"Zoey turned you down, Jacky! She even let her bodyguard beat them up!" Leslie replied.

"How dare she?" Jacky roared, his eyes glinting murderously.

"No one should have the guts to turn me down! Whoever turns me down is already a dead person in my book!" Jacky said furiously.

At that very moment, Derek returned with his subordinates.

They all sported black eyes, split lips and a multitude of bruises and injuries.

Derek instantly collapsed in a bow in front of Jacky and cried out, "You have to help us!"

"Tell me everything that happened!" Jacky's face was as dark as coal.

"We went to invite Zoey over on your behalf, but she was incredibly disrespectful! When I brought up your name, she even swore at you! We were about to use force when her bodyguard beat us all up!" Derek took some liberties with his storytelling.

Jacky couldn't care less about how true the story was.

From that, he understood Zoey had turned him down and beat his subordinates up.

This was a clear slap to his face!

"You're all garbage! You can't even bring one person to me! What do I keep you all around for?" Jacky roared in anger.

He hadn't thought that he'd need to personally step out for something like this.

Leslie was terrified.

Jacky changed the topic. "Still, there's no one on earth that I can't invite!"

He looked at Leslie. "Go and tell Zoey Lopez that she has to come bow before me before tonight ends. If not, they'll all end up like Brock Green!"

"Understood!"

Soon enough, Leslie arrived at the Black family manor.

By now, everyone knew Leslie was one of the puppets of the mysterious force that had taken over South City.

They were terrified at the mere sight of him.

"What are you here for, Mr. Davies?" Bailey asked respectfully.

"Bring Zoey Lopez out right now!" Leslie commanded in a cold voice.

Very quickly, Zoey walked out of the house with Sylas by her side.

"Zoey, this is your last warning! Jacky demanded for you to go and kneel before him by tonight, or else all of you will suffer the same fate as Brock Green!"

After that, Leslie left.

"Who's Jacky? In fact, what happened to Brock?" Zoey asked, confused.

"Zoey, you're in big trouble!"

After Meredith and the others told Zoey what was going on, her expression changed to one of terror.

She hadn't known that her mysterious inviter was such a terrifying person.

The Blacks were all incredibly worried.

They had purposely invited Sylas to be Zoey's bodyguard so they could prevent her from getting in danger.

They hadn't expected her to really cause trouble!

"What should we do?" Bailey asked.

Zoey said firmly, "I'm not going. I don't even know him! Why would I go?"

Sylas nodded. "That's right. I'm on Ms. Lopez's side. With me here, no one can hurt her, anyway."

Bailey instantly rebutted, "It's no longer about whether you go. You have to go! Jacky is much too strong. He killed people as strong as Brock and the Grandmaster! If you don't go, we'll all be in big trouble."

Russell asked, "If she goes, won't she be in danger?"

"No, of course not. Jacky purposely invited her. If he really wanted to harm her, he wouldn't have sent someone over to invite her. He would have just snatched and killed her," Pamela mused.

They all saw sense in that.

Meredith said, "Zoey, you should go! Do it for the sake of the family. Don't worry, nothing will happen to you!"

"Grandma, I-" Zoey was finally wavering.

"She's not going!" A voice suddenly rang out.

Levi had arrived.

He scoffed coldly, "If he wants to invite her, then he should come to beg for himself!"

They became outraged at his comment.

"What are you saying, Levi?"

"You better not let Jacky hear you! If not, you'll die a really painful death!"

"What are you even here for? You and Zoey are already divorced. You have no right to boss her around!"

The Black family members glared at Levi, their gaze full of hatred.

Levi smirked, "I have no right? Have you forgotten that we're still business partners? Since this has to do with Zoey's safety, of course I have to butt in!"

When she saw Levi, Zoey became much more at ease.

However, Meredith glared at Sylas. "Didn't I tell you not to let Levi near Zoey? Get rid of him! While you're at it, you can really prove yourself to us."

Meredith just wanted to use Sylas to teach Levi a lesson.

She wanted him to stay far away from her granddaughter.

"Grandma, I'll go, alright? Don't bother Levi."

Zoey finally agreed. Only then did Meredith relax. "Okay. Go, quickly. Sylas, follow her. If anything happens, let me know!" After they walked outside, Levi called out, "You're not going." Sylas looked at Levi before saying, "Ms. Lopez, I might hate his guts, but he's right. You can't go." "Okay, I'll listen to you two," Zoey said with a nod. The three of them booked a hotel room to stay in for the night. Back at the Davies family, Jacky and the others were still working. "Jacky, I've already told her to come! Even if she doesn't want to come, the Black family will still force her to come. In fact, they just called to say that she's on her way!" Leslie reported with a smile. Jacky nodded, satisfied. "Looks like the Black family knows their stuff." Leslie and some others chuckled. "You really broke records with what you did last night! Now, the entire South City is scared of you!" "Is that so? Now we wait." Jacky closed his eyes to rest them for a bit. At 10 p.m., the doors remained closed. It stayed the same at 11 p.m..

At midnight, Jacky's eyes shot open. "Where is she?" he asked coldly. "She has yet to arrive," Leslie reported, bowing his head. He had set up some people on watch nearby, but they hadn't spotted Zoey at all. "Would you like me to ask the Black family?" Leslie asked cautiously. "There's no need. She's not coming," Jacky said with a chuckle. Leslie, Derek and the others waited with bated breath around him. Despite his chuckle, he was actually furious. This was already two huge slaps to the face. He couldn't just take that lying down. "She clearly doesn't give a sh\*t about me. Oh, well, I still refuse to believe that I can't force her to come!" Jacky said with a sinister smile. "I'll slowly force you out of your little hiding spot!" Jacky continued chuckling darkly to himself. Clearly, he already had a plan. Besides, his master wasn't here yet, so he could take his time. Nothing happened the whole night.

The Black family were under the impression that Zoey had really gone to Jacky. The next day, she arrived at her office and spotted a gift box on her desk. "Who is this from?" Zoey asked. "I don't know, Ms. Lopez. It's been here since just now," her secretary replied, just as confused. "Open it and check," Zoey said. The secretary seemed a little nervous, not daring to open it up. "I'll do it!" Sylas stepped forward and opened the box. "Oh!" The moment the box opened, Zoey and Sylas immediately went pale in terror. Thump. The secretary, who was in no way as brave as the others, collapsed on the ground in a dead faint.

The reason behind that was simple. The box contained ten fingers that had been chopped off, and they were still oozing blood at the time.

If Zoey wasn't mentally strong, she would've passed out right then and there.

Sylas, on the other hand, remained calm.

"I'll go deal with this. Don't worry," promised Sylas before she took the box away and took the secretary to the infirmary.

"Ms. Lopez, this is obviously their doing!" claimed Sylas with a grim expression on.

She had thought that her job as a security guard would be simple, never would she expected to encounter something that serious on her first day.

That was fine for her, though, because it would've been too boring otherwise.

"Ms. Lopez, should I go deal with the perpetrator?" asked Sylas.

Sylas was a warrior, so she was fearless.

"No, you can't go!"

The phone in the office rang at that moment, and Zoey went to pick it up.

The unfamiliar voice of a man came through, "Is this Ms. Zoey Lopez?"

"Yes, and who are you?" asked Zoey.

"Ms. Lopez is so forgetful. I sent an invitation twice yesterday, and you've already forgotten about me. I am Jacky Lawson. Remember that."

"You!" growled Zoey as an icy expression settled on her face.

"By the way, Ms. Lopez, have you received my gift? Do you like it?" asked Jacky before he chuckled aloud.

"Are you threatening me? Well, too bad, because I am not afraid!" replied Zoey coolly.

"Ms. Lopez is so imposing. You are the first person who ever dared reject my request, and I admire that. However, I will be giving you a gift every day from now on. Please look forward to it."

Beep! Beep! Beep!

Jacky hung up immediately after.

Zoey sighed a long breath of relief.

She was eerily pale at the time, and she'd be lying if she said that she wasn't afraid.

A gift every day? I got bloody fingers today, so what's next? An arm? A leg? Or maybe even a human head?

When Zoey thought about that, her breathing became uneven, and she was so terrified that all the color drained from her face.

It seemed that she had gotten herself into a heap of trouble.

"Sylas, should I just go to him? We can't let this go on."

Zoey was already starting to raise her white flag. She was worried about making a bigger mess if she persisted. "Ms. Lopez, something terrible happened," said an employee suddenly as he rushed in nervously. "What's wrong?" asked Zoey. "Someone just discovered Barry from the sanitization department on the washroom floor. All ten of his fingers were chopped off..." "What?" Boom! Zoey's mind went blank, and even Sylas looked affected. So the "gift" I just received... Seems like they had already looked into everyone close to me, and they might target anyone. Barry of the sanitization department is the victim of the day. My secretary might be the next victim, and members of the Black family might be targeted as well. Zoey was devastated when she thought about that possibility. She felt out of breath. That was when Meredith called her suddenly.

