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I Will Avenge You

The remaining three men instantly got on their knees and shivered profusely.

They knew the Whitaker family was cruel enough to take them out. The real head of the family was Lucy instead of Kane!

Lucy commanded, "Take care of Mr. Whitaker and leave the rest to me!"

She shot a pale Kane one last look before turning on her heel to leave.

After exiting the room, Lucy gave her brother, Wilbur, a call. It was clear that she would need the Jantz family's help to resolve the problem, for the Whitaker family wasn't capable enough of taking revenge.

Wilbur made his way to the Whitaker residence at once after receiving her call.

Anger swept over him at the sight of Tyrion lying in bed. "Lucy, who was the man who beat Ty up? Why didn't you tell me about it earlier?"

"Uncle Wilbur, you have to avenge me. It was Jared who crippled me! I'm going to be a cripple for the rest of my life!" Tyrion wailed.

He burst into tears after seeing Wilbur in person.

Wilbur was only a few years older than Tyrion, and the boys had practically grown up together. They were close to each other. Hearing Tyrion's cries, Wilbur felt his heart ache. "Ty, don't worry. I'll avenge you for sure!"

"Uncle Wilbur, it was Josephine's fault that I got beaten up by Jared. You have to capture her so I can vent my anger on her!" Tyrion added quickly.

"No problem. Just leave it to me!" Wilbur patted his shoulder comfortingly.

Lucy didn't share their sentiments. "Willy, don't listen to him. Josephine is the daughter of William Sullivan, the richest man in Horington. If you capture her,

he'll kick up a fuss for sure. We just have to capture the b*stard who beat Ty up. Don't cause more trouble," she advised.

"Leave it to me, Lucy. So what if he's the richest man in Horington? He should be honored that Ty is interested in his daughter!"

Wilbur was unfazed. He proceeded to ask Tyrion some questions before he left.

Lucy said nothing. Seeing my son in such a condition, I should just let them be.

Alas, that was precisely why the Whitaker family was wiped out of existence.

Back in Yeringham, Jared was still working hard to craft the revitalizing pills. He had no idea the Whitaker family had sent someone to deal with him. Even if he knew about it, he couldn't be bothered.

It took him twenty-four hours to craft one hundred revitalizing pills. Tommy stood guard outside his room when he was busy doing that, while Josephine got bored and went to Frida and Yasmin to pass the time.

"Josephine's not back yet?" Jared asked Tommy as he glanced at the night sky.

"Mr. Chance, Ms. Sullivan called a while earlier to inform us that she'll be back after dinner. She's currently with the Shaw sisters," Tommy responded politely.

"I see." Jared nodded in acknowledgment. It was normal for Josephine to spend some time having fun with them as they hadn't gotten to meet in years.

Right when Jared and Tommy were about to leave for dinner, the phone suddenly rang.

Jared fished his phone out and realized it was a call from Walter. He found it strange for Walter to call him at this hour.

Walter rarely contacts me directly.

After the call was connected, Walter's anxious voice could be heard. "Mr. Chance, we're in trouble. Deep trouble!"

Jared was stunned. “Mr. Grange, what happened? Calm down and explain slowly.”

“Lagrange Monastery is in trouble! Please come back now,” Walter pleaded. The fear in his trembling voice was unmistakable.

“All right. I’ll head back right now!” Jared promised and hung up the phone.

His expression turned frosty.

“Mr. Chance, what happened?” Tommy asked carefully. He had noticed something off about Jared’s expression.

“Abbot Erasmus is in trouble. I need to head back now, so stay here with Josephine and protect her,” Jared said.

He strode back to his room to pack up.

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Lagrange Monastery In Trouble

“Should I go with you instead?” asked Tommy.

“No need. Remember, protect Josephine. I’m certain the Whitaker family won’t let the matter slip,” Jared said.

Right after saying that, he grabbed his jacket and dashed off.

Jared floored the accelerator of the car. Throughout the journey, his entire being turned icy. Renee was a rare being who possessed a frosty constituent. If she could enter the heavenly realm, she’d grow to be a powerful being.

However, Jared wasn’t capable enough to bring her into the heavenly realm at the moment. For now, he could only modify her body so she could improve. Instead of modifying her body recklessly, Jared would head to the monastery to absorb her frosty energy every now and then.

