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Adeline sneered disdainfully, "Oh, Maeve... Do you really not know, or are you pretending not to? It was the Poison Spider of Mightwater who destroyed the White Family. What does it have to do with him? He was just borrowing the crown prince of Mightwater's power. He didn't do anything by himself."

A nervous Maeve looked around before she whispered, "Adeline. you can say these things to me, but it stays here. You say Mr. Larson borrowed the crown prince's power? Ha, do you know how Mr. Larson and the crown prince met, then?"

Adeline shook her head blankly.

How would she know about these things?

Maeve took a deep breath and explained in a low voice, "My uncle lives in Eastcliff, so he knows better than anyone else about this case. Matthew and the crown prince were originally enemies because he had killed many of the crown prince's men. In order to take revenge, the crown prince went to Eastcliff and was prepared to kill him. However, not only did the crown prince fail to kill Matthew, but he was also captured by him..."

"Later, Poison Spider personally showed up, which was how the crown prince was saved. After this matter, Matthew and the crown prince ended up becoming best buddies. And you mentioned Matthew borrowed the crown prince's power? Huh, let me tell you this, with Matthew's current abilities, he is completely capable of fighting Poison Spider. If he wants to be the Lord of Eastshire, he doesn't need to rely on anyone at all!"

Adeline's eyes widened as her expression turned incredulous. All this time, she had thought that Matthew was only the crown prince's puppet. However, after hearing what Maeve said. she suddenly realized that everything she had known was wrong.

No wonder Aidan and Landon treated Matthew so respectfully!

He was the real deal. the true Lord of Eastshire.

When she recalled her attitude toward Matthew earlier that night, she instantly panicked.

Maeve whispered, "Adeline, it's all right for you to say that to me, but don't do this in front of others. Humans are unpredictable. If someone overhears you and informs him, there's no saying what he would do to your family. At the very least, your family can forget about joining the Ten Greatest Families!"

Adeline was taken aback, she knew very well how much the Thatcher Family had sacrificed to join the Ten Greatest Families. With their current state, if they became one of the Ten Greatest Families, their influence would inevitably increase twofold. By then, the Thatcher Family would truly be able to become an important family in Eastshire. However, if they failed because of a few words she had said, then she would become an enemy of the Thatcher Family. At that thought, Adeline trembled uncontrollably. her face turning pale.

After seeing Adeline's expression. Maeve patted her on the shoulder comfortingly. "You don't have to be so scared. It was only the two of us who heard that earlier, so it's fine. Let's think of a way to get in. If we can see Mr. Larson and get a good word in, then your family will have a good chance of entering the Ten Greatest Families."

Adeline's expression became even more awkward. How would she still have the pride to face Matthew again?

Another girl walked over with a dazed expression at this time. "I heard that Mr. Larson is not that old, and he's around our age. I wonder what kind of girls he likes."

The others burst into laughter at her words. "Hey, you haven't even met Mr. Larson yet, and you're already thinking about how to seduce him?"

Still, the girl was unwilling to back down and retorted with a smile, "Look at the way you've dressed up. Aren't you thinking the same thing?"

The other girls laughed again.

Suddenly, Maeve curled her lips and advised, "I think you girls had better give up. Matthew's wife, Sasha Cunningham, is the top beauty of Eastcliff. Girls like us stand no chance at all!"

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When the girls heard Maeve's words, they all fell silent. Although they were gorgeous, they were not on the same level as those top beauties.

Adeline. who was standing next to her, was shocked again.

"His wife is the top beauty of Eastcliff? Is that true?"

Maeve replied, "Of course it is. My uncle was fortunate to have gotten a chance to meet President Cunningham. He told me that she is definitely more beautiful than any A-list star!"

