An Understated Dominance by Marina Chapter 871 -

Chapter 871

"Madam Edith, I can testify that Brittany was the one who got the Jade Maiden Scripture!"

"That's right. It was all thanks to Brittany. That rotten bastard had nothing to do with it!"

"Nikki, you must have been mistaken."

The disciples spoke out one after the other, choosing to side with Brittany.

"Y-you all!" Nikki was annoyed.

She couldn't believe all of them were exactly like Brittany. They didn't hesitate to change the truth. It was outrageous!

"Did you hear that, Nikki? Everyone here saw it. Are you still going to argue wi th me?" Brittany smirked triumphantly.

She looked at Nikki as if she were a fool.

In the Jade Maiden Sisterhood, other than Madam Edith and a few elders, nob ody dared to go against Brittany. She could distort the truth as she liked.

"Madam Edith, please believe me. I'm not lying!" Nikki didn't give up and tried to get Madam Edith's support.

"Many of them are saying you're wrong; how am I supposed to believe you?" Edith's expression was frosty.

"It seems like exhaustion is making you confused. If there's nothing else, you should return to your room and rest." With that, Edith turned around to leave.

"Madam Edith!"

Nikki panicked and grabbed her sleeve. "I'm not lying. It's Brittany who-!"

"Shut it!" Edith grew impatient and slapped Nikki across the face.

Following the crisp sound, Nikki was knocked to the ground. Her cheek swelle d as blood. trickled down the corner of her mouth. She struggled to get up.

"You spoke ill of your senior and showed no respect to your elders! You have overstepped your boundary! You must be taught a lesson. Otherwise, you'll re peat the same actions or worse!

"You will kneel here until night! You're not allowed to get up before then!" Edti h's tone was sharp, and her expression dark.

"Madam Edith?" Nikki cupped her cheek, feeling lost. She wasn't lying.

She was just asking for justice. Was that wrong?

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"How dare you!" Brittany glared at Nikki, enraged.

"Nikki Horst, are you questioning me?" Brittany roared.

"I'm just speaking the truth." Nikki lowered her head slightly, but her gaze rem ained. unyielding.

"The truth? Hmph! You're just trying to undermine me!" Brittany's expression soured.

"We're guild members, and I can't believe you'd challenge me on behalf of an outsider!"

With her seniority in the guild, no one dared talk back to her, even when she w as oppressive and unjust.

She couldn't believe Nikki questioned her publicly and embarrassed her. Nikki should have known her place!

"Brittany, don't you have a conscience? We can't just ignore it when Dustin he lped us out,' Nikki reasoned.

"Shut up!" Brittany's temper flared, and she slapped Nikki hard across the face

She screamed, "Who the hell do you think you are? How dare you lecture me?"

"You-!" Nikki bit her lips, feeling wronged. Her face was swollen from the slap.

Just then, Edith finally spoke up, "Enough! We're all members of the same guil d. There's not need to argue about a small matter."

"Madam Edith, I'm telling the truth. Dustin handed the Jade Maiden Scripture to me personally before I handed it to Brittany!" Nikki tried to explain.

"Do you have proof?" Edith asked impassively.

"The other disciples saw what happened. They can vouch for me!" Nikki point ed at them.

"Oh, is that so?" Edith looked over lazily at the other disciples.

"Madam Edith is asking a question. All of you must answer truthfully!" Brittany's expression was icy, and her gaze was hostile.

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"Sorry, Dustin, I couldn't help you." Nikki was kneeling on the ground, feeling guilty.

"I didn't expect things to turn out that way. You worked hard, yet you didn't get anything in

return."

"I don't care about any of that.

On the other hand, have you ever thought of leaving the Jade. Maiden Sisterh ood?" Dustin asked suddenly.

He was upset when Brittany hit Nikki earlier but didn't intervene.

Firstly, it was because that was an internal conflict within the Jade Maiden Sist erhood.

Secondly, it was to make Nikki recognize reality sooner.

"Leave? Why?" Nikki frowned.

"The Jade Maiden Sisterhood has a bad environment. They don't set good ex amples, either. It's not suited for someone like you," Dustin said bluntly.

"Hey! I won't let you insult my guild like that!" Nikki's expression hardened, up set with.

Dustin.

"Am I wrong? A guild that distorts the truth and doesn't follow reason won't have a future," Dustin stated calmly.