"Zoey, did you not go to the Davies family residence yesterday?" asked Meredith anxiously.

"No, I didn't, grandma," replied Zoey honestly.

"Ah, you've made a huge mess this time, young lady. A handful of the Black family's maids went missing today, and we still can't reach them," informed Meredith, who sounded worried.

"You know what? Find a way and go clean up the mess you've made, or we might be the ones who go missing next!" urged Meredith.

Boom!

Zoey was on the verge of breaking down.

That was just the first day, and her family might be the ones getting hurt in the following days.

What do I do?

Two streams of tears rolled down Zoey's cheeks silently.

"Ms. Lopez, I will go deal with them right away," growled Sylas angrily.

Zoey shook her head and replied, "That won't do. They are operating from the shadows while we are wide open."

Sylas was stumped.

She could deal with anything if it were all laid out in plain sight, but she was not good at dealing with schemes and hidden traps.

"Then what should we do?" asked Sylas, who felt a headache coming.

That was only their first day!

Zoey calmed her employees down and sent the injured to the hospital, but she was getting more and more worried.

An invisible threat was looming over her head, and she was in a position where she couldn't do anything even though she knew that she was in danger...

"I should've listened to grandma last night and drop by the Davies family residence," murmured Zoey, who was starting to regret her decision.

She didn't realize that rejecting a simple invitation would bring about a problem that big.

Even Sylas couldn't help but bite her lip a little.

I shouldn't have acted so impulsively and caused such a mess.

At the Davies family's residence.

"The Black family is in a mess now, Jacky, and the people at Oriental Star Group are terrified as well," informed Derek with a smile.

Jacky grinned evilly. "That's what I was aiming for. Zoey Lopez rejected my offer, in return, I shall make her live in fear for the rest of her life!"

Leslie laughed aloud and said, "Hah, rejecting Jacky Lawson. That woman doesn't know what's good for her."

Jacky laughed as well. "Honestly though, I am curious about the kind of woman who dares to go against me."

"I have a photo of her, Jacky. Here," said Derek as he showed Jacky a few photos of Zoey.

"Huh?"

Jacky's eyes glowed when he saw Zoey's photos.

He grinned as he examined the photo closely, and it seemed like he was extremely excited about it.

Jacky's reaction surprised even the two fighting experts standing beside him. One of the fighters wore a black mask while the other wore a white mask.

Master has never been lustful, nor has he ever been attracted by any women. Why is he acting strange this time? Did he see someone exotic?

"She is stunning," murmured Jacky.

Ever since Jacky was a kid, his master had been telling him that women and gambling were things that he cannot get close to. His master claimed that they would affect his future and that Jacky was destined to be great.

That was why Jacky had always been strict with his private life, and he had only ever been with a few women.

He would only be with those who truly captivated him and would ignore the rest.

It was obvious that Zoey had captivated Jacky.

He instantly changed his plan and decided that he wouldn't keep threatening or scaring Zoey.

Instead, he would make her become his!

One look at Jacky's expression, and Leslie knew just what the former was thinking.

Leslie immediately said, "Don't worry, Jacky. I will have that woman delivered to your bed tonight."

Jacky shifted his gaze to Leslie and glared, "I have lost faith in you two, so you will not carry out this mission!"

" ] . . . "

Leslie and Derek both have their heads down.

"Spread the news in the underworld. Anyone who can deliver Zoey Lopez over to me tonight will receive ten territories and two underground gambling centers," ordered Jacky.

"Understood."

The entire underworld of South City stirred upon receiving that news.

Ten territories and two underground gambling centers?

For people of underworld, the offer was simply too alluring.

Whoever gets their hands on the reward would be turned into a major player in the underworld of South City, and they would be entitled to receive Jacky's protection.

That was the kind of privilege that would tempt others to kill even the Grandmaster and Brock Green.

The entire underworld was plunged into chaos.

Over thousands of people were persuaded, and everyone wanted to personally hand Zoey over to Jacky.

Naturally, Zoey was unaware of the fact that every criminal in South City had their eyes on her.

The building where Zoey's office was located, in particular, had a lot of random strangers showing up.
Everything about Zoey was learned and shared in real-time.
Over a thousand men had their eyes on her.
Leslie couldn't help but admire Jacky's strategy.
Jacky got the entire underworld to work for him, so neither he nor his subordinat needed to show up.
That kept Jacky's identity a secret.
He's good, really good.
"I've also learned that Zoey is still a virgin, even though she has been married fo over six years. Her husband never slept with her," shared Derek.
Jacky tapped on Derek's shoulder in appreciation after hearing that. "Good, that is great news. I wouldn't have minded if she is married, but it's even better if she's a virgin. Tonight is destined to be a beautiful night. Derek, go get the room ready," said Jacky.
Leslie immediately chimed in, "Jacky, I promise that you will have a great time tonight."
"Hahaha"

The men all laughed aloud.

Night fell soon after, and the entire city fell into darkness.

Zoey and Sylas realized that the parking lot was empty when they walked out of the elevator. A chill ambushed them and made them shiver.

Sylas had her guard up as she scanned her surroundings. She sensed that something was off.

"Ms. Lopez, please get in the car before me," instructed Sylas sternly.

Her instinct told her that they were not alone.

Zoey got into the car obediently and urged, "Sylas, hurry and get into the car too. Let's leave as quickly as possible."

"It's too late for that," replied Sylas.

She had just finished speaking when shadows jumped out of every corner of the parking lot.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

A number of cars stopped simultaneously, and a handful of men got out of each car.

There were at least a few hundred men, and they surrounded the two women.

"What is going on?" blurted Zoey, who was scared witless.

She had never seen anything like that before, so she fished out her phone to ask for help.

However, she soon realized that her phone couldn't receive any signals.

A fierce-looking hooligan rushed over at that moment.

Sylas stood her ground, like a mountain of cold steel.

"F\*ck off! We only want Zoey Lopez, and bystanders can leave," barked the leader cruelly.

"You will have to get through me to get to Ms. Lopez," scoffed Sylas, whose eyes shone with determination.

"Attack!"

Over hundreds of men rushed over, and they seemed as overwhelming as a tsunami.

Sylas growled and faced them head on.

Sylas was a female warrior who had fought on the battlefield, after all, so she was ridiculously powerful.

Her skilled battle techniques shone through as soon as she started fighting.

She was so good that she knocked over a dozen men down with a single hit.

Sylas was ruthless, and she showed no mercy, so the experts from the underworld couldn't even get close to her.

A few minutes later, Sylas knocked over fifty men down.

Seeing that got the others to fear her a little.

"Boys, we will be rewarded with ten territories and two gambling centers if we capture Zoey Lopez! Attack now. She is but a woman, and she can't keep up no matter how strong she is."

Someone had shouted from the crowd and that inspired the men to push forward as if they had been drugged with a serum that gave them courage.

Sylas was the obstacle in their quest to getting rich, and everyone wanted to destroy her.

Even though Sylas was strong, there were simply too many against her.

With hundreds of men attacking simultaneously, she was slowly but surely pushed back.

Bang!

Someone finally landed a kick on Sylas.

Sylas forced herself to stand up, despite having over a dozen cuts on her.

"Kill her!"

A few men had a dagger with them, and they rushed over.

Sylas' life was on the line...

Zoey wanted to get out of the car and save Sylas, but she didn't even have the time to do so. All she could do was watch.

#### Boom!

At that crucial moment, a force that could rival that of an insanely aggressive tornado flew over, and the men who were about to kill Sylas were forced to back away.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

A series of pained moans could be heard after that.

Over a dozen men lost their ability to fight within those few nanoseconds.

All Zoey and Sylas saw was a dark shadow showing up in front of them.

The shadow was none other than Hades.

Levi's order for Hades was that he must protect Zoey, even if it meant sacrificing his own life.

As such, his mission was to destroy every single person in front of him.

Hades attacked.

He was like a leopard dashing towards his prey.

Hades had a reputation of having killed over a thousand men, and he was a country's God of War.

Compared to the soldiers in the army, the underworld hooligans were nothing but sniveling babies.

When Hades fought, he made others feel as if they had somehow fallen into the cruelest and deepest pit of hell.

It only took him about ten minutes to crush everyone and get them to moan in pain on the floor.

No one was left standing.

Both Zoey and Sylas were stupefied.

He is too powerful. H-he just crushed over a hundred men in mere minutes?

