

## The Enigmatic Return (Neera and Jean)

### Chapter 1301

Neera was feeling uneasy inside, a look of worry showing on her face.

Chad's expression also looked somewhat grave.

"The Jagger family has been entrenched on Adieu Island for so many years and is a tough nut to crack. The guild has tried kicking up a fuss a few times, but each attempt has been fruitless. I'm afraid it's going to be very difficult for the Cox family to succeed this time."

Since the matter didn't concern him, Jean didn't care that much. He busied himself with serving Neera some food and comforting her.

"Since the Cox family has already received the news, they will soon send support to the island. Don't worry. Avery, as the head of the family, is not just for show. He will certainly find a way to break through."

That being said, Neera still felt uneasy in her heart.

However, she didn't want Jean to worry about her. She pursed her lips, nodded, and picked up her fork again, selectively eating a few bites.

Standing off to the side, Ian hadn't left yet. At that moment, he appeared as if he wanted to speak but hesitated.

Jean noticed and glanced at him. "If there's anything, let's talk about it after dinner. There's no need to rush this very moment."

His tone was neither cold nor warm, but Ian keenly detected a hint of displeasure.

This isn't good. It seems that Mr. Beauvort is blaming me for causing Mrs. Beauvort to lose her appetite.

In response, a helpless look descended upon his face as he obediently kept his mouth shut and left.

The remaining people at the dinner table fell silent, each lost in their own thoughts.

Although Neera hadn't outright said it, Jean could tell that her heart was completely invested in the island.

This deeply irked him, especially since the man on Adieu Island was also his romantic rival, harbored a deep affection for his woman, and couldn't get her out of his mind.

However, Neera always seemed anxious about something or another. Seeing her like this, he couldn't help but feel heartache.

Moreover, as much as he didn't want to admit it, he had to acknowledge that Avery had indeed been a great help to Neera. She hated being indebted to others, so her worry was only natural.

With a silent sigh, he made up his mind.

After dinner, he called Ian into the study.

"Secretly send some people to Adieu Island to assess the situation. If the Cox family can't hold on, lend a hand when necessary. Be careful not to let the Cox family discover this."

Upon hearing this, Ian was quite surprised. "Mr. Beauvort, I thought you greatly dislike Avery? Why are you offering help now?"

Jean's face was expressionless, his voice cold. "If it weren't for Avery helping Neera previously, I wouldn't care whether he lived or died." [SEARCH THE Find\\_Novel.net](http://SearchTheFind_Novel.net) website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Ian understood then that everything Jean was doing was to put Neera at ease.

However...

"Mr. Beauvort, the current situation suggests that the Cox family's troubles aren't just confined to Adieu Island. I suspect they're about to face some difficulties here as well."

Jean glanced at him. "What's going on?"

Ian immediately reported, "There have been some issues with the Cox family's businesses. News suddenly came out yesterday that several auction houses run by the Cox family were found to have firearms. Guns and ammunition were discovered, and the quantity was not small. Bartitsu Guild has already taken action, ordering all auction houses under the Cox family to cease operations. Moreover, rumor has it that it's not just the auction houses; even other businesses of the Cox family will be thoroughly investigated. If any prohibited items are found, they will be completely shut down!"

Upon hearing this, Jean's brows furrowed slightly, "How could this happen? The Cox family must be aware that firearms are strictly prohibited. Would Avery really do such a foolish thing?"

He didn't believe that Avery would be so foolish.

Ian was thinking the same thing. "This situation is indeed strange. The Cox family has always been careful and meticulous, never making a mistake. Their businesses have always followed the rules, so why were they suddenly investigated? There must be something fishy going on. Could it be that someone reported them?"

Jean was deep in thought. "It's too early to say. Regardless of the reason, the most crucial point is whether the Cox family has violated the law by secretly hoarding firearms."

He already had a rough answer to this question.

Even though he didn't like Avery as a person, he was still aware of the latter's ways and style of doing things.

As the head of the family, Avery would never do anything that could harm the Cox family.

Committing a serious crime like hoarding firearms could ruin an entire family. There was no way Avery would take such a risk.

Hence, it was likely that someone had set him up.

But who exactly is it? What do they want to do to the Cox family?

The more Ian thought about it, the more he felt that something was wrong.

"The Cox family probably wouldn't. Even if we take a step back and assume that the Cox family really is hoarding firearms, they wouldn't be foolish enough to store them in a place they operate, right? That place is bustling with people every day, so it would just be too risky. The slightest carelessness on their part would lead to them being discovered, especially considering the large quantity..."

"Hmm, indeed it's strange. How are things at the Cox family now?"

"It's not looking good. Mr. Cox is not around, and only a few elders are left to hold the fort. Although the Cox family is the second largest in Bartitsu Guild, apart from Mr. Cox, no one else in the Cox family has much say in the association. The association has made it clear that they intend to conduct a thorough investigation. In this matter, the Cox family has no room to maneuver. They can only accept the investigation honestly and wait for the result."

Jean pondered for a moment, then instructed, "Let's put this matter aside for now. First, send someone to secretly support them on Adieu Island. Remember, no matter what happens, Avery must not be harmed, Finnley too. You must ensure they return alive."

He certainly didn't want Neera to feel guilty for the rest of her life.

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## Chapter 1302

No sooner had Ian stepped out than Neera walked in, her face a little pale and appearing anxious.

At a glance, Jean guessed that she had heard the rumors.

Sure enough, when Neera opened her mouth, it was to say, "The Cox family is in trouble."

Jean nodded. "I know. Ian just mentioned it."

He rose to his feet, circled around to the front of the desk, and stood face-to-face with her at close quarters.

"Are you worried?" he asked.

Neera nodded slightly, not wanting to hide anything from him, and honestly expressed her thoughts.

"I am a bit worried. After all, Mr. Cox is not with the Cox family now, and just dealing with the Jagger family's affairs has already left him overwhelmed. The Cox family is now in such a big mess. If he finds out, I'm afraid it will only make him more upset. The Cox family is currently besieged with internal and external troubles. They have helped me before, so I..."

Jean held her hand, his warm and dry palm enveloping her delicate fingers.

"I understand you want to help the Cox family, and I'm not saying no. However, this matter is a lot more complicated than it seems and has a huge impact. Privately having firearms is a grave crime. If it's proven to be true, the Cox family will certainly not be able to protect themselves. If you get involved, even the Gordon family might be implicated."

"I understand," Neera said, her head bowed low as she spoke in a subdued tone. "I know that I'm not just representing myself now but the entire Gordon family. However, the Gordon family has always been on good terms with the Cox family. When the Gordons faced difficulties in the past, the Cox family didn't just stand by and watch. Now that the Cox family is in trouble, we can't just stand aside, can we? Besides, when the

Cox family went to Adieu Island, the Gordon family also sent people along. It's impossible to disassociate ourselves now."

It was clear that she had made up her mind to help to the end, and naturally, Jean wouldn't say anything more.

He sighed helplessly. "You always take everything so seriously. If someone shows you the slightest bit of kindness, you feel the need to repay them with all your might."

Neera rubbed her nose. "I have no choice. Otherwise, I won't be at peace."

"I knew you would think that way." Jean lightly bopped her nose, his affection evident. "All right, just do whatever you think is right."

As for the rest, she could just leave it to him.

He would take care of everything for her, protecting her in every way possible.

Neera raised her head, her bright eyes looking straight at him with a hint of guilt shining in them.

"I always care so much about the Cox family's affairs. You... Are you unhappy?"

Jean raised an eyebrow. "Do you want the truth?"

"Yes. Speak your mind. You can say whatever you're thinking."

"So if I do speak my mind, will you stop caring about the Cox family's affairs?" Jean teased her.

Neera hesitated for a moment, her expression somewhat distressed as she was unsure of how to respond.

Jean smiled faintly, scratching her chin as if teasing a kitten.

"I might be a tad jealous, but it doesn't make me unhappy. Don't overthink it. I'm not that petty. Whatever you want to do, as long as it brings you peace of mind, you can do anything. I'll support you unconditionally."

Seeing that he didn't seem to be lying, Neera's bit of guilt finally dissipated like smoke in the air.

Jean steered the conversation back on track. "Tell me, what's your next move?"

Whenever the matters of the Cox family were brought up, a touch of worry would tinge Neera's expression.

"I'm not sure either. I plan to visit the Cox family to get to the bottom of the matter regarding those firearms. I hope they're not from the Cox family. Otherwise, it would really be troublesome."

Jean told her, "Avery would absolutely never do such a thing. Those firearms most likely weren't placed there by the Cox family."

Upon hearing this, Neera frowned. "If it's not the Cox family, then who could it be? After all, that place is managed by them..."

Trailing off, she then understood. "You suspect there might be a mole in the Cox family?"

Jean didn't make a definitive statement. "Not necessarily; it's just a possibility. When you go to the Cox family later, don't mention this possibility for now. After all, you don't know who among the Cox family can be trusted and who can't. If you speak rashly, it may cause trouble or alert the enemy. Let's first hear what they have to say."

Neera nodded in agreement and called for Zephyr to head toward the Cox family's residence.

It was Rio who received her.

Upon her arrival, Rio was clearly taken aback, soon followed by an expression of guilt.

"I'm sorry, Ms. Garcia. We are now all aware of what Phoebe has done. She must have been out of her mind to commit such an outrageous act against you. We are relieved that you were not injured. Otherwise, we wouldn't know how to explain to the Gordon family, let alone our own family head. I should have brought Phoebe to the Gordon residence to apologize and ask for your forgiveness in person. However, the Cox family is currently in a mess, which has caused the delay."

Neera chose to sit down across from him. She didn't put on airs or appear to have any intention of reprimanding him.

"Mr. Rio, please have a seat. I am aware that the attack last time was solely Phoebe's doing. I won't blame the entire Cox family for this, so you don't need to worry. I didn't come here today to seek retribution. I heard that something happened to the Cox family, so I wanted to come and see the situation." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Rio initially thought that she had come to seek retribution, but unexpectedly, it was about this matter, which made him feel even more surprised and ashamed.

He took a seat across from her, his aged face revealing a deep sense of exhaustion and melancholy.

Clearly, the recent incident had kept him awake all night.

"After such a thing happened to the Cox family, all the other families who usually have good relations with us have kept their distance. Not a single one has come to offer their condolences. Yet, you were able to put aside past grievances, Ms. Garcia. You not only don't hold a grudge but also personally came to show your concern. This kindness is truly something the Cox family will find hard to repay!"

Neera shook her head. "At this critical moment, let's not talk about trivial matters. I have always remembered the help Mr. Cox gave me in the past. If the Cox family is in trouble, I will naturally lend a hand wherever I can. However, I'm not sure what the current situation of the Cox family is. Could you enlighten me?"

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## Chapter 1303

Rio heaved a deep sigh, his tone grave. "Things are not good. The guild is currently preparing to thoroughly investigate all businesses under the Cox family. The auction house has already been shut down, and the firearms that were found have all been confiscated for source tracing. However, it's uncertain what they will be able to uncover."

This was similar to what Neera had heard so far. Nonetheless, what she cared about more was the truth.

"Mr. Rio, may I be so bold as to ask whether those firearms truly belong to the Cox family? This is a matter of great importance, and I hope you can tell me the truth. Of course, I understand I'm an outsider. If you feel it's inappropriate to answer, feel free not to."

Rio's brows furrowed deeply as he spoke in a serious tone. "Ms. Garcia, in this matter, the Cox family is truly innocent. I have no reason to deceive you. The possession and use of firearms are strictly prohibited in Phison. The head of my family has also issued a strict order not allowing anyone to violate this law. All the industries under the Cox family's name have never had a single mishap, let alone the possibility of hiding firearms among them. There must be something fishy about this!"

Seeing his decisive response, which didn't seem like he was lying, Neera had a better understanding of the situation.

"If the Cox family had not been secretly hoarding firearms, then why would such a large quantity of them appear in your auction house?"

"I'm just as confused about this matter as you are right now."

Rio's brows were furrowed with worry. He took out a cigar, just about to light it, but after glancing at Neera, he quickly put it back into the metal box.

"I think someone has set the Cox family up."

Neera asked again, "Do you have any suspects or evidence?"

Rio shook his head. "Not yet. The Cox family almost never makes enemies. Even if we don't get along, we won't worsen the relationship. So, for the time being, I'm not sure who's scheming against us. However, since Mr. Avery has risen to the position of the second elder, it has caused dissatisfaction among the other elders. Perhaps they hold a grudge because of this and want to drag the Cox family down." [Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

Neera nodded thoughtfully. Recalling Jean's words, she began to phish for information.

"What are your thoughts on the discovery of a large number of firearms at the Cox family's auction house, aside from being set up? As far as I know, the Cox family's auction house is quite strictly managed. If those firearms weren't brought in by the Cox family, then who did, and how? Such a large quantity isn't something that can be easily smuggled in without attracting attention."

"I've been pondering over this matter too. It's impossible for an outsider to smuggle in so many firearms under the watchful eyes of the security staff. Therefore, I suspect there might be a loophole within the auction house itself. I've already sent people to investigate, but there are no results yet."

Seeing that he had thought of this aspect, Neera chose not to say anything more.

"Mr. Rio, don't panic just yet. The guild hasn't made a final decision, nor has there been any talk of punishing the Cox family for this yet. As long as the investigation is ongoing, there's still a chance for things to turn around. In times like these, it's crucial to remain calm. Mr. Cox is currently on Adieu Island and unable to attend to these matters. If you lose your composure, there will be no hope for the Cox family. As for the matter of the firearms, I will have someone look into it to see if we can find any useful information."

Rio expressed his gratitude sincerely, "Ms. Garcia, thank you for your efforts."

When Neera left, Albert just so happened to arrive.

The moment he saw her, Albert's face turned grim with displeasure, and his attitude was quite nasty.

"What are you here for? Are you here to confront me? You've caused my daughter so much suffering. If it weren't for the sake of the head of the family, I would have stormed into the Gordon residence long ago! Why would I wait until now?!"

Rio's face darkened immediately before he reprimanded, "Albert, watch your attitude!"

Albert was currently fuming with anger, so there was no room for reason. He let out a cold huff.

"What kind of attitude should I have toward a traitor who colludes with someone from Lordsworth Estate? Not reporting her to the guild is already giving face to the Gordon family!"

"Albert! Shut your mouth already!"

At that moment, Neera suddenly laughed. However, the laughter didn't reach her eyes, which shone mockingly.

"This is truly absurd! I never knew that right and wrong can now be arbitrarily reversed. What world is this that the perpetrator can cry injustice in front of the victim? Mr. Albert, I respect you as an elder of the Cox family and Mr. Cox's third uncle. That's why I call you Mr. Albert. If it weren't for this respect, I would have you kneeling before me right now while apologizing for your mistakes."

By the end of her words, the aura emanating from her was filled with an overwhelming sense of pressure and authority.

Upon hearing this, Albert exploded, "You want me to kneel and apologize to you? Are you dreaming? Don't think you can act high and mighty in front of me!"

"You know better than anyone whether I'm entitled to act like this or not. With my status, you speaking to me like this is insubordination. How I choose to deal with you is entirely up to me. Mr. Albert, I initially didn't want to involve you because of your daughter's foolishness and malice, but what are you trying to do? Could it be that you want me to put this debt on your head? You better think it through and consider just how heavy the price you'll have to pay for this is."

"You!"

"Your daughter made the first move by hiring a killer, and as her father, you've shown not even the slightest remorse. Instead, you've defended her and pointed fingers at me, the victim. This is beyond my expectations. Is this the kind of upbringing the Cox family provides? If word of this gets out, I fear the reputation of your family will be utterly ruined. Mr. Albert, failing to educate your daughter properly is not a crime, but if you continue to let her run wild without teaching her how to be a decent human being, I'm afraid the only thing she'll be learning is how to be a ghost in the future."

Upon hearing this, Albert's face instantly turned ashen!

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## Chapter 1304

Seeing that things were going awry, Rio became somewhat irate. Disregarding Neera's presence, he raised his voice and began to scold Albert.

"Albert, are you done? Are you not satisfied with how appalling your daughter's behavior has been? Ms. Garcia didn't come here to point fingers, so stop judging her with your petty mindset! Upon hearing that something happened to the Cox family, Ms. Garcia specifically came over to check on the situation and offer help!"

After hearing everything, Albert scoffed in disbelief. He didn't believe it at all.

"Offering help? Ha, I bet you're just here to enjoy the spectacle of our misfortune. Spare me your crocodile tears!"

"You" Rio was so furious he could barely breathe, wishing he could knock Albert out with a single blow.

At that moment, Neera raised her hand, signaling him not to worry.

Afterward, she narrowed her eyes, her expression thoughtful.

"Mr. Albert, I truly don't understand. How have I offended you? From the very beginning, you've been particularly hostile to me. Even now, it's the same. I'm genuinely curious. Are you challenging me, or are you challenging your own head of the family?"

Albert furrowed his brows. "What nonsense are you spouting!"

Neera chuckled softly. "Am I talking nonsense? After all, I am a member of the Gordon family, the head, to be exact. As I'm a friend of Mr. Cox, you, as an elder of the Cox family, should be treating me with respect. Even if you are dissatisfied or look down on me, you should not show it. After all, the Cox family and the Gordon family are on good terms. Yet, you repeatedly show ill will. Your daughter did such a horrible thing, and not only did you not apologize, but you also side with her and continue to spout unreasonable words. I find it very puzzling. Are you doing this on purpose? Perhaps as an act of slapping Mr. Cox in the face? Or maybe it's to worsen the relationship between the Cox family and the Gordon family?"

Albert didn't expect that. His mouth opened and closed, his teeth clenched as he denied, "Of course not! It's just that I-"

Before he could even finish his sentence, Neera continued talking as if she hadn't heard him.

"Mr. Albert, anyone with eyes and a conscience can discern right from wrong. At your age, you're still causing trouble without reason. Are you trying to use your age as an excuse? The Cox family might respect you and give you some leeway, but I won't. If you utter one more word of nonsense, I won't hesitate to settle the score with you and your daughter right now!"

Her lips curled into a mocking smile, and her expression was as cold as frost.

"Indeed, kindness is often taken for weakness. I've shown you respect, yet you've taken it as an opportunity to step all over me. I have no intention of falling out with the Cox family because of your daughter's foolishness. But if you can't control that fool and she dares to provoke me again, I won't hesitate to disregard Mr. Cox's feelings. I've been patient with you all, but no more. She's only lost an arm this time. Next time, I won't mind turning her into a complete invalid, bedridden for life, never to cause trouble again!"

After she finished speaking, she turned around and left without uttering a single goodbye.

Meanwhile, Jean had been worried about her, so he had followed and waited outside.

Seeing her walk out with an annoyed expression, the man's eyes darkened slightly.

"What's wrong? Who bullied you?" he asked, his voice filled with concern.

"Why are you here?" Neera was taken aback as she hadn't expected to see him.

"I was worried about you, so I came to check on you but didn't go in."

Neera let out an "Oh." Her usual good temper evaporated, and she couldn't help but start complaining to him.

"Isn't it all because of that Albert? He's utterly incorrigible. It feels like he's wasted his entire life. His daughter did such a terrible thing, yet he shows no remorse and still has the nerve to blame me! The Cox family, as a whole, is quite reasonable. How did they end up with such an exception? If it weren't for Avery's sake, would his daughter be lying in there safe and sound? Perhaps in his dreams!"

This was the first time Jean had seen her complain so much, and he inexplicably felt like laughing. But when he thought of Albert, his face turned serious again.

"What did he say?" His eyes were fixed on the direction of the mansion as he asked in a low voice.

Sensing that he seemed ready to rush in to stand up for her, the alarm bells in her mind started ringing, and she quickly pulled him into the car.

"Zephyr, let's go. We're heading back."

Zephyr was bewildered, but he obediently started the car anyway.

Jean looked at her. "What are you doing?"

"Well, I was worried that you'd rush in and cause trouble for Albert. Let's forget about it. The Cox family has enough on their plate right now. I don't want to fall out with them because of him. Besides, I just gave him a piece of my mind that left him utterly speechless."

As if trying to dispel the gloom in her heart, she finished speaking and smacked the seat, appearing somewhat childish.

Jean watched with interest, leaning back to prop up his forehead as he focused his gaze on her.

"Oh, really? I thought you didn't want to sour your relationship with the Cox family. How come you couldn't control yourself?" [Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

Neera snorted. "These are two different matters. I'm only targeting Albert, not the entire Cox family. I was the one who was almost harmed, yet Albert dared to try and steamroll over me. If I don't fight back, where's my dignity?"

Jean chuckled. "I actually missed my wife losing her temper. What a pity..."

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## Chapter 1305

Chapter 1305

Neera was somewhat speechless. "What's there to see?"

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Sighing helplessly, she went on, "The Cox family is just a pile of troubles now. I wouldn't have come if it weren't for this big incident."

Jean asked her, "What did the Cox family say?"

"The first elder, Mr. Rio, stated that the Cox family would never violate the law, nor have they ever traded in firearms. He doesn't know how those items ended up in the Cox family's auction house. However, he has realized that there might be a mole involved. He seems to have started suspecting the people in the auction house, but he didn't elaborate, and I didn't ask further."

Jean nodded, "Yes, that's good. The elders of the Cox family are not idlers. They will surely investigate this thoroughly."

Neera nodded before murmuring thoughtfully, "However, I don't know why, but I feel like he has more to say, that he hasn't told me everything..."

Indeed, there were some things that Rio chose not to tell her for the time being.

He had a vague feeling that this incident with the firearms was part of a larger and deeper conspiracy far beyond their anticipation.

However, Albert didn't put much thought into this matter. [SEARCH THE website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

Instead, he was seething with rage at Neera's earlier retorts.

"Rio, do you believe the nerve of that girl? Taking advantage of her current status to trample on our Cox family, acting high and mighty! Has she ever considered that without us, she wouldn't have gotten to where she is today? She even dared to threaten me!"

Rio felt a headache coming on and had lost all his patience. His face hardened as he angrily rebuked Albert.

"Haven't you caused enough trouble? Don't you see what situation we're in? And yet, you're still causing chaos at home! Can't you see our family is in dire straits and on the brink of disaster?"

Albert dismissed the words lightly. "Rio, aren't you making a mountain out of a molehill? Is it really necessary? Those firearms don't belong to the Cox family. As long as we trace their origin, we can clear our name immediately. How could our future be at stake?"

Rio found him utterly unreasonable. He pointed at Albert's nose, his finger trembling for quite a while, yet he couldn't utter a single word.

Although Albert was the third elder of the Cox family, he was actually a good-for-nothing.

He had simply gotten the position due to his seniority.

Usually, he was all talk and no action, always bossing people around and looking for trouble, but there was really nothing substantial going on in his head.

Hence, it was not surprising that he could say such words at that moment.

After a good while, Rio finally caught his breath and shot him a look of frustration.

"You think it's that simple? If this goes wrong, the entire Cox family could be implicated! Do you understand the gravity of illegally hoarding firearms? Do you think it's easy to trace the source? If they dare to plant it in our auction house, it clearly shows they are not afraid of being investigated. As long as there's no concrete evidence proving otherwise, the Cox family will remain under suspicion. Once such a serious accusation is made, does it really matter whether the Cox family is truly guilty or not in the end? In any case, the Cox family has now been dragged through the mud. It would be almost impossible to clear our name!"

Albert frowned. "But no matter what, Avery is still the second elder of the guild. That means our family's position in Bartitsu Guild is unshakeable."

"The second elder? Unshakeable? Ha, when they say you don't use your brain, you really don't think at all, do you? Was the title of the second elder not bestowed by the guild? If the guild can elevate you, don't you think they can just as easily bring you down? You think the Cox family can rest easy now that we've secured this position, but in reality, we're walking on thin ice. Do you know how many eyes are watching us? Not to mention the other guild elders. They're like a pack of wolves, just waiting to find a weakness in the Cox family. If we make a single misstep the consequences would be unimaginable!" At this point, his face was as black as thunder.

Upon hearing his words, Albert finally realized the current predicament of the Cox family.

"So, what should we do? Should we tell Avery about this?"

Rio frowned at him. "Have you grown old for nothing? Mr. Avery is currently on a mission on Adieu Island and is surrounded by danger. The slightest carelessness could lead to irreversible disaster. By delivering the news of the family's crisis to him at this time, aren't you deliberately distracting him? If something happens to him, our entire family will be finished instantly!"

The more he spoke, the angrier he became. "The Cox family is already in such a state, yet you still have the nerve to protect your good-for-nothing daughter. You even dared to argue with the head of the Gordon family. Aren't you just asking for trouble? Ms. Garcia could have held a grudge, but she chose to let bygones be bygones and came to the Cox family to check on the situation. She's already shown leniency. If you continue to be ungrateful and cause even bigger problems, not only will the Cox family be unable

to protect you, but even when Mr. Avery returns, he will kick you and Phoebe out. You better think clearly about whether it's worth it!"

After saying his piece, he stormed upstairs, his body radiating anger.

Albert stood still, his brows furrowed as his face gradually darkened.

It seemed he had oversimplified the matter.

Nonetheless, just the thought of Neera willing to harm Phoebe to such an extent made him seethe with anger.

After a long/pause, he finally squeezed out a sentence through gritted teeth, "There's plenty of time in the future, Neera. We have all the time in the world to settle our scores!"

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## Chapter 1306

Chapter 1306

Meanwhile, after Neera returned, Chad approached her.

"Neera, did you go to the Cox residence?" he asked. "What's the current situation over there?"

Neera answered honestly, "Although it's not a complete mess, it's not going well either."

Chad nodded. "That's not surprising. With such a big incident, there aren't many who can remain calm."

With that, he let out a sigh.

"After what the Cox family did to you, I thought you wouldn't want to help them anymore."

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Neera shook her head. "They're two separate issues. What Phoebe did does not represent the Cox family. The Cox family has helped me in the past, and now that they're in trouble, I should help them in return."

Even so, she currently felt uncertain.

"Uncle Chad, do you have any thoughts on this matter? I don't know why, but I get the feeling that something is off."

Chad's expression turned slightly solemn as he contemplated the matter.

"It is very strange. Knowing the Cox family as I do, they wouldn't do such a thing, let alone be so foolish. Those firearms definitely don't belong to the Cox family. They must have been set up. It's clear that someone wants to pull them down from their high position." [SEARCH THE website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

Neera was not yet fully aware of the relationships between the various families, so she decided to ask more questions.

"Uncle Chad, do you have any suspects in mind? Anyone who is likely to scheme against the Cox family? If we continue this investigation aimlessly, who knows when we'll find any results? The Cox family's current situation is not promising, so they probably can't afford to wait too long."

Chad didn't respond immediately. After a brief pause, he finally spoke.

"I don't have any specific suspect in mind, but it's quite easy to predict who stands to gain the most from this."

"Who is it?" Neera asked insistently.

Chad looked at her and said, "Bartitsu Guild."

Neera was initially taken aback, not understanding his meaning.

"Why them? Isn't the Cox family part of the guild? What good does it do for Bartitsu Guild if something happens to the Cox family? Remember when the Jennings family used firearms privately and were caught by those from Lordsworth Estate, leading to their complete downfall? In this way, the guild loses the support of a family. How could they be the biggest beneficiaries?"

Chad explained to her, "The incident with the Jennings family was an accident. It happened at the public election in Phison. At that time, Lordsworth Estate wanted to back you up, and that was why they openly challenged Bartitsu Guild and made such demands."

Neera was puzzled. "Back me up? So, does that mean Lordsworth Estate can't ask Bartitsu Guild to do this unless under special circumstances?" under

Chad nodded. "Lordsworth Estate and Bartitsu Guild have always maintained their own territories and stayed out of each other's business. The Jennings family is a force under

Bartitsu Guild. Even if they are to be judged, it should be left to the guild to decide. In essence, it's Lordsworth Estate that has overstepped its boundaries. However, the Jennings family has indeed committed a serious crime, They not only hoarded firearms in secret but also used them at the election, causing a very negative impact. They even almost injured someone from Lordsworth Estate. The guild was aware that they were in the wrong. Hence, they agreed to Lordsworth Estate's demands."

"So that's how it is. Does that mean that this incident with the Cox family will also be handed over to Bartitsu Guild for judgment?"

"That's right. After all, the firearms were discovered within the territory of Bartitsu Guild. The guild will certainly keep this matter under tight wraps, ensuring it doesn't reach Lordsworth Estate to avoid the humiliation. Even if the news does leak out, the worst-case scenario would be Lordsworth Estate reprimanding them a little. As for the right to judge, it still lies in the hands of the guild. The guild won't suffer any loss from this. How they choose to deal with this matter will ultimately depend on their mood."

Neera still didn't quite understand. "So why do you suspect the guild?"

Chad took a sip of tea and said, "In essence, this whole matter revolves around the impact of the Cox family's downfall. Avery was just promoted to the position of the second elder, which also means the Cox family is currently in its prime. Even if the other elders are jealous, they wouldn't dare to trip up the Cox family at this time. After all, the Cox family has always been a tough nut to crack, and now that they're in power, they're even harder to deal with. Don't forget, the Cox family also has a good relationship with the Gordon family."

At this point, he narrowed his eyes, his gaze becoming more meaningful.

"The Gordon family and the Cox family have come a long way together by complementing each other. When the Gordon family was weak, it was the Cox family that provided help. Now that the Gordon family is powerful, the Cox family's status has risen even higher. In the eyes of outsiders, our two families are tied together. Now that the Cox family has encountered a problem, the Gordon family will inevitably be affected. And the only ones who would want to see this situation and could take action would be the guild."

After pondering for a moment, Neera understood what he was trying to convey.

"Are you suggesting that the actual target isn't the Cox family but the Gordon family?"

"Indeed, it should be like this," Jean chimed in at that moment.

"Compared to the Cox family, it's the rise of the Gordon family that truly instills fear in people. The Cox family has been a significant presence in Bartitsu Guild for many years, maintaining a balance of power. Even if some harbor dissatisfaction, jealousy, or

resentment toward the Cox family, they dare not act rashly due to the upper echelons of the guild. They fear disrupting this balance because, despite the Cox family's power, they have never posed a substantial threat to other factions. But if this balance were to be broken, the outcome would be unpredictable."

