

From Outcast to Overlord: The Unyielding Heir Novel

Chapter 331 A Clean Break " Gareth Ashcroft , do you remember what I said nine years ago ? " Leander stepped forward , his voice rolling through the main hall and echoing off the walls . Lydia and Ethan both went pale . Neither of them had expected that Leander would go straight for Gareth without a second thought , questioning him outright . The rest of the Ashcroft family in the main hall were completely baffled . None of them could believe what they were seeing . Who was this young man , daring to call Gareth by name and question him outright ?

Even among the most outstanding heirs in Highcliffe , no one would ever dare show Gareth such disrespect . Mira's bright eyes flickered as she stared at the figure standing opposite Gareth . Quietly , she convinced herself . " It really is Leander ! " Even after nine years , even though Leander had grown into an adult and his features had changed , the expression he wore and the force behind his words when he revealed his sharp , commanding presence had not changed at all . Asher finally rushed in , a step too late . The sight in the main hall made him shake his head immediately .

The very thing he had worried about had come to pass . Gareth looked into Leander's frosty eyes . His own face showed no anger , but his heart churned with turmoil . Behind him , Reginald stood in silence , saying nothing , only staring blankly at Leander . After a moment , Gareth let out a quiet sigh . His hand trembled slightly as he spoke . " Ander , it really is you ! " " Ander ? Could it be ... he really is Leander ?! " The entire Ashcroft family erupted almost immediately .

Both the senior and cadet branches of the family stared at Leander in shock , their expressions shifting again and again . " What's going on ? Wasn't Leander supposed to have died of a serious illness when he was ten ? " " Exactly . That was something everyone in the family believed . The old patriarch himself announced it . How could he be standing here now ? " Whispers spread rapidly through the hall as countless eyes turned toward Gareth and Reginald . Back then , when ten - year - old Leander suddenly disappeared , Reginald had announced that the boy had fallen gravely ill and died .

1/4 16:34 Thu , Oct 16 M Chapter 391 A con Preak het Though many had found it strange , Reginald had said it himself , so no one dared doubt him . All they could do was sigh in pity over Leander's early death . Yet now , it seemed the truth was far beyond anything they had imagined . Leander heard every word clearly . A cold smile passed over his lips as he wagged a finger at Gareth . Gareth Ashcroft , the name Ander is one only my mother can call me by . You don't deserve to . And I really have to hand it to you Ashcrofts . Your ancestral teaching says to ' let virtue command the people .

But you , Reginald Ashcroft , the former patriarch , and you , the current patriarch , didn't even dare admit to what you did . Instead , you spun a lie to deceive the entire clan . Is that what you call ' letting virtue command the people ' ? " His gaze hardened , his tone dripping with disdain . " This so - called century - old Ashcroft family , this motto of ' let martial might bring harmony to all beneath the skies , it's nothing more than a sham . A complete and utter joke .

" He stood in the hall , and even though he faced both Reginald and Gareth alone , his presence pressed down on everyone , steady and unshakable . The two men's expressions shifted drastically , remorse flashing in their eyes , but Leander paid them no mind . He swept his arm in

a sharp arc . " Everyone here is part of the Ashcroft family . I'm sure you've at least heard the name Leander Ashcroft . What you were told was that I fell gravely ill and died young . But do you know what really happened ? " He pointed at Reginald , then at Gareth .

" The two people you all deeply respect - Reginald , the venerable former patriarch , and Gareth , the patriarch who single - handedly revived this family -decided nine years ago that a ten - year - old child was nothing but a curse to the family . " And Gareth himself destroyed his own son's martial power , then cast him into the mountains . to die alone . That is your century - old family . That is the so - called number one house in Highcliffe ! " Leander spread his hands , and the hall fell into dead silence .

Every pair of eyes , filled with disbelief and shock , turned toward Reginald and Gareth . To them , these two men had always been paragons of virtue - commanders who led their family into glory , towering figures admired by all . Many of the younger generation had even set Gareth as their model , vowing to follow his example and one day raise the Ashcroft family even higher . Yet now , with just a few words , Leander had torn away their carefully maintained image and revealed their true faces . Standing in the back , Lydia swayed on her feet .

She could do nothing but watch helplessly as Leander pointed at his father and his grandfather , questioning them with a cold voice . Ethan caught her by the arm , but his own heart sank . He knew Leander too well . His brother 2/4 16:34 Thu , Oct 16 . Chapter 12 Ah Depk 必 零) Fished had always drawn clear lines between gratitude and resentment , never compromising , never hacking down) . Reginald and Gareth - men who had ruled over Highcliffe with a mere stamp of their feet- were silenced beneath Leander's words . Even their once - proud heads dipped ever so slightly .

Every word he spoke struck straight at their hearts . No matter how powerful they were , no matter how high their status in Highcliffe , the truth remained : they had condemned their own son and grandson to die , and that was something they could never refute . The suffocating silence lasted until Gareth finally raised his head , his eyes full of turmoil . " Ander ... " His voice trembled , his gaze unsteady . " I have always believed myself to be upright and honorable , a man who lived without regret .

" But this one thing - what I did to you - is a sin I will never erase for as long as I live . I crippled my own son's martial power . I cast him into the mountains to die . That kind of cruelty belongs only to a beast ! " A bitter laugh escaped him . " Afterward , to stop the rest of the family from questioning us , we hid the truth and spread the lie that you had died of illness . Some upright man that makes me , huh ? I am less than a beast , unworthy of being called a father at all . " Every word came from his heart , his low voice weighted with remorse .

Of everything in his long life , what he had done to Leander was the one thing he had never wanted to face , yet would regret until his last breath . But Leander showed no reaction . His eyes remained cold . " Gareth Ashcroft , don't you think it's ridiculous to say this now ? What's done is done . Regret changes nothing . " He turned his gaze on Reginald , sneering . " And you , Reginald Ashcroft . I once thought you were a man who stood tall and fearless , someone I could be proud to call my grandfather . " But I was wrong .

Because of a single prophecy from the Celestial Mirror , you ordered your own grandson's destruction , all to preserve this family's so - called honor . I have to say - you've grown senile . " At that , Leander let out a scornful snort . " No matter how many disasters the Celestial Mirror helped the Ashcrofts avoid , do you think relying on it

forever is the way forward ? If the strength of this family depends on sacrificing a ten - year - old child , what kind of century - old clan are you ? What talk of letting martial might bring harmony to all beneath the skies ' is there to boast of ?

" Even back then , when this family had yet to reach its current peak , we were still one of the top houses in Highcliffe . And yet , instead of facing disaster with confidence in your own strength , you let a child shoulder everything . 3/4 16.35 Thu , Oct 16 be ... lean Break 17 ther " Tell me do you really deserve to be called the pillar of this family ? Do you really deserve to claim you acted for the Ashcrofts legacy ? " His words cut like a blade , every syllable biting deep . Gareth and Reginald could only hear the ringing in their ears , unable to muster a single response .

Under the watchful eyes of the entire hall , Leander reached into his pocket and drew out a golden - rimmed bronze lock with the Ashcroft name carved boldly across it . It was a token passed down to every generation , the symbol of one's identity as part of the Ashcroft bloodline . " Mother , forgive me . The reason I came back with you today wasn't to reclaim what was taken from me . I only came here to stand here and tell everyone that I am alive and well . " He gave Lydia a faint , apologetic smile before his expression hardened .

Raising the bronze lock high above his head , his voice rang out . " Gareth Ashcroft , nine years ago , you tore out my martial power and left me to die in the mountains . Do you remember what I told you then ? I'll say it again now . From this moment on , I , Leander Ashcroft , have nothing to do with you , and nothing to do with the Ashcroft

family ! " The words fell , and so did the lock . It struck the floor and split cleanly in two , the sharp crack echoing like a final judgment . Send Gifts 。 60 AIA

hapter 332 Reginald Bowed , His Obsession Scattered The bronze lock hit the ground and broke cleanly in two . With that , the bond between Leander , Gareth , and the rest of the Ashcroft family was severed by his words alone . พร நீ Finishett Long before setting foot in the residence , he had already decided what he wanted to do . Reclaiming what was lost , demanding justice - those things meant nothing to him .