After dealing with the men, Hades walked over to Sylas and spoke in pieces. It was like he was a foreigner who was struggling to speak their language. "I here, no one hurt Ms. Lopez."

Hades left after saying his piece with a heavy accent and terrible grammar.

Brock Green's old comrades and over a hundred other experts had surrendered as soon as they saw Hades.

They didn't realize that Zoey was protected by a man that powerful.

In short, anyone who knew Hades had backed away out of fear.

Hades had, in effect, destroyed the entire underworld all on his own.

That was precisely why Levi had assigned the task of keeping Zoey safe to Hades.

Both Zoey and Sylas were surprised.

Zoey, in particular, was utterly speechless.

Someone else is protecting me? Someone that powerful, no less. His accent... He has to be from a foreign country.

"What?" shouted Jacky, who soon received the news.

"Zoey Lopez's bodyguard crushed over hundreds of men on his own? And everyone who went was defeated?"

Jacky's eyes bulged so much that it seemed like they were about to pop out of his sockets.

Everyone was in shock.

They knew that the man had, in effect, destroyed the underworld of South City.

Derek immediately added, "Zoey's personal bodyguard is too powerful, Jacky."

"Looks like I've underestimated her. No wonder she dared to reject my offer. Turns out she had something up her sleeves," mused Jacky.

"Seems like my investigation on Zoey isn't detailed enough. How about I look into her bodyguard as well?" asked Leslie.

"That won't be necessary. I refuse to believe that there is someone out there that I can't get my hands on," replied Jacky as he shook his head. After that, he added, "Hey, you two."

Jacky turned to the two men wearing masks.

"We're listening, master," replied the two men while standing up straight.

"Go and get Zoey over for me and kill anyone who gets in your way," barked Jacky coldly.

"We promise to accomplish our mission, master."

Leslie and the others drew a sharp breath.

They're both going? Isn't that a little too much?

Leslie and the others had only ever witnessed those two masked men working twice.

The men were weird, and they moved like they were performing a magic show.

One glare could literally kill someone, and a single touch could pulverize their victims.

No one can stop them.

Jacky laughed aloud. "Who would've thought that I'd find someone that powerful in South City?"

"Jacky, isn't it a little too over-the-top to send both men in?" asked Leslie, who thought that sending in one of them was sufficient.

"That is why you can't get anything done right! I want to be a hundred percent sure that this is done right," shouted Jacky as he glared over.

"Understood. Thank you for teaching me a lesson, Jacky," replied Leslie.

Meanwhile, the two fighting experts with their masks on had arrived at the Black family's manor.

"Let's just kill everyone in there," suggested the man in the white mask as his eyes shimmered with cruelty.

"Sure."

Just as the two experts were about to walk in, a shadow suddenly appeared in front of them.

Or, to be more accurate, two shadows showed up.

One of the men was hiding behind the other guy and was taking his time to reveal himself.

He had a cigarette between his lips, and the glow at the end of his cigarette was especially bright in the dark.

That man was none other than Levi Garrison.

"Barging into my territory, are we? Seems to me you have a death wish!" said Levi softly.

The two masked experts turned to one another before they attacked.

The one with the white mask specialized in speed, and he could kill without anyone seeing. His speed was so incredible that he could trick the naked eye.

Zip!

The man showed up in front of Levi in an instance, and the sharp dagger he had with him exuded a horrifying aura.

The white-masked man was simply too fast.

If anyone else was around, they would see that he was still standing in his original position.

The fact, however, was that he was already standing in front of Levi.

Swish!

The dagger seemed to be engulfed in a murderous aura.

The white-masked man was confident that he could kill Levi, but another man suddenly showed up in front of him. A huge shadow loomed over the white-masked man and blurred his vision.

"What the hell?" blurted the white-masked man as his expression changed sharply.

He couldn't believe that someone could actually keep up with him.

A sense of danger encompassed the white-masked man at the very next second.

Bang!

His chest was punched hard, and his organs were instantly crushed. His bones also shattered.

He was flying wildly like a kite with a broken string as he flew backward.

Naturally, the one who attacked was Hades.

The other expert, the black-masked man, was stunned.

He immediately rushed over and threw a merciless punch at Hades.

The black-masked man was strong, and his strength had never met its match before.

The black-masked man had once crushed a marble table and the Beast of Death with a single touch.

He could do that because he mastered the Ancient Arts of Qi, which was a traditional fighting technique thought to be mythical.

The Ancient Arts of Qi could shatter anything the hand touched, and a human body would crumble when hit.

Despite that, Hades never avoided or backed away from that attack. Instead, he used the same technique and threw his punch at a similar angle.

Bang!

The two fists met, and the booming sound of thunder was heard.

"Urk!"

The black-masked man fell backward. He spat blood at the very next second.

Crack!

Half of his mask even broke off.

Levi clapped his hand when he saw that. He praised, "Not bad, not bad at all. I made the right decision keeping you around all those years ago. White Tiger and the others no longer need to come all the way over to solve the issue."

"I am glad to be of service," replied Hades, who looked like he was truly glad to have received the compliment.

Levi and Hades walked forward.

Hades tore the white mask off of the other expert as well.

That was when they saw that the masked men had the word "slave" carved on both their faces.

At that moment, both men were trembling in fear.

Turned out, Brock Green was right. There was a being in South City that they could not afford to offend.

At the Davies family's residence.

"Hmm... The two of them had been gone for so long. Nothing bad could've happened to them, could it?" murmured Leslie, who seemed a little nervous and worried.

"Pfft, that is not possible. Those two are my master's slaves. One of them has been learning the Ancient Arts of Qi ever since he was a kid, while the other trained his speed with a leopard. They have reached a level that you cannot even imagine, so they couldn't have possibly failed," bragged Jacky as he grinned proudly.

That was why he brought those two to South City. He was confident that they were strong enough to deal with anything.

"I'm glad to hear that," said Leslie, even though his heart was still thumping with anxiety.

"My guess is that they are busy killing everyone. Given their style, it is likely that the Black family will go extinct tonight," said Jacky as he smiled.

His eyes burn Zoey.	ed with a hint of lust, and it seemed like he couldn't wait to meet
Leslie gasped	upon hearing that.
"Is that so?" a	sked a voice that suddenly rang from the other side of the door.
Bang!	
Bang!	
Two corpses v	were tossed into the room at the same time.

Jacky, Leslie, and the others were stunned when their gaze fell upon the two corpses.

A-aren't these my master's slaves? H-how did they die?

Jacky's eyes shone with surprise and confusion, while Leslie's jaw dropped so far that an egg could hatch between his lips.

Both experts were annihilated? How is that possible?

Both men were the ones who crushed Brock Green's illegal boxing match and had the entire underworld of South City on its knees!

Their strengths were practically god-like, and their techniques were like magic.

How did they die?

"N-no, tell me this isn't true," demanded Jacky with a look of mania in his eyes.

He couldn't believe what he was seeing.

Those two slaves had been with him ever since they were kids, and they had killed countless experts.

They had never been defeated before, but they died that day.

Jacky simply couldn't believe it.

What kind of monster is capable of killing them?

Tap! Tap! Tap! A series of footsteps sounded, and Levi and Hades showed up. "W-who are you?" asked Jacky in surprise. "We're the ones who have come to kill you," answered Levi calmly. Zip! Ten men, all of which were Jacky's bodyguards, hurried over to protect him. "Die!" Hades attacked. All ten men fell to the floor soon after, and the other men were utterly flabbergasted. Leslie and Derek had become so terrified that they knelt on the ground. They realized that they had offended someone they should never have bothered. Jacky, however, couldn't adapt to the new situation. He stared blankly at Levi and asked, "Who are you?" "Fine, let me help you understand why you must die. Zoey Lopez is my wife, and South City is under my protection. Anything I say goes. You killed in my territory, and that is nothing less than an invitation to death," replied Levi. Boom! Jacky felt like he had been struck by lightning after hearing what Levi said.

Jacky remembered what Brock said just before he died. Brock talked about a being in South City that could not be defeated and warned Jacky to flee as quickly as possible or he would die.

Looks like this is the guy Brock warned me about... And he is Zoey Lopez's husband!

Jacky had calmed down by then, and he looked serene when he grinned. "You truly are strong. My useless subordinates must've made a fool of themselves in front of you. May I know more about your identity?" asked Jacky.

Levi grinned.

Looks like this man is skilled in his own way. He can stay calm despite having death looming over him. No wonder Brock and the others are no match against him.

Hades scoffed, "You are not worthy of learning who he is."

"Sir, why don't we be friends instead? We haven't had any direct conflicts, and this is all just a misunderstanding. I hereby apologize for it. Moreover, my subordinates had been killed, so how about we call it even?" suggested Jacky, who tried to settle the issue.

