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Dine Together

"What should we prepare for the gift, Mr. Sean?" the butler asked softly.

"Let's wait for Xander first. We must be well prepared this time!" Sean thought he was not in the position to make any decision. It would be best to consult Xander's advice since he would be out in a few days.

"All right!" The butler nodded and was prepared to leave when Sean called out to him.

"Hold on. Get someone to watch over Gavin. He has been causing a lot of problems these days, and I don't want him to lose his life from messing with Jared," the latter instructed.

Sean knew his son was nothing more than a useless troublemaker. Gavin even dared to clamor about challenging Jared and threatening to kill him. If I don't stop him from picking a fight with Jared, Jared might kill him like how he got rid of Franco!

With Franco's death, Gavin was the only heir to the family. It would spell doom for the Cooper family should he also die in Jared's hands.

"Got it." The butler nodded.

The next morning, Jared decided to sleep in due to the lack of spiritual energy that prevented him from cultivating. Sadly, his slumber was disrupted by a call from Josephine, asking him if he would be coming home.

Jared had no choice but to lie, as there was some information he had to hide from her. He told Josephine that he had to stay in Jadeborough because he had yet to capture the people from Mapleton.

They continued speaking on the phone for hours. Clearly, Josephine missed him very much, even though they had only been away from each other for a few days.

Jared was forced to hang up the call when his doorbell rang at noon.

He opened the door and saw Tristan standing in front of him while holding a sack.

"Here are some herbs that we acquired at a high price, Mr. Chance. My grandfather knew you needed these for your cultivation, so he told me to deliver them to you."

As the latter spoke, he opened the sack and showed Jared some century-old reishi mushrooms and ginseng.

Jared was not particularly excited to see those rare herbs, as they would not be of great help to his current rank of cultivation. What he needed was an abundance of spiritual energy.

Nonetheless, he was still quite touched by the gifts from the Baileys. After receiving the sack from Tristan, he said, "Please help me thank your grandfather!"

"Don't mention it, Mr. Chance. My grandfather said our family would do everything we could to help you cultivate even if we have to sell all our family assets," Tristan said.

His remark warmed Jared's heart. Even though his relationship with the Baileys was a mutually beneficial one, he was still grateful to Samuel for the sacrifices the latter was willing to make.

"Come on in." Jared opened the door and welcomed Tristan into the room.

Tristan grinned and offered, "Would you like to have lunch together if you're available? I wish to treat you to a meal since you're here in Jadeborough."

"Sure!" Jared nodded and added, "But I can't go to your house..."

He did not want to go to the Bailey residence because he was afraid that he would not be able to eat in peace as the other family members might keep buttering him up.

Tristan chuckled as he understood Jared's concern. Nodding, he replied, "All right. Let's go to one of my favorite restaurants then. It serves great food."

Jared nodded and changed into a fresh set of clothes before departing to the restaurant with him.

Soon, they arrived at the restaurant. After opening the door for Jared to enter, Tristan led him to a table in a corner.

"Good to see you again, Mr. Bailey," one of the waiters greeted Tristan cordially, obviously familiar with him.

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An Odd Woman

"I'll get the usual dishes," Tristan said with a smile.

"All right. It'll be ready in a moment!" the waiter replied cheerfully and left.

Jared surveyed the restaurant and thought its interior design was sophisticated, even though the space was not very big. Moreover, there were quite many diners in the restaurant.

Sitting just a stone's throw away from them was a young woman dining by herself, clad in a satin dress and had a fair complexion. When his eyes ranged over her, his gaze lingered on her subconsciously, and his heart started racing a few seconds later. All of a sudden, he had the urge to go up to her and pin her to the ground.

Jared bit the tip of his tongue hard to jolt himself out of it. Instantly, the pain caused him to return to his senses, and he retracted his gaze from her.

"Is everything all right, Mr. Chance?" Tristan asked upon noticing the changes in his expression.

