

From Outcast to Overlord: The Unyielding Heir Novel

Chapter 341 You B * stard ! : 53 Finished The roar rolled in from the front gates , deep and thunderous , hitting everyone like a wall of sound . It was even harsher than the heavy metal blasting inside the bar . People flinched , some clutching their ears as if the noise were drilling straight into their skulls . " Tycen ? " A few folks finally caught on , their expression twisting in shock . The heir of that top - tier family- what the hell's he doing here ? Everyone turned toward the entrance . A tall figure was striding in , shoulders squared , steps heavy and sure .

Tycen looked no older than twenty - two or twenty - three , dressed sharp in a high - collared shirt and polished crocodile leather shoes . His cropped hair stood up like bristles , giving him a fierce edge . The moment his eyes swept across the room , the air shifted . There was a pressure in that gaze -so intense that anyone foolish enough to meet it head - on would feel their chest tighten , as if their will was being dragged away . He wasn't what people would call handsome .

Still , the strength in his brows and how he carried himself gave off a raw commanding energy that was impossible to ignore . He had come alone , yet somehow his presence hit harder than the entire Wave Alliance squad that had just stormed in . One man , and already the whole place felt like it belonged to him . " Mr. Tycen ? " Rodrick froze for half a beat , stunned by who he was seeing . The hall had already gone stiff before Tycen showed up . Now , the silence grew heavier with him here - nobody dared speak .

If Rodrick was the rising star of Highcliffe's younger generation , this man who had just walked in was something else entirely - the star among stars . Tycen , the scion of the O'Brien Family , was one of the top heirs of Highcliffe . Tycen strode forward with a commanding presence and stopped beside Rodrick . The sight of Rodrick shrinking back made him scoff . " Rodrick , you're the head of Wave Alliance , and this is how far you've fallen ? " Tycen's voice cut through the air . " Wave Alliance is being trampled underfoot , and all you can do is stand aside ?

When you invited me to join as your honorary president , where was that unshakable pride you were so proud to flaunt ? Back then , you swore you'd make Wave Alliance known across the land . This " - 1/4 17:05 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 341 You B'stard ! he jabbed a finger at Rodrick- " is what you call living up to your word ? " Tycen shoved Rodrick back , pulling him out of the way . 53 Finished " Fine then . Let me see who's so untouchable that even you won't stand up to them . If you don't have the guts , I'll step in .

I'm part of Wave Alliance too , and there's no way in hell I'm sitting this out . " With that , Tycen turned , locking eyes with Leander . Everyone felt the air crackle for a heartbeat - like sparks had burst into flames between them . That evening , Tycen was supposed to hang out with Rodrick at a slow - beat bar near Maplebrook Axis . Rodrick had said he'd swing by for a bit . However , after waiting and seeing no sign of him , Tycen became suspicious and decided to check it out himself . He never expected to catch Rodrick caving in to someone , which lit his fuse on the spot .

Wave Alliance wasn't on par with the Highcliffe elites , but it was still one of the biggest youth circles around , not something anyone could ignore . Tycen held the title of honorary president , which meant his reputation and the group's interests were tied together . So , when Rodrick caved in to Leander , it was basically the same as Wave Alliance failing to put him in his place . In other words , even Tycen had no way of dealing with Leander . For someone as image - conscious as Tycen , that was something he would never accept . Nathan and his crew lost their grins .

He and his friends thought things would settle down once Rodrick was out of the way . Instead , what showed up was an even bigger name - a heavyweight among Highcliffe's younger generation . Tycen wasn't just anyone . Backed by a top - tier family , he was leagues above Rodrick and far more intimidating . " Tycen ? " Leander lifted his gaze , eyes leveled straight ahead . As a kid , he'd heard the name , but that was about it . No meetings , no dealings - just rumors that floated around . " You've got guts . Even Rodrick wouldn't lay a hand on you . Now I'm curious - who the hell are you ?

" Tycen asked . Rodrick might have backed down against Leander , but to Tycen , that meant nothing . Sure , Rodrick held sway over the Wave Alliance , and people on the outside liked to say he stood shoulder to shoulder with Tycen . However , that was just talk . Rodrick came from a minor family . No matter how hard he pushed himself , the best he could 2/4 17:05 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 341 You B'stard ! : hope for was barely scratching the level of an heir . However , he was still miles behind . compared to someone like Tycen - one of Highcliffe's true elite heirs .

53 Finished So , while Leander might've been enough to keep Rodrick in check , Tycen didn't even blink at the thought . The moment Tycen finished speaking , Leander let out a faint smile and parted his lips to reply -but the sound of movement at the doorway cut him off . " Oh ? Didn't expect Maplebrook Axis to be this lively tonight ." The voice was feminine and low , with a silky sweetness that slid into people's bones . Everyone turned their heads , and there she was - a woman in a slit dress , gliding forward with a slow sway in her hips .

The dress was a deep violet , the slit cut high - but not reckless . A pair of fitted bottoms beneath it kept things elegant , a sign she chased beauty without leaning into cheap allure . Her face was radiant , and her features striking - so striking that even Aurora , the crown jewel of Highcliffe University's campus belles , suddenly seemed dimmed by comparison . Tall and graceful , her figure shimmered under the lights , soft curves threaded with charm . Even Tycen , steady as usual , found his gaze lingering , surprise flickering in his eyes . " Eira . What brings you here ?

" Tycen finally snapped out of it , stepping up with a smile breaking across his otherwise stern expression . " Eira ? " Aurora's eyes sharpened . " Could it be ? Was this the one who ranked second among Highcliffe University's campus belles , the Valence Family's beloved daughter ... Tycen's fiancée , Eira ? " Around them , the others quickly put the pieces together , murmurs rising as they realized who the stunning woman in the dress really was . For Tycen to treat her this way - a stunning beauty who goes by Eira - who else could she be but the Valence Family's crown jewel ?

In all of Highcliffe , there isn't another . Eira's eyes slid past Tycen with a faint nod - none of the warmth one might expect between fiances . She drifted forward with graceful , measured steps until she stood before Leander . Her gaze carried a cool detachment laced with a spark of curiosity . " Well , this is interesting . A stranger in Highcliffe , picking fights with the Wave Alliance and leaving Rodrick with his hands tied . You're not a face I recognize , but something about you feels ... oddly familiar . Tell me - have we met before ?

" 3/4 17:05 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 341 You B * stard ! : 53) Finished She looked delicate and almost fragile . Yet the moment she entered , her presence rivaled Tycen's with ease . Every word she spoke carried an undercurrent of allure , making it impossible for the crowd to look away . Now the two most prominent heirs of Highcliffe stood before Leander . However , his expression stayed calm , almost bored . Then , his lips curved into a crooked , teasing smile . " Fatty . Been a while , huh ? Nine years , give or take . Still wearing those cartoon - print pants ?

" He drew out the last word , his tone heavy with a meaning only the two seemed to understand . Eira's eyes widened in shock , then narrowed sharply . There was a beat of silence . Then , her voice erupted , sharp with shame and fury , and echoed through the hall . " So , it's you -Leander ? You b * stard ! " Send Gifts 。 60 B

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Her anger carried a raw shame , as if Leander had struck at something she could never forgive . If anyone else had screamed at him like that , Leander would have erased them from the world without a thought . But with Eira , he just stood there , scratching the bridge of his nose with an awkward look , unmoved by her fury . When Leander was nine , he used to sneak up the back side of Westvale Peak to practice his forms . After finishing his drills one afternoon , he followed the sound of running water , planning to rinse off in a quiet pool farther up the creek .

But when he got there , he froze . Some clothes were hanging from a young tree near the water's edge . He glanced toward the pool and caught sight of a girl , maybe ten or eleven , splashing around in the shallows . She stood up momentarily , and he couldn't help but notice the curve of her chest and the flash of cartoon - print underwear peeking through . That girl was Eira . From that day on , she treated him like her sworn enemy . Leander got chased , scolded , and ambushed by her almost daily . Since she already looked older than her age , he nicknamed her ' the silly girl ' .

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The intense reaction made his gut tighten , and he pressed her for an answer . But Eira didn't spare him a glance . Her cheeks burned with anger and shame as she turned sharply toward Rodrick instead . " Rodrick , don't you have unfinished business with him , too ? You've asked me over and over to join the Wave Alliance , and I always turned you down . Well , not anymore . I'm officially in . From this moment , I'll be the second honorary president . My only condition - make sure that b * stard doesn't walk out of Maplebrook Axis tonight . Whatever it takes .

