## From Outcast to Overlord: The Unyielding Heir Novel

Chapter 301 The Legend of Jeff Ashcroft Comes to an End Whoosh! Bhoosh! Whoosh! 45

Finishert Blood - red feathers shot through the air, targeting the vital acupuncture points around Leander! Douglas himself had plucked these sixteen feathers from a celestial crane. By refining them with iron and ore, he carefully forged them into incredibly durable weapons with deadly edges. He then soaked them in thirty - six different types of venom and poison from various insects, and plants, day and night, over the past forty years.

As a result, they became so dangerously toxic that any contact with one's blood would result in instant death. Even a practitioner in the Transcendent Realm would suffer a severe decrease in cultivation and a drastic reduction in combat strength if they were so much as nicked by the feathers. These feathers were his secret weapons. Though he had never wielded them in the past forty years, he finally unleashed them on Leander at this moment.

Each feather, infused with his innate vitality, became even faster and sharper - sharp enough to slice through the energy barrier of a Martial Sovereign with ease. What's more, he had the element of surprise on his side. He had struck with such speed that even Leander might not be able to react in time. "That's Great - grandpa's ultimate technique, the Crimson Wingstorm!" Tristan's eyes glinted with deep reverence.

According to the records in the Tarlyn Guild, Douglas had employed this very technique to crush his rivals and competition at the time, causing the name of the Tarlyn Guild to spread across the world in the art of hidden weapons. It was with these sixteen feathers that he

eliminated hundreds of mountain bandits, who had declared themselves kings of the region. The heroic feat had made his name a legend that shook the entire Mornwick.

The sixteen feathers had been nothing more than ordinary weapons at the time, but the ub undergone a fundamental transformation over the past forty years. Having become much swifter and stronger, the Crimson Wingstorm was also much more deadly. The technique had since evolved into an unmatched killing technique. In the past, he was just a Martial Sovereign when he earned his fame throughout the southwest with the Crimson Wingstorm.

Now that he had stepped into the Transcendent Realm - and the Ember Transcendent Realm , at that - it was hard to imagine just how much more powerful the technique had become . " Is that ... the legendary technique of the Tarlyn Guild ? " Roman exclaimed . 1/5 16:04 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 301 The Legend of Jeff Ashcroft Comes to any End \(\mathbf{W5}\) (D) Finished The Hall of the Healing Sage had a long history . Even if they no longer had any masters in the Transcendent Realm , they still possessed many carefully recorded secrets and truths of the martial world .

As the master of the Hall of the Healing Sage , he recognized the technique instantly . He clearly remembered reading records about a peerless genius from the Tarlyn Guild , who wielded a hidden weapon technique nearly identical to what Douglas had just unleashed . " Is that old man ... the second leader of the Tarlyn Guild , Douglas Tarlyn ? " The master , who once dominated everything in the entire Southwest ... I can't believe he is still alive ! His heart skipped a beat as disbelief filled him . In any case , there was no time for him to dwell on his thoughts .

The battle had already changed dramatically! Just as the feathers surrounded Leander, his figure suddenly vanished from the spot. He had taken a step back, then nimbly swayed left and right to

dodge the feathers. They barely grazed him as they flew past him and slammed violently into the river behind him, sending sixteen towering columns of water into the air. But several tears appeared on his clothes, sliced open in a few places by the feathers. Splash! Douglas descended from the sky and struck down with his palm, eyes gleaming in delight.

The spot where Leander stood suddenly caved inwards, forming a massive handprint that spanned ten feet wide. Standing in the center, Leander raised his palm upward and faced the attack directly. Boom! A shockwave rippled outward where their palms touched, causing the river around them to split down the middle. The water beneath Leander's feet sank again under the sheer the impact. pressure of On the other hand, Douglas was knocked back by Leander's counterattack. He was sent flipping backward through the air before he landed on the river's surface.

The head - to - head clash between those two had ended in a draw - they were evenly matched!" Die, Jeff Ashcroft! "Douglas had barely just landed on the water's surface when he charged forward again without 2/5 a 16:04 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 301 The Legend of Jeff Ashcroft Comes to an End Finished pausing for even a moment. Waves churned beneath his feet as he skimmed across the water. Forming various seals with his hands, he summoned two massive water tornadoes from the river and sent them crashing towards Leander. Leander gave a dismissive snort.

Pressing two fingers together to form a sword seal, he sliced his hand through the air. Swish! A beam of sword energy tore through the sky, slashing both water tornadoes cleanly in half. At that moment, Douglas burst through the curtain of water and approached Leander with both palms thrusting forward. Leander was puzzled. Douglas had clearly been overwhelmed during

their frontal clash earlier, but he seemed to have thrown caution to the wind - he was now relentlessly pressing forward and attacking without hesitation. Though the sudden change was odd, Leander did not hesitate.

He immediately raised his palms to meet the attack directly . Boom ! As their powers collided , the water beneath their feet caved inwards again . The immense force from the impact created a vacuum in the river below them , exposing even the mud and silt of the riverbed . " Your strength has truly surprised me ! " Douglas suddenly remarked while their palms were locked together and their powers were clashing around them . " Your current cultivation is definitely comparable with mine . In fact , I might even be at a disadvantage in a direct confrontation .

It's no wonder you were able to slaughter the seven Arbitrators of the Arbitration Office, rise to the top of the Astria Power Index, and even receive a title from the Divine Loom! "But ..." he said. "You'll die by my hand today! "A twisted pleasure glinted in his eyes at the thought of destroying a genius with his own hand. "Don't you find it strange ... why I've been trying to force close combat with you? "Leander did not pay heed to the question, his gaze remaining calm and indifferent.

3/5 16:04 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 301 The Legend of Jeff Ashcroft Comen to an Ent #Finished At that moment , Douglas suddenly twisted and grabbed Leander by the arm . His fingers locked around Leander's arm like unbreakable iron shackles . " What's this ? " Leander narrowed his eyes . " Crimson Wingstorm - Recall ! " Douglas shouted , a cold and sinister smile spreading across his face . Splash ! The river instantly surged and erupted into a frenzy when the words left his mouth . Sixteen columns of water shot skyward .

A flash of red light, which radiated with dazzling brilliance that resembled the scorching sun, burst forth from within each column. These sixteen streaks of red light exploded out of the water pillars and pierced through the air at lightning speed. They came from various impossible angles - aiming straight at Leander's unguarded back. In that instant, the entire river seemed to freeze in motion. Every single crashing wave and towering column of water suddenly died down, returning the river to a perfect and unnatural calm. It was as though ... nothing had ever happened.

"You're powerful indeed, but in the end ... you're still too inexperienced." Douglas released Leander's arm and stepped back with a look of smug satisfaction on his face.

"There are two stages to the Crimson Wingstorm. The first stage - Scatter - launches the sixteen blades of feathers into the air. While the second stage - Recall - allows me to retrieve them along their original trajectories!" A faint smile played at the corners of his lips. He was confident that he had already won the battle. "It's just a shame ... You realized the truth too late!

"The people crowding both sides of the riverbanks could only stare in stunned silence as the scene unfolded in front of them. There was no fancy trick or error in the equation - all sixteen blood - red feathers had embedded themselves deep into Leander's back with deadly precision. "Chief Ashcroft! "The members of the Southern Wyvern Blade immediately yelled in shock, their voices hoarse with panic and despair. "No!" 4/5 16:04 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 30) The Legend of Jeff Achcroft Comes to an End Finished Theresa instinctively cried out, her eyes widening in horror.

She didn't even understand why her heart ached so much at that moment . Standing beside the members of the Southern Wyvern Blade , Leona could barely grasp situation . Her emotions were in turmoil . the Leander was the enemy of the Tarlyn Guild . Seeing him struck down by her great - grandfather's ultimate technique should have filled her with joy , but not a trace of happiness stirred within her at this moment . Tristan and Olivia , on the other hand , were ecstatic . As for Darrow and the other generals , they frowned deeply at the sight .

They were unsure about how they felt about the situation - the strange and complex feeling rising in their hearts was hard to describe. Standing atop the viewing platform, Roman observed quietly with his hands behind his back. Some time passed before he finally shook his head and sighed softly. "The legend of Jeff Ashcroft ... has come to an end!" Send Gifts 60 1 16:04 Thu, Oct 16

Chapter 302 Your Power Is Mine Now Roman shook his head and sighed softly . "The legend of Jeff Ashcroft ... has come to an end!" 45 Finished In just over a year, Leander had accomplished countless feats that had shaken the entire martial world to its core. He defeated two masters in the Pre - Transcendent Realm at Glidewing Mountain, slaughtered the Laughing Monk of West Ridge in the battle against the Silvermoon Sect, and single-handedly annihilated seven Arbitrators in a seven - against - one battle at the Waterfront Plaza in West Listin.

He even brought the Umbral Court to their knees in Ravenridge, forcing the Lord of Umbral himself to come forward and apologize in person. Each of these accomplishments alone was impossible for most people to achieve in their lifetime. But he had effortlessly amassed these

heroic feats under his belt, earning him the indisputable title of the Blazing Comet of Astria. His emergence had reignited the martial world of Astria, which had been stagnant and lifeless for many years. He had catapulted the martial world back into an era of chaos and turbulence.

There was no denying that he was a true powerhouse who shaped the very era around him.

