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Unprovoked

Phoenix was furious when she heard someone was raising hell at the bar and had specifically asked for her. After all, no one, not even the prominent families of Summerbank, had the audacity to challenge her in that manner. She hurriedly gathered a few men and made her way to the bar.

In the meantime, Jared was seated comfortably on a chair and playing with his Dragon Ring while waiting for her arrival.

Tommy had reminded him previously that Dragon Sect might have a regiment in Summerbank. That was the reason why he made Orb summon the head of the Phoenix Regiment.

He was not certain if Phoenix Regiment was part of the Dragon Sect, so he wanted to find out. If they were indeed his subordinates, then he would have a much easier time in Summerbank.

After about half an hour, a lady in her thirties walked into the bar. Her hair was casually tucked into a bun and she was dressed simply in sportswear. Jared was surprised to see that Orb's superior was a beauty, as he had expected the leader of a gang to be someone fearsome-looking. Following closely behind her were two men, and from the way they moved, it was obvious they were highly skilled fighters. Jared had no doubt they were more formidable than Orb.

"Madam..." Orb hurriedly went up to greet her.

Phoenix's eyes swept across the messy bar, and the sight of her injured guards lying limply all over the place made her blood boil.

"Who asked to meet me, Orb?" she demanded.

"It's me," Jared calmly replied as he stood up.

"Who are you? What wrong have we done to you?" Although Phoenix was enraged, she had her emotions under control. She did not want to resort to violence before finding out the cause of the commotion.

"You did me no wrong." Jared shook his head and said.

"Then why did you create trouble at my bar?" Phoenix frowned in annoyance.

Orb was breaking out in a cold sweat, worried that Jared would tell on him. He knew that if Phoenix found out what had transpired, he would definitely be punished.

Luckily for him, Jared did not say a word. He deliberately showed off his Dragon Ring to Phoenix and secretly watched her closely for any signs of recognition of the ring.

When Phoenix saw the Dragon Ring, her eyes widened in amazement, and her expression was that of surprise for a brief moment. Although she recovered her composure very quickly, that subtle change did not escape Jared's attention. He was secretly pleased and relieved with the discovery.

All of a sudden, Phoenix shouted out an order, "I want all of you to leave the room right now! Guard all the entrances, and no one shall be allowed to enter without my permission."

Her men were baffled, but no one would dare to question her orders. They quickly helped the injured guards out and stood guard outside the bar.

When Phoenix was left alone in the room with Jared, she went down on her knee and paid respect to him. "Greetings, My Lord! I am Phoenix from Phoenix Regiment of Dragon Sect."

As Jared had already found out that she recognized the Dragon Ring, he was not surprised by her action. He merely smiled and said, "You may stand up."

Phoenix respectfully stood up and waited for instructions from Jared.

"Don't be so formal. Take a seat!" Jared pointed to a chair opposite him and poured her a drink after she took the seat.

"What brought you to Summerbank, My Lord? And what prompted your visit to Phoenix Regiment?" Phoenix asked, puzzled.

"I was forced to come to Summerbank. As for the visit to Phoenix Regiment, I was merely curious and wanted to find out if you are part of us. Do you know who our other regiments are?" Jared questioned.

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Your Order Is My Command

Phoenix shook her head and replied, "I have no idea, My Lord. Dragon Sect has thirteen regiments under it, but all of us operate independently, and none of us know who the other twelve are. Are you not aware as well?"

Jared was left speechless by her question. Back when he was in prison with Draco, his master only taught him skills and told him nothing. Other than giving him lessons, Draco spent his days getting drunk and falling asleep. To that day, it was still a mystery to Jared that Draco had a seemingly unlimited supply of alcohol.

Draco did not even tell him the significance of the Dragon Ring when he gifted it to him. He also made no mention of all the regiments under the Dragon Sect.

If Jared had not met Tommy, he would not have discovered the ring he got from Draco was in fact the Dragon Ring.

Jared let out a resigned sigh and said, "Let's not dwell on that. As of now, I've already found two regiments. You, the Phoenix Regiment, and the Templar Regiment in Horington."

"You mean Tommy Lewis, the underground king of Horington?" Phoenix was taken aback by that revelation.

"That's right." Jared nodded.

