

Chapter 121

Chapter 121 The Soulbreaker to Prove My Martial Path " Rolling Thunder Palm ! " 44

Finished As Alck shouted , a flash of blue light radiated from his palm , like a sudden storm of thunder , striking down toward Leander . The crowd saw nothing but a flash of blue , followed by a violent force tearing through the air . It was Alek's unstoppable Rolling Thunder Palm , powerful enough to rip apart anything in its path . The palm strike rushed forward , its inner strength so intense that it obliterated several large trees in its path .

Even some nearby buildings had their roofs torn off , and fences were shattered to pieces . " So , this is the Rolling Thunder Palm . What terrifying power ! " Everyone watched in awe . They had assumed that Alek's earlier strike , which had nearly destroyed Otto , was his full strength . Now , it was clear that it had only been a warm - up . This was Alek at full power , and it was nothing short of terrifying . The raging force of the Rolling Thunder Palm surrounded Leander , but he remained still , showing no reaction as the deadly strike closed in on him .

Seeing that , Alek channeled even more inner strength into the attack , driving its force to even greater speeds , almost rivaling real lightning . Die , Ashcroft ! Alek roared in his heart , and the spectators trembled as the attack came within half a foot of Leander . If this strike landed , even a Martial Sovereign would struggle to survive unscathed . Yet , Leander hadn't even raised his defenses . Everyone believed Alek was moments away

from severely injuring him , but at that very moment , Leander finally moved . He didn't step aside or retreat .

Instead , he shifted his feet ever so slightly and raised a single hand . With a smooth , almost casual motion , he sliced downward as if cutting through something delicate . The effortless gesture seemed devoid of inner strength , but wherever his hand passed , the very air - and Alek's seemingly unstoppable palm force - split apart like butter , cleaved into two halves . " What ?! " A chorus of gasps filled the air , and even Alek's face twisted in disbelief .

His mighty Rolling Thunder Palm , powerful enough to crush a car into scrap metal , had been sliced apart with a simple wave of Leander's hand . What kind of power was that ?! 1/4 15:14 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 121 The Soulbreaker to Prove My Martial Path 44 Finished As Alek stood in shock , Leander's form blurred like a ghost . In an instant , he was in front of Alek , his hand transformed into a sharp blade , cutting down diagonally toward him . The speed of that move surpassed even Alek's own Eight Trigrams Step , leaving him no time to fully evade .

All he could do was raise his arm in defense . Their arms collided with a heavy thud , and Alek grunted in pain . It was as if lightning had struck his body , forcing him to retreat more than ten yards . His feet dragged deep trenches into the earth before he finally stopped , one foot sinking half a foot into the soil . " How ... How did he get this strong ? " Alek's mind reeled , his disbelief reaching its peak . He had used his family's signature techniques - the Sturdy Finger and the Rolling Thunder Palm - and had gone all out in his attacks , with no reservations .

Yet , Leander had effortlessly countered his every move . With just a single chop , Leander had broken through Alek's full- powered strike , and now Alek could barely withstand the force of Leander's counter . The force in Leander's arm was like a primal beast , untamed and overwhelming . It surged toward Alek with the unstoppable momentum of a flood , shaking his very core . The surrounding Grandmasters were left stunned , their eyes wide with shock .

Alek's most powerful strike had done nothing to Leander , while Leander's casual counter had sent Alek flying over ten yards , forcing him to bury his feet into the ground to absorb the impact . The force behind that blow was akin to being hit by a speeding truck . " Is this the best the Peterson family's techniques have to offer ? " Leander slipped one hand into his pocket while his other hand casually waved a finger in the air , clearly unimpressed . He had expected that fighting a Martial Sovereign would show him something new , something exciting .

But Alek's techniques were disappointingly ordinary and far from the challenge he had hoped for . " To think Jeff Ashcroft is so powerful ! " The representatives of the six families were all overwhelmed by fear and awe , unable to utter a single word . It was almost laughable now to think they had been discussing how to divide the Silverleaf earlier when its owner was someone they had no right to provoke , Even Alek , a genuine Martial Sovereign , was being completely overpowered by Leander .

How could any of them hope to last even a single round against Leander , let alone think of stealing from him ? It was simply absurd . Had Leander truly decided to confront them earlier , certainly none of them would still be standing on their own two feet . His

earlier words , " I've already been merciful , " suddenly carried a weight none of them doubted anymore . Lorcan was filled with a deep sense of defeat .

Though he had already reached the level of a 2/4 15:14 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 121 The Soulbreaker to Prove My Martial Path Finished Grandmaster , a remarkable achievement in Astria , in front of Leander , he was like a child in front of a giant . With his current abilities , it would take at least five years before he could even hope to step into the realm of a Martial Sovereign . Yet here was Leander , already dominating a Martial Sovereign at his age . Who could imagine what heights Leander would reach in five years ? " So , this is Jeff Ashcroft ...

" Theresa's heart trembled uncontrollably . Leander's strength and imposing aura , far beyond anything she had ever seen , surpassed even the most talented geniuses she had encountered . Even Ethan , whom she had always held in high regard , paled in comparison to Leander . Not even the Nine Martial Geniuses of Astria could stand against him . She recalled Leander's earlier remark , " Ethan Ashcroft and Claire Leigh won't be able to carry the future of Astria's martial world , " and suddenly , it all made sense .

As long as Leander was alive , the future of Astria's martial world would revolve around him alone . Ethan and the others , while impressive , simply couldn't compare to someone who could single - handedly suppress a Martial Sovereign like Leander . " I admit , I truly underestimated you , Ashcroft ! " Alek's eyes grew more serious . Leander's power had far exceeded his expectations . Alek had already used several of

his family's best techniques , yet Leander hadn't even employed a single martial technique - he seemed to be toying with him , like a cat playing with a mouse .

Aside from his fight with Grayson of the Four Extremes , this was the first time Alek had felt such helplessness in battle . To think that someone not even twenty years old could rival the Four Extremes was beyond imagination . If Leander were allowed to grow , it was possible that even Gareth's dominance of Astria's martial world could be shaken . " What a disappointment you are ," Leander said softly , shaking his head . While Alek had achieved the level of a Martial Sovereign , in comparison to Leander , he wasn't worth much . Leander hadn't even begun to fight seriously .

Alek's face darkened as he realized Leander didn't consider him a threat . Though his heart was burning with anger , he suppressed it , knowing full well that continuing the fight would only lead to his defeat . " Ashcroft , " Alek began , forcing himself to calm down . " We are both Martial Sovereigns . There's no need to fight to the death . I acknowledge my offense today and offer you my apologies . I will leave immediately and never set foot in Tardide Valley again . How does that sound ? " Despite his reluctance , Alek bowed deeply to Leander , conceding defeat .

This bow was an acknowledgment of defeat - a Martial Sovereign of Cloudveil humbling himself before Leander . The crowd was utterly stunned . Leander had forced a Martial Sovereign into humility and submission - something unheard of in Astria's martial history . If this news spread , it would 3/4 15 14 Mon , Oct 13 A 1514 atpowder is have By Martial Path 零用 Combed send shockwaves throughout the entire martial world . Alek

had hoped that his offer would satisfy Leander , but Leander's gaze remained unchanged from start to finish .

I've already said , Leander replied coldly , " today , I will kill a Martial Sovereign ! "

Alek's expression froze , and Leander's fingers slowly curled into a fist as malice swept outward like a tidal wave . The onlookers turned pale , their faces drained of color , their eyes filled with terror . Leander , it seemed , had no intention of letting Alek go . He was determined to kill him . This fist is the first of my Trinity Strike Technique , called ' Soulbreaker . ' I've used it to slay beasts from every corner of the world ! " Leander's voice was calm yet filled with resolve . " Today .

I will use this fist to kill you and prove my martial path ! " Send Gifts

Chapter 122 Slaying Another Powerhouse . 44 Finished As soon as Leander's words fell , the entire area erupted into chaos . Dust and debris were swept into the air as if caught in a typhoon . Stones were lifted from the ground , and nearby trees were snapped in half . " Soulbreaker ! " Leander's impassive voice echoed as he threw his punch . At first glance , the punch seemed simple and unremarkable , but the moment it was unleashed , the ten - yard space between him and Alek turned into a vortex of violent wind .

The force of the punch , infused with overwhelming inner strength , tore apart the very ground , causing loud explosions as it advanced . Though there were still several yards between them , Alek felt the weight of the attack bearing down on him like a mountain ,

giving him no time to breathe . The swirling vortex of inner strength locked Alek in place , cutting off all paths of retreat . Each step he took backward only intensified the pressure of Leander's punch . By the third step , Alek could no longer retreat .

No matter how he tried to evade , the force of Leander's punch was constantly upon him , forcing him to confront the attack head - on . " What kind of power is this ? " From her vantage point , Theresa and the others could see everything clearly . A small , swirling storm followed Alek's every movement , completely sealing off his escape . Leander's punch wasn't just tearing through the ground - it seemed to lock space itself, a level of strength they had never even imagined .

Theresa recalled her father using his inner strength to shatter a small waterfall from a height of several dozen yards , a feat that had left her in awe . That was the hallmark of inner strength mastery , but Leander's punch , which had stirred up a storm , was several times more terrifying . She couldn't help but think that if faced with a wide river , Leander could actually stop it in its tracks . It was terrifying to imagine what else Leander could do - this was a force beyond human comprehension .

