

An Understated Dominance Chapter 2491-2492

Chapter 2491

Disguised as a city guard, Cardinal Dragon Marshal walked openly through the streets, led by the crew-haired man. Night had already fallen, and the streets were empty—no pedestrians, only heavily armed patrol teams moving through every alley and intersection.

Every critical checkpoint was fortified, requiring even patrol units to present their identification tokens when passing through.

Cardinal Dragon Marshal stayed at the back of the group, his hat pulled low, shadowing most of his face. The darkness further concealed his features, making it difficult for anyone to recognize him unless they got close.

“Austin is thorough,” he thought. “Without the spies from the Temple of the Gods, I wouldn’t have made it out of the royal city.”

As he observed the numerous guard posts and hidden sentries throughout the city, a deep sense of unease settled over him.

In just five miles, they had already crossed seven checkpoints.

Beyond the main guard posts, countless concealed sentries monitored the streets, ready to act at the slightest disturbance. Any sign of trouble, and they would respond immediately.

Earlier, Cardinal Dragon Marshal had planned to contact his informant and slip away unnoticed with his men. Given his advanced cultivation, he had believed escaping the royal city would be manageable.

But now, he realized how wrong he had been.

With checkpoints every ten steps and sentries stationed every hundred, sneaking out was nearly impossible.

If discovered, they would be instantly surrounded.

Not even his formidable abilities would allow him to break through such a siege.

The streets were eerily silent. No one spoke as they moved.

Whenever they encountered other patrols, they exchanged only the briefest nods before continuing on their way.

Blending seamlessly with the patrol unit, Cardinal Dragon Marshal advanced toward the outer city.

After three hours of walking, they finally neared the final checkpoint separating the inner and outer city.

This checkpoint was the most crucial.

Since the city had been placed under martial law, all vehicle movement was banned within the inner city. Only in the outer city could one take a carriage or bus.

A significant military presence had been stationed here to prevent unauthorized movement.

While city guards had the freedom to patrol the inner city, they were restricted from crossing into the outer city without proper authorization.

As the crew-haired man led his team toward the checkpoint, the more than a hundred elite guards stationed there immediately went on high alert.

“Stop!”

The leading general’s sharp gaze swept over them. His tone was firm, his hand resting on the hilt of his sword.

“The city guards are responsible for security within the inner city. What are you doing here?”

The surrounding guards tensed, their eyes locked onto the approaching group.

Cardinal Dragon Marshal frowned slightly, quietly gathering his strength.

Up until now, everything had gone smoothly.

Had something been discovered?

“Stay calm, General. This is just standard procedure. Let me handle it,” the crew-haired man whispered, reassuring Cardinal Dragon Marshal before stepping forward with a confident smile.

“Mr. Zha, it’s me—Alec,” he greeted warmly.

“Alec?”

The guard general scrutinized him before his rigid expression softened.

“I remember your patrol unit is assigned to the inner city. You’re not authorized to leave without a transfer order.”

“Mr. Zha, I’m following direct orders. I have business in the outer city,” Alec explained with a smile. “I’d appreciate your cooperation.”

“Alec, you work for the government—you know the rules.” The guard general’s voice remained steady. “The entire city is under martial law. Without a proper token, I can’t let you through.”

In normal times, bending the rules might have been possible.

But now, with the city under lockdown and a wanted order in place, any lapse in protocol could result in dismissal—or worse, imprisonment.

With their own careers and safety on the line, none of the guards could afford to be careless.

“Of course, Brother Zha. I wouldn’t put you in a difficult position.”

Alec smiled as he reached into his pocket and retrieved a copper token.

“This is an official order from Commander Manuel St-Onge of the law enforcement team. I’m acting on his behalf.”

The guard general took the token and examined it closely. After confirming its authenticity, he returned it.

“Why would Commander Manuel St-Onge send you to the outer city at this hour?” he asked, still wary.

“Brother Zha, I wish I could explain, but this is a highly sensitive matter,” Alec said in a low voice. “Commander St-Onge specifically instructed me to keep it confidential. If I reveal anything, my position will be at risk. I hope you understand.”

The guard general hesitated before finally nodding.

“If this is Commander St-Onge’s order, I won’t question it further.”

With that, he turned and signaled his men.

“Open the gate. Let them pass!”

At his command, the guards moved swiftly, pulling aside the heavy barrier blocking the road.

“Much appreciated, Brother Zha!” Alec clasped his fists in gratitude.

The guard general gave a curt nod, saying nothing more.

“Let’s move,” Alec signaled to his team.

As they stepped forward, just as they were about to cross the checkpoint—

“Wait!”

The guard general’s voice rang out sharply.

