

Unspeakable 1991

Chapter 1991

The Pill of Life Exchange, otherwise known as the Pill of Chance, was a drug that could suppress all kinds of incurable diseases at the cost of one's potential. Note that it was suppression, not healing.

Nonetheless, this method of killing the goose that laid golden eggs was undoubtedly a magic pill for terminally ill people.

They were dying anyway, so they would take it even if they could only live another year. Besides, once the effect of the drug wore off, one would reach their end. They could close their eyes in peace without having to endure the pain from the torture of illnesses.

"This time, I will launch the Pill of Life Exchange in Eastshire and Stonedale." Having said that, Baltazar added, "In an unlimited amount!"

As soon as that remark came out of his mouth, everyone gasped.

"Baltazar, are you in your right mind? Why are you even selling it in limited quantities back in our country? Are you trying to become a traitor?"

The fortune of the Dupont Family depended solely on the Pill of Life Exchange developed by Baltazar. To monopolize the market and maximize profits, their family had always controlled the number of pills sold in the market. To put it simply, they executed hunger marketing.

Compared to the others who were worked up by his statement, Alvaro was visibly much calmer.

Frowning, he asked indifferently, "Was it sold to everyone?"

His sentence was impactful. When he mentioned that, the other genius doctors who had run into a dead end realized it.

'Well... He's right!'

It could be a magic pill for those with a terminal illness, but to those in good health, it was a deadly poison.

If one's lifespan was ten years, it could be reduced by more than half, perhaps to three-tenth of their original lifespan if one consumed this pill.

Nodding his head, Baltazar took advantage of the situation and offered his conditions.

"I need everyone in this room to guarantee that you will help me improve the credibility of the market. As a reward, I shall share the secret recipe of the Pill of Life Exchange with all of you once the matter is settled."

'Damn! He's crazy!'

No one expected Baltazar to be this crazy.

To avenge his disabled disciple, he was willing to share the secret recipe of the Pill of Life Exchange.

One should know that they had long coveted the secret recipe for the pill!

It was a pity that they didn't know Baltazar was also forced by his disciple to do that. Otherwise, he would have been extremely reluctant to share it.

"Master Baltazar, since Zayn is also our junior, I will do my best for him."

Anyone attentive would have noticed that the person who spoke was the one who condemned Baltazar continuously from the start. After he finished speaking, the others followed suit.

"Of course. As a senior, we should always support our juniors."

"We'll do it!"

As for the common people, sometimes it didn't matter if they were hurt a little!

After everyone had made their decisions, their attention shifted to Aurelius. When he became the focus of attention, he was dumbfounded.

"Master Damron, you can account for 70% of all the proceeds from the sales of the Pill of Life Exchange."

Hearing the mention of himself, Aurelius quickly straightened his back and asked in a serious manner, "Masters, may I ask what the Pill of Life Exchange is for?"

'Why did it feel like something dangerous?'

"Pill of Life Exchange is a magical pill for people who are terminally ill..."

Before Baltazar could finish his explanation, Aurelius couldn't help exclaiming, "Damn!"

With this magical pill, there was no way he couldn't make a fortune.

"What can I do for you, Master Baltazar?"

Aurelius' enthusiasm showed through his speech and actions. Even when he spoke, one would notice the spark in his eyes.

"It's not a big deal. Doesn't your family own a pharmaceutical factory? I will hand the secret recipe to you so that you can mass-produce it as soon as possible."

Although it sounded simple, the issues involved could be complicated.

Frankly speaking, Aurelius didn't really care if the innocent public was involved, but Eastshire and Stonedale were under the jurisdiction of the King of the South, Master Levi. If an issue arose, it would be a slap to his face.

Seeming to have read his mind, Baltazar consoled him nonchalantly, "Aren't sales done voluntarily? What other people say doesn't really matter."

As soon as those words were said, the other elders immediately cast Baltazar contemptuous glances.

'We'd be fools to believe you! If you didn't have the confidence to do so, why did you even ask us to assist you?'

On the other hand, Aurelius' excitement grew.

"Don't worry, Master Baltazar. You will be able to see the drug on the market tomorrow morning."

Chapter 1992

Accompanied by the sound of ambulance sirens passing by, Alfie Briggs dragged his exhausted body and haggard face to a ward in the hospital.

Before he entered the ward, however, he heard an argument going on inside.

"I don't want to eat anymore! Take them away! I don't have much time left to live anyway. What's the use of eating these? Rather than being tortured by cancer every day, I prefer to be free from this lifetime."

"Dad, just eat as much as you can. We feel bad seeing you like this."

"If you do feel bad for me, just free me from this torture already!"

After standing for a while at the door, Alfie took a deep breath and entered the ward.

"I'm here, Dad!"