Jared's heart was still pounding fast, and his cheeks were flushed. Flustered by his sudden desire, he could not help but knit his brows. Although he was a hot-blooded young man, he had strong self-control. Plenty of women had offered themselves to them, and he was never once aroused.

Even when Jared first saw Lizbeth's naked body, he had never reacted like he did that day. The fact that he lost his composure merely from looking at the young woman for a few seconds disconcerted him.

Finally, he shook his head and replied, "I'm fine."

Tristan observed Jared for a while before turning his attention to the young woman. He was aware that Jared blushed and started breathing quicker after glancing at her.

"Don't look at her..."

Upon noticing that Tristan was looking at the woman, Jared tried to stop him, but it was too late. The former had his eyes fastened on her.

After studying the young woman from head to toe, Tristan tilted his head and asked, "Is there something wrong with her, Mr. Chance?"

His calm reaction weirded out Jared, who queried, "Did you feel aroused when you looked at her?"

"Not at all!" Tristan shook his head with a confused expression. "I mean, she's pretty, but it's not to the extent that I would lust for her at first glance. Are you perhaps feeling frustrated because you've been staying on your own for the last couple of days? I can arrange for a few women to keep you company..."

Tristan thought Jared must have reacted in such a manner because he had been cooped up for too long and missed the touch of a woman.

Upon hearing that, Jared shook his head awkwardly. "No, thanks."

As of then, he still had not been intimate with any woman even though he was surrounded by many.

Minutes later, the waiter brought the dishes to the table. While Tristan invited him to dig in, Jared mustered up his courage and took another look at the woman.

However, that time around, he did not feel the sexual urge anymore despite staring at her for a long moment. That's strange.

Tristan noticed that Jared could not keep his eyes away from the young woman, so he smiled and asked, "Do you want me to call her over?"

"Nope. Let's eat." Jared then lowered his head and began eating.

"Oh, my, look who's here! What a coincidence, Mr. Bailey."

Halfway through their meal, a frivolous voice sounded from a distance.

Tristan instantly recognized the man's voice and frowned. He did not even bother to turn around to look at him as he cautioned, "Stay away from me, Gavin. I'm not in the mood to entertain you today."

Jared lifted his head to look at Gavin, who resembled a hooligan. There was barely any aura on the latter, which showed he was not a martial artist. Nevertheless, the two subordinates standing behind him were Grandmasters.

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The Afterworld

"Tristan Bailey, your family doesn't own this place. I can be wherever I want in this restaurant, and you can't do anything about it!" Gavin ignored Tristan and sat right next to him.

"Are you trying to pick a fight?"

Perceiving his act as a provocation, Tristan shot daggers at the man and started emanating an aura from his body.

As he was a Seventh Level Grandmaster, by right, an ordinary person like Gavin would not be able to withstand his aura.

Yet, the latter seemed absolutely fearless. When Tristan was about to overpower him, the two men standing behind Gavin also started exuding aura from their bodies. The impact of the collision between their auras mid-air was so intense that Tristan staggered a little.

Tristan's expression changed, and he stared at the two subordinates intently. These two Grandmasters' abilities are on a par with mine. No wonder Gavin is not afraid of me.

"Why are you so tensed, Tristan? I just came over to have a drink with you," Gavin remarked and proceeded to pour himself a glass of wine. He then looked at Jared. "I don't think I've met you before. Where are you from?"

He had asked that question because he did not know who the latter was.

However, Jared gave him the cold shoulder. In fact, he did not bother to look at Gavin at all, as his attention was entirely on the young woman. Despite the commotion, she was still having her meal as though she was not affected by it.

The impact from the collision of the auras earlier was remarkable, yet she was unperturbed. That had Jared's interest piqued.

Gavin's expression turned grim when he realized he was being ignored. "F**k, I'm talking to you right now! Are you deaf?"

"Gavin Cooper, do you have a death wish?" Furious that Gavin dared to disrespect Jared in such a manner, Tristan slammed his palm on the table and stood up.