Her constituent was rare. As Lagrange Monastery was in danger, Jared could not help but worry about Renee. She might have a frosty constituent, but it was impossible for her to control the frosty energy within her body. Just like normal young girls, she couldn't fight back if she were to land in trouble.

With that thought in mind, Jared sped up without hesitation. The car picked up speed as it headed toward Lagrange Monastery.

When Jared finally arrived at the foot of Lagrange Mountain, it was near midnight. The sky was pitch black. The weather was rather gloomy, as it was going to rain soon.

After parking the car, Jared headed for the mountaintop straightaway. Since he was a Level Nine Energy Cultivation, he had superior hearing and vision.

Rumble...

Before he could reach the mountaintop, a bolt of lightning crackled from the sky. What followed next were droplets of rain that were the size of peas.

Jared's entire being wasn't affected by the rain, as there was a faint fog protecting his body. Before the droplets could land on his body, they'd evaporate instead of drenching him.

Right before he reached the mountaintop, Jared spotted some guards along the way. Obviously, someone had passed away in Lagrange Monastery. However, Jared didn't know who it was.

He sped up and went past the guards. Upon arrival, Jared was shocked at the distinct smell of blood. It was raining heavily, but the smell still lingered around. It was clear that many people had just perished here.

Glancing at the puddles of rainwater underneath his feet, he realized they were stained red. The crimson rainwater then gathered together before flowing down the mountain.

Outside Lagrange Monastery, dozens of investigators clad in raincoats were flitting around like busy bees. Seeing him, some immediately came forward to block his advance. "Who are you? You can't come in!"

"Get out of our way!" Suddenly, two figures dashed out of Lagrange Monastery.

They were none other than Walter and Glen!

After walking toward Jared briskly, they greeted respectfully, “Mr. Chance.”

The investigators were dumbfounded. Jared was a young man in his twenties, but both the mayor and a retired high-ranking state government official had treated him with great respect.

Jared gave a curt nod in response before heading into Lagrange Monastery with Walter and Glen.

Inside the monastery grounds, there were dozens of corpses lying haphazardly on the ground. They were monks, all Erasmus’ disciples.

Jared recognized most of them, for he had encountered them every time he came to Lagrange Monastery to absorb Renee’s frosty energy.

He bent down to look at the wounds on the monks’ bodies. The culprit had killed them by crushing their throats. There were five wounds on each monk’s neck, with blood trickling out continuously.

“Where is Abbot Erasmus?” Jared queried.

“He’s inside,” Walter answered. He led Jared into the monastery’s hall hastily.

After stepping into the hall, Erasmus’ figure appeared in sight. He had collapsed on the ground with his eyes opened wide. His body had already turned stiff.

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Lunatic

“Abbot Erasmus died with his eyes open. I tried to close his eyes, but to no avail,” Walter reported sadly. He didn’t even dare to look in Erasmus’ direction.

Jared got to his knees and caressed Erasmus’ face. “Abbot Erasmus, don’t worry. I shall avenge you!”

After he removed his hands, Erasmus' eyes had snapped shut.

Getting to his feet, Jared glanced around the hall. There were no other corpses in sight, so he asked, "Where is Abbot Erasmus' daughter, Renee?"

Walter shook his head. Glen, however, parted his lips to explain, "We don't know where she is. We rushed here after receiving news and barricaded the scene. There was no one else here. We made sure no one touched the scene."

Walter gritted his teeth and declared, "I can't believe a lunatic killed everyone in the monastery! Who could he be?"

Jared had a suspect in mind, but he didn't reveal his thoughts as there wasn't any evidence tying the suspect to the gruesome incident.

"Don't worry, Mr. Grange. I've asked the Criminal Investigation Division to investigate the matter thoroughly. I believe we'll find out the culprit soon," Glen promised.

The anguish in his voice was evident.

"Mr. Lowe, stop investigating the matter. Ordinary humans can't find anything. Leave it to me!"

Jared knew this was done by someone who possessed abilities that go beyond that of ordinary people.

Glen was stunned, but he quickly regained his composure and glanced at Jared. Nodding, he said, "All right. I'll ask the investigators to leave!"

Right after he said that, a commotion sounded outside.

Jared and the rest rushed out to see Leonidas arguing with the investigators. His robe was utterly drenched.

"Let him in!" Jared roared.

