

NH

Suddenly, Zeke stood up but his lower torso remained on the bed.

Zeke smirked, "Are you surprised? It's time for you to witness a miracle."

He turned over the blanket that was covering his body and revealed the body of a mannequin.

All this while, Zeke had only revealed his head. He hid his body underneath the bed.

On top of that, he looked pretty normal and did not look sick at all!

Damn it! The Great Marshal is well-prepared!

Does this mean he knew this would happen? Has he found out that I have betrayed the Cygnus Room and is sent to assassinate him?

He abruptly remembered how he suspected someone was monitoring him when he was at the Bloodworth Syndicate's headquarters. He also recalled the short circuit incident there.

Did the Great Marshal infiltrated the Bloodsworth Syndicate's headquarters?

It was very likely.

Zeke sighed continuously, "The Cygnus Room was the most advanced technological research center in Eurasia, yet its second-in-command chose to support the enemy. We've indeed chosen the wrong person for the job."

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Zoda Wood was utterly devastated. The best solution he could think of was to end his own life.

The Great Marshal would surely torture him and make his life a living hell.

He ran and tried to smash his head into a wall without any warning.

Zeke shouted, "Have you ever thought of your newborn twins?"

With that, Zoda stopped running. He knew the Great Marshal was threatening him with his sons.

He dropped to his knees before Zeke. "It's my fault. It's all my fault. Please be kind and punish me. I'm willing to pay the price for my crimes, but please leave my family alone."

Zeke exclaimed, "What you've committed was a grave crime, and your family deserves to be punished too! If you want me to pardon your family, tell me everything you know about the Bloodsworth Syndicate."

Zoda hesitated, he clenched his teeth and agreed, "Alright, I'll cooperate with you."

Zeke asked, "What did the Bloodsworth Syndicate offer you in exchange for your allegiance and my assassination?"

Zoda answered, "They'll give me the Sierra island and promise me that I can build a country there."

What?

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Zeke knitted his brows.

The Bloodsworth Syndicate owns the Sierra island and can simply offer it to someone as a reward?

It looks like their influence is expanding fast. Their headquarters under the Golden Voda Lake could be one of their many bases. Their actual headquarters might be ten or even a hundred times larger than that.

Zeke continued, "Why did you make a mold of my face earlier?"

He answered, "Bloodsworth is a master of disguise. Once you're dead, he wants to take over your position as the Great Marshal to run the Cygnus Room."

"He wants to take over the Cygnus Room?" Zeke asked, "But why? Is he planning to steal all the research data?"

"No." Zoda shook his head, "They're eyeing on the DNA sequence of Eurasian. They wanted to steal this information, find out the flaws in the genes, and design a virus that can cause a pandemic in the region."

What?

Zeke gritted his teeth, and his eyes reddened.

If Bloodsworth's plan was successful, billions of Eurasians would die, and this could destroy the entire nation!

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Bloodsworth's plan is a crime against humanity!

As for Zoda, he was willing to sacrifice his nation to fulfill his self-interest even though he was born and raised a Eurasian.

His ambition turned him into a more horrible person than Bloodsworth.

Zeke could not take it anymore and kicked him to the ground.

Zoda was shocked to death. He knew Zeke was capable of killing all his other family members out of anger.

He immediately kneeled before him, "Great Marshal, please give me a chance to redeem myself. I can help you destroy Bloodsworth. I don't dare to ask for your forgiveness, but please spare my family."



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Zeke held back his anger, “What do you have in mind?”

Zoda explained, “Bloodsworth’s headquarters beneath the lake has tight security and many emergency exits. If you launch an attack on them, you can only wipe out one-third of the syndicate. The others could escape using the water channel. I think it’ll be more efficient if we could lure them out of the lake and destroy them at one go.”

Zeke asked, “What’s your idea?”

Zoda replied, “Since he wants the DNA sequence of Eurasian, let’s use this as the bait.”

Zeke responded, “Alright. Let’s do it then. Don’t you dare pull any tricks, or else, you will put your family in danger.”

Nope, I definitely won’t!

After Zoda left, Zeke took out his phone and called Sole Wolf.

“Bring your men over. I have a task for you.”

Zoda made his way back to the Bloodsworth Syndicate’s headquarters and found Bloodsworth.

“Good news!” Zoda could not hide his excitement.

Bloodsworth was all smiles. “Zeke is dead?”

Zoda replied, “Not only that. I have another better news for you.”

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“Oh? Do enlighten me.” Bloodsworth looked forward to hearing what he was about to say.

Zoda continued, “Zeke is now brain dead, and Cygnus Room is merely sustaining his life using their advanced technologies. The Cygnus Room’s management wants us to study the DNA sequence of Eurasian, so they could develop the medicine that can activate his brain. They’re delivering the DNA sequence to us right now. We must seize this opportunity!”

That’s great!

Bloodsworth was overjoyed, “Master Zoda, you’ve indeed contributed so much to the Bloodsworth Syndicate.”

Zoda cautiously checked, “About the reward you promised earlier...”

“Don’t worry about it. I’ll never go back on my word. Once I’ve obtained the DNA sequence, I’ll give you the Sierra island right away,” he assured.

“Now, Bloodsworth Syndicate, assemble!” Bloodsworth ordered, and tens of thousands of men emerged from all over the headquarters and gathered before him.

Bloodsworth scanned the crowd and finally turned his attention to Team Jack.

Team Jack was the unit that was poisoned by Zeke when they failed to assassinate him.

Bloodsworth ordered, “We’ve received a

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confidential update that the Cygnus Room is sending the DNA sequence of Eurasian over to Atheville. Take a few men with you to keep track of their movement and report their location to me from time to time.”

“Yes, sir.” Team Jack accepted the task right away.

Bloodsworth continued, “As for the rest, prepare yourself for a battle. There’s no room for failure. We must succeed this time!”

“Yes, sir!” Their voices were so loud that they caused ripples on the lake.

Team Jack left the base, but they did not keep track of the delivery. Instead, they contacted Zeke, told him about it, and waited for his instruction.

Since Zeke knew their Achille’s heels, they had no choice but to surrender themselves to him.

Zeke responded, “Okay. I’ll give you the GPS coordinates of the delivery team so you can track them. Also, convince Bloodsworth that many people are involved in this operation and get him to deploy all his men if possible.”

“Noted,” Team Jack answered.

Based on the coordinates given, they managed to track down the delivery team and monitored them in secret.

At the same time, Jack informed Bloodsworth about the route the delivery team was using.

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In the headquarters, Bloodsworth looked at the message, and his brows furrowed.

Cygnus Room sent a brigade of soldiers to deliver the DNA sequence.

In order to succeed, Bloodsworth Syndicate had to deploy all its men, but if they failed, their base here would be wiped out completely.

It was a huge risk.

Bloodsworth thought about it over and over again and finally decided to take the risk.

He was tempted by the promising outcome and was willing to go all out to ensure they succeed in their operation.



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He gathered his thinktank and started working on the details.

At the end, they decided to launch their attack near a primary school.

The delivery team must be well-armed and equipped with heavy weapons.

If Bloodsworth's men launched an attack around the primary school, their opponent would not dare to activate their heavy weapons.

In just a short while, Zoda alerted Zeke about Bloodsworth's plan.

Zeke was infuriated, "A bunch of scoundrels! How could they use the pupils in a primary school as a shield?"

Children were the nation's future. Zeke would definitely not put them in danger.

He thought about it and called Sole Wolf over, "Follow me. Let's make a trip to the Brighton Primary School."

Sole Wolf looked confused, "What are we going to do in a primary school? You're not going to ask me to enroll in the school, are you?"

Whenever Sole Wolf made any knowledge-based mistakes, Zeke would joke about it and threatened to send him back to school.

Zeke shook his head. "Of course not. Bloodsworth is planning to turn Brighton Primary School into

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his battlefield. We have to be there early to disperse the crowd.”

What?

A towering rage started blazing in Sole Wolf’s eyes, “They don’t even let children off? They’re really animals!”

Brighton Primary School was a boarding school. Hence, it was located in a remote area.

It was about 10 pm now, and the children were all sleeping in the hostel.

Darkness loomed over the school, and at the northern part of its field, a few people flipped over the wall as swift as apparitions and stationed themselves at different locations.

In the blink of an eye, the entire school field was occupied by these apparitions.

These so-called apparitions were men from the Bloodsworth Syndicate, and Bloodsworth himself led the operation.

Based on the intel received, the delivery team would pass by the road outside the school field in half an hour.

Just as they thought, half an hour later, the delivery team headed towards the direction.

Bloodsworth gently whistled, and his men were all going into battle mode.

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Three armored jeeps led the delivery team, followed by the armored truck in the middle and two large army trucks behind. The vehicles were filled with fully armed soldiers.

The person-in-charge of this delivery was General Cosmopolis Wolf's Greed, who sat on the very front in the first jeep.

Just when they passed by the road behind the school field, they heard a tire exploded.

Screech!

The driver hit the brakes immediately.

Since the jeep in front came to a halt, the rest of the vehicles behind had to stop as well.

"Get down and take a look," Wolf's Greed ordered.

"Yes, Sir!"

The driver hopped down the jeep and checked the tires. "Sir, some glass pieces punctured the jeep's tire."

Wolf's Greed glared at him impatiently, "Replace the punctured tire right now. We don't want to be late."

"Yes, Sir!"

The driver hurriedly changed the flat tire.

At the school field, Bloodsworth ordered, "Sniper, go!"

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Bang!

Right after hearing a loud gunshot, the soldier who was changing the tire was found lying in a pool of blood.

What's going on?

A few soldiers became alert and hopped down the truck right away.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Bloodsworth Syndicate started firing shots at them, and in just a short while, more than ten soldiers collapsed into a pool of blood.

“The enemy is at 10 o'clock!” a soldier roared, “Start shooting!”

“Gunnery, fire at those mother f\*\*kers at 10 o'clock!”

While the soldiers fought back, Lone Wolf suddenly gave another instruction, “Stop. It's a school, stop firing! I repeat, stop firing. We cannot harm the pupils. Get back to your vehicles and take shelter.”



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The delivery team was dissatisfied with the decision, but they, too, did not wish to harm the pupils. The team suppressed their anger as they retreated, and took shelter in the trucks.

Fortunately, their trucks were all bulletproof, and there was nothing the opponent could do about it.

At the school field, Bloodsworth was pleased with the progress.

Since they were off with a good start, they could almost have a glimpse of the fruit of success.

Bloodsworth instructed the men near him, "Suicide squad, go and install two ticking bombs beneath those two trucks at the back. The rest of you go and cover them!"

Most of the leaders in the delivery team were travelling in the first two trucks.

If they managed to blow the trucks up, they could then take them down in no time.

The five-member squad nodded, flipped over the wall, crept along the ground, and headed towards the road.

Between the field and the road was a deserted land. The land was covered with tall grass, which allowed them to take cover as they made their way to the other side.

It took them about 20 minutes to creep across the 500-meter distance, and they eventually approached the road.

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More than a dozen soldiers, who were shot dead during the exchange, were found lying on the road.

The five-member squad ignored the bodies, took out the ticking bombs, and placed them under the vehicles.

They then turned around and were ready to leave.

Just when they were about to go, those dead bodies that were lying on the road began to move all of a sudden.

Each of them took out a dagger, flipped over, and pinned the five-member squad down.

They covered their mouths with one hand and slit their throats with the other. In just five seconds, every single member of the squad suffered a silent death.

Then, the five soldiers put on their uniform to impersonate the suicide squad and returned to Bloodsworth's camp.

They had their faces covered, so Bloodsworth could not recognize them.

"How was it?" asked Bloodsworth.

One of them gestured an OK sign with his fingers.

Great!

Bloodsworth smirked, "Now, it's time for us to beat the crap out of them."

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He continued to monitor the movement on the road.

The five soldiers then went separate ways and occupied different spots of the camp as they placed a few bombs around the area.

“Five, four, three...” Bloodsworth looked at his watch.

Just when he finished counting down, he heard a loud boom and the two trucks exploded before his eyes.

The explosion was so powerful that it was unlikely for anyone to survive.

Bloodsworth was overjoyed. Now that they had gotten rid of the leaders of the delivery team, it was time to take the soldiers down.

He immediately gave an order, “Attack and snatch...”

Before he could finish his sentence, he heard a few loud booms in his camp too.

Bloodsworth’s team experienced a few explosions too!

The effect was so great that half of his men were blown into the air, and broken limbs and blood started raining down on the field.

Bloodsworth even lost his ability to hear for a few minutes because the explosion was so loud and deafening.

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He looked at the casualties in his team and was utterly stunned.

What's going on? Why are there explosions on our side?

We've yet to begin our battle, and we've already lost half of our men?

Before he could react, he heard a commotion behind the wall.

Bloodworth raised his head, looked over the wall, and was absolutely shocked.

He had no idea when and how did the several hundreds of armed soldiers ambush the deserted land.

The soldiers closest to them were just a wall away, and they fired gunshots incessantly at Bloodworth's men, forcing them to keep their heads down.

Bloodworth lowered his head downwards, and he was lucky enough to have dodged a bullet that flew across his head.

At that moment, he somewhat understood what was going on.



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Without a doubt, the opponent must have discovered the five-member suicide squad and had them killed. They even got their own men to infiltrate his camp.

Members of the delivery team might have escaped and hid in the bush when the ticking bombs blew the trucks into pieces.

The five impersonators, who returned to Bloodsworth's camp, were the ones who initiated the explosions here!

Indeed, Cygnus Room lives up to its reputation!

They're just as merciless!

Thud! Thud! Thud!

The sound of gunshots filled the air, and the powerful impact of the flying bullets that hit the wall caused the concrete to crack.

Bloodsworth and his men could no longer take shelter behind the wall, and one by one, they collapsed and were all bathed in their own blood.

Before the battle even began, Bloodsworth had already lost two-thirds of his men.

He was absolutely devastated. Looking at this turn of events, he knew it would be an impossible task for them to hijack the DNA sequence since they had way too many casualties.

It would be a blessing if they managed to make an escape.

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Instead of continuing this fight, Bloodworth roared, "Listen to me! Barge into the hostel and hold the pupils hostage."

All his men then gave up defending themselves and ran towards the hostel like lunatics.

Some of them were killed when they made their way to the hostel, and only a small number of them managed to reach the building.

Bloodworth exclaimed, "Stop the fire, or I'll kill all the pupils here!"

With that, the sound of gunshots diminished, members of the Cygnus Room stopped firing.

The pupils woke up from the sleep and looked confused.

Bloodworth roared, "Wake up right now and stand in front of the doors and windows. You're the human shield now!"

The pupils looked startled and crawled out of their beds.

One of the pupils, who lay on a bed near Bloodworth, stood up and was a head taller than him.

Bloodworth was dumbfounded.

How could a primary school pupil be this tall?

He raised his head and was shocked to see the person.

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Its Sole Wolf! General North!

He turned around to look at all the other pupils and realized they were all soldiers.

The soldiers raised their guns at the Bloodsworth Syndicate and surrounded them.

After a round of firing, all his men collapsed and lay in a pool of their own blood.

Yet, a few surviving members of the syndicate managed to cover Bloodsworth and help him escape.

F\*\*k!

Sole Wolf panicked and immediately ran after them.

If Bloodsworth had escaped, their plan would not be a success.

In the meantime, Zeke made his way to the Bloodsworth Syndicate's base in the lake once again.

But this time, he entered the base as Bloodsworth after putting on his mask.

While Bloodsworth Syndicate was skilled in the art of disguise, Necro Group's Rosie White was also a master in making masks using human skin.

Each of them had its strengths and weaknesses, so they were on par with each other.

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In Bloodsworth's base, there were only a few researchers and mercenaries hired to safeguard the place.

Zeke made his way to the waste room where Bloodsworth imprisoned the real Ares.

Upon seeing Bloodsworth, the real Ares started cursing, "You shameless piece of shit! Let me go and fight with me, so both of us would have a chance to fight fair and square! You're just a bastard who ambushed and imprisoned me here. You don't deserve to show your face before me!"

Zeke said in a cold voice, "Shut the hell up. I'll tear you up if you continue to curse."

The real God of War was dumbfounded, "Zeke Williams? Why did you become Bloodsworth? You're disgusting."

"Get lost!"

Zeke grunted harshly, "I've destroyed Bloodsworth Syndicate. I'm here to get you out, so you'd better cooperate with me."

The God of War was delighted, "Yes, of course. I will. Once I'm out of here, I'll definitely want to have a fight with you. I've been studying all your moves over the last few years, and I've finally figured out a way to defeat you!"

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Zeke could not be bothered to waste his energy paying attention to Ares.

He was more aggressive than Sole Wolf.

Zeke called for the researchers of the Cygnus Room with his com unit.

“Unlock Ares’ chains,” he commanded.

The researchers started looking at each other in confusion.

Ares’ release would severely threaten their headquarters.

What’s Bloodsworth trying to do?

“Are you disobeying me now?” Zeke reprimanded.

Hurriedly, the researchers shook their heads. “No, Bloodsworth. It’s not that we don’t want to let him out. It’s because the chains have been forged with black iron, which makes them impossible to break.”

Zeke commanded once more, “Open them or die trying.”

His terrifying aura struck fear into the researchers, and they quickly agreed. “Don’t worry, Bloodsworth. We’ve recently invented a new corrosive agent that will definitely get through these chains. However, it will take a few days.”

Zeke nodded. “Okay. Use that to aid you.”

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The researchers hurried off to make preparations.

Zeke turned to Ares, saying, “Looks like you’ll have to stick around here for a little longer.”

Ares sighed. “You don’t have to save me, you know. You’re the only threat to me in all of Eurasia. If you leave me here, you’d become the strongest man in Eurasia.”

Zeke turned to leave, but not before stating, “I can’t leave my wife’s father behind.”

Ares was Lacey’s biological father, after all. Strictly speaking, that made him Zeke’s father-in-law.

He couldn’t just leave him to die.

Besides, Ares was the main protector of Eurasia. Zeke couldn’t leave him to die for his own selfish reasons.

Ares was taken aback by his answer. What does my death have to do with your wife’s father?

Suddenly, he thought of a horrifying possibility. Is Zeke Williams dating one of my daughters?

In a rage, he yelled, “Zeke! If you lay even a hand on one of my daughters, I will kill you!”

Zeke, however, had long disappeared.

Ares didn’t know that Lacey, Zeke’s wife, was his very own biological daughter that he had lost all those years ago.

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Though Ares wasn't aware of that, the news had quickly spread like wildfire across Thistleton Manor.

All the Thistletons were talking about Lacey Hinton.

Julian was the most interested in this juicy piece of gossip.

He had always been known as the firstborn to Ares and Lilith. Because of that, he had always been the heir to the role of the head of the family.

However, Lacey was in the picture now, and she was older than him.

She would be a definite threat to his heir position if she returned to their family. In fact, she might even try to take the position from him.

"We have to keep this news under lock and key no matter what. Chase Lacey out of Atheville."

"I heard that her husband is the student of the Great Marshal. Are you sure that's a good idea?"

"Who cares? I'm Ares' firstborn. Do you think I'd be beneath one of the Great Marshal's little pups?"

He hurriedly made his way to Linton Group.

In the Linton Group building, Lacey was holding onto a pregnancy test with tears in her eyes.

The two red lines shown on the little plastic stick

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was enough to send her emotions into overdrive.

There was now a small, new life growing inside her belly.

She was about to become a mother.

If Zeke knew he was about to become a father, Lacey knew he would be overjoyed.

Just as she was thinking about their happy future with their child, the door to her office swung open violently.

Julian walked in cockily with his head held high.

Lacey grew infuriated. “Who are you? Who let you barge in here?”



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Julian chuckled darkly. “Stop with the act. Do you really not know who I am? Should I call you sis, or should I just call you Lacey?”

Lacey was confused. “Sis? What do you mean?”

Julian looked at Lacey suspiciously.

Her confusion seemed genuine.

Could it be that she hasn't heard of her true identity yet?

That made things much easier for Julian.

He asked carefully, “Lacey, do you know who the Thistleton family is?”

Lacey was starting to lose her temper. “Who are you? Quit with the nonsense. I don't know who the Thistleton family is, and I'm not your sister, either. Please leave.”

Julian was overjoyed.

So Lacey really doesn't know who she is.

“You and the Linton Group are the ones who have to leave,” Julian stated as a matter of fact.

“What for?”

“The Linton Group is a threat to both the Great Marshal and Ares. Both of them have demanded all of you move out of Atheville,” Julian said.

How can that be?

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Lacey found what he had just told her hard to believe. “The new Linton Group has no way of catching neither the Great Marshal nor Ares’ attention, much less be a threat to them. You’re making things up.”

Julian sighed. “You want me to pull out the big guns? Fine. I’m the firstborn of Ares and an apprentice to the Great Marshal. The Linton Group is not only a threat to them but to me as well. I was the one who asked Ares and the Great Marshal to make such a demand. You should know what to do.”

Lacey instantly flew into a panic.

If everything he had just said was true, the Linton Group wouldn’t be able to survive much longer.