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## Chapter 1307

Chapter 1307

"The rise of the Gordon family shouldn't pose a threat to other powers either, isn't it?"

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"It's different. The Gordon family used to be an obscure third-rate power, but now they have suddenly leaped to a first-rate family. This has disrupted the balance. Other families will inevitably be envious and wary. Nonetheless, the most wary should be the guild because the Gordon family now holds control of District Twenty-One to District Twenty-Five. This is something that other families, even those seated in the elders council, have never achieved."

Chad nodded. "This is akin to how ancient kings were wary of ministers holding great power, not to mention that this minister also controls the forces of several regions. If allowed to develop, he might become a feudal lord, breaking away from the court. The current Jagger family is a case in point."

Neera had never imagined that so many hidden agendas and open schemes were concealed within this incident. She couldn't help but be taken aback.

"So, the guild didn't dare to offend the Gordon family directly, and that's why they targeted the Cox family instead?"

"I'm almost one hundred percent certain that's the case. The guild has probably been eyeing the territory you hold for a while now and won't let you hold onto it for long. However, because the Cox and Gordon families have brought prestige to the guild during the district president election, the guild can't act directly for fear of public criticism and concerns that Lordsworth Estate might intervene. Thus, for now, they're holding back while elevating the status of the Cox and Gordon families, making a show of it on the surface while taking action behind the scenes." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Realization dawned on Neera. "So, you suspect that the firearms are the guild's secret scheme, aimed at suppressing the Cox family and curbing their growth. And by doing

this, they intend to implicate the Gordon family as well so that they can seize control of the five districts from us?"

Chad let out a deep sigh, his brows furrowed in distress.

"If we don't think this way, everything becomes too coincidental. Even the Cox family's mission to Adieu Island to take over the Jagger family is suspicious. It seems that promoting Avery to the position of second elder was a well-laid plan. On the surface, it appears to be a sign of respect for the Cox family, but in reality, it's an opportunity to distract Avery. The Cox family's defenses are stringent. If he were to stay here, it would be difficult for the guild to take action. Only if he leaves can they successfully plant the firearms and then have them be discovered. This was done to suppress the Cox family and take advantage of the situation to strike at the Gordon family. At this moment, the Gordon family is gradually gaining control of District Twenty-One to District Twenty-Five. The guild won't just stand by and watch as the Gordon family completely takes over these five districts."

Neera had a bad feeling in her heart as she listened.

"Then is the guild going to take action against the Gordon family next? Uncle Chad, what should we do next?"

"I'm not sure. The situation with the Cox family is too sudden. Without Avery, I don't know if the Cox family can hold up. At this time, there might be people who would kick them while they're down and take advantage of the situation. It would be difficult for the Gordon family to stay out of this."

Neera's eyebrows twitched slightly. "The people from Bartitsu Guild are truly cunning and sinister. They've done all the superficial work, playing the good guy, yet they still want all the benefits. They're truly a case of a snake trying to swallow an elephant due to insatiable greed!"

Jean didn't want her to worry too much, so he said, "All of this is just speculation; there's no evidence yet. The Gordon family can only respond to all this by staying out of it for now and waiting to see if Bartitsu Guild will make any moves. When the time comes, we'll just adapt to the situation."

That's easier said than done, but what about the Cox family? Neera asked, "The Cox family's current predicament is not good. I'm afraid that even before the guild makes a move, the Gordon family might also be dragged into the mess."

"That won't happen." Jean shook his head, seemingly very certain of that fact.

"The Cox family currently has important tasks at hand. If this matter is indeed the work of the guild, their goal is to suppress the Cox family's momentum, and then they can extend their reach toward the Gordon family. Therefore, they will likely find an excuse to

gloss over this firearms incident. They won't let the Cox family come out unscathed, but they also won't let them suffer too much. After all, if this matter reaches the ears of Avery, there's no way he would still risk his life for the guild to reclaim the Jagger family. That is a major concern for the guild."

After some thought, Neera felt those words made sense. Thus, she could only suppress the unease in her heart. and calmly wait to see how things developed.

Two days later, as expected, Bartitsu Guild could no longer contain themselves.

Matthew's assistant, Darren, boldly stepped through the doors of the Gordon family's residence.

When Chad saw him, a glint flashed in his eyes, and his suspicions were confirmed.

"Mr. Torres, please take a seat." His face was the picture of calm as he glanced at Neera, signaling her to greet Darren.

Neera pursed her lips, walked over, and stood next to Chad. She softly said, "Hello, Mr. Torres. Nice to meet you."

Darren wore a pair of gold-rimmed glasses, making him appear scholarly and handsome. Yet, his expression held a solemnity uncommon for someone in their twenties. He peered through his glasses, scrutinizing Neera meticulously.

His gaze made Neerá inexplicably uncomfortable. A nearly imperceptible frown creased her brow, but she restrained herself from showing any signs of displeasure.

Fortunately, Darren spoke up soon enough. "Ms. Garcia, nice to meet you. I saw you from a distance at the district, president election before. This is the first time I've had the chance to meet you up close, and I'm very honored.

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## **Chapter 1308**

### Chapter 1308

Neera modestly replied, "You flatter me too much. You are a highly regarded figure by Mr. Lozano's side. It's truly an honor for the Gordon family to have you visit us today."

After the pleasantries were exchanged, both parties took their seats.

Chad poured him a cup of tea, then took the initiative to ask, "I wonder what brings you here on behalf of Mr. Lozano today?"

Darren didn't touch his teacup as he got straight to the point.

"Mr. Gordon, since you've asked, I won't beat around the bush. Let's speak frankly. You must have heard about the Cox family's situation. The president and vice president are quite troubled and disappointed by it. The Cox family is one of the most outstanding forces in the guild, yet they've done something like this..."

Perhaps it was due to preconceived notions, but no matter how Neera looked at him, he seemed fake.

At that moment, she calmly stated, "There doesn't seem to be a definitive conclusion regarding this matter with the Cox family yet. After all, the firearms were found in the auction house run by the Cox family, but there's no proof that these firearms belong to them. If the president and vice president trust the Cox family, they should thoroughly investigate this matter to clear their name and give them justice. After all, the head of the Cox family is currently risking his life on Adieu Island for the guild, fighting against the Jagger family. If this matter is not handled properly, I'm afraid it will dishearten the Cox family." "Neera." As her words fell, Chad called out to her in a mild tone, "Refrain from talking nonsense in front of Mr. Torres."

While the words made it sound like it was a scolding, there was not a hint of chastisement in his tone.

Then, he turned to Darren and gave him an apologetic smile.

"My apologies, Mr. Torres. This young lady has been spoiled by my spouse. I've always indulged her too. She's young and has just recently taken on the role of family head. There are many things she still doesn't understand, and she can be quite blunt. If she has offended you in any way, please forgive her."

Since Chad was being so polite, there was not much Darren could say in response.

"How could it be? Ms. Garcia is straightforward and speaks her mind. It's quite enjoyable and refreshing to talk to someone like her."

He looked at Neera, his expression strange, as if he was on the verge of laughter yet not quite there.

"Ms. Garcia, rest assured, both the president and the vice president are fair and just individuals. They would never wrong a good person, nor would they let a bad one off the hook. This matter is of great importance, and they will certainly investigate thoroughly. If it is indeed not the Cox family's doing, they will undoubtedly clear the Cox family's name."

Neera found his gaze somewhat annoying. She hummed in response and stopped talking.

Then, Darren suddenly changed the subject. "Ms. Garcia, earlier, you mentioned the Cox family's mission to Adieu Island to take over the Jagger family. Coincidentally, that's exactly why I'm here. I've heard that the Gordon family has sent a number of experts to assist the Cox family. Is that true?"

A sense of unease throbbed in Neera's heart, growing stronger and stronger.

She maintained a calm facade as she answered indifferently, "Yes, the Cox family has been of great help to the Gordon family in the past. Now that the Cox family has been entrusted with a significant task, the Gordon family will naturally not stand idly by."

Darren chuckled lightly. "The bond between your two families is truly enviable. It's said that the head of the Cox family and Ms. Garcia are engaged. It seems your relationship must be very strong."

Neera frowned, about to explain, when she heard Darren say, "However, since the Gordon family has lent all their experts to the Cox family, the number of capable people left by their side has significantly reduced. They definitely won't be able to reign in the troublemakers in District Twenty-One to District Twenty-Five. Considering the difficulties of the Gordon family, the guild has taken the initiative to extend a helping hand."

Neera's eyes flashed imperceptibly. Ah, and there it is!

Things turned out just as they had speculated before.

It seemed that Bartitsu Guild was indeed aiming to gain control of the five districts. That was why they chose this critical moment to take out the Cox family first before turning their attention to the Gordon family, taking the opportunity to put the latter in their place!

Naturally, she didn't want to let the guild have its way so easily, so she attempted to decline tactfully.

"I'm deeply grateful for the president and vice president's concern for the Gordon family. However, even though we have allocated a portion of our forces to the Cox family, there are still many capable individuals available. Managing these five districts is not a big issue, so there's really no need to trouble the guild."

It was clear that Darren was determined to achieve his goal this time and wouldn't stop until he did so.

He wore a half-smile, a playful curl at the corner of his lips. Lifting his teacup, he took a sip, then set it down. unhurriedly. The base of the cup made a sound against the tea table, neither too loud nor too soft. "Not a big issue? Ms. Garcia, it seems you haven't

fully grasped the situation yet. Those five districts, due to years without a government to keep the peace, have become a battleground for various factions, resulting in chaos. Now that they have suddenly come under the control of the Gordon family, many forces are not satisfied and are strongly resistant to the change. Recently, there have been numerous violent incidents in those five districts. I heard that Mr. Shane went to handle the situation, but it hasn't been completely resolved yet, right?"

Neera kept silent. Although she didn't want to admit it, she had no choice but to do so. After a few seconds, she finally said, "Indeed, that's the case. However, it's only a matter of time."

"I understand. The Gordon family's power has greatly increased, and you are quite confident, Ms. Garcia. There's nothing wrong with that. If the Gordon family hadn't transferred so many people away, I, too, believe it's only a matter of time. Unfortunately, the current situation is that the Gordon family can't spare that many people. This is no longer just a matter of time. If the five districts unite to rebel, I'm afraid the Gordon family won't be able to withstand it. After all, in their eyes, the Gordon family is nothing more than a third-rate family who suddenly gained power and wants to become their master. They think it's simply absurd..." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

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## Chapter 1309

Chapter 1309

Upon hearing this, Neera's expression turned somewhat unpleasant.

Regardless, she was unable to refute Darren because she knew very well that everything he said was the truth. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Even though she had gained control over the five districts, becoming the district president, the factions already within these five districts were not willing to submit.

On one hand, it was because those districts had always been without a leader. They had long grown accustomed to this way of life and didn't want anyone else to rule over them.

Secondly, those powers held a great deal of distrust toward the Gordon family and her, even looking down on them.

As Darren said, in their eyes, the Gordon family was nothing more than a third-rate power that wanted to lord over them.

As for her, she was nothing more than a nameless pawn with no qualifications or abilities. It was merely by chance that she had lucked into this position.

Hence, quite a few violent incidents had been happening in the districts these days.

Shane was now devoting all his energy to those five districts. However, due to the vast size and the numerous forces within, he was genuinely feeling somewhat overwhelmed.

Neera was already worried about this issue. She still didn't expect the guild to bring it up so quickly, though.

Across from her, Darren sat still as a mountain, his expression brimming with confidence. He casually picked up his teacup and took another sip. Over the rim of the cup, he peered at Neera with keen interest. When she had remained silent for a while, he leisurely said, "Ms. Garcia, why aren't you speaking? Do you find my

words too harsh?"

Neera pursed her lips. "No."

Darren, playing innocent after gaining an advantage, continued, "If I have offended you in any way, I ask for your understanding. My words may be blunt, but they are not without reason, right? Ms. Garcia, we genuinely want to help your family stabilize the order in those five districts as soon as possible and gain their heartfelt trust. This would be entirely beneficial to the Gordon family, wouldn't it?"

The words spoken sounded impressive, but everyone understood the real situation as clearly as if they were looking into a mirror.

Just then, Chad slowly began to speak, his voice calm while his emotions were indiscernible.

"Since the guild has spoken, we, the Gordon family, believe it's better to respectfully comply. Please thank your president and vice president for their kindness on our behalf. We appreciate your efforts moving forward."

Neera looked at him, wanting to speak but hesitating.

Upon locking gazes with him, however, she knew that there was no possibility of refusal from the Gordon family; they could only agree.

The thought made her feel agitated and extremely dissatisfied.

Yet, she did not forget her identity as the head of the Gordon family and was able to maintain her composure.

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Since Uncle Chad has already said so, I no longer have any reservations. Mr. Torres, could you please convey my thanks to the president and vice president? The Gordon family has not handled its affairs well, causing them unnecessary concern. It's our fault. In the future, the Gordon family will definitely put in more effort to quickly resolve the turmoil in those districts. With the guild's involvement, it will undoubtedly give us a boost, allowing us to resolve the situation faster and more effectively."

Upon hearing the answer he desired, Darren chuckled contentedly.

"Ms. Garcia, rest assured. Those five districts are still under your control. The guild is merely helping you reorganize them temporarily. Next, the guild will send a team to work with the Gordon family to resolve the current issues in those districts."

Neera smiled insincerely. "I appreciate the guild's help. I will arrange accommodations as soon as possible and provide the best hospitality for the experts sent by the guild."

Since Darren had achieved his goal, he left quickly.

Neera and Chad escorted him to the door. After watching his car drive away, their faces fell simultaneously.

Irritation surged within Neera. "The guild is really overstepping its bounds!"

Chad's eyes had a thoughtful look in them. "It seems this is a complex trap. Both the Cox and Gordon families are being manipulated by the guild. Not only has the guild suppressed the vigor of both families, but this has also resulted in them being able to meddle in the affairs of the five districts. Perhaps they could even gain absolute control over the districts. Hah! This is killing three birds with one stone. What a cunning scheme!"

"Then what should we do next? Are we just going to stand by and let the guild interfere?"

As they chatted while walking back, Chad's lips curled up in an inscrutable smile.

"Let the guild intervene? No way! This is the territory you've earned through blood, sweat, and tears. If the guild wants to reap the benefits without lifting a finger, they'll have to see if the Gordon family agrees!" From those words, Neera understood that they would be challenging the guild.

After some thought, she came up with an idea.

"Uncle Chad, those people sent by the guild will undoubtedly be spies tasked with watching the Gordon family. I think we shouldn't let them stay in the Gordon residence. It would be better to arrange for them to stay somewhere nearby. If the guild asks, we can say it's for their better care and rest."

Chad nodded. "Yes, that's a good idea. There's a small villa behind the Gordon family's main house which would be perfect for them to stay in. There's absolutely no problem."

Neera thoughtfully said, "Uncle Chad, the Gordon family is indeed facing a manpower shortage right now, which is a problem. Do you think you could use your connections to bring in more people? Or we could hire some temporary workers, At the very least, we won't be at that much of a disadvantage this way."

"I was thinking the same thing..."

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## Chapter 1310

Chapter 1310

Before he could finish speaking, an unexpected visitor suddenly came knocking at the door.

"Mr. Gordon, Ms. Garcia, the head of the Medicina family, Caleb Medicina, has arrived."

Neera was a bit surprised yet also somewhat delighted. "Mr. Medicina? Please, show him in."

Chad was also slightly surprised. "Why would he suddenly drop by? Has something happened?"

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Neera shook her head. "I'm not sure. Mr. Medicina is one of Lordsworth Estate's people. If he's come to Bartitsu Guild's territory, he must have some very important business."

Soon, Caleb was invited in.

Neera stood up and greeted with a smile, "Mr. Medicina, long time no see."

Caleb smiled faintly, still as gentle and courteous as ever.

"Ms. Garcia, long time no see. You haven't changed."

After greeting Neera, he shifted his gaze to Chad, giving him a slight nod in acknowledgment.

"Hello, Mr. Gordon. Nice to meet you. I'm Caleb Medicina."

Chad's expression was calm. "The Medicina family truly produces remarkable individuals. Despite your young age, you've already assumed the position of family head, which clearly shows your impressive capabilities."

Caleb humbly replied, "Mr. Gordon, you flatter me. Please, just call me Caleb."

Not bothering with too much small talk, Chad nodded and then asked, "May I know, the reason for your visit today? If people find out that someone from Lordsworth Estate has come to Bartitsu Guild's territory, I'm afraid it might not bode well."

Caleb sat down across from the two, speaking politely and moving with grace.

"Rest assured, Mr. Gordon, my private visit to the Gordon family will remain confidential. Apart from those present today, no one else will know about it, let alone spread the word. Therefore, no one will question the Gordon family's stance." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Having heard him express himself so clearly and decisively, Chad no longer dwelled on the matter, quietly waiting for what would come next.

Caleb didn't beat around the bush and went on straightforwardly, "I've heard some rumors about the Cox and Gordon families from Lordsworth Estate, and I've also heard about the actions of Bartitsu Guild. This time, I came to provide some manpower to the Gordon family to help them take control of Districts Twenty-One to Twenty-Five."

Not expecting him to be here for this matter, Chad's eyebrows knitted almost imperceptibly, a hint of wariness immediately surfacing in his eyes.

Even Neera couldn't help but feel a certain degree of caution.

Although the Medicina family had once helped her, for which she was deeply grateful, their standpoints were ultimately different.

Moreover, she hadn't quite figured out many of Lordsworth Estate's actions, so when she heard his offer to help, she couldn't help but be on her guard.

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"Mr. Medicina, may I be so bold as to ask whether it's the Medicina family who wishes to lend a hand or Lordsworth Estate who wishes to assist?"

The significance between the two may indeed be vastly different.

Caleb knew what she was worried about and replied quite frankly.

"This was Lordsworth Estate's idea. Seeing the Gordon family being manipulated by the guild, Lordsworth Estate does not wish to stand by idly. Therefore, we are willing to lend a hand, hoping to assist the Gordon family. Ms. Garcia, Mr. Gordon, please rest assured that our involvement is not for the control of those five districts but purely to provide support. The personnel we send will all follow the Gordon family's orders and will not try to seize control."

Neera hesitated before glancing at Chad, who wore an unreadable expression.

After a pause of two seconds, Chad asked, "Lordsworth Estate and the Gordon family hold different standpoints, so why does Lordsworth Estate repeatedly help the Gordon family? Is it just because Neera once saved the life of your lord?"

Caleb gave a slight smile. "Yes, it's just because of this reason."

Chad remained silent, clearly not very convinced.

Caleb didn't mind as he continued to explain calmly and composedly, "I understand that due to our differing standpoints, gaining trust is not an easy task. However, as the head of the Medicina family, I can guarantee with my character and life that neither the Medicina family nor Lordsworth Estate has any intention of seizing control of those districts. Perhaps in your eyes, Ms. Garcia's act of saving our lord was just a trivial matter done casually. But for the lord, it was a significant event worth remembering for a lifetime. Given the current unstable situation of the Gordon family, the lord would feel uneasy if he didn't lend a hand. That's why he sent me to help."

Chad was at a loss for a moment, not knowing what to think of the matter. In the end, he looked at Neera and said, "The decision is yours to make."

Neera appeared conflicted.

When it came to Caleb, she did trust him.

Back then, at Mount Cloud, without the strong support of the Medicina family, along with the humility of the families under Lordsworth Estate, she wouldn't be where she is today.

If the lord of Lordsworth Estate was truly interested in the position of district president and had set his heart on it, there was no need for him to hand it over to Neera first and then struggle to seize it back later

on.

Considering this, she nodded. "Then I appreciate Lordsworth Estate's help. Thank you very much, Mr. Medicina."

Caleb chuckled. "No need for such formalities, Ms. Garcia. We've seen each other through thick and thin, after all. I just hope that we can trust each other more in the future and lend a helping hand when needed."

A pause later, he added, "Of course, we certainly won't make things difficult for the Gordon family when it comes to dealing with Bartitsu Guild."

Neera couldn't help but express her gratitude, "I truly appreciate your efforts. On behalf of the Gordon family, I extend our sincere thanks."

Once the serious talk was over, Caleb glanced toward the stairs and put on a nosey look.

"After all this talking, why haven't we seen your fiancé yet, Ms. Garcia?"

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## Chapter 1311

Chapter 1311

The mention of Jean had Neera's expression softening a bit.

"He's upstairs playing with the kids. This is a matter concerning the Gordon family, so I don't want to drag him into it."

Caleb nodded slightly, though amusement briefly flickered in his eyes.

You don't want him to get involved? Tsk, I bet he's more than eager.

After leaving the Gordon residence, Caleb got into his car and immediately dialed Jean's number.

On the balcony of the second floor, the man watched the car drive away from the front gate before picking up the phone with an expressionless face.

"Everything's taken care of. Your fiancée still has some reservations, but she didn't refuse."

Over the phone, Caleb's voice came through, clear and resonant, tinged with a hint of nonchalance.

"However, I get the feeling she's still suspicious. When do you plan to reveal your true identity to her? You can't keep her in the dark forever. Anyone would be uneasy in her situation." "Just wait a bit longer. It's not the right time yet."

Jean slid open the balcony glass door and went to lean against the railing, his gaze fondly resting on the three little ones in the room, who were enthusiastically playing with Lego blocks. His eyes were filled with warmth.

Caleb clicked his tongue. "You really do take great care of her, don't you? Yet you're hiding in the shadows and pushing all the work onto me. You get to have it easy while I suffer. Not only will I be constantly questioned, but I have to deal with that old coot, Matthew, too. Just you wait and see! If Matthew finds out about this, he will definitely cause trouble."

With a raise of an eyebrow, Jean asked, "Are you complaining to me?"

Caleb gave a light cough, quickly saying, "No, no, I wouldn't dare. I was just speaking off the cuff. Rest assured, I will definitely handle this matter properly." [SEARCH THE WEBSITE](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

After hanging up the phone, Caleb sighed and instructed his subordinate, who was driving.

"Later, select some capable people and send them to the Gordon family. Be careful not to let the members of Bartitsu Guild discover this, or else it will cause trouble again."

The subordinate promptly acknowledged the order.

After he left, Neera went upstairs.

"Mommy, we're piecing together a blue robot puzzle. Do you want to join us?"

The little ones saw her and invited her with great enthusiasm.

Neera declined with a smile, "No thanks, you guys go ahead and play. I need to talk to your daddy about something."

She slid open the glass door to the balcony, then closed it again.

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>Seeing Jean turn off his phone screen, she asked, "Who were you calling? Was it business-related?"

Jean slid his phone into his pocket, casually saying, "It was a friend, not business."

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Neera thought that something was going on with the company back home but that he was deliberately keeping it from her as he didn't want to worry her.

Feeling apologetic, she said, "I noticed you've been on the phone a lot lately. Is there something going on at the company? Now that Ian has also come over here, there's no one overseeing things back home. That's a bit inappropriate, isn't it? If there's a tricky situation, you should go back first. Don't waste your time here with me."

Jean pulled her close to him, gently tapping her well-defined nose.

"It hasn't been that long since I arrived, yet you're already chasing me away?"

Neera rubbed her nose, murmuring softly, "I'm not trying to drive you away; I'm just worried about you..."

Jean chuckled lightly. "Don't worry; the company is under the watchful eye of Joseph. It's very stable, so there's no need for me to step in. This time, I'm not going anywhere. I'm here with you. Whenever you're ready to go back, we'll take our children and go home together."

Upon hearing this, a warm feeling spread through Neera's heart, putting her at ease.

Following that, she leaned on the intricately carved railing, letting out a long sigh.

Despite knowing the answer, Jean purposely asked, "So, who just came by?"

Not suspecting him in the least, Neera answered, "It was Caleb Medicina. He said he wants to help the Gordon family. He's willing to send people over to help us gain control over the factions in the five districts."

"What do you think?" Jean asked.

After some thought, Neera gave an honest reply. "Of course, I'm very grateful. With the guild just waiting for us to slip up, having someone to back us up can naturally alleviate the precarious situation. However, this means we owe the lord of Lordsworth Estate yet another favor, and I'm feeling uneasy about that."

Jean took in her troubled expression and said in a light voice, "The lord of Lordsworth Estate won't interfere in trivial matters. If he is helping you, there must be a reason."

Since he has no desire to become the district president, it must be because of you having saved his life. After all, saving a life is a favor greater than anything else. These repayments are nothing in comparison. You don't need to be so bothered by it."

He said all that nonsense with a straight face, wanting to fool Neera.

However, Neera was not so easily fooled.

"But I can't shake the feeling that there's more to this. My curiosity about who this lord really is grows by the day. I have no idea how I can meet him, but perhaps if I do, I might remember something. That would certainly put my mind at ease."

After a moment of silence, Jean uttered ambiguously, "Well, you'll meet eventually."

Then, he changed the subject.

"What we should be focusing on now is Bartitsu Guild. Matthew's intentions are already quite clear. Have you thought of a way to deal with it?"

In response, Neera nodded. "Yes, I just discussed it with Uncle Chad. Since the guild wants to send people, let them come. We'll treat them well, but we won't give them a chance to take action. Uncle Chad will bring some people over and Mr. Medicina will also send support. We'll dispatch those men first. If they achieve results, there's no need for the guild's people to intervene at all."

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## Chapter 1312

Chapter 1312

The next day, as expected, the Bartitsu Guild sent a team over.

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Darren personally led the team. "Ms. Garcia, these are the experts selected from the elite forces of the guild. They are all capable individuals. You may make the arrangement before we set off." "There's no hurry for that." Neera did not move, only offering a slight smile.

Darren frowned. "No hurry? Ms. Garcia, as far as I know, the situation in those five districts is quite chaotic right now. The sooner we take control of them, the better. The

Gordon family has already lost the upper hand. If we don't act quickly and they rise up, we could be put on the defensive, which could lead to endless troubles."

Neera flashed a polite smile.

"Mr. Torres, your point is indeed valid. However, everything has a process. Taking control of them forcibly is not the best solution. Even if we can temporarily gain control, the conflict between the Gordon family and the five districts still exists and may even intensify. This approach is greatly disadvantageous for the Gordon family's full control over the five districts."

Darren stood against the light, half of his face hidden in the shadows, giving him an inexplicably melancholic aura.

"Ms. Garcia, this is a directive from the guild. The vice president specifically requested that we act swiftly. Are you questioning the decisions made by the guild's higher-ups?"

Neera responded calmly and unhurriedly, "What are you talking about, Mr. Torres? The guild has gone to great lengths for the Gordon family, sending so many experts to help. The Gordon family can't thank them enough. How could we possibly question them?"

Darren pushed his glasses up the bridge of his nose. "What do you mean by acting this way, then, Ms. Garcia? Are you stalling for time, or do you have another agenda?"

Neera chuckled, covering her lips. "Well, what you said is quite interesting, Mr. Torres. The Gordon family fought to the death to get District Twenty-One to District Twenty-Five, and they belong to us. How could we possibly do anything that would harm our own interests? What benefit would delaying bring us? As for having another agenda... that's even more absurd. Only those who covet what doesn't belong to them and dream of seizing others' power through underhanded means can be said to have another agenda."

She spoke in a seemingly carefree manner, her tone even carrying a hint of cheerfulness. However, her words were laced with veiled threats and barbs. She just did not call out their names.

Darren's face immediately took on a displeased expression.

Yet, he couldn't refute anything; otherwise, he would be admitting to the accusations.

The atmosphere subtly shifted.

Neera leisurely watched as Darren's face gradually hardened, acting as if nothing was wrong, and continued to put on a maddeningly smug smile.

"Of course, I don't mean to reject the kindness of the guild. It's just that I have other arrangements. There's no hurry at this moment. I've already had a mansion prepared nearby. I'll take you all, the experts, there to rest in a while. There will be people there to take care of you. During this time, you can rejuvenate and gather your strength. When the time is right, I will ask for your assistance to show your skills." Darren's brows furrowed. "When the time is right? Ms. Garcia, when exactly are you referring to?"

"In times of crisis, of course. Although the current situation isn't very optimistic, no matter how you look at it, the five districts are in a state of disarray. Unless something unexpected happens, they won't be able to cause much trouble. Why use a sledgehammer to crack a nut? We, the Gordon family, still have some manpower. Let them handle it first. If they can't cope, we can ask everyone for help at that time. What do you think, Mr. Torres?"

Darren fell silent for a while, then decided that this approach might not be so bad after all.

With the manpower of the Gordon family, trying to take control of the five districts would be quite challenging.

When the time arrived, even if the Gordon family did not feel like it, they would have no choice but to come to him for help.

His expression softened a little when he thought of that.

"All right. Since you are so sincere and considerate of the guild, Ms. Garcia, we will respectfully comply. If the situation turns unfavorable, please don't hesitate to inform me at any time." Neera smiled reassuringly. "Rest assured that I won't stand on ceremony with you when the time comes."

After that, Neera arranged for someone to take them to a mansion behind the Gordon residence. She even made a point of instructing her people in front of everyone, emphasizing that they must take care of them in every possible way without the slightest negligence.

Once everyone had left, the smile on Neera's face faded, and exhaustion immediately washed over her.

As Jean descended the stairs, he saw that she was slumped on the couch and looking as if she had lost all will to live.

Hearing the noise, Neera glanced at him, humming weakly as a form of greeting.

With a smile, Jean walked over and sat down next to her. [Search the website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"You don't look so good. Did it not go well?"

Neera stared blankly at the ceiling and said sullenly, "It went well, but dealing with these cunning people is truly exhausting. Everyone here is so crafty, a slight misstep and you'll be drawn into their schemes. It's terrifying. It feels like every word I say to them has to be filtered. It's really tiring."

Seeing her so exhausted, Jean felt a pang of heartache. After a moment of thought, he gently comforted her, "Take a break, then. Leave the rest to me. I'll sort everything out for you."