The investigators were astounded, but they made way for Leonidas. After all, Glen was standing right beside Jared.

"Erasmus! Erasmus..." Leonidas wailed as he ran into the monastery.

Jared felt his heart ache at the sight of Leonidas' misery.

Both Jared and Walter headed into the hall after him, while Glen stayed outside to dismiss the irrelevant people. He warned them not to spill a word about that day's events.

"Erasmus, Erasmus! Wake up! Wake up..."

Inside the hall, Leonidas flung his arms around Erasmus' body and burst into noisy tears.

Jared and the others stood aside silently. No one spoke a word, for any attempted comforting words were futile.

After crying for a long while, Leonidas put Erasmus' body down. A murderous intent appeared in his gaze as he clenched his jaw and exclaimed, "Dorieus, we're enemies from today onward! I won't stop until I take your life!"

Hearing Dorieus' name, Jared finally confirmed his guess. A while ago, he had grown to suspect Dorieus. As he had killed Falcon and took the Starry Compass, Dorieus wouldn't have possibly let it slide. After all, Starry Compass was a rare magical item.

Jared had no idea Dorieus was cruel enough to wipe out the entire monastery instead of coming to him for revenge.

"Abbot Leonidas, how did you know it was Dorieus?" Walter asked carefully.

Leonidas managed between gritted teeth, "It was Diomedes who informed me about it. Otherwise, I wouldn't have arrived so quickly. After we killed Falcon, Diomedes persuaded Dorieus to kill everyone in Lagrange Monastery to avenge his disciple. He then informed me about the massacre so I can deal with the mess."

"That's crazy! How could a monk do that?" Glen could barely hide his astonishment.

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Live For A Hundred More Years

“Do you know where Renee is?” Jared asked.

“She was captured and brought to Phantom Monastery. I’ll rescue her once I give Erasmus a proper burial!”

Leonidas slowly gathered Erasmus’ lifeless body in his arms and turned to bury the corpse in the backyard.

However, Jared reached out to stop him. “Abbot Leonidas, let the others take care of Abbot Erasmus’ funeral. Bring me to Phantom Monastery right now. Renee will be in grave danger if we take too long!”

Leonidas paused briefly before nodding. “All right, I’ll take you there immediately,” he agreed and carefully placed Erasmus’ body on the ground.

“Mr. Grange, Mr. Lowe, we’ll leave the rest to you guys!” Jared hollered at the men.

“Take care, Mr. Chance!” Walter replied.

Without further ado, Jared and Leonidas embarked on their quest to save Renee. The Phantom Monastery was located at the peak of a treacherous mountain, where the population was sparse. Hence, the monastery rarely had visitors and was a stark contrast to its famous counterpart—Lagrange Monastery.

With Leonidas leading the way, they reached the foot of the mountain at dawn.

Jared stared at the tall mountain and the dense forest that carpeted it, his eyes gleaming with murderous intent.

The mountaintop was enveloped in thick fog—a product of the heavy rain from the night before. However, it did not deter Jared and Leonidas as they strode straight ahead and disappeared into the white mist.

Meanwhile, in Phantom Monastery, several ferocious-looking monks were sluggishly cleaning up the monastery. Despite their deceiving attire, they were ruthless murderers who had fled to the mountains to evade the law. They

made the Phantom Monastery their haven and lived under the guise of monks.

A man in robes stood in the main hall. He was none other than the current prior of Phantom Monastery and the traitor Leonidas had spoken of— Diomedes. Falcon was his disciple!

It was time for the morning sermon, but Diomedes' mind was elsewhere as he crouched by the wall to eavesdrop on the situation behind the monastery.

In a secret room at the back of the monastery, Dorieus, who was obviously past his seventies, was leering at Renee.

Curled up in a fetal position on the bed, Renee tried to hide from the bearded man's lecherous gaze. Her eyes were filled with dread as she stared at the madman before her.

Last night, Renee had gone back to her room after dinner. Just as she was about to retire for the night, she heard a commotion outside her room. It sounded like a scuffle. As her curiosity piqued, she opened the door to investigate, but she got knocked out cold immediately. When she finally came to, Renee found herself in a foreign room.

"Tsk, tsk, tsk... Your skin is as white as ivory. I can even see the delicate veins under it! How befitting of someone who has a frosty constituent! I may have lost the Starry Compass, but I've attained something even more precious. What a bargain!" Dorieus ogled at Renee, his weathered face beaming with glee and excitement.

