

From Outcast to Overlord . The Unyielding Heir

Chapter 131 Make the Ashcrofts Look Up 44 Finished " Ashcroft ? What are you doing here ? " Bastian frowned deeply upon seeing Leander in the private room . He had just approached his father , Tommy , ready to speak when , out of nowhere , his usually kind and loving father slapped him hard across the face . Smack ! Tommy didn't hold back in the slightest , and Bastian fell to the ground , his cheek swelling almost instantly . " Dad , why did you hit me ? " Bastian clutched the left side of his face , utterly confused . Bam !

Without answering , Tommy kicked him square in the chest , sending Bastian flying into the corner of the room . " Why did I hit you ? " Tommy stomped on him a few more times before finally exploding in anger . " You wretched rascal ! How dare you offend Mr. Ashcroft ? Forget hitting you ; I should kill you ! " Tommy's eyes were bloodshot , terrifying Bastian , who shrank further into the corner . He had never seen his father so furious , so out of control . Suddenly , his father's words echoed in his mind . " Mr. Ashcroft ?

" It took only a second for realization to hit him like a ton of bricks . He turned his gaze to the couch where Leander sat , horrified . " Leander Ash - Mr . Ashcroft ? " In that instant , it felt like the world collapsed around him . The universe had played the

cruellest joke on him . Tommy was beyond furious - and terrified . His very life was in Leander's hands . Tommy had been hoping to impress Leander , to earn his trust and favor , but instead , his son had stabbed him in the back . " You worthless fool ! I brought you back to help me , and this is what you've done ?!

" Tommy was livid , landing another brutal kick that sent Bastian's nose bleeding . But Bastian didn't react . His mind buzzed , his expression blank . Leander ... Didn't Colin and the others say he's just some backwoods nobody , a mere high school kid with no worldly experience ? How has he suddenly turned into the powerful , untouchable Mr. Ashcroft ?! 1/4 15:18 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 131 Make the Ashcrofts Look Up : If you're heading off to get yourself killed , I'm not coming with you !

' 43 ** Finished The words Howard had said earlier flashed in his mind , and in that moment , Bastian finally understood . With fear in his eyes , he crawled on his knees toward Leander , practically groveling . " Mr. Ashcroft , I'm sorry ! I didn't know it was you ! I swear , I didn't know ! Please don't kill me ! " He was completely petrified . Leander controlled Mornwick's underworld with the power of life and death at his fingertips . He had no mercy . Even Mason , the second - in - command of the Tarlyn Guild , had been killed by Leander with a single punch . What did Bastian count for ?

He could only hope that Leander would show him mercy for Tommy's sake . " Don't worry . I won't kill you . " Leander smiled faintly and took a sip of his drink . " Thank you , Mr. Ashcroft . Thank you ! " Bastian hurriedly knelt , thanking repeatedly , feeling a rush of relief . If he could escape this ordeal unharmed , getting beaten by his father would have been a small price to pay . But Leander's next words froze the smile on Bastian's

face . " You remember what I told you yesterday , don't you ? " Bastian felt a chill run down his spine .

Before he could say a word , Tommy had already picked up a steel bar nearby . " Dad , no ! " Bastian screamed in terror , but despite the conflict in Tommy's eyes , he swung the steel bar down with full force . " Ahhh ! " Bastian's screams echoed throughout the private room . He collapsed to the ground , writhing in pain as one of his legs twisted and mangled beyond recognition . Leander had promised the previous day that Tommy would break Bastian's leg the next day . Sovereign's words were always kept , and Leander's words carried even more weight .

There was no way he would let Bastian off so easily . " Keep your son in line ! " Leander stood up , his gaze cold as he addressed Tommy . " This time , it's just a lesson . Next time , you know the consequences . " Tommy nodded repeatedly , treating every word Leander said like gospel , not daring to offer any retort . Meanwhile , back in the main hall , Bastian's prolonged absence went unnoticed by Yvette and the others , as the opening ceremony had already begun . " Ladies and gentlemen , I'm proud to present the latest product from Jeff Enterprises !

" Frankie stepped onto the stage , his voice booming across the room . 214 15:18 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 131 Make the Ashcrofts Look Up 43 Finished The gathered elite all widened their eyes in curiosity . Jeff Enterprises , co - founded by figures like Frankie and Tommy , was a massive endeavor beyond imagination . Everyone was eager to see what groundbreaking product this powerful corporation had developed . Yvette and the others watched the stage intently as a platform rose before Frankie .

As soon as the glass display case opened , an exotic fragrance wafted through the hall , leaving everyone momentarily dazed , their bodies relaxed as a sense of comfort washed over them . " What is that ? " Some of the more impatient guests stood up , craning their necks to get a better view . Frankie then raised his hand , revealing a small , translucent pill . " Ladies and gentlemen , this is the first product from Jeff Enterprises - the Phoenix Essence Pill ! " Frankie held the pill high as he descended from the stage , allowing everyone to see it clearly .

" Let me introduce you to this little wonder . " The Phoenix Essence Pill is the result of years of research by dozens of top experts , using rare and valuable herbs as ingredients . Its effects ? The best on the market today ! It rejuvenates , restores youth , detoxifies the body , and cures all kinds of ailments . The magic of this pill is far beyond what any of you could imagine ! " Frankie's bold claims were met with silence . The crowd exchanged skeptical glances , many looking dubious . Frankie sounded like one of those street vendors peddling miracle cures .

If it weren't for his established reputation , many of the elite would have walked out by now . Sure , they could believe in skincare , but restoring youth and curing all diseases ? That was a bit too far - fetched . Frankie , however , seemed unfazed by the reactions . He smiled calmly . " I understand your doubts , and that's perfectly fine . We can easily prove the effects of the Phoenix Essence Pill with a volunteer . Who among you would like to test it out ? " He scanned the room of elites with a confident smile , waiting patiently .

Sure enough , after a long pause , an elderly businessman , a revered titan in Mornwick's industrial sector , stepped forward to volunteer . As the man took the pill , Leander , the true force behind this operation , quietly slipped away from the event . He didn't need to see what would happen next . The fact that the respected businessman was willing to try the pill meant the opening ceremony had already achieved its purpose . With the Phoenix Essence Pill's incredible effects , success was inevitable .

All that remained was for Frankie and Tommy to manage the distribution network , and everything would fall into place . As expected , within thirty minutes , the atmosphere in the hall erupted . The elderly businessman appeared a full ten years younger after consuming the Phoenix Essence Pill , 3/4 15:18 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 131 Make the Ashcrofts Look Up 43 Finished shocking everyone present . The elite guests began clamoring to place bids , desperate to be the first to purchase Jeff Enterprises ' latest product .

Watching the excitement and fierce competition in the room , Frankie's admiration for Leander grew even stronger , like a river overflowing its banks . He was confident that , in a short time , the Phoenix Essence Pill would not only sweep across Astria but also take the world by storm . Jeff Enterprises was poised to become a global powerhouse . On the streets of Ravenridge , Leander strolled leisurely . He reached the riverbank and looked northward in the direction of Highcliffe . His eyes narrowed slightly .

" Gareth Ashcroft , when you crippled my martial power all those years ago , did you ever imagine this day would come ? Just wait . I'll make the Ashcroft family bow to me , whether in strength or in business . " Send Gifts 60

From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir Chapter 132 The Storm in Astria's martial world 43 Finished Three days passed in the blink of an eye . At the summit of Star Peak , on Shire Peak , an elderly man in simple robes sat cross - legged outside a wooden cabin - it was Grayson . His aura was as deep as the ocean , and the clouds around him grew thicker and thicker , nearly enveloping the entire peak . " Master ! " Raymond stood by Grayson's side , calling out softly . Grayson had maintained this position for a week .

Suddenly , Grayson opened his eyes , and the dense cloud of energy around him burst apart , dissipating into the air . " It's time to descend the mountain , Raymond , " he said with a faint smile . Raymond's heart raced at his words , and he blurted out in shock , " Master , have you mastered your ultimate technique ? " " Indeed , " Grayson nodded lightly . Without another word , he grabbed Raymond by the collar and leaped toward the cliff . Raymond's face turned pale with fear , nearly crying out as they soared through the air .

Yet , with a mere grasp of Grayson's hand , a powerful force pulled them toward the mountainside . Grayson's feet pushed off the rock , propelling them downward . Within just a few breaths , they had landed at the foot of Shire Peak . Raymond was stupefied . Descending the mountain without any external help , carving a path down the cliffside - Grayson's mastery of martial arts had reached a level beyond Raymond's comprehension . Grayson stood with his hands behind his back , gazing at the vast expanse of the Astria mainland.

His eyes gleamed with sharpness as if his thoughts were materializing . " Let's go . First , we'll head to Ravenridge . After killing Jeff Ashcroft , we'll continue to Highcliffe and meet Gareth Ashcroft . Now that I've perfected my skills , no one in Astria's martial arts can stand in my way ! " Grayson's voice boomed like thunder , shaking the surrounding area . The ground within a radius of thirty feet cracked , and debris flew into the air .