He placed the fruits on the table and walked to the old man's hospital bed.

"Alfie, your brothers and sisters are tormenting me. I'm in too much pain now. You're the youngest but also the most mature. Please let me go, will you?"

Seeing despair painted across his father's face, he felt tears swimming in his eyes. At the same time, he reached into the pocket of his chest.

On the way to visit his father, he passed by a pharmacy. Outside the store, they were promoting the launch of a new drug with fanfare, and he later found out that it was a magic pill that could cure terminal illnesses.

Although he didn't know if the medicine was as effective as they claimed it to be, he clenched his teeth and bought one of them at the price of 2,000 at the thought of his father suffering from stomach cancer.

"Dad, this is a new anticancer drug on the market! Why don't you try it?"

"Oh, Alfie, how could you feed Dad with just any drug? What if it was poisonous? You already know how weak he is." Seeing Alfie taking out an unknown drug, his sister-in-law hurriedly stop him.

If she hadn't mentioned that it might be poisonous, the old man lying in bed wouldn't have been excited about it.

Staring at the medicine bottle in Alfie's hand, he snatched it while his son was not paying attention.

By the time his children reacted, he had already swallowed the pill into his belly. His children immediately rushed forward and looked at their father anxiously.

"Dad, how are you feeling? Do you feel any discomfort?"

Seeing their father's dazed expression, they became even more panicked.

“Don’t scare us, Dad!”

The way he looked now even made his eldest daughter cry anxiously.

Shaking his head, the old man waved his hand slowly.

“I’m fine. I feel a lot better now.” As he spoke, he struggled to get out of bed.

Suspiciously, they helped their old father out of the bed.

Miraculously, under the sun, the old man’s pale hair turned dark at a speed visible to the naked eye.

Following that, the wrinkles on his face also reduced a little.

Was this a rejuvenating drug?

After a re-examination by the doctor, they learned that the cancer cells in their father’s body were in the process of decreasing. The discovery made the women who were present come up with an idea.

“Alfie, Alfie! Come here. We want to ask you something...” When he went out of the ward, his sister-in-law and sister asked expectantly about the source of the medicine.

“The pharmacist said that this Pill of Life Exchange can only be taken by terminally ill people.”

“Just look at Dad! He has been cured! Wouldn’t we become healthier if we consume it?”

Regardless of their younger brother’s dissuasion, the two women rushed to the pharmacy. Similar cases happened one after another in Eastshire and Stonedale.

Before long, the Pill of Life Exchange quickly occupied the entire market.

Aurelius immediately ordered the workers in his factory to work overtime to make it once he had gotten the formula. The drug was immediately launched the following morning, and they were able to recoup their costs by noon. Furthermore, they made nearly 15 million dollars in profit.

This was only the beginning of their launch after word spread. It was estimated that they would soon earn a profit of over 300 million the next day.

As time went by, the profit value would only increase daily.

Chapter 1993

Lying on the bed, Zayn listened to the news from Baltazar. A strange smile slowly appeared across his face.

“Good work, master, for paying such a high price for your unruly disciple.”

Baltazar’s face was currently as dark as coal.

“I already did everything according to your request by seeking revenge on the people living under the jurisdiction of Matthew Larson. When are you going to keep your promise?”

Zayn snickered. “Master, haven’t you always taught me to stay calm? I would say the same thing to you now. Isn’t this just the beginning? And isn’t Matthew the Lord of Eastshire? When he hears about the Pill of Life Exchange, he won’t just sit still...”

“When the time comes, I’ll have to trouble you to take his life again. Once he is dead, my revenge will be fulfilled. By that time, I will commit suicide, so don’t worry. Living with a useless body is torturous to me.”

With a cold snort, Baltazar turned around and walked out of the room.

“I hope you will keep your word. At worst, I will ask my family to kill me in the name of executing a member who brought disgrace upon the family. Hah! Don’t even bring up my reputation with me. When I die, I won’t have to give a f*ck about what happens.”

Zayn watched his back with disdain.

‘Just you wait, old geezer. Once Matthew Larson dies, don’t you even dare to think about killing yourself!’

Lifting his head, he smelled the faint fragrance in the room and fully indulged himself in it.

On the other hand, the first thing Matthew did after obtaining the meridian-nourishing plant was to use it as the main ingredient in refining the Meridian-Nourishing Pill.

When he used the Divine Skill, the slight tingling sensation he felt in his meridians before had disappeared. It was proof that his meridians had been healed.

Meanwhile, the essential Qi in his here had been replaced by sword energy. Clenching his fists, he found the feeling of being reborn a little fascinating.

Before he could feel the excitement for long, however, Salazar rushed into the backyard.

“Matthew, look at this. Dr. Ellis sent this, and he sounds anxious about it!” As he spoke, he handed him the medicine bottle in his arms as well as a thin document.

