

New Eden 811

Chapter 811 Confronting Mr. Gu

The fight continued at this pace, Alex never landing an attack successfully against them, as they found the smallest of cracks in his guard and trashed him.

Luckily for him, his body healed faster than they could dish the hurt, and the battle was at a standstill.

It was a fight of attrition, as far as everyone was concerned.

Who would tire first, the demon's regeneration or their Qi?

In the meantime, Kary reached the hospital, even calling David on the way there, to confront Mr. Gu.

He arrived around the same time she did, being much closer, and they both entered the hospital in a rush.

Once in the service elevator, David turned to look at her.

"Did they really come into your home to taunt him into action?"

"I... I don't know why they were there. I found them in the living room when I went down to make breakfast. And they lunged at me too fast for me to react."

"And Alex turned into the demon without losing control?"

"He didn't seem out of control, at least. He still looked at me protectively. It was almost like it was still him in there, but his demeanour had changed, along with his body."

"Yeah, I figure. I met that demon. He's like Alex's worst side, but a thousandfold exacerbated. At least, if it's still Alex in control, he won't fight like an idiot. That gives us time."

"What do you mean? Time for what?"

David looked at her with a glare.

"What do you think for? To stop them from killing each other."

Kary's mind lurched to a stop. She had imagined coming here to scream after Mr. Gu for sending hitmen on them.

She couldn't say why, but her mind had immediately assumed Alex would make quick work of them.

"I know what you're thinking. Alex should have torn them to shreds. But I don't think so. He was still fighting without any powers when I fought him. Which means he isn't fully awakened yet. This demon is still an infant. And we can't underestimate them either."

Kary looked at David with questions in her eyes.

After sighing deeply, David explained his thoughts to her.

"I did some digging after we first fought alongside Mr. Gu. The organization he's from, it's old. I'm talking millennia-old. And the power it wields in China is nothing to scoff at. That attests to the power of their members. They won't be dying to him so fast."

Kary didn't understand the depth of his words, as she hadn't read up on what he did, but he no longer had time to explain.

The elevator doors dinged open and Mr. Gu stood before them.

"Before either of you say something, I—" Mr. Gu started saying before a fist smacked into his jaw.

"You sent people into our home! Are you insane?!"

Mr. Gu stumbled two steps back before clenching his jaw and low-growling.

"As I was about to say, Ms. Deveille. I didn't know they would go into your home. I only contacted them to keep an eye on him. Surveillance, nothing more. But it seems I do not deserve the trust or respect of my previous organization anymore, and they sent a kill team..."

David chuckled at the scene.

"You should have assumed as much, man. You know old Chinese men are often stubborn and traditionalist. The moment you said you had info on a demon, you should have assumed they would send a kill team."

Mr. Gu glared at David, wondering how he found out anything about the organization. But now wasn't the time to speak about this matter.

"Listen. I can talk them down. But we need to leave now. The more time we waste here, the higher the risk either side loses someone, and the blood debt becomes too much to gloss over," the Chinese man said.

David laughed again.

"I only came here because she asked me to. If it were up to me, I would have gone directly there and helped Alex out. I couldn't give a shit less about the Zhong Kui. They have no use to me, nor now, nor never."

Mr. Gu frowned at the statement but discarded his stray thoughts for now.

"Then let's go," he said, pointing at the elevator.

Kary sneered at him before looking toward the corridor to her left. That was the direction of the testing area.

"The elevator is too slow. Meet me there," she said before sprinting down the hall.

"Ms. Deveille, wait! The defences are still on!" Mr. Gu shouted.

But David grabbed his shoulder.

"Don't waste your time. I doubt your defences can get through her flames, anyway. Not in the emotional state she is right now. I think she might have a second breakthrough today."

Mr. Gu looked at David, worried, glancing back toward the hallway and shaking his head.

'I warned her. My part is done,' he said to himself.

He climbed into the elevator with David as he pressed the ground floor button. As the doors closed. He heard the mini-

guns start discharging in the distance and a loud scream as he winced.

He could only hope David was right.

When Kary reached the testing area, she ran into the room only to find it in shambles. There were holes in the walls, glass on the floor, and the testing room was wide open. It was like a bomb had erupted from inside it and blown it from the inside out.

She had no time to question anything, though, as the four turrets descended from the ceiling and locked onto her as the barrels whirred to life.

"I don't have time for this," she shouted angrily.

Her body caught fire instantly, the flames teetering on a blueish glow instead of a bright yellowish orange. The second the bullet barrage started, she shouted in anger.

It was a good thing there was no one else in the room with her, because there would have been nothing left of them only seconds later.

The same could be said about the room itself.

When Kary felt nothing impacting her fire anymore, she stopped the eruption around her and looked at the results.

The glass shards had melted and become glass puddles, still red and sizzling, and the metal walls were sagging into slag toward the floor.

The four turrets were no more than melted lumps, and the bullets had formed a perfect ring of boiling metal around her feet. She smiled.

"Alright, enough wasted time," she mumbled before taking off.

She dove into the hole already in the ceiling and flew out of the compound, heading back home.

'Just be safe. And please make it so no one is dead yet...'

Chapter 812 Just In Time

By the time Mr. Gu and David reached the outside parking lot, Kary was already a blue trail in the sky, far in the distance.

"I doubt we can drive fast enough to catch up to her," David chuckled.

"This is no time to be joking around, young man. If one of the Zhong Kui dies, they will never let go of this. We must reach them before Mr. Leduc or Ms. Deveille commits the irreparable."

David looked at him with annoyed eyes.

"And whose fault is that?" he mocked.

Mr. Gu clenched his jaw shut.

"Yeah. Anyway. I have a faster way to get there. But it entails catching a lot of attention. So I expect your boss to cover this up. I'm supposed to stay in the shadows, remember?"

"Whatever it takes. Just hurry. Time is not a luxury we have."

David nodded, satisfied with the answer.

He leaned down, putting his hand on his shadow, and murmured into it.

"I know this world isn't suited for a creature like you. But I need your wings. I'll treat you to something good when we return to the veil."

Mr. Gu looked at him curiously until a screech almost tore his eardrums.

David's shadow expanded to immense proportions before something enormous shot out of it, barrelling into the morning skies.

"What in God's name..." he mumbled, watching a gigantic drake open its wings before swooping down toward them.