Meanwhile , in the northern border of Cloudveil , an area ruled by one of the Great Seven Martial Clans of Cloudveil , the Dixon family had held power for nearly 150 years . The Dixon family had maintained control here for over a century , and while visitors occasionally came , no one dared intrude uninvited . But that day , two unexpected guests appeared at the gates of Dixon Manor . As the two figures approached , one of them - around fifty years old , dressed like a wandering healer with long black hair and a beard - radiated arrogance .

The other , looking to be in his 1/4 15:18 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 132 The Storm in Astria's martial world 43 Finished thirties but with an aura of ageless wisdom , gave off a weathered air as though he had lived through countless lifetimes . His serene eyes were calm , and his white robes gave him an otherworldly , almost ethereal presence . The two men walked up to the bronze gates of Dixon Manor , where eight guards stood watch . The guards immediately noticed the strangers and spoke in cold , commanding tones . " This is a private residence . You're not allowed to approach . Leave at once !

" The man in white remained silent , but the older healer beside him stepped forward , scoffing as he shouted , " You ignorant fools ! Do you have any idea who my master is ? How dare you block our way ? If you have any sense , summon your elders to greet us ,

or soon , your entire family will know no peace ! " As soon as the healer finished speaking , the eight guards ' eyes turned cold with rage . They had guarded the Dixon family for over a decade . Though they weren't top - tier martial artists in Astria , each one had the strength of a Martial Master .

How could they allow someone to insult the Dixon family so brazenly ? " You asked for it ! " they growled in unison . The eight of them , perfectly coordinated , leaped forward , launching an attack on the two intruders . Their goal was to subdue these arrogant men and deliver them to the Dixon family elders for punishment . " Foolish ! " The man in white remained motionless while the healer sneered coldly . His body moved like a phantom , weaving effortlessly among the eight attackers . Bang ! Bang ! Eight dull thuds echoed almost simultaneously .

The eight guards were all sent flying backward at once , blood spraying from their mouths . In a single instant , the healer had defeated them all , sending them sprawling with such force that it was clear his martial prowess was far beyond theirs . Boom ! The eight guards crashed into the massive bronze gates of Dixon Manor , which toppled with a thunderous roar . The gates , weighing at least a thousand pounds and reinforced with iron bars , should have been unmovable , yet the force of the healer's attack was enough to knock them down .

This display of power far surpassed that of an ordinary Martial Grandmaster . Just as the gates were about to hit the ground , the healer stepped forward , catching one of the doors with a single hand . Then , with a swift motion , he yanked both doors upright as if they were mere planks of wood , flinging them into the courtyard of Dixon Manor . "

Members of the Dixon family , come out and face me ! " he bellowed , his voice booming through the manor . 211 15:18 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 132 The Storm in Astria's martial world Finished " Who dares to cause trouble at Dixon Manor ?

" A stern voice rose from within the manor , and an elderly man in a gray robe leaped into the air , raising his hands to catch the bronze doors . Though the elder managed to stop the doors , he was pushed back several dozen feet before finally steadying himself . His expression turned grave as he realized the power behind the attack . " Who are you ? " the gray - robed elder asked , his eyes sharp with fury . The healer remained silent while the man in white , hands behind his back , strolled forward casually . "

Summon Wade Dixon out to see me .

You are not worthy of speaking to me ." The gray - robed elder's anger flared . He was the second strongest martial artist in the Dixon family , yet this man dismissed him so easily . However , as he got a better look at the white- robed man's face , his body trembled , and he staggered back three steps , cold sweat beading on his forehead . Even if he couldn't recognize his own father , he would never forget this man's face . This man had delivered a devastating blow to the Dixon family eighteen years ago .

To the entire Dixon family , he was a nightmare - a force of destruction unmatched by anyone . Eighteen years ago , this very man had single - handedly torn apart a century's worth of the Dixon family's glory and pride . The elder would never forget that face . "

Grayson Shire ? " The elder's voice trembled as he uttered the name , his words slow and deliberate . In the martial world of Astria , the name represented an almost

unbeatable legend , someone revered and feared by many . The man in white was indeed Grayson , and the healer was none other than his disciple , Raymond .

The master and disciple had descended from Star Peak , passing through Cloudveil's borders , and had come to Dixon Manor . The Dixon family's senior members , who had rushed over to confront the intruders , froze in place upon hearing the name , Grayson was a legend who had once dominated Astria's martial world , standing almost unrivaled . Had it not been for Gareth's rise more than a decade ago , which ended Grayson's undefeated streak , Grayson would still be regarded as the unchallenged champion of Astria .

Even their patriarch , Wade Dixon , had been defeated by Grayson within ten moves . The assembled Dixon family members knew that even if they joined forces , they would be no match for Grayson , who could likely defeat them all with a single hand . But they were also bewildered - Grayson had secluded himself atop Shire Peak on Star Peak after his defeat at the hands of Gareth over a decade ago . Why had he suddenly appeared at Dixon Manor now ? 3/4 15:18 Mon , Oct 13 43 Chapter 132 The Storm in Astria's martial world Finished A sense of foreboding filled the air .

They could all feel it - Astria's martial world was about to be rocked by an incoming storm . Send Gifts 60

Chapter 133 A New Year's Duel Invitation to Jeff Ashcroft 43 Finished " Grayson Shire , haven't you gone into seclusion on Star Peak ? Why have to come to Dixon Manor ? " The gray - robed elder was none other than Heath , who had represented the Dixon

family in the contest for Silverleaf in Tardide Valley . He now stood with a look of pure panic on his face . The imposing demeanor he had once held was completely gone . It wasn't just him - all the other Dixon family members , including the two elders of similar rank , stood trembling , too scared to utter a word .

Grayson's legend was simply too terrifying . Years ago , Grayson had practically swept through Astria's martial world , defeating countless renowned masters , many of whom , like the Dixon family's patriarch , were Martial Sovereigns . Their strongest fighters were mere Martial Grandmasters , and how could they possibly stand up to Grayson ? If Grayson wanted to strike them down , they would be wiped out in a heartbeat . " I already told you , you're not worthy of speaking to me . Summon Wade Dixon ! "

Grayson's expression was impassive , but his words carried an undeniable command .

Heath's gaze darkened as he wrestled with his thoughts . He knew Grayson was right - given Grayson's strength and status , only a Martial Sovereign was worthy of speaking to him . And even among Martial Sovereigns , apart from the other three of the Four Extremes , Grayson likely held little regard for anyone else . After a moment of hesitation , Heath responded , " Mr. Shire , our patriarch is currently in seclusion . You are a respected figure in Astria's martial world ; surely , you won't make things difficult for us juniors , right ? " Heath wasn't wrong .

Although he himself was fifty years old , Grayson's fame had spread across the world eighteen years ago , making him a revered elder in comparison . Grayson shook his head slightly , a faint smile playing on his lips . " If you remember me , then you should know that petty excuses mean nothing to me . When I want to kill , I kill - there's no

distinction of seniority or respect . " You say Wade Dixon is in seclusion , but that's a lie . Eighteen years ago , I shattered his family's secret technique in just three moves . His confidence was crushed , and his martial heart was destroyed .

He'll never make any further progress . My patience is limited . If Wade doesn't come out soon , I won't hesitate to level your manor ." Heath's face turned pale . Though Grayson seemed calm and serene , Heath had personally experienced the terror of his true strength . 1/1 15:19 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 133 A New Year's Duel Invitation to Jeff Ashcroft 43 Finished Years ago , the Dixon family's patriarch , Wade Dixon , had been devastated when Grayson crushed his most powerful technique in just three moves .

Since that day , Wade had lived in the shadow of that defeat , his abilities regressing . Now , he had become one of the weakest Martial Sovereigns , and the Dixon family had fallen to the lowest rank among the Great Seven Martial Clans of Cloudveil . Grayson's most fearsome ability wasn't just his martial skill but the way he could utterly destroy his opponent's will . He didn't just defeat his enemies - he broke them mentally . " My master told you to summon your patriarch . Did you not hear ? " Raymond , frustrated by Heath's hesitation , shouted angrily and prepared to strike .

But before he could , Grayson calmly raised his hand , stopping him . " If Wade won't come out , I'll make him come out myself ," Grayson said , his head slightly tilting as he opened his mouth . An invisible sound wave erupted from his lips , echoing like the roar of a dragon and the cry of a phoenix . The entire Dixon Manor shook violently , enveloped by the overwhelming force of the sound . Raymond and Heath quickly used

their inner strength to protect their ears , but the weaker members of the Dixon family were not so lucky .

Blood trickled from their mouths as the shockwaves rattled their insides . Grayson's martial strength was so great that even using inner strength to create sound waves caused immense destruction . Windows around the manor shattered instantly . Just then , a long , drawn - out cry came from the depths of the Dixon Manor , growing louder as it approached . Grayson's eyes glinted with a smile , and he ceased his roar . A figure darted across the rooftops from within the manor , covering dozens of feet with each leap .

Finally , the figure landed in front of Heath and the others , facing Grayson directly . The man was dressed in a simple robe , his body thin and frail , looking like he was on the brink of death . He was so old that his exact age was impossible to guess , but his eyes still shone with vigor , filled with both resentment and anger as they fixed on Grayson . " Gray - son Shi - re ! " Wade spat out each syllable through gritted teeth , and anyone could hear the overwhelming hatred laced in his voice . Grayson remained calm , offering a slight nod . " It is I.