"Oh, calling it even just like that, huh? Who do you think you are?" sneered Levi.

Jacky smiled and replied, "You don't know this, but my identity is not something an ordinary guy can handle. Settling this matter peacefully benefits you as well."

"Too bad I don't believe in any of your words. Kill him!"

Levi's eyes shot two sharp glares over.

Hades walked towards Jacky upon receiving his orders.

Jacky panicked.

"W-what do you think you're doing? Do you know who I am? Don't do something you'll regret!"

Leslie chimed in and advised as well, "Let's calm down for a moment, sirs. He truly isn't just a regular guy. We'll all be in trouble if you hurt him."

"It's true. The power supporting Jacky is not something anyone can handle," added Derek.

Jacky calmed down a lot upon hearing that.

Levi, however, simply roared cruelly, "Kill him!"

Hades continued moving forward upon hearing that.

"I am He-" shouted Jacky as loudly as he could.

Zip!

Like an arrow that flew out of a bow, Hades shot forward and killed Jacky with a single touch.

Thump!

Jacky's body fell straight onto the floor.

In the end, his evil deed caused him to pay the ultimate price.

The Davies family was in shock.

They actually killed Jacky? Before he even told them who he is?

"I know you are powerful, sir, but Jacky honestly was someone who was protected. His true identity is simply too scary," said Leslie

"I don't care who he is," said Levi as he glared coldly at him.

Hades' eyes shone with mockery.

Seriously? They're talking about true identities and protections? With this guy? Almost everyone trembles in fear when they hear this guy's title, so it's just stupid to think that he can't handle whoever's coming.

Levi and Hades left after that.

They left the Davies alone because as far as Levi was concerned, those people were nothing more than maggots that didn't deserve his attention.

The news about the demise of Jacky and his subordinates was spread throughout the underworld in South City.

Everyone was surprised to hear that.

That man was defeated?

"Our investigation finally bore fruit. The murderer is Hades, who used to be Brock's subordinate!"

"Hades truly is powerful, but he definitely bit more than he can chew this time."

"Right? I heard that Jacky's identity is feared throughout the Southern region of Erudia!"

The underworld went wild.

Everyone knew that the person protecting Jacky would be there soon, and the war had just begun.

The Davies family was particularly nervous because they knew who Jacky really was.

They understood that Jacky was just the vanguard. The rest of the army would be there soon, and that was when everything would truly change.

The news of Jacky's death was shared quickly.

Somewhere in South Hampton.

"What? My student died in South City?! Such insolence! I will have every single one of their heads for this!"

Meanwhile, Levi and Hades were at the Black family's front yard.

"Let them know that the matter has been settled," instructed Levi.

He didn't want anyone to know about his identity just yet.

Instead, he wanted to tell Zoey the truth on their wedding day.

There's no point in telling her everything now. I'll surprise her when we have the wedding of the century!

"Understood," replied Hades.

He walked into the Black family's residence and went to Zoey's place.

Sylas was injured earlier, but those were just minor injuries. Hence, she was fine after some simple treatments.

She guarded outside the door and was surprised when she saw Hades walking over.

Isn't this the guy who rescued us earlier?

"Ms. Lopez, the man who rescued us earlier is here," informed Sylas immediately.

Zoey rushed out upon hearing that.

"Ms. Lopez, I've dealt with the troublemaker, and everything is fine now," reported Hades before he turned around to leave.

"Wait, Um, thank you for your help. May I know who you are?" asked Zoey as she chased after him.

However, Hades simply left without even turning back.

"Sylas, hurry after him and find out who he is," requested Zoey.

"Okay," replied Sylas.

She was curious about Hades' true identity as well.

Something about Hades felt familiar, and Sylas was certain that she had met him before, even though she never saw his face.

Sylas later saw someone she definitely knew... Levi Garrison!

Isn't he Ms. Lopez's ex? I almost beat him up two days ago. Huh... Who would've thought that he was the one keeping Ms. Lopez safe? Wait, why is the expert following him around? Didn't the Blacks say that he is useless?

He is just a security guard from Morris Group, isn't he? So how did he pull all that off? Hold on, he also knows Ezra, from the Western Warzone... perhaps it isn't a coincidence that they met?

Countless questions were swirling inside Sylas' mind when she heard Hades asking Levi, "God of War, should I drag her out?"

Levi grinned and called out, "Come on out. You've already crouched and hidden for so long."

Upon hearing that, Sylas was startled.

She had always been proud of her skills to stay hidden.

She was at the top of her squad in that field.

Darn it, they caught me.

Sylas had no choice but to show herself. She asked curiously, "H-how long have you known?"

"I knew you were following me the second you left the house," replied Hades as he glared grouchily at Sylas. Sylas finally saw Hades' face, and she gasped, "Y-you are Hades from L Nation. Y-you...."

Sylas remembered how, a few years ago, Ezra led the army from the Western Warzone to fight against the army from L Nation.

Hades was so strong that he defeated the Western warriors over a dozen times.

In the end, the God of War had to step up and personally lead the army to defeat the L Nation's army.

The L Nation army was pulverized.

However, Hades had already left a lasting impression on the Western warriors, and that was why Sylas recognized Hades.

She was practically traumatized.

Her expression turned, and she stared at Levi with astonishment shining in her eyes.

Who the hell is he? How did he get Hades to protect Ms. Lopez? Is he someone of importance? Or perhaps a rich guy?

Levi chuckled when he saw her reaction. "You actually recognize him. Well, that is understandable. After all, you've battled against Hades when you were serving under that punk, Ezra," commented Levi.

Boom!

Levi's words blew Sylas' mind.

How does Levi Garrison know about all that? Who the hell is he?

"W-who are you?" asked Sylas.

Levi took a puff from his cigarette and grinned before instructing, "You tell her."

Hades turned to Sylas and answered, "The man standing in front of you is the nightmare of every soldier in every other country. He is the weapon of mass destruction and the devil of the battlefield, and his title is the God of War of Erudia!"

Boom!

Sylas' legs instinctively gave way upon hearing the answer and she slumped onto the ground.

The God of War? Holy cr\*p! It's the legendary God of War. No wonder he knew all about the battle at the Western Warzone and got Hades as his personal guard, he even called the head of the Western border chief, Ezra, a punk...

Sylas was horrified when she learned everything.

She knew that she had made a grave mistake.

I can't believe that I actually attacked the God of War!

Sylas stood up unsteadily before she bowed to Levi. "I, Sylas, an ex-warrior of the Western Warzone, am honored to meet you, God of War."

As far as the soldiers of Erudia were concerned, meeting the God of War was a great privilege.

Sylas was proud of herself.

She didn't realize that her job was protecting the God of War's wife.

Levi greeted politely as well.

"Please punish me for my mistakes, Chief!" said Sylas.

"Punish you? Why?" asked Levi as he frowned.

Sylas felt a little embarrassed as she reminded him, "I was rude to you the other day and almost attacked you. Please punish me for it."

Levi suddenly burst out laughing, and that got Sylas curious.

"It's true that if my wife didn't show up that day, I would've taught you a lesson, but you almost died protecting my wife. That deserves a reward, so I will ignore the previous incident. Just continue keeping my wife safe," informed Levi.

It'd save Levi a lot of trouble if someone as capable as Sylas was protecting Zoey.

"Understood. I promise I will protect Zoey with all I've got."

Sylas had already retired from the battlefield, but she still had the heart of a warrior.

From that moment on, she vowed to protect Zoey with her entire being.

After Sylas returned, Zoey asked, "How is it? Did you find out who he is?"

Sylas shook her head and replied, "I was discovered as soon as I left, Ms. Lopez, so let's not talk about it anymore. Still, you should know that the person protecting you has to be someone who cares deeply about you."

The first person that Zoey thought of was Levi, but she quickly dismissed that idea because the man seemed too powerful to be Levi.

South City turned quiet after Jacky met his demise.

However, those in the inner circle understood that the silence was just the calm before the storm.

A bloodbath was on the horizon.

The Black family knew nothing about that, of course. They simply thought that their troubles were over.

Meredith even pushed Zoey to go on blind dates.

The former had looked through a lot of profiles, but none caught her eyes.

"I feel like no one in Quebec is good enough for Zoey," claimed Meredith proudly.

"Indeed. At first, I thought that it would be a piece of cake to find Zoey a suitor. Now that we've looked, I see that there are none good enough for her, and if we aren't satisfied with these men, there is no way that Zoey would be interested in them either," said Robert who looked troubled as he sighed.

Logan and Jennie entered the room at that moment.