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## Chapter 1313

Chapter 1313

Upon hearing this, Neera quickly sat up straight.

"That won't do. You can't interfere!"

Jean raised an eyebrow. "You don't believe I can handle this?"

Neera immediately shook her head. She bit her lower lip, wanting to speak, but she stopped herself.

After a few seconds, she let out a sigh.

"It's not that I don't believe you. I am aware of your capabilities. However, we're in Phison, and even after being here for some time, I still haven't fully grasped all the complexities of this place, let alone you. Besides, I don't want to drag you into this. It's too dangerous here. I'm genuinely afraid that something unexpected might happen..."

Jean gave her a faint smile. "Are you worried about me?"

"Of course I am! No matter what, don't get involved in this matter. I will find a way to resolve it. Besides, I have Uncle Chad and Shane to help me, as well as the support from the people at Lordsworth Estate. There won't be any problems."

Jean patted her on the head, finding himself completely at a loss with her. He could only go along with it.

"All right, I'll listen to you. But if you can't handle it anymore, just tell me. Don't try to tough it out on your own, got it?" SEARCH the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Neera nodded obediently. "Got it. Don't worry. I know my limits."

With the manpower arranged by Chad and the people provided by Caleb, the rest of the takeover progressed very smoothly.

Chad personally took charge, with Shane accompanying him on the side. The two of them discussed and made numerous decisions. They targeted several important forces in District Twenty-One, achieving significant results.

Under a combination of soft and hard tactics, several leading troublemaking families were no longer hostile and even openly expressed their approval and support for the Gordon family's control. Seeing this, the other forces in District Twenty-One also gave up resisting one after another.

In just three days, the previously stagnant situation took a turn. All forces in District Twenty-One agreed to submit to the Gordon family, willingly accepting their jurisdiction.

This news, when it reached the guild, left many people in disbelief.

Matthew was taken aback and immediately called Darren to inquire about the situation.

"Didn't you say before that the situation the Gordon family was facing was not optimistic? Why is it that an entire district has been subdued? Not a drop of blood was seen, and not a single riot occurred, and they just easily surrendered to the Gordon family? What on earth is going on?"

He was so angry that he was slamming the table, his tone extremely unpleasant.

Darren answered with his head half-lowered, "I'm not entirely clear on the specifics yet, but Chad is involved this time. He personally went to District Twenty-One, so he must have come up with some sort of plan..."

Matthew's face darkened. "Did he manipulate them?"

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Darren pondered for a moment, then said, "It's possible. In fact, District Twenty-One isn't particularly tough. They're short-sighted and can be easily controlled without a fight. However, the other districts are not the same."

At this point, he gained some confidence, lifting his head to look at Matthew.

"Mr. Lozano, please don't worry. The Gordon family has only taken over District Twenty-One. The remaining four districts are not easy to deal with. His methods may not necessarily work. When the time comes, he will have no choice but to come to us for help. With a reason, it will be easy for the guild to intervene in the affairs of the five districts."

Matthew's expression finally softened a bit after he listened to that.

"Keep a close eye on them for me, and see what the Gordon family is really up to. Chad is usually quiet, but he's no pushover. He doesn't like to compete, but if he really sets his mind to something, I'm afraid there aren't many in the whole of Phison who can outplay him. You must be extremely cautious and never underestimate him."

"Yes, I understand," Darren responded verbally, but inwardly, he remained somewhat skeptical.

Given the current state of the Gordon family, with so few experts, the idea of taking over the remaining districts was simply a pipe dream.

In his view, the Gordon family wouldn't be able to hold on for much longer.

However, reality once again slapped him hard in the face.

Compared to District Twenty-One, District Twenty-Two was much more difficult to deal with.

The Fisher family was the most powerful force in District Twenty-Two. Throughout the years, when District Twenty-Two was without governance, they had always been the head honcho, ruling over the district. Regardless of whether it was economic strength, military power, or social status, the Fisher family was undeniably a top-tier family.

To take over District Twenty-Two, they must first go through the Fisher family.

As expected, the Fisher family firmly refused to let the Gordon family take control of District Twenty-Two. This led to a fierce armed conflict between the two sides overnight.

In response to this, both Darren and the guild adopted a mentality of enjoying the show, waiting to see the Gordon family suffer heavy losses and face a humiliating defeat.

However, it only took two days for things to reach their conclusion.

The outcome was vastly different from what the guild had anticipated.

The once unyielding and ironclad Fisher family had suffered a devastating defeat. Even the head of the Fisher family was captured by the Gordon family and forced to admit defeat wholeheartedly. When Matthew received this news, he was in the middle of a meal.

His face was filled with disbelief and shock. When he returned to his senses, anger overcame him, and he fiercely smashed the bowl into pieces.

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## **Read Chapter 1314**

### **Chapter 1314**

Chapter 1314

When Darren arrived, Matthew was in the living room, venting his anger.

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"You've arrived just in time. What on earth is going on with the Fisher family? How did they end up submitting to the Gordon family? With the Fisher family's strength, it's simply impossible for the Gordon family to take them down!" Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Darren swallowed hard, his heart in his throat. He felt as if his head was about to explode.

"Based on previous assumptions, the Gordon family doesn't have many capable subordinates at present. It's indeed impossible for them to have extra energy to take over the five districts. The previous incident with District Twenty-One could be considered a coincidence, but now even the Fisher family has been suppressed by the Gordon family. Something is indeed fishy."

Matthew pounded his cane on the ground.

"Do I even need you to point that out? You think I can't tell that something is fishy? I asked you to take your men and keep an eye on the Gordon family, to seize control of the five districts as much as possible. But look at you, not only did you miss the opportunity to act, but now you can't even keep track of them! You're useless! What else can you accomplish?"

Huge beads of sweat slid down Darren's temples. He raised his hand to wipe them off, his face visibly tense.

"Mr. Lozano, please don't worry. I'm thinking, the Gordon family shouldn't have this kind of power. Could it be possible that they are in collusion with the people from Lordsworth Estate?"

"Lordsworth Estate?"

"Yes, only such a possibility could explain why the Gordon family could subdue the Fisher family."

Upon hearing this, Matthew furrowed his brows and fell into deep thought for a moment. He thought it was possible.

"Besides the Cox family, the Gordon family doesn't have any other close friends. Even though the Gordon family's value is at an all-time high now, and many people are rushing to curry favor with them, once the guild has stepped in, who would dare to overstep their bounds?"

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Darren nodded. "Exactly, so it's very likely that the people at Lordsworth Estate is pushing this from behind the scenes."

"What are you still standing there for? Hurry up and look into it!"

Darren quickly accepted the task and left.

Nonetheless, the outcome greatly disappointed them. It was even more inconceivable.

That night, Darren secretly dispatched a few of his trusted subordinates. Without the Gordon family's knowledge, they stealthily made their way to District Twenty-Two, eager to investigate the situation themselves.

When his subordinates returned the next morning, they all claimed to have only seen people from the Gordon family. They didn't notice anyone from Lordsworth Estate.

"How can that be? Have you all looked closely? Are you sure those are all people from the Gordon family?" Darren clearly didn't believe it.

His subordinate replied firmly, "Mr. Torres, those people are indeed from the Gordon family. They are Chad's confidants. Strictly speaking, they can't be considered as the Gordon family's people, but rather Chad's private followers. Each of them is extraordinarily skilled. This group of people should have been in Essley, but Chad called them back. As for the people from Lordsworth Estate, we searched all night yesterday and didn't find a trace."

Upon listening to this, Darren was stunned.

He hadn't expected the Gordon family to possess such profound strength. It was far more formidable than he could ever have imagined.

This matter was of great importance. Without missing a beat, he went to report the situation to Matthew.

Upon learning the news, Matthew was extremely displeased.

"Wow, what a man Chad is! I had no idea he had such skills! He really knows how to keep a low profile!"

Darren was also taken aback. "The people I sent reported that the individuals brought by Chad are well-trained, agile, and sharp. This is not something that can be achieved in a day. I'm afraid these confidants have been nurtured by Chad for many years. He has always appeared non-competitive and unambitious before. Could it all have been an act?"

Matthew snorted. "For so many years, the Gordon family has always been like this. They seem to hold a low status, and don't appear strong, but now that I think about it, for a family to go through hundreds of years of changes and still maintain an unchanging position in the Bartitsu Guild, to be free from all conflicts and uprisings, never getting involved in any disputes, it's no easy feat. This is not something an ordinary family can achieve. It seems that we've been deceived by the Gordon family all these years."

Darren was deeply worried. "What should we do now? If we allow the Gordon family to continue growing at this rate, I'm afraid it won't be long before the remaining three districts also submit to them. By then, with the Gordon family controlling five districts, there's no guarantee they won't become the next Jagger family. Even if the Gordon family doesn't have such intentions, the guild still needs to be wary." With a solemn expression, Matthew asked, "Which family is the Gordon family planning to subdue next?"

"With the submission of the Fisher family in District Twenty-Two, other forces will no longer resist. The entire District Twenty-Two is now under the control of the Gordon family. Next, the Gordon family should move on to District Twenty-Three. In this district, the power is rather fragmented. Several major families are on par with each other and constantly in dispute. To take over District Twenty-Three, they will have to start with these families. The situation is more troublesome than in District Twenty-Two."

"Find a way to pressure these families, or choose a reliable one among them. Whether by temptation or intimidation, we cannot let the Gordon family continue to be so complacent! Keep a close watch on the next few districts. We must control the situation within our desired range!"

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## Chapter 1315

### Chapter 1315

At the same time, Caleb was on the phone with Jean.

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"Matthew couldn't hold back after all. Seeing the Gordon family subdue the Fisher family, he was worried that things were getting out of his control, so he extended his reach into District Twenty-Three." "What has he done?" Jean felt irritated every time he heard Matthew's name.

Matthew had repeatedly caused trouble for the Gordon family. If it weren't for Neera's reluctance to let him interfere, he would have temporarily allowed Caleb to send support. Matthew wouldn't have lasted until now.

"What else can he do? His only option is to persuade the top families in District Twenty-Three to temporarily set aside their grudges against each other, unite, and resist the Gordon family."

Jean toyed with his pen as he said, "District Twenty-Three... the Goldberg family, the Lennox family, and the Dutton family. These three forces have always been at odds with each other. What can the Bartitsu Guild possibly do to persuade them?"

"The Bartitsu Guild has always been known for making empty promises. Those three families, after all their scheming and maneuvering, are all vying for control of District Twenty-Three. Everyone wants to dominate District Twenty-Three and become the king of the district. The Bartitsu Guild seized this mentality, promising the three families that whoever could drive the Gordon family out of District Twenty-Three would be supported to rule over District Twenty-Three. Although these three families couldn't coexist peacefully, they naturally lowered their guns at each other in the face of huge benefits and aimed them at the Gordon family instead."

Jean chuckled coldly. "As expected of that sly old man. But once the deed is done, the story changes, doesn't it? Those three families wouldn't be so foolish as to naively trust the guild."

"Perhaps, but it doesn't really matter to them. The Bartitsu Guild probably wants it too. Their goal is nothing more than to fan the flames. Once the stove is lit, the Gordon family will definitely not have a good time."

"Oh, we'll see about that."

In the receiver, the man's deep voice revealed no hint of emotions.

Caleb smiled leisurely, elegantly lifting his wine glass for a sip. "What do you want me to do?"

Jean said, "There's no need for you to get involved in this matter. Just have someone keep a close eye on it. Unless it's absolutely necessary, they should not take action to avoid leaving any trace." Caleb downed his drink and said, "Got it. The Gordon family is much stronger than we imagined. Each one of those people Chad brought back is not to be underestimated. Our people are not yet ready to be deployed, so they will remain hidden in the shadows, undetected by the guild."

"Mm." Jean/didn't say anything more. After hanging up the phone, he called Colin. [SEARCH THE website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

Two days later, in the quiet depths of the night, a massive explosion occurred on a small island near Phison.

The explosion was deafening, and smoke filled the air.

Many families living near the coast of Phison saw it.

"Isn't that small island a research base? Why did it suddenly explode? Did something go wrong with the research?"

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"I'm not sure. That's the official research base of the Bartitsu Guild. I remember they primarily research pharmaceuticals. There should be a lot of chemical compounds inside, right? Could there be any pollution?"

"The explosion was so intense. Who knows if anything has been leaked? Has the guild sent someone to deal with it?"

"The guild doesn't even make a peep now. With such a big issue at hand, they owe the public an explanation!"

Just as everyone was discussing online, Matthew was awakened in the middle of the night. Only then did he realize something major had happened.

"Hasn't the drug research center always been safe? How could there suddenly be an explosion? Bring the person in charge of the research center to me!"

He paced back and forth in the living room, hands behind his back, seething with frustration. He was like a cat on a hot tin roof, too restless to even sleep.

By the time the director of the research center arrived in a fluster, dawn was almost breaking.-

"What on earth happened? How do you manage the drug research center? You've made/such a mess. You've completely disgraced the guild!" Matthew started off with a barrage of curses.

The director's face turned ashen, his mind now a complete mess.

"Mr. Lozano, it appears that... due to a research and development error, a violent chemical reaction occurred, which led to the explosion..."

"What kind of drug have you developed that could blow up the base like this! More than half of the base is destroyed, and the entire island was almost blown away! Your researchers really have some skills!" "Indeed, your criticism is valid," the director conceded, not daring to defend himself. He could only grit his teeth and admit his mistake. "It's my fault for not managing the research center well. But now... the mistake has already been made. How can we rectify it..."

"Rectify? The whole of Phison is now filled with rumors and doubts about the major research centers of the guild. There are even suspicions about whether the explosion will cause drug leaks and pollution! What do you suggest we do to salvage this?"

The series of setbacks recently had shattered Matthew's calm, making him increasingly irritable.

Whenever he thought about those comments online, he would become even more frustrated.

The director was drenched in cold sweat. After a moment of thought, he stuttered, "I'll head to the PR department immediately and issue a clarification statement. The fire at the base has been extinguished, and the remaining work will be carried out as quickly as possible..."

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## Chapter 1316

## Chapter 1316

Neera slept soundly last night, not hearing any noise or disturbance.

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Jean had worn her out so ruthlessly. She didn't wake up until the sun was high in the sky. When she got up, she felt as if she was falling apart, as if she had been run over by a car. Jean had already risen early, gone for a run and taken a shower, He had changed into a white T-shirt and khaki casual pants, looking refreshingly neat.

During this period, because he was accompanying Neera, his attire was casual and laid-back.

Neera did not really notice it before, but she thought he looked good and youthful in casual outfit.

But right now, she was not in the mood to appreciate it.

"You're not allowed to touch me tonight!"

She glanced under the covers, noticing the ambiguous marks on her body, and was overwhelmed with embarrassment.

Jean chuckled. He sat by the bed and kissed her forehead. He apologized with his words, but his tone didn't carry any hint of remorse. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Sorry, but I just can't help myself."

They had been separated for such a long time, and the woman he loved was lying right next to him. It would be difficult for any normal man to restrain himself. Neera blushed, giving him a glare.

She knew that once she indulged herself, all notions of restraint would be as fleeting as a passing cloud.

But if this recklessness continued, she wouldn't be able to bear it, and neither would his body.

"No. You're not fully recovered yet. You need to rest. You're not allowed to touch me tonight, nor tomorrow night, or else I'll make you sleep in the study!" Jean fell silent for a moment. "Are you doubting my... abilities?"

"Would you just shut up?"

The two of them chatted as they descended the stairs. Chad was in the living room, playing games with the three little ones.

Neera found it fascinating. "Uncle Chad, you know how to play games too?"

Chad laughed helplessly. "Not really. Shane is not here, and there's no one to entertain them. I'll have to step in."

"Yay! I won again!" Sammy exclaimed, his eyes glued to the screen.

The game ended, and the scoreboard appeared on the television screen.

Upon glancing over, Neera saw Chad's disastrous performance and couldn't help but laugh. She then lightly tapped on the little head of Sammy. "Don't you bully your granduncle."

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With a pout, Sammy retorted, "I did not! It was just a game. It's not my fault that Granduncle is not good at it."

Penny also spoke up in support of Sammy.

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"Granduncle really isn't good at games. Even I can beat him. Playing games with Granduncle is the least fun. It feels like we're bullying him."

Chad cleared his throat lightly. "It's not nice to expose others like this. Besides, if I remember correctly, it was you guys who begged me to join you. If you're going to be so disdainful, then forget it." Having said that, he stood up, ready to leave.

Seeing this, the little ones couldn't stand by. They quickly gathered around, trying to smooth things over with kind words.

"Granduncle, don't leave. We were just joking around!"

"Exactly. We were just teasing you. You're not bad at gaming at all!"

"If you don't play with us, we'll be so bored!"

Watching their sycophantic behavior, Neera could hardly keep herself from laughing out loud.

At this moment, Adriana came over, carrying a plate of fruit.

"Oh, Neera, you're awake. Hurry up and have your breakfast. It's still warm."

Neera nodded slightly and entered the dining room.

Jean had some free time, so he leisurely accompanied her, peeling boiled eggs for her.

Neera counted the days and asked curiously, "Why has Uncle Chad returned? I thought he would come back to rest only after taking over District Twenty-Three. Has everything been settled over there? I haven't heard anything about

it...."

The eggshell was discarded into a small dish. Jean handed her the egg, then wiped his hands.

"The issues in District Twenty-Three aren't significant. Shane can handle them on his own." "Huh? I thought none of the families in District Twenty-Three were willing to back down."

"That was because the Bartitsu Guild was pulling strings behind the scenes. But now, things are different. The guild can't interfere for the time being. Uncle Chad has taken drastic measures, and two powerful families have already been brought under control. As for the remaining Goldberg family, they're no longer a threat. Shane can take them down with a flick of his wrist. He'll handle the remaining cleanup work. Uncle Chad wants to come back and spend some time with Aunt Adriana."

Neera asked in confusion, "Why did the guild suddenly back off?"

Jean lifted his eyelids leisurely and said, "Last night, an explosion occurred at a research base under the Bartitsu Guild. Half of the base was destroyed, and all the research materials were lost. It has caused widespread public opinion and criticism. They are currently busy dealing with these matters and don't have time to cause trouble for the Gordon family."

Neera was taken aback, not expecting this to happen.

She immediately picked up her phone and checked the situation online. The more she read the news, the more surreal it seemed.

"The guild just released a statement. Take a look." She handed him her phone.

Jean took it but didn't look at it, casually placing it aside. He then picked up a mini croissant for her.

"There's not much to see, really. It's mostly about clarifying the cause and outcome of the explosion. It won't cause any pollution to the surroundings. It's just their way of expressing an apology." Neera blinked. "You really do know everything, huh?"

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## Chapter 1317

Chapter 1317

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This incident happened so abruptly that Neera had a vague feeling that things might not be as simple as they seemed on the surface.

"Do you get the feeling that there's something fishy about this explosion?"

Jean's expression was indifferent, as if it had nothing to do with him at all.

"It's not exactly fishy. Although explosions at research bases are rare, they're not unheard of. Especially in pharmaceutical research, unexpected reactions from drugs are quite common. It's likely that the people at the research base were negligent."

"Is that so..." Neera muttered. "This is too much of a coincidence. I bet the guild is panicking right now..."

Indeed, Matthew was quite upset, and Darren was also called back.

"How are things at the research base?"

"They're still cleaning up."

"How about the research material? Isn't there a backup?"

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Darren hesitated for a moment, then honestly replied, "There was a backup, but the explosion destroyed the main control room. The mainframe was completely destroyed and can't be repaired..." Matthew flung his cane away.

"Such important information is all gone! The effort and resources the guild put in has all been washed away!"

Darren looked at the mess on the ground, his heart pounding.

"Mr. Lozano, please calm down. Anger is bad for your health. Rest assured that I will have the base cleaned and renovated as soon as possible, so we can resume our research and development work." The project at this research base was extremely crucial for the Bartitsu Guild. Even if it was destroyed now, they couldn't just abandon it. They must start all over again.

However, this construction work was a time-consuming and labor-intensive task.

"Mr. Lozano, about the Gordon family..."

Matthew gritted his teeth and said coldly, "Call everyone back. The losses from this explosion are severe. If we don't make up for it promptly, we won't be able to justify it to Mr. Grey. As for the Gordon family, let's put them aside for now."

He then asked with a serious expression, "How's the situation in District Twenty-Three?" SEARCH the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Darren was at a loss, unsure whether to speak or not.

Taking in his demeanor, Matthew could roughly guess what was going on.

"At this point, what can't be said? Speak up!"

Darren shivered slightly, but he had no choice but to tell the truth bravely.

"Well... only the Goldberg family is still resisting. All the other families have switched sides."

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Matthew was silent for a long while, his face flushing red, then turning pale, and finally purpling.

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He no longer had the energy to lose his temper. All he could do was grit his teeth in resentment and say, "What a character Chad is! I really underestimated him before!"

Given the circumstances, even though he was reluctant, he had no choice but to temporarily shift his focus and prioritize revitalizing the research base. Suddenly, he had a thought.

"Could it be possible that the Gordon family is behind this explosion?"

Darren had anticipated his thoughts and responded immediately, "At first, I had the same suspicion, feeling that all of this was too much of a coincidence. I thought perhaps the Gordon family had deliberately orchestrated it to severely damage the guild. But I've checked. Before the explosion, Chad was always in District Twenty-Three. He never left. The people he took with him also have no record of leaving District Twenty-Three. As for the Gordon family headquarters, there's no evidence of such actions. So..."

With a heavy sigh, Matthew didn't say anything more.

Meanwhile, after the ambush following their arrival on Adieu Island, Avery and his group fought their way out and found a place to rest and regroup.

After the reinforcements arrived, they didn't delay any further. They immediately set off inland, aiming straight for the power base of the Jagger family.

The journey had not been smooth.

The Jagger family would occasionally send people to cause disruptions, and there were unexpected night raids every evening. Fortunately, the Cox family managed to withstand them all.

However, due to the relentless hustle and bustle of these past few days, the Cox family and their entourage hadn't been able to get a good rest. They were extremely exhausted, yet they managed to push on until they reached the Jagger residence.

At the very heart of the inland, lies the sphere of influence of the Jagger family.

During the day, Avery managed to evade the watchful eyes of the Jagger family with his people. Without resting at night, they traveled non-stop and arrived here.

In the middle of the night, Avery held a night vision binoculars, observing the situation of the Jagger family's power base.

Finnley, by his side, still seemed quite spirited.

"How is it? Can we launch a surprise attack tonight?"

Avery put down the night vision goggles, pondered for a moment, and then made a decision.

"We'll act tonight. The Jagger family might think that we've been traveling all day and will rest for the night. This is when their guard is at its lowest. It's better to resolve this as soon as possible. Staying here for another day will only increase the danger."

After enduring for so many days, they had reached their limit. The string had been stretched taut, and if they continued this way, it would likely snap.

After enduring for so many days, they had reached their limit. The string had been stretched taut, and if they continued this way, it would likely snap.

Finnley half-closed his eyes in contemplation, then asked him, "What if the Jagger family has anticipated your prediction, and they've fully prepared in advance, just waiting for you to rush in, ready to trap you? What would you do then?"

Avery had indeed considered this possibility.

However, he knew there would be no good in further delay.

"We're bound to face each other in battle. The Jagger family has long been aware of our purpose for this journey. Whether we launch a surprise attack or not, it no longer matters. Covert or overt strategies are no longer meaningful. They must have already prepared themselves. Now is the time to test our true strength."

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## Chapter 1318

Chapter 1318

Finnley greatly admired his audacity, giving him a pat on the shoulder.

95%

"You're truly the backbone of the Cox family, capable of shouldering the responsibility of being the head of the household. We'll do as you say."

Avery gave a slight nod. "All right. Everyone take a short break. We'll move out in fifteen minutes."

Immediately, he dispatched two teams, dividing his forces in two. They were to scout the situation around the power base of the Jagger family, to understand the extent of their tight security, and then choose where to enter.

Soon, the two teams returned and relayed the information. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

After the most concise and rigorous planning, everyone moved out under the moonlight, closing in on the power base of the Jagger family.

Just then, every door of the Jagger family's residence flung open. Countless people surged out from within, charging toward them. Avery's eyes flashed coldly, his expression serious.

He had anticipated this possibility long ago, so he wasn't surprised at the moment. However, the present danger still made his heart sink.

He quickly regained his composure, raising his voice as he said, "Don't panic. Proceed as we discussed earlier!"

As the large group of people charged toward them, they quickly devised a counter-strategy. They split into several groups to hold these people back. Avery strode forward without changing his expression, heading straight for the power base-the Jagger family's main residence.

Throughout their journey, many tried to stop them, but he and Violet easily handled them all.

For Avery, these people were nothing significant.

And what he needed to do was to capture the head of the Jagger family-Nelson Jagger.

As the saying goes, to catch the thieves, first catch the ringleader. It was pointless to eliminate countless minions.

He preferred to handle issues in a straightforward and blunt manner. He believed that resolving conflicts swiftly and decisively was the best strategy.

The other party clearly didn't expect him to charge in directly, let alone with just a young lady in tow. They couldn't help but be somewhat surprised. What was even more surprising was his and the young lady's agility.

Avery came from an ancient martial arts family. From a young age, he had received the strictest training, and his skills were undoubtedly top-notch in Phison.

The most astonishing of all, undoubtedly, was Violet.

In the eyes of others, she was just a young girl, seemingly not yet of age. Her sweet appearance and adorable attire made her look like a little princess no matter how one looked at her. 11:14 Mon, 20 Nov

But at this very moment, her actions were far from those of a little princess.

95%

She was holding a small dagger shaped like a curved knife, dealing with her enemies head-on. The blade went in white, and came out red, all without her batting an eyelid. With every rise and fall of her hand, she struck without the slightest hesitation, let alone fear.

Splatters of fresh blood stained her face, a horrifying red that contrasted with her delicate features, It presented a strangely heart-stopping beauty to all who beheld her.

In the living room, Nelson, watching the scene unfold through the surveillance cameras covering every corner of the courtyard, swirled his wine glass with keen interest.

"This young lady is quite interesting. I didn't expect Avery to have such a fascinating person by his side."

The red liquid swirled around the cup's interior, and he quickly drained it in a single gulp.

Beside him, his assistant Maverick Jagger took the empty wine glass and asked, "Sir, do you want me to send more people to deal with them directly?"

Nelson raised an eyebrow. "Mav, our Jagger family isn't so impolite. Since they've come all the way to our doorstep, we can't just ignore them. That's not the Jagger family's way of treating guests." "So, what you're saying is..."

Nelson sat up straight, a playful look on his face, "Let others fight and kill as they please, but for these two, let them in."

Even though Maverick didn't understand what Nelson was planning, he immediately set out to do it.

Outside, less than a hundred meters from the brightly lit house, ten men appeared before Avery.

These ten individuals, like specters, descended from the heavens.

Everyone's face was covered, their expressions unreadable. Yet, from their indifferent eyes, a hint of murderous intent could be discerned.

Clearly, these people are the last line of defense for the Jagger family.

Avery wiped the corner of his mouth, then turned to Violet beside him. "How do you feel? Can you still hold on?"

Violet wiped the dagger in her hand, flashed a sweet smile, and said, "Sure, sure."

Avery raised an eyebrow, looking at her pale face. Suddenly, he patted her on the head.

"If you can't hold on any longer, don't try to be tough. Stay here and wait for me. Once I've sorted everything out, I'll take you home."

Violet was momentarily stunned. She stared at him with her clear, large eyes.

A peculiar sensation began to stir within her. She hadn't felt such familial affection in a long time.

She lowered her eyes and suddenly said, "No."

"Hmm?" Avery's lips twitched slightly. "Acting cute won't work."

But Violet didn't care. She tilted her head back, avoiding his hand, and then resolutely stood in front

eyes became sharp as she stared intently ahead.

In truth, after so many days, her body had reached its limit.

But she would never stop here.

Aim Her

From the moment Avery brought her home, she had made up her mind. In this lifetime, she would do everything in her power to protect this man even if it meant sacrificing her own life.

"What are you waiting for? Come at me!" she shouted at the ten of them without a trace of fear.

Just then, a round of applause rang out.

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## Chapter 1319

Chapter 1319

"Such a deep bond between a master and his servant. It's truly touching."

Following the applause was a half-amused sigh.

95%

Upon hearing the sound, the ten men, well-trained as they were, swiftly dispersed to either side, leaving a clear path in the middle.

In the next moment, a refined-looking man walked out from behind.

A smile that seemed oddly out of place with the current situation hung on his face.

Avery gazed at him intensely, his voice cold as he questioned, "Who are you?"

The man gave a slight smile, performing an extremely antiquated and gentlemanly bow.

"Mr. Cox, nice to meet you for the first time. I'm Maverick, the assistant to the head of the Jagger family."

Avery's pupils contracted slightly. "What are you here for? To stop me?"

Maverick shook his head. "You've misunderstood. I don't mean to do that. Mr. Jagger asked me to come out to welcome you, and of course, the young lady beside you as well."

"Welcome us?" Avery's eyes were sharp, as if he was trying to discern the true intention behind his words.

"Yes, welcome you. Mr. Jagger said fighting and killing is not the way the Jagger family treats guests. Since you have come from afar, Mr. Cox, why not come in and sit down, and have a chat with Mr. Jagger?" Avery couldn't figure out what kind of game Nelson was playing.

However, since it had come to this, he quickly agreed without any second thoughts.

Violet was uneasy. She tugged at the corner of his clothes. "Satan, are we really going in? What if there's an ambush inside?"

Avery had already made up his mind. "It doesn't matter. At this point, we have no way out."

Under Maverick's guidance, Avery and Violet stepped into this castle-like building, entering the heart of the Jagger residence.

Nelson waited patiently, greeting everyone he saw with a smile.

"Mr. Cox, I thought you might be too scared to come. Please, have a seat."

He had a kind face and polite demeanor, showing no signs of hostility whatsoever.

Avery looked at him indifferently. "Nelson, there's no need for unnecessary chatter. Let's get straight to the point. Why did you call us in here? You should know that the relationship between us is not the kind where we can sit down and casually chat."

