

Unspeakable 2131

Chapter 2131

Thaddeus Lullaby was Tritus' elder brother.

When he learned that Tritus had suffered great humiliation at Matthew's hands, he had been thinking about avenging his brother. Therefore, he naturally had to meet Matthew upon learning that Matthew would also be participating in the Martial League's registration event.

Still, when he caught sight of the number displayed on the dynamometer, his expression immediately became scornful.

"Hey, isn't that the country bumpkin from the South, Matthew Larson? Tsk. Tsk. Tsk... 586 pounds? I can't believe you dared to participate in the competition with such dismal strength. I'm afraid you won't even survive the first round!"

When his mocking statement rang out, the followers behind him also followed suit and made various disparaging remarks.

"Honestly, people nowadays tend to believe that they are invincible just because they have some strength."

"Tsk. I can't believe trash from some remote corners of the world is shameless enough to register themselves in the competition."

"That's right! Go back to the South!"

The commotion naturally attracted the attention of the surrounding crowd.

The instant they saw the number displayed on the dynamometer, they began to judge and criticize Matthew too. The number listed was quite an underachievement indeed.

Generally speaking, those who could not achieve at least 660 pounds would be too ashamed to register themselves. They would only bring shame to themselves. Even the registration personnel in charge of registration matters were displeased.

440 pounds might be the standard, but they could not believe somebody who couldn't even achieve 660 pounds dared to participate in the competition. It was an indication that he was overestimating his abilities.

Even though Matthew was faced with the ridicule coming from those people, he did not react in the slightest.

He would simply pummel them to death if they encountered each other during the competition. In any case, the skill of bad-mouthing others and making wild boasts was worthless.

Unfortunately, the three people behind him could not control their tempers.

"F*ck you! Who the hell do you think you are? I dare you to repeat that!"

"Say that again, b*stard! I'll destroy you!"

“One more peep out of you, and I’ll pull out all your teeth!”

The three of them moved to stand in front of Matthew.

The opposite party also seemed to have decided to target Shawn.

“Wow! What can you do even if I repeat myself? You’re trash who only achieves slightly more than 660 pounds! Are you from the same village as that piece of trash?”

Those in the know were speechless.

How did he manage to make such an accurate guess?

Shawn was already furious in the first place. Combined with the insult from the other party, he instantly stepped forward and raised his fist to punch the other party in the face.

Matthew suddenly moved and came to stand beside Shawn in the blink of an eye, then he grabbed Shawn by the wrist.

“The Martial League has a rule. Those who engage in fights outside of the competition will be disqualified from the competition. If you have an issue with him, resolve your issue on the competition platform.”

Thanks to Matthew’s reminder, Shawn instantly returned to his senses.

Damn it!

*These b*stards were trying to set me up!*

“Hey, you! Yes, I’m talking about you, you damn shorty! Weren’t you mouthing off the most earlier? Do you dare to fight me on the platform?”

The young man singled out by Shawn practically exploded with rage. His height was the greatest sore subject in his life. Hence, his eyes reddened with anger when his sore spot was mentioned in front of such a large crowd.

It was just that his enraged appearance did not silence Shawn. On the contrary, Shawn became increasingly fired up.

“What are you glaring at? Is your surname Biscuit? The one who sells biscuits by the side of the road?”

When it came to insults, Shawn was no less inferior the moment he put his mind to it.

If the shorty had not been held back by his friends, he would have rushed forward to challenge Shawn by now.

The tables had turned. Thaddeus’ expression darkened when he realized that his plan had been foiled.

“Since you mentioned competing on the platform instead, why don’t we do that? 586 pounds trash and 682 pounds trash, you can choose anybody among my group as your opponent? What say you? Do you dare to step on the platform?”

The other party was so eager to be punished that Matthew naturally decided to accept their offer.

Just as he was about to agree, a figure abruptly slipped out from the spectating crowd.

“Matthew, you sure made me search for you...”

Roxanne’s unexpected appearance left Matthew dumbfounded for a moment.

“What is it? Why are you looking for me?”

“My grandfather has spoken. He wants to take you as his inner Disciple. This is the Invitation of Apprenticeship.”

While she was speaking, she passed the plainly packaged letter in her hand to him.

He immediately straightened his posture at those words. After he composed himself and adjusted his appearance, he carefully stretched out both hands to receive the Invitation of Apprenticeship.

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The Invitation of Apprenticeship was similar to the Apprenticeship Application. The only difference was that the Invitation of Apprenticeship indicated an elder’s interest in a particular junior. It was an invitation letter to express their interest in accepting the junior in question as their disciple.

Matthew never imagined that Old Mr. Bane would send him an Invitation of Apprenticeship.