" Her words cut like steel , every syllable hard and final . The grim resolve in her tone lit a spark of delight across Rodrick's expression . He'd been chasing her support for so long , but she never agreed . Who would've thought it would be Leander , of all people , who pushed her into committing so decisively ? On my own , I wouldn't dare pick a fight with Leander . But with two of Highcliffe's brightest young elites backing me up , what the hell do I have to be afraid of ? Leander just shook his head , looking helpless .

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expressions . The arena shook again . The night's drama just kept piling on - first , Leander had forced Rodrick to back off with just a few words , enough to leave everyone rattled .

But now Tycen and Eira had both stepped in , two powerhouses throwing their weight against him . The situation was clear : none of the three intended to let Leander walk away . Both Highcliffe's brightest young elites and the head of the Wave Alliance - hell , even if Ethan , Highcliffe's number - one heir , showed up , he'd have his hands full . And Leander - he looked cornered . " My God , " someone muttered . " How many enemies has Leander managed to make ? " Nathan , Luke , and Evander exchanged glances . Each saw the same helpless look mirrored in the others ' eyes .

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That alone said plenty about just how far Leander's reach really went . Whether Tycen and Eira had come as allies or enemies didn't matter . The fact that Leander could stir up such a storm among Highcliffe's younger generation was enough to make him stand tall with pride . " B * stard . I couldn't deal with you back then , but today ? Let's see you slip away this time . I'll beat you down and drag you back to the Ashcroft Family myself ." Eira's eyes narrowed , a sly glint flashing through them . She leaned close to Tycen and whispered , " Tycen , catch him for me .

Do that , and I'll give you a kiss . " The words hit him like a jolt . He and Eira might have been engaged , but she had never let him get close . Not once . He hadn't even held her hand . She was always cool , always untouchable . But now - just for hauling Leander in - she was offering him a kiss . His heart leapt . Without a moment's hesitation , Tycen stepped forward . His figure blurred , and in an instant , he was right at Leander's side , hand snapping to clamp down on his shoulder . His power flared with every move , the strength of a half - Sovereign impossible to miss .

Leander , however , already understood the situation . The so - called Nine Geniuses of Astria were just the ones everyone talked about . With strength like Tycen's , he could easily stand among them . The man's hand shot forward , fast enough to look unstoppable to most . Yet to Leander , it was no quicker than a snail crawling across a wall . Still , he didn't bother to move . He just watched with a faint , knowing smile . Just then , a voice thundered across the room . " Tycen ! You dare lay a hand on Leander ? " A fierce gust blasted through the bar , forcing everyone to stumble back .

Tycen felt the rush at his back , instincts flaring - he dropped Leander on the spot and whipped around , striking out with a palm . Boom ! The impact roared like a cannon . Wind ripped through the place , knocking skirts high into the air as women shrieked in alarm . The speakers on the dance floor blew apart with a crack , the 3/4 17:05 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 342 The Four Scions Arrive 53 Finished twin marble platforms split into jagged lines , and the nearest tables shattered into splinters . Tycen's eyes sharpened . He staggered three steps back before he steadied himself .

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" Whoever dares touch Ander , you'll have to deal with me ! " A woman stepped forward , her beauty rivaling Eira's . With unshakable poise , she moved to Leander's side , standing opposite Ethan - one on the left , one on the right . The room fell into stunned silence . Aurora's eyes widened , her breath catching cold in her chest . " Ethan , Daphne , Tycen , Eira ... ? " Wait ... all the scions from Highcliffe's four top - tier families - the big four of the younger generation - are actually here ? Send Gifts 1

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Chapter 343 A Legend Once : 53] Finished The entire room went deathly quiet . Not a single
soul dared to breathe . It felt like time had frozen , and the atmosphere had completely solidified
. Ethan , Daphne , Eira , Tycen - each of them carried the weight of a Highcliffe top - tier family
. The Ashcrofts , the Florians , the Valences , and the O'Briens were the city's four most powerful
families . Usually , if any of them appeared in the same place , it would send shockwaves
through the crowd . And now ? All four had shown up at once .

The entire younger generation of Highcliffe's elite - the so - called four scions - was together . No one had ever witnessed anything like this . Everyone felt their hearts pound , but no one dared to speak . Every eye was glued to the dance floor , locked on the four heirs of Highcliffe's mightiest houses . Earlier , Rodrick , Tycen , and Eira had teamed up , and their target was clear : Leander . The consensus was that he was at a total disadvantage . But the situation shifted in an instant . Ethan and Daphne had appeared out of nowhere , siding with Leander .

Suddenly , the fight was no longer one - sided . The four scions , now facing off in pairs , just thinking about it sent a thrill running through everyone . Aurora's hands trembled slightly . She couldn't believe how foolish she'd been , misjudging the situation repeatedly . Leander was no ordinary guy . To draw the younger scions of Highcliffe to his side , with two actually standing with him , spoke of a network so terrifying it was almost unreal . Nathan and the others fell utterly silent .

For the first time , they realized just how mysterious- and powerful - the new guy in their dorm really was . He was a puzzle no one could figure out . Ethan caught sight of Daphne . How she looked at Leander - soft , almost tender - made his chest tighten . He swallowed it down and turned instead to Tycen . " Tycen . You dared to go after my brother ? Then how about you and I settle this ? " Tycen's right hand gave a faint tremor . That earlier strike from Ethan still lingered in his bones . The force behind it had been overwhelming .

He should have been untouchable with his half- Sovereign cultivation , yet he'd barely managed to withstand it . His entire arm was still numb . His eyes narrowed , suspicion flickering across his expression . " Ethan ... what did you just say ? He's your brother ? The Ashcroft Family has only one son . Since when do you have a brother ? " The words left Tycen's mouth , then froze .

Something clicked , and his expression shifted . " Brother ? Wait - don't tell me ... he's the Ashcroft heir .

The one who supposedly died of illness 1/4 17:05 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 343 A Legend Once nine years ago ? Leander ? " : 53 Finished Off to the side , Rodrick gave a heavy nod . The moment Daphne and Ethan appeared , he understood : even if they threw everything into this fight , they no longer had the power to threaten Leander tonight . Tycen's gaze locked onto Leander , his stare a mix of shock and curiosity . " So , it really is you ? " Nine years ago , in Highcliffe , neither Tycen nor Ethan had been anyone of note .

Back then , among the great houses , no name carried more weight than the Ashcroft heir . Tycen's father , Teion O'Brien , had even mentioned it once - if the Ashcroft heir grew into his potential , Highcliffe itself would one day be his to command . No rival among their generation could stand against him . Teion wasn't the type to hand out praise lightly . He was meticulous , sparing with his words . For him to speak so highly of a boy barely ten years old ... it said everything about Leander's terrifying talent . But the story had ended early .

Rumors spread that the boy had fallen ill and died . Tycen had regretted never seeing the legend for himself - the one who once stood above every third- generation heir in Highcliffe . Yet here he was . Alive . The fallen star , resurrected before his eyes . Aurora stood a short distance away , her brows knitted tight . She had suddenly recalled what one of the Minor family heirs had whispered to her just a few days earlier - a buried tale about an Ashcroft scion who once crushed Highcliffe's entire third generation beneath his shadow .

Back then , she had wondered what heights that man might have reached if death hadn't cut him short . And now , to her shock , she realized the very same legend - the one who once dimmed every rising star in Highcliffe - was Leander , who had just brushed her off without a care . "

Tycen , Rodrick , Eira - listen up ." Ethan's voice rang sharp . " I don't give a d * mn what Leander did tonight . If any of you lay a hand on him , you're crossing me . If you really can't swallow this , then draw your line in the sand . I'll take it all on - me and the Ashcrofts together .

" Ethan was never one to chase the spotlight . He'd always kept a low profile , almost invisible to the public eye . But right then , standing before two of the most potent young leaders and the head of the Wave Alliance , he didn't hold back . Every word dripped with raw defiance , the kind of commanding fire he had once learned from Leander himself . Daphne stepped forward at just the right moment . Her gaze swept across the crowd before locking firm . " Anyone who tries to hurt Ander will have to go through me first .

" Both powerhouses stood with Leander , quickly and fiercely defending him . 2/4 17:05 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 343 A Legend Once : ୫୩ (53 Finished Tycen's eyes narrowed . He had already been second - guessing himself ever since discovering who Leander truly was . With Ethan and Daphne both making their stand , any thought of pressing further died in his chest . Knowing Leander's the Ashcroft heir is enough - I can't move against him anymore . And now Ethan and Daphne , the top of the younger generation , both half - Sovereigns in their own right , are backing him up .

