

From Outcast to Overlord: The Unyielding Heir Novel

Chapter 281 Appointed by General Leon "What ? " 62 Finished The moment the steward spoke , Clement's eyes narrowed , and the expressions of the guests shifted dramatically . Even Michael , a high - ranking officer from Cranfordale , looked stunned . It was unbelievable . The Crestgate Military District was one of the seven core military regions of Astria , overseeing the armed forces of Listin , Cranfordale , Mornwick , and Tiberran , stretching across the entire southwest . Michael couldn't make sense of it .

Why would a convoy from Crestgate Military District suddenly show up at the Shire Estate ? He glanced at Clement , seated at the head table , and quickly understood . Back in his day , Clement had commanded the Thundercliff Army . Though now retired , his influence remained . He had an illustrious record , and many of his former comrades now served in the Crestgate Military District . Today was his birthday celebration - it wasn't unusual for someone from the military to stop by and pay respects . But Clement himself sensed something wasn't right .

His steward had been with him for years , having seen many powerful people up close . For the man to be this visibly shaken meant whoever was arriving was no ordinary guest . What puzzled him , however , was that the highest - ranking figure he knew in the Crestgate Military District was a senior colonel at best . So , what was it that had the steward so unnerved ? There was no time to think . Clement quickly stood to greet the

guests . But before he reached the door , footsteps approached . A man in a military uniform appeared at the entrance .

Two thick gold bars , four stars - he held the same rank as Michael . He stood tall and resolute as he walked in . Michael's gaze froze for a beat before he stepped forward . " Officer Crosby , what brings you here ? " He recognized the man , Graham Crosby , an instructor from the Crestgate Military District's special forces unit . Though both held the same military rank , Michael served in a provincial command , while Graham was positioned at the very core of the military structure . The difference between them was vast , and even Michael couldn't help but show deference .

1/4 14:09 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 281 Appointed by General Leon Graham gave him a brief nod . " Officer Quigley " 62 Finished There was no particular warmth in his tone , but Michael smiled respectfully nonetheless . Graham's eyes then swept across the banquet hall and paused . His gaze sharpened . There were armed troops present . His brows creased immediately . " Officer Crosby , what an honor ! I never imagined you'd visit our humble home today . We're truly honored . " Clement had already come forward , greeting him with warm courtesy . " Old Mr. Shire .

" Graham stood at attention and offered him a what - is - it salute ! -he was a soldier , and men like Clement , who had devoted their lives to the nation , commanded his deepest respect . Clement quickly stepped forward , gripping Graham's arm with both hands . " Please come in- " " No need for formalities , sir . It's your birthday today . I arrived in a rush and didn't prepare a proper gift . Please forgive me . " Graham shook his head politely . " But General Leon will be arriving shortly as well .

We'll need some space in your estate to allow for a helicopter landing ." His words struck the crowd like lightning.. " General Leon ? " In the four provinces of Listin , Cranfordale , Mornwick , and Tiberran , only one man held that title - the supreme commander of the Crestgate Military District , General Darrow Leon . A full general , ranked above all local commanders . General Leon was famously busy with military affairs and rarely left his base . What would prompt him to cross provincial lines and come to Kaldia ?

And from Graham's tone , it seemed the general would be arriving via military helicopter . What kind of earth - shaking event was about to unfold ? " Officer Crosby , why is the general personally coming to Kaldia and landing at my estate ? Has something happened ? " Clement swallowed hard . Even with decades of discipline and inner calm , he couldn't suppress the tremor in his voice . 2/4 ୧୩ 14:09 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 281 Appointed by General Leon 62 Finished General Leon was the top military commander across four provinces , two ranks above Clement's highest former title .

A figure like that arriving at his doorstep carried enormous pressure . Many guests around them could only suck in cold breaths . Today's trip to the Shire Estate had been more than worth it . First , they had witnessed Leander stand off against the four families , and now they were about to witness the arrival of a full general by helicopter . What could top that ? Graham smiled lightly at Clement . " Sir , there's no need to be nervous . The general is here to pick someone up ." " Pick someone up ? " Clement was startled .

With General Leon's status , only a handful of people in the entire country could warrant his appearance - either top national leaders or someone of equivalent standing .

Graham's tone was calm . " That person is here today , celebrating your birthday along with the rest of us . I just haven't spotted him yet . " " Here at the banquet ? " Clement was even more baffled . Who at his party could be important enough to warrant General Leon's escort - and yet unknown to him ? Michael's expression kept shifting .

Graham's sudden appearance was already beyond expectation , but now the general himself was on his way . The implications were overwhelming . He had led a team here to arrest Leander , but it had been a personal move , done outside official channels . If the general found out , he could be charged with abuse of power . He had to act fast . He saluted Graham stiffly . " Officer Crosby , I have urgent orders to detain a criminal . I'll speak with you another time .

" With that , he turned and snapped , " Take him away - return to base ." One of his men stepped forward , shackles in hand , heading toward Leander , Graham hadn't seen Leander earlier because he had been surrounded by soldiers . But now that one of the men moved toward him , Graham finally caught sight of the calm young man seated casually in his chair . Just as the soldier was about to reach him , Graham's eyes locked on the target , and he barked out a thunderous command . " Stop right there ! " 3/4

14:09 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter1 App - slided by Orneral Lean The soldier froze on the spot .

Finished Though both Graham and Michael held the same rank , they were well aware that one was a close aide to the general , while the other was a provincial officer . Their

authority was not even remotely equal . " Officer Crosby , what's the meaning of this ? " Michael frowned , baffled . Graham turned his head slowly , gaze icy and unflinching . " Michael , do you have any idea what you're doing ? " The harsh rebuke made Michael's temper flare , but he kept his tone civil . " Officer Crosby , I'm here on official orders to arrest a dangerous individual . Why are you interfering ?

" " Dangerous ? " Graham chuckled coldly and pointed at Leander . " You're calling him a criminal ? Do you even hear yourself ? " " Do you know who this man is ? " His voice was clear and forceful , echoing through the hall . " This is Leander . Instructor Leander . " " He was personally appointed by General Leon . He is the incoming commander of the Southern Wyvern Blade special ops unit . " The room fell utterly silent . Send Gifts

Chapter 282 Unshakable " Instructor Leander ? The new commander of the Southern Wyvern Blade ? " ๗๕ 62 Finished Graham's words hit the hall like a warhead . The shockwave that followed was nothing short of explosive . Some of the guests didn't recognize the weight of the title " Instructor Leander ," but when they heard " Southern Wyvern Blade " , they instantly understood the gravity . The Wyvern Blade wasn't just any special forces unit - it was the elite tip of Astria's military spear . An ultra - classified group that operated above any known battalion or brigade .

It held no official designation in most public records , but within the inner circles , it was considered a national weapon - a force beyond convention . Every member of the Wyvern Blade was a titan in their own right , authorized to act independently on matters of national interest . Even junior members carried clout that provincial governors couldn't ignore . And at the helm of

such an institution stood the chief instructor . The Wyvern Blade was split into northern and southern divisions . The Southern Wyvern Blade was Astria's precision blade in the southern territories .

Few knew the details of its operations , but all understood one thing : its commander , the chief instructor , stood at the absolute pinnacle . And now , Graham had just declared that this young man , Leander , had been appointed to that role . Every head in the room turned as if on cue . Leander , sitting calmly amidst a swirl of armed guards and political figures , suddenly became the gravitational center of the entire gathering . Clement's seasoned expression faltered for the first time in years . He drew a sharp breath . Even he couldn't hide his astonishment .

At the youth table , Martha's eyes glimmered with stunned admiration , while Sylvia's gaze locked onto Leander , unable to turn away . Chairman of Jeff Enterprises , the man who had crushed the Walsh family of Listin , humbled the underworld , and now , the commander of the Southern Wyvern Blade ? How many lifetimes would it take to accumulate those achievements ? And yet , they were all wrapped in one young man . Across the room , Michael's face was pale and twitching .

In his eyes , Leander was nothing more than a local enforcer from Mornwick , skilled in hand-1/4 14:09 Wed , Oct 15 Chapters Unshakable Finished to - hand combat perhaps , but ultimately disposable . That was why he had brought an entire armed unit , planning to drag Leander away in chains . And now ? Graham , an instructor directly under General Leon , had just publicly declared that Leander had been personally appointed by the general himself as chief instructor of the Wyvern Blade . It was as if reality had flipped on its head . " You ... you must be mistaken! " Michael's voice cracked .

