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"Levi Garrison is still too weak. Wouldn't it be more fun if he posed a little more of a challenge?"

Damien sighed resignedly and replied, "I have so many ways of taking him down right now! Take Zoey Lopez and that child inside her, for example. If I wanted to, I could make sure that the child won't be born alive!"

"Exactly! Mr. Damien, we await your orders. One word from you and we'll head off to torment him immediately!"

However, Damien shook his head. "No, no, no... Where's the fun in that? I want to torment him to death slowly. By the time I'm through with him, he'll realize how foolish he has been to hold on so tightly to his pride!"

"As for his wedding night, I'll make sure nothing goes well for him, either! Tell my men to go..."

Levi was having drinks with his friends.

It was rare that his friends of "special status" could meet up.

The fact that his beloved mentor, Angus Belford, was also present made Levi feel overwhelmed with pleasure.

Angus said, "Levi, I understand your situation now. To tell you the truth, the Garrison clan of Oakland City aren't ordinary folks. They have been around for thousand-odd years and numerous generations. Their fighting prowess is top-notch."

"Shall I tell you some statistics? You know about Erudia's Saber Leaderboard, don't you?"

Levi nodded.

Erudia's Saber Leaderboard was a ranking of Erudia's best warriors. Everyone on it was the creme de la creme among experts.

However, warriors like Levi and those in the Iron Brigade were ranked in a separate and confidential list and not on the Saber Leaderboard.

All they knew was that those on the Saber Leaderboard were very strong; they only had a vague understanding of how powerful those warriors truly were.

"On Erudia's Saber Leaderboard, the disciples of the Garrison clan take up a grand total of twenty-one spots, while the warriors related to the Garrison clan take up forty-six spots in total! This means that about half of the warriors on the Saber Leaderboard have connections to the Garrisons!"

After hearing these statistics, Levi and the others were stunned.

The warriors on the Saber Leaderboard were vicious military warriors.

All of them were devils on the battlefield and had gained quite a reputation even overseas.

Not only were they loaded with military accomplishments, but those warriors were also full of power and talent.

Were there really so many of them with connections with the Garrison clan?

Evidently, the clan was powerful beyond belief.

However, Levi had already had a taste of their power for himself before.

One of the servants of the Garrison clan had the power to make an entire city yield to him.

It was unimaginable what the real power of the Garrison clan could be if they turned it out in full force.

"Not only that. The Garrison family has other warriors with different areas of expertise, too. They are excellent fighters. There's a reason for the Garrison family's fearsome reputation in Erudia. They are more frightening than even I could imagine."

"Besides, Damien's mother, Olivia Garcia, is a beloved member of the ancient Garcia family, which is second only to the Garrison family. The Garrisons and Garcias are in this together. If we strike against the Garrisons, we'll have two ancient families after our blood."

Angus turned to look at Levi. "I hope that you, as the God of War, will exercise some caution while taking down the Garrison clan of Oakland City. You must absolutely tread with caution!"

Levi nodded. "Don't worry, Master. I'll do my best to do this properly, and I'll make sure that the Garrison family pays for everything they have done to me."

Hearing this, everyone knew that Levi had made up his mind to go against the Garrison family.

He was not even afraid when faced with the Eighteen-Nation Alliance in the past, and he certainly would not back off just because the Garrison family was powerful.

Just as everyone was drowning in high spirits, someone barged into the room.

Everyone recognized the intruder at once. It was one of Damien's subordinates who had appeared with him during the wedding.

Upon seeing him, White Tiger growled, "What are you doing here?"

Damien's subordinate, Vincent Garrison, looked at him and smirked. "Levi Garrison, I've been sent to tell you something!"

"What?"

Damien's subordinate laughed. "The person you owe your life to is in danger at this very moment. Do you wish to save this person?"

Levi's expression changed. "The person I owe my life to?"

"Yes, indeed. He's on the brink of death right now, I might add."