If I step in now , there's only one way it ends - me flat on the ground . At that thought , he let out a low , heavy grunt . After that , he didn't bother saying another word . Eira lifted her chin slightly , her eyes catching the sight of Daphne standing so close to Leander , far too close for

her liking . A sharp pang twisted in her chest . Grinding her heel against the floor , she said coolly , " Ethan . Daphne . Don't get me wrong - I'm not here to tear him apart . But that b * stard owes me . He vanished for nine years .

Tonight , I'm getting my answers ." Daphne knew what that look in Eira's eyes meant - women always picked up on those things . Back then , when Eira had chased after Leander day in and day out , Daphne had already sensed something was off . And now , seeing her still clinging shamelessly to him , Daphne felt a faint sting of jealousy . She reached behind Leander and gave him a quick pinch , almost without thinking . Leander managed a weary smile , then stepped forward and held a hand to Eira . " Whatever's between us can wait . You want to settle scores ? Fine .

I'll be here whenever you come knocking . But not tonight . I've got no patience to waste on this . " Most expected Eira to fire back , but she only gave a cold little snort and , surprisingly , fell silent . Leander's gaze shifted until it landed on Rodrick . " Rodrick . I made the move tonight . If you think you've got the weight to stand against me , then come find me anytime . " He paused , then suddenly jabbed a finger toward Theron , his eyes flat and merciless . " Oh , and your mutt here has a sidekick - Theron . I'm the one who shattered his limbs .

If you're itching for revenge , bring it straight to me . But hear this : if any one of my friends behind me so much as gets scratched , I won't be looking for small fry . I'll go straight for your Wave Alliance . Believe me , I don't care how big you think you are - I'll wipe you out with a flick of my hand ." Rodrick said nothing . Silence was all he had .

Back then , Leander had already pressed him into the dirt . And after nine years , no one knew whether Leander had grown weaker or even more terrifying .

Leander stretched lazily , like he was bored with the whole scene , then strolled out of the bar without a glance at Tycen - who , from start to finish , might as well have been invisible . Daphne and Ethan followed after him . Nathan and the rest slipped out as well . Aurora , though , 211 17:05 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 343 A Legend Once stayed frozen in place . : 53 Finished The Wave Alliance, the Valence Family , and the O'Brien Family show up tonight , yet none of them can put Leander down . Her eyes shimmered faintly , and she felt a rush of heat rising in her chest .

This legend , who once crushed the entire third generation of Highcliffe nine years ago , is back - and with him on the board , the future of Highcliffe is bound to be turned upside down . Send Gifts 60 4/4

Chapter 344 The Brothers ' Pact Finished " sshole ! " Tycen slammed his fist into the floor . The tiles exploded beneath his hand , and a web of cracks shot outward . Still , nobody in the bar - not even the owner in the suit -dared so much as blink . With Tycen's name and reputation , he could have levelled the whole place , and people would've swallowed it . The owner didn't even dare complain about a few broken tiles . Anger boiled behind Tycen's eyes . Ever since he rose to fame in Highcliffe , he had never felt this humiliated .

Up against Leander , Ethan , and Daphne , he hadn't dared lift a hand . All he could do was stand there and watch as Leander threw down his threat and walked away without a care . For Tycen , it was the deepest humiliation of his life . " Mr. Tycen ! " Rodrick patted his shoulder . " Don't take it so hard . I've been on the losing end of Leander's hand since we were kids . Back then in

Highcliffe , nobody topped him . Even Ethan and Daphne were behind him . " Rodrick's meaning was clear : Leander was untouchable , even for Ethan and Daphne .

It made Tycen's failure feel normal , at least in Rodrick's eyes . " You're saying I'm beneath Leander ? " Tycen's eyes snapped . His murderous intent flared so hard that Rodrick took a step back . Tycen fixed him with a cold stare . " Those Highcliffe legends are history . If Leander outshone us that was then - not now . He's just a regular man with no cultivation . Take away the Ashcroft Family halo , and he's nothing . once , " If Ethan and Daphne hadn't stepped in , I would have taken him down in one move .

Relying on Ethan and Daphne to bully people into respect - that's cowardice , pure and simple . " He spat the words out . " Next time they aren't there , I'll show him what the young generation of Highcliffe can really do . " Tycen's tone came out cold , the kind that cut straight through the air . He still couldn't shake off the sting of failing to bring Leander down , and the frustration gnawed at him . Tycen had already sensed something when he made his move against Leander . Yet Leander didn't dodge and even flinch .

His body stayed perfectly calm , not a trace of inner strength stirring in him . He looked for all the world like an ordinary man - nothing like the way Teion once described him , as the rising star of Highcliffe's younger generation . The two images didn't match at all . 1/4 17:05 Fri Oct 17
At The Bothek Parf FOY Finished Rodrick , hearing this , felt a flicker of surprise . Back in the day , Leander's cultivation had been stronger than both Ethan's and Daphne's . He was the kind of guy who could slam Rodrick to the ground and beat him without breaking a sweat .

But tonight , he hadn't lifted a hand once . He even needed Ethan and Daphne to shield him - nothing like the Leander that Rodrick remembered . Eira's gaze swept over the men , her eyes cold . Only when she thought about the version of Leander she despised did her expression shift the slightest bit . Leander ... the b * stard . Turns out he's not dead after all . And now , he shows up again . The thought curled her lips into a strange smile . Looks like Highcliffe's about to get a lot more interesting . And Leander - there's no way he'll ever slip out of my grasp .

With that , she tossed her head high and strode out of the bar , not sparing Tycen or Rodrick another glance . Outside the bar , Nathan and Livia had already made themselves scarce , slipping away with some excuse . That left only Leander , Ethan , and Daphne . " Ander , are you okay ? " Daphne's voice was soft , thick with worry as she walked beside him . " Did Tycen hurt you ? " Ethan watched them , his eyes narrowing . He kept silent , but his fists - hidden at his side- shook ever so slightly . Tm fine Leander brushed it off with a faint smile , glancing at them both .

" But what about you two ? What brought you here all of a sudden ? " His question made Ethan and Daphne pause , their expressions tightening for a moment . The Ashcrofts and the Florians had roots that ran deep in Highcliffe . Their reach was everywhere , and nothing in town escaped their notice . Every whisper of trouble , every shift in the wind - sooner or later , it made its way to them And with Leander crossing paths with the Wave Alliance , news like that could never slip past their net . Leander didn't need to ask when the silence fell . He caught on instantly .

After stretching lazily , 2/4 17:06 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 344 The Brothers ' Pact he walked with Ethan to drop Daphne off at the Florians ' gates . A 53 Finished Daphne had wanted a few more moments with him . But with Ethan right there , she kept it to herself and disappeared into the

grand Florian estate without a word . The night pressed in as the two men walked side by side .
When they reached the edge of an artificial lake , Ethan stopped dead in his tracks . " Leander ! "
He spun around , his expression sharpened with a grave intensity .

" There's something I've been holding in for far too long . It's about Daphne ." He didn't flinch or even look away . " I know how she feels about you . But I love her too . I'd let you win in a thousand other things - but not this . Daphne's my fiancée now , and I'm going to marry her . "
Leander's expression stayed calm , almost unreadable . The moment he learned of their engagement , he'd known this day would come . A faint smile touched his lips as he stepped closer to the lake , eyes fixed on the wide , glassy surface .

" Kid , " he said evenly , and his tone carried the weight of years . " You've grown . Nine years ago , you wouldn't have dared say that to me ." He rested a hand on Ethan's shoulder , his gaze deep and steady , voice ringing with quiet force . " I'm your older brother , and you're my only brother . Everything else - the Ashcroft Family's resources , the heir's title , the position as head of the Ashcroft , even my martial strength - I could hand it all to you . " Leander turned his head slightly , his eyes steady , a faint softness flickering there . " But Daphne ?

On that , I won't give you an inch . " " She waited nine years for me . I gave her my word , and I swore I'd give her a life of glory . Even if she's already engaged to you , I'll take her back . " It doesn't matter if it's you , the Ashcrofts , the Florians , or even all four great houses of Highcliffe standing against me - the outcome's the same . She's mine , and no one on earth can change that ." Leander's words landed one by one , and at the end , he grinned widely . " Kid , I've known since we were young that you liked Daphne . But with me in the picture , you never dared act on it .

You kept it buried , waiting for your shot , hoping one day you'd surpass me . " Well , that day's here . You want her . I want her for life . Our lines are drawn . So , what do you say 3/4 17:06 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 344 The Brothers ' Pact -let's settle this in a fight ? " he asked , challenging Ethan . Ethan's pupils shrank , and clarity flashed through him . 53 Finished When he looked at Leander , it didn't feel like he was staring at a man stripped of martial strength and drained of cultivation .