You've grown old since I last saw you eighteen years ago , Dixon . " There was a touch of lament in his voice , as Wade was only a few years younger than him , just over sixty years old . For a Martial Sovereign who could live to 150 , Wade should have been in his prime . Yet now , he looked frail and aged . This was all due to the defeat he had suffered eighteen years ago . At the time , Wade had just reached the Martial Sovereign

level and was full of ambition , ready to ascend even higher . But then he encountered Grayson , who crushed his spirit in a single battle .

2/4 15:19 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 133 A New Year's Duel Invitation to Jeff Ashcroft From that day on , Wade's progress halted completely . 43 Finished " Grayson Shire , you shattered my ultimate technique and destroyed my heart for martial arts . Today , even if it costs me my life , I will repay this blood debt ! " Wade's wild white hair whipped in the wind , and the wrinkles on his face deepened with fury . He stomped one foot on the ground , sending a thunderous shockwave outward . Boom ! The cobblestones beneath Wade's feet shattered into countless pieces , scattering in all directions .

Those standing closest to him , including Heath , were forced to retreat by the sheer power of his inner strength . Though Wade had made no progress in the past years , he was still a Martial Sovereign , one of the most powerful individuals in the martial world . With his palm imbued with inner strength , Wade launched a massive gray palm print several yards wide , sending slabs of stone flying as it rushed toward Grayson . " Still using the same old tricks , Dixon ? Eighteen years have passed , and you've only regressed !

" Grayson stood with his hands behind his back , showing no intention of dodging or retreating . He merely sighed , his expression full of disdain . Grayson's nonchalant reaction only fueled Wade's anger . He poured all of his strength into the attack , making the palm print swell even larger as it descended on Grayson's head . Whoosh ! Just as the handprint was about to strike , Raymond John suddenly stepped in from the side .

He planted his feet firmly on the ground and punched upward toward the gray handprint with immense force . Thud !

A fist - shaped indentation appeared in the handprint , and a dull sound echoed through the air . The overwhelming power from the handprint dispersed in all directions , whipping up a violent wind . Whoosh ! The gusts of wind swept across the area , causing everyone except Grayson to feel a tightness in their chests . Raymond grunted and was forced back three steps , his feet stamping heavily on the ground . Though he was knocked back , the powerful gray handprint had dissipated into nothingness . Wade stood frozen in disbelief .

Even though his martial skills had stagnated , he was still a Martial Sovereign . Yet Raymond , clearly just a Martial Grandmaster , had withstood his full- force attack . 3/4
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Finished Raymond grinned but said nothing as he returned to Grayson's side . In the past seven days , not only had Grayson fully healed Raymond's injuries , but he had also used three streams of inner strength to help Raymond increase his power .

Raymond now stood at the threshold of Half- Sovereign and was even showing signs of advancing to Martial Sovereign . The entire Dixon family , Wade included , was plunged into a stunned silence . Eighteen years ago , Wade was still worthy of facing Grayson in battle . But now , Grayson didn't even need to act himself . He could send his disciple , and that was enough to stop Wade . What kind of power had Grayson himself attained ? Everyone present took a sharp breath , not daring to contemplate further . The anger on Wade's face slowly faded , replaced by a deep sigh .

" Perhaps in today's Astria , only Gareth Ashcroft , Maximilian Morgan - Royce , or Sean Judie can stand against you . " With those words , Wade admitted his complete defeat . He no longer had any desire to challenge Grayson . Grayson's face remained expressionless as he spoke in a detached tone . " Wade Dixon , I'm here today because I have a task for you . " Wade looked into Grayson's eyes , which were deep and weathered , and sighed once more . " Tell me what you need .

As long as it's within my power , I won't refuse ." Despite being rivals , Wade couldn't help but feel a strange connection with Grayson . They were enemies , yet somehow , there was an unspoken camaraderie between them . Grayson stood with his hands behind his back and spoke calmly , " Your family has information networks all over the world . I need you to help me spread the word . On New Year's Day , at Glidewing Mountain in Ravenridge , I will challenge Jeff Ashcroft to a duel ." Immediately , the entire Dixon family was struck with fear . Send Gifts 60 "

Chapter 134 The Gathering Storm 43 Finished Since the legendary battle between Gareth and Grayson over a decade ago , Astria's martial world had been in a state of quiet , with no events stirring the martial community . But now , a piece of news spread like wildfire across Astria , and within just an afternoon , almost 90 % of the martial artists had heard it . Astria was shaken to its core . " What ? The Jade Emperor , who's been in seclusion for over a decade , is coming out of hiding ? " " Grayson Shire is reemerging ?

He's been in seclusion for so long - what could have prompted him to come down from the mountain ? " " He's challenging Jeff Ashcroft ? Grayson Shire wants to fight Jeff Ashcroft , the Young Martial Sovereign from Mornwick ? " " Is this true ? Grayson Shire has been a legend in Astria's martial world for decades . Apart from his defeat by Gareth Ashcroft sixteen years ago , he has never lost a battle and is revered as ' the Undefeated . ' He's a seasoned master of martial arts , while Jeff Ashcroft is a newly risen Martial Sovereign . Could Grayson really be challenging him ? " " It's true !

Word is that Grayson's disciple was seriously injured by Jeff Ashcroft , and Jeff even provoked Grayson directly . That's why Grayson left Shire Peak - to travel to Ravenridge in Mornwick for a showdown with Jeff Ashcroft . The news came from the Dixon family , so there's no doubt about it ! " " Oh my god , what are we waiting for ? We need to get to Mornwick and witness this ! This is huge news - the Jade Emperor is stepping back into the ring after more than a decade ! Even the other three members of the Four Extremes will surely take notice of this !

" All over Astria , the news of Grayson's challenge to Jeff spread rapidly , sending shockwaves through the martial world . Within just a few hours , nearly every fighter knew that the Young Martial Sovereign , Jeff Ashcroft , had caught the attention of the formidable Grayson Shire . The martial world was in an uproar , a storm brewing on the horizon . In the west , at the former site of Judie Cottage in Longbrook , a middle - aged man dressed in white , holding a feathered fan , sat before a checkers board , contemplating an unfinished game .

His eyes flickered with insight as though he was analyzing a complex formation rather than a simple board game . " Uncle ! " A young man entered the room , bowing respectfully to the middle - aged man before speaking in a low voice . " Grayson Shire has left seclusion . " The man's hand , poised to place a piece on the board , froze mid - air . 1/3 15:19 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 134 The Gathering Storm " Did he ? What made him come out ? " 43 Finished The young man replied , " He's challenging the newly - risen Jeff Ashcroft .

The Dixon family has already spread the news throughout Astria's martial world . " " Jeff Ashcroft , is it ? " The middle - aged man's feathered fan trembled slightly , and a gust of invisible energy seemed to sweep through the room , flinging the doors open . He stroked his chin thoughtfully , his eyes gleaming with intelligence . " Jeff Ashcroft has made quite a name for himself since his debut , defeating expert after expert , even killing Alek Peterson . His fame has risen quickly . I was thinking of meeting him myself , but it seems Shire has beaten me to it !

" He stood up , gazing out of the window , and sighed . " This battle , no matter the outcome , will bring a monumental change to Astria's martial world . Glenn , just wait and see ! " The young man next to him had a complex look in his eyes . In the past , whenever news of a duel came , his uncle would always use his techniques to predict the outcome . But this time , his uncle hadn't done so , breaking from his usual behavior . It was a sign that even he couldn't foresee the result of this fight , that the fates of these two opponents were beyond prediction .

At the Morgan - Royce Estate in Seagate , an elderly man in a blue robe sat reclining in a grand armchair , his eyes closed as he rested . A few middle - aged men dressed in military uniforms marched in with sharp precision . " Sir ! " they saluted the elderly man , and one of them spoke up , " Grayson Shire left seclusion yesterday and is planning to challenge Jeff Ashcroft in Mornwick on New Year's Day ! " The elder slowly opened his eyes and nodded at the three men . Then , he clenched his hands , crushing the yin - yang balls into powder .

" Shire has been silent for over a decade , and now he returns for this young rising martial artist , Jeff Ashcroft . I never thought it would be him that finally prompted Grayson to reemerge ." He stood with his hands behind his back , pacing leisurely . " If young Ashcroft loses this battle , it won't be long before Shire heads to Highcliffe to challenge Gareth Ashcroft again . Sixteen years ago , I longed to fight Grayson myself , and now that he's returned to the world , I'm eager to see how far his ' Skybound Strike ' has advanced !

" His eyes sparkled with anticipation , and despite not having fought anyone in over a decade , the elder seemed excited at the thought of battle . In Highcliffe , at the prestigious Highcliffe Senior High , a young man and woman walked side by side , resembling a prince and princess . They were none other than the famed Twin Stars of Highcliffe , Ethan and Daphne . " This Jeff Ashcroft - he's only been in the spotlight for a little over two months , and now he's 213 15:19 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 134 The Gathering Storm 43 Finished managed to catch the attention of the Jade Emperor himself ?