"W-Who are you? Why did you kidnap me?" Renee asked. She tried to sound calm, but the quiver in her voice gave her away.

"Oh, my dear, you need not worry. I promise I won't kill you. You just have to stay by my side forever! Thanks to your frosty constituent, I can live for a hundred more years if you and I merge into one!"

Dorieus' tongue darted out to lick his chapped lips. The lust in his eyes compelled Renee to scramble away from him.

"D-Don't come near me, or my dad will never forgive you. He'll kill you for sure!"

Renee was still unaware of Erasmus' death.

"Your dad? Killing me? What a joke!" Dorieus burst into raucous laughter. "Your dad is just a corpse now. How is he going to kill me? With his spirit? Even if his ghost comes back to haunt me, I'll vanquish him all the same!"

Renee was thunderstruck by this information. "You murdered my father?"

"Well, how do you think I got you here if I didn't kill that old bag?" Dorieus sneered.

Overwhelmed by shock, Renee fell into a stupor for a fraction of a second. However, she quickly recovered and swore to take vengeance for her father. "I'll kill you... I'll kill you..." she vowed, her eyes burning with fury.

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Come At Me

There was no sign of fear on Renee's face. Fueled by pure anger, she lunged at Dorieus.

Unfortunately, she was currently just an average girl who was no match for Dorieus. With a harsh slap, Renee was sent flying backward.

"If you wish to kill me, then you better obey me. Serve me well and become one with me, then perhaps you'll get the chance to slit my throat."

With that, Dorieus pounced at Renee like a leopard would its prey.

"You animal! Let go of me!" Renee struggled to free herself from his grip.

Rip!

A large piece of Renee's shirt was torn off.

On the other side, Jared and Leonidas were sprinting up the mountain. Jared moved so abnormally fast that Leonidas could barely keep up.

Soon, Phantom Monastery appeared before them. Jared felt his heart sink when he saw the dilapidated building. Who would be in such a run-down monastery?

“Mr. Chance, this monastery was an abandoned monastery before Dorieus took over and named it Phantom Monastery. All the monks who reside here are irredeemable criminals who had come here to escape imprisonment,” Leonidas explained.

Jared nodded in understanding. That means that I can kill everyone in the monastery without guilt! With that in mind, he barged into the monastery.

The monks who had been cleaning were stunned to see Jared and Leonidas at the entrance to the monastery.

No one ever visited the desolated monastery, so the sight of two strangers made the monks wary.

“Who are you two? What are you doing at Phantom Monastery?” A monk interrogated as he pointed the end of a broom at Jared and Leonidas.

Diomedes heard the monk’s booming voice from where he stood in the hall and quickly rushed over.

The moment he laid eyes on Leonidas, Diomedes smirked. “Senior, I didn’t expect you to come here so quickly. Have you settled Erasmus’ funeral already?”

“Diomedes, you traitor! I swear I’ll kill you today!”

Rage overtook Leonidas when he saw Diomedes. He exploded in anger and charged at the grinning prior.

However, Jared quickly intercepted Leonidas’ attack and demanded, “Where’s Renee? I know you kidnapped her. Where are you keeping her?”

The only reason Jared had held Leonidas back was to find out Renee’s whereabouts.

Diomedes gave Jared a disdainful glance and countered with a question of his own. “Who are you? You’re just an insignificant youngster. How dare you interrupt?”

Diomedes had assumed that Jared was Leonidas' disciple due to his young age.

Jared revealed the Starry Compass in his arms and challenged, "I was the one who killed your disciple, Falcon! I was also the one who snatched the Starry Compass from his dying hands. If you want to seek revenge for your beloved disciple, come at me!"

The sight of the Starry Compass ignited Diomedes' wrath. "So you were the one who murdered my disciple! I'll make sure that you're six feet under by the end of today!" he spat in anger.

An air of malice surrounded Diomedes as he ordered, "Charge! Kill this man and take back the Starry Compass!"

Heeding his command, the monks bared their teeth and surged toward Jared.

Unfazed, Jared raised his hand to fend them off when he suddenly heard the terrified scream of a girl. Though it was a soft cry, Jared could hear it clearly. After all, his auditory perception was currently far better than the average human's.