Zeke was also a student of the Great Marshal, but the man in front of her had Ares’ additional support backing him.

His position of double privilege was enough to run Zeke to the ground.

However, the Linton Group had just moved here from Rivermouth.

It might not survive having to move everything back.

Right as she was stressing over what to do, Julian’s eyes fell upon the pregnancy test in her hand.

His expression turned stony. “What’s that you’re

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holding on to?”

Lacey obviously wasn't about to show this stranger something so private.

She hurriedly tucked the pregnancy test away.  
“Nothing.”

Julian grew suspicious and stalked toward Lacey.  
“Is that a pregnancy test? Are you pregnant?  
Show it to me.”

Lacey was already enough of a threat to his position in the Thistleton family.

If she were to give birth to a child, that would be an even bigger threat.

It was common knowledge that Ares was fond of children. If Lacey gave birth, Ares would definitely give that child everything he had.

“Screw off!” Lacey yelled. “This is a personal matter. You have no right to know about such things.”

However, Julian ignored her words and suddenly stepped forward, snatching the pregnancy test away.

When he saw the two lines on the small stick, his eyes glinted with anger.

Die!

The baby in Lacey's stomach has to die.

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Julian acted as if he was walking out before he suddenly closed the door and locked it. He then pulled out a dagger.

“You have three choices. One, you jump off this building, Two, I bring you to the hospital, and you get an abortion. Three, I give you an abortion right here and now, but it’ll be much more violent.”

What?

Lacey’s face paled rapidly.

How sick can the man in front of me be?

He just talked about harming the baby in my belly!



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Lacey obviously didn't want any of the above. She slowly took a step back. "You monster! Leave immediately before I call the police."

Julian only stepped closer to her. "My apologies, but either you or your baby is going to die today."

Lacey flew into full-on panic mode. "I'll leave Atheville. I promise I'll leave Atheville. I'll never come here ever again. Please, don't hurt my baby."

Julian shook his head. "It's too late for that. It looks like you've chosen option three. Alright, then. I'll be able to get rid of both you and your baby."

Julian leapt toward Lacey and raised his dagger high, the cold glint of his blade flashing in the light.

Right at that moment, Zeke returned.

He pushed the door open casually, only to find that it had been locked from the inside.

He then heard Lacey's scream.

Lacey's in danger!

Zeke immediately kicked the door open forcefully.

The door, which had been kicked off its hinges, landed heavily on Julian.

The latter collapsed under the door's weight and the dagger in his hand fell to the ground, clanging loudly.

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The moment he laid his eyes on the dagger, a surge of anger rushed to Zeke's brain.

That man had tried to kill Lacey, and for that, he could not walk out of the office alive.

The other man didn't seem like he could actually escape from Zeke at the moment, so Zeke directed his attention to Lacey.

Lacey was curled up in the corner with her hands laid over her stomach. Tears were pouring from her eyes.

Zeke rushed forward and instinctively laid a hand on Lacey's stomach. "Lacey, what happened? Did he hit your stomach?"

Lacey held onto Zeke with one arm as the other hand remained on her stomach, still protecting the life inside her belly. "Zeke, thank God you're here. He didn't manage to hurt me."

Zeke didn't believe Lacey.

Why else would she be holding onto her belly? That man has to have punched her in the stomach.

He gritted his teeth in anger.

"Lacey, go to the break room and rest. I need to have a little chat with this guy."

Lacey nodded. "Okay. Please be careful."

Zeke closed the door to the break room and

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started walking toward Julian, his aura almost red with murderous intent.

Julian was still stuck on the ground. He hadn't been able to lift himself.

Based on the sheer force Zeke had used to slam the door toward him, Julian felt as if he had at least broken a couple of ribs.

Zeke bent down to pick up the dagger and started twirling it around.

"I'll give you two choices. One, you jump off this building. Two, I kill you and throw you off this building myself."

Julian's heart began thumping loudly.

The sheer murderousness emanating off of Zeke made it clear that he wasn't just trying to scare Julian; he actually meant his words.

Hurriedly, Julian squeaked, "You can't kill me! You have no right to lay even a hand on me."

Zeke raised an eyebrow. "Oh? Why is that so?"

Julian replied, "I'm Ares' son! I'm also a student of the Great Marshal. If you lay a finger on me, the two of them will surely come looking for you."

Zeke blinked in realization.

So this guy is Ares' son.

He was probably afraid that Lacey would return to

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the Thistleton family and threaten his position of power. That was probably why he had tried to kill her.

But Lacey's his sister, for crying out loud. How could he have been able to make a killing blow?

How has Ares managed to create such a horrible monster for a child? What an embarrassment.

Based on that piece of information, Zeke actually couldn't bring himself to kill him.

He was Lacey's biological brother, after all.

Lacey would have to return to the Thistleton family eventually. If he killed Julian, Lacey would be shunned by the other Thistletons when she went back.



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Zeke said coldly, "Since you're Ares' son, I'll let you go. However, I still need to make you pay for what you did. You punched my wife in the stomach, didn't you? An eye for an eye."

"Stop!" Julian yelled. "You probably didn't hear what I just said. Not only am I the firstborn of Ares, but I'm also the Great Marshal's apprentice. I know you're one of his students, but you're in no way as close to him as I am. I also have Ares behind me. If you dare lay a finger on me, you're dead meat!"

"I don't remember having an apprentice like you," Zeke scoffed before aiming a kick at Julian's stomach.

Crash!

Julian flew out of the glass window.

After he landed, he couldn't control a warm yellow liquid from darkening the front of his pants.

His stomach was in indescribable pain.

Zeke had managed to burst his bladder with that one kick.

The bodyguards outside the door ran over at the commotion.

The sight before them left them speechless.

Why would our boss need us when he was this adept at fighting?

NH

“Throw him out and put him on the blacklist. He shall never step foot in this company again.”

“Yes, Boss!”

The two bodyguards quickly brought Julian downstairs.

His urine left a trail after him, causing the workers to burst out laughing at the sight.

Zeke then opened the door of the break room and walked in.

Lacey was still holding onto her stomach.

Zeke asked tenderly, “Lacey, does your stomach still hurt? Do you want me to call an ambulance?”

Lacey smiled mysteriously. “Follow me.”

She brought Zeke back to the office and handed him the pregnancy test. “Zeke, look!”

The latter looked at the small plastic device and asked, confused, “Did he use this thingy to hit you just now?”

Lacey was surprised. “Thingy? You really can be dumb sometimes.”

Zeke frowned. “What’re you scolding me for?”

Lacey shook her head. “Never mind. I’ll just tell you what happened first. That guy was really weird. He called me ‘sis’. Can you help me figure out what’s going on? Mom and dad did mention

NH

that they had a son after having me, but he got stolen. Could he be that little boy? I actually kind of see a slight resemblance.”

Zeke felt an oncoming headache.

He didn't know where to start with Lacey's backstory.

Oh, well. I can just ask Hannah to reveal it to her some other day, bit by bit.

Julian's driver sped toward the hospital.

The injury Zeke had caused him was putting Julian's life in danger.

Julian himself was incredibly enraged.

Who was that guy?

He still couldn't believe that he, the offspring of Ares and the possible heir to the title, had gotten his bladder burst by someone and even wet himself in front of so many people.

When he thought about the way the workers of the Linton Group had laughed at him, he felt like dying.

His rage couldn't numb the pain he was feeling in his stomach.

He could only try to sit up slowly with his teeth gritted and use the Ares Magical Arts to try and relieve some of the pain.

# NH

After half an hour, Julian opened his eyes.

His pain had disappeared only to be replaced by glee.

His Ares Magical Arts had finally reached the seventh level!

Julian's Ares Magical Arts had always been stuck at the sixth level for the past five years. No matter how hard he tried to level himself up, it hadn't improved.

Weirdly, Zeke's kick had somehow managed to force one of his meridians open. It allowed for Julian to reach the seventh level of Ares Magical Arts.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

## NH

What did the seventh level of the Ares Magical Arts entail?

Even Ares himself had only reached the eighth level of Ares Magical Arts. Julian was now only a little ways away from Ares' own power.

More importantly, he was still so young. He had infinite chances for growth; he might even take over the Great Marshal himself one day.

I'm truly a genius!

Julian's driver was taken aback by Julian's sudden bout of crazed laughter.

He hurriedly asked what was happening.

The driver's mouth dropped open when he heard that Julian had managed to reach the seventh level of Ares Magical Arts.

"Good job, Sir! It's unheard of to reach the seventh level of Ares Magical Arts at such a young age."

Julian smiled. "I wonder if the Great Marshal will finally be willing to take me in as his apprentice."

Julian had tried to become the Great Marshal's student once.

However, the Great Marshal had turned him down and called him 'too weak'.

Now, as someone who had reached the seventh level of Ares Magical Arts, he was much more powerful than before.

## NH

The Great Marshal would definitely accept him now.

If that happened, he would surely rule over Eurasia as a son of Ares and an apprentice of the Great Marshal.

Right as he was reveling in his glory, his stomach started burning up. It felt as if he had swallowed lava.

Julian almost passed out on the spot from the pain.

He was well aware that it was the Ares Magical Arts in him trying to take over.

If he didn't want to die, he would have to control it.

There were two ways to hold on for the time being.

The first one was to grit his teeth and hold on through sheer willpower.

The second was to look for any woman who could satiate the fire burning in him.

Julian had horrible willpower. He knew there was no way for him to hold out through the pain.

That meant that he only had the second option left.

However, all his lovers were kept in a brothel. There was no way for him to rush back there now.

## NH

He had to find a random woman to deal with it for now.

Right then and there, a seductive lady dressed in stockings and high heels walked past their car.

Julian opened the car door and pulled her in, his heart and body in overdrive.

The lady was terrified. She was taken aback for a couple of seconds before starting to scream and struggle all she could.

However, as a weak, slim woman, she had no way of beating a warrior like Julian.

After an hour, the lady had passed out after all Julian had done. She was barely breathing.

Her downstairs area was raw and bloody after the amount of friction; blood dripped down her thighs.

Julian was finally satiated.

He sat up and put his clothes back on before kicking the woman out of the car.

The moment the naked girl landed on the road beneath her, she grabbed the attention of all the passersby.

With her last few breaths, she tried to yell, "H...help! He raped me!"

The crowd instantly realized what had happened and were enraged.

## NH

Who dared to commit such a horrible act? Under broad daylight, no less!

Anyone would be furious at such a scene.

The crowd surrounded Julian's car, not allowing him to leave.

A kind passerby took off his coat and laid it over the lady.

Someone quickly called the police.

Even more passersby began yelling at Julian.

"What a monster! How could you do such a thing?"

"Hmph! You really can't judge a book by its cover."

"You have to pay for what you did!"

Julian was growing more and more impatient.

How dare this bunch of lowly civilians block my way?

He got off the car and roared, "Screw off! All of you are in no place to dictate what I do!"

The crowd grew even more enraged upon hearing his words.

This ass\*\*\*\* not only failed to realize his mistakes, but he was also even cursing at us passersby!

# NH

He has to be one of those rich young masters who thought money gave him the leeway to do anything he wanted.

They couldn't just let him go.

“Who are you? Give us your full name!” A reporter, who had been passing by, held up a camcorder, pointing it at Julian.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

NH

Julian said coldly, “You’d be surprised if I told you-”

“That I am the Great Marshal’s last disciple!”

“I’d advise all of you to scam immediately, or I might make my move now.”

“The Great Marshal’s apprentice has the privilege of making the first move!”

The crowd was bewildered.

The Great Marshal’s Apprentice!

The Great Marshal was a symbol of faith and hope for them. Naturally, his apprentice radiated the same holy aura.

The crowd was at a loss for a moment.

Idiot!

Julian huffed as he jumped onto the car and sped away.

Of course, things did not end there.

Word of this eventually started to spread.

‘The Great Marshal’ was already a frequent character of interest in the news. Like wildfire, it quickly reached every corner of Eurasia.

Now it seemed that everyone knew of the news that ‘The Great Marshal’s Apprentice Harassed A Lady On The Streets!’

## NH

Though it could not be confirmed if the perpetrator were indeed the Great Marshal's Apprentice, the news had indeed tainted the Great Marshal's image.

Now, everyone could only eagerly wait for the Great Marshal to step up and say something about this.

Was the perpetrator related to him?

If he were, would he start a massacre just to get justice for the victimized girl?

As soon as word of this reached the ears of Zeke, he instantly boiled with rage.

Having others carrying out any deed in his name was something he despised the most.

Especially dirty deeds like this.

He had to get to the bottom of this incident!

He asked Sole Wolf who was beside him, "Have you found out who that hooligan who calls himself my apprentice is?"

"Yes. He is Julian, the son of Ares!" Sole Wolf answered hastily.

So it was him!

Zeke angrily smashed his fists against the walls, leaving a hole in it.

"Letting him leave the Linton Group alive back

NH

then was a grave mistake!”

“This scoundrel has to be dealt with for the sake of appeasing the people!”

Sole Wolf’s phone had suddenly rung. He picked up the call as he took a couple of steps backwards.

Not even a moment later, Sole Wolf ended the call and said, “Zekky, it’s from Julian, he sent someone to contact me,”

“He wanted me to introduce him to the Great Marshal; he wants to become his apprentice.”

“He even claimed that his training in the Ares Magical Arts has reached the seventh level and that he is able to achieve the title of ‘Archduke.’”

Zeke laughed mirthlessly.

He had to admit he was amused at the fact that Julian had the guts to think that the Great Marshal would accept him as an apprentice.

“Sole Wolf, send the press a message immediately, tell them that Julian is no apprentice of mine. I had nothing to do with him,” Zeke ordered.

“On the other hand, he has greatly disrespected the name of the Great Marshal by using his name to commit such atrocities,”

“The Great Marshal shall personally reprimand Julian for this.”

## NH

“Alright.”

The whole of Eurasia was shaken by the news.

It was impossible for the Great Marshal to have a hooligan like that as an apprentice.

To think the Great Marshal himself would personally confront Julian!

The perpetrator should be punished!

Julian flew into a rage upon seeing the news.

“Damn, to think I took the trouble and sent someone to contact him. Never mind a reply, he’s gone ahead and announced that he will reprimand me.”

“He may not have given me any respect, but he dared forgot my father, Ares?”

“What an arrogant bastard. Just because he became the Great Marshal?”

“I have already trained and reached the seventh level of the Ares Magical Arts. My powers rival that of the Archduke class now. My father and I are both more than enough to defeat him!”

“Alas, father has been out of reach for a few days now. There’s no way of knowing where he’s gone to.”

Bloodsworth, who previously impersonated Ares - had long returned to his country.

## NH

The real Ares was now still imprisoned at the base, unable to escape.

Obviously, there was no way he could have contacted Ares.

After a brief thought, Julian huffed, “Hmph, even if I cannot kill you now, I can till ruin your reputation.”

“Once your name has been ruined, I will watch you lose the trust of the people and your title as the Great Marshal!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

NH

He was a man of his word.

He immediately summoned his friend, Kelsey Barker.

Like himself, Kelsey was of royal descent.

However, Kelsey's family was just slightly weaker than the Thisleton Family.

Being birds of a feather and having grown up together, the two were as thick as thieves

"Zekky, you called?" Kelsey grinned, "Could it be you have a couple of new ladies to introduce to me?"

"Do me a small favor. I need you to play along with me for a bit."

"Oh, how so?" Kelsey asked.

"It just so happened I started dating this girl from some film academy, so I picked up some acting skills along the way."

"This time, I need you to act like you're the Great Marshal!" Julian said.

What?

Kelsey thought he had heard him wrongly, "You want me to impersonate the Great Marshal?"

"But, impersonating the Great Marshal is a criminal offence."

NH

“There’s nothing to be afraid of.” Julian impatiently said.

“I am currently on the seventh level of the Ares Magical Arts, and my strength has reached the Archduke level.”

“My father and I are both Archdukes, surely we will not lose to the Great Marshal in terms of strength.”

“At this rate, the entire of Eurasia will soon be in the hands of the Thisleton family.”

What?

Kelsey was stunned.

Julian’s strength had reached the Archduke level at such a young age.

Now the Thisleton family had two Archdukes, it was no mere exaggeration now to say they were the most powerful royal family in all of Eurasia.

With the power of two Archdukes working together, why was there a need to fear the Great Marshal!

He was determined to ride the coattails of the Thisleton family from now on.

“Sure, no problem,” Kelsey hurriedly agreed.

“My life will be in your hands then, Haha!”

An hour later, Julian had arrived at Havel Hall

# NH

Hotel.

Haven Hall Hotel was the best five-star hotel in Atheville.

Only the elite and successful people of society were able to dine here.

Now, it was packed with people for the lunch hour.

The luxurious dining rooms were already fully booked, and the main hall was already filled with guests.

Julian silently found an obscure spot, took a seat and glanced outside the window.

Very soon, a fleet of military vehicles arrived at the entrance of the hotel.

Kelsey alighted one of the vehicles. Heavily guarded by armed military personnel, he marched towards the hotel.

But as he reached the doors, the security guard halted them.

“We’re sorry, sir. Weapons are not allowed inside, especially automatic class weapons.”

“Please put away your weapons before entering.”

Kelsey slapped the guard without hesitation, “What did you say? I couldn’t hear it clearly.”

The guard cupped his face, but he bit his lips and

NH

repeated himself.

“Sir, please put away your weapons.”

Slap!

Kelsey had slapped him again. The strong impact caused the guard to fall to the floor.

“Hmph, in all my years of conquest, no one has ever dared to get in my way before.”

Followed by his henchmen, he stormed into the hotel in search of a seat.

The commotion caught the attention of the hotel guests.

They were utterly disgusted by the ruckus.

Just where did this army ruffian come from?

Was he not worried of tarnishing the image of the military?

A beautiful waitress stepped forward towards Kelsey, “Good day, sir. What would you like to order today?”

Kelsey coldly ordered, “Bring me every one of your signature dishes.”

Yes.

The waitress nodded and turned away, intending to leave.

# NH

However Kelsey had reached out and grabbed the waitress's hand. He forcefully grabbed her arm, causing the waitress to stagger and stumble into his arms.

"Tsk tsk, lady. You have such a dainty pretty face, and a beautiful figure to match." Kelsey's hands were all over the waitress, touching her inappropriately.

"What a pity for you to stay a mere waitress here."

"How about you come with me? Become my thirteenth concubine, and I guarantee you an easy life."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

The waitress's face had gone white with shock, wanting nothing but to get out of his arms.

But as Kelsey was a martial artist, she was unable to free herself from him.

"Sir, please mind your manners." She was on the verge of tears.

"I am already married and pregnant with a child. So please, let me go."

Kelsey huffed, "Damn, what a downer."

"No big deal, abort that child of yours and you will still have a chance to be my concubine."

Kelsey gave his henchmen a pointed look, who hurriedly grabbed the waitress, intending to force her to abort her baby.

The waitress was beyond horrified. She knelt on her knees, begging for mercy for herself and her child.

But, her efforts were to no avail.

The crowd could only glare and watch them.

Bastard!

How could there be such a twisted person like this?

For the sake of having the girl for himself, he was willing to sacrifice an unborn life!

# NH

It was unacceptable!

The crowd began to hurl threats at Kelsey and his men.

Suddenly, Kelsey whipped his gun and slammed it on the table.

“If anyone intends to stand up for her, show yourself! Let us see if your head can withstand my bullets!”

The crowd fell silent with terror and uttered a word no more.

This army ruffian had no mercy!

But finally, a silver haired elderly man stepped out of the crowd.

He removed his coat, revealing the military uniform he wore inside.

On his shoulders, two stars shimmered.

General!

This old man was a general!

These army ruffians were in for a bad time now!

“Which faction are you lot from?” The elderly man bellowed.

“Now, get on your knees and beg for forgiveness, and then we’ll drag you to the military court and have them judge you.”

## NH

However, Kelsey did not budge at all.

Kelsey casually took out a jade token and flung it onto the table, “Open your eyes and take a good look at who I am.”

“You don’t have the right to give me orders!”

The crowd took a closer look at the jade token.

Everyone was blown at the sight of the token!

It was the Great Marshal’s Seal!

Unbelievable, it was the Great Marshal’s very own Seal!

Only The Great Marshal had the rights to possess a jade token as such!

That meant that this army ruffian right here was the true Great Marshal!

“On your knees!”

Kelsey barked angrily as he fired a shot into the air, “Not kneeling before the Great Marshal is an offence punishable by death!”

The crowd fell to their knees in terror.

“Take this waitress away, abort her child. I want her delivered to my bedroom tonight.”

Understood!

Kelsey’s henchmen were going to drag the

NH

waitress out after all.

Everyone felt a chill in their hearts, it was tragic.

It was unbelievable, the Great Marshal they highly respected was such a scumbag!

Taking the girl by force, with no concern or respect for anyone else! Shameless!

The heroic image of the Great Marshal shattered in an instant.

From now on, Eurasia shall have no Great Marshal again!

That very moment, a loud and deep voice came.

“Stop!”

The crowd turned towards the voice.