The Grandmasters from the Cooper family were alarmed by the heightened tension, so they took a step forward and stood in front of Gavin.

Most of the diners started taking shelter at the corners of the restaurant, while the more timid ones left right away.

The owner of the restaurant could only keep mum, as he could not afford to offend Tristan or Gavin.

Tristan's expression darkened when Gavin's subordinates stood in front of him.

"Is he your father, Tristan? Why are you getting so worked up?" Gavin remained seated, tilting his head to look at Tristan in disdain.

Fury washed over the latter. He's a good-for-nothing, yet he has a sharp tongue!

Unable to stand it any longer, he swung a punch in Gavin's direction.

At that, the two Grandmasters got into positions and were ready to retaliate.

However, Jared stood up and stopped Tristan. Facing Gavin, he did a self-introduction. "I'm Jared Chance from Horington."

Gavin, who was seated, stood up abruptly after hearing his name.

"You... You're Jared Chance?" He looked at Jared in disbelief as he had not expected the latter to be so young.

"Do you know me?" Jared was puzzled by his reaction because he did not know Gavin was Sean's son and Franco's younger cousin.

"Mr. Chance, this man is Franco's cousin, Sean's son. He's a member of the Cooper family," Tristan explained.

After learning Gavin's identity, Jared finally caught on. "So you're one of the Coopers. No wonder you're so arrogant. Would you like me to send you to the afterworld just like what I did to your cousin?"

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Helpless

In an instant, Gavin flushed angrily. However, he did not say another word, merely giving Jared a murderous glare as the butler had cautioned him not to offend the latter lest he died in his hands.

Knowing that the two subordinates he had brought with him that day were no match for the combined strength of Jared and Tristan, he could only repress his anger.

"Don't be so full of yourself, brat. You'll pay for what you did to my cousin one day. Don't ever dream of living a peaceful life since you'd offended the Coopers."

Gavin then brought his subordinates to sit at the next table.

While Jared and Tristan continued enjoying their lunch, Gavin kept shooting daggers at them from a distance.

"You should be more mindful of Gavin, Mr. Chance. He might be a good-fornothing, but he's also a crafty and ruthless man who would do all sorts of nasty things," Tristan exhorted.

"Don't worry about it." Jared flashed him a half-smile in reassurance as he did not see Gavin as a threat.

All of a sudden, he put down his fork and started to appear unsettled.

"What's wrong, Mr. Chance?" Tristan was startled and felt that Jared was behaving oddly that day.

"Stop talking!" The latter frowned and hushed him with a wave of his palm.

At that moment, Jared could feel a spiritual sense coming in his direction aggressively. Perhaps because the other party was unaware that he had a spiritual sense of his own, they did not bother to conceal their intention.

Jared narrowed his eyes and turned his attention to the young woman. Coincidentally, she was also looking at him. Upon noticing his gaze, she instantly lowered her head. At the same time, the spiritual sense had also receded.

Jared was dumbstruck. He never expected the woman to be an energy cultivator too. It looks like there are a lot of hidden elites in Jadeborough, far more than I've imagined.

"A-Are you all right, Mr. Chance?" asked a baffled Tristan.

He could not fathom why Jared kept looking at the woman.

The latter smiled and replied, "I'm fine. Let's continue with our lunch."

Meanwhile, Gavin also noticed the young woman. With a lecherous glint in his eyes, he walked up to her table and sat across from her. "Miss, why are you eating alone? Where's your boyfriend?"

Smirking, he continued to tease her. "Do you mind if I join you? My name is Gavin, and I'm from the Cooper family."

He then reached out his hand to touch hers.

The young woman lifted her head to glance at Gavin before walking out of the restaurant.

The man was stunned for a moment as he had never been spurned by any of the women he hit on previously. After all, they would normally throw themselves at him upon learning that he was one of the Coopers.

Enraged from being cold-shouldered, Gavin ran after the young woman.