" This man assaulted my son last night ! He shattered Mr. Locke's son's limbs in public ! How could he possibly be the chief instructor of the Southern Wyvern Blade ? " He shook his head , disbelief twisting his features . For weeks , he had overseen the construction of a new Wyvern Blade training facility - he knew what kind of person was expected to lead such a force . And Leander , in his view , simply didn't measure up . Graham turned to face him fully . His voice was like a cold blade . " Michael , watch your words .

" He stepped forward slightly , and the temperature in the room dropped a few degrees . " Leander was personally selected by General Leon , with full backing from the Crestgate Military District . I was there . So was Mr. Church . We invited him ourselves . " " He is not only qualified - he is the future of the Southern Wyvern Blade . " Graham's gaze sharpened . " You claim he's a violent criminal ? Are you questioning General Leon's judgment , or the judgment of the military's highest - ranking officers ? " The implication hung heavy in the air .

A few of Michael's fellow officers began to shift uncomfortably . Graham continued , voice unwavering . " As for your son , everyone here knows what kind of man he is . You claim Leander attacked him ? I think the truth may be more complicated than that . " He turned to Leander with a rare note of apology in his voice . " Instructor Leander , if there's more to what happened last night , please speak freely . The Crestgate Military District will see justice done . If anyone dared wrong you , we'll settle it by military law . " Michael's pupils sh Leander didn't rise immediately .

He simply leaned back in his chair and gave a faint , amused smile . 2/4 14:09 Wed , Oct 15
Chapter 282 Unshakable 45 Finished He turned his gaze on Michael . " You say I injured your son . That I crippled this man's heir . But you don't ask why ? " " Last night , your son and his

friend blocked my entrance , then pretended to welcome me , only to try and injure me with a feigned handshake . " " After that , they rallied others to surround me . Tried to break my limbs . " " All I did was give them what they deserved . And believe me , I was merciful . " He stood now .

His presence filled the room like a drawn sword . " But today , you bring troops to accuse me ? In front of all these guests ? Tell me , who gave you that kind of courage ? " Michael flinched . He wanted to retort , but deep down , he knew every word was true . Still , he refused to admit it . " That's just your side of the story . Who can prove it ? " Leander gave a cold laugh . Before he could reply , Martha stepped forward . " Officer Quigley , " she said clearly , " I was there . We all saw it . Your son struck first . The others attacked under his command .

Leander only defended himself . Besides me , dozens of Shire family members and guests can confirm it . " Her words landed with finality . Michael's face fell . So did Bradley's . Reginald and Maxwell - formerly full of confidence - now stood frozen , staring blankly . They had come together to avenge their sons . Michael had even brought armed troops . And yet they couldn't so much as shake Leander - couldn't touch him . Because Leander was the mountain .

All those who had once thought Leander doomed now looked on with different expressions- some fearful , some even gloating at Michael's downfall . After all , Leander had once flattened the entire Walsh family of Listin Province and humbled the criminal elite . Everyone present now understood - they were about to witness the return fire of a legend . And when Leander struck back ... He would leave no survivors .

Chapter 283 Do You Yield Now ? 62 Finished " You called me a thug . Said I was violent . Tried to have me arrested on the spot . Tell me ... do you still have the guts to say it again ? " Leander's voice was quiet , but each word landed like a hammer . His eyes locked onto Michael , who felt as though someone had dropped him into an ice bath . Cold . Paralyzed . " I - Instructor Leander ... " Michael stammered . " It ... it was my mistake . A lapse in judgment . I failed my duty . Please , I'm begging you - give me one more chance ! " He was done bluffing .

Michael had been a rising star in Cranfordale , poised for future greatness . But he'd spoiled his son , coddled him into arrogance - and now , that same son had dragged him straight into hell . He knew it was over . His career was finished . Maybe even his freedom . " Hmph . " Leander gave a derisive snort and said nothing more . Graham , standing beside him , stepped forward and shouted , voice like a military drum . " Michael - your son knowingly attempted to harm the chief instructor of the Southern Wyvern Blade . That's attempted treason .

" " And you - an officer of the Republic - abused your authority , deployed units without sanction , and conspired to arrest a decorated military leader . Do you even grasp the weight of those crimes ? " Michael stood frozen , face ashen . No excuses left . Nothing but bitter regret . Leander's gaze slid past him to land on three others : Bradley , Reginald , and Maxwell , " You three , " Leander said calmly , " weren't you the ones who said you'd grind this ' provincial outlaw ' into dust ? " The color drained from their faces . All that swagger from earlier had vanished without a trace .

Especially Bradley . He felt like the hours since sunrise had stretched into eternity . He hadn't slept . He'd spent the entire night digging into Leander's background . Looking for weaknesses . Connections . Anything . 1/6 14:09 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 283 Do You Yield Now ? (62)

Finished He'd rallied Reginald and Maxwell . Even brought Gavin in as backup , thinking he could crush Leander in one coordinated strike . But despite all their resources , all their preparation , they still couldn't touch him . Because Leander wasn't just the chairman of Jeff Enterprises .

He wasn't just the rumored kingpin of Mornwick . He was the chief instructor of the Southern Wyvern Blade - the elite of the elite . A man backed by General Leon himself . Even Supreme Commander Darrow Leon stood behind him . How could any of them possibly compete with that ? Reginald and Maxwell , both titans in the business world , were the first to bend . Without hesitation , they stepped forward and bowed deeply . " Instructor Leander , " Reginald and Maxwell said , " we were wrong . We never should have come here tonight .

" Back when Thaddeus and Dominic had bowed to Leander , they had already sensed which way the wind was blowing . And now , with his Wyvern Blade identity revealed , their last thread of defiance snapped clean . Still , Leander remained unmoved . His gaze stayed steady , unreadable . Seeing no reaction , the two men exchanged a look . Then , without another word , they dropped to their knees . " Mr. Leander , you're a man of unmatched power , " Reginald and Maxwell said . " Please , show us mercy . Let us serve you from this day forward . We'll give everything we have .

" Gasps rippled through the hall . These weren't small - time operators . Reginald and Maxwell ran two of the top fifty corporations in the Republic . Their net worths alone were in the billions . And now ? They were kneeling . That was Leander's weight . Only then did he finally speak . " At Jeff Enterprises ' gala , Elric and Adrian challenged me publicly . They tried to humiliate me .

Ambush me outside the venue . I killed them both . " 2/6 14:09 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 283 Do You Yield Now ? : 62 Finished He paused . " Do you accept that ? " The two men didn't flinch .

" We accept , " they said in unison . Losing their sons stung , yes . But they were businessmen . Sentimentality never trumped survival . Besides , it wasn't like those boys hadn't crossed lines before . All that mattered now was surviving Leander's wrath . " Good . " Leander nodded . " From this moment forward , Luth Global Holdings and Reginald Enterprises will become subsidiaries of Jeff Enterprises . All assets , all operations - full integration . I want the paperwork signed and finalized within seventy - two hours . " Their eyes widened in shock . That was their life's work .

Everything they'd built . But when they saw the glint in Leander's eyes , the protest died in their throats . " No problem , " Reginald and Maxwell said at last . " We'll get it done . " Leander flicked a hand , as though brushing away dust . " Then get out of my sight . " The two men stumbled to their feet and left , humiliated . They had come in with power , with pride . They left with neither . Leander's eyes now fell on Bradley . The richest man in Cranfordale . And right now , the most terrified . " Bradley , " Leander said , " you did your homework . Pulled strings . Built an alliance .

All to try and crush me in one night . " He scoffed . " But you miscalculated . You came with a sledgehammer to break a mountain . " " You failed . And you know what the real mistake was ? " He flicked his fingers . " Your son tried to cripple me . I responded in kind . But instead of letting 3/6 14:09 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 283 Do You Yield Now ? it end there , you kept pushing . " 62 Finished " Now , " he said , voice suddenly cold , " you have thirty seconds to give me one

reason to let you live ." " Thirty seconds . After that , if I don't hear what I want ... " He let the rest hang .