From the corner, a young man stood up and steadily paced towards the Great Marshal.

Someone recognized him.

“Is this not Julian, the son of Ares?”

“Yeah, a few days ago he had claimed himself to be the Great Marshal’s apprentice, and made the headlines for harassing a girl in the streets!”

“But after that the Great Marshal clarified that this Julian is not his apprentice.”

“What does Julian intend to do here?”

# NH

Ares glared at Julian in disdain, “Son of Ares, Julian Thistleton?”

“Are you trying to butt in?”

“I’d suggest you scram. I haven’t reprimanded you for pretending to be my apprentice the last time. This time if you piss me off, I won’t have any mercy on you.”

Julian sighed, “Too bad then, but this time I must say something.”

“Everyone, I am here to clarify what really happened a few days ago.”

“Actually, I already knew for a fact that the Great Marshal was a pervert who assaulted a great number of women!”

“Last time when I was pretending to be his apprentice and harassed a lady on the streets, it was all an act! My purpose was to lure out the Great Marshal himself, and show everyone his true colors!”

“And now, the Great Marshal has been lured out by me!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

The people in the crowd remained unconvinced. Incredulous glances and looks of suspicion were exchanged. They could only wonder whether he was telling the truth.

The Great Marshal laughed coldly. “Even if you lured me here successfully—now what? Even Ares was no match for me, so what could you even hope to accomplish?”

Even as he spoke, the Great Marshal was already leaping into action, seizing the opportunity to attack first.

Julian just laughed loudly, like the notion was unthinkable. “I have already trained myself to the seventh level of the Ares Magical Arts.

Unwilling to show any weakness, Julian charged forwards to intercept his attack.

The people in the crowd parted hurriedly as Julian tore by, diving aside in their haste to get out of the way.

Both Julian and the Great Marshal were renowned as Gods of War in their own right.

And now with the two of them locked in a furious battle, someone was going to end up bringing down the roof in a very literal sense.

However, the unexpected soon happened.

The battle was over as quickly as it had begun. In the blink of an eye, the two warriors had exchanged blows and the winner was determined.

## NH

It took only one blow from Julian to send the Great Marshal flying. Blood bubbled from his mouth continuously as he coughed.

Julian remained unscathed, with not even a single hair out of place.

Stunned and dumbfounded in equal measure, the crowd stared in disbelief.

The Great Marshal, who was the best warrior that Eurasia had to offer, had lost to Julian in less than three moves!

No one could fathom the strength that Julian must have in order to achieve such a feat.

The entire situation was unbelievable to the point of being ludicrous!

It was becoming more than likely that Julian was well on his way to replacing the Great Marshal as the number one warrior in Eurasia.

Julian walked towards the servant girl who had been harassed, gallantly helping her up from the ground. He asked, "Are you okay, Miss?"

Moved to grateful tears, the servant girl sniffled. "Thank you, young master Julian! Thank you for saving me."

"No problem," Julian said, waving a hand casually. "It's what I should have done."

Holding onto the table for support, the old general who had his kneecaps smashed in stood up

# NH

gingerly.

“Young master Julian truly deserves the title of God of War,” he said slowly, “He is powerful, does not fear evil, and fights only for justice.”

“Truly your prowess is equal to that of heaven,” the old general continued, “You should be honored as Tyr, Heaven’s Equal.”

Within the depths of the crowd, a lone voice shouted, “Long live Tyr!”

The crowd roared their assent, repeating the man’s cry. Soon, the name Tyr resounded across the clouds, shaking the very skies.

Under the generous encouragement of the Thisleton family, the news of Julian’s achievement spread like wildfire through Eurasia.

Soon enough, the Eurasian public descended into an uproar.

The Great Marshal—he who had been venerated as the pride of Eurasia, he who inspired belief in the hearts and minds of all of Eurasia’s citizens—had been witnessed harassing a woman who was one of their own, forcing her to abort her unborn child just so he could have her all to himself.

Unable to stand by and watch this injustice happen, an old general had spoken up to defend the woman. Unthinkably, the Great Marshal had then cruelly broken both of the old man’s legs in retribution.

## NH

In the end, it was ‘Tyr’ who had stopped the Great Marshal and brought him to justice for his crimes.

The story had spread overnight. It had taken even less time for fear to seed itself into the hearts of the Eurasian population. Their morale crumbled, just as the Great Marshal’s reputation crumbled.

But even then, Tyr’s reputation had been solidly ingrained into their minds.

And Tyr, the hero who had vanquished the disgraced Great Marshal, was all set to replace him and take his place on top of the pedestal.

...

Dawn had barely broken when Lacey woke Zeke hurriedly.

“Zeke—Zeke, wake up! There’s been huge news.”

Her voice was outraged. “Can you believe it? I had no idea that the Great Marshal was such a scumbag. Why didn’t you tell me about him earlier? I literally worshipped him as my hero, Zeke!”

Zeke rubbed the sleep out of his eyes. He was fairly sure his hearing was not functioning as well as it should be. “Lacey, I have absolutely no idea what you’re talking about.”

Still outraged, Lacey showed him the large headline displayed on her phone.

Zeke’s sleepiness vanished instantly, replaced

## NH

with boiling anger.

That bastard, Julian Thistleton, was slandering his reputation again.

This time, he had even gone to the lengths of finding someone to impersonate as the Great Marshal. Fuming, Zeke thought that alone was a good enough reason to make him pay ten times over.

Zeke's first thought was to kill Julian. There was no other alternative.

With murder in his mind, Zeke was interrupted by the arrival of Sole Wolf, the General North.

He had seen the news as well and had come to ask Zeke if they should proceed to eliminate Julian.

After thinking deeply, in the end, Zeke only shook his head.

"Let it go," he said finally, "for now, we're not going to take any action against this. I don't want Julian harmed either."

Disbelief flooded Sole Wolf's mind. He remained puzzled, even after turning Zeke's decision over in his mind more than a few times.

Zeke saw his visible confusion and answered, "Bloodsworth and his syndicate are still on the run. He's also under the impression that I'm still lying crippled on a hospital bed."

## NH

“If we go after Julian now, wouldn’t we just expose ourselves?” he grinned slyly. “Julian also wouldn’t fall for our trap then. So, we have to remain under the radar by not doing anything. If Bloodsworth truly thinks that I’ve been crippled, he’ll make a comeback very soon and we can defeat him once and for all.”

Sole Wolf sighed. “If you say so.”

Zeke’s grin grew wider. “Of course, I may not be going after Julian, but I expect a discreet capture of all the actors that he’s been working with. Bring them here after you’ve captured them. They’re going to help me clear my name in the future.”



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

## NH

“That won’t be a problem,” Sole Wolf said, leaving immediately.

Not too long later, the criminals were all brought before Zeke.

Sole Wolf had not just managed to capture the man who had been impersonating as the Great Marshal, Kelsey Barker, but also the servant girl whom he had allegedly harassed, as well as the ‘old general’ who had nobly acted as the good Samaritan.

Impressively, Sole Wolf had even managed to round up the background extras who had played the part of the gathered crowd witnessing the incident.

Zeke smiled grudgingly. He had to hand it to Julian, the man had truly pulled out all the stops just to take him down this time.

Now faced with Zeke, the background extras were terrified out of their wits.

Even Kelsey’s voice trembled as he demanded, “W-who are you people? Why did you capture us?”

“So, you’re the Great Marshal?” Zeke asked with a faint smile. “You certainly look different from the one I met.”

Overwhelmed and caught flat-footed, Kelsey’s entire body was practically shaking. “I don’t know who you are but if you know what’s good for you, you’ll let us go immediately.”

## NH

“I’m good friends with Tyr,” he threatened, “if anything happens to me, you’re all going to pay the price.”

Zeke shrugged, utterly unconcerned. “Tyr? I’m sorry, but as long as I—the Great Marshal—remain standing, Julian Thistleton’s day will never come.”

The words hit Kelsey like a thunderstorm.

The other ‘actors’ lifted their heads to look at Zeke with a mounting sense of terror. “Great Marshal? You... you’re the Great Marshal?”

“The one and only.” Zeke smiled at them pleasantly, but there was something about his smile that raised the hairs on the back of their necks.

“Take them away,” Zeke said. “Wait for my order to sentence them.”

Waves of desperation crashed over the actors.

The Great Marshal should have been hunting down the mastermind behind the entire scheme for payback first. Instead, they could only wonder why he had gone after them first instead of Julian.

Julian had promised that he would protect them. But the actors were bitter, knowing that he was probably not even aware that they had been captured.

The actors were not wrong. At this moment, Julian was still blissfully unaware of the fact that

## NH

Kelsey Barker and his friends had been captured by Zeke.

In fact, Julian was well and truly puzzled as to why Kelsey had failed to show up for their little duels over the past few days.

In the meantime, Julian had been focusing all of his efforts on finding the real Great Marshal.

And yet, days had passed without even a single peep from the Great Marshal. It was almost as if the Great Marshal was content to let the entire incident slide, without even the slightest sign that he was looking for payback, or even leave Julian a warning.

It made Julian's blood boil.

Julian had rationalized it neatly, determining that the Great Marshal was afraid to face him and so continued to cower in whatever hole he was hiding in.

After all, a single mountain had no room for two tigers. Having two Gods of War under the same auspices was unprecedented, unheard of in history.

It would be normal for the Great Marshal to be wary.

And now, with even the Grand Marshal treading carefully around him, Julian decided that he had absolutely nothing to fear about Zeke Williams, who was but a useless lackey of the Great Marshal.

## NH

Even now, the thought of the humiliation he had suffered at Linton Group made his blood boil.

The grudge had to be repaid in full.

Of course, solidifying the glorious name of 'Tyr, God of War' in the records was just an added bonus.

With thoughts of revenge driving him, Julian cleaved a path towards Linton Group purposefully.

At this moment, Zeke had his own little troubles to worry about.

For the past few days, he had been acting like a cripple to draw out Bloodsworth from hiding.

That meant swallowing his pride and not dealing with Julian, as well as shouldering the weight of his tarnished reputation.

But Bloodsworth had not appeared. In fact, there was not even a single whisper of his existence.

Zeke was both speechless and exasperated, knowing he had allowed his reputation to be tarnished for nothing.

It was probably better if he set things straight as soon as possible. He did not want the Great Marshal's currently stained reputation to settle permanently in the public impression.

Just as Zeke was still mulling it over, he heard the door of Lacey's office next door being forcefully

# NH

kicked open.

Julian's raised voice followed, yelling strings upon strings of profanity.

A pleased grin spread across Zeke's face. He had just been thinking about teaching Julian a lesson and the man had promptly offered himself up on a silver platter. That saved Zeke the time and energy needed to hunt him down.

Cracking his knuckles in anticipation, Zeke stood up and walked next door.

Entering the office after kicking down the door, Julian was currently threatening Lacey. "Where is Zeke Williams? Tell him to come out and face me like a man!"

Knowing that Zeke was just next door, Lacey was not afraid of Julian's threats. But she was annoyed and decided to ignore him.

Seeing Lacey's apathetic treatment of himself, Julian swore to himself furiously.

"Apparently, I've been too nice to you," he bellowed. "Brothers, trash this place! Let's see if that coward Zeke still wants to hide then!"

Julian's henchmen acknowledged his orders, preparing to demolish Lacey's office.

But before they could do that, a pair of large feet planted themselves into the small of Julian's back, sending him flying forwards unceremoniously.

# NH

The owner of that pair of feet looked pleased with himself. Unquestionably, it was Zeke.

He walked to Lacey's side. "Lacey, are you okay?"

Covering her stomach with her hand unconsciously, Lacey said, "I'm fine. But—ugh—I think I might have gotten a scare. I'm going next door for a glass of water."

She retched as she left.

Unbeknownst to Zeke, Lacey was starting to suffer from morning sickness.

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NH

Zeke was slightly confused.

He was still unaware that Lacey was pregnant and wondered how much of a scare Julian had given her to prompt her to vomit spontaneously.

Or, maybe Julian was just that disgusting.

At this moment, Julian, who was still lying on the ground, was about to explode from the raw anger that shot through him.

He was now Tyr, Eurasia's no.1 warrior that was set to replace the God of War. And yet this man had the guts to land a sneak attack on him. If word of this situation ever got out, he would never be able to live it down.

Damn it, Julian cursed inwardly. Zeke must die today.

The last time they had faced off against each other, he was truly not as powerful as Zeke, leading to his humiliating defeat at the other man's hands.

Now, however, he had mastered the seventh level of the Ares Magical Arts. He had attained the full-fledged rank as a God of War in his own right. There was nothing he had to fear from Zeke.

Glaring at Zeke, Julian ground his teeth. "Getting cocky are we, Williams? Your own master wouldn't even face me head-on, and yet a brat like you still dares to ambush me?"

Up until now, Julian still had no idea that Zeke

NH

was actually the Great Marshal, thinking that Zeke was just a follower of his.

“Afraid to face you?” Zeke asked incredulously, not sure whether he should laugh or cry. “No, he just can’t be bothered to deal with you.”

Julian’s anger flared to new heights.

He snarled, “I’m not the man I used to be anymore. Now, I’ve already mastered the seventh level of the Ares Magical Arts. I’m as powerful as any God of War. I’ll crush you just like any other bug!”

Zeke smiled beatifically. “Just the seventh level of the Ares Magical Arts? Are you seriously going to brag about that?”

“You shameless bastard!” Julian shouted angrily. Zeke’s taunting remark had gone too far.

He roared, charging at Zeke.

With his feet planted firmly on the ground, Zeke tucked a hand behind his back and braced his other hand to intercept Julian’s attack.

The move infuriated Julian to no end. Judging by his stance, Zeke meant to use just one hand to fight him. Does he really think so little of my abilities?

Julian’s seething anger boiled over. He swore to himself that he was going to at least break Zeke’s arms and legs today and cripple him. It was either that or his name was not Thistleton.

## NH

The two warriors collided with each other, marking the start of their battle.

The fight had barely even begun before four successive loud cracks could be heard.

The disturbing sound echoed loudly in the office where they had been fighting.

After that, the battle was over.

For one long second, nothing happened. In the next, however, Julian suddenly toppled onto the ground, paralyzed.

Zeke on the other hand remained standing, with his feet still planted firmly on the ground. He had not moved at all.

Julian lowered his head to look at his arms and legs.

Disturbingly, they were bent and twisted at odd angles and when he tried to move them, he could not exert any force on them at all.

Then, the pain hit him. It was white-hot, burrowing deep into his brain and heart with every tiny movement.

Suddenly, Julian knew with agonizing certainty that Zeke had broken all of his limbs.

He had no choice but to believe it.

The pain was unbearable.

## NH

It manifested itself in the strangled scream that tore from Julian's throat, echoing in the office long after it started. The all-consuming pain was not the only thing Julian felt. A cold sense of fear was also creeping up on the parts of his mind that were not yet numb with pain.

In one encounter, with just one hand, Zeke had crippled Tyr's limbs.

It was impossible and yet, it had happened.

How did he do it? Julian wondered numbly. I'm Tyr, a God of War who mastered the seventh form of the Ares Magical Arts. How could I lose to him so badly? Was I just too weak?

No, it was Zeke who was too powerful.

And if a mere follower of the Great Marshal could be so strong, what about the Great Marshal himself?

Zeke was right. The realization struck Julian with a mounting sense of horror. The Great Marshal was not afraid of a fight with me. Rather, he probably views me as only a waste of his time.

Upon hearing the commotion, the security guards had arrived, only to find themselves staring tongue-tied at the scene before them.

They had a seriously growing sense that their presence in the company was quickly becoming unnecessary. Considering how good of a fighter their boss was, it was probably time for them to consider a career change.

NH

Zeke ordered, "Bring up the prisoners that we captured a few days ago."

"Yes, sir." The security guards quickly scrambled into action, escorting Kelsey Barker and the others into the office.

Upon seeing a pitifully crippled Julian, Kelsey gawped in shock.

He inhaled in surprise. When he had last seen Julian, the man was on the same level as the God of War, powerful and unstoppable. But now, he had been reduced to a useless cripple.

What fresh hell happened to him?

Julian was supposed to protect them. That was their agreement.

Looking at the situation now, that would only happen when hell froze over.

Julian was equally frustrated when he saw Kelsey and the other actors. There was little wonder now as to why he had not seen them around for the past few days. Evidently, they had been captured by Zeke long ago.

Too late to do anything about it, Julian finally understood that he was well and truly doomed.

He was certain that Kelsey and the others would definitely expose the truth of his entire scheme if only to save their own skins.

# NH



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## NH

Over the past few days, Julian had painstakingly built his valiant reputation as 'Tyr'. Now, it seemed like it was all going to crumble around him.

With a look of satisfaction on his face, Zeke ordered, "Toss them out of the building."

The security guards quickly acknowledged the order.

In no time at all, they had unceremoniously evicted Julian and his actors onto the cold, hard ground outside of the building, where they lay in an undignified heap.

A swarm of busybody passersby immediately descended upon them, looking at them curiously. Someone in the crowd immediately recognized Julian as Tyr, the God of War.

"Hey," the person shouted, "isn't that Julian Thisleton, the new legendary God of War? Is he crippled? Damn, who did that to him?"

Another voice chimed in. "I'll say, Julian was the one who defeated the Great Marshal. But if someone could still cripple him... Damn, how strong could that person possibly be?"

"Hold on," the first voice said, "the one beside him... isn't that the Great Marshal himself?"

"Yeah, it is," someone else replied, sounding appalled. "Huh, I wonder what happened here... why is the Great Marshal kneeling here as well?"

In a bid to save his own skin, Kelsey had no

NH

choice but to spill the beans. “Okay, okay. I’ll come clean!”

“I’m not actually the Great Marshal,” Kelsey said. He took a deep breath. “I was impersonating him.”

He poured the entire nefarious story out, leaving nothing unsaid.

The crowd was stunned.

However, their shock promptly turned to anger as they hurled strings of insults at the cringing actors. It had all been a plot by Tyr to discredit the Great Marshal after all.

Tyr had enlisted the help of an actor to impersonate the Great Marshal, painting a convincing picture of the Great Marshal harassing an innocent woman in order to stain his reputation. Then, Tyr had stepped out to stop the Great Marshal, solidifying his own hero’s reputation as a God of War keen to upholding justice.

Tyr—God of War, Heaven’s Equal—was nothing more than a jealous man who used underhanded tricks to curry favor and was no better than any lowlife gangster.

With his name cleared and his reputation restored, the Great Marshal turned out to be the actual hero that the people should have believed in all along.

Once again, the news spread across Eurasia like wildfire.

## NH

Just as quickly as he had built his reputation, Tyr had now become the target of scorn and ridicule by the general population. As the crowd hurled insults at him, Julian felt anger thrummed through his veins. At the same time, the pain from his broken limbs still gnawed at him.

The two combined were too much for him. His vision darkened and he slid out of consciousness.

Julian had to spend two full days in the Intensive Care Unit before he could be returned to Thisleton Manor.

Even then, Julian could not seem to bring himself to care. In fact, the thought of just dying and letting everything end seemed very appealing to him now.

The Thisleton family was a respected royal family who prized strength in battle above anything else. And now, Julian was a cripple who had no place in the family except as a target of scorn and ridicule.

To anyone, the fall from being the pride of the family to a useless cripple would leave a mental scar beyond imagination. To Julian, it was downright unacceptable. His spirit had been broken.

Just as he was spiraling deeper into depression, a commotion at the door caught his attention.

At the door, the herald's voice was loud, shaking the entire Thisleton Manor. "Hear ye, let us welcome home Ares!"

## NH

The Thisletons quickly gathered in the great hall to welcome Ares home.

For the past few days, they had lost contact with Ares, who had seemingly fallen off the grid.

Ares was the beating heart of the Thisleton family. When he had gone missing, the Thisleton family had been left without a leader. Morale had been low as they lived in fear of what the next day would bring.

But today, Ares had finally returned. Naturally, the Thisletons were going to welcome him personally.

In reality, the truth was that Bloodsworth, who had been impersonating Ares had suffered a crushing defeat earlier and retreated from Eurasia.

The real Ares had been held captive in an underwater base all along. Until today, he had finally broken free from his prison and rejoined his family.

Obviously, Ares was not keen on telling that particular humiliating story.

He was Ares, one of Eurasia's top aces. If the humiliating news of his two-year capture by the enemy forces were made public, it would be a disgrace to his title and a disgrace to Eurasia.

Upon knowing that his father had returned, Julian felt the stirrings of hope for the first time since his defeat.

True, he had been crippled, but his father was

# NH

Ares, and he was more than capable to avenge him.

“Quick, push me to see my father,” Julian ordered his servant.

Obediently, his servant started pushing the wheelchair Julian had been forced to use, weaving through the gathered Thisletons to approach Ares.

“Father, your heir and son, Julian Thisleton, welcomes you!” Julian raised his voice proudly.

Ares had been making small talk with the other Thisletons, but the gleam in his eyes upon hearing his son’s voice betrayed the joy he felt.

He loved his son Julian like he loved nobody else. For the past two years that he had been imprisoned, Julian had always been in his thoughts constantly.