Upon noticing that, Jared hastily stood up and said to Tristan, "Enjoy the lunch yourself. There's something I need to take care of."

"What are you doing? Do you want me to accompany you?" Tristan thought Jared was going after Gavin.

"It's fine. Don't follow me."

Jared did not want Tristan to tag along, as he did not know if the female cultivator was a friend or foe. If she intended to bring him to the Deragons like what Bull tried to do, Tristan's life might be in danger for joining him. By going after her alone, he might have a chance of escaping.

Jared was unsure about her identity, but he wanted to catch up with her to see if he could learn some secrets of the heavenly realm in Jadeborough from her.

After leaving the restaurant, he noticed Gavin and his subordinates made a turn at the corner of the street, so he followed them.

Just as Jared made his way into the street, he saw that the trio had caught up with the woman. Standing before the three men, she seemed particularly vulnerable and helpless.

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Kill The Boss

"Didn't you hear what I said, missy? I repeat, you should count your blessing that I'm actually interested in you. Why are you running away? Come with me, and I'll give you a lavish life. I can even buy you a mansion..."

Gavin fixed his gaze on the girl. His eyes gleamed as though he was up to something.

The girl glanced at him and hurriedly took a few steps backward. Unfortunately, her other escape route was blocked by two of Gavin's subordinates.

She felt hopeless, like a little lamb waiting to be devoured by its predator.

The more she shuddered in fear, the more excited Gavin got.

"You have nowhere else to run, missy. Why don't you be a tad bit more obedient and let me pamper you?"

With that, Gavin reached out to grab her.

The girl screamed as she stumbled backward and hit the wall.

Jared had wanted to dash over and help her, but he changed his mind on second thought.

She has spiritual sense and is obviously a cultivator. Why is she so afraid of an ordinary guy like Gavin? Although he has two Grandmasters with him, it's rather odd that a cultivator can't defeat a mere Grandmaster. Is she pretending? Is she doing this on purpose because she knows that I'm here?

At that thought, Jared withdrew his outstretched leg. He was eager to find out why the girl wanted to hide her true capabilities.

Had she not used her spiritual sense to test Jared, the latter would not have discovered her identity as a cultivator.

"Hahaha! Go ahead and scream at the top of your lungs. Who dares to stop me?" Gavin smirked smugly.

Gavin closed in on her with his hands aiming at a specific body part. Immense fear engulfed the girl, but she remained rooted to the spot.

Frowning, Jared doubted himself. "Am I mistaken?"

He was dubious about the whole idea. Perhaps she's not a cultivator, and neither was the spiritual sense from her?

Regardless, Jared could not allow the girl to be humiliated by Gavin. So, he decided to interfere with the matter.

Right before Jared could take any action, Gavin stopped what he was doing and gawked at the girl. Grinning lustfully, he stared blankly at her face.

"Do you like me?" The fear in her eyes disappeared, only to be replaced by her alluring charm.

"I do... Hehehe..." Gavin was ogling her, acting like a total idiot.

His two subordinates sensed that something was off and immediately pounced on the girl.

What greeted them next was something peculiar. When the two Grandmasters approached the girl, they both froze and started acting weird like Gavin.

"Do you guys like me?" she asked the two Grandmasters.

"I do... Hehe..." they responded with a silly grin.

"Oh boy, I'm in such a dilemma. All of you like me so much! Shall you all battle? Whoever wins the fight gets me as a prize," she said, looking seemingly troubled.

"Sure!" the trio exclaimed while nodding vigorously.

Despite being a regular guy, Gavin had no qualms fighting two Grandmasters.

Seeing so, the girl took a few steps to the side and announced, "Let's start."

As soon as she gave the cue, the two Grandmasters immediately whipped out their weapons and launched a harsh attack on Gavin.

Smash!

Thump!

Within seconds, the duo struck Gavin in all directions and finished him off. Alas, Gavin was beaten to death before he had a chance to defend himself.

Jared was completely stunned. What's going on? Why did the two subordinates kill their own boss in the blink of an eye?