The threat was loud in its silence . All eyes turned to Graham , expecting an intervention . But he stood still , impassive . Neutral . Bradley's hope collapsed . As the seconds ticked away , Leander raised his hand . Bradley dropped to his knees like a man facing a firing squad . " Mr. Leander , " he gasped , forehead to the ground . " From today on , I'm yours . A dog under your command . I swear it . Just ... please . Spare me. Spare my family ." The hall went dead quiet . Even the air seemed to hold its breath . Leander studied him for a long time . Then spoke .

" Remember this : from now on , your life isn't yours anymore ." Bradley didn't move . Didn't speak . But inside , he exhaled . He was still alive . His legacy was still intact . Off to the side , Gavin stepped forward , lifting a glass with both hands - a sign of humility rarely shown by a man of his rank . " Instructor Leander , " he said respectfully , " I was misled . I made a mistake . This toast is my apology ." Though his tone was formal , everyone present understood - this was as close to begging as Gavin would ever get . Leander gave him a nod .

4/6 14:09 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 283 Do You Yield Now ? That was enough . Gavin downed two glasses on the spot and made a quiet , swift exit . 62 Finished " Instructor , " Graham leaned in and asked softly , " how do you want to handle Michael ? Say the word , and the Crestgate Military District will handle it your way . " Leander shook his head . " No special treatment . Just follow military law . " Michael had long since realized there was no way out . His career was over . But he still had fire in him . " You think they've surrendered ? " he barked . " But I haven't !

" He turned and shouted , his voice hoarse . " You're just a punk ! A thug from Mornwick ! What gives you the right to lead the Southern Wyvern Blade ? " The whole room tensed . And then ... Leander smiled . " You want to know why I was chosen ? " he said , voice low . " I'll show you . " He raised an arm . And with a flick of his sleeve- " Boom ! " The entire estate shook . The floor cracked open , a massive fissure splitting the ground from Leander's feet to the far end of the courtyard - like a god had taken a blade and carved the earth . Silence . Stunned , disbelieving silence .

People gaped at the destruction . No one could speak . No one could think . And as Michael stared , trembling , Leander slowly lowered his arm . He looked him dead in the eyes . 5/6 14:09 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 283 Do You Yield Now ? " Now , " he said softly . " Do you yield ? " Send Gifts 60

Chapter 284 Above the Heavens The entire place fell deathly still . 62 Finished Every gaze locked onto the massive fissure gouged across the estate , stretching dozens of meters through stone and soil . No one spoke . No one dared to move . What had they just witnessed ? Even the heroes in those flashy Western blockbusters didn't hold a candle to this . A single motion . One sweep of the arm . And the entire Shire Estate had been split clean in two . Was this still human strength ?

Only now did everyone begin to understand why Leander had crushed Mornwick with ease , why the Walsh family had crumbled before him , and why even the darkest corners of the underworld had nearly been brought to ruin . With power like that ... what throne , what wealth , what legacy could ever hope to stand in his way ? Martha's heart

raced . Her thoughts scattered like leaves in the wind . She had never felt anything like this before - not in her youth , not with any of the so - called elites she'd known . For the first time , she felt like a girl again . Awestruck . Breathless .

Leander's dominance . The effortless way he tore through resistance . The fact that even the region's Supreme Commander held him in such esteem - it all left her utterly shaken . Those other men , the ones who'd strutted around with titles like " heir to Cranfordale " or " young market genius ," suddenly felt like paper dolls in comparison , Against Leander , they didn't just fall short - they didn't even qualify to compete . She glanced at Sylvia . The other woman's eyes were wide , fixed on Leander , as if spellbound . " So , this is Jeff Ashcroft , " Sylvia whispered , her voice dazed .

" The man who walks above kings . " Nearby , Madeline's eyes shimmered faintly with a mix of awe and sorrow . Ever since she'd discovered the truth about Leander , she'd vowed never to fall too far behind . 1/5 14:10 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 283 Above the Heavens Even if she couldn't catch up , she wanted to be worthy enough to stand by his side . But no matter how hard she worked , he always surged ahead . And now ? Even the Supreme Commander had come in person to see him . That kind of recognition - respect was something no status or bloodline could buy . Hazel ..

your adopted son is no ordinary man . Clement couldn't stop smiling . He clapped his hands once , loud and full of pride . (62) Finished Mornwick's quiet storm . Chairman of Ashcroft Group . Uncrowned ruler of the Astria martial world . Chief Instructor of the Southern Wyvern Blade . Title after title , honor after honor . Each one more outrageous than the last . Clement had once feared Leander wouldn't be able to stand against the

combined pressure of the Locke and Quigley families . He'd even reached out to his old war buddies , hoping to lend some last - minute help . But now ?

Not only had Leander flattened both families , but he had forced top - ranking state officials and even the province's two strongest martial masters to bow . Clement realized he'd underestimated him , over and over again . Everything he thought he knew had crumbled . The elderly man beside him , once dismissive , now let out a long breath . You're blessed beyond words , Clement . That young man is a force of nature . He , too , had mistaken Leander's calm confidence for arrogance . But the truth had hit harder than he could have imagined .

Now all he felt was admiration - and a tinge of jealousy . With Leander at their side , the Shire family would soar far beyond Cranfordale . There was no longer a single family in the entire province that could rival them . Clement said nothing . He didn't need to . The silence of the others said it all . They hadn't even recovered from the sight of that one strike . Michael - one of the highest - ranking officers in the region - was frozen solid , his face pale . He couldn't speak . Couldn't move . On the far side , Graham's eyes gleamed with something close to euphoria .

2/5 14 10 Wed , Oct 15 Firstied He had been hesitant , once , when he and Miles approached Leander to lead the Southern Wyvern Blade . Back then , Leander hadn't shown his full strength . Now ? There were no more questions . That single , effortless strike had shattered every doubt he'd ever held . He was certain - the Southern Wyvern Blade would rise again . And this time , it would eclipse its northern counterpart . Just

then , the deep rumble of engines echoed from outside . The arrival of a motorcade . A beat later , the sky above filled with the sound of heavy rotor blades .

Everyone looked up to see a massive military helicopter descending above the estate . Twin rotors . Crestgate insignia . The crowd grew tense . Eyes turned to the skies . Faces solemn . They all knew what it meant . The Supreme Commander ... was here . Clement and Graham moved swiftly to the helipad , not daring to waste a second . The chopper landed . Its side doors opened . And then , one by one , five officers stepped out . Each wore a crisp uniform . Each moved with purpose and precision . The weight of command seemed to follow them like a shadow . No one dared speak .

Someone in the crowd glanced at their shoulder ranks and gasped . Two carried a single star . Two bore two stars . And the last - tall , poised , exuding sheer dominance - had three . 3/5 1410 Wed 02 15 not Finished The crowd went quiet . A three - star general . There was only one man in the entire Crestgate Military District with that rank . Darrow Leon . He looked no older than his early fifties , yet carried himself with the strength of a man half that age . Shoulders squared . Gaze sharply . Presence absolute .

When he saw Clement , he strode forward and gripped the old commander's hand . " Old Mr. Shire , " he said warmly , " on your birthday , how could we not come pay our respects ? " Despite his authority , his tone held genuine respect . Clement , seasoned as he was , could only smile and nod , overwhelmed by the gesture . But then , Darrow's eyes shifted toward the front of the hall . Toward Leander . In a few swift

strides , the General closed the distance and stopped in front of him . " I've heard of you for a long time , Instructor Leander ," he said . " It's an honor to finally meet you .

" And just like that , the highest - ranking military officer in the province stood before him , not as a superior , but as an equal . Leander gave a calm nod . " General Leon . The honor is mine . " The two men exchanged words like old comrades . No deference . No false courtesy . Just mutual respect The room could hardly process what they were seeing . The General didn't mind in the slightest . He and Leander took their seats in the main hall , joined by the other top officers . And just like that , it felt as if no one else in the room mattered . Only those six . Everyone else was just ...

background noise . 4/5 14.10 Wed , Oct 15 the 1 teavenst #shed Martha's heart trembled as she watched Leander speak with ease to a man who could command armies . Only now did she truly understand . These so - called clites - these trust fund heirs and glamorous socialites - were all just children playing dress - up . No wonder Leander had dared to say : Whatever this world throws at me - I'll bear it all alone . And now , Clement stood nearby , his heart racing with joy . The Shire family had stood proud in Cranfordale for decades . They'd produced talent . They'd earned respect .

