Tenichi and his men were all feeling pretty glum.

The elaborate plan that took them months to come up with ended with disaster.

They couldn't comprehend the patriots' devotion to Erudia and hence still couldn't fathom why Asura came to Zoey's rescue.

Shouldn't it be better for Winsor once Levi is gotten rid of?

He'd be number one in Erudia.

He'd also be the God of War.

In other words, he would benefit the most once Levi's gone.

But he came to protect Zoey.

They couldn't wrap their heads around it.

This was the most obvious difference between the ideologies of the people from Erudia and the other nations.

"That crazy Winsor is now in the picture, so there's nothing we could do! We need to come out with something else," muttered Tenichi's men.

He was at the verge of closing himself off.

They'd toiled and managed to keep the God of War at bay. Then in came Asura.

There was really nothing more they could do!

Meanwhile, Zoey was sent to the best hospital in Stellar City, waiting for the baby to be born.

"Levi said that it's unsafe outside Erudia. Like how is it unsafe?" sneered Logan.

"Why did you even bring up his name? He's nothing but a bastard!" Meredith grumbled.

Zoey glanced at everyone and snapped, "I don't wanna hear his name ever again! Never mention it in front of me again!"

"Alright..." With that, dead silence followed.

This time, anyone could tell that Zoey had given up on him.

If not, she wouldn't have gone abroad and let her child take on her last name.

In the shadows, Winsor took note of everything.

Even he, cold-hearted as he was, let out a sigh.

It was tough indeed...

"This may sound strange. After we left, I heard that the God of War left North Hampton too. I heard there's something extremely urgent that he has to deal with!" Logan tattled.

Puzzled, Meredith questioned, "Really? Didn't know there was something so important that could get him out of Erudia."

"Right? It must be something of grave urgency! Otherwise, he wouldn't have left the country!"

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Chatters about the God of War continued.

Zoey looked out the window, she felt as calm as a millpond.

The only thing that she took heed to was the baby in her belly.

She started swiping through the photos on her phone. When she came across a photo of her and Levi, her finger droned to "Delete" deliberately.

But she hesitated as she couldn't get herself to do it.

The next one was still a photo of them.

She was wondering if she should just delete them.

A few nurses saw the photos on her phone and felt blood drained from their faces instantly.

They exchanged glances and felt a shiver down their spines.

They went for another peek, just to make sure.

Oh lord, it is him!

This hospital was the pinnacle of Keerea's medical infrastructure. People whom the nurses got to be in touch with were also elitists.

News revolving around this matter had spread through high society especially this period time.

That was why they could recognize Levi Garrison from the pictures.

"Yes?" Zoey looked up and asked, sensing nerves in those eyes.

As she put her phone away, someone asked timidly, "Ms. Lopez, is that your husband?"

"He was."

"Is he also from Erudia?" another voice popped in.

"Yes, he is," nodded Zoey.

BOOM!

Another shudder as Zoey replied. Their fear was apparent.

This woman whom they were about to take care of was the wife of that man.

That's too scary!

Zoey saw all the emotional changes in them and asked, "Hmm? It seems like you know him?"

"We... We are just curious. Why isn't he here with you?"

"Ms. Lopez, we heard that men of Erudia are especially caring to their wives!"

Given the years of experience in mingling with Keerea's upper-class elites, the nurses knew when to hold their tongue.

They changed the subject there and then.

"Oh, he must have had some business to deal with. That's why he couldn't come!"

Zoey didn't think much. The nurses reacted simply too quickly and didn't reveal much of what they actually knew.

They knew Levi couldn't come because they knew where he was...

Days passed.

Blood King Palace was way stronger than what Erudia had expected.

Fortunately, Levi was in command and could still hold them back.

All he needed was more time.

Two tormenting months went by.

That day, Levi was feeling uneasy. He couldn't put his mind to anything he was doing.

If everything went as planned, the baby would be due within these two days.

His nerves showed a high probability that Zoey was in labor.