"Grandma, grandpa, we looked into the matter like you asked and found the perfect candidate. He meets all of your requirements, and I am certain that Zoey would love him too!" bragged Jennie.

"Tell us."

Both Meredith and Robert were excited.

"The guy is incredible. He is of mixed-blood with the perfect genes, and he is a legitimate heir. His mother is royalty from a foreign country," shared Jennie.

"Huh? A mixed-blood? That's perfect! They're tall and handsome, and have good genes," said the Blacks, who were satisfied so far.

That was a time when mixed-bloods were popular.

"What's his family like?" asked Meredith.

"Oh, his family is ridiculously powerful. His grandpa is the major shareholder at the place I work in, New Alliance Bank. In other words, his grandpa is the renowned Kurt Gates of South Hampton."

"What? Kurt Gates?"

Both Meredith and Robert were stunned.

Kurt was a reputable and respectable man in South Hampton and the president of the South Hampton Chamber of Commerce.

The fact that South Hampton was the economic district of Erudia would mean that the president of the Chamber of Commerce in that district had to be extremely powerful.

The man was probably so powerful that even an overview of his power would scare most to death.

He was one of the leading men in South Hampton's economic circles, and his wealth was comparable to that of a country.

He managed over a hundred private banks and had a great reputation in South Hampton.

He also had countless disciples and was regarded as a God among men.

In fact, he was like a mythical dragon roaming in the sky.

His grandson has got to be perfect as well.

"It was a coincidence, but his grandson, Landyn, came to New Alliance Bank to participate in an event, and I bumped into him," informed Jennie as she grinned.

"But would he agree to the marriage? Zoey's net worth is fifty billion, but that is not a lot."

The Blacks' worries had shifted. Now, they felt like they weren't good enough for him.

Jennie chuckled and replied, "You guys probably don't know about this, but Landyn was Zoey's senior when she studied overseas. He was the one who came to me, and he was delighted when he heard that Zoey got a divorce. I think he will definitely agree to a wedding. Moreover, I heard that Landyn tried to court Zoey back in the days..."

"That is great news!"

The Blacks were all excited and happy to hear it.

They could finally merge with a powerful family!

Oriental Star Group. In the CEO's office. "Ms. Lopez, something bad seems to have happened," said Sylas all of a sudden. Zoey was stunned, "Huh? Something happened?" "Check it out. There are a lot of cars parked on the ground floor," informed Sylas, who was staring out the window. Zoey walked over to take a look. As promised, ten Rolls-Royce were parked at the entrance of Oriental Star Group's building. Multiple men in tuxedos got out of the cars and stood at the side. After that, a tall guy in a white tuxedo got out of one of the cars. He looked like a mixed-blood, and his mere appearance got the spectators to praise his beauty. He brought his men and walked right into Oriental Star Group. When asked, the man's subordinate showed the receptionist and the security

guard his identity card. They were let in immediately after.

"Please take me to Ms. Lopez," requested the man.

The man was brought to Zoey's office soon after.

"Huh? Landyn?" blurted Zoey, who recognized the man.

That was the senior who courted her when she was an exchange student in a foreign country.

The guy even gave her an extravagant gift when she got married.

"You remembered me?" asked Landyn as he grinned.

"How could I forget? You helped me out a lot back in the days," replied Zoey with a smile.

Sylas had her guard up as she stared at Landyn.

She had been paying attention to the men around Zoey ever since she received her orders from Levi.

Sylas didn't like the guy standing in front of her. Not. One. Bit!

"Aren't you working overseas, Landyn? What brought you here?" asked Zoey curiously.

Landyn chuckled. "Aww, that proves that you have never paid any attention to me. I am actually a citizen of Erudia."

"Huh? I know that you're a mixed-blood, but I never realized that you're from Erudia," blurted Zoey in surprise.

"Yeah, my grandpa and dad are from South Hampton while my mom is from a foreign country."

"Oh, I see."

Landyn had his eyes on Zoey when he asked, "By the way, Zoey, I heard that you got divorced."

"I..." said Zoey, who didn't quite know how to explain the situation.

A piece of paper couldn't change the love she shared with Levi.

Moreover, Levi planned on throwing another wedding, so...

"Hahaha, yeah, I know all about it," said Landyn, who then added, "Do I have a shot with you now?"

Zoey was stunned to hear that question all of a sudden.

She couldn't turn him down even if she wanted to.

After all, she and Levi had signed the papers and were officially divorced.

Hence, Landyn had every right to court her.

"Let's not joke about that, Landyn. I am focused on my career and have no plan to worry about my personal life for the time being," replied Zoey politely with a smile.

"You need a man to keep you safe. Hasn't the past two days taught you anything? Your business is growing exponentially, and the danger you'll face will only become worse," reminded Landyn as he grinned.

Given his influence, it was easy for him to learn all about what Zoey had been through.

Zoey was surprised. She turned to him and asked, "Wait, were you the one who rescued me?"

Zoey suddenly recalled how the expert who saved her couldn't speak the language well and sounded like a foreigner.

Thinking back, that man could be Landyn's subordinate.

"I just remembered that the guy who rescued me has a heavy accent," blurted Zoey happily.

Sylas stood nervously at the side.

She wanted to voice up, but she was not in a position to do so.

The one who saved you was Hades, and he was there on Levi's orders!

Sylas turned to Landyn. She was curious about how he would reply.

Landyn was also stunned when he heard what Zoey said.

"Aww, you guessed it. That takes all the fun and mystery out of it. Yeah, you're right. I'm the one who sent the guy to keep you safe, and I am the one who personally dealt with the matter," claimed Landyn with a straight face on.

Upon hearing that, Sylas felt like vomiting blood.

Just how shameless is this guy? How dare you claim all the merit? The God of War was the one responsible for it, and it has nothing to do with you! Besides, what makes you think you can get Hades to work for you? L Nation might be a small country, but he is still a God of War!

"Huh? So it really is you, Landyn? Thank you so much!" replied Zoey with a smile.

"I wasn't going to tell you anything, but you guessed it all," said Landyn as he grinned.

Landyn shamelessly admitted to it because he didn't see any issue arising from his lies.

All he had to do was get someone to contact Hades and get the guy under his payroll.

"Thank you for rescuing me and my family while we were in grave danger," said Zoey appreciatively.

"I will keep you safe for the rest of your life," promised Landyn before he added, "Alright, I'll take my leave now so I don't disrupt you working."

Landyn could tell that Zoey felt awkward, so he left immediately.

After all, he was a smart man, and he knew how to take advantage without overstepping.

After leaving Oriental Star Group.

One subordinate asked, "Given your background, you can have any woman you want, so why her? Zoey Lopez seems pretty ordinary."

"It's true. There are tons of women just like her out there," chimed in another subordinate.

Landyn replied with a smile, "To tell you boys the truth, I have had hundreds of women, and no one had ever rejected my advances before. She was the first, and I feel like she is special. There is no reason I can't conquer that woman."

The others grinned mischievously. They finally understood what Landyn was aiming for.

"Besides, grandpa is gravely ill, and the fortune teller said that I can repel all bad luck if I marry that woman. Only then would grandpa's illness be cured. The wedding would also bring good fortune to the Gates family. In short, she is nothing but a tool to bring good luck and cure grandpa. It just so happens that I want to conquer her as well, so there's that. Why else would I marry a divorcee?" informed Landyn as he smiled.

Everyone instantly understood that marrying Zoey was primarily to bring good fortune.

That night.

Everyone was smiling when Zoey got home, and that got Zoey suspicious.

"Zoey, I found a great suitor for you," informed Meredith with a smile.

"What?" blurted Zoey, who was stunned.

"Zoey, this suitor is really something else. His grandfather is the president of the South Hampton Chamber of Commerce, his father is the head of the New Alliance Bank in Erudia, and his mother is the president of the Association of Foreign Enterprises.

To top it off, his maternal grandfather is also royalty in a foreign country! His family owns hundreds of banks, and anyone who wanted to do business in South Hampton would need his family's permission first," informed Jennie.

It sounded exaggerated, but it was true.

"Given his family background, the actual guy doesn't seem so important, but Zoey, he is amazing as well! He owns over a dozen racecar clubs and about ten electronic companies. His influence is everywhere! He is also tall, handsome, and is a mixed-blood. He basically doesn't have any shortcomings."

Everyone had praised Landyn so much that it sounded like he was an angel from heaven.

Realization dawned on Zoey soon after.

They're probably talking about Landyn.

"Oh, and you actually know this guy, Zoey," added Jennie.

That confirmed Zoey's suspicion.

"Thank you for all the effort you put in, grandma, but I won't be dealing with my personal life at the moment. I have my eyes set on my career, and this is a crucial moment, so I don't want anyone to distract me," replied Zoey politely.