Nelson looked at him with a playful gaze, his smile growing even more devilish.

"Yes, you're right. We can be considered enemies now. But I must admit, I admire you and even sympathize with you a bit."

Avery remained silent, waiting for him to continue the conversation.

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Nelson didn't mind and continued speaking on his own.

E

"Do you know why the Bartitsu Guild has repeatedly tried to reclaim the Jagger family from this isolated island, only to end in failure? First, it's due to our geographical advantage. The entire island is occupied by the Jagger family, making it difficult for anyone to attack us. Second, even if they manage to land on the island, the Jagger family is always prepared and constantly launches various attacks. As a result, the invaders are overwhelmed before they can even reach the power base of the Jagger family, leaving them no choice but to retreat in defeat. However, the Cox family is an exception."

Avery pursed his lips. He had known all of this for a long time.

The Bartitsu Guild had repeatedly failed precisely because it had always struggled to penetrate the core influence of the Jagger family.

"You, of the Cox family, are the first in all these years to make it this far. I truly admire you. Despite being constantly harassed by my men to the point of exhaustion, both physically and mentally, you've managed to resolve issues time and again. You've even inflicted heavy losses on my forces, and then led your own men here. Honestly, you've opened my eyes this time."

Avery listened to his praise, his face showing not the slightest bit of emotion.

"So what's your point? After all this talk, what are you trying to say?" he asked again with an indifferent tone.

Nelson laughed, his body lazily reclining on the couch and his arms stretching out on the backrest.

"Mr. Cox, when I say these words, on one hand, I'm acknowledging the strength of the Cox family, and on the other hand, I'm trying to ease the tense atmosphere. There's no need for you to be so aloof. If there's anything, we can discuss it. I truly admire the Cox family, so I can't bear to see you continue to be a pawn in the hands of the Bartitsu Guild."

"Is that so? So, you're trying to turn me against them?" Avery finally responded.

Nelson nodded earnestly and said, "Indeed, that's what I intend to do. I'm not one to beat around the bush, so I'll just say it straight. What good can come to the Cox family by following the Bartitsu Guild? You do all the dirty and tiring work. You deal with all the difficulties and hardships. But in the end, all the benefits fall into the hands of the Bartitsu Guild. What's the point of this?" Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Here, he gave a meaningful smile.

"Mr. Cox, you may not be aware, but after you left, a large number of firearms were found in the auction house owned by the Cox family. This matter is now in the hands of the Bartitsu Guild, and it's uncertain how they will deal with your family. I've heard that the Cox family has always been clean and honest, with all its businesses strictly adhering to their duties and maintaining tight security. Even a fly would find it hard to get in, so how could there be so many hidden firearms? Looking at the entire Bartitsu Guild, who else could do this?"

Avery had no knowledge of this matter. When he heard that, his pupils suddenly contracted sharply.

The implication of these words was very clear, and he understood immediately.

Could it be that the Bartitsu Guild had taken action against the Cox family? On the surface, they'd elevated his and the Cox family's status, but it was a deliberate excuse to transfer him and subdue him secretly.

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## **Chapter 1320**

### Chapter 1320

"Mr. Cox, you are a smart man. I'm sure you can understand the pros and cons without me having to elaborate. So, are you still willing to risk your life for the Bartitsu Guild?"

Nelson gave him two minutes to think, then once again extended an olive branch.

Avery's eyes were very dark, his expression unfriendly, and it was unclear what he was thinking.

Although he was angry about the actions of the Bartitsu Guild, he wasn't surprised.

He understood the virtues and methods of the guild better than anyone else.

However, this matter did not affect his attempt to take over the Jagger family.

With that thought, he lifted his eyes indifferently. "Nelson, if you invited me in with such intentions, I'm afraid I'll have to disappoint you."

Nelson raised an eyebrow. "Oh? How so?"

"The actions of the Bartitsu Guild will be dealt with when I return. The Cox family has been entrenched in the guild for many years, deeply rooted and not easily shaken. Therefore, you need not worry about the Cox family's affairs. As for the Jagger family, you've been occupying the offshore islands for many years. If you had behaved yourselves, it would have been fine. But instead, you've been acting recklessly, abusing power and exploiting resources, which has long aroused the dissatisfaction of the locals. However, these people have no power and can only be oppressed and exploited by the Jagger family. The Jagger family has committed many evils, and it's time you paid the corresponding price."

Nelson's smile gradually faded from his face, leaving no trace of his previous cheerfulness.

"Mr. Cox, I respect you as a person of significance, which is why I've been pouring my heart out to you. My hope was for you to break free from your current circumstances and have a better future. But to my surprise, you are also stubborn, unable to discern right from wrong. You take people's good intentions for granted, as if they are worthless. It's such a waste of my sincere efforts."

When he spoke again, his voice had noticeably lowered. The change in his aura was palpable.

"The actions of the Jagger family don't require anyone's judgment, and you don't need to posture as the embodiment of justice, spouting off in front of me. Back then, it was the Bartitsu Guild who acted dishonorably first. What right do they have to criticize the Jagger family? I might as well tell you, the Jagger family will never become the lapdog of the Bartitsu Guild. Your visit here is destined to end in failure." Avery suddenly let out a scoff. "Really? You're that confident?"

"What do you think? At this point, do you still believe you have any leverage to bring me down? Your team can't hold out much longer. As for you and this little lady by your side, the moment you entered this mansion, you've stepped into my trap. You lost your

bargaining power long ago. Those who follow me prosper, while those who oppose me perish. I initially wanted to give you a chance, but you insisted on refusing. Don't blame me for not being polite, then."

As soon as the words fell, suddenly, the ten men who had appeared before rushed in, surrounding them completely.

"These ten individuals are my personally trained death guards. Their skills are beyond question. They are more than enough to deal with you."

He laughed again. 11:15 Mon, 20 Nov

"To be honest, the members of the Bartitsu Guild were so useless before that they never had a chance to take action. I've been training them for so long, and this is the first time they've been put to use. For this, I should thank you. Of course, I know both you and the young lady beside you are quite skilled. If it were a normal day, you might be able to hold your own against them. But now, that's clearly impossible." Avery glanced at these people, his expression unchanging, and said indifferently, "Confidence is a good thing, but overconfidence is just arrogance."

"Heh..." Nelson let out a dismissive scoff. "You're still so composed at this point, uttering such high-sounding words. I'm increasingly impressed by you. However, Avery, you should know that every move in this game can be anticipated. Since you landed, every action of yours has been under my watch. I've seen the deck of cards in your hands clearly. You've run out of trump cards now, so why insist on holding out?" Avery's expression remained calm and composed. "Whether there's a trump card or not, we'll only know once it's played." [SEARCH the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

Nelson's eyes darkened. "You really are stubborn. Fine, if you're the type who refuses to be convinced until you're faced with grim reality, then so be it."

After speaking, he glanced at Maverick.

The latter understood and immediately gave his command. "Get them! Make it quick. Mr. Jagger is tired and needs to rest early."

No sooner had his words fallen than the ten individuals sprang into action. Without uttering a single word, they lunged toward Avery and Violet.

Avery and Violet had each other's backs, skillfully handling the enemy's onslaught.

Just then, there was a stir from the direction of the balcony.

Nelson turned around and his face suddenly changed.

A group of unfamiliar faces broke through the floor-to-ceiling windows and swarmed in.

He had never seen these people before. They certainly weren't from the Jagger family; they were from the Cox family.

In just a matter of seconds, these people had completely surrounded the spacious living room, leaving no room for escape.

The leader rushed up to Avery and, with swift, decisive moves, knocked two men to the ground. Then, he respectfully bowed to Avery.

"Mr. Cox, we've spent some time breaking through the Jagger family's defense system, hence the delay. Please forgive us!"

"No worries. Is everything taken care of?" Avery straightened his clothes, speaking lightly.

The person nodded. "Yes. The system operated by the Jagger family has completely collapsed. The entire security network of the island is now in an unprotected state."

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## Chapter 1321

Nelson's pupils suddenly constricted when he heard that. "What did you say?"

The person glanced at him but didn't respond.

Avery shifted his gaze toward him. "What's the matter? Are you too excited, or too scared, to the point where you can't even understand what's being said?"

Nelson gritted his teeth, and his previously relaxed demeanor instantly changed. He finally revealed a tense expression.

"Avery, stop trying to intimidate people here. You think by staging this drama with these people, I will fall for it and the situation will change? You can't be that naive, can you? It seems I overestimated you before. I—"

Before he could finish speaking, Avery interrupted him with a cold laugh.

"Who is the naive one here, Nelson? Are you truly arrogant, or just unwilling to accept the truth? If the Jagger family's security system was still intact, how could my people have breezed in so easily right under the watchful eyes of your guards?"

Nelson's expression gradually turned sour, yet he still refused to believe.

"Impossible! The people you brought are clearly being restrained by my people right now. How could they have time to attack the Jagger family's protection system?"

"Yeah, you're right." Avery raised an eyebrow. "I know when you heard we were coming to take over the Jagger family, you set up surveillance all over the island. You're well aware of the Cox family's actions. That's exactly why I've prepared for both possibilities."

As he spoke, he pointed outside.

"The people you've been monitoring are those with me, but what you don't know is that even before I set off, I had dispatched a team overnight. They circumvented several islands, disguised themselves as merchants, and arrived on this island, successfully avoiding your attention. After this, their most crucial task was to breach the security system of the Jagger family. On the surface, it seems that the Cox family's actions are entirely under your control, and we are the ones being passive. However, the reality is that the Cox family holds the initiative. Once we break through your protection system, we can freely enter. Moreover, the entire secure network of the island will be severely damaged, and all the important documents of the Jagger family will fall into the hands of the Cox family."

Nelson's face was a canvas of shifting emotions. It began with a look of incredulity, which soon morphed into doubt, and finally settled into a scowl. His complexion grew darker.

He realized that Avery was not joking.

"How could you "

"So, you're asking me how I managed to prepare so much in advance, aren't you? You should know the answer to that. You said it yourself, we're playing a game of chess. You can see every move I make, but I can't predict yours. But do you think I'm foolish enough not to have a backup plan? I told you, until the very end, you won't know what my trump card is. And this team, they're my trump card. If I dared to step into your territory, of course, I would have a foolproof plan. Nelson, you've underestimated me."

The expression on Nelson's face darkened at this moment, looking rather unpleasant.

"I must admit, I didn't expect someone like you to emerge from the Bartitsu Guild. You're right, I underestimated you. I knew you were capable, but I still underestimated your abilities."

Avery lifted the corner of his lips, smiling meaningfully. "You flatter me."

Then, he asked, "So, have you decided? Will you submit obediently, or choose to resist?"

Nelson sneered, "Don't be so sure of yourself. Until the last moment, we won't know who the loser and the winner are."

Avery nodded in understanding. "I get it."

With that, he suddenly attacked. When no one expected it, he dashed forward in a flash, standing right in front of Nelson.

At some point, a dagger had appeared in his hand. He held it against Nelson's throat, its sharp blade pressing tightly against his windpipe.

"Mr. Jagger!"

"Mr. Jagger!"

Several voices rang out simultaneously. Maverick was startled. The faces of the death guards also changed one after another.

The battle was on the verge of breaking out. Everyone started to take action.

However, those death guards were restrained by Avery's men, unable to move forward.

Violet rushed up to Maverick and started fighting with him.

Although Maverick was physically strong, he couldn't gain the slightest advantage when dealing with Violet.

In less than ten moves, blood was visible on Maverick's neck. He fell to the ground and soon, he was motionless.

Violet looked down at him from her lofty position, her gaze cold and indifferent, as if she were looking at an insect. She watched him, eyes wide open, as he drew his last breath. [SEAR\\*ch the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

"Your personal assistant doesn't seem to be all that." She seemed unsatisfied, pouting her lips, clearly bored.

This scene, unfolding before Nelson's eyes, caused his expression to darken further and further.

At that moment, the blade pressed a fraction deeper into his skin. Avery looked at him with a smile that wasn't quite a smile.

"Nelson, at this point, you should know what needs to be done, right? Stubborn resistance will only be in vain."

Nelson turned deathly pale. He hadn't expected Avery to be so brilliant, both in mind and action. Before he could react, he found himself pinned down on the couch.

The stabbing pain in his throat sank his heart to the depths.

However, he had no intention of surrendering.

Suddenly, his gaze drifted elsewhere, and the corner of his mouth lifted in an enigmatic smile. His previously stern expression changed in an instant.

"Avery, as I just said, until the very last moment, it's still uncertain who will lose and who will win."

Looking at his expression, Avery had a bad premonition.

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## Chapter 1322

He followed Nelson's gaze, looking up to the high ground behind him.

Almost simultaneously, something intermingled with the biting wind abruptly hurled itself toward him.

Before he had fully turned his head, the corner of his eye caught a glimpse of a dazzling light.

In the next moment, something pierced into his shoulder.

"Satan!" Violet exclaimed upon witnessing the scene and quickly rushed over.

The rest of the Cox family were also greatly shocked.

At that moment, Avery's body went limp, and the dagger slipped from his hand. He straightened up, staggered back a couple of steps, and uncontrollably fell backward.

Violet moved swiftly, rushing to his side and steadying him with a firm grip.

"Satan, are you all right?" A rare look of panic appeared on her face. She reached out to touch his shoulder blade from behind, instantly staining her hand with blood.

"You're hurt!" she exclaimed, noticing that Avery's complexion had visibly darkened before turning pale. Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

It all seemed to occur in a blink for Avery. The instant he felt a piercing sensation, his body succumbed to numbness, swiftly followed by a sudden drain of vitality.

He knew this feeling all too well. It was a stealth weapon, a poisoned one at that.

At that moment, he tightly gripped Violet's wrist, bracing himself to keep from falling. Clenching his teeth, he warned her, "There's a stealth weapon... Get out of here quickly!"

In this house, there were others lurking, just waiting to deliver a fatal blow.

Realizing this, he yelled with all his might, "Move! Retreat!"

No sooner had the words been spoken than two darts flew from above, and two more people fell.

Nelson rose from the couch, lightly touching the bloodstain on his neck. With a cold smile, he said, "You want to leave? In your dreams! Avery, you have your trump card, and I have mine too!"

As he was speaking, several people fell one after another.

Violet looked at the scene, gritted her teeth, and without any hesitation, she draped Avery's arm over her shoulder.

"Hold on to me!" she said. Then, turning around, she dashed toward the door.

But at this moment, members of the Cox family were successively injured by the stealth weapon, falling to the ground unable to rise. The Jagger family had regained the upper hand.

Naturally, Nelson would not let Avery escape. He immediately ordered his men to capture Avery and Violet under any circumstances.

And so, everyone shifted their focus, turning toward Violet.

Luckily, at this moment, Irwin and Finnley charged in with their men.

"What's wrong with Mr. Cox?" Irwin was utterly shocked to see that Avery had fallen into unconsciousness.

Violet gritted her teeth and said, "There's no time to talk. Cover my back. I need to take him back to Ms. Garcia!"

Upon hearing that she was looking for Neera, Irwin immediately understood that Avery must have suffered a very serious injury.

At that moment, his face was icy cold. Leading a large group of men, he stormed in with an unstoppable force, blocking those who tried to stop Violet.

With the disturbance gone, Violet exerted great effort to take Avery with her, hastily escaping from the Jagger family's power base. She didn't dare to pause for even a moment and headed straight for the docks.

Due to the explosion at the research base, the Bartitsu Guild had withdrawn all their manpower from the Gordon family.

With this troublesome matter out of the way, Neera felt considerably more relaxed.

When Jean had some free time, he took her out for fun again, this time without the triplets.

They were clearly dissatisfied, voicing their complaints one after another.

"Daddy's playing favorites, only taking Mommy out for fun and leaving us behind. Hmph!"

Jean chuckled, soothing each child in his arms.

"When I return this time, I will spend more time and play games with you all. How does that sound?"

The three little ones' eyes lit up instantly when they heard that.

"Sure thing! Daddy, it's a deal. No backing out!"

The triplets each made a pinky promise with him. Only then, feeling completely satisfied, did they let him go.

Neera got in the car, a hint of curiosity in her voice as she asked, "Where are you planning to take me?"

"You'll know when we get there." Jean kept her in suspense.

Despite being filled with doubts, Neera followed him to the dock, only to become even more perplexed.

"Are you taking me out to sea?"

Jean saw her stop in her tracks, but he didn't say anything. Instead, he simply took her hand and led her onto the ferry.

It wasn't until the ferry slowly pulled away from the dock that he said, "There's a beautiful island called Sweetbriar Island nearby, full of sweetbriar roses. I'm taking you there to relax."

Phison itself was an island, surrounded by many smaller islands.

Neera had been here for some time now, but she still didn't know everything about the nearby islands.

She looked at him with suspicion. "I have no idea about Sweetbriar Island. How do you know it so well?"

Jean responded with a hum, then said nonchalantly, "I inquired about it, and then I bought it."

Neera was utterly astonished. "You... You bought it? This is an island in Phison. You were able to buy it?"

"Why not? Haven't you heard the saying that money does wonders? No matter where you are, money is the most powerful tool."

Neera was speechless.

Well, he does have a point.

Sweetbriar Island was very close to Phison. After only half an hour of sailing, they reached their destination.

After disembarking, Neera discovered that the name of the island was derived from the sweetbriar roses found all over it.

The air was filled with the delicate fragrance of sweetbriar roses, and the occasional sea breeze would waft by, intensifying this delightful scent.

Neera and Jean strolled hand in hand for quite a while, their interest growing with every passing moment. They were in high spirits, absolutely delighted.

"This place is truly beautiful, boasting both the beauty of nature and the refreshing charm created by human hands. They complement each other perfectly. I feel so much better here."

Jean smiled. "I'm glad you like it. After I bought it, I had professionals come over and do some work on it. The island isn't big, but it's beautifully done and perfect for a leisurely vacation. If you like it, you can come here to relax whenever you're tired. I've even prepared a runway."

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## Chapter 1323

She was both pleasantly surprised and astonished by his thorough preparation.

"You thought about so much in such a short time?"

Jean was strolling aimlessly with her, a slight smile playing on his lips.

"Of course, this is for you, so naturally, I'll do my best until the end. I was thinking, when the time comes for us to have our wedding, we could also do it here if you like it."

Coincidentally, just as Neera was immersing herself in the delightful scenery here, she had the same thought.

A wave of sweetness welled up in her heart as though she had plunged into a jar of honey. Her heart danced and bounded with delight.

Just as the thought of their wedding filled her with joy, happiness spreading from the depths of her heart, the untimely vibration of her phone disrupted the warm and sweet atmosphere. [Search The Find\\_Novel.net website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Neera was worried about something happening to the Gordon family, so she didn't dare to ignore it and quickly answered the call.

However, the subsequent words abruptly altered the color of her face.

"How could this happen? Okay, okay, I understand. I'll rush back immediately."

Upon hearing that she had to return, Jean also realized that it wasn't going to be something pleasant.

Before he could ask, Neera hung up the call. While pulling him in the opposite direction, she quickly explained the situation, "Mr. Cox encountered an unexpected incident while taking over the Jagger family. He was hit by a stealth weapon and is now unconscious. Violet brought him back, saying that the weapon was poisoned. Mr. Cox is deeply

poisoned now, barely clinging to life, and there's a high chance he might not make it. I need to rush back immediately to check on him."

Jean was slightly taken aback. "Is it that serious?"

"Yeah. I've never heard Violet sound so distressed before. The situation must be pretty serious. Luckily, we're not too far away."

The two of them walked briskly and finally arrived at the dock.

Once aboard the ferry, Neera didn't feel like sitting idly in the cabin. Instead, she stood on the deck, leaning against the railing, gazing at the shimmering sea surface reflecting the sunlight.

Jean brought her a cup of coffee, standing shoulder to shoulder with her.

"Are you worried?" he asked.

Neera hesitated for a moment before nodding. "Yes. If Mr. Cox's life wasn't in danger, Violet wouldn't be so eager to call me back. The Cox family's involvement in this mission is largely due to the Gordon family. If Mr. Cox were to lose his life, I would blame myself for the rest of my life."

Jean stopped talking, silently gazing at the sea.

The surroundings suddenly became quiet again, but Neera's mind had trouble calming down.

She turned her head to look at Jean, wanting to speak.

Sensing her gaze, Jean pursed his lips and gently caressed her face.

"Don't worry. Everything will be fine. You've been really exhausted lately. I wanted to bring you here to relax and ease your mind, but it didn't work out. Once you're done with the Gordon family's affairs, we should leave this place as soon as possible. I want you to return to a normal life."

She didn't expect him to say such a thing. A whirlwind of emotions swirled inside of her.

"I thought you would be upset, or at least unhappy. You finally took me out and spent time with me, but we haven't even finished touring the island, and now we have to rush back to deal with all those troubles."

A hint of helplessness filled Jean's eyes.

"What can we do about it? You are now the head of the Gordon family. Your status has changed, and so have the responsibilities you bear. The Cox family is now inextricably linked with the Gordon family. I have no choice but to accept this. But I know that in your heart, it's only me that matters. So, everything else is not important. I'll say it again. I will continue to support you as I always have. Moreover, I am more than happy to be your backup. If you ever find it too hard to handle, come to me anytime. I am more than willing to help."

Suddenly, Neera's heart was filled to the brim. The previous feeling of helplessness and uncertainty had vanished without a trace.

It seemed as though a force was continuously pouring into her heart, flowing through her blood, and spreading throughout her entire body.

She wrapped her arms around his waist, burying her face in his chest. She took a deep, deep breath, savoring the unique, refreshing scent that was distinctly his.

"Once all of this is over, when the Gordon family is no longer under anyone's control or threat, let's leave this place. We can go sightseeing, relax, and then, we'll get married."

Jean smiled faintly, holding her close, his heart filled with contentment. "All right."

Upon returning to District Fourteen, Neera chose not to go back to the Gordon residence but instead went directly to the Cox residence.

Rio and Ronald were anxious. Seeing her was like seeing their savior.

"Ms. Garcia, you're finally here! Please, save Mr. Cox. He's on the brink of death!"

Even with mental preparation, when Neera stepped into Avery's room and saw the man on the bed, she was still taken aback.

At this moment, Avery was no different from a dying man. His face was as pale as paper, devoid of any color. His breathing was shallow and sporadic, his state alarmingly critical.

Violet was by his bedside, staring at him blankly, constantly shaking his arm.

"Satan, wake up. I want some candy. Where have you hidden the sweets you bought for me? I can't find them without you..."

No matter how much she called out, Avery didn't make a single move and merely lay there in silence.

If it weren't for the subtle rise and fall of his chest, it would be hard not to suspect that he was actually dead.

Upon witnessing this scene, Neera felt a twinge of heartache, but predominantly, she was consumed by worry.

She quickly stepped forward and said to Irwin, "Help him up. I need to check his wounds."

Irwin quickly did as instructed.

When Neera saw the hardening wound on his back and shoulder, her pupils suddenly contracted sharply.

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## Chapter 1324

The stealth weapon and the poison on the weapon were still hidden inside the wound.

With an urgent tone, Rio asked, "Ms. Garcia, have you figured out anything? What kind of poison has Mr. Cox been afflicted with?"

Neera bit her lip and said, "It's cottonmouth venom."

"Cottonmouth venom?" Everyone present had never heard of this type of snake, completely unaware of its potency. [search the Find\\_Novel.net website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Neera said with a grave expression, "Cottonmouth is a semi-aquatic creature. It should be quite common on small islands like this one. The venom of this snake is hemotoxic, which can severely damage human tissues. The infected area will quickly swell, harden, and bleed incessantly, causing unbearable pain."

She glanced again at Avery's wound, her forehead already beaded with a layer of cold sweat.

"Judging by the state of his wound now, the snake venom should have already spread throughout his body."

Having said that, she laid him down and began to take his pulse.

Rio was sweating profusely in his anxiety and quickly asked, "So, is the venom of this cottonmouth very potent, compared to, say, a rattlesnake?"

Neera didn't respond immediately, only pulling back her hand after a moment. Her expression grew even more unpleasant.

"Cottonmouth is far more dangerous than a rattlesnake. Its venom is extremely potent. Right now, Mr. Cox's pulse is very weak. We must detoxify him as soon as possible. Do you have a sterile room here?"

Ronald nodded repeatedly. "Yes, yes! Due to Mr. Cox's poor health, every place he resides is equipped with a fully stocked medical room."

Neera nodded and said, "Take him there immediately. I need to start the rescue operation right away."

When it came to the life and death of Avery, no one dared to waste time.

Without a word, Irwin helped Avery up and, along with another subordinate, carried him out.

Neera followed them downstairs, with Violet following closely behind.

Her nervousness and fear were plainly visible. Neera saw it and sighed inwardly.

After all, she was still a young girl. No matter how strong she might be, there were moments when she too would feel fear.

"Neenie, Satan will be okay, right? You can cure him, can't you?"

Ever since Jean arrived, Avery's mind had been in a whirl. It had been a long time since she had addressed someone so intimately.

Neera walked to the corner of the stairs, stopped in her tracks, and looked at her earnestly.

"I will do my utmost, but the situation is currently beyond my control, so I can't make any guarantees. All I can say is, I will exhaust all my knowledge and skills to save his life."

Violet's eyes suddenly reddened, and large teardrops began to fall.

She had never cried in front of others, nor had she ever shown her vulnerability and helplessness to anyone.

But this time, she couldn't help but cry. She even wanted to sob uncontrollably.

She clung to the hem of Neera's clothes, her heart about to shatter.

"Please, Neenie, I beg you. You must help Satan get better. I don't want to lose him..."

Neera was overwhelmed with mixed emotions and could only offer her an encouraging hug.

After descending the stairs, she discovered that people from both the Cox and Gordon families were present.

Upon seeing her, Albert still wore that disdainful look, showing clear disgust.

She couldn't be bothered to deal with it. Instead, she turned to Chad and Adriana. "Uncle Chad, Aunt Adriana, what brings you both here?"

Chad looked serious. "I heard that Avery has been seriously injured. I'm worried, so I came to see him."

Adriana asked, "I saw them carry Avery down to the basement. Are they going to perform surgery?"

Neera nodded. "He's been poisoned by a cottonmouth. His life is hanging by a thread. I must quickly save him."

Time waits for no one. She didn't dare to waste time. After hurriedly saying a few words, she was ready to leave when Jean stopped her.

He opened his mouth as if to say something but hesitated. In the end, he only gave her a gentle reminder.

"You also need to take care of your own health. If you collapse from exhaustion, there will be no one left to help Avery."

Neera knew that he was worried about her. After reassuring him, she then went down to the basement, changed into surgical scrubs, and entered the sterile room.

It was not a big issue as long as there was an antivenom available for treatment, but the current situation was that there was no antivenom.

This type of snake was rarely seen in Phison, and not many people knew about it. Therefore, the hospitals here did not have the necessary antivenom.

Moreover, a considerable amount of time had passed since Avery was poisoned. The toxin had already penetrated deeply into his body.

The only reason he didn't die from poisoning was thanks to his sickly constitution.

Due to his prolonged illness, he had taken a lot of medicine. When he was in Essley, Neera had even specifically prescribed him medication to help him recuperate.

These medicines that accumulated in his body perfectly counteracted the venom of the cottonmouth. This was what held back the eruption of the poison within his body, thereby postponing his impending death.

However, this also implied that the treatment became more challenging.

Because there were various substances interacting within his body, his internal condition was extremely complex. Therefore, medication must be administered with utmost caution.

Otherwise, if certain medications incited adverse reactions or induced synergistic effects, they could potentially hasten the onslaught of the toxins, posing a direct threat to the heart. At that point, even if a deity were to descend upon earth, rescuing him would prove challenging.

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## Chapter 1325

Neera first used a sterilized scalpel to make two incisions on the wound at his back. From the hardened skin and muscle tissue, she carefully extracted the poisoned stealth weapon.

Then she sought a way to stop the bleeding and slow down the man's blood flow as much as possible while cleansing the affected blood.

During the rescue process, she realized that this method was ineffective, produced minimal results, and was a waste of time.

She had no choice but to take a risky leap, opting for the most dangerous, yet the most straightforward method a blood transfusion.

Stepping out of the medical room, she saw everyone gathered in the corridor. She quickly removed her mask and asked, "I remember back in Essley, there were blood bags that matched his blood type and wouldn't cause a rejection reaction. Do we have any here?"

Avery's illness was unique. Whenever it struck, it would always be accompanied by excessive blood loss. Therefore, he had collected numerous bags of blood from around the world that were compatible with his own. These served as a substitute for homologous blood, allowing him to avoid the need for emergency blood donors. Instead, he could directly replenish his blood using these bags whenever he lost too much.

"Yes! I'll go get it!" Violet was the first to respond.

She turned around and was about to run when Neera stopped her.

"You can't carry all that by yourself. Call someone to go with you and bring back more."

Upon hearing this, Violet was taken aback.

In the past, when it came to blood transfusions, usually one or two bags were enough. But now...

Rio slowly rose to his feet, asking her, "Ms. Garcia, could it be that you intend to..."

Before he had even finished speaking, Neera made it clear what he intended to do next.

"The toxin in his body is too deep-seated, and it would take too much effort to cleanse it. We might miss the critical moment for treatment. I'm going to perform a blood transfusion, draining all the affected blood from his body and replacing it with fresh blood."

Upon hearing these words, everyone present couldn't help but feel their hearts tremble.

Chad couldn't help but ask, "Has it become this serious?"

Neera nodded firmly. "It's very serious. If we don't drain the affected blood from his body soon, his life will certainly be in danger."

Blood transfusion is a major operation, and reaching this point indicated that the situation had already spiraled out of control.

After a two-second pause, Chad said in a deep voice, "All right. We all trust your medical skills. Let's do as you suggest."

Rio and Ronald shared the same thoughts. However, Albert suddenly stood up, directing various questions to Neera with a sense of indignation.

"I disagree! It's such a risky operation. Can you bear the responsibility if it fails? No, we absolutely cannot proceed with the blood transfusion for Avery. I will call for another doctor immediately!"