"What a surprise! I never thought Tommy and I have anything in common!" She let out a chuckle, then went on to ask, "My Lord, you mentioned you were forced to come to Summerbank. Are you in some kind of trouble?" "I've eliminated the Whitaker family, so the Jantzs are threatening to kill me and my family. For the safety of my family, I have no choice but to move to Summerbank," he nonchalantly explained.

"My Lord, are you Jared Chance?" Phoenix exclaimed in astonishment.

"You heard about me?" Jared was baffled by her reaction.

"Of course! Everyone in the high society of Summerbank has heard about you and your amazing deeds! At the Warriors Alliance Conference, the Jantzs had hinted time and again that they wanted our help to capture you. Also, they demanded that no one should eye any of the Whitaker family's assets," Phoenix said.

"That being said, I have no regard for the Jantz family, so their words mean nothing to me. I do as I wish, and they have no influence over me. In fact, I am already secretly taking over some of the Whitaker family's assets. Moreover, I told my men that if we were to meet you, none of them are supposed to give the Jantzs a hand in dealing with you. The Whitaker family deserves their ill fate. It is their retribution!" she added.

With a look of awe on her face, she continued, "I did not expect you are the one who did all that great work, My Lord! I was hoping to meet the righteous person who stood up against them, and boy, am I glad I got the chance to meet you! Rest assured the Jantz family will never get to harm you or your family as long as the Phoenix Regiment is around. We will not hesitate to fight them to our last man!" Phoenix got emotional as she pledged her loyalty to Jared.

Jared was a little embarrassed by the lavish praises Phoenix heaped on him. He let out an awkward smile and said, "I will definitely come to you if I need any help. For now, I need to keep my identity confidential, so please address me as Mr. Chance instead of 'My Lord.'"

"Understood!" Phoenix nodded.

Jared decided to take his leave after a brief chat with Phoenix, as he did not want to make Lizbeth worry for him by being away for too long.

When he stepped out of the bar with Phoenix, he noticed the place was heavily guarded and surrounded by men from Phoenix Regiment. When Orb saw Phoenix, he quickly went up and asked with concern, "Are you okay, Madam?"

Unexpectedly, he got shoved aside instead. Phoenix pushed him away and cleared a path for Jared. "This way please, Mr. Chance."

Jared nodded at her and walked out of the bar, leaving a row of jaw-dropped men rooted to the ground in surprise. All of them, especially Orb, were taken aback by Phoenix's excessive display of reverence toward Jared.

"Phoenix Regiment, take heed!" Phoenix howled, and all her men instantly fell to their knees, waiting for her order.

"From this moment on, Mr. Chance's order is your command. Anyone who dares to go against him dies!"

"Yes, Madam!" the men replied in unison, giving her their word.

Orb was in such a fright that he nearly wet his pants. He stood up shakingly and actively avoided Jared's eyes.

Jared smiled, gave him a pat on his shoulder, and left without another word.

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Trespassing

Lizbeth was mindlessly watching the show on the television. She had also turned on her diffuser and filled the house with a pleasant fragrance. The thought of Jared staying at her place was unnerving for her.

Knock, knock, knock...

Someone knocked on the door and Lizbeth thought it was Jared. "How thoughtless of Oliver! He should have come back with you since you don't have the keys to my place. Thank goodness I am in. Otherwise, you would have been locked out!" she grumbled as she opened the door. Unexpectedly, it was not Jared at the door. Two men in suits were out there, and they did not look friendly.

One of them asked, "Are you Ms. Lizbeth Grange?"

"Yes, I am." Lizbeth nodded.

"We are from the Jantz family. Mr. Jantz would like to invite you over to his place for a chat." However, the man's action clearly showed it wasn't an invitation, as he had reached out to grab Lizbeth even before she could register what he had just said.

Lizbeth was shocked by his action and instinctively backed away from him before trying to close the door on them.

However, the men were quick and dashed into the house before she could close the door.

"This is trespassing! I am from the Department of Justice, so I know the laws very well. You have no right to barge in!" Lizbeth was angered and chided them.

However, her warning fell on deaf ears, and they attempted to get hold of her again.

Lizbeth swiftly avoided them and turned around to grab hold of one of the men's wrists. Taking advantage of the momentum, she delivered a flying kick in the direction of the other man.

Unfortunately, that man was highly skilled. With a shoulder roll, he managed to avoid her kick and at the same time, reached out and got hold of her ankle. When he tugged on her leg, she was thrown off balance and fell heavily onto the ground.