"Hahaha..."

Meredith laughed aloud.

"Zoey, if this is just an ordinary guy like Levi Garrison, I definitely wouldn't let him get in the way of your career. However, we are talking about the heir of the Gates family! Marrying him would not negatively affect your career. In fact, it would give your career a tremendous boost!"

The others chimed in as well. "It's true. All it takes is one word from him, and you will be raised to the top."

"I've also looked into the matter and know that he used to court you. He has been in love with you this entire time, Zoey," said Jennie as she grinned.

Meredith also insisted, "Zoey, this wedding must happen, and I will be planning for it."

The Black family was overjoyed. Meredith and Robert had already made their decisions. They were only informing Zoey about it. "Grandpa, Grandma, I..." Zoey was about to speak when Robert interrupted, "Zoey, you have no reason not to like him. My decision is final." "Dad, Mom, Mr. Gates is here!" Instantly, Jennie rushed outside to welcome him in. Landyn Gates had arrived with ten Rolls-Royce. His subordinates were the ones to carry his many gifts. They slowly moved them into the Black family's home. Robert and the rest were grinning from ear to ear. It was then Zoey realized that she had been sold by her family. They had made their decision on this matter a long time ago.

All she needed to do was to marry Landyn.

"Here are some small gifts. I hope you'll accept it," Landyn uttered politely.

The "small gifts" he mentioned were expensive and rare supplements.

The smiles on the Blacks widened.

Even Graham and Felix had come.

After all, Kurt Gates was the President of the South Hampton Chamber of Commerce.

He was wealthier than many countries, and he had a certain amount of control over the economy.

His status in the society was much higher than them.

Graham and Felix praised, "This is amazing. He's reputable yet friendly! God must favor Zoey for her to be able to marry a man like him!"

Meanwhile, Aaron and Caitlyn had returned from North Hampton. When they saw Landyn, they were thrilled.

Someone as great as him is interested in Zoey?

"Zoey, look at how many capable young men you have missed out on because of Levi," Caitlyn grumbled.

Aaron laughed boisterously. "I like this son-in-law!"

Caitlyn urged, "Dad, Mom, you'll be the ones to decide. Hurry up and settle their marriage."

They left no room for Zoey to pitch in her opinion.

In fact, she was even chased out of the conversation.

"Don't meddle in this. We'll decide this for you. We're only doing this for your own good," Caitlyn fumed.

At the manor.

The Blacks, the Zachses, Landyn, and Zoey's parents were having a discussion about Zoey's marriage.

"What we're hoping for is to let the two of you engage and marry as quickly as possible. What about you? What are your parents' thoughts?" Meredith asked.

Landyn smiled. "My grandpa and parents told me it's up to me. How about this? Let's pick a date for the engagement first."

Meredith and the others were ecstatic to hear Landyn's agreement on it.

"I've looked at the dates. The day after tomorrow is an auspicious day. Why don't we set the engagement on that day?" Robert suggested.

"Sure. No problem. My grandpa and parents will be there too," Landyn laughed.

Everyone in the Gates family knew about it.

Recently, Kurt had fallen ill, and the doctors had said that he might not have long left.

A fortune-teller had told them that Landyn had to marry Zoey to change his fate. That way, Kurt would recover from his illness.

Furthermore, their marriage would bring fortune to Landyn.

Marrying Zoey brought no disadvantages to the Gates family.

In other words, Zoey was but a tool for them.

The Gates family had only chosen her because Landyn liked her and because she was a virgin.

Otherwise, Kurt would never let his grandson marry a divorced woman.

Their marriage was only for the sake of Kurt's illness.

In different circumstances, the Gates family would have been humiliated by their choice.

"Now that all of you have agreed to it, what about Zoey? I'm afraid that she won't agree to this marriage," Landyn said.

The crowd stiffened before they shared a look.

Caitlyn smiled. "Don't worry, Mr. Gates. Zoey is beyond delighted. Why wouldn't she agree with it?"

Aaron added, "That's right. If Zoey didn't agree to it, she'll already be kicking up a fuss. But look. She's nowhere to be found, so that means she agrees to it."

The Black family were lying through their teeth.

Jennie was keeping an eye on Zoey and making sure that the latter could not even get a chance to speak.

"Is that so? I'm relieved then. We'll have the engagement on the day after tomorrow at Stardust Hotel. My family will come too," Landyn replied.

"Of course. We'll meet again on the day after next."

Meredith and the others could not keep their smiles off their faces.

Soon, the shocking news spread across South City.

The grandson of Kurt, Landyn, was marrying the granddaughter of the Black family.

As Kurt's grandson, Landyn was instantly placed under the spotlight.

After all, Kurt was a prominent figure in the South Hampton corporate world.

Every neighboring country had heard of his name.

He was the president of the South Hampton Chamber of Commerce.

He was the man who ruled over the economy.

The Gates family were like royals.

They owned hundreds of private banks.

Zoey, too, was in the spotlight.

She was married for six years before she divorced, and her ex-husband had been in jail for six years.

Essentially, it was as if she had never married.

Furthermore, the Blacks had intentionally slandered Levi's reputation. They told the public that Levi was a horrible man who had left her after receiving ten million from them. Not to mention, Levi had refused to admit that he had taken the bribery from the Blacks.

With that, many were cursing at Levi.

Soon, the entire South City found out about Zoey and Landyn's engagement.

Even the citizens of South Hampton had found out about it.

A commotion broke out in the upper echelon society in South City.

The reason being Kurt would be attending his grandson's engagement the day after the next.

For a man like him to come to South City was as though God himself was arriving.

Anyone who managed to build a relationship with Kurt would have a bright future secured.

Many upper-class families began to envy the Black family. They could barely believe their good luck in having a union marriage with the Gates family.

The Black family was destined to be a powerful family in South City. In fact, it was likely that they would rise to become the wealthiest family there.

In the course of just one afternoon, dozens of significant figures came to visit the Black family.

Once upon a time, these people looked down on the Black family.

Both Meredith and Robert were beyond excited.

From now on, the Blacks would have connections with people in the military, corporate, and political world.

They had Russell in the military world, Logan in the political world, and Zoey in the corporate world.

The Black family was about to rise to the top.

Even Caitlyn and Aaron were sighing in disbelief at the consequences of Zoey and Levi's divorce.

The fact that they were going to be Landyn's future parents-in-law stunned them.

From now on, they were free to do anything in Quebec and even South Hampton.

They dared not imagine this in the past.

"You're still too inexperienced. If Zoey had been by my side earlier, this would have happened long ago," Meredith lamented.

Aaron flashed her an embarrassed smile. "Mom, you're definitely much better at planning than us."

"Hahaha! Of course!"

Meredith and Robert were proud of how things had turned out.

Just then, Zoey ran over to them.

She had just found out about her engagement with Landyn; the Black family had never told her about it.

She could not believe that the entire South City had heard about it but her.

"Grandpa, Grandma, why did you arrange a marriage for me without asking for my opinion? Why did everyone find out about the engagement before I did?" Zoey seethed.

"Zoey, your marriage has been decided. This is all for your own good." Meredith waved her hands dismissively.

"No! I don't agree with this marriage. I don't even love him!" Zoey rejected.

"Then who do you love?" Meredith asked in a grave tone.

"The one I love is Levi Garrison!"

Her words made everyone present stop in their tracks. She still loves Levi? Everyone had thought that Zoey had given up on Levi. "I'll be honest with all of you. I won't marry again. Even if I do, the only husband that I'll accept is Levi," Zoey announced with a look of resolve in her eyes. "You..." Meredith jumped to her feet, furious. At that moment, she was tempted to slap Zoey. "You don't have a choice. You must marry Landyn, and you must attend the engagement ceremony tomorrow," Meredith hissed. "Sylas, keep an eye on her," Robert ordered. It was then Sylas argued, "Although it's not my place to say anything, I still want to say my piece. It's inappropriate for Ms. Lopez to marry into the Gates family. It's rumored that the Gates family agreed to Landyn's marriage with Ms. Lopez because they need her to change Kurt's fate. If she marries into the Gates family, she won't be happy. She's nothing but a tool for them!" "Nonsense!"

Meredith slammed her hand onto the table.

"Are you telling me that you believe in those baseless rumors?"

Meredith raged, "Furthermore, Mr. Gates truly loves Zoey. He used to court her, and that is a fact. Zoey will only be happier after her marriage. She won't have a hard time there."

"Mrs. Black, I've done my investigation. Mr. Gates has a chaotic private life. He has been with more than hundreds of women. He's a black hole, and you're pushing Ms. Lopez into it!" Sylas argued.

"Stop with your nonsense! You're slandering Mr. Gates. If you don't want to do your job, you can quit it!" Meredith roared.