The shout had traveled from the back of the monastery. Jared was positive that it was Renee's voice, which could only mean one thing—Renee was in danger!

"Abbot Leonidas, hold them back while I save Renee!"

With that, Jared swiftly maneuvered his way around the monks and dashed toward the hall.

"Stop him!" Diomedes' ear-splitting shriek pierced the air as he extended a hand to block Jared.

"You traitor! It's about time I cleaned up my following."

Leonidas brandished his cane and lunged at Diomedes.

With Diomedes preoccupied, Jared took the opportunity to burst into the hall and kick down the wooden door to the hidden room.

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Cultivator

Crack!

The oak door splintered to pieces. An old man with an unkempt beard appeared in Jared's line of sight. He was hovering over Renee, who only had her undergarments on.

Startled by the noise, Dorieus whipped around to see a young stranger standing by the door. His bushy eyebrows knitted together.

"Jared, save me, save me..." Renee pleaded when she noticed Jared. She hastily pulled the blanket over her body to protect her modesty.

"Who are you, kid? Do you know the consequences of barging into the Phantom Monastery?" Dorieus growled menacingly.

"I was the one who murdered your grand-disciple and stole the Starry Compass. Come and take the Starry Compass back if you can!" taunted Jared as he presented the Starry Compass.

Dorieus' expression lit up instantly when he laid his eyes upon the Starry Compass. "You've got the guts, kid! Since you've come to me of your own volition, I'll end your pathetic life today!"

With his words still hanging in the air, Dorieus' robes billowed out behind him despite the lack of wind. He threw a punch at Jared.

Jared's eyes glinted coldly as they bore into Dorieus. His intimidating aura swirled around him, singing the promise of death.

"You shameless criminal, on behalf of the heavens, I'll make sure you receive retribution!"

With that, spiritual energy coursed from Jared's core to his clenched fist, engulfing it in golden light.

Dorieus was stunned. Shock flashed across his eyes, but his fist did not falter as it continued to fly toward Jared. Instead, he injected more internal energy into the punch.

Bam!

With a deafening boom, a force swept through the room and wreaked havoc.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

Dorieus staggered back three steps before he regained his footing. His whole arm was numb from the impact.

Jared, on the other hand, was completely unaffected as he regarded Dorieus with contempt.

Dorieus could not hide his astonishment. He never imagined that a young man like Jared would possess such great power.

“You’re a cultivator?” Dorieus asked with narrowed eyes. “No wonder you dare to challenge me!”

Dorieus could pinpoint Jared’s identity from the blow. It seemed like the youngster had trained with cultivators.

Jared, too, was taken aback by Dorieus’ acuity and ability. Had Jared not achieved Level Nine of Energy Cultivation, the previous attack might have ended in a draw.

“Now that you know what I’m capable of, why aren’t you pleading for mercy?” Jared quipped impassively.

“You’re too arrogant, young man!” Dorieus cackled. “You’re just a mere cultivator, and I just so happened to have absorbed your energy for my own use!”

Dorieus’ laughter stopped abruptly. He leaped into the air and spread his fingers. His digits transformed into claws as he slashed at Jared.

Jared nimbly dodged the attack and seized Dorieus’ wrist. To Jared’s surprise, the old man did not try to escape his hold. It was as if Dorieus had intended for it to happen.

Instead, Dorieus mirrored Jared's actions and gripped Jared's wrist as well. The two men grappled with each other, each trying to overpower the other with their internal energy.

The corners of Dorieus' lips quirked upward in a smug smile. Soon after, Jared felt his spiritual energy rush from the center of his body to his arm like a tsunami.

The spiritual energy flowed into his arm and through Dorieus' fingertips as the older man absorbed Jared's energy.

Jared's expression shifted to one of concern. He never expected Dorieus to have such an impressive skill.

"Who would have thought that a young man like you would have such pulsating spiritual energy! I'll have to savor this feeling."

Dorieus guffawed, evidently pleased with himself.

As Jared felt his spiritual energy get siphoned out of him, he had an epiphany. Since I can absorb the cultivation of all things with the Focus Technique, does that mean I can also steal a person's spiritual energy?

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Astral Attraction

With this revelation, Jared applied the Focus Technique, and the outflow of spiritual energy came to a jarring halt.

Next, an intangible vortex formed at Jared's core and drew energy toward its center. The tide changed as the spiritual energy, Dorieus' included, gushed back to Jared.

