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In the end, Jonathan did not let Candice go.

Aside from revoking her rights to claiming her allowance from Oceanic Estate as a member of The Ataraxy, he also ordered Mark to send her to The Substratum.

The Substratum was an impoverished and remote place. Whoever sent there would have a hard life.

"No, no, Uncle Jonathan. I'm sorry... I'm sorry. Please give me another chance, Uncle Jonathan..." On all fours, Candice implored Jonathan pitifully.

However, Jonathan shoved her aside with a kick.

"I've given you a chance. You made a huge mistake last time, and you were locked up for half a year. Yet, you didn't learn from your mistake, and you expect me to give you another chance? Take her away!" Jonathan cried.

"Yes, Old Mr. Jadeson," someone answered.

"One more thing. Keep a close eye on her. Once she has been sent away, she's forbidden to return to Jadeborough without my permission. Or else, all of you will be subjected to punishment by military law!" Jonathan even threatened his men with military law.

He was very loud, and everyone in the building could hear him.

As such, the wailing woman was dragged away.

That night, Sasha was packing her children's clothes. Suddenly, Vivian came over with her Barbie doll in her arms. "Are we going back soon, Mommy?"

"Yes, tomorrow." Sasha caressed her daughter's little head. The latter's hair was damp after a bath.

Panic flashed in Vivian's large, watery eyes. "What should I do now? My teacher said that she will organize a farewell party for me with my classmates, as I'll be going back soon."

"Huh?" It was Sasha's turn to be surprised. What a thoughtful school to organize a farewell party for their student!

Sasha was at a loss.

At once, she turned to her two sons who were playing video games. "Matt, Little Ian, is it true? Did you have a farewell party in your class?"

"Yeah, but we declined it." Matteo, who was enjoying himself immensely, answered the question with a nonchalant grin.

Sasha was speechless.

Vivian, who had her doll in her arms, looked like she was about to weep. Sasha immediately put down the clothes and hugged her.

"Okay, okay. Mommy will ask your teacher about it. If she organized the party especially for you, Mommy will discuss with Daddy about going back a day later. Is that all right?" Sasha asked.

"All right." Finally, the little girl laughed.

This was the difference between girls and boys.

Boys usually did not care much about this sort of thing, especially Matteo and Ian. They were extremely intelligent and already knew that the school teachers organized the farewell party to appease the Jadesons.

Thus, they rejected the offer on the spot.

However, Vivian was different. She was innocent and naive. Moreover, she was a meticulous person. Therefore, she appreciated that her teacher decided to host this event for her.

After tucking the children in bed, Sasha told Sebastian about this matter.

"A party? Do schools still do these things?" Sebastian was puzzled.

"Yes, I spoke to the teacher just now, and she did make this arrangement. She said that she had no other intentions. Vivian's leaving soon, and her classmates miss her. So, she decided to organize this farewell party," Sasha explained.

"Do they have to do that? It's not like Vivian has spent much time at that school." As expected, Sebastian seemed dismissive about the idea. He displayed an indifferent expression like his two sons.

Eventually, he agreed to the idea.

Vivian was the apple of his eye. He would give his daughter the world to make her happy.

“We shall leave a day later, then. Coincidentally, I need to look for Devin. Take the kids to school tomorrow. I’ll pick you up once I’ve settled the matters at hand,” Sebastian said.

“Devin?” Sasha was stunned by his worried expression. “Where are you going to look for him? Isn’t he at home?”

“No. He went out yesterday and didn’t return today. It’s all right. He might be at the military base. I’ll pay him a visit and come back after I’ve clarified everything with him,” he explained briefly.

In fact, that was what Sebastian believed. They have already discussed the matter, and Devin had no reason to disappear out of the blue again. If he was not in Red Pavilion, he should be held up by his work at the military base.

However, little did Sebastian know that he was wrong this time.

“Devin, you’ve been sitting here for a whole day. Are you all right? What on earth did you see in the video?” At dawn, Jake drove back to West Bank Hotel in Coldbridge. When he arrived, Devin was still sitting in his hotel and did not move a muscle.

Naturally, Jake felt a bit anxious.