David grabbed the stunned assistant and jumped up before the drake reached them, landing on its back.

The zombified drake used its hind legs to kick off the parking's asphalt and retook altitude.

"Go after her!" David screamed over the whistling wind, pointing at Kary's flame trail.

The drake screeched again, angling itself toward the fiery trail.

David could see the flames flicker from yellow to blue, and he grinned.

It could have happened at a better time, but any boost now was a good thing. The stronger they were before the demons crossed over, the better.

And that was without counting what came before that, where humanity had lost a large part of its population last time.

'I can't afford to think about this now. Focus, David,' he thought, shaking his head.

Mr. Gu had never been a nervous flier, nor was he afraid of heights, having done many things involving freefall before. But he realized one thing at that moment.

He was uncomfortable with flying on a monster's back, with no safety net, seat belt, parachute, or bungee wire.

His body tensed up, imagining what would happen if he fell from this height.

He wouldn't be spared grave injuries, even with his amount of Qi and mastery over it. And that was if he landed well and didn't straight up die.

Mr. Gu grabbed onto David, who seemed so at ease in the situation, like he'd done this hundreds of times, which wasn't that far of a stretch, considering he flew on this drake all the time in New Eden.

But it still made David laugh when he felt arms wrapped around him.

"Pussy!" David mocked over the wind.

"Fuck you, Mr. Magnus!" Mr. Gu shouted back before gritting his teeth.

He felt humiliated.

Although the drake was extremely fast, considering its size, it still wasn't enough to catch up to the angry Kary, who was flying full speed ahead.

She reached the building thirty seconds before they could, and when they caught up to her, they saw a man flying out the patio door and over the railing.

And it wasn't Kary or Alex.

"Shit!" David cursed.

"He cannot die!" Mr. Gu shouted, panicking.

"I know! Aunas! Take him to that balcony and then get back to me!" he shouted before leaning over the side and pushing himself off the drake.

The drake screeched in response, diving toward the balcony the man had flown off of and twisting its body, sending Mr Gu flying off.

The man landed on the balcony hard; the wind blowing out of his lungs, but he stopped as he crashed into the windows.

"Oof!"

Meanwhile, David was diving toward the falling man, who had reflexively spread himself out to slow down the fall.

'Good. At least you aren't an idiot,' David thought, catching up to him.

When he grabbed onto his back, the man started squirming.

"Stop that! Stay still and shut your mouth unless you want us both to die!" he shouted into the man's ear.

The squirming immediately stopped as the man clung to the hope of surviving this fall.

An enormous creature flew under them not a moment later, scooping them mid-flight and saving them from a painless but messy death.

The Asian man looked at the creature beneath him with awe and terror as he realized what it was. He snapped his head toward David, trying to get a look at the man who saved him, but a sharp blow to the nape took him out.

"Sorry, man. Can't have you know who I am yet," David mumbled.

"Alright, Aunas! Bring me back up. I'll let you rest after that."

The drake lightly screeched in agreement, as it could already feel meek and drained.

As soon as they reached the floor Alex's penthouse was on, David jumped off and cancelled his summon. The drake disappeared into his shadow as he landed on the balcony, the unconscious Asian on his shoulder.

Gu was already in the apartment, standing between the two sides and shouting at both sides.

"I guess it's high time the Zhong Kui figure out that they aren't the only powerhouse against demons anymore," David mumbled.

As he entered, he finally understood what Mr. Gu was shouting.

"Stop this madness, Elder Bai! I only asked for a scouting party! Why are you and your team here?!"

"You don't get to tell the Zhong Kui what to do, Gu Fang! You are no longer part of it! And your family name means nothing anymore!" Elder Bai shouted, clearly angry.

David could feel the lingering resentment between them.

'I'm not sure I want to stick myself into some family business. But they need to back off, or we'll never see the end of this problem...' David thought, sighing inwardly.

He glanced at Alex, who was panting, some wounds on his body closing ever so slowly.

'He was at his wit's end. But at least he killed no one, and he wasn't gravely injured. This is still salvageable.'

"Alright, both of you fucking shut up," David dropped as he entered the room.

And his desired effect took hold. Everyone turned toward him.

Chapter 813 Heavy-Handed Discussion

As everyone looked at him, a mix of emotions permeated the room.

From the Zhong Kui men, he received glares of unwelcoming. From Mr. Gu, he received a look of astonishment. If he knew about his organization even remotely, he shouldn't have been speaking to one of its elders like this.

But there he was, doing just that.

And lastly, from Alex and Kary, he received disapproving looks. As if they didn't like that, he entered a room and immediately commanded attention.

But David didn't care.

"Alex," David started, looking at his demonized friend.

"I saw enough of that red skin last night. Mind going back to normal?"

Alex side-eyed the men of the Zhong Kui before looking back at him.

"What about them? What tells me they won't attack me when I'm back to my body?"

David shrugged.

"Who cares? If they do, we can just kill them and be done with it. I know you've been holding back. I knew the moment I entered the room."

Alex's eyes became razor thin.

"How—"

But before Alex could finish his question, David shook his head, telling him to shut up, and one of the Zhong Kui shouted at David.

"How dare you speak to us this way?! Do you know who we are, you insolent westerner?!"

David locked eyes with him, smiling a devilish grin.

"More than you think, squinty. But I don't care. You are but trash in my way. You matter as much as a bug splattered on a windshield."

The man's face turned to rage, and he lowered his stance, ready to dash forward.

But Elder Bai stopped him, raising his hand before him.

"Elder Bai!"

"Silence, boy!" Elder Bai snapped.

Song Ping reeled in shock. He had never seen the elder get angry before.

The elder looked at David, his eyes squinting.

"You say you saw him last night. You would be dead if the demon had attacked you while you were alone. Why lie so blatantly?"

David chuckled at his words.

"Old man, you and your men are weak. Don't overestimate your strength based on the organization you serve. The Zhong Kui isn't all what it thinks it is. It hasn't been since the dawn of electronics. Also; who said I was alone?"

After finishing his sentence, David spread his arms out, making his shadow swallow the penthouse. A cacophony of bones rattling and pained moans echoed around everyone, sending shivers down the Zhong Kui's spines.