All he wanted was to stand before the Ashcrofts and declare to the world that he had not died and was living better than any of them , that the name Leander Ashcroft still carried weight . To him , the Ashcroft Residence was nothing more than a memory , a place without attachment or nostalgia . Beyond Ethan and Lydia , there was no one else in the family he cared about . He had come that day to cut ties once and for all , leaving nothing behind . The lock shattered , yet the hall remained deathly silent . From the moment Leander had appeared until now , no one dared to speak .

His presence alone held the room in thrall , silencing every breath . Mira's gaze flickered as she looked at him . Since childhood , she had seen Leander as her absolute idol . Back then , even though they had all been children , Leander was already the undisputed leader among Highcliffe's younger generation . Neither Tycen of the O'Brien family nor Rodrick of the Wave family - both of whom now dominated Highcliffe's elite circles - had been able to stand against him . Each time they clashed , Leander had crushed them without effort , leaving them with a fear that ran bone- deep .

It was only after Leander's sudden disappearance at the age of ten that Tycen , Rodrick , and others like them had the chance to breathe again . From there , they trained relentlessly , their wings gradually filling out , until they rose to become Highcliffe's most powerful heirs . She had often wondered what heights Leander might have reached if he had never vanished . Now that he had returned , the reality was far from what she had imagined .

Instead of reuniting with their family , he severed ties with them , publicly chastising Gareth and Reginald in their own hall , mocking the family's century - old legacy without hesitation . Once again , she found herself overwhelmed by his sheer force of will . " Leander ! " Ethan stepped forward , tugging gently at his arm . He had thought that when his brother came back , though he carried anger toward Gareth and Reginald , family ties might still soften his heart . But Leander's words shattered that hope completely .

Leander shook him off , sweeping his cold gaze between Gareth and Reginald . " Once , this family was my pride and faith . Not anymore . Every blade of grass , every single thing tied to this family - even the name itself - means nothing to me . From this day forward , the Ashcrofts and I walk separate paths . We have nothing to do with each other . " 1/3 16:35 Thu , Oct 16 M ... Chapter 302 Reanald Bowed Hin Obsession Scattered 2 Finished When he finished , he clasped his hands in salute toward Gareth and Reginald , his expression as indifferent as ever . " Old Mr. Reginald Ashcroft , Mr.

Gareth Ashcroft, and all of you here today- thank you for your time . I'll be taking my leave . " His words made Gareth and Reginald flinch . The respectful titles sounded polite enough on the surface , but to them , they cut deeper than if he had shouted their names with hatred . For if Leander still called them by name , at least it would mean he still felt anger - anger meant there

was still some emotional tie . But now , with the distance in those honorifics , it was clear : to Leander , the Ashcrofts were strangers .

Lydia's eyes brimmed with tears , her heart aching , yet she said nothing . She understood his choice better than anyone . If her own father and grandfather had treated her the same way , she would have reacted even more fiercely than Leander . Leander gave the room one final clasped salute , patted Ethan on the shoulder , and bent slightly toward Lydia . Then , without hesitation , he turned to leave the Ashcroft family's main hall . Just then , Reginald , who had been silent all along , suddenly spoke . " Ander ! " His voice carried weariness , as though he had aged decades in an instant .

Leander paused slightly and turned his head , his gaze flat and emotionless . " Old Mr. Ashcroft , my name is Leander . " Reginald's hand trembled as he leaned on his cane and stepped down from the head seat . His voice was layered with turmoil . " What happened nine years ago has been the greatest pain of my life . It was the most foolish , most grievous mistake I have ever made ! " You were right . The Celestial Mirror may be our family's greatest treasure , and yes , it helped us escape several calamities . But relying on it for strength - that was never the true path .

" I should have trusted our own power to face hardship . Instead , I followed its decree and raised my hand against my own grandson . If this family could only be safe through such cruelty , what right do we have to stand in this world ? I have shamed our ancestors and betrayed the legacy of our forebears . " He flung his cane to the ground and bowed deeply toward Leander , his voice heavy with guilt . " Ander , I was wrong . " The hall shook with shock . Every member of the Ashcroft family , Gareth and Lydia included , turned pale with disbelief .

Reginald had spent half a lifetime in battle , proving himself with his fists , sweeping aside all opposition , commanding such fear at the borders that neighboring nations dared not advance . Even after stepping down from his post and taking on the title of chairman of the Ashcroft 2/3 16:35 Thu , Oct 16 M. Thaeres da Reginald Bowed To ObsPaton Scattered Group , his influence in Astria remained unmatched . Across the nation , only a handful of people could truly rival him - and each of them was a giant in their own right . That was the weight Reginald carried .

Within the Ashcroft family , he stood as its pillar , its unshakable foundation . Even if Gareth had propelled the clan forward in the past twenty years , the true backbone had always been Reginald . As long as he lived , the Ashcrofts would never fall . A man of such pride , whose casual nod could elevate a younger generation , whose gaze most of Astria's so - called heirs weren't even qualified to meet - such a man now bowed his head and apologized to Leander . If word of this left the hall , it would shake not just Highcliffe , but all of Astria . Mira's eyes shimmered .

Across the entire country , only Leander can make Reginald bow . Leander narrowed his eyes , then , after a long moment , waved dismissively . " Old Mr. Ashcroft , you don't need to apologize to me . Some things can be understood , but never forgiven . " With that , he stepped forward and walked out of the hall . Reginald slowly lifted his head , guilt still etched across his features . He called out to Leander's retreating back . " Ander , you may refuse to acknowledge your father . You may refuse to acknowledge me . You may refuse this family .

But remember this - the Ashcroft family will always be your family , and everything in it will always be open to you ! " His voice echoed endlessly in the hall . But Leander never

once stopped . He strode straight out of the Ashcroft Residence . When he reached the long street outside , he curled his fingers into a fist . Clouds gathered and coiled , twisting into the form of a dragon that surged and rose into the sky . Nine years of obsession , in that moment , finally scattered into smoke . Send Gifts 60 2/2

Chapter 333 The End of Your Era #Finished After Leander left , silence swallowed the massive hall . Hardly anyone dared to breathe . What had begun as a small family banquet meant for celebration had been utterly crushed by his arrival . Lydia wiped her tears away and shot Gareth a look full of sorrow and fury . " Gareth Ashcroft , this is what you wanted , this is what you gained ! Look around you - are you happy now ? " With a sharp wave of her hand , she ignored Ethan's attempts to stop her and strode out of the hall . " Remember this , Gareth .

Everything that happened today is your doing . As long as Leander refuses to return to this family , I will never return either ! " Her words echoed as she left in haste . Ethan helplessly followed , though nothing he said could persuade her otherwise . Gareth remained where he stood , as though all strength had been drained from his body , and collapsed into his chair . After a long while , he let out a heavy sigh , and the hair at his temples seemed even whiter . Mira stepped forward with Reginald's cane , but he didn't even notice .

He only stared blankly in the direction where Leander and Lydia had gone , lost in thought . He couldn't help but wonder - yes , the Ashcrofts now stood strong in Highcliffe . But if his grandson refused to acknowledge them , and his daughter - in - law would not return , then what would really be left of this family ? By the fountain along the long street , Leander leaned against the stone rim and watched the water shoot into the sky . For the first time in nine years , his heart was calm .

Entering the Ashcroft Residence that day had finally cleared away the suffocating weight he had carried for so long . His obsessions were gone , and for his path in martial cultivation , it was without doubt a tremendous step forward . Turning his head , he spotted Ethan walking beside Lydia as they came out . He hurried toward them . " Mom , " Standing before Lydia , Leander lowered his head slightly . " I'm sorry . " He knew why she had brought him back to Ashcroft Resident .

She had wanted to help him reclaim justice , and at the same time , to ease the grudges between him , Gareth , and Reginald . But his actions had shattered all of her plans . " Silly child , why apologize to me ? " Lydia smoothed his forehead , her eyes filled with warmth . " I wasn't there for you all these years . Nine long years - you must have suffered so much . Of course , you'd carry resentment toward them . That's only natural . 1/3 16:35 Thu , Oct 16 60 ... Chapter 333 The End of Your Fra 43 Finished " You did nothing wrong . If I had been in your place , I would have done the same .

And seeing how you carried yourself today , I can't help but marvel ... my boy has truly grown up ." Recalling how he stood alone in the massive hall , facing the entire family without fear , forcing them to bow their heads , even silencing Reginald and Gareth , it moved her deeply . Time and hardship had not worn away his sharpness . He was still the fearless , spirited son she remembered . Leander and Ethan walked with her through the streets for half an hour . In the end , unable to resist her insistence , they escorted her back to Durham Abbey .