Dorieus' face turned a ghastly white when he felt the energy loss. His eyes grew wide with fear.

"H-How did you learn the Astral Attraction?" Dorieus exclaimed in trepidation.

Dorieus could feel the energy draining through his limbs as it naturally gravitated to Jared. He fought to escape, but Jared was like a huge magnet, and Dorieus was the metal that stuck to it.

Dorieus' muscles quickly became emaciated, and he plummeted into a chasm of unadulterated terror.

After ten minutes, Dorieus was nothing but skin and bones. His eyes bulged out of their sockets, his frightened expression eternally frozen. The rest of his body had shriveled up beyond recognition.

Jared loosened his grip, and Dorieus collapsed to the ground with a light thud. His features were no longer human, and not a single moan escaped Dorieus' cracked lips in his last moments.

Jared was in awe by the changes in his body. He could feel his abilities grow stronger, and every fiber of his being hummed with the extra energy. He never thought that the Focus Technique could be used in such a way, and it was a fascinating discovery for Jared.

"J-Jared," Renee called out timidly.

Renee's voice snapped Jared out of his thoughts. He hurriedly took off his jacket and draped it over Renee's frail body.

By the time Jared escorted Renee out of the hall, Leonidas and Diomedes were still engaged in battle. Both men were drenched in sweat, and monks' dead bodies were strewn all over the place.

The two men were already at their limits. Each assault they unleashed sapped their energy, but they gritted their teeth and pressed on, well aware that a moment of carelessness could cost them their lives.

"Master Leonidas!" Renee cried when she saw Leonidas. Tears streamed down her dainty face.

With her father dead, Leonidas was now Renee's only family.

Upon hearing his name, Leonidas turned to look at Renee. His heart filled with relief when he saw that Renee was relatively unscathed.

Diomedes had a sense of foreboding when he saw Jared and Renee standing side-by-side. While Leonidas was distracted, Diomedes jabbed at Leonidas and prepared to flee.

Leonidas swung his cane at Diomedes to parry the attack, but it was already too late.

“Ah!” Renee’s horrified scream filled the place as she watched Diomedes’ spear approach Leonidas’ exposed chest.

Jared harnessed his energy, and with a flick of his wrist, a bolt of white light struck Diomedes’ arm.

Diomedes flesh split open, and he lost his grip on the spear.

In the same instant, Leonidas’ cane crashed into Diomedes’ head.

Blood gushed out of Diomedes’ mouth as he crumpled to the floor, unable to get back up.

“Traitor, I’d love to see you try to escape this time!” Leonidas bellowed at the prostrate Diomedes.

“S-Senior, please have m-mercy on me. I was wrong! Dorieus forced me to do it; it wasn’t my fault! Please don’t kill me, please...” Diomedes groveled at Leonidas’ feet, begging for his life.

“Scum like you deserve to go to hell, so how dare you covet life?”

With that, Leonidas aimed a forceful kick at Diomedes’ head.

Diomedes’ head cracked open on impact, its contents splattering on the ground. Void of energy, Leonidas’ legs gave away beneath him, and he slumped on the ground.

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The Travel

“Master Leonidas...”

Renee ran toward Leonidas and hugged him tightly.

“Are you okay, Renee?” Leonidas asked with concern in his eyes.

“I’m fine... B-But my dad...” her voice trailed off as she started sobbing the moment she thought about her father.

Leonidas let out a sigh.

Right then, Jared walked toward Leonidas. With a single move, he pulled Leonidas up and channeled some spiritual energy into the latter’s body. In an instant, Leonidas felt a wave of strength wash over his body.

“Thank you, Mr. Chance, for all you’ve done for us! We will never forget it!” Leonidas said as he was about to kneel before Jared, and Renee followed suit.

However, before both of their knees came into contact with the ground, Jared stopped them. “Abbot Leonidas, please don’t kneel. It is fate that bound us together. Besides, Renee has helped me a lot too!”

If it weren’t for Renee’s help, Jared would have needed to spend much longer cultivating his abilities. The frosty energy trapped inside her body helped speed up the entire process.

With that, the three of them walked down the mountain and reached Lagrange Monastery. The place had already been cleared and cleaned, and not a single soul was there. Yet, something was different. More than ten tombstones could be seen in the open area behind the main hall.