One of the younger members, Xue Wei, whom David had lugged into the room as he woke up, even looked at David like he was the incarnation of death, starting a short chant in Chinese and reciting it like a mantra.

Retracting his shadow, David locked eyes with the old man once again.

"Now. Can we sit down and have a conversation like civilized people? Or do you still want to fight to the death? Because I am more than willing to add four members of the Zhong Kui to my army."

The Elder clicked his tongue in anger.

"Fine. Let's have it your way, Mr. David Magnus."

David's eyebrow rose, surprised the old man knew his name.

"I'm honoured an Elder of the Zhong Kui knows my name. May I inquire why?" he asked, grinning.

The old man sat on the sofa, which had been shunted into the wall under the television, and huffed.

"You know why, Mr. Magnus. Let us not devolve into a threatening competition. We are already wasting our time as it is."

David shrugged again, assuming the reason. Why else would they keep track of him, if not to kill him if he ever became a threat?

Alex backed up to the kitchen island, pulling a stool and taking a seat there as he returned to his human appearance.

Kary and David sat beside him, and Mr. Gu was torn about which side to sit on.

But Elder Bai glared at him when he stepped toward them.

"Do not make me repeat myself, Gu Fang. You are not one of us."

Mr. Gu grit his teeth in anger.

'Thirty years of loyal service. And that is how they thank me? By casting me aside for finding a job far from them when I retired? Tch.'

He wanted to sit next to David, Alex, and Kary, but quickly realized Alex was also glaring at him.

Alex had already made the connection between them and him, and he was furious at him. But he would wait for them to be gone before he ripped him a new asshole, metaphorically, of course.

So he pulled another stool and sat to the side in front of the patio door.

"Good!" David exclaimed with a clap of his hands once everyone was seated.

"Now, on to the matter at hand. I know why you are here, but you will have to return home. Your help isn't required anymore," David said, looking at the four men on the other side of the penthouse open area.

Song Ping tensed, ready to jump up and shut this man's mouth, but Elder Zhang grabbed him by his shoulder and glared at him. This was enough to rein him in.

"And what makes you think you get to tell the Zhong Kui what to do, Mr. Magnus?" Elder Bai asked, glaring at him.

David smiled at him.

"Because if you don't leave my friend here alone, I will take him, along with a handful of other people, and we will visit Huashan Mountain. Of course, you won't be there to see this, as I will personally kill all four of you right here, right now."

The mention of Huashan Mountain made the Zhong Kui and Mr. Gu's eyes grow in size.

"How do—" Elder Bai started asking.

"Irrelevant. All that matters is that I know. And I don't mind using this knowledge. Do you want to risk it, old man? Because even if one of you leaves here alive and warns the rest of your organization, by the end of next week, there won't be any of you left."

David's threat was not an empty one, either. His eyes were icy, and his tone unwavering.

He was not bluffing.

Chapter 814 Settling Down

All four of the Zhong Kui men felt hard-pressed to defend the survival of their organization. But there wasn't much they could do.

Elder Bai glanced over at Gu Fang, wondering which side he would take if conflict erupted again. But even if he did, what would that change?

These young people here were far from ordinary. This was not the first they heard of humans suddenly discovering powers that defied that natural order.

Some of them, the Zhong Kui had already captured, trying to figure out what was happening.

But the four of them were already having trouble fighting one demon. When the woman had joined in, covered in fire, the fight had rapidly devolved into a losing battle, one of them even getting flung off the balcony.

With a third one here, ready to throw down, their chances were close to nil.

And the perennity of the Zhong Kui was more important than killing one demon, however dangerous he was.

His hesitation was visible on his face, which dismayed the young Song Ping. How could this one man cause an elder of their great organization to feel hesitant?

"Elder Bai, how can you hesitate? What are three white trash like them going to do against the combined power of the Zhong Kui? They are ants on our path. Let's crush them and be done with it," Song Ping argued.

But the elder looked at him so disdainfully that the young man almost felt like he was the demon here.

"How are they training the recruits these days?" Elder Bai spat, looking at the young one disappointingly.

"If you want me to kill him so we can talk like adults, I'll gladly do so," David said with a chuckle.

"I'd like to see—" Song Ping started saying.

Slap!

A resounding and crisp slap stopped the words coming out of his mouth.

"Enough! Elder Zhang, grab this rebellious idiot and leave. I don't want to see him again until he learns to respect his elders and obey orders."

Song Ping was still in shock.

He was only trying to defend their honour. Why was he the one in the wrong?

And now Elder Bai threatened to have him punished? For what?

But Elder Zhang only nodded, grabbing the young man's collar and gripping one of his arms behind his back.

Elder Bai brought his hand before his face, two fingers raised like a Taoist of old, and chanted, "Yídòng!"

In a flash of blue, both men were gone.

David looked at Mr. Gu, raising an eyebrow.

'Is this how he got inside my hideout all those times? But I never heard him chant anything...' he thought.

But then he remembered that stone he found, which had some weird etchings on it.

'A catalyst to use the spell? This man knows more than he lets on. There is also how the Bai dude talked about his family name. Was he an important member?' he wondered.

But these were questions for later.

"Now that the annoyance is out of the way, what is your decision, old man?" David asked, making an arrogant face.

Elder Bai looked at him with spite. This was his fault, after all.

"I don't know how you learned so much about the Zhong Kui or why you dug into our history, but I'll have to warn you. We are many, and killing one of us means accruing a blood debt. Are you willing to do such a thing?"

David smirked.

"Old man. Did you not hear me? If I kill you here, by the end of the week, there will be no more of you. Do you think we are the only three dangerous people out there? How many do you think I can muster on short notice if I tell them you tried to kill Alexander?" he asked, leaning back.

He was almost sure that an organization like the Zhong Kui already knew about the awakened. How much they knew was another matter altogether, though.

But, for now, he could play on their lack of information. He wasn't at such a disadvantage, after all.

Elder Bai felt like his confidence couldn't be unfounded. So he would rather not risk it.

"And what tells you our founding families won't just send another team to kill him? Stronger. Bigger. What will you do then? Is murder your only solution?" Elder Bai argued.

"If it were, you'd already be dead," David said, waving his hand.

"Then why even bother talking to us? Just throwing around threats won't bring this to a conclusion."

David grinned devilishly.

A grin that Kary would recognize a mile away. One that she often used.