Meanwhile , the rest of the crowd was left in stunned silence , their minds blank as they waited to see the outcome of the battle between the two Martial Sovereigns . Alek was now fully trapped by the force of Leander's punch . With nowhere to run , every hair on his body stood on end - an instinctual response to the imminent threat to his life . "

You've got balls , Ashcroft . " Alek roared , refusing to take another step back . He gathered all his inner strength , channeling it into his hands .

Thanks to the Bone Expansion Technique , his already enlarged hands grew another half - inch , now the size of basketballs . Blue light flickered across his palms , and faint

1/4 15:14 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 122 Slaying Another Powerhouse : 44 Finished arcs of lightning danced between his fingers . He had pushed his Rolling Thunder Palm to its absolute limit . " Rolling Thunder Palm , Third Stage : Lightning Requiem ! " Alek's shout echoed like thunder as his palms , filled with the energy of a storm , slammed together .

The air around him cracked with the sound of sonic booms , and the ground shattered beneath his feet . His inner strength formed two towering walls of force , separating him from Leander's incoming punch . " Lightning Requiem " was the highest level of the Rolling Thunder Palm , a technique that had not been mastered since the Peterson family's ancestor first created it . For over a decade , Alek had secluded himself in training , trying to perfect this final stage without success . But that day , with his life on the line , he had broken through .

He knew this was the strongest strike of his life , a culmination of decades of training . Even if Grayson himself were standing before him , Alek was confident he could make the famed Jade Emperor take notice . Leander's power was immense , but Alek couldn't believe someone so young could match the legendary figures of the martial world . He refused to accept it . Boom ! Leander's punch collided with Alek's protective palm force , and the resulting explosion shook the heavens . The ground beneath them trembled violently , the sheer force of the impact sending shockwaves in all directions .

As Leander's and Alek's inner strength collided , the sky seemed to crack open . The clash of their two powers sent the ground erupting in waves , craters bursting open one

after another . Countless stones were ground to dust and swept away in the fierce winds . The sheer force of their exchange showed everyone watching a new level of power . Faced with such might , even the Grandmasters among the crowd could only bow their heads in resignation . " Stop struggling , Peterson - you can't hold on !

" As the two forces clashed , Alek gritted his teeth , pouring every ounce of his inner strength into his palms . He refused to retreat even a step , but he was already at his limit . Leander , on the other hand , remained composed , facing Alek with only one hand while his other remained casually in his pocket . Despite having the upper hand , Leander still had the energy to speak , shaking his head and sighing as if pitying Alek's futile resistance . " No one has taken on my Soulbreaker and live to tell the tale .

" Alek's breath caught in his throat , and a sinking feeling took over his heart . He could feel the shift in Leander's punch , but it was too late by then . In the next instant , the power of Leander's Soulbreaker punch , which had been locked in a stalemate with Alek's palms , suddenly 2/4 15:14 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 122 Staying Another Powerhouse 44 Finished exploded . It transformed into a sharp wind blade , slicing through Alek's protective force like a knife through butter . Alek's pupils widened in shock as the wind blade tore through his defenses and slashed past him .

Leander followed up with another punch , pushing the first punch's force forward , the two strikes combining into an unstoppable wave . Alek's protective palm force was ripped apart as the combined might of Leander's fists crashed into his chest and then passed straight through his body . The storm of energy dissipated . Alek stood

motionless in the center of the battlefield , his expression unchanged , as though nothing had happened .

Leander , having retracted his fist , casually walked back to the courtyard and turned his attention to the Silverleaf plants , paying no further heed to Alek . It was as if the battle had already slipped from his mind , and he no longer had any interest in fighting . A deafening silence fell over the space . No one dared to breathe loudly , much less speak . Though the fight had ceased , everyone was desperate to know the outcome - who had won ? " Who won ? " Theresa's gaze darted between Leander and Alek , trying to make sense of the situation .

That last exchange should have decided the battle , yet now both fighters had stopped , leaving her confused . Then , her eyes narrowed as she noticed a subtle change in Alek's face . A sickly flush of blood had crept onto his cheeks . Alek himself broke the silence , his voice filled with bitter resignation . " That Soulbreaker punch ... who created such a technique ? " Leander didn't turn around , his eyes still focused on the Silverleaf . But his voice echoed clearly . " Soulbreaker is part of my Trinity Strike Technique .

Unfortunately , you won't live to see the other two . " " Trinity Strike Technique ... " Alek sighed , a sound filled with a strange sense of relief . " To have created such a technique before reaching the age of twenty ... even Gareth Ashcroft and Grayson Shire are half a step behind you . At least I had the privilege of witnessing it firsthand . " A look of peace , more serene than ever before , spread across Alek's face as he smiled slightly . " Jeff Ashcroft ... you've won . " Crack ! At the moment his words faded , the sound of bones snapping echoed from within his body .

Alek's form crumpled to the ground , lifeless . The once - mighty Martial Sovereign of Cloudveil , Alek Peterson , was dead on the spot .

Chapter 123 Shaken to Its Core 44 Finished The entire space fell into a dead silence - no one had expected the battle to end like that . Just moments before , Alek had been speaking , but now , he lay dead on the ground , his body twisted and deformed . The crowd couldn't comprehend how it had happened , and a deep sense of terror washed over them . Regardless of their confusion , one undeniable fact remained : Leander had killed a Martial Sovereign with a single blow . Alek , who had ruled the Peterson family for decades , was dead - slain by Leander .

As Alek's body hit the ground , it felt as though something within the hearts of the gathered elite fighters had shattered - something foundational in their understanding of power . Martial Sovereigns were regarded as the absolute peak of the martial world . They were untouchable , rulers of their domains , and it had been over a decade since anyone had heard of a Martial Sovereign dying in combat - ever since Grayson Shire had challenged martial artists across the lands . But now , a true Martial Sovereign had been slain before their very eyes , killed in one strike .

Even those with the steeliest of wills couldn't help but feel immense shock . " A Martial Sovereign ? " Leander gazed down at Alek's lifeless body , disappointment evident in his expression . He had heard countless stories about Martial Sovereigns being akin to dragons , wielding immense power , able to control life and death and influence the course of events . Yet , Alek clearly hadn't lived up to that reputation . Perhaps to others , Alek had been a rare and formidable force , but to Leander , he was merely ordinary .

The world believes that Martial Sovereigns are the pinnacle , the end of the martial path . But they don't realize that becoming a Martial Sovereign is only the beginning .

Leander shook his head , amused by the ignorance of the masses . In his years of traveling and facing countless strange and dangerous encounters , Leander knew just how far the martial path truly extended . Martial Sovereigns were by no means the ultimate achievement . The journey had no end - there were always greater heights to reach and new horizons to discover .

This battle with Alek had shown Leander the limits of an ordinary Martial Sovereign's strength . Now , he found himself losing interest in facing others like Alek . In all of Astria , only the legendary Four Extremes , led by Gareth Ashcroft , might still offer him a worthy challenge . Leander had once seriously injured Grayson's disciple , Raymond , with a single strike . He wondered when Grayson himself would seek him out . The thought brought a flicker of anticipation . Only a fighter of Grayson's caliber could reignite his interest . Meanwhile , the others stood frozen in shock .

Alek had been one of the seven Martial Sovereigns among the Seven Clans , yet Leander had killed him with ease . This could only 1/4 15:14 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 123 Shaken to Is Core 第 (4) Finished mean that the Martial Sovereigns behind their clans were no match for Leander either . And judging by how effortlessly Leander had dispatched Alek , it was clear he hadn't even been using his full strength . What would it be like if Leander fought with everything he had ? The thought alone sent chills down their spines . " Jeff Ashcroft ... " Theresa whispered , her voice barely audible .

Her eyes remained fixed on Leander as if trying to imprint his image in her memory forever . She realized that with this single punch , Leander had officially ascended to the ranks of the world's greatest masters . In all of Astria , only figures like the Four Extremes could possibly compare , and after that day , the name " Jeff Ashcroft " would once again sweep across Astria , striking fear into the hearts of martial artists everywhere . As everyone reflected on what had just transpired , Leander suddenly turned his gaze toward them .

Every person froze as though a prehistoric beast had locked its eyes on them . They dared not move , awaiting his next words . " Do you still want the Silverleaf ? " Leander asked coolly . " Forgive us , Mr. Ashcroft ! We wouldn't dare ! " The representatives of the six families quickly bowed their heads , cupping their fists in submission . Their bodies shrank inward , and they fell to one knee in front of Leander . Even Theresa and Lorcan lowered their heads , avoiding eye contact . Earlier , Alek had struck down Otto , terrifying everyone present .

But Leander was even more fearsome - he had casually killed a Martial Sovereign . Who would dare mention the Silverleaf again ? If Leander grew angry and decided to go on a killing spree , the valley would be soaked in blood . None of them wanted to provoke his wrath . " I know all of you have powerful backing , with Martial Sovereigns behind you , " Leander said , his gaze cold . " But the Silverleaf belongs to me , Jeff Ashcroft . Anyone who dares to covet it is my enemy. Go back and tell the ones who support you that if they want the Silverleaf , they're welcome to come in person .