Is his strength really that extraordinary ? " Daphne's eyes flickered with curiosity . She had heard of the martial world's latest sensation long before this news broke . Ethan's eyes glimmered as he replied in a serious tone , " I don't know exactly how powerful Jeff Ashcroft is , but my father told me at lunch today that Grayson Shire is an incredibly proud and arrogant man . A regular Martial Sovereign would never be worthy of his attention , let alone warrant a public challenge , nor would he have allowed the Dixon family to broadcast the news so widely .

For him to issue such an open challenge means that Jeff Ashcroft's strength is enough to earn his respect . Even if Jeff loses , it won't be a dull match . " Daphne nodded , a hint of awe in her expression . " I thought that apart from you , me , and Claire , there was no one else among the younger generation in Astria worth watching . But then Jeff Ashcroft appeared - just seventeen or eighteen years old and already a Martial Sovereign . Truly , there's always someone stronger ." Ethan clenched his fists slightly , remaining silent , though a mix of heaviness and envy surged within him .

He had always believed that as Gareth's son and one of the top three prodigies among the Nine Geniuses , he had already made a name for himself in Astria's martial world . He was certain that the future of Astria's martial arts scene would revolve around him , confident that his talent was unmatched . Yet , here was Jeff , rising like a comet , crowned a " Young Martial Sovereign ," now even being challenged by the Jade Emperor . Ethan had to admit , no matter how proud he was , that Jeff's talent far surpassed his own . Jeff Ashcroft ...

he muttered inwardly , a faint hope stirring that Grayson would crush this Young Martial Sovereign in their battle . If that happened , Ethan's title as the top prodigy would remain secure . As the heir of the Ashcroft family , how could he tolerate anyone surpassing him ? Because of Grayson's reemergence and the widespread news from the Dixon family , the martial world of Astria was abuzz with excitement about Grayson's challenge to Leander . It was a storm brewing from all directions . Meanwhile , the person at the center of it all , Leander Ashcroft , was calmly reclining in Villa No.

I at Rivergate Haven , a broad smile playing on his lips . " Grayson Shire , I've been waiting for you for a long time , " he whispered , clenching his fist . The entire villa trembled slightly under the invisible force of his strength . Send Gifts 60 3/3 15:19 Mon , Oct 13

Chapter 135 The Sword Master of Jesund Returns to Astria 43 Finished In the mountains of Shenaga , Jesund , a middle - aged man wearing a blue robe darted through the forest with agility and speed . His face was filled with panic , and though he appeared to be in his early thirties , his movements were swift , his feet barely touching the treetops as he bounded forward , clutching a piece of yellow cloth in his hand . At the mountaintop sat a simple thatched hut .

The man hurriedly approached it , laying down a samurai sword that had been broken into several pieces at the door before kneeling on one knee . " Master , I've returned . These are the fragments I managed to retrieve in Ravenridge , Mornwick , Astria , through some special connections . " He had been in shock when he found these

broken fragments of the sword . It was once his master's famed weapon from earlier years , known as " Hellbringer , " a blade that had accompanied his master as he dominated Jesund , defeating countless powerful warriors .

It had become a legendary sword that struck fear throughout the land . His master , defeated in Astria two decades ago , had his sword broken by his opponent during that battle . After returning to Jesund , he reforged the blade using various metals , making it even sharper and more resilient than before . He named the new sword " Hellbringer II " and gave it to his younger disciple , who had been tasked with traveling to Astria to hunt down martial geniuses .

Yet , despite its legendary status , this sword had been shattered in a second- tier Astrian city , and his disciple had disappeared without a trace . Inside the straw hut , a tattered mat lay on the floor . Moss had grown over the once - pristine mat , and parts of it had rotten from age . It seemed to have witnessed countless years . On the mat sat an elderly man in rough , simple clothing , his body skeletal and withered like a dried corpse . Yet , the middle - aged man's words were clearly addressed to him .

As the elder's chief disciple , he knew very well that his master had maintained this posture for over a decade . For nearly 5,000 days and nights , the elder had neither eaten nor drunk anything , sitting as still as a stone . If it weren't for the slow , even breaths and his strong , unwavering aura , anyone would assume the elderly man had long passed away .

Anyone who saw this frail elder would likely overlook him , never imagining that he was the legendary figure who once traversed all of Jesund , challenging and defeating

countless martial artists across Astria - the Sword Master of Jesund , Tsaric Dubois - Briggs ! " Lionel , your heart is unsettled . Sit down first . " Tsaric hadn't moved a muscle , nor had he opened his mouth , yet a clear voice resonated in the man's ears - a sign of immense mastery of inner strength , a ventriloquism technique only attainable by the most advanced martial artists .

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Finished His voice betrayed no age , and with a casual wave of his sleeve , the dust and debris on the ground were swept away , revealing a clean patch of earth . The middle - aged man , Lionel Sutherland , hesitated not a moment longer . He knelt down immediately , regulating his inner strength to calm the breathlessness caused by his hurried journey . After a long while , he spoke in a steady voice , " Master , Hellbringer II is broken , and my fellow junior disciple is missing . I fear ...

" Lionel carefully observed Tsaric's expression , noting that the elder showed no reaction , as if entirely unconcerned . Just as Lionel was beginning to doubt , Tsaric finally opened his eyes . A piercing light shot forth , sharp as a sword's edge , cleaving a deep fissure into the rock before him . Lionel's pupils contracted in shock . He had followed Tsaric since he was fifteen , learning the master's sword techniques and excelling in them . This skill allowed him to rise through Jesund's martial ranks , rarely tasting defeat .

Now , he had nearly reached the level of a Martial Sovereign , and even within that class , he was almost without equal . Yet , at this moment , Lionel realized how utterly outclassed he was . Compared to Tsaric , he was nothing more than a trickling stream ,

while Tsaric was the vast , boundless ocean . " Hellbringer II , broken by sheer force in just one blow ... How intriguing ! " Tsaric's eyes gleamed with interest as he examined the fragments of the legendary Jesund blade at his feet . " Back when I fought Gareth Ashcroft in northern Astria , it was the most memorable battle of my life .

We fought for three days and nights before a victor was decided . In the end , I missed a strike , and Hellbringer , after such prolonged use , could no longer withstand the strain . It was destroyed . Afterward , I returned to Jesund and reforged it into Hellbringer II for your junior . It was superior in sharpness and resilience compared to the original . To chip it required immense power , but to break it into pieces with a single strike ? Even Gareth Ashcroft , at his peak ten years ago , could not have done that !

" Even now , in all of Astria , only the so - called ' Four Extremes ' possess the strength to shatter it so completely . " Tsaric's eyes flickered with a trace of doubt . " But what puzzles me is why any of those four , the pillars of Astria's martial world , would target your junior . He was merely a young martial artist hunting talent in Astria . Why would they take action against him ? " He shook his head lightly , still unable to comprehend the mystery . Lionel's eyes suddenly widened as a thought crossed his mind .

He hurriedly spoke , " Master , recently , in Astria's martial world , a young Martial Sovereign has risen to prominence . His rise began in Ravenridge , and it was there that my junior met his end . Could it be that he was the one responsible ? " " A young Martial Sovereign ? " Tsaric's eyes narrowed sharply . Seeing his master's reaction , Lionel quickly recounted everything he had learned about

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The Sword Master of Jesund Returns to Astria Leander . With each detail , Tsaric's expression grew more surprised . A413 ' Finished " Jeff Ashcroft ?

" Tsaric murmured with a slight sigh , shaking his head . " I didn't expect Astria's martial world to produce such a talented genius again . In comparison , our martial world is rather lacking in talent ." In the next moment , his gaze returned to its usual calm indifference as he waved dismissively . " Even if Jeff Ashcroft is a Martial Sovereign at such a young age and managed to defeat your junior disciple , there's no way he could have shattered Hellbringer II . Achieving the rank of Martial Sovereign at seventeen or eighteen is already extraordinary and nearly unheard of .

That he could have done this while also defeating Alek Peterson of the Cloudveil region is a sign of immense potential . But no matter how exceptional he is , he doesn't possess the power to rival Gareth Ashcroft or those like him . Breaking Hellbringer II in a single strike is far beyond young Jeff Ashcroft's ability . " Though Leander's sudden rise had impressed Tsaric , who had dominated Jesund and challenged Astria's greatest warriors two decades ago , it wasn't enough to place Leander in the ranks of the few he truly considered formidable .

Even Leander's defeat of Alek had only caused a brief ripple in Tsaric's otherwise calm demeanor . In Tsaric's mind , the only martial artists worth his attention were the ones who stood at the pinnacle . Lionel's expression shifted as he listened to his master's analysis . He then revealed another piece of recent news . " Master , Jeff Ashcroft's strength might not be so simple . Just yesterday , one of Astria's Four Extremes ,

Grayson Shire , descended from his mountain seclusion and is headed to Ravenridge .
He specifically challenged Jeff Ashcroft to a duel ! " Whoosh !

As soon as Lionel finished speaking , a surge of sword energy exploded from Tsaric's body , cutting through the waterfall beside them , causing it to momentarily stop in mid - flow . " Shire challenging young Ashcroft ? Well , well , it seems I've underestimated this young Martial Sovereign ! " Tsaric exclaimed , standing up . His eyes gleamed with an intense light , and though his figure remained frail and small , Lionel felt an immense pressure , like an invisible mountain had risen before him . One step forward , and it would crush him .