'So he had a plan, after all. He wasn't just threatening them to get them to back off...' she thought, looking at him from the corner of her eye.

"Listen, I have an offer for you. One I want you to bring back to your masters or bosses, however you call them. Are you willing to hear it?" David asked, clasping his hands together.

Elder Bai looked at him with reluctance.

"Do I have a choice? What if I refuse? Will you let me leave?"

"Not a chance," David said, his eyes becoming cold again.

With a long sigh, the old man lifted his leg to prop his elbow on.

"Then could we have something to drink while we discuss this? The fight was quite taxing, and I am tired."

David turned his head to Alex, who growled.

"Water is all I have to offer the likes of you."

The old man pouted lightly.

"Don't you have tea? Making tea is barely an inconvenience."

Alex looked at him with murderous eyes.

"You barged into my home, threatened me and my girlfriend. You deserve death, as far as I'm concerned. Keep making demands, and I'll drink your fucking blood," he growled, his skin taking a red tint.

"Alright, alright. Water it is. I knew the demon wasn't completely under your control. The founding families will not like that we let you live..." Elder Bai complained, feeling a shiver run down his spine.

He was tired, and there wasn't much he could still do. But Alex seemed ready to go for a round two, and at full power at that.

'Live to fight another day,' the old man told himself.

Once the glass of water was almost shoved into his hands, Elder Bai took a sip and locked eyes with David.

"Let's talk."

Chapter 815 Forced Upon Him

David leaned forward, getting serious.

"I'm sure your organization has noticed the increase in strange appearances: mutated animals, strange beings, and whatnot. I believe an organization like yours is smart enough to know it isn't a coincidence. But let me tell you more, if just as a show of good faith."

Elder Bai squinted at him again.

'For a young man, he certainly knows a lot...'

"We had noticed, yes. But does that have to do with your aggressive stance?" he asked.

"It has all to do with it," David stated.

Elder Bai was confused about his answer.

David could see the confusion in his eyes and kept talking.

"Tell me, old man. How much has the Zhong Kui done to cull those threats? Have you acted overtly, or only from the shadows?"

Elder Bai took a moment to think. He wasn't part of the founder's circle, so he wasn't aware of everything.

But he did know that there were very few attempts at helping quell the appearance of strange creatures in mainland China. There were some snatch and grabs here and there, but no serious attempts.

But again, he wondered how the young man would know this.

"What does that have to do with how hateful you are with us? Should our organization announce to the world that it exists? That we hunt demons? That the supernatural is real?"

David snorted.

"You still don't get it. What the Zhong Kui has been hunting for the past millennia is not demons. They are remnants, at best. Once you are faced with the real deal, a veritable demon, your organization will crumble like the fragile house of cards that it is. That is my problem."

Again, the elder looked confused.

"What veritable demon? What are you talking about, boy? Be clear."

David grinned at him.

"I'm saying the end is coming, and your entire organization isn't ready. You will all die and leave the rest of China, nay, the world, on its ass. That's why I hate you. You will fail to uphold your main purpose, the only reason you exist."

Elder Bai's eyes widened a bit.

"And that's where I come in," David added.

He had used the stick. Now it was time to offer the carrot.

"If your organization is ready to accept a few changes to its training regimen, I can make sure some of you are at least ready for what is to come. Otherwise, you will only get in my way. How about it?" David asked, smiling.

The Elder's eyes narrowed.

"I cannot make that call, young man. This is way beyond my station."

"I figured as much. But I will need you to promise that you will push for this when I offer it to your leaders, which I will do very soon. If you can't promise that, then you are not leaving here. At least, not in one piece."

The Elder was stuck between a rock and a hard place. This decision was not something he could make.

And promising such a controversial thing to his superiors could get him into a lot of trouble.

The founders were extremely traditionalist men, and asking them to review the training regimen for the recruits would stir up a lot of fuss.

He would be lucky to get demoted. His other options were banishment, at best, and execution, at second best.

He didn't want to think about the last option.

"I can't pro—" he opened his mouth to say.

But David lifted his arm, interrupting him.

"I'm not asking, old man. You need to understand something about me. I will kill you and everyone who gets in my way. And I will sleep like a baby at night, imagining how much simpler my task has become without you in my way."

Alex glanced at him from the corner of his eye.

'And then people think I'm the violent one. Heh.'

But he couldn't agree more with him. Getting rid of future obstacles was always a better thing to do.

And David knew who almost all his future obstacles would be. Perks of being from the future, Alex assumed.

The old man was grinding his teeth together, feeling helpless. He had sent away half his team and already had trouble in four against one.

The odds were overwhelmingly in the enemy's favour at the moment.

'I can always promise it now and not uphold that promise later,' Bai Fend thought.

"Don't even think about it. The promise you will make with me will bind you to it. There is no going around it. Unless you want to cripple yourself. I know your ways, old man."

What David wasn't telling anyone was that he had learned the ways of the Zhong Kui in his last life. At least a part of them.

One of their men had been stuck in North America when the convergence had happened, and his code of conduct had made him try to teach people around him, so they stood a chance against the demons.

So, David knew a few things.

Of these things being how to make a soul binding oath. An oath to the heavens, as the man had called it.

And he had seen what happened to those that went against this. The people who still thought gods weren't real had something else coming their way.

Swearing an oath to the heavens entailed making an oath unbreakable, unless you wanted to die. The gods themselves upheld these oaths.

And the result of breaking one wasn't pretty.

Elder Bai almost scoffed at him, doubting his words. How would an outsider know about the Oath to the heavens, after all?

No amount of research into their ways would tell them this.

David smirked at him.

"If you don't believe me, then how about you repeat after me, old man?" David said tauntingly.

Then he started reciting a promise, his words aimed from the old man to himself, making sure the elder repeated after him.

After the third phrase, Elder Bai was already sweating profusely. These were the exact words of an oath to the heavens!

And he was already too far in to back off.

'How did he know?! There is a traitor among us! It has to be Gu Fang! This trash!'

Chapter 816 A Proper Send Off

Elder Bai looked at Mr. Gu with such intense hatred that the man felt a shiver run down his spine.

Even he was surprised that David knew the words to this oath. There shouldn't be many that did outside of their organization.

"Listen, young man. Can't we stop this charade?" Elder Bai pleaded, trying to back out of it.