I , Jeff Ashcroft , will be waiting . But they should remember this - if they come after my things , they'll meet the same fate as Peterson here ." Leander's words were casual , yet no one dared to take them lightly . If he had said such things earlier , they might have laughed it off . But now , after seeing him kill Alek with a single punch , no one doubted his resolve . Leander's victory was proof enough of his strength . The Martial Sovereigns backing the six families might be a bit stronger than Alek , but none of them could match Leander's power . " Mr.

Ashcroft , my family means no offense , " Heath quickly spoke up , trying to smooth things over . His face was plastered with a smile as he attempted to build rapport with Leander . " I sincerely apologize on behalf of the Dixon family , and I will inform our patriarch- " However , before Heath could finish , Leander shot him a cold glance , and his voice thundered in Heath's ears , sending his blood surging and a thin line of blood trickling from his lips . 2/4 15:15 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 123 Shaken to Its Core 44 Finished " Shut up . You have ten seconds to leave Tardide Valley .

If you're still here after that , I'll kill you . " Leander's words left no room for negotiation . The representatives of the six families didn't even hesitate . With a whoosh , they all fled the valley , vanishing into the distance instantly . A Martial Sovereign's words were never empty threats . Since Leander had issued a death sentence , they knew that staying even a second longer meant certain death . Who would dare gamble with their lives ? Theresa and Lorcan quickly carried Otto's injured body out of Tardide Valley .

Though Theresa didn't look back , her mind was filled with the image of Leander's invincible figure . Her thoughts were in turmoil . Before that day , she had believed

Ethan Ashcroft would claim the title of the greatest genius in Astria's martial world . She thought he would be the first of their generation to step into the realm of Martial Sovereigns . But everything she had witnessed earlier shattered that belief . While other top - tier talents were still struggling to reach the Martial Sovereign realm , Leander had already proven capable of slaying one with ease .

By the time they finally reached that level , who knew how much further Leander would have advanced ? She couldn't even begin to imagine . " Jeff Ashcroft , what kind of storm will you stir in the future of Astria's martial world ? " As she reached the valley's edge , Theresa finally turned back and whispered softly , staring at Leander's distant figure . She couldn't help but wonder how Ethan , Daphne , and Claire -three of Astria's greatest geniuses - would react when they finally met Leander . " Mr. Leander ... just how strong are you ?

" Frankie , standing a short distance from Leander , muttered to himself , lips trembling . Time and again , he had thought they were doomed , only for Leander to shatter all expectations and crush everything in their path with seemingly boundless power . " How strong ? " Leander grinned . " That's a question someone else will answer for me , eventually . " Naturally , the ones he referred to were the Four Extremes of Astria's martial world , especially Gareth Ashcroft , widely regarded as Astria's greatest martial artist .

Leander had to surpass Gareth if he wanted to live up to his eight years of life - and - death training . Frankie hung his head in shame . He had once believed that wealth and power were the ultimate forces that controlled the world , but after meeting Leander , he

realized just how limited his thinking had been . At this level of strength , what good were tricks or schemes ? Tardide Valley soon returned to its former quiet state , but Leander , always cautious , remained in the valley , adopting a more peaceful , hermit - like lifestyle for the time being .

However , outside the valley , the news of Leander killing Alek spread like wildfire . The entire martial world of Astria was shaken to its core . 3/4 15:15 Mon , Oct 13 From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir

Chapter 124 Jade Emperor : Aa (44 Finished In a small teahouse , two men dressed in traditional robes sat across from each other , deep in conversation . " Have you heard ? Alek Peterson is dead ! " one of them said . " Alek Peterson ? You mean the patriarch of the Peterson family , one of the Great Seven Martial Clans of Cloudveil ? " the other replied , his face filled with astonishment . " Exactly , " the first man nodded . " That's impossible ! How can he be dead ? He was a legitimate Martial Sovereign , a renowned expert in Cloudveil's martial world for decades .

He's only in his fifties , which is considered middle - aged for a Martial Sovereign , with decades of life left . How could he suddenly die ? " the second man asked , utterly incredulous . " My friend , I was more shocked than you when I first heard the news , but it's the truth . Alek Peterson is dead , and he was killed - struck down in a single blow ! " The second man's eyes narrowed in disbelief . " Killed ? In one blow ? That's impossible ! Who could kill a Martial Sovereign ? Could it have been one of the Four Extremes ?

" He pondered for a moment before nodding as if the answer had come to him . " It must have been . I've heard that the Jade Emperor from the Four Extremes has long had grievances with the Great Seven Martial Clans of Cloudveil . And Grayson Shire happens to be in Listin Star Peak . If he made a move , it's possible Peterson could have fallen to him ! " But just as quickly , he shook his head . " No , that's not right . Shire has been in seclusion at Shire Peak for over a decade , not involving himself in the martial world . It couldn't have been him .

As for the other three members of the Four Extremes , they have no quarrel with the Peterson family . So , who else could have possibly killed Peterson ? " The first man paused before responding , " I was just as shocked as you , but fortunately , I have my sources . I received confirmed information just moments ago . Peterson was killed by Jeff Ashcroft . " The second man's expression turned to utter disbelief . " Jeff Ashcroft ? The same Jeff Ashcroft from Mornwick who killed Mason Tarlyn , the second - in - command of the Tarlyn Guild , with one punch ?

" The first man nodded solemnly , his face filled with deep respect . It took the second man a long moment to recover from the shock . " That's impossible , isn't it ? Martial Sovereigns are like dragons , not so easily killed . Even if Ashcroft could defeat Peterson , killing him should have been next to impossible . Could it be that Ashcroft used some sort of 1/5 15:15 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 124 Jade Emperor underhanded trick ? " : 44 Finished The first man shook his head slowly .

" At first , I thought the same , but according to internal sources from the other six families of the Great Seven Martial Clans , Peterson died in a direct confrontation with

Ashcroft . Ashcroft killed him with one punch , right there on the spot . The second man fell silent , his eyes slowly filling with an increasing sense of dread . In martial circles across Astria , conversations similar to this one echoed . The news of the battle between Leander and Alek , in which Leander had decisively killed Alek , had spread like wildfire , causing waves of shock throughout the martial world .

With Alek's death , those who stayed informed about the latest events quickly learned of this monumental clash . Leander had already gained widespread fame across Astria after killing Mason , but now , with Alek's death , the entire martial world erupted into chaos , as if a storm had swept through , shaking every corner . On Brooke Mountain , at the Crestgate Holloway Residence in Mornwick , Raymond , who had previously lost a wager in medical skill to Leander , sat cross - legged on the ground , circulating his inner strength throughout his body . Ugh !

After a short while , Raymond coughed up a mouthful of blood , his face losing what little color remained . His breath grew weaker with each passing moment . " How could this be ? " he muttered to himself in disbelief . This was the 98th attempt he had made to heal himself over the last two months , yet his condition had only worsened . His injuries had not improved ; instead , his cultivation had regressed . He had fallen from the level of Grandmaster to Martial Master and continued to weaken by the day .

Ever since Leander had injured him , Raymond had returned to Brooke Mountain to heal , planning to recover before journeying to Listin's Shire Peak to meet his master . However , despite trying nearly a hundred different treatments , nothing had worked . " Ruthless moves , Ashcroft ! " he cursed aloud . With no more hesitation , he dragged his

broken body down the mountain . He knew that if he delayed any longer , he wouldn't just become a cripple - he might lose his life altogether .

Listin Star Peak , located in the southern part of Listin , consisted of seven peaks , each linked like a constellation of stars , hence its name . The highest of these peaks was Shire Summit , and at its very top was Shire Peak , a place of incredible beauty and grandeur that few could reach . This remote Shire Peak would have remained unknown were it not for the presence of one man , whose seclusion there had made it famous throughout Astria's martial world .

2/5 15:15 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 124 Jade Emperor 49 44 Finished That man was Grayson Shire , also known as the Jade Emperor , a legendary figure whose name commanded respect and fear . Over a decade ago , he had been considered unbeatable , a true master who had never tasted defeat . On this particular day , a ragged figure was struggling up the steep side of Shire Summit . His hands were bloodied , but his determination never wavered . Finally , after much effort , he reached the top of Shire Peak . At the center of the peak stood a simple wooden cabin .

A middle - aged man leaned against the side of the cabin , his eyes closed as he rested , seemingly at peace . Though his appearance was youthful , his hair was completely silver , giving him the air of an elder . His skin , however , was radiant and flawless , glowing with health as if he were some immortal being . Shire Peak , standing several hundred feet tall , was bitterly cold , with biting winds . Most people would need heavy winter clothing just to survive , but this man wore only a thin white robe , unaffected by the frigid air .

In the next moment , he slowly opened his eyes , which reflected the wisdom of countless years and the weight of the world . His gaze seemed to pierce through the clouds as he surveyed the world below him . The ragged figure who had just climbed to the summit revealed himself - it was none other than Raymond , who had recently left Brooke Mountain . His face was covered in dirt , and his body was battered and exhausted , but he had finally made it to the cabin . With deep reverence , Raymond knelt before the white - robed man , bowing until his forehead touched the ground .

" Master , please save me ! " His voice was desperate , his body covered in blood , his aura weak , a far cry from the esteemed master of medicine once revered throughout Mornwick . The elder's expression remained unchanged , calm , and unaffected , as if looking at a stranger . " Raymond , " the elder said , his voice echoing across the peaks of Star Peak like a distant celestial call . " We haven't seen each other for years , and yet ... you've regressed . " His gaze held no warmth , no trace of sympathy , as though he were merely observing someone completely unrelated to him .