"Zoey, I've failed you! I didn't hold a proper wedding for you. I couldn't even take care of you when you deliver the baby!" Levi mumbled under his breath.

He understood that it wasn't a matter of compensation.

In what way could he possibly make it up to her?

He had been perpetually absent during all these important moments.

In what way could he make it up to her?

"Sorry, Zoey!" he said as he clenched his fists.

There was no time for sorrow as he once again battled with Blood King Palace.

At a hospital in Keerea.

Zoey faced another major juncture in her life...

The Lopez and Black families were waiting outside the operation room.

Emma wanted to come too but Zoey said no.

"Waaa..."

After a nerve-racking long wait, a wail finally broke the silence.

It's the baby!

At last, the baby's born!

It's a girl!

Zoey gave birth to a baby girl.

She was overjoyed with tears.

Levi, while fighting on the battlefield, felt relieved all of a sudden. He charged to the front line and brawled with the elite warriors of Blood King Palace.

"Zoey, what are you gonna name her?" Everyone's hopeful eyes fell upon Zoey.

"Let's call her Forlevia Lopez," she said without any hesitation.

It was obvious that she had already thought it through.

"For-levi-a? Isn't that ... "

Aaron stopped Caitlyn before she could finish her question.

Everyone there knew what that name implied.

They could also tell how much Zoey loved Levi especially these two months in Stellar City. She even sent someone to look for him discreetly when she was heavily pregnant.

Although Zoey had made up her mind, she was still holding on to the fleeting glimpse of hope.

However, the three-month wait had ground that glimpse of hope to bits.

He never came.

It seemed like he was hiding from the Garrison clan.

In less than a month, the bet between them would come due.

Forlevia!

Zoey wanted to forget Levi Garrison, once and for all!

She wanted to have no more ties with him!

"Dad, mom, let's pack up and leave for Erudia! I can't stay here any longer," said Zoey.

"But you just gave birth. Your body's still very weak..." Everyone was concerned.

"Nah, It's alright! I can handle it!" She was persistent.

Everyone went back to Erudia that night.

Winsor escorted them home. That was his mission, after all.

Zoey insisted on returning to Erudia in a rush as she had something important to deal with.

Emma stood at the entrance of Royal Villa in North Hampton. She had been waiting for Zoey's return.

She rushed up to Zoey the moment she saw her.

"What are you doing here? Go away! You're not welcome here! You have nothing to do with this child!" Aaron and Caitlyn immediately stepped in and stood in her way.

Abashed, Emma looked at Zoey and pleaded, " Zoey, let me take care of you and your baby! I'll pay the deeds for that unfilial son of mine!"

"Yes, you should! That son of yours has wronged Zoey in such atrocious ways. It's only fair that you pay penance!" chimed in the rest.

"Emma, it's alright. My girl and I will be fine without you. Also, I am done with him and no one's at fault!" Zoey was firm with her words.

"Alright then. Take good care of yourself and the baby, Zoey." Emma sighed helplessly as she turned around and left.

"Emma, wait!" Zoey called out.

"Yes?"

"Come, have a look at the baby," Zoey continued.

Emma walked into the manor and burst into tears upon seeing the little baby.

As she held the baby girl, she felt the blood bond between them.

Won't it be nice if Levi never left?

How blissful it'd be to have a family!

What a shame!

This unfilial son ran away, just like Tyrone.

"Right, times up! Off you go. You're not welcome here!" Meredith shooed Emma away.

"Oh, before I forget. The baby's name is Forlevia Lopez! You can see how determined Zoey is now, right? So stay out of our sight!" sniggered Meredith as she slammed the gate shut.

Thud!

Emma quivered.

Zoey has made up her mind.

She showed me the child and proclaimed that she had fully severed ties with Levi.

The child's name...

Emma cried the whole way home...

As far as she was concerned, her life was an utter failure.

Not only did she fall for a heartless man, even her son turned out to be like him.

What a foundered life....