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Being Controlled

Before Jared snapped back into his senses, the two equally capable Grandmasters had already become entangled in a duel. No one was less formidable than the other. Hence, it was hard to tell who had the upper hand.

After over a hundred rounds, they finally managed to stab each other and perished together.

Jared looked at the three corpses lying on the ground. He could not believe that they would destroy themselves just like that while the girl washed her hands of the whole incident.

Right then, the girl shot a glance in the direction where Jared was hiding and asked coldly, "Not going to show yourself?"

Since she had already discovered him, he walked out and strode toward her cautiously.

Seeing how wary he was of her, the girl chuckled. Her sudden laughter was like a breath of fresh air, and it warmed Jared's heart.

"How could you stand idly by and watch me defend myself in such a dangerous situation? You're so cruel..." Pouting, she pretended to be angry.

A warm and fuzzy feeling crept up on him. She knew exactly how to tug at his heartstrings.

"You... You're so beautiful..." Jared seemed a little dazed and gave a silly grin.

She loved his expression. Smiling smugly, she stroked her hair and said, "Really? Am I really that pretty? Then why didn't you save me just now? I need your help to chuck their bodies into the river. Would you be so kind to lend me a hand?"

He could not withstand her pettishly charming tone and agreed right away, "Sure, sure..."

When Jared was carrying the bodies over to the river, a strong stench of blood that permeated the air tickled his senses. A ray of white light flashed across his head, and his eyes became bright all of a sudden. He froze for a bit, not knowing what had just happened.

Jared was shocked to the core when he realized that he was carrying a corpse. Panicked, he tossed it away and released his spiritual energy from within to engulf his entire being. Subsequently, he turned to look at the girl.

The latter was astonished to see him being able to recover his senses.

"Who are you? What did you do to me?"

He clenched his fists and glared at her.

The dumbfounded expression on her face quickly disappeared. Within seconds, she put on an alluring look and approached Jared with a seductive sway of her hips.

"Why are you so fierce, my dear? I'm really terrified. If you don't believe me, look straight into my eyes..." She walked closer to him as she spoke.

It only took Jared one glance, and he fell into her trap again. With that, his firm grip loosened, and his mind went blank immediately.

Seeing that she had achieved her motive, the girl scoffed, "Continue your pending work and throw the corpses away."

"All right." He nodded.

While Jared was bending down and carrying the bodies again, a dark shadow went past him and patted his head gently.

He shuddered and regained full consciousness. When he saw the bodies across his shoulders, his face darkened.

No thoughts enlightened him as to why he was controlled and manipulated by the girl so easily.

He chucked away the bodies hastily and turned to the person who had nudged him just now. It was none other than Rayleigh, who had saved him once and given him the body-quenching pill.

Right then, Rayleigh was staring at the girl, who had hung her head low and looked seemingly terrified.

"Melanie, how many times have I warned you not to create any trouble when you're out? You might hurt yourself unknowingly," reprimanded Rayleigh.

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You Must Leave

"Those are bad guys, Mr. Deragon. Had I not killed them, they would have... done those things to me," Melanie Woodlands whined.

"Nonsense! Do you think Jared will bully you as well?" Rayleigh stared daggers at her.

"I... I heard from you that he's got superb prowess in battle, so I wanted to test him out. Turns out it's nothing great."

Melanie cast a contemptuous look at Jared and criticized him, "Also, his personality sucks. He looked on while I was in trouble and had no intention of helping me."

Jared listened attentively to their conversations and was rather confused. So, they know each other, and Rayleigh talks a lot about me too. Anyhow, they don't seem to have any ill intentions toward me. At the very least, I know they won't harm me.

Rayleigh turned to Jared, simply refusing to believe that the latter was not bothered by Melanie's safety.

Jared justified himself at once. "She tested me using her spiritual sense, and that's how I knew that she's an energy cultivator. Those few guys were clearly not her match. Hence, I didn't interfere."