Raymond struggled to straighten his body , about to speak again , when blood suddenly gushed from his mouth , dripping onto the ground . His entire body convulsed uncontrollably . Darkness began to cloud his vision , and just as he was about to collapse , a gentle force rose from beneath , supporting him before he could hit the ground . He was stunned , lifting his head in disbelief . The white - robed man remained seated , 3/5 15:15 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 124 Jade Emperor completely motionless .

: 44 4444 Finished To control inner strength with just a thought , as easily as breathing - this must be the pinnacle of Martial Sovereign mastery , Raymond thought , his awe

growing deeper the more he observed the white - robed man . Though the man sat directly before him , Raymond could barely sense his presence . It was as if he were staring at a cloud of air , a void . Ten years ago , when Raymond first left the mountain as a disciple , the elder had not yet reached such a level . Back then , Raymond could still sense the man's strength .

But now , as though he stood before a boundless universe , completely inscrutable . " Hm ? " The elder opened his eyes slightly . As he used his inner strength to hold Raymond in place , his gaze sharpened , a gleam flashing in his eyes . In the next instant , he flicked his finger , and a white beam of energy shot into Raymond's body , entering through the top of his head . " This ... " Raymond felt his depleted energy begin to stir and rise . He could feel intense heat in his core as two different forces clashed violently within him . Ugh !

Suddenly , intense pain wracked his stomach , and he spat out another mouthful of blood . " Interesting ! " The white - robed man's face lit up with a spark of curiosity . He flicked his fingers again , sending two more beams of white light into Raymond's body . Raymond rolled on the ground in agony , teetering on the edge of unconsciousness . After half an hour of excruciating pain , a faint blue mist expelled from his nose . His once pale face turned rosy , and the turmoil in his body gradually subsided .

He could feel the parasitic force that had been draining his life for the past two months being purged . The deterioration of his strength had stopped . " Thank you , Master ! " Raymond hastily crawled to his feet and bowed deeply to the elder , pressing his forehead to the ground . But the white - robed man paid no attention , his piercing gaze

cutting straight through Raymond . His eyes were like swords . " Tell me , who wounded you ? " Raymond's mind filled with the image of the imperious young man who had left him in such a state .

His eyes flashed with bitterness and hatred as he replied , his voice low and vengeful , " Master , his name is Jeff Ashcroft ! " Hearing that , the elder didn't ask for any further details or explanations . Instead , he stepped forward , crossing dozens of yards in a single stride , until he stood at the edge of the cliff , where he threw his head back and laughed wildly . 15:15 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 124 Jade Emperor 44 Finished " Hahaha ! To think that after a decade of seclusion , another worthy opponent has emerged in Astria's martial world besides Gareth Ashcroft !

A peerless master for me to challenge , hahaha ! " His laughter echoed across the peak , shaking the clouds and sending ripples of energy through the air as if a god or demon had descended upon the world . This man , who appeared so ordinary and rugged in his mountain home , was none other than Grayson Shire - the fearsome Jade Emperor who once reigned over Astria . Send Gifts 60 15:15 Mon , Oct 13 From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heit

Chapter 125 South Shire Reemerges 44 Finished Grayson threw his head back in wild laughter , the sound reverberating through the air like a thunderclap . Behind him , Raymond felt his head spin , his blood roiling as the laughter nearly overwhelmed him , almost causing him to pass out . Grayson stopped his laughter abruptly , turning back

with his hands behind his back . " Raymond , this Jeff Ashcroft - does he belong to the Ashcroft family from Highcliffe ? " Raymond quickly shook his head .

" Jeff Ashcroft doesn't seem to have any connection with the Ashcroft family , Master , but his strength has already fully entered the realm of a Martial Sovereign ! Just a month ago , he killed Mason Tarlyn with a single punch at Mount Lurvale , and only a few days ago , he slayed Alek Peterson , the patriarch of the Peterson family , one of the Great Seven Martial Clans of Cloudveil . He's already shaken the martial world of Astria ! " During his journey to Shire Peak , Raymond had gathered more news about Leander and was quietly astonished by what he had learned . " Did he now ?

Kill Alek Peterson . " Grayson's interest grew even stronger . Mason had been nothing more than a Grandmaster - level fighter a decade ago , barely worthy of Grayson's attention . But Alek was different . Ten years ago , Alek had already reached the level of Martial Sovereign , and Grayson had once crossed paths with him in battle , earning a measure of respect for his abilities . " That's right .

It's said that in their battle , Peterson unleashed the most powerful move from the Peterson family's secret techniques , but even so , Ashcroft killed him with a single punch , " Raymond confirmed . Grayson paced leisurely , gazing at the clouds below , his voice calm as he spoke . " Sixteen years ago , Peterson and I had a chance encounter on the Cloudveil plateau , where we fought . I defeated him in twenty moves . I saw potential in him and spared his life , thinking he would improve with time .

" Over the last ten years , he should've at least reached the intermediate Martial Sovereign level , but even so , Ashcroft killed him . This man is truly something . "

Although Grayson was praising Leander , his tone was indifferent , as if he were a renowned scholar acknowledging a top student's achievement on an exam . His words carried the weight of a man who had long since surpassed such feats . He turned to Raymond and continued , " Earlier , I sensed an extremely pure and potent inner strength embedded deep in your core .

That's the source of your injury , which has been preventing your recovery . " I used three strands of inner strength to expel it from your body . As far as I know , besides myself , only Gareth Ashcroft and Maximilian Morgan - Royce have the ability to implant such powerful inner strength that erodes vitality . Even Sean Judie , who dominates the West , lacks 1/3 15:15 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 125 South Shire Reemerges this capability . " : 44 Finished Raymond felt a moment of clarity .

Grayson had once told him that among the Four Extremes , Sean's reputation rested not solely on his martial prowess but also on the mystical techniques . passed down from his ancestor , Paul Judie . In terms of pure martial skill , Sean was not at the same level as Grayson , Gareth , and Maximilian . Grayson continued , " But I never expected that , aside from myself , Gareth Ashcroft , and Maximilian Morgan - Royce , another like Jeff Ashcroft would emerge ! " Raymond was left speechless , his heart pounding with fear .

Grayson was known for his calm , steady demeanor , yet that day , he had laughed twice - a reaction he only displayed when encountering a worthy opponent . Raymond took a deep breath , astonished beyond belief . Grayson stood at the pinnacle of Astria's martial world , with only Gareth surpassing him and Maximilian barely matching him .

Grayson was a true living legend in the martial world . For him to react this way meant that he now considered Leander an equal - someone worthy of being his opponent .

Raymond could hardly fathom it .

How could a boy of barely legal age be compared to the likes of Grayson and the other giants of Astria's martial world ? " Raymond , how old is this Jeff Ashcroft ? " Grayson pressed on . Raymond hesitated for a moment before replying , " Master , Ashcroft is only seventeen or eighteen years old and is already known in the martial world as the ' Young Martial Sovereign . " " Is that so ? " Grayson's expression shifted again , this time with even more surprise and bewilderment . " Seventeen or eighteen ? A Young Martial Sovereign ?

" He stood still , staring into the distance for a long time before slowly turning around . " Back then , Gareth reached the Martial Sovereign level at 35 , and he was already considered the greatest prodigy of his time . But this Jeff , becoming a Martial Sovereign at 17 or 18 and already rivaling us in strength - it's unimaginable that Astria's martial world has produced such an extraordinary genius . Excellent , excellent ... truly excellent !

" Grayson repeated the word " excellent " three times , and even though Raymond was standing several feet away , he could feel the overwhelming aura emanating from Grayson's body - an unmistakable sign that his battle spirit had been ignited . Raymond immediately dropped to his knees , trembling with fear . After his battle with Gareth , Grayson had secluded himself atop Shire Peak for over a decade , not stepping foot into the martial world or engaging in any further duels .

Each time Raymond had come to visit , Grayson had seemed like a monk in deep meditation , content with the life of a reclusive mountain dweller . But now , because of Jeff's rise , Grayson's fighting spirit had been reignited , reminding Raymond of the invincible warrior of the past . The sudden change left Raymond both awestruck and terrified . 2/3 15:15 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 125 South Shire Reemerges 44 Finished
Grayson turned to Raymond , his voice now calm and steady . " Raymond , with Jeff Ashcroft's power , he could have easily killed you with one strike .

Since he spared you and left some inner strength within your body , he must have left a message . What did he say ? " Raymond remained kneeling , his forehead pressed to the ground . He dared not rise as he answered in a low voice , " Master , he said ... he took the pendant you gave me . If you have any dissatisfaction , you can find him in Ravenridge . " Grayson stood unmoving in the wind , his robes and hair remaining perfectly still , unaffected by the gusts swirling around him . " Very bold , Ashcroft !

" After a moment of silence , a flicker of emotion appeared in Grayson's eyes , and he nodded . " I thought that after ten years of seclusion on Shire Peak , I would perfect my skills and descend the mountain to challenge Gareth Ashcroft once more . But I did not expect that , in the meantime , a Jeff Ashcroft would emerge from nowhere ! " Then , Grayson raised his hand . The clouds surrounding Shire Peak began to swirl rapidly , forming a visible vortex in the sky above . Raymond watched in horror , his heart pounding . Could such power even be wielded by a human ?