But today ... they had birthed something else entirely . Leander may not have carried the Shire name , but he was one of them . And today , the Shires had risen above the heavens . Send Gifts 60 B

Chapter 285 Taking Command of the Southern Wyvern Blade Darrow and the four other officers spent half an hour talking with Leander . After offering their congratulations to Clement , the conversation quickly shifted to their real purpose for visiting . They had come to escort Leander to the Southern Wyvern Blade's special operations training base . Leander nodded . A promise was a promise . If he'd agreed to something , he wouldn't go back on his word . Turning to Clement with an apologetic smile , he said , " Sorry about the estate - I might've gone a bit overboard .

" He was , of course , referring to the devastating sweep of his arm that split the Shire Estate in two . It hadn't been a reckless move . It was calculated - a statement . A warning . Today , he needed to make it clear - publicly - that no one could afford to underestimate him , or entertain delusions of targeting the Shires . With this one show of force , not only the entire province , but even its surrounding neighbors would think twice before making a move . Clement didn't seem the least bit concerned . The damage could be fixed - money could handle that .

What truly mattered to him now was Leander . " Leander , are you still going to call me Old Mr. Shire ? " " You're Hazel's adopted son . There's no need for formalities between us . I'm practically your grandfather . " " The Shire Estate is your home . Come back anytime . I'll always keep the doors open for you. " " Home ... " Leander paused at the word . It felt both familiar and distant . He looked at Clement and gave a faint smile before nodding slowly . The old man hadn't known the full extent of Leander's strength , and even so , when everything was uncertain , he'd bet it all on him .

That kind of loyalty - Leander would remember . Seeing him nod , Clement broke into hearty laughter , clapping Leander warmly on the shoulder like he was his grandson .

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After that , Leander walked over to Madeline . 62 Finished " I've got some things to take care of . I'm heading off with General Leon and the others . Can't stay with you this time . " " You're new to the estate , so take a few days and get comfortable . Everyone here is family . " He gently ruffled her hair with a soft smile .

Madeline's eyes shimmered with unshed tears . She knew he was leaving again - and who knew when she'd see him next ? But still , she held it in and nodded . Without dragging things out , Leander turned and boarded the helicopter alongside the officers . From the moment he'd arrived , he hadn't spared even a glance for Martha or Sylvia . Not a word . Not a look . Not even goodbye . And that ... cut deeper than either of them expected . Moments later , the helicopter lifted off and disappeared into the sky .

Back at the estate , the rest of the guests swarmed forward , raising glasses and offering toast after toast to the Shire family . The very people who'd once kept their distance were now scrambling to win favor . Nobles , elites - many of whom had only shown up for the spectacle - were now piling on praise and congratulations , hoping to get in good graces . Watching all of this unfold , Martha felt a quiet ache in her chest . It was clear this shift ... had nothing to do with the Shire name . It was all because of that young man . That legend who had crushed everything in his path .

She turned to Sylvia , who still looked distracted and distant . Then Martha smiled , teasing gently . " Sylvia , maybe I was right after all ... Maybe I will end up fighting you

for him . " Sylvia gave a carefree smile in return , saying nothing . A man like Leander - a dragon among men - wasn't someone who stayed for anyone . The helicopter flew for half an hour , crossing rugged terrain and weaving through complex mountain passes before finally descending into a heavily hidden base surrounded by peaks .

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One look was all it took to know - this was no ordinary site . a 62 Finished Even if someone knew what they were looking for , finding this place from the outside would be nearly impossible . Darrow led the way , and soon Leander was introduced to the Southern Wyvern Blade's training grounds . " Leander, I've arranged a military staffer to assist you , " the general explained . " She should already be waiting in your office . I'll take you there . " They walked to a private compound .

From the outside , it looked almost austere . But inside , it was fully equipped with cutting - edge tech - even entertainment systems . Leander nodded to himself , realizing this was no doubt arranged just for him . Inside the office , a young woman in uniform sat perfectly upright . Her posture was strict , her demeanor cold . The moment they entered , she stood and saluted . " Leona Tarlyn , " General Long began , motioning to Leander . " Allow me to introduce our new instructor . " " This is Leander , your new commanding officer .

From today onward , he'll be in charge of all Southern Wyvern Blade training . You'll assist him in every way . Understood ? " Leona's expression flickered slightly . Her gaze settled on Leander , puzzled . He's ... the new instructor ? She knew the leadership had been searching for someone to take command - a highly skilled specialist . Someone

whose job she would support by handling logistics and reporting training metrics . The last instructor had been over fifty .

Even if this new one was young , she had expected someone at least in their forties - someone seasoned enough to control an elite , often unruly , squad . But Leander ? He didn't even look twenty . If Darrow hadn't personally introduced him , she would've thought this was a mistake . 3/5 14:10 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 28 Taking Command of the Southern Wyvern Blade This kid is younger than me ... And they expect him to run this place ? Finished Still , she was a soldier . So , after a beat of hesitation , she stepped forward and saluted him .

" Instructor Leander , " she said , " I'm Leona Tarlyn . I'll be your assistant for the next month , responsible for logistics and performance tracking ." Leander glanced at her and gave a small nod . Something about his response made her frown slightly . He's got an attitude , that's for sure . " Everything you need to know , Leona will explain , " Darrow added . " If you run into any issues , she'll handle them . " " With you overseeing the Wyvern Blade , we can rest easy ." The general and the other officers gave a final salute before boarding the helicopter .

One by one , they left the base . Silence returned to the grounds . Inside the office , Leander kicked back in his chair , feet propped up on the desk , casually flipping through the Wyvern Blade's records . He looked every bit like a carefree teenager . Leona said nothing , but her dissatisfaction was obvious . How could this guy be the one they chose ? What's he going to teach battle - hardened soldiers - how to lounge around and act cool ?

Meanwhile , in the distant simulated desert training zone , over twenty soldiers were buried waist - deep in scorching sand pits - part of a resilience - building exercise . Among them was Skyler Eaton . The same Skyler who had clashed with Leander in Ravenridge , Now , his skin had darkened from the sun . His body was stronger , his gaze sharper . Several nearby recruits were about to give up , unable to bear the heat . But Skyler gritted his teeth and stayed put . Determined . Relentless . " Leander , " he muttered , " one day , I'll surpass you . I swear I will . " What he didn't know ...

was that the very man he considered his rival had just arrived at the 4/5 14:10 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 285 Taking Command of the Southern Wyvern Blade base . Send Gifts 60 (!)

Chapter 286 So It's You 62 Finished Inside the simulated desert heat zone , Skyler was drenched in sweat , his tanned skin glistening with a wild , primal energy . A few of the team members had already bailed out of the sand pits , cooling themselves off with cold water . But Skyler gritted his teeth and stayed buried , enduring the scorching heat . He knew that for every extra second he endured , he gained strength - one step closer to that guy . " Skyler , what are you doing ? Trying to kill yourself in there ?

" Outside the pit , a few teammates returned to see him still soaking in the blazing sand . One of them , a muscular man in a tight training shirt with thick calluses on his fists , couldn't help but laugh . His codename in the Southern Wyvern Blade unit was " Brute . " Beside him stood a woman in a battle dress uniform , her body gleaming with sweat . Her long , slender fingers were

tipped with razor - sharp nails that glinted dangerously in the sun . Her codename was " Vane . "

" Seriously , Skyler , you're the most hardcore of us all these days .

When you first joined Wyvern Blade , you weren't like this . What happened ? Did some girl break your heart or something ? " The others all looked at him curiously . Skyler had only reported to the Southern Wyvern Blade unit once before , did a half - day of training , then left for his pre - training leave . However , just a few days later , he returned on his own and began an intense , relentless training regimen that made even the veterans pause . " Yeah ," Skyler replied , his voice calm but firm from the depths of the sand pit .

" I went out and saw something that made things real clear . We're Southern Wyvern Blade - sure . " But some people out there ? They're even stronger than us - way stronger . That's why I have to get stronger - fast . Use everything I've got . No shortcuts . " His eyes gleamed , the image of that night burned into his mind - how that man had crushed Elric and Adrian with a mere gesture . It had shattered his pride - and lit a fire in his gut . Nearby , the others fell silent . 1/3 14:10

Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 286 So It's You They all knew it .