The Garrison clan in Oakland City

"Someone told me that Levi's child was born. Is that true?" Tyrone asked.

"Yeah, she delivered in Keerea and she is back in North Hampton. They named her Forlevia Lopez," responded Damien as he nodded.

He knew everything about Zoey and also the people around her.

Tyrone was absolutely delighted. "Haha, that's wonderful! His kid doesn't deserve the name Garrison! Not over my dead body will she bear the honor of the Garrison clan! Right, still no news of Levi? It has been three months!"

"Yeah, nothing! I would've found his body if he were dead. But there was nothing. It was almost as if he'd vanished into thin air... How is that even possible!" Damien frowned.

"That bugger is quite something to be able to avoid all our detections," Tyrone blabbed on as the corner of his mouth twitched.

"He's most probably out of Erudia. What a pathetic coward!" Damien scowled.

"Well, our bet is coming due pretty soon! I wonder how many people are following this. Who knew that this kiddo would hole up! He is nothing but a joke! Hahaha..." Tyrone let out a hearty laugh.

And again he affirmed his action of disowning Levi.

The folds on Damien's forehead remained as he popped another question, "Father, what if Levi came back on the very day the bet comes due?"

"Hmm?"

This question stumped Tyrone.

This is actually possible.

Levi might be keeping his trump card hidden all this while until the day the bet comes due.

"That's impossible!" Tyrone immediately argued. "Levi wasn't even around when his own child was born; how could he ever show up now?"

Damien nodded. "You're right. If he could leave during such a moment, there'd be even less reason for him to show up for the bet."

"Don't worry. He'll become a laughingstock if he doesn't show up."

Tyrone's face was full of contempt and mockery.

Damien sighed, "What a shame. We won't be able to see the look on Levi's face when he gets completely trashed and start begging for mercy."

Still, Damien and Tyrone hoped that Levi would come.

They wanted to show him just how powerful the Garrisons were.

They were untouchable!

Insurmountable!

How they wanted Levi to regret spewing such insolent words back then.

More than anything, they wanted to prove that Damien was more powerful than he was.

Most importantly, Tyrone had made the right decision.

Emma wants to make me regret it?

Like that'll ever happen!

What will I ever regret now that Levi has run away?

For the entire month, Zoey remained occupied despite having just given birth.

She had integrated all the resources of the Morris Group.

The woman insisted on walking the path that Levi hadn't managed to finish.

Under the combined effort of herself and Iris, Morris Group obtained notable results within a month and was now back on track.

This utterly puzzled Zoey.

Why didn't Levi work harder?

He had all the resources and connections.

It didn't take that much effort to produce results at all.

On top of that, he's so much capable than I am.

Yet, he chose to give up...

Zoey heaved a sigh.

I guess he's been planning to run off since the beginning.

All the concern he has shown me during those months was probably just to make him feel better.

Time flew by quickly, and the day of the bet between Levi and Tyrone had come.

If Levi hadn't disappeared, he would have had to be in Oakland City today to challenge the Garrisons.

If he were to succeed, he would be allowed to join them.

Otherwise, only death awaited him.

Meanwhile, Levi had been at war with Blood King Palace for four consecutive months at the battlefield of North Base One.

This time, he was adamant about completely annihilating his enemy.

"Oh, isn't today supposed to be the day of my bet with Tyrone?" Levi asked while puffing on a cigarette.

"That's right."

"Since you can't make it this time, I'm guessing the Garrison clan—or maybe even the whole of Oakland—is laughing at you."

"That's for sure. You'll surely be made a laughingstock for not showing up. That's inevitable."

Azure Dragon and the others responded to Levi simultaneously.

"Let him have his fun while it lasts," Levi remarked with a smile. "By the way, how are Zoey and the child?"

Phoenix reported everything about Zoey to Levi.

Levi's brows furrowed several times in the process, feeling as though he was right next to his wife.

Oakland City was in complete shock today.

Tens of thousands of eyes fell on the Garrison clan.