Grayson's fingers twisted into a claw - like shape , and with a swift motion , he pulled down . The vortex transformed into a massive net of clouds , covering the entire sky and

enshrouding Shire Peak . Slowly , the cloud net began to contract inward . Several birds flying past the mountain were instantly sliced in half by the fine threads of the cloud net , unaware of the danger . " This ... " Raymond was utterly astonished , overwhelmed by the sheer display of power . He couldn't begin to fathom what would happen to anyone caught beneath that net - how could they possibly survive ?

When the cloud net finally shrank to its limit , Grayson lowered his hand , and the entire net dissipated into the sky , once again forming harmless white clouds as though the terrifying scene had never occurred . It was as if he wielded divine power . " Raymond , recuperate here for the next two weeks . After that , you will follow me down the mountain . " Grayson stood with his hands clasped behind his back , staring toward the north of Mornwick . Raymond understood immediately - this powerful figure who had dominated Astria's martial world for so long had decided to come out of seclusion .

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Chapter 126 Seeing Madeline Again Finished Leander's days in Tardide Valley passed by in peace and simplicity . Occasionally , he'd chat with Sierra for a bit . Two days later , on a quiet morning , an eruption of cheers suddenly broke out at the Phoenix Essence Pill research base . " It worked ! We did it ! " A group of top researchers from all over Astria embraced one another like children , tears of excitement and joy glistening on their faces .

After nearly half a month of sleepless , tireless work , they had finally reaped their reward - the Phoenix Essence Pill had been successfully created . Leander , leaning against the courtyard wall , shared in their joy . He then turned to Frankie , who had been waiting nearby for quite some time . " Notify Tommy Dunphy , Gumus Mardin , and the others to make the company's promotion as grand as possible . In two days , I want all the elites of Mornwick to gather in Ravenridge ! I've already thought of the company's name - we'll call it ' Jeff Enterprises !

"" Frankie acknowledged the order and left . Leander clenched his fist , a sharp glint flashing in his eyes . His massive business empire was finally ready to set sail . Later that afternoon , Frankie arranged for someone to escort Leander back to Ravenridge . By the time he arrived at the gates of Rivergate Haven , it was already dark . As Leander stepped past the entrance , a youthful and beautiful figure approached from the opposite direction . With a slight glance , he recognized Yvette , who he hadn't seen in a week .

She looked surprised to see him , and next to her was the confident and self - assured Colin . Leander noticed the matching couple rings on their hands . Colin nodded and smiled at Leander , a hint of provocation and victory in his expression . A few days ago , Yvette had agreed to date him , and now their relationship was official . They were a couple . Although Yvette had avoided any physical contact with him - no hand - holding , no hugging - it was enough to make him excited . Their relationship was sealed , and Yvette was his now . There was no way she'd run .

Even though Yvette had once had some special feelings for Leander , that was all in the past . Things were settled now . That night , their parents even met to discuss their engagement . " It's been a while , " Yvette said , her voice soft . Seeing Leander again felt almost surreal , and she wasn't sure what else to say . " Yeah , " Leander nodded . He had already predicted this outcome , and in fact , he had been the one to set it in motion . 1/4 15:16 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 126 Seeing Madeline Again : 44 Finished As he was about to walk past her , Yvette suddenly spoke again , " Hey , um ...

why did you stop going to school ? " Since Leander had left school that day , he hadn't returned , and all of his belongings had been cleared out . His grades were practically legendary - he had scored an unbelievable , nearly perfect score on the last monthly exam . Even if he had a bad day during the SATs , getting into a top university would've been a piece of cake . His future was bright . But Leander had left school at this crucial moment , stepping away from the class , and rumors had it that he wasn't planning to take the SATs at all . Yvette simply couldn't understand it .

" There's no point in going anymore . " Leander shrugged . He had already been granted direct entry to Highcliffe University , so staying in school would've been a waste of time . Yvette frowned deeply . A thought flashed through her mind - maybe Leander had gotten caught up in short - term gains working under Frankie and had chosen to abandon his education , opting for a life of fighting and chaos instead . With a sigh , she decided not to press further . " My mom said if I ran into you , I should invite you over . We're having a dinner party tomorrow night at my house . You should come .

" Her eyes were bright , and her voice was calm as she suppressed the concern she still had for Leander . If he was choosing to throw away his future and abandon the right path , why should she bother to intervene ? " Alright ." Leander nodded , walking past Yvette and heading toward Villa No. 1 . Yvette shook her head slightly . Leander had ultimately chosen a path she couldn't approve of . Beside her , Colin noticed her reaction and softly consoled her , " Yvette , it's his choice . Why bother worrying about it ?

Who knows , maybe working for Frankie Wainwright will give him the chance to make a name for himself . He could end up being a big shot one day ." Colin's words were entirely insincere . Deep down , he didn't believe for a second that Leander would ever achieve anything noteworthy . In fact , he hoped Leander would remain stuck far behind him forever . " Let's go ," Yvette said , withdrawing her gaze from Leander , She and Colin walked away side by side , leaving the villa neighborhood. The following evening , Leander arrived at the Sitwell Residence as agreed .

It was Yvette who opened the door . " You're here ," Yvette greeted him with a calm , indifferent tone before turning to head inside . Leander followed her at a measured pace . The living room was already filled with several 2/4 15:16 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 126 Seeing Madeline Again people , mostly young adults . Aside from Linden , everyone else was around their age . 44 Finished Among those present were Yvette , Colin , Autumn , and Ginny . Sitting beside Linden was an unfamiliar young man and the two seemed to be chatting happily . There was even a hint of respect in Linden's demeanor .

Colin addressed the young man deferentially as " Mr. Bastian ," clearly indicating the man's superior status . Yvette and the others were also polite , even trying to flatter him a bit . Leander stood by the entrance , but no one paid him much attention . The group carried on their conversation as if he didn't exist . Only Autumn glanced in his direction , her expression freezing momentarily before her voice lowered . Come , have a seat , " Yvette said , pulling out a chair for him . It was only then that the others turned to acknowledge Leander's presence .

Ginny , of course , maintained her usual aloof attitude , treating Leander as though he were invisible . Linden's eyes were stern as he gave Leander a brief nod before returning to his conversation with the young man . As for the stranger , he didn't even bother to look in Leander's direction , clearly not considering him worthy of any attention . With his status , someone like Leander wasn't worth his notice . Leander remained unfazed . He was just about to sit down when someone emerged from the direction of the bathroom .

The person's footsteps stopped abruptly , and they stared at him with a complex expression . " Leander ? " Leander looked up . It was Madeline , who he hadn't seen in nearly two months , standing not far away and gazing at him . In those two months , Madeline had changed significantly from her school days . Back then , she often wore her school uniform or simple athletic wear . Though she had always been naturally beautiful , she lacked a certain elegance . Now , however , she was dressed in a simple yet refined evening gown , with delicate makeup enhancing her features .

Her presence was so radiant that even Yvette paled in comparison . Leander's gaze remained calm as he gave a faint smile . " Long time no see , Gardner . Just call me Ashcroft ." Madeline stood frozen , her heart filled with a jumble of emotions . When she saw Leander again , she had instinctively called him " Leander , " but his response took her by surprise . ' There's no ' Leander ' for you , and there's no more ' little girl ' for me . ' She recalled the words he had spoken to her that day at Water Paradise , and her heart sank .

After a long pause , she gathered herself , forced a small smile , and said softly , " Long time no see , Ashcroft ." She had dropped the affectionate titles they once used , but the change in their 3/4 15:16 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 126 Seeing Madeline Agam relationship was as vast as night and day . Z3 C Finished The stranger , who had been chatting with Linden , had been secretly watching the interaction from the corner of his eye . Seeing Madeline's dazed expression , his brow furrowed , and he glanced at Leander with a hint of malice in his eyes . What's the deal with this guy and Madeline ?

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Chapter 127 Dinner at the Sitwells ' 44 Finished Madeline sat beside the young man , occasionally glancing toward Leander . However , she noticed that Leander hadn't paid her any attention throughout the evening . With a quiet sigh , she reflected on their relationship . Once , she and Leander had been the closest of friends , almost like siblings . Now, they were little more than strangers . While part of her felt relieved , she

couldn't help but feel resigned . If someone wanted to climb higher and see farther , they had to give up certain things .

For her , it meant parting with old friends , including Leander , and embracing the significance of the people currently in her life , like the young man sitting next to her . Both were significant to her life , but Leander had undoubtedly become something she needed to let go of . Suddenly , the young man stood up and extended his hand toward Leander . " Hey there , first time meeting you . Let's introduce ourselves . I'm Bastian Dunphy , a friend of Madeline's . " This unexpected gesture surprised everyone else in the room .

Bastian's status was the most prominent of anyone present , with a powerful background . In fact , his position was even higher than that of Zayn Mardin , whom they had encountered previously at Water Paradise . Even Linden had to show Bastian respect , addressing him as " Mr. Dunphy ." So , for someone like Bastian to take the initiative and greet Leander was a surprising move . Of course , Bastian wasn't genuinely interested in befriending Leander . He simply wanted to probe a bit , to figure out who this young man was .