62 Finished Sure , getting into Southern Wyvern Blade was an honor . They were elite among elites but had been utterly crushed by their northern counterparts during the Wyvern Cup . Every one - on - one and team mission had ended in defeat . No room for excuses . The whole military command had watched . It was humiliating . Finally , Skyler hit his limit . He climbed out of the pit , hosed himself down , but the look in his eyes remained razor sharp . " I went to Ravenridge , " he admitted coldly . " Met someone . A rival ... and a romantic rival at that .

" I admit it - he's better than me right now . But I swear , I'll surpass him . " " Romantic rival ? " said Boomer , the team's best in one - on - one combat . He raised a brow . " You lost to some guy chasing the same girl ? Who the hell is he ? " The others leaned in , intrigued . Skyler wasn't the best among them , but he wasn't far off . For someone like him to admit defeat , this rival had to be a monster . " His name is Leander , " Skyler replied , eyes blazing . " He's a power player from Mornwick . And yeah - I'm not on his level ... yet .

" Hearing that name didn't ring any bells with them . But before they could ask more , heavy footsteps approached . A towering figure appeared . Nearly two meters tall , skin dark , and body solid like a tank . He stood like a wall . This was their team leader - codename " Torre . " " Get cleaned up , you lot , " he barked . " You have ten minutes . After that , report to the yard . " Everyone tensed . " Is that the new chief instructor ? " someone muttered . After their crushing defeat in the Wyvern Cup , the brass had removed their previous instructor and brought in someone new .

Many of them were loyal to the old instructor , who'd been demoted . They were resentful-defensive . Who the hell was this new guy ? 2/3 14:10 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 286 So It's You (67) , Finished As Torre left , the squad looked at each other , exchanging glances . " Hmph . New chief instructor , huh ? " Boomer asked with a mocking grin . " Let's see what he's got . " Skyler narrowed his eyes . He wanted to know , too - who was this guy that suddenly outranked even the man they'd trusted ? They quickly cleaned up and assembled in formation at the training ground .

Under the blazing sun , they stood tall and unmoving , steel straight , with Torre at the front . Then , footsteps came - light , uneven , and unimpressive . They frowned . These

footsteps weren't steady like their old instructor's - they lacked power , discipline , and presence . This guy ? He's our instructor ? Disbelief spread among everyone . Even Torre furrowed his brow , thinking , You've got to be kidding me . Then , the footsteps stopped . A figure stepped into view - tall , calm , young . Their eyes snapped toward him - and then froze .

Right in the middle row , Skyler's pupils shrank . His body stiffened . His breath caught . He gasped aloud , voice filled with shock and disbelief . " How could it be you ? " Send Gifts 60 .

Chapter 287 You Think You're Tough ? Finished Skyler wasn't known for being chatty in the Southern Wyvern Blade . In fact , ever since he got whooped by Leander not too long ago , the guy had barely spoken more than a few words at a time . He mostly kept to himself , head down , focused . When he suddenly exclaimed , " How could it be you ? " - his voice wasn't merely surprised ; it was shaken . He never expected to see that guy again - the one they called Mornwick's Legend , who took over Jeff Enterprises , and nearly rattled the entire underground world .

Yet here he was , standing directly in front of them , in their training ground . The whole squad stood there , stunned . Eyes scanned Leander from head to toe , trying to make sense of what they were looking at . Leander was way too young . He looked fresh out of school - maybe still getting carded when buying a drink . His skin ? Fairer than half the models they'd seen in magazines . Not a scar , not a scratch . Just smooth , clear , and weirdly perfect - like he'd never spent a single day sweating it out in training , let alone in combat . He didn't look like a soldier .

He looked like he belonged on the cover of a luxury skincare campaign . Their mind raced . This guy ? They put this guy in charge of us ? You've got to be kidding . Yet there Leander was - standing right on their turf , calm , composed like he owned the place . After skimming through Leona's intel just moments ago , he had called everyone down to the training ground . Sure , he had already mapped out some rough ideas for the upcoming sessions , but he wanted to take a look at the team himself - see what they were working with before locking in a proper training plan .

Leona stood beside him , documents in hand . Tall , sharp , distant as ever . She barely looked at Leander . When she did , it was with the kind of coldness one would reserve for someone they barely tolerated . To her , he was just this arrogant , rule - bending guy who waltzed in with a cocky attitude . That was her first and only impression . What really bugged her wasn't his attitude . It was the question that kept circling in her head : What had he done to earn such special treatment ? 1/5 14:10 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 287 You Think You're Tough ?

62 Finished The top brass at Crestgate Military District clearly adored him - from Darrow to the rest of the district heads . They didn't just support him ; they cleared the path for him . Even forced her own uncle out of his position just to hand Leander the title . The whole thing felt off . None of it made sense to her . On the other hand , Leander didn't seem bothered at all . He casually scanned the crowd , eyes calm but piercing , taking in the entire squad . Then , he opened his mouth . " I'm guessing most of you already figured it out . " His tone was calm and detached . " Yeah .

I'm your new Chief Instructor . For the next month , I'm the one in charge of shaping you into proper solo combatants . " One hand tucked into his pocket , the other gesturing loosely - he

looked more like some rich kid giving a campus tour than a military trainer . " Anyway , my name's Leander Ashcroft . Nice to meet you officially . " The mood of the whole squad changed in a blink . Wait a minute ... that name . It's the same one Skyler mentioned - his so - called love rival . The age fits , too . A few of them exchanged glances , realization sinking in . No way . Is this really the guy ?

Skyler's love rival is our new Chief Instructor ? Leander didn't give them time to fully connect the dots . His voice dipped , just enough to cut through the air . " Seeing all of you in person ... I'll admit , I was looking forward to this ... " He paused , eyes sweeping the group . " Now that I'm here ? Got to say - I'm underwhelmed . " His tone shifted . Cool turned cold . " You're the Southern Wyvern Blade , yeah . You don't answer to any ministry , you run independently - but at the core , you're still soldiers . You follow orders . You stick to protocol . That much , I respect .

" Yet , you're more than just soldiers . You're supposed to be fighters . Warriors . Some of you are gifted with powers most people can only dream of . " With all that going for you , you should be dominating the field . " His eyes narrowed . " Instead ? You're barely keeping up . That's the part that disappoints me." 215 14:11 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 20 You Think You're Tough ? His words hit like a slap . : 215 62 #Finished All around him , the squad's expressions hardened . Several jaws clenched . Even Torre - usually calm and unreadable - had a flash of something sharp in his eyes .

Leona's brows lifted slightly . She could hardly believe what she was hearing . These guys aren't just some regular grunts , she thought , arms crossed . They were hand - picked from elite units across the country - the absolute best . And now this guy is casually calling them weak , like they

are fresh out of boot camp ? Seriously ? What a joke . Just then , a sharp voice cut through the tension . " I don't agree with that , Chief ! " It came from the loudest guy in the unit - callsign Boomer . Known for his explosive combat skills and an even louder temper .

He stood tall , snapped a salute , and let his voice boom across the entire training field . " Chief , I've got to call that out . Everyone here has been through the grind . We've seen real combat - we didn't get here by luck . We train harder than anyone . We bleed for this . We push ourselves past the limit every d * mn day . " " There are no weaklings in this squad . " His tone didn't waver . He wasn't backing down - not even a little . Every word echoed the pride in every man and woman standing there . They were Southern Wyvern Blade - hand - picked and battle - tested .

They had their pride , and they wouldn't let some pretty - faced outsider talk down to them , regardless of his title . Leona narrowed her eyes , silently scoffing . Exactly . Let's see how long this guy lasts . Not exactly a warm welcome on day one , huh ? Let's see how he plans to step off this stage . Meanwhile , Leander looked at Boomer , totally unfazed . " You're the top guy in solo matches , right ? " " Yes , Chief ! " Boomer shot back without missing a beat . He lifted his chin , voice ringing across the field - loud , proud , and full of fire .

He wasn't even thirty , already pushing close to Martial Master level . Since joining the team ,
315 14:11 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 287 You Think Youre Tough ? he'd never lost a one - on - one .
Yeah , he had every reason to stand tall . Leander tilted his head slightly and let out a short laugh .
. 62 ** Finished " With you as the champion ? " His voice dripped sarcasm . " No wonder the team's level is what it is . " Boomer's eyes snapped wide . " The hell did you just say ? " If Leander didn't have the title of Chief Instructor , Boomer would've already charged in and flattened him on the spot .