Unfortunately, his legend was now coming to an end ... The Crimson Wingstorm had bathed in the blood of countless enemies. When Douglas first unleashed the technique forty years ago, he had claimed the lives of countless martial artists in Astria. Now that he was wielding the technique as a master in the Transcendent Realm, its destructive power had only grown more terrifying.

Although Leander managed to withstand Tsaric's sacrificial sword strike at Hawksridge Summit , he was now facing a genuine master in the Transcendent Realm! Who could possibly bear the full force of such a master's ultimate killing technique directly , with just their body? At this moment , there were sixteen feathers lodged deeply in his back . They had clearly pierced through his skin , which meant ... he had failed to block the attack . The outcome of the battle was already decided .

The members of the Southern Wyvern Blade wailed in silent anguish, unwilling to accept the death of their leader. They had been training under Leander for the past month. Combined with the Devourer's Flow, their cultivation had improved rapidly during this period. In their hearts, he wasn't just an instructor - he was a true mentor, deeply respected and cherished. Witnessing him fall right before their very eyes ... It felt as though their hearts were 1/5 16:04 Thu, Oct 16 Charter 302 Your Power Is Mine Now being carved open by something sharp.

零 45 Finished Meanwhile , Leander stood frozen in place above the river . Even after the storm gradually settled down , his gaze stared forward blankly as though he himself couldn't believe that he had lost . Drip ... A single drop of blood fell into the river , originating from the wounds on his back . Douglas silently observed everything , a calm understanding flashing through his eyes . " You've lost , Jeff Ashcroft . " Standing there with his hands clasped behind his back , he was in no hurry to take Leander's life .

"To tell you the truth, out of all the opponents I've faced in my life, you're the only one who's ever forced me to activate the second stage of the Crimson Wingstorm." That alone is something you should take pride in ... "He took a step forward and curled his fingers into a claw. His hand shot forward, innate vitality pulsing around the tips of his fingers as he lunged straight for Leander's throat. "Dying by my hand ... is no dishonor to the Iron Sovereign's name!" At this moment, Leander had been struck by the sixteen feathers.

Though these feathers had not torn him apart in midair, the deadly poison within them had already seeped deep into his organs. His overwhelmingly powerful cultivation might prevent the toxins from killing him immediately, but his cultivation would still plummet drastically. Even at the least, he would be severely weakened. He was nothing more than a lamb waiting for slaughter at this moment. Douglas was prepared to finish Leander in one decisive move, "It seems that after today, the Tarlyn Guild shall reign over the world!

"Triston's face brightened with excitement at those words . His heart raced with exhilaration . Just as Douglas was about to close around Leander's throat with his hand , a pale and slender hand suddenly grabbed his wrist . "Huh?" He froze in surprise . Though he attempted to break free , the hand around his wrist was as 2/5 16:04 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 302 Your Power 1s Mine

Now A 45 Finished immovable as a mountain . It was completely unshakable . He could not shake off the iron grip , no matter how much innate vitality he circulated through his arm . Shock filled his expression .

Leander should've been poisoned! How can he still possess such terrifying strength?! "Old man ... you've got some skill, I'll give you that." Leander finally raised his head. A fierce light flashed through his eyes, making him resemble a wild beast that was ready to devour its prey. "You're the first person ever to make me bleed since I stepped into the martial world ... "Douglas was instantly rattled by the intensity of Leander's gaze. A surge of unprecedented dread bloomed in his heart. Still reeling from disbelief, he suddenly heard a low roar coming from Leander. Whoosh!

Whoosh! Whoosh! A tremendous force erupted from Leander's body, rippling outward in all directions. The sixteen feathers embedded in his back were forcibly shaken loose and flung into the river below. Trapped in Leander's grip, Douglas was unable to pull away. He could only channel his innate vitality to defend himself from the impact. But the force exploding from Leander's body crashed down on him like an unstoppable tidal wave. Even though he resisted with everything he had, he couldn't help being shaken by the force. A trickle of blood spilled from the corner of his mouth.

"Impossible ...!" Though injured by the impact, he couldn't spare any thought for his wounds. His mind had gone blank with disbelief. He clearly took a direct hit from the second stage of the Crimson Wingstorm. His body should've been riddled with deadly poison ... so how can he unleash such terrifying power? And ... his strength is even more refined and oppressive than my

own innate vitality! "Old man, "Leander said coldly, his expression cold." I'll admit ... the Crimson Wingstorm is impressive indeed. "But too bad for you ...

They've done nothing more than scratch my skin . " " That's impossible! " Douglas roared, his pupils shrinking violently in disbelief." Why ?! My 3/5 16:04 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 302 Your Power Is Mine Now Finished feathers clearly struck you! Why do you show no signs of poisoning?! How are you unharmed?! " " Do you really think you can comprehend the depth of my abilities?" Leander swept his gaze over Douglas. His eyes were calm and cold, completely devoid of emotion. " But you are the first to make me bleed. " The corners of his mouth curled into a devilish smirk." And ...

I've taken a liking to your cultivation ." At that instant , Douglas was filled with a sudden dread . Alarm bells blaring in his head , he gathered his strength and desperately slammed his palm toward Leander's chest in an attempt to break free . Leander's other hand unexpectedly shot forward and pressed against his palm . When their palms touched , there was nothing - no visible clash of force , no explosive shockwave ... It was eerily calm , like the surface of a still lake . But his eyes immediately widened in horror .

He could feel it- A fierce and unstoppable suction, coming from Leander's palm. The powerful pulling force locked his hand in place, preventing him from breaking contact. And then ... the same sucking force flowed upward through his arm, drawing out his innate vitality like a siphon. The innate vitality that he had been painstakingly accumulating for nearly a century was violently drained away in the blink of an eye. Wave after wave, each stronger than the last ... His innate vitality gushed out of his body - only to be swiftly absorbed into Leander's body. "You b \* stard!

"Douglas roared in fury. Although he desperately tried to stop the outflow of his innate vitality, his power was no longer under his control. His innate vitality seeped out of his body at an even faster rate, flowing directly into Leander's body. In just under a minute, he had lost nearly thirty percent of his cultivation. It was a devastating loss - most of his strength was gone. "Jeff Ashcroft! What kind of demonic art is this?!" He shouted in rage and fear, his voice trembling as he demanded an answer. Leander's gaze remained cold and emotionless.

"It's a technique of my own creation - the Devourer's Ninefold Path . " As the name suggests ... it devours everything . I can absorb anything and make the power mine!"

4/5 16:04 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 302 Your Power Is Mine Now : 145 Finished His voice was icy as he continued , " I didn't want to defeat you in such a cruel manner , but ...

You really pissed me off . " So , I'll be taking your cultivation . " Despite facing Leander's strikingly handsome face , Douglas felt as though he were staring into the eyes of a demon that had crawled out of hell .

He couldn't suppress his fear, not even with a century of practicing unshakable will and martial discipline - his very soul trembled in terror . Send Gifts 60 合 ( 8) 16:05 Thu, Oct 16 From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir

Chapter 303 The Pillar of the Tarlyn Guild, Severed by a Single Sword Douglas was terrified. The innate vitality that he had painstakingly accumulated over a lifetime was being forcibly drained away in such a brutal manner, and he was completely powerless to stop the process. What could be scarier than that? Meanwhile, those gathered on the riverbanks were filled with confusion. They initially believed that Leander had been

defeated, but ... the unexpected had occurred - Leander was now holding Douglas' arm in a death grip instead. " Has Chief Ashcroft ... not lost after all?

"Though puzzled by the situation, a flicker of hope began to spark in the hearts of the members of the Southern Wyvern Blade once more. They had just witnessed Leander shaking off the feathers embedded in his back and confronting Douglas in a direct clash. Meanwhile, Tristan frowned deeply from where he stood beside Olivia. He simply couldn't understand - Why hasn't Douglas exterminated Leander yet? Why is he wasting time grappling with that b \* stard?

Believing that Leander had taken a direct blow from the Crimson Wingstorm, he assumed that Leander should be running on fumes by now. Naturally, it should've been a breeze for Douglas to slaughter Leander under such circumstances. Just as confusion and doubt swirled in his mind, he suddenly heard a terrified scream echoing across the river. "Stop! D \* mn it! Stop, now! "I admit defeat! I surrender! I swear, from this day forward, the Tarlyn Guild will retreat at the mere sight of you! "The crowd gathered on the riverbanks fell into stunned silence upon hearing those words.

Countless eyes widened in horrified disbelief as confusion and shock rippled through them. What was happening? Leander had clearly been at a disadvantage after being struck by the Crimson Wingstorm, so how was it that ... Douglas was now the one begging for mercy and openly conceding defeat instead? "Surrender?" Leander didn't even flinch at those words, his gaze remaining calm as ever. "How ridiculous!" "ARGH!

" 1/6 16:05 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 303 The Pillar of the Tarlyn Guild , Severed by a Single Sword a 845 Finished At this point , more than seventy percent of Douglas ' innate vitality had been forcibly drained away . Barely less than thirty percent remained , so he made a desperate decision . He violently yanked his arms away with a furious roar . Crack ! Snap ! Both his arms snapped at the joints , severed at the elbows . Blood sprayed everywhere . The sudden turn of events sent shockwaves through the crowds gathered on both sides of the riverbanks .