About two weeks ago , Bastian had met Madeline at a celebration hosted by Glorious Entertainment . Instantly captivated by her , he had begun pursuing her . Though she hadn't accepted his advances , they had maintained an ambiguous , friendly relationship . But now , seeing Leander's presence and the way Madeline reacted to him made Bastian feel a sudden sense of threat . " Leander Ashcroft , " Leander responded flatly

without extending his hand . Bastian's expression changed slightly , and even Linden furrowed his brow in displeasure . He immediately called out , " Leander , Mr.

Dunphy is offering his hand . The least you could do is show some basic courtesy . "

Bastian was no ordinary person - he was the only son of Tommy Dunphy , a major figure in Southridge . In ancient times , he would've been considered a prince . So , for Leander to ignore his handshake was as good as inviting trouble . Yvette frowned slightly , intending to intervene , but before she could speak , Leander replied , " Oh , sorry , I don't have the habit of shaking hands ." Leander's response sent a ripple of shock through the room .

Clearly , he couldn't care less about showing Bastian any respect . The tension hung in the air for a long moment before Bastian slowly withdrew his hand , an ambiguous smile spreading across his face . " Leander , huh ? Interesting . " 1/4 15:17 Mon , Oct 13

Chapter 127 Dinner at the Sitwells 44 Finished Hearing Bastian's tone , Colin thrilled inwardly . The more disrespectful Leander was toward Bastian , the happier Colin became . Bastian's status was far above his own , and from what Colin knew , Bastian was notoriously petty , not the type to forgive such slights easily .

Though Bastian had appeared calm on the surface , Colin knew he had likely already added Leander to his list of future targets . The next chance Bastian got , he wouldn't hesitate to trample all over him . Yvette silently shook her head . Leander seemed to always act according to his own will , whether it was during their first meeting with Colin or now , in his dealings with Bastian . She had no idea how to communicate with him

anymore , nor did she want to involve herself in such matters . Ginny , on the other hand , was delighted by Leander's reckless behavior .

The more he dug his own grave , the more amused she was . Only Autumn remained unfazed by Leander's actions , showing no surprise at all . After all , they were talking about the legendary Mr. Ashcroft of Mornwick , a man who commanded respect and authority . Even Bastian's father , Tommy , would tremble before Leander and wouldn't dare offer him a handshake . So how could someone like Bastian , who didn't even match his father's status , presume to shake Leander's hand ? Linden let out a cold humph in Leander's direction before turning to Bastian with an apologetic smile . " Mr.

Dunphy , I apologize . He's from a rural area and doesn't quite understand how things work . Later , we'll share a drink to make up for it . " " It's alright . Don't worry about it , " Bastian replied with a faint smile and a shake of his head , though inwardly , he had already marked Leander as someone to keep an eye on . Because of Leander's brief exchange with Bastian , he found himself immediately isolated from the group . He sat alone at the far end of the long dining table , clearly out of place , and no one made an effort to engage him . " Um , Leander ... want some fruit ?

" Suddenly , a fragrant breeze swept by , and a plate of watermelon was placed in front of Leander . Autumn smiled as she took a seat beside him . Her gesture took the others by surprise . No one had expected Autumn , who had been the harshest critic of Leander during their trip to Ascendia , to take the initiative and talk to him . Even Colin found it puzzling . He knew Autumn well enough - she never approached anyone unless

she saw some benefit or value in it . But now , she seemed particularly friendly toward Leander , which he couldn't quite understand .

Right , it must be that Leander's working for Frankie . She's just trying to network and win him over , Colin thought , quickly making sense of the situation . The more he thought about it , the more reasonable it seemed . Otherwise , why else would someone as haughty as Autumn cozy up to Leander ? 2/4 15:17 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 127

Dinner at the Sitwells 44 Finished Bastian , on the other hand , only cast a brief glance at Leander before looking away . He didn't care about Autumn's interaction with Leander .

Despite being Frankie's " sugar baby , " Autumn's status was still leagues beneath his own . Whoever she tried to cozy up to was of no consequence to him . Leander casually grabbed a piece of watermelon and tossed it into his mouth without much care , his actions unbothered . But Linden , watching from across the room , felt a surge of displeasure . In the presence of someone like Bastian , Leander's casual manner seemed far too disrespectful . After about ten minutes , Monica Hollis brought out the last of the dishes and set them on the table .

She first greeted Bastian before turning her attention to Leander , her expression growing more serious . " Leander , you've finally come visit ! Come with me to the balcony . I have something I want to talk to you about . " Leander nodded and followed Monica up to the second - floor balcony. Once they were outside , Monica gently patted Leander on the shoulder , her eyes filled with the warmth of a caring elder . " Leander ,

I've heard that you're no longer in school . Honestly , there are many paths in this world , and education is just one of them .

Many great people didn't find their success through schooling ." She gestured for Leander to sit with her on the couch by the balcony , her tone gentle yet sincere . " I didn't invite you here to scold you today . The path you've chosen - whether good or bad - is your decision , and I have no right to force you to change it . I just want to tell you that no matter how difficult the road ahead becomes , whether you find yourself in wealth or poverty , joy or hardship , always remember that you have me . If you ever need anything , don't hesitate to come to me .

I may not be able to solve all your problems , but anything I can do , I'll do it without question . I will always be here for you ." Monica's words took Leander by surprise . They had met by chance in the mountains , and while Leander had helped her , she had already repaid him . Their debts to each other had been cleared . Yet here she was , expressing genuine concern for him , which moved him deeply . Since the day Gareth destroyed his martial power and cast him into the wilderness , Leander had grown distant from emotional connections .

Yet , Hazel Shire and now Monica Hollis , though not related to him by blood , had treated him with sincere kindness . " Got it , Ms. Hollis . Thank you , " Leander said , his gratitude heartfelt . Even though he may never need Monica's help in the future , his respect for her was genuine . " Alright , let's head back and enjoy dinner , " Monica smiled warmly , treating Leander with the same affection she would a son . At the dinner table , things returned to the way they were before .

Besides Monica and Autumn occasionally speaking to Leander , the rest of the group continued to ignore him , lost in their own conversations . 3/4 15.17 Mon , Oct 13

Chapter 127 Dinner at the Sitwells 44 Finished Suddenly , Linden seemed to remember something . He set down his cutleries and directed a question to Bastian , his gaze steady . " Mr. Dunphy , there's something I've been meaning to ask you . Tomorrow , Jeff Enterprises is holding its grand opening at Maplebrook Manor . Do you know if Mr. Ashcroft will be attending ? " Instantly , the room fell silent .

Everyone except for Leander , who continued eating calmly , put down their cutleries . The atmosphere in the hall grew tense . Send Gifts 19

Chapter 128 Why Should I ? 23 Susta " Jeff Enterprises " had been relatively unknown in Ravenridge just a few days ago . However , in just the past couple of days , it had stirred up quite the commotion . Not only had the entire city of Ravenridge been buzzing , but the ripple effect had spread across all of Mornwick . Wealthy elites , influential figures , and powerful tycoons from all over the province had flocked to Ravenridge , all for the grand opening of Jeff Enterprises the next day . Everyone knew that the owner of Jeff Enterprises was none other than the enigmatic and dominant Mr.

Ashcroft , who held sway over all of Mornwick . And now , the question on everyone's mind was whether this legendary yet elusive figure would make an appearance at the event . Yvette , Ginny , and Madeline were no exception - they were eagerly anticipating it as well . The legend of Mr. Ashcroft had long captivated their imaginations . As his reputation continued to grow , so did their curiosity about him . Unfortunately , none of

them had ever had the chance to meet him in person . Even Bastian , with all his status , grew silent at the mention of Mr. Ashcroft's name .

Linden , treading carefully , asked , " Mr. Dunphy , with your esteemed connections , you must have access to some insider information . Could you share anything with us ? " Although Linden was the chairman of a company , he was still small - time compared to people like Frankie and Gumus , let alone someone as high up as Mr. Ashcroft . He hoped to gather some useful information - if Mr. Ashcroft would attend the event , he wanted to prepare thoroughly , perhaps even find an opportunity to introduce himself and make an impression .

Everyone turned to Bastian except for Leander , who continued eating calmly, completely unfazed by the conversation . After a few seconds of silence , Bastian finally spoke . " From what I've heard , Mr. Ashcroft likely won't be attending tomorrow . The grand opening will be hosted by Mr. Wainwright , and my father , along with Mr. Mardin from Ascendia , will handle logistics . " Disappointment flickered across the faces of the group . " Sigh , I was really hoping to see Mr. Ashcroft in person this time . Who would've thought he wouldn't show up ?

" Ginny complained , her face full of regret . She was an unabashed fan of Mr. Ashcroft . In Ravenridge's high society , there were many stories circulating about him , and she had committed every one of them to memory . Her admiration for the man bordered on obsession , and she had become something of a devoted fangirl . Yvette and Madeline both sighed as well . Though not as over - the - top as Ginny , they , too , had been

eager to see Mr. Ashcroft , whom they had long admired . But it seemed fate had other plans .

1/4 15:17 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 126 Why Should 17 #Finished " It is indeed a shame we won't be able to meet him , " Linden added , frustrated that his plans to bring a gift and seek an introduction would have to be scrapped . " Mr. Ashcroft is no ordinary man , " Colin chimed in , seeing the group's dejection . " His thoughts and perspectives are beyond what we can fathom . A figure like him , appearing only when necessary , is to be expected . It's no surprise he won't attend . " Autumn remained silent , but inside , she was quietly amused . Watching everyone lament over Mr.