On the mountain path outside , Leander and Ethan walked side by side . As they descended , Ethan finally asked , " Leander , do you really hate Grandpa and Dad that much ? " Leander's eyes stayed fixed ahead , his expression calm . " Hate ? " He gave a faint laugh and shook his

head . " To me , they're nothing more than strangers now . With no ties between us , what's there to hate ? " Ethan let out a quiet sigh . He didn't press the matter further . Instead , he asked about Leander's years away . Leander spoke lightly , skimming over the details with a few casual stories .

The nine years of life - and - death trials and endless hardship - those , he would never let Ethan know . The two of them kept walking , nearing the foot of the mountain , when Ethan suddenly lowered his head toward Leander , shame written all over his face . " Leander , I'm sorry . " Leander tilted his head , puzzled , until Ethan pointed to his chest . " Here , " he said , his lips barely moving as though each word weighed heavily , " one of the martial powers inside me belongs to you . " He had borrowed Leander's martial power .

With two power sources within him , Ethan's place in Astria's martial world was almost guaranteed . His future as a Martial Sovereign was all but sealed . Meanwhile , Leander had lost his own martial power and fallen from a heaven - blessed prodigy to nothing more than an ordinary man . When Leander had been gone , Ethan could bury that truth deep inside himself . But now that Leander had returned , he could no longer look his brother in the eye . As much as he resisted it , he had to admit that all of his current accomplishments were built upon Leander's martial power .

" Don't trouble yourself over it . I let go of that long ago . " Leander clapped him lightly on the shoulder . " That power resides in you now . That means it's yours . Use it well . Whatever happens , it once belonged to me - so don't you dare bring shame to its name . " Ethan nodded heavily at his brother's case , but his heart ached even more . Once , Leander had been brilliant ,

fearless , vowing to become the greatest martial artist in 2/3 16:35 Thu , Oct 16 M ... Chapter
333 The End of Your Era 12 Finished Ashcroft history .

Now , he had no choice but to let go , forced to watch as Ethan climbed toward the peak . If it had been him , he would have collapsed long ago . " Leander , you can trust me ! " Ethan gripped his brother's hand firmly , his tone resolute . " This is the strength you left me . I will never fail your expectations . With my own effort , I'll claim the summit and one day stand at the very top of Astria's martial world . I will fulfill the burden you entrusted me with ! " Leander only gave a faint nod at Ethan's solemn expression , though inwardly he felt almost amused .

Ethan , like Daphne , saw him as nothing more than a cripple who had lost his martial power , someone whose dream now needed to be completed on his behalf. But little would they know that he had already surpassed all of that . The only reason he hid his true identity was because he didn't want his bond with Daphne or Ethan to become tainted by it . Chairman of Jeff Enterprises , chief instructor of the Southern Wyvern Blade , the undefeated Iron Sovereign - Jeff Ashcroft - each of these names was too distant for Ethan and Daphne to even grasp .

Especially Ethan , who , since childhood , had treated Leander as his target , chasing after him , struggling to one day surpass him . Now , the martial power had been ripped from Leander and transplanted into Ethan . With two power sources , Ethan had become the strongest among the Nine Geniuses of Astria , standing at the very peak of his youthful pride . He believed that where once he could not defeat his brother , now with double the strength , he had finally surpassed him .

But if Ethan were to discover that the brother he thought crippled had already swept across Astria , that even their father had been forced to bow beneath him - what a

shattering blow it would be to his confidence . Stretching lazily beneath the slope's evening sun , Leander said casually , " Kid , remember this . No matter where you go , I will always be your brother ." Ethan nodded , half understanding , before Daphne's name suddenly burned in his mind . His eyes hardened with determination , his heart thundering . Leander , everything else I can yield to you .

But Daphne - I will make her mine . His gaze locked on his brother's back , pride flaring high within him . Leander , I'm glad you've returned . But your era has ended . From this day on , the first name in Highcliffe belongs to me — Ethan Ashcroft . Send Gifts 匪

Chapter 334 Nightclub Mixer : 43 Finished Of course , Leander wouldn't know what was running through his brother's head , but even if he had , he would have brushed it off with a laugh . The so - called title of " Highcliffe's number one " no longer meant anything to him . His sights were set on all of Astria - on the entire world itself . The brothers dined together at an upscale restaurant at the foot of Westvale Peak , then found a small bar where they drank lightly and reminisced about childhood days . Leander lifted his glass with a faint smile .

Once , they had been nothing but scrappy children . Nine years later , one of them now stood over all of Astria , while the other ruled Highcliffe . The changes were nothing short of staggering . " Leander , you may not be practicing martial arts anymore , but you must know something of the current state of Astria's martial world , right ? " Ethan asked once the wine had gone around a few times . " Yes , I know a bit ." Leander nodded slightly . Ethan downed a glass of strong liquor without using his inner strength to suppress the burn . His face flushed red .

" Leander , there are things I've never been able to say to anyone . But now that you're back , I finally have the chance to get it all out ." He let out a laugh that sounded half - mad . " These nine years , with you gone , I poured everything into martial training . Step by step , I climbed from Martial Practitioner all the way to half - Sovereign . I'm just a step away from Martial Sovereign , hailed as the foremost of Astria's Nine Geniuses ! " He spoke with drunken abandon , no longer holding anything back .

" Leander , you can call me arrogant if you want , but with your martial power inside me , my progress has been unmatched . Among Astria's younger generation , I was without question the strongest . For eight years , that's what I believed . And for eight years , it was true - no one could surpass me . But then , a year ago , a monster appeared . " Leander's eyes flickered , but he only took a quiet sip of red wine , saying nothing . " You must have heard of Jeff Ashcroft . " Ethan's fists clenched , flames dancing in his gaze .

" Before he appeared , I was Astria's undisputed number one genius . But his arrival stole my name completely . " I am the Ashcroft heir , Gareth Ashcroft's son . I bear two martial power sources . By every measure , I should have been the most exceptional talent , the first in Astria's history to reach Martial Sovereign . But all of that changed because of Jeff Ashcroft ! " He let out a bitter laugh , then slammed his hand against a nearby table , shattering it into 1/3 16:35 Thu , Oct 16 M .. Chapter 334 Nightclub Mixer splinters . The bar owner didn't dare utter a word .

@ 4) Finished " Leander , I hate it . Why ? Why did another Jeff Ashcroft have to exist ? With me here , why does there need to be a Jeff as well ? " Before , when people spoke

of Astria's number one genius , they all thought of me - Ethan Ashcroft . But now , the first name on everyone's lips is Jeff Ashcroft . Even Father's old title of Astria's Grandmaster has been claimed by him ! Tell me , brother - why am I still not his equal ? Why ? " With drink loosening his tongue , Ethan spilled all the bitterness he had bottled up .

Sitting beside him , Leander's eyes glinted , surprise flickering across his heart . He had underestimated how deeply his reappearance as Jeff Ashcroft had shaken Ethan . Ethan's pride had always been towering . He had believed himself the rightful first among Astria's younger generation . Yet in the past year , Jeff Ashcroft had burst onto the scene , dominating the martial world and stealing away all the glory Ethan thought was his . No wonder he was so furious , so full of resentment .

He hesitated for a moment , debating whether to tell Ethan the truth - that he was Jeff Ashcroft -when his phone suddenly rang . It was Nathan . The moment Leander answered , Nathan's loud , carefree voice came through . " Leander , where are you ? Hurry to Maplebrook Axis ! " I went to the library this afternoon and , by chance , met a finance major beauty . Her dorm agreed to have a mixer with us . They're on their way right now , so get over here - it's four on four ! " Leander felt helpless . Just the day before , because of a girl , they had nearly been beaten half to death .

If he hadn't stepped in , the outcome for his friends would still be uncertain . And now , barely a day later , Nathan seemed to have forgotten the lesson entirely , already arranging another mixer . Leander couldn't decide whether to laugh or sigh . He glanced at Ethan , who was slumped over the table , seemingly passed out from drink . " All right

, I'm coming . " He didn't want Nathan blundering into more trouble , so he could only agree . After settling Ethan into a nearby four - star hotel , Leander hailed a cab and headed straight for the Second Ring .