He said that this case is affecting the life and death of the people in Eastshire and Stonedale, so he wants you to treat it very seriously.”

“Where is he? Why didn’t he come over himself?” Noticing that there was no one behind Salazar, Matthew asked.

“Dr. Ellis said that he has to stop by the market and investigate in detail, so he left this thing with me and left.”

Although he was puzzled, Matthew didn’t procrastinate and quickly opened the file. As more information was revealed in the document, his face contorted.

After reading the whole document, he smashed it directly on the floor. He took out the Pill of Life Exchange and scraped a layer of powder from its surface.

The situation was so urgent that he was left with little time to study it in detail. Without the slightest hesitation, he swallowed the powder directly. Soon, he felt the faint excitement surging in his body. In an instant, he exuded a murderous aura.

"F*ck that Emsgate son of a b*tch!"

"Gather the Ten Greatest Families here and tell them it is my order. Also, hurry up and block the supply of this pill and stop all the pharmacies from selling it."

Although Salazar couldn't comprehend why Matthew was so enraged, he inquired cautiously, "Will the top ten families cooperate with us on such a big matter?"

The ten greatest families were currently dealing with various chaotic matters within their families during this period. Moreover, this case involved the two states and hundreds of millions of people.

Would they dare to take action?

"It's okay. Just do as I say. Their choice depends on their state of mind. I will also do the same for Eastshire for now. Hurry up and inform them. I'm going to meet Master Levi first."

After saying that, he picked up Bloodreaper and left the villa in a hurry.

Chapter 1994

The sky in July changed at will.

Before Matthew headed out, the sky was still clear, yet when he arrived at Master Levi's front yard, dark clouds hovered the sky, and coupled with the dreary air, it could easily make one irritated.

Sitting upright in the living room, he waited quietly.

In fact, the best way to solve the crisis in Eastshire and Stonedale was to wait until the Holy Doctor Competition. If he could win the championship, he would become the top miracle doctor of Cathay. If he gave his order by then, he could easily wipe out the existence of the Pill of Life Exchange.

Though the idea was a good one, the reality was cruel.

There was still nearly a week until the Holy Doctor Competition, but everything would be too late if he waited until then. He only had one way left to solve the problem now.

If he had another option, Matthew would never choose to meet Master Levi, primarily because Master Levi was too cunning. It was as if every move he took was calculated. Furthermore, Matthew was putting his life in danger by traveling all the way here.

Nonetheless, the crisis in the two states could only be resolved with Master Levi's help.

Just as Matthew was immersed in thought, he heard footsteps coming from the backyard. Though he didn't see the man, Matthew could hear his footsteps and the swaying movements of his figure.

When Matthew subconsciously raised his hand to block him, someone grabbed his arm.

Essential Qi seeped into Matthew's body, shocking Master Levi.

"Has your here and meridian been restored?" Letting go of his palm, Master Levi looked at the young man in front of him with disbelief and he was also slightly intimidated by Matthew.

"Yes. I was lucky enough to get advice from an expert. I am in good health now."

Though unbelievable, the truth was happening right in front of him.

"I can't believe that can happen!" Expressing his surprise, Master Levi took a seat opposite him.

At the same time, his gaze landed on Matthew inadvertently. Occasionally, he would also steal glances at the sword beside Matthew.

Due to the urgency of the matter, Matthew had no leisure time to chat with him.

"There's an urgent matter that has compelled me to seek your assistance, Master Levi."

"Are you talking about the Pill of Life Exchange?" After calming himself down, Master Levi asked.

As the ruler of the Six Southern States, how could such matters in Eastshire and Stonedale escape his attention?

"Exactly. Please issue an announcement explaining the dangers of the Pill of Life Exchange. I thank you in advance on behalf of the people of Eastshire and Stonedale!"

As he spoke, Matthew got up and bowed to Master Levi.

The public would only believe it when someone as credible as Master Levi stood up. Not only was the Pill of Life Exchange extremely dangerous, but the side effects were also well concealed.

In the initial stage after consuming the drug, one would only feel younger and more energetic. At this stage, general medical instruments wouldn't be able to detect any abnormalities in one's body.

In the middle and late stages, the side effects would hit in the form of a sharp decline in various body functions. At that stage, one would no longer be able to recover. Their energy would be exhausted, just like a plant with rotten roots, which might look fine on the surface, but would wither in a second if it was not kept intact.

As a result, Matthew wanted to take advantage of the fact that the Pill of Life Exchange had recently been sold on the market to abolish it.

Once the drug spread, the consequences would be disastrous.

"As expected of the youngest genius doctor in Eastshire and Stonedale. You really are a righteous leader who strives to save the people."