Adeline couldn't help but freeze in shock. She finally understood why Matthew didn't even look at her during dinner earlier. She had thought that he wanted to play hard to get and deliberately ignored her in order to attract her attention, and she even felt quite disdainful toward him, thinking that this trick was too lowly. Only now she realized that he didn't use any tricks on her at all, because he hadn't had eyes for her in the first place!

Just then, a girl said, "Let's not talk about whether he has a wife or not. It's hard to say if we can even enter Orchid Resort tonight! Since Matthew and the crown prince are both coming here, the owner immediately cleared the venue. Look over there, even the members of the Ten Greatest Families are still standing outside. I think we probably won't get to enter tonight, let alone meet Matthew and the crown prince."

The other girls sighed helplessly as well, while Adeline felt regretful. If she had known, she would have been more enthusiastic toward Matthew back then. If she had established a good relationship with him at dinner, then she would definitely be able to enter Orchid Resort tonight!

Most of the fops and clotheshorses in Eastshire were now locked outside, but if she was able to enter under these circumstances, she would definitely be in the limelight, and they would have to look at her differently in the future. Most importantly, she had some grudges with a few of the girls in the front of the line. so it would be even better if she could enter Orchid Resort in front of these girls. However. it was already too late for her to regret it.

Adeline sighed sadly, she now understood what Landon had said. It was her fault for not seizing the opportunity and not anyone else's. Right now, she just wanted to give herself a slap for missing such a good chance.

Maeve leaned over to Adeline and whispered, "Adeline, don't worry, I'll find a way to take you inside later."

Adeline asked in surprise, "You'll take me inside?"

Although Maeve was close with Adeline, in reality, the Bailey Family's status in Eastshire was average at best, and their assets were only worth a few billion. If people from the Ten Greatest Families couldn't get in, how was Maeve any different?

Maeve smiled and said in a small voice, "Don't worry, I have a way. Don't raise your voice now. We can't let the others know."

Adeline was confused. None of the descendants of the Ten Greatest Families could get in, so how could Maeve get in?

Just then, a girl next to them leaned over. "Hey, what are you two whispering about?"

Maeve quickly smiled and said. "It's nothing. I was just asking Adeline who she ate dinner with tonight!"

The girl immediately looked at Adeline. "Right, Adeline, who did your family introduce you to? If Miss Adeline Thatcher is looking for a husband. he must be someone amazing, right? Hurry, tell us about it."

Adeline was so embarrassed that she wanted the ground to open up and swallow her whole. Of course, she couldn't tell everyone that she had eaten with Matthew earlier. She casually mumbled a few excuses in an attempt to brush past the matter, but the girls did not let her go easily.

Just when she was about to lose her mind from shame, there was an uproar in the distance. When they immediately turned their heads to take a look, they saw a white Buick Excelle slowly driving over.

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Everyone was confused.

Wasn't the road blocked off? How did this car get in?

Even their luxurious sports cars had all been stopped and were parked in a line in the distance, but a Buick Excelle was able to enter. What was going on?

They instantly burst into an outrage, and some even looked at the security guards, who were still standing on the road and blocking the way in. It was clear that these security guards hadn't forgotten to stop the car, but that they deliberately let them in!

A girl next to Adeline couldn't help but comment, "What's going on? Didn't they say that no vehicles are allowed to enter? Why can this clunker drive inside, but my Ferrari can't?" Another girl immediately nodded in agreement. "That's right! Our cars have all been stopped, but why didn't they stop this car? They're just bullying us now. Let's go and get a clear answer from those security guards!"

The crowd buzzed, and some even wanted to go to the security guards to ask what was going on.

Adeline was full of anger as well. Her Lamborghini that was worth more than 10 million wasn't allowed inside, but how could this Buick Excelle that was only worth a hundred thousand drive inside instead?

However, Maeve's eyes brightened, and she immediately grabbed Adeline, saying in a low voice, "Come with me!"

Not knowing what was going on, Adeline let herself be dragged over by Maeve and stopped the Buick Excelle with her.