"[\_"

Sylas wanted to do as Meredith said.

However, when she thought about how Levi had tasked her with protecting Zoey, she decided to stay.

"I won't marry him. Grandma, you'd better give up."

Zoey was uncompromising.

Meredith scoffed, "Are you still hoping to marry that horrible man, Levi?"

"Your Grandma's right. After all, he's someone that took ten million but lied and said he threw it into the trash can," Robert added.

"Exactly. He refused to admit it despite us exposing him on the spot. That man is nothing but a shameless piece of trash."

By now, the others were furious too.

"You..."

Zoey was about to refute them, but she realized she did not have any evidence to back herself up.

Left with no other choices, she silently endured their words.

"Sylas, take her back to her room to rest. She will attend the engagement ceremony tomorrow and that's final," Meredith commanded.

Thus, Sylas could only bring Zoey away.

If they stayed, they would only become more infuriated.

"Look at your daughter. Is she blind? Why is she still longing for Levi?" Meredith spat.

Robert was solemn as he muttered, "If things don't work out, I'll chase Levi away. If he doesn't appear in her line of sight, she won't think about him."

"That's a good idea. Let's just chase Levi away once and for all," the others gave their approvals.

They were sick of Levi since forever.

Now that Levi was stopping the Black family from becoming one of the wealthiest, they would not stand aside and do nothing.

"Once she's engaged tomorrow, he wouldn't dare to harass her anymore. The Gates family will surely destroy him if he dares to pester Zoey again," Meredith chortled.

Right then, Russell rushed toward them, dragging a servant of the Black family, Zeek along with him.

"What's going on?"

Everyone turned to look at Russell, curious.

Russell shot a glare at Zeek before he sneered, "He's the one who picked up the ten million check. We've wronged Levi. He really did throw the check into the trash can."

Russell was glad that he could expose the injustice done to Levi.

"From the beginning, I've suspected someone had picked up the check. Therefore, I asked my friend who works in an IT department to look into it. Finally, I found out that our servant, Zeek, was the one who had taken it," Russell explained.

Meredith and Robert gave Zeek a stern look. "Did you take it?"

Thump!

Zeek collapsed onto the ground as he begged, "Mr. Black, Mrs. Westbrook, indeed, I was the one who had taken it. That day, I saw Levi throw it into the trash can, so I took it without telling anyone about it. Please don't call the police. I've only used a hundred thousand. I'll return you the rest!"

After realizing what had happened, Meredith and Robert huffed in rage.

They were not angry that Zeek had been the one who had taken the check, rather, they were angry that he had been found out.

After all, Levi was meant to be the one who had taken it.

Everyone had accused Levi of taking the ten million for himself.

They had never thought that someone would investigate the matter.

Now that it was revealed Levi was not the one who took the money, they felt humiliated.

Russell laughed, "Grandpa, Grandma, I was right. Levi wouldn't do something like that. Let's tell Zoey about it and clear his name!"

"Hold on." Meredith stopped him before instructing, "Russell, you don't need to bother yourself with this matter anymore. Go back and pretend as if you knew nothing."

She then turned to instruct Zeek, "I can forgive you for this, Zeek, and I can turn a blind eye to the amount you've spent. But you'll need to agree to my terms."

"I'll agree to anything!"

"Good. From now on, no matter who asks you about it, you'll say that Levi didn't throw the check into the trash can. You'll tell them that you witness him leaving with the check in his hands!" Meredith ordered.

"I-I understand! I'll definitely do that," replied Zeek immediately.

"Good. Now leave. Pretend you've never taken the check for yourself. Levi's the one who had taken the ten million," Meredith repeated.

Russell stared at Meredith in disbelief. "Grandma, how can you twist the facts? Levi didn't do it. Why must you pin the blame on him?"

Russell did not approve of the Black family's methods.

"Russell, you must keep your lips sealed about this. Never tell anyone, especially Zoey!" Meredith snapped.

"Why, Grandma? Give me a reason!" Russell exclaimed.

"Ha. You know full well that the rumors of Levi taking the ten million for himself have spread across the city. The Black family was the one who slandered his

reputation. If you tell the public the truth, you'll be humiliating the Black family. What will happen to our family then?" Meredith questioned.

Russell gave a solemn smile, "Does that mean we can destroy Levi's life for the Black family's reputation?"

Robert hissed, "That's right. Who is he in comparison with the Black family's reputation?"

Russell breathed out a trembling laugh. "Fine. Very well. Do as you please then. Sooner or later, you'll understand what the Black family has done wrong. You'll have missed an opportunity you'll regret for the rest of your life."

"Hahaha! It's just Levi. What will we truly miss?" The crowd disagreed.

With that, Russell left, huffing furiously.

His grandparents who he thought were righteous people, were the ones to orchestrate this.

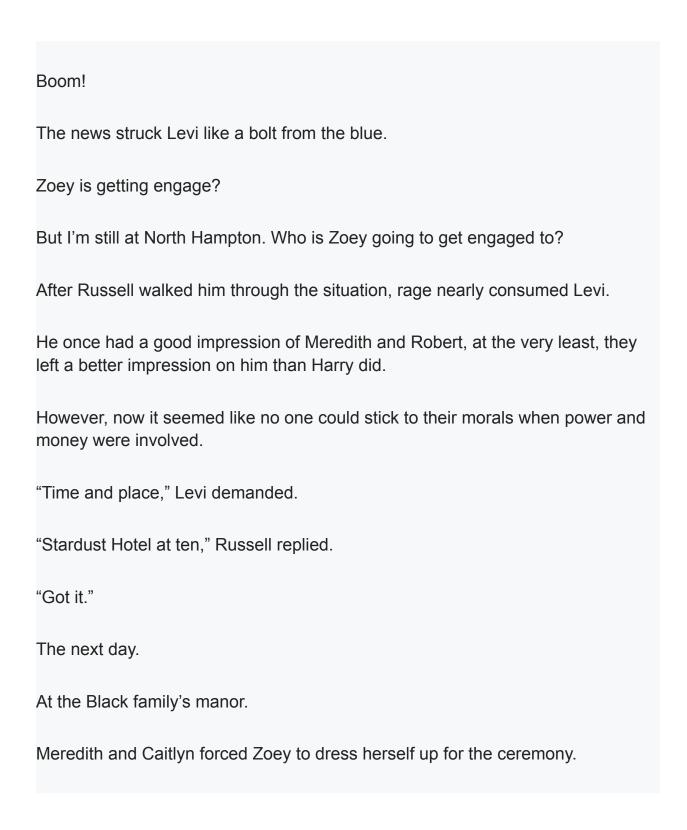
He was thoroughly disappointed.

He immediately called Levi.

Meanwhile, Levi was at North Hampton designing his new family home when his phone rang.

"What's wrong, Russell?"

"Bad news, Levi. Zoey is going to be engaged tomorrow!"



Right then, a fleet of cars arrived outside the manor.

Harry, Henry, and the others had arrived.

Even the Lopez family of the South City was here.

When Harry heard Zoey was about to marry a rich man of South Hampton, he had hurried to South City overnight.

As for the Lopez family, they once refused to acknowledge Harry's family as a part of the Lopez family. However, when they heard Zoey was marrying Landyn, they came instantly.

Now, they were all claiming Zoey as one of the Lopez family.

"One of us is engaging today. Obviously, the Lopez family has to be here," Harry said.

At the same time, the Lopez family of South City added, "We're proud that someone like you is in the Lopez family."

As the Lopez family of South City was reputable, the Black family was more than happy to welcome them despite knowing that the former was only here to butter up the Gates family.

Zoey was exasperated.

Do they think of anyone else but themselves?

Do they feel anything for others?

"Congratulations, Zoey! I told you shouldn't stick to Levi. He's but a burden for you. Look at how great you are now. You're about to marry into a genuine, wealthy family!" Shaun, Melanie, and the others muttered as they laughed.

"Levi is the worst of the worst. He gave up Zoey for ten million!"

"I know, right. I even heard he insisted that he had thrown the check into the trash can despite taking the money for himself."

Everyone chattered away.

At the side, Russell was displeased to hear their words.

Why does Levi have to endure these slanders silently?

At the same time, Zeek had an ashen face.

It was as though he was afraid someone would ask him about the matter.

Russell could not help but mumble, "No..."

Meredith stopped him immediately. "Russell, what are you trying to do? Are you trying to humiliate the Black family?"

"[..."

And so, Russell could only swallow his words.

Soon, everyone headed to Stardust Hotel.

Many of them were keeping an eye on Zoey, fearing that she would escape.

A fleet of luxurious cars was parked right outside the Stardust Hotel.