"Finish the oath, old man," David replied, a grin on his face.

"This poem could hardly be called an oath," Bai Feng lied.

"I said finish it!" David snapped.

His shadow expanded again, swallowing the room, and the Death Knight appeared next to Bai Feng, halberd out and extended under his neck.

Bai Feng gulped.

He hadn't even felt the thing next to him appear; its Qi signature was utterly nonexistent.

He was trapped.

And the young man beside him was still whispering to himself, his eyes closed.

'Shit... ' the old man thought.

"Mr. Magnus, I think this is going too far..." Mr. Gu interjected.

"Shut up, Gu. I don't give a rat's ass about your opinion. I know who sicked the Zhong Kui on Alex. Don't think for a second you are out of the woods."

Mr. Gu swallowed nervously.

'When has he become so overbearing?' he wondered.

His aura was that of an emperor, not of a young adult. It felt like going against David's words would only end in death.

Mr. Gu didn't know when this change happened, but didn't like it. A man who could crush others with his aura alone was a danger to society.

But Alex intervened.

"Alright, enough. David, forget it. I don't care if he sends more people. I'll just kill them. We don't have time to be wasting terrorizing kids and old men. And I want to eat breakfast. These idiots attacked us so early, I haven't eaten yet."

David looked at him from the corner of his eye. Alex looked serious.

"Are you alright with them sending people after you over and over again?" he asked.

"Tch! If they send people after me again, I guess I'll borrow their address from you and remove them from the equation. Sounds reasonable, right?" Alex asked, looking at Bai Feng.

David looked at him with a raised eyebrow

"You sound too much like me. Tone it down. But I don't disagree with this outcome either. Sadly, he will still have to see my face soon, as I will be going there to talk to their leaders. I can't leave the Zhong Kui as it is now. It's a burden on humanity."

Alex shrugged.

He didn't care about them. As long as they left him alone, he wouldn't go after them and tear them apart limb from limb.

That was as far as he was willing to compromise.

His gut was already telling him that going after them was a waste of time. They hadn't harmed Kary, and he was fully healed from their attacks.

And as David had said, he was holding back, trying not to kill them, toward the end.

Kary had been the one to fling one out the patio door. Not him.

During their fight, he felt something react inside him, and he figured out his demonic powers. But using them would assuredly result in people dying.

And deep down inside him, he still didn't want to kill people. Not if he could figure out another solution to whatever problem he faced.

Right now, David had given him an escape from this confrontation.

If the Zhong Kui didn't take this out, he would reluctantly go after them. But for now, the door was open to a peaceful outcome.

Elder Bai looked at Alexander and frowned.

'One minute, he threatens to decorate his home with my insides and drink my blood. The next minute, he wants us to go away and leave him alone... How much of the demon was speaking earlier? And how much of it is speaking now?' he wondered.

But this was his best option yet.

"We will leave if you allow us. And I will try to convince the leaders that you are not a threat. That the demon is under your control and not the other way around. As for you, Mr. Magnus, I hope you know stepping onto that mountain comes with its risks," Elder Bai stated.

David scoffed.

Seeing that his warning fell on deaf ears, Elder Bai decided it was useless to push more.

He got up, grabbed the young man's shoulder, and raised his hand. As he was about to chant his incantation to disappear, He felt something grab his shoulder.

"One last thing. A goodbye gift, if you will," Alex said, now next to him.

He grabbed the young man's collar and, with a twist, shot both of them out of the patio door and into the city sky.

"Have a safe trip home, you shits!" he shouted, as they both fell toward the city streets.

Elder Bai quickly reacted, diving toward the younger member under him, and latched onto him before chanting, "Yídòng!"

In a flash of blue, both he and Xue Wei disappeared from the air, reappearing somewhere safe as they gasped for air.

The adrenaline in their system took a few moments to simmer out as they realized he had almost killed them.

"Do kids nowadays have no respect for others?" Elder Bai cursed, holding his palpitating chest.

In the Penthouse, Mr. Gu was livid at what had just happened, and ran over to the balcony railing, hoping the elder had enough Qi left to carry them away. Otherwise, they would leave a big mess on the street below.

But when he saw nothing, he sighed in relief.

In the meantime, David had burst into laughter.

"What an exit! Bouahahaha! You just gave a new meaning to showing the door, I swear! Bouahahaha!"

Kary was looking at Alex with a smirk.

'They deserved that,' she thought, remembering the sword under her chin.

She got up, clapping her hands.

"Alright! Now that this is over. Who wants breakfast? I was thinking of crepes. Any takers?" she asked, smiling as if nothing had happened.

'Man, women switch gears so fast,' all three thought, with different facial expressions.

Chapter 817 Hope Still For Gu Fang

Kary entered the kitchen, putting the living room's cleaning on the boys' shoulders while she started making a crepe mix. She hummed to herself, as she often did, while Alex couldn't stop throwing glances her way.

"Hey! Stop dawdling, you love-struck puppy!" David admonished him.

"Huh? Oh... Sorry. I haven't seen her in a month. Let me have my eye candy," Alex said, snapping out of his staring.

David shook his head despairingly.

"Why am I even helping you clean? I have nothing to do with how your apartment got tossed."

From the kitchen, Kary replied, "If you want breakfast, you gotta earn it."

David looked at her incredulously.

"I helped you already, haven't I? What does cleaning have to do with earning a few crepes?"

"Stop complaining, you undead prick..." Alex grumbled, shaking his head.

They finished putting back the furniture that wasn't busted and piled up what was. Alex looked at it with anger.

"Now I have to get a new TV, coffee table, and a few other things... These idiots kept crashing into shit as I tossed them around. Couldn't they have been more graceful?"

David snort-laughed at his comment, realizing the irony of his statement.

"You threw them and you still blame them for the broken shit? You are hopeless, man."

"What?! They shouldn't have been here at all. Isn't it still their fault if some things got destroyed?" Alex rebuked.

David looked at him, thinking about it, and shrugged.

"Eh. Whatever, man. At least they're gone, and no one died."

"Tch!" Alex clicked his tongue.

Kary chuckled alone in her corner of the kitchen, finishing up the first batch of crepes.

"Come eat, boys," she called out, putting the plate with the crepes down, before pulling out three other plates and utensils for them, as well as cups for coffee and maple syrup for the crepes.