The two men then grabbed her by her shoulders and lifted her off the ground.

"Let go of me, you jerks! Let go!" She made an attempt to struggle free but was no match to the two highly skilled men.

"Ms. Grange, if you do as we requested, we will not hurt you. However, if you try to fight back, then we cannot guarantee you will not be injured in the process," one of the men coldly threatened her.

The ruthless look in his eyes told Lizbeth he meant what he said, so she resignedly shut up and ceased her struggle.

Just as the two men were walking through the door with Lizbeth in restraint, they came face to face with Jared, who had just returned from his meeting with Phoenix.

"Jared!" Lizbeth shouted out to him in distress.

The two men gave each other a knowing look as they came under Jared's scrutiny. Without warning, one of them sent a powerful kick at Jared.

"Look out! They're from the Jantz family!" Lizbeth screamed.

The man who was holding on to her cuffed her hard on the back of the head, knocking her out. Thereafter, he joined his partner to attack Jared.

Jared's eyes narrowed in anger, and he stepped forward to take them on. In one swift move, he grabbed onto their wrists, one in each hand. They were instantly immobilized and stopped in their track.

"What..."

The two men were stunned. Although they were not among the best in the Jantz family, they knew they were quite formidable as a team and could easily take on martial artists with decent internal energy.

They had not expected Jared to restrain them so effortlessly, leaving them with no room to fight back.

Crack!

Jared exerted strength and broke both men's wrists without any mercy.

"Ahh!"

The two men let out agonizing screams and broke into a cold sweat.

"Why are you targeting Lizbeth, and where are you taking her to?" Jared interrogated them.

"We have no idea..." they shook their head in unison and blurted out.

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Longevity Pill

Jared leaped up and directed his kicks at the two men's knees, instantly crushing their kneecaps. Both men crumpled to the floor, shrieking in pain.

Without another word, Jared went on to break all their limbs, leaving them in a distorted mess.

As they lay limply on the ground, groaning in pain, Jared repeated his question. "Why are you targeting Lizbeth, and where are you taking her to?"

"Mr. J-Jantz gave us instructions to bring Ms. Grange back to him. He... he wanted to get information about you from her," the two men confessed as they could not bear the torture any longer.

Jared gave a grimace of disgust, upset that the Jantz family had become far too arrogant. They had no regard that Lizbeth was an investigator of the Department of Justice and had no qualms about kidnapping her.

He threw a glance at the unconscious Lizbeth, and a murderous glint flashed across his eyes.

He went over to Lizbeth, gently picked her up, and settled her onto the couch. After that, he grabbed the two men, brought them down to the car, threw them into the boot, and drove toward the Jantzs' house.

Over at the Jantzs' place, there were loud harrowing screams coming from a room. In between the girls' screams, one could hear the sadistic laughter of a man.

Two bodyguards of the Jantz family were standing guard outside the room, and they were horrified by what they were hearing.

"Who would have guessed a decent-looking man like Master Venicus has such a sickening fetish?" One of the bodyguards could not bear to keep his silence any longer. "Hush!" His partner quickly looked around in panic and warned him, "Are you courting death? If Mr. Jantz hears you, he will silence you and your whole family!"

That reminder alone was enough to make the first bodyguard shut up in fear.

No one could tell how long the agonizing episode went on before suddenly, an eerie silence ensued.

"Men, get them out!"

Master Venicus' voice boomed from within the room, and the two bodyguards hurriedly went inside. The scene that greeted them made them gasp in horror.

The two girls were dead. The injuries on their naked body were so appalling that even the two tough men could not bear to take a second look.

Averting their eyes, they quickly picked up the bodies and got out of the room.

They bumped into the butler as they exited Venicus' room. Leonardo caught sight of the dead bodies and he too, could not help but frown. "Bring them away and bury the bodies. Don't you dare breathe a word to anyone. Otherwise, you'll bear the dire consequences," he reminded the bodyguards.

"Understood!" The two bodyguards nodded profusely and hurriedly left with the bodies.

Watching as they disappeared down the doorway, Leonardo let out a small sigh and shook his head in sympathy.

Turning around, he entered Venicus' room. Venicus was lying on the couch with a cigarette in hand, looking satisfied.

"Master Venicus, the ingredients needed for the longevity pill are ready. When would you like to begin the preparation?" Leonardo respectfully asked.