No - what stood before him seemed like the same proud legend from nine years ago , the one who had outshone every peer in Highcliffe and burned too brightly to be ignored . Ethan fell silent for a moment , then suddenly lifted his head , a bold grin breaking across his face . " Fine , Leander . We'll fight . But this time , I swear I won't lose to you again . " For the first time , both of them - bound by blood yet closest of kin - stood on opposite sides , ready to clash over Daphne . Send Gifts 60 H 4/4

Chapter 345 The Half - Lord of Highcliffe 53 Finished Leander and Ethan made their wager and chatted all the way , eventually parting at the gates of Highcliffe University . As Ethan watched Leander walk away , he felt a wave of emotion he couldn't quite shake off . Even after losing all his martial power , Leander still gave off a subtle sense of pressure that made him seem stronger than ever . Ethan just couldn't figure it out . Maybe that's just Leander's natural presence . With that , Ethan chuckled to himself . Leander's presence was always the strongest of anyone his age .

Even now , stripped of everything , he still carried that same confidence and calm , never letting anything shake his composure . Remembering the bet he'd made with Leander , Ethan's eyes grew focused . He still brimmed with absolute confidence . At this moment , Leander had

nothing - no martial power and no martial skills . Though the Ashcroft family still acknowledged him , compared to Ethan , the top scion of Highcliffe , there was a huge gap between them . The only real advantage Leander had was Daphne's affection for him .

But on Ethan's side , both the Ashcroft and Florian families would always take his side . His engagement with Daphne had been arranged by both families . Even if Daphne wanted to break it off , she'd have to get past both the Ashcrofts and Florians . That was no small hurdle . Leander , if you were still who you used to be - if you hadn't lost your martial power - you'd be able to take on both the Ashcroft and Florian families without fear . But now , you just don't have what it takes anymore . Ethan clenched his fist , feeling more confident than ever .

Leander , I can give you everything I have - status , resources , even the head position of the Ashcroft family . But Daphne has to be mine . This is one bet I refuse to lose . With that in mind , he waited until Leander was out of sight before finally turning to leave . At the campus of Highcliffe University , Leander walked forward with his hands behind his back , completely unfazed . If he really wanted to be with Daphne , the first thing he had to do was break off her

1/4 17:06 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 345 The Half Lord of Highcliffe Finished engagement to Ethan .

Doing that would mean going up against the Ashcroft family and the Florian family , both of them giants in their own right . Most people would feel crushed by the pressure , with no way to fight back , but he had never let any of that bother him . Any obstacle that tries to keep me from Daphne , I will crush without mercy ! The next day , news about Leander spread across Highcliffe like wildfire . " Wait , are you saying the most talented son of the Ashcroft family isn't dead ? And he's back at Highcliffe ? " " Is it really him ? I vaguely remember his name - Leander , right ?

Didn't the Ashcrofts say he died at age 10 from a serious illness ? How could he be back now ? "

" Who knows . With families like the Ashcrofts and Florians , regular people could never guess what goes on behind the scenes . Maybe Leander's death was just a cover story while he trained in secret . Now he's back after nine years , stronger than ever . " " That makes sense . Back when he was 10 , he was already beating guys five or six years older than him . After nine years , who knows how strong he is now ? " " Wow , Ethan alone is already scary enough .

But if you add Leander , the Ashcrofts could sweep through every major family at Highcliffe ! "

Everywhere at Highcliffe , people were having similar conversations . The news of Leander's return had all the big families on edge . For a while , the whole city was in turmoil . In the East District of Highcliffe's Inner Circle lay the sprawling O'Brien estate , home to one of the city's four major elite families . Inside , Tycen sat on the couch , his expression dark . In front of him stood a middle - aged man dressed in black .

With short hair and a neatly trimmed beard , he exuded a sharp , commanding presence . This was Teion O'Brien , the current head of the family and Tycen's father . " Who'd have thought that kid survived ? The Ashcroft family really played their hand well , " Teion remarked . Tycen's voice was heavy as he looked at his father . " I heard you ran into Leander last night . What did you think ? " 2/4 17:06 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 345 The Half Lord of Highcliffe 53 Finished Tycen just snorted . " Dad , you always said he was the strongest in our generation .

But after seeing him last night , he was nothing special . If Ethan and Daphne hadn't shown up , I could've taken him down in one move . " " Oh ? " Teion arched his brow , curious . " You're saying he's lost all his martial power ? " " That's right . Nine years ago , even though none of us had reached the Martial Practitioner Realm yet , he was already there , almost at the verge of

breaking through to the Martial Master Realm . " Even if he'd slacked off , he should still be stronger than me or Ethan . But now , he's got no martial power left . He's just an ordinary guy .

" Teion paused , realizing his son would never lie to him . He stroked his chin , deep in thought . Meanwhile , at the Valence Residence in the North District , Eira stood in a purple dress watching an old man practice Tai Chi . His movements were steady and calm . " Leander really didn't die ? Are you sure it's him ? " the old man asked , his voice gentle . " I'm sure of it , Grandpa . I might mistake anyone else , but I'd never mistake that guy , " Eira said , annoyed . The old man's eyes flickered , pushing out a soft wave of air that sent leaves falling from the locust tree .

" Looks like the Ashcrofts are making their move . With Leander back and the martial assembly between four major elite families coming up in two weeks , this is going to get interesting . " Eira stood there , frowning in confusion . Though she hadn't interacted with Leander last night , she'd kept a close eye on his every move . His steps were unsteady , and there were no fluctuations of inner energy coming from him - nothing about him resembled a martial artist anymore . It was a far cry from the steady , grounded Leander of the past , the one whose cultivation had once outclassed them all .

Leander had been gone from Highcliffe for nine years . Now that he's back , does the title of most talented martial artist among Highcliffe's younger generation still belong to him ? At the Florian Estate , Daphne bit her lip , looking sorrowful . 3/4 17:06 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 345 The Half Lord of Highcliffe 53 Finished " Is this why you don't want to marry Ethan ? " asked a middle - aged man in a blue suit . He was sitting on the leather couch , newspaper in hand . " Yes

, " Daphne replied , meeting his gaze with stubborn courage . The man set his paper down , his expression unreadable .

" Daphne , I've never wanted to force you , but I can't let you make a foolish choice . Maybe others don't know what happened to Leander , but you and I do . " Leander is not who he was nine years ago . You should know that better than anyone . " He waved her off and left the room . " Stay home today . You're not going anywhere . " Daphne's heart dropped , and she wanted to follow , but the voice of an old man stopped her . " Daphne , listen to your father . The old king has fallen . What you need now is a new one , not a broken man with no martial power .

" Daphne clenched her jaw until her lips bled , but she stayed put . With the old man there , she knew there was no way she was getting out . At Highcliffe University , Leander had just had lunch with Nathan and a couple of friends . They were heading for a game of pool when a blue Rolls - Royce stopped in front of them . A middle - aged man in a blue suit stepped out . He was roughly Leander's height , and he met his gaze without flinching . " Leander , it's been a long time !

There's something I've been meaning to talk to you about . " Leander smiled and nodded , knowing that if he ever wanted to be with Daphne , he'd have to face this man eventually . The man was Wesley Florian , the current head of the Florian family , otherwise known as " the Half - Lord of Highcliffe " -a nickname that spoke to the vast amount of property he owned in Highcliffe . Send Gifts 60 B

rom Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir Chapter 346 I Have What It Takes To Make You Bow 53 Finished Wesley , who once had a background in the underworld ,

was now the most outstanding business tycoon among Highcliffe's four major elite families - no one could surpass him . Under his leadership , Florian Group had risen from a second - rate company to one of Astria's top 50 in just a few years , and its momentum only kept building . It even became one of the flagship businesses backed by the Highcliffe government .

There was a rumor in Highcliffe that Wesley alone controlled the economy of half the city , which was why people called him the " Half - Lord of Highcliffe " ! When Nathan and the others saw Wesley , they were all awed by his powerful aura . They all turned to look at Leander . " Mr. Florian , it's been a while ! " Leander glanced at the other three , and they caught on , slipping away to give the two some privacy . Once they were gone , he turned to Wesley with a faint smile that hadn't been seen in a long time . Wesley stared at Leander for a long moment before finally nodding .