As he spoke, he pulled out his phone, ready to make a call.

Rio immediately stopped him, scolding loudly, "Enough is enough! Do you want to create more chaos here? Ms. Garcia's medical skills are unparalleled! Whatever she says goes. All we need to do is patiently wait for the results!"

Albert snorted coldly. "Rio, it seems like you've been bewitched by Neera, haven't you? She's just a girl who knows a bit of medicine. How skilled can she be? You're entrusting Avery's life to her. Isn't this nonsense? If anything happens to Avery, how are you going to explain it to the Cox family?"

At this moment, Neera spoke in a cold voice. "Are you genuinely concerned about Mr. Cox's safety, or are you deliberately obstructing me, trying to delay the treatment for your own selfish desires?"

"What nonsense are you spouting? Slandering me with your bloody lies!" Albert glared at her, his attitude extremely hostile. "I think it's you who's acting out of selfish desires, trying to harm Avery. You-"

Before he could finish his words, suddenly, Violet rushed over with a fierce look on her face. She held a dagger to his throat, her bright eyes tainted with a violent aura.

"Say one more word, and I'll end you right here and now!"

Albert jumped in surprise, leaning against the wall behind him, looking at her in a state of panic.

He knew that this young girl was the apple of Avery's eye. She was bold and decisive, never once speaking falsely. He dared not say anything anymore.

Neera's expression was icy cold. Ignoring Albert, she called out to Violet and said, "Go get the blood bags. Time waits for no one."

Violet finally gave Albert a warning glance before she let him go and turned to leave.

Before long, the bags of blood were brought over.

After six hours of relentless efforts, Neera was finally able to extract all the affected blood from Avery's body despite the immense difficulties. She then replaced it with fresh blood.

After the rescue effort, some color returned to Avery's face.

However, Neera dared not let her guard down, not even for a moment.

The forty-eight hours following the blood transfusion were the most critical. She dared not slack off even the slightest bit.

If something unexpected really did happen and she couldn't respond in time, Avery's life would also be in danger. [Search The website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

In the corridor, everyone was anxiously waiting.

Upon hearing Neera say that the blood transfusion was successful, everyone felt a bit more at ease.

However, learning that Avery was still not out of danger, they remained restless and anxious.

Compared to Avery, Adriana naturally cared more for Neera. Seeing her looking unwell and seemingly lacking in strength, she couldn't help but worry.

"Neera, you should take a break. Let someone else take over. You've been rescuing him for so long. Your body can't possibly hold up."

Neera took a sip of water, moistening her dry throat and lips, then shook her head in refusal.

"No, I'd rather keep an eye on him myself. Otherwise, I won't be at ease. In case anything unusual happens, I can intervene promptly."

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## Chapter 1326

Adriana knew she couldn't dissuade her. She opened her mouth to speak, but in the end, she didn't say anything more and just sighed.

Upon seeing this, Rio and Ronald expressed their gratitude sincerely.

"Ms. Garcia, we are deeply grateful for your efforts. You have saved Mr. Cox from distress on numerous occasions. This kindness will forever be etched in the hearts of everyone in the Cox family."

Neera waved her hand. "There's no need for thanks, and it's too early for that anyway. I can't say for sure what the situation is right now. We can only draw conclusions after these forty-eight hours. All we can do now is pray that he can make it through this most critical moment."

Upon hearing this, the two elders of the Cox family wore expressions of deep distress.

"I thought you were so capable, but after all this fuss, you're still clueless. To put it bluntly, your medical skills are subpar, yet you insist on pretending to be more than you are. They might be fooled by you, but I won't be. Let me make this clear. If anything happens to Mr. Cox, the Cox and Gordon families will be enemies!" Albert never let an opportunity for criticism slip by, promptly resorting to remarks laced with sarcasm and mockery.

Neera gave him a glance and couldn't be bothered to argue with him. She ignored him completely and turned to enter the medical room.

Chad looked at him with a cool gaze, his tone unfriendly as he said, "The Cox family and the Gordon family have always been close. When the Gordon family faced difficulties, the Cox family extended a helping hand. The Gordon family has always been grateful, which is why we have been doing our utmost to save Avery, hoping to cure him. As a member of the Cox family, instead of offering support, you're here being a wet blanket. What's your intention? Could it be that you're harboring ulterior motives, hoping for our failure, wishing for Avery's demise here so that the position of the head of the Cox family can be replaced?"

Albert's thoughts were seen through, causing his face to suddenly turn unsightly.

He gritted his teeth and said, "You're making baseless accusations! Besides, this is a matter of the Cox family. What does it have to do with the Gordon family? Do you really need to question me here? Chad, even if you're close with the Cox family, you shouldn't overstep your boundaries."

He placed heavy emphasis on his words, serving as an unmistakable warning.

Chad let out a cold laugh. He was about to say something when suddenly, Jean, who had been silent, spoke.

"What Neera needs is peace. It's inconvenient to have such unreasonable people from the Cox family around. Since it's not convenient for the Cox family to take action, I'll do it on their behalf."

With that, he raised his voice and called out, "Ian!"

Suddenly, a figure emerged from the stairs, swiftly walking toward him.

"Mr. Beauvort, what can I do for you?"

Jean casually pointed at Albert and commanded indifferently, "Drag this man out. If he continues to make a racket or dares to speak disrespectfully, seal his mouth. Lock him in a room and keep an eye on him. He is not to step out even half a step."

"Understood." After Ian finished speaking, he turned and walked toward Albert. "Mr. Albert, please." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

He spoke politely, but his tone and expression were full of disdain and disgust.

Everyone from the Cox family present was stunned. They couldn't believe that there were people loyal to Jean in this villa.

When did Ian get here?

Albert was the first to react, his face ashen as he began to scold angrily, "Jean, don't think that just because you're the CEO of Beauvort Group, you can do whatever you want here! We're in Phison, and this is the Cox residence. Is it your turn to show off your power? You even dare to bring people to the Cox residence! You-ugh!"

Ian's face contorted. Without hesitation, he reached out and grabbed his throat.

"Mr. Albert, since you choose to do it the hard way, don't blame me for being impolite."

In the next moment, he struck the back of Albert's neck. The latter instantly passed out.

Ian looked at the man who had fallen and couldn't get up, kicked him twice to make sure he didn't respond, then shouted toward the top of the stairs, "Cloud, Storm, stop standing there watching the fun. Come down and help me carry this guy!"

In a moment, two more figures emerged from the staircase.

Cloud and Storm respectfully greeted Jean first, then swiftly carried Albert away.

The three people came and left in a hurry, leaving everyone from the Cox family present with a look of bewilderment on their faces.

Who would have thought that Jean's people would emerge in the heavily guarded Cox residence?

Even Adriana found it surprising.

The only one who remained calm was Chad.

He narrowed his eyes, casting a glance at Jean, his gaze filled with an indiscernible meaning, leaving one to wonder what he was thinking.

Facing everyone's surprised or wary gazes, Jean remained unperturbed.

"Everyone, there's no need to worry. These individuals are my close bodyguards, always with me for my protection. Their presence is solely for the sake of ensuring Neera's safety, with no other intentions. The Cox family can rest assured. As for the third elder of the Cox family, my people only knocked him unconscious without any intention to harm him. We've locked him up to prevent any impact on the relationship between the Cox and Gordon families. What do you think?"

The last sentence was clearly hinting at the Cox family.

Rio and Ronald knew that the Cox family was in the wrong. They fell silent for a moment and were left with no choice but to smooth things over.

"Thank you for your kindness, Mr. Beauvort. Our youngest, indeed, sometimes lacks propriety in his words and actions. It might be for the best to have him step aside for a while."

Next, they apologized to Chad.

"Chad, please don't take what was said earlier to heart. The relationship between the Cox and Gordon families is unshakeable. As for Ms. Garcia, we are truly grateful to her."

Chad nodded, not bothering to argue with them.

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## Chapter 1327

Thinking of Neera's pale face from earlier, Jean couldn't help but worry. After a moment of consideration, he took the initiative and suggested, "Let me go in and help her."

Adriana was puzzled. "You don't know medicine. How can you help her?"

"Her condition doesn't look very good after such a long time. I'm worried something might happen. Even if I can't be of much help, I'll just stay by her side. Or I could assist her with some minor tasks, allowing her to take a brief rest and relax a bit."

Adriana also had Neera's situation on her mind. Hearing this, she actually found it feasible.

The Cox family didn't object. After changing into a sterile surgical gown, Jean entered the medical room.

Neera was startled when she heard a noise and turned around to find him standing there.

"How did you get in? This is the medical room. You can't just come and go as you please. You need to leave immediately."

Jean grabbed her hand as she tried to push him away, holding it firmly without a word.

"I can't leave you alone, so I'll stay here with you. Don't worry. I won't cause any trouble."

Neera felt a bit helpless. "I'm fine. You don't need to come in..."

Jean insisted, "I can't rest easy."

Neera had no choice but to go with him.

Indeed, Jean's worries were proven to be justified. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

During this time, Neera zoned out a few times, nearly reaching her limit, and almost fainted on the spot.

Luckily, Jean was there. He caught her in time and made her sit down to rest.

"Your condition is really bad right now. You can't keep going like this. I'll keep an eye out for you, and I'll call you immediately if anything happens. You should get some sleep."

Neera was reluctant, which almost made Jean lose his temper with her.

"Are you pushing yourself so hard that you're disregarding your own health? You haven't had a proper rest in days. Are you planning to keep going until you end up in a hospital? What if something happens to Avery while you're passed out? Even if you don't think about yourself, you should consider your patients, and me, and the children, and all the people who care about you."

Upon hearing his words, Neera was left speechless. Faced with his stern expression, tinged with a hint of anger, she eventually admitted defeat.

"All right, I'll rest against the chair for a bit. If there's any change in Avery's condition or if the monitor shows any changes in reading, you must wake me up."

Seeing that she finally heeded his advice, Jean breathed a sigh of relief. "All right."

And so, Neera leaned against the chair, her head tilted slightly, and closed her eyes.

The moment she relaxed, the taut strings in her mind seemed to snap, plunging her instantly into the boundless darkness. She quickly fell into a deep slumber.

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Jean watched as her head kept tilting to one side. He walked over, stood beside her, and gently turned her head toward him, allowing half of her body to lean against his own.

And there he was, maintaining his position, not daring to move, for fear of waking her up.

When the alarm of the vital signs monitor on Avery's body first sounded, Neera was sleeping so deeply that she didn't hear a thing.

Although Jean was reluctant, he knew it was a matter of life and death, so he immediately woke her up.

"Neera, wake up. Avery's heartbeat is getting weaker and weaker!"

Neera's mind suddenly became incredibly clear.

She hastily stood up, but her legs gave way, nearly causing her to topple forward.

"Watch out!" With sharp eyes and quick reflexes, Jean swiftly caught her around the waist. "Are you okay?"

Neera nodded, disregarding everything else. She stumbled a bit as she made her way to the bedside.

Avery's heart rate dropped rapidly, and in the blink of an eye, his heartbeat abruptly stopped.

On the monitor, the original curve instantly turned into a straight line.

The sound heralding death was so piercing to the ear.

Neera's face turned ashen. She quickly started performing chest compressions on him. After his heartbeat faintly stirred back to life, she continued with the resuscitation efforts.

This kind of situation had occurred three times in the past two days.

Even though Neera had performed a major blood transfusion for him, the toxins had already infiltrated his organs, damaging some of his internal organs, and his heart had also suffered a certain degree of damage. Therefore, this life-threatening situation could very likely occur.

Fortunately, Neera's superb medical skills brought Avery back from the brink of death.

Forty-eight hours had passed, and all of Avery's vital signs had returned to normal levels. His heartbeat had also stabilized.

Day turned into night, and night back into day. By the time Neera stepped out of the medical room, it was deep into the night again.

The members of the Cox and Gordon families hadn't left; they were still waiting in the corridor, just as they were two days ago when she came out. The only difference was the absence of Albert.

Under the tense scrutiny of everyone, she was utterly exhausted, yet she managed to muster a faint smile.

"Mr. Cox is now out of danger and his condition is stable. Everyone can rest assured."

Rio and Ronald were overwhelmed with excitement, continuously expressing their words of gratitude.

Violet, too, was moved to tears of joy, and she hugged Neera with all her strength.

"Thank you, Neenie. Thank you for keeping Satan alive."

After she finished speaking, she rushed into the medical room to see Avery.

Chad and Adriana also let out a long sigh as if a heavy burden had been lifted from their shoulders.

"Neera, you've done a great job. You've worked-Neera!"

Before Chad could finish his sentence, his face suddenly changed as he cried out Neera's name.

Adriana was also terrified, the color draining rapidly from her face as she hurriedly rushed forward.

Neera staggered a couple of steps, seemingly trying to sit down on the bench. But before she could even touch it, she uncontrollably fell to the ground, slipping into unconsciousness.

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## **Chapter 1328**

Having been deprived of sleep for three days, and with her nerves perpetually on edge, Neera was already at her breaking point.

Avery's life was hanging by a thread, but she was sustained by a tenacious will.

Now, with her will gone, she relaxed completely, and fatigue swallowed her in an instant.

She was unconscious for a full day and night before she finally woke up.

"What... happened to me?" She stared blankly at the familiar ceiling, her mind a complete blank.

Jean helped her sit up and brought a cup of water to her lips.

"Have you forgotten? After rescuing Avery and bringing him back to life, you fainted at the Cox residence. You should drink some water first to soothe your throat. You've lost your voice."

Neera realized that her throat was hurting terribly as if something was burning inside. Her lips were also dry as if they were cracked, and any movement brought a tearing pain.

She took Jean's hand and managed to take a couple of sips, but it was so painful that she didn't want to drink anymore.

The memories before she fainted played in her mind.

She thought of Avery. "How long have I been asleep? How is Mr. Cox doing now?"

Seeing that the first thing she did upon waking up was to show concern for Avery, Jean felt a bit uncomfortable inside.

However, he knew this woman too well. She would take every task she handled seriously, so he did not intend to reprimand her at all.

"A full day and night. It's already past nine in the evening. Avery's condition is stable. Don't worry. You can visit him tomorrow."

Neera thought for a moment and decided to visit him right away.

Jean furrowed his brows, wanting to stop her, but he knew he couldn't. He simply followed her downstairs.

Chad was sitting in the living room. Seeing them come down, he quickly showed his concern.

"Neera, you're awake. Why are you in such a hurry? Where are you going?"

Neera spoke the truth. "I want to go see Mr. Cox."

At that moment, the voices of the three little ones suddenly rang out behind her.

"Mommy, you just woke up and you're leaving already? We made a special oatmeal just for you..."

"Exactly, Mommy. Why don't you have some first? There's no rush to leave." Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

When Neera turned around, she saw the triplets standing behind her.

In Harvey's hand was a delicate tray, on which sat a bowl of oatmeal.

Sammy was carrying a plate of fruits.

Penny, sandwiched between her two older brothers, looked at her with a face full of worry.

Adriana stood behind them, also persuading, "Neera, the children have been waiting for you to wake up and have the oatmeal. Don't let down the children's good intentions. Eat it first, then you can go."

Neera felt her heart warm seeing that the three little ones care so much for her. After a moment of hesitation, she decided she couldn't bear to waste the little ones' efforts.

Indeed, she was hungry, and the little ones' creations were quite delicious. She enthusiastically had two bowls, then lovingly kissed each of the three little ones before hurriedly leaving.

When she arrived at the Cox residence, Rio and Ronald were somewhat surprised to see her.

"Ms. Garcia, have you recovered?"

Neera nodded slightly. "Yes, I'm fine now. Thank you for your concern."

"Oh, Ms. Garcia, don't say such things. When you fainted, it really scared us all. You've truly gone above and beyond for Mr. Cox. We really don't know how we can ever repay you."

Neera preferred not to engage in idle chatter and went straight to the point. "How is Mr. Cox doing? Has he woken up?"

Rio nodded. "He woke up once this morning, but he's still very weak. He didn't stay awake for long before he fell back into a deep sleep. Violet did manage to feed him some liquid food, which he ate without throwing up. He's still sleeping now."

After briefly understanding the situation, Neera said, "All right. I'll go see him."

She went to the basement.

Jean saw her running around, exhausting herself for Avery. Although he didn't voice it, his discomfort regarding the situation was steadily growing.

Yet, he harbored not the slightest resentment toward Neera. Instead, he blamed everything on the person who had harmed Avery.

If Avery hadn't been injured to such an extent, Neera wouldn't have had to work herself to the bone like this.

A shadow flitted across his eyes as a melancholic mood built up in his heart.

While Neera was busy in the medical room, he called for Ian to come to the courtyard. Making sure there was no one around, he then asked, "How's the situation on Adieu Island?"

Ian had wanted to report earlier, but one thing led to another, and he couldn't find the opportunity to speak with Jean privately.

He immediately reported the truth, "The Jagger family has been taken over by the Cox family. After Avery was hit by a stealth weapon, Violet took him away. Irwin and Mr. Weaver stayed at the Jagger residence, fighting to the death with them. They narrowly won in the end. Now, the head of the Jagger family and other important figures have been detained by the Cox family. As for our people, we originally planned to make our move at the very end, but we didn't get the chance before the Cox family won."

Jean was not surprised by this outcome.

What he cared about the most wasn't this.

"Why was Avery attacked? Didn't he send out a small team to scout ahead? The protection system of the Jagger family and the entire island was breached. How could they not have noticed that the Jagger family still had a team hidden somewhere?"

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## Chapter 1329

He was fully aware of everything that Avery and the others had done on Adieu Island.

Therefore, he was even more puzzled.

Ian was also at a loss. "After Mr. Weaver returned, his subordinates reported that they heard him mention to the Gordon family that he felt something was off all along the way."

"What was off?"

Ian shook his head. "I'm not sure about that either. But Mr. Weaver is a fighting arts fanatic. His most acute sense lies in physical prowess. Throughout our journey, our encounters with others have primarily revolved around combat. I suspect that what triggered his suspicion might be the combat skills of those individuals, which deviated from his expectations."

At this point, he remembered something.

"By the way, when Avery was attacked at sea before, it was mentioned that those people might not be pirates. Their skills seemed more like those of people who have lived on land for a long time. He suspected that they were members of the Jagger family in disguise."

Jean's eyes narrowed slightly.

"Avery suspected that the pirates were land dwellers in disguise, which made him think of the Jagger family. However, Mr. Weaver might have thought that the enemies they encountered along the way were unusually skilled, a peculiarity that could only be explained by them not being from the Jagger family. This led to two contradictory speculations. So, who was right? Also, where did the last group of people from the Jagger family, who were using stealth weapons, come from? This needs to be investigated."

Ian also had many doubts in his heart, but he nodded in acceptance of the order.

The next day, Avery was gradually improving, but his waking hours were still short, and he was somewhat groggy.

Violet was quite worried about this. "Neenie, why is Satan always so groggy, and even when he wakes up, he's not clear-headed. How long will this situation continue?"

Neera reassured her, "This is normal. Although I've changed his blood, there are still some toxins left in his body. The amount is very small and won't pose a threat to his health. His body just needs time to slowly metabolize them. During this period, due to the effects of the toxins and the immune issues caused by the blood transfusion, even without any rejection, there is still a need for a period of adjustment. It's normal to feel groggy. Proper care is required. It could take as short as a week or as long as half a month for a significant recovery."

Upon listening to that, Violet finally felt somewhat relieved.

After making sure that Avery was all right, Neera also went home to rest.

The exhaustion from the past few days had nearly broken her. Now that she had some time, she decided to take good care of herself.

After lunch, under the gentle urging of Jean, she obediently went to sleep.

After she fell asleep, Jean quietly got up, making sure not to wake her, and went to the study.

Ian had returned with news and was already waiting there.

"Did you find anything?" SEARCH THE website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Mr. Beauvort, just as you suspected, we indeed found some irregularities. When Avery and his team were carrying out their mission, they encountered some pirates at sea. Some of them were indeed pirates, but others were not. However, they were not from the Jagger family either."

Jean glanced at him sideways. "So, are you saying Avery was mistaken before?"

"Not exactly. Everyone in the Jagger family has been captured, and they've confessed quite a bit intermittently. Some of the attacks on the island were indeed their doing. However, some attacks, including this one at sea, were not solely their actions. The others of the board of elders were also involved."

This outcome didn't surprise Jean. His expression was indifferent as he silently continued to listen.

"The Jagger family, contrary to what we imagine, has not completely severed ties with Phison. The current third power, the Watson family, has been secretly maintaining contact with them. It can be said that the Watson family has deep dealings with the Jagger family. I conducted a thorough investigation into the Watson family. The Watson family's business is mainly in shipping. According to the Jagger family's statement, the Watson family has a close relationship with the pirates. The sea attack at that time was ordered by the Watson family, in collaboration with the Jagger family."

"Besides the Watson family, what are the other influential forces?" Jean asked, leaning back in his chair.

"The forces of the fourth elder and the seventh elder have also gotten involved. They have a very good relationship with the Watson family and want a piece of the action this time."

After a moment of contemplation, Jean summarized the information he had brought.

"In other words, the Jagger family and the Watson family have been collaborating. The Watson family also has a close relationship with the forces of the fourth elder and the seventh elder. These four families have joined forces, colluding with pirates, hoping to take advantage of this opportunity to eliminate Avery, thereby destroying the Cox family."

Ian nodded. "That's right."

"Who does the last group that emerged from the Jagger residence belong to, then?"

"They are from the Watson family. They didn't move there temporarily but have been living on Adieu Island all along. They were likely sent by the Watson family to serve as a bridge for communication with the Jagger family. They were there to help but also to subtly keep an eye on things. Unexpectedly, they ended up becoming the Jagger family's final trump card."

"Have those people been caught?"

At this point, Ian's expression looked somewhat helpless.

"They were all death guards of the Watson family, planted on Adieu Island. In the event of any mishap, they would choose death immediately. When the Cox family was dealing with the Jagger family, these people sensed danger. They had already bitten into the poison hidden in their teeth. By the time the Cox family realized it, they had all stopped breathing. No one was left alive."

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## Chapter 1330

Jean narrowed his eyes, taking a moment to digest all that had happened. After a while, he let out a cold, mocking laugh.

"The management style of the Bartitsu Guild has shown significant problems for many years. However, the guild has been too eager for quick success and instant benefits, always turning a blind eye to these power struggles. Little did they realize such conflicts could potentially destroy the Bartitsu Guild."

Ian nodded in agreement. "If one can't even manage their own affairs, yet still desires to seize power that doesn't belong to them, it truly shows that greed knows no bounds."

Jean, on the other hand, didn't care much. The investigation had already gone far enough at this point.

"Send all the information we've gathered, along with the evidence, to the two elders of the Cox family. However, make sure not to reveal our identities. Let someone from the Gordon family deliver it."

"Yes, I understand."

That afternoon, the evidence ended up in the hands of Rio and Ronald.

They were already harboring doubts about the various incidents in this operation.

Now that they saw the evidence, which did not have the slightest discrepancy with the truth that the Jagger family had revealed, they were instantly infuriated.

"The Watson family! From the very beginning, they've been eyeing the Cox family with ill intent, targeting us in every possible way. I never expected they would stoop so low behind our backs! They even dared to collude with pirates!"

"It now appears that the Jagger family's ability to repeatedly fend off the attacks from the Bartitsu Guild must undoubtedly be linked to the Watson family!"

The two of them looked at the evidence in their hands, their expressions equally serious.

"Unexpectedly, even the Quigley family and the Hoffman family are involved. Usually, these two families have always shown us great respect. Who would have thought they were scheming behind our backs, colluding with the Watson family? No matter what, they cannot be forgiven this time!" [SEARCH THE website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

Rio felt the same way. The thought of Avery still lying unconscious in the medical room filled him with uncontrollable anger.

"No matter what, we can't just let it slide. They almost caused the death of Mr. Cox."

Ronald was filled with righteous indignation. "This time I really need to hold the Bartitsu Guild accountable. There's open and covert strife within the guild, and they've always turned a blind eye. Is this right? If a guild can't even ensure the safety of its own forces, what use does it have? The Cox family has been fighting on the front lines for the entire guild. We were not only harmed by the Jagger family but also plotted against by our own people. Where is the justice in that? I really want to see if the guild will take action this time!"

The two elders sat down and deliberated for a while and quickly came up with an idea.

That evening, the Cox family secretly issued a mobilization order. The targets of this order were some powers affiliated with the Cox family, having them know that a meeting would be held at the Cox residence three days later.

In this matter, the Cox family did not hide anything from the Gordon family.

Neera was somewhat confused.

"Uncle Chad, what is this mobilization order for?"

Chad took a sip of coffee, then explained to her in a gentle voice, "Over the years, the Cox family has gained considerable prestige in the Bartitsu Guild. Although on the surface, everyone belongs to the guild, in reality, factions have formed within it. The Jennings and Logan families, for example, belong to one faction. Naturally, the Cox family has its own faction too, with them at the helm. The other families have to heed the Cox family's orders. The Cox family's actions suggest they are likely preparing to make a move."

"Make a move? Against whom? The Bartitsu Guild?"

"Not really, but they do intend to intimidate them. As for who they are really targeting, it's those forces that have colluded with the Jagger family to secretly harm the Cox family."

Regarding this, Neera had already understood and nodded clearly upon hearing it.

"It's about time for the Cox family to settle the scores."

"That's right. The more critical the situation, the less we can afford to swallow our pride. If the Cox family lets this matter slide, then from now on, the other powers will become even more unbridled. Now that Avery has successfully dealt with the Jagger family and taken over Adieu Island, the guild has no excuse to suppress them anymore. If the Cox family wants to seek justice and punish those powers, the guild has nothing to say, let alone obstruct them."

Here, he gave a meaningful smile and said, "The time has come for the Cox family to establish their dominance."

Neera asked, "What about the Gordon family? Are we going to get involved?"

"When the time comes, we'll arrange for some people to go over and help, so you don't need to worry about this for now."

Neera nodded, but deep down, a hint of worry lingered.

Ever since she arrived in Phison, it seemed as though she hadn't enjoyed a single day of peace.

Everything was immersed in a web of intrigue and conflict, and fighting and killing had unknowingly become the norm.

She now missed those carefree days back home more than ever.

In Kingsview, significant matters often pertained to issues in company operations or dilemmas in research.

It was nothing like this, living in constant fear every day.

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## Chapter 1331

In the week following the issuance of the mobilization order by the Cox family, Neera frequently heard sounds of chaos from outside.

"Have you heard? It seems that several elders from the Hoffman family have been kidnapped!"

"I've known about it for a while now. It's old news from the day before yesterday. You're really out of the loop, aren't you? It's not just the Hoffman family, but also the Quigley family. Both family heads are gone!"

"D\*mn, what's going on? Could something big be about to happen? As a casual observer, I'm really worried."

"Why do I feel like the guild has been in chaos recently? The Hoffman and Quigley family heads are important figures. With both families encountering issues one after another, what on earth is going on?"

"Not only the Quigley family and the Hoffman family, but also the Watson family. I heard that a couple of days ago, two of their clubs were raided, apparently for some illegal transactions..."

Inside a cafe, Neera was poking at the ice cubes in her cup, frowning.

"Why does it feel like everyone's discussions lately are so violent? Has the guild been so unsettled lately?"

These past few days, aside from her regular visits to the Cox residence, she spent her remaining time either resting at home or being taken out by Jean to various places to relax both physically and mentally.

As a result, her body relaxed, but there was no way for her mind to relax as she listened to the remarks.

The Bartitsu Guild was in a state of unrest, and how could the Gordon family, being in the midst of it all, possibly remain unscathed?

At this moment, she was still unaware of what the Watson family, the Hoffman family, and the Quigley family had done to the Cox family, so naturally, she didn't associate it with the Cox family.

However, Jean knew everything crystal clear.

But he had no intention of telling her, not wanting her to worry about these trivial matters anymore. He made up an excuse to brush it off.

"The Bartitsu Guild has always been like this, never a moment of peace. You've been here for quite some time, so you should understand by now. Conflict is the norm. Don't take it to heart."

Neera pinched the straw, sipping the last bit of iced coffee, and let out a long sigh.

"Staying here is really draining. I'm living in constant fear every day. I truly don't know how the people here manage to keep going. I really miss my life back in Kingsview..."

Jean raised an eyebrow. "You want to go back?"

Neera fell silent for a moment, blinked, and said, "Yeah, but things here are not settled yet. Let's wait a bit longer."

Jean knew that the young woman still didn't want to go back and face her parents. He understood her feelings and flashed a faint smile.

"No rush. We'll go back whenever you feel like going back. If you don't want to, we can explore other places. Wherever you take a fancy to, we can make our life there."

Neera chuckled. "You talk as if the whole world is your territory."

Jean's eyebrows lifted slightly, and he casually said, "If you like it, I don't mind doing this. I just need to put in a bit more effort."

This statement carried a hint of arrogance, yet when it came from his mouth, it was hard to doubt whether he could really pull it off.

Neera felt warmth in her heart. She asked, "Have your parents called again to urge you to go home? They must be eager to see the three little ones, right?"

This was the first time she had brought up Wrenn and Frederic since she came here.

It was not that she avoided discussing it. She just didn't really want to talk about it.

For her, the harm inflicted by the two of them still existed, but she no longer cared.

What truly worried her were the three children.

Jean looked into her eyes, not hiding anything.

"They've called a few times. They really want to see the kids, and they've been asking about you too." SEARCH THE website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Me?" This indeed took Neera by surprise.

"They're asking about your current situation and if you're still holding a grudge against them and unwilling to forgive them. They hope to reconcile with you and resolve any lingering resentment. I don't intend to speak on their behalf, but they truly realize their mistakes. They said they're just concerned and won't interfere with your life. They told me not to tell you if you don't want to hear it. All that matters is that you and the children are well."

Neera bit her straw and fell into a long silence.

"What are you thinking about?" After waiting for a moment, Jean gently reached out and held her hand.