"Leave them there." Venicus waved his hand casually in the direction of the table, showing no intention of getting up. "What about the herbs for Crescent Sect?" he asked.

"We are in the midst of procuring them. They should be ready in a couple of days. Mr. Jantz has already given instructions for us to join you on your trip

back to Crescent Sect, so you don't have to worry about the logistics," Leonardo replied.

"Tell Zachariah that I will start working on the longevity pill once he gets all the herbs for Crescent Sect ready," Venicus leisurely said, knowing he was the one who held all the cards in the situation.

"Noted. I will convey the message to Mr. Jantz." Leonardo nodded in acknowledgment. He then took out a bag and carefully placed it on the table. The bag was full of precious and rare ingredients needed to make the longevity pill.

After excusing himself from Venicus' room, Leonardo headed straight to Zachariah's room, where Zachariah was anxiously waiting.

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Challenged

"How did it go, Leonardo? Did Venicus say when he is going to start working on the longevity pill?" Zachariah anxiously asked Leonardo.

"Mr. Jantz, Master Venicus said he will work on it once you get the herbs he wanted for Crescent Sect ready," Leonardo reported.

"What the f*ck! He is not about to cut us any slack, is he?" Zachariah couldn't help but swear. "When would those herbs be ready?" he asked with concern.

"The herbs they asked for are all rare and precious herbs. Not to mention the prices are exorbitant! I have tried to bargain with Herb Palace on numerous occasions but they simply would not budge on the price. That order is going to cost more than ten million, Mr. Jantz," Leonardo complained in exasperation.

Zachariah went into deep thought for a moment, then said, "Encash all the liquid assets we have. Also, sell off all the assets of the Whitaker family. I must get the herbs for Crescent Sect."

"Yes, Mr. Jantz!" Leonardo nodded.

Zachariah was adamant about getting his hands on the longevity pill. To him, his health was a top priority. After all, he knew he could always make more money again so long as he had his health.

"Mr. Jantz. We have a problem!" Just then, one of the servants came running in and shouted in distress.

"Stop shouting. Don't you know it's the middle of the night now? Calm down and tell me what's going on," Leonardo chided the servant.

The servant was shivering in fear and cried out, "Two of our men are dead, Mr. Jantz! They are left at the entrance! Please come and take a look!"

Zachariah was enraged by the news. The Jantz family had established themselves in Summerbank for decades and never had anyone done such an outrageous thing to them. It was unthinkable that someone had the guts to kill his men and openly leave their bodies right at his doorstep.

Zachariah, together with Leonardo, rushed to the entrance of the house and found that their guards were already there, searching and watching out for further dangers.

Zachariah saw two of his men slumped on the ground, their heads smashed beyond recognition. All their limbs were contorted in a weird manner. It was obvious someone had broken all their hands and legs too.

Leonardo went forward and inspected the bodies. His face was glum when he reported back to Zachariah, "Mr. Jantz, these are the two men you sent to get Ms. Grange!"

"What? Who could have done this? Don't tell me Lizbeth is capable of doing this!" Zachariah was hopping mad. After all, to kill his men in such a cruel manner and then leave their bodies right at his doorstep was obviously a blatant act of challenge.

"This place is monitored by our surveillance cameras. We can check the footage!"

"Get on to it immediately!" Zachariah ordered.

In the security room, Zachariah watched with fury as his men played back the footage.

In the footage, they could clearly see a car coming to a stop right in front of the main entrance. Soon, Jared stepped out of the car and sneered as he looked right into the security camera.

He then opened the trunk and brought out the two men. It was obvious their limbs were already broken at that point in time.

He picked one of the men up, walked toward the security camera, and stared straight into the lens. Then, he smashed his fist on the man's head, instantly crushing the skull, and splattering blood all over the place.

All those who were watching the footage shuddered involuntarily. It was an extremely horrifying and cruel scene.

Jared repeated the same with the other man. After he finished them off, he swiped his fingers across his neck, making the 'kill' sign. It was an outright provocative action.

After dumping the two bodies at the Jantz family's doorstep, he drove off.

"Argh!" Zachariah slammed his fist into the monitor furiously and swore, "I'm going to kill him! I will kill him!"

It was a deliberate act of provocation from Jared, and the Jantzs had never been challenged so openly before.

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Below My League

"Please calm down, Mr. Jantz!" Leonardo tried to pacify Zachariah.