Today, he could finally see his son again.

Ares turned around excitedly. “Julian, son, did you practice your forms as I told you to? Did you slack off... “

His words trailed off abruptly when he finally got a good look at his son.



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Ares could not believe his eyes.

His beloved son was sitting in a wheelchair.

Detachedly, Ares could only wonder what wretched thing had befallen his son.

Julian smiled sadly, saying, "Father, I did as you asked. I was diligent in studying the Ares Magical Arts, practicing daily and not slacking off in the least. Finally, as a result of my hard work, I mastered the seventh level of the Ares Magical Arts."

The news shocked Ares, who felt a sudden joy bloom within his chest. When he had been Julian's age, he had barely mastered the fifth level. But his boy had already managed to master the seventh level. He knew with certainty that his son's achievements would outrank his own in the future.

Perhaps someday, Julian would even exceed the Great Marshal.

The future of the Thisleton family was secure.

Ares let loose a hearty laugh. "That's my boy, always making me proud. Did you suffer a backlash when mastering the seventh level and injured your legs, Julian? It's fine, you'll be standing and walking again in less than a month."

Shaking his head slowly, Julian let out a sigh. "Father, I actually controlled the backlash when I mastered the seventh level."

## NH

Ares felt a stab of cold shock. His expression grew grim. “Then why are you still sitting on that wheelchair, my son?”

Wretchedly, Julian sighed again. “Father, I was permanently crippled by an opponent greater than me. All my mastery of the arts means nothing but ash now.”

He bowed as low as the wheelchair would allow him to. “I am sorry, father, for being such a disappointment.”

The cold lance of shock within Ares’ heart melted into boiling anger. His expression was twisted by the force of his rage and disbelief.

Just as the Thisleton family had been given the hope of having an heir whose abilities had the potential to exceed that of the Great Marshal’s, someone had the audacity to break the boy’s wings.

The loss suffered by the Thisleton family was unbelievable. If Ares did not avenge this injustice, he would be dishonoring generations upon generations of Thisletons.

“Who hurt you?” Ares growled as veins popped on his neck and forehead. “Bring me to him.”

“It was a boss of one of the listed companies,” Julian said, “he’s very powerful. I wasn’t his opponent at all.”

Ares scoffed. “A mere businessman? A lowly businessman dared to injure my son? I’ll demand

## NH

the lives of his entire family as compensation. Come, we're going to meet with this businessman."

Julian did not dare to tell his father that Zeke was actually his long-lost daughter, Lacey's husband. He was worried that Ares would hesitate and show mercy if that was the case.

But in reality, Ares was still unaware that his long-lost daughter was alive, much less the fact that she was now the wife of the Great Marshal.

Two hours later, Ares was pushing Julian on his wheelchair towards the entrance of Linton Group. They were about to enter the building when they were stopped by the security guards at the door.

"Hold it, you've been blacklisted," the security guard said sternly. "Entry denied."

Julian sneered. "Who's going to stop me? You?"

The security guard looked faintly exasperated. "Aren't you tired of getting beat up, young master Thisleton? The first time you were here, you had your bladder kicked until it burst. The second time, your limbs were crippled. This time, you might not even be able to leave alive."

The security guard's impudence remarks struck a nerve within Julian. He was beyond furious at him for bringing up the past humiliations he had suffered here. His teeth made an odd sound as they ground loudly against each other.

Ares sighed, "Imagine two mere security

## NH

watchdogs being so insolent. I must conclude that their master is even worse. Truly, I'd like to see what kind of man he is."

Pushing Julian ahead, Ares entered the building.

"Stop!" the security guard yelled. The father and son duo were immediately surrounded by more security guards. "You are not allowed to enter the building!"

Ares smiled coolly. With a single shake of his great frame, five or six of the security guards were immediately sent flying. The downed security guards spat blood, having sustained serious internal injuries.

They stared at Ares with wide eyes, wondering what sort of hotshot he could be if he was more powerful than Julian.

Could it be... he's a God of War as well?

The realization dawned on them. He must be Julian's father, Ares!

The security guards were on the verge of panicking when they realized that another one of Eurasia's greatest warriors, Ares had arrived. He was second only to the Great Marshal. For a moment, they were worried about their boss' abilities as they wondered if he could stand against Ares and live to tell the tale.

At this moment, Zeke was just about to leave Linton Group with the intention of heading towards the underwater base. He had done the

NH

calculations. Today was the day Ares broke free from imprisonment and he wanted to welcome him back personally.

At the same time, he wanted to take the opportunity to talk to Ares about the truth of Lacey's parentage.

Funnily enough, it was in a corridor on the second floor that he suddenly encountered Ares and his son, Julian.



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When Ares saw Zeke, he was confused.

What is the mighty Great Marshal doing in such a small company?

On the other hand, Zeke did not seem surprised by Ares' arrival at all. If Julian had not sought Ares' help to avenge him, well, then Zeke would actually be surprised.

Before Ares had a chance to even exchange greetings with Zeke, Julian had already opened his mouth.

He pointed an accusing finger at Zeke, angrily saying, "Father, this is the bastard who crippled me. Please, you must avenge me!"

Zeke merely snorted contemptuously. "We'll see if he's brave enough to do that."

Julian felt his anger spiked. He shouted, "Do you know who my father is? He's the greatest warrior in all of Eurasia, second only to the Great Marshal!"

"I'll tell you what," Julian continued angrily, "my father's power might even exceed that of the Great Marshal now! And you have the audacity to say that my father's scared of killing you? What a joke."

The earnest smile that spread across Zeke's face now was too bright to be anything but fake. "Come now, Ares, do tell him whether you think it's a joke or not."

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Ares flushed an unpleasant shade of brick red. He had not anticipated Julian's enemy to be the Great Marshal himself.

He fought the urge to sigh as he wondered what had his brat of a son gotten himself into, to the point of offending the Great Marshal.

Without any hesitation, he backhanded his son. "Boy, shut up now."

Julian was stunned by the sudden blow. "Father, what was that for? This man is just a follower of the Great Marshal. Besides, even the Great Marshal would have to give you some respect if he met you, so why are you afraid of just one of his followers?"

"Silence, Julian!" Ares bellowed. "You're talking to the Great Marshal himself, boy!"

Julian was thunderstruck.

He stared wide-eyed at Zeke, his mouth dropping open in surprise. For the first time, there was a healthy amount of fear in his eyes.

Zeke isn't just a follower of the Great Marshal, he is the Great Marshal!

I had been clashing with the Great Marshal the whole time.

Suddenly, the fate of having all four of his limbs crippled did not seem so bad after all. He had somehow come out of the entire ordeal with his life still intact, which was probably the biggest

## NH

blessing he was ever going to receive in this lifetime.

Julian knew it was far too late for regret, but he still silently cursed the Great Marshal for keeping such a low profile.

If only he had known that Zeke was the Great Marshal earlier, then there would be absolutely no way that Julian was going to provoke him.

At this moment, Julian could feel that his entire being was filled with regret.

Ares asked carefully, "Great Marshal, would you mind telling me how my son managed to offend you to the point where you had to cripple all four of his limbs?"

Zeke's expression was stone-carven. "He is guilty of exactly three crimes. First, he tried to kill my pregnant wife. Second, he had someone impersonate me and harass an innocent woman to stain my reputation. Third, he tried to kill me multiple times!"

For the second time that day, Ares was utterly gob smacked. His gaze betrayed his exact surprise.

Any one of those three crimes alone would be enough for the Great Marshal to sentence the entire Thisleton family to death along with Julian. And yet, Julian had still managed to commit all three of those crimes and remain breathing.

Zeke had only crippled him, leaving his life intact. Shamefully, Ares knew that all this was only

## NH

possible because of the respect the Great Marshal had for him.

Ares hit his son on the back of his head once more, the force he had used was enough to send Julian sprawling from his wheelchair.

“Bastard child,” Ares hissed, “hurry up and thank the Great Marshal for his mercy.”

Now that he knew Zeke was the Great Marshal, Julian realized that he was already very lucky to still be breathing at the moment. He immediately bowed at Zeke’s feet, lowering his body so that his head brushed the ground as he apologized fervently.

At this moment, Lacey had walked out from her office to see the source of all the commotion. “Zeke, what’s wrong?”

Upon seeing Lacey, Ares shuddered unwillingly as his eyes lit up in recognition.

Yvette!

My beloved first wife, Yvette! She... she’s alive?

Ares checked himself before he could do something regrettable. The girl before him was barely in her early twenties, she was much too young to be Yvette. His wife should have been more than forty years old now.

Now that he had a closer look at the girl, he could see that she looked slightly different from Yvette. She was as beautiful as his wife, but the shape of

## NH

her eyes reminded him of someone familiar.

Unless.. could this girl be the daughter that I had with Yvette?

It had to be. She have my eyes, after all.

The lance of sudden emotions that struck Ares made him want to cry. For years, he had slaved and poured all of his efforts into finding his lost daughter.

He was about to open his mouth to say something when Zeke shook his head and shot him a look. It was a look that brooked no room for argument.

“Lacey, this is an old friend of mine,” he told her. “It’s nothing to worry about. You can go back to work. I’ll be back in a bit.”

“If you say so.” Lacey smiled at her husband. “See you soon.”

She was busy anyway, so she turned to leave without any hesitation.

The moment Lacey had left out of earshot, Ares turned to Zeke and demanded, “Is that girl my long-lost daughter?”

Zeke sighed. “Come with me.”

He led Ares into a nearby break room. Zeke said, “It’s true. Lacey Hinton is your daughter.”

“I finally found her.” Ares laughed wildly. “After all

# NH

these years, I finally found her! For so long, I've been digging wells hoping for a trickle of water, but now the ocean appears before me. Take me to her, now!"

Zeke's expression cooled abruptly. "Sorry, but I don't think you have any right to meet her."

Stunned, Ares was momentarily frozen in surprise. "What do you mean?"



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“All those years ago, did you really think that Lacey and her mother just got lost in a mountain and never found their way out?” Zeke asked. “Have you never even considered that they were set up by someone else?”

Ares’ emotions suddenly churned turbulently. “Tell me then, what actually happened? Was there another deeper conspiracy to them getting lost in the mountain?”

Zeke nodded. “All of this happened because of your second wife, Lilith. She was jealous of Lacey’s mother and wanted Yvette’s status for herself. So, she sent someone to kill both of them.”

“Fortunately, Lacey’s mother caught wind of the plot just in time and managed to escape with a baby Lacey,” Zeke continued, “but Lilith was relentless, she ordered her people to continue hunting them down. To protect Lacey, Yvette used herself as bait to lure the assassins away. It’s unknown whether she’s still alive currently. Lacey would have died too if she weren’t adopted by a kind-hearted couple who happened to pass by.”

For the umpteenth time that day, Ares found himself shocked.

“I knew there was something suspicious about that case, even all those years ago.” The glass in Ares’ hand shattered as his bloodthirsty urges reared its ugly head. “Well, I’m glad you proved me right then. Lilith’s actions in inciting internal strife in the Thisleton family to the point of causing death is a crime punishable by death.”

## NH

“Exactly. As such, I’ll only let Lacey return to the Thisleton family if and only if you finish eliminating all the threats to her safety,” Zeke said.

Ares gave an unpleasant laugh. “I can assure you, that won’t be a problem. Now, why don’t you tell me about you and her? What is your relationship with my daughter?”

“We got married a short time ago,” Zeke said.

Zeke could almost see the expression in Ares’ eyes that read, ‘Get a divorce. Immediately.’

“You cannot be together with my daughter,” Ares said without any hesitation.

Zeke was not surprised in the least by the answer, having expected Ares to give that reply.

“Why?” Zeke asked, knowing full well the reason behind it already.

“Do you really need me to spell it out?” Ares said in a pitying voice. “You are the Great Marshal, representative of all fourteen billion of the Eurasian population. You have enemies all over the world that’s out for your blood, with all of them being extremely dangerous in one way or another. Yes, you are powerful and your enemies may not be able to defeat you, but Lacey isn’t invulnerable. If you continue to stay by her side, she’s going to become your weakness. All of your enemies will come after her to get you. I don’t want my daughter to live the rest of her life with that kind of fear hanging over her.”

## NH

Zeke inhaled deeply. “You know I can protect her. I promise that no harm will come to her with me around.”

“And what will you promise me with?” Ares said unyieldingly. He then sighed. “But if you truly want to be with my daughter, there is an alternative. Retire and go into hiding. Give up the title of the Great Marshal.”

“You know I can’t do that,” Zeke said quietly. “I’ve been maintaining the peace of Eurasia. If I retire from the world, Eurasia will descend into chaos. I can’t run away from my duties to Eurasia just for the sake of my self-interests. Unless—unless there was someone stronger than me. Someone who could take on the mantle of the Great Marshal.”

Ares snorted. “How hard would that be? My current abilities have long exceeded yours, Zeke. I know I’m worthy of being the Great Marshal.”

“I’m afraid not.” Zeke swept a dismissive gaze over him. “In fact, I think you still have a long way to go.”

Ares slammed his hands onto the table. “Is it really that hard for you to admit that there’s someone more skilled than you? The Great Marshal truly is nothing more than a narrow-minded fool.”

“Just you wait,” Ares said bitterly. “Once I’ve recuperated for a few days to return to my prime, I’ll challenge you for the rank of Great Marshal. And I swear, I will replace you.”

# NH

He left in a huff.

Zeke massaged his temples.

Truth be told, he truly hoped that Ares could win his challenge and become the next Great Marshal. However, attaining the rank of Great Marshal was not just about the glittering facade of glory and honor, but rather a deep understanding of the duty and responsibilities that came with it.

Honestly, Zeke was tired of the shadow of the Great Marshal hanging over him too.

It was a pity then, that judging from what he sensed from Ares' released energy, the gap of power between the both of them was still considerable.

The first thing Ares did after returning to the Thisleton Manor was to summon all the members, old and young alike, of the Thisleton family.

Seeing Ares' enraged expression, the Thisletons knew at once that things had not gone well for him. They fidgeted uncomfortably in their seats, not daring to breathe a single word.

Ares scanned the gathered crowd with his withering gaze, unable to find any sign of Lilith.

He demanded, "Where is Lilith?"

# NH



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# NH

Everyone shook their heads.

The butler answered, “Mrs. Thisleton hasn’t returned home ever since she got into the helicopter that day. I’ve been trying to get in touch with her, but to no avail.”

Ares frowned. “She left via helicopter? Does anyone know where she went? Or why she left?”

The butler froze. “Sir, you were the one who arranged for Mrs. Thisleton to leave. You should be the clearest on where she went or why she left.”

Previously, it was Bloodsworth who had been masquerading as Ares that sent Lilith to the maximum-security prison.

The point was to lure Zeke there so he could be killed.

It was there that Lilith finally realized that the ‘Ares’ who had slept next to her for the past two years was nothing but a fraud.

She figured that the real Ares would be making his victorious return very soon.

By then, news of her assassinating Lacey Hinton’s mother would’ve gotten to him, and her life would be in jeopardy.

Thus, she decided to pack up and return to her parents’ home, never planning to return again.

After giving it some thought, Ares was able to

## NH

deduce more or less all that had happened.

Lilith clearly ran because she's afraid of getting caught.

"Find her! Search the whole world if you must, just find Lilith!" Ares commanded.

"Yes, Sir!" the butler hurriedly answered.

Ares then glanced at Julian. "Come with me."

He led Julian to his office.

"Your mother has gotten in touch with you, hasn't she? I'm sure you know where she is."

Lilith Goldace was none other than Julian Thisleton's mother.

Julian shook his head. "I really don't know, father. I've tried contacting her, but I can never get through."

Really?

Ares was very doubtful of his son's words. He took Julian's phone from him and used it to call Lilith.

But just like Julian said, the call couldn't get through.

Only then did Ares trust his words a little more. "If Lilith contacts you, tell me right away. Otherwise, don't blame me for being coldblooded when I kick you out of the Thisleton family."

NH

Julian hurriedly nodded. “Yes, father. I will heed your words.”

“Also, just how did you piss off Zeke Williams?” asked Ares.

Julian opened and closed his mouth a few times, but was unable to give any proper explanation.

Ares snorted. “Hmph, I can see that you’re worried that Lacey Hinton will threaten your own interests when she returns to the Thisleton family, aren’t you?”

Hearing Ares bluntly pointing out his most inner thoughts made Julian blush red.

“No, that’s not it, father. I... I’m not...” he stammered, trying to defend himself.

“Enough.” Ares waved his hand dismissively. “Take this as a lesson. In the future, anyone who dares go against our house rules will face dire punishment.”

Julian gave Ares a quick nod, then hurriedly backed out of the room.

Ares looked up at the moon and felt all sorts of emotions running through him.

The Harvest Festival was right around the corner.

It was a day where families would get together in celebration.

He wanted nothing more than to bring Lacey back

## NH

to the Thistleton family, and for the whole family to dine together at one table and as one family.

It was unfortunate, however, that Yvette was likely long lost to him.

Meanwhile, at Linton Group, Lacey Hinton was still in the dark about the truth of her own birth.

Zeke knew that Ares would want Lacey to return to the Thisleton family soon.

He had intended to break this news to her beforehand.

However, each time he tried to broach the subject, he just couldn't figure where to start.

Lacey had sensed Zeke's odd behavior. "Zeke, what's going on? Is there something that you want to tell me?"

Zeke nodded, then he took a deep breath. "Lacey, do you remember how the Sullivan family said that you were impervious to any and all poisons?"

"Of course I do," nodded Lacey. "What about it?"

"Lacey, there's something you should know. This immunity you have is very, very rare. It's not something that any average person can possess. At the very least, the person has to be from a noble family with a lineage that would date back to maybe a century ago. Do you understand what I'm getting at here?"

# NH



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

“What you’re saying is, I don’t have this kind of immunity?” asked Lacey, puzzlement visible on her face.

Zeke was at a loss for words at that.

“No, you misunderstood me.”

“Alright, alright. I don’t care about this immunity thingy. All I want is to be able to be with you and that’s enough for me.”

“Oh! And I have something to tell you too.”

Zeke looked at her curiously. “What is it?”

Lacey unconsciously put her hand on her belly as her face flushed red.

She felt rather shy to bring up the pregnancy herself.

Right at that very moment, the sound of things being smashed could be heard coming from downstairs.

Dawn’s screams soon followed.

“What are you doing? Stop! Stop it!”

What’s happening?

A look of alarm crossed both Zeke and Lacey’s faces, and they hurried downstairs.

The floor below them held the office space for the construction division of Linton Group.

## NH

The person in charge of this division was none other than Dawn Castaneda.

Eight bulky-looking men were violently trashing the office at that very moment.

The area looked like a tornado had hit it. There were even multiple staff members who had gotten hurt.

Dawn's head had also been smashed and blood was pouring out of the wound.

Despite that, she was still desperately trying to stop the brutes from doing any more damage.

When Lacey laid eyes on the destruction, her face instantly turned pale. She ran to Dawn and dragged her to a safe corner.

"Dawnie, are you okay?"

Dawn broke down in tears. "Lacey, Zeke! Quick, stop them!"

"How could they do all this?"

Zeke looked at the men and roared, "Stop! All of you, stop!"

But the eight men barely even glanced at Zeke as they continued to pummel everything in sight.

Damn it!

Zeke could no longer hold in his fury. He aimed his foot at the row of stools next to him and

NH

kicked hard.

The stools flew out like missiles and headed straight for the eight brutes.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The men flew backwards from the impact.

All of them were heavily bloodied and bruised, and one of them even had his head hit so hard that he went into shock right on the spot.

F\*\*\*!

The seven other men flew into a rage. “How dare you assault us? You must have gotten tired of living! Do you even know who we work for?”

“Shut it!” hissed Zeke. “It’s not your turn to speak.”

F\*\*\*ing hell!

The men raged, “You need to be a taught lesson, you bloody imbecile!”

They pushed themselves off the floor.

Zeke’s body tensed as he stared at them with reddened eyes. His whole body was emitting a deadly aura.

All of a sudden, it felt like the temperature around them had dropped a few degrees.

The brutes inhaled sharply. Zeke’s deadly aura had completely stunned them.

## NH

That was when they realized they were standing in front of a very powerful person that they most probably shouldn't cross.

The brutes quickly shut their mouths, not daring to say anything else.

Zeke walked up to Dawn and said, "Dawnie, tell me what happened."

Dawn sobbed, "They're thugs sent by Starburst Constructions."

"Linton Group and Starburst Constructions were bidding for the same project a few days ago. In the end, we won the bid because we were obviously the better choice."

"But Starburst Constructions refused to accept their defeat. They've been going around causing all kinds of trouble for us, and they want to force us into handing this project over to them at a low price."

"Naturally, I wasn't going to give them what they wanted, so they've only gotten worse since then. They've sent people to create all sorts of trouble at our construction sites, and now they've even come right onto our doorsteps!"

Zeke frowned after hearing Dawn's account.

This was something that was commonly seen in the construction industry.

However, for Starburst Constructions to be so flagrant about it undoubtedly meant that they had

## NH

powerful connections.