When the car window rolled down, a girl poked her head out and said in surprise, "Maeve?"

Maeve ran over excitedly. "Oh, Lynn, it's really you! Adeline, let me introduce you to my classmate, Lynn!"

She was none other than Lynn Taylor, the girl who was helping out at James and Helen's pharmacy. Lynn and Maeve were classmates, and they had known each other for a long time. As Maeve had a relatively good personality, when she was still in school, she had helped Lynn a lot, so they had a good relationship with each other.

When Maeve learned about Lynn from her classmates later on, she was shocked. She knew that Lynn had now risen in status, so when she had told Adeline that she would bring her inside earlier, it was because she had learned that Lynn would come over tonight and planned to take advantage of their relationship to bring Adeline into Orchid Resort along with her.

After exchanging some small talk, Lynn asked curiously, 'Maeve, what are you doing here?"

Maeve smiled embarrassedly. "We heard that Mr. Larson and the crown prince of Mightwater are coming here tonight, so we came here to line up and have a look. However, there are too many people here, and we don't know if we can even make it inside!"

Lynn looked at the queue over there and pondered for a moment before she smiled. "Maeve, you'd have to line up for ages if you stay here. Why don't you go in with me?" This sentence played right into Maeve's hands. She pretended to reject politely, but moved faster than the speed of light and opened the car door before taking a seat inside. Then, Lynn drove the car directly into the nightclub. Behind them, the wealthy young ladies and young masters of Eastshire watched them enter Orchid Resort with looks of envy.

Adeline trailed behind Lynn, feeling a little excited. With the current situation, it was a big deal for her to be able to enter Orchid Resort earlier than the rest, and it was enough to make her rivals turn green with jealousy.

As they walked into the nightclub, Adeline leaned over to Maeve and lowered her voice. "Maeve, which family is your classmate from?"

Maeve said blankly, "Her? Uhm... She isn't from any important family. She's just a student who came to study from the suburbs..."

Adeline was stunned. "Huh? From the suburbs? Then... Is her family wealthy?"

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Maeve shook her head. "Her family conditions are just average. When she was in school, she even applied for financial support."

Adeline rolled her eyes at Maeve. "Maeve, don't joke around with me. She must be the young lady of a big family, right?"

Maeve said seriously, "I'm not joking at all. Her family really is average. Back then, her living expenses were less than 500 a month."

Adeline couldn't help but feel stunned. Her current monthly living expenses was at least one million. She couldn't imagine how she could live with only 500 a month.

Maeve continued, "At that time, we met each other at a school club. She has a kind heart, but because her family struggles too much, she often has to take part-time jobs, and I even introduced her to a few tutoring jobs. Or else, it might be difficult for her to even go to school."

Seeing that Maeve didn't seem to be lying, Adeline felt even more confused. "Maeve… A-are you telling the truth?" Maeve scoffed. "Of course I am. We're friends, so why would I lie to you? After she graduated, she couldn't even find a proper job and changed careers multiple times. I was the one who recommended her last job to her, which was a saleswoman position in the Ferrari 4S Center nearby."

Adeline stammered, "Then... Why was she able to drive her car in?"

Hearing this, Maeve finally knew what Adeline meant. She smiled, with a hint of pride on her face. "You don't know about this, do you? My classmate had luck on her side and met a huge benefactor. Now, she runs Mr. Larson's chain pharmacies in Eastshire! Because of this, she's one of his people now. Not only can she drive her car inside, but even if she knocked down the signboard, no one would dare to stop her!"

When Adeline heard this, her eyes nearly popped out of her head. She had never dreamed that Matthew's employees would have so much influence! Even the top socialites of Eastshire were still standing outside, but a mere employee of Matthew's was able to drive in. Just the idea of it was ridiculous.

At the same time, she couldn't help but think of her grandfather and father asking her to work under Matthew. Back then, she felt that it was an embarrassment, but now she knew that it wasn't shameful at all, and it was a great opportunity instead!