Renee couldn’t hold it in anymore as she broke down in sobs at the sight of it.

The buried bodies there were her seniors and juniors she had grown up with. When they were still alive, some of her seniors used to take care of her and doted on her. Alas, all of them had become cold, lifeless bodies that were buried underground.

Situated in the front was the biggest grave compared to the rest. Renee’s body trembled when she walked up to it, and she held onto the tombstone tightly.

“Dad... Please come out! I’m Renee! Please call my name like how you used to! I’m here! Please...”

Renee’s grip was so strong that the rough surface of the tombstone broke the skin of her fingers.

Leonidas’ eyes reddened at the sight of her actions, and he wanted to help Renee up. However, Jared stopped Leonidas from doing that because he knew Renee needed to let it all out.

After thirty minutes, Renee eventually calmed down as she finally accepted the fact that her father had died.

“Abbot Leonidas, Renee, what do you plan to do next? If you need a place to stay, I can make arrangements for you in Horington,” Jared suggested. He thought about the state of Lagrange Monastery and the poor Renee who had lost her home.

Leonidas didn’t say anything, but he merely looked pitifully at Renee.

Renee met his eyes and said to Jared, “I only have Master Leonidas now. Wherever he goes, I’ll go.”

“Mr. Chance, don’t worry about us. I’ll bring Renee with me as we explore the world. I’ll never let her get hurt for as long as I live!”

“All right. Since you’ve decided, I won’t force it,” Jared responded as he took out Starry Compass. He continued, “Renee, take this. When you feel sick again because of the frosty energy inside you, use Starry Compass to get that energy out. One more thing, as long as you don’t go to places with strong frosty energy, there won’t be a relapse within a short period of time.”

With that, Jared put Starry Compass into Renee’s hand.

“Jared... T-This is your magical item! I can’t accept it!” Renee exclaimed.

She knew how much this magical item meant to Jared because he killed Falcon for it.

“Just take it. It’s just another magical item in my hands, but in yours, it can save your life. If we meet each other again, I’ll help you unleash your potential once I’m strong enough!” Jared said while smiling as he patted her head.

Renee remained silent, holding Starry Compass against her chest tightly.

The three of them went their own ways after they went down the mountain. Jared looked at Renee and Leonidas' silhouette as the two of them walked in the other direction. Right then, Jared didn't know that his decision to give Renee Starry Compass would save him countless times in the future.

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A Secret Lover

At Yeringham Hotel, Josephine was asking Tommy something.

"Tommy, tell me the truth. Where did Jared go?"

"I really don't know, Ms. Sullivan! He told me that there are some urgent matters, and he left right after!" Tommy replied helplessly.

"Why isn't he back yet if he left last night? I can't even reach him! Did something bad happen to him?" Josephine asked. Concern was written all over her face.

"Maybe he has a secret lover out there! Guys like him usually wouldn't stay loyal to a woman," Frida teased with a devilish grin on her face.

"Frida! Don't be ridiculous! I don't think Jared is that kind of person!" Yasmin chided as she lightly smacked Frida.

Yasmin had completely changed her view of Jared. To her, a low-profile man of his caliber wouldn't be seduced easily by women.

"I agree! I don't think Jared would do that too!" Zeke chimed in.

"I trust him, but I'm worried that he might be in danger," Josephine said.

"Okay, let's stop worrying about him. Maybe he'll call you in a while. Let's go eat!" Zeke suggested.

With that, the five of them went out to look for a restaurant to eat.

As soon as they were out on the street, Tommy felt that something was wrong. He furrowed his brows, and his heart raced when he sensed danger.

“Ms. Sullivan, it seems that we’re being followed. You go ahead with the others first. Don’t look back!” Tommy said to Josephine in a hushed voice.

With that, Josephine nodded in surprise. She quickened her pace with Frida and the others.

In an instant, Tommy held onto his belt and spun on his heel. When he turned, he saw that three men were approaching him with a smirk on their faces.

Even when they were found out by Tommy, they didn’t show a single sign of alarm.

“Who the h*ll are you? Why are you following us?” Tommy asked seriously.

“Ah!”

A scream was heard after he said that. It was Josephine’s voice.

Tommy immediately turned in her direction and found that there were three other men in front of Josephine as well.