Although Master Levi was smiling, his tone was tinged with coldness. He had been waiting for Matthew to come to him for help. The purpose was so that Matthew would know his place, thus allowing him to have a better grasp of controlling Matthew.

However, the situation took a turn. Matthew's initially damaged hara and meridians had recovered and the mysterious essential Qi within him felt like a threat to Master Levi. Matthew gave him the creeps.

If Master Levi didn't get rid of him now, he could pose a great threat in the future.

Sensing the change in Master Levi's aura, Matthew secretly exclaimed that something was wrong. His first life-and-death crisis was quietly approaching him.

“Master Levi, the two states are in crisis right now and that makes me utterly distressed. As long as you take action and eradicate the source of the Pill of Life Exchange, I will produce the Divine Skill Pill to fill in the market vacancy.”

The reason he mentioned the Divine Skill Pill was to protect himself from getting killed.

Chapter 1995

Sure enough, Levi seemed to sense the huge benefits associated with the Divine Skill Pill, so he lightened his tone.

“You should be aware that hundreds of millions of people have taken the Pill of Life Exchange by now. Besides, the effects are pretty obvious. Do you think they would listen to me if I stopped them? I might look glamorous for taking control of the Six Southern States, but in reality, many things restrain me from taking certain actions.”

At that thought, the killing intent he previously carried lessened. He should keep Matthew alive for now since he held the Divine Skill Pill.

Once the Divine Skill Pill was sold in the market, it would bring in a steady stream of profits to the South. The greater the development of the Six Southern States, the greater Levi’s power would be.

Matthew breathed a sigh of relief.

The recovery of his meridian undoubtedly came as a huge shock to Levi, but though he was resentful, Matthew had no choice but to be humble since he required his assistance.

At that thought, Matthew took out his second lifesaving means.

“Master Levi, I came uninvited, but I didn’t bring any valuable gifts. Please treat this bottle of Beauty Pill as my gift to your wife.”

At the mention of his wife, Levi inadvertently presented a doting look.

Through Matthew’s investigation, he discovered that the South might be an open book to Master Levi and that he could always come out with various tactics to achieve his goals, but he adored his wife very much.

That fact gave Matthew a chance. Taking the opportunity, he explained the function of the Beauty Pill.

“This pill was exclusively used by members of the royal family such as noble concubines and empresses in the Tunia Empire. The recipe was originally lost, but I found it in some classic books by chance.”

As he spoke, Matthew handed the medicine bottle to Levi.

“This medicine is nourishing, beautifying, and has no side effects, so you may rest assured. I dare not brag too much about the specific effects, but you will certainly discover its wonder after consuming it.”

That was a given since the pills were produced for the royal family. If side effects were present, those who produced the pill would have been beheaded by the emperor back then.

Despite that, Matthew purposely hid some of the facts about the pill. To be precise, this Beauty Pill took the name of Basic Beauty Pill.

Due to the lack of a few main ingredients, the effectiveness of the drug wasn't as strong as the original one. But even so, it worked way better than the top skin care products currently available in the market.

After hearing his explanation, Levi happily accepted the gift.

To be frank, he didn't believe a single word Matthew just said. Previously, he made the Divine Skill Pill, and now, he came up with the Beauty Pill. It was as if he was capable of making any pill he wanted.

Of course, it didn't matter what excuse Matthew came up with.

As long as Matthew was still in the South, provided benefits to the state, and assisted in the development of the Six Southern States, Levi would agree to whatever he said, even if he claimed that the recipe was given by the deities.

Even though Levi was satisfied, Matthew was as anxious as a cat on a hot tin roof.

He wasn't as strong as Levi, and facing the urgent situation in the two states, he had to seize the opportunity and persuade Levi to make a move.

"Master Levi, I understand you are concerned about my growing power in the future, which may cause a commotion within the Six States, but I can assure you that the Six Southern States will obey your command as long as you are alive. If I go back on my words, I'll end up like this tree."

As he said that, he stood up, walked to the big tree, drew his sword, and sliced it. He managed to cut off a branch that was as thick as a thumb.

Matthew was declaring that he would risk his life if he ever broke the promise. This was his third means to save his life. This was the only way for Levi to allow him to develop in the South.

"That's an exaggeration. I've been in charge of the South for years now. Why would I still be afraid that an insignificant young man like you would threaten my status?" With a proud smile, Levi looked at Matthew quietly.

"Don't they always describe young people as youthful but arrogant?"

Chapter 1996

Inserting the long sword back into its sheath, Matthew sat down again while telling a joke.

Levi, who was sitting opposite him, was still smiling perfunctorily.

Now that they were openly discussing the sensitive matter, he no longer had the intention of concealing his true thoughts.

"What you said makes sense, but I hope you remember what you promised me here, or I will remind you of it." His tone carried a menacing aura.