"Our top priority now is to gather the herbs for Crescent Sect so that Master Venicus can get started on the longevity pills. Jared is but a small fry, so let's ignore him for the time being. A few prominent families in the Warriors Alliance are already eyeing the Whitaker family's assets. Phoenix Regiment has even started taking over some of those assets. We have to get to them quickly before the rest. Otherwise, we will not be able to raise the necessary funds for the herbs!" he said. "Phoenix Regiment... They are always going against us! It's only a matter of time before I remove them from the Warriors Alliance and chase them out of Summerbank!" Zachariah narrowed his eyes in resentment.

"I'm going to call for a Warriors Alliance meeting tomorrow. If they don't do as I demand, we will have to display our powers and beat them into submission!" He slammed down on the table in fury, breaking it into smithereens.

Meanwhile, Jared was driving back from the Jantz residence and was on his way back to Lizbeth's place when he noticed two cars tailing him.

"Oh? Seems like the Jantzs are quick to act!" He gave a condescending sneer and stopped his car by the roadside.

Thinking that he had to face them sooner or later anyway, he had no intention to run away from the Jantz family.

The two cars that were tailing him stopped behind him as expected. Four big men alighted from the second car and hurriedly went over to open the door of the first car.

A bearded man, aged around fifty years old, came out of the car as his four followers stood in line respectfully. The man was Master Iron, the head of Iron Gate Academy.

Jared frowned in puzzlement, as those men did not seem to be from the Jantz family.

"Master, he's the one who killed Jason!" one of the men pointed at Jared and furiously said.

It became clear to Jared that the men before him were from Iron Gate Academy. He recognized two of them were with Jason when they last met.

Master Iron looked Jared up and down, then roared at him, "You punk, you killed my disciple and yet dare to stay on in Summerbank? You really have no regard for us, do you?"

Jared couldn't help but chuckle as he looked at Master Iron, who strangely looked similar to Jason. He was amused that those who practice Impenetrable Skill seemed to look alike and jested to himself that looks must be the top criteria when they select their disciples. When Master Iron saw that Jared was smiling, he flew into a rage. "Why the hell are you smiling? Did you not hear what I said?"

"It's no wonder that Francis and Jason were so lousy. With you as their master, there is no way they can have much accomplishment! I'm sure you're well aware that your disciples were the ones who picked a fight with me first. They only lost their lives because they were incompetent. As their master, you should have reflected on yourself and worked on improving your skills and teachings instead of coming for me!" Jared chided.

"Francis was no longer part of Iron Gate Academy, so I don't give a d*mn about him. However, Jason is my disciple, and anyone who harms him has no respect for us. That makes you our enemy. I don't care why he challenged you in the first place, but you should not have killed him!" Master Iron was livid as he growled at Jared.

"So what if I have no respect for you? Feel free to come at me and earn your respect if you can! If you don't have the capabilities to do so, then buzz off! I hate people who only like to boast." Jared was annoyed by the unreasonable attitude displayed by Master Iron.

"Young punk, how dare you talk to me so disrespectfully?" Master Iron was angered.

He let out a powerful wave of energy and directed it at Jared.

As he was doing so, his body shimmered with a golden glow, making it a dazzling display of power.

Instantly, a wild gust of wind whipped up the dust on the road, and all his disciples quickly moved away to take cover.

Jared watched Master Iron with little interest. "You are indeed better than your disciples, but unfortunately, you are still way below my league."

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On My Account

Master Iron frowned lightly, amazed to see how Jared was unaffected by his display of power. He knew the wave of energy he had just emitted was formidable, and most martial artists with good internal energy would find it hard to withstand the force. He could not believe that Jared appeared totally unfazed.

"You are indeed something, young punk! Sadly, it is me you are against today, so your fate is sealed!"

With that, he gathered all his energy, let out a roar, and threw a terrifying wave of energy toward Jared. His disciples, once again, retreated further to get out of harm's way.

"Is that all you are capable of? If you have nothing better to offer, I'll be taking my leave first." Jared threw Master Iron a disdainful look and started walking away.

Master Iron was momentarily stunned and also embarrassed by Jared's action. It was too humiliating to be looked down upon by a young punk in the face of his disciples. He could not afford to lose his reputation and their respect.

"Die, you brat!" He charged forward furiously, bringing tremors to the ground, and threw a punch at Jared.