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"Who is it?" Levi asked.

Shaking slightly, Emma asked, "Could it be Dexter?"

If there was someone in the Garrison family whom Levi owed his life to, it had to be Dexter, the Garrisons' butler.

Back then, Dexter had treated Emma like his own daughter.

He had helped her numerous times, often secretly.

Hence, he had a huge role to play in the fact that she was still alive today.

After Emma gave birth to her child, the child was taken away by Tyrone Garrison.

She had feared for her child's life and wondered if he could live on.

However, Dexter promised her that he would find a way to ensure that her child lived.

"Right on the first try! Yes, it's Dexter."

Vincent laughed coldly. "I'll tell you guys the truth. Initially, the Garrison family had no plans of letting Levi Garrison live. They took him and abandoned him in the mountains, leaving

him to die. However, Dexter, that old hag, secretly left him on the streets of North Hampton instead. If not for him, Levi would have died a long time ago!"

A hush fell over the room. Emma felt as though she had just been struck by lightning.

The Garrison family had been lying to her all along!

Tyrone had tricked her!

They never had any plans to let Levi off the hook.

Back then, Tyrone hadn't had the heart to kill off his son by himself, so he simply abandoned him in the wild. But how was this any different from committing murder with his own two hands?

The Garrison family had never planned on letting Levi live from the beginning.

Emma had thought that Tyrone would at least feel some sort of affection for his son and let him live. However, things had not gone the way she imagined they would.

How could a clan as prestigious as the Garrisons go back on their word like this?

How could they simply break their promises whenever they wanted to?

What she failed to comprehend was that for a family like the Garrisons, personal benefits came above everything else.

When it came to personal benefits, nothing else mattered.

Besides, Tyrone had gone behind everyone else's back to do this.

"Tyrone, I've finally seen you for the brute you are! So much for tigers not eating their own children! You're the worst savage I've ever had the misfortune to meet!"

Zoey clenched her hands into fists as her body began to shake with rage.

This is saddening, awfully saddening!

She finally experienced what it was like for trust to evaporate in an instant.

Levi felt extremely stunned by the news of his father's cruelty too.

Had he really tried to kill me when I was a child?

He finally understood everything.

This was why it had always been the Garrison family's servants who were sent to deal with him in the past.

Apparently, everyone in the Garrison family already thought he was dead!

Tyrone Garrison, how cruel of you!

As a father yourself, how could you have done something so horrible to your own flesh and blood? What a father you are!

Vincent snorted derisively. "You have that stupid Dexter to thank for all this! If not for him, there would be less trouble for all of us. As for you, Levi Garrison, you can decide for yourself whether you want to save Dexter! I'll give you three hours. If you don't come by then, I'll make sure to bleed out every last drop of blood from his body!"

Vincent gave one last cackle before he turned around and left.

Levi turned to Emma and asked if what Vincent said about Dexter was true.

"My son, it seems that it's really true! Dexter was the one who saved you from dying!" Emma said confidently.

Levi said coldly, "Alright, then. Since he was the one who saved my life and he's now in trouble because of me, I must save him! I'll get going now."

"My son..."

Emma wracked her brains to think of how best to deter her son from going to Dexter's rescue.

She understood what Damien's plan was. He meant to lure Levi straight into his trap, where he would have the perfect opportunity to kill him off.

This way, the Garrison family would escape the consequences of his murder.

If Levi were to walk straight into Damien's trap, he would be putting himself in great danger.

Besides, he had just gotten married today! There was no need for him to put himself into this sort of situation immediately.

As his mother, Emma was very reluctant to let him do it.

On the other hand, however, she wished for Levi to be a man who knew the value of courage and gratitude. Since Dexter was the person who had saved his life, Levi should go ahead and rescue him.

"Don't worry, Mom! Damien and I are bound to meet each other before long anyway."

With that, Levi turned and left to search for Damien.