To be precise, Jake was stricken with anxiety ever since they got the videotape last night, and Devin locked himself in the room after watching the footage.

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Jake had started to panic by then.

Nevertheless, he got the room key from the hotel and opened the door.

When the door opened, however, he realized that Devin had not moved, as if he had been fused to the chair.

Jake, who had been watching over Devin yesterday, was even more worried. What on earth did he see in the surveillance footage? What would make a calm and collected man react in this manner?

He wondered whether he should tell Sebastian about this.

“Devin, you...” Jake said.

“What’s the time now?” He was rather surprised to hear the other man’s voice.

Devin had been sitting in the chair for more than ten hours. When he finally muttered huskily with bloodshot eyes, it seemed like he had retrieved his voice from the void.

Jake was stunned.

A few seconds later, he regained his senses and checked his watch. “It’s almost seven in the morning. There are a number of phone calls at Red Pavilion, saying that Sebastian’s looking for you. Do you want to head back, Devin?”

“Okay.” Devin nodded.

Then, Jake watched as he got up from the chair. He squeezed the tape in his hands. Without warning, he tossed it out of the window.

The tape fell out of the tall building.

“What... What are you doing, Devin? Why did you throw it away? That’s the last original footage, and we spent a long time finding it. There’s nothing left after you throw it away.” Jake felt exasperated.

He rushed to the windowsill. Unfortunately, the tape had landed on the ground below, and it was smashed to smithereens.

Devin has gone mad! Yesterday, he was the one who was hell-bent on finding this thing. Today, he’s also the one who throws it away. What the hell is he trying to do?

“Devin, can you tell me something? What the hell did you see in the footage? Is it exactly as Ms. Shanae said? Never mind, then. Don’t marry her if you don’t want to. We’ll help you!” Jake said.

He thought what the woman said was true, which was the reason for Devin’s fury.

After that, Jake began to console Devin.

He even brought up Sebastian and said that they would help him.

Yet, Devin ignored him. As soon as he discarded the tape, it seemed like a burden had been lifted off his shoulders. He heaved a sigh and walked away.

Jake was at a loss for words.

Then, he followed Devin.

He still did not understand him, even though he knew him for many years. It was Jake's first time seeing Devin behave in this manner, and it perplexed him.

Finally, the two of them left Coldbridge by car.

They reached Jadeborough a little after ten in the morning, and they headed straight for the Red Pavilion.

"You're finally back, Mr. Jadeson. Mr. Sebastian is looking for you and has phoned up numerous times. He has gone to the military base," the housemaid said.

"Huh?" Jake was astonished when he heard the housemaid's words.

"Why is Sebastian looking for you? He even went to the military base. Is something going on? He has never done this before," he addressed Devin.

It was strange, indeed, for Sebastian seldom looked for someone in such a hurry. Furthermore, it was rare for him to be proactive in paying others a visit.

So, is something up?

Devin was taken aback, too.

Soon, he returned to his car silently. He started it up and drove to the military base.

Does Sebastian know about the tape? I bet he does!

The other day, Mark told him that the videotape brought back by Sebastian contained footage of Devin and Shanae. Strangely, when he viewed it yesterday, he found out that the content was completely different.

Who doctored the footage?

He did not have the answer yet. However, he believed that with Sebastian's intelligence and sharp observation, the latter could tell that the footage was definitely doctored.

Devin drove to the military base quietly.

As expected, he saw an olive green SUV parked outside the base's compound. Judging by the vehicle's temperature, it had been there for quite some time.

"Major!" A sentry saluted him.

"Did you see my brother heading in?" Devin pointed at the SUV. He still addressed Sebastian as his brother.

The sentry nodded at once. "Yes, he's inside. He said he's looking for Major. I consulted my superiors, and they let him in."

"All right." Devin got out of the car and told Jake to wait for him outside. Then, he entered the military base.

What does Sebastian want to tell me?

He had no idea. Nonetheless, as soon as he passed through the gates, an idea appeared in his mind. If he wants to talk to me about that matter, I'll refuse!

Devin would even deny it. It was just like the destroyed videotape. Not a shred of evidence was left.