"Don't worry, Master Levi. I will bear that in mind." Holding the long sword, Matthew hurriedly agreed.

He was finally able to relax.

Levi's words almost signified that his future developments would not be restricted anymore. The premise, of course, was that it wouldn't affect Levi's dominance in the South.

"Okay, I will make an announcement about the Pill of Life Exchange, but I hope you can launch your Divine Skill Pill into the market as soon as possible."

After saying that, he glanced at the long sword in Matthew's hand again.

"I did not expect you to give up on fighting with your fists and go for a sword instead after your meridian was restored. I must warn you that swordsmanship is way more difficult than other martial arts, so you'd better be mentally prepared." While saying that, Master Levi pointed at the sword.

Matthew understood his intentions instantly and tossed Bloodreaper to him without hesitation. However, the moment the sword left his hands, the energy it carried completely dissipated.

Cling!

Looking at the rusty sword, Levi couldn't help frowning.

Wasn't this sword a little too old?

Even though he noticed the words on the body of the sword, he wasn't interested to study it.

After checking the sword and finding nothing unusual, he asked, "Why didn't you choose a better sword? This one looks like it's going to break soon!"

With a shrug, Matthew pretended to look helpless.

"Can't help it since a good sword is rare while a famous sword leaves no trace behind. I'd rather use a rusty sword to practice martial arts and the mind."

Levi initially speculated that the sword hid the secret to healing Matthew's meridians, seeing that Matthew brought the sword with him everywhere he went. Though his speculations sounded a little absurd, it was just speculation after all.

After checking the sword, he could only sense the faintest hint of energy on it.

The sword might look like an antique, but he was sure there was no sword energy left on it.

'Could he have absorbed the ancient sword's energy to repair his meridians?'

That was just his assumption.

After fumbling with his sword a little longer, Master Levi tossed it back to Matthew.

Matthew finally received Master Levi's answer, so after chatting a little longer, Matthew was ready to head back and settle the follow-up tasks for the Pill of Life Exchange.

Standing by the window watching the cars speeding away, Master Levi asked, "Have you found out how Matthew restored his meridian?"

Since the matter was too outrageous, he couldn't let it go if he didn't find out the truth.

Behind him, Black Robe replied to him, "I apologize for my incapability. I've traced everything around Matthew Larson but didn't find anything abnormal. As for the rusty sword, it was Madam who asked the crown prince to pass it to him. Besides, there is no way we can't detect any experts or outsiders if they ever entered our premises."

Master Levi shook his head after hearing her explanation.

Even if an expert was sneaking in, how could any ordinary person possibly restore a damaged meridian?

Not even the contemporary miracle doctor Hal Salvatore had such an ability!

"If that is the case, you don't have to watch over Matthew anymore for now.

He's being generous with us, so we shouldn't be petty about it."

After obtaining Matthew's guarantee, Master Levi acted more magnanimously.

"I can't deny that this brat is creepy, but he can only bring me the greatest benefit if he's alive. You don't have to monitor him anymore from now on."

"Yes, sir! But Madam..." Thinking of Layna's position in Master Levi's heart, the woman hastily stopped herself from speaking.

"What's wrong with Layna?" Master Levi's tone turned serious at the mention of his wife.

"N-Nothing. It's just that Poison Spider and the crown prince have a close relationship with Matthew, so I was just wondering if Madam is being too kind to them."

Master Levi furrowed his brows. "How many times have I told you not to meddle in my wife's affairs? Are you not going to obey me anymore?"

"N-No! Of course, not!"

"Remember your place. Now, go and find someone and make him take this medicine. If anything happens to him, report to me right away."

To be frank, he knew that Matthew wouldn't dare to play any tricks on the drug, but no matter how confident he was, he wouldn't dare to give his wife a pill of unknown origin.

However, while Master Levi was talking with Matthew earlier, a figure had already jumped out of the courtyard and disappeared at the end of the road.

Chapter 1997

When the car stopped by the side of the road, Matthew exited the vehicle.

Regardless of how prepared he was, the murderous aura that emanated from Master Levi was as oppressive as a gigantic hand. It was as if a gigantic hand had wrapped its fingers around his neck and strangled him.

However, before he could catch his breath, the hair on the back of his neck stood on end, and a terrifying sense of impending danger swept over him. Then, he immediately threw himself to the ground and rolled to the side.

When he looked up, he noticed a few darts sticking out of the ground in the same spot where he had been standing earlier.

‘An assassin’s weapon?!’

Suddenly, Matthew’s thoughts raced through the people he had met, and the only person he could think of who might have used such a weapon was Black Robe, who had worked for Master Levi.

Still, if Master Levi had intended to kill him, there was no reason to wait, and the deed could have been carried out inside the room earlier.

So, why did he bother to go through all the trouble?