Ashcroft's absence made her laugh inwardly . A bunch of fools , she thought to herself . If only you knew that Mr. Ashcroft is sitting right here , eating dinner with you . She couldn't help but glance at Leander , this seemingly ordinary seventeen - year - old . Yet when he chose to reveal his true self , he was like a divine dragon , commanding respect and awe , with no one able to match him . " Oh , Mr. Dunphy , " Madeline suddenly asked , breaking her silence . " Have you ever met Mr. Ashcroft ? " Bastian smiled slightly and shook his head . " Mr.

Ashcroft's status is far too high for us to meet him on a whim . I just returned from abroad last month and haven't had the chance to meet him yet . But I've heard my father describe him . He said Mr. Ashcroft is quite young , probably not much older than any of us . " Upon hearing Bastian's words , Yvette , Madeline , and the others were utterly astonished . Colin had mentioned before that Mr. Ashcroft was young , but they

had assumed that " young " meant at least in his thirties . To dominate Mornwick at the age of thirty would already be impressive .

But now , hearing Bastian's description , they weren't just surprised - they were downright shocked . " About our age ? That's impossible ! " Ginny blurted out in disbelief . At their age , most people were still thinking about which college to attend , where to grab a coffee , or what to buy while shopping . Even someone like Colin , who managed a multimillion- dollar company , was considered a young talent and a rising star . But to think Mr.

Ashcroft , someone around their age , could not only control Mornwick's underworld but command respect from every powerful figure - it sounded like something out of a fantasy . " Of course , I know this might be hard to believe , but it's absolutely true . Almost every powerful figure I've met has described him this way , " Bastian said with a shrug . He , too , had been in disbelief when he first learned the news . But now , all he felt toward Mr. Ashcroft was reverence . His father had even mentioned that once the time was right , he'd introduce Bastian to Mr. Ashcroft .

The thought of meeting such a legendary figure and receiving his guidance was exhilarating for Bastian - he knew it would elevate him far beyond just being the heir of Southridge's Dunphy family . " To be so young and already ruling over Mornwick's underground - Mr . Ashcroft truly is a 2/4 15 17 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 128 Why Should 12 Finished remarkable man , " Linden finally recovered from his shock and couldn't help but express his admiration . Ginny's eyes sparkled with excitement . She had

assumed that Mr. Ashcroft was in his thirties , and even then , she had admired him immensely .

Now that she knew he was around her age , her admiration blossomed into something more . She began daydreaming of a beautiful encounter with Mr. Ashcroft that would lead to a grand wedding , imagining herself as the " queen " of Mornwick . Yvette and Madeline were equally awestruck , while Colin could only rub his nose with a wry smile . " I really don't know how long we'd have to work to even come close to reaching Mr. Ashcroft's level , " he said . The room fell silent . Everyone knew that Mr. Ashcroft's level of success was not something that could be achieved by simple hard work.

For the rest of the evening , the conversation revolved around Mr. Ashcroft . Bastian shared everything he had heard from his father about the legendary figure's deeds and abilities , leaving everyone in awe . Meanwhile , Leander quietly continued eating , unnoticed by anyone . After dinner , they all chatted with Linden for a bit longer before Bastian suggested they head to a bar . Everyone agreed and left the Sitwell Residence . Leander followed the group , planning to slip away on his own once they left the neighborhood .

But as soon as they stepped out of the Sitwell Residence , Bastian suddenly stopped in his tracks , blocking Leander's path . Yvette , Madeline , and the others immediately sensed something was wrong , their expressions shifting . Colin , on the other hand , laughed inwardly - he knew Bastian's revenge was coming . Leander had embarrassed Bastian earlier , and now it was payback time . " Leander , right ? " Bastian called out , his tone dripping with arrogance as he looked down on him .

" I don't care what kind of relationship you have with Madeline , but I can tell that your presence makes her unhappy . " He stepped closer , his eyes narrowing . " From now on , I want you to stay far away from her . If she's anywhere near , you'd better keep at least ten feet away . Got it ? " Madeline's eyes widened with surprise , and she was about to speak up for Leander when Ginny quickly grabbed her arm , holding her back . " And why should I ? " Leander replied flatly , glancing at Bastian . Bastian's confidence was evident in his smirk . " Because I am Bastian Dunphy .

Because I'm the son of Tommy Dunphy . " The first heir of the Dunphy family finally revealed his sharpest fangs . This had always been his 3/4 15.17 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 128 Why Should 17 Finished style - bold and ruthless , never one to waste time with unnecessary politeness . His method was simple : pure dominance . All eyes turned to Leander . Yvette wanted to say something to defend him , but in the face of Bastian's authority , even Colin wasn't on the same level . What could she possibly do ? " Tommy Dunphy ? " Leander chuckled , a glint of amusement in his eyes .

" I'm curious - if your father knew how arrogantly you're speaking to me right now ... " Would he break your legs ? " Send Gifts 60 AIA 15.17 Mon , Oct 13 from Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir

Chapter 129 What's He Doing Here ? g Finished As soon as Leander's words fell , Yvette and the others ' expressions shifted dramatically . Even Madeline , who had initially intended to shield Leander , was left wide - eyed in disbelief . Everyone knew who Tommy Dunphy was . Before Mr. Ashcroft took control of Mornwick , Tommy had an even bigger presence than Frankie

Wainwright . He was known as the King of Southridge , ruling that region with unmatched power and influence . To joke about Tommy Dunphy in front of his son , Bastian , seemed like pure madness . " Are you done with life ?

" Bastian's eyes turned cold as he took a step forward , swinging his fist straight at Leander's face . " Mr. Dunphy , wait ! " Madeline finally rushed forward , stepping between Leander and Bastian . " Mr. Dunphy , he's been my childhood friend for years . That's just how he is . Please , forgive him . " Standing in front of Leander , Madeline wasn't just trying to prevent Bastian from hitting him- she was also protecting Leander from making the situation worse . She knew Leander's abilities , and Bastian stood no chance against him .

But if Leander were to retaliate and injure Bastian , things would escalate far beyond repair . With Bastian's temperament , he wouldn't stop until Leander was completely destroyed . And if it came to that , it wasn't just Bastian Leander would have to worry about . Tommy himself might get involved . " Madeline , I respect you , but did you hear him ? He was mocking my father , and everyone here heard it ! Do you think I'll just let that slide ? " Bastian pointed at Leander , his face grim with fury .

Colin and Ginny watched from the sidelines , coldly observing , while Yvette's eyes flickered with uncertainty , unsure of how to react . " Please , Mr. Dunphy , I'm begging you ! " Madeline's expression was resolute as she continued to block Bastian , her face full of pleading . Bastian's expression wavered before he reluctantly lowered his fist . " Fine , for your sake . But if he apologizes , I'll pretend I didn't hear anything " He was currently trying to date Madeline , so seeing her stand up for Leander so fiercely forced him to compromise . " Apologize ?

" Leander stepped around Madeline and walked forward slowly . " You think I'll apologize to you ? Do you even dare accept it ? " He smiled faintly , his tone filled with disdain , and began to walk away . But before he left , his voice carried back to the group on the wind . " Tomorrow , I guarantee your father will break your legs . Mark my words . " 1/3 15:17 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 129 What's He Doing Here ? Finished " Son of a- ! " Bastian exploded with rage as Leander's words reached him . He was ready to charge at Leander , but Colin quickly jumped in , playing the peacemaker .

" Come on , Mr. Dunphy , let it go . There's no need to make a scene in front of everyone . Think about the rumors that'll spread if you get physical here . He's just some country bumpkin , all talk and no action . He's not worth your time ." Bastian finally restrained his anger , watching Leander walk away . He let out a cold snort . " I'll make sure he eats his words the next time I see him ! " Yvette and Madeline exchanged a glance , both seeing the same helplessness in each other's eyes .

They had thought that Leander might have changed , but now it was clear that his arrogant , self - centered attitude had only grown stronger , to the point where it seemed uncontrollable . They couldn't even imagine how much worse things might have gotten if Madeline hadn't stepped in to stop the situation from escalating . Autumn , standing not far away , silently pitied Bastian . Mr. Ashcroft always means what he says , she thought , amused by Bastian's ignorance of the situation .

The night quickly passed , and the next day , Maplebrook Manor - the most luxurious and bustling venue in Ravenridge - was already packed with people . The manor's parking lot was overflowing with high - end cars , each worth millions . It was a stunning sight , with luxury

vehicles lined up as far as the eye could see , showcasing extreme wealth . Every car belonged to a prominent figure from Mornwick , each one bearing prestigious license plates . The scene was grand beyond words .

A group of well - dressed young men and women appeared at the entrance of the manor- Yvette , Madeline , Colin , and the others . Bastian had been waiting for them there for quite some time . " Sorry to keep you waiting , Mr. Dunphy , " Colin greeted Bastian with an apologetic nod and smile . " It's fine . The opening ceremony hasn't started yet . The big shots are just arriving now . We're right on time , " Bastian waved off the apology and led the group inside . " Thank you so much for this , Mr. Dunphy , " Yvette and the others expressed their gratitude to Bastian .

Inside Maplebrook Manor , nearly every attendee was a billionaire , with some being worth tens of billions . These were the elites of Mornwick , the highest of the high . Yvette and Colin's families had only just made the cut to enter , and as for the younger generation , without Bastian's connections , they wouldn't have had the chance to attend this gathering . " No need to thank me . You're all friends of Madeline , so arranging a spot for you is the least I could do .