With Old Mr. Bane’s status and influence, the slightest hint that he was looking for a disciple would be enough for thousands of young martial arts practitioners from Bainbridge alone to rush forward in a frenzy.

The moment Old Mr. Bane sent Matthew an Invitation of Apprenticeship, he was indirectly using his own reputation to promote and elevate Matthew’s status in society. His actions were a symbol of his attitude toward Matthew and a sign of his sincerity.

After Matthew finished performing the ceremony of apprenticeship in the direction of the Invitation of Apprenticeship, he respectfully took the Invitation of Apprenticeship from Roxanne.

At this moment, Thaddeus’ followers began mocking Matthew again.

“Wow, you can find all kinds of people everywhere nowadays. I can’t believe somebody wants trash who can’t even achieve 660 pounds with a single punch. Is he so desperate for a disciple?”

“Unbelievable. How can a person with such a poor eye for people become a master? Aren’t they afraid of misleading their disciples?”

“One who dares to accept as a disciple, and one who dares to worship as a master. Who among them has any shred of reason and common sense?”

As soon as those words rang out, the crowd roared with laughter.

Roxanne had always been sickly as a child, so she rarely appeared in public. Therefore, most people could not recognize her identity at a glance.

So, her expression turned extremely dark and gloomy upon listening to such unbearable insults.

“Shut up! Since when have the affairs of the Bane Family been any of your business?”

“How dare a member of the mere Bane Family be so arrogant? Even if you came from the Bane...”

At that point, their voices trailed off.

The Bane Family?

The most influential family in Cathay?

After a moment of consideration, they couldn't help shuddering in fear. Their expressions immediately turned pale in horror.

This is a disaster!

Thaddeus, who had originally planned to watch his followers from behind, instantly came to his senses at this moment. No wonder her back seemed so familiar to me.

With that thought in mind, he hastily walked over and kicked his followers in the rear.

When he caught sight of Roxanne, his eyes brightened with interest.

I can't believe it!

Only a few years had passed since we last met, but she has gotten so lovely and gorgeous during that time!

Unfortunately, now was not the time for such nonsensical thoughts. He dispelled the distracting thoughts in his head and began scolding his followers.

“Are you blind? How dare you slander the Bane Family?” Then, he quickly made his way to the front.

“Miss Bane, I'm extremely sorry. These foolish idiots have offended you. Hey, hurry up and apologize to Miss Bane!”

This woman was the direct descendant of the Bane Family. The elders of the Lullaby Family would never forgive him if they were implicated by the actions of his followers and offended the other party.

As soon as the followers behind him heard those words, they were so frightened that they practically crawled over to Roxanne and began apologizing desperately with terrified expressions.

“Miss Bane, we were blind and foolish. Please think of us as mere dogs barking and spare our lives...”

Their eyes were filled with pleading looks.

Yet, the angry Roxanne ignored these small fries and focused her attention on Thaddeus instead.

“Hmph! Thaddeus, these people are your followers, aren't they? I will be telling my grandfather about everything that happened today. I dare say you are the only ones in Bainbridge who dares to insult my grandfather.”

As soon as Thaddeus heard those words, his expression became bitter.

“Miss Bane...”

He wanted to explain and defend himself, but she turned away and completely ignored him.

When the crowd saw the change in Thaddeus' attitude, they finally understood this beautiful woman's identity. Thus, they quickly scattered in all directions lest she took notice of them. At the same time, the looks they gave Matthew were now filled with fear and trepidation.

Old Mr. Bane was an influential figure who could shake the entire Bainbridge with a shake of his leg. If Matthew were to worship Old Mr. Bane as his master, then his status and identity would rise as a result.

The crowd couldn't help moving faster when they recalled the insults they hurled earlier.

As for Thaddeus' followers, they wanted to flee too. It was unfortunate that they could not do so under Roxanne's contemptuous gaze.

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Thaddeus was filled with fury at this moment. Even though he had lowered his pride to such a great extent, Roxanne had still completely ignored him anyway.

"Matthew, next week is my grandmother's birthday party. Now that you are my grandfather's disciple, you should also attend the birthday party."

After Matthew listened to Roxanne's words, he nodded in agreement.

Old Mr. Bane had previously taught him the first twelve moves of the Bane Family's mixed martial arts. Nevertheless, he could only be considered Old Mr. Bane's disciple by verbal agreement. To put his position in simpler terms, he was nothing more than an unofficial disciple.

With the issuance of the Invitation of Apprenticeship, his status became completely different.

Once the ceremony of apprenticeship was completed in the future, he would be part of the Bane Family's mixed martial arts practitioners. He would then receive the protection of his master, inherit the martial arts of his master, and carry forward the spirit of his master.