"So, you've finally returned." While Devin was pondering over the matter, an impatient Sebastian had stepped out of the former's office. He frowned when he saw Devin and stopped in his tracks.

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Devin looked up immediately and stood still. "Yes, I had some urgent business to attend to. Why are you here? Is something up?"

"Nothing. I just want to know about your upcoming plans," Sebastian replied coolly.

The light cast a soft glow on Sebastian, who had both hands stuffed into the pockets of his pants. Although he stood up straight, he gave off a languid and casual vibe.

There was also a certain air of nonchalance in his expression.

Devin was stunned. "Plans? Are you referring to my family? Or my work?"

"Work," Sebastian answered.

"About work, I'll still be the leader of special forces at the military base. What's the matter? Why did you ask this question?" Devin was suspicious.

All this while, Sebastian never asked him about his work life. They were close and often helped each other out, but he never asked him about his future plans.

"Nothing. I heard from that old man that congress will elect a new president once Alfred White loses. With a new political party in power, a new group of leaders is needed. When will you be involved?" Sebastian asked.

"What?" Devin's eyes widened. "Why would I get involved? I'm not a politician. I belong to the battlefield, and killing my enemies is what I do. Why the hell would I go down that road?"

At once, Devin refused vehemently. He sounded agitated, too.

Sebastian did not move, and a subtle smile appeared on his lips.

Devin's reaction reminded him of his father. Back then, when Jonathan wanted Shin to enter the political field, the latter's behaved exactly like Devin.

What's it called? Inheritance, I guess. It's not necessary for one's own son to inherit a soldier's spirit, as long as one's descendent carries the family bloodline.

Feeling satisfied, Sebastian left.

Devin watched his back with a confused expression. "What the hell is he up to? Did he come all the way here just to ask me this question?"

At the same time, a commander passed by. "Major, why is your brother looking for you? Does he want you to drive him home? I heard that he's bringing your nephews and niece along."

Devin was shocked. Home? Is he going back to Avenport? Should I tag along and have a look?

All of a sudden, his heart skipped a beat, and that ridiculous idea popped into existence in his head.

Meanwhile, Sasha and her children had been waiting for some time at the Military Elementary School. She simply could not believe that the teacher would host a massive farewell party for her children.

“We’ll leave now, Madam. Alex’s parents allowed us to organize the party at their family-owned farmhouse so that Vivian and her two brothers can have a great time before leaving the school,” the teacher explained.

She led a group of children and parents out of the classroom with a flag and smiled warmly at Sasha.

Sasha felt even more awkward. I’m just here to attend my daughter’s farewell party. Why the huge fuss?

“Right, Madam. We’ve been to the farmhouse before. It’s really fun, I tell you. You can pick fruits and catch fish and shrimp. The children will certainly enjoy themselves very much.”

“That’s right. We’ve even prepared a big surprise for your kids over there.”

Even the class teacher chimed in.

A lot of parents in flashy clothes approached Sasha and introduced the farmhouse to her. They spoke and gestured to her fervently.

It was Sasha’s first time experiencing such treatment.

Still, it was understandable. Ever since her two naughty boys caused that ruckus several months ago, everybody at the school knew that they were members of the Jadesons.

There was a huge uproar over the incident at The Ataraxy as well.

I guess they’re also aware that I’m already the young madam of the Jadesons?

Sasha had no choice but to head out with her children, the class teacher, and the other students and parents.

Fortunately, the teacher knew that having too many people in the group was not a good idea. Therefore, not everyone joined the party.

“Look, Mommy. I told you not to agree to the party. See what’s happening now.” Matteo was the type of child who often spoke his mind. As such, he started to grumble when he was forced to enter the vehicle and sit next to his mother.

Vivian felt somewhat upset and drooped her head when she noticed Matteo’s displeasure.

Thankfully, Ian spoke up and lectured his younger brother, “You can’t say that to Mommy. She’s trying to make us happy. Moreover, Vivi likes it, and we should accompany her. It’s our duty as her brother.”

Matteo hung his head in shame after listening to Ian.

Sasha was exceptionally touched when she saw how her children defended her and how caring they were toward each other.