" Come on , walk with me to Eastvale Mountain . " Leander said nothing , quietly trailing behind Wesley . Every step Wesley took was steady and measured , his presence calm and steady , clearly showing his deep cultivation . Watching Wesley's back , Leander found himself reflecting . As expected , every one of Highcliffe's four elite families hides great power . Astria Power Index is just the surface ... Wesley's cultivation had clearly reached the Pre - Transcendent Realm , placing him just a notch below Gareth .

With this level of strength , he could easily rank among the top five on the Astria Power Index , yet his name didn't even appear there . It spoke volumes about the vastness of Astria and just how many hidden masters there were . He couldn't help but wonder - if the heads of the families were already this strong , how many even more powerful

figures might be concealed within the four major elite families ? They walked in silence all the way from Highcliffe University to the summit of Eastvale Mountain .

1/4 17:06 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 3461 Have What It Takes To Make You Bow 53 Finished
Eastvale Mountain rose over 8,500 feet , but Wesley never paused once during the climb , and Leander followed three steps behind the whole way . At the top , Wesley looked out over the landscape , secretly watching Leander out of the corner of his eye . Though Eastvale wasn't the tallest peak around , its slope was nearly vertical . Even for people who exercised often , climbing over 8,500 feet in one go would leave them breathless and drenched in sweat .

But Leander seemed completely unaffected , his breathing steady and even . Wesley couldn't help but glance at him , a hint of approval flickering in his eyes . " Leander , we haven't seen each other in 9 years , right ? " Wesley stood with his hands behind his back , radiating a natural air of authority . " Yes . " Leander stood by his side , responding coolly . No matter how imposing Wesley was , he remained steady as a rock . " Leander , what happened to you all those years ago ... it was cruel for a 10 - year - old . " But maybe that was just your fate . " Wesley sighed .

The Ashcroft and Florian families had always been close allies . Even though Gareth never said much , Wesley had gotten the details of what happened to Leander .

Leander stayed silent . Wesley suddenly turned and struck out with his palm . Bang ! A large rock split apart , revealing two iron swords inside . One was rusted all over , while the other was still bright and sharp . Leander didn't even flinch . Wesley walked forward

and pressed down with one hand , sending both swords flying to the other side . "

Leander , these two swords were forged by the same hand .

The process , the material , the heat detail is exactly the same . In other words , they're basically the same sword . -every " Ten years ago , I buried both here . Now , after 10 years , one has rusted away while the other is 2/4 17:06 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 346 I Have What It Takes To Make You Bow still perfectly sharp . Do you know why ? " 53 Finished Leander glanced over , sniffed slightly , and replied , " One of them was coated with sulfuric acid ." Wesley's eyes shone with approval as he nodded . " That's right .

This rusted sword was coated with sulfuric acid , while the other one wasn't touched at all . So , 10 years later , they look completely different ." Leander's eyes flickered . He replied quietly , " Mr. Florian , what are you getting at ? " Wesley turned abruptly , pointing at Leander . " These two swords are just like you - who you were before and who you are now ! " " You used to shine bright , your edge impossible to hide .

If nothing had gone wrong and you'd had time to keep growing , you would have wiped out every other young talent in Highcliffe and become the king of Astria's younger generation . Your brilliance would have lit up the world , just like this sword . " He paused , then drew the rusted sword with a sigh . " But now , like the sword that was ruined by acid , just like how external forces and events have dulled you . Your martial power was stripped away from you . You've lost your martial skills . No matter how hard you try , you can't overcome that disadvantage .

" Now , you're like this rusted sword - your glory is gone ." He gave Leander's shoulder a firm pat , his tone completely blunt . " Leander , I admit , you really were the best of

your generation back then , a true martial artist . I even wanted Daphne to marry you once . You guys would make such a beautiful match . But the Ashcrofts ruined you . " I came to talk to you today because I want you to understand , no matter what you and Daphne had before , you're not the right person for her anymore , " Don't blame me for being harsh . At my level , empty comfort means nothing .

I only tell the truth . " Right now , among all the young people in Highcliffe , only your younger brother , Ethan , is worthy of marrying Daphne . " Like it or not , your reign as king of Highcliffe's younger generation is over . " He looked hard at Leander , his voice as steady as stone . 3/4 17:06 Fri , Oct 17 a Finished it Chapter 346 1 Have What It Takes To Make You Bow " I know Daphne can't let go of her feelings for you , so I'm asking you to back off first . Don't give her any false hope . " Even if you forced it , what could you possibly do to protect her ?

What can you offer to stand by her side ? " Neither the Ashcrofts nor the Florians would ever approve of your union . You're a smart guy- you should see that already . " The mountain winds howled , but Wesley's words rang out clearly across the peak . He stared at Leander , waiting for his reply . Leander's expression remained calm . He stepped forward to the very edge of the cliff , gazing down at the swirling clouds below , his eyes turning razor sharp . " Mr. Florian , I get your point . " But all the obstacles you mentioned - those are nothing to me .

I could solve them with a flick of my hand . " He turned , his gaze burning with absolute confidence . " I will never give Daphne up . I know I can protect her from anything . " You say my brother is the only good match for her , but in my opinion , you're just too

narrow- minded . " Whether in Highcliffe or all of Astria , there's nobody in the younger generation who can beat me . " Whether it's the Ashcrofts or the Florians , I have what it takes to make you all bow to me ! " Send Gifts 60 W 4/4 17:07 Fri , Oct 17

Chapter 347 The Looming Disaster Finished " Whether it's the Ashcrofts or the Florians , I have what it takes to make you all bow to me ! " As Leander's words fell , the wind on the mountain stirred , and the clouds gathered . Wesley's eyes flickered , clearly astonished . In that instant , Leander seemed like a giant to him , standing tall atop Eastvale Mountain . Wesley narrowed his eyes , then snapped back to reality and shook his head . " Leander , it's been nine years , and you're still as ambitious as ever ! " He stood shoulder to shoulder with Leander , gazing down from above .

But his mind didn't waver - he still stood by his decisions . " Ambition is one thing , but strength is another . No matter how confident you are , reality is still reality . You said you can overcome those obstacles with ease , and that you have the power to make both the Florians and the Ashcrofts bow to you . Your words sound bold enough , but what gives you the right to make them bow and approve of you being with Daphne ? " Forget about Ethan . In terms of ability , you might not even be as strong as Rodrick , so how are you supposed to make the Florian and Ashcroft families yield ?

" Leander looked up at the sky , a small smile on his lips . " Mr. Florian , since you're asking what I'm capable of , I should ask you this : what exactly do you need from me before you'll agree to let me be with Daphne ? " " There's no need for formality between us . Just lay out your conditions . " " Oh ? " Wesley's gaze lifted , a bit surprised . Nine years had passed , and the

brilliant talent Leander once had was nowhere to be found . Wesley could no longer sense any remarkable martial gift in him .

When their hands met earlier , Wesley had quietly checked for any sign of inner energy fluctuations - but there was nothing . All that remained was a silence as still as a quiet lake , So , he wondered where Leander's confidence was coming from . After a pause , he spoke up , his voice ringing out across the mountaintop . " Well then , since you're so proud , I'll just be straight with you . In two weeks , the four major elite families of Highcliffe will hold their martial assembly at Southern Ocean . Everyone from the four families will be there , young and old alike .

If you want to be with Daphne , you'll have to defeat all the other young martial artists and take first place at the assembly . If you can do that , I'll allow Daphne to marry you . How about it ? " 1/4 17:07 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 342 The Looming Disaster Leander stood there , and for a second , a strange look flashed across his face . Seeing that , Wesley thought Leander was stumped by the condition and shook his head inwardly . 63 Finished " Leander , don't blame me for being too harsh .

If you want to marry Daphne , you at least need to be the best among Highcliffe's young martial artists . Otherwise , how can you possibly protect her ? " Leander suddenly turned back and let out a quiet laugh . " Mr. Florian . I don't think your condition is too harsh . If anything , it seems a bit too easy . " I'm number one on the Astria Power Index , far ahead of anyone else on the list . My opponents are international now - Transcendent Realm is just the starting point . I can even go head - to - head with world - class dark forces like the Arbitration Office and come out on top .

And now you want me to compete against Ethan , Tycen , and the rest of the young martial artists ? That's like an adult picking on little kids . Forget Ethan and the others - even Gareth and Wesley , the best martial artists in Astria , wouldn't last more than a few moves against me . Honestly , this condition means nothing to me . " Easy ? " Wesley gave a cold snort . " Leander , it's been 9 years . You haven't made much progress in your cultivation , but you sure have gotten a lot sharper with your words ! " With a wave of his sleeve , he started down the mountain .