Jared stopped in his track, and without even turning back, he let loose a frightening burst of energy which caused Master Iron to tumble backward, cracking the ground in the process.

Master Iron's face fell as he stared at Jared in disbelief. He hadn't expected a young man like Jared could possess such prowess.

He tried to go against Jared's energy and move forward but failed. All he could do was root himself to the ground to avoid falling backward. He directed all his energy to his feet to stabilize himself, sinking his feet deep into the ground.

"Didn't you like to smother your opponents with powerful energy? Let me give you a taste of your own medicine." Jared turned around and gave Master Iron a cold stare. Suddenly, a few cars sped toward them, and Lizbeth shouted as she alighted from one of the cars after it came to a screeching stop. "Stop! Stop it right there!"

Anthony and a big group of investigators from the Department of Justice also hurriedly alighted from their respective cars and came running toward them.

When Jared saw that it was Lizbeth, he immediately withdrew his burst of energy to avoid hurting her. Master Iron instantly felt the suffocating pressure lifted off him and stumbled backward.

"Are you all right, Jared?" Lizbeth anxiously asked.

"I'm fine. What brings you here?" he asked, puzzled.

"Well, when I woke up, I found you and the two men from the Jantz family missing. I was worried you will go stir up trouble with the Jantzs, so I contacted General Long and wanted to go to your rescue!" Lizbeth gave him a dirty look and grumbled.

Seeing how worried she looked, Jared felt apologetic. "I only sent the two men back to the Jantz family. I did not stir up any trouble. Sorry to have caused you to worry," he said.

"It's okay. What matters most is that you're fine!" Lizbeth was relieved. Next, she turned to Master Iron and explained, "Master Iron, I was there when Jared killed Jason. I can vouch that Jason was the one who started it first. He even tried to attack me. Jared killed him out of self-defense, so you should not put the blame on Jared!"

Master Iron threw her a dirty look and said, "Ms. Grange, on account of your grandpa, I would not make things difficult for you. However, you need to stay out of this. I must finish him off today!" There was a crazy look of menace in his eyes as he said that.

"Master Iron, as Lizbeth had explained, it was Jason who started it first. Jared was not at fault. I know it must be painful for you to lose a disciple, and it is understandable for you to be angry. But can you do me a favor and let Jared off the hook? I will get him to apologize to you!" Anthony stepped forward and tried to appease him.

Anthony was in charge of the Department of Justice, and with his status, most people would not want to make things difficult for him.

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How Dare You

However, as soon as Anthony finished his sentence, Master Iron's expression darkened and he spat, "Anthony, this has nothing to do with the Department of Justice. So stay out of this. Or else, don't blame me for treating you harshly!"

Anthony's expression turned cold and fury boiled within him. How could he disrespect me like this? And in front of Jared, no less? I am the head of the Department of Justice!

Anthony would not have minded if it were the Jantz family that disrespected him. However, the fact that even Iron Gate Academy disrespected him made him feel utterly humiliated.

"Master Iron, I hope you'd think twice about the consequences! Are you sure you want to go against the Department of Justice?"

Anthony's expression darkened as he threatened Master Iron.

"Hah! Stop trying to scare me into submission. I can bear whatever consequences that follow. No matter what, I must kill him today..."

As Master Iron spoke, golden light started to envelop his body again, making it look like he was wearing armor.

Anthony's heart skipped a beat upon seeing that. He staggered a few steps back. "Master Iron, are you really going to fight us?"

"Cut the crap. Get out of my way if you don't wish to die!" Master Iron shouted before he charged forcefully toward Jared.

Just then, a female voice rang out. "Master Iron, how dare you..."

A figure instantly appeared in front of Master Iron before giving him a forceful slap in the face.

Everyone froze on the spot. Master Iron, too, was stunned as he covered his face with his hand.

Just then, dozens of men rushed out from nowhere and surrounded those from Iron Gate Academy.

Only then did the crowd recognize the figure as Phoenix, the head of the Phoenix Regiment.

"Phoenix... Iron Gate Academy has no grudge against Phoenix Regiment. So why did you slap me?"

It was obvious that Master Iron seem to be intimidated by Phoenix.

"Bullsh*t! If you dare to disrespect Mr. Chance again, I will take that as a hostile act against the Phoenix Regiment, you old fool."

As she spoke, Phoenix lifted her leg and wanted to kick at Master Iron. Recoiling in fear, the latter kept staggering backward.