But to Zeke, it really didn't matter just how powerful those connections were. They were all equally insignificant in his eyes.

Zeke looked at the brutes and ordered, "Give your boss a call. Tell him he needs to pay for all these damages!"

"Let's see. I estimate about one billion worth of property damage and another ten billion for Dawnie's medical bills. So that's eleven billion in total."

Pffft!

The brutes sniggered.

They had seen their share of arrogant men, but never one as arrogant as Zeke.

They had only broken a few office furniture and roughed Dawn up a little, and yet the man had the nerve to demand eleven billion from them!

Absolutely ridiculous!

Everyone knew how stingy their boss was.

He was someone who wouldn't pay anyone even one extra nickel, much less eleven billion!

# NH

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

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## NH

“Listen here, boy. It’s in your best interest to hand the project over to us and let us leave. Then maybe we can pretend that none of this happened. Otherwise, not only will you not get even one nickel from us, but you’ll find yourself in a mess so deep that you’ll never be able to find your way out. My boss isn’t someone you can just mess around with.”

With his interest piqued, Zeke raised his eyebrow. “Oh really? And just who may your boss be?”

“They call him ‘Top Dog.’ He’s not only the top dog in Atheville, but the whole of Eurasia too. Even those in Glasbury need to be respectful of him.”

“So your boss is some big shot from the military circle? But as far as I know, military personnel aren’t allowed to do business,” stated Zeke.

“Our boss isn’t part of the military circle. However, he is related to one of the most powerful figures in it.”

“Who?” asked Zeke.

“Ares of the Thistleton family! My boss is his nephew!”

“Why have I never heard of Ares having a nephew? Besides, it doesn’t really matter to me that Ares is your boss’ uncle as even Ares himself needs to kneel before me when he sees me.”

The brutes were stunned for a second before bursting into laughter.

NH

“Am I hearing this right? Is this idiot saying that he knows Ares?”

“You’re saying that Ares needs to kneel before you? Who do you think you are? The bloody Great Marshal?”

“If you are the Great Marshal, then I’m the bloody King of England!”

“What are you trying to do exactly? Kill us with your jokes? Hahaha!”

Zeke remained expressionless. “I’ll give you ten minutes. If your boss doesn’t pay up by then, you all can consider yourself done for.”

One of the men, who happened to be bald, whipped out his phone and called his boss.

“Boss? We ran into a bit of trouble. Some obnoxious dude assaulted us.”

Top Dog roared through the phone, “Imbeciles! Bunch of useless trash! Why can’t you handle something as simple as this? Who assaulted you exactly? The people from Linton Group?”

The bald guy affirmed, “Yes, Sir. The people from Linton Group assaulted us.”

“Didn’t you tell them who I was?”

“We did, Sir. But that guy said that even Ares himself needs to kneel before him.”

What the hell?

## NH

Top Dog flew into a rage. “How dare he insults my uncle! Bloody hell! Wait right there! I’m on my way.”

The bald guy continued in a derisive tone, “Oh, and Sir, he also asked you to bring eleven billion to pay for the damages, or he will make you suffer.”

“Eleven billion? What is he? Nuts? Tell him to go rob a bank! Or better yet, tell him I’ll give him a quarter. That’s all his life is worth to me!”

The bald guy hung up the call and looked at Zeke smugly.

“I suggest you be a good little boy and beg for forgiveness now, Williams. And pay us one million in compensation for psychological damages. Perhaps then, we’ll consider sparing your life. How does that sound?”

Zeke shook his head slowly. “That’s actually the exact same thing I wanted to say to you.”

“Get on your knees and apologize to Dawnie right now, or... No, actually, I won’t spare you your lives. But I will be swift about it so you won’t suffer as much.”

knowing full well that they had Top Dog backing them, the brutes had nothing to fear, and thus they continued to behave obnoxiously and impudently.

Not long after, a man with a huge beer belly walked in, and following closely behind him were

NH

multiple men in black suits.

The man with the beer belly was none other than the brutes' boss, Top Dog.

Zeke could easily tell that the suit-wearing bodyguards had military training.

If his deduction was correct, then they were most probably retired special forces.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

When the brutes saw Top Dog, they all rushed to his side.

“Boss, you’re here! You’ve got to avenge us!”

“Who was the one that assaulted you?” asked Top Dog.

The brutes pointed to Zeke.

A look of disgust flashed across Top Dog’s face. “What the heck? The eight of you can’t even take down a scrawny man like him? How useless are you?”

The brutes lowered their heads in shame, unable to refute their boss’ admonishing.

Top Dog walked up to Zeke. “So you’re the one who assaulted my men?” he asked icily.

“Did you bring the money?” asked Zeke instead.

Top Dog put his hand into his pocket and dug out a quarter. “Here, as I said on the phone earlier, your life is only worth a quarter, so I’ll be buying it with this. Now, are you going to make things easier and end things yourself, or would you rather I torture you to death?”

Zeke took the quarter from Top Dog, then unhesitatingly threw a slap right across his face.

“Thanks for the quarter. I’ll use it to pay for your coffin.”

Zeke’s slap was very strong. It was so strong in

NH

fact that the momentum from it actually caused Top Dog to spin around a few times before collapsing onto the ground.

The brutes stood rooted to their spot and gawped in shock.

Despite having prepared themselves for a confrontation of sorts, they still hadn't expected Zeke to be that abhorrent.

How dare he attack our boss so recklessly?

"Truthfully, I don't have much time to waste on you lot. Who's the mastermind behind you all? Get him here so that I can take care of everything in one go."

F\*\*\*!

The vein on Top Dog's temple popped. "Get him! Beat him up into a bloody pulp!"

"No, wait! Spare him his last breath. I want to have my fun slowly torturing him."

"Yes, Sir!"

The bodyguards immediately surrounded themselves around Zeke and closed in on him.

Zeke sniggered before absentmindedly waving his arm in front of him.

Silver needles flew out from his fingers and pierced right into the bodyguards' legs.

## NH

One by one, the bodyguards grabbed their legs in pain and crumpled onto the ground howling.

“What the hell?”

“My leg! It feels like there are millions of ants gnawing at my leg!”

“What’s happening? My leg is killing me! Make it stop!”

Everyone’s jaw fell open again.

Those eight bodyguards were all highly-trained special forces, and yet they were so easily neutralized before even reaching Zeke.

Just how powerful is he? Does he have some kind of superpower? How did he neutralize them without even touching them?

The fact was, no one had seen the needles fly out because they were so small and swift.

Top Dog started to tremble. Realization dawned on him that he had come across a very tough opponent this time.

The man in front of him was an extraordinary man.

The moment this realization crossed his mind, Top Dog was immediately filled with the desire to recruit him.

He took a deep breath before speaking his next words. “I can see now why you’re so arrogant.

## NH

With your talents, I'd say it's understandable. How about you come and join me instead? I'll not only ignore your past transgressions, but I'll also make sure you become bigger and better. Who knows? You might even get a chance to serve Ares personally."

Zeke shook his head. "I'm afraid he's not worthy."

Top Dog answered, "That's fine. I know you think you're not up to the task now, but I'll train you well. Besides, given my relationship with Ares, it'll be a very easy thing for me to give you a position that's close to him."

Obviously, Top Dog had misheard what Zeke said.

Zeke frowned deeply. "Listen carefully this time."

"I said, Ares is not worthy of having me serve him."

Such insolence!

Top Dog shuddered involuntarily. "How dare you be so dismissive towards Ares? You sure got a set of steel balls on you! If Ares finds out..."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

Zeke rolled his eyes at him impatiently. “Are you done yet? Just call the mastermind or whatever trump card you guys have and ask them to come over here. Otherwise, I’ll just finish you off right here and now,” he growled before stalking towards Top Dog.

Top Dog hurriedly backed up a few steps then dug out his phone and dialed a number.

“Uncle Killian! Someone is trying to kill me! Help!”

At the same time, an intimidating-looking troop of guards had just departed from the Thisleton Manor and were headed towards Linton Group.

Ares had decided that today was the day that he was going to bring Lacey Hinton home; she was finally going to be inducted back into the Thisleton family.

In order to show his sincerity, he had specifically dispatched his guards to seal off the streets and clear the area.

Then, he was going to board his private helicopter and welcome Lacey home himself.

On the way to Linton Group, the phone of the captain of the guards rang.

The caller ID showed that the call was from ‘Nephew.’

It turned out that the captain of the guards was none other than Top Dog’s uncle, Killian Chene.

## NH

Killian could feel a headache building the moment he saw who was calling him.

This nephew of his often went around causing trouble and always expected him to clean up his messes for him. Honestly, he had gotten quite sick of it.

Seeing the call, he easily surmised that his nephew had gotten himself into some kind of trouble again.

He answered the call and instantly heard Top Dog wailing on the other end.

“Uncle Killian! Someone is trying to kill me! Help!”

This immediately caught Killian’s attention.

“What? Who’s trying to kill you? Where are you right now?” he asked anxiously.

“I’m at Linton Group. Come quickly, Uncle Killian!”

What!

Killian’s head started to throb painfully.

This idiot is stirring up trouble at Linton Group?

Ares is going to Linton Group today so he can finally meet with his long-lost daughter.

If whatever this brat has done throws a spanner in the works, then Ares will surely want my head! Or worse!

Damn it! I need to get there ASAP so I can clear

NH

whatever mess that dumb nephew of mine had gotten into!

“I’ll be there soon! Stay there, you brat!” huffed Killian.

Killian hung up the call and picked up the pace.

He needed to get to Linton Group and remove all the unnecessary people before Ares arrived.

Top Dog looked extremely smug after his call with Killian.

“Just you wait, Williams!” he sneered.

“My uncle is on his way right now. And when he arrives, you’ll be done for.”

Zeke raised an eyebrow as he studied him. “Is Ares really your uncle? Did you actually asked him to come here?”

Top Dog chuckled coldly. “You’re too small a fish for me to summon Uncle Ares, so I only asked for one of his guards. He’ll be more than enough to finish you off.”

Zeke rolled his eyes in exasperation. “Even Ares himself is no match for me, much less a guard of his.”

“Whatever you say, man! Go ahead and keep bluffing, you nut job! Bluff your way to your own grave!”

Not long after, a loud ruckus could be heard

NH

coming from downstairs.

Top Dog ran over to the window and peered out.

What he saw astonished him greatly. There was a motorcade of luxury cars parked right in front of Linton Group.

Car after luxury car filled the streets with no end in sight.

The car doors opened and out came hundreds and thousands of guards.

They automatically split themselves up into two teams.

One was in charge of sealing off the streets and making sure no one else could enter, while the other followed their team leader Killian into Linton Group.

Top Dog couldn't be more delighted to see this.

Uncle Killian is damn amazing for doing all this!

I can't believe he rounded up so many men and dispatched so many awesome-looking cars!

And he's even sealing off the streets too!

It sure looks like he's out for blood today!

Oh my gosh! This is so amazing! I can brag about this day for the rest of my life!

# NH



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

“Williams! Come and have a look at what’s in store for you!” gloated Top Dog.

“With so many skilled fighters around, you’re practically dead already! Heck, I’ll get on my knees and lick your shoes if you make it out of here alive today.”

Zeke chuckled. “I’ll look forward to it then.”

Lacey took a peek at the intimidating crowd of men downstairs and her heart fluttered nervously.

With an ashen face, she turned to look at Zeke. “Zeke, will... will you be okay? Maybe we should just hide. There’s too many of them!”

Zeke assured her with a smile. “Do you still not trust your husband’s abilities?”

In response, Lacey’s forehead remained furrowed.

She knew that Zeke was the Great Marshal’s disciple. But he was still just one person. How was he supposed to fight through so many enemies?

While Lacey was feeling anxious, Killian and his men arrived.

In an instant, the whole space was packed with hundreds of men dressed in black suits.

Top Dog immediately ran up to Killian in excitement. “Uncle Killian, you’re finally here! If you took any longer, I might have already died!”

## NH

“Enough with the nonsense! Hurry up and tell me who’s the one causing trouble here,” snarled Killian frantically.

There wasn’t much time left for him to clear the building.

Top Dog pointed straight at Zeke. “It’s him!”

Without a second thought, Killian waved his hand and ordered, “Grab him!”

Killian didn’t recognize Zeke. He didn’t know that the man he had just ordered to take down was Ares’ daughter’s husband.

From how Zeke was dressed, Killian had assumed that he was just another average office worker.

The guards immediately swarmed up to Zeke and pinned him to the ground.

Killian breathed a sigh of relief before turning around. He was about to head back downstairs to await Ares’ arrival when he heard a loud bang behind him.

Immediately following the loud bang were sounds of things hitting the ground, peppered with painful moaning.

Huh?

Killian spun around.

What he saw froze him to the spot.

## NH

His team of men was strewn all over the floor in a radial pattern as if they had been hit by an explosion.

They were groaning and twitching in pain, struggling to stand up yet finding themselves completely unable to do so.

What the hell? What on earth happened?

How did my men turn out like this in just a matter of seconds?

Did Zeke alone throw them all onto the ground?

But... that's impossible! How can one man have such an explosive power?

Zeke shook his head in disappointment. "What a bunch of useless trash," he sighed.

"Alright then, now it's your turn. Are you going to finish yourself off, or are you going to force me to do it myself?"

Killian's heart started thumping erratically. "You... How dare you! Do you even know who we are?"

"Of course. You're Ares' guards. But from what I just saw, you lot should be ashamed to call yourselves as such."

Killian retorted, "So you know that we're with Ares, and yet you still dare assault us? Are you that eager to die?"

"Why wouldn't I dare? I would hit even Ares

NH

himself, much less his men.”

F\*\*\*!

Killian clenched his jaw in anger. “Very well. You got a set of balls on you. I’ll relay everything you just said to Ares, and we’ll see what he’ll do with you.”

He had just finished speaking when the whirring sounds of a helicopter interrupted them.

Following that, a very expensive-looking private helicopter descended onto the roof of the building.

Killian’s eyes shone brightly. “Ares is here! Just you wait. Your life is his now!”

Top Dog and his brutes were so ecstatic they were practically buzzing.

I can’t believe Uncle Killian actually asked Ares to come here. All just to avenge little ol’ me!

Bloody heck! This is such a huge honor! I can die without any regrets now!

On the other hand, Lacey and Dawn’s expression had paled considerably.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

“Zeke, even Ares is here. Are you sure you can still manage? There’s no way we can escape now, so maybe... maybe you should give the Great Marshal a call and ask for his help.”

Zeke gave her a reassuring smile. “Don’t worry. Ares is here to help us.”

Ha!

“What a load of crap!” snorted Killian.

“If it weren’t for me, you wouldn’t even be worth one second of his time. If he’s here to help you, then... then I’ll eat poop!”

Zeke chuckled. “Very well. Then you’ll eat poop, and Top Dog will lick my shoes.”

The arrogance!

Ding!

The elevator doors opened.

Ares stepped into the office with his servants in tow.

Each of the servants had a gift in their hands, including a pearl-encrusted tiara, a robe woven with gold thread, a jade pendant, and plenty of other extravagant pieces of jewelry.

Any of the items alone would be enough to fund a whole army.

Killian anxiously ran up to Ares.

## NH

He hadn't been able to clear the building in time, so he knew he was in trouble.

However, he had a plan. He was going to use Zeke as a scapegoat.

Ares would then focus all his anger on Zeke, and he himself would likely be able to get away with just a minor disciplining.

Killian knelt on the ground and bellowed, "Welcome, Ares!"

Top Dog and everyone else immediately followed suit and got on their knees to show their reverence too.

Ares' eyes swept across the room. What he saw caused anger to boil inside him.

"What on earth is going on here?"

"Sir, he was causing trouble. We tried to stop him, but he assaulted our men. As it turns out, he's too powerful for us. Please forgive us, Ares."

Top Dog hurriedly chimed in. "That girl standing beside him, Lacey Hinton. She's an accomplice too!"

Lacey stumbled backwards in fright.

What?

Ares nearly blew a fuse right then and there.

He had put so much effort into planning all this so

NH

he could welcome Lacey back to the Thisleton family with grandeur.

He even carved time out of his busy schedule just so he could personally bring her back.

Yet, his own men had attempted to hurt not only her, but the Great Marshal himself!

These imbeciles are going to ruin everything!

In a fit of rage, Ares kicked Killian in the stomach hard.

Killian flew backward like a bullet, whammed into the wall, and became firmly embedded in it.

A few of his ribs were broken from the impact and blood continuously spewed from his mouth.

He stared at Ares with his eyes wide with horror and confusion.

Why... Why did he kick me?

Top Dog and the others were having a semi-meltdown as well.

They were beginning to realize that maybe there was a reason as to why Zeke had been so obnoxious earlier...

Was he actually being truthful?

Is he really unafraid of Ares?

Is he actually worthy of being in Ares' presence?

# NH

Ares glared at all the men who were still strewn across the floor and yelled, "Move!"

The men immediately crawled to the sides, opening a path for him.

With all sorts of emotions running through him, Ares strode right up to Lacey.

"You and your mother Yvette look so very much alike. It's like you're two peas in a pod. I'm really sorry for what happened all those years ago. It was my fault that I wasn't able to protect you and your mother. All I ask is for you to give me a chance to make it up to you. I'll give you everything you deserve and more. Follow me, your father, back home. Okay?"

W-what?

Hearing Ares' proclamation, Killian and the other men began to tremble as cold sweat broke out across their bodies.

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

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NH

So... So Lacey Hinton is the daughter that Ares was planning on bringing home?

And I was going to give her trouble...

Oh crap! If I had actually taken Lacey away, then I'd have way more than a few broken ribs right now.

Argh! Top Dog, you bloody imbecile! You nearly got me killed!

The sheer terror of it all was too much for Killian, and it caused him to pass out right then.

Lacey stared at Ares with her mouth slightly agape.

Who am I?

Where am I?

What is happening?

What did Ares just say to me?

Feeling extremely flustered, she instinctively reached for Zeke's hand. "Zeke, what... what is he saying?"

Zeke took a deep breath. "Lacey, do you remember what I told you about having the immunity to poisons?"

Lacey furrowed her brows in thought. "You said that the average person couldn't have such an immunity. The person would have to be a

## NH

descendant of a century-old noble family...”

Lacey’s eyes widened in shock as she inhaled sharply. “Zeke, are you saying... Are you saying that I’m... I’m from the Thisleton family?”

Zeke nodded his head solemnly.

No! No! No!

Shock and disbelief flashed across Lacey’s face as she stumbled backward. “No, you’re mistaken! I know who my parents are! My dad is Daniel Hinton and my mom is Hannah Lawson. You’re all terribly mistaken! Zeke, come on. Let’s go. I don’t feel like working today.”

It was only natural for Lacey to be unable to accept this bombshell of a truth right away.

Zeke gave a little sigh. “Lacey, this is all true. I’m sorry, but you can’t run away from this. You have no need to worry though as I only wanted you to know the truth. As for whether you’ll return to the Thisleton family or not, you have complete say over the matter. No one can force you otherwise.”

“Lacey!”

Daniel and Hannah’s voices suddenly cut through the tension.

Zeke had notified them earlier and asked them to come and help soothe Lacey.

At this point, it really did seem as if the elderly couple were the only ones who were able to calm

# NH

her down.

When Lacey saw her parents, she immediately ran over to them and threw herself into Hannah's arms.

"Mom! Zeke is being mean! He conspired with others to trick me! You have to teach him a lesson!" sobbed Lacey.

Hannah hugged Lacey tightly, and she too started tearing up. "My poor sweetie."

Daniel himself was trying to ease his frustrations through smoking. He had just finished one and immediately lit another.

"Lacey, listen to me. Zeke isn't lying to you. You are indeed a Thisleton. Me and your mom... we raised you but we didn't give birth to you."

No!

Lacey covered her ears, refusing to listen to anything else. "Stop talking, Dad! I'm not going to believe anything you say! You're my parents! And you'll be my only parents until the day I die!"

Zeke could feel his heart breaking for Lacey.

If he knew she was going to react so strongly, he wouldn't have told her anything.

He walked up to her and tried to console her.

With all the evidence in front of her, Lacey ultimately had no choice but to accept this cruel

# NH

truth.

Ares waved his hand and ordered, “Don the tiara and robe on her! Let’s bring my daughter home!”

The servants immediately stepped forward to place the pearl-encrusted tiara on her head and drape the robe woven with gold thread around her shoulders.

But Lacey quickly shrunk backward. “Don’t touch me! I’m a Hinton! I’ll always be a Hinton until the day I die! No, even as a ghost, I’ll still be a Hinton! I will never go back with you to the Thisletons!”

The servants looked at Ares awkwardly, not knowing how to proceed.

Ares sighed.

He understood that Lacey needed time to process all of this. It would be a while before she could accept and forgive him.

“It’s alright. I’ll let Lacey take a few days so she can come to terms with this news.”

“But Lacey, it’ll be the Harvest Festival in a few days. I really hope that you’ll go with me to the Thisleton Manor so everyone can meet you. Please? Even... even if it’s just as a guest?”