Suddenly, darts were thrown in his direction before he could even gather his thoughts.

Afterward, he slipped his hand inside his clothes, and out of thin air, three silver needles materialized in his hand.

Clink! Clink! Clink!

The crisp sound of metal on metal echoed through the air as the darts hit the ground.

“Could it be that you’ve recovered?”

When Matthew turned to see who had spoken, he saw a Black Robe woman perched high in a nearby tree. Since the veil covered her face, he couldn’t see her clearly.

“What is this? Did Master Levi change his mind and send you to kill me instead?” Following that, he cautiously tightened his grip on his sword scabbard.

“Ha! Don’t think about getting information from me. I am the one who seeks your demise, not Master Levi.” As soon as the woman uttered those words, she leaped from the tree. Then, she drew a dagger as she dashed toward him.

A look of bewilderment spread across his face at that response, and Matthew mused.

‘There is no bad blood between this woman and me, and we are not at odds...’

‘Why is she planning to ambush and murder me?’

So, he decided to act when he sensed she emanated murderous intent. Then, his right hand formed a claw as he sprinted toward her.

However, the Black Robe woman did not hold back as they exchanged blows, leaving him gasping for air due to her swift movements, agility, and sharp blade.

‘Is she serious about killing me?’

During the fraction of a second, Matthew was preoccupied with that thought, and she switched from a stabbing to a slashing motion.

He dodged a fatal blow by turning sideways, but the blade still grazed his chest. In the heat of the moment, he swiftly lifted his right leg and kicked her in the abdomen.

Although the woman avoided his kick, Matthew managed to keep a safe distance between himself and her. Suddenly, he felt a sharp pain and looked down to see a gash in his coat and a small trickle of blood. Despite the unscathed state of his meridians, his energy was in the process of healing.

‘Her skill is admirable, but in my current state, I am no match for her...’

After considering it, he concluded that he could no longer be bothered to keep his abilities hidden because he needed to save his life. So, he positioned his right hand on the hilt of his sword and initiated the attack.

Concurrently, she swung her dagger around and charged at him.

‘Now... Die!’

When the Black Robe woman was several feet from him, Matthew removed Bloodreaper from its sheath and brandished it. Soon, an invisible sword wave of energy slashed through the air and split it into two. Then, he watched in disbelief as she sidestepped the blow that was intended to be fatal.

Her reaction reveals that she has prior knowledge of the sword’s energy.

‘How is this possible? The crown prince, Salazar, and I are the only people who know Bloodreaper’s secret... I refuse to believe that either of them would betray me...’

Matthew froze in his tracks as his thoughts raced from the shock.

Then, the Black Robe woman exclaimed in surprise, “I can’t believe your hara meridian has recovered.”

Afterward, as if to allay Matthew’s wariness, she returned to the tree.

“Who the hell are you?” As he tightened his grip on his speckled sword, he barked the question interrogatively.

“There’s no need to be so angry, brat. Your current condition suggests that the assault must have taken a significant toll on you, right? So, be a good boy and answer me, or you might die.” As she spoke, her icy, murderous aura filled the air.

Chapter 1998

When Matthew heard the Black Robe woman’s words, his face contorted, and despite his best efforts to hide his emotion, she picked up on the change in his expression.

‘I’ve spent days trying to strike a balance with the sword, but my attachment to the Bloodreaper hasn’t changed much. Is it my weakness, or is the sword too powerful? Regardless, I can’t swing the sword anymore because it has drained all my energy in one blow. Anyway, it seems as though she has a deep understanding of the weapon I’m using...’

“You should lay low after your meridians have recovered. Still, you come strutting over without fear. Do you not worry that Master Levi will exploit your Nirvana technique for his own gain?” She understood that he used the Nirvana technique to restore his meridian.

Then, Matthew responded in a low, disdainful tone, “Think about all the people who have lost their cultivation because their meridians were damaged during training, in a fight, or by pure accident. If my

recovery technique could be replicated, do you believe it would be difficult for me to maintain dominance? Did you think I'd be allowed to leave alive if Master Levi didn't notice?"

'I agree with his assertion. If word gets out about his miraculous recovery method, a swarm of grateful believers will flock to find him and repay him for the second chance at life that he has given them...'

'The world is big, and many people have injured meridians; if one out of ten seeks his help, he will have more power than all of the Southern families combined. When that time comes, he will have amassed so much power that not even the Nolans, the most prominent family in Cathay would dare oppose him. Is it possible?'

'Why is he so foolish as to meet Master Levi and risk his life if such a method is replicable?'

The Black Robe woman flushed at the thought.

Then, she fixed her eyes on Matthew's sarcastic expression.

She couldn't help but grit her teeth. "Brat, how dare you speak to your aunt in such a manner!"

The Black Robe woman was Madam Quirk. She was Shane's disciple and Matthew's mother's best friend.

'I have set up this ambush to see if Matthew has fully recovered and to caution him to be wary of Master Levi. However, he doesn't have to be warned and appears to have already planned everything out. It comes as a surprise that he has fully recovered and is significantly more powerful than before...'

"Remember that you must never reveal the Bloodreaper's secret until you have attained absolute power. Otherwise, you are not only putting yourself in danger, but the entire Cathay will descend into chaos. Okay, you may leave..."

The Bloodreaper was an ancient divine weapon with mystical powers capable of overturning an era.

'Is she going to let me go? I'm perplexed by her words and actions, and if she planned to murder me, she can save herself a lot of words...'

'If Master Levi had assigned her the task of assessing my meridian recovery progress, she would have accomplished her goal. Regardless, she can return and report it to him, or she could have murdered me and taken the Bloodreaper from me. Nonetheless, she let me go after a long, perplexing speech...'

Soon, Matthew got into his car and drove off, leaving Madam Quirk alone on the tree branch until he was no longer in sight.

Suddenly, her body became limp. A gaping gash several inches long on her back continued to bleed profusely despite applying pressure.

'I never anticipate being wounded by the sword despite avoiding the blow.'

'Hiss! I did not expect the Bloodreaper's legends to be true. It's no surprise that so many powerful men fought over it in the past...'

After heaving a sigh, she sprinted away from the tree.

Suddenly, a fir tree the size of a human calf fell to the ground. The seam where the tree trunk had split looked unnaturally smooth.

On the other hand, the ten greatest families of Eastshire and Stonedale were informed about Matthew's situation.

After realizing the gravity of the situation, they immediately stopped what they were doing. They redirected all of their men's efforts toward his plan. In addition, the families approached the issue in their own distinct manner.

Chapter 1999

Due to the actions of the great families, the market for the Pill of Life Exchange was affected.

Some men disguised themselves as thugs to kick up a fuss at the pharmacies to scare away customers.

Meanwhile, others secretly ambushed the pill's supply lines. In addition, the more ruthless would go so far as to buy up the entire inventory of pills from pharmacies. Nonetheless, the pills' market growth had been stymied by various schemes and tricks.

Soon after, Master Levi made his move, and his initial action was to make a public announcement.

"The Pill of Life Exchange is not a miracle cure. It provides temporary health by stimulating the body's potential in exchange for short-term health, and as a result, the pill irreparably harms the body. Therefore, we strongly advise residents of the South to stay away from this medicine."

Then, he signed his name as "Master Levi, King of the South" because he was the most revered public figure in the Six Southern States.

As soon as the announcement was posted, sales and popularity for the Pill of Life Exchange plummeted.

"Scumbag merchants! You ruined my health, so refund my money!"

"Damn it! I will have my friends trash your store if anything bad happens to my wife because of your pill!"

"What are we waiting for? We should do something right now! I don't want a refund anymore, and all I want to do is destroy their store!"

The terrified owner trembled at the sight of the irate men swarming the pharmacy's entrance. Nonetheless, he musters the courage to confront them to protect his store.

"Everyone, please calm down and listen to me. Before I sold it to you, I told you explicitly that the pill was solely intended for terminally ill patients. Don't you think your behavior is unreasonable?"

As soon as the crowd heard that, their rage began to dissipate. The pharmacy owner was right and they had been cautioned, but none paid attention to the warnings.

When the owner noticed that the crowd had calmed down, he secretly heaved a sigh of relief.

'I'm a smart and quick-witted man...'

He felt pretty good about himself for how he handled the situation, but behind him in the crowd stood a stunningly beautiful young lady still seething with rage.

As soon as she raised her hand, a six-foot-tall burly man standing next to her immediately bowed down, and she pulled his ear.

“Are you waiting for me to experience the adverse effects? So you can roll in the hay with another young person? I warn you that unless you resolve this issue immediately, you will never sleep in my bed again.”

“Ouch, Mercy, dear!” he cried out.

When the young lady finally released him, the burly man massaged his red, throbbing ear with a pout.

He quickly responded to her threats with a promise, “Don’t worry, my dear wife. I said I’d tear this place apart, and I will.”

Following that, he stepped forward and grabbed a large boulder that was more than three feet high from the side of the road.

“Let me through, boys. This shady vendor is trying to trick us with his smooth talk. Although the pill was intended for those with terminal illnesses, he never stated that healthy individuals could not take it or that there would be side effects. Don’t fall for his lies!”

When the crowd had cleared his path, he hurled the large boulder at the store, which shattered the glass display case inside.

Soon, it appeared that his words also roused the other men, who had previously calmed down, to anger. Then, they looked over at their wives, who had gloomy expressions that made the men quake with fear.

“Let’s trash this place!”

As soon as the cry was yelled out, the crowd rushed into the store. Within five minutes, everything in the gigantic pharmacy was shattered to pieces.

“Let’s go, dear!”

When she noticed the other women were giving their husbands the cold shoulder, the young lady clutched the muscular arm of her burly man and strutted away from the crowd.

In numerous locations across the two states, a similar occurrence occurred. Consequently, any pharmacy that sold the Pill of Life Exchange would have its stores trashed.

Meanwhile, Aurelius’ face darkened as he listened to his assistant’s report on the situation. Although he had anticipated a move from Master Levi, he had not anticipated it would be so soon. Moreover, he was not expecting the Ten Greatest Families of Stonedale to go to such lengths for Matthew.

“Master Damron, I have bad news! All pharmacy owners have arrived, demanding compensation for their stores.”

‘These men are doing nothing but adding insult to injury!’

Soon, he could not resist the urge to let out an expletive when he heard that.

Chapter 2000

The horde of pharmacy owners was united in their demands, and Aurelius was forced to cave in under immense pressure.

After paying up an exorbitant amount of money as compensation, his plans for the Pill of Life Exchange drew to an end. However, his plan did not yield any profit, and he had to deal with a crucial issue.

Soon, the owners left cheerfully after collecting their money, leaving the Damrons with sour faces.

“Master Damron, are we going to let them walk away with the money?”

“What other options do we have? Their union will expose us for wrongdoing if we do not pay up. What will the Nolans then think of us? After paying them, we are all in the same boat. So, if one of them dares to leak this information,” Aurelius was enraged as he spoke.

“Those dang shorties have cheated on us!”

Baltazar claimed the Pill of Life Exchange would cause minimal side effects to the body during the previous meeting. On the other hand, Aurelius had no idea that the adverse effects could be fatal until the incident happened.

“Useless fools! Now, we’ve shot ourselves in the foot.” After Aurelius was done screaming and shouting, he barked out a command to his men.

“The Holy Doctor Competition is about to begin. Let’s get ready to head back!”

After all, that was the most important matter at hand.

“What are we going to do about Emsgate’s miracle doctors?”

Although he was infuriated, his objective was to form an alliance with those miracle doctors.

‘Ha! Since we’ve come this far, we shouldn’t throw away our hard work.’

When he was reminded of that, he sighed in frustration. “I’ll invite them to join us later.”

Following that, the Damrons concluded their conversation.

Meanwhile, Baltazar was slumped in a chair out of despair. His blank gaze was fixed on the lifeless body of his beloved disciple on the bed.

Although the windows were open, a faint scent of incense lingered in the room. Then, Alvaro brought the incense urn closer to his nose and took a whiff of the ashes, and his expression abruptly changed.

“Soul-scattering powder has been mixed into the calming incense.”

Although the calming incense could mask the scent of soul-scattering powder, he could smell it. The other elders also found a container of soul-scattering powder hiding in Zayn’s top.

The investigation led them to the conclusion that he committed suicide because he was so depressed over the prospect of accepting a life of being useless after being a prodigy.

“Oh, Zayn, why did you get so worked up over such a trivial matter? What am I supposed to do without you?” Baltazar’s eyes were red, and he sobbed.

“We are sorry for your loss, Master Baltazar.”

Regardless of their dissatisfaction with him, no one would speak up, as his disciple had passed away. So, when they noticed how distraught he appeared, everyone immediately came forward to console him. Moreover, it took a long time for him to overcome his despair.

Later, he motioned for them to leave. “Please take a break and thank you for everything. I’d like to spend a few more moments with Zayn.”

Everyone left the room while shaking their heads and heaving helpless sighs.

When Baltazar heard the footsteps dwindle, his sadness quickly disappeared.

Instead, he grinned broadly and said, “Oh, Zayn, you didn’t have to do this.”

He stroked Zayn’s cheek before pulling out Zayn’s phone. Then, he reached out, grabbed Zayn’s hand, and unlocked the phone with his finger. Next, he disabled everything that could be used to record sound or video and any automation features. Soon, all recordings that could be used to reveal his wrongdoings had been erased.

He had harbored the desire to murder Zayn for a long time, but he had never had the opportunity to carry it out.

All the other doctors in the same field were as skilled as he was, and some were even more skilled. So, if he made a move, it would undoubtedly be discovered.

Baltazar had not anticipated that his disciple would find his temperament intolerable and attempt to murder him with soul-scattering powder.

So, how could he pass up such a golden opportunity?

Therefore, to test his hypothesis that some herbs could negate the effects of others, he mixed in something extra with Zayn’s food. Moreover, the antidote Zayn had taken was immediately negated and rendered useless.

Ultimately, it led to his disciple’s demise.