But he had no time to care for such trivialities . Gritting his teeth against the pain , he pushed off with the tip of his toes and leaped into the air . He was planning to flee across the river . Now that his arms were crippled and most of his innate vitality had been drained away , he no longer stood a chance against Leander - not even if there were ten of him . There was only one thought on his mind : Escape . He had to escape and recover his strength . Then , maybe ... he would return and take his revenge one day ... " You came all this way ... so why are you leaving now ?

"Leander's voice suddenly rang out . Flames burst forth from his palm and ignited the severed arms stuck to him , reducing them to curling wisps of smoke . " Stay . " Taking a step forward , he raised his hand and formed a sword seal with his fingers . Then , he drew a line in the air , slashing toward Douglas ' retreating back . " Water Judgment - Origin Sword ! " The crowd on the riverbanks stared blankly as a faint streak of water arced through the sky and vanished without a trace . In the same moment , Douglas halted mid - flight .

Tristan and Olivia were standing on the riverbank , no more than ten feet away . Their complexions went pale as shock rippled through them . They could only stand frozen in place as they watched the unbelievable scene unfolding before them . A delicate , almost invisible line of blood appeared between Douglas ' eyes - and slowly extended downward to his abdomen . In the next second- 216 16:05 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 303 The Pillar of the Lailyn Guild , Severed by a Single Sword 45 Finished The legendary master in the Ember Transcendent Realm was sliced cleanly in two .

Blood sprayed into the air and rained down into the river, dyeing the water a faint shade of scarlet. From the moment Douglas struck Leander with the Crimson Wingstorm, to the moment he broke his arms and attempted to flee the scene, until the moment he was sliced in half by a single sword stroke ... Everything had happened in just a few minutes. Nobody could process the insane turn of events that had taken place within such a short timeframe. Therefore, the onlookers gathered on the riverbanks simply stood there in stunned silence.

Even the members of the Southern Wyvern Blade could only stare with their mouths hanging open . Their eyes were wide with disbelief as they gaped at Leander's solitary but gallant figure . After a long stretch of silence , Boomer was the first to recover from his shock . " So did Chief Ashcroft ... win ? " he hesitantly asked , his voice almost in a whisper . His question snapped everyone else back to reality . Moments later , a thunderous wave of cheers erupted across the riverbank . Similarly , Darrow and the other generals finally returned to their senses .

As the pillars of the nation , they commanded the military with the highest authority . Their status was naturally second to none . But they exchanged glances at this moment , each unable to suppress the admiration rising in their hearts . They had gained a new level of respect for Leander . Martial artists , whether a Martial Sovereign or a master in the Transcendent Realm , were generally no cause for fear to them . After all , hand - to - hand combat would never be a match for modern warfare , such as tanks , missiles , and air strikes .

Nevertheless, they had to admit- Setting aside large - scale weaponry, it was martial legends like Leander who could truly dominate the world with sheer force of will and power. Darrow, commander of the Southwest, clapped with heartfelt approval. In that moment, he felt nothing but gratitude for his own foresight. He was relieved that he had recognized Leander's potential and appointed the young man as Chief Instructor of the Southern Wyvern Blade!

3/6 16:05 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 3 The Pillar of the Taryn Gupid Severed by a Single Sweet Finished Up on the viewing platform , Roman and Atlas exchanged a glance . It wasn't until the shock finally wore off that they gave a bitter chuckle and shook their heads wryly . " Atlas ... It seems we've really underestimated him . " A man of Sovereign Ashcroft's caliber is beyond anything we can truly comprehend ." Leander had created legend after legend . At this point , they could scarcely imagine : Who in the world could possibly stand against him ? Not far away . Theresa stood frozen in place .

She was completely mesmerized; her gaze locked firmly on Leander's domineering figure. " Where are the members of the Tarlyn Guild?" A booming voice belonging to

Leander, who had just slain Douglas with a single sword strike, echoed across the river. Tristan and Olivia had been wallowing in their grief, but the question instantly brought them back to reality. They glanced in Leander's direction. Tristan's gaze sharpened with hatred, but in the end... he cupped his hands and stepped forward, bowing respectfully to the figure standing above the river.

"Tristan Tarlyn, fifth - generation master of the Tarlyn Guild, pays his respects to the Sovereign!" he was Leander tapped the surface of the river with his foot, and then - in the blink of an eye, standing in front of Tristan. He looked down at Tristan with a cold and commanding gaze. "Do you remember the message I had Olivia deliver to the Tarlyn Guild?" Tristan's body trembled as a wave of grief surged through his heart. It was true that Leander had sent a warning through Olivia, but Douglas had dismissed the warning entirely.

After all , Douglas had been confident of his victory . He believed he could easily defeat Leander , so there was no need to pay heed to such warnings . But now ... the greatest legend in the history of the Tarlyn Guild had been slain by Leander in a single sword strike . Tristan clenched his fists tightly , but he could only nod in resignation . " Good . " Leander pointed at Tristan , his gaze cold and indifferent . " From this day forward , the Tarlyn Guild must vacate Mornwick!

" Aside from Leona Tarlyn, if I ever hear of any member of the Tarlyn Guild appearing in 4/6 16:05 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 303 The Pillar of the Tarlyn Guild, Severed by a Single Sword Mornwick again. I'll wipe the entire guild from the face of the earth! " The Tarlyn Guild no longer exists in Mornwick!" As soon as the verdict was announced,

Tristan knew- Finished It was over for the Tarlyn Guild . Their reign and dominance over Mornwick , which had lasted for centuries , had ended .

They would have to leave the peak of Mount Lurvale, the place where their ancestors had called home for generations. In fact, they could never even set foot in Mornwick again. For a guild that had once basked in glory for over a century, the banishment was nothing short of a shameful humiliation. But Tristan had no other choice. He could only nod and accept his fate. Such was the law of the martial world: The strong reigned supreme. Douglas is dead. The pillar of the Tarlyn Guild... severed by a single sword strike from Leander.

A wave of overwhelming regret surged in Tristan's heart . If only I'd stopped Douglas from seeking revenge against Leander , then maybe ... the Tarlyn Guild wouldn't have fallen to such ruin . Unfortunately , it was far too late for regrets . Leander's figure flickered and vanished as he leaped toward the opposite side of the river . From the beginning to the end , his gaze had never once landed on Olivia . He had completely ignored her . Olivia stared at Leander's departing figure , biting down on her lip so hard that blood seeped through . A storm raged violently in her heart .

"Just you wait, Jeff Ashcroft! I will definitely restore the Tarlyn Guild to its former glory. And when that day comes, I'll defeat you myself!" However, Leander couldn't care less about what the Tarlyn Guild thought of him. Both Tristan and Olivia were no different from insignificant ants in his eyes. After exchanging some words with Darrow and the others, he casually waved to the members of the Southern Wyvern Blade and

departed with the wind . The Stormcairn River finally returned to its original tranquil state .

But the people along the riverbanks, who had witnessed the entire battle, remained frozen in stunned silence for a very long time ... On September 8th, above the waters of the Stormcairn River, Leander struck down the pillar of the Tarlyn Guild, a master in the Transcendent Realm, with a single sword strike. The news caused another uproar throughout Astria! 5/6

Chapter 304 A Visit From the Shadow Division Finished The battle at Stormcairn River had catapulted Leander's reputation to the very pinnacle of the martial world in Astria! Shaken by his absolute might, countless powerful and influential figures now showed him nothing but the greatest reverence and respect. In a teahouse overlooking the Stormcairn River, two middle - aged men dressed in traditional attire sat across from each other. They nonchalantly conversed with each other as they gazed at the vast, mist - covered waters of the Stormcairn River.

One of the men exclaimed, "My god ... Is this really where Jeff Ashcroft killed a master in the Transcendent Realm?" "That's right! I heard lots of people witnessed the battle taking place above the Stormcairn River!" the other replied excitedly. "It's said that Douglas Tarlyn, the second - generation master of the Tarlyn Guild, was the one who sought out and challenged Jeff Ashcroft to a duel. In the end, he was sliced in half with a single sword strike!

I heard Roman Fleming , the master of the Hall of the Healing Sage , and Atlas Leynthall , the head of the Leynthall family from the Cloudveil Seven Families , were both present at the scene . Even various figures from the military were reportedly there to witness the battle! "Many regular folks saw everything, too! "Furthermore, I heard the entire Tarlyn Guild immediately packed up and vanished from Mornwick after the battle." "Sigh..." The first man's eyes grew distant. Drawing in a sharp breath, he gave a small sigh.

"The Tarlyn Guild has ruled over Mornwick for more than a hundred years, but look at the state of them now ... "They really shouldn't have messed with Jeff Ashcroft." "Yes, Jeff Ashcroft is terrifying indeed." The other man nodded immediately, fully in agreement. "It started with the battle at Glidewing Mountain. After he slaughtered the Laughing Monk of West Ridge in the battle against the Silvermoon Sect, he vanished for nine months - only to return and dominate everything in his path. The Arbitration Office, the Umbral Court, and now ... the Tarlyn Guild.

They have all fallen by his hand! " "Throughout the history of Astria, he is undoubtedly the most fearsome individual to ever hold top rank in the Astria Power Index!" the The two men fell silent for a long while . 1/5 16:05 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 304 A Visit From the Shadow Division ... 45 Finished At that moment, a lean and composed man appeared at the top of the stairs. He quickly strode over to their table and sat down without a word. The two men instantly leaped to their feet in surprise and greeted the newcomer with great respect." Mr. Santiago!