I've said what I needed to say . If you really do win first place at the martial assembly , I'll support your marriage to Daphne all the way . I'll even personally go to the Ashcroft family to break off Daphne's engagement to Ethan and help you both get together . " But if you fail , you'll leave Daphne for good and never bother her again . If you don't , I'll not let it slide ! " Leander slipped one hand into his pocket and spoke coolly . " It's a deal , then Back at the Florian villa , Wesley finally made it to the living room . Daphne hadn't budged an inch since Wesley left .

As soon as she saw him come in , she hurried over , her face full of worry . " Dad , you went to see him , didn't you ? " 2/4 17:07 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 347 The Looming Disaster Wesley nodded right away , not hiding anything . 53 Finished " Of course . I've already set the terms with Leander . I will only let him marry you on one condition . Two weeks from now , if he beats all the other young martial artists and wins first place at the martial assembly , I will let you marry him . " If he can't do it , then he'll have to leave you for good . " Daphne's eyes widened in anger .

" Dad , how could you make him agree to that ? You know his martial power was stripped , and that he can't practice martial arts anymore . Ethan , Tycen , Eira - they're all at half - Sovereign Realm . For them , taking him down is effortless . Asking him to win first place is basically just

humiliating him ! " Wesley stayed firm , his tone cold . " I'm not trying to humiliate him . He agreed to it himself . If there's any humiliation , he brought it on himself . The martial assembly in two weeks is a test for him . If he fails , he'll keep his word and stay away from you .

" My son - in - law has to be the strongest of his generation . Leander just isn't there yet . "

Daphne snorted coldly and stormed off , not wanting to talk to Wesley anymore . She collapsed onto her soft bed , clutching a tiny soda can , tears falling down her face . " Why , Ander ? We finally found each other again . Why are there still so many obstacles between us ? " Facing pressure from giants like the Ashcrofts and the Florians , even she couldn't help but feel powerless .

On an island off the coast of the Southern Ocean , several figures streaked through the sky , landing on the shore and sending the waves crashing . Schools of fish scattered , darting into the depths . There were four of them , each with an aura that flickered and faded . With every step they took in midair , the sea boiled beneath them . The man in front carried a long spear . He swept his piercing gaze around and spoke up first . " Looks like all my old friends have arrived !

" " In the past few days , I sent the Venomancers of Taybourne to Highcliffe to target Gareth's wife 3/4 17:07 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 347 The Looming Disaster first , but it looks like they failed ! " Next to him , a middle - aged man with metal gauntlets let out a cold snort . Finished "

Venomancers of Taybourne are nothing but six useless thugs . Ever since Gareth beat them , they're just losers . I never expected them to succeed . But either way , it doesn't matter to our plan ! " With a flick of his finger , the sea split open dozens of yards below .

" This time , every top fighter from War God Sanctum is here for revenge . We're settling the old score from when the four major elite families joined forces to wipe us out ! "

Apart from those old geezers , of the current family heads , only Gareth might prove to be a challenge . The rest haven't even reached the Transcendent Realm . With the four of us here and help from the Arbitration Office , we'll crush the four major elite families in one go ! " On the side , a blond man with blue eyes spoke in fluent Astric . " Of course .

When we attacked Astria last time , those old geezers from the four major elite families drove us back . This time , War God Sanctum is going to wipe the slate clean ! " " I've heard that in two weeks , the four major elite families are holding their martial assembly at Southern Ocean . All the top fighters will be there , even the younger generation like Ethan , Daphne , Tycen , and Eira . All we have to do is strike that day , and we can wipe them all out- even their next generation . They'll never recover . " This is what happens when you cross War God Sanctum !

" The black - eyed man , who hadn't said a word , finally spoke . " Ashcrofts , Florians , O'Briens , Valences - this time , with War God Sanctum and the Arbitration Office working together , you're doomed , no matter how strong you are . Enjoy what little time . you have left , my old friends , because two weeks from now , we'll turn the Southern Ocean into a massacre for Highcliffe's four major elite families . That day , I want the ocean stained with their blood ! " The other three echoed in agreement .

As they spoke , the air above the island swirled and the clouds stirred ; even the sky itself seemed to tremble . Meanwhile , in Highcliffe , the four major elite families were still preparing for the martial assembly in two weeks , completely unaware of the disaster headed their way .

Finished In a class of the Department of Horticulture and Landscaping , Leander leaned back in his chair , completely uninterested , while Daphne sat right beside him . Ever since Nathan and the others found out Leander was from the renowned Ashcroft family , their attitude toward him had changed . Beyond brotherhood , they now treated him with a hint of awe . Every time Daphne sat with Leander , they'd sensibly move away , never interrupting the conversations between them . " Ander , why did you promise my dad to win the assembly ? " Daphne looked worried .

" If you were still who you once were , I know you'd have no problem taking first place at the martial assembly . Back then , across all of Highcliffe , there's nobody your age who could beat you ! " But nine years ago , your father took your martial power away . Now you've lost all your martial skills , how are you going to win against Ethan or Tycen ? " Leander had made the deal with Wesley , and there was no going back . If Leander failed to win the martial assembly , he'd have to keep his promise and leave Daphne . That was what scared her the most .

" Dani , you don't have to worry at all ! " Leander answered with a calm smile . " For me , having martial power or not doesn't make much of a difference . Maybe losing my martial power was a blessing . It's given me a chance to break free and be reborn . It allows me to soar even higher than before ! " If I dared to make a promise to your dad , it means I'm sure I'll win ! " It's not just about the younger generation in Highcliffe . Even in all of Astria , in the whole world , I wouldn't lose to anyone ! " That's where my confidence comes from . I never planned to let anyone else have you !

" Daphne looked into Leander's determined eyes , feeling moved yet confused . She didn't understand where Leander's confidence and assurance came from . Judging from the way he talked , the Highcliffe martial world , or even the Astria martial world , seemed like nothing to him . But with no cultivation , Leander could no longer practice martial arts . How could he break through every obstacle between them as he promised ? 1/4 17:07 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 348 The Martial Assembly Begins 53 Finished Even with her doubts , Daphne didn't press further . She had already made up her mind .

Even if Leander couldn't win the martial assembly , she'd stay by his side . Even if it meant breaking ties with the Florian family or clashing with the Ashcroft family , she'd never regret it . That afternoon , Daphne had lunch with Leander , said goodbye , and went back to the Florian Estate . She planned to stay at the Florian Estate for the next week , dedicating herself to training for the martial assembly coming up in half a month . She was trying to break through to the Martial Sovereign Realm . It wasn't just Daphne .

At this very moment , the top young martial artists of the O'Brien family , Valence family , and Ashcroft family were all training in secret at home . The martial assembly was a grand tradition jointly established by the four major elite families over a century ago . Every 18 years , right after National Day , it would be held after the National Day . The outcome of the assembly decided which of the four families would lead in the years . to come , so every family treated it as their highest priority .

Every young member of the four families was prepared to give it their all at the martial assembly , fighting to surpass their peers and win honor for their family . Compared to all those top geniuses who trained hard , Leander just spent his days idling around .

Sometimes , he spent all day playing games and drinking with Nathan and the others . Sometimes he went to the Durham Abbey to chat with Lydia . He acted as if nothing was out of the ordinary . Wesley had come to observe Leander in secret several times , only to find that Leander didn't care about the martial assembly at all .

Wesley couldn't help but shake his head in disappointment . Leander's talk sounded impressive - he claimed he wasn't afraid of the Ashcrofts or the Florians and that he was unbeatable among Astria's youth . But in the end , it was just empty words . Even Daphne and Ethan , already recognized as the very best of their generation in Astria , were training constantly , pushing themselves to get even stronger . Meanwhile , Leander , who had lost his cultivation , wasted his days away and had no motivation to train at all . How could someone like him possibly stand out at the martial assembly ?

He didn't deserve to be with Daphne ! That thought made Wesley even more convinced that Ethan was the right match for Daphne , and that Leander was just a thing of the past . Day by day , time slipped by , and two weeks went by in a flash . 2/4 17:07 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 348 The Martial Assembly Begins 53 Finished Inside the Ashcroft Residence , Ethan sat cross - legged under the old locust tree , his internal power pulsing strongly around him . The ground beneath him rippled with force , the soil churning .

Above his head , a swirl of grayish - white mist twisted and rolled , slowly shaping itself into a dragon . Nearby , Gareth stood with his hands behind his back , looking serious . " Let your mind guide your energy , let your energy take shape , let that shape refine your body . Only then can you strike your enemies ! " He spoke softly , almost as if

reciting a formula . Ethan listened carefully , sending his inner strength through his meridians , from his core to every organ , letting it flow through his body .