Upon hearing so, Rayleigh was infuriated and blasted Melanie, "How dare you use your spiritual sense on Jared? You'd have made a grave mistake if his mind had been affected."

Judging from Rayleigh's stern expression, Melanie finally realized that she had done something unacceptable. She bowed her head and kept silent.

Suddenly, some footsteps were heard. Rayleigh arched his brow and pulled both Melanie and Jared aside. "This isn't the right place to talk further. Someone's coming..."

Jared felt his body stiffen, followed by a rustling sound at his ear. Before he knew it, he had been transported to a small park.

He stared at Rayleigh in disbelief. Although Jared's speed was above average, it was nothing when compared to Rayleigh's.

"Why didn't you leave Jadeborough?" asked Rayleigh.

"I... I want to find out about my background."

Jared came clean, as he saw no reason to hide his intention from Rayleigh, who had known about his past stories.

"Leave Jadeborough now. It's too dangerous for you to stay here. I've told you before that you'll understand everything you need to know about your background after the fifteenth of July," Rayleigh said.

"Can I ask you something else?" There were so many things that Jared was curious about despite knowing that Rayleigh would not spill a word to him.

"You can ask anything you want as long as it's not related to your background. However, you must leave Jadeborough after asking." Rayleigh was resolute.

Jared nodded and started posing questions about the mysterious heavenly realm.

Back then, Draco had taught Jared a method to lead him into becoming an energy cultivator, but he did not tell him anything about the heavenly realm. So, he was puzzled about many things.

"It's so difficult for someone my rank to cultivate spiritual energy because what I have in me is too insignificant. I need more resources to do so. How do people like you attain that? What about the other cultivators in the heavenly realm? How did they manage to do it? After all, the resources available are scarce. A century-old spiritual medicine and spiritual stone are extremely precious and rare. By the way, who's this girl? What trick did she use to manipulate me just now? Magecraft? Also..."

Jared bombarded Rayleigh with a series of questions, to the extent that the latter started having a headache. Melanie observed everything and broke out into laughter as though she was watching a comedy.

"Your prowess is quite good, but you ask very stupid questions. I wonder how you cultivated in the past," Melanie jeered at him.

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Exceeding Expectation

Upon being ridiculed by Melanie, Jared felt so ashamed of himself. What was regarded as a child's play to the others was unknown to him.

"I can understand how you feel and your strong desire to know all these things. Trust me, you'll find the answers to all of your questions very soon. As for who she is, I'll have to tell you a long story..."

Rayleigh pointed at Melanie and began to narrate an old tale.

From their interactions, Jared could tell that Rayleigh treated Melanie as his own child.

He found out that Melanie was actually an orphan adopted by Rayleigh. When she grew up, Rayleigh learned that she had an innate ability to control people's minds through casting spells and sorcery charms.

Although she was an energy cultivator, she knew nothing else besides charming others. She did not even know the basics of gathering energy. In other words, any martial artist could easily take Melanie on and defeat her if she did not possess any charming ability.

Jared finally realized that the fearful expression shown on Melanie's face when Gavin cornered her was a true reflection of her emotion then. She did not fake it.

At that thought, he felt rather sorry for his own action.

Rayleigh asked, "Do you think that an energy cultivator will surely be better than a martial artist or a mage? That the former is a cut above the rest?"

Absolutely! Jared nodded.

Rayleigh smiled. "Actually, there's no difference between a cultivator, martial artist, and a mage. The only difference is the title of their rank. You're a cultivator now, but if you fight with a Martial Arts Grandmaster, they can easily beat you to a pulp with just one finger. So, do you still think that a cultivator is any better than a martial artist? Then again, the sky's the limit for a cultivator. There are endless possibilities and potential for one because the end goal is to become immortal. That's the ultimate dream for all cultivators."

When Rayleigh mentioned the word "immortal," there was a sparkle in his eyes, filled with all of his hopes and dreams.

He had longed to become one.