If she could work under Matthew, no matter her position, she would be one of his people, and she might even be like Lynn. If that were the case, nobody would be able to stop her tonight. By then, who would dare to disrespect her in Eastshire?

At that thought, Adeline felt sick with regret and yearned to drop dead. How could she turn away from such a good opportunity? Sure enough, it truly was her loss!

At that moment, they had already walked into Orchid Resort. The nightclub was much more deserted than usual. If it were any other day, it would already be bustling with life by now, but tonight, there was only soothing jazz music being played in the hall. Besides the staff, there were about 40 people scattered around in the seats.

Adeline could see that these people were all big shots in Eastshire. Among them, the heads of the seven greatest families were all present. Other than them, there were several others who were the richest people in Eastshire. A few were also the heads of several large families. These families were also similar to the Thatcher Family in power, and they all wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to enter the Ten Greatest Families. It seemed that these people all had similar goals, to meet Matthew.

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Adeline couldn't help but think about tonight's banquet. At that moment, she could finally understand why her father and grandfather would try so hard to invite Matthew to the dinner.

If the Thatcher Family had failed in their attempt, then her father might be sitting here and waiting like the other heads of the families. For now, the Thatcher Family was guaranteed a position among the Ten Greatest Families of Eastshire. In other words, there would only be two vacancies left in the Ten Greatest Families to fight for. The competition among the families who presented tonight would be intense.

Adeline couldn't guarantee the Thatcher Family could stand out among the families if they were one of the competitors. She sighed as the more she understood Matthew's capability, the more she regretted it.

Other than her, there were several young people in the hall too. None of them was a pushover if they could make it today. Each of them was known as a wealthy, good-for-nothing kid in Eastshire. Even though Adeline was born into the Thatcher Family, there was a vast difference between her and the others.

One of them was an extremely handsome young man who caught everyone's attention. He was Lucien Stone, a successor to the Stone Family, one of the Ten Greatest Families of Eastshire.

The Stone Family was consistently ranked in the top three among the Ten Greatest Families of Eastshire. As for Lucien, not only was he handsome, he was also capable. Thus, he was considered the most outstanding individual among the rich kids of Eastshire.

Many young women from the wealthy families of Eastshire had a crush on him, including Adeline. Alas, he had too many admirers, and she was relatively mediocre among them. For her, it was usually hard to see him in person, let alone pursue him. Still, Adeline's heart fluttered as she was happy to see him on this occasion. Therefore, she seized the opportunity to take a look at her surroundings.

The girls who were always following behind him were nowhere to be seen. At that, she began to think of a plan to make his acquaintance.

Regardless, just as Adeline was thinking hard about a way to greet him, Lucien turned to where she was standing all of a sudden, and she could see a bright smile blossoming on his handsome face. Even though she knew he was handsome, he was even more attractive when he smiled. The unexpected smile caught her off guard as she could only stand there with a blank mind. At that moment, Lucien headed straight in her direction. Her heart was pounding as if she could hear it thumping against her chest while her body shivered uncontrollably in excitement.

'Why is he walking toward here? Why is he smiling at me? Does he have feelings for me?'

Adeline was so excited to see him that she had simply forgotten her plans. Instead, all she could see and think about was Lucien.

Soon enough, he was right before her. As she was excited to see him, she stared at him affectionately and with a sultry look in her eyes. Nevertheless, he only walked past her without giving her another look, as if she wasn't there.

She was surprised. 'What happened? Isn't he here to talk to me?'

As thoughts ran through her mind, she turned around and saw him stopping before Lynn. He had a gentle smile as he warmly addressed the woman, "Miss Lynn, you're here..."

"Mr. Larson ordered us to take you to the private room once you're here. So, I'll take you to him."

Lynn blushed fiercely like the other women when she saw him standing close to her. It was hard to resist the charm of an excellent man like him. Lucien smiled as he held Lynn's wrist and led her to the private room.