"Madam Edith treats me well. You just haven't noticed," Nikki defended.

"Don't be naive. If she truly cared for you, she wouldn't have let you suffer inju stice."

Dustin chuckled. "She knew what happened, yet she chose to side with Brittan y.

"She even made you kneel in humiliation despite your significant contribution. Do this is the behavior a mentor should have?"

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think

"Stop talking! Madam Edith is not like what you think!" Nikki shook her head repeatedly.

"Fine, let's wait and see then." Dustin smiled weakly, not saying anything more.

Inside Zephyr Lodge, a horrible shriek pierced through the night sky, echoing t hroughout that night.

It was none other than Edith who screamed.

All the Jade Maiden Sisterhood disciples were in an uproar and rushed toward where Edith was staying.

As soon as they entered the courtyard, they saw Edith lying on the ground as she spat out

blood.

Compared to her usual graceful appearance, she appeared pale and listless. Her hair had also turned half—white.

She looked as if she had aged by more than a decade.

"Madam Edith! What happened to you?" Brittany was shocked and rushed up to help her.

"T-there's something wrong with the Jade Maiden Scripture. I— I went to extremes during training "Edith coughed violently. As she spoke, she spat out another mouthful of blood.

"What? You went to extremes?"

The group's expression shifted upon those words. The Jade Maiden Scripture was a precious, treasure their guild's ancestors passed down.

How could it have possibly caused such problems?

"Brittany, where did you get the Jade Maiden Scripture? It caused Edith to go to extremes in training!"

Right then, the elderly woman beside Edith suddenly grabbed Brittany by the t hroat. Her expression was menacing.

"Madam Letitia, it had nothing to do with me. I've never thought of harming Madam Edith!" Brittany shook her head, looking desperate.

She suddenly thought of something and quickly explained, "I get it now! It mus to be Nikki who was behind this. She must have done something to the scripture when I got her to look for it!"

"That's right! Nikki must have conspired with Dustin to frame Brittany!" the disciples said.

"That traitor! Seize her and bring her here for questioning immediately!" Letitia screamed in

anger.

"Right away!" the disciples answered and left hastily.

Soon, Nikki, whose hair was disheveled, was brought into the courtyard. She was tied up.

"What are you guys doing? Let me go!" Nikki struggled relentlessly, feeling wronged.

She had just finished

her bath. And the moment she stepped out, she was captured by her fellow di sciples.

"Nikki Horst! You acted in defiance of authority and betrayed the guild. How do you think you should be punished?" Letitia glared at Nikki.

"Betrayed the guild?" Nikki was taken aback.

"Madam Letitia, what the hell are you talking about?"

"You altered the Jade Maiden Scripture in secret, which led to Edith going to extremes in

training. Are you still going to deny it?" Letitia roared.

"What? Madam Edith went to extremes in training?" Nikki was shocked, her g aze darting around. She quickly noticed Edith in a listless state.

She asked anxiously, "Madam Edith! How did this happen? Are you alright?"

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Chapter 873

"Stop pretending! If it weren't because you harbored ill intentions, Edith wouldn't have gotten hurt!" Letitia shrieked.

"It wasn't me!" Nikki shook her head repeatedly.

"I didn't do anything. I passed the Jade Maiden Scripture to Brittany right after I got it!"

"Shut up!" Brittany's expression shifted upon hearing her. She rushed up and slapped Nikki's

face two times.

She screamed, "You b*tch! How dare you slander me? It's you who planned this!"

"Exactly! We all saw it! You were the one who handed the Jade Maiden Script ure over to Brittany!"

"It seems like it's true that you can never know someone completely. I can't be lieve you would be so bold to harm Madam Edith!" One after the other, the gro up of disciples condemned Nikki.

"I didn't! I didn't! I would never harm Madam Edith!" Nikki panicked. She strug gled to get up but was unable to move.

"You b*tch! Are you still trying to deny it? It seems like you still won't learn a le sson. Punish her with torture!" Letitia ordered.

Soon, a few disciples of the disciplinary board pinned Nikki forcefully to the ground. A thorny iron whip soaked in chili pepper water was brought out.

The iron whip was specially crafted to break through Divine Aura. A few lashe s were enough to overwhelm a skilled divine–level martial artist.

"Let me ask you again. Do you plead guilty?" Letitia growled.

"No! I didn't do anything! I'm innocent!" Nikki gritted her teeth, her gaze unyiel ding.