Maplebrook Axis was a nightclub on the Second Ring , outfitted with bar seating around a 2/3 16:35 Thu , Oct 16 M .. Chapter 334 Nightclub Mixer 4.2) Finished central dance floor where men and women were grinding and dancing under flashing lights . Led by a server , Leander arrived at a table near the dance floor . Nathan , Evander , and Luke were already seated . Across from them were four female university students .

Three of them were strikingly pretty , the kind of girls who easily stood out in a crowd , with carefully applied makeup that made them instant attention - grabbers in the night scene . But the fourth was different . Her beauty was sharp and cold , her almond eyes gleaming like rippling spring water , every glance carrying a trace of allure . She was stunning , dressed in a fitted black leather jacket that accentuated her perfect figure , with black boots crossed casually beneath the table .

The way she carried herself was pure nightclub queen , and more than a few men nearby couldn't resist sneaking looks , their interest barely restrained . Though seated with Nathan and the others , she barely acknowledged their efforts to engage her . Their enthusiasm earned nothing more than the occasional dismissive smile . Most of the time , she couldn't even be bothered to feign interest , her bearing lofty and untouchable . Yet Nathan and his friends didn't mind at all . They kept raising their glasses , trying their best to please her . When Leander arrived , Nathan quickly stood up .

" Boss , you're here ! " After seeing Daphne throw herself into Leander's arms in class earlier , Nathan had been thoroughly convinced of his strength and had started calling him by the new title without hesitation . Leander smiled faintly and took a seat beside them . Across the table , the four girls turned to look at him . Earlier , before he arrived , Nathan had bragged about him , claiming that Leander was unstoppable in a fight , able to take on a hundred men , and that even the campus beauty , Daphne Florian , had thrown herself into his arms . The four girls had been curious .

But now that they saw him , their first impression was that he looked utterly ordinary . The leather - clad beauty especially gave him only a single glance before immediately looking away . Remembering the day's rumor - that Daphne had embraced some boy and even cried her eyes out for him - she gave a faint , disdainful snort through her nose . [Send Gifts](#)

Chapter 335 She's My Future Wife .4) Finished The four girls ' eyes carried a trace of disdain . Leander noticed , of course , but he paid it no mind , pouring himself a drink without a word . " Come on , let me do the introductions ! " Nathan stood up eagerly . " This is Leander Ashcroft , the one we look to in our dorm ! " After that , he went down the line and introduced the girls . The one on the far right in a plaid shirt was Yulia Flavin . Next to her , wearing glasses and looking like a model student , was Raina Hawthorne .

Then came the long - haired , red - lipped girl , Livia Westbrook . From Nathan's expression , Leander could tell Livia was likely his target for the night . Finally , Nathan's face grew more serious as he smiled broadly at the last girl - the one in the leather

jacket . " Boss , this is the famous campus beauty of Highcliffe University , finance major and top student , Aurora Lysanne ! " Leander gave a slight nod of recognition . It was no wonder she had looked familiar to him .

She was the fourth - ranked campus beauty at Highcliffe University , and he had seen her photo once on the forum that Nathan had shown him . Leander smiled politely at the four girls , a nod that served as his greeting . Even when facing Aurora , the so - called fourth campus beauty , he treated her no differently . The four girls frowned instantly . They had arrived earlier , and Leander , as the last to show up- and a man at that - should have made more of an effort . But he had barely reacted , showing no interest at all , as if none of them were worth his time .

The casual attitude left them displeased . Aurora in particular bristled . She prided herself on her beauty , and now that she was getting involved with the Wave Alliance , preparing to serve as one of their financial consultants , her self - regard was higher than ever . Men usually fawned over her the moment they saw her . Yet here was Leander , not even bothering to spare her a second glance . The indifference stoked a spark of anger in her chest . " Well , well , this guy's got personality . " Livia's sultry eyes slid over to him , her tone edged with mockery .

" Nathan said the guy Daphne Florian threw herself at today was you , but honestly , I don't see it ." Her words , though veiled , carried a sharp edge : how could a girl like Daphne possibly fall for someone like him ? Nathan and the others shifted uncomfortably , their expressions stiff , but with the girls opposite them , they didn't dare retort . All eyes turned to Leander . 1/3 16:35 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 15 Sher My Future

Wife Finister Whether I look the part or not , it was me , " Leander said calmly , his tone unbothered . " Really ? " Livia narrowed her eyes with a smirk .

" I thought Nathan was pulling our leg . She lifted her glass toward him . " Since you're late , you owe us three shots . " Raina and Yulia exchanged sneering glances , while Aurora looked on with cold detachment . Leander had no desire to bicker with them , but a glance at Nathan told him everything- Nathan clearly had his eye on Livia . So , Leander inclined his head . " Fine . I came late . Three shots it is . " He was the Iron Sovereign , chairman of Jeff Enterprises . Who in the world dared demand he drink as punishment for being late ?

But since it was Nathan's gathering , and Nathan's interest in Livia was obvious , he let it slide . Without fuss , he downed three glasses in a row . The girls ' expressions softened noticeably . Seeing that his face hadn't changed a bit , calm as water , Livia clapped her hands first . " Not bad . You can really hold your liquor ! " Her fox - like eyes gleamed as she leaned forward with curiosity . " So , tell us , what's your relationship with Daphne Florian ? Why would she throw herself at you ? " You know she's the number one campus beauty at Highcliffe University . Even we envy her .

For her to be so close with you , we really have to ask - are you some long - lost relative of hers ? " The other girls , Aurora included , turned toward him with curious eyes . Aurora , being one of Highcliffe University's campus beauties like Daphne , naturally knew the weight Daphne carried . For her to throw herself at a guy in plain casual clothes suggested a relationship far from ordinary . Aurora wondered if Leander might actually be related to her .

If that were true , she would immediately change her attitude - because the Florian family was one of Highcliffe's top houses , second only to the Ashcrofts . If Leander truly had ties to them , befriending him could help secure her own future in the city . But to Livia's probing question , Leander answered calmly . " She is my future wife . " The table froze . Aurora and the others snapped their heads toward him , their faces shifting in shock before twisting into open disdain . They looked at him as if he were a fool , their contempt thinly veiled .

Everyone knew Daphne's name at Highcliffe University . Her status , her background - every detail about her was a matter of gossip . The girls , being women themselves , were especially familiar with her situation . 2/3 16:36 Thu , Oct 16 ... Chapter 335 She's My Future Wife Finisher It was common knowledge that Daphne had long been engaged . Her fiance was none other than Ethan Ashcroft , the acknowledged number one heir of Highcliffe . In their eyes , if Leander was close to her , it could only be as a distant cousin or some kind of family tie .

But to claim she was his fiancée - this was beyond arrogance . It was sheer madness . Even Nathan and the others froze , unable to believe their ears . Aurora sneered , shaking her head . " I have to admire your nerve . From what I know , Ethan Ashcroft is Daphne Florian's fiance . And you dare say she's your future wife ? Do you even realize what those words could cost you ? If Ethan hears them - if the Florians and Ashcrofts hear them - do you know what kind of fate awaits you ? " Her words made Nathan and his friends fall silent with dread . It was true .

Everyone in Highcliffe knew Daphne and Ethan were engaged . For Leander to declare otherwise wasn't just bold - it was a direct challenge , as if Ethan , the Ashcrofts , and the Florians meant nothing . The three friends darted frantic looks at Leander , signaling him to stop before he got himself into serious trouble . But Leander only gave a faint smile . " The Florian family ? The Ashcrofts ? Even if one of them were sitting right in front of me , I'd say the same thing . " Raising his glass , he drained it in one smooth motion . His tone carried nothing but scorn .

" If you happen to know anyone from the Florians or the Ashcrofts , you can tell them these words came from me - Leander Ashcroft . I'd like to see what they can actually do about it . " Send Gifts a 60

Chapter 336 F * ck off ! #Finished Leander's words once again cast a sudden chill over the table . All eyes turned toward him with different expressions , but every single one of them carried disbelief . They had already thought it arrogant enough when he declared Daphne to be his fiancée . But now , to openly dismiss both the Ashcroft family and the Florian family , even going so far as to tell Aurora to pass the message along - this was outright provocation .