"An immortal..." Jared mumbled. Throughout all his days working hard on cultivation, he had never imagined becoming an immortal.

When he began cultivating, all he wanted was to fulfill his promise to Draco, to find out what would happen on the fifteenth of July.

It had never crossed his mind to be an immortal. In fact, he never knew there was a connection between cultivation and being an immortal. These were all new to him as he tried to wrap his head around the concept.

"Don't think too much. Channel all of your efforts and focus on cultivation. You've already exceeded my expectation for achieving this level within such a short period of time."

Rayleigh scrutinized him satisfactorily. Then, without any pre-warning, he punched Jared in the stomach and sent him flying a few feet away.

The impact was so powerful that when Jared crashed into a tree, it broke into two.

The attack came like a bolt from the blue and left Jared totally baffled. Why must he go physical when we can talk it out verbally?

Rubbing his stomach, Jared walked back to Rayleigh. Thanks to his constant training, his chiseled body was extremely fit and sturdy. That one punch did not have any severe impact on him.

Melanie was taken aback to see that unfolding before her eyes. For a long while, she did not know how to respond to it.

"Not bad. Your body strength and stamina are finally on par with your capability. I'm glad to know that my body-quenching pill was not wasted."

Rayleigh was delighted to see the return of an unharmed Jared.

I see. So, Rayleigh was trying to examine the result of my cultivation.

"Mr. Deragon, did you really... give him the body-quenching pill that you've obtained through countless painstaking hard work?" Melanie was shocked to the core.

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Tear Him To Pieces

"Shut up!" Rayleigh glared at Melanie. It was obvious that he didn't want Jared to know how precious the body-quenching pill was.

Upon hearing that, Jared stared at him in shock. He always thought that for a cultivator like Rayleigh, the body-quenching pill was something that could be easily obtained. He never would have thought that the man would give him something that was basically his blood, sweat, and tears.

At that moment, he knew that there was some sort of relationship between them; perhaps they were even family. He got very emotional at the thought of this.

"You already know what you should know. Leave Jadeborough immediately. Before you head to Nameless Island on July 15, don't ever step foot in Jadeborough again," Rayleigh said.

Then, he left with Melanie before Jared could even reply. In the blink of an eye, both of them had vanished.

Jared remained stunned for a moment before he turned to leave. He hailed a taxi and headed straight for Horington.

Having seen how anxious Rayleigh was when he told him to leave, he knew that only danger would be waiting for him if he continued to stay in Jadeborough. It was going to be hard for him to make a name for himself here with his current capabilities. Even a defenseless woman like Melanie managed to make him obey her just by using the Seduction Technique. If he had run into a stronger opponent, there would not even be a chance for him to struggle.

He stared out the taxi window as the car streaked past the skyscrapers and silently swore to himself, "I'll be back, Jadeborough..."

My past is buried somewhere within Jadeborough, so I will be back to find out everything I can.

Meanwhile, at the Cooper residence, three corpses were placed in the middle of the courtyard and were surrounded by many members of the Cooper family. A middle-aged woman was slumped over Gavin's body, crying her heart out.

"Oh, my son! You died such a horrible death. Tell me, who was the one who killed you? I will get revenge for you!"

She was none other than Gavin's mother. When she saw the state he was in, she wept with agony.

Sean, on the other hand, was trembling all over at the sight of his son's corpse. His eyes were red in anger.

"Who was it? Who killed my son?" he roared. His aggressively murderous aura enveloped the place, terrifying the rest of the Coopers as they quickly lowered their heads, not daring to utter a single word.

"Mr. Sean, I've looked into what happened. Mr. Gavin bumped into Tristan and Jared when he was having his meal. According to the restaurant, Mr. Gavin ran out of the restaurant, chasing after a girl. However, Jared hadn't even finished his food when he went after them as well, leaving Tristan alone in the restaurant. That is why there is a huge possibility that Jared was the one who killed him," the butler said softly when he reached Sean's side.