You brought this upon yourself! Torture her!" Letitia gestured to the disciples.

"Yes, madam!" The disciplinary disciple answered her and swung the iron whip down forcefully.

A crisp whack echoed as the thorny iron whip struck Nikki's back hard. Instantly, her clothes. tore, and flesh gaped through her skin, covering her in blood.

Nikki endured the pain. She gritted her teeth and clenched her fists tightly.

The disciplinary disciple showed no mercy. She delivered whip after whip, each strike landing heavily.

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Soon, Nikki was covered in injuries. Although she was evidently in pain and w as breaking out in cold sweat, she refused to yield.

She continued to deny and defend herself from the claims.

"Do you plead guilty?" Letitia's expression was cold.

"No! I'm innocent!" Nikki looked at Edith pleadingly.

"Madam Edith, my loyalty is unwavering. I will never betray the guild. Please i nvestigate clearly into it!"

Edith's gaze was frosty as she remained silent. It was as if she didn't hear her.

"Keep going!" Letitia raised her hand again.

"Let me do it!" Brittany volunteered, her gaze turning cold.

She grabbed the iron whip from the disciplinary disciple, wanting to torture Nik ki personally.

Since she was more skilled, her blows were more forceful. Each lash that cam e down left Nikki groaning in pain as her face twisted in agony.

"This is your punishment for harming others! I dare you to harm others again! I m going to cleanse our ranks today!"

As Brittany whipped Nikki, her lips twisted into an evil smirk. She was acting b ased on a personal grudge.

After the torture, Nikki was covered in welts. Her back was so injured that it was hard to differentiate between flesh and blood.

It was a gruesome sight.

Yet, the Jade Maiden Sisterhood disciples looked at the sight coldly. Not a sin gle person felt sorry for her.

"Stop right there!" Suddenly, they heard a loud voice.

At the same time, someone grabbed the iron whip from Brittany's hands, breaking it on the

spot.

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It was Cornelius who saved Nikki.

When Dustin yelled, Cornelius appeared in front of them instantly. He grabbed the iron whip

and broke it in half.

"How dare you!"

"You insolent bastard!"

The Jade Maiden Sisterhood disciples shouted. They were angry at Dustin an

Cornelius for disrupting the punishment. Some took out their swords, looking r eady to fight.

Duistin ignored them and walked up to Nikki. His expression darkened when he saw her covered in wounds and looking close to death.

It was one thing to steal credit; Dustin could have acted as if nothing happene d. But now they had falsely accused a person and resorted to torture when things turned bad.

It was outrageous!

"All of you are fellow disciples. Do you think it's appropriate to use such inhum ane methods?" Dustin scanned his surroundings, his gaze sharp.

"We are punishing a traitor. Outsiders should leave immediately!" Letitia warn ed.

"This is my territory. Naturally, it is my business when something has happene d," Dustin uttered coldly.

"Hey! I'm ordering you not to be a busybody! You won't want to get involved!" Brittany's gaze was hostile.

Dustin was silent and squatted down. He helped Nikki, who was very weak, up and fed her Haemotrol to help with her injuries.

He asked, "What happened? Why did they hit you?"

"They said there's something wrong with the Jade Maiden Scripture and that Madam Edith had went to extremes in training. They're so s ure that I harmed her when I'm innocent. I didn't do anything."

Nikki was pale and weak. She kept shaking her head. Even when severely injured, she hoped to

clear herself of the blame.

"I understand. Leave this to me." Dustin nodded. When he looked up once ag ain, his gaze was

frosty.

"All of you are too much for using such methods getting the situation straight."

"She had evil motives and intended to betray the guild. She deserves to be whipped to death!" Letitia roared.

"Betray the guild? Do you have evidence?" Dustin countered.

"The Jade Maiden Scripture is the evidence!"

Leitita looked menacing. "This disciple had malicious thoughts when she presented us with a fake scripture. After Edi

th underwent training, she went to extremes and was in harm's way." "Wait." D ustin raised a hand to stop her.

"You must have gotten it wrong. I clearly remember Brittany was the one who presented the Jade Maiden Scripture to you. You should be asking why she h armed Madam Edith!"

"Y_

you! What nonsense are you spouting?" Brittany's expression shifted dramatic ally. She was unable to stay calm.

"Did I say anything wrong?"