In Highcliffe , among the old - money dynasties , the Florian and Ashcroft families were unrivaled , two giants towering over the rest . Across Astria , aside from military powerhouses or the nation's most influential figures , no one dared tug on their tiger's whiskers . Yet here was Leander , just a college kid , brushing them aside as if they were nothing . To them , it was the height of stupidity . Where on earth did he get such

confidence ? " I hope when Ethan Ashcroft stands in front of you , you can still act this casual and keep up that bravado .

" Aurora's voice was cold as she turned her head away , refusing to waste another word on him . In her eyes , Leander was nothing but a reckless fool who didn't know what he was doing . Challenging both the Florian family and the Ashcroft family - there wasn't a single wealthy house in all of Highcliffe with the nerve to do that . So , what right did Leander , standing there alone , think he had ? Livia , Yulia , and Raina had all been drawn to Leander at first , impressed by his sharp looks . Though lean , he carried the clear lines of muscle under his shirt .

They had been mildly interested . But his words were like a bucket of cold water dumped straight over their heads . A fool this reckless would only drag disaster down on anyone who got too close . The mood at the table dropped to freezing point . Nathan could only smile bitterly at Leander , helpless to change the situation . He never expected a simple mixer to spiral into this . Still , he felt no blame toward Leander - only worry that his fearless attitude would one day bring trouble from the Florian and Ashcroft families that couldn't be cleaned up .

Everyone clearly wanted nothing to do with Leander , but he paid it no mind . He simply poured himself another drink and carried on as if he were alone . From then on , Livia , Yulia , and Raina gave their full attention to Nathan's side of the table , laughing and shouting over dice games and drinking challenges . The six of them paired off , men and women mixing together , and left Leander completely out of it . Nathan tried more

than once to draw Leander into the fun , but every attempt was smoothly redirected by Livia .

Helpless , he could only give Leander an apologetic smile across the table . Leander shook his head slightly , unconcerned . He hadn't come here for their company anyway .

1/3 16:36 Thu , Oct 16 N Chapley X26654 of O O : Finished His purpose was only to keep watch , in case anyone from the Wave Alliance came looking for Nathan and his friends . As for what those women thought of him , he couldn't have cared less . " Hey , want a drink ? " Aurora's voice suddenly came from across the table . She raised her glass toward him , her shining bright , every bit the image of a breathtaking beauty .

eyes She might have ignored him on the surface , but she had been watching closely . Whether it was the way Livia and the others excluded him , or when she herself had brought up the Ashcroft and Florian families , Leander never once flinched . His composure never wavered . Aurora prided herself on being sharp . She knew well how this society worked and had judged more people than she could count . Yet this kind of unshakable calm , she had only ever seen in the truly powerful - the kind of men who held lives in their hands and commanded from the top .

But how could someone like Leander , a mere student , carry himself with that same kind of unshaken confidence , as if nothing in the world could faze him ? Curiosity stirred , and she decided to test him , lifting her glass again in invitation . However , Leander didn't even glance her way . He drained his own glass in one go and calmly filled it again . " This guy ... " Aurora's eyes widened , a flash of anger sparking in their

depths . She lifted her glass with ease . Usually , she had more boys than she could count scrambling for the chance to clink glasses with her .

But Leander just lounged there , utterly unmoved , not even sparing her gesture a glance . In all her 19 years , this was the very first time she had ever been ignored like that . " Hmph ." She let out a sharp little snort , more annoyed with him than ever . She prided herself on her beauty - so much so that even Rodrick , president of the Wave Alliance , had shown interest in her . The first time they met , he had immediately invited her to join the Wave Alliance as a financial consultant .

Yet Leander , who didn't seem to have any notable family or background , had brushed her off time and again . That , she could not stomach . Just then , a tall , broad - shouldered young man with a tattoo snaking down his arm stood up from a nearby table . With a glass in hand , he walked right up to Aurora . " Beautiful , how about a drink with me ? " Aurora sneered inwardly . A man drinking with her would need to be at least a vice president of the Wave Alliance or a son from one of the great families .

This guy might have looked decent enough , but the street - bred roughness clinging to him was impossible to miss . In her eyes , he had no business approaching her . 2/3
16:36 Thu , Oct 16 M ... Chapter 336 F * ck off ! : 42 Finished Her eyes went cold , and she almost refused outright . But then her gaze flicked across the table to where Leander sat calm and unbothered , and her mind changed . Narrowing her eyes , a sly glint sparking within them , she pointed at him . " Sorry , my boyfriend doesn't let me drink with other men . Why don't you go ask him what he thinks ?

" She batted her lashes at the tattooed man , egging him on . The man turned immediately , locking his eyes on Leander . He understood exactly what Aurora was doing . In nightlife like this , most girls were bold , flirtatious , and free - spirited . Even if they already had boyfriends , those men were only placeholders - good until someone better came along . If another guy could outdo the boyfriend , the girl was his to take . He thought Aurora was one of those girls . All he needed to do was put Leander in his place , and then Aurora would be his for the night .

" Hey buddy , she's your girl , huh ? Lucky man . " The tattooed young man raised his glass toward Leander . " I just want a drink with her and maybe a dance . You don't mind , do you ? If you don't , just drink this glass , and we'll all still be friends ." As he spoke , he flexed his arm deliberately , muscles rippling with the kind of definition that only came from endless hours of training . Aurora's lips curved into a smile . She had done it on purpose , shifting the trouble onto Leander . He had ignored her charms one too many times , and she wanted to see him squirm .

Later , she could always step in and " rescue " him . Sure , the tattooed thug looked intimidating , but they were in Highcliffe . All she needed to do was drop the Wave Alliance's name - better yet , Rodrick's - and no one would dare cross her . Meanwhile , Leander , one hand still around his glass , glanced sideways at the man whose eyes brimmed with provocation , clearly not taking Leander seriously . He was no stranger to this place - he had been here hundreds of times , knew everyone from the bar owner to the waitstaff , and had caused more than his share of trouble .

Every time , the other side ended up apologizing . This kind of scene was routine for him . And Leander , in his plain college clothes , looked like nothing worth his respect . Aurora kept her gaze locked on Leander , waiting to see how he would react . But Leander simply lifted his thumb , tilted it sideways toward the man , and said one word . " F * ck off . " Send Gifts

From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir Chapter 337 Call the Wave Alliance " F * ck off ! " It was all Leander spat out in the face of the young man's provocation . 42 Finished Aurora was taken aback again . She had once more witnessed the sheer arrogance of Leander . The tattooed young man's expression shifted . He hadn't expected this scholarly - looking man to speak with such hard - edged defiance . After a pause , his lips curled into a cold smile , and he stepped closer . " What did you just say ? Say it again . " Leander lifted his glass and drank , his voice calm .

" I told you to f * ck off . Was that clear enough ? " " Yeah ? " The young man's face twisted , the last trace of pretense gone as he grinned with wild arrogance . " You're not a local , aren't you , buddy ? You sure talk big . I offered to drink with you as a courtesy . I showed interest in your girlfriend as a favor to you . And you tell me to f * ck off ? Who the f * ck do you think you are ? " He was used to being king of this place . There wasn't a soul here he didn't know , and even the bar owner had to show him courtesy . Never once had anyone dared talk to him with such insolence .

At the sound of commotion , Nathan and the others paused their games , frowning deeply as they turned to watch . Livia and the others looked on coldly , their faces saying , " Of course , this would happen . " In their minds , someone like Leander -

reckless , arrogant , never knowing when to shut up - was bound to bring disaster sooner or later . Yulia and Raina , on the other hand , silently thanked their luck that they hadn't let his good looks tempt them closer . Otherwise , they'd be caught in this mess too . The young man's voice was loud enough to draw stares from all around .

Most of those eyes belonged to his acquaintances . In an instant , more than thirty people rose from their seats , faces dark and mocking as they turned toward Leander . Aurora was secretly startled by the sight . She realized she had gone too far and was about to call the Wave Alliance to intervene when suddenly Leander made his move . With one hand , he reached out , seized the man's collar , and gave a sharp tug . Bang ! The man's 180 - pound frame flew sideways , crashing down on a table .

The reinforced glass shattered instantly , and he landed sprawled out on the ground , blood streaming across his face 1/4 16:36 Thu , Oct 16 ... Chapter 53 all the Wave Alliance as his vision spun . Everyone froze , stunned into silence . Aside from Nathan and his friends , not a soul had imagined Leander would strike so decisively . Finished The man's companions quickly rushed to haul him up . His face a bloody mess , he glared at Leander with twisted rage . " You b * stard - how dare you ?! " He swung his arm , and over twenty men surged forward , circling Leander from all sides .