" The man nodded slightly and glanced at them . " I overheard you talking about Jeff Ashcroft . " " Yes , Mr. Santiago . " The two men quickly nodded . " Jeff Ashcroft's battle at the Stormcairn River , where he defeated Douglas Tarlyn , is the talk of the martial

world right now. Haven't you heard? " " Of course, I've heard about it. " The man waved them off lightly." But I've heard something else too! " " What news? " The two men immediately paused, their curiosity piqued. The man was silent for a moment.

Then, he lowered his voice and said, "The Shadow Division may be on the move ...." And their target ... is Jeff Ashcroft." The two men were so taken aback that they froze for a moment, then their expressions twisted with shock and horror. "What?! The Shadow Division?! "They're getting involved?! "Their instinctive exclamations startled the other customers in the teahouse. Realizing they were being watched, they quickly closed their mouths and sat back down in their seats. But their faces remained etched with utter disbelief.

After all , it was the Shadow Division - the most powerful and mysterious organization in the entire martial world of Astria , recognized by all ! A villa in Ravenridge . Leander was seated cross - legged on the floor . A multicolored energy swirled above his head , interweaving and pulsing erratically . Streams of energy flowed from left to right , forming a never - ending cycle . His aura expanded steadily , growing stronger and stronger with each cycle .

2/5 16:05 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 304 A Visit From the Shadow Division 45 Finished

Three days had passed since the battle at the Stormcairn River. Ever since he
departed from Cranfordale and returned to Ravenridge, he had remained in deep
meditation within the villa. He had not moved from his spot during the past three days.

There was more to the technique he personally created - the Devourer's Ninefold Path -

than just allowing him to refine the purest form of Nirvana Energy and shape his Devourer Form .

It also had a terrifying and unique ability , known as the Devourer's Secret Technique . When the technique was fully activated , it could absorb and convert the energy from anything in the world for his own use . But it was something he rarely used simply because its nature was too overwhelming . The day Douglas struck him with a hidden weapon during their battle was an exception . He lost his temper and unleashed the Devourer's Secret Technique in a fit of rage , forcibly absorbing more than seventy percent of his opponent's innate vitality into his own body .

Once he absorbed another's cultivation, he could refine and convert the energy into his own. The additional energy could enhance his strength, allowing him to seek a breakthrough into the next cultivation realm. Naturally, seventy percent of the innate vitality of a master in the Ember Transcendent Realm was nothing short of a massive treasure trove. He'd failed to finish refining the energy even after three full days of meditation, but he was just one step short of completion. At that moment, a flicker of awareness stirred in his mind.

He could sense several powerful auras approaching the villa . " One in the Pre - Transcendent Realm , and the other ... a Martial Sovereign novice ? " His perception allowed him to gauge the strength of these visitors in an instant , but he made no move to greet them . He simply remained seated cross - legged , meditating and refining the innate vitality within him . The respectful voice of a middle - aged man filtered into the

room from the outside . " Sovereign Ashcroft , we know you're inside the villa . Please forgive us for the unannounced visit ; we mean no offense .

"The sound of footsteps drew closer and eventually came to a stop outside the villa's gates. Leander remained motionless, but he released a stream of energy towards the gate. The villa gates swung open with a soft whoosh. A man and woman stood at the entrance. The man appeared to be around forty years old. He had a square - shaped face, paired with a 3/5 16:05 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 304 A Visit From the Shadow Division 45 Finished calm and composed demeanor. On the other hand, the woman looked to be no older than twenty - five or twenty - six.

She was a young and proud woman with a hint of arrogance in her eyes . To become a Martial Sovereign at just twenty - five ... Even Leander was slightly taken aback to see the young woman . That level of talent surpasses even Ethan , Daphne , and Claire . The middle - aged man cupped his fists respectfully and offered a polite smile . " I've heard so much about you , Sovereign Ashcroft . Word of your youthful heroism and unmatched elegance has spread far and wide . Now that I've met you in person , I find that you're even more impressive than the rumors claimed .

It truly is an honor to meet you . " His tone was extremely courteous . However , the young woman seemed to harbor some resistance toward Leander . Though she stayed silent , her eyes brimmed with haughty disdain . Leander glanced at the two visitors briefly , then closed his eyes again . " Spare me the flattery and get to the point . Who are you , and what do you want with me ? " His unimpressed tone clearly rubbed the

young woman the wrong way . She opened her mouth to speak , but the middle - aged man beside her quickly raised his hand and signaled for her to stop .

" Allow me to introduce myself, Sovereign Ashcroft. I am Nixon Turner, and this is colleague, Anastasia Meling." my The middle - aged man stepped forward and cupped his fists respectfully at Leander once more. "We're from the Shadow Division." The Shadow Division? "Leander answered in a bored voice, not even bothering to open his eyes." I've never heard of them. "Anastasia's expression darkened with visible irritation and indignation. But Nixon remained calm. He patiently provided an explanation, showing no signs of anger.

"Given your early rise to fame, I imagine most of your time has been devoted to cultivation. It's perfectly understandable that you haven't heard of us." The Shadow Division is an official state - sanctioned martial organization. We are a formal agency tasked with managing certain affairs of the martial world, including overseeing the conflicts between groups and resolving feuds within the martial world." 4/5 16:05 Thu, Oct 16 Chapred 301 A Vis Frcuts the Shadow Division After listening to the explanation, Leander finally cracked his eyes open.

He was rather intrigued by the concept . " Oh ! So , what you're saying is ... the Shadow Division governs the order in the martial world of Astria ? " The martial world had always operated under the rule of strength . People often fought for dominance - it was a place where their fists dictated right and wrong . This was the first time he'd ever heard of an official organization enforcing order throughout the martial world . Nixon did not deny the statement .

He simply continued without answering directly, "We're here to discuss something important with you, Sovereign Ashcroft." Leander remained motionless, quietly meditating to refine the innate vitality in his body. "If you have something to say, then say it. "Nixon paused for a moment, then his tone grew solemn." Sovereign Ashcroft, we're here on behalf of the Shadow Division. So, what I'm about to say represents the official stance of the organization. "The Shadow Division formally requests that Jeff Ashcroft withdraw from the spotlight and maintain a low profile.

We ask that you cause no further incidents for the next whole year! "The room went silent for several seconds. Then, Leander suddenly broke into a grin." Now I'm curious... Is that a notice - or a warning? "Send Gifts 60 B

From Outcast to Overland The Unyanding Heir Chapter 305 General Ashcroft of the Wyvern Blade . Finished ) Leander swept his gaze across the two visitors , a faint smirk playing at his lips . His demeanor seemed to imply that he was neither amused nor pleased by the situation . " No , I'm curious ... Is that a notice - or a warning ? " When their gazes connected , Nixon felt an invisible force enveloping the surroundings and pressing down on him . It felt as though he was being stared down by a primordial beast

Every single fiber in his body screamed in terror as an overwhelming sense of danger coursed through him . " Stop being so cocky , Jeff Ashcroft! " Seeing Nixon falter under Leander's gaze, Anastasia immediately shot an icy glare at Leander." Do you think you can do whatever you want just because you're ranked at the top of the Astria Power

Index or because you defeated numerous martial arts experts? Do you think your achievements place you above the law? "Her tone was cold and haughty." It doesn't matter how powerful you are.

Your strength does not exempt you from the authority of the nation . If you're a part of the martial world in Astria , then you have to obey the orders of the Shadow Division! "You can take our words however you want - be it a notice or a warning! "Oh, no ... Nixon groaned inwardly as soon as the words left Anastasia's mouth . His expression changed drastically, momentarily reflecting his fear . This is bad ... Sure enough, Leander's expression darkened at those words . "Obey the Shadow Division? Hah! You sure know how to throw your weight around!

"His gaze became cold and emotionless as he continued, "Let me make this clear. I don't care if it's a notice or a warning. I do things my own way. I won't take orders from the Shadow Division! "Besides, my conscience is clear. I've never killed the wrong person. The Shadow Division has no right to dictate my actions! "He narrowed his eyes slightly, his voice growing noticeably colder." Out of respect for the official authorities, I won't hold anything against you today. You may leave now. 1/5 16:06 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 305 General Ashcroft of the Wyvern Blade ws.

) 45 Fintatied " If the Shadow Division truly wishes to negotiate with me, then send someone with actual authority. The two of you ... don't hold enough weight. " The Shadow Division was a special government agency established within the martial world of Astria. Even with his current strength and status, he had to admit the organization

carried significant influence. But that was no reason for him to compromise. He had always lived by his own rules and principles, but he would never kill an innocent man.

If there ever was a conflict, it was only because someone else had instigated the fight first. Not even the Shadow Division could tell him how to behave. "Don't push your luck, Jeff Ashcroft!" As the only woman in the Shadow Division, Anastasia was an extremely talented prodigy. It was for that reason she was favored by many high-ranking figures in the organization. Seen as the pride of the organization, she had been raised with high expectations. But the constant attention had spoiled her, giving rise to her stubborn and arrogant temperament.