Zeke trembled in fear when the three men appeared before him, but he tried his best to protect the girls by standing between the men and the girls. Slowly, Zeke and the others moved backward and regrouped with Tommy.

“So, you’re Jared?” one of the men with a crew cut asked Zeke.

It was Tyrion’s uncle, Wilbur Jantz. He had never seen Jared before, so he thought Zeke was Jared.

“I-I’m n—”

“What business do you have with Mr. Chance?” Tommy asked before Zeke finished his sentence.

“Of course, I’m here to kill him! Did he really think I’ll let him live after he crippled Tyrion?” Wilbur replied coldly.

“You’re from the Whitaker family!” Tommy shouted as he tensed in response. He removed his belt and was ready to attack.

“You’re Tommy Lewis, right? A word of advice? Get lost, hero. This has nothing to do with you!” Wilbur shooed Tommy away.

“Such arrogance!” Tommy barked as he lashed toward Wilbur with his belt.

At that moment, the first person who struck first would gain the upper hand.

As Tommy’s metal belt lashed toward Wilbur, the latter didn’t even try to dodge it. Instead, he grabbed onto Tommy’s belt and yanked forcefully at it.

While Tommy was still taken aback, he felt the powerful tug pulling him toward Wilbur.

With that, Wilbur punched Tommy hard in the latter’s abdomen.

Cough!

Tommy spat a mouthful of blood instantly, and he felt that his ribs were broken.

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Replacing Josephine

“Hmph! I can’t believe the underground king of Horington is just another weakling!” Wilbur scoffed.

Tommy fell to the ground after that. His face winced in pain. Even if he wanted to get up, he couldn’t muster the energy to.

“Are you Jared?” Wilbur asked again as he walked toward Zeke.

At the moment, Zeke was scared to death. He knew how strong Tommy was, so when he saw how Wilbur took the latter out with just one punch, he was completely stupefied.

Wilbur frowned when he saw Zeke’s reaction. Tyrion told him that Jared was very strong.

If that's really Jared, why is he shaking like that? Hmph! There's no way Alfred would die in his hands!

"You're not Jared, are you?" Wilbur asked once more.

"N-No..." Zeke shook his head vehemently.

"Then, where is he?" Wilbur asked with a murderous look in his eyes and took two more steps toward Zeke.

At that time, Zeke could almost feel Wilbur's breath on his face, and he didn't even dare to look into Wilbur's eyes.

"I-I don't know... H-He has left Yeringham!" Zeke stuttered as he trembled out of fear.

"He left?" Wilbur frowned before he turned to the three girls. "Which one of you is Josephine?"

All three of them looked at him with terrified looks on their faces, and none of them said anything. It was because they knew why he wanted to find Josephine.

"Not speaking, are we? Fine then. I'll tear your clothes apart and throw you out in the streets so that everyone can see how you look then..." he threatened as he glared at them.

Josephine and the others held each other tightly as if they were trying to calm each other down. Nevertheless, no one was able to calm the others at the moment because all of them were utterly terrified.

"How could a man like you bully women? You're so shameless! Leave them alone! Come at me if you dare!" Tommy yelled angrily from the ground when he saw how frightened Josephine and the others were.

Wilbur ignored Tommy completely as he gestured for his subordinates to deal with Tommy. The next moment, his subordinates moved toward Tommy and started beating Tommy up.

Josephine and the rest paled at the sight of that.

“I’ll ask you one more time. Which of you is Josephine? You have three seconds to think about it, or else I’ll take all three of you away!” Wilbur yelled again as he threatened them.

After that, he started counting down.

“Three! Two! One!”

At that moment, Josephine gritted her teeth and was about to walk forward because she didn’t want to drag Frida and Yasmin into it.

However, before Josephine could do anything, Yasmin walked forward.

“I’m Josephine,” Yasmin stated with a determined voice despite the fear on her face.

“H-Hey...” Josephine said softly. She didn’t expect that Yasmin would step out for her.

Wilbur took a good look at Yasmin and grinned coldly. “I get why Tyrion likes you now. You’re easy on the eyes!”

When Zeke saw Yasmin step out, he turned pale and wanted to call out to her. However, he stopped himself when she shot him a look.

People would be selfish when it came to moments like this. Yasmin was his girlfriend, so he didn’t want her to get in danger. He knew what would happen if Wilbur took her to Tyrion.