David sat down in front of the food, wondering when the last time he had a decent meal was. He poured maple syrup on his crepe and started eating.

On his first bite, he closed his eyes in delight.

"Mmm. The little taste of saltiness and vanilla. Man, you eat like that every day?" he asked Alex.

Alex looked at him with a raised eyebrow.

"You don't cook, I take it. Kary doesn't always make breakfast, no. Sometimes I do it. But, yes. We always eat well. Don't you?"

David shook his head, shoving another bite into his mouth.

"It's not that I can't cook. I just don't have the time. Getting stronger takes priority. Not everyone gets to cheat their way to power with demons and divinities, dude."

Alex chuckled at his statement.

"You should take the time. I don't know when the last time I'll eat a good meal will be. So we might as well enjoy the privilege while we still can, no?" Alex argued.

David shrugged in response, his mouth full of food.

Kary looked at him with a smile.

"I'll take you eating like an ogre as a compliment. But I'm still mad at you for letting them go," she pouted.

"What?!" David asked, his mouth half-full.

"I asked you for help, and all you did was talk. You didn't throw a single punch. How did that help? Plus, you let them go scot-free..."

"Your boyfriend let them go. I was handling this until he got tired of waiting. How is that my fault? Plus, if you want to blame someone, blame that dumbass still sitting in front of the patio door," David complained, feeling wronged.

"Oh, he's not out of the woods, trust me," Kary said, giving a scornful look toward Mr. Gu.

He lowered his head, not daring to hold her gaze.

He hadn't moved an inch since the situation died out. He wasn't sure what to think of this.

Should he defend the honour and position of his old organization? Should he hide from them that Jack asked him to call them?

The situation had layers they weren't even aware of, and he didn't know what angle to play here. A single wrong step, and he would end up on the wrong side of their mood, and he had seen what that entailed already.

Alex looked at him with empathy.

Rising from his chair, he grabbed an extra cup from the cupboard and filled it with coffee.

"Grey, right?" he asked, looking at Mr. Gu.

"Huh?" the assistant asked, raising his head.

"Your coffee. You take it grey, right?"

Mr. Gu looked at him with a strange gaze.

"Uh... Yes. Grey."

Alex nodded, putting a tinge of milk in the coffee and bringing him the cup.

"Cut him some slack, you two. This isn't entirely his fault. And which one of you would say they wouldn't have asked for help keeping an element that can be as dangerous as a demon in check? I doubt any of us would have acted differently in his shoes."

David's face scrunched up.

"I wouldn't. I would have killed the threat directly," he mumbled.

"Oh, but he tried," Alex replied, sitting back at the kitchen island to eat.

"In any case, I'm sure Jack is the one who asked him to contact them. And I doubt either of them imagined asking for a surveillance team would result in this. You didn't tell them I was a demon, right? Only that it was a possibility?" Alex asked, not looking at Mr. Gu.

"You were a wild card, Mr. Leduc. We were afraid you might turn on us. But I didn't tell them you were a demon. We weren't certain yet."

Alex nodded.

Kary looked at Mr. Gu, her face still showing anger.

"Couldn't you have warned me, at least? Instead, you kept me in the dark, and people invaded the sanctity of our home. The last people who did that got burned. Tell me why I shouldn't do the same to you?" she asked, her tone burning hot.

Mr. Gu's head lowered once more.

"I... I'm sorry. Things got out of control... The Zhong Kui didn't respect my demands at all..."

David glanced at him, feeling his misery.

"He did say your name meant nothing anymore. You should have known leaving them would mean revoking your privileges, Son of the Gu family. You're lucky they let you keep your family name, the way I see it," David said, looking back at his plate.

"I..." Mr. Gu muttered.

"Alright, knock it off, you two. Mr. Gu. I don't want apologies. I want the issue to go away. Deal with that, and I'll consider us square. Can I ask you that?"

Gu Fang's eyes lit up with a glimmer of hope.

Chapter 818 A Month Of Missed New Eden

After a few minutes of talking it out, Mr. Gu left Alexander's penthouse with a new objective. Getting the Zhong Kui to back off.

He originally was against the idea. But a voice in his mind kept bugging him about something.

What would happen if Jack discovered that the Zhong Kui attacked Alex and Kary? What would his reaction be?

The only answer Gu Fang could think of was mad. Extremely mad.

Even if Mr. Boudreau had been worried about Alexander's transformation, he never wanted more than to keep an eye on him. They were still partners, and having him suddenly killed would not benefit him in any way.

So, he needed to keep this under wraps. Alex, David, and Kary agreed to keep mum about this in front of Jack, the latter reluctantly so.

Now, he needed to pull all the strings he could and cash in some favours from all his old contacts to get in touch with his family. His only foot in the door was them.

How they would react was anyone's guess at this point. But he owed them to try.

After he left, Kary pouted for a while, as she would have preferred to drive into him, given this was all his fault. But Alex wanted the matter to disappear, so she laid it to rest.

But this cost him a few brownie points, as far as she was concerned.

Once breakfast was over, David took his leave as well, as he had things to do during the day. He couldn't hang out with them.

Alex sighed as the house became quiet again.

"So many things to do, so little time to do them... And I still haven't seen the mess that New Eden has become. How has that been?" he asked, turning his head toward Kary.

She bit her lip, thinking about what part to bring up first.

"It's been... hectic. A lot of things happened. Between the duel with Aces High and the Inter-Alliance Military Exercises, a few incidents also happened. It's been a busy month. And I don't think the pace of things is even close to slowing down."

Alex looked at her with a curious gaze.

He grabbed her from her seat, lifting her like a princess, as she yelped in surprise, and brought her to the big sofa, which was surprisingly undamaged from all the fighting of earlier.

He laid down on the sofa, holding Kary in his arms, and started stroking her back.

"Tell me all about it. We have all day," he said, taking a soft tone.

Kary's head had landed on his chest, and she could hear his calm heartbeat. This soothed her.

"I missed you," Alex whispered in her ear before kissing the side of her head.

"I missed you too," she replied, digging into his embrace.

She started in chronological order, with the incident of the infiltration and rescue attempt of their prisoner, explaining how they still had almost no leads. She even told him how Blue Peacock had taken the case away from her, promising answers.

After that, she told him how the Military Exercises proceeded and how Knight of the Sun had won, as he had predicted. He made a smug grin when he heard that.

"The Natives underestimate our growth speed. Some of these nobles, royals, and whatnot are too stuck in their worldviews. It'll cost them in the long term."

Kary chuckled at his statement.

She had been thinking the same, but was surprised he could have political thoughts.

After telling him this, she continued with the duel and how Leon had pulled in his owed favours, assuring them of a crushing victory. She also told him how she doubted this would be the last they saw of Azamus.

"I still don't understand why that guy is so hell-bent on being the best. What does he gain by being first? Is it just misplaced arrogance?" Alex asked.

Kary tilted her head, placing a finger on her chin.

"I don't know. I never got along with him since he's kind of a dick. But I feel like something is driving him to be that person. But it's irrelevant."

Alex nodded. He agreed that it didn't matter, but he was still curious.

Next, she explained to him the trouble that annexing Aces High had brought with all the contracts and desperate players. This was still an ongoing issue, and she was glad Alex was now back to help her.

But he looked at her with a frown.

"Can't we break those contracts forcefully? We have access to the most powerful contract mage in New Eden. Did you ask Aravelle for help?"

Kary gave a disdainful smirk.

"I tried contacting him more than once for many reasons. I can't seem to find him. It's like he doesn't care about us and doesn't want to help us."

Alex frowned.

"That doesn't seem right. Maybe he's busy?"

Kary gave him a look of 'Are you dumb?' before rolling her eyes.

"Never mind. I didn't say a thing. I'll look into it tonight when we log in. There has to be a reason he hasn't helped."

Kary laughed, imagining it would be a waste of time. But she continued her report.

"We also found traces of demonic presence within our borders. But we haven't found a tear or portal yet, which is strange. I can now detect on an extremely long range and still can't find a trace of it. Not even miasma."

Alex looked at the top of her head, wondering how far she meant by extremely long range.

But the subject was more important than that detail.

"What kind of traces?"

"Mostly reports. Torn monsters, strange behaviours from Natives. We even had players report that they were killed without seeing what attacked them. Not many things can take down a player fast enough for that, these days."

"Hmm. I can see why this would seem like a demon roaming. But it is strange that you haven't found anything. I'll look into that, too. Maybe my new forms can help."

Kary nodded.

"Yeah, about those. Care to tell me what happened on your end for a month?" she asked, looking up at him.

With a sigh, Alex replied, "Yeah. I can do that. But it's not a pleasant story..."

Chapter 819 Recounting The Events

Kary waited in silence for him to start talking.

Seeing that his warning didn't deter her, Alex sighed again.

He told her what had happened in that last moment before the attack aimed at Violette hit him. He explained how he had shielded her with his body, making sure she wasn't in harm's way and how that made him receive the last of the damage.

Alex told her how the demon and Geminae had reacted in self-preservation, trying to stay alive and taking control of him to do so. He also told her how Psyche's fragment inside him was why he had ever woken up.

But saying all this also came with caveats.

He had to tell her how the demon tended to try to grab control of his body. He also told her how he had left bodies in that cave up far north.

She was horrified that he might have eaten them, and Alex had to tell her that even though the demon had been in control, this was almost a certainty.

She was shocked at how easily Alex was brushing over it.

"I've had a few days to digest the news. I've also noticed that many things don't seem to faze me as much as they should. But that is beside the point."

He finished by telling her how he had returned to Montreal, about the incident in James Bay, and about the tests they conducted on him. Once he had finished his story, Kary lay there, wondering how much of his humanity those two things inside him had stripped away.

But Alex assured her he was still him. All he had to be careful about was dropping his guard with the demon.

But he already had an idea of what to do about this. So he wasn't too worried.

There was also the fact that most of the time, he didn't sleep. Most of their nights were spent inside New Eden, and he was still semi-conscious during this time.

Since his mind didn't wholly rest, he doubted the demon could take control then. And even if it did, he would be logged out of New Eden and awake immediately, making anything it tried to do fail.

Kary didn't look entirely convinced, but she trusted Alex. If he trusted himself enough to come back here, then he must have a handle on his internal issues.

"Do you think we should tip off the local authorities of Kuujjuaq so that they can find the bodies?" Kary asked, changing the subject slightly.

Alex looked at her with a smile.

"I already intended to do that. I just haven't had time to do it yet. Let's say the last few days have been a bit chaotic, heh heh."

Kary elbowed him in the ribs, angry that he laughed about this serious matter.

"Oww. I know, I know. I'll call them today. I won't let these people go unfound. I already feel bad about what happened to them. Don't worry."

Kary nodded her head solemnly.

"Good. You may not have been the one doing them wrong, but you still know about it. Your way to make this right is at least to make sure they get a proper send-off," she said in a severe tone.

"Yes, Ma'am," Alex joked, getting a second elbow to his ribs.

They lay there, intertwined in each other's arms for the rest of the morning, and relaxed. The day had started violently and led to a life-or-death situation, and their sleep had erased itself from their systems, making them tired again.

Their time in silence like this was great for both of their moods.

Alex had missed Kary's presence, and he finally felt at ease, like everything was back in place.

As for Kary, her onset of depression was already receding into the far reaches of her mind. She felt calm, and the loneliness was gone, like a shadow disappearing in the sunlight.

They were only interrupted when Alex's stomach growled like a beast defending its territory.

He and Kary laughed after the grumbling stopped, and they rose from their resting place.

"It seems like my body needs a lot more nutrition than before. I don't know what they did to me, but I know that I rarely feel full anymore. But I still enjoy normal food, so it can't be that bad. Just means I get to enjoy it more, heh," he chuckled, smiling toothily.

Kary giggled at his words.

"As long as you don't request human meat from me, I'll give you as much food as you want. And if human meat ever crosses your mind, I hope eating my ass is your first thought," she said, slapping her butt tauntingly.

"Now that you mention it," Alex said before pouncing on her and playfully biting her rear end.

"Rawr!" he fake growled, grabbing her with his arms as he started nibbling her at various places, making her giggle as she playfully punched him, faking fighting back.

"Help! A beast is attempting to devour me! Oh, no!" she lightly shouted, playing the victim.

Alex laughed it off, finishing his biting at her neck before looking deep into her eyes.

"I love you," he said, kissing her lips tenderly.