Leander didn't even flinch . " You heard me . " " You think being undefeated in Southern Wyvern Blade's internal sparring makes you special ? Let me ask - how many moves did you last against Northern Wyvern Blade during that Wyvern Cup ? " A heavy silence settled over the field - even Boomer went quiet . That memory still stung . Six matches . Six straight losses . Most of them didn't even last ten moves . Even Boomer barely made it past twenty before getting knocked out of the ring . Leander's voice stayed cold , cutting clean through the silence .

" You call yourselves Wyvern Blade - but stacked against the Northern ? Let's be honest , I don't even need to spell it out . " You're supposed to be the pride of the South . So , tell me what gives you the right to act like you're untouchable ? " He pointed straight at them . " You're not elite . You're not unbeatable . You're just a bunch of guys who got wrecked - plain and simple ." Leona , standing just behind Leander , frowned in disbelief . Is he serious ? Those words are brutal . She hadn't expected that kind of heat from someone who looked like he belonged on a magazine cover .

Pretty face , sharp tongue ... This guy's not holding back at all . 4/5 14:11 Wed , Oct 15
Chapter 287 You Think You're Tough ? 62 Finished Across the field , the entire Southern Wyvern Blade stood tense , fists clenched , jaws tight . Not one of them had a comeback . Then Leander gave them a steady look and pointed to himself . " Drop the ego . Right now ? You've got nothing to stand on ." He didn't pause long before resuming , his voice steady and assertive . " I'm here to change that . Trust me with a month , and I'll make you stronger than ever before .

You won't enter battle hoping for a win ; you'll go in knowing you will . With my training , you won't just fight to survive -you'll fight to dominate . " The team stood still , his words

still echoing in their minds . Fight to dominate ? That's a bold claim . Even if someone could pull it off ... there's no way it's him . Boomer took a deep breath , then stepped forward again and snapped Leander a sharp army salute . His voice was steady this time , but the fire in his eyes said plenty . " Talk's cheap , Chief . If you're really the real deal , show us .

" Leander's lips curved into a slow , smug grin . " Oh ? You looking to throw hands with me ? " Send Gifts 。 60

Chapter 288 No One's Buying It " Oh ? You looking to throw hands with me ? " Leander barely blinked . His gaze slid toward Boomer like he was sizing up a fly on the wall . Boomer took a step forward and threw out a salute , his voice booming across the field . " Permission to engage , Chief ! I'd like to learn from you ." It sounded respectful , like he was just asking for a friendly spar . Everyone knew better . Finished Boomer wasn't there to learn . He was out to test the new guy - to see if this young , pretty - faced Chief Instructor had the guts and the game to back up that tough talk .

In Boomer's book , Leander was a fluke - the first outsider parachuted into the top seat without earning his stripes , something that never happened in Southern Wyvern Blade before . He believed the whole thing stank of privilege . Leander had " connected " written all over him- probably some brass ' favorite nephew , sent here to play soldier for a few months before cruising into a soft chair behind a polished desk . Boomer thought , There's no way a guy like that got here on merit . Leander raised an eyebrow , expression unreadable . " Learn from me ?

" He let his gaze sweep across the squad . A faint smile tugged at the corner of his lips as he asked , " Is that what the rest of you want too ? " The silence said it all . A few subtle nods confirmed it . His earlier jabs had clearly hit nerves . Most of the squad looked ready to " learn " from him , preferably with fists . Leona , lingering at the back , tilted her head slightly , and that cold glint flickered back in her eyes . Boomer is no pushover ; even Uncle Larry only had a slight advantage over him when he served as their Chief Instructor . If Leander actually takes the bait ?

He's going to lose badly . And once that happens ? The squad will eat him alive , and Uncle Larry's chances of reclaiming the role get a whole lot better . She crossed her arms , watching closely . Alright , wonder boy . Let's see how you handle this . Leander didn't rush his answer . He took a beat , then gave a simple shake of the head . " I'm going 1/5 14:11 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 288 No One's Buying It to have to pass . " The air shifted instantly . 62 Finished No one saw that coming . They were expecting some speech or a slick excuse , not a flat no . Boomer narrowed his eyes . " Chief ...

are you scared ? " Seriously ? That's it ? He's folding already ? What a letdown . I have no idea what General Leon and the others saw in this guy , Leona muttered under her breath , shaking her head with a look of growing disdain in her eyes . Leander's response came with a smirk . " Scared ? There's nothing in this world I fear . I'm not stepping into that ring with you because , frankly , you're not ready . You're not strong enough . " He said it flat , like it was nothing more than a passing thought - no heat , no emotion - just cold , casual truth . That did it .

You could almost hear the squad's collective temper snap . Every muscle on the field tensed like they were ready to pounce . Oh , come on . You're the one dodging the challenge , and now you're covering it up with big talk and cute little excuses ? That was the thought running through everyone's head . At that moment , the entire Southern Wyvern Blade had already written Leander off . As far as they were concerned , he was done . Boomer clenched his fists , knuckles cracking . " You keep calling us weak , yet you won't lift a finger to prove otherwise .

" " I don't owe you proof ," Leander snapped . His voice cut through the air like a blade . He pointed straight at Boomer . " I'm the Chief Instructor of the Southern Wyvern Blade . That means you follow my orders . " His tone sharpened . " So , here's one - shut up and fall in line . Now . " Boomer stood frozen , jaw clenched . The unit's rules were explicit - commands from superiors were mandatory . Despite his desire to punch , he knew he couldn't without risking repercussions . With no alternative , he stepped back into the formation , his eyes filled with frustration .

No one said it out loud , but the thought was there . 2/5 14:11 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 288
No One's Buying I 5 0 62 Finished If he genuinely proves himself , we'll be ready to follow him . However , this ? A guy who avoids fighting , behaves as if he's superior , and demands respect solely because of his title ? To the squad , he didn't embody the role of a leader . He was nothing like their former Chief Instructor , not even in the slightest . Leander didn't seem the least bit bothered . He wasn't here to win their approval - he was here to turn them into the best . " Alright .

Listen up , " he commanded . " I've gone through your records and will draft custom training plans for each of you , tailored to your skill sets and gaps . It'll take a few hours . For now , stay in your current positions and do not move a muscle until I get back . "

Without waiting for a response , he turned and went to the office , calm and unhurried , as if he had all the time in the world . This wasn't solely about buying time . Leander was establishing authority , signaling he was now in charge , and they needed to accept it .

He knew the squad well - definitely not rookies ; they were elite , confident , and mostly acted as if they were too good to be bossed around . His goal was simple : break that ego , make them pause , and force a reset . Of course , the order didn't sit well with any of them . Not one . Still , nobody moved . Not with Leander's rank , and not after the way he laid it down . Once Leander disappeared into the building , Boomer couldn't hold it in

" Unbelievable ! " He kicked the dirt , voice sharp with frustration . anymore .

" This guy talks big , struts around , but won't even take a simple challenge . What kind of Chief Instructor is that ? General Leon really dropped the ball by bringing in someone like him ." He was so mad that he even dragged Darrow into it . Torre's voice cut in immediately . " Watch it , Boomer ! " His tone was firm . " If word of that gets out and reaches General Leon or anyone else , you'll be 3/5 14:11 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 288 No One's Buying It the one answering for it ." Boomer clicked his tongue and shut up . Torre sighed , his expression heavy . Still ... this isn't looking good .

52 Finished As captain , he wanted to believe in the chain of command . He wanted to trust that whoever was chosen to lead them was up to the task . Yet with Leander at the

helm ? It was hard for him to stay optimistic , especially with the next Wyvern Cup around the corner . Then , from the middle of the formation , Skyler's voice broke the silence . " Guys ... I wouldn't poke the hornet's nest . He's the one I told you about . " Heads turned his way in unison . " What ? " Boomer looked confused for a beat , then scoffed . " So what ? He couldn't even handle a simple match .

How'd you lose to someone like that ? " Skyler's expression turned serious . " He's not what you think he is . Just a few days ago Ravenridge , I saw him drop two armed men from a distance . No sound , no movement ... nothing . Just - boom . Gone . They hit the ground like someone flipped a switch ." in The others fell silent . Torre frowned . " From a distance ? " His voice carried the same doubt that everyone else was thinking . " That's not something just anyone can do . Not even Chief Hooper's got that kind of reach . Only Martial Sovereigns can do that - strike clean from ten steps out .