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## NH

Lacey was about to refuse when Daniel hurriedly jumped in. “We’ll go with Lacey to visit your home then, Mr. Thisleton.”

At the end of the day, the blood running through Lacey’s veins belonged to that of a Thisleton. So it was only right for her to go and pay respects to her elders. It wouldn’t be right if she continued to refuse.

“Alright then!” Ares nodded before turning to leave.

“Wait!” Zeke called out.

“No one can leave yet. We still have a score to settle. Who was the one who said that they would lick my shoes if I weren’t on my knees begging for my life?”

An alarm went off in Top Dog’s head. He immediately crawled over to Zeke and started lapping hungrily at his shoes like a dog.

Zeke then glanced over to Killian, the one who said that he would eat poop if Ares didn’t pummel him to death.

However, with the state that Killian was in — broken ribs and all — it was likely he was too crippled to do much else.

Thus, Zeke decided to ignore him. Instead, he turned to ask Ares, “Is this your nephew, Ares? Is this how you teach your youngsters?”

Ares’ face contorted in disdain. “Rubbish! Who

NH

told you that this useless piece of trash was my nephew?”

“He said so himself,” answered Zeke.

Ares exploded with anger. “What? How dare you use my name in vain! I’m going to kill you!”

“No! No, I didn’t!” trembled Top Dog. “I’ve said nothing but the truth! Uncle Killian is my uncle. And since he’s a brother to you, aren’t you technically my uncle too?”

Ares shot daggers at Killian. “A puny guard dares claim to be a brother to his boss and master? Take him home! We’ll deal with him according to our house rules.”

Killian broke down and wailed. “Sir, I’ve only been telling the truth too. You were the one who said that we were brothers. We even made a blood oath! Have you forgotten?”

Ares froze for a little, then a light bulb went off in his head.

Clearly, it had been when Bloodsworth was pretending to be him. Killian had made a pact with the fake Ares, who presumably needed Killian to do something unspeakable.

Otherwise, there was no other explanation as to why he would pay any attention to a small fry like Killian.

More often than not, insignificant characters like Killian had the ability to do big things. And also

NH

cause tremendous damage.

Ares decided to bring Killian back with him for further interrogation. He wanted to see if the latter was colluding with the fake Ares.

Ares gathered all the men and departed the building.

After he left, Lacey sought solace in Zeke's embrace. One of her arms was placed protectively in front of her tummy.

"Zeke, promise me that no matter what happens, you'll all stay with me."

"Of course," Zeke assured as he stroked her hair.

Later, when the mother and daughter were by themselves, Hannah leaned in to whisper to Lacey. "Lacey, I've noticed that you've been protective of your belly. Tell me, do you have a mini-Zeke in the oven?"

Lacey's face blushed pink as she nodded shyly.

A big grin broke across Hannah's face. "Silly girl. This is great news! Why didn't you tell us earlier? Zeke too! It's one thing for you to be irresponsible, but how can he not tell us either?"

Lacey hurriedly interjected. "Mom, you can't blame Zeke. He doesn't know either."

What?

Hannah was rendered speechless! "You... I can't

NH

believe you! How can you not tell the father himself?”

“I’m embarrassed to tell him,” pouted Lacey.

“Forget it. Leave it to me. I’ll tell him myself,” said Hannah.

Hannah immediately went and sought Zeke out.

“Zeke, are you busy? If you’re not, go and buy two trays of eggs. From tomorrow onwards, boil two eggs for Lacey every breakfast. In addition, you should quit smoking immediately. It’s bad for the child.”



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## NH

Hannah thought that Zeke would catch her hint since she had made it so obvious.

Hence, she left after saying those words.

On the other hand, Zeke was left in great puzzlement as he tried to decipher her words.

“Did mom ask for two extra eggs for Lacey because she thought there wasn’t enough nutrition in Lacey’s breakfast? But Lacey has been having a great appetite lately. So much so that her stomach is starting to swell. Also, Mom didn’t mind my smoking in the past. Why did she tell me to quit suddenly? Bad for the child? So it seems no matter how old Lacey is right now, she’s still a child in her parents’ eyes.”

At the Thisleton Manor.

Julian, who was crippled, lay on his bed with the help of his servants.

No matter how hard he tried, he just could not fall asleep.

Now that he was a cripple, he no longer had a place in the Thisleton family.

If Lacey were to return to the family, then where would he stand?

What should I do? He heaved a heavy sigh.

Creak!

In the dark and silent night, a creaking noise

NH

sounded.

It sounded like someone opening a wardrobe.

Instantly, Julian tensed up.

The first thought that came into his mind was that an assassin had broken into the house.

Just as he was about to shout, a warm hand covered his mouth abruptly.

“Hush, Julian. It’s me.”

Julian shuddered.

It was the voice of his mother, Lilith Goldace.

Didn’t she escape in fear of punishment when the earlier incident was uncovered? Why is she here?

After recollecting himself, Julian asked, “Mom, why are you here?”

Lilith whispered, “Don’t speak, Julian. I’ll bring you somewhere.”

Julian asked again, “Where to?”

Lilith answered, “You’ll find out when you’re there. You can’t walk, so I’ll carry you.”

Pretending to be one of the servants, Lilith sneaked out of the Thisleton Manor with Julian on her back.

Outside the Thisleton Manor, a car was waiting

## NH

for them.

After they boarded the car, it drove off.

Half an hour later, the car stopped in a small village.

Julian instantly recognized that this village was the one relying on the Thisleton family for its survival.

The villagers here made a living by selling their agricultural products to the Thisleton family.

After getting down from the car, Lilith carried Julian into a shabby house.

In the house, a towering man was fully focused on his book.

It seemed like he did not notice their arrival.

Julian looked at the man, baffled. "Who is he?"

After placing Julian on the chair, Lilith stepped forward to pat the man's shoulder. "Sir, I've brought him here."

"Good," the man answered as he turned around.

A shudder ran through Julian's body, and he nearly fell off from his chair.

Bloodsworth was the head of the Bloodsworth Syndicate and the archenemy of Eurasia.

Oh my god. Bloodsworth is in Eurasia, and he's

# NH

hiding so close to Ares!

What was more shocking to him was that it seemed like his mother had pledged loyalty to Bloodsworth.

There were too much information to digest at one go and it took Julian some time to recover his shock.

In fact, Julian was still unaware of the fact that Bloodsworth had assumed the identity of his father, Ares, two years back.

It was purely coincidental for Lilith to pledge loyalty to Bloodsworth.

After she escaped from the Thisleton Manor, she encountered Bloodsworth.

Bloodsworth then captured her and gave her two choices.

She could choose to pledge loyalty to him, or he would send her back to the Thisleton family.

Lilith knew that she would be doomed if she returned to the Thisleton family.

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## NH

Other than that, Lilith was conquered by Bloodsworth's sexual prowess when the latter impersonated Ares in those two years. She had relived the good times over and over again in her mind.

Hence, Lilith agreed to become Bloodsworth's mistress.

When Julian saw Bloodsworth slowly approaching him, he panicked. "D-Don't come any closer! Mom, send me back now!"

He had often heard of the cruel deeds of Bloodsworth, and he was traumatized by the stories.

Lilith hurriedly consoled, "Don't move, Julian. Sir is trying to treat your leg."

What?

Julian whipped his head upward to look at Bloodsworth.

It was already a miracle for him to survive after Zeke severed his arm and leg tendons.

He did not have any hopes in recovering the functionality of his limbs.

However, Bloodsworth was now telling him otherwise.

Is this real? Julian did not mind living a short life if it meant that he could recover the use of his arms and legs.

NH

His voice trembled from excitement. “C-Can I really recover from this?”

After checking Julian’s limbs, Bloodsworth nodded. “Yes. It’s nothing major. If everything goes well, you’ll recover in half years’ time.”

Julian could barely believe his ears. “W-Why should I believe in your words?”

Bloodsworth replied, “You should know what the Bloodsworth Syndicate specializes in.”

“The Bloodsworth Syndicate specializes in poison.”

Bloodsworth nodded. “That’s right. Medicine is in fact poison in essence, isn’t it? Since we have already mastered the skill of poison, I don’t see a problem in concocting an antidote for you.”

Julian sobbed after listening to his words.

Bloodsworth’s remark sounded logical.

He hurriedly uttered, “Sir, thank you so much for your help. If I’m able to recover from this, I will do anything you ask for.”

As long as he could regain the use of his limbs, he would submit himself to the benefactor regardless of the latter’s identity as the archenemy of Eurasia.

Bloodsworth then sighed, “You know, even the best chef would need the right ingredient to cook a scrumptious meal. I’m lacking one vital

NH

ingredient for your medicine. Without it, even Hippocrates can't save you."

"What is it? I'll get it for you no matter the cost!"

Bloodsworth answered, "Gentiana scabra."

Julian was disappointed. "Gentiana scabra? One of the rarest plants in Eurasia? It's so rare that you can barely find it in the market. Only the Cygnus Room has a small amount of it. I... I'm not even capable of entering the Cygnus Room, not to mention getting my hands on it."

Bloodsworth chuckled, "Not just you. Even your father, Ares, could not get Gentiana scabra. But, if you will do me a favor, I'll get it for you."

Julian swiftly replied, "Please tell me what it is. I will give you my best."

"You should know that Zeke is the Great Marshal by now. Find a way to lure him out of Atheville. Meanwhile, I'll pretend to be the Great Marshal and get Gentiana scabra from the Cygnus Room."

Huh? Julian looked at Bloodsworth with doubtful eyes. "You're going to pretend to be the Great Marshal? Everyone who enters the Cygnus Room will have to go through a thorough examination, including the Great Marshal. Aren't you afraid of being exposed?"

Bloodsworth sneered, "Let me ask you, I pretended to be your father for two years. But have you ever noticed it?"

# NH

What does that mean? Julian became even more confused. “What do you mean by you pretended to be my father for two years?”

Lilith muttered, “Julian, I’ll be honest with you. The Ares you have seen in the past two years was actually Bloodsworth in disguise. The real Ares was locked up by him at that time and had only returned recently.”

Julian widened his eyes in disbelief.



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## NH

For the past two years, he had been living with the enemy who had imprisoned his father.

Moreover, he had called that man his father the entire time.

For a moment, he could not accept the cruel fact.

However, soon, he found relief.

Who cares if he's the enemy? So what if Bloodsworth killed my father? As long as he treats my legs, he's my benefactor.

Julian answered, "Okay, I'll do it."

Lilith worriedly asked, "Julian, can you really lure Zeke out of Atheville? You have to be extremely careful. This man is terrifying. If he finds out about the plan, he might kill you on the spot."

Julian reassured his mother, "Don't worry. I know what to do. It'll be the Harvest Festival in a few days. On that day, Lacey will return to Thisleton Manor and that is a God-given opportunity for me."

.....

Ares called Zeke, "Great Marshal, I've interrogated the captain of my family's guards, Killian Chene, and I've managed to get some information from him. But I'm not sure if they'll be useful or not."

Zeke answered, "Speak."

Ares continued, "The fake Ares, Bloodsworth, was

## NH

sworn brothers with Killian. He wanted Killian to help him look for *Gentiana scabra* without raising anyone's attention."

Zeke asked, "Gentiana scabra? One of the rarest plants in Eurasia? What does he need it for?"

"That's what I'm confused about. While the plant is rare, Bloodsworth wouldn't be interested in a plant like that."

Zeke nodded. "Yes. Although it's rare, it's only useful for people with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Only those with ALS would be interested in it... Hold on. ALS. Does that mean..."

Ares queried, "Great Marshal, do you mean that Bloodsworth might have ALS?"

Zeke answered, "Very likely. I've exchanged blows with Bloodsworth back at the high-security prison. Back then, I sensed that his agility and strength had greatly decreased, and his movements were stiff. From this I can conclude that he has ALS. However, he's still in his early stages, so it's not that obvious."

Ares beamed, "God must know where evil is. As long as we keep the *Gentiana scabra* from him, he'll die from ALS eventually. It'll save us the trouble."

However, Zeke shook his head. "I'm afraid you might be too optimistic about it. If he has ALS, it's unlikely that he's able to get out of this place. Hence, I think he's still in Atheville. The thing is, he's good at disguising himself. So, he might

NH

disguise himself as Cygnus Room's staff to steal *Gentiana scabra* from there."

Ares muttered, "You must strengthen your defenses for now. We can't let him have his way. He's the archenemy of Eurasia. We'll have to deal with him with caution."

Zeke replied, "I know. Are you trying to tell me how to handle things? Don't forget that I'm the commander of three armies, and you're my subordinate. Know where you stand and think before you speak."

Ares scoffed, "My capabilities are above yours now. When I return to my peak state, I'll challenge you for the title of Great Marshal."

Zeke responded, "Very well. I look forward to teaching you a lesson."

"Ha. I hope you'll do as well as you speak now when that day comes. Right. It'll be Harvest Festival soon. I hope you won't go back on your words and bring Lacey back to Thisleton Manor to be inducted back into the Thisleton family."

.....

The night of Harvest Festival was a night where families would get together in celebration.

Every house in Atheville was merry as laughter echoed the streets.

However, there was not even a tinge of happiness in Lacey.

# NH

Today, she would be celebrating the night with a group of family members she barely knew.

She was overwhelmed by an array of inexplicable emotions.

Initially, she wanted Daniel and Hannah to keep her company, but they rejected.



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## NH

Hannah uttered, “Lacey, you’re all grown up now. We can’t possibly be there for you on every single occasion. There are times when you’ll have to face those events yourself. Furthermore, we’ve been spending all of the previous Harvest Festival nights together. It’s time for you to go to Thisleton Manor. After all, that’s where your real home is.”

Lacey relented with reddened eyes.

Soon, Zeke and Lacey reached the Thisleton Manor.

It was a lively and merry atmosphere in the Thisleton Manor.

All of the members were busy setting up for the family dinner.

Zeke could see that their cheeriness was merely an act.

In fact, they were upset.

They knew that the main character of the dinner tonight would be an outsider—Lacey.

None liked that an outsider was going to outshine them, especially during a family dinner.

The most grudging one was Clyde Thisleton.

In the Thisleton family, Clyde had always been behind Julian, regardless of age or status.

As Julian was crippled, Clyde was technically the next-in-line for the head of the family.

## NH

However, Lacey appeared in a turn of events.

As the eldest daughter of the Thisleton's, she posed an imminent threat to Clyde's plans.

In fact, she might end up taking his position as the head of the family.

After all, the capability of the individual was the only factor for selecting the head of the Thisleton family; gender was irrelevant.

Therefore, Clyde had decided to seek an opportunity to strike at Lacey so that she would know not to compete with him.

When Ares realized that Zeke and Lacey had arrived, a joyous expression emerged on his face as he hurriedly came out to welcome them.

His actions upset the Thisleton's even more.

Ares had never expressed such enthusiasm toward them.

"Lacey, what took you so long? I've been waiting for ages. Come, take a seat. The dinner begins now."

The Thisleton's and the guests then took their seats.

Zeke had been taken to his seat at the table where Ares and the other elders of the Thisleton family were seated.

Although Ares was not convinced that Zeke was

## NH

worthy of his title as the Great Marshal, and he did not like the latter being in a relationship with his daughter, but Zeke was now the face of the nation, so Ares did not wish to embarrass him in public.

As for Lacey, she sat with the younger generations of the Thisleton family.

Despite Ares' love for her, he could not go against the family rules and let her sit at the table with the elders.

Lacey knew no one from the Thisleton family, so she was reserved. The entire time, she hung her head in silence and quietly ate her food.

Her peers in the Thisleton family were all chatting merrily, and they intentionally left her out of their conversations.

After Clyde drank two glasses of wine, he felt courage thrumming in his veins, and he walked up to Lacey.

"Hello, I'm Clyde Thisleton. You are an elder sister to me. Lacey, it's nice to meet you. Let me toast you."

Before Lacey could reply, Clyde had finished the wine in one go.

Then, he filled it up again. "Lacey, the family rules state that you'll have to drink with me for the second glass."

Lacey quickly explained, "I'm sorry, Clyde. I can't

NH

drink. Why don't down this glass of water instead?"

A displeased look crawled onto Clyde's face. "Lacey, are you looking down on me? I know it's an amazing feat to have built the Linton Group from scratch. But that doesn't mean you can look down on the Thisleton's."

Clyde was trying to ruin her reputation. He was insinuating that her claim of being unable to drink was a mere show of contempt for him.

In that instant, all the Thisleton's turned to look at Lacey.



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## NH

Lacey's face was flushed as she nervously fidgeted.

Should I drink it or not? But I can't drink. I'll be drunk after a glass of white wine. It'll be embarrassing for me to be drunk in such a formal occasion, right? But if I don't drink, Clyde won't let me off. The Thisleton's might even think that I'm insulting them. How can I salvage the situation if that happens?

Zeke knew that Clyde was putting Lacey in a tight spot on purpose.

Fury coursed through his veins.

Just as he was about to say something, Julian's voice sounded from behind, "That's enough, Clyde. It's just a minor matter. Did you have to exaggerate it in this way? Since Lacey can't drink, don't force her to. I'll drink on her behalf. I'm sure that's fine, right? Come, Clyde, let's drink."

Lacey looked at Julian in disbelief.

She somewhat had a hand in causing him crippled.

He had been hoping for her to die all along.

Why is he suddenly helping me today?

Since Julian had spoken up, Clyde could not do anything but to let Lacey off.

She sighed in relief at her escape.

## NH

Ares laughed, “It seems like Julian has learned his lesson. It’s good that he learns from his mistake.”

Zeke mumbled, “I’m afraid he has other plans in mind. A leopard can’t change its spots.”

Ares sighed, “I can’t believe the Great Marshal is so petty and unforgiving. Can’t you see that he has turned over a new leaf?”

With that, The Great Marshal and Ares were engaged in a war of words again.

The dinner ended after all the dishes were served.

Ares stood up and said, “Alright, return to your rooms and rest early. Don’t miss tomorrow’s ancestral-praying ceremony. Those who are absent or late without reason will be kicked out of the family.”

It was obvious in Ares’ speech that he prioritized the family’s praying ceremony.

Soon, the crowd dispersed.

Ares walked up to Lacey and said, “Lacey, stay over at the Thisleton Manor tonight. Tomorrow will be your first prayer, and you’ll have to rest well before it. It’ll be less tiring for you to stay here for the night instead of coming back here tomorrow morning.”

“Okay.” Lacey nodded in agreement.

After all, it was only for one night. It would be over soon before she knew it.

## NH

“Come. I’ll show you to your room.” Ares led Zeke and Lacey toward the guest rooms

On their way there, Zeke received a call from Cygnus Room.

After ending the call, Zeke hurriedly said to Lacey, “Lacey, I’m sorry. I have some important things to deal with right now. I’m afraid I won’t be able to keep you company tonight.”

“Huh?”

Lacey was disappointed to hear his words. “Can’t you deal with it a little later?”

Zeke shook his head. “No, I can’t. This matter concerns the safety of Eurasia.”

Lacey gasped. “It concerns the safety of Eurasia? Hurry up and go. You don’t need to be worried about me.”

“Okay.” Zeke rushed off.

Finally, Ares led Lacey to the most luxurious suite at the Thisleton Manor.

When Ares pushed open the door and looked at the surrounding, he sighed as nostalgia rushed into his heart.

“Lacey, did you know? Back then, your mother, Yvette Lexton, gave birth to you here. She had lived here for a year. What a pity that things have changed since then. I’m glad that God has brought you back here.”

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Lacey looked at the unfamiliar interior as a myriad of emotions swirled in her.

My birth mother once lived here?



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## NH

I was born here? If that accident had not happened back then, I would have been a beloved princess now, wouldn't I? But that means I wouldn't have met Zeke.

Ares lovingly patted Lacey's hair.

Subconsciously, she avoided his hand.

Her action was like a knife stabbing in his heart.

His own daughter was wary of him as if he was her enemy.

He could not find the words for the emotion he was feeling.

Forcing a smile onto his face, he mumbled, "Lacey, rest early. Don't miss tomorrow's ceremony."

"Okay."

Ares left after that, leaving Lacey alone in the suite.

She found herself wide awake in the foreign environment.

Every corner of her mind was filled with the image of Zeke as she rubbed her belly gently. If only he was here with me. But it's alright. I have Little Williams here with me. My mother has given birth to me here, and I'll give birth to my child here. This is the circle of life, isn't it?

She got lost in her train of thoughts as

## NH

drowsiness began to kick in gradually.

Just as she was about to fall asleep, a loud knocking sound woke her up.

Lacey warily looked at the door and asked, “Who is it?”

Julian’s voice came from behind the door. “Lacey, it’s me. Open up.”

Julian? What is he doing here in the middle of the night?

Lacey did not want to open the door for him at first, but when she thought about the way he helped her today, she gritted her teeth and opened the door.

Julian, who was in his wheelchair, was looking at Lacey with a sincere expression.

“Lacey, the ceremony is about to begin. Let’s go now. It’ll be terrible if we’re late.”

Huh? Lacey was bewildered. “It’s only two in the morning. We’re leaving this early?”