Needless to say, it was necessary for him to attend Old Madam Bane's birthday party in person.

"Please wait until I finish my registration. Let me treat you to dinner later as thanks for taking this trip in person."

Roxanne lowered her head and made a soft sound of agreement.

Meanwhile, Matthew walked over to the registration counter.

When he took out the recommendation letter from the Martial League and handed the document to the registration staff, the other party was shocked.

Anybody who held this letter was a seeded player in the competition. Moreover, these people were bound to have a bright future in the Martial League as long as they were not overly arrogant or unlucky.

An insignificant member of the registration staff like himself could not afford to offend such a person.

*I'm so glad! only showed a displeased expression earlier and did not mouth off with the rest of the b*stards.*

With that thought in mind, he hastily helped Matthew finish the registration as quickly as possible.

“Mr. Larson, this is your entry number. Please keep the number well...”

“Thank you!”

After he finished the tasks on hand, he had no plans to hang around and left with the rest of his companions. On the other hand, Thaddeus stood frozen in place and glared resentfully at the backs of Matthew and Roxanne.

When Matthew and his companions left the venue, Roland and Easton abandoned Matthew outside the venue because there was not enough space in the car to accommodate everybody.

“Miss Bane, can you please send Matthew back?”

“Yeah, we’ll be counting on you. I’m afraid we need to return to Renew Pharmaceuticals for an urgent matter, so we won’t be joining you for dinner. By the way, Matthew, generosity is a virtue when having dinner with a woman.”

“Matthew, don’t worry about Renew Pharmaceuticals. We’ll be there on your behalf, so you can stay out as late as you want without worry. If you’re staying out overnight, don’t forget about protection.”

After they joked around, the rest of them drove away in their car.

Roxanne, who was born into an influential and wealthy family, had never experienced such frivolous jokes before. In particular, the phrase ‘Don’t forget about protection’ bothered her greatly. She seemed to understand the innuendo behind those words but also seemed ignorant of the true meaning at the same time.

When Matthew turned to look at Roxanne, she was blushing furiously.

“Don’t pay them any mind. They’ve always been like this.”

She lowered her head until her chin was practically buried in her chest and spoke softly in a voice that resembled the buzzing of a mosquito, “Yeah, it’s fine...”

Then, she snuck a glance at him.

Just as they were about to head to the restaurant, Matthew’s mobile phone began to ring.

“Matt, I’m in Bainbridge. I’ll give you an opportunity to pick me up from the airport. I hope you’ll make good use of the opportunity.”

The other party hung up without waiting for him to reply.

Matthew glanced at the caller ID, and his expression changed drastically.

Brittany?

Why did she come to Bainbridge at this time?

“Miss Bane, I’m very sorry. But can you please give me a ride?”

Roxane nodded and told her driver about their change of plans, "Of course, it's not a problem. Mr. Bard, please take us to Bainbridge Airport."

Although she was secretly disappointed, she pretended to be indifferent and agreed to his request.

She had originally wanted to take advantage of their private time to obtain the answers to her doubts. Alas, considering his anxious expression, it would seem that she would not have the chance to obtain the answers to her questions today.

As soon as Matthew turned around, a murderous aura seeped out from his eyes.

Who on Earth is trying to drag Brittany into the maelstrom that is brewing in Bainbridge?

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The plane landed, and the door to the cabin slowly opened.

Amidst the crowd was a beautiful figure that was particularly eye-catching. Her exquisite figure could vaguely be seen beneath her dress. Even if she was wearing a pair of sunglasses, the surrounding crowd could see the unparalleled beauty hidden beneath the sunglasses.

All the passersby couldn't help glancing at her as they passed. Some of the bolder passersby even stopped and stared without bothering to conceal their actions.

Brittany sauntered out of the airport and looked around, then she stamped her feet in disappointment.

How dare he... Didn't he agree to pick me up?

Why couldn't I see him anywhere?

Unbeknownst to her, several people who resembled ordinary passersby were intentionally or unintentionally approaching her slowly. They exchanged a glance with each other and prepared to take action.

At that moment, a figure appeared beside them.

"Hey, buddy! Didn't we agree that I'll come and pick you up from the airport? Come on. I'm starving from the journey. Let's have dinner together."

As they felt the tingling pain radiating from the waists, they did not dare to act rashly. So, they could obediently allow the other party to hug them around the shoulders and lead them away from the crowd.

Such scenes were not uncommon outside the airport, so the other passersby simply glanced at them for a moment and stopped paying attention to them.

At this moment, an expensive Rolls-Royce stopped beside Brittany.

The car door opened, and a middle-aged man stepped out from the car.