At last, Maeve and Adeline were the ones left in the hall. The turn of events had left Adeline dumbfounded as she never expected Lucien to ignore her and walk away with someone else.

If she was being honest, Lucien had even ignored the pursuit from the daughter of the White Family once, but from what she saw, he was holding an average girl's hand now.

'What just happened?' Adeline couldn't stop replaying the scene in her mind.

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Adeline came to her senses after Lucien and Lynn left. Her eyes turned red as her crush held another girl's hand in front of her.

She was going crazy with jealousy!

Maeve sighed. "Comparison is the thief of joy. It seems like Lynn is going places. But, Adeline. I think you should stop setting your hopes on Mr. Stone. He's far more interested in her..."

"That's not fair!" Adeline said begrudgingly.

"Lynn came from a poor family and is not pretty either. So how... How could he like her? You know, it's important to have matching family socioeconomic status for marriage. They have such a huge financial difference."

Maeve gave her a look and asked, "Adeline, what are you saying? Didn't I just tell you? Lynn is working under Matthew now. She's not an ordinary Jane anymore. Besides, Matthew's mother-in-law likes her and treats her like a niece. If that's the case, she is like a sister to Matthew. So, it's not only Lucien. Do you realize how many young masters are chasing after her now?"

Adeline's heart was about to explode in fury upon hearing that. She clenched her fists and ground her teeth. "I... I don't believe it! The Stone Family is one of the Greatest Families of Eastshire. Without the White Family, they would be number three on the list. Since Lucien will become the head of the Stone Family, is there really a need for him to do this? All this just to network with Matthew? I... I can't believe it!"

A shocked Maeve hurriedly pulled her aside and whispered, "My gosh! Adeline! Can you keep it down? Do you know how much trouble you'd be in if anyone overheard what you said just now? There're so many eyes on us here. Do you have a death wish for your family?"

A moment later, she continued, "Adeline, you're so clueless... Yes, the Stone Family is indeed powerful, but they are walking on thin ice now. They usually have good connections with the Whites, but the White Family tried to kill Mr. Matthew Larson. Now that the Whites are destroyed, the Stones are worried that Matthew will consider them as culprits. If that happens, they are finished... That's why they need to risk everything to earn Matthew's trust."

"Lucien is doing this to protect his family. If he manages to win Lynn over, it's a matrimonial alliance with Matthew. Then, the Stone Family not only has Matthew's trust but also access to a bigger market. If it was you. what would you do?"

After Maeve's explanation, Adeline was shell-shocked. She finally understood why Lucien acted the way he was with Lynn.

It was all because of Matthew!

At the realization, tears of regret streamed down her face. If she knew it would come to this, she should have accepted to work at Matthew's pharmacy. She would have been under Matthew's wings, and Lucien might like her then.

Adeline had been in love with Lucien for so long, and her biggest wish was to marry him, but she arrogantly rejected the offer, as a result, she lost everything. At this moment, she finally understood how laughable her arrogance was.

An opportunity like this only happens once in a lifetime. Now that she had lost it, there was no point crying over spilled milk. She could only resign to the fact that she destroyed her lifetime of happiness with her bare hands and could not blame anyone but herself.

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Matthew, the crown prince, and Melvin were in a private room.

It was only the three of them, and no one else could enter. Even the masters of the Seven Greatest Families had to sit and wait outside.

Lucien used Lynn as an excuse as he brought her inside and tagged along.

"Mr. Larson, Prince, Miss Lynn's here. Is there anything else you require?" he said respectfully as he wanted to leave a good impression on both of them.

While Matthew regarded him closely, the crown prince didn't even spare him a glance. Matthew knew very well what Lucien's actions implied.

"There's nothing else. Thank you." He waved Lucien off.

Lucien promptly replied, "No at all, Mr. Larson. It's my pleasure to serve you! Hi be at the door. Please call me if you need anything..."