Neera lifted her eyelids, looking at him with a complex expression in her eyes. After a pause of two seconds, she hesitantly asked, "Do you think I'm being a bit too selfish?"

Jean was taken aback. "Why do you ask?"

Neera revealed her feelings with a sense of defeat and guilt.

"I suddenly realized that in this matter, it seems I've only been concerned with my own feelings, never considering the feelings of the children or your feelings. I never considered how difficult it could be for you to get caught between me and your parents. I also didn't think about the little ones' longing for their grandparents' love. They are your closest kin and also the children's. Yet, I only thought of myself."

Jean didn't expect her to think this way. He pursed his lips in silence, rose from his seat, walked around the table, and sat down next to her, looking at her intently.

"Don't think like that. You're not selfish at all. Remember? It was because you cared about my feelings, didn't want me to be caught between you and my parents, and feared that I would be put in a difficult position, that you endured so much. It was because of this that you ended up getting hurt. I completely understand if you don't want to see them or get in touch with them. I'm on your side. They were the ones who made a mistake in this situation. I also failed to mediate properly and couldn't be a good bridge between you two. You're not to blame."

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## Chapter 1332

Neera had never expected him to say such a thing. Her emotions were somewhat pacified, yet they simultaneously grew more complex.

Jean simply looked at her expression, and a wave of heartache washed over him. He raised his hand, gently smoothing out the furrow in her brow.

"Don't overthink it. I'll handle things with my parents. As for the kids, they all love you and understand you. They also can't accept the harm my parents have caused you and are willing to wait for your forgiveness."

He moved closer, planting a kiss as light as a feather on her forehead.

"So, it's not about being selfish or not. If you're hurt, you have every right to be upset, every right to refuse. Do you understand?"

Neera did not know what to say.

Waves of emotion radiated across the lake of her heart, ceaselessly brimming with poignant feelings of understanding and acceptance. The joy and satisfaction of being cherished flowed out unrestrained.

She couldn't help but smile as if reconciling with herself and surrendering to happiness willingly.

She winked playfully and said in a crisp voice, "Next time you call the old folks, tell them not to keep bringing up the past. It affects our unity. The kids really hope for a complete family, and they can't be left out."

Jean was taken aback at first, but then he laughed heartily. He pinched her little nose, his eyes filled with tenderness and affection.

Upon returning home, Neera chose to join Adriana in the kitchen, bustling about. The two planned to prepare a feast themselves, aiming to treat everyone to a satisfying meal.

After chatting with Chad for a while, Jean asked about the situation with Shane. Upon learning that everything was going smoothly, he excused himself to attend to some official business and went upstairs to his study.

Ian was called in by him. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Has the Cox family been causing all the recent troubles at the Bartitsu Guild?"

"Yes, the Cox family has launched a retaliation against the Hoffman, Watson, and Quigley families this time. Some of their methods are considered legal, but some are clearly against the rules. However, the Cox family operates very covertly, leaving no trace of evidence. Even if the guild suspects them, there is no evidence to prove it."

"How much has the Gordon family been involved in these matters? Could they be playing with fire?"

"The Gordon family was only involved in a very small part, specifically arranged by the Cox family. They were not dangerous actions, so they wouldn't cause any trouble."

"That's good, then."

"Mr. Beauvort..." Ian hesitated, struggling to find the right words.

"Speak your mind."

"Well, the Quigley family and the Hoffman family are relatively easy to deal with. Even though they hold seats among the elders, their strength pales in comparison to the Cox family. However, the Watson family is a different story. The Watson family is second only to the Cox family. Over the years, they've been openly and secretly competing, constantly tripping up the Cox family. Although their power is not as strong as the Cox family, they are not to be underestimated and cannot be easily toppled. I'm afraid this time, the Cox and Watson families will fight to the death. The commotion they'll cause will be no small matter."

Jean furrowed his brows, showing a hint of displeasure.

He recalled Neera's minor complaints today and the possibility that the Gordon family might get involved in this dispute, which inevitably made him feel agitated.

In this situation, he didn't want to keep Neera and the children here.

"How have things been at Lordsworth Estate recently?" he asked.

Ian was taken aback. As he pondered over the implications, he couldn't help but feel somewhat surprised.

"Mr. Beauvort, are you planning to take Mrs. Beauvort back to Lordsworth Estate?"

Jean stood by the window, watching the three little ones playing happily downstairs. Their innocent and radiant smiles reflected in his eyes.

"Yes, I'm considering that."

After some thought, Ian said, "I'm not entirely sure about the specific situation at Lordsworth Estate. I'll contact Mr. Wiley right away and ask him to give you a detailed report."

Late into the night, not long after Neera had fallen asleep, Colin's call came through.

"My Lord, you were looking for me."

Jean got straight to the point. "What's the situation over at Lordsworth Estate?"

Colin honestly replied, "Everything remains the same, all under control."

Then, he asked, "From what I gather from Mr. Ian, you intend to take Lady Phison back to Lordsworth Estate?"

Jean responded with a hum, then said, "Yes, and no."

Colin expressed his confusion. "My Lord, are you suggesting..."

"The Bartitsu Guild has been in constant turmoil recently, and I suspect there will be even more upheaval in the future. The Gordon family might also get involved. I think it would be safest for Neera to stay away from this trouble and return to Lordsworth Estate. However, we're not going back to the headquarters."

Now Colin understood. "So, which district are you planning to go to?"

After a brief silence, Jean said, "District Ten."

That place was the best area, boasting the finest cultural landscapes and natural scenery. There were also many interesting spots, which he believed the children would love.

Colin said, "I got it. I'll arrange it right away. Rest assured that apart from a few high-ranking individuals in District Ten, no one will recognize you. As for those high-ranking individuals, I'll warn them in advance. Your identity will still be kept confidential."

Then, he asked again, "Is there anything else you need me to take care of for you?"

Jean said in a soft voice, "No. I'll do it myself."

He did not want Neera to notice anything.

He added, "Keep an eye on the Cox family at all times. If they show any signs of weakness, lend a hand in time. But remember, be discreet about it. Don't let them realize that it's the work of the people at Lordsworth Estate."

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## Chapter 1333

He made up his mind. All that was left was to wait for Avery's health to improve.

During this period, the Cox family was in the midst of a struggle.

The Hoffman family, the Quigley family, and the Watson family had been constantly complaining these days.

The Bartitsu Guild had been quiet, leaving one to wonder what they were up to.

But the Cox family knew that the guild wouldn't ignore these matters forever.

Sure enough, a week later, Matthew suddenly called a meeting.

Avery had not fully regained consciousness, so Rio as the first elder went in his place.

When he arrived, he discovered that only the Quigley family, the Hoffman family, the Watson family, and the Cox family were participating in the meeting.

He wasn't particularly surprised. After calmly taking a seat, he directly asked Matthew, "Mr. Lozano, what's the purpose of suddenly calling this meeting today, and only involving a few families?"

No sooner had he finished speaking than the Hoffman and Quigley families could no longer hold back. They all rose in unison, slamming the table and hurling a barrage of accusations at him.

"The audacity of you to ask that! Stop playing dumb here. You know exactly what the purpose is."

"The good deeds the Cox family has done should have been directly judged by the neutral faction. It's the president and vice president who were soft-hearted, considering how long the Cox family has been in the guild. That's why they turned a blind eye, convened this meeting, and accorded the Cox family with respect and dignity. If you know what's good for you, confess now about all the mess the Cox family has made!"

Facing the furious reprimands of these two individuals, Rio remained remarkably composed.

"Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Gary, I merely asked a question. Why are you being so harsh? You're saying things I don't understand."

The first elder of the Quigley family, Gary Quigley, was so angry that his face turned bright red as he repeatedly slammed the table.

"You're still playing dumb with us! Don't think we're unaware that our family head was killed by the Cox family! How could a perfectly fine car suddenly lose control?"

Rio narrowed his eyes meaningfully. "I'm surprised and sorry about Mr. Quigley's death, but without any evidence, blaming it on the Cox family is unjustifiable, isn't it? Mr. Gary, if I remember correctly, our two families have always had a good relationship. And Mr. Hoffman, our two families have had long-term business dealings. Why the sudden betrayal now? What's the reason behind this?"

"Betrayal? You're hardly in a position to say such a thing! Who exactly is the betrayer here? Do you really think we're fools? How could several elders of the Hoffman family be suddenly kidnapped and directly eliminated? Do you think your actions are foolproof? If you've done nothing wrong, you've nothing to fear. Today, we're here to seek justice!"

The two of them were arguing back and forth.

The elder of the Watson family, Keith Watson, was rather quiet, sitting in the rosewood chair without uttering a word, leaving others wondering what he was thinking.

Rio sneered inwardly.

Seek justice? The Cox family hasn't even sought justice yet, and these perpetrators are the ones crying out first. How ironic.

He paused for a couple of seconds, then calmly said, "I don't understand why you're accusing the Cox family like this, Mr. Lozano. Perhaps you could clarify what exactly is going on?"

Matthew had been silent all along. His expression darkened when the problem was thrown at him.

He looked at the Hoffman and Quigley family members, impatiently telling them to sit down.

"Enough! Look at you all, bickering and shouting. What a spectacle! You were brought here to resolve issues, not to escalate conflicts! If you truly feel wronged, the guild will naturally seek justice for you. We will not cover up for anyone, nor will we favor anyone. So, rest assured."

Hearing that, the representatives of the Quigley family and the Hoffman family reluctantly took their seats.

However, they were still glaring at Rio as if they were sworn enemies.

Rio didn't care in the slightest. He maintained his calm and composed expression, casually sitting and waiting for Matthew's next words.

"Rio, since Avery is still unconscious, you'll have to take charge of the Cox family's affairs. I presume you've been directing everything recently, haven't you?"

Rio nodded. "That's correct. Is there a problem?" [SEARCH the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

Matthew rubbed his eyes, his expression somber as he said, "Recently, the Quigley family, the Hoffman family, and the Watson family have been experiencing a series of mishaps. You're aware of this, aren't you?"

Rio nodded again. "I am. What about it?"

"Currently, all three families have lodged complaints with the guild, accusing the Cox family of being responsible. These incidents happened separately, but they all point to the Cox family. I don't think this is a coincidence, so I called you over to understand more about this matter."

Rio's expression remained unchanged as he asked him, "May I ask, Mr. Lozano, what are your plans after understanding the situation?"

Matthew said, "We will act according to the rules, of course."

Upon hearing this, Rio suddenly slapped his thigh and laughed heartily.

"You're truly wise, Mr. Lozano. The Cox family is very impressed indeed. Since that's the case, let's discuss the matters of the Cox family first."

Matthew was somewhat baffled by his reaction, and the representatives from the other three families also wore expressions of confusion.

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## Chapter 1334

The head of the Hoffman family, Lucas Hoffman, frowned immediately. "What do you mean? We're discussing matters concerning our three families. How did it suddenly shift to the Cox family?"

Rio spoke with an air of wisdom. "There's an order to everything. The Cox family's troubles came first, followed by the three of your families. We must deal with each issue one by one, just like eating a meal one bite at a time. Naturally, we should resolve all the issues concerning the Cox family first before we can address your subsequent troubles."

The words spoken were so grandiose that the few people present didn't know how to rebut them.

Rio swept his gaze around the room, then looked at Matthew with satisfaction, continuing the topic they were discussing earlier. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Mr. Lozano, the guild entrusted us, the Cox family, with a very important task. Our family head didn't hesitate for a moment and resolutely carried out the guild's orders, taking people to Adieu Island. Not long after this, a large number of firearms were found in the auction house under the Cox family's name. You remember this incident, don't you? Why has it been left unresolved until now?"

Matthew was caught off guard. He didn't expect him to bring up the matter.

After a few seconds, he finally said, "We haven't figured it out yet."

"Is that so?" Rio responded with an ambiguous chuckle. "I see, the guild must be very busy lately, not even able to clear up such a simple matter."

Matthew frowned. "Rio, mind your language."

Rio nodded. "I apologize for criticizing the guild. However, I hope the guild can give the Cox family justice. Over the years, our family has never had any organizational or disciplinary problems. These firearms are not ours. If you don't believe us, we can show you all of our family's accounts. To purchase so many firearms, a large sum of money

would be involved, and there would definitely be a record. If there was no record, it would be abnormal. The Cox family can completely prove our innocence."

The other four were taken aback and in disbelief.

The financial records of each family were the most confidential and strictly guarded secrets, absolutely not to be shown to any outsider.

Even if they were from the same family, their status and position still mattered.

But now, to prove the innocence of the Cox family, Rio was even willing to show the accounts to the guild.

This clearly proved that the Cox family had done nothing wrong, so they had no reason to feel guilty.

Matthew's expression changed slightly, and his lips twitched. After a long pause, he finally said, "Forget about it. The Cox family's performance over the years has not gone unnoticed by the guild. I trust the Cox family too. This must be a misunderstanding. I will have someone investigate the true origin of these firearms. The Cox family will not be wronged. You can rest assured."

Regarding the matter of firearms, he had only used it as a means to control the Gordon family, merely exploiting the Cox family in the process.

Once he had achieved his goal, he didn't give this matter another thought.

This matter was of great importance. He had thought the Cox family should also hope for it to be left unresolved.

Unexpectedly, Rio had actually taken the initiative to bring it up, even turning the tables on him.

Given the circumstances, he had no choice but to resort to these excuses to gloss over the situation.

Rio achieved his goal, and without saying anything more, he just smiled and said, "Okay."

He actually had no intention of showing the Cox family's accounts to the guild at all.

He was merely gambling, betting that the guild was behind this and wouldn't investigate any further.

Just as he had predicted, things turned out exactly that way. He won the bet.

Things should be easier from now on.

"Mr. Lozano, the Cox family deeply appreciates your trust. There are some matters we hope you could help us resolve."

Matthew frowned. His face was already contorted, but he could only patiently ask, "What is it? Just go ahead and tell me."

Beside them, the representatives of the Quigley family, the Hoffman family, and the Watson family exchanged glances, an inexplicable sense of foreboding filling their hearts.

Rio recounted in detail all the events that had occurred during the time Avery was carrying out his mission.

"Mr. Lozano, the Jagger family no longer exists, and the island has been taken over by our family head. We, the Cox family, have successfully completed the tasks assigned by the guild. Shouldn't the guild give us an explanation for all the harm we've suffered? As you know, our family head is still unconscious. He barely survived, and it was not easy for him to cling to life. If he wakes up and learns the truth about these matters and finds out that the guild has done nothing, won't he be disheartened? And the Cox family who has always been loyal to the guild will feel disheartened too, won't they?"

The representatives of the Quigley family, the Hoffman family, and the Watson family abruptly stood up. Their faces were flushed, their ears red, uncertain whether it was out of guilt or anger.

"You're talking nonsense! We've never done such things!"

"The Jagger family is just trying to drag others down with them! They're slandering us! We've always kept to ourselves and had no relations with Adieu Island. Yet, the Jagger family is blatantly defaming us. This is absolutely despicable!"

"If you actually believe the nonsense spouted by the Jagger family, you're as dumb as a pig!"

After taking a sip of coffee, Rio casually remarked, "But all of this was acknowledged by the Jagger family. At this point, do they still need to lie?"

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## Chapter 1335

"Who knows what they're up to! In any case, you can't trust what the Jagger family says!"

"Exactly! Can they produce any evidence? Without evidence, it's nothing but slander. It's defamation!"

Rio gave a meaningful smile. "There's no need for you all to get so worked up. I didn't say that what they said is necessarily true. I'm just reporting to Mr. Lozano what the Jagger family has said."

At this moment, Matthew piped up, "Everyone, please sit down. Did you hear what Rio said? He's not accusing you, just stating facts. There's no need for you to be so sensitive. Whether it's true or false, the guild will look into it. If you didn't do it, you won't be blamed."

They reluctantly sat down, looking grim.

At this moment, Rio spoke again. "Mr. Lozano, I understand what you're saying. You're a fair and just person. I'm completely at ease. I believe you will definitely give an explanation to the Cox family, as well as to the Quigley family, the Hoffman family, and the Watson family, right?"

Matthew gave him a sidelong glance, his tone neither cold nor warm as he said, "You're right."

Seeing that the matter was settled so easily, Rio then brought up the accusations from these three families against the Cox family.

"By the same token, you three families accuse us, the Cox family, of being responsible for your misfortunes. Do you have any evidence?"

Evidence? Of course, there isn't any.

But who doesn't know it in their heart?

Just as the representative of the Quigley family was about to speak, Rio didn't give him the chance and said, "If you all insist on believing it was the Cox family's doing, there must be a reasonable motive, right? Why do you think the Cox family would treat your three families like this?"

Lucas immediately responded indignantly, "For retaliation, of course!"

No sooner had he finished speaking than Keith suddenly scolded in a stern voice, "Everyone, hold your tongues!"

Lucas was initially displeased. However, after meeting Keith's gaze, he was stunned for two seconds before he realized that he had misspoken.

Rio smiled contentedly, much like a sly old fox.

"Retaliation? That's strange. Currently, the head of my family holds the position of the second elder, while your three families are respectively ranked third, fifth, and seventh. In any aspect, you are far from reaching the height of the Cox family. That's one thing. The Hoffman family and the Quigley family have a pretty good relationship with the Cox family, even conducting business together. Where does this idea of retaliation come from? I'm curious. What exactly have your three families done to make us hold such a grudge, even going so far as to use so many means to retaliate?"

The question he posed was destined to remain unanswered.

Rio patiently waited for a while, then calmly continued, "If you can't articulate it, then it just shows that these are all your speculations. There's no evidence, no reasonable motive, yet you accuse the Cox family and want the guild to punish us. Isn't this extremely unreasonable? Compared to earlier, isn't this a bit hypocritical?"

"You-" Lucas finally realized that he had fallen into his trap and was filled with rage.

He slapped the table so hard it echoed thunderously, yet he couldn't utter a single word in rebuttal.

The representatives of the Quigley family and the Watson family were seething with resentment as well, yet they had no words to express it.

After a long while, Matthew let out a deep sigh, stood up, and took on the role of the mediator.

"We're all long-standing members of the guild, having worked together for many years. Why let things escalate to this point? In my opinion, let's all calm down first. Let's wait until everything is thoroughly investigated. Give the guild some time. We will provide an explanation for everyone, all right?"

At this point, the representatives of the Hoffman family, the Quigley family, and the Watson family all understood that there were no other paths to take.

Rio was quite pleased with the outcome. He stood up and straightened his clothes.

"Since you have spoken, Mr. Lozano, I'll set these matters aside for now out of respect for you. Once the head of my family is fully awake, I'll report everything to him in detail. He can then decide how to handle it."

He didn't linger any longer. Ignoring the angry expressions of the others, he calmly and leisurely departed. Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Once he got into the car, his expression finally changed, his eyes turning cold.

In truth, he had evidence concerning the actions of the three families, but he had deliberately chosen not to reveal it.

He understood the guild's intentions all too well. They aimed to use these few families to suppress the Cox family. If things didn't go as planned, they would simply smooth things over.

That was why he had chosen not to hand over the evidence to Matthew.

The Cox family would never tolerate being bullied without reason, and the head of the Cox family was not someone who could be easily manipulated by others.

The Cox family would settle this debt in their own way.

The representatives of the Quigley family, the Hoffman family, and the Watson family left together. Before parting ways, each of them had a grim expression on their faces.

"The Cox family is simply too outrageous!"

"We absolutely cannot let this matter rest as it is!"

Even the always silent representative of the Watson family had now spoken up, his expression gloomy.

"Indeed, we can't just let it be. The Cox family thinks they can dominate the Bartitsu Guild? They're dreaming! We've been battling for so many years. It's about time we determine a winner..."

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## Chapter 1336

Avery's condition had finally stabilized completely.

For this, both Rio and Ronald were extremely grateful.

Neera smiled. "Given the close relationship between our two families, there's no need for such formality. All we need to do next is to ensure he takes his medication regularly.

His condition will gradually improve, and he will stay conscious for longer periods. In about three to four days, he should fully regain consciousness."

Violet finally felt at ease, sweetly saying, "Neenie, your medical skills are still so impressive!"

With a gentle smile, Neera handed her the medicine and then departed.

Jean was waiting outside, ready to take her away.

On the way back, he casually asked, "How is Avery doing?"

Neera said in a relaxed tone, "He'll be fine. He just needs to take his medicine on time, and his energy will be back to normal eventually."

"Oh? Does that mean you don't have to visit him every day from now on?"

Thinking he was just being jealous again, Neera blinked her eyes and cooed at him, "No need for that. From now on, I can spend the whole day with you, the kids, and my aunt and uncle. Does that make you happy?"

Jean raised an eyebrow. "Yes, I'm happy now."

Then, he casually suggested, "In that case, why don't we go somewhere else to relax?"

Neera pulled out a piece of chocolate from her snack bag, looking at him curiously as she asked, "Where are you planning to take me this time? You didn't buy another island, did you?" [Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

Jean was amused by her. "No, I was just thinking that we've been in Phison for so long, yet there are still many places we haven't visited. It would be a pity not to see the sights."

"Do you already have an idea of where to go?"

"Yeah. Since you arrived, you've been staying in Bartitsu Guild's district. How about we take a stroll in District Ten?"

Neera was taken aback. "District Ten? But that's the territory of Lordsworth Estate. I'm currently the head of the Gordon family and a member of Bartitsu Guild. Isn't it inappropriate for me to enter the sphere of influence of Lordsworth Estate?"

Just the thought of going over there had her inexplicably feeling a bit nervous.

"No, no, what if something dangerous happens? It's better not to go. Let's just relax in Bartitsu Guild's district. I... I'm a bit scared by the overt and covert power struggles in Phison."

Watching her shake her head vigorously, Jean couldn't help but laugh.

"Why do you react as if you've seen a ghost at the mention of Lordsworth Estate? Is it really that terrifying? Have you forgotten that they have helped you before? Moreover, the lord is someone you once saved. He has always wanted to repay your kindness and has always taken great care of you and the Gordon family."

After some thought, Neera was still somewhat hesitant.

"The people at Lordsworth Estate are quite nice, but I'm still a bit nervous. After all, I represent Bartitsu Guild..."

"Think about it. Have the Medicina and other families in Lordsworth Estate ever antagonized you because you're from Bartitsu Guild? Also, in all the time you've been here, have you ever heard or seen any internal strife within their ranks?"

After some thought, Neera shook her head. "No, I haven't. Mr. Medicina and his team have been very good to me too."

Jean controlled the steering wheel with one hand while gently running his other hand through her soft hair strands.

"There you have it. You're going there not for business, but simply for leisure. There's no need to be so tense. There's no rule that says people from two different factions can't visit each other's territories."

While it was one thing to say it, in reality, not stepping into the other party's territory was an unwritten rule, perhaps even a custom.

After hearing this, Neera relaxed quite a bit. She hesitated for a moment longer before agreeing.

"All right, let's head to District Ten then. But for this matter, we still need to consult Uncle Chad and Aunt Adriana to see if they agree."

Jean smiled faintly. "All right."

Upon hearing that Jean planned to take Neera and the children to District Ten for a vacation, a meaningful glint flashed across Chad's eyes.

He didn't object and agreed quite quickly.

Nonetheless, Adriana was somewhat worried. "Is this really okay? Even if the people from Lordsworth Estate don't mind, what about Bartitsu Guild? Won't they overthink it?"

Upon hearing that, Neera suddenly realized that was indeed an issue and immediately became hesitant again.

At this moment, it was Chad who stepped forward to speak.

"No worries. Even Bartitsu Guild doesn't have the right to restrict personal freedom. Besides, no one would be foolish enough to choose such a conspicuous way to travel if they wanted to collude with the enemy. Go ahead, relax. Your previous two trips were affected by other matters. This time, you don't have to worry about anything. I'll hold down the fort for the Gordon family, and things are going smoothly with Shane. Even if there are any troubles, we can handle them with ease."

As he spoke, he playfully teased Neera, jokingly saying, "I've been running the Gordon family for so many years, after all. That's not for nothing."

Neera laughed, feeling relieved.

Hence, the next day, Jean took Neera and the three little ones, left District Fourteen, and flew toward District Ten.

On the plane, Neera was lost in thought. If I happen to run into that mysterious lord of Lordsworth Estate, I can properly express my gratitude.

Then again, that's unlikely. I don't even know what he looks like. I definitely wouldn't recognize him even if he were to be standing before me...

Four hours later, the plane landed.

Jean first took them to the hotel and handled the check-in procedures.

After the triplets entered the suite, they looked around in excitement before running to the floor-to-ceiling windows. They pressed their faces against the glass, gazing down from the thirtieth floor at the entire District Ten.

"Wow! This place is incredibly beautiful! It's a completely different style from District Fourteen! It's more artistic and even more luxurious!"

"This hotel is so unique!" Penny admired the artificial hill and pond in the spacious living room, which had goldfish swimming inside it. She was absolutely delighted. "This is so creative!"

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## Chapter 1337

Upon arriving in a new environment, the three children completely let loose and were having a blast.

Neera was also in a rare state of relaxation, casting aside all those troubles as she immersed herself in this hard-earned moment of happiness.

Two days after she left, Avery finally regained full consciousness. He was no longer in a state of confusion and drowsiness.

"Satan, you have no idea how long you've been asleep. Each time you wake up, it's only for a brief moment before you're fed medicine and fall back asleep. You've been surviving on nutrient fluids this whole time. I've been so bored just watching you lie in bed. You owe me..."

Violet was the happiest when he woke up.

At this very moment, he had moved from the medical room to the bedroom. Violet was sitting by his bed, peeling an orange and chattering non-stop.

Peeling off the orange skin of the fruit, she first popped a segment into her mouth. The sourness turned her face green, and she ended up tossing the rest to Avery.

"It's not tasty. Here, you have it."

Avery had been lying down for so many days, surviving only on nutrient solution, so his body was extremely weak. He leaned against the head of the bed, wanting to laugh but not having the strength to do so. He looked at the orange in his hand, unable to lift his arm.

"You're only giving this to me because it's not good. Seems like I've spoiled you too much."

Violet pouted, then turned and ran off.

In less than five minutes, she returned with a clatter, now carrying a tray in her hands. On it was a steaming bowl of oatmeal and some eggs.

"You're weak, so let me feed you."

She took the orange from Avery's hand and threw it away. Then, she picked up the bowl of oatmeal and began to take care of him, just like how Avery took care of her when she was sick as a child.

After consuming a bowl of plain oatmeal and being fed half a plate of scrambled eggs, he finally regained some strength.

"Now..." He opened his mouth, wanting to ask something.

Before he could speak, Violet placed the bowl on the bedside table, interrupting him mid-sentence.

"I know what you want to ask. The Jagger family has been subdued, and everyone has been detained by Irwin and locked up in a warehouse near the auction house. The matter on Adieu Island can be considered resolved. However, things are a lot more complicated than they seem..."

She meticulously recounted to him all the recent happenings in the Cox family.

The more Avery listened, the darker his expression became.

At that moment, Rio and Ronald, who were out handling affairs, heard that he had awakened and hurriedly rushed back.

"Mr. Cox, you're awake! You're finally awake!" The elderly Rio was particularly moved as his tears flowed freely. It was as though a huge weight had finally been lifted from his heart.

Avery nodded. "I apologize for causing you two elders to worry."

Ronald also shed a couple of tears. Wiping the corners of his eyes, he answered, "No, it's nothing. As long as you get better, that's all that matters."

"Mm." Avery started to discuss serious matters. "Mr. Rio, how did the meeting convened by Bartitsu Guild go?"

Rio wiped his face and immediately began to report.

"Mr. Cox, it seems that the discovery of firearms in the auction house under our family's name is indeed the work of the guild. Besides that, I haven't handed over the evidence of what the Hoffman, Quigley, and Watson families did. Instead, I held onto it. I believe that the guild won't genuinely seek justice for our family, so there's no need to let them know. Otherwise, I worry that the guild might use this matter to further suppress us."

Upon hearing this, Avery let out a cold laugh.

"The guild has long been wary of our Cox family. I already felt something was amiss when they elevated me to the position of elder. It turns out I was right."

After some thought, he affirmed, "You both have done well in this matter. The Cox family will never let the Hoffman, Quigley, and Watson families off for what they did."

Rio nodded, though a hint of worry soon appeared on his face.

"Mr. Cox, dealing with the Hoffman and Quigley families is relatively easy as they aren't that powerful. However, the situation with the Watson family is still uncertain."

Ronald had been worried about this for several days. "That's right, Mr. Cox. The Watson family has been in the guild for many years and haven't been there for nothing."

Avery's eyes darkened slightly. "Over the years, the Watson family has been constantly stirring up trouble. The resentment between them and the Cox family has been building up for a long time. It's about time we settled the score. No matter what the Watson family does, we, the Cox family, will never swallow our pride and back down!"

With his words, the two elders understood.

The conflict with the Watson family was inevitable, and there was no way things could be settled peacefully.

"All right, I'll instruct the others on what needs to be done, and they'll do it accordingly."

Avery advised him, "No matter what, try your best not to let anyone gain an advantage over you. Strike at the weakest point and finish the fight quickly."

"Understood." [SEARCH THE website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Now that they had finished discussing official matters, Avery brought up something that had been on his mind for a while.

"Where's Neera? She was the one who treated me, right?"

While drifting in and out of consciousness, he had heard her voice, and it seemed he had also vaguely glimpsed her face.

"Did I scare her?"

"Well..." The two elders of the Cox family grew hesitant at the mention of this topic.

Instead, it was Violet who responded in her usual crisp voice, "At first, your poisoning was severe, which indeed gave Neenie a fright. She worked tirelessly for seven to eight hours to pull you back from the brink of death. She then stayed by your side day and night for two full days, ensuring that you were truly out of danger before she left. She even fainted when she was leaving..."

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## Chapter 1338

Upon hearing that she had fainted, Avery's hand involuntarily tightened, his heart and eyes filled with worry and heartache.

"How is she doing now?"

Violet rolled her eyes at him. "Don't forget you've been unconscious for quite a long time. She's been fine for a while now; you don't need to worry."