"Mr. Chance?" Master Iron stared at Jared, shell-shocked.

He did not understand why Phoenix was addressing the man so courteously.

"Master Iron, you'd better leave with your men right now. If I find out you try to go after Mr. Chance again, I will cast Iron Gate Academy out of Warriors Alliance. When that happens, you will have no place in Summerbank!" Phoenix warned Master Iron fiercely.

Even though Master Iron felt indignant, he had no choice but to comply.

After all, Phoenix Regiment was one of the four directors of Warriors Alliance. It would be easy if they wanted to chase Iron Gate Academy out of the alliance. For that reason alone, Master Iron did not dare to cross Phoenix.

Not to mention, Phoenix's ability was far beyond him. In the end, Master iron could only leave the place with his men, looking like a dog escaping with its tail tucked behind its leg.

"Mr. Chance, are you all right?"

After chasing Master Iron away, Phoenix walked toward Jared.

Jared smiled faintly and nodded slightly.

Lizbeth and Anthony were left in bewilderment when they saw Phoenix behaving so humbly in front of Jared.

"General Long, thanks a lot for today," Jared said.

Regardless of the reason, Anthony had stood up for Jared.

"You are most welcome. Besides, I didn't really do anything. Since everything is settled now, I shall take my leave."

Anthony displayed an embarrassed look as he immediately led his men away.

After witnessing what had transpired firsthand, he figured he should not stick his nose into Jared's business. He initially thought Jared was powerless, and he even wanted the latter to apologize to Master Iron.

However, it turned out that Jared's power was beyond his imagination. Even the head of the Phoenix Regiment respected him. At that moment, Anthony suddenly realized he was the most powerless party in the whole incident.

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Such A Coward

"How did you know Phoenix?"

On their way back, Lizbeth asked Jared curiously.

"What do you mean?" Jared played dumb.

"Stop pretending in front of me. Why would the head of Phoenix Regiment be so polite with you? Don't tell me that she's interested in you..."

Lizbeth sat in the passenger's seat and stared at Jared closely as though she wanted to get some clue out of Jared's expression.

Yet, there was no trace of emotional turbulence on his face.

"Hmm... maybe you're right. Who knows? After all, all women like handsome men!" Jared joked.

"Stop fooling around. If you don't want to tell me, then get out of the car. I'm not going to interfere in your business from now on!" Lizbeth threatened.

Jared flashed her a weak smile. He then told Lizbeth about the incident where he went to Phoenix Bar with Oliver and got into a conflict with the Phoenix regiment. That was how he encountered Pheonix later on.

However, he did not tell Lizbeth that Phoenix was the subordinate of the Dragon Sect. He only said that he defeated Phoenix in the end. That was why the latter treated him respectfully.

"You defeated Phoenix?" Lizbeth was overwhelmed with shock.

"Why are you so surprised by that?"

Jared stared at Lizbeth with a puzzled look.

"Well, if you could defeat Phoenix, maybe you can defeat Zachariah too. Zachariah became a Grandmaster of internal energy a long time ago. I heard Phoenix, too, had become one. We won't need to fear the Jantz family if that's the case!"

Lizbeth's face was filled with excitement. If Jared can defeat Zachariah, everything will be settled!

"I thought I told you earlier that the Jantz family has never been a problem for me?" Jared scoffed.

"All right. Stop bluffing. The Jantz family has other elites other than Zachariah, you know. You still need to be careful."

Lizbeth tried to put out the flames of pride in Jared's heart.

On the other hand, Jared did not care how many elites the Jantz family had. After all, martial artists were not in the same league as energy cultivators. There is nothing for me to be afraid of! It was already midnight by the time they arrived at Lizbeth's place. Lizbeth felt sleepy, and she planned to rest after freshening up. That was when Oliver arrived.

When Oliver entered the room and saw Jared lying on the couch, he let out a surprised yelp.

"Oliver, why did you come at this hour? And what's with the fuss?" annoyed, Lizbeth growled at Oliver.

"Lizbeth... Isn't he dead?"

Oliver trembled incessantly as he pointed at Jared on the couch.

"Dead?" Lizbeth was dumbfounded.

Just then, Jared opened his eyes and stared at Oliver. "Who told you that I was dead?"

"How could you possibly be alive after offending the Phoenix Regiment? Did they let you go?"

Oliver could not wrap his head around it.