The dragon - shaped mist grew clearer and clearer , until it looked like a golden dragon with five claws , shimmering as if it were alive . Suddenly , Ethan's eyes snapped open . With a low shout , he struck out with his palm . Roar ! A dragon's roar echoed through the air , filling half the Ashcroft estate . In the next instant , a palm - shaped burst of force swept out . The five - clawed golden dragon , formed from pure energy , flicked its tail and slammed it into the ground .

The solid cement floor cracked open on the spot , blowing apart and revealing a huge pit more than 30 feet across . Chunks of broken stone scattered in every direction . Seeing this , Ethan finally exhaled and stilled himself , his face lighting up with excitement . " Dad , I did it ! " A faint approval flashed across Gareth's face as he nodded . " Yes , you've mastered ' Draconic Tail Strike ' - the Ashcroft family's ultimate technique ." He looked up , sounding emotional , " Draconic Tail Strike ' has been passed down in our family for over a hundred years .

Once you master it , your strength multiplies . " Among all Highcliffe's young martial artists , only Daphne , Tycen , and Eira could match you . " Now that you've mastered this , you should have an eighty percent chance against them ! " Ethan , don't let me or your grandfather down at the martial assembly ! " 3/4 17:07 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 348 The Martial Assembly Begins ㄟ (53) ' Finished Ethan nodded hard , full of confidence . " Draconic Tail Strike " wasn't just a skill - it was a secret technique that could double his power .

With it, he believed he could sweep through Astria's young martial artists , or even beat Daphne or Claire . Gareth gave him a few more words of advice before turning back to the house . Ethan never saw the fleeting sadness in Gareth's eyes . Sitting in the Ashcroft family hall , Gareth's hand trembled as he sighed . Back then , Leander had already learned the " Draconic Tail Strike " at age ten . He might not have been able to use it to its full power , but he really was the most gifted martial artist in our family's history .

If I hadn't broken the tradition and stripped away his martial power , who knows how great a martial artist he'd be by now ? He might have caught up to me by now , or perhaps become another pillar supporting the Ashcroft family . No matter how he thought about it , Gareth couldn't find an answer - so he could only sigh again . On the third day , Leander woke at 8 a.m. After getting ready , he went to the gate of Highcliffe University . Daphne , in a purple shirt , had already been waiting a while .

Seeing Daphne's striking beauty , Leander felt something stir in his heart , and a playful smile curved his lips . " The martial assembly , huh ? " This grand event , held only once every 18 years , was finally about to begin ! Send Gifts 60 4/4

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" Ander , let's go ! " : Daphne smiled and waved at Leander , her slender figure radiating grace . Leander gave her a quick look , nodding to himself in secret . 53 Finished After not seeing her for these past 2 weeks , he noticed Daphne's cultivation had grown even more . She was now on

par with Ethan , and he couldn't help but feel impressed . Among the young female martial artists , Daphne's talent and resilience were truly the best . In the future , she was bound to become a top martial artist and make her mark in Astria's martial world .

Not far off , Wesley was sitting in his limited - edition Bentley , his gaze cold as he watched Leander and Daphne standing so close . " Let's go ! " Leander nodded . Just as he was about to get in the car with Daphne , a black Rolls - Royce Phantom suddenly pulled up . Gareth stepped out , looking strict and imposing in his suit , with Ethan following behind him . " Leander ! " Gareth spoke up , " Today is the martial assembly that Highcliffe's four major elite families hold every 18 years .

Whether you like it or not , you're still part of the Ashcroft family , and we came here especially to invite you to join us ! " He no longer sounded like the strict father he usually was . His tone was gentle now , because he still felt guilty toward Leander . Leander turned away , his expression cold . " Mr. Ashcroft , thanks for the invitation , but I have nothing to do with the Ashcrofts , and I'm not interested in going with you . I've got places to be , so I won't keep you . " Just the words " Mr. Ashcroft " made Gareth's gaze harden .

Leander glanced at Ethan , gave him a look , then got into the Florians ' Bentley . Daphne gave Gareth a polite nod and barely glanced at Ethan . Gareth and Ethan both watched as the Bentley drove away , each with a different look in their eyes . " Ah ! " 1/5 17:07 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 349 It's Him : 53 . Finished After a while , Gareth let out a quiet sigh . He would have preferred Leander to yell or lose his temper at him . But this cold , distant attitude was the hardest to endure - it made them feel like strangers . " Dad , Leander is still angry at us . Don't take it too hard .

I'm sure he'll come around one day , " Ethan said , patting Gareth on the shoulder to comfort him . Gareth looked up and composed himself , but there was still a spark of sharpness in his eyes . " Ethan , Daphne's cultivation has also surged in the last 2 weeks . " I just checked her cultivation . She's now every bit your equal . She'll be your main rival in this assembly . Don't let your feelings get in the way , or you might lose your edge ! " Ethan nodded right away . " Dad , don't worry . Feelings are feelings , a match is a match . I can keep them separate .

" After speaking , Gareth and Ethan got back into the Rolls - Royce and headed straight for the Southern Ocean . Inside the Bentley , Wesley looked at Leander with a frosty stare . " Leander , do you remember our agreement ? " Leander nodded . " Of course I remember , Mr. Florian . I hope you'll keep your word , too ! " Wesley let out a cold snort . " You're still running your mouth ! " For the past 2 weeks , all you've done is drink , party , and play games online . You claim you'll win the martial assembly , but that's nothing but empty talk !

" Ever since you lost your martial power , you haven't trained at all , and now , with the assembly about to start , you haven't done anything to prepare . Why should I trust you with Daphne ? " Daphne frowned and was about to defend Leander , but Leander just shook his finger gently . " Mr. Florian , don't jump to conclusions . " Other people may need to prepare for the assembly , but I don't . 2/5 17:07 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 340 it's Him " For me , this is nothing but a warm - up . I could win it with barely any effort !

" Finished Wesley's eyes got even colder , and he shot back , " If you think you can just breeze through the martial assembly , I want to see how you're going to back up all that big talk ! " He didn't believe a word Leander said . The martial assembly was the most prestigious event for the four major elite families . 18 years ago , Gareth beat the rest of them and became the strongest of

their generation . Not even Gareth would have said it was easy to win the assembly . So where did Leander , a guy with no martial power , get the nerve to talk like this ?

Even though Daphne sided with Leander , she couldn't help but shake her head . Leander's words were way too cocky . There was no way winning the martial assembly could be that easy .

Leander didn't bother explaining further . He just leaned back and closed his eyes to rest . After eight hours on the road , they finally arrived at the edge of the Southern Ocean . Southern Ocean Beach was the official site for every martial assembly . By now , it was already packed with people and buzzing with noise .

On the beach , hundreds were already standing in formation , and from their outfits , it was clear they were all from Astria's martial world . Leander noticed this and felt puzzled . Daphne quickly explained , " Ander , the martial assembly isn't just a big deal for the four major elite families of Highcliffe - it's also a huge event for all the young martial artists in Astria . * Every time it is held , it attracts all kinds of top young talents from across Astria to watch and compete .

When my dad and your dad fought here 18 years ago , more than half the young martial artists in Astria came to watch . This year is even bigger - probably 80 percent of the top young fighters are already here at Southern Ocean ! " With that , Leander nodded . The four major elite families of Highcliffe were not just Astria's top clans - they also carried great weight in the martial world , so it made sense that their assembly would attract so many young martial artists . But there was more - during the assembly , ambitious newcomers would often challenge the well - known young talents .

If they won , their reputations would skyrocket overnight . As soon as Daphne and Leander got out of the car , a bunch of eyes immediately turned their way . 3/5 17:07 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 349

it's Him : Finished " That's Daphne from the Florian family , right ? " She really is as stunning as everyone says . I heard she's engaged to Ethan from the Ashcroft family . Wonder if that's true ? " Whispers filled the air , all about Daphne . As for Leander beside her , most people simply ignored him .

After all , Leander might be a legend in Astria's martial world , but very few of these young martial artists had ever actually met him . Most of them had no idea what he even looked like . Daphne nodded at a few young martial artists she recognized . Suddenly , she spotted a familiar figure not far off and smiled . " I just saw an old friend , Ander . Come on , I'll introduce you . " She flashed Leander a playful grin and hurried over . Leander strolled after her , keeping about ten steps behind .

Not far ahead , a beautiful young woman stood poised and graceful , her figure captivating half the people nearby . The looks she drew were full of admiration and a bit of awe . Even though she was stunning , almost nobody dared approach her . " Claire ! " Daphne hurried over , her face bright with joy . " Hmm ? " The young woman turned , and when she saw Daphne , her smile bloomed . " Daphne , it's been so long ! " She stepped up and hugged Daphne . " It's been almost 9 months since we last saw each other at Silvermoon Sect , right ?