She arched an eyebrow and snapped angrily , "We're here as representatives of the Shadow Division! How dare you kick us out? Do you even realize what you're doing?! "Leander remained unmoved, but a cold glint flickered in his eyes." Did you not hear me clearly? "A crushing wave of energy descended upon Anastasia, pinning her in place. She couldn't move a muscle. In that instant, she finally realized: The young man before her was not some reckless youth she could reprimand at will. He was the Iron Sovereign, a figure who dominated Astria with an iron fist!

"Sovereign Ashcroft!" Sensing that Anastasia was being locked in place by Leander's aura, Nixon did not dare to act rashly. He quickly bowed deeply and respectfully."

Anastasia is young and reckless. Her words were indeed out of line; please forgive her.

"He paused for a moment. Seeing no response from Leander, he hurriedly continued, "We're only here to convey the Shadow Division's stance. It is neither a formal notice nor a warning." It's just that you've been a little too active lately.

Your recent actions are far too eye - catching- they have caused considerable turbulence within the martial world of Astra . 2/5 16:06 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 30s General Ashcroft of the Wyvern Blade A Finished " The Shadow Division only hopes that you would consider lying low for a while so that we can have some time to stabilize the situation . " Cold sweat began to form on Nixon's forehead . Though the Shadow Division was filled with powerful martial arts experts , even the strongest among them was only a small notch above Douglas Tarlyn - the man Leander had slain recently .

Leander's ability to defeat Douglas proved that he was at least as strong as his opponent. He might even be stronger. But how much stronger was he? It was hard to say. If he were to refuse the Shadow Division's request, there was no way they could force him to comply. And even if they did decide to take a hardline stance against him... It would not be Nixon or Anastasia enforcing such measures! Leander gave a cold snort. Then, the pressure surrounding Anastasia dissipated abruptly. "This is your final warning - get out of my sight, now.

"She was filled with indignation to receive such rude treatment, but she did not dare to speak rashly in the face of Leander's overwhelming presence." Forgive us for the disturbance, Sovereign Ashcroft. We'll take our leave now. "Nixon hurriedly dragged Anastasia away. It wasn't until they were a considerable distance away from the villa that Anastasia finally voiced her dissatisfaction." Nixon, that man is way too full of himself! Who does he think he is?! I say we get the commander to come and teach him a lesson! "Nixon just sighed.

Pulling out his phone, he called the headquarters of the Shadow Division to request further instructions. When the call connected, he listened quietly for a few seconds and repeatedly responded "Yes, understood." Then, he grabbed her arm and pulled her along as he walked away without a backward glance. "What's going on, Nixon?" Baffled by the situation, Anastasia questioned him in confusion. "Weren't you contacting the commander? Why do you look so freaked out?

" 3/5 16:06 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 305 General Ashcroft of the Wyvern Blade 1150 Finished His expression was grim as he trudged forward without pause . " Anastasia , the higher - ups have just given the order to drop all surveillance on him . It seems he now has the authority to disregard the Shadow Division entirely . We are no longer permitted to disturb him - for any reason ." For a moment , she simply stared at him in stunned silence . " Why ?! He has been stirring up a bloody storm of chaos in the martial world of Astria lately .

Many powerful figures are becoming restless because of his actions, and the martial world in each province has fallen into turmoil. "Isn't it our job in the Shadow Division to keep such troublemakers in check? Why are we suddenly cancelling surveillance on him? How does he have the right to disregard the orders of the Shadow Division? Just what the hell is going on?! "As far as she knew, the Shadow Division was the most authoritative force in the martial world of Astria. Even the Divine Loom had to yield to them.

Leander might be strong, but he was just one man - a lone martial artist with no backing. What right did he have to ignore the authority of the Shadow Division? Nixon

pulled Anastasia into the car and started the engine. Only then did he lower his voice and explain. " Just half an hour ago ... General Darrow Leon, the supreme commander of the Crestgate Military District, submitted an official report to the central authorities.

"In recognition of Jeff Ashcroft's contributions in training the Southern Wyvern Blade, they have issued a special decree and granted him the military rank of a major general. "We can no longer refer to him by his name, Jeff Ashcroft, as he is no longer a mere civilian." His voice was heavy. "From now onwards, we have to address him as General Ashcroft of the Wyvern Blade! "She froze upon hearing the title, her face going blank with shock. General Ashcroft of the Wyvern Blade? Those words seemed to carry a mysterious and overwhelming weight.

As if imbued with some sort of power, they pressed down on her soul and rendered her speechless. Although not as powerful as the Shadow Division in terms of combat strength, the Wyvern Blades held an even higher status within official ranks than the Shadow Division. That was 4/5 16:06 Thu, Oct 16 Chapt tec 30 % Ceneral Ashcroft of the Wyvern Blade ws Finished because the Wyvern Blades were a government - sanctioned elite force, officially authorized at the highest level. The Shadow Division might serve the authorities, but it was not officially part of the government.

Be it the Southern Wyvern Blade or the Northern Wyvern Blade, anyone within the Wyvern Blades who had made extraordinary contributions to the nation could be recognized by the military and officially granted military ranks by special appointment. In the past fifty years of the Southern Wyvern Blade's history, only two other individuals had ever been granted such special appointments.

One was Maximilian Morgan - Royce, the former Chief Instructor of the Southern Wyvern Blade, who served in the military ten years ago, and the other was the current Chief Instructor of the Northern Wyvern Blade, Gareth Ashcroft. I can't believe Nixon is telling me that Jeff Ashcroft has officially been granted the rank of a major general due to his leadership and contributions to the Southern Wyvern Blade! The news hit her like a bombshell. A major general when he isn't even twenty years old? If word got out about his appointment, the news would shake the entirety of Astria!

According to the intelligence reports, Leander was only nineteen years old. Despite his tender age, he was already known as Mr. Ashcroft of Mornwick and the chairman of Jeff Enterprises. He was also ranked first on the Astria Power Index, and now... he had been officially appointed by the military as General Ashcroft of the Wyvern Blade! If these were what he had accomplished before he was twenty, then in ten more years... who in the world could stand against him? Send Gifts 60 B

Chapter 306 Returning to Highcliffe Nixon and Anastasia left just as quickly as they arrived . Wealth , power , status , strength - Leander possessed them all . Even the mighty Shadow Division could no longer exert pressure on him . They had no choice but to obey orders and retreat , not daring to linger . #Finisher Inside the villa , Leander remained seated with his eyes closed , quietly regulating his inner breath . Unbeknownst to him , Darrow had put his name forward for major general , and the

However, to him, the so-called Shadow Division was nothing more than a flashy institution waving around borrowed prestige. If they truly wanted to confront him head-

authorities had already given their approval.

on , even with their ties to the government , he felt no fear . After all , he had more than enough rare treasures to offer the authorities . Beyond the Phoenix Essence Pill , he still held countless formulas and reagents far ahead of their time . Once revealed , they would shock the world . At that point , his value would outweigh the Shadow Division's, and the government would surely weigh the benefits carefully .

After about half an hour, his eyes suddenly snapped open. A flash of lightning shot from his gaze, shattering an antique vase across the room. A powerful aura surged from his body, rattling every chair and table in the villa. Above the roof, the clouds gathered and winds swirled, as if heaven itself was responding to his breakthrough. Leander clenched his fist and laughed wholeheartedly.

He had been stuck at the Pre- 1/5 16:06 Thu Oct 16 Transcendent Realin for an entire year Over the past three days , he had refined Douglas innate vitality , transforming it into Nirvana Energy instead That pure essence finally pushed his cultivation past the barrier into the Transcendent Realm " So , this is what it feels like to enter the Transcendent Realm! " The boundless strength within him felt like a deep sea without end , and his eyes gleamed with brilliance . The Transcendent Realm had four tiers to it

He was only at the entry level, but even so, his strength was already more than triple what it had been at the Pre - Transcendent Realm. If he were to fight Douglas again, he wouldn't even need to activate his Devourer Form or secret devouring techniques. A single punch would be enough to crush him. He cracked his knuckles, his gaze turning sharp as he looked toward the window facing north. " Gareth, Reginald, it's time I paid

the Ashcrofts a visit . " Leander rose to his feet , his bones crackling as his aura tore through the air .

Three days later, Leander packed his things at 10 a.m. His first stop would be Highcliffe University. He thought of Nigel, a professor at Highcliffe University who once traveled all the way to Ravenridge Senior High to give him a special admissions test. Nine months had passed since then, and he wondered if the offer was still on the table. "Daphne, I hope you're doing well." He pictured the girl who had stood by him ever since he saved her, her image flickering in his mind. He smiled faintly and pulled out a soda can pull-tab from his pocket.

Even while he ate, slept, trained, or fought, he always kept it close and never left it behind. 2/5 16:06 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 306 Returning to Highcliffe A CD #finished He still remembered how the little girl opened a can of cola with all her might, cutting her palm on the sharp edge. Instead of flinching at the pain, she pressed the pull - tab into his hand, her childish voice firm, and unwavering. "This is my ring! When we're older, you have to return it to me and put it on my finger - then I'll agree to marry you!

"Back then, Leander was just a clueless child, but he still nodded, storing it away as if he understood." Pinky promise. Don't you dare break it! "Over more than a decade, Leander had polished that pull - tab until it was smooth like a mirror. Its shine had long faded, but to him, it was more precious than life itself. He slipped it back into his pocket, thinking of the last time he'd seen both Ethan and Daphne." How's that kid doing right now? "His feelings toward Ethan were complicated.