The sight sent Livia and the others into shrill screams . They might have been regulars in nightlife , but they had never witnessed anything of this scale . Aurora's eyes flickered with regret, but it was too late - fists were already flying toward Leander . Leander , glass still in hand , showed not the slightest change in expression . His foot shifted lightly , his arm swept casually . With every step he took , three or five men went flying .

In just a few breaths , over twenty bodies crashed and tumbled in every direction , crying out in pain , none of them able to rise again .

The entire bar stood dumbfounded . Even the music faltered to a halt . One man had laid waste to over twenty opponents in an instant . Even the young regulars who thought they had seen every kind of brawl were shaken to their core . Leander raised his glass , finished the last drop without spilling a single bit , and swallowed it down in one smooth motion . All around , countless young women fixed their sparkling eyes on him , admiration plain in their faces .

Leander's striking looks , lean build , and now this display of strength - effortless and composed - made him every inch the ideal man they fantasized about . Even Livia and her friends sat frozen in disbelief . None of them had imagined that the bookish , cultured Leander would possess such overwhelming power . Leander brushed the fight off as if it were nothing more than swatting flies . He sat back down , set his glass aside , and pointed a finger at Aurora . " You'd better watch it , woman .

Try your little tricks on me again , and I won't mind giving you the same treatment they just got ." For someone like Leander , her petty schemes were far too easy to see through . Since she had chosen to stir trouble with him , he didn't mind stretching his limbs a bit . But Aurora wasn't his girlfriend - otherwise , the tattooed thug wouldn't just be lying unconscious ; he'd be a corpse already . " You ... " Aurora's anger surged , but when she remembered all of this had started because of her , the words caught in her throat . She could only swallow her pride and stay silent .

Livia and the others , who had looked down on him before , now had their contempt wiped 211 16:36 Thu , Oct 16 M ... Chapter 337 Call the Wave Alliance 42 * Finished away completely . After seeing Leander's ruthlessness , none of them dared show him even the slightest attitude . On the other hand , Nathan and his friends wore helpless expressions . They could accept what they'd seen - after all , they had seen Leander stand against a hundred men the night before . Still , gazing at the chaos in the bar , Nathan couldn't shake his worry . Leander had struck first.

If the authorities investigated , he would be the one to shoulder the blame . His heart jumped , and he hurriedly stood up . " Boss , let's get out of here ! " He called out , then gestured for Livia and the others to follow . They blinked back to their senses and hurried to stand , ready to leave the bar . Before they could move , however , a group of burly men in black stormed in . At their head was a man in a blue suit , his hair slicked back , carrying himself with authority . His gaze swept the room , froze on the chaos , and his voice rang sharp . " Who did this ?

" Every eye turned immediately toward Leander . He rose to his feet as well , face calm . " I did . Is there a problem ? " The suited man narrowed his eyes , studying Leander closely , realizing he didn't recognize him . His attention then shifted to the bloodied thug lying unconscious on the floor , and his expression hardened . " Buddy , if you're throwing punches in my bar , then I'm afraid you won't be walking away from this so easily ." Leander gave a soft laugh , utterly unconcerned . " You think you can stop me ? " The suited man waved his hand lightly . " Not me . I'm just the owner .

You fought in my place , so you'll be paying for the damages . But you laid hands on him - without a proper explanation , the Wave Alliance will come for you ." The words fell , and a ripple of shock tore through the bar . Aurora's eyes sharpened in an instant . Many looked at the unconscious thug with disbelief . Plenty in this crowd had known him , but none had realized he had ties to the Wave Alliance . At the mention of that name , faces across the bar changed . The Wave Alliance was a giant in Highcliffe , run by Rodrick himself .

Even Tycen of the powerful O'Brien family held the title of honorary president . Their influence shook the entire city . The young women who had just been gazing at Leander with admiration now quickly pulled back , their faces tinged with regret . His strength was impressive , yes , but against the Wave Alliance ? That was a problem that fists alone couldn't solve . Nathan , Luke , and the others stood frozen , their minds blank .

Nathan was still trying to think of a way out when Leander suddenly leaned back into his chair , crossed one leg over the other , and smiled faintly with open disdain . " The Wave Alliance ? " 3/4 16:36 Thu , Oct 16 M ... Chapter 337 Call the Wave Alliance His lips curved in amusement . " Fine . I'll give you time . Call them . I want to see just how much weight this so - called Wave Alliance really carries ." Send Gifts 60

c 338

Finished The bar went dead silent . Everyone had assumed that once Leander heard the name of the Wave Alliance , he would turn pale with fear and beg for mercy on the spot . Instead , he showed no trace of fear , even sitting back down and telling the suited man to call them over . This wasn't arrogance anymore - it was madness . The Wave Alliance's power in Highcliffe was

common knowledge . Even outsiders- businessmen , students , and anyone who had ever set foot in the city - had heard of them . They were a force no one dared provoke .

Even the mid - tier and minor families of Highcliffe never dared challenge the Wave Alliance , always yielding and keeping their heads down . That was how strong they were . Yet Leander , clearly an outsider , dismissed them outright , even mocking them by saying he wanted to see how much weight they really carried . In this entire city , there were only a handful of people who would ever dare to say something like that . " That idiot ... What's he doing dragging us down with him ?! " Livia and her friends were completely stunned , regret eating them alive .

If they had known Leander would be at this mixer , reckless enough to spit in the face of the Wave Alliance, they never would have agreed to come . By saying what he had , Leander had made a mortal enemy of the Wave Alliance . They barely knew him , but since they had come here with him , they would be implicated too . Their families might have been respectable , but as outsiders , they weren't even qualified to join the Alliance , much less oppose it . Nathan , Luke , and Evander were just as shocked , shaking their heads over and over .

Leander's strength impressed them , yes , but daring to speak so recklessly about the Wave Alliance was madness . If their people really showed up , money alone wouldn't be enough to fix this . Around the bar , whispers spread like fire . Some admired Leander's courage , others scoffed at his stupidity , but not one person left their seat . Everyone wanted to see how this would play out . " Well , young man , you've got guts . " The man in the blue suit raised a thumb toward Leander . There was no mockery in his tone - only genuine respect .

In a city as vast as Highcliffe , only three people would dare to insult the Wave Alliance , and they were all heirs of staggering power , scions with enough status to shake the country . But

Leander , dressed in plain clothes , had stood up to them openly . In all the years this bar owner had seen , he had never witnessed such a thing . 16:37 Thu , Oct 16 M .. Chapter 338 Teli Rodrick to Drag Himself Here 42 Finished " Bring out a bottle of Lafite and serve it to this young man , " he ordered , waving to his men . Then he pulled out his phone and dialed . " Mr. Marlowe ." He explained what had happened in the bar , gave a few clipped details , and then hung up . Not far from Maplebrook Axis , in another lounge bar , a group of young men lounged in VIP seats right by the dance floor , surrounded by beautiful women . Within around 15 feet of their table , every other table was empty - no one dared sit close , terrified of brushing against them by accident . One of the young men had just ended a call . His expression was dark enough that the striped- trousered young man beside him looked over . " Zeke , what is it ?

" The man called Zeke grinned faintly and waved his hand . " You all continue , Mr. Rodrick . My cousin just got beaten up over at Maplebrook Axis . The bar owner called me over to take a look . " At that , Rodrick gave a lazy nod . " Remember - don't go too far . Make sure you've got a reason for whatever happens , so no one can say anything after . Take a few men and go handle it . " Zeke nodded in agreement . He motioned with his hand , and several men in sunglasses immediately stood and followed him out toward Maplebrook Axis .

Back inside the bar , Nathan's expression grew darker as he racked his brain for a way out . Aurora , however , kept her gaze locked on Leander , thoughts flashing behind her eyes . Even now , with the Wave Alliance's name on everyone's lips , Leander sat calm and unhurried . That could mean only two things : either he was ignorant , too fearless to understand what kind of monster the Wave Alliance was , or he had some hidden trump card that gave him the confidence to stand against them . She simply couldn't imagine what card that might be .