" This was none other than Claire , the beautiful and powerful prodigy of Silvermoon Sect . The two girls had always been close , so seeing each other again was a real joy . Daphne nodded and then said shyly , " Claire , I have good news ! Remember that person I told you about ? The one I was waiting for ? He finally came back for me ! " 4/5
17:08 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 349 It's Him 53 Finished " Oh ? " Claire's eyes sparkled . "

That's wonderful , Daphne . I'm so happy for you ! " Daphne had confided in Claire about Leander , and Claire knew that Daphne had spent 9 years waiting for him .

Now that Daphne had finally gotten her wish , Claire was genuinely happy for her friend . " He came with me today . Let me introduce you! " Daphne smiled and called out , "

Ander , come over here ! I want you to meet someone . " Claire followed Daphne's gaze and saw Leander approaching . In that instant , she froze . He is the one ? Send Gifts L

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Chapter 350 The Abyssal Godblade 53 Finished Leander walked over step by step . Claire's eyes stayed fixed on him , her expression shifting constantly as she watched him approach . Ever since Daphne first mentioned Leander , Claire had been curious to see what kind of person could keep Daphne's heart for nine years straight . She never would have guessed that the person Daphne always talked about was Leander . The moment she saw him , she froze . Her mind flashed back to nine months ago , when the Laughing Monk of West Ridge single - handedly caused chaos at Silvermoon Sect .

Back then , neither her mentor Elena nor the head of the Judies could stand against the Laughing Monk of West Ridge . In their darkest moment , it was Leander who pulled them out of despair . By now , Leander had joined them . Daphne didn't notice the look on Claire's face and simply introduced them with a smile . " Claire , let me introduce you . This is Leander ! " " Ander , this is my good friend Claire ! She's Silvermoon Sect's star swordswoman - and her martial skills are on par with mine ! " Leander glanced at Claire , his face calm . Before he could say anything , she spoke first .

" Mr. Ashcroft , I never thought that after nine months , we'd meet again on an occasion like this ! " There was a glimmer in her eyes , and a mysterious smile tugged at her lips . Daphne stared in surprise , unable to contain her curiosity . " Claire , do you and Ander know each other ? " Claire nodded . " Nine months ago , I had the chance to meet Mr. Ashcroft at Silvermoon Sect . I really owe him for what he did back then . " Daphne looked suspiciously at Leander . She knew Leander had shown up at Silvermoon Sect before , so it made sense he'd met Claire .

What she couldn't figure out was why someone as cool and distant as Claire would suddenly seem so friendly with Leander , Usually , she hardly spared a word for any man , but with Leander , it felt like they were old friends . She couldn't understand why Claire was so warm toward Leander . And more than that , Claire was calling him " Mr. Ashcroft " -such a formal title from a genius swordswoman like her was anything but ordinary . 1/4 17:08 Fri , Oct 17
Chapter 350 The Abyssal Godblade A & 53 Finished Daphne could sense that Claire actually had a bit of awe for Leander .

However , for Claire to truly respect someone , they'd have to be on her father's level - or the level of her mentor , Elena . So , why would she treat Leander with such respect ? Leander smiled calmly . " Where's that girl Serena ? I don't see her anywhere . " He was asking about Claire's junior , Serena - the girl who always acted tough , but was actually soft - hearted . He remembered her well . Claire replied immediately , " Serena has been training nonstop at Silvermoon Abode ever since that day . She hasn't left the sect since . " Leander nodded knowingly .

Serena had plenty of talent in martial arts , maybe even on par with Claire , but she loved to have fun and started her training late , so her cultivation was behind . But now , she was determined to

work hard . He figured that by the time she finished her secluded training , she'd be totally changed . Daphne couldn't follow the conversation , but she still motioned for Claire and Leander to sit by the Florian family's box . With two incredible beauties like Daphne and Claire sitting beside Leander , all eyes were drawn their way .

Lots of the young male martial artists present felt it was unfair . They were supposed to be Highcliffe's top young martial artists , yet none of them could get close to these two stunning beauties . Meanwhile , Leander , who didn't even have any cultivation , was sitting with them like it was the most natural thing in the world . It didn't seem fair at all . A short distance away , someone in the O'Brien family's box was staring intently at Leander , unable to look away , their face a mix of emotions .

Tycen , standing next to her , noticed and followed her gaze , Spotting Leander , he asked , " Ms. Reyne , what's going on ? Do you know him ? " Emma snapped out of it and shook her head , sighing heavily . Elsewhere , in the Valence family box , Eira's eyes darted over to Leander , then back to Daphne and Claire , and she clicked her tongue . " This jerk - he's always surrounded by beautiful women ! " 2/4 17:08 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 350 The Abyssal Godblade At this point , three of Highcliffe's four elite families had arrived . All that was left was the Ashcrofts .

Just then , a commotion signaled their arrival . 53) Finished Gareth led the group , trailed by a crowd of talented young martial artists who watched him with admiration . Though Gareth had lost his top place in the Astria Power Index to Leander , he was still a formidable martial arts expert in Astria - an undisputed legend . Ethan walked confidently behind Gareth , with more than 20 Ashcroft retainers following in a grand procession . Now that all four elite families had arrived , it meant all the best young talents in Astria's martial world had gathered .

Gareth glanced briefly at Leander with a complicated expression before greeting the other three family heads . " Gentlemen, now that we're all here and the sun is setting , and all the young assembled , shall we begin ? " Wesley , Tycen , and Jack Valence all stood and returned Gareth's greeting . " Since Gareth has arrived , let's take the stage together . " talents are With a nod , all four jumped onto the iron platform set up on the Southern Ocean's sandy beach .

Wesley , Tycen , and Jack landed on the platform in a few light steps , but Gareth soared more than 30 feet in a single bound , landing at the very top . Everyone watching was reminded just why Gareth was second on Astria's Power Index . That move alone made it clear his cultivation was far above the other three family heads . The four family heads sat atop the platform in the seats reserved for them . Then , Gareth turned to address the crowd , his voice ringing out over the beach . " Fellow martial artists , today marks the martial assembly of Highcliffe's four elite families .

This event is held only once every 18 years . Thank you all for joining us ... " Most of his speech was just formalities . Meanwhile , in the Florians ' box , Daphne and Claire were deep in conversation . When Claire found out that Daphne's father wouldn't allow her to be with Leander unless he won the assembly , her expression turned strange . " Your dad wants him to win the martial assembly ? " Daphne only nodded .

3/4 17:08 Fri , Oct 17 Chapter 350 The Abyssal Godblade 53 Finished Claire glanced at Leander , noticing his calm demeanor as he sipped his drink , and she couldn't help but laugh quietly . " Daphne , all I can say is that the challenge is way too easy for him ! " Daphne didn't understand what she was saying . She was about to ask when Gareth suddenly sent a palm strike across the

platform , shattering a stone pedestal and sending out a flash of blue light . The blue light eventually faded , and all eyes turned to the pedestal , their faces full of shock .

Even Ethan , Daphne , Claire , Tycen , and Eira - some of the strongest martial artists of the younger generation - looked utterly shocked . Inside the stone , a long sword was embedded . Only the hilt was visible , giving off a blue glow . Even those who knew nothing about swords could tell this was no ordinary weapon . Daphne and Claire exchanged a look of shock . " So that's the legendary Abyssal Godblade - the sword that protected the Southern Ocean and slew countless invaders ? " Daphne whispered , her face showing wave after wave of emotion .

Ethan , Tycen , and many other young experts stared at the hilt , unable to look away . Gareth stood tall and spoke again , his voice carrying across the beach . " Ladies and gentlemen , this is the Abyssal Godblade , which the four major elite families have guarded together for 50 years . This sword is said to be the legendary weapon fought over by the ancient gods - its history goes back thousands of years ! " The Abyssal Godblade can only be drawn by someone it chooses - only the true ruler of this era can wield it .

Eighteen years ago , all of the family heads tried , but none of us succeeded ! Today , I want all the young talents of Astria's martial world to try your luck . Let's see if any of you can pull the Abyssal Godblade out ! " Whoever draws it out will be its true master ! " As his words ended , the whole crowd erupted . Sword experts like Claire could hardly hide their excitement . Ethan , Tycen , Eira , and many others all looked ready to try .

Even Daphne was eager to give it a shot . Everyone's focus was on the Abyssal Godblade - except Leander .

He just kept sipping his drink , as if none of this concerned him at all .