Dustin glanced coldly at her. "You took charge completely this morning and said through a lot of trouble to get your hands on the Jade Maiden Scripture.

you went

"Now that something has happened, you pushed the blame onto Nikki. You're such a master at blaming someone else!"

"Shut up!" Brittany was flustered.

"Another word of nonsense out your mouth, and I'll retract your chance of being my fanboy!"

"Madam Parker, you were at the scene today as well. You should be clear about what happened. if you haven't lost your memories."

Dustin turned his attention to Edith. "It's Brittany at fault, and yet you pushed the blame toward Nikki. I wonder if you're acting dumb or just playing favorites."

Edith's lips twisted into a frown at Dustin's words. She couldn't believe someo ne dared. challenge her authority. This bastard was asking for death!

"You insolent bastard! How dare you judge Edith with your status?" Letitia roar ed.

"I'm just seeking justice." Dustin had his arms behind his back as he glowered at them.

"The Jade Maiden Sisterhood is a legitimate guild. If word gets out that this is how you handle matters, you will be the joke of the town."

"How dare you?" Edith couldn't hold back any longer.

She angrily screamed, "Who the hell do you think you are? How dare you poin t fingers at us? Grab him!"

Chapter 875

"I will break your legs for humiliating Edith!" Letitia's gaze turned cold.

She shot toward Dustin like a ghost. As a divine—level marital artist, her skills were second only to Edith and comparable to several elders of the lade Maiden Sisterhood.

"Go to hell!" Cornelius' expression darkened when he saw Letitia trying to attack Dustin.

He replicated Letitia's palm attack with equal force, resulting in a loud collision. He staggere d a few steps back before steadying himself.

But Letitia was sent flying a few meters away before crashing heavily into a large tree. It was like a car had hit her.

The force left her coughing blood uncontrollably.

"What?" The expressions of the Jade Maiden Sisterhood disciples fell.

Letitia's skills ranked among the top five of the Jade Maiden Sisterhood members. None of the disciples could match her power.

Yet, she was severely injured by a skinny old man. It was astonishing!

Even Edith appeared unsettled at that moment. They didn't expect Zephyr Lodge to have su ch. a strong fighter.

"You should know your place!" Cornelius sneered before returning to Dustin's side.

After collecting herself, Brittany roared, "How... how dare you hurt Madam Letitia? Your crimes are horrible!

"Dustin Rhys! I order you to apologize to Madam Letitia immediately and slap that old man. Otherwise, I will get mad!"

Dustin didn't respond to her and looked Edith straight in the eye. "Madam Parker, first thing s. first, please get the situation straight.

"I'm not a member of your guild. I will not let you act as you like."

"Secondly, everyone can tell right from wrong. You allowed your disciples to twist and distor t. the truth. It will lead to your downfall sooner or later.

"Lastly, let me remind you. This is my territory. I'm in charge here.

"I welcome your presence as guests. But if you continue creating disturbances with your arrogance and domineering attitude, don't blame me for throwing all of you out of here!"

"You wouldn't dare!" Edith's temper flared at his words.

She was the leader of the Jade Maiden Sisterhood with more than ten thousand disciples!

No matter where she went, she was the center of attention. She had never been humiliated I ike this before.

"Why wouldn't I? I only let you stay here because of Nikki. But now you have angered me. Al I of you, leave!" Dustin ordered, glaring at them firmly.

"You-!" Edith was furious that her face flushed red. The veins on her face were bulging.

Suddenly, she coughed up blood and nearly collapsed.

She was already severely injured from going to extremes in training. Her internal energy and blood surging only worsen her condition.

Seeing that she was no match for Dustin, Edith suddenly turned to Nikki. "Y-you traitor!"

She yelled, "I've treated you well all this time, yet you conspired with an outsider to humiliat e. me!"

Those words struck Nikki like a lightning bolt, and she froze to the spot. She collapsed to her knees with a thud when the shock wore off.

She begged Edith, "Madam Edith, I was wrong. I admit to the crimes. You can punish me as you see fit. Please don't kick me out!"

"It's too late!" Edith dropped her kind act.

Her expression was stern. "From today onward, I am no longer your mentor. And you are no longer a disciple of the Jade Maiden Sisterhood.

"Now, get out of here!"

"This is my home. If anyone is leaving, it is all of you," Dustin stated.

Edith's expression stiffened before she coughed up another mouthful of blood. She was irrit ated to the point she fainted on the spot.