The corner of Avery's mouth twitched slightly, his clenched fist gradually loosening. He couldn't quite put into words the feeling in his heart.

"These days, she has been visiting you every day. She even prescribed medicine for you. Here"

Violet picked up a medicine bottle from the bedside, pouring out its contents. Small white pills lay in the palm of her hand.

She handed him a glass of water and said, "This is a token of affection from Neenie. You must take them on time."

Avery pursed his lips, obediently swallowing the medicine.

The two elders stood off to the side, wanting to speak but appearing hesitant as they were unsure if they should say anything.

Once again, it was Violet who spoke.

She knew that Avery wouldn't want to hear what she had to say next, but there were some things in life that one couldn't force. Sooner or later, he would learn about it, and heartache would be inevitable.

"A couple of days ago, seeing that your condition was stable, Neenie left the medicine you needed to take. Then, she and Jean, along with their children, left the Cox family."

Upon hearing these words, Avery's pupils suddenly contracted sharply, his expression changing in an instant, caught between surprise and stiffness.

His complexion seemed to have grown even paler.

"Where has she gone? Has she returned to Kingsview?" After an indeterminate amount of time, he asked softly, his voice low and hoarse.

Violet shook her head. "No, Bartitsu Guild is in chaos right now. Although the Gordon family is safe for now, they might get involved. Neenie probably can't ignore it. They just went to District Ten, probably to relax a bit."

"District Ten?" Avery was somewhat surprised, a slight frown creasing his brow. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"Yeah. It's just a visit, so they should be fine. Besides, those from Lordsworth Estate have always been friendly toward Neenie."

Avery fell silent, his expression unreadable and complex.

A deep sense of loss, like a surging tide, instantly flooded his heart.

The thought of her happily walking alongside Jean at this moment filled him with uncontrollable sadness and resentment.

Yet, another voice in his heart was saying, This is quite good. The situation in Bartitsu Guild will only get more chaotic. The conflicts might even escalate to their peak, with constant clashes. It's better for her to stay away from these disputes for now to avoid getting involved.

He didn't want her to be in any danger.

The two emotions fought for dominance in his heart, eventually reaching a balance.

At that moment, Ronald said, "Actually, Ms. Garcia left a message before she left. She said that if the Cox family ever finds themselves in a difficult situation, the Gordon family is always ready to lend a helping hand."

Avery responded with a low hum but didn't say anything else.

Chad and Adriana heard that Avery had woken up, so they specifically made a trip to visit him.

After a day of rest, Avery had regained much of his strength and was able to walk around. Hearing of their arrival, he took the initiative to go downstairs to greet them.

Upon seeing him, Adriana chided, "Oh dear, you're so badly hurt. Why won't you just lie down and rest? What on earth are you trying to do by getting up?"

Chad also said to him, "Exactly! Why are you being so formal with us?"

Avery smiled. "It's not that I'm being formal; it's because we're close that I made a point to come down. Besides, I'm fine now. Mr. Gordon, Mrs. Gordon, I'm grateful and very happy that you could come to see me."

Seeing that his complexion had indeed improved significantly, both of them felt much more at ease. They walked with him and sat down on the couch.

"You really gave us a scare this time. Thankfully, you're okay. We're truly fortunate."

Avery smiled, his lips slightly pursed. "I owe it all to Neera. Her exceptional medical skills brought me back from the brink of death. It's thanks to her that I can sit here safely now."

The three of them chatted casually for a bit before Chad eventually brought up serious business.

"The Hoffman and Quigley families shouldn't be a major problem right now. There are plenty of loopholes, and with any excuse, they can be taken down. However, dealing with the Watson family isn't so easy. The head of the Watson family, Keith, has an extraordinary relationship with Matthew. From how the Watson family has been able to stay at the top in Bartitsu Guild for so many years, its position unchallenged, it's clear he's not a pushover. If we want to take down the Watson family, I'm afraid it's going to take a lot of hard work."

Avery had already made up his mind a long time ago.

"Even if it comes down to a fight to the death, the Cox family will not back down. Over the years, the Watson family has repeatedly caused trouble. As long as it didn't involve major interests, the Cox family has always turned a blind eye, keeping things quiet for the sake of the guild. But this time, since they want my life, I see no reason to continue showing mercy."

Chad understood. "Of course. Constant tolerance doesn't lead to restraint but rather to recklessness. It's indeed time to deal with the Watson family, but have you thought of a plan yet?"

After a brief silence, Avery spoke in an indifferent tone. "I've been hearing about the underhanded dealings of the Watson family over the years, and I've even obtained some evidence. They thought they had left no traces behind, but they've actually exposed their own shortcomings. I've already instructed my subordinates to compile the evidence and gather more information. When the time comes, I'll leave the Watson family unable to refute a thing!"

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## Chapter 1339

Chad and Adriana didn't stay for long before they left.

Avery stood on the balcony, his eyes deep and thoughtful. It was unknown what he was pondering.

Holding his phone, he scrolled to Neera's number. He hesitated, unsure whether to make the call or not.

At this moment, she should be happily playing with Jean and her three children.

What would her reaction be if I were to call her now? Would she be happy, or would she feel annoyed?

He could actually tell that the constraints of their engagement had been causing her a great deal of distress recently.

Even so, he just didn't want to let go.

This was a great opportunity, but it still turned out to be useless.

She evaded, resisted, and made it clear to him, both overtly and covertly, that she was unwilling.

Originally, he still harbored a glimmer of hope. As long as Jean was not around, as long as there was still a gap between them, he would have the opportunity to seize the moment. It was only a matter of time.

But when Jean appeared here, he knew he had utterly lost.

In that woman's eyes, he saw emotions he had never seen before.

In that moment, he understood. Jean was the only one she would willingly give her heart to.

Even so, even if the last sliver of possibility was about to vanish, he still... didn't want to give up.

After a moment of hesitation, he still didn't make the call.

He lowered his hand, closed his eyes briefly, then opened them again. Turning around, he made his way toward the stairs.

Unexpectedly, Phoebe appeared before him.

"Avery, you're awake! I heard you were seriously injured and unconscious for many days. I've been so worried I was unable to sleep. I'm relieved you're okay now."

Tears welled up in her eyes, and she appeared somewhat agitated.

At this, Avery's expression didn't change in the slightest. He simply gave a slight nod in response, then proceeded to walk past her. SEARCH THE website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

But Phoebe stopped him. "Wait, Avery, don't go yet! I..."

Seeing her hesitate to speak, Avery grew a bit impatient. "Is there something you want to say?"

His chilly tone seemed to hurt Phoebe as the tears that had been welling up in her eyes suddenly began to fall.

"Avery, do you really find me that annoying? So much so that you can't even bear to speak an extra word to me or spare me an extra glance? I don't know what I've done wrong to make you dislike me so much. Do you know that I haven't been able to eat or sleep because of you these days? I—"

Avery's eyebrows furrowed, his expression suddenly turning cold as he interrupted her.

"Phoebe, I'm warning you, stop talking right now. Otherwise, leave this place immediately and never show your face to me again."

Phoebe was stunned, and the tears hanging on her face seemed equally frozen, not falling.

These past few days, she had been bottling up so much resentment and anger. She had hoped to find some comfort in him, even if it was just a little, but unexpectedly, all she got was this icy demeanor.

She admitted that in that moment just now, she had been on the verge of losing control and revealing her innermost thoughts.

But he, as if he already knew, didn't want to hear a single word.

Why?

Is it because he feels it's taboo, or is it because he thinks hearing those words would only dirty his ears?

Does he really not care about me at all?

At this thought, tears surged forth again. As she cried, she began to voice her grievances.

"Avery, I don't understand. Why are you always so indifferent to me? I've been nothing but devoted and compliant to you, yet I can't even get a single glance from you. Why, why won't you treat me a little better? Even if you don't like me, I'm still your cousin in name, aren't I? Shouldn't you at least not be so cold to a sister? How can you only show kindness to that vicious and heartless woman?"

When she began to complain, Avery initially didn't want to pay any attention. However, just as he turned to leave, her last sentence made him halt in his tracks and whip around abruptly.

"What exactly are you trying to say?" he asked coldly.

Phoebe gritted her teeth before abruptly raising a shaking arm.

"Avery, there's something I've never told you. After you left the Cox residence and went to Adieu Island, Neera sent people to invade us in the middle of the night. They crippled my arm, and I was nearly rendered useless! Now, this arm of mine can barely move with the help of steel plates and screws. And the one behind all this is none other than Neera!"

Before coming to see Avery, she had spent a considerable amount of time preparing.

Once she had thought of what to say, she put on the wig.

She knew that Avery would definitely find out about what she had done.

In that case, it would be better for her to speak up first. She could twist the facts so that the story favored her.

This way, I won't be too passive, and if I can take the opportunity to smear that b\*tch's name, it would be even better!

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## **Chapter 1340**

Upon hearing these words, the color drained from Avery's face.

"If you dare utter one more word of nonsense, I'll have you dragged out this instant!"

"Avery, everything I've said is true! Why won't you believe me but instead trust an outsider? After all, we are cousins! Doesn't our years of relationship count for something? Does it not outweigh someone you've just met recently? I'm already in this state; what reason do I have to lie?"

Phoebe's tears fell uncontrollably, as if she had been wronged to the extreme.

Avery didn't believe a single word. "Neera would never take the initiative to hurt anyone. Even if she did, it must be because you did something, Phoebe. Now, I'm really curious. What exactly did you do to push her to this extent?"

As he spoke, he suddenly advanced step by step, his gaze sharp and cold.

Taken aback, Phoebe stepped back, a hint of evasion in her eyes.

After a few seconds, she feigned bitterness, crying as she revealed the "truth."

"I-I was just worried about you. The thought of you out there, facing danger at any moment, kept me awake at night. I felt so useless, unable to help you. That was why, after much thought, I-I steeled myself, took a risk, and hired people from Freo Market, hoping to send them to assist you. But before they left, I wanted to test whether Neera's feelings for you were true, so I sent them to her first to see how many people she has around her and whether she was genuinely helping you. A-As it turned out, she really did still have many experts by her side! My suspicions were correct. She was just putting on a show in front of you, not sincerely wanting to help you. Avery, why can't you see that? That woman is only using you to secure her position as the head of the Gordon family. She's not sincere toward you at all! You shouldn't trust her!" Phoebe accused vehemently, her voice hoarse with emotion.

Tears, like beads off a broken string, rolled down her face incessantly.

"Avery, that woman claimed to be committed to the Cox family and promised to lend you all her skilled people to assist you. But what was the reality? She kept all the truly skilled ones by her side. Even when she goes out for a stroll, she always has them close. She doesn't care about your life or death at all! After the incident, she even sent her people to break into our home, drugging everyone unconscious so that they could do as they pleased and commit all sorts of atrocities! She simply doesn't respect our family! Besides, the experts around her are quite suspicious. How could she possibly have so many skilled people by her side? There must be something fishy! Rumors were circulating before that she was getting close to the people at Lordsworth Estate and might betray Bartitsu Guild. Now, it seems those rumors might be true!"

Pausing to take a breath, Phoebe went on, "Those people might have been sent by Lordsworth Estate for her. On the surface, she's still the ninth elder of Bartitsu Guild, but she's been colluding with Lordsworth Estate behind the scenes! Avery, wake up! How can a woman full of lies be worthy of your love?"

Faced with her continuous accusations, Avery's face remained expressionless, his gaze still cold.

"Are you done talking?" he asked indifferently when he noticed her silence.

Despite how agitated Phoebe was, what she received in return was only indifference, leaving her momentarily stunned.

"Avery..." She didn't understand. She had said so much, yet he had no reaction at all.

Avery didn't want to listen to her chatter anymore, so he directly called for Irwin.

"Take her upstairs and lock her in her room. She's not allowed to step out." [SEARCH THE WEBSITE TO ACCESS CHAPTERS OF NOVELS EARLY AND IN THE HIGHEST QUALITY.](#)

Irwin nodded in acknowledgment. "Understood."

Phoebe was dumbfounded. "Avery! Everything I'm telling you is the truth! You must believe me. I'm not asking you to seek justice for me; I just don't want you to be deceived by that woman anymore! I'm your cousin! I'm the one who is closest to you! That woman is not worth your trust!"

As she shouted and struggled, she tried to break free from Irwin's grip.

However, the pain from her injured arm was so intense that it made her break out in sweat. In the end, she was dragged away by Irwin and locked in her room.

Indignant and furious at her predicament, she pounded forcefully on the tightly shut door.

"Let me out! Avery, let me out!"

Outside the door, Irwin remained impassive, his voice cold as he said, "Ms. Cox, I will investigate the truth of your words. If they are indeed true, perhaps Mr. Cox will choose to spare you this once. But if they are false... Well, you'd better hope for the best."

After he finished speaking, he let out a cold laugh, then turned around and walked down the stairs.

"Mr. Cox, should I investigate the matter Ms. Cox mentioned?"

Avery was sitting on the sofa, and upon hearing the words, he indifferently shook his head without a hint of hesitation.

"No need."

He didn't need to investigate anything about Neera.

He had complete trust in that woman.

As for Phoebe's words...

"Go find out what Phoebe has been up to since I left."

"Got it." Irwin nodded, just about to head off to look into the matter when he saw Rio and Ronald return.

"Mr. Cox, there's no need to investigate that." Rio had evidently heard their previous conversation. His expression was somewhat conflicted, but he still spoke the truth.

Upon hearing the full account of the matter, Avery's face gradually turned stern, a hint of murderous intent flickering in his eyes.

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## Chapter 1341

He had thought something was off about what Phoebe had said earlier. It turned out his hunch was true! Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Rio hesitated before saying, "Mr. Cox, I apologize. In truth, I should have informed you about this matter as soon as you regained consciousness. I should have also punished Phoebe immediately after the incident. However, she is, after all, your cousin..."

"Cousin? Hah!"

Avery laughed coldly, his eyes seemingly covered with a layer of frost.

"From this moment forward, I no longer have this cousin."

She dared to harbor thoughts of harming Neera? It seems I've been too lenient with her!

"Irwin, announce this to the entire Cox family: from this day forward, Phoebe is no longer a member of the Cox family. She's to be chased out of the Cox residence today. I do not wish to see her ever again!"

Irwin nodded, then turned and ascended the stairs.

Rio and Ronald still wore hesitant expressions.

"Mr. Cox, must you really be so ruthless? Granted, Phoebe was in the wrong, but no matter what, she is still Albert's adopted daughter. If Albert were to find out about this, I fear he would kick up a fuss..."

Avery glanced at them. "Am I supposed to be afraid of him? How much has he leeches off the Cox family over the years? And he still has the audacity to seek justice from me? Also, you call me ruthless? Then what about Phoebe? Was what she did to Neera not ruthless? Don't forget, she intended to put Neera in mortal danger!"

At this point, both Rio and Ronald fell silent.

They could tell that Avery was resolute. There was no room for negotiation in this matter.

After all, it was Phoebe who had gone too far in this matter. To end up in this predicament, one could only say that she got what she deserved, and she had no one else to blame but herself.

However, Phoebe didn't see it that way.

When she saw Irwin barge in, demanding her to pack up and leave the Cox residence immediately, she was utterly stunned.

Just a moment ago, she was pondering how to persuade Avery to let her go. But now, she found herself facing an even more despairing predicament.

"How can this be? Impossible... This is impossible! There's no way Avery would banish me! I am the young lady of the Cox family, the daughter of his third uncle, his own cousin. Why would he drive me out of the Cox family?"

Irwin remained unmoved, even becoming somewhat annoyed.

"Why don't you ask yourself what you've done? You know the answer better than anyone else. Mr. Cox doesn't believe a single word of the lies you spewed earlier. If you know what's best for you, you'd better start packing your things and leave this place. Mr. Cox is already showing you mercy by not forcing you to leave empty-handed. This is the last bit of respect he's giving you. If you still don't appreciate it, I'm afraid you won't get anything at all."

Phoebe shook her head, her face full of astonishment, still unwilling to believe that this was the truth.

"Impossible! I can't believe it! I don't believe Avery could be so cruel..." she murmured to herself.

She abruptly dashed out, descending the stairs in a fluster.

The speed of her movements was so swift that even Irwin couldn't react in time. Before he could stop her, she had vanished from his sight.

"Avery, Avery!" Phoebe descended the stairs, calling out to Avery twice. Just as she was about to say something, she noticed Rio and Ronald were also present.

In an instant, she understood everything. Surprise and anxiety swamped her.

She had made it a point to find out today that both Rio and Ronald were off to deal with the chaos caused by several other factions, and they wouldn't be back for a couple of days.

Therefore, she decided to take a risk, taking the initiative to bring up the matter herself, hoping to seize the advantage, twist the truth, and completely cover up the incident.

Who would have thought that these two would actually come back at the last minute?

She had been gambling all along, betting that they wouldn't dare to speak about this matter out of respect for her status.

After Avery woke up, she waited anxiously for several days. When they still didn't bring up the matter, she naturally assumed that she had won the bet.

In her view, Rio and Ronald didn't want to create any unpleasantness with her father over this matter.

Besides, the Cox family was currently in a period of turmoil. There was really no need to bring up this matter again.

Who would have thought, despite all her careful calculations, she still got it wrong!

It seemed that the two elderly men must have said something, which led Avery to change his mind and decide to expel her from the Cox family!

Immediately, she gritted her teeth and raised her voice to defend herself.

"Avery, did they say something to you? Is that why you're being so harsh on me? They've all been deceived by Neera; what they're saying isn't true at all!"

Rio and Ronald exchanged glances, both furrowing their brows.

Avery stared at her with cold eyes, his expression icy. "Deceive? Phoebe, do you think there's still a need for you to argue now?"

Phoebe was so anxious that her face turned red.

"I'm not making excuses, really! I know that Neera doesn't like me. She must have said many bad things about me, even maliciously speculating about my intentions and painting me in a bad light. Mr. Rio, Mr. Ronald, you mustn't be deceived by her!"

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## Chapter 1342

Listening to her repeatedly claiming Neera had deceived everyone, Avery found it unbearably grating.

He took a deep breath, his gaze piercing.

"Phoebe, I'm not a fool. I can discern who's telling the truth and who's lying. But you, you keep pushing my limits over and over again. Do you really think that you can act recklessly just because you have Albert backing you up?"

Phoebe felt a chill run through her body under his gaze. She stiffly moved her fingers, still striving to defend herself.

"Avery, listen to me. I'm really not lying to you-"

"You're not lying to me? What's your purpose for secretly bribing people in Freo Market? Was it necessary to issue a death order just to test Neera? I've warned you repeatedly not to disrespect Neera, yet you dared to harbor murderous intentions while I was away. Phoebe, you're really good at pretending. It seems I underestimated you before!"

When Phoebe heard this, her heart sank.

As expected, Rio and Ronald had told Avery everything.

Regardless, she couldn't admit to anything. No matter what, she absolutely couldn't admit it.

"I didn't! All that is just Neera talking nonsense-

However, at this moment, Rio began to speak.

"Given the circumstances, Phoebe, it's best if you admit your mistakes. Persisting in your denial won't do you any good. There's something you don't know, something we've never told you. When Ms. Garcia's people came to the Cox residence to punish you, they left behind all the evidence of what you've done. Now, I have all the proof of your actions in my hands. I haven't reported this to Mr. Cox because the Cox family is currently in a difficult situation and I didn't want to add to his troubles. Secondly, I

considered your status and thought that since you've already been punished, if you could reform, then there would be peace within the Cox family. However, you remain stubbornly ignorant, even trying to distort the truth and accuse Ms. Garcia of your misdeeds. Given these circumstances, I can no longer cover for you. You should quickly admit your guilt and accept Mr. Cox's judgment."

After he finished speaking, he pulled out a portable flash drive from his pocket and placed it in front of Avery.

"Mr. Cox, all the evidence has been compiled into this flash drive for your review."

At this point, Ronald also chimed in, "Actually, Ms. Garcia never sought us out to seek justice for this matter. After the incident, Ms. Garcia came to our door, but it was because she heard news of your attack on the island. She was very worried about you, so she came specifically to ask about the situation and even offered help. Ms. Garcia really is a magnanimous person. Perhaps it was for your and the Cox family's sake that she chose to keep mum about this matter."

Avery stared at the flash drive on the table, his face gradually darkening as he listened to those words.

He had known from the very beginning that Neera was never one to be petty, but she was also far from being a saint.

The reason she never brought up this matter or pursued it further was out of respect for him.

The thought of her once being in danger, even nearly losing her life, yet able to gloss over the incident and not seek out any retribution while she silently endured her grievances, made his heart incredibly heavy.

It was all his fault. Not only had he failed to protect her, but he even brought trouble to her.

"I don't need to look at this flash drive," he said after a long silence, his voice hoarse.

When it came to Neera, he would, without a doubt, always believe in her.

Off to the side, Phoebe was turning increasingly pale.

From the moment Rio said he had evidence, her heart had sunk to her feet. [Search The Find\\_Novel.net](http://SearchTheFind_Novel.net) website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

She had always thought that Rio remained silent because he had no concrete evidence.

Even if Neera discovered what she had done, even if she sent people to seek revenge, even if everyone in the Cox family knew, she thought it was nothing more than Neera spreading the news.

Even though the group of people she hired had been detained and confessed, she could still turn the tables and claim that Neera had deliberately set her up, instructing those people to frame her.

But now, she realized she had lost, utterly and completely.

She had been too naive.

Neera had been on the defensive for a long time, slowly pushing Phoebe into a corner!

"Avery..."

"Do you have anything else to say?" Avery lifted his eyelids, asking coldly.

Phoebe bit her lip, her eyes reddening once again. Tears swirled within them, painting a picture of pitiful vulnerability that tugged at the heartstrings.

Before she could say anything, Avery impatiently stood up and issued a direct command.

"If you have nothing to say, then leave. From this day forward, you have no ties with the Cox family. I don't want to see you again."

Phoebe was stunned. The words Irwin had said to her earlier were now spoken by Avery himself. Only then did she finally realize that she had truly been expelled...

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## Chapter 1343

"Avery... Are you really going to be so ruthless toward me?" she asked in a murmur, her face full of disbelief, clearly incredulous.

Upon hearing this, Avery laughed, but the laughter didn't reach his eyes.

"Ruthless? You call this ruthless? Phoebe, if it weren't for the fact that you were once a member of the Cox family, I wouldn't let you off so easily. Do you want to know what 'ruthless' really means? Since you dared to lay a hand on Neera, you should be prepared for the consequences. I will make your life worse than death, make you suffer

unbearable pain day after day. You like a glamorous life, don't you? Then I will make your life worse than that of a maggot in the gutter!"

Phoebe watched as he spoke such ruthless words, feeling as if her heart was being torn apart.

Her face was as pale as a ghost, her eyes fixed intently on Avery as tears streamed down her face.

"D-Do you despise me this much? What's so great about that woman? All I did was act on a whim! I didn't even harm a single hair on her, yet you're being so heartless!"

Avery sneered, "If she had even the slightest injury, do you think you'd still be standing here, talking to me?"

"But she sent someone to hurt me! My arm is almost useless now. Can't you see all this?"

Avery wore an indifferent expression. "It's just an arm. If it were me, you'd probably be limbless by now."

Phoebe was stunned, unable to believe that he could be so cold and utter such cruel words.

She didn't know whether it was fear or despair that gripped her. Her mouth hung half open as if her soul had been sucked out, her face as white as a sheet. Suddenly, she burst into wild laughter.

"Haha, limbless... Hahaha! You want to turn me into a limbless person..."

Then, she suddenly started to shriek, "So why don't you turn me into a limbless person now! Why aren't you acting? Come on, aren't you trying to help that b\*tch vent her anger? If you have the guts, kill me with a single blow now! I really want to see if that wretch will be the slightest bit moved because you're willing to kill your own kin for justice!"

"Phoebe! Have you lost your mind? What nonsense are you spouting?"

The people present were taken aback. She suddenly started throwing a tantrum like a madwoman, prompting them to quickly scold her sternly.

Yet, Phoebe seemed to suddenly let go of all pretenses, no longer feigning delicacy and false grievances. At last, she revealed her most genuine and malicious side.

"Then again, from what I can tell, that woman doesn't care about you at all. No matter how much you do for her, you're worthless in her eyes! Do you know what you look like

right now? You're like a dog, a simp for her! You're willing to do anything for her, but she can't even be bothered to spare you a glance. Her heart is set on another man. How does that feel? Is it thrilling? Exciting? Haha, you deserve it! You deserve to get nothing!"

Now that she knew there was no way to turn things around, she decided to let everything go to hell, venting her frustration and anger without restraint.

Avery's face darkened bit by bit, his whole body emanating a chilling aura. A heavy, oppressive atmosphere filled every corner of the living room.

Rio and Ronald were both stunned. They didn't expect her to dare do such a thing. [Search The Find\\_Novel.net website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

As for Irwin, once he snapped back to reality, he quickly stepped forward, covering her mouth with his hand to prevent her from spewing any more nonsense.

"Mmph, mmph, mmph!" Phoebe was still unsatisfied. Even though she couldn't speak, she kept trying to make a sound. Her eyes were firmly fixed on Avery.

In the end, she was severely punished by the Cox family's house rules for her blatant disrespect toward Avery.

After the punishment, she was barely hanging on to life. Her face was covered in blood, while not a single part of her body was unscathed.

Irwin watched the whole process with a cold expression, showing not the slightest bit of pity.

Afterward, he ruthlessly tossed her out of the Cox residence, following the orders of Avery. Then, he made it known that from this day forward, she no longer had anything to do with the Cox family.

Phoebe stared at the mansion before her, where she had lived for many years. Her eyes were bloodshot, and a venomous look shone in them.

Once upon a time, she was the envy of all, the cherished daughter of the Cox family. But now, she had fallen far from grace.

All of this is thanks to that despicable w\*nch, Neera! No matter what, as long as I still have breath left in me, I will never let Neera off the hook!

A chill swept over Neera's back, causing goosebumps to ripple across her skin.

Under the afterglow of the setting sun, Jean stood by her side. Keenly noticing her subtle trembling, he asked with concern, "What's wrong?"

Neera chuckled. "It's nothing. I'm just a bit chilly from the wind."

Without uttering another word, Jean took off his coat and draped it over her.

Glancing at the time, he said, "Let's go, it's time for dinner. I've already made reservations at a restaurant."

After he finished speaking, he called over the three little ones who were playing not far away. Then, the family of five went to the restaurant.

In the evening, when they returned to the hotel, the triplets were so exhausted from a day of frolicking that they could hardly keep their eyes open.

Neera was in charge of Penny while the other two little ones would go to bathe with Jean.

By the time she had tucked the three children into bed, all smelling sweetly, Neera was so tired that she covered her mouth and let out a yawn.

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## Chapter 1344

With a faint smile, Jean gently grabbed her hand, leading her back to the other bedroom.

Just as he reached the door, Neera stopped him, her cheeks flushed as she said, "You're not allowed to sleep here tonight. There's another guest room. You can sleep there."

Jean was taken aback for a moment, then casually leaned against the wall next to the door, calmly looking at her. "Why do you suddenly want to sleep in separate rooms?"

Neera rolled her eyes inwardly. "You're asking even though you already know the answer."

"I really don't know what you're talking about. Unless you clarify, I won't agree."

He was clearly pretending to be confused on purpose, and Neera was left with no way to deal with him.

After a few seconds, she murmured shyly, "I... I'm too tired. You can't keep messing around, so it's better if we sleep separately."

These days, whenever this guy gets a chance, he becomes unruly, leaving me exhausted every night. There have been several instances where I couldn't hold on and fainted.

Surprisingly, he doesn't find it tiring at all and is full of energy every day. How does he do it?

Jean took in her flushed cheeks and was unable to suppress his laughter. "All right, I won't tease you anymore. Can we sleep together now? After all, we're engaged. There's no reason for us to sleep in separate rooms."

Neera pouted. "It's just an engagement; we're not married yet. If you really want to label it, we're technically living together unlawfully."

Her words had Jean lowering his head, his shoulders shaking with laughter.

Neera raised her hand and lightly punched him. "What are you laughing at! I'm serious."

Taking advantage of the moment, Jean gently seized her hand, pecking it lightly with his lips as he teased her, "Are you subtly hinting at something?"

"I-I certainly am not," Neera denied, yet there was a faint sense of anticipation in her heart.

Of course, she wasn't expecting any commitment at this moment. She was just subconsciously harboring fantasies about their future marriage.

However, what she didn't expect was Jean simply responding with a hum before suddenly taking her hand and leading her into the room without further explanation.

"Hey..." Neera was taken aback, thinking he was about to bring her to bed again. However, to her surprise, he simply led her to the sofa.

"Sit down," he said.

Neera was puzzled. "What's wrong?"

Jean didn't say a word. Instead, he turned around and went to the walk-in closet. From the sounds of it, it seemed like he was opening a suitcase.

Soon, he walked out again, seemingly holding something in his hand.

When Neera saw that it was a delicate royal blue velvet box, her heart started to beat rapidly.

Could it be that he...

"To be honest, when I was in Kingsview, I had already hired a renowned designer from Francia to start preparations in advance." search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Jean sat down beside her, toying with the velvet box in his hand while gazing deeply into her eyes.

"However, I was still uncertain because we still had a contract back then, and there were some issues that hadn't been resolved. I was worried that you wouldn't agree, so I never brought it up. Later, when the events from six years ago were revealed, I knew it wasn't the best time, so I dared not mention it even more. That's why it's been delayed until now."

At this point, he gave a slight laugh, his expression a mix of helplessness and bitterness.

"To outsiders, I seem invincible, fearless. But who would have thought that there are things I'm afraid of? Not even myself, apparently. And all of it is related to you."

Neera's heart pounded harder, her gaze darting between the box and his face, suddenly feeling a bit at a loss.

As if sensing her thoughts, Jean took hold of her hand.

"However, I've mustered up the courage now, so I hope you won't avoid this and will listen to me seriously. Is that okay?"

Neera bit her lower lip lightly, suddenly becoming incredibly nervous.

She hesitated for a moment but eventually gave a slight nod.

