuven's plan was their best option; otherwise, they would all face certain doom.

However, just as Thunderhawk was about to deliver his second attack, a ray of white light rushed into the clouds and dispelled Thunderhawk's attack

"Do me a favor, Thunderhawk, and let this matter go."

Hester's figure slowly appeared.

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Upon seeing Hester, Kai and Yuven breathed a collective sigh of relief. Otherwise, they wouldn't have been able to fight off an attack from Thunderhawk and the hundreds of Bloodthirsty Thunderhawks. Interestingly enough, Thunderhawk was just as surprised to see Hester appear outside Jipsdale.

"Mr. Sparrow, what are you doing here instead of being in Jipsdale?" he asked, his expression cold and unfriendly. "This area doesn't belong to Jipsdale, so you have no right to stop me. Besides, I recall that you guys have a rule stating you can't interfere with matters outside your county. You aren't trying to stop us both in and out of Jipsdale, are you? Don't you think that'd be too overbearing of you?"

Hester curled his lips into a smile. "You're right. Jipsdale does have the rule of not meddling in anything outside our county. I'm only here because I hope you can do me a favor. Of course, the ultimate decision lies with you, and no matter what you choose, I won't lay a finger on you. After all, rules are rules..."

Thunderhawk felt more at ease at that and scoffed, "I'm afraid I can't do you that favor, Mr. I Sparrow. This brat stole my heavenly thunder. fruit, so I must kill him today."

Despite the rejection, Hester kept his smile and never lost his temper. "In that case, you can forget everything I said earlier. I just hope you won't regret your decision," he replied before darting aside, seemingly having washed his hands off the matter.

However, Hester's warning had put Thunderhawk on high alert. "What did you mean by that, Mr. Sparrow? Why are you telling me not to regret my decision? Are you going to retaliate if I make a move?"

"Of course not. Who said I'd retaliate? There's one thing I have to tell you, though... Kai Chance isn't an ordinary person. You'll sorely regret it if you mess with him," Hester said with a smile.

"Hmph! He's merely at Fifth Level Body Fusion Realm. What's so special about that? As for Yuven, I don't fear him at all. I shall wipe them both out today!" Thunderhawk exclaimed, clearly not bothered or threatened by Yuven's presence.

Kai and Yuven didn't understand Hester either, but they began to panic when they realized the latter was about to stand idly by. That said, Kai also knew he couldn't force Hester to lend them a helping hand. After all, the man had rules to follow and couldn't break them just for him.

"Mr. Chance, just take the others and make a run for it later. I can still hold Thunderhawk off for a while!" Yuven said. Kai nodded. He couldn't possibly let Viola, Feenix, and the rest die before his eyes, so he knew he had no other choice but to sacrifice Yuven.

Moreover, Yuven belonged to one of the regiments under Dragon Sect, which meant he had a duty to protect Kai at all costs.

"Oh, I'm not letting any of you run away..." Thunderhawk uttered, a wicked glint in his eyes as he gathered boundless spiritual energy and conjured up yet another massive palm print.

The Bloodthirsty Thunderhawks, on the other hand, quickly surrounded Kai and his group from all sides to prevent them from running. Needless to say, Kai knew escaping was no longer an option, and he needed to put up a fight.

To make matters worse, the hundreds of Bloodthirsty Thunderhawks would keep them busy for quite a while.

"Let's go all out..." Kai muttered, his aura surging and his nascence power bursting forth with a dazzling brilliance.

Quinley pressed her palms together and conjured shards of ice to form an ice wall before her, hoping it'd be enough to block Thunderhawk's imminent attack.

Feenix emitted a screech before transforming into a phoenix, flames engulfing her wings as she soared into the sky and prepared to face off against the Bloodthirsty Thunderhawks.

Everyone was on full alert and ready to fight to the death.. The next moment, however, three terrifying auras suddenly shot out from behind the group and barreled toward Thunderhawk.