The single word sent a ripple of tension through Alec and his men.

Instantly, every muscle in their bodies tensed.

Had something gone wrong?

Chapter 2492

The guard general suddenly spoke up, stopping the crew-haired man just as he was about to pass the checkpoint.

In an instant, tension filled the air.

The crew-haired man instinctively moved his hand toward the weapon at his waist. At the same time, Cardinal Dragon Marshal clenched his fists, ready for action.

“Brother Zha, is there a problem?” the crew-haired man asked with a smile, turning around.

“Are these your men?” the guard general asked, scanning the group from front to back.

“Of course. But you need to process them first,” the crew-haired man replied, still smiling.

“Have them show their ID cards. I need to check them one by one,” the guard general ordered.

“Brother Zha, is that really necessary? We’re on an urgent mission,” the crew-haired man said.

“It’s my duty. I need your cooperation,” the guard general replied sharply.

The crew-haired man narrowed his eyes slightly. “Brother Zha, we’ve known each other for a while. Don’t you trust me? Besides, General St-Onge is here. Even if you won’t give me face, surely you’ll give him some respect?”

The guard general frowned, looking hesitant.

He didn’t mind offending the crew-haired man, but if he angered Manuel, it could make things difficult for him in the future.

Yet, if he didn’t conduct a proper check and something went wrong, he would be held responsible.

After a few moments of hesitation, the guard general remained firm. “Rules are rules. Show me your ID cards.”

The crew-haired man’s smile faded. “Since Brother Zha insists, we’ll comply.”

With that, he signaled to the others. “Show your ID cards to Brother Zha.”

Without a word, the rest of the group retrieved their IDs.

The guard general moved past the crew-haired man, inspecting the group one by one.

Everything seemed fine until he reached the last man.

“Huh? Where’s your ID?” the guard general asked, frowning.

The man in question was tall and powerfully built, making him stand out despite being at the back. He had a thick beard and an intimidating presence.

As the guard general stepped closer, he caught a faint whiff of blood from the man.

“I didn’t bring it,” the man muttered.

“You didn’t?”

The guard general raised his head, scrutinizing the man’s face in the dim moonlight. Something about him looked familiar. But with his head slightly lowered and his collar turned up, it was hard to be sure.

“Look up,” the guard general ordered, his hand already gripping the handle of his rifle.

“I didn’t expect you to recognize me,” the man said.

Slowly, he lifted his head, revealing his face.

It was Cardinal Dragon Marshal.

“You—!”

The guard general’s expression changed drastically. He started to react, but in the blink of an eye, Cardinal Dragon Marshal struck. His hand shot forward, piercing the guard general’s chest. With a sickening rip, he pulled out a bloody heart.

The guard general froze, his face contorted in horror.

“I told you to let me through, but you just had to get in the way,” Cardinal Dragon Marshal sneered. “For a measly monthly salary, was it really worth risking your life?”

With that, he swung his arm, hurling the lifeless body several meters away. The corpse slid across the ground, leaving a long, dark-red trail.

The remaining checkpoint guards stood frozen in shock.

No one had expected the city guards to suddenly turn into killers.

“Kill them!”

The crew-haired man had been prepared. Without hesitation, he charged at the guards.

Cardinal Dragon Marshal followed suit, striking swiftly and mercilessly.

“Enemy attack! Enemy attack!”

The checkpoint guards finally snapped out of their daze, drawing their weapons and engaging in combat.

At the same time, a loud horn echoed through the night, sounding across half the inner city.

This was a battle alarm.

Once the horn was blown, all nearby patrols and guard teams were required to respond immediately.

“Fool!”

Cardinal Dragon Marshal moved in a blur, appearing in front of the guard who had blown the horn. With a single punch to the chest—

Boom!

The guard’s body exploded like a watermelon hit by a cannonball. Blood and flesh splattered into the air, mixing with the shattered remnants of the horn.

Despite the alarm sounding, the chaos had already drawn attention. A flood of soldiers was now rushing toward the checkpoint.

Cardinal Dragon Marshal remained unfazed. His fists were like hammers as he leaped into the crowd, tearing through the soldiers with brutal efficiency.

He had been in hiding for too long, seething with pent-up rage. Now was his chance to unleash it.

As a half-step grandmaster-level warrior, he tore through ordinary soldiers like they were nothing, cutting them down in mere seconds.

Within two minutes, the battlefield was littered with bodies—most of the guards were either dead or gravely wounded.

“General! We can’t stay here! We need to retreat!”

Seeing the situation turn dire, the crew-haired man grabbed Cardinal Dragon Marshal, pulling him away.

Though the remaining guards posed no real threat, the steady flow of reinforcements would soon surround them, making escape nearly impossible.