In all of Highcliffe , only a few - Ethan , Daphne , Tycen - had the power to look down on the Wave Alliance . Leander was not one of them . " Daphne ? " Aurora's eyes flickered suddenly . Could it be that Leander's this fearless with the Wave Alliance only because of his connection to Daphne ? While she was still puzzling it over , commotion broke out at the door . Everyone turned their heads as a group strode in . The bar's security quickly stepped aside , terrified of blocking their way . " It's the Wave Alliance ! " someone gasped . 2/4 16:37 Thu , Oct 16 M ...

Chapter 138 Tell Rodrick to Drag Himself Here : Finished At the front was a young man with ordinary features , yet his gaze swept the room with disdain . With every lift of his brow , those around him lowered their heads , unwilling to meet his eyes . His presence alone pressed down on the crowd . The suited bar owner rushed forward immediately . " Mr. Marlowe ! I've already sent your cousin to the hospital for treatment . The others have been carried out as well . The one who struck them - he's right there ! " He pointed straight at Leander .

The young man gave a faint nod , motioning for the suited man to step back . Then he advanced a step and stood before Leander . " So , you're the one who hurt my cousin ? " His words carried weight , nothing like the tattooed thug from before . Everyone present could feel the pressure radiating from him . " That's ... the Wave Alliance's vice president , Zeke of the eastern outskirts ' Marlowe family ? " Several people recognized him instantly , their exclamations rippling through the bar . Many young women's eyes sparkled , throwing flirtatious glances his way .

As the Wave Alliance's second - in - command , Zeke controlled half the organization's power . In the entire Alliance , only Rodrick and Tycen stood above him . His influence was immense , and across Highcliffe , fewer than five young clites dared defy him . To follow Zeke meant wealth , status , and power without limit . Aurora's eyes flickered again . She was shaken . She

had assumed the Alliance would only send some mid - level figure , but here was Zeke himself . Her gaze slid toward Leander . If he didn't pull Daphne's name now , there was no way out .

Nathan and his friends gave up completely , shrinking into silence . Leander drained the last drop of wine in his glass , then raised his head calmly . " Yes , I hit him . Now I want to know - how exactly do you plan to deal with me ? " His voice held nothing but mockery , as though he were teasing Zeke . Gasps erupted around the bar . They couldn't believe , even now , Leander still carried himself with ease . Zeke narrowed his eyes , dismissing Leander as nothing but an ignorant fool . His hand waved lightly . " Take him . Throw him straight into the station .

" At his command , two men in sunglasses stepped forward to restrain Leander . " So , this is the mighty Wave Alliance's way of handling things ? " Leander chuckled , shaking his head . " You're nothing more than a vice president , yet you dare order men to detain me at will ? Quite the display of power . " The two men hesitated , unsure . Leander's face remained calm as he wagged his finger . " I heard your alliance was founded by Rodrick . Back when I had him under my boot , none of you 3/4 16:37 Thu , Oct 16 M ... Chapter 338 Tell Rodrick to Drag Himself Here #Finished meant anything .

And now a handful of nobodies like you think you can lay hands on me ? " With a sweep of his arm , a bottle sailed across the room , shattering at Zeke's feet . " You're not important enough to talk to me yet . Tell Rodrick to drag himself here ." Send Gifts 60

Chapter 339 Leander Ashcroft - It's You ?! Finished It was like a bomb had gone off in the bar . Shock rippled through the crowd , leaving everyone reeling . Dozens of eyes turned toward

Leander , each carrying disbelief in his absolute confidence and unshakable nerve to speak so wildly . In Highcliffe , there were fewer than a handful of young people who dared show no fear of Rodrick . Even Ethan and Daphne had never clashed with him head - on , much less said something like telling Rodrick to drag himself here .

But Leander had spoken so casually , as if it were only natural - and even claimed he had once stepped on Rodrick himself . The arrogance in that statement was beyond imagining . Even the members of the Wave Alliance froze . The two men in sunglasses who had stepped forward stopped in their tracks , suddenly unwilling to make a move . Leander's words might have been outrageous , but what if they were true ? What if this man in front of them really was someone even their president , Rodrick , couldn't defeat ? If they rushed him recklessly , wouldn't that be suicide ?

Zeke , so formidable in Highcliffe that almost no one dared provoke him , now stood still with a bottle shattered at his feet and wine dripping down his trousers . His expression kept shifting , but he made no move . He truly couldn't figure out who Leander was . In the two years since the Wave Alliance had risen , every time Zeke showed up , the opposing side groveled and begged for mercy . No one had ever shown a shred of backbone . Yet Leander was so calm it was unsettling . If this wasn't an act , then it meant he had a real reason to be fearless .

Zeke gave Leander a long look , then leaned to whisper something to his men before retreating into the back hall of the bar . Aurora's eyes glittered brighter than ever as she stared at Leander without blinking . His performance had shocked her again and again . She had thought that once Zeke arrived , the story was over . Yet Leander hadn't just dismissed Zeke ; he had dragged

Rodrick's name through the mud too . With just a few words , he had silenced dozens of Wave Alliance men . Nothing about this matched her expectations .

She couldn't help wondering if what Leander said was true - if Rodrick was really puny in his eyes , if he had once stomped him into the ground . In that case , what kind of terrifying background did Leander have ? 1/4 16:37 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 339 Leander Ashcroft It's You ? 42 Finished The more she thought about it , the more she wanted to uncover who he really was . Behind her , Nathan and his friends exchanged bewildered looks , too stunned to speak . Livia and the other women stayed silent as well , standing to the side with nowhere to hide .

The Wave Alliance's dozen - odd enforcers didn't make a move , but neither did they leave . They kept a wary eye on Leander , ready to block him if he tried to escape . Leander , however , seemed completely unconcerned . He tipped the empty Lafite bottle toward the suited bar owner . Without hesitation , the man gestured for his staff to bring out another bottle of expensive red wine . In the back hall , Zeke pulled out his phone and dialed a number . It rang for a long time before the line finally clicked on .

A burst of noise came through - heavy metal music and bar chatter in the background . " Zeke ? What is it ? " came a voice edged with impatience . " Mr. Rodrick ! " Zeke's tone straightened instantly . " I'm handling something at Maplebrook Axis , but the guy- " " What , you can't even handle something that small ? " Rodrick's voice turned cold . " No , that's not it ! " Zeke lowered his voice . " Mr. Rodrick , he said ... he said he knows you . He said ... to drag yourself over here ." The line went silent . The weight of it sank heavily , and Zeke held his breath , afraid to exhale .

After a long pause , Rodrick's voice finally came through again . " Interesting . There's actually someone in all of Highcliffe who dares order me around , telling me to drag myself over ... " The chill of malice seeped through Zeke's phone as Rodrick's voice continued . " Fine . Stay there with your men . I'm coming now . I've spent the past few years tied up with Wave Alliance affairs , rarely showing my face . Looks like too many people have forgotten what I used to be . "

With that , the line went dead . Zeke didn't hesitate .

He strode back into the bar's main hall and fixed Leander with a cold stare . " Mr. Rodrick said he's on his way . " The bar erupted again . For someone like Zeke , the Wave Alliance's vice president , to show up was already rare enough . But now even Rodrick himself , the president , would be coming . That meant both the president and vice president of the Wave Alliance would be under the same 2/4 16:37 Thu , Oct 16 M ... Chapter 339 Leander Ashcroft - It's You ?! roof .

The crowd buzzed with excitement at the chance to witness such a spectacle . 5 42 Finished "

Then tell him to hurry .

I'll only wait ten minutes . " Leander was still composed , already pouring from his second bottle of Lafite . Zeke studied his expression carefully . If Leander were bluffing , the news of Rodrick's arrival should have rattled him , should have left some trace on his face . But there was nothing - just a calm that gave away nothing at all . Who is this man ? Across Highcliffe , only Daphne , Ethan , and Eira were bold enough to stand unafraid before Rodrick . Yet Leander's bearing surpassed even theirs . Zeke's mind raced , but no answer came .

Roughly five minutes later , the bar's front doors were shoved open with force . A crowd poured in , their momentum far more overwhelming than when Zeke had first arrived . At their head was a young man wearing a trench coat despite the summer heat , striped trousers hanging loose . His

outfit was mismatched , almost absurd - but not a single person dared laugh . He was none other than Rodrick Wave , president of the Wave Alliance , one of the top young elites in all of Highcliffe .