People from the upper-class society were all gathered here today.

Although they were unable to join the engagement banquet without an invitation, they were here in hopes of meeting Kurt.

Meanwhile, the Gates family had long arrived.

Like Landyn, his father, Fred, looked like a capable man, exuding an imposing aura.

After all, he was the man who had control over hundreds of private banks.

He had the nickname of the God of Wealth within the corporate world.

In other words, he was rich.

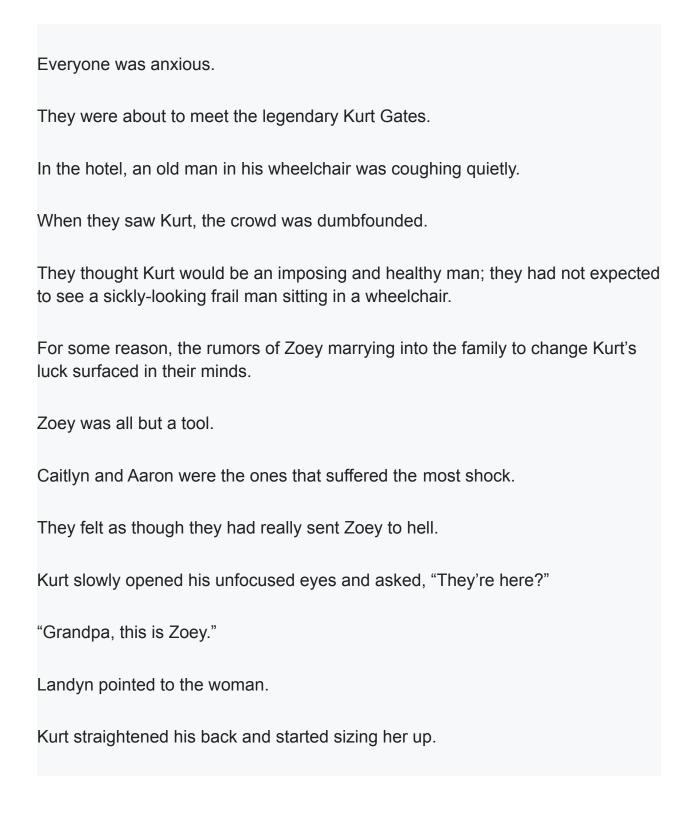
Beside him was Landyn's mother, a foreign woman. She exuded a noble aura that attracted the people's gazes yet kept them at a distance.

She was the president of the Association of Foreign Enterprises; she had a say in every foreign enterprise that entered the local market.

After Fred and his wife gave Zoey a once-over, they nodded in satisfaction.

"This way."

With that, Meredith and the others entered Stardust Hotel.



Beside him was a middle-aged man in a suit. He whispered, "Mr. Gates, she is the one."

That man was none other than the fortune-teller who told them that Kurt would recover from his illness after Zoey married into the family.

"Very well. It's her then. Pick a date quickly and get married soon," Kurt urged.

His impatience was audible to everyone present.

The fortune-teller murmured, "Mr. Gates, five days later will be the perfect date for the wedding."

After sweeping his gaze across the crowd, Kurt nodded. "All right then. Let's get the engagement ceremony done as soon as possible. We'll hold the wedding in five days' time."

"W-What?"

His words stupefied Meredith and Robert.

That's hasty!

It's as though the wedding isn't of any importance to them.

All Kurt needed was a word from the fortune-teller before the marriage date was set.

By now, Meredith and the others were starting to wonder if the rumors had been true.

That Zoey was but a tool for Kurt's illness.

And that the Gates family was uninterested in having Zoey as their daughter-in-law.

But that did not matter to them.

Regardless of whether she was a tool or genuine feelings were involved, Zoey was going to become Landyn's legal wife.

This was something everyone knew—that Zoey Lopez was destined to become the daughter-in-law of the Gates family.

Moreover, Landyn's love for Zoey was genuine.

Since Kurt was here in South City despite the severity of his illness, that meant this marriage was important to him.

Hence, this marriage had to continue.

Both the Black family and the Lopez family shared the same thought, Zoey must marry into the Gates family.

"I hope you don't mind that my father is in poor health. Let us begin the engagement ceremony now," Fred announced.

"Sounds good to me. Let's start the engagement ceremony. As for the wedding date, the Gates family will be the one to arrange it," Meredith answered with a smile.

Fred returned the smile. "From now on, we're a family. The wedding will be something both families shall discuss together."

Just as the engagement ceremony was about to begin, Zoey abruptly voiced out loud, "I'm sorry, Landyn. I can't get engage with you, nor can I marry you."

Boom! Zoey's words struck like lightning to everyone present. Even Landyn was stunned. He had thought that Zoey was here because she had agreed to it. Anxious, Meredith shouted, "Zoey, what are you saying? Shut up now!" Fred's expression turned darker than night. He stared at Zoey and gueried, "You don't want to marry my son?" Zoey shook her head. "That's right, I don't want to marry your son." "Hahaha!" Suddenly, Fred burst into laughter. She's obviously disrespecting the Gates family. I have never heard of anyone saying no during the engagement ceremony. "Zoey, what are you talking about? You have to marry him!" Meredith bellowed. She was not going to give Zoey any chance to protest.

Fred sneered, "That's right. We're already holding the engagement ceremony. Even if you say no, you still have to do it."

"Zoey, it's not like you have a choice," Landyn laughed.

Right then, a roar echoed in the hall. "Let me take a look at who are the ones trying to put my wife in a tough spot. Do you have a death wish?"



A group of men rushed in from outside as a man of tall stature emerged.

That man was none other than Levi.

The crowd gasped in shock at the sight of him.

"Darling," Zoey called out softly.

Despite receiving the divorce certificate, Levi would always be her husband.

"Honey, with me here, no one is going to harm you anymore."

Levi pulled Zoey into his embrace.

### Boom!

The crowd was stunned and stared at them in disbelief, especially the Gates family whose faces were all red in anger.

For a stranger to gatecrash their engagement banquet and embrace their future daughter-in-law, it was a grievous insult.

Furthermore, Levi rubbed salt in their wounds by claiming Zoey as his wife, utterly humiliating the Gates family.

Landyn closed his eyes and took a deep breath.

For the Gates family, it was just a matter of pride.

But for him, he was being blatantly cheated on.

How was he going to face the world after that?

Meanwhile, the Black and the Lopez families were stupefied.

No one expected Levi and Zoey to put on such a spectacle, which was a direct provocation aimed at the Gates family.

By declaring that the lady Landyn was engaged to was his wife, Levi humiliated Landyn outright.

Meanwhile, Meredith's heart sank as she knew something disastrous was going to happen.

Fred Gates let out a long sigh.

This is unacceptable. I cannot tolerate any of this!

No matter what, the Gates family's reputation needs to be safeguarded.

This matter has to be kept a secret even if everyone has to die.

He turned to look at Meredith and the others.

"Did you arrange this?" Fred demanded.

Despite his calm tone, it was obvious that he was suppressing his anger.

"Mr. Gates, you misunderstand. This has nothing to do with us. Furthermore, they are divorced and we even have the documents to prove it," Meredith explained with a panicked look.

The Black and the Lopez families were frightened of offending the Gates family.

At this point, they might as well prepare themselves to be destroyed.

Aaron and Caitlyn were infuriated as Levi foiled their plans yet again.

Is he out to throw a spanner in our works every time?

"Grandma, we told you long ago that if Levi doesn't repent, we should have kicked him out. But now, the matter has already escalated," Jennie roared furiously.

Meredith, Robert, and Harry were all trembling with rage as they couldn't wait to kill Levi.

He was responsible for causing the Black and Lopez families a lot of grief.

Hence, he deserved to be nailed on the pillar of shame.

"Mr. Gates, this is all Levi's own doing. It has nothing to do with the Black and Lopez families."

Everyone at the scene pointed their fingers at Levi.

Fred and Landyn then looked towards him.

"Don't you know Zoey is getting engaged to my son today?" Fred asked coldly.

Levi replied, "I do."

"In that case, how dare you come here and even call her your wife. What's the meaning of this? Are you here to cause trouble on purpose?"

Fred raised his voice into a loud roar, terrifying everyone present.

"I would like to know have you ever asked Zoey for her opinion on the engagement?" Levi asked.

"Of course we asked her. Zoey herself agreed to it," Landyn replied.

Meredith and Robert quickly added, "That's right. We've asked her. Or else, she wouldn't be willing to come here."

Levi sneered.

He turned towards Zoey and asked, "In that case, in front of everyone, let me ask you. Are you willing to marry Landyn? Are you willing to get engaged with him?"

At that moment, everyone waited for her answer with bated breath.