Dexter was somebody he had to save.

Nobody, not even his mother, could hold him back from doing so.

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"Levi..."

As Levi left, Emma gazed after him, her mouth agape as she stood rooted to her spot.

I can't let this happen!

I can't send Levi straight to his death.

Emma quickly left, too, but no one knew where she was headed.

The villa in North Hampton had originally been the residence of the Gonzales family, but they had moved away a long time ago.

Now, it was Damien's year-round residence.

He was currently enjoying his wine in the enormous meeting room of the house.

He had a reputation for having a Machiavellian and deceitful personality. However, quite different from his character, he had quite a liking for hard liquor.

He enjoyed the feeling of the liquor burning its way down his throat like a ball of fire.

"Ah! That's some good stuff."

He gulped down another mouthful of liquor.

Drip, drip...

In front of him, blood dripped down onto the floor from the ceiling, adding to a pool of redness.

Dexter was hung upside-down from the ceiling and bleeding from head to toe.

Damien had just sliced another wound across his abdomen; blood could be seen gushing out of it.

If he didn't receive medical attention soon, Dexter would most probably perish from blood loss.

Damien barked with laughter. "Hey, Mr. Butler, I really hope you'll be able to hold up until Levi Garrison gets here!"

Adding injury to insult, he poured some of the liquor onto Dexter's wounds.

"Ahh!"

Immediately, Dexter screamed in pain like a pig bound for slaughter.

He managed to squeeze out a single word from between his gritted teeth. "You..."

Damien was twisted beyond words.

Vincent turned to Damien and asked, "Mr. Damien, are you sure Levi is going to turn up?"

Damien nodded. "Yes, of course he will. I'm a good judge of people's characters. Levi Garrison cares too much for loyalty and gratitude. These things are of no use to someone like my father. In fact, they're a sign of weakness, and people will exploit your weakness to bring you down. Sometimes, it might even cost you your life!"

Tyrone had always taught his son one thing—to never be a man of emotion. One had to learn to abandon all else and be emotionless during crucial moments or risk losing everything. Only then could one be trusted with important missions.

This was also why Tyrone had been able to abandon Emma and their son without so much as a flinch.

Logic and indifference were the principles he abided by.

He could throw away everything in an instant if it meant achieving what he wanted.

Of course, Emma and Levi, who held almost no value in his heart, were easy targets.

And why not? They were like the stones that threatened to trip him on his way, so he had better get rid of them as soon as he could.

"That's very true. If Levi Garrison didn't value loyalty and gratitude so much, he wouldn't come here at all. He would be able to save himself from certain death." Vincent laughed.

Damien nodded. "That's right, that's right. That's what I mean! If he doesn't come, nothing will happen to him."

From above, Dexter screamed, "Damien, you're insane for instigating Master Levi to strike you first so you would have an excuse to murder him later on!"

Dexter's smile widened. "That b*stard will never enter the Garrison family—I'll see to that. But there are too many eyes on him right now so I can't do whatever I want to him. Since I can't kill him as and when I like, the only other option I have is to instigate him to start a fight!"

"You...cough, cough..."

Dexter was so agitated that blood started seeping out of his wounds again.

Every wound on his body pricked at his consciousness, making him groan in pain.

"Hold on a little longer! Levi will be here soon. When he arrives, I'll send both of you to hell together so you won't feel pain anymore."

Damien picked up a steak knife and started slicing away at Dexter's torso again.

Blood once again oozed out of Dexter's heavily wounded body; he would die very soon.

Instead of dying from having lost too much blood, it was more probable that he would die from the excruciating pain.

Bang!

"Dexter, I'm coming for you!"

At that moment, there was a loud bang as the gates of the villa swung open. Levi's voice floated into the hall.

"Haha! Just as you've predicted, Mr. Damien! Levi Garrison has arrived to see himself off to hell!" Vincent laughed.

"Oh, dear," Dexter sighed miserably.