Suddenly , the fragments of Hellbringer II on the ground shot into the air . A sword aura emanated from behind Tsaric , enveloping the pieces in a brilliant light . Within moments , the fragments were ground to fine metallic dust and scattered into the wind . He had destroyed the legendary blade with a mere flick of his hand . Lionel was filled with awe and reverence as he knelt , bowing deeply . If he was an unparalleled sword master , then Tsaric was the very embodiment of the sword itself - an unstoppable force . "

Lionel , we depart immediately for Astria !

" Tsaric declared , standing at the cliff's edge , overlooking the mountain range before him . " I want to witness Grayson Shire and Jeff Ashcroft's battle in person . After that , we'll travel to Highcliffe , where I will once again meet 3/4 15:20 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 135 The Sword Master of Jesund Returns to Astrial 43 Finished Gareth Ashcroft and his peerless martial skills . This time , it will be even more extraordinary than our last battle

over a decade ago ! " Sword energy swirled around Tsaric , extending more than ten yards in every direction , as his battle intent surged .

Lionel nodded , fully aware that the legendary sword master , who once struck fear into the hearts of Astria's top martial artists , was returning . The Sword Master of Jesund , who had caused so many of Astria's finest to fall in defeat , was once again setting foot on the Eastern lands . Send Gifts

Chapter 136 I Am Mr Ashcroft 43 Finished It was just a day before New Year's , and Ravenridge had already become a hub of activity . People from all walks of life were flocking to the city , causing a sudden population surge that left the local authorities puzzled . Leander planned to head back to his cheap rental apartment that day to gather all his belongings and return the keys to the landlord . The only reason he had stayed there was to be close to Madeline , but now , there was no need to worry about her anymore .

As soon as he unlocked the door , three pairs of eyes turned to him in unison . Yvette , Madeline , and Ginny were all sitting in the living room . " Lea- " Madeline's eyes wavered when she saw him , and she instinctively called out the familiar name . But after a moment , she caught herself and awkwardly corrected , " Ashcroft , you're back ! " Yvette glanced at Leander , her brow furrowing slightly , while Ginny simply ignored him as if he didn't exist .

The three of them had come to help Madeline pack her things since she was now moving to work permanently at Glorious Entertainment and wouldn't be living there

anymore . None of them had expected to run into Leander . Leander's gaze swept over the three of them before he spoke indifferently , " You girls continue . I'm just here to pack my stuff ." Without another word , he headed straight to his room . The moment he opened the door , footsteps followed him - it was Yvette . Yvette closed the door behind her , and in the privacy of the room , her usually calm gaze carried a hint of reproach .

" Leander , I heard from Colin a couple of days ago that Mr. Dunphy's leg was broken . Was that your doing ? " Bastian hadn't been seen in public since the grand opening of Jeff Enterprises . It was only the day before that Colin got word that Bastian's leg had been broken . Yvette immediately suspected Leander . " Yes , and no . I wanted his leg broken , but it wasn't my hand that did it - it was his father's , " Leander casually replied as he packed . Yvette frowned , clearly upset . " This in no time for jokes , Leander . I thought you left the hall that day because you listened to me .

I never imagined you were planning to secretly have Bastian's leg broken ! Do you even realize who Bastian is ? His father is Tommy Dunphy , the top dog in Southridge ! " Do you really think you can act recklessly just because Frankie Wainwright has your back ? You're lucky they haven't traced it back to you . If they had , do you think Tommy Dunphy would let you off so easily ? If Tommy comes after you , Frankie might be able to shield you , but if Tommy reports you to Mr. Ashcroft and Mr.

Ashcroft decides to take matters into his own hands , do you really think Frankie can protect you then ? Do you act on impulse without 1/3 15:20 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 136 I Am Mr Ashcroft : thinking things through ? Why can't you think things through rationally ? " 43 Finished Yvette's anger was mixed with concern . She was afraid that Leander

was spiraling further down . a dangerous path , one from which there would be no return , and that he would ruin his life by becoming a hardened criminal . " Report me to Mr. Ashcroft ? " Leander chuckled and shook his head .

" I had Tommy Dunphy break his own son's leg . He wouldn't dare utter a word against me , let alone report me . " Yvette was stunned by his words . " What are you talking about ? Report you ? " Leander finished packing his things and turned to face her , pointing to himself . " What I'm saying is , I am the ' Mr. Ashcroft ' you're talking about . " The atmosphere in the room suddenly froze as the two stood there , eyes locked in silence . It wasn't until much later that Yvette finally broke the stillness , her gaze shifting as she shook her head in disappointment .

" Leander , I came to talk to you alone because I wanted you to do better , to avoid taking the wrong paths , to think more about yourself and the consequences of your actions . But look at what you're doing . You're joking about something this serious . I really don't know how to communicate with you anymore . " With that , she opened the door and returned to the living room , sighing deeply in her heart . Leander is Mr. Ashcroft ? That was the funniest joke she had ever heard .

A guy who went to the same school as them , who had once shown up at her house looking like a dirty beggar , who worked odd jobs at bars - how could he possibly be the Mr. Ashcroft , the one who controlled all of Mornwick ? She shook her head , feeling like there was no point in speaking with Leander anymore . Leander didn't care in the slightest . He had known for a long time that Yvette's impression of him had been set

from the moment they first met . Even if he told her the truth , she would never believe it .

After packing his things , he stepped out of the room , and Yvette , unable to hide her displeasure , snarked , " Oh , Mr. Ashcroft , are you moving out ? " Ginny and Madeline both looked surprised . Ginny asked with confusion , " Mr. Ashcroft ? What are you talking about ? " Yvette crossed her arms and pointed her chin toward Leander . " Mr. Leander Ashcroft here , of course ! He claims to be the one who runs all of Mornwick , the guy who holds all the big players in check ! " Ginny and Madeline turned their heads to look at him . Madeline didn't react much , but Ginny burst into laughter .

" Mr. Ashcroft ? Him ? " Ginny laughed so hard she doubled over , tears forming at the corners of her eyes . When she finally managed to stop , she waved at Leander . "

Leander , I'm not trying to 2/3 15:20 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 136 I Am Mr Ashcroft 43
Finished laugh at you on purpose , and I don't mean to mock you , but don't you think this is a bit much ? If you're Mr. Ashcroft , I might as well declare myself the Queen of Angleland ! Hahaha ! " Madeline's expression was more somber .

Having lived with Leander in that tiny rental apartment nearly every day , there was no way he could be the commanding Mr. Ashcroft everyone talked about . Leander didn't bother explaining further . He placed the keys on the table and prepared to leave . Just then , Madeline , who had been silent all this time , stood up abruptly . " Ashcroft , wait , don't go ! " She grabbed his sleeve and said softly , " I know there's been a rift between us since that day at Water Paradise , and things won't go back to how they were . We probably won't see each other much after this .

Let's have one last dinner together , as a farewell . What do you say ? " Leander paused , turning to look at the girl he once considered like a little sister . After a brief moment , he nodded . This dinner might very well be their last . At The Golden Willow , a high - end restaurant in the heart of Ravenridge , Leander sat with Yvette , Madeline , and Ginny , catching the attention of many men around them , their eyes filled with envy . Leander sat beside Madeline , while across from them , Ginny admired the restaurant's luxurious decor with a sigh .

" Yvette , I heard Colin's father owns 60 % of this place . You know , once you marry Colin , you might as well become the boss here ! I'd definitely be a regular customer ! " Ginny teased , her words bringing a faint blush of embarrassment and anger to Yvette's face . She glanced at Leander instinctively , but he was too absorbed in his phone to care , which dimmed her mood even further . After consulting with Leander , Madeline placed the food order . She was about to strike up a conversation about her recent experiences at Glorious Entertainment when Ginny interrupted suddenly .

" By the way , Yvette , Madeline , have you heard about what's been happening at Glidewing Mountain recently ? " Send Gifts 60

From Outcast to Overlord : The Unyielding Heir Chapter 137 That Realm , So Close Yet So Far 43 Finished " Glidewing Mountain ? " Madeline looked puzzled at Ginny's question , while Yvette asked in return , " Are you talking about the lockdown at Glidewing Mountain ? " " Glidewing Mountain is closed ? " Madeline furrowed her brows in confusion . " How's that possible ? It's one of Ravenridge's most famous tourist attractions , with thousands of visitors

every day . Why would it be shut down ? " Yvette rested her chin on her hand and shook her head .

" I don't know the full details , but Glidewing Mountain is definitely closed , and no one is allowed to go up . I heard Frankie Wainwright and some others were personally involved , and there's even an official mandate ." Ginny thought for a moment , then leaned closer to Yvette with a mischievous grin . " Yvette , since Colin's family is so well - connected , why don't you give him a call and ask what's really going on up there ? Why is no one allowed on the mountain ? " Yvette gave Ginny a light slap , laughing . " I already asked about it . Even Colin doesn't know the details .