You trying to say this kid's one of them ? " Skyler didn't answer right away . He took a breath , then gave a slight shake of the head . To hell if I know . He wasn't some trained martial prodigy , far from it . He'd stumbled into his inner strength by accident , almost like tripping over a hidden door and falling straight into the world of martial arts . He knew just enough to realize how deep and brutal that world was . From what he'd picked up , Martial Sovereigns were quite rare and rarely young .

Typically , guys at that level were usually grizzled veterans in their forties , fifties - people who'd spent half their life training and the other half surviving . So yeah , thinking Leander was one of them ? It sounded completely nuts to him , but what he saw in

Ravenridge wasn't fake . 4/5 14.11 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 288 No One's Buying It 62

Finished Boomer scoffed again , clearly unconvinced . " Martial Sovereign ? Come on .

Even Chief Hooper's still stuck at Elite Grandmaster - still one step away ." He jerked his chin toward the building , insisting , " That kid doesn't look a day over twenty . No way he's got that kind of power . Killing people from a distance ? You probably got played- illusion , trick , weapon , smoke , and mirrors . Something like that ." The rest of the team seemed to lean his way . Skyler didn't argue . He just looked down , frowning in silence . Inside the office , Leona stood across from Leander . Her voice was flat .

" Chief Ashcroft , don't you think making them stand out there for hours is a bit much ? "

She was already fed up with his so - called show of authority . This whole power - trip thing ? She wasn't having it . Leander didn't even look up . " You handle your role , I'll handle mine ." He was busy flipping through profiles , completely unbothered . Suit yourself . Leona scoffed and turned away . As she walked down the hall , she pulled out her phone and made a call . " Uncle Larry , " she said as soon as he picked up .

" That new Chief Instructor got the entire squad standing at attention out in the heat like statues ." She didn't hold back , laying out every detail . There was a brief pause on the other end . Then came his voice - low , steady , and full of bite . " Hmph . That kid's all bark . " " I'm heading over . I want to see for myself what makes him think he's fit to take my place . The squad might be too polite to call him out - but I'm not . " Send Gifts

Chapter 289 You Sure You Know Who You're Talking To ? Leona ended the call and tucked her phone away . Roughly thirty minutes later , a broad - shouldered man strode into the training ground . 62 Finished His hands were wrapped in thick cloth , with knuckles that felt like stone and skin showing a faint bluish hue . You didn't need to guess - this was someone who'd been pounding his fists into iron sand and tree trunks for decades . The second he showed up , the squad lit up . " Chief Hooper ! " This was Larry Hooper , their former Chief Instructor .

He'd run the Southern Wyvern Blade for half a year . When he first took over , he beat Boomer in a spar and shut down all the doubters right there . Just like that , he earned their respect . Then came that crushing loss at the Wyvern Cup . That was all it took for Darrow and the brass to pull the plug and swap him out for Leander , bumping Larry to Deputy . Still , in their eyes ? Larry was the real deal . The kind of leader they'd follow into the fire . Boomer stepped up first , voice brimming with frustration . " Chief Hooper , we're thinking of putting in a petition . We want you back .

That new guy ? Total poser . He can't even take a challenge head - on . If we keep going like this , Northern Wyvern Blade's going to wipe the floor with us again . " That struck a nerve with the others . They all started chiming in , throwing shade at Leander , making it clear they wanted Larry back . Larry felt a familiar tug in his chest . He gave a small nod , lips tightening . " Appreciate the support . However , it's not that simple . I'm not in charge anymore ... yet . " His eyes swept across their faces , voice dropping low . " Still , I've heard what's been happening .

The new Chief Instructor has you standing out here in the heat , with no explanation and no respect . That's not how I trained you ." He turned . " Let's pay him a visit . It's time he explained himself . " Everyone knew the score - the deputy didn't outrank the chief . That was just how it worked in the Southern Wyvern Blade . Even so , Larry wasn't some second - string sidekick . The man was a martial artist ; he had spilled enough blood , sweat , and bone over the years to earn his stripes ten times over . 1/5 14:11 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 280 You Sure You Know Who You're Talking To ?

62 Finished Hierarchy ? Titles ? That stuff never meant much to him . If something didn't sit right , he spoke up - didn't matter who was wearing the title at the top . " D * mm right ! " someone shouted , and the rest followed suit . They rallied behind him , marching toward the office like they were storming enemy lines . Inside , Leander sat at his desk , flipping through squad files . His eyes flicked across each one , analyzing their physical traits and matching them to breathing patterns pulled from the Devourer's Ninefold Path . Then came the knock - or rather , the slam .

" So , you're the new Chief Instructor , huh ? " The voice had weight . It belonged to Larry , standing tall with half the squad behind him . Leander didn't even lift his head . " This is my office . If you've got no business here , get out . " Larry folded his arms across his chest . " Larry Hooper . Former Chief Instructor of this unit . " " Right . " Leander leaned back in his chair , unimpressed . " So , you're the old guy , and I'm the one in charge now . I left them standing on the field because they needed it . You pulled them off . So , tell me , what exactly are you doing ?

" Larry didn't flinch . " I know you're my superior now , on paper anyway . Technically , I'm not supposed to question your orders . " He gave a slight shrug , tone firm but calm . " Even so , I believe I have the right to ask why they're being treated this way . As the deputy , I think that gives me some room to speak , doesn't it ? " Leander glanced at the doorway , noting the sea of eyes behind Larry . The same squad that defied his orders now stood in formation behind someone else . He gave a half - smile , cold and quiet . " This is how you ask , huh ?

" He leaned back in his chair , arms draped over the backrest like he had all the time in the world . " Fine . You want answers ? I'll give it to you straight . " " Every single one of you - yes , including you , Hooper - has been a letdown so far . You strut around like you're untouchable , like the badge on your chest makes you invincible . " " I had you stand there to break that illusion . You're not special . You're soldiers . Your job is to follow orders . Simple as that . " 14:11 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 240 You Sure You Know Who You're Talking To ? That was all it took .

ARCO Finished Boomer finally snapped . He had held back earlier , but not anymore - not with Larry here to back him up . " With all due respect , Chief Ashcroft , you're not wrong - soldiers follow orders . No one's arguing that . The thing is , around here ? Respect isn't automatic . You need to earn it . So far , you haven't shown us . " Brute stepped forward , arms crossed . " This isn't about picking a fight , Chief . When Chief Hooper ran the squad , he faced us head - on . No hiding behind a fancy title , no barking orders from the sidelines . You ?

You wouldn't even take the challenge . How're we supposed to follow someone who won't prove they can lead ? " Vane chimed in without hesitation , her voice cutting through the tension . " No offense , Chief , but in this unit ? We follow strength . Always have . If you can't show that you have what it takes , then you don't belong here . I'll keep calling it out till you step down . " The others didn't need an invitation . One after another , voices rose in agreement , backing their squad mates like a wave crashing forward . Leona kept her arms crossed , not saying a word to help Leander .

As far as she was concerned , Leander was all bark , no bite . If this was the guy leading them into the next Wyvern Cup , then yeah - might as well throw in the towel now . The noise kept rising until Larry lifted a hand . Instantly , the room quieted . He threw Leander a look - half - smirk , half - dare - his eyes glinting with amusement . " You hear that , Chief Ashcroft ? They're fired up , yeah , but this isn't mutiny - it's just how things run in here . Show them you've got what it takes . It might save you a lot of trouble down the line .

" The words were calm , but the jab was sharp . Leander gave a slow stretch , that familiar cocky grin sliding across his face . " Well , I was just here to sort out your training plans . Didn't think any of you were worth the effort , to be honest ." He let the words hang a second , then stood , eyes sharp . " Still , if you're that desperate ... " He looked directly at Larry . " I just don't get one thing . You've been around long enough to know who you're dealing with . So , what gave you the guts to bring them here ? " Larry raised an eyebrow . " Don't act mysterious .

I'm from Blacksteel Gate , got ties to the Tarlyn Guild - Master Tristan Tarlyn's practically family . " 3/5 14:11 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 280 You Sure You Know Who You're Talking To ? 62 Finished He took a step closer , voice cool . " I've heard of Ethan Leander and Daphne Florian from Highcliffe . Claire Leigh from Silvermoon , Olivia Tarlyn - she's my niece - Sylvia Blake from Stonepeak , Emma Reyne of Tri - Peak Sect ... All those so - called Nine Geniuses of Astria ? Yeah , I know the list . " " Yours ? Never came up . So go on , impress me . Which sect do you even come from ?