"Miss Brittany, I have been sent here to pick you up..."

While he spoke, he stood beside the car door and made a gesture to invite her into the car.

His actions naturally left Brittany at a loss for what to do.

“Who are you? Who sent you here?”

It was her first time in Bainbridge, and she did not know anybody in this place.

The middle-aged man opposite her smiled and answered politely. “I was sent by a lady with the surname Newmont. I am Miss Newmont’s butler...”

“I don’t know you. Please leave me alone. Otherwise, I will start screaming for help.”

Then, she turned away and ignored the middle-aged man.

The only people in Bainbridge with the surname Newmont could only belong to the most powerful family in Cathay, the Newmont Family. Therefore, Brittany firmly believed that she was completely unrelated to the other party.

If the other party shows kindness and affection for no reason, then they most likely have sinister intentions...

“Uhm...” The butler did not expect Brittany to refuse him so decisively.

When he saw that he had somehow bungled his assignment, he felt extremely troubled. So, he took out his phone and asked his employer for further instructions.

A brief recount of the situation later, a voice sounded on the other end of the phone, “It looks like Billy has not told Brittany about the events of the past. It doesn’t matter. Since Brittany doesn’t want to come, we should follow her wishes. Just make sure to protect her from the shadows...”

“Understood, Miss Newmont...”

After he ended the phone call and made the necessary arrangements regarding Brittany’s security detail, the butler went back into the car and departed from the airport.

“Weirdo,” Brittany watched as the car drove into the distance and muttered to herself under her breath.

A ten-minute wait later, the fashionably late Matthew finally arrived at the airport.

“I’m sorry, Brittany. Traffic was terrible...”

As soon as Brittany caught sight of Matthew, all the resentment and complaints she prepared earlier vanished without a trace. She quickly ran over to him and threw herself into his arms, then she hugged him tightly.

“Matt, did you miss me?”

“Of course!” Matthew patted her on the back and said, “Come, let me introduce you to a friend.”

Then, he guided Brittany over to Roxanne and made a quick introduction.

The fact that Matthew and Brittany hugged briefly earlier did not escape Roxanne’s notice.

When Roxanne came face-to-face with Brittany, she was forced to admit that the other party was absolutely top-notch in terms of both appearance and figure.

As for Brittany, she was a woman too. Hence, she instantly understood that Roxane was feeling jealous when she saw the unfriendly look in the other party's eyes.

"Matthew, you have to treat me to delicious food later."

After that, Brittany deliberately tightened her hold around Matthew's arm.

Roxanne was furious by the sight, but she could not throw a tantrum when her rival in love was present.

Matthew, who was completely oblivious to their feelings, suddenly felt the surrounding temperature drop considerably.

"Strange. Why does it feel so cold?"

The moment those words left his mouth, the two women glaring daggers at each other earlier immediately regained their composure.

"Brittany, welcome to Bainbridge..."

"Thank you, Roxanne..."

Meanwhile, the strange chill feeling around Matthew instantly dissipated into nothing.

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After lunch with the two women, Matthew glanced in the rearview mirror during the journey back and smiled knowingly when he saw how well they got along with each other. He was completely oblivious to the secret competition between them.

After Roxanne sent Matthew back to Renew Pharmaceuticals, she reluctantly returned to the Bane Manor. As for Brittany, Matthew placed her in the same room as Lola. They had to maintain proper decorum between men and women after all.

When Lola learned that Brittany was the daughter of Matthew's savior, she readily agreed to the arrangement.

That was right. Billy was indeed Matthew's benefactor. If not for Billy's protection, Matthew would have long since died in the hands of the previous Ten Greatest Families of Eastshire.

At the large courtyard, Salazar leisurely reclined on the old-fashioned wooden armchair and enjoyed being waited upon by Roland. From time to time, he would even criticize the latter.

Matthew could only shake his head helplessly as he watched the interactions between the two.

Nevertheless, both parties had consented to the situation.

What could he do?

"Mr. Whitford, I'll have to trouble you during this period. Please keep Brittany safe from harm..."

At this moment, Salazar stopped pretending to sleep and opened his eyes to glare at him.

"The girl's presence in Bainbridge at this time is a huge annoyance. Are you really going to let her stay beside you?"

As somebody from the same generation, he knew about Billy's past to a certain extent.

"Yes, I know. That's why I'm asking for your help."

Then, Matthew waved his hand dismissively to end the conversation.

Regardless of what sort of trouble Brittany's presence would cause, she was already in Bainbridge. In that case, he had to protect her with all his might.

As for the reason behind Brittany's abrupt appearance in Bainbridge, he did see the need to question her in detail. The main reason was that he feared she might ask about her father, Billy.