This kid should not have come.

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At that moment, Levi kicked the gates open and strode into the villa.

He was greeted by the sight of up to a thousand of Damien's men, who stared him down with murderous intent.

"Take him down!"

There was a buzz as the men started running towards him immediately. However, a slow drawl interrupted their progress.

"Slow down! Let him take his time," Damien said from inside the meeting room.

Upon hearing Damien's orders, the warriors moved aside and opened up a narrow path for Levi to walk across to the front door. They continued to watch him closely as he stepped into the house.

Levi noticed those men were top-class warriors.

The Garrison family really hires and trains the best of the best.

Very quickly, Levi found his way through the corridors and arrived at the meeting room.

When he spotted Dexter hanging upside down from ceiling, his eyes narrowed into a thin line.

Damien is too cruel.

Levi turned livid when he noted the pool of blood on the floor below Dexter.

Damien burst into laughter. "Levi, this is the man you owe your life to! If it hadn't been for him, you would have died in the wilderness a few hours after you were born."

By then, Dexter was already one foot in the grave. When he spotted Levi, he only had the breath to croak, "Master—Master Levi..."

"Dexter ... "

Levi took a deep breath.

How could they treat the man he owed his life to in this inhumane way?

Coldly, Levi ordered, "Damien, remove him from the ceiling and set him down on the floor immediately!"

Damien burst into laughter again. "You want me to set him down? Sure! But that'll depend on whether you have the ability to make me do it."

Summoning the remaining energy in his body, Dexter whispered, "Master Levi, leave quickly... It's a trap..."

"Don't worry. I must save you today! When I was a child, you saved my life once. Today, you risked your life for my sake again! I must save you."

With that, Levi started walking towards Damien.

Suddenly, a large boom sounded across the entire room.

The meeting room, which had been empty of other people until now, was now a crowded place. Men stood shoulder to shoulder, filling the room from corner to corner. All of them were top-class warriors and there were at least a few hundred of them.

Everyone gazed at Levi, looking prepared to kill him if need be.

Click!

Instantly, the door of the meeting room was locked.

Even if Levi miraculously grew wings that very moment, it would be impossible for him to escape now.

Damien cackled with glee.

Now, Levi will die and his corpse won't even be intact!

They are almost at their inevitable end. In a few minutes, both Levi and Dexter will be dead.

Damien had already thought everything through.

After he killed both of them, he would announce to the public that Levi had murdered the butler of the Garrison family, Dexter. As far as the public was concerned, Damien had killed Levi in retaliation.

This was a perfectly reasonable excuse.

Although everyone would know it was a set-up, nobody would be able to dispute his narrative.

Meanwhile, Emma had dashed back into her room and dialed a telephone number she had saved at the very back of her mind a long time ago.

"Come on, pick up! Come on! If you don't pick up now, Levi is going to be in huge trouble," Emma muttered anxiously to herself.

Finally, the person on the other end picked up the phone. "Who-who is this?"

"It's me, Emma Jones!"

After Emma revealed her identity, the other party remained silent for a long while. She could sense that they were holding their breath.

Emma jumped straight into the topic and stated her reason for calling. "Mr. Tyrone Garrison, I won't beat around the bush anymore. I just have one request!"

She was afraid that if they dragged this out, Levi would be dead.

"What is it?"

"I hope you'll let my son go! Just this time, I promise! As long as you let go of my son this once, both my son and I will never have anything to do with the Garrison family again! You know I'm a person of my word! I'll keep my promise!" Emma pleaded desperately.

"I don't call the shots on this matter. Nobody asked him to be so reckless. He deserves this for trying to go up against the Garrison clan!" Tyrone replied icily.

"He's young and doesn't know the ways of the world yet. Please just let him go this time! Just this time! I've never asked you for anything before, but please let my son off this time! I can even die in his place!"

"Please, I beg of you...I'll even kneel before you..."