Jared smiled and ignored Oliver. This guy is such a coward.

"What nonsense are you spouting? This is all your fault, to begin with, since you're the one who took him to the bar and offended the Phoenix Regiment. Luckily, everything is fine now!"

Lizbeth proceeded to tell Oliver how Jared defeated Phoenix at the bar.

She also told him how Phoenix behaved respectfully toward Jared.

Oliver was overwhelmed with excitement upon hearing that.

"D*mn. Jared, you're the man! Did you really defeat Phoenix? Does that mean we don't have to be afraid of the Phoenix Regiment from now on?"

Oliver walked over to Jared and squatted down to look at him.

Seeing that Jared was not responding, he continued to say, "Jared, why aren't you sleeping in the same room with Lizbeth? In this era, it's normal to sleep

together before marriage. In fact, it would be just fine even if you guys have a baby before that!"

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Warriors Alliance Conference

"Oliver, what nonsense are you on? Stop it..."

Lizbeth gave Oliver a kick. Her face had blushed red.

Oliver still did not shut up even after getting kicked. "Lizbeth, you're being too conservative. No wonder you couldn't find a boyfriend for so long. You are lucky that Jared doesn't mind your traditional thinking. You should appreciate him. How could you let him sleep on the couch?"

He paused for a second and uttered, "Jared, get up. I will take you to a hotel. It's comfortable there!" Oliver shook Jared's body.

"I'm not going. I'm afraid if we get into trouble again, you will be the first to run away," Jared said with his eyes closed.

Upon hearing that, a look of embarrassment descended upon Oliver's face. "Jared, I didn't run away. I was just... finding help!"

"Oliver, get lost right now!"

Lizbeth walked over and pulled her brother by his ear.

With that, she kicked Oliver out of the room.

After closing the door behind her, Lizbeth was still overwhelmed with rage. What a useless brother! I'm afraid our family will be doomed if this is what our generation looks like!

Jared cast a glance at Lizbeth and laughed.

"What's so funny?"

Lizbeth rolled her eyes at him and went back to her room.

The following day, Zachariah proposed to start a Warriors Alliance Conference.

In order to hold a Warriors Alliance Conference, one of the directors of Warriors Alliance was needed to propose it, and it required the approval of the other three directors.

Since the other three did not oppose Zachariah's proposal, the Warriors Alliance Conference was successfully held at a hall in Summerbank.

There were four chairs carved from mahogany in the center of the hall. That was where the four directors of Warriors Alliance would be sitting.

Around noon, more than thirty martial arts families and martial clubs arrived at the conference. They were all members of the Warriors Alliance.

After waiting for around half an hour, the four directors finally arrived at the scene.

The directors were Zachariah from the Jantz family, Luke from the Wagner family, Bane from the Schmidt family, and Phoenix from the Phoenix Regiment.

The strength of the four people was unfathomable, and no one knew what they were actually capable of.

The rumors about them were just speculation from the citizens.

Zachariah stood up and cut to the chase. "Everyone, today, I'm calling to hold the Warriors Alliance Conference again, mainly because of the Whitaker family. I'm sure you all know about the relationship between the Jantz family and the Whitaker family. As such, the Jantz family will be taking over all the properties of the Whitaker family. If any of you are interested in their properties, please let me know. I'd be more than willing to sell them to you at a low price!"

None from the crowd dared to utter a word. No one dared to oppose the Jantz family at this point. They all understood what it means to lie low.

Suddenly, Phoenix sneered. "Zachariah, there's a rule in our alliance. When a business family goes bankrupt or collapses, all the martial arts families or martial clubs in the alliance have the right to compete and get a share of said family's assets. You should know about this as a director of the alliance."

Regardless of the martial arts family or the martial clubs, they all cooperated with the business family within the alliance. They needed the support of these business families to cover their expenses, and these business families also required the help of the martial arts family.

However, the alliance had a rule that stated that if any business family collapsed, all the resources of the business family will be divided and competed. But due to the unique relations between the Whitaker family and the Jantz family, many others wanted a share of the Whitaker family's properties but did not dare make a move.

"Phoenix, the Whitaker family and the Jantz family are not just in a business relationship. The Whitaker family belonged to my daughter, and my daughter died a horrible death. How could I divide the Whitaker family's properties to others?"

Zachariah cast a furious look at Phoenix, gritting his teeth.