He only heard that some big shot might be arriving at Glidewing Mountain , but even my dad and Colin's father couldn't get more information . People at our level definitely won't find out anything more . " Leander quietly sipped his drink , listening to the three of them discuss the situation at Glidewing Mountain . He knew what exactly was going on . Grayson had challenged him to a fight at Glidewing Mountain , and the news had spread throughout the entire martial world of Astria . Many fighters from all over the country were expected to gather there .

Even the local authorities in Ravenridge had likely caught wind of it . To prevent innocent tourists from getting caught in the crossfire and to ensure the fight wasn't interrupted , Frankie had obtained an official mandate and had sealed off the mountain . The following day was the day of the showdown , and only ancient martial artists and the elite business executives connected to these fighters would be allowed up the mountain . Everyone else would be blocked at the base . Madeline didn't react much to Yvette's words , but Ginny's curiosity only grew stronger .

She couldn't contain herself any longer and threw her arm around Yvette's shoulders . " Yvette , I know Colin can pull some strings . Why don't you have him arrange for the three of us to check out Glidewing Mountain tomorrow ? It'll be winter break soon , and Madeline will be off to Glorious Entertainment to continue her career . This could be our last adventure together before she leaves . What do you say ? " At first , Yvette hesitated , but she couldn't resist Ginny's persistent pleading . Plus , she was curious about the lockdown herself . So , she dialed Colin's number .

A few minutes later , she hung up and flashed an " OK " sign . " Colin says it's no problem . His dad 1/3 15:20 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 137 That Realm , So Close Yet So Far 43 Finished has a friend in charge of the lockdown at Glidewing Mountain , and Colin already asked Mr. Bright to put in a word . We can go up the mountain tomorrow ! " " Yay ! " Ginny pumped her fist excitedly . " Tomorrow's New Year's Day - perfect for us to check out what's going on up there ! " Madeline , seeing her friends ' enthusiasm , smiled and nodded in agreement .

But Leander felt a little awkward , rubbing his nose . Of all the times , these three girls had chosen the exact day of his duel with Grayson to visit the mountain . Ten minutes later , the food arrived . Madeline filled her wine glass and suddenly stood up , raising her glass toward Leander . " Leander , " she began , her voice tinged with a stubborn determination , " please allow me to call you that one last time . " Her eyes shimmered with unshed tears , and her voice trembled slightly . " I know , ever since that day at Water Paradise , things between us have never been the same .

We can't go back to how things were , and we probably won't see much of each other anymore . But in my heart , you'll always be Leander . I'm grateful for everything - for having you by my

side . " She paused , her gaze growing more emotional . " This drink is to thank you for taking care of me , for protecting me . And thank you for encouraging me at the school talent show . Without you , I might not have had the courage to pursue my singing career .

I raise this glass to you ." She finished speaking without waiting for Leander's response and downed the drink in one gulp , her cheeks flushed with a slight redness . After finishing , she poured herself another glass and raised it toward Leander once more . " This glass is to thank you for our past friendship , for always being there with me . But , like you said , I've grown up . I'm no longer that little girl who used to follow you around everywhere . After this glass , there will be no more ' Leander ' and no more ' little girl . I raise this glass to you !

" With that , Madeline finished her second glass , drinking deeply . This drink was more than just a toast to Leander ; it was also her way of saying goodbye . Her path in the entertainment industry was just beginning , and as she progressed , the gap between them would only grow wider . She knew that forcing Leander into her world would only make him uncomfortable and draw ridicule from others . It was better to part ways now , leaving their memories intact , even if their bond had faded . " Alright ," Leander smiled faintly , nodding as he raised his glass and drank it in one go .

This drink marked their true farewell . After two drinks , Madeline felt a little light - headed . Just like old times , she looped her arm around Leander's . " Leander , I'll be leaving Ravenridge the day after tomorrow . Today and tomorrow , I'll still call you Leander ! Tomorrow , will you come with us to Glidewing Mountain ? 2/3 15:20 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 137 That Realm , So Close Yet So Far 43 Finished Last time at Water Paradise , things didn't end well between us .

This time , let's make it our final adventure together . Please ? " " Glidewing Mountain ? "

Leander quirked a brow .

If it were any other place , he wouldn't have been able to go with her , but since it was Glidewing Mountain , even if Madeline hadn't invited him , he would still be there . With that in mind , he nodded . " Alright , I'll go with you tomorrow . " As night fell , at 9.30 p.m. , Glidewing Mountain stood in eerie silence , though the area at its base was brightly lit. A group of men dressed in black surrounded the mountain , posted every five yards , forming a tight perimeter . All entrances were sealed .

At the mountain's peak , the unique ring of peaks formed a deep , seemingly bottomless valley at its center , spanning over a hundred yards in width . Natural stone pillars jutted up toward the sky , spaced about thirty yards apart , with nothing but a yawning abyss between them . On foggy days , the sight of the swirling mist was truly breathtaking . Initially , the local government had planned to turn these stone pillars into a tourist attraction , but the project was too massive and dangerous .

In the end , only a third of it was completed , leaving a few sparse iron chains linking the pillars . Wade's eyes narrowed as he lightly pushed off the ground , leaping into the air . His feet tapped lightly on an iron chain , and with agile movements , he crossed several pillars in a few bounds , landing before Grayson . " I want to know , Shire - what level have you reached now ? Have you taken that final step to achieve the legendary realm ? " Wade's expression was tense .

Even though Grayson remained seated , Wade could sense the overwhelming power within him , like a primal beast waiting to be unleashed . If Grayson released that power

, it could shake the heavens and flatten everything in its path . " I haven't reached that level yet , " Grayson chuckled softly , shaking his head . Then he raised a single finger . " If it takes ten steps to reach that realm , I'm only half a step away . " Wade's expression turned pale , and his hands trembled involuntarily . A master of that realm could crush even a Martial Sovereign like an insect .

In the entire hundred - year history of the martial world of Astria , no one had ever been known to reach that level . And yet , Grayson was only half a step away from it . His strength had already far surpassed that of any ordinary Martial Sovereign . Even though Grayson hadn't fully reached that legendary realm yet , who in the martial world of Astria could possibly still stand as his equal ? Send Gifts 60

Chapter 138 The Gathering of Two Legends 43 Finished " What are they talking about ? What realm ? " The elders of the Dixon family , who had accompanied Wade , stood at the edge of the cliff , bewildered by the conversation . None of them understood what Wade meant by " that realm . " " Martial Sovereigns are already considered the pinnacle of the martial world . But from the conversation between our patriarch and Grayson , it seems like there's a higher realm beyond that ?

" Although these elders were not as seasoned as Grayson or Wade , they considered themselves veterans in the martial arts world and were privy to many secrets . Yet , none of them had ever heard of a level beyond Martial Sovereign . " Only half a step away ! " Wade muttered softly . " When we fought back then , I already knew that fewer than five people in all of Astria could match your strength . But now , I can't even begin

to fathom how powerful you've become . Just how vast is the gap between us ? "

Grayson's expression remained indifferent as he gestured calmly .

" That day , you only fought my apprentice , not me . If you want to know how wide the gap is between us , why not find out firsthand ? " Wade's eyes gleamed sharply , and the mist swirling in the night air was dispersed by the invisible force emanating from him . The Dixon family elders , standing a hundred yards away , watched with bated breath , eager to witness the clash between these two Martial Sovereigns . They feared missing even the slightest detail . This was only the second time in over a decade that their patriarch had fought Grayson .

A storm of internal energy surrounded Wade and Grayson , separating them from the outside world . Wade crossed his arms as if embracing the void , and gray inner strength coiled around his fists . He then hurled his fists toward Grayson's head . This attack was delivered with Wade's full power , the strongest strike he could muster at his current level . It was the Dixon family's signature technique - Titan's Cross . The elders clenched their fists in anticipation . Titan's Cross was a secret skill passed down through the Dixon family , reserved only for the patriarch .

Their ancestors had once roamed Cloudveil undefeated , thanks to this very technique . Wade had not yet mastered it when he first fought Grayson . Over the past decade , fueled by his hatred for Grayson , he had painstakingly perfected the technique , sacrificing both his lifespan and cultivation to finally be able to unleash it - just once . This meant that Wade had thrown everything into this attack . His life no longer

mattered to him . What he needed now was to give his all and see just how powerful Grayson's so - called " half - step away " truly was .

In Wade's mind , even if he couldn't defeat Grayson , as long as he could make Grayson flinch even slightly , it would be a victory in defeat . Wade's all - out strike descended like a mountain , carrying the force of ten thousand pounds . If 1/3 15:20 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 138 The Gathering of Two Legends 43 Finished it landed , the stone pillar beneath them would surely crack and splinter for dozens of yards . But Grayson didn't budge . He didn't even change his stance . Boom !

A deafening explosion echoed through the valley , causing the Dixon family elders to instinctively cover their ears . When they looked back , they were stunned . Wade's Titan's Cross , a move that had drained his life force and vitality , had landed squarely on Grayson's shoulder . But Grayson , the one who had taken the hit , hadn't even had his clothes ruffled by the blow . In contrast , Wade's body trembled violently , and he stumbled back three steps , his hands trembling and the skin around his knuckles torn apart . Everyone , including Wade himself , was completely stunned .