Julian explained, “This is the best time for us to pray to our ancestors. It’s been our family practice for decades.”

“Okay.” Lacey believed in Julian’s words and followed him to the praying ceremony.

It was dead silent in the Thisleton Manor, and there was not a single living soul around.

## NH

Lacey queried, “Where are the rest? Why aren’t they preparing themselves for the ceremony yet?”

Julian answered, “They’ve already left for the ceremony. They didn’t wake you. They wanted you to be late so that you’ll be punished.”

Lacey sighed.

She knew that the Thisleton’s did not like her, and so they intentionally excluded her out of their circle.

Luckily, Julian had been stunned by Zeke’s prowess, and the former was friendly to her.

After both of them entered the car, they left the compounds of the Thisleton Manor.

However, Lacey realized something amiss on their way there.

It had been more than an hour, but it seemed like they were nowhere close to their destination.

In fact, the car was on the expressway, driving toward the direction of Atheville.

She had overheard the Thisleton’s mentioning that their ancestral grave was not far from the Thisleton Manor.

It was impossible for it to be located out of the province.

She carefully asked, “Julian, this isn’t the way to the Thisleton ancestral grave, is it?”

## NH

Julian sneered, “Who told you that we’re heading to the Thisleton ancestral grave?”

Huh? Lacey was baffled. “Didn’t you say we are going to the praying ceremony? W-Where are we heading to?”

Julian laughed, “Where else could we be heading to? I’m personally sending you to hell to meet our ancestors!”

Oh no! Instantly, Lacey felt a chill enveloping her body.

She should have known that Julian would not help her.

It turned out he had only helped her to make Lacey lower her guard against him.

Lacey furiously pounded on the car windows, trying to escape, but the car doors were locked, and she could not open them.

She hurriedly dug out her phone to call Zeke.



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NH

“Zeke, come and save me! I-I’ve been kidnapped.”

“Lacey, where are you?”

Before she could reply to him, Julian had snatched the phone away from her.

Lacey shouted, “I’m on Highway 405! Save me!”

The alarm in her mind were screeching.

Her life was no longer just hers alone.

She had another life in her stomach!

Lacey was not even sure if Zeke had heard the location she shouted.

Throwing Lacey’s phone out of the window, Julian took out his own to call Bloodsworth.

“Everything is going according to plan. Zeke has been lured out of Atheville. Act now.”

What? Lacey raised her head in terror as she stared at Julian.

Did he say that he has successfully lured Zeke out of Atheville? This... This is a trap! He meant to lure Zeke! Zeke is in danger!

However, her phone was now lying somewhere along the expressway, and there was no way for her to warn Zeke.

Despair overwhelmed her senses, and at that moment, she felt like dying.

## NH

Cygnus Room was located at its temporary base in Atheville.

It was the best scientific research lab in Eurasia.

Every piece of information in the room was a national top secret.

They also had the best defenses, and it would be impossible for even a fly to enter the compounds without alerting the guards.

The Great Marshal was hurrying into Cygnus Room.

However, this man was not the real Great Marshal.

It was Bloodsworth.

When he reached the doorway, the guard called out, "Great Marshal, please stop."

Bloodsworth halted and shot a glare at the guard. "I'm the founder of Cygnus Room. Am I not allowed into the room now?"

The guard answered respectfully, "Great Marshal, you've misinterpreted my words. Didn't you receive an urgent call and leave just now? Why are you back so soon?"

The fake Great Marshal replied, "I have found out that the urgent call was fake. I suspect that someone is trying to lure me away from this place so that they can infiltrate the Cygnus Room. Heighten the defenses at the entrance. I'll be

## NH

defending Cygnus Room from the inside. We'll work together just so the enemy don't get their way."

"Yes, Sir!" The guard answered with a somber expression on his face.

Hence, the fake Great Marshal managed to infiltrate into the Cygnus Room's treasury.

On the shelves of the treasury were various custom-made safes.

In these safes were the rare plants of Eurasia.

Bloodsworth knew what the market price for these plants were.

If he took them out to sell, the profits would be more than enough to take over a small country.

However, he knew that it was unrealistic for him to take out all of these plants.

Therefore, he wasted no time in commencing his search for the plant he needed—*Gentiana scabra*.

When he opened the safe closest to him, he found out that it was empty!

What's going on? Bloodsworth hurriedly opened another.

Similarly, it was empty.

So was the third, fourth, fifth...

## NH

By the time he opened the sixth, he was not surprised to find it empty as well.

A foreboding thought emerged in his heart. This can't be a trap, can it?

From the corner of his eye, he could see an unnaturally shaped darkness behind the shelf.

It looked like... a person!

Buzz!

Bloodsworth was dumbfounded. There's someone in here? And they didn't stop me when I was looking for the plant. It's a trap and I've stepped right into it!

Without a moment of hesitation, he turned to escape.

However, he only took a step before the world spun around him, and he could feel his legs turn to jelly.



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# NH

Thud!

He fell onto the ground as he thought to himself, F\*ck! What's going on? Why can't I gather any strength? I feel so dizzy.

Right then, the figure behind the shelf slowly emerged from the darkness.

It was none other than the Great Marshal!

The sneer on his face sent chills down Bloodsworth's spine.

He said nonchalantly, "I heard that Bloodsworth is dubbed the King of Poisons. Isn't it ironic that the King of Poison himself has been poisoned?"

"I've been poisoned? That's impossible!" The vein in Bloodsworth's temples bulged. "There are no poisons in this world that I can't pick up."

Zeke hummed, "Well then, stand up and fight with me now. If you're not poisoned, then explain why you are feeling weak now?"

"I-"

Bloodsworth could not summon any strength to stand no matter how hard he tried.

Thus, he had no choice but to accept the fact that he had been poisoned.

"I underestimated Cygnus Room. I never thought that they're a level above Bloodsworth Syndicate in terms of poisons. I've heard that Cygnus Room

## NH

had come up with the most deadly poison recently. If my guess isn't wrong, this should be it."

Zeke shook his head. "You've underestimated Cygnus Room. This poison isn't even comparable to the top three in Eurasia."

"W-What?" Bloodsworth stared at Zeke in disbelief.

This poison was already something the Bloodsworth Syndicate could never attain.

Yet, it was not even comparable to the top three in Eurasia.

In other words, the Bloodsworth Syndicate did not even have a place in Eurasia's ranking.

In that moment, Bloodsworth was completely humiliated.

Zeke continued, "Alright. I won't waste any more breath on you. The intruders of Cygnus Room have to die and there are no exemptions to it."

"Wait!" Bloodsworth shouted, "You can't kill me. Your wife has been abducted by the Bloodsworth Syndicate. If you spare me then you can use my life in exchange for your wife's. If I die, your wife dies as well!"

Zeke sneered, "Well, you can rest assured."

Bloodsworth froze.

## NH

He knew that Zeke's wife held a higher place in his heart than his own life.

Technically, he should be anxious to save her when she was in danger. Why is he so calm?

There was only one answer to this question.

He had everything under control, including his wife's matter.

Damn it, the men at Bloodsworth Syndicate is in danger!

He mustered all his strength to fish out his phone in an attempt to warn the Bloodsworth Syndicate of the danger.

Unfortunately for him, Zeke would never give him the chance to warn the rest.

With a swift kick, he knocked Bloodsworth unconscious.

When he was done, he strode out of the treasury.

Sole Wolf, who had been guarding the entrance, hurriedly stepped forward. "Zeke, how was it?"

Zeke replied, "Everything's under control."

"Good to hear." Sole Wolf smiled as he took out a cigarette. "Zeke, come have one."

Zeke frowned. "You know this isn't my brand."

Sole Wolf breathed a sigh of relief. "I'm just

## NH

testing if you're Zeke or Bloodsworth. That guy has great acting skills. His disguise was flawless. It's such a waste that he isn't an actor in the entertainment industry."

Zeke uttered, "Stop rambling. Keep an eye on him. Don't let him escape, and don't let him take his own life. He knows the secrets of the Bloodsworth Syndicate, and those pieces of information are important to Eurasia. Now, I have to go to Rivernorth Wharf to save Lacey."

"Okay."

Rivernorth Wharf was an abandoned wharf at East Skuld.

It was practically in the middle of nowhere.

Four young people were fishing at the dock.

It was an odd sight to see them fishing in a place like this in the middle of the night.

Soon, a car came to a stop beside them.

The car door swung open, and Julian came down from the car in his wheelchair.

At the same time, the driver had also carried Lacey out of the car.



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## NH

Lacey had passed out, and she was completely unconscious.

The four young men glanced at Julian briefly before looking away.

Julian casually asked, “Hey, are you selling your fishes?”

One of them replied, “Ten for a kilogram.”

Julian answered, “I want five kilograms of carp.”

“Very well. I’ll hand you the fishes when you pay.”

That was the secret code that Julian and the Bloodsworth Syndicate had.

After making sure that the other party was the right person, the young men threw their fishing poles aside and walked up to him.

“What’s wrong with her?” He pointed at Lacey.

Julian responded, “She fainted. She won’t die.”

“Good. Board the yacht.” Lacey was the Great Marshal’s wife so it would be troublesome if she were dead.

After Julian went up the yacht, the driver, with Lacey in his arms, stepped forward to board the boat as well.

However, one of the young men stopped him. “Sorry. Without Bloodsworth’s permission, you’re not allowed on the yacht.”

## NH

Julian sneered, “Think about what you’re doing. He’s the main guard beside Ares, and he’s a great fighter. It was tough for Bloodsworth to get him to his side. If you don’t put him to work, it’ll be Bloodsworth Syndicate’s loss. Also, Bloodsworth values him quite a bit. If you don’t let him on board, will you be able to bear the responsibility when Bloodsworth asks about it?”

The young men exchanged glances. After a moment of silence, they nodded.

“Okay. You can board, but we’ll have to tie your hands and legs just in case.”

“Sure,” the driver replied quietly.

The yacht that the young men had dragged out from the reed was now on its way to the deep parts of East Skuld.

After a mile, the yacht stopped.

Abruptly, the surface of the sea in front of them started bubbling, as if the ocean were boiling.

Then, a humongous object slowly emerged from the ocean.

It was a submarine.

Julian gasped in astonishment. “I can’t believe that Bloodsworth Syndicate has a submarine in East Skuld.”

With a look of pride, the member of Bloodsworth Syndicate answered, “Of course. The Bloodsworth

NH

Syndicate is much more impressive than you can imagine.”

Without wasting any more time, they boarded the submarine.

The interior of the submarine was spacious.

More than hundreds of Bloodsworth Syndicate’s members were gathered in the space. They were drinking and chatting merrily, and some were playing cards as they smoked.

However, they did turn their attention to Julian when he arrived.

The moment Julian and the others entered, the members of Bloodsworth Syndicate circled them.

The team leader asked, “Why is there one extra person?”

The young man replied, “He’s the driver. He used to be the right-hand man of Ares. If a man like him can pledge loyalty to the Bloodsworth Syndicate, we’ll definitely be more powerful.”

The leader nodded. “Okay. Please rest in the lounge. We’ll come for you when we reach the destination.”

Julian and the other two were then brought to the lounge.

Instead of a typical lounge, it was more like a cell.

None of the Bloodsworth Syndicate’s members

NH

could trust Julian, so they locked them in the cell to prevent them from stirring up trouble.

After locking the cell, the members of Bloodsworth Syndicate left.

It was then Lacey, who was supposedly unconscious, slowly opened her eyes.

Instead of looking surprised, she had a look of terror on her face.

“W-What do we do next?” Lacey asked the driver in a trembling voice.

The driver was none other than Ares.

Back then, Ares and Zeke’s plan to uproot the entire syndicate was to go along with Julian’s plan.

Ares knew that Julian was in league with Bloodsworth.

After Ares’ interrogation, Julian confessed to everything, and he even agreed to helping Ares get rid of Bloodsworth Syndicate.

Hence, Lacey had been faking her unconsciousness earlier.



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Ares reassured, "Lacey, don't worry. Nothing will happen with me around."

"That's good to know."

Subconsciously, Lacey covered her hands around her stomach.

Ares mustered enough strength to break free of the ropes tied to his wrists and ankles.

He then walked toward the cell door and tugged harshly on it.

Instantly, the lock broke.

Ares instructed, "Lacey, rest here. I'll bring you home soon."

"Alright."

After hearing her reply, Ares strode out of the room.

Lacey stared at Ares' towering back with dazed eyes.

For a moment, she could sense a familiarity akin to Daniel from Ares. This must be... what a father is.

In the hall of the submarine, the members of Bloodsworth Syndicate were still enjoying their time.

The hall was filled with a strong alcoholic scent and the smoke from the cigarettes lingered.

## NH

No one noticed that Ares had come close to them.

Patting on one of the men's shoulder, Ares muttered, "Do you have a lighter?"

The man laughed, "Come, come. Try this new cigarette I got from Eurasia. I heard it's the most expensive..."

The man's voice trailed off.

He had suddenly felt that the face in front of him was foreign yet familiar.

It was foreign because he was not one of the members of Bloodsworth Syndicate.

Yet, it was familiar because it felt as if he had just met this guy earlier.

Soon, a thought popped into his mind as he recalled, Isn't this Julian's driver? Isn't he being locked in the cell and had ropes tied around his wrists and ankles? Why is he here?

A wave of danger came crashing onto him.

He was about to shout for help, but Ares was quicker; a punch from the latter rendered him unconscious.

The lighting in the hall was dim; The air was thick with smoke, and the noise echoed in the hall. No one realized what had happened.

Ares casually walked toward a group of four who

NH

were playing cards in the corner.

“Hey, do you have a lighter?”

Neither raised their heads; they were fully focused on their game. “Go get it yourself.”

Ares replied, “Sorry, I can’t reach it.”

One of them with a beard cursed as he took the lighter and handed it to Ares, “Get lost. Don’t f\*cking interrupt with my game.”

F\*ck! Ares fumed, “How dare you curse at me? Die!”

Huh? The bearded man froze as he raised his head.

He sounds really arrogant. Is he the boss?

When he lifted his head, he saw a face twisted into a ferocious look.

His heart skipped a beat as the danger alarm in his mind wailed.

He only managed to open his mouth before Ares’ punch landed on his face.

The bearded man instantly passed out.

The other three paled as they swiftly looked up.

However, before they could meet Ares’ gaze, the latter’s punch had already collided with their faces.

## NH

In an instant, the other three fainted.

Originally, Ares wanted to quietly deal with these people to avoid them from escaping.

However, one of the men playing cards had a bottle of wine in his hand.

When he passed out, the bottle fell on the ground and shattered into pieces.

Immediately, everyone turned in the direction of the noise.

When they saw Ares, they were dumbfounded.

“Huh? What’s going on? Aren’t you supposed to be locked in the cell? How did you come out?”

Putting on a calm look, Ares randomly pointed at a man with a scarred face. “He’s the one who let me out.”

The men instantly turned their furious gazes at the scarred man. “F\*ck, why did you let him out?”

The man hissed with reddened face, “Why are you listening to his rubbish? I’ve always been here. Where would I have gotten the time to let him out?”

The crowd contemplated his words and nodded in agreement.

Right then, a figure landed in the middle of the crowd and started landing blows on them.

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It was Ares.



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NH

Each punch landed one man on the ground, and he was an unstoppable force.

In a blink of an eye, more than a handful of men was down.

Holy crap! The crowd was bewildered.

Every member in the submarine was in fact a champion fighter.

However, Ares had defeated several men in seconds.

He's a one-man army!

"F\*ck! Kill him!" A wave of fury overtook the team leader as he shouted out his command.

Unfortunately, before they could do anything, one of the men started running out of the hall while shouting like a madman, "Run! Run for your lives! This guy is Ares!"

BAM!

His words dropped a bomb on the crowd.

Ares was the second strongest man in Eurasia, and he had infiltrated the submarine.

In other words, a wolf had snuck its way into the crowd of sheep.

The men from Bloodsworth Syndicate were the sheep.

## NH

The image of Ares killing more than thousands of his enemies alone was still vivid in their minds.

They only had hundreds in the submarine, and they were all doomed in the face of Ares.

Furthermore, they recalled that Julian was the one who had brought Ares into the submarine. Damn it! Julian betrayed us! This is a trap!

The leader hurriedly changed his command, "Run! Run now! Don't attack! We're no match for him!"

Then, the team leader was the first to escape as the others evacuated the place like headless chickens.

By now, Ares' eyes were bloodshot from anger. "Don't run! Stay behind and fight with me! I'll even keep my hands behind my back!"

However, it was impossible for the men from Bloodsworth Syndicate to believe in his words.

Ares was ferocious and he could kill quicker than the men of Bloodsworth Syndicate could escape.

In the end, he defeated nearly sixty men before the rest managed to escape from the submarine.

Ares sighed, "If I knew this was going to happen, I should've blocked all the exits."

After that, he went to the cell to lead Lacey and Julian out.

Julian took a look at the corpses strewn across

## NH

the floor in the hall and worriedly said, “Sir, many must have escaped. Now that they have nowhere to go, they can only go ashore and infiltrate Eurasia. I’m sure they’ll be a threat to Eurasia’s safety.”

Ares scoffed, “Thinking of escaping? What wishful thinking! I’ve already set up traps at the shores.”

When the members of the Bloodsworth Syndicate swam ashore, they were in a mess.

Knowing that Ares would soon catch up to them, the men had no time to waste as they prepared to infiltrate into Eurasia to hide.

However, a dark figure walked over and blocked their paths.

The men instantly tensed up. It must be Ares’ man!

Instead of charging ahead, the team leader asked, “Who is it? Please let us pass. Once we’ve settled down, we will express our sincere gratitude to you.”

The team leader intended to bribe the other man.

Instead of responding, the man took out his cigarette and lit it.

The light from the cigarette flickered, and it made the man’s face seem menacing and horrifying.

“Intruders of Eurasia will be killed without any

# NH

exemptions.” The moment those words left his mouth, a strong gust of wind blew, and the dark clouds covered the brilliant moon.

In an instant, darkness fell upon the crowd as the air became colder.

It was so cold that it froze the blood in everyone’s veins.

Ten seconds later, the dark clouds floated away.

The dim moonlight shrouded the land once again.

The man who blocked the path remained standing.

However, the men from Bloodsworth Syndicate were now all on the ground.



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The blood pouring from their necks pooled into a river of red.

A black figure stalked amidst the bodies, checking to see if there was still anyone alive.

The team leader was still stubbornly clinging on to life as he struggled to breathe.

His eyes were wide with fear as he stared at the black figure. “W-who...are y-you? W-why do you look so f-familiar?”

“Zeke Williams. Most people call me the Great Marshal!” Zeke replied.

The Great Marshal!

The team leader’s terror-filled eyes widened further before his body froze and his breathing stopped.

He had literally been scared to death.

It was an honor that they had managed to make the Great Marshal and Ares come after them.

Shortly after, Ares and the others arrived.

Eyeing the corpses littering the ground, Ares was more than annoyed. “I never would have thought that the Great Marshal would go back on his words! He was supposed to keep someone alive for me to kill!”

Of course, that was just a pretense. Ares did not want Zeke to have any more blood on his hands

NH

and make more enemies.

In fact, he wanted to defeat Zeke and the other men in order to snatch back the title of Great Marshal. He wanted Zeke to retire from the frontlines.

After all, it seemed like Zeke intended on being with Lacey for the rest of his life.

If Zeke continued being the Great Marshal and made more enemies, that might come back to affect Lacey and his future generations.

This was why Ares wanted to bear the responsibility for everything.

Naturally, Zeke understood the man's intentions. He smiled slightly and stated, "Don't worry."

While the response might seem random to others, Ares understood his meaning.

Zeke was telling him not to worry as he would protect Lacey.

Just then, Lacey came over with her face paled.

There were two reasons for that. For one, the weather was chilly; Secondly, the bloody sight was terrifying for her.

"Zeke, let's go home," her voice wavered as she urged.

"Alright." He helped her into the vehicle with his arm wrapped around her.

## NH

Upon realizing that Lacey was still cradling her belly, he was puzzled. It's already been so long yet she's still feeling uncomfortable?

He might be well-versed in the medical field but he was completely clueless when it came to gynecology.

After much thought, he finally came up with a possibility - Lacey was having her period. He had heard that most women would have cramps during this time. Hmm, I should make her some hot chocolate when we get back.

Once they arrived home, he quickly whipped up a mug of hot chocolate for her.

As he expected, she regained a little bit of color in her cheeks after drinking the hot chocolate.

"Zeke, why did you suddenly make me a cup of hot chocolate?"

Grinning proudly, he answered, "I heard hot chocolate helps with menstruation cramps. Are you still hurting, Lacey?"

Lacey blinked in surprise before laughing. "Oh, you! You're the epitome foolishness, aren't you?"

Completely bewildered, Zeke asked, "Huh? Isn't that true?"

He did not think much of it after that. Once she went to sleep, he left the house.

He wanted to discuss about the incident at

# NH

Bloodsworth Syndicate with Ares, which did not look like it would be over anytime soon.