Rodrick's face carried a shadowy gloom , his eyes forever weighed with darkness , the look of a man who hid depths no one could easily measure . His gaze swept the bar . When it landed on Aurora , his eyes lit up , and she answered with a soft smile and a polite nod . Then , he strode forward and took his place in the center of the dance floor , his voice booming across the room . " Who ordered me to drag myself here ? " The words sent a jolt through the bar . " That would be me . " Leander lounged against the couch , still holding his glass of red wine .

He turned his head lazily , lips curved in a smile . " Rodrick , nine years and you're still the same pathetic coward , dressing like a joke . Seems the words I gave you back then didn't sink in . " Rodrick snapped around , eyes narrowing at Leander . He was sure he didn't recognize this man , yet something about him carried a strange familiarity that left him unsettled . " Who are you ? " he demanded . Leander took another sip of wine , utterly at ease . " Back in West Meadow , you were on your knees begging me for mercy . Don't tell me you've forgotten .

" 3/4 16:37 Thu , Oct 16 M Chapter 339 Leander Ashcroft - It's You ?! " West Meadow ? " : 42 Finished Rodrick's chest trembled as memories surged - scenes burned deep into him nine years ago resurfaced with brutal clarity . His pupils shrank to pinpoints , his face contorted , and his voice burst out loud enough for everyone in the bar to hear , laced with shock and fear . " Leander Ashcroft - it's you ?! "

Chapter 340 Trouble Stirs Again . " Leander Ashcroft - it's you ?! " ๗ Finished Rodrick's voice rang through the bar , thick with shock and disbelief , but beneath it lay a raw edge of fear . He stared at Leander as though seeing a ghost , his eyes bulging , his mind racing in turmoil . That name - Leander Ashcroft - was his childhood nightmare . Nine years ago , Rodrick had been 15. At that time , Ethan and Tycen were still little kids , not even ten , far from being the figures they were now .

Though Rodrick came from only a second- rate family , among the third generation of Highcliffe's youth , he stood at the head of the pack . In those days , he had been drunk on his own pride , convinced he was the foremost of his peers , looking down on everyone else . That was until the day he met ten - year - old Leander . He remembered clearly how the conflict started - with Ethan , who was only nine then . Ethan had just begun to make progress in martial arts , but hadn't yet reached the rank of Martial Practitioner . Rodrick , being older , had already achieved that strength .

That day , he completely suppressed Ethan , even landing a punch square on his face . Back then , the families ' elders rarely intervened in disputes between the younger generation . Seeing himself overpower a child of one of the top families made him swell with arrogance . But then another boy showed up - Leander . He would never forget it . On that field in West Meadow , Leander came alone , saying he was there to stand up for his younger brother . One by one , he took down Rodrick's entire squad .

In front of countless witnesses , he beat Rodrick to the ground , his boot pressing half of Rodrick's face into the dirt . In the end , Rodrick had been forced to kneel and beg for

mercy . Only then had Leander let him go . But from that day on , the name Leander was burned into him , etched deeper than bone . Even now , as the head of the Wave Alliance , one of the most influential young elites of Highcliffe , standing shoulder to shoulder with Ethan , Daphne , Tycen , and Eira , Rodrick still couldn't erase the memory of being 15 years old and kneeling to a ten - year - old boy .

Leander's name was an unshakable shadow , and time had only made it sharper . " Oh ? So , you still remember me . " Leander's faint smile curved with mockery , his presence no different from the boy who had trampled him into the ground back in West Meadow . 16:37 Thu , Oct 16 ... Chapter 340 Trouble Stirs Again 42 Finished '

Remember this face . My name is Leander Ashcroft . If you hold a grudge and want revenge , you can come find me anytime . ' That same easy , almost playful tone had once crushed all of Rodrick's pride , shattering his confidence and dignity into pieces .

Afterward , Rodrick had collapsed into despair , hiding away in the Wave Residence for months , too ashamed to step outside . Only when rumors spread that Leander had fallen ill and died did he breathe again , daring to reemerge . He built himself back up , founding the Wave Alliance and rising to power in Highcliffe . But now , the nightmare he thought buried in the past stood before him , alive and undeniable . How could he not tremble ? How could he not fear ? " No ... Impossible ! " He shook his head violently .

His voice cracked into a near - hysterical scream , his composure unraveling . " You can't be Leander ! You died nine years ago . You can't be him- it's impossible ! " Faces around the bar shifted in unison , every expression filled with dread . Up until now , Leander's calm strength had been unsettling , but many still believed he was bluffing -

just a paper tiger putting on a show . They had never believed anyone could truly stand unafraid before the president of the Wave Alliance . But Rodrick's reaction - the collapse in his voice , the raw fear - was undeniable .

After only a few words , the man who ruled Highcliffe's underworld looked broken . The entire bar shivered with unease . " Who is he really ? Why does Rodrick look so terrified of him ? " Aurora's expression shifted again and again , her bright eyes fixed tightly on Leander as though she could see straight through him . Aurora had only known Rodrick for less than five days , but her ability to read people was sharp .

She knew Rodrick was a man of deep scheming , someone who rarely revealed emotion , his years at the helm of the Wave Alliance forging in him the poise of a leader who could stay calm in any crisis . Yet now , at the mere sight of Leander , he had lost all composure , muttering like a madman . The sight shattered everything she thought she understood about him . Zeke and the rest of the Wave Alliance men stood frozen in place , utterly at a loss . And Nathan and his friends exchanged helpless glances , none of them knowing what to say . " Nine years , and you're still this afraid of me .

" Leander's lips curved into a faint smile as he stepped forward and patted Rodrick on the shoulder . Rodrick jolted as if struck by lightning , stumbling back several steps to widen the distance 2/4 16:37 Thu , Oct 16 M ... Chapter 340 Trouble Stirs Again 42 Finished between them . His eyes brimmed with fear and dread . " Leander ... why ? Why are you here ? " He nearly screamed in collapse . " Nine years ago , the Ashcroft family announced your death from illness . That was news accepted across all of Highcliffe's upper circles . How could you not be dead ?!

" His words carried more than panic - they carried information . At once , the onlookers caught on to the key point . " The Ashcroft family ? Is he referring to the Ashcroft family of Highcliffe ? He's one of them ?! " In a blink , the crowd's gazes toward Leander shifted again . What had been doubt and curiosity now turned into reverence . Even Aurora's eyes trembled with shock . She had suspected Leander might be connected to the Ashcrofts , but hadn't dared confirm it . Now Rodrick had spoken it aloud . Judging from the fear he showed , Leander's status in that family was no small thing .

He might even be of the senior branch . Yet by all public record , Gareth had only one son- Ethan . So , what role did Leander play in this ? While she wrestled with the question , Leander spoke . " That so - called death was nothing but a smokescreen the Ashcroft family released to cover the truth . As you can see , I'm very much alive . " He stepped forward , cold light flashing in his eyes . " Rodrick , since returning to Highcliffe , I've heard about this Wave Alliance you built - how it dominates the city , how nearly 80 % of the elite families ' children have joined .

Quite the force you've built . But now that I've seen it for myself , it looks rather unimpressive . " At that , he pointed toward Zeke , his face full of scorn . " Earlier , some tattooed trash came to provoke me . I left him half - dead . Then , your so - called vice president here tried to have me thrown in a cell . " Sending your dogs to bite at me - you really are bold . " The room fell silent . For Leander to call Zeke - a vice president of the Wave Alliance - a mere dog , and for Zeke himself to only clench his fists , too afraid to reply , sent a shiver through everyone .

Rodrick's fear only deepened under Leander's gaze . Nine years ago , on that field in West Meadow , he had been trampled until there was nothing left of his pride . Now , even as president of the Wave Alliance , he felt no courage to resist . His voice came weak , his head bowed as he took a step back . " I'm sorry , Mr. Leander . You ... You may go . " 3/4 16:37 Thu , Oct 16 ... Chapter 340 Trouble Stirs Again : · (4 ?) Finished

The words rang like thunder .

The president and vice president of the Wave Alliance had both come in person , and still , they could do nothing but bow their heads before Leander . " Hmph ." Leander let out a snort , then waved at Nathan and the others . " Come on . Let's go somewhere else . " Nathan , Livia , and the rest snapped out of their daze , ready to follow . But just then , a voice boomed from the doorway , powerful enough to shake the walls of the bar . " Rodrick might let you walk away , but I , Tycen O'Brien , won't ! " Send Gifts 60 四