His all - out attack , a strike that risked his very life , had been effortlessly taken by Grayson with nothing but his body . " Your family's secret technique , Titan's Cross , is indeed impressive ! " Grayson remarked , shaking his head slightly , his piercing gaze fixed on Wade . " But unfortunately , it's still confined to the realm of ' technique . ' It hasn't yet touched the essence of ' the way . You couldn't even breach my physical defense . " Grayson's calm words cut deep . Wade staggered backward , his face as pale as paper , before collapsing to the ground .

His ultimate move , one that had cost him years of his life , hadn't even made Grayson flinch . It was a devastating blow to Wade's spirit . With a hollow smile , he muttered to himself , " It seems that only Gareth Ashcroft in all of Astria is worthy of facing you . " Sighing deeply , Wade leaped back across the iron chains to the edge of the valley . " Grayson , I will never be able to catch up to you in this lifetime . I hope tomorrow's battle brings you victory . " For the first time , Wade offered a respectful bow toward Grayson .

He had finally set aside his hatred , fully acknowledging Grayson's superiority . When one's enemy was close in skill , one still harbored dreams of surpassing them . But when one's opponent stood on unreachable heights , all one could do was look up in awe . Grayson didn't respond . Wade , puzzled , looked up and noticed that Grayson , who had been sitting calmly this whole time , was now standing and staring southward . Wade's heart skipped a beat .

Though he and Grayson were adversaries , Wade knew him well enough to sense that someone extraordinary had arrived - someone even Grayson held in high regard .

Following Grayson's gaze , Wade spotted two figures emerging from the mist - one tall , the other short . Leading the way was a small , withered old man with deep wrinkles lining his face , making him appear at least a decade older than his actual age . But his eyes gleamed with an electric sharpness , and with each step he took in his wooden clogs , the surrounding fog parted as if sliced by an invisible blade .

Behind him walked a man in his thirties , wielding a Jesundese sword . The younger man's imposing presence marked him as a formidable swordsman , his skill no less than Wade's own . 2/3 15:20 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 138 The Gathering of Two Legends

43 Finished However , Wade's attention was entirely focused on the elder , his pupils shrinking in disbelief . " How is this possible ? " one of the Dixon family elders whispered in confusion . " Wade , who is that old man ? " Wade's body trembled slightly , and his voice became grave . " That's Tsaric Dubois - Briggs , the Sword Master of Jesund .

" The Dixon family elders were instantly shocked , their faces filled with disbelief . They had all heard the legend of Tsaric . He was once powerful enough to nearly overthrow the entire martial world of Astria with his unparalleled swordsmanship . In Jesund , he was a living legend . But after being defeated by Gareth years ago , Tsaric had retreated back to Jesund , never to be seen again . And yet , here he was , on Glidewing Mountain . " Grayson Shire , " Tsaric's voice was calm and steady as he removed his wooden clogs and sat cross - legged at the edge of the cliff .

Though a Jesundese man , his Astric was flawless . " It has been 35 years since we last met . " Thirty - five years ago , Tsaric hadn't yet reached the level of Martial Sovereign . He had encountered Grayson during a trip to Astria , but both had been striving for Martial Sovereign at the time , so they hadn't fought , merely crossing paths . Grayson nodded slightly , reflecting on the past . " After that chance meeting , another ten years passed before your swordsmanship reached its peak .

You came to Astria , defeating 63 masters in a row , only to be driven back to Jesund by Gareth Ashcroft . At the time , I was far away in the western regions and missed the chance to fight you . Now , you suddenly appear at the peak of Glidewing Mountain . Are you here to challenge me ? " Tsaric's white hair fluttered gently in the breeze , his

face serene . " Shire , you and I will have plenty of opportunities to cross swords .
There's no rush . " His eyes gleamed , and a streak of sword light flashed through the
night . " I am here for Jeff Ashcroft ! " Send Gifts 60 A

Chapter 139 An Early Battle ? 5 43 Finished " Jeff Ashcroft ? " Tsaric's words caused
the members of the Dixon family to exchange bewildered glances . They found it
unbelievable . Jeff Ashcroft , the young Martial Sovereign who rose from Mornwick , had
made quite the name for himself . First , he defeated Mason Tarlyn , the second - in -
command of the Tarlyn Clan , and later killed Alek Peterson . Now , he was even invited
to duel with Grayson Shire . His achievements were already remarkable and impressive
enough to shock everyone .

But now , the nearly invincible Sword Master of Jesund , Tsaric Dubois - Briggs , had
traveled all the way to Astria to find him ?! Even Grayson's expression flickered with
curiosity at this moment . " You crossed the sea from Jesund to Astria just to find Jeff
Ashcroft ?! " Tsaric nodded in response . " That's right ! Young Ashcroft reached the
Martial Sovereign level before the age of twenty . Such talent and potential - even
Gareth Ashcroft can't compare . Naturally , I wanted to meet such a genius .

Moreover , my disciple was killed in Ravenridge , and the sword I gifted him , the
Hellbringer II , was shattered into pieces . It is highly likely that Jeff Ashcroft was
responsible . Based on that alone , I need to get answers from him ! " Hearing Tsaric's
words , Wade and the other Dixon family leaders felt chills down their spines . Whether
it was Grayson or Tsaric , both were top - tier Martial Sovereigns - the absolute peak of

the martial world . Most people could barely handle offending one of them , yet Jeff had managed to cross both their paths !

Grayson remained silent , smiling slightly . He had already thought Leander's conflict with Raymond was audacious enough , yet now it seemed that Leander's troubles had extended even to Jesund . Grayson gazed up at the stars and spoke softly , " Regardless of whether Jeff Ashcroft killed your disciple , I don't think you'll have a chance to settle that score . " Tsaric stared at Grayson for a long time before letting out a deep sigh . " It's a shame , indeed ! With your current strength and mastery , by tomorrow , young Ashcroft will no longer exist in this world .

" Tsaric was no ordinary figure . Over ten years ago , he had already reached the pinnacle of swordsmanship , standing at the top of the Martial Sovereign realm , virtually unmatched . However , he lacked the time to consolidate all his knowledge and experience . After his defeat at the hands of Gareth , he retreated to Jesund and spent the next decade perfecting his swordsmanship . His power had grown immeasurably during that time . As soon as he arrived here , Tsaric could feel the vast , ocean - like power radiating from Grayson .

Grayson had already surpassed the Martial Sovereign realm and entered an entirely new level . Even Tsaric , with all his years of cultivation , didn't dare claim victory over him - let alone a 1/1 15:20 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 139 An Early Battle ? young fighter like Jeff . 43 Finished Grayson gave no response . He knew this battle was already won . For decades , he had ruled the martial world of Astria as one of the Four Extremes . His

reputation was no mere exaggeration . Many young prodigies had fallen at his hands , yet he still stood tall , reigning supreme as the Jade Emperor .

" We should head back . There's no reason to linger at the peak of Glidewing Mountain any longer , " Wade murmured , his gaze distant as he finally turned to lead the Dixon family back down the mountain . With two martial legends exchanging words and discussing the fate of the world's heroes , there was no room for them to speak . " Patriarch , should we return for tomorrow's battle ? " one of the elders asked quietly . Wade looked up at the sky and sighed . " Whether we come or not , the result won't change . The moment this battle was announced , the outcome was already decided .

Do you really think Ashcroft can defeat Shire ? " Everyone fell silent at his words . If even Tsaric had declared that Jeff would lose , how could they doubt it ? Lionel stood at the edge of the valley , listening intently like a student absorbing the wisdom of his elders . Though he had also reached the level of Martial Sovereign , he had only just entered that realm . These two , on the other hand , had been Martial Sovereigns for over two decades , and every word they spoke would benefit him greatly .

" Grayson , with your current cultivation , you've already got one foot in the door of ' that realm . ' You just need the right opportunity to break through . It's truly enviable ! " Tsaric remarked , a hint of admiration crossing his aged face . Grayson's expression remained calm and unmoved as he replied , " You are just as close to that step . " Tsaric neither confirmed nor denied it but then asked , " What I'm most curious about is Gareth Ashcroft's level now .

After all , he is the only one who has defeated both of us ." Grayson's eyes gleamed with a spark of respect , a rare acknowledgment for a powerful rival . " Gareth is truly a martial arts genius , self - taught in many ways . In terms of pure talent , apart from the newly rising young Ashcroft , no one else can compare to him . When I lost to him back then , I accepted it wholeheartedly . He's also the most likely to step into that realm before either of us . " Both Grayson and Tsaric fell silent , each recalling their past duels with Gareth .

For both of them , those encounters were the first time they had tasted defeat . " What a pity , " Tsaric said with a sigh , " Jeff Ashcroft , another genius with boundless potential , has emerged out of nowhere . But after tomorrow , Astria will have one less

extraordinary talent . " 2/4 15:20 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 139 An Early Battle ? 43

Finished Grayson nodded . " Jeff Ashcroft is too brash , too eager to stand out . If he could have endured another decade in silence , there would be no one capable of stopping him in the future . But the world doesn't work that way .

I've already challenged him , and tomorrow , I will do everything I can to kill him in the cradle . " Grayson's eyes flashed with dominance , exuding the aura of a true emperor .