My dad is managing logistics for the event today , so it was easy to get you in , " Bastian 2/3
15:17 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 129 What's He Doing Here ? 2 Finished said casually . His demeanor exuded confidence , impressing the group even further . Aside from his occasional impulsiveness , Bastian truly lived up to his status as the top young heir of Southridge . Bastian led the group into the grand hall , which was as opulent as a palace , with lavish refreshments and drinks available everywhere .

The women were adorned with jewels , radiating an air of nobility , while the men emanated strong , commanding auras , clearly individuals of significant power and

influence . At the center of the hall was a grand exhibition stage , illuminated by three massive crystal chandeliers that captured everyone's attention . Bastian found a spot for the group in a corner of the hall . Though he had the ability to get them into the event , securing prime seating wasn't within his reach . The front row was reserved for the true giants of Mornwick , the kind of people even Bastian had to respect .

None of the group had any complaints , as simply being at such a prestigious event was already a privilege for them . " This really is the most elite gathering in Mornwick . Look at the scale of this - it's incredible . This is the influence that Mr. Ashcroft wields , " Ginny said in awe , watching the powerful figures filling the room . Even Colin , who had seen his fair share of important events , was secretly astonished . He had never attended anything of this magnitude before . These people each ruled their domains , making it incredibly difficult to bring them all together .

Yet , with just a word from Mr. Ashcroft , they had all assembled here , demonstrating his unparalleled influence as the number one figure in Mornwick . As Bastian introduced Yvette and Madeline to some of the prominent figures seated at the front , Yvette's eyes suddenly caught sight of someone at the main entrance . A young man , casually dressed , was walking through the door . " Leander ? What is he doing here ? " Send

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Chapter 130 If You Want to Die , I Won't Stop You Yvette's eyes widened in shock . 44 Finished Everyone seated here , aside from their group , was either a wealthy mogul or someone with immense influence . Yvette and her friends had only been able to attend because of Bastian's connections . But Leander ? He was just an ordinary guy with no

power or influence . How could he possibly be allowed into this event ?! What surprised her even more was seeing Jamero , one of the security personnel at the door , merely nodding at Leander and letting him in without even checking his invitation .

After entering , Leander casually found a seat in a corner , appearing completely unremarkable . Yet , Yvette kept her eyes on him , watching closely . Noticing that Bastian and the others were deep in conversation , she pretended to excuse herself to the restroom . On her way back , she deliberately passed by Leander . " Leander , what are you doing here ? " Yvette whispered urgently , glancing over at Bastian and the others to make sure they weren't paying attention . yet , Everyone here was a big shot , and Leander's aloof nature , his refusal to bow to anyone , made her anxious .

If he clashed with someone here , he wouldn't even know what hit him . Worse Bastian , who had unresolved issues with Leander from the previous day , was also here . With Tommy's people handling security , if Bastian spotted Leander and decided to settle their score after the event , Leander wouldn't stand a chance , no matter how tough he thought he was . " Just here to look around , " Leander replied casually , his eyes barely resting on Yvette before looking away. Yvette's expression shifted to one of concern as she lowered her voice . " You should leave now while you still can !

Bastian's right over there , and he hasn't noticed you yet . After what happened yesterday , if he sees you , there's no way he'll let it go . Almost everyone running security and logistics here is under his dad's control . If he decides to cause trouble for you later , you won't have a way out ! " Her trip to the restroom had been just an excuse to warn Leander , urging him to leave before things escalated . Although she had

decided to distance herself from Leander , he had saved her life twice , and she didn't want to see him beaten bloody and thrown out like a dog . " Leave ?

Why should I leave ? " Leander shook his head , showing no signs of concern . " If he doesn't come looking for me today , I'll go find him myself ." Yvette gasped . She knew Leander was a man of his word , but this time wasn't like any other day . If Leander confronted Bastian here , he'd be up against hundreds of security personnel . The room was filled with powerful tycoons and elite figures ; starting trouble here was practically inviting death . 1/4 15.17 Mon , Oct 13 A Chapter 130 if You Want to Die , I Won't Stop You Finished Why must you be so obstinate , Leander ? " Yvette frowned .

" Even if you want to cause trouble , at least consider the situation ! Every person here is a major figure , a top - tier mogul in Mornwick . If you pick a fight with Bastian , he'll have countless people backing him up . Who's going to help you then ? I know you're proud and never back down from anyone , but there are times when you have to swallow your pride . You've got to learn when to step back . Why don't you get that ? " She felt utterly helpless . No matter how she tried to explain it , Leander seemed oblivious to the gravity of the situation .

Leander merely smiled and shook his head . He pointed to the crowd in the room . " Even if everyone here combined forces , they still wouldn't be enough to make me bow . And Bastian ? He's not even worth mentioning ." He waved dismissively , clearly uninterested in Yvette's continued warnings . " Go back . Right now , it's not me you should be worried about - it's him . " Yvette stood still for a couple of seconds , her disappointment deepening . Finally , she shook her head in defeat .

" I'm done with you ." With that , she quickly walked away , returning to her seat without sparing Leander another glance . She had done all she could , but if Leander stubbornly refused to heed her warning , what more could she do ? " Dunphy , you've been back for a month . Why haven't you hit me up to hang out ? " Suddenly , a young man approached Bastian's table . He wore a plaid shirt , exuding an aura of hostility that made Yvette and the other girls feel slightly uneasy . " Howard ? " Bastian's face lit up when he saw the man , standing to give him a friendly hug .

" Everyone , let me introduce you . This is Howard Mardin , my good buddy from school and the eldest son of Mr. Mardin , the top figure in Ascendia ." Yvette , Madeline , and the others quickly stood up and respectfully raised their glasses . Howard was the son of Gumus Mardin , which made him Zayn's older brother . No one dared to show any disrespect . " Take a seat , everyone ! " Howard waved them down with a friendly nod . Since his run - in with Leander at Water Paradise , he'd become more easygoing .

After exchanging a few pleasantries , Howard sat back down and started chatting with Bastian . After a brief conversation , Howard stood up , intending to mingle at another table . Bastian rose to see him off , but as he was about to sit back down , his eyes suddenly narrowed . " Hm ? It's him ! " He had spotted Leander sitting in a corner on the other side of the room . Yvette's heart sank- 2/4 15:17 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 130 if You Want to Die , I Won't Stop You her worst fear had come true . " Why did Jamero let that guy in ? " Bastian's face darkened .

Finished The others at the table noticed Leander , too , their expressions a mix of confusion and disbelief . This was an exclusive gathering of hundreds of the wealthiest

elites - how had Leander managed to get in ? Colin , thinking it over , leaned in to explain to Bastian . " Mr. Dunphy , I heard Leander's been working for Frankie lately . Jamero probably knows him , so he let him in ." " Hmph ! " Bastian scoffed with a look of disdain . " Doesn't that make him just one of Frankie's lackeys ? Every other lackey here is running security or maintaining order .

Who does he think he is to waltz in and sit down like he owns the place ? It's time I remind him of his place ! " With that , he stood up , ready to confront Leander . He had let Leander off easy the previous night , but this time , he wasn't feeling as generous . " Mr. Dunphy , where are you going ? " Howard asked , noticing Bastian's movement . " I'm about to teach some cocky kid a lesson on respect , " Bastian replied with a fierce glint in his eyes before flashing a grin . " Wanna come along ? " Howard , recalling the old days when they'd stir up trouble together in school , smiled .

" Sure , I'd love to see who's dumb enough to cross you ! " Seeing that , Colin also got up to join them while Yvette and Madeline exchanged worried looks , They had no idea how to help Leander out of this impending disaster . One Bastian was already bad enough , but now Howard had joined in - even if Leander could fight , he certainly couldn't handle being targeted by two top - tier heirs . Howard turned in the direction Bastian had pointed , curious to see who was in need of a " Jesson . " But as his eyes landed on the figure in the corner , his blood ran cold . " Holy sh * t !

" he exclaimed , frozen in place , blurting out a curse in shock . " What is it , Howard ? " Bastian stopped , puzzled . Howard gulped , and the enthusiastic demeanor he'd displayed moments ago instantly vanished . He took a step back from Bastian , putting

distance between them . " Listen , Bastian , we're friends and all , but if you're heading off to get yourself killed , I'm not coming with you ! " With that , Howard turned on his heel and walked away without looking back , leaving Bastian , Colin , and the others utterly confused . " What the hell just happened ?

" Bastian couldn't make sense of Howard's reaction . Shaking his head , he turned back , ready to confront Leander - but by then , Leander had disappeared . 3/4 15:17 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 10 11 You Want to Die , 1 Won't Stop You 44 Finished Tch , lucky for him , he ran off ! " Bastian scoffed , still dissatisfied with how things had turned out . Yvette and Madeline , on the other hand , finally breathed a sigh of relief . He must've listened to me and left , after all , Yvette thought to herself , feeling a sense of quiet victory .

Just as Bastian was about to sit down , a large man dressed in black approached him . " Mr. Dunphy , the boss wants to see you ." Recognizing the man as one of his father's trusted aides , Bastian nodded . After exchanging a quick word with Madeline and the others , he followed the man to a private room in Maplebrook Manor . Inside the room , Tommy stood next to the couch , and sitting casually on that very couch , cross - legged , was none other than Leander . Send Gifts