Lucien bowed and left the room with his face full of joy. That was because, due to the reason he gave earlier, he now had the right to stand outside the door. To the others, it meant that he had gotten closer to Matthew.

As he closed the door, Master Stone saw him and gave him a nod of approval. The other masters saw him and became irritated. He only went in for a short while, but now he had the upper hand.

Back in the private room, Lynn passed a file to Matthew. "Here's the information you wanted, Mr. Larson..."

Matthew took the file and flipped it open. It contained additional information he asked Tommy to collect on the other prominent families in Eastshire. The Seven Greatest Families had given him a set of files, and Melvin gave him another set.

It was for him to reappoint the two new Greatest Families. Even so, Matthew still asked Tommy to gather more information. He needed to know everything there was to know about these families. At the same time, he wanted to know which family Tommy was closer to.

If Tommy were close to any of the families, the file he prepared would have been more advantageous for them. There was too much for Matthew to consider in the reappointment of the Ten Greatest Families. More importantly, these families could not have close relations with the other great forces in Eastshire. If that happened, and they formed an alliance, it would not be easy to control them. It would be best if the Ten Greatest Families were estranged and leery of each other. Then, they would not be an ally to the great forces and still be in his control!

It was Melvin who taught Matthew how to control them. This wretched old man may look dodgy, but he was cunning as a fox. Nevertheless, with him by his side, things were easier for Matthew.

After he went through the files, he knew what to do. Finally, he passed the files to the crown prince. "Do you want to take a look, Your Highness?"

The crown prince waved his hands in dismissal. "No, no… I hate looking at these things. You decide what to do. I don't really care. Let's settle this quickly. We should have been singing, dancing, and drinking. Oh, right! Get some pretty ladies in here too. That's the main event, it's so empty and cold here. We're but a few men. Where's the fun in this?"

Matthew was speechless at the crown prince's response and passed the files to Melvin.

Melvin went through them and chided, "Ha! Tommy's got guts. The information is just deceitful. We can't keep him by our side."

Matthew nodded calmly as he already had plans for Tiger to come to Eastshire and replace Tommy.

Right now, Eastshire had become their main battleground. So, the person controlling the underground forces here had to be the people he could place his trust in.

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Matthew collected the files and passed them to Lynn.

'Thanks, Lynn. Sorry for asking you to come here so late at night," He smiled.

"It's no trouble at all, Matthew," she replied. "It's part of my job. Besides, you treat me like family. So, I... I don't even know how to repay you..."

Matthew smiled and assured her, "Since you say we're family, don't overthink it. I'll leave the pharmacy under your care for now. But, once it has gotten up to speed, why don't you spend some time with my mom in Eastcliff?"

Lynn beamed at his words. 'Sure! I was thinking about visiting Mrs. Cunningham too. So, rest assured, I'll do everything I can to run the pharmacy well."

Matthew nodded in satisfaction and changed the topic. "Lynn, you've grown up now. If you meet someone suitable, maybe you can consider marriage."

Lynn's face flushed up at his advice, but there was sadness in her eyes.

Recently, the young masters of Eastshire had been pursuing her. This was something she had never dreamed of. Among them, she liked Lucien the best. But she knew her status very well, their status disparity was too large, and she was not a good match for him.

Matthew knew precisely what she thought when he glanced at Lynn's expression.

"Lynn, you don't need to worry about anything. Since you call me your brother, I will treat you like family. In Eastshire, whoever it is you choose, they should feel lucky to be able to be with you. Don't worry... No matter who it is, we will support you."

The crown prince waved his hand and added, "That's right. If anyone bullies you, just let me know. Matthew is like a brother to me. Since he regards you as his sister, then you are also my sibling. Let me know if anyone dares to mess with you!"