Though he had lived in seclusion at Star Peak for over a decade , he was still the undefeated Jade Emperor , his reputation as one of the Four Extremes well - earned .

Tsaric's gaze shifted slightly . At their level , concepts like honor and sentiment were faint , mere shadows of concern . What they sought was the ultimate control over life and death , and they would show no mercy to anyone .

It was clear to Tsaric that Grayson intended to fight ruthlessly tomorrow . Just as Grayson finished speaking , a sudden whoosh broke the silence . The sound wasn't the typical rush of wind from a martial artist's movement but rather the roar of a storm , a powerful gust cutting through the air and shaking the heavens . Both Tsaric and Grayson narrowed their eyes and looked north . The whirlwind dissipated to reveal a tall , slender figure standing at the edge of the cliff . A clear , youthful voice followed , filled with confidence .

" Grayson Shire , judging by your tone , you seem confident of victory . " As the voice echoed through the valley , the figure suddenly dropped into the seemingly bottomless chasm below , only to rise again mid - air , crossing over ten yards in a single leap before landing gracefully on one of the stone pillars . The mist cleared , revealing a strikingly handsome young man with deep , penetrating eyes , staring directly at Grayson . " Hmm ? " Lionel's eyes narrowed . The young man had arrived so swiftly and smoothly that even Lionel , with his martial prowess , hadn't sensed his approach .

Grayson and Tsaric's shifted gazes as well , their expressions changing as if they had just witnessed something incredible . After a few moments of contemplation , Grayson finally spoke , his voice filled with admiration and surprise . " What a remarkable young Martial Sovereign ! We finally meet , Jeff Ashcroft ! " The young man was none other than Leander . After finishing his meal with Madeline and the others , he immediately rushed from the city center , feeling an inexplicable pull , a connection that only the top martial artists could sense .

Leander knew that Grayson would be here , and Grayson , too , recognized him at first sight . Sensing the immense power radiating from Grayson , far surpassing that of Alek Peterson , 3/4 15:21 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 139 An Early Battle ? 43 Finished Leander's eyes shone with excitement . This was , without a doubt , the strongest opponent he had ever encountered since mastering his martial skills - worthy of being called one of the Four Extremes . Tsaric studied Leander in silence while Lionel was already paralyzed with shock .

The official duel was set for New Year's Day , but both Leander and Grayson had already arrived . Could this battle , destined to shake Astria , be starting early that night ? Send Gifts 60

Chapter 140 Beyond the Martial Sovereign Is the Transcendent Realm The peak of Glidewing Mountain was shrouded in clouds , its rugged cliffs exuding a mysterious and awe - inspiring atmosphere . Yet , the presence of three of the world's greatest martial masters made the scene even more surreal . Tsaric glanced at Leander , his eyes scanning the young man's figure with increasing surprise . In the path of martial arts , talent was undeniably important , but achieving greatness usually required reaching one's thirties .

Even Gareth , a prodigy , didn't become a Martial Sovereign until he was 35 , shaking the world with his prowess . But here stood Leander , who by all appearances was barely twenty , facing two of the most renowned martial artists of the time with calm , steady eyes as tranquil as still water . That composure alone set him apart from millions . " Not long ago , I defeated a so -

called Martial Sovereign from the Peterson family in Cloudveil . In my view , there are vast differences in strength among Martial Sovereigns .

You , Grayson Shire , one of the ' Four Extremes , ' have always been the opponent I've looked forward to facing . Tonight , I climbed to the top of Glidewing Mountain just to meet you and see if you would live up to my expectations . Now I can say you certainly deserve your title of ' the Undefeated . " There was no tension or hesitation in Leander's voice , only eager anticipation . Grayson had long been at the top of Astria's Martial Sovereign rankings , far beyond someone like Alek Peterson , who was merely an Intermediate Martial Sovereign .

Grayson's body radiated with an overwhelming , violent force . Every inch of his muscles was packed with explosive strength , perfectly integrated with his inner energy . The difference between Grayson and the likes of Alek was like heaven and earth . Compared to Grayson , Alek was no more than a fragile toy , incapable of withstanding even a fraction of Grayson's power . Leander knew that Grayson was the strongest opponent he had ever faced .

" Jeff Ashcroft , " Grayson said , his voice filled with admiration , " seeing you today , I'm reminded of how vast and rich Astria truly is , with no shortage of remarkable talent . Twenty years ago , Gareth Ashcroft emerged from among the masses , and now , you appear like a rising star . Before I met you , I treated the injuries of my unworthy disciple and found a powerful strand of inner energy lodged in his core . It took three waves of my strength to dispel it .

That's when I knew your cultivation had reached the pinnacle of the Martial Sovereign level , which is why I issued my challenge to you . While you were worthy of my invitation , I didn't think you could match me . But now that I see you in person , I realize I was gravely mistaken ."

Grayson paused for a moment , then suddenly clasped his hands and bowed deeply at Leander .
Lionel stood utterly stupefied , his eyes wide with disbelief .

Grayson was a towering figure in the martial world of Astria , one of the strongest martial artists of the current era , representing an entire generation and a legendary cra . Yet now , he was bowing to Leander , acknowledging him as an equal . This wasn't just an apology - it was recognition of Leander's status as a grandmaster 1/3 15:21 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 140 Beyond the Martial Sovereign is the Transcendent Realm on par with him .

Finished Lionel , at 35 , had only just stepped into the realm of Martial Sovereign and was just beginning to show his strength in the martial world of Jesund . But even so , he was still far from reaching the heights of legends like Tsaric and Grayson . Yet here was Leander , so young , already standing at their level . If Leander were given another ten years , who in Astria - or on Earth- could stand as his equal ? Lionel dared not even wonder . Leander , unfazed , gave a slight nod and smiled . While Grayson's bow surprised him , he had always known that this day would come .

His battle with Grayson had spread throughout the martial world , with nearly everyone doubting his worthiness . Grayson's underestimation was only a reflection of the broader disbelief he had faced . " Young Ashcroft , " Tsaric suddenly spoke , his voice filled with excitement as his eyes gleamed with sword energy . " Meeting you has been the greatest surprise of my journey to Astria ! " Since Leander's arrival , Tsaric's attention had been fully focused on him . While Grayson was like an unstoppable battle machine , Leander was like a drifting cloud - elusive and unfathomable .

The two represented different forms of power , but both were at the pinnacle of their art .

Leander turned his head slightly , a smile of interest forming on his lips as he regarded the elderly swordsman . Though Tsaric appeared frail , Leander could feel the overwhelming sword aura emanating from him . It was as if an invisible , massive sword hovered above his head , ready to strike at any moment . Tsaric himself was like a legendary weapon sheathed in its scabbard , waiting to be unleashed . Without thinking , Leander spoke .

" So , you are the Sword Master of Jesund , Tsaric Dubois- Briggs ." Though Tsaric had not set foot in Astria for over a decade , his legend persisted . Leander , while not deeply interested in the affairs of the martial world , had heard of this unparalleled swordsman . Still , he hadn't expected to meet both Grayson and Tsaric atop Glidewing Mountain . " I didn't expect you to know me , young Ashcroft . It is my honor ! " Tsaric laughed lightly before his expression turned serious . His sharp eyes gleamed . " There's something I'd like to ask you .

Two months ago , one of my disciples traveled to Mornwick in Astria . He vanished , and his sword , the Hellbringer , was found shattered in Ravenridge . Does this have anything to do with you ? " Leander paused for a moment , remembering the swordsman he had killed while saving Emma Reyne . It seemed that man had been Tsaric's disciple . But Leander had no fear . He took full responsibility for his actions and had no regrets . Nodding , he replied , " I did kill a Jesundese swordsman two months ago in Ravenridge . It seemed he was your disciple .

He was hunting young Astrian fighters , so I killed him to avenge 2/3 15:21 Mon , Oct 13
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those who died at his hands . If you have a problem with that , feel free to come after me . If you want to resolve this now , I'm ready ." Leander spread his hands , showing

no fear . To reach the pinnacle , he needed to face all challenges without hesitation . Whether it was Grayson or Tsaric , if they wanted to fight , he wouldn't back down . " So , it was you , Ashcroft !

" Lionel immediately turned to Tsaric , but the old master's eyes gleamed with deadly light . Suddenly , a brilliant sword light flashed from Tsaric's head , splitting the mountain mist . However , the strike wasn't aimed at Leander but at the stone pillar beneath him . Tsaric's sword strike was no trivial matter ; even a casual slash was as powerful as a divine weapon . The stone pillar should have been shattered , yet when the sword light hit , it merely produced a soft sound before dissipating into sparks , leaving the pillar unscathed and Leander unmoved .

Tsaric's malice faded , and his sword aura dissipated as he spoke calmly . " You're indeed formidable , young Ashcroft . Tomorrow is your battle with Shire . Our grudge can wait . If you survive , I'll find you again ." Leander casually slipped one hand into his pocket , offering no response . The mountaintop fell into silence once again . After a long pause , Grayson finally spoke . " Jeff Ashcroft , with your current strength , you're already on par with us older masters .

So , you should understand by now that beyond Martial Sovereign lies an even greater realm ." Leander's pupils contracted slightly . " Are you talking about the Transcendent Realm ? " Send Gifts 60