Despite knowing that Levi wouldn't come, Tyrone had decided to conduct the ceremony of accepting a challenge.

The high-ranking members of the Garrisons gathered at the entrance of the family home, with Tyrone seated on a chair.

Damien and the other juniors stood next to him on each side.

Members like Finnick, Hugh, and Titus were present too.

Whether or not Levi would show up, their stance remained.

"I've placed a bet with Levi Garrison today. I'm here in front of the Garrison family home and hereby declare that I accept his challenge!" roared Tyrone.

As the leader of the Grey Wolf Squad, Hugh is too tough of an opponent.

Finnick is a high-ranking official, so that makes him untouchable too.

When it comes to martial arts, Titus is the guardian of the Garrisons. There's probably some hope for Levi in this regard.

If we were to compete business-wise, he might stand a chance against Damien, who owns five percent of the business.

Still, it's nothing but a glimmer of hope.

Many in Erudia knew of the bet between the father and son.

Hence, a large number of citizens of Oakland City now surrounded the Garrison family home.

Such people included Tiffany Meyers and Martin Preston.

Even Benny Quinton and Abigail Rogers had come.

Unlike others, these few were here to watch how Levi crush the Garrison clan.

They knew who Levi's true identity, after all.

Most of the others had come just to watch the show.

Jason Lowe was here simply because he felt sorry for his friend.

He wished Levi would run far away instead of showing up.

"Alright. Time's up," the Garrison household butler announced. "Levi Garrison has yet to turn up, which means he has forfeited the challenge! A coward like him doesn't deserve to be part of the clan. Thus, from here on, we'll retract his last name. He shall longer be a Garrison!"

At this instant, Levi became the biggest joke in town.

He was now labeled an absolute disgrace and humiliation.

Abigail clenched her fists. "Why aren't you here yet, Levi? Hurry up!"

Tiffany inhaled deeply. How she looked forward to seeing her Prince Charming reign terror upon the Garrison clan.

Unfortunately, Levi had already been missing for several months.

Hence, it was extremely unlikely that he would show up now.

Tyrone had even gone out of his way to bring Emma over.

Now, he turned to her and smirked. "Is there something you'd like to say now? Haha! Do you still think the same way? That you'd take Levi here before me and declare that your son is undefeatable? That the Garrisons would deeply regret it?"

Hearing the man's sneers, Emma could only look down in despair.

Of course I'd want to do all that.

But I guess that's just wishful thinking.

At this point, she wanted nothing else but for Levi to show up.

Even if things may not turn out well, it's only right that he shows up.

That's how he should be; at least his conscience would be clear.

He shouldn't be hiding away like this!

Some traits are more important than life itself!

Olivia gazed at Emma with a disdainful smile. "Your son is an absolute joke, Emma. A disgrace! He's not fit to be a Garrison, nor is he ever comparable to Damien. The Garrisons officially gave you a chance, but he chose not to take it! If your son were truly powerful and won the challenge, both he and you would've been able to join the family and return to Tyrone's side."

The crowd began to comment. "We expect nothing less from the top ancient family in Erudia. Such a presence and sense of tolerance are indeed rare!"

Many citizens had nice things to say about the Garrisons accepting Levi's challenge.

Olivia smiled triumphantly and continued, "It's just unfortunate that your son doesn't even have the guts to show up, let alone win the challenge. What a useless wimp! I heard he even left his wife, child, and mother behind! He doesn't deserve to be a man—no, he doesn't even deserve to live!"

Upon hearing Olivia's insults, Emma gripped her fists so hard that her nails dug into her flesh.

Yet, there was nothing she could do to fight back.

Because Olivia had said nothing but the truth.

"The Garrisons are the number one ancient family in Erudia. Honestly, we don't ask a lot from him. Just be brave to show up for the challenge is more than enough. In fact, it doesn't even matter if he loses; he won't necessarily have to die. Yet, he doesn't even have the courage to stand here before us?" Olivia scoffed.

"Who says I don't?"

A cold voice suddenly rang out.