If she did, it would only cause more trouble for himself.

Naturally, he had a vague guess after his previous conversation with Billy. There was no doubt that somebody was trying to make the situation even more chaotic. In times when chaos was about to sweep across the entire world, the situation had already become an irreversible current at this point.

The mastermind behind the scenes was probably trying to achieve their secret goal by stirring up chaos in the world. On the other hand, the military was waiting for the other party to reveal themselves so that they could strike a fatal blow to the other party and eliminate the root of the disaster once and for all.

Meanwhile, the onlookers were like hyenas as they only thought about taking advantage of the situation. In other words, the chaos was something everybody secretly wanted. Those who tried to stop the chaos would be smashed to pieces by these forces.

In this turbulent situation, Matthew was powerless to do anything. He could only cultivate as hard as possible. After all, he would only receive the qualifications to understand the truth when his strength reached a certain level.

Time passed in the blink of an eye, and the registration event ended.

According to the usual practices, the Martial League would carry out intensive training for the seeded contestants before the competition started. This year was no exception.

By the time Matthew arrived at the training room, the other nine seeded contestants had already arrived.

They were either punching the dynamometer fiercely, sitting on the ground and cultivating quietly, or meditating with their eyes closed.

When Matthew walked into the room, he heard a yell.

"Dude, watch out!"

It was immediately followed by a huge black shadow flying toward him. So, he instinctively maneuvered his body into the horse stance, raised his right hand, and firmly caught an iron ball that weighed nearly 1,100 pounds.

His actions naturally caught the attention of the others.

Every single person in the room could throw a 1,100 pounds iron ball but catching the 1,100 pounds iron ball would be quite difficult.

At the very least, most of them could not achieve such a feat as effortlessly as Matthew. Even the young man in the green shirt, who had been sitting in a corner and cultivating quietly with his eyes closed, opened his eyes at this moment.

Matthew immediately sensed that special gaze and glanced toward the other party.

That person had a good-looking appearance. More importantly, his nimbus was hidden, and his aura was steady. He was definitely a master!

Matthew secretly took note of this young man in his heart.

On the other side, the young man in the green shirt simply nodded at Matthew in calm acknowledgment before closing his eyes once more.

Chapter 2136-As Matthew withdrew his gaze, the person who called out to him came to his side.

“Good skill, man. Sorry, my hands slipped while I was holding the metal chain. You all right?”

Matthew observed the man and it seemed like he wasn’t lying. So, he decided to let it go.

“I’m good. I just had a scare.” The other man knew Matthew was pulling his leg.

“Hahaha. I’m Kian Damron. You are?”

Matthew was taken aback when he heard that last name. “I’m Matthew Larson. Are you from the Damron Family in Bainbridge?”

Kian instantly shook his head at that.

“Haha, man. I wish. I don’t have a powerful family like that. I just so happen to have the same last name as the Damrons In Bainbridge.”

Matthew nodded at Kian’s clarification. His relationship with the Damrons was far from friendly. In fact, one could even classify them as enemies that would fight to the death once they were given the chance. So, if Kian was from that Damron Family, he wouldn’t be this nice.

Of course, there was another possibility that this was all an act. Besides, Kian’s eyes would constantly go to the Bloodreaper in his hands when he neared Matthew. Even though he was careful, Matthew still caught on to his oddity.

“Man, I felt the aura around you when I approached you. There’s this sharp air to it. I’m 100% certain that this sword is out of this world,” Kian exclaimed as he pointed at Bloodreaper.

As for the Thunder Sword on Matthew’s waist, he paid no attention to it. Even though it was precious, it wasn’t extraordinary.

“Just a gift from a friend,” Matthew replied casually and stopped talking.

It wasn't wise to reveal all his cards when they had just met.

As they were chatting, the door to the training room was pushed open once again.

The person at the door looked to be around the same age as the rest of the room.

Nonetheless, the Martial League instructor badge on his chest signified his impressive identity. So, everyone stopped what they were doing and immediately approached the man.

"Hello, everyone. Let me introduce myself. I'm Anthony Harding and the trainer for this round's intensive training." Then, he flipped the papers on the clipboard in his hand.

As he was reading, he suddenly paused and scanned the room to match the information on the paper. Lastly, his eyes landed on Matthew.

Isn't he the guy who hurt Roxy?

At first, he wanted to take some time off to meet Matthew and teach him a lesson for hurting Roxanne. Nonetheless, he didn't expect Matthew to show up at his doorstep like this.

He was elated that he didn't need to waste his time hunting Matthew down.