Since young, he had been the protective older brother, shielding Ethan from every storm. However, eight years ago, after Gareth crippled his meridians and cast him out of the family, their bond had been severed. When he last saw Ethan at Silvermoon Sect, a ripple stirred in his heart, but he chose not to reveal himself. If they crossed paths in Highcliffe, he wasn't sure how he would face him. As his thoughts drifted, the sound of an engine rumbled outside. Frankie's car had arrived, and a knock came at the door. "Mr. Leander!" Leander snapped out of his memories.

Exhaling a long breath , his gaze returned to calm . " It's time to face it all . " He opened the door and stepped outside , ready for Frankie to take him to the airport . 3/5 16:07

Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 306 Returning to Highcliffe Finished At the departure hall , Frankie spoke carnestly . " Mr. Leander , we've already set up the branch at Highcliffe . Tommy will be in charge of overseeing everything there . Once you arrive , he'll meet you at the airport . " " Good . " Leander nodded and was about to head toward security when Frankie suddenly stopped him .

"There's something I've been wanting to ask ." Leander turned, a hint of surprise in his eyes." What is it? "Frankie studied him carefully, choosing his words." Last month, you urged us to accelerate our plans and pour resources into establishing a branch in Highcliffe. For Jeff Enterprises, that's no small step. I know you always act with purpose and foresight. "Seeing you insist on such a bold move, it seems you have bigger plans. Mr. Leander, do you have something major in motion?" At this, Leander chuckled and patted Frankie's shoulder. "You're right.

"The next moment, his expression sharpened, his tone heavy." I'm heading back to Highcliffe to have a drink, get an answer, honor a promise, and settle a score." Frankie frowned, not quite understanding. By the time he looked up again, Leander had already walked into the terminal, his figure slowly disappearing. He turned away in silence, but in his heart, he knew that whatever Leander intended in Highcliffe, one thing was certain - his arrival would stir up a storm. Meanwhile, Leander boarded the plane bound for Highcliffe.

As the clouds drifted past the window , his eyes grew deep and resolute , Nine years ago , his meridians had been destroyed , and he had been banished to the mountains . Now , after all this time , he was finally setting foot in his homeland again . 4/5 16:07 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 306 Returning to Highcliffe Three hours later , the landing announcement echoed through the cabin . Looking out the window at the vaguely familiar skyline , memories flooded back to him . When the plane rolled to a stop , the passengers got up to disembark .

Leander was the last to stand , his eyes burning with intensity . " I'm back , Highcliffe ." Send Gifts 。 60 45 Finished

Chapter 307 The Prettiest Girl on Campus After getting off the plane, Leander collected his luggage and headed straight for the exit. At a glance, he caught sight of Tommy waiting by a parked limousine outside. 45 Finished Without drawing attention, Leander quietly opened the door and slipped into the back seat, unnoticed by the crowd. Tommy started in surprise, realizing only then that Leander had arrived. He hurriedly

climbed into the driver's seat . " Mr. Leander , where should we go first ? Do you want to stop by the office ? " Leander thought for a moment and nodded .

"Sure, let's head there." He had originally planned on heading to Highcliffe University first. But with Tommy driving such a flashy car, he would inevitably attract every student's eyes. To avoid unnecessary attention, he decided to check out the office before heading to university on his own. Just as Tommy was about to start the car, Leander raised a hand. "Wait." Puzzled, Tommy followed Leander's gaze toward the other exit. There, a limited - edition Bentley was parked, flanked front and back by two Mercedes SUVs.

Seven or eight bodyguards in black suits , each moving with the bearing of trained fighters , escorted a spirited old man out of the terminal . The elder stepped into the Bentley , while the rest climbed into the SUVS . Slowly , the convoy pulled onto the main road . " Isn't that the president of Ashcroft Group ? " Tommy's expression hardened . He'd only been in Highcliffe for a month , but he had already studied every major company , 1/5 16:07 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 30 / The Prettiest Girl on Campus chamber of commerce , and prominent family .

Finished The man who had just gotten into the Bentley was none other than one of the city's towering pillars - Reginald Ashcroft , the patriarch of the Ashcroft family and the president of Ashcroft Group " Reginald Ashcroft ... " He muttered under his breath , then turned to Leander , his eyes full of shock . A thought flashed through his mind . Could it be that Mr. Leander's related to the Ashcroft family from Highcliffe ? The idea made him draw in a sharp breath .

The Ashcroft family was one of Highcliffe's most powerful, their influence surpassing nearly all others and keeping them at the top of countless rankings. Be it politics, business, or the military, their network was immense. Compared to them, so - called families like the Halloway family of Mornwick, the Walsh family of Listin, or the Shire family of Cranfordale were nothing more than child's play. Even if ten such families joined forces, the Ashcroft family could crush them in mere days.

Watching Leander's unreadable gaze and recalling his overwhelming strength, Tommy grew more and more certain of his suspicion. What other family, aside from the Ashcrofts, could possibly produce such a heaven - defying figure? "Let's go, "Leander finally said. Though countless questions swirled in Tommy's mind, he dared not press further. He quickly started the car and drove away, Leander's expression barely shifted. Looks like Reginald, that old man, hasn't changed one bit. Once, Reginald had been the grandfather he respected and admired greatly.

Though often strict, he also cared deeply for Leander, even valuing him more than Ethan. He'd essentially groomed Leander to become the Ashcroft family's next head. 2/5 16:07 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 307 The Prettiest Girl on Campus: 45 Finished But now, seeing him again, Leander's eyes held nothing but cold indifference - and a trace of buried hatred. Even now, he couldn't fathom how he had fallen from being the Ashcroft family's heir to an outcast in a single night. By Reginald's order, his meridians were destroyed. Not only that, but Gareth also personally cast him out.

Leander clenched his fist , his gaze sharp . One day , he would uncover the truth behind it all . Soon , the vehicle rolled into the underground garage of Jeff Enterprises '

Highcliffe branch . Leander and Tommy rode the elevator straight to the 36th floor , where the president's office was . After pouring Leander a cup of tea , Tommy outlined the past month's work in setting up the branch and laid out their plans for the future . He handed over several documents . Leander skimmed the materials , pointing out flaws and improvements . By 4 p.m.

, he left the office and took a cab to Highcliffe University . Highcliffe University was one of Astria's most renowned century - old institutions , with roots dating back to the New Order Reforms era . It started off as the Imperial Academy of Highcliffe , once the nation's highest educational institution , and had since built up an immense legacy . Many famous scholars and writers had walked out of its halls . Though it had no formal motto , the spirit of patriotism , progress , science , and democracy had guided generations of students .

Countless high schoolers dreamed of joining its ranks . Standing before the gate , Leander gazed up at the bold calligraphy carved into the plaque , his thoughts wandering . 3/5 16:07 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 307 The Prettiest Girl on Campus : Around him , freshmen passed by with their luggage , some accompanied by their Finished parents . Leander , however , felt like a solitary traveler , detached from the bustle of the world . Adjusting the strap of his shoulder bag , he stepped into the century - old campus . The air was filled with youthful vitality .

Young men and women bustled about, their energy blending with the university's timeless, elegant architecture. Even Leander felt a stir of emotion. It had been nine months since he left Ravenridge Senior High. He had almost forgotten that he was still

just nineteen, about to begin life as a university student. As his thoughts drifted, a faint fragrance wafted over. A girl with a ponytail walked toward him. She wore a simple school uniform, her figure tall and graceful. Her crystal clear eyes were full of spirit, and her beauty seemed both gentle and alluring.

Last but not least , her delicate features were flawlessly radiant . Be it her appearance , temperament , or figure , she was no less than Yvette or Madeline . Needless to say , she was the prettiest chick on campus . Many boys , freshmen and seniors alike , turned toward her with admiration and curiosity . Yet , she ignored them all and came straight to Leander . " Hello . Are you new here ? " Her voice was sweet and melodious , like music that made one feel instantly at ease . Leander blinked out of his daze , glanced at her , and nodded with a faint smile .

"Yes, I am." During orientation week, seniors wore school uniforms while freshmen stood out in their casual clothes. 4/5 16:07 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 307 The Prettiest Girl on Campus It was easy to tell them apart. Hearing his answer, the girl smiled at once. 
"That makes you my junior, then. I'm part of the student council, here to welcome new students. Which department are you in? Let's get you registered. "Leander gave her another look, then smiled and shook his head." I can find my way.

There's no need to trouble you ." Without waiting for her reaction, he turned and walked off down another path. Behind him, the girl froze, stunned by his indifference.

Finished She hadn't even processed it when another striking girl bounded over, her long hair cascading down her back. She wrapped an arm around the other girl's waist.

Seeing her friend's expression , the newcomer tilted her head in confusion . " What's wrong , Luna ? " Send Gifts 60  $_{\circ}$  A

Chapter 308 What a Small World "What's wrong, Luna?" Janey Pritchett looked at her friend, confused. Luna Lovette snapped out of her daze. She glanced around, only to realize that Leander was already gone. A faint sense of loss stirred in her chest. 45 Finished After much pestering from her friend, Luna finally recounted what happened, her cheeks tinged red. "What? No way!" The other girl gasped dramatically after hearing it. "Gosh, Luna. You're usually super aloof! Since when have you started flirting with freshmen?