Jean smiled faintly before beginning to speak in a soft and gentle tone.

"Before I met you, I was a dull and rigid person. My life was devoid of any excitement, and nothing sparked my interest apart from work. But your arrival changed everything. Our first encounter began with my illness, and with each treatment, each interaction, I discovered a different side of you. In this process, you silently and subtly wormed your way into my heart. I found myself growing interested in life, and in this life, your presence is always there. started to pay more attention to you, to care about you. More and more, I realized that I couldn't resist you. I couldn't help but want to be closer to you. I liked your smile; I liked how relaxed you were when you were with me. Gradually,

I realized that I wanted to have you. To have you forever and to have you belong only to me. When we finally let go of the constraints of our agreement and truly came together, I was overjoyed. That feeling was something even professional accomplishments couldn't compare to. When the truth was revealed, I was ecstatic, grateful that it was you who was there with me all those years ago. But I was also filled with regret, tormented by the pain I had caused you. During the time you were cold to me, every day felt like a year; every minute and second was torture. When you forgave me, I was so moved it felt as if I had been given a second chance at life."

He had always been a man of few words until he met this woman. It was then that he learned to express himself.

In that moment, however, he spoke incessantly, pouring out the feelings and thoughts hidden deep in his heart, eagerly expressing his burning sincerity.

"No amount of words could ever express even a fraction of my feelings for you. Neera, you'll never know just how much I love you. In this life, the next, and the one after that, there will be no one else for me but you. The marriage proposal is set, the small island is ready, and we can get our marriage certificate at any time. All that's left is a nod from you. Neera, are you willing?"

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## Chapter 1345

He solemnly opened the blue velvet box, where a large and exquisite diamond ring lay quietly, waiting for its owner.

By then, Neera was already shedding silent tears. Through the blurry curtain of her tears, she looked at the man before her.

Surprise, delight, joy...

A surge of emotions, too numerous to count, swelled within her like a tide. Search The [website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

She couldn't find the words to speak; she could only nod.

Why wouldn't she be willing?

Just like this man, in this life, the next life, and the life after that, she could not love anyone else but him.

She had chosen him, willingly and wholeheartedly.

Seeing her nod, Jean showed unrestrained joy and excitement for the first time in his life. He tightly held her hand and carefully slipped the diamond ring onto her finger.

"Since you're willing, shall we go get our certificate tomorrow?" He kissed the back of her hand gently and asked.

Neera stared at the diamond ring for a long time, feeling as though she were in a dream. It took her a while to come back to reality. She asked him, "I don't mind, but can we get a marriage certificate here?"

Jean was amused by her dazed expression and playfully pinched her nose.

"Of course, we can. Getting married here is also legally recognized."

Sniffing, Neera hummed in agreement and said, "All right, let's go tomorrow then."

That night, the two of them didn't get up to any funny business; they just held each other and slept.

The next morning, Jean woke up early. After freshening up, he woke up the three little ones and explained the situation to them.

After hearing the news, the triplets were completely dumbfounded.

"Oh my gosh, Daddy, this is so sudden!"

However, right after that, they began to cheer and jump around in excitement.

"Awesome! Daddy and Mommy are finally going to be legally married! We're going to be a real family!"

"Daddy, good job!"

Jean couldn't help but chuckle, urging them to wash up. Afterward, he returned to the master bedroom to wake up Neera.

After breakfast, the family of five headed straight to Phison's City Hall to register the marriage.

To show their regard for today, both the adults and the children were dressed exceptionally formally.

The three little ones were especially excited as they dug out their little dresses and suits to change into.

Taking in the little bow ties on Sammy and Harvey's necks, Neera couldn't help but burst into laughter.

The family of five was naturally good-looking, and coupled with their exquisite attire, they attracted everyone's attention the moment they appeared.

Some recognized Neera and began to whisper among themselves. They were all curious as to why the head of the Gordon family would be here and who the unfamiliar man accompanying her was.

And when they saw the group of five heading for the marriage registration counter, their jaws dropped in surprise.

What's going on? Doesn't the head of the Gordon family have an arranged marriage with the Cox family? Why is she suddenly marrying another man?

Before long, this news had spread all over Phison.

Meanwhile, Neera simply had no interest in paying attention to these matters.

When she received the marriage certificate, she was still a bit dazed.

"Penny, pinch me, but gently." She felt as if she was dreaming.

Penny chuckled while playfully pinching her mother's fingers. She said in a teasing tone, "Mommy, you're not dreaming. You and Daddy really did get your marriage certificate. You're legally married now!"

Jean also smiled, taking the marriage certificate from her hand. After a glance, he placed it neatly with his own, tucking it securely into the inside pocket of his suit.

Neera blinked her eyes. "Don't you have your own? Why are you taking mine?"

Jean confidently said, "I'll keep it safe for you."

He looked at her, a gentle, contented smile on his lips.

"Mrs. Beauvort, please take good care of me in the future."

Neera's face turned red, but she lowered her head and laughed.

That evening, Jean arranged for Ian to look after the children while he planned a romantic candlelit dinner for Neera.

He had reserved the entire restaurant. As the melodious music began to play, the two of them, dressed in elegant attire, danced a romantic waltz. They remained close to each

other, sometimes laughing and chatting, sometimes whispering into each other's ears. The atmosphere was enchanting.

Everything that followed simply unfolded naturally.

Neera felt as though she were a flatboat floating on the sea, rising and falling with the waves as she immersed herself in this man's tenderness and passion.

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## **Read Chapter 1346**

### **Chapter 1346**

The next day, Neera was so tired that she remained in bed and didn't want to get up.

Jean smiled, propping his elbow on the pillow and turning to look at her.

"Why is it that you're becoming more and more lazy? Where did the hardworking Neera go?"

The muffled voice of Neera came from under the blanket, laden with a hazy sleepiness. "Stop making noise... So tired, really want to sleep..."

Jean chuckled softly, about to say something, when there was a knock at the door.

The robust and resonant voices of the three little ones echoed from outside the door.

"Mommy, Daddy, it's almost noon. Aren't you getting up yet?"

Neera seemed startled by the sound, poking her head out from the covers, sleepily gazing toward the direction of the door.

"How did they come back? Weren't they with Ian?"

Jean was helping her comb her hair, smiling as he said, "They insisted on coming back, saying they couldn't miss the first breakfast with us as a real family. They've been waiting outside for a long time."

Upon hearing this, Neera's sleepiness immediately diminished by more than half, and she sat up while clutching the blanket.

"Why didn't you wake me up earlier? This is so embarrassing."

Upon hearing her words, Jean just looked at her, his gaze carrying a hint of accusation.

Neera then remembered that he had been trying to get her up more than an hour ago and that she had been the one reluctant to leave the comfort of the bed. Immediately, guilt washed over her.

"It's all your fault..." she muttered without conviction.

Jean leaned in closer. "What are you blaming me for?"

Neera had always been rather shy, so there was no way she could say what she was thinking.

With an annoyed glare at him, she blushed, got out of bed, and headed straight for the bathroom.

From behind came the unrestrained, hearty laughter of Jean, causing Neera to blush as she looked at her reflection in the mirror.

When she saw the marks on her neck, she was at a loss for words and could only choose a dress that would cover them up.

The children had been waiting in the suite's living room for quite some time. At last, their tardy parents arrived.

Upon seeing them, the three little ones lifted the corners of their mouths, revealing big, bright smiles.

"Good morning, Mommy, Daddy! Let's have breakfast as a family!"

Glancing at the wall clock, Neera realized it was already past ten. Somewhat embarrassed, she responded, "Good morning."

The family sat around the dining table, with the little ones clearly very excited. They would occasionally glance at Neera, then turn their heads to look at Jean.

"Daddy."

"Mommy."

The reflections of their parents shone in the eyes of the triplets, and they smiled with a sense of fulfillment like never before.

The thing they had been longing for the most had finally come true. From then on, every day would be filled with such happiness.

They no longer needed to feel insecure.

As Neera stared at her children, her heart melted.

"Be good and eat your breakfast, kids. Once you're done, we can go out for a stroll."

The little ones nodded, behaving incredibly well as they tucked in and started eating obediently.

At this moment, Neera recalled something. She hesitated for a moment, then turned to look at Jean.

"By the way, have you told your parents about our marriage yet?"

At the mention of Frederic and Wrenn, the three little ones immediately perked up their ears. Their heads remained lowered, but their attention was entirely focused on their parents' conversation.

Jean took a sip of his black coffee, calmly stating, "I told them long before we got our certificate."

Neera was somewhat surprised. "That early? Why didn't I know..."

Jean laughed. "Even though this is my decision alone, and I didn't intend to seek their approval, I still needed to inform them. They were very happy and hoped that you would agree to my proposal. They were even more anxious than me."

Neera was ladling out oatmeal when she responded with an "Oh." After a while, she said, "Once we've settled the affairs in Phison, let's take the children and go back for a visit."

No matter what, she was now officially married to Jean. They were a family now, so she had to eventually get along with them.

Upon hearing this, the triplets exchanged glances, all secretly harboring a bit of anticipation.

"Mommy, have you... forgiven Grandma and Grandpa?" Unable to contain his curiosity, Sammy couldn't help but ask her in a soft voice.

With a slight lift of an eyebrow, Neera ruffled his hair. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"There's no need to talk about forgiveness. From now on, we're all family. If you miss them, you can call them anytime. Don't worry about me. They... they miss you all a lot."

Upon hearing this, the little ones felt both happy and worried, fearing that she might have compromised just for their sake.

Yet, upon noticing there wasn't the slightest hint of displeasure on her countenance, they finally relaxed.

After breakfast, the family excitedly headed out the door again.

Like the day before, the three little ones thoroughly enjoyed themselves, but Neera felt somewhat uncomfortable.

For some reason, she kept feeling that many people were watching her today, like countless gazes were focused on her.

This struck her as odd. As she looked around, she could see some people hurriedly averting their gaze, though others continued to size her up, seemingly engaged in hushed discussions about something.

Just as she was utterly puzzled, Adriana's call came in.

"Aunt Adriana, is there something you need?" She picked up the phone, but before she could finish her sentence, she heard Adriana's surprised voice coming from the other end of the line.

"Did you and Jean get your marriage certificate?"

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## Chapter 1347

Neera was taken aback at first, then remembered that she hadn't had the chance to tell her aunt about it yet.

Then, she asked with confusion, "Aunt Adriana, I forgot to tell you, so how did you know?"

"You silly girl. How could you forget to mention such a big event as getting your marriage certificate? Now, the whole of Phison is buzzing with the news. I haven't been out for two days and only found out this morning when I was browsing the news online. Your photos with Jean getting the certificate have been posted online, and now everyone is talking about it," answered Adriana.

That's a bit wild. Neera looked around in a daze, momentarily at a loss for words.

Adriana sighed on the other end. "To think, at such a crucial moment, you actually forgot to tell me. As your aunt, I'm a little heartbroken."

Neera was utterly embarrassed and quickly tried to soothe her, "Aunt Adriana, I didn't do it on purpose, I'm sorry... I just... forgot. Actually, we made this decision quite abruptly..."

In truth, Adriana wasn't really upset. She just wished to witness such an important moment in her niece's life.

Then, she realized that, no matter how important getting married and obtaining a marriage certificate was, it was still best for the couple to be alone.

Hence, she changed her mind and said, "All right, no need to apologize. I'm just... just very happy for you two."

Neera said, "Aunt Adriana..."

"From now on, you're not alone. You have a home of your own, a person to rely on and share your life with. I have no more worries. As long as you live your days well, everything will be fine." As Adriana spoke, she laughed. "It's clear to everyone in the world that Jean truly loves you. Knowing that he will be with you for the rest of your life, I feel at ease."

Neera sniffed, feeling touched yet with a tinge of slight sadness. "Aunt Adriana, the way you're talking, it's as if we won't keep in touch anymore. It's not just him, but also you who will accompany me for the rest of my life. You must always be with me."

"What are you talking about, silly girl? I'm more than a decade older than you. How long can I accompany you "

"Aunt Adriana!" Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"All right, All right. On such a joyful day, it's my fault for bringing this up. Let's not talk about it anymore. You should spend time with Jean now, okay?"

Neera glanced at the man in front of her and responded, "Mhm."

"Give him the phone. I have some things to say to him."

"Um..." Neera touched her nose, handing her phone to Jean, "Here, Aunt Adriana wants to talk to you."

With a slight raise of his eyebrows, Jean took the phone and walked aside to answer the call.

No one knew what the two of them had discussed. A few minutes later, Jean ended the call and returned to Neera's side.

"What did Aunt Adriana tell you?" Neera asked curiously.

"Do you want to know?" Jean teased her.

Neera blinked. "Of course, I want to know."

Jean suddenly laughed profoundly, leaned into her ear, and whispered, "Call me 'Dear' for me to hear."

His voice, already deep, became even more alluring and provocative as he deliberately suppressed it.

His warm breath sprayed on Neera's ear, added an extra layer of ambiguity.

Neera's face suddenly turned red, and she glared at him irritably. "What... What are you doing?"

Jean spoke confidently. "We've got the certificate now. We're legally married. It's not too much to call me 'Dear', is it?"

Neera found herself unable to retort.

"Come on. Do it for me, won't you?" Jean continued to tempt her.

Neera felt a bit annoyed, thinking that he was deliberately teasing her, but mostly, she was just shy.

Parting her lips, she murmured in a voice only the two of them could hear, "D-Dear."

A wave of emotion swept over Jean's heart. The joy in his eyes and brows was impossible to hide, yet he pretended not to hear, leaning in a bit closer with his ear. "What? I didn't catch that. You were speaking too softly."

Neera gave him a glance, seeing right through him. "Don't play innocent with me. You can't feign innocence after gaining an advantage."

Jean laughed, his laughter deep and rich like a fine liquor, incredibly pleasing to the ear.

He quickly pecked the petite woman's face, his voice warm as he said, "All right, my dear."

With a sudden jolt, Neera felt as if she was about to explode, her face burning with an astonishing heat.

She pursed her lips tightly, feeling both embarrassed and sweetly delighted.

The children had been watching the two of them all along, and at that moment, they couldn't help but break into a silly grin.

"Hehe, Daddy's sneaking a kiss with Mommy, and we caught them!"

"Tsk, tsk. No shame, no shame!"

After being teased like that, she felt even more embarrassed. She pretended to glare at them fiercely. "What nonsense are you spouting? You're just a child."

Sammy didn't like hearing that. He puffed up his small chest with righteous indignation. "We understand everything. We're not little kids anymore."

Neera was stumped and didn't speak.

Jean chuckled, flicking the boy's little forehead. "No bullying your mommy."

"Hmm..." Sammy rubbed his forehead, finally settling down.

Neera urged, "Can you tell me now? What did my aunt say?"

Jean gently held her hand, his eyes warm and tender. "There's nothing special, really. Just reminding me to treat you well. Also, she asked when we plan to hold the wedding."

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## **Chapter 1348**

"Do you have any ideas?" Jean asked.

Whenever the topic of marriage came up, ripples of emotion would stir in Neera's heart, leaving her feeling deeply moved.

Although the two of them had already obtained their certificate, they were still missing the most important and solemn ceremony.

Their wedding.

"Not yet. How about you?" She pondered for a moment, but couldn't come up with anything either.

To be honest, there was a time when she didn't even think she would ever find a man she could truly connect with in her life, let alone imagine her own wedding.

However, Jean's arrival shattered everything.

He transformed her life, and his presence had been felt in her past, present, and future.

Jean walked alongside her, facing the dazzling yet warm sunset, engaging in casual and intimate conversation. "Since you don't have an idea, why not entrust everything to me? Once we're done with the affairs in Phison, we'll head to that island we visited last time. I'll arrange everything properly. All you need to do is to be my bride, and walk toward me."

Neera's heart pounded upon listening to him. An image of their wedding ceremony involuntarily surfaced in her mind.

She slowly walked toward him, and he would take her hand and pledge his everlasting love.

She smiled. "Sure. I'll just wait and see, then."

On the other side, Adriana hung up the phone and remained motionless for a long time.

Chad noticed something was off. He leaned in closer and saw a hint of redness around her eyes.

"What's going on?" he asked. "Why are you crying over a simple phone call? What did Neera say?"

Adriana wiped the corner of her eyes and shook her head. "No, I'm just suddenly feeling a bit sentimental. In the blink of an eye, Neera has already become someone else's wife."

Chad laughed, wrapping his arm around her shoulder to comfort her. "She's all grown up now and married someone she can trust for the rest of her life. You should be happy."

Adriana nodded. "Of course I'm happy. Seeing Neera move on from past pains and heal, I'm happier than anyone else."

"Have they set a date for the wedding yet?"

"Jean mentioned that he bought a small island near Phison, named Sweetbriar Island. He said everything had been planned in advance, specifically for their wedding. Once the matters with the Bartitsu Guild are settled, they will hold the wedding there."

When Chad heard that, a glint of understanding flashed through his astute eyes. "Sweetbriar Island? He sure moves fast. He already bought it, huh? Seems like he had this planned all along. Well, that's good, saves us the trouble."

At that point, Adriana thought of something and casually asked, "By the way, does Phison allow outsiders to purchase islands? I thought all the islands belonged to Phison and were not for sale."

Chad laughed lightly, not particularly concerned. "In this world, money does wonders. Even if it's against the rules, it's not a difficult task for Jean, someone with great money, power, and resources, to buy it."

"So that's how it is..." Adriana muttered to herself, quickly putting the matter out of her mind.

Although Chad said so, he knew very well in his heart that the territory belonging to Phison could not be casually sold to a foreigner.

That was especially the case for Sweetbriar Island because it was in the territory of Lordsworth Estate.

Lordsworth Estate had always been impervious, like a solid iron plate. It was impenetrable and immovable. [SEARCH the website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

For years, Bartitsu Guild made countless attempts to infiltrate Lordsworth Estate. They did it all in the hope of gaining even the slightest advantage. However, they failed every time.

As such, he wondered how did Jean, a foreigner, manage to purchase an entire island in Lordsworth Estate's territory easily.

With doubts in his heart, Chad narrowed his eyes, his suspicions growing deeper.

At that moment, Adriana's brows slightly furrowed as she remembered something else. "Given all the fuss about Neera's marriage with Jean, Avery should know about it by now, right?"

Speaking of that, Chad's expression also underwent some changes.

Adriana was deeply worried. "Will Avery be upset? Or will he have any objections toward the Gordon family?"

Chad wasn't worried at all. "He's not that type of guy. Neera's attitude toward him has always been clear, and he knows it himself. I've told him before that he needs to respect Neera's opinions. He can't force her, nor should he make things difficult for her. The relationship between Neera and Jean is something no one can interfere with. I believe he understands this very well. However, the Gordon family and the Cox family are still engaged. Avery also helped Neera establish a firm footing in the Gordon family and

Bartitsu Guild by using the name of the two families' arranged marriage. He helped the Gordon family a lot. Now things have turned out like this..."

After a moment of contemplation, Chad said, "I'll go check on him and have a chat with him in a bit."

After lunch, Chad went to the Cox residence.

Upon seeing him arrive, Charles respectfully invited him in, "Mr. Gordon, please have a seat. I will go and inform Mr. Cox of your arrival right away."

Chad glanced toward the living room, noticing its stark emptiness. He asked, "Is Mr. Cox resting?"

Charles sighed. "Yes, but he hasn't slept. He hasn't eaten anything since this morning and has locked himself in his room without coming out."

When Chad heard that, his gaze slightly darkened. "I may as well go up directly."

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## Chapter 1349

Charles didn't stop him. He invited Chad upstairs.

Standing in front of Avery's room, Chad raised his hand and knocked.

Soon, Avery's steady voice came through. "Don't bother me."

Chad sighed. "Avery, it's me."

Inside, Avery recognized the voice, paused for a moment, then pursed his lips and rose to open the door. "Mr. Gordon, how come you're here?"

Chad looked at Avery's slightly pale face. "I came to see you. May I come in?"

Avery turned to the side. "Please come in."

The curtains in the room were still drawn, allowing only a faint glimmer of the brilliant afternoon sun to seep in. It cast a somber atmosphere throughout the room.

"I heard you haven't eaten since breakfast. You've just recovered a bit and you're not taking good care of yourself again?" Chad pulled back the curtains and sat down next to the couch, speaking in a gentle voice.

Avery's eyelashes were half-lowered as he sat across from Chad. His energy seemed fine, but his mood was noticeably low. "I'm sorry for causing you concern, but I really don't have an appetite today. I just can't eat."

Chad stared at him. Not beating around the bush, he went straight to the point. "It's because of Neera, isn't it?"

What he said was a statement, not a question.

Avery pursed his lips, his expression showing a slight relaxation.

Just hearing the word "Neera" brought on an indescribable tearing pain, making him feel so distressed that he could almost suffocate.

He never imagined that one day, Neera would have such a profound impact on him.

He never imagined that one day, he would be heartbroken because of unrequited love.

The moment he saw those rumors swirling online, he felt as if his blood had turned to ice and even his heart had frozen solid.

In the end, she chose to be with Jean, becoming the wife of another man.

Before, Avery had innocently believed that he could take advantage of their quarrel, showing Neera his good side, and win her heart in one fell swoop. [SEARCH THE website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

However, at that moment, he realized he was too arrogant.

Emotions were such that no matter how much effort you put in, it didn't necessarily mean you'd get a return.

He found himself pondering about various possibilities. If only he had met Neera earlier; if only he had fallen in love with her sooner; if only...

It was impossible to tell, but he still wondered if things would have ended differently.

Seeing Avery silent with a gloomy expression, Chad sighed inwardly. "Avery, Neera and Jean have truly become husband and wife. She has made her choice, so you shouldn't confine yourself to this matter. Let go when you should. This outcome isn't beyond your expectations, is it? You've spent a considerable amount of time with Neera, so you should understand her character. She values emotions highly. Once she sets her heart on someone, she won't waver. Her unwavering and pure approach to love, you know this."

Avery took a deep breath, finally speaking up. His voice was low and slightly hoarse. "I know what drew me to her was her singular and persistent affection, as well as her resilience, all of which I admired. I've never seen any woman like her, nor have I ever paid attention to anyone the way I did to her. Yet, in the end, I couldn't make her mine."

Chad moved a bit closer and patted Avery's shoulder. "Avery, I know you're serious about Neera, and she also seriously considers you a friend. She appreciates all the care and help you've given her, and she keeps it in her heart. However, when it comes to feelings, they're beyond our control. Perhaps there's just no destiny between you two, so don't take it too hard."

After a moment of silence, Avery let out a soft sigh. "Mr. Gordon, I understand what you mean. Rest assured, I have my own judgment. As long as Neera is happy, I will bless her. As for the arranged marriage between the Cox and Gordon families, let's call it off. The relationship between the Cox and Gordon families will not change due to a failed marriage arrangement."

Naturally, Chad knew that Avery wouldn't turn against the Gordon family over such a matter. However, hearing the latter say that still gave him some reassurance.

He changed the subject, asking, "All right, let's put this matter to rest. How are things with the Cox family now?"

"Everything is currently within manageable limits."

"If you need help, feel free to ask anytime. No need to hold back."

"All right, I will."

After spending the day having fun, Neera finally found some time to check online comments when she returned to the hotel.

She had no idea until she saw it with her own eyes, and it gave her quite a shock. She hadn't expected that the news of her marriage certificate had already caused such a stir on the internet. All sorts of comment about it were emerging endlessly.

"How did the head of the Gordon family end up getting a marriage certificate with a stranger? What about the Cox family? Aren't they going to form an alliance through marriage anymore?"

"Wasn't there a rumor before that the heads of the Cox and Gordon families were about to get engaged? How come, in the blink of an eye, the marriage partner has changed? Could something have happened between the Cox and Gordon families?"

"Going off-topic here, but the husband of the Gordon family's head is so d\*mn handsome! He's dashing and stylish, with an incredibly strong aura. His demeanor is top-notch. I'm green with envy. Why don't I have such high-quality men around me?"

"Isn't what the head of the Gordon family did a bit underhanded? The head of the Cox family, for her sake, was always at her beck and call, providing all sorts of support, all just to win a smile from the beauty. Now that she had found her footing, she turned around to get a marriage certificate with someone else. Where does that leave the head of the Cox family?"

"Exactly. Could she be using the Cox family? Now that she sees the Cox family in trouble, she just kicks them aside? If that's the case, it's really disgusting."

"Listen everyone. This is her personal love life. Whom she chooses to love is her choice, and it's her freedom to decide who she wants to marry. Is there really a need for you all to poke your nose into her business?"

After a quick scan of the comments, Neera suddenly felt the situation becoming somewhat tricky.

"What are you looking at?" Jean walked in with a cup of hot milk and casually glanced around. His eyebrows slightly raised, and he asked, "What's everyone talking about online?"

Neera put down her phone without immediately responding, becoming distressed.

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## Chapter 1350

Jean sat down next to her. "Are you unhappy?"

Neera pursed her lips, sitting with her legs curled up and her arms wrapped around her knees. "It's not that I'm unhappy. I'm just a bit annoyed. I didn't expect our marriage registration to cause such a stir, becoming the talk of the town and sparking all sorts of discussions."

Jean didn't mind it. "People will say what they want to say. We can't control that."

"I know, but they know nothing at all, just spouting nonsense, and now they've even..." She paused for a moment, casting a glance at Jean.

"They have even what?" Jean asked insistently.

In an unhappy tone, Neera answered, "They even dragged Mr. Cox into this, spouting all sorts of nonsense." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Jean had anticipated this situation early on, so he was not surprised. "Initially, when you came to Phison, Avery used your two families' marriage alliance to build momentum for you. It was inevitable that others would tie you two together."

Neera couldn't help but feel a bit curious when she saw his indifferent demeanor. "Aren't you angry?"

Jean raised his eyebrows, his hands resting lazily behind him, propped up on the bed in a relaxed and comfortable pose. "Why should I be angry? Now that you are mine, there's nothing for me to be unhappy about."

Neera muttered under her breath, "It's not like when you were jealous for no reason before."

Jean laughed. "They're just rumors and gossip. They didn't say anything specific about you and Avery. Why would I be jealous for no reason?"

As he spoke, he ruffled his hair. "All right. There's no need to worry about what those insignificant people say."

Neera rubbed her legs, sighing deeply in frustration. "It's not that I'm bothered by what they've said. I'm just worried that this matter might affect the relationship between the Cox and Gordon families. If that's the case, then I would be at fault."

Jean understood her concerns, but he didn't think it would escalate to this extent. "Your stance has always been clear, and I believe Avery understands it, too. If he harbors resentment toward the entire Gordon family simply because of an unsuccessful marriage proposal, because of his unrequited desires, then I don't think he deserves to be called a gentleman. But based on my understanding of him, whether in terms of personal character or conduct, he isn't someone so petty. Of course, if he turns out to be, then it means I've misjudged him."

The fact that he could say such a thing left Neera rather taken aback. "I thought you didn't like him very much."

Jean didn't deny it. "Yes, I don't like him, but that doesn't prevent me from making an objective assessment."

Neera couldn't help but chuckle. "I never thought I'd live to hear you call him a gentleman."

Jean raised an eyebrow, remaining silent.

Although he was once infuriated by Avery's attempt to take advantage of his absence, it was undeniable that during his absence, Avery indeed provided a lot of help to Neera. He respected Neera's wishes, didn't insist on anything, and simply helped her selflessly.

Thanks to Avery's assistance, Neera indeed avoided many troubles.

Even though Avery irritated him, he was not an ungrateful person.

"All right. Stop worrying about these things. If you're really concerned, why not give your aunt and uncle a call to ask about the Cox family's situation?" Jean asked.

Under normal circumstances, he would rather Neera never concern herself with the affairs of the Cox family ever again.

However, he didn't want Neera to continually carry guilt and remorse in her heart.

After hearing this, Neera felt it was necessary and decided to give Chad a call.

At that time, Chad had just returned from the Cox residence.

Upon receiving her call, he knew exactly what she wanted to ask and got straight to the point. "Rest assured, I've already spoken with Avery. Your engagement is hereby canceled. The Cox and Gordon families won't fall out over this failed marriage arrangement. Everything will remain as it was before. As for Avery, there's no need for you to deliberately reach out and say anything. In this matter, you haven't done anything wrong, and your attitude has been very good. You simply married the person you wanted to marry, and that's all there is to it."

Before Neera could even speak, hearing this string of words comforted her quite a bit.

She gave a gentle smile. "Thank you, Uncle Chad."

"Hey, there's no need to thank me. I was just worried that Avery might have something bothering him, so I went to check on him."

"How is he doing? Is he recovering well?" Neera asked.

"Not bad. His complexion looks much better than before."

"What's the situation with the Cox family now?"

"At present, the disputes are still ongoing, but the situation is favorable for the Cox family. There's no need to worry for now. If things go smoothly, the turmoil should subside before long.'

Neera was relieved. "That's good then..."

However, Chad misjudged the situation. The Cox family, who originally had the upper hand, gradually encountered unexpected changes.

The days of constant disputes had turned the seemingly peaceful District Fourteen into a hotbed of unrest as the four families continued their relentless confrontation.

One day, a club under the Cox family's name suddenly caught fire. Although no one was injured, it caused serious damage.

Another day, the Cox family's forces stationed on Adieu Island were suddenly attacked at night. The attackers cut off all communication and power on the island, plunging it into chaos.

Fortunately, the Cox family's well-trained staff quickly restored order and successfully resisted the opponent's attack.

However, due to the suddenness of the night raid, it was clear that the other party was well-prepared. In the end, they failed to capture them, allowing them to escape.

The actions of these families' struggles were so significant that not only Bartitsu Guild, but even Lordsworth Estate, kept hearing news and discussions about it.

Neera knew all too well, and this constant worry ate her up inside.

Meanwhile, Colin was secretly passing on information to Jean. "My Lord, I've just received some intelligence. It seems that the head of the Watson family, who holds the third elder seat in Bartitsu Guild, has secretly joined forces with the head of the Laker family, who holds the fourth elder seat in the guild..."

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