" Larry's eyes narrowed with quiet contempt . To him , Leander was just some greenhorn - way too young and unproven - to be calling shots for a squad like the Southern Wyvern Blade . If someone wanted to lead warriors like these , they should've at least hit the Grandmaster realm . Far as Larry was concerned , no one named Leander Ashcroft had ever made waves in Astria's martial world. Not even a whisper . So , what kind of prodigy was this guy supposed to be ? Leander just chuckled . Hands casually tucked behind his back , he strolled out of the office .

The squad watched , puzzled , trying to figure out what he was playing at . Then , without a word or warning , his arm snapped forward . One palm strike . Boom . The air cracked like thunder . A stone wall thirty feet away shattered on impact , bursting into dust and flying debris . Right beneath it , a bronze training cauldron - solid , reinforced , nearly a thousand pounds- blew apart like it was made of paper . Shards of iron sprayed through the yard , clattering like rain . Just one palm ? That kind of destruction ? The squad froze .

Their faces were locked in a mix of fear , shock , and total disbelief . Leona's face had gone pale . She didn't blink , like her mind hadn't caught up with what her just saw . eyes Even Larry - an Elite Grandmaster , the man who'd taken down dozens in his prime - looked like he'd seen a ghost . His knees wobbled , and the bravado drained from his face . 4/5 14:11 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 289 You Sure You Know Who You're Talking To ? 62 #Finished Leander turned back around , calm as ever . Then he spoke , " Now , do you know who I am ? " Send Gifts 60 。

Chapter 290 Who's Really in Charge ? A single palm strike , and that was all it took for the squad to fall dead silent . Finished One second , the bronze cauldron - solid , heavy , d * mn near unbreakable - was sitting right where it always had . The next ? Gone , and blown apart like it was made of glass . Chunks of it rained down in twisted shards , and behind it , a chunk of the outer cliff face crumbled like it had taken a direct hit from a demolition crew . No one moved . The entire Southern Wyvern Blade just stood there , frozen mid - breath , staring at the scene in disbelief .

That cauldron wasn't some cheap training prop . It was solid bronze , nearly a thousand pounds , designed to train raw strength . Even stabbing it with a blade left nothing more than a scratch . Most of them had tried . Yet Leander ? He blew it apart as if it were made of paper . Then that stone wall behind it - usually , you'd need a few pounds of explosives even to dent it . Leander cracked it clean through with just one palm . It wasn't just powerful . It was an absurd way beyond anything they understood about strength . Skyler stood rooted , his stomach twisting .

Back in Ravenridge , he'd watched Leander kill Adrian and Elric without even breaking a sweat . No weapons , no visible moves - just two guys dropping dead like someone hit a switch . He hadn't been able to make sense of it then . He certainly couldn't know even now . Still , one thing was crystal clear - Leander was way out of his league . Far more than he'd ever imagined . He reflected , What kind of monster is this ? Can a human even do that ? Leona blinked hard , her lips parting . For once , she had no words .

She'd been dead sure about Leander - thought he was just another hotshot throwing his title around , full of attitude and zero actual bite . Guys like that were a dime a dozen . She'd seen them crash and burn before . 1/5 14:12 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 29p Who's Really in charge Only now , the mountain behind her had a hole in it . Finished She was born into the Tarlyn Guild , raised around martial artists , and trained since she could walk . Her father , Tristan , was a full - fledged Martial Sovereign - one of the strongest she'd ever known .

She'd watched him shatter boulders and crack tree trunks like twigs . Even that didn't compare . What Leander just did made her father look like he was still playing with

training wheels . She swallowed hard , her throat dry . There was no room left for guessing , no space for doubt . She finally realized it for what it truly was - not a smug brat pretending to lead . Instead , it was a walking disaster wrapped in a calm face - a monster disguised in plain clothes . Larry's face had gone pale . He'd marched in like a storm , ready to tear Leander a new one . Now ?

He looked like a man standing at the edge of a cliff with the ground crumbling beneath him . Leander turned , calm as ever , voice low and clear . " So , do you know who I am now ? " Larry's eyes darted , desperate for an out . His pride cracked . His knees hit the floor with a dull thud . " It's Larry Hooper , from Blacksteel Gate ... Forgive me , Sovereign - I had no idea ." His voice barely held together . Beads of sweat rolled down his face , each one a silent admission of fear . This wasn't the same man who stormed in full of fire and indignation .

Of course , he knew he'd poked a sleeping dragon now . There was only one guy in all of Astria who ticked every box - young , terrifyingly strong , and carried that name . Leander Ashcroft . Top spot on the Astria Power Index . The Iron Sovereign . He wasn't part of any sect and didn't need to be . His fists alone had earned him a reputation that most clans would fight to have . Leander waved lazily . " Didn't you bring your people here to question me ? What happened ? Still want that explanation ? " 2/5 14 12 Wed.

Vet 15 LANT PAU Whes Really Charge Fincher] Larry bowed deeper , shaking his head fast . " No , Sovereign ! Absolutely not ! " He could barely breathe . The man in front of him wasn't just strong . He was on a whole different level . Martial Sovereigns were supposed to be the peak . Leander made them look like apprentices . Leander

looked past him at the squad , still frozen solid . His voice dropped another octave . "

Anyone else want to question me ? I'm right here . Come one at a time or altogether . If any of you can stand after a single strike , I'll step down . " Not a soul moved .

Boomer , who had never backed down from anything , took a full step back . Not one person wanted to test their bones against that kind of force . Leander's lip curled . "

What happened to all that fire ? Gone already ? " Torre , stiff as a board , stepped out front and gave a sharp salute . " Chief Ashcroft ... we messed up . " One by one , the others snapped to attention like their lives depended on it . " Chief Ashcroft ! We messed up ! We'll take whatever punishment you give ! " The words echoed like a drill sergeant's bark - loud , sharp , no hesitation . No one dared to meet his eyes .

No one breathed wrong . This wasn't just some pretty - faced instructor anymore . To them , Leander was a storm in human skin - so fierce that even Larry , proud and stubborn , had dropped to his knees . A few of the squad exchanged glances , minds spinning . If someone like him is the one drilling us ... what could we become ? Could we punch through steel ? Shatter cliffs ? Take out targets from halfway across the field with just a flick of the wrist ? The entire Southern Wyvern Blade folded . Leander let them stew for a beat before speaking , " Good .

Now that you know your place , get back to formation . Add five more hours to your stance training . No dinner tonight . " 3/5 14:12 Wed , Oct 15 Chanter 200 Mens Really in Charge ? Yes , Chief Ashcroft ! " Not a peep of complaint . They turned in unison and jogged back to the training field , sweat already forming under the sun . One palm strike

. That was all it took . thed As they left , Leander turned to Larry one last time . " You get a pass this time - for the sake of the team .

If it happens again , you already know what comes next ." Larry dipped so fast it looked like his forehead might kiss the floor . By the time he looked up again , Leander had already gone back to his desk , flipping through pages like none of this ever happened . Leona looked at Larry , disbelief in her eyes . She was still simmering over Leander's arrogance . Sure , his strength was unreal - but did he really have to humiliate Larry like that ? Forcing him to kneel ? That felt over the line . She was just about to speak up when Larry grabbed her arm and quietly pulled her away .

He didn't stop until they were well out of earshot of Leander's office . Leona frowned . " Uncle Larry ... was that really necessary ? I get apologizing , but kneeling like that ? " Larry let out a long breath . " If it were anyone else ? No way . I'd have squared up or at least talked it out over a drink . With him ? " He shook his head , voice low . " I'm just lucky I'm still alive , only because we wear the same badge ." Leona frowned . " He wouldn't dare kill someone at a base like this . " " You think that ? " Larry gave her a sideways glance .

" You know how your Uncle Mason died , right ? " She froze . Cold dread crept down her spine . " You mean ..." Larry didn't answer . He didn't have to . The look in his eyes said it all . Her mouth stayed shut . The words wouldn't come . All she could do was stand there , heart pounding , head spinning , flooded with the horrifying truth . 4/5

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