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“Ian is right—we need to make sure everything’s fine since Vivi wants us to join her! Once we reach the farmhouse, I’m sure I can handle them just fine! I’ll make sure we have a great day!”

“Hooray!” Her sons started jumping for joy and wrapped their arms around their mother.

She figured out things were the exact opposite of the ones she had in mind once they reached the farmhouse.

Despite being very near to Jadeborough, the farmhouse was located in a secluded valley. Honestly, given how run-down the place looked, it would be a stretch to say that this was a farmhouse.

It reminded Sasha of the Floral Village in Avenport, which their family had spent some time in a while back.

No. Even Floral Village had better facilities than this! There isn’t even a well-built road over here!

The moment the teacher saw them, she rushed over and introduced the place to them, “This is Alex’s family-owned farmhouse! The entire place hasn’t gone through any modern modification! In other words, we get to experience a primitive lifestyle!”

Glancing at the surroundings, Sasha rolled her eyes and felt a strong urge to curse.

It turned out that most people of the upper echelon had been blessed with easy lives and sought to experience “labor and hardship”, which was why the farmhouse was preserved in this primitive manner.

They thought it was a great idea to live a different life every once in a while.

It was then Vivian rushed to her mother and brothers’ sides, asking in a mellifluous tone, “Mommy, isn’t this similar to the village we used to stay? Are we there again?”

The rest expressed their disbelief when they heard the little girl’s questions. They couldn’t believe the almighty household members of the Jadesons once spent a long time on the outskirts.

If that’s the case, does it mean those aren’t merely baseless accusations? Is she really a country bumpkin instead of the heiress of an equally influential family?

The rest of the party thought it wasn’t worthy of their time anymore since they were initially there to flatter the household member of the Jadesons through the aid of the teacher.

On top of that, they couldn’t wait to figure out the identity of the household member of the Jadesons since the family was the most influential amongst the members of the upper echelon in Jadeborough.

Throughout the years, countless women tried joining the family as household members, but their efforts were to no avail. Out of nowhere, a young woman was introduced as the wife of the successor of the Jadesons.

They couldn’t keep their curiosity and jealousy to themselves anymore, especially when they heard something along the line of Sasha spending time on the outskirts.

Unaware of the things going on in the minds of those around them, she leaned over and explained in a gentle tone, “This isn’t the village we once spent some time together.”

Vivian responded with a nod and rushed in the direction of her friends with the plushy she brought along with her.

She mentioned, "Caroline, my mother has just confirmed this isn't the village we used to live in!"

The adorable little girl next to Vivian asked in return, "Really?"

The innocent little girl seemed to be smarter than Vivian. She asked in return, "If that's the case, where's the village you used to live with your mother? Is it as rural as this one?"

"No! It was a village with picturesque scenes! Although it was a relatively simple house, Mom did a great job keeping the environment clean!"

Vivian tried recalling the time she spent on the outskirts and thought things were fine since they spent quite a long time there as a family of five.

Vivian sincerely wished to share the great time she had with her family with her friend, but Caroline's parents had something else in mind when they heard Vivian.

"Has she just mentioned they once spent a long time on the outskirts as a family? If that's the case, is it true she's just a country bumpkin?"

"I think that's probably the case!"

"If that's the case, we'll get the teacher to assign her the toughest chores! We can share the news with the rest once we verify she's just another country bumpkin!"

Out of nowhere, the parents engaged themselves in a heated discussion and came out with something vicious.

They thought it wouldn't be necessary to waste their time with Sasha if they could prove her just another woman from the streets.

Once they tarnished her image, others would stop thinking highly of her. They thought it was a great opportunity to get her to owe them a favor in return.

As soon as they had everything sorted out, one of them returned to the teacher's side and shared their plan with her.

Once Sasha got herself ready for work, the teacher approached her and asked, "Are you familiar with handling a seedbed? Can you help out with the seedbed? You can take that miniature watermill over there home with you if you're the team with the most contribution."

The teacher showed Sasha the miniature watermill next to the river. Coincidentally, the children, including her sons and daughter, had gathered around to inspect the never-seen-before watermill.