On the way there, he noticed a lot of couples drinking milk tea.

It was only after he questioned some of them that he understood the reason why.

Apparently, couples drinking milk tea together was the new trend.

No wonder Lacey was a little unhappy at him making hot chocolate for her instead.

Zeke invited Ares to meet with him alone.

“If I’m not mistaken, the Bloodsworth Syndicate’s submarine is a military class vessel. Their power exceeded my expectations. What a disaster!”



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## NH

Ares nodded and replied, “Yeah. It would seem what we’ve destroyed so far is not even a third of their true power.”

Zeke concurred, “With Bloodsworth imprisoned in Eurasia currently, they’re only going to attack us even more ferociously to get him back. I alone will not be enough to deter our enemies. Ares, it’s time for you to come out of retirement. With two Archdukes, they will be more hesitant to attack us.”

“Of course,” Ares stated, “I plan on coming out of retirement, defeating you and seizing the title of Great Marshal for myself.”

Zeke gave a long sigh. “Why would anyone want to bear such a heavy burden? Who would be willing to perpetually be in danger? I have to say I’m looking forward to the day you beat me. I assure you that if I lose, I’ll gladly handover the safety of the country to you and retire. I wish to focus my full attention on taking care of Lacey.”

That’s a promise.

For the next few days, Zeke turned his attention to Bloodsworth’s interrogation at the hands of Sole Wolf.

Bloodsworth knew secrets that would affect the peace of the nation.

Three days later, Sole Wolf came looking for Zeke.

His face was ashamed as he reported, “Zeke, I’m so sorry. We didn’t manage to get anything useful

## NH

out of Bloodsworth. His resolve is just too strong. No matter what Cygnus Room threw at him, they were still unable to make him talk. In the end, he took his secrets to his grave.”

Sucking in a deep breath, Zeke uttered, “It’s not your fault. Don’t underestimate the willpower of an Archduke, especially a top-tier Archduke like him.”

“However, his death was not a complete waste. We did an autopsy on his body and discovered that he doesn’t have ALS at all,” Sole Wolf added.

What?

Zeke was dumbfounded.

If Bloodsworth did not have ALS then why would he risk his life to steal the *Gentiana scabra*?

The herb was only effective for ALS and nothing else.

Unless he was stealing it for someone else? Just who is this person that he would be willing to take such a huge risk?

After mulling over the question for a while, Zeke came up with a suspect.

Bloodsworth’s teacher, Pike!

Many years ago, Pike was a strong warrior on par with the Great Marshal. They were both Platinum Archdukes, the strongest fighters in the world.

## NH

Archdukes were categorized into four levels, namely Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum Archdukes. Naturally, Platinum was the highest tiered.

Julian Thisleton, who had attained the seventh level of the Ares Magical Arts, was considered the lowest tier - Bronze Archduke.

Ares, who was the strongest Gold Archduke, was one step away from reaching the status of Platinum Archduke.

All those years ago, Pike had founded Bloodsworth Syndicate and attacked another smaller country. The number of dead bodies he had left in his wake had created rivers of blood, shocking the world to the core.

Yet for some reason, he had suddenly gone into retirement just as he reached the height of his prime. Bloodsworth Syndicate was then handed over to his disciple, Bloodsworth, to manage.

Now, Zeke was suspecting the reason for Pike's early retirement was that he had contracted ALS.

It was incredibly likely that Bloodsworth had stolen the *Gentiana scabra* to cure his teacher.

If Pike really did recover his former power, the natural order of the world would be disturbed once more.

There were not many people in the world who Zeke felt threatened by, but Pike was most definitely one of them.

# NH

His expression was grave as he ordered, “Guard the treasure room well. The *Gentiana scabra* must not be taken at all costs!”

“Understood!”

The word had barely left Sole Wolf’s lips when his phone rang.

He answered the call and listened for a moment.

Suddenly, the color drained from his face and he fell to his knees before Zeke.

“Great Marshal, I deserve death! Please punish me!”

Anxiety surged through Zeke. “What’s happened? Stand up and speak.”



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Sole Wolf had always been fearless, but his voice started shaking from fear as he said, “We just got news that the Gentiana scabra has been stolen!”

What?

Zeke’s hand jerked slightly.

“What happened? Tell me everything!”

Sole Wolf continued, “It turned out that Bloodsworth was only faking his death! When those from the Cygnus Room went to get rid of his body, he suddenly came to life and started killing them. He suffered multiple heavy injuries, though, and ended up getting killed. However, when Cygnus Room started counting inventory, they realized that one of the Gentiana scabra had disappeared! Bloodsworth must’ve created that commotion on purpose so that his men could steal the Gentiana scabra!”

Zeke bellowed, “Look into this immediately! We must find out who the culprit is!”

Sole Wolf said, “Those from Cygnus Room reported that the second-in-command, John Davy, had disappeared along with his family. They haven’t been able to contact him since.”

John Davy!

He must have been the one who stole the Gentiana scabra.

John was the second-in-command of Cygnus Room and was once bought over by Bloodsworth.

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He once worked for him at Bloodsworth's underwater headquarters.

Zeke only found out that John was a spy after he had infiltrated Bloodsworth's underwater headquarters.

After Zeke's silver tongue managed to convince John to tell him everything, John had joined them in bringing Bloodsworth down.

Then, Zeke had locked John up so he could reflect on his mistakes.

To think that not only he failed to right his wrongs, but he also once again put Eurasia in danger for his own benefit and went to the dark side.

Zeke was regretting not killing John from the very start.

"Track him down!" Zeke repeated with gritted teeth. "Find John Davy."

Sole Wolf replied, "John Davy is an extremely smart man. The Cygnus Room is having a hard time tracking his exact whereabouts. All they managed to figure out is that he's heading toward the southeast borders. He might be trying to escape from there."

Zeke fell into deep thought. "Pike and the Bloodsworth Syndicate are most likely to be hiding in the small southeastern countries. That's why John is trying to escape from there. Relay my orders to place the southeast borders on lockdown. I'll head over there myself to search for

## NH

John.”

As the situation was dire, Zeke decided to handle it himself.

If the *Gentiana scabra* landed in Pike’s hands and he made a full recovery, Eurasia would be in grave danger.

There was no time to waste. He had to leave right now.

They got on a subsonic aircraft and reached the southeast borders within half an hour.

The southeast borders were covered in dense forests that blocked out all sunlight.

This was probably the most secluded and untouched area within Eurasia. Ferocious beasts lived within its lush trees which made the place extremely dangerous.

There was even a myth of a man-eating plant somewhere among the trees.

Even illegal immigrants didn’t dare to step foot in these woods.

For maximum efficiency, Zeke separated the workers and made each person search one part of the forests.

Zeke put on casual clothing as well to avoid raising suspicion.

The team searched for an hour and had yet to

# NH

cover even a third of the huge forest.

Not only did they return empty-handed, but some of them also even got attacked by vicious beasts and were severely injured.

Seeing this, Zeke felt disappointed.

It has been more than an hour. John must have definitely left the country by now.

It seemed like they'd return empty-handed today.

Right as Zeke was feeling extra dejected, he suddenly heard a cry for help coming from the area in front of him. "Help! Someone help me!"

What was that?

Zeke's senses immediately went on high alert and he followed the voice.

Whoever it was kept calling for help, but their cries were getting weaker and weaker.

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Very soon, Zeke found the owner of the voice. It belonged to a girl around twenty or so.

She was dressed grandly and was extremely beautiful.

Every breath she took was an epitome of grace and the upper class.

When the girl noticed Zeke, she hurriedly pulled out a stack of money from her pocket. "Help me. I'll give you some money."

What?

Zeke frowned.

The girl's accent was weird and the money that she was offering was not Eurasian currency.

She's probably a foreigner.

A foreigner appearing in the thick forests near the border... Could it be that she's an illegal immigrant?

However, as soon as Zeke thought about that, he quickly denied that possibility.

She had a regal air about her and anyone could tell she belonged to royalty. If she wanted to enter the country, she wouldn't have to migrate illegally.

Zeke didn't think too much about it. Based on the girl's pale visage, he guessed that she had been poisoned.

## NH

A life was a life regardless of ethnicity or background.

Hurriedly, he asked, “What happened?”

Shyly, the girl lifted the edge of her white dress. “A snake bit my ankle.”

Zeke took one look and his brow immediately creased.

Her entire ankle was covered with bruises that were almost black in color.

If she didn’t get treated immediately, her leg might have to get amputated. Worse still, she might die.

Zeke quickly bent down and said, “Don’t move.”

He pulled out his silver needles, ready to give the girl acupuncture to stop the poison from spreading any further.

However, at the sight of those needles, the girl froze.

“Acupuncture? Are you a witch doctor?”

A witch doctor!

Zeke was instantly enraged.

How dare this girl to have such biased views toward TCM practitioners? How could she call us witch doctors?

Sadly, she couldn’t really be blamed for having

## NH

such thoughts.

The reason being TCM practitioners hadn't had the best reputation in other countries recently.

Zeke said angrily, "Do you want to live? If you do, shut up."

The girl felt so wronged that tears started to sting her eyes.

She had never been yelled at before.

Zeke couldn't be bothered by her tears and merely used the Ammo Needle technique to stop the poison from spreading.

After that, he started using a special massage technique to push the poison out of the girl's ankle.

Zeke's hand barely brushed past the girl's ankle when her face turned red.

This was the first time a man had ever touched her ankle.

As she watched Zeke skillfully release the poison from her leg, her gaze started to become slightly infatuated.

It was said that men looked best when they were working hard. That was definitely the case right now.

His sharp, statuesque features and the faint beads of sweat that lined his forehead gave him a

# NH

truly manly aura.

Without even realizing it, a sort of pining started rising within the girl's heart.

Ten minutes later, the girl's ankle finally returned to normal.

Zeke kept his needles and scolded, "Why would you wear a dress in this sort of place? Are you really willing to risk your life for beauty? Leave, quickly. If you get into trouble again, I'm not going to help you."

Without waiting for a reply, Zeke turned and left.

The girl tried to call out to him, "Mr. Hero, what is your name?"

However, Zeke had already left her line of sight and all she got as a response was the rustling and creaking sounds of the forest.

The girl felt a sense of longing in her heart as if she had lost her favorite toy.

When she thought about what just happened, the girl started giggling to herself.

Her smile radiated with sweetness.

"No matter what, I will find you again! How dare he scold me once, much less twice? I will make you apologize personally!"

She turned to walk into Eurasia.

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Two hours later, a report came in.

“Great Marshal, we’ve searched Area One and found nothing.”



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“Great Marshal, Area Two failed to find anything, too.”

“Great Marshal...”

Zeke sighed as a tirade of bad news reached his ears.

It seemed as though John had already fled Eurasia.

Zeke looked into the distance at the small countries outside of Eurasia’s border.

If his guesses were correct, Pike was most likely in the process of making a full recovery so that he could return and attack Eurasia.

The borders are going to be plunged into danger soon... But, it doesn’t matter for as long I, Zeke Williams is here, those who dare mess with Eurasia will have to face destruction at my hands!

Meanwhile, the girl in the dress walked out of the forest and arrived at a small town. There, she made a call with a public payphone.

“I’m already out of the forest. I’m in one of the border towns right now. Come and meet me.”

The voice on the other end of the phone asked worriedly, “Princess Lia, are you alright?”

Princess Lia nodded. “I’m fine. Someone saved me. Let’s talk after we meet.”

Half an hour later, Princess Lia met with her group

# NH

of ten guards.

Princess Lia was the eldest princess of Atlantis.

She had always been one to seek thrills since she was young and enjoyed hunting.

As such, she had snuck into the forests at Eurasia's borders to hunt with her guards' help.

Halfway through, they had gotten attacked by some fierce beasts and gotten separated.

Her guards were frantic when they noticed the princess had gone missing.

If anything happened to Princess Lia, they'd be done for too.

Luckily, it seemed like they had panicked for nothing as Princess Lia looked fine.

The captain of the guards walked up. "Thank God that you're alright, your highness. Let's hurry back."

However, Princess Lia shook her head. "I can't go back for now. I want to go to the Thistleton manor and meet Ares."

She wanted Ares to help her look for her nameless hero who had saved her.

"What?" Her guards were taken aback. "Your Highness, we can't do that. We've already violated the king's order by entering into Eurasia illegally. If we go even further into the country, we'll get

NH

seriously punished by His Majesty.”

“Too bad,” Princess Lia stood her ground. “I am going to the Thistleton manor, and none of you can stop me.”

Her guards tried their best to stop her, but she wouldn't listen.

In the end, all they could do was follow.

Princess Lia called Ares.

“Uncle Ares, I'm on my way to Thistleton manor to visit you.”

At that moment, Ares was in the middle of conducting a commemoration for the Thistleton ancestors.

The moment he received Princess Lia's call, he hurriedly ended the commemoration and rushed back to the manor so he could prepare to welcome Princess Lia.

Princess Lia was the princess of Atlantis after all.

Her arrival was as special as any other foreign guests.

Ares once fought alongside the King of Atlantis under Eurasia's orders. As such, the two had built a strong rapport and were as close as brothers.

All of the King of Atlantis' descendants addressed Ares as 'Uncle Ares'.

## NH

It wasn't long before Ares made it back to the Thistleton manor. After gathering all of the Thistleton family members, they waited eagerly for Princess Lia's arrival.

As soon as the princess arrived, Ares went forward and greeted her personally.

"Lia, you really grew quite a bit since I met you. You used to barely reach my waist and now you're almost at my neck!"

Princess Lia pretended to be angry. "Uncle Ares, maybe you would have known if you visited me in the last four or five years!"

Ares chuckled. "I was busy, you see. Come, let's sit down."

Clyde Thistleton hurriedly led Princess Lia to her seat.

Clyde had been lusting after Princess Lia for a while now.

Not only was her beauty incomparable, but she was also extremely powerful.

If he could marry her, he might even become the next king.

However, while Clyde was smitten with her, Princess Lia on the other hand, wasn't the slightest bit interested in him. In fact, she was slightly disgusted by him.

She never really paid attention to him and was

NH

always rather dismissive of him.

Nonetheless, that didn't deter Clyde's feelings toward her in the slightest.

After Princess Lia sat down, she cut straight to the point and asked, "Uncle Ares, I'm actually here to ask for a small favor. I need you to help me look for someone."

Uncle Ares asked, "Oh? And who might you be looking for? If he's in Eurasia, I'm sure that I can find him."



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## NH

Princess Lia said, “He’s a young man. I don’t know his name, but he’s very skilled with acupuncture and helped treat my snake bite.”

Uncle Ares frowned. “Anything else?”

Princess Lia shook her head. “That’s all I know.”

Ares didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

There were plenty of young men who were skilled with acupuncture in Eurasia.

Where was he supposed to find Princess Lia’s specific guy?

It was going to be harder than finding a needle in a haystack.

Just as Ares was racking his brain trying to find a solution for the princess, the Thistleton family noticed another issue.

The fact that Princess Lia was willing to come to Ares and ask for his help in finding him showed how interested she was in this young man.

Could Princess Lia have fallen in love at first sight?

If so, who’s the lucky man?

Clyde’s face soured with jealousy.

Ares asked, “Princess Lia, do you remember what he looked like?”

## NH

She shook her head. “He had a veil over half his face. I could only make out his eyes clearly. They were deep yet full of life and shone with determination.”

She might as well have said ‘no’.

Ares continued, “Alright, then. I’ll send some people out to look for this man. Princess Lia, I’m glad to have you visit. You’re truly an esteemed guest of Eurasia. Everyone! Go prepare the celebrations to welcome Princess Lia’s arrival.”

Princess Lia hurriedly shook her head. “No, there’s no need for that. I’ve been rushing around all day. I’d like to rest for now.”

“Alright, then we’ll celebrate at night instead. You, take her to the guest room,” Ares instructed the butler.

Before the butler could act on Ares’ instruction, however, Clyde volunteered, “Father, I’d like to be the one to take Princess Lia to her room.”

Ares nodded. “Okay.”

Obviously, he knew of his son’s true intentions.

But he also knew full well that despite Clyde’s sufficient looks and determination, he didn’t have enough power for Princess Lia to ever be interested in him.

Clyde excitedly directed Princess Lia to her room.

Upon reaching, the princess merely walked into

## NH

the room, expressed her gratitude, and swiftly closed the door.

She knew if she didn't end the conversation quickly, Clyde would have taken the opportunity to annoy her all day.

Seeing her indifferent treatment toward him, Clyde frowned unhappily.

If Princess Lia really found her nameless hero, his chance at courting her would be gone completely.

No! I can't just give up on the chance of becoming the king of Atlantis.

Didn't Princess Lia say that she wasn't able to see that man's face?

So, there's no reason why I can't be that nameless hero...

With that wily idea in his mind, Clyde ran to his room and started looking for a black face veil.

Princess Lia sat by the window and looked at the beautiful scenery outside. Her emotions were in disarray.

Why didn't I reach out to take off his veil when I have the chance? I could have at least caught sight of his face if I did. And I wouldn't have to go off of plain guesswork now.

Just as she was deep in her thoughts, a knock sounded on her door.

## NH

A maid had arrived with her favorite green bean pastry.

Princess Lia took a bite of the pastry and found that it was tasteless.

All she could think about was that nameless hero's deep gaze.

Princess Lia felt lost and confused. Not knowing what to do, she simply leaned on the windowsill and continued looking at the scenery.

She had never felt such longing for someone before.

Is this what love feels like?

Have I fallen in love at first sight with a man from Eurasia?

Right as she started falling into deep thought, a figure flashed past her window.

As the figure flitted past, it glanced right at her.

Princess Lia instantly started blushing as her heartbeat quickened.

Was that him?

It looked like him.

That gaze looked exactly like my nameless hero!

That had to be him!

# NH

So, turns out I didn't come to Eurasia for nothing after all!

She hurriedly ran out of her room.

The figure was indeed Zeke himself, who was coming to fetch Lacey home from the Thistleton manor after he finished his job for the day.



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## NH

Zeke had felt someone looking at him and took a quick glance in their direction only to find out that it was the girl he had saved before.

Why is she in the Thistleton manor?

Could she be one of Ares' relatives?

That possibility doesn't seem too far off.

Zeke didn't really want to interact with the girl any further. He kept feeling as if the way the girl looked at him was rather strange.

It was almost as if she was in love with him.

Zeke didn't want to bring on too many problems.

Lacey was all he needed.

With that thought, he quickened his pace and entered the back garden.

Soon after, Princess Lia also rushed into the back garden.

She had just walked into the garden when she saw her 'nameless hero'.

However, what she didn't know was that the 'nameless hero' she had met was not Zeke. Instead, it was Clyde pretending to be Zeke.

Princess Lia was overjoyed. She rushed forward and said, "My hero! I've finally found you!"

Clyde was simply ecstatic.

## NH

His plan had worked. He had managed to fool Princess Lia easily.

Clyde smiled. "Princess Lia. What a coincidence. We meet again."

Princess Lia replied, "Yes, it must be fate. My hero, what are you doing at the Thistleton manor?"

Clyde replied, "Well that's easy, I'm a Thistleton."

What?

Princess Lia was taken aback. "W-which Thistleton are you?"

Clyde took off his veil carefully.

When she saw that it was Clyde under the veil, a flash of disappointment crossed her eyes.

She never would have imagined that the nameless hero she had been hopelessly pining over was someone she hated so much.

Still, whenever she thought of the determined gaze he had when he saved her, her heart skipped a beat.

With that, Princess Lia grudgingly accepted the fact that it was him.

"So it was you."

Clyde said, "I wasn't planning on revealing myself originally. I just wasn't expecting to meet you here

## NH

of all places.”

Princess Lia replied, “You sure keep a low profile. If I hadn’t happened to bump into you, I might have never...”

As she trailed off, her face started reddening again.

She calmed herself down and said, “What about this? I’ll treat you to a meal as a token of my gratitude. How’s that?”

Clyde replied, “As an esteemed guest and a girl, no less, how could I make you treat me to a meal? How about we have dinner together during the banquet my father will throw for you tonight? That will be more than enough to show your gratitude to me.”

Princess Lia nodded. “Alright, It’s a deal.”

“It’s a deal,” Clyde repeated after her. “Princess Lia, I would like to invite you to accompany me on a walk around this garden that barely rivals your beauty. Would you be so kind?”

Princess Lia smiled. “Of course.”

With that, the two of them started strolling around the garden.

The autumn wind blew past. Red maple leaves floated gently on the surface of the lake and golden leaves crunched beneath their feet. It looked almost as if they were in a fairytale world.

## NH

The atmosphere was becoming romantic and relaxed at the same time.

Coincidentally, Ares walked past and noticed how close the two of them were.

Ares frowned.

What's going on? Isn't Clyde the furthest thing possible from Princess Lia's type?

How did the two of them start taking strolls together as if they were a couple?

After the two of them ended their walk, Ares went to talk to Clyde.

"Clyde, what's going on with you and Princess Lia? The two of you have gotten pretty close in a remarkable amount of time."

Clyde smiled warmly. "Father, I've been keeping something from you. