

As Horace ended his speech, Egan said, "It cannot happen, Mr. Warren! "Let me tell you something, Mr. Warren. Your father expects a lot from you. He sees himself as just a steppingstone in the family. But you have the potential to raise this family to the top!"

When Horace heard what Egan said, he had the urge to refute his father's declaration. He wanted to say that his father just spoke highly of him, but something inside made him change his mind and he kept quiet.

Instead, he softly replied, "Mr. Hudson, I hope so, too!"

Horace sighed deeply and added, "I hope my father really saw all this potential in me. May him not be wrong."

Egan silently listened to Horace speak and earnestly replied, "Mr. Warren, your father was not wrong. He really saw those things in you! Your father truly believes in you. Not only that, I believe in you too!"

"Alright. I promise to do everything I possibly can to become worthy of being the heir of the Warren family. Just because you believe in me!"

Horace was moved as he felt the trust Egan had in him when the latter spoke. He then added, "Thank you for helping me. I really had no idea how I would have dealt with this if you hadn't appeared. As you can see, no one else supports me in Antawood!"

"That's not possible, Mr. Warren. How can you not have any supporters in Antawood?"

Egan was surprised by Horace's statement, so he told

him, "I promise you, Mr. Warren; your father and I will both strongly support you and stand by you. So, to be clear, you do have supporters in Antawood!"

Horace listened to Egan's words, and then replied, "I am aware of that now, Mr. Hudson. But I try not to inconvenience you too much! I made a promise that I would be a worthy successor of the Warren family and that I would do everything I can to earn my worth. I don't think it's fair to inconvenience you, although I appreciate your support."

"It's not a problem, Mr. Warren. Let's do this!"

Egan felt that Horace needed encouragement, so he encouragingly said, "For now, we have everything under control. I will deal with Vernon first. Whenever you face any problem, don't hesitate to call me. I will be there."

"Alright, Mr. Hudson, I will do that."

Horace ended the conversation after bidding Egan goodbye.

He then turned to Donn and gave him the phone while saying, "Here is your phone, Donn. It's not necessary for you and Professor Bates to return now!"

"I'm sorry, Mr. Warren. We can stay a few days more, but we have to return for sure!"

Donn shook his head. He gave Tobias, sitting beside him, a knowing look before adding, "Professor Bates, are you having the same thoughts with me?"

"Donn, you know we both have the exact same reason for going back. Why do you ask me this question?"

After Donn's statement, Tobias turned to face Horace and respectfully said, "Don't worry Mr. Warren, Donn and I will do our best to help you any way we can!"

"I'm very grateful for that." Horace replied. "I am very grateful for the time you both gave me. I'm sure I would have suffered a great loss if you hadn't been by my side."

"No need to thank us, Mr. Warren. It's our pleasure. Although we are certain that even without our help, you can still make outstanding achievements in Rinas. We are just assisting you!"

Donn started to chuckle when he heard what Horace had said. He looked at Tobias and asked him, "Professor Bates, do you have any idea how many people you can bring to help Mr. Warren?"

"Who me? I'm just a professor working in a hospital. I

don't think I can invite many people. Maybe two or three people at most, who are city directors."

Tobias was stunned at Donn's question. He added, "Donn, you were once a candidate of Dragon Soul, so if anyone were able to gather as many supporters as possible for Mr. Warren as possible, it would be you."

"Maybe in the past I could have invited some members of the Dragon Soul. But because I have been away of the Dragon Soul for several years, it might be difficult to invite some of my old friends there. They might decline my invitation, not willing to do me a favor!"

Donn humbly replied. Horace listened intently to the conversation between these two men, when something dawned on him. He declared, "Now I understand that the both of you want to return to Antawood because of me!"

Horace was not as ignorant as he used to be, and had learned quite a lot recently. Listening to Donn and Tobias' conversation made him realize their true purpose!

He came to the conclusion that Donn and Tobias had one purpose for returning to Antawood. And that was to expand his power!

Horace looked at these two men and said, "If the both of you return to Antawood to try and acquire more power for me, please don't return. Besides, to gain power, you need people. And I don't want to bother you too much with my problems!"

"Please don't speak like that, Mr. Warren. This is something we have to do!"

Donn, shook his head in disagreement at Horace's

words. He then earnestly replied, "Not only that, but the people I want to gather for you are all old friends of mine. We have a deep friendship, so there is nothing to worry about!"

"The fact that you would rather lose power than inconvenience us, shows how kind you really are, Mr. Warren. This just makes us want to help you even more!" Tobias also resumed, "And I can assure you that it's not a big deal for me as well to collect my colleagues and students. So please don't be worried, Mr. Warren!"

"Well, then I can only say that you two are free to do as you see fit. All I can do is be grateful. And I am very grateful for you both!"

Horace noticed that Donn and Tobias were determined, so he stopped trying to change their minds. Instead, he expressed his gratitude, saying, "I

do have one request from both of you. If your pursuit proved to be unsuccessful, please don't try it again. Remember that a positive attitude is very important!"

"Understood, Mr. Warren!" the both men uttered respectfully after hearing what he had to say.


Simultaneously, Cara abruptly entered and stood beside Horace. She told him, "Somebody surnamed Smith wants to meet you, Mr. Warren."


Hearing Cara's words, Horace nodded and said to Donn and Tobias, "It looks like Mr. Smith is here. Let's go and see!"

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Chapter 342 Horace Has Really Made Something Of Himself





"Okay then, Mr. Warren, let's go and see this person you want to help," Donn said to Horace.

Horace nodded to everyone and then said, "This way."

He led them out of the plane.

As soon as they stepped out of the plane, Horace spotted someone some distance ahead of them. "Mr. Smith!" he called out.

Just as he had expected, it was indeed Carlson with whom they had just separated.

Horace went closer and then his face lit up when he saw the old woman in a wheelchair. "Mrs. Smith!"

"Hello, Horace," the woman in the wheelchair answered with less enthusiasm than Horace. Her voice was weak and sad as she said, "I thought I would never see you again."

She was Hana Smith, Carlson's mother. She was an honest and simple old lady. At eighty-three, she was seriously ill and could already see death knocking at her door.

If she didn't get the treatment, she was going to die really soon.

Horace smiled sadly and said gently, "What are you talking about, Mrs. Smith? You've still gotten a long time to live, and you can see me whenever you want. Did your son not tell you why I asked you to come here?"

Seeing the clueless expression on her face, he

continued, "I've found someone who can get rid of your cancer. You're not about to die anytime soon."

"It's so sweet how you still try to find a way out for me," Hana said with a faint smile and sighed dejectedly.

"Horace, I used to have some hope, but all I can do now is wait for death to come."

Those few words had taken so much energy that Hana had to gasp for air.

"Mom, Horace has really made something of himself. You need to trust him and stop talking about dying," Carlson remarked and placed a gentle hand on her shoulder.

"Mom, if you don't have faith, everything we do will be useless. You have to give it a chance for it to work.

Can you do that?"

When she didn't say anything, Carlson faced Horace and said, "Horace, please do everything you can to save my mother. I promise to do anything you want. In fact, I'll dedicate my life to serving you. Please, help her."

Before Horace knew it, Carlson was on his knees, begging.

Horace quickly shook his head in disapproval and helped Carlson back up. "Mr. Smith, please don't do this. You and your mother took care of me in the hospital. I literally owe you."

"But that was nothing compared to you trying to cure my mother's cancer. I only had a few meals with you. You owe me nothing. You even made me acting general manager of your company. I don't know how

to begin thanking you for all you are doing!"

Tears welled up in Carlson's eyes as he finished. He meant every single word he had uttered. Horace had been too kind to him.

"Come on. You talk as though I was only doing you a favor whereas you deserve it."

Horace chuckled lightly and continued, "I appointed you because I know that as the acting general manager of Melton Network Technology Limited, you'll do wonders. If you had gotten to another company sooner, then you might have been CEO by now. Listen, Mr. Smith... You need to stop thanking me. You've been doing that since we saw each other this morning. Do you want to spend the whole day thanking me? That would complicate things for me because next time, I may have to think twice before asking for your help."

Carlson lowered his head at this and said in a weak voice, "I know I may be doing too much, Horace, but you have to understand me. I don't know how to repay your kindness. Even if I serve you for the rest of my life, I doubt it will be enough."

Carlson felt like Horace had done too much for him. He wasn't exaggerating when he said that giving his life wouldn't be enough to pay his debt.

Horace smiled faintly and said with a sigh, "Don't give me so much credit please. What do you mean? You're going to work for me for the rest of your life! How could it not be enough? With your talent, I'm sure that Melton Network Technology Limited will become one of the best Internet companies in the country."

"I will do my best to make that happen, Mr. Warren," Carlson said and bowed in respect. He was ready to

dedicate his life to work for Horace.

"I know you will!" Horace smiled at him and continued, "Why don't we put that aside for now and focus on treating Mrs. Smith?"

Then he turned to Hana and asked, "What do you say, Mrs. Smith? By the way, you don't have to worry. I came from a mysterious family. My family has complete confidence in this treatment, but since it is a little expensive, we can't disclose it to the public yet. But when the technology is fully developed and risks have been checked, I believe that cancer will not scare us as much as it does now."

"I see that you brag now, huh?" Hana replied weakly and then held his hand in hers weakly. "Horace, you should be more serious and you shouldn't..."

She suddenly started coughing, and couldn't say what

she wanted to say. She was about to tell him not to brag and say things casually when her coughing fit stopped her.

"Mrs. Smith, just save your strength, okay? You'll see for yourself," Horace said with worry laced in his voice.

Then he looked at Tobias. "Professor Bates, are you ready?"

"I am!" Tobias nodded. "Take the patient to the operating table. We'll be done in two hours," Tobias said.

"Two hours?" Horace asked in surprise.

"Mr. Warren, this old lady's condition is more serious than Madam Potter's. It will definitely take longer to be done with her."

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Chapter 343 The Sudden Burst Of Energy



Horace narrowed his eyes after hearing Tobias' words. "Professor Bates, it sounds too difficult for you to do alone. Is it really okay with you? How about I send you some backup from Antawood?"

Tobias had been really exhausted after treating his mother the last time. Now that Hana's condition was so serious, Horace was worried that Tobias might fall ill after treating her.

"It's alright, Mr. Warren. I can do it myself!" Tobias shook his head and continued, "Moreover, I don't

think that Warren Infirmary can send anyone here now. Not only has Donn's boss called, my boss also called. However, since my boss is understanding, I can give him an excuse to let me stay in Rinas for a few more days."

"I see!" Horace commented with a nod. "I would like to thank you on behalf of Mrs. Smith."

He was the one that asked Tobias to treat Hana, and Tobias' words made him feel a little guilty.

"Mr. Warren, that's very kind of you. It's my honor!" Tobias said with a chuckle.

At that moment, Hana stuttered, "Pro... Professor Bates... Thank... Thank you!"

She did not really know him, but she addressed him the same way Horace did. "Ho... Horace... Your..."

Your... Your family is from Antawood?"

"Yes. What's wrong? Do you want to go to Antawood? I can arrange someone to take you to Antawood after your treatment." Horace nodded firmly. According to him, Hana was just an ordinary woman, so when he heard her mention his family, he asked her this question, instead of if she had heard of his family.

He still remembered what Egan had said, so he knew well that it was not time for him to go to Antawood. That was the reason he told Hana that he would arrange someone to take her to Antawood, and did not promise her that he would take her there himself.

"A Warren from Antawood? That's impossible! Rinas is a small city. It should be just a coincidence!"

Noticing the confused look in her eyes, Horace asked, "Is there something that you want to know?"

"No... Horace, it seems like you really have confidence in my treatment. Alas... I was..."

Horace began to push her wheelchair before she finished her words. "Mrs. Smith, you're so weak now. Don't strain yourself. I will patiently talk to you once you're all better, okay?"

With that, he pushed her wheelchair to the operation theater.

"Please, Professor Bates!" Horace said to Tobias as soon as he entered the room.

"Well, Mr. Warren, you don't have to be so polite. I have been loyal to you for a long time, so just treat me like your other subordinates."

In the operation theater, Hana heard Tobias' chuckle

with a hint of doubt in her eyes.

Was it really like she thought? But that was impossible. Rinas was just a small city. How could it attract someone from a big family in Antawood? She thought that she was probably thinking too much.

Suddenly, Tobias whispered to her, "Ma'am, I'm going to start the anesthesia now. The surgery will be over before you know, so don't be nervous!"

"I don't need any anesthesia!" Hana replied. "I am neither afraid of death nor afraid of pain. The only thing I regret is that I still have not seen my former master, and I don't want to die before I see him."

"Your former master?" Tobias was stunned. "Don't worry, ma'am. I will cure you. Just trust me, okay?"

"Even if you fail, I am only going to die a few days

sooner than expected. What difference is it going to make?" Hana said casually.

"With your attitude, the success rate of the surgery is almost 100%! I've done hundreds of surgeries so far. And in a majority of cases, the patient only ends up struggling because they're too nervous. Anyway, it is best for you to believe that you will live on, but your indifference is not bad, either," Tobias remarked with a chuckle.

"I have a strong will to live! Kid, I am leaving my last hope in your hands. So don't let me down, okay? I have to see my madam!"

As soon as she said those words, it seemed like her body had been restored.

"How is this possible?" Tobias exclaimed, seeing her body regaining vitality.

He was really confused. "This is not the sudden burst of energy that a person experiences before they die, right?"

It was rare, but not impossible for a person to be very energetic in their last moments, and Tobias had seen several people experiencing it, so he thought that Hana must also be in the same situation.

If that was the case, then it would be troublesome for him to go through with the surgery. After all, once their burst of vitality was gone, their organs would start dying one by one. When that happened, even if he could make miracles, the patient would not be saved.

"No, kid. It was my hope to live. You just do your thing. Anyway, you should start the surgery now. If you fail, then the worst thing that could happen is that

I die!"

"I believe in myself, so except for success, there is no other possibility!" Tobias declared, clenching his fists before he picked up the scalpel from the table.

"I will begin the surgery now," he said, taking a deep breath.

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Chapter 344 The Six Departments Of The Warren Family



"Okay, let's do this!" Hana seemed like a younger person now.

She slowly lay down on the operating table, as if she

was going to sleep. It was almost hard to believe that she was about to receive a major surgery.

Tobias moved to her side.

At the same time, Carlson, who was standing outside the door with Horace, said, "Mr. Warren, regardless of the result of my mother's surgery, the kindness you showed us has made me feel grateful. I don't know how to repay you, but I will dedicate my life to you!"

Carlson was stunned after he saw all the medical equipment on the plane, which was more advanced than that of the Rinas Infirmary.

He knew that if Horace's men could not cure his mother, then there was no hope at all for her.

Deep down, he knew that regardless of the outcome, Horace had tried his best. Hence, he felt indebted to

him. In his eyes, even if he gave him his whole life, it still would not be enough.

"Mr. Smith, you're too polite! But if you really want to repay me, then just work hard in the future. Let's not discuss how profitable the company would be to me. You need to work hard for your mother. I have faith in Professor Bates' abilities!"

"I know, Mr. Warren. I will do my best to lead Melton Network Technology Limited to become the No.1 Internet company in the world!" Carlson's voice was firm and serious.

About two hours later, the operation theater doors slowly opened.

As soon as the doors were half-open, Tobias fell to the floor with a loud thud.

"Professor Bates!" Horace cried out as he rushed to Tobias and helped him up. "Professor Bates, are you okay?" His anxious voice came.

"Than... Than..."

Tobias wanted to thank him, but as soon as he opened his mouth, his voice dissipated.

Holding Tobias' arm, Horace smiled gratefully. "Don't say anything. I know what you are going to say, and I believe in your skills. Thank you, Professor Bates!"

Tobias chuckled. His eyelids were so heavy that he couldn't even stay awake for five seconds.

A moment later, everyone saw him snoring.

"Donn, help me put him to bed!" Horace said.

"Let me do it, Mr. Warren! After all, he saved my mother. I need to give him my best thanks!" Carlson whispered.

He then reached out to carry Tobias on his back.

However, Horace waved his hand and said, "You're not the one only here. Let's carry him together!"

With that, the three of them carried Tobias to the bed.

It was a private plane that was owned by the Warren family, so despite its small size, it was very luxurious. Apart from the fully-equipped operation theater, there were two bedrooms for resting.

If Horace's mother hadn't recuperated here days ago, Tobias and Donn wouldn't have stayed in a hotel.

After putting Tobias on the bed, Horace led them to

the operation theater.

"Mr. Smith, Professor Bates' operation must have been tiring, so your mother must be recuperating now. Let's just let her rest her for now."

The next second, a woman's voice sounded. "I'm surprisingly healthy after the surgery. Why did I need rest? I hadn't exercised in years, but I am finally feeling better today!"

"Is it Mrs. Smith's voice?" Horace was stunned. "How is this possible? Despite his remarkable skill, it should not be possible for anyone to directly regain her health. Did I hear it wrong? Or is this a miracle?"

"Mr. Warren, some people are born with speed recovery! And if they exercise just a little, they would be stronger than a beast! I am afraid Mrs. Smith is one of those people! I never thought she was so

powerful, though! However, I am a little confused as to how she got sick when she has such a strong body."

"Mrs. Smith is so strong?"

Horace didn't expect that the sick old woman was actually stronger than most ordinary people.

"How can you look so doubtful?" Hana asked with a laugh. "Are you from the Warren family in Antawood, Horace?"

"The Warren family in Antawood? Mrs. Smith, how did... How did you know that I'm a member of the Warren family in Antawood?"

"Dragon Soul, Phoenix Verve, Kylin Bone, Tiger Teeth, Tortoise Shell, and the Flying Serpent Tails, these are the six departments of the Warren family. I

used to be a member of the Phoenix Verve!" Hana answered firmly.

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Chapter 345 You've Grown Up

"The Phoenix Verve?"

Donn was stunned by Hana's words. As an official member of the Warren family, he knew what she was talking about, especially since he was once a candidate of the Dragon Soul.

"What? Are you surprised? What's so surprising, young man? I should be the one to be startled here. Rinas is a small city, so how did a direct descendant

of the Warren family from Antawood end up here?"

Hana then turned to Donn and continued, "Judging by your vigilant nature, I am sure that you are also in the six departments of the Warren family. Are you in Dragon Soul?"

"Mrs. Smith, I was indeed trained in Dragon Soul, but since I hadn't passed the final test, I was only a candidate for the Dragon Soul!" Donn said with respect.

The six departments of the Warren family were considered to be on the same level, but since Hana was much older, it was right for Donn to respect her.

"The final test!" Hana murmured to herself before she patted Donn on the shoulder.

"Young man, I can tell that you are not a coward. It's

just that you was unwilling to attack your comrades, but sometimes, it's also saving them. Your appraisal period is over, right? Did I say too much?"

Hana was a formal member of the Phoenix Verve, and she had been a senior manager of the same department for many years, so she naturally knew about some of the Dragon Soul's assignments.

The final test that Donn mentioned was to shoot a moving target above the candidate's comrades' head while his own comrades were also moving.

However, Donn had not been able to pass the test because the target had been too close to his comrade's head. Even if he had been ninety-nine percent sure that he would hit the target, he still had not dared to do so because of the barrier in his heart.

However, after hearing Hana's words, he realized that

he had only seen that moving thing as a target and not as an enemy.

If he had considered that target as an enemy, then he might have easily overcome the obstacle in his heart and shot it. After all, he would have to take a gamble when his comrade's life was in the hands of an enemy, and at least if he shot, his comrade could have a slight chance of survival!

Moreover, the enemies that the members of the Dragon Soul had to face were mostly the top department members of the other invincible clans, so they would be indestructible and merciless. If he missed his chance, then he would lose his comrade.

And that turned out to be the very core of the final test.

Donn smiled with self-mockery before he bowed to

Hana and said respectfully, "Thank you for your guidance!"

He then glanced at Horace from the corner of his eye and muttered to himself, "Misfortune might be a blessing in disguise. If I had become an official member of Dragon Soul, then I might not have been able to meet Mr. Warren, and I would have regretted that more than anything."

Hana heard his words, looked at him, and said, "Looks like you already know where you want to be. That's better than living a boring life as a member of the Dragon Soul!"

She then turned to Horace and continued, "I did not know that I would make such a mistake. When I first saw you at the hospital, I did not realize that you were a member of one of the most influential families!"

"Mrs. Smith, I was not a member of an influential family at the time." Horace's words were indeed true. "I only returned to my family later, or I could have saved your life sooner."

"You returned to you family later? You are truly an interesting young man. You even contacted the family in Antawood even though you appeared out of nowhere. It seems that you certainly have a high status in your family!"

"Actually, he is the only son of the family head, and the purest Warren family blood. I beg you to fight for him when it is time for him to compete for the position of heir," Donn remarked and bowed to Hana again.

"The competition of the heir? Oh, yes, eighteen years had passed, so it must be time. How could I not help the man who saved my life? However, it has been eighteen years since I left the family, and they've

changed. I am not sure if I can help you, even if I want to! Tell me, who is the of the Warren family now? Is he a seeded candidate from the previous generation?" Hana asked.

"No, ma'am. The current master of the Warren family is the rare genius, Randall!" Donn answered.

"What? Randall?" Hearing that, Hana looked at Horace and continued, "Horace, are you Randall's son?"

"I suppose so!" Although Horace was a little stunned, he was also a bit uncertain because he had not met his father yet.

Donn hurriedly explained, "When Mr. Warren returned to the family, the family had looked into his DNA, and had found that he was indeed the son of the master!"

"Kid, you've grown up now!"

With tears in her eyes, Hana reached out to touch Horace's cheek. "Do you know? You're the reason I stayed alive!"

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Chapter 346 You Are My Boss



"It was because of me?" Horace pointed at himself in disbelief.

He was born only eighteen years ago!

"Yes!" Hana nodded. She then continued, "Eighteen years ago, Randall killed all the candidates for the

family head. It stunned the Board Of Elders. They were forced to send highly trained assassins from the Kylin Bone to kill him!"

"What?" Horace's jaw fell to the floor. He then asked, "But Mrs. Smith, outsiders aren't allowed to interfere with the competition for the next heir, right?"

"Well, your father was a complete nobody before. If the elders wanted him dead, no one would bat an eye. You should know that in the Warren family, the most influential people are the elders. When they join forces together, their power may even surpass that of the family head!" Hana explained.

After a pause, she added, "However, even if Randall didn't hold any power in the family at first, he then managed to convince many members of the Six Departments to help him using his abilities. I was one of the people he won over. It was at that time, your

father realized that the elders had sent assassins from the Kylin Bone to kill him. So he gathered several of the members of the Six Departments to protect his family and sent them to Desmond's place! While I was on my way to protect you and your mother, I ran into the top member of the Kylin Bone and fought him!"

Hana gulped and then continued, "Although I later won the battle, He shot me with his virus gun. Because of that, I got cancer. At first, I wanted to just kill myself instead of suffering from an incurable disease. But, the thought that I had to keep Mrs. Warren and you alive kept me going."

She chuckled a bit and then let out an exasperated sigh. She continued somberly, "I hoped that there was a chance for me to survive after I saw my three sons again. Yet, I never expected that they all wanted to see me dead, except for my third son."

"Mom, you can't blame them. They only saw you a few times a year when we were children. They might not know you that well and that's why they did what they had to do. They're still good people!" Carlson said to Hana reassuringly.

"Humph, I'm very old. How could I have possibly known that? I paid off their debts with everything I'd earned over the years. Yet in the end, I ended up like this!" Hana snorted.

She was once a senior member of the Warren family, so she was paid well back then. However, she had two sons who liked to squander money. They were Carlson's two elder brothers. Her two sons were often in debt due to gambling. She didn't want to owe anyone, so she tried to pay off the debts. But her money wasn't enough even though she had a lot of money.

"Mrs. Smith, if it weren't for you, I wouldn't be here today. Thank you so much!" Horace thanked her profusely.

"There's no need for you to thank me. After all, you are my boss!" Hana laughed. She then remembered what had happened in the hospital and asked, "Horace, your mother is Mrs. Warren. How come you called someone else in the hospital mom?"

She then added, "Where's your mother? You're fine here, so I assume that she would be safe too."

The Mrs. Warren that Hana talked about was Horace's biological mother, Shari.

"I've never met my real mother." Horace replied. "Mrs. Smith, the woman who raised me told me that she was my mom's personal servant. I don't know why my

mom left me in Rinas to be raised by someone else."

"Did something bad happen to Mrs. Warren? After I fought with the top assassin of the Kylin Bone, I lost touch with your parents. I don't know what happened to them afterwards."

She scratched her head and said, "It seems that whatever happened between the Board Of Elders and your father wasn't that simple."

After Hana finished speaking, Donn suddenly said, "Ma'am, even though I was still too young to understand what happened back then, I heard that through the help of Mr. Desmond Archer, the current master of the Warren family defeated the seeded candidates. After that, the former master suddenly left and the current master took over. Once he took over, he mercilessly stripped the power of the Board Of Elders. Under the reign of the current master, the

Board Of Elders was unable to fight him off and could only try to survive!"

"I wasn't wrong about him. I knew that Randall was extremely talented and yet I never knew that he could take away the Board Of Elder's powers. It had been in the family for such a long time." Hana sighed.

Eighteen years ago, she was a senior member of the Phoenix Verve. She knew how powerful the board was and never expected that they would crumble in Randall's hands.

It turned out that most of the clan masters were trained by the Board Of Elders. Being a part of the Board Of Elders at that time was an incredible feat. If it weren't for that, then Randall wouldn't have spent eighteen years trying to destroy them!

As Hana sighed, Horace abruptly asked, "Mrs. Smith,

Donn, who is this Minister Desmond you talked about? Is he really that powerful?"

"Of course!"

Hana answered confidently and elaborated, "Mr. Archer used to be the commander of Dragon Soul. It was a rank that was comparable to that of the leading elder of our clan!"

"Yes!" Donn nodded. He then explained, "Mr. Warren, It's been thirty years since Mr. Archer retired. He's now the guardian of the Dragon Soul Forbidden Area. He lives in the hearts of the Dragon Soul members as a legend."

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"Really? He's so formidable!"

Horace looked at Donn in surprise. He took a deep breath and then asked again, "Donn, where is the Dragon Soul Forbidden Area you mentioned? Is it a special place owned by our family?"

Horace was naturally curious about this because he had heard the name "Dragon Soul" many times before, but this was the first time he was hearing "the Dragon Soul Forbidden Area."

"Mr. Warren, the Warren family owns six forbidden lands. They are: Dragon Soul Forbidden Area, Phoenix Verve Forbidden Area, Kylin Bone Forbidden Area, Tiger Teeth Forbidden Area, Tortoise Shell Forbidden Area and Flying Serpent Tails Forbidden

Area! These six forbidden areas all correspond to the six departments of the Warren family," Donn explained.

"I know of them, Mr. Warren, but I have no idea of what could be in these forbidden areas. The selection for the guardians is a very rigorous process. Only the best of the six departments are usually selected as guardians. I'm not even an official member of Dragon Soul, not to mention being a guardian. Also, all information that concerns the forbidden areas is well protected. I guess we could say that whatever happens in the forbidden areas stays in the forbidden areas. Mr. Warren, why don't you ask Mrs. Smith? She should know more about it than me."

"There's no need to ask," Hana quickly answered with a flick of her hand. "It is just as you said. All the information of the forbidden areas is confidential and sealed. I left the Warren family eighteen years ago,

but I still can't say anything about them. Horace, you shouldn't be in a haste. You are not even a senior member of the Warren family yet. But if you are finally chosen as the heir or become an elder of the family, then you will know everything you need to know. Even if I did break the law and gave you some information, it would be useless for you now. It may have no connection with you now, but you still have time to win and become the heir."

"I understand, Mrs. Smith," Horace said with a small nod and then pursed his lips. "If that's the case, then I won't pry anymore."

When Hana smiled softly, Horace offered, "What are you going to do now that you are almost fully recovered? Why don't you come back to the Warren family with me?"

He wanted win over Hana now that she was once a

member of the Phoenix Verve.

Hana looked at him sadly and said apologetically, "I'm sorry, Horace, but I can't go back with you. I have other plans, and something more important to attend to."

Seeing that he was waiting for further explanation, Hana sighed and said, "Now that I'm almost as good as new, I plan to enter the Verve."

"Enter the Verve?"

Donn's eyes went wide open in horror as he exclaimed.

"Donn? What does she mean? Look at your face! It's clearly something terrible! What is it?"

Horace instantly became alarmed after Donn's

reaction.

Donn tried to shake off his initial shock and then answered Horace, "Mr. Warren, entering the Verve is just another way of saying an official member of Phoenix Verve is entering the Phoenix Verve Forbidden Area!"

Horace tilted his head in confusion and said, "I thought it was a good thing to enter the Phoenix Verve Forbidden Area. Am I wrong? Mr. Archer became the commander of the Dragon Soul Forbidden Area after he entered, right? Well, if Mrs. Smith is about to enter the Phoenix Verve Forbidden Area, that should mean that she will soon become the commander of the Phoenix Verve Forbidden Area, right? That's a good thing."

An excited Horace looked at Hana and said, "Mrs. Smith, congratulations! You are going to be promoted

soon!"

"Mr. Warren, you've gotten it all wrong!" Donn said and thought of how he could explain it to Horace.

"Mr. Warren, not everyone who enters the forbidden area can become a commander. The six forbidden areas of the Warren family are not safe. As a matter of fact, they are actually dangerous. I don't know just how dangerous they are, but I do know that even elite members of Dragon Soul can't escape the Dragon Soul Forbidden Area easily."

"What?" Horace exclaimed and then looked at Hana in alarm. "Mrs. Smith, you can't go to such a dangerous place! What you should be doing at this age is enjoying yourself and relaxing, not putting yourself in danger!"

Horace looked at Carlson as if asking for support and

asked, "Right, Mr. Smith?"

"Yes, that's true!" Carlson quickly answered.

Looking at Hana, he then pleaded with her, "Mom, shouldn't we enjoy our time together at home now that you are no longer sick?"

He wasn't comfortable with the idea of his mother going to a very dangerous place. He couldn't just sit back and watch without trying to persuade her.

With his two brothers addicted to gambling, his mother had never really had a good life. And his brothers had abandoned his mother after she got cancer. Now that she had recovered from her cancer, and he could make enough money now by himself, she had to enjoy what life had to offer her. He couldn't let his mother go to a dangerous place.

"Carlson, do you think you're old enough to make decisions for your mother now?"

Hana raised an intimidating eyebrow at her son, and then looked at Horace.

"Horace, as a member of the six departments of the Warren family, there is no enjoying life for me."

When he was about to say something, she put up her hand to stop him.

"Don't try to change my mind because it won't work. I'm determined to enter the Verve!"

After this, Hana got lost in thought.

Eighteen years ago, she missed the moment when Randall became the family head. No matter what, she wasn't going to miss it when Horace was named the

heir.

Donn didn't know much about entering the forbidden area, much less Horace. Since she was insisting so much, Horace saw that he couldn't hold her back against her will. So he pursed his lips and said, "Mrs. Smith, since you've obviously made up your mind, I'll let you do what you want. I only ask that you prioritize your safety above everything else when you get there."

Hana smiled and answered, "I'll do that. I think it's time for me to leave now."

With that, Hana left them behind and went to walk out of the plane.

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Chapter 348 You Are Really The Chosen One



It was too difficult for Horace to watch Hana leave. Before she actually left, he shouted her name and said, "Let me know if you encounter any difficulties in the family, okay? I am not powerful now, but I'll do whatever I can to help you."

"Nothing will be too difficult for me to handle in the family, Horace," Hana answered without even stopping or even looking back.

"Don't worry about me, Horace. Worry about yourself and get what you need," Hana added loudly, opened the cabin door of the plane and finally stepped out.

With Hana finally gone, Horace looked at Carlson and asked with an accusatory tone, "Mr. Smith, why didn't you ask her to stay? She is your mother!"

"And that is exactly why I didn't ask her to stay. Because she is my mother!" Carlson answered helplessly.

"If I had asked her to stay again, she would have gotten angry and thrown a fit. Not only would she have beaten me, but it would have been useless because she wouldn't have listened to me," he explained.

"Really? I had no idea Mrs. Smith was so strict with her children!" Horace said in surprise.

Then after thinking about it for a second, he added, "But Mrs. Smith was a member of the six departments of our family, right? I'm not very familiar with what it

entails, but my guess is that the training of Phoenix Verve must be very strict and tough, especially if Donn was a candidate of Dragon Soul. That should be why Mrs. Smith is so disciplined and strict with you."

"Yeah, that should explain it. You know, before my mother got sick, she did everything perfectly. Even when she made up the bed, she did it like these soldiers we always see on TV," Carlson added, seemingly lost in thought.

"Don't worry, Mr. Smith. She will be fine. If she could defeat cancer, then nothing can stop her."

Horace tapped Carlson's shoulder gently in encouragement.

After a while in silence, he said, "You should be tired after the busy day you had. Why don't you go home

early and rest?"

"Same goes for you, Horace. You've also been busy. Remember to rest early too," Carlson said with a small smile and then went out of the plane.

"Mr. Warren, you are really the chosen one of the family. Not everyone can easily meet a senior like Mrs. Smith in Rinas and even build a good and comfortable relationship with her!" Donn praised Horace when Carlson left.

When Horace looked at him with a small smile, he added, "You've moved closer to becoming the heir of the family, Mr. Warren."

"Donn, are you making fun of me again? If I really was the chosen one, then I would have more power than I do now. Instead, it's as though I have no power and no say in a lot of things. Anyways, that's not very

pressing right now. Donn... Do you really think Mrs. Smith can make it out of there safe and sound?"

"Of course!"

Donn's reply came without any hesitation before he paused and added, "Even with her illness, Mrs. Smith still proved to be very strong. So there's nothing to worry about, Mr. Warren. It will be easy for her to enter the Verve."

"You're right, I don't know why I asked. Mrs. Smith is strong-willed and determined. She will see it through until she is satisfied," Horace said in a low voice, almost as if he was trying to convince himself.

Then he looked at Donn and said, "Donn, we need to take good care of Professor Bates this afternoon. He has used a lot of energy today. It may be bad for his health if he doesn't rest properly."

"That won't happen, Mr. Warren." Donn shook his head and explained, "Trust me, I know what Tobias can do. He's doing well. It was not a big deal for him."

"Really? How come?"

Horace was stunned by what Donn was saying, and he was finding it difficult to believe. So, he shook his head and insisted, "It may not be a big deal for Professor Bates, but don't you see that he is tired and is unconscious? Professor Bates might end up with a mental breakdown because of all these and I don't want that."

"Don't worry, Mr. Warren. Tobias will be fine since he has a good recovery. Even after his operation of six hours, he had no negative after effects. And, he had only slept for three days! That should reassure you, right?"

Donn and Tobias both worked for the Warren Infirmary. That explained why they knew each other.

"Wow... That is impressive!" Horace said in awe and then chuckled lightly. He didn't know why he was so worried before.

"I never knew Professor Bates was so tough," he added in disbelief.

"Well, there are many things that will surprise you," Donn said with a chuckle before getting serious again. "But as I said, Mr. Warren, you shouldn't worry. Tobias and I will be fine before you become the heir of the Warren family."

"What if I don't become the heir? You guys will be fine for the rest of your lives?" Horace asked with a small laugh.

"No negative thoughts, please, Mr. Warren. Tobias and I will never rest until you are seated as the heir of the Warren family!" Donn said heatedly.

He couldn't help but get serious and anxious when they spoke about this.

"I'm just kidding, Donn. You don't have to be so serious!"

Horace patted Donn on the shoulder to calm him down. With a soft smile, he said in his deep voice, "Donn, you don't have to worry. I will do whatever I can to win. Not only for myself, but for those who support me."

"I know you will. You are Mr. Warren after all!" Donn said proudly, causing Horace to chuckle again.

Donn then cleared his throat and said, "I guess I'll go to check on Tobias if that's okay. Also, Mr. Warren, we will head back to Antawood when Tobias wakes up."

Horace nodded and said, "I know, I know. We will meet soon again, Donn. I know that. Sooner or later, I will go to Antawood."

Donn nodded in agreement with Horace.

"I believe that too, Mr. Warren. Please, let me know when you come to Antawood. I will love to receive you."

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Chapter 349 Mr. Warren Was So Charming





"Okay!" Horace said with a nod.

Donn waved his hand and said, "Alright, then. I will leave first, Mr. Warren."

"Okay! I am heading home, so you can leave now."

Saying that, Horace walked towards the exit of the plane.

"Let me drive you home, Mr. Warren," Farris said.

Donn patted his head and said, "Oh, I am so stupid! How did I forget that you can't drive? Let me take you home, Mr. Warren!"

Horace could not help but chuckle when he heard that.

"Uncle Farris, Donn, you don't have to send me home today. I want to walk home."

Horace was a little touched by what happened to Hana. Although she was the senior manager of the Phoenix Verve, her poverty had cursed her badly.

Without money, even someone as powerful as Hana could be betrayed by her own children.

No wonder everyone was after money! Horace sighed deeply.

Then he remembered that before he returned to his family, he was also troubled by money.

Back then, no matter how hard he tried, he was not able to afford his mother's medical bills. Even selling their house seemed like a drop in the bucket. Once he

become powerful in the family, should he consider changing the current situation? After all, living as a poor man had taught him how difficult it was to survive without money.

Then he thought that once Carlson led the company to the top, he would consider Rinas as his first experimental project and see if he could make the residents capable of paying their own medical bills.

That thought put Horace's mind at ease and he smiled.

Noticing the mysterious smile on his lips, Donn and Farris were confused.

"Mr. Rivera, what do you think is Mr. Warren comprehending? Perhaps, he has thought through something," Donn said.

"Who knows? Regardless of what it may be, I shall always support him unconditionally. I believe that he is the most suitable person to become the master of the family."

"Yes, I think so too! You have a lot of experience, Mr. Rivera. You just stick to your beliefs and do not doubt them!" Donn said.

He then waved to Farris and walked to the room where Tobias was.

"Is he testing me?" Farris murmured, asking himself as he watched Donn's receding back.

"But when he tests me, he will also be exposing himself. It seemed that he has really pledged his loyalty to Mr. Warren. With help from a Dragon Soul candidate, Mr. Warren will be invincible. This is the way for me to let go of my limits in Rinas. The Moran

family!"

The reason Donn tested Farris was because he wanted to see how loyal he was to Horace. If Farris' answer had been specific, then Donn would know that he had been speculating about Horace, but in Donn's opinion, a qualified subordinate could give advice, but not speculate in secret.

Farris was actually smarter than Donn, so he was able to easily figure out his intentions. However, his loyalty to Horace was no less than Donn's so he did not mind answering honestly.

The reason Donn exposed himself was because Farris already knew that he was a candidate of the Dragon Soul, and if he ended up saying that he was indeed speculating in secret, then Donn could probably kill him in the following days. After all, Rinas' power now began to bow to him, and if he was not

loyal to Horace, then things would be chaotic.

Farris knew that Donn would do anything to help Horace become the next leader of the Warren family, and he could tell that Donn was absolutely loyal to Horace.

However, the reason he thought so much about it was because he was oblivious to the fact that Donn had vowed to be loyal to Horace.

Mr. Warren was so charming!

Sighing in his heart, Farris walked to the door of the plane.

While he was talking to Donn, Horace walked out of the Rinas Infirmary.

"How do I go back?"

Horace was confused, looking at the road where cars were coming and going.

"It's still early. My mom is with Laila and her mother at home, so I don't have to hurry. The college entrance exam results will be released on the day after tomorrow, and once I go to college, I won't have much time here. I've lived here for eighteen years, but I haven't looked around much. I should take a stroll in the city today." With that, Horace walked forward aimlessly.

A few minutes later, he heard three young women before him talking.

"You know what? Brewster Hobbes spent more than ten million for his birthday party yesterday!" one of them said.

"What? More than ten million?" another asked in shock.

"A birthday party cost more than ten million? Who is this Brewster? How is he so rich?"

"Raquel, you don't know Brewster?"

Do you know Bolton Hobbes, the third wealthiest man in Vertburn? Brewster is his son," the last woman answered.

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Chapter 350 I'm Not That Fragile



"Bolton's son? No wonder he is so rich!" Raquel Dominguez sighed dreamily and continued, "We can't even begin to imagine the way rich people live. The amount of money they use for a birthday party is what we can literally spend a lifetime working for."

"Come on, Raquel. Don't give us so much credit. Can you make ten million dollars in your own lifetime?" the woman beside Raquel said jokingly and chuckled.

Raquel thought about her friend's words and then did some math in her head. "You're right. With what I earn now, I can't make so much money by the time I have to retire and can't work. Why did you have to make me think of something so depressing?"

Raquel pressed a hand over her heart and feigned being hurt. She took a deep breath and then added seriously, "But, you know what? If I make through this interview and I'm taken, then I might end up making

ten million dollars in my lifetime!"

Horace who wasn't far from the three women was shocked by what he was hearing.

"Ten million dollars for a birthday?" he said under his breath. He could have never imagined that someone would spend so much on a birthday party. He had thought he understood how the rich world worked, but he just realized that he still had a lot to learn.

He wasn't as poor as he used to be, but after being used to living in poverty and having only the necessary, he found it difficult to indulge in luxurious things. He would never spend ten million dollars on his birthday... Well when he thought about it, he realized that he could maybe do it for someone else, most probably his mother.

If he hadn't been ready to spend, he would have

never planned something so grand for Selina's wedding.

While Horace was lost in his thoughts, the voice of one of the women drew him out. "Look at that delivery guy, squatting and crying by the road as though he was rejected by his girlfriend."

Horace instantly looked up and saw the young man the lady was talking about.

The delivery uniform he was wearing was that of the biggest takeout platform in the country. The delivery men or women of this company were also considered members of the staff.

"Hey, men shouldn't be crying so openly. What has put you in such a state?" Raquel walked up to the delivery guy and asked kindly.

"I don't want to cry but I just... I just... Can't help it..." the delivery guy answered between sniffs as tears continued rolling down his cheek. "Life is just too difficult. If I didn't have a family, I would take my own life!"

"Hey, don't talk like that! What's wrong?" Horace asked with worry laced in his voice. He knew that people went through hard times, but he couldn't imagine why this man would want to go to the extent of committing suicide. Even when he was going through the toughest times, he had never entertained such thoughts.

"It's so nice to see such a young person like you look out for someone," Raquel said to Horace with a kind smile before turning back to the delivery guy. "Tell us what's wrong. Even if we can't help you, we can at least give you some comfort."

Raquel's friend pulled her hand and whispered in her ear, "Raquel, why are you trying to help a delivery man? Come, let's leave."

"We both know life is difficult. What's the harm in listening to a man in pain?"

When the delivery guy heard Raquel say this to her friend, he looked up at her with his teary face and said, "You are so kind. You will find your Mr. Right when the time is right."

"Thank you so much for your kind words. I really hope so," Raquel answered with a smile. "You can safely tell us what is wrong. This young man just asked, but you didn't say anything. Don't you think he feels sad or offended?" she remarked softly.

"I'm fine, miss. I'm not that fragile!" Horace said quickly, realizing that Raquel was referring to him.

"Right... I'm sorry about that... Young man!" the delivery guy said to Horace, no longer crying as hard as he was earlier.

He then took a deep breath and explained, "To be honest, it's not really a big deal. It's just that life is becoming too difficult for me. My order has been canceled, and that means five dollars gone. I had already taken the takeout and was almost at the destination even."

He sighed dejectedly and then continued, "If I hadn't had other problems, it wouldn't have mattered so much. But now, I need to pay the tutoring fee for my daughter's extra-curricular lesson. If I don't work hard to get the money, what will become of her? So when this customer canceled the order, the frustration was just too much for me to handle that I burst into tears. I now feel ashamed for crying."

He looked at Horace with a shake of his head and said, "Young man, you're not yet married, nor have you started a business of your own. So, you might not really understand what I'm going through."

"Really?" Horace chuckled lightly and then raised an eyebrow at the man. "Sir, I've gone through worse. Despite all of that, I never once gave up or thought of ending it all."

The delivery guy looked at Horace, first in confusion, and then in disbelief. After trying and failing to make sense of Horace's little comment and what it meant, he asked, "When I look at you, you should be no more than twenty years old. Are you saying that at this age, you've encountered harder times than me?"

"Sir, does life really look at one's age before throwing in challenges?" Horace asked with a small smile at

the corner of his lips. Seeing that the man was waiting for him to go on, he sighed and explained, "I lived alone with my mother as a child, and when I turned eighteen, she got cancer. It was tough for me. In order to raise medical fees for my mother's treatment, I also did what you are doing now, takeout delivery. I also did part-time jobs like washing dishes and never wasted a moment. I did every single job I could find just to raise enough money for her treatment. Is that enough for you?"

"Well..." the delivery guy began and then trailed off for lack of what to say. If he had to compare with this young man's life, his life wasn't that difficult. He wiped his tears completely and looked at Horace in awe. After composing himself, he took a deep breath and said to Horace, "I truly admire you, kid. If you could work so hard at such a young age, then I have no right to be crying by the road at my old age. If this delivering job can't pay enough to cover my

expenses, then I will take a few more jobs. A man like me won't let a few bumps on the road knock him down."

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