"I love you too. But let's get some food into you before you eat me for real, hihi," she giggled, kissing him back.

They got to work, cooking up a large lunch of omelettes, beans, bacon, and toast. There wasn't actual lunch food left in the fridge, since Kary hadn't been eating that much since he disappeared, so they made do with what was on hand.

Alex didn't care much for eating a brunch, even though they had breakfast. Food was food, in his opinion.

"We can go do some groceries after this, since the fridge is almost empty. It'll get us out of here a bit, too. Might as well use that time to get some furniture replaced," Alex said, glancing at his pile of broken things.

Kary nodded as she nibbled on a piece of bacon.

"I'll also have to call my mother back. She told me to call her when you got better. She doesn't know you were gone. I told her you were in a coma."

Alex looked at her with a raised brow.

"You lied to her? I hope that doesn't backfire on you," he said.

"I doubt it," Kary said, shrugging.

But fate had other things planned for her.

Turu turu turu!

Chapter 820 Surprise In-Law

Alex frowned as the intercom kept ringing.

"You should take it. I'm technically not here yet. No one should know I'm back home."

Kary nodded as she stepped in front of the device. Pressing the button, the screen lit up and showed the inside of the elevator, with someone's face taking up a part of the screen, who she hadn't expected to see today.

"Mom?! What are you doing here? I thought you had work this week."

Kary's mom smiled at the camera, seeing her daughter's face.

"I took the rest of the week off. I figured it was too much for you to stay alone, and I came to keep you company. Don't you want my company? Are you going to send your poor mom away? After she travelled hours to see you?" her mother replied.

She pulled a sad face, trying to look pitiful, and Kary sighed.

"No, mom. I won't send you away... But I'm not alone."

Her mom squinted.

"You didn't want to see me, but you got someone else to keep you company? Who is it? Don't tell me you are frolicking around while your boyfriend is in a coma! This is his home, too!"

"Mom!" Kary shouted, getting furious.

Alex stepped in, trying to hide his laughter as he waved at the screen from behind Kary.

"Hello Madam Deveille. I'll send the elevator up; we can meet adequately once face to face. See you in a bit," Alex said, smiling.

He pressed the command to send the elevator up before the woman could reply, and the screen shut off. This left Kary's mom flustered in the elevator.

"Who can this young man be, to be so rude and intrusive?" she accused.

Kary looked at Alex with her jaw hanging.

"You know she'll be mad about this, right? She'll think you are some fuckboy who came here just to get a piece of me while my boyfriend is out."

Alex laughed out loud.

"Well, how disappointed your mom will be when she hears you're the fuckboy, here to get a piece of this sweet meat!" he exclaimed, waving at himself with a cocky smile.

Kary jabbed him in the stomach, her face scrunching up.

"Shut up, I'm serious, Alex!" she growled.

Alex grabbed her in his arms, hugging her tightly as he laughed.

"Oh, will you stop worrying? It'll be fine. When I introduce myself, we can say I woke up yesterday and got released this morning. We can say you haven't called her yet because you were with me at the hospital all night. That's believable, right?"

Kary kept groaning with her head on his chest as the elevator dinged, and they heard the doors open.

"Where is that rude young man?!" Alex heard from behind the pillar.

"Mom!" Kary shouted again, looking at her disapprovingly.

Alex smiled and walked straight towards Kary's mother. He had to tilt backward when he stopped before her, dodging a slap.

Seeing her strike miss, Kary's mother readied to launch a second. But the man before her tilted forward, bowed slightly, and started talking.

"Welcome to my humble abode, Ms Deveille. My name is Alexander Leduc. It is a pleasure to meet you."

Kary's mother froze up, her slap halfway to Alex's face, and her eyes opened wide.

She looked at Kary, her jaw going slack a bit, before looking at Alex again.

"You... Weren't you in a coma?" she asked, stunned.

"Ahh, yes. I was until last night. They released me this morning; I'm fine now. Thank you for worrying about me," Alex said, smiling brightly.

The woman took a second to compute the information she had been given and realized she had just assaulted the rich man her daughter took a liking to.

"I'm sorry I tried slapping you!" were the first words out of her mouth, her face morphing into panic.

Alex laughed, waving his hand dismissively.

"Please, that was hardly an inconvenience," Alex said, chuckling lightly.

It really wasn't, as that slap had been telegraphed a mile away for him. But he was trying to act unbothered.

"I understand your reaction, Ma'am. It is no problem. But please, let's sit down and talk more. The hallway is hardly a place to talk, is it?" Alex said, pointing toward the half-trashed living room.

Kary's mother looked at the pile of destroyed furniture and looked at her daughter with a mischievous look.

"Been busy this morning, have you?" she said, wiggling her eyebrows.

"Mom!" Kary shouted, her eyes widening.

Alex tried very hard to contain his laughter.

He finally understood how Kary got her outgoing personality. Apparently, her mother had as much filter when talking as she did, and this was a delight.

Once they were seated, with Kary's mother opposite him and Kary, he smiled at her.

"I'm sorry you had to drive all this way just to meet me. I wish we could have met earlier and under better circumstances, Ms. Deveille," Alex said.

"Oh, please. The road was no bother. And please call me Guylaine. Ms. Deveille makes you sound so stuck up. This is your home. Let's be casual," she replied, politely waving her hand at him with a bit of a blush.

Alex nodded with an enormous smile.

"Mom. What are you doing here? Taking a week off just to see me? You could get in trouble at work..."

"Nonsense, my girl. I've been working at that factory for over a decade. I had PTO left, and it's in my right to take it anytime I want. Why wouldn't I take it to see my daughter, who is in a slump?" she asked, looking at her daughter lovingly.

"Plus. I get to meet this gorgeous young man for the first time. Is this why you were hiding him from me? Were you scared I would take a fancy to him?" she added, giving a flirtatious smile.

"Mom!" Kary shouted, her face going red.

"Ma'am, you flatter me," Alex added, giving her a warm smile.

"Stop it! Don't encourage her!" Kary barked, slapping him on the thigh.

Alex burst into a hearty laughter.

It was the first time he saw Kary acting sheepishly, and it was refreshing. He didn't even know she could pull these faces she was making, even less act this way.

'The saying "two sides to a person" is true, after all,' he mused as he laughed.