Emma was crying so hard that her face was practically soaked with tears.

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However, Tyrone turned her down immediately. "Even if I let him off the hook, I can't promise you that the other Garrison family members will do the same!"

"Tyrone Garrison! If you don't promise me this, I'll expose that secret of yours to the world!" Emma suddenly exclaimed.

"You..."

Tyrone's tone underwent a profound change when he heard that.

He roared angrily, "So much for your promise to love me for the rest of your life and to keep my secret forever! How dare you threaten to expose it to the world now, you wretched b*tch!"

Emma was forced into a corner. "I'm willing to do almost anything if it means saving my son's life. If there's anything that can get him out, I'll do it!"

"Alright, alright, I'll let him off, alright? I'll make sure to keep him alive. But there's still a problem—how will I know that you won't use this secret to threaten me again?" Tyrone asked.

"I swear I'll never use this secret against you again!"

However, Tyrone replied in a low and dangerous voice, "Preposterous. I've long understood that only the dead can keep secrets."

A shiver ran through Emma's body. She felt a little panicked by the implications of his words.

"Alright, here's my proposal. Trade your life with your son's. When Levi makes it out of there, I'll send someone to fetch you back to Oakland City!"

There was no way Tyrone would allow his secret to be leaked to the public.

This had never been a source of concern for him before, because Emma loved him way too much and would take his secret to her grave rather than exposing him to the world.

However, now that her son's life was at stake, it was a different story altogether.

Hence, Emma needed to die.

"Fine. I promise you!"

In order to save her son's life, Emma didn't care if she lived or died anymore.

•••

Back at the villa in North Hampton, Levi smiled as he gazed at the hundreds of warriors surrounding him.

Blandly, he announced, "Today is my wedding day, so the last thing I want to see is bloodshed. However, some people are pushing me too far! I have no choice but to pull out all stops and kill all of you."

Damien laughed shrilly. "Levi Garrison, that silly bravado of yours has always been a source of admiration for me! Look where you are now. Do you still dare to make those silly proclamations of yours?"

"And guess what, I arranged for all this to happen today, just for you!"

"Six years ago on this very day, you had your limbs broken by my men and were left for dead on the streets. Today, I'll see to it that you're beaten to death! Haha...life comes a full circle, doesn't it?"

Damien threw his head back and guffawed.

Dexter was livid.

This devil is downright disgusting!

What a tyrant!

Damien's subordinates laughed next to him. "Hey, kid, did you bring the coffin, gravestone, and funeral wreath we gave you earlier today? We prepared that especially for you!"

Levi's expression remained placid. He said, "Damien, the biggest mistake you made in your life was to come to North Hampton!"

"Hmm! A mistake?" Damien asked in confusion.

"Because you're going to die! Even though it's my wedding day today, I'm going to bash your head in and make sure I decorate these walls with your intestines!"

Levi had already made up his mind to kill him.

Damien must die!

"Men, go..."

Just as Damien was going to order his men to kill Levi, he received a phone call from his father.

"What? Are you serious? But why? Oh, alright...I understand...Father..."

Damien hung up the phone and gazed at Levi with disbelief.

Vincent urged him, "Mr. Damien, your orders, please!"

To their surprise, Damien waved a hand dismissively and snapped, "Alright, that's enough. We won't be killing Levi Garrison today."

"Huh?"

Everyone was stunned.

Why did he suddenly change his mind about killing Levi?

In a very disgruntled voice, Damien grumbled, "Levi, count yourself lucky for escaping death today. I won't be killing you for now. As for Dexter, you can have him, too. So there!"

He didn't understand why his father had suddenly ordered him to spare Levi's life.

Back then, his father had also given him the order to murder Levi without much explanation, either.

However, Levi didn't move from his spot. He glared angrily at Damien and spat, "That won't do! You might not want to kill me anymore, but that doesn't mean I'm going to let you off the hook!"