

### 331: The Final Battle of Life and Death

Caitlin rolled across the ground, narrowly avoiding the strike, but the man relentlessly pursued her, each blow aimed to kill.

Caitlin quickly analyzed his weaknesses. As the seventh instructor lunged at her with a strike, she was about to counter when suddenly, someone stepped in front of her.

"Shhh—"

The blade sliced through the man's arm instead of Caitlin's.

The seventh instructor realized in shock that the wound was not on Caitlin but on their young master. His long knife fell to the ground, his voice shaking, "Young Master!"

"Zeke!" Caitlin gasped, her eyes wide with shock.

"Young Master!"

The seventh instructor rushed forward, trying to help Zeke.

Zeke turned around, grabbing the man and driving a dagger into his chest.

"I won't allow you... to hurt her..." Zeke gritted through his teeth, a snarl escaping his throat.

The seventh instructor never imagined that his life would end like this—killed by the hands of the very person he had served.

Ignoring the injury to his arm, Zeke shouted to the eighth and final instructor, "Come on! The final battle, I'll fight for her!"

"Young Master!" The eighth instructor hesitated, unable to bring himself to harm Zeke.

"Zeke! This is my choice! Don't fight for me!" Caitlin shouted as she got back to her feet.

Zeke ignored her plea, grabbing a long knife from the ground and charging at the eighth instructor.

The two men clashed. The eighth instructor started to dodge, but as Zeke's attacks intensified, he had no choice but to defend and counter. They fought fiercely, but Zeke's injury made him no match for the eighth instructor.

Zeke was soon struck across the chest, blood spraying from the wound.

"Ugh..." Zeke gasped as he fell to his knees, the knife's tip digging into the ground.

The battle had gone sideways. The seventh instructor was already dead, and Zeke, despite his injuries, was still standing.

"Zeke..." Caitlin's voice trembled as she watched the blood-soaked man. Her emotions were a whirlwind. She didn't want to owe him any more than she already did.

"Trinity! The duel isn't over! Come on!" The eighth instructor turned his focus back to Caitlin.

Caitlin fought back against the instructor. After several exchanges, the pain from her injuries started to take its toll.

The man's heavy punch slammed into her abdomen, and Caitlin felt her insides shake. She was sent flying, rolling across the ground.

"Trinity, you sought death yourself, and I will grant it to you!"

As Caitlin struggled to regain her composure, the eighth instructor raised his bloodied knife high above her, ready to strike.

"No!"

Without hesitation, Zeke threw himself at the instructor, grabbing him and stopping him from delivering the fatal blow.

"You've crossed a line, Young Master!" The eighth instructor tried to shake Zeke off.

Zeke grabbed his legs, holding him back just as the blade moved towards Caitlin.

"Bang! Bang!"

At that moment, a figure appeared at the entrance of the arena, swiftly and accurately firing shots at the men.

The eighth instructor was shot, but it wasn't just him — Zeke was also hit by one of the bullets.

Both men collapsed to the ground almost simultaneously.

"Zeke..." Caitlin's heart raced as she saw him fall. She didn't know who had fired, but seeing Zeke go down made her panic. She couldn't bear the thought of him dying for her—if he did, she'd never be able to live with herself.

She looked toward where the shots had come from and saw a man running toward her, wearing the familiar attire of Shadow Moon Pavilion.

It wasn't until the man was nearly on top of her that Caitlin realized who

it was. It was Sebastian!

He had shot the eighth instructor and saved Zeke, but he had also accidentally wounded him in the process.

"Sebastian!"

Seeing Caitlin on the ground, covered in blood, Sebastian's heart broke. He rushed over to her.

"Sebastian..." Caitlin whispered weakly.

"Quickly! Let's get out of here!"

Sebastian helped Caitlin to her feet and, lifting her onto his back, ran toward the exit.

Zorro watched the entire scene unfold from the observation deck in the castle. He had seen his son rush into the arena for Caitlin, witnessed another man shooting the eighth instructor and his son, and now saw Sebastian carrying Caitlin out of the arena.

"Go to the arena! Stop them!" Zorro commanded as he left the castle to head toward the arena himself.

Inside the arena, Zorro saw the two men lying on the ground.

"Boss, the protector is dead, but the young master is still alive!"

"Quick! Get him help!" Zorro barked the orders.

"Yes!"

As his subordinates carried Zeke away, Zorro turned to give another order, "Capture the one who intruded into the arena, and bring back

"Trinity!"

"Yes!"

The Shadow Moon Pavilion members swiftly pursued Sebastian, who was carrying Caitlin out of the arena. Xero had arrived outside, ready to assist.

Once they were safely in the car, Xero floored the accelerator, escaping the scene.

The Shadow Moon Pavilion members emerged from the arena, firing their guns after them.

\*Bang! Bang! Bang!\*

Xero expertly navigated the car, evading the bullets as he sped through the streets.

But outside the castle, the drawbridge was slowly retracting, cutting off their escape route.

"Hold on tight!" Xero shouted as he pushed the car to its limits, racing toward the bridge.

Guards had been notified and tried to block them, but they were no match for the speeding car.

With a final burst of speed, the vehicle flew off the bridge, soaring through the air like a slow-motion stunt before landing on the road beyond.

They had escaped!

As they sped away, leaving Graystone Castle's reach, Xero slowed the car once they entered the capital, Link City.

The man looked back with a wide grin, his face full of excitement. "We're safe now. How's the lady? Is she okay?"

Caitlin had already been introduced to Xero by Sebastian, and she recognized him as the second son of The O'Malley Family. She had heard of him while living in S Country.

Sebastian held Caitlin close, looking down at her with concern. "How are you, Caitlin?"

Caitlin didn't have any external injuries, but her internal wounds from the fight were still painful. She nodded weakly and shook her head, "I'm fine. Thank you for saving me. But how did you manage to get in?"

"Xero had a good plan. We disguised ourselves as castle staff and snuck in with a supply truck," Sebastian explained, tightening his grip on her.

"We're lucky we did, or the consequences could have been unimaginable."  
"

Caitlin looked at Sebastian. "No matter what happens, from today on, I'm cutting ties with them. I'm done with Shadow Moon Pavilion."

Caitlin had risked her life for her freedom. If Shadow Moon Pavilion ever tried to hurt her again, they should not blame her for being ruthless.

Xero drove them to the hospital first, as Sebastian insisted on making sure Caitlin was checked out.

After a full examination and some scans, the doctor confirmed Caitlin had no bone damage, but her internal organs had suffered some trauma. Rest, medication, and care would be needed for her recovery.

After leaving the hospital, Xero arranged for them to stay in a private apartment in Link City.

"You can stay here for now. If you need anything, just let me know, and I'll have someone bring it over."

"Thank you!"

After Xero left, Sebastian carried Caitlin to the bathroom and helped her clean the blood from her body.

As he looked at her fair skin, now marred by bruises, his heart tightened.

"Does it hurt?" he asked softly, his voice full of concern.