At the mention of Jared's name, the latter gritted his teeth and growled, "It's that Jared again. I can't forgive myself if I don't kill him this time!"

"Mr. Sean, Jared is quite strong, and he has already left Jadeborough. Why don't we decide on what to do when Old Mr. Cooper is back?" the butler suggested.

"I'm going to cut him up into pieces even if he hides at the ends of the Earth!"

Still boiling with anger, the man slowly pulled out a key from his pocket.

At the sight of this, the butler's expression changed in an instant. "You- Mr. Sean, are you going to release The Fearsome Four?"

"That's right. I'm going to kill Jared for the sake of my son."

Once he was finished speaking, he turned to take one last look at his son's corpse before he left for the backyard.

Upon seeing this, the butler quickly rushed toward him to stop him. "Please reconsider, Mr. Sean! Old Mr. Cooper is the only one who can control The Fearsome Four. If you let them out and they get agitated, the whole of the Cooper family will be done for."

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The Fearsome Four

"Get lost!" Sean kicked the butler away before continuing, "I have the medicine Xander left. It can control The Fearsome Four. Before going into his solitary training, Xander said that we can release The Fearsome Four if the Cooper family is in deep trouble."

The man headed straight for the backyard. He had no intention of listening to his butler at all.

The latter became more compliant after the kick he received. All he could do was sigh and follow suit.

At the deepest part of the backyard was another courtyard. Its door was shut with a rusty lock securing it. It was obvious that the place had been kept locked up for years.

Staring at the door before him, Sean fell into a daze for a second before he clenched his teeth and unlocked it

Screech

The heavy door was pushed open, revealing a room further inside. A series of growls was instantly heard from inside the room, followed by the sounds of chains clanking.

The man walked in and stood before the locked room. He then unlocked that door and pushed it open.

Sunlight instantly lit up the dim room.

Inside, four scruffy-looking men in tattered clothes were chained up. When they saw that someone had entered the room, they lunged forward with bloodshot eyes. However, they only managed to take two steps forward as they were held back by the chains.

"Food... I want food!" One of the men bared his teeth and roared.

The other three glared at Sean, all of them looking like they were starving beasts.

At that, Sean grabbed a handful of what seemed like jellybeans from his pocket and tossed them at the chained men.

They instantly picked the jellybeans from the ground and stuffed them into their mouths.

Soon enough, they finished everything Sean had given them. The men who were once angry and agitated slowly turned quiet.

The redness in their eyes faded as they stared at him blankly.

Having seen this, Sean ordered, "Go and release them from their chains."

"Mr. Sean!" The butler had a troubled look on his face. He was terrified of what would happen if he unchained them.

"Unchain them."

The former unsheathed his whip sword and pointed it at the butler's neck.

The butler could feel the coldness from the sword, and he dared not say another word. Body trembling, he slowly made his way toward the men and started to unchain them.

They remained motionless even though they were not held back by the chains anymore. Instead, they waited silently for Sean's orders. At the sight of this, the butler heaved a sigh of relief.

"Follow me," Sean said to them.

"Yes!" they replied with a nod before following him out of the room.

As the disheveled men walked behind Sean, the subordinates of the Coopers couldn't help but feel curious. Many of them were taking secret glances at the men.

Besides a few of the higher-ups and the head of the Cooper family, no one else knew of the existence of The Fearsome Four. Even Gavin didn't know of them. Franco was an exception as he had planned to release them to deal with Jared back then. However, he had been stopped by Sean.

Sean would never have expected that there would be a day when he would be forced to use The Fearsome Four.

On the way out of Jadeborough, the taxi driver was happily chatting with Jared. He had landed a huge deal after all. It cost almost three thousand for

the drive from Jadeborough to Horington. It was only natural that the driver would feel so delighted.

"What kind of business are you in, young man? Not many people will go to Horington from Jadeborough by taxi."

Most people were not willing to pay a few thousand for the taxi fare, after all.

"It's just a small business," Jared answered casually with a smile.