"Luna blushed even more, and she quickly waved a hand." I wasn't doing that! Don't make it sound so awful. I'm part of the student council, and it's my duty to welcome the new students!" "Oh, please. What a lousy excuse! "Janey was enjoying this."

There are plenty of freshmen around us now. Why haven't you approached anyone else?" Unable to explain herself, Luna remained silent. It was true. She had always been reserved and was never the type to strike up conversations with boys.

Even though she was part of the student council, freshmen usually came to her for help, not the other way around. Offering help to someone was not something she would normally do. But when she spotted Leander, something about him stood out - his aura was different, enigmatic, and utterly compelling. 716 16:07 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 308 What a Small World Almost without thinking, she walked up to him. She wasn't conceited, but she knew she drew a lot of attention from the boys. 45 Finished Every freshman she helped would always try to get her number or add her on social media.

She turned them all down . She had thought that even if Leander wasn't like the others , at least he would walk with her politely . Needless to say , his refusal threw her off guard . " Judging by that lovesick face of yours , you've fallen for that freshman already! " Janey laughed as she teased Luna . " Enough with the nonsense , Janey! " Luna pouted , feeling both embarrassed and annoyed . Seeing this , Janey tactfully stopped . Still , she patted Luna's shoulder , her eyes glinting with mischief . " I'm curious , though . Who in their right mind would brush you off ?

You're the prettiest girl on campus! I'll be sure to teach him a lesson if I ever run into him, "Janey remarked. Luna shook her head, pretending to dismiss it. Deep down, Leander continued to linger in her mind. She couldn't shake off the young man's deep, clear eyes. Meanwhile, Leander had no idea about Luna's episode, for he was already at the administration building. Now that he had reached the Transcendent Realm, his senses were sharper than ever. Within a radius of nearly a mile, nothing could escape his perception.

Despite only meeting Nigel once , he already had the man's aura memorized . Leander had sensed Nigel's presence the moment he stepped onto campus , which was why he didn't need Luna's help . 2/6 16:07 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 308 What a Small World 45 Finished Nigel , the director of the admissions office , was on the third floor of the academic building , organizing new student files . At that moment , a knock sounded on his door . " Mr. Moss ." The voice struck a familiar chord , though he couldn't immediately place it .

He set his papers aside and turned around , surprised to find Leander standing by the door . His eyes lit up at once . " Is that you , Leander ? " He quickly stood up to greet him joyfully . " Welcome to Highcliffe University ! Please , come in ! " He had recognized Leander at first glance . Though nearly ten months had passed since their last meeting , Leander left a lasting impression . The young man was the first in the history of the university's special admissions to achieve a perfect score on the test .

When Nigel submitted his papers, even the dean of the university had been alerted to it. Together with several senior scholars, they studied Leander's answers, coming to the conclusion that Highcliffe University would soar to even greater heights with a student like him. The president had even instructed Nigel to return to Ravenridge and obtain Leander's details. Much to Nigel's regret, Leander was already gone without a trace by the time he returned. Months passed, and the campus buzzed with the rush of freshman registration. Still, not once did the young man appear.

Nigel thought he would never come, and the university would lose out on such great talent. When he least expected it, Leander had walked through his door. "I can't believe you still remember me, Mr. Moss." 3/6 16:07 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 308 What a Small World 45 \* Finished Leander smiled faintly, shook his hand, and sat opposite him. Nigel set his papers aside before pouring Leander a cup of tea. "After your exam, I went back to Ravenridge looking for you, but you were gone.

Even your classmates couldn't reach you, and I honestly thought you'd never come here." Leander gave a small smile. "You must've been worried. I've been traveling, but I'm here now, reporting as promised." "I see." Nigel nodded in relief. "Now that

you're here, I can finally stop worrying. It's about time I give the president an answer, too. " " The president? " Leander raised his brows. " That's right, " Nigel said. " He was shocked when he read your paper. " If you ever turned up, I was told to inform him right away. He wants to meet you.

"Honestly, I thought you'd never show up, and the dean even scolded me over it." Leander didn't know what to say and could only rub his nose. He never imagined that his test results would earn him such special treatment from the university. After a brief catch up, Nigel got down to business. "Leander, what do you plan to major in? With your abilities, you could succeed in any field. Take some time to think it over, and I'll make the arrangements right away. "Leander wasn't particular, for he'd excel in any field.

Then , he recalled something Daphne once said when they were children . T'd rather study flowers and plants than writing and arithmetic . He paused before speaking . " I do have an interest in botany , Mr. Moss . Let me join the Department of Horticulture and Landscaping ." Nigel's face lit up . " Horticulture and Landscaping ? That's wonderful ! I'm the dean of that 4/6 16:07 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 308 What a Small World : department . Having you join us is a great blessing indeed !

"\* Finished Without waiting for Leander's reply, he typed swiftly on the computer, assigning his class and dorm on the spot." Leander, I've just messaged the president. He's delighted to hear that you're here and wants to see you immediately. "My student assistant is on her way here to collect some documents. She'll show you to his office." Leander nodded, having no objection. Just then, footsteps approached, rhythmic and

graceful like a dance . " Hello , Mr. Moss . " A tall , slender figure appeared in the doorway .

Her hair cascaded down her back , her expression cool and poised , and her presence quietly commanding . Though dressed in the university's plain uniform , she radiated natural nobility . She stood there like a lotus in bloom , serene and untouchable . " You're here , Daphne . By the way , we have a new student joining our department . The president wants to meet him , so could you show him the way ? " Nigel asked . The girl nodded , turning to look at Leander . She froze at once . " It's you! " She remembered him clearly .

Daphne had seen this young man at the Silvermoon Sect's Nodal Tournament nine months ago . Leander looked at her too , shaking his head subtly . What a small world . He hadn't imagined that on his very first day here , he would cross paths with Daphne again . After nine years , the boy and girl who had once made childhood vows were finally reunited at 5/6 16:08 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 308 What a Small World Highcliffe . Send Gifts 60 B Finished

16:08 Thu , Oct 16 From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir Chapter 309 Why Does He Remind Me of That Rascal ? " It's you! " 44 Finished Daphne stood tall and aloof , her proud gaze carrying a flicker of surprise as she looked at Leander . They had only met once at Silvermoon Sect and exchanged a few words . Normally , she'd forget someone so insignificant , yet Leander remained vivid in her mind . There was something about him - an indescribable familiarity , as if they had known each other for years . " You two know each other ? " Nigel asked curiously .

Daphne was widely known throughout Highcliffe. Not only was she the Florian family's young heiress, but she was also brilliant in her own right, and was already admitted into Highcliffe University during her final year of high school. Though technically a freshman, she had been at the university for over half a year, serving as Nigel's academic assistant and contributing to numerous research projects. She was destined to become one of the university's brightest alumni.

Leander was outstanding as well, but he had only just arrived at Highcliffe University, and he wasn't even a native of the capital. How could they possibly know each other? "We've met by chance before, Mr. Moss, "explained Leander, suppressing the ripple in his chest before turning to Daphne with a faint smile. "What a coincidence, Ms. Daphne. "She studied him briefly, then returned to her habitual indifference, offering only a curt nod. To those she considered unworthy of her attention, she remained distant. And with men, she became even more reserved.

"Since you've met before, that's even better, "Nigel said delightfully as he stood up."

From now on, you'll be classmates. Both of you are the pride of the horticulture department. Work together and bring us honor, alright? "He handed Leander a form. 1/5 16:08 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 309 Why Does He Remind Me of That Rascal?

Finished "Leander, let Daphne take you to the president's office. This has your dorm and bed number on it.

Tomorrow, get your photo taken, collect your student ID card, and pick up your uniform." Leander had just accepted the form when Daphne's expression suddenly changed. Completely disregarding Nigel, she stepped forward and grabbed Leander's

arm . She'd never done that before . Daphne trembled as she clutched his sleeve . "
You're Leander Ashcroft ? How do you spell your first name ? " she asked urgently .
Nigel was stunned . She was usually proud and cold , rarely engaging in conversation with others . With men , she stayed distant and unreadable , never letting anyone get too close .

But right now , she was visibly confused and in distress . Leander remained calm , his expression unchanged . " It's L - E - A - N - D - E - R . Why ? " He met her gaze , clear and steady . " Leander ? " Daphne whispered his name softly . " Leander ... " It was the name of the man she loved . What was more , he seemed hauntingly familiar . Could it actually be him ? Her eyes flickered as these thoughts raced through her mind . No! If that were the case , he'd surely recognize me ! Why wouldn't he say so ? At that thought , she calmed down . " I'm sorry .

"She released his arm and stepped back, her expression tinged with apology." You share the name of someone I haven't seen in years. And you remind me of him very much..." "So, you thought you'd run into an old friend." Leander gave a faint smile and waved it off. He added casually, "That person must have been very close to you. Is he someone important? "Yes, he's very important to me." Daphne lowered her gaze, the sorrow in her eyes evident. At her words, Leander's hand trembled slightly in his pocket.

He was about to pull out the soda can tab and reveal his identity, but after a long pause, he stopped himself. 2/5 16:08 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 309 Why Does He Remind Me of That Rascal? Finished He was already in the capital now, and there'd be plenty of time

ahead. There was no need for him to rush into things. When they were children,
Daphne had cared deeply for him, placing him at the center of her world. However,
nine years had passed, and he no longer wished for her feelings toward him to be
bound to an old childhood promise.