Tears brimmed Lynn's eyes at the crown prince's warm words, and she was very touched. With the support of Matthew and the crown prince, she was not inferior to any of the heiresses from the other noble families.

After a moment, Matthew instructed Lynn, "Invite the masters in..."

Lynn nodded obediently and exited the room to do as he had instructed.

Lucien was right at the door when he saw Lynn leaving the private lounge. But, then, he immediately wore a gentle smile. "Do you need help with anything?"

She told him, "Matthew asked me to invite the masters in..."

He smiled as he answered, "Oh, sure. It's a small matter. Let me help you. I noticed you've been working the whole night, so you must be tired. You should take a quick break. Just let me know if you need anything."

As he spoke, he tenderly tucked in her hair. It made the young ladies from the affluent families sitting near them were green with envy. Lynn's face turned beet red. It was hard to reject a wonderful guy like Lucien.

After the seven masters of the Greatest Families entered the room, Master Wayne excitedly chirped, "Mr. Larson, have you decided?"

Matthew nodded and listed the names of the three families he chose. Among them was the Thatcher Family. The masters were not surprised that he selected the Thatcher Family. Everyone knew he went to the Thatcher Family's banquet before coming here. So, the masters all expected that they would be selected. Nevertheless, there were qualms about the other two suggested families. After all, the seven masters had their personal intentions.

They all wanted to get people they were close with into the ten Greatest Families. This way, they would have allies among the families.

After they listened to Matthew's decision, someone immediately raised their objections against the two families.

Matthew's face darkened, and he asserted, "I hope everyone understands that this meeting was merely to notify you about the decision. This isn't a discussion. If you feel some families are better suited to be listed, that's fine. Once you quit and free up the spot, they can join the rank."

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At Matthew's words, the few masters that intended to voice their opinions and arguments immediately fell silent. His domineering aura sent a wave of fear through

them. He proved his capabilities through the incident with the White Family. None of the Seven Greatest Families dared to go head-on against him.

Matthew was satisfied with their silence. So, he regarded them and asked, "Are there any other objections?"

Everyone immediately shook their heads as they didn't want to risk angering the man who could bring misfortune upon their families with just a few words. Therefore, Matthew chuckled softly at their assent and announced, "If so, this matter is settled."

"Master Wayne, please announce this to the others outside. Also, arrange a banquet at the Cameron Hotel tomorrow night for the Ten Greatest Families of Eastshire."

Master Wayne quickly nodded and left the room. The other masters outside saw him coming out and sat upright in anticipation. They knew that the results were out!

Master Wayne announced the names of the three newly appointed families, and the crowd had mixed reactions. Some cheered while some sighed.

Eight families were fighting for the three spots to become one of the Greatest Families, but, Matthew chose only three families, and the other five failed.

The masters of the five families were filled with disappointment, but there was nothing they could do. The power to decide who would be one of the Ten Greatest Families was in Matthew's hands.

In the corner, Maeve was full of excitement. She grabbed Adeline's hand and gushed, "Adeline, your family is on the Greatest Families list! Oh God, that's great! Congratulations! Hereafter, the Thatcher Family will rise in Eastshire. You'll be a young lady of the Ten Greatest Families. That's great!"

However, Adeline was not happy at all as regret filled her heart. She sat on the sofa as if she had lost her soul.

Maeve did not notice her expression and kept muttering in excitement, "Adeline, your grandfather can really keep his cool. Look! So many masters came today except for your family. But your family got selected in the end, and those who came lost. This goes to show how capable your family is. These families are too weak, even if they had the help of the Seven Greatest Families, it didn't work. Mr. Larson's the one with power, and only he could decide who gets in."

Adeline felt even worse as she heard Maeve's excited exclamations.

As she took a stroll down memory lane, the person sitting beside her tonight was the most powerful man in Eastshire. To think that she was even angry at her grandfather

and father, as she thought Matthew was not worthy of her and never even looked in his direction once. But now, she finally understood that she was the one not worthy of him!

She was dying of regret. So many people dreamed of such an opportunity, but she let it slip through her fingers just like that. If she could have a second chance, she would definitely do anything just to leave a good impression on Matthew at all costs!

Since everything had been settled, Matthew walked out of the room. Everyone crowded forward as they rushed to greet him or even get into his good graces if that were possible. These people were among the wealthiest and most influential people in Eastshire. Any one of them was of the same status as Old Master Thatcher.

Regardless, they were all respectful and humble before Matthew.

Matthew exchanged greetings with everyone and pulled Lynn to his side. "Everyone, I might not always be in Eastshire later on. But, if anything comes up, you can contact me through Lynn. I view her as my sister, so I hope everyone can look out for her moving forward."

His words shocked the room as everyone gaped at Lynn. Yet, Lucien's eye brightened as he landed his intense focus on her.

At the back of the room, Adeline was too distraught and regretful for words. How she wished the person standing beside Matthew was her.

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Matthew left as soon as he finished his briefing.

Adeline, standing in the doorway of the exit, saw him approach. At that moment, her heart thumped involuntarily. She tried putting on her prettiest smile before walking toward him, wanting to greet him in front of everyone. If she could exchange words with him here, it might be enough to change their opinions of her. After all, the other wealthy heirs and heiresses could only admire him from afar. She wanted to compensate for her blunder back at the ball as well.

Before she could reach him, though, she was immediately stopped by two heads of families. They surrounded him, just pushing her away as if she was someone inconsequential. When Matthew walked past her, he did not even look at her, like she was invisible.

Adeline was stunned by his treatment of her. She was the eldest daughter of the Thatcher family and had never been treated this way. So, she quickly turned to look at him, wanting to call out to him. Yet, she couldn't do it. She didn't know whether he would ignore her or not. If he did, she would be even more humiliated.

As she watched him leave, she couldn't hold it back anymore. Tears flowed silently down her face. She knew she had missed her chance yet again.

Some, people or things, were lost forever once the opportunity was gone. There would be no room for regret, either. Only when Matthew had left could the people waiting outside enter the resort. Finally, the respective heads of the family left as well after bowing and greeting the crown prince.

Eventually, the resort returned to normal. Music started to play, and the lights flashed. Adeline, however, remained there, lifeless and unresponsive.

Somewhere else, Lynn was surrounded by the admiring wealthy heirs and heiresses of Eastshire. Lucien sat beside her, looking at her lovingly. He was like a loyal escort, treating her with extreme sincerity.

As for the others, they were also trying to be as friendly as possible. It had been an order from their parents, if they established a close relationship with her, things would be easier for them in the future.

Lynn was surprised by everything that had happened. She wasn't sure how to deal with such a situation, it had been Lucien who had taken care of everything. After all, she had just been an impoverished sales girl several days prior, one that never dared retaliate when being humiliated, even.

Who would have thought that within that time, she would become one of Eastshire's top elite?

Adeline looked on in envy. She knew that if she had immediately agreed to work at Matthew's pharmacy tonight, she could have at least been of equal standing with Lynn now. After all, she was much better-looking than Lynn. As for her family background, it was even better. If she became Lynn's equal, Lucien would choose her without question. Instead, she had destroyed everything that should have been hers.

At this thought, she ran out of the banquet. Right now, all she wanted was to find someplace where she could slap herself hard, then cry her heart out.

The following night, Matthew treated the heads of Eastshire's ten great families to a banquet at the Cameron Hotel. It was meant only for the family heads, yet all valued

members from each family were present. So, this banquet could probably count as a meeting where everyone could see him.

Everything went smoothly, all ten families were now subservient to him, and no one dared disrespect him even slightly. When Matthew had finished explaining some issues, he allowed Melvin to take care of everything else while he rushed back to Eastcliff overnight.

Something gravely serious had happened there, and he needed to deal with it personally.

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