

After observing the surrounding environment, Matthew realized the situation was worse than he had imagined.

No wonder Master Bane said not to have too high hopes for the local Martial League. Since we're here, we'd make the best of it.

Seeing that his plan of using the local Martial League as a foundation was falling through, he could only sigh in frustration. But for now, he needed to meet with them first.

Not long after hanging up the phone, footsteps could be heard coming from upstairs.

Upon seeing her husband, Sasha rushed over immediately.

After checking and confirming that Matthew was unharmed, she breathed a sigh of relief.

"You scared me to death, you know that?! Don't ever leave me alone like that again," Sasha said, her eyes red-rimmed from oncoming tears.

Matthew grinned and scratched the back of his head before pulling his wife into his arms, saying, "I couldn't put you in danger, could I? Don't worry; no one can kill me just yet."

Suddenly, Sasha punched him in the chest. "I don't care. I want to be with you even in the most dire of situations. If anything, we'll die together!"

Matthew held her even tighter at that. It was only when Evander cleared his throat behind them that Sasha, recovered from anxiety at this point, remembered the public setting they were in. She quickly pulled away from her husband's embrace with a flushed face.

After the married couple had separated, Evander, who had been forced to witness the Summit Warden's PDA, chuckled and introduced, "Mr. Summit Warden, allow me to introduce to you Mr. Warrington, the president of the Hulwin Martial League."

It was only then Matthew noticed the middle-aged man standing next to Evander. The man had a square face, salt-and-pepper-haired, and his smiling face seemed to have squeezed all the wrinkles together.

While Matthew observed the man, the president quickly approached and warmly shook Matthew's hands.

"Stellan Warrington, Mr. Larson. Pleased to meet you. Your reputation precedes you. Having someone as distinguished as you visit our modest branch is an honor. It's truly a shining moment for us."

After a round of flattery, he enthusiastically led Matthew toward the upper floor. "Come, come, Mr. Larson. We have prepared some light wine in anticipation of your arrival. Please follow me."

Stellan's enthusiasm made Matthew rather uncomfortable, and he glanced at Evander, who subtly shook his head in response. At that, Matthew skillfully broke free from Stellan's grasp, then walked upstairs with Sasha, following behind Stellan.

Despite the slightly rundown exterior, the banquet hall inside was remarkably luxurious. The spacious hall was covered with porcelain tiles. Beneath the illumination of a massive crystal chandelier hanging from the ceiling, the entire hall shimmered. The central dining table and chairs were crafted from precious solid Phoebe wood.

What surprised Matthew the most was the tableware, which was made of gold and silver.

As he witnessed this scene, Matthew's brows furrowed even deeper. The decoration here surpassed the top luxury hotels in Bainbridge. However, Stellan completely ignored Matthew's expression and directly invited everyone to take their seats.

As Stellan clapped his hands, a group of elegantly dressed waitresses in high-slit dresses entered the hall, followed by plates of exquisite delicacies and various fine wines.

"Mr. Larson, you are young and promising; your future is undoubtedly boundless. I have been eagerly anticipating your arrival." While uttering various flattering words, Stellan began to host the dinner, encouraging everyone to start eating.

However, after everything Matthew had seen and heard along the way, he had lost his appetite completely.