"All right. I roughly know what your backgrounds are. Now, I'll test your martial arts foundation. Before that, I'm giving you a warning. The re-election of the Martial League isn't child's play. If you couldn't achieve the basic standards that we've set, I can and will cancel your status as a seeded player. So, I hope that everyone can take this seriously."

The crowd didn't have a big reaction to his words as they were quite confident in themselves since they were already seeded players.

Then, Anthony's gaze regarded the crowd once more and casually pointed at someone. "You there. Let's start with you, then."

Matthew standing at the end of his fingers merely assumed that he was chosen at random. Thus, he didn't dwell upon it when he was asked to step up.

Instead, since he was selected, he approached the instructor.

At that moment, Anthony couldn't help but scoff inwardly.

You punk, you don't know what's coming your way!

"Matthew Larson, right? We will test your reflexes, agility, and the power behind your attacks. Don't let the words I said earlier get into your head. You just need to do your best."

Then, Anthony led Matthew to the training room that tests reflexes and agility.

After Matthew entered the room, Anthony declared, "The test starts now."

Then, he closed the door.

Matthew looked around the room nonchalantly and placed his attention on the wall riddled with holes.

Since there was a floor-to-ceiling wall on the other end of the room, the crowd could see into the examination room through it.

Meanwhile, Anthony smirked evilly as he set the testing level to the highest, the fifth level.

Normally, ordinary contestants who passed the first level would be qualified while those who passed the second level would be considered exceptional. As for seeded players, they just needed to pass the third level.

When Anthony pressed the start button, numerous black shadows shot out through the holes in the wall and went flying at Matthew with lightning speed.

Yet, Matthew didn't panic and secretly controlled his nimbus before he shuttled through them like a ninja.

The shadows that came from the holes in the wall only managed to land on Matthew's projection as he moved through the hurdles swiftly.

Outside the testing room, Anthony couldn't help but frown at the sight. As an advanced grandmaster, he could foresee the results already as Matthew had extraordinary agility that even the highest level of the testing room couldn't harm him.

As expected, the test ended after five minutes, and Matthew sauntered out of the room without even a scratch on him.

"Not bad. Good for a warm-up..."

If he didn't break through to the next level, this test would be a little tough for him. However, that wasn't the case any longer.

Anthony gritted his teeth and said with a forced smile, "Congratulations. You've passed the reflex and agility test. Next, we'll test your strength."

Then, he asked Matthew to stand beside the strength-testing machine.

When Matthew was testing his agility, Anthony asked the staff to change the setting for that machine and reduced the actual data by 75%.

To put it simply, this meant that with a 1000-pound force, the machine would only display 250 pounds.

I'll see what you can do about it this time, Punk.

Anthony maliciously thought to himself as he spoke, "Strength is the most important skill a martial artist requires. The Martial League stipulates that seeded players would have to punch out the force of 3300 pounds to qualify. You have three chances. You may start now."

It was clear that if any of them didn't achieve such a bottom-line standard, the Martial League would deprive them of their status as seeded players in a snap. Hence, even though Anthony was abusing his power to take his anger out on Matthew for Roxanne's sake, he wouldn't take things too far.

But since this recruitment was for the Martial League, it would significantly affect the players for life if they didn't pass. So, there wasn't a need for him to destroy Matthew's future for a small rift.

After Anthony was done speaking, Matthew took a deep breath to prepare himself.

This was different from the application test. He didn't need to hide his powers anymore as he would be eliminated if he failed.

As he released a long breath, he calmly approached the machine and threw a punch at the strength-testing machine.

Smack!

The machine shook violently.

Yet, under the curious gaze of the crowd, the number 1239 pounds were displayed on the screen.

Everyone was speechless.

Did this mean that Matthew was all talk and no bark?

When Matthew saw the number, he couldn't help but frown. Even though he didn't have precise data, he knew that punch was sure to be above 4000 pounds.

On the other hand, Anthony watched Matthew's dejected expression and laughed to himself.

Ha! Serves you right for bullying Roxy.

Then, the corners of his lips curved up without him knowing.

It wasn't until he met Matthew's gaze, who gave him a meaningful look and raised eyebrow, that he realized his carelessness.

The next second, Matthew tried once more, but he used the Bloodreaper instead of his fist.

Following a loud bang, the whole room shook, and the strength-testing machine was deformed by his attack. The machine wirings were exposed to the air and sparks flickered sadly as the machine outlived its usefulness.

Everyone's faces changed in that very instant.

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In the training room, everyone exchanged glances and saw the shock in each other's eyes.

Matthew's strength, reflexes, and agility, the three important elements of martial arts, had far suppressed any of them. Even though they hadn't participated in the competition, they could already see the ending before it even began.

This was when Anthony finally realized how strong Matthew was.