What he sought was real love, not a vow made in the innocence of youth. After a while , Daphne pulled herself together and looked up again. "Sorry, I was lost in thought carlier. Come, I'll take you to the president's office. "Leander nodded, bid farewell to Nigel, and fell in step beside her. They walked side by side, the air between them slightly tense. Daphne couldn't help but glance at him, puzzled. Boys who found themselves alone with her would usually attempt to impress her with their talents or skills. Even shy ones would at least try to make small talk.

But Leander showed no interest in her at all , his gaze fixed straight ahead . She had her fair share of boys who seemed aloof but were really vying for her attention . Still , she could usually see right through them . However , Leander was different . He was calm and free of pretense . " You're different . " Daphne's lips parted slightly . It was the first time she had ever spoken to a boy first . " Different ? " Leander turned to her , waving a hand . 3/5 16:08 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 309 Why Does He Remind Me of That Rascal ? " You flatter me , Ms. Daphne .

I haven't spoken to you because I'm intimidated ." 44 Finished He continued, " We're worlds apart . You're from the Florian family and a prodigy in Astrian martial arts, whereas I'm just a regular guy . I know I don't stand a chance ." Leander was usually indifferent to women, but with Daphne, it was entirely different. Since childhood, he

enjoyed teasing her . Nine years later , that playful spirit had returned , and he deliberately spoke playfully . " Is that so ? " Daphne thought he truly meant it and offered a slight explanation . " You're overthinking things .

All things aside , we will soon be classmates and equals . " " Oh ? " Leander was intrigued , his brows lifting in deliberate expectation . " Does this mean we can be friends ? " Daphne froze at his words . What's with this guy ? she thought , annoyed . She was just being humble , hoping he'd stop feeling inferior and distant around her . Yet , Leander took this opportunity to shoot his shot , making it hard for her to refuse . She could only nod in response . Fortunately , after she agreed , he did not push things further .

They spent a few minutes talking about academics before finally arriving at the president's office . " The president should be inside . I'll be off now , " Daphne said curtly . " Thank you . We should have a proper chat some other time! " Leander replied . Daphne furrowed her brows and stayed silent , turning around to leave . And why would I want that? She snorted , chastising herself for being so careless . She had thought Leander was a distant , aloof gentleman , but now , he seemed more like a teasing , talkative fellow .

She stopped at the stairwell and glanced back, catching sight of Leander entering the president's office. 4/5 16:08 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 300 Why Does He Remind Me of That Rascal 44 Finished " That's strange ... " Her brows furrowed even more, a growing sense of oddity in her chest. Why did Leander's words carry the same, playful tone as that rascal who used to love teasing her? Send Gifts 60

Chapter 310 Brothers Reunited Finished Daphne stood frozen for a long while before shaking her head at herself . " Daphne ... what are you thinking? How could he possibly be that guy? " she murmured, a twinge of sadness in her eyes. Back then, that boy had been just ten years old - his martial power stripped away, every martial skill erased, cast out of the Ashcroft family to fend for himself. She had always believed he wouldn't die, but as the years went by, hope had started to feel like smoke slipping through her fingers.

How could a ten - year - old child, gravely injured and utterly alone, survive in the mountains against wild beasts, natural disasters, and the elements? The thought alone made her shudder. Shaking her head to stop herself from spiraling further, she quickened her pace and left the office building. Inside the university president's office, Leander had just stepped in when he noticed an elderly man with black - rimmed glasses hunched over the desk, writing furiously. Every stroke of the pen carried a weight and strength that seemed almost tangible.

Leander's gaze swept over the man , and a flicker of surprise crossed his face . There was something subtle yet strange about the man , a hidden ripple that blocked Leander from fully sensing him . Yet one thing was clear : this was no ordinary elder . He was a concealed martial master , his cultivation likely at Kindling Transcendent - maybe even beyond . Perhaps due to the man's cultivation technique , Leander couldn't gauge his true strength , only guess at it . As soon as Leander stepped inside , the man's hand froze mid - stroke . He looked up , and their eyes met .

The moment he saw the young man standing just ten feet away, the man's pupils narrowed. Leander immediately recognized that the man knew him, and both of them fell silent, studying each other. The air in the office grew heavy with unspoken tension. After a long pause, the man suddenly laughed, rising from his chair. "Hahaha! I was curious to meet the genius who aced our special entrance exam perfectly, "he said, bowing slightly." But I should have known - someone with impeccable academic skills, surnamed Ashcroft, and from Mornwick?

That can only be the undefeated Iron Sovereign! "Leander's expression didn't change." I never expected the president of Highcliffe University to be a Transcendent Realm master. Highcliffe University really is full of hidden talents. "He 1/4 16.08 Thu Oct 16 2900 smirked "But I'm curious. How do you know who I am? "The man's glasses glinted sharply." Sovereign Ashcroft, your fame shakes the martial world of Astria. You've defeated two Transcendent Realm masters - everyone knows your name. To uncover your true self is difficult for most people, but not for me?

He gestured , and a long bench slid behind Leander , Tam Christopher Gardner , the president of Highcliffe University . I also serve as deputy director of the Shadow Division . Please , have a seat , Sovereign Ashcroft " Leander finally relaxed , leaning back . So , this Christopher was part of the Shadow Division - a deputy director no less , holding significant influence in the organization . " Yesterday we sent Nixon and Anastasia to visit you , Christopher said calmly , " Anastasia is still naive and easily spoiled by us old folks . If the offended you , please forgive her ?

A cup of hot coffee floated over , guided by Christopher's hand . Leander took it smoothly . " So should I call you President Gardner or Director Gardner ? Christopher laughed . " No need for formalities here . Since we're on campus , just Mr. Gardner will do . I had planned to meet the new exempted special student , Leander Ashcroft , to see if he truly lives up to my expectations . " But now that you're here . there's no need for it . Highcliffe University is lucky to have you . I look forward to many coffee chats with you in the future " Leander sipped his coffee and waved a hand . " Mr.

Gardner , you don't have to be so polite . I'm just an ordinary student here for now !

Christopher chuckled . " Well , since today's your first time at Highcliffe University , I'll show you around a bit . Let me play host properly , at least for a little while ." Leander finished his coffee , set the cup back on the desk with a casual flick , and stretched . "

No need , Mr. Gardner . We've met for today ; there's plenty of time ahead . I need to check out my dorm now . See you! " Christopher walked him to the door . " Take care , Sovereign .

Come visit anytime; you never know when I might need a favor from you! " " Oh?

Leander tilted his head, giving Christopher a quick glance. He paused for a moment,
then continued downstairs. 217 Back in his office, Christopher stood silently for a while, a small smile tugging at the corners of his lips. 2/4 16:08 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 310

Brothers Reunited K Finished Today had been a huge surprise. He had been drawn by
Leander's perfect special entrance exam results and assumed he would become

Highcliffe University's crown jewel.

Hearing from Nigel that Leander had arrived, he insisted on meeting him. " And yet, the exempted student was none other than Jeff Ashcroft - the very Iron Sovereign who dominated Astria." With such a legendary talent here, no one can rival Highcliffe University in the next decade, "he murmured, nodding his head slightly. " Christopher Gardner, huh?" Leander murmured as he walked along the campus path. The president of Highcliffe University was also a deputy director of the Shadow Division.

That meant the Shadow Division's reach in Astria was immense, its influence threading through the land like an invisible web. He couldn't gauge Christopher's exact cultivation, but by his estimation, the man had reached Ember Transcendent - on par with Douglas. And if someone of that level held only a deputy director's position, what kind of strength could the director of the Shadow Division possess? He strolled leisurely, savoring the calm of the campus, until he finally reached the boys ' dorm.

The hallway ahead was crowded; freshmen huddled over maps to find their rooms, while upperclassmen chatted in small groups. As he prepared to pass through the main corridor, a sudden commotion erupted. Students parted instinctively, leaving a clear path as if someone extraordinary had appeared. Leander lifted his gaze. Not far ahead, a young man in a sharply tailored Versace suit moved with flawless precision. His striking features and intense aura immediately marked him as someone of distinction, not an ordinary heir.

The students around him instinctively backed away, intimidated by the sheer presence he radiated. " Ethan? " Leander's eyes narrowed. At first glance, he recognized him his younger brother, Ethan, whom he hadn't seen in years. Ethan was a year and a

half younger, now 18 years old. The pentagram - shaped birthmark on his left earlobe made him instantly recognizable - the reason Reginald had named him Ethan. What caught Leander off guard was the transformation. In just nine months, Ethan had undergone a dramatic leap in power, now fully a Martial Sovereign.

Yet he deliberately suppressed it, apparently waiting for the perfect moment to unleash his full potential in one 3/4 16:08 Thu, Oct 16 Chapter 310 Brothers Reunited breathtaking surge. : 44 Finished Ethan's eyes were fixed straight ahead as he approached - until he noticed Leander. His steps. froze mid - stride. Leander calmly withdrew his gaze toward the dorm stairs, ready to climb, when Ethan's voice rang out suddenly. "Excuse me... wait a minute!" Send Gifts 60 4/4 16:08 Thu, Oct 16