That attack of his was similar to a full-forced attack from an advanced grandmaster level. It was even done when his sword wasn't even unsheathed yet.

If...

As a thought popped up in his mind, Anthony couldn't help but feel curious about Matthew's sword. "Can I take a look at your sword?"

When Matthew used his sword, he had already predicted such an outcome. Even though Hildegard sealed Bloodreaper, any grandmaster level fighter could still feel something whenever he used Bloodreaper. Yet, an idea suddenly popped into his mind as he recalled how Anthony was deliberately making things difficult for him.

"Of course... It's just that once the sword is unsheathed, it will see blood with the force of a mountain. So, please be careful, Mr. Harding..." Matthew placed Bloodreaper on the floor and activated the sword spirit as he let go.

Alas, Anthony merely scoffed at his warning. This was just a long sword, and he had no problems wielding a big knife weighing up to hundreds of pounds during his normal practice.

He gathered the energy in his Hara and widened his step. When his right hand grasped the hilt of the sword, a powerful force struck him instantly.

If he wasn't a grandmaster fighter, his hands would have been mercilessly shoved away by that force.

It was only then he took Matthew's warning to heart.

Then, he bellowed, "Up!"

Regrettably, the sword remained motionless on the floor despite his order. Now, things were starting to get awkward.

The crowd immediately turned their heads away and acted as if they didn't see anything.

Anthony thought Matthew was just bragging, but he realized that the sword was indeed exceptional.

Still, there were so many people around him, so he couldn't embarrass himself now. So, he decided to face this with utmost seriousness and treated the sword with the gravity it deserved.

He exerted force from his right hand again and his arm suddenly thickened as the marble floor under his feet started to crack and a dent appeared.

"Up!" he shouted again.

Then, Bloodreaper suddenly moved slightly and Anthony's arms were filled with veins and his face red.

Matthew was shocked to see him slowly raise Bloodreaper. He never thought that Anthony could do it.

Regardless, things didn't end there. Anthony tried to suppress the trembling of his arms as a result of overexerting himself after raising the sword. After all, it was too embarrassing if he could barely raise the sword after using all his strength under the watchful gazes of the seeded players.

So, he bit his lips and tried to wield the sword in his hands that weighed like a mountain.

Matthew rushed to stop Anthony when he realized what Anthony intended to do.

At first, he only wanted to prank Anthony for making things hard for him. That wasn't to say that he wasn't aware that if Anthony wanted to forcefully use Bloodreaper. The consequences of that action were no joke.

Alas, he was too late. Just as he was about to stop Anthony, Anthony had already raised the sword to swing it.

When Bloodreaper fell to the floor, Anthony was covered in sweat while Matthew could only shake his head at Anthony's wrist which was twisted at an awkward angle.

Why did you want to show off?

Now look at what you did?

"Are you all right?" Matthew asked in exasperation and walked over to Anthony to check his broken wrist.

Chapter 2139

Matthew asked the medical staff to send over some simple equipment before straightening Anthony's wrist. Then, he applied the Auric balm he made himself before putting on a plaster cast for Anthony.

"Take care not to overuse your hand during this period. Typically, you'll need a couple of months if you break your bone. Now that you have also pulled your arm muscles, you shouldn't even think about using your right arm for at least two weeks."

On the other hand, Anthony was filled with embarrassment.

He wanted to make trouble for Matthew for Roxanne. But now, he ended up with a broken wrist and it happened before the seeded players that he was supposed to instruct. So, he didn't want to stay there a second longer.

"Thank you. You all may continue with your training. I'll ask another trainer to come over." Then, he quickly left the room.

He could only blame himself for this. Still, he had now realized just how special Matthew's sword was after this.

On the training grounds, the people from the Bane and Harding Families soon learned that Anthony was injured.

After they found out that it had something to do with Matthew, they dashed to the training room.

"Who's Matthew Larson? Get your a*s out here!"

"I am..."

Then, twenty people ran at him when he stepped out.

Five minutes later, the new trainer arrived at the training room to see a group of people scattered across the floor and frowned.

Then, he asked in a deep voice, "Who are you? If you're not a seeded player, get out."

A training room could only host a dozen or so people. If those who weren't seeded players entered the room, they would be punished for it.

So, the people from the Bane Family and Harding Family didn't dare retort as they left the training room dejectedly.

At first, they wanted to beat Matthew up for Anthony. But not only were the twenty of them single-handedly defeated by him, they were also reprimanded for their fruitless efforts.

This was such a failure...

After the troublemakers left the scene of their 'crime', the new trainer finally announced, "I'm your new trainer. I'll be focusing on your weaknesses these few days. Even though we're on the clock, it doesn't hurt to sharpen your skills further. I hope that everyone can gain something out of this training."

He didn't go after Matthew for the fight since the troublemakers were at fault for barging into the room. Besides, it was common for martial artists to get into fist fights.

Only then did the intensive training held by the Martial League before the competition officially started. Those who could become trainers were all at the grandmaster level. Therefore, they naturally had an impressive understanding of martial arts and actual combat experience.

Some seeded players were kicked out during the training. Nonetheless, they were a minority. As for the rest, they obtained good results and received useful criticisms during their stay.

Time flew past and the five-day training was over.

Everyone went into a state of mad cultivation in the following days as a last-ditch effort in preparation for the competition.

Meanwhile, Matthew was preparing a gift for Marissa's birthday celebration.

He sat in Roxanne's Ferrari and arrived at the Bane Manor.

When he was there, he saw all kinds of luxurious cars parked outside the manor.

Those who were eligible to join Marissa's birthday celebration were all elites of Bainbridge.

Everyone cast surprised glances as Roxanne walked in with a stranger. Those in the circle could vaguely recognize one another even if they weren't familiar with each other. However, Matthew was a complete stranger and a new face in Bainbridge. Thus, nobody at the scene knew him.

Those people around the same age as Roxanne looked at her with admiration, but their gaze turned hostile when they turned their attention to Matthew.

Chapter 2140

After Roxanne recovered, her looks and body seemed to have reached the pinnacle of flawlessness. Even Marissa had praised her openly for her accomplishments in martial arts.

She was such a perfect girl. In addition, she was the main descendant of the Bane Family. So, it was natural that she would attract countless admirers. However, the men didn't expect Matthew, a country bumpkin, to take their place as their families had just discussed how they were going to propose to the Bane Family.

So, with that mentality, all the young men from various influential parties glared at Matthew sharply. Their eyes were filled with envy and dissatisfaction as their gazes grazed on Matthew like knives. It was as if they thought they could scare him to death if they widened their eyes.

Nonetheless, Matthew was unperturbed by their resentful gazes.

He laughed to himself bitterly.

I didn't know Roxanne had such great charm...

"Matthew, I'm gonna go look for Grandma. Can you wait for me in the living room?" Once Roxanne said that, she rushed to leave.

Her family was probably aware of her feelings for Matthew.

Alas, Marissa was displeased by that. So, if Roxanne stayed by Matthew's side throughout the celebration, Marissa was bound to be angry.

As Roxanne's silhouette disappeared from his vision, Matthew walked toward the direction she pointed out for him.

Unfortunately, the room was packed full when he arrived. It wasn't hard to guess that most of them were from influential families judging by the look on their faces while they had their noses in the air.

"Oh, my... Isn't this the Lord of Eastshire, Matthew Larson? How could you not drop by and say hi now that you're in Bainbridge? Come. Take a seat..."

The person who just spoke was Aurelius.

As he finished talking, he stood up and walked to an empty seat.

"Well, isn't this a coincidence, Matthew? This empty seat belongs to Master Levi from the South. Since you're all acquaintances, I'm sure Master Levi wouldn't mind letting you take his seat."

Then, Aurelius pointed at the guest card before it with the words Master Levi printed on it.

At that moment, Matthew didn't answer him since small tricks like that didn't have real harm besides demeaning him.

Regrettably, the others weren't planning on letting him off the hook despite his stony silence.

"I disagree, Master Damron. One should know where they can sit based on their status. Is a small Lord like him worthy enough to sit with us?"

Then, Aurelius acted as if he had an epiphany. "I'm so sorry. I didn't think this through. However, he's a guest. We can't very well just let him stand."

Another person piped in, "Master Damron, there's nothing wrong with that. We can always ask him to sit there."

Then, that person pointed at the stairs at the door.

Suddenly, the whole room burst out into raucous laughter.

"That's right. Not everyone has the privilege to sit on the stairs of the Bane Family. You should be grateful for this honor, Matthew."

Those people who were against Matthew had planned to propose marriage to the Banes during Marissa's birthday celebration.

Matthew, the country bumpkin from the South, wasn't worthy to gain Roxanne's hand in marriage.

At that moment, a voice rang from the door.

"All you elders making it hard for a junior? In a banquet no less? I feel ashamed for all of you. Have you all been reduced to nothing but infants, then?"

The faces of the people who laughed at Matthew suddenly turned dark at those words. They wanted to see who dared to be so haughty.

That man had entered the room and those seated were all shocked to see him.

"Billy Newman, you actually dared to come to Bainbridge?!" a person admonished sharply.

Regardless, although they appeared fierce, they were already shaking in their boots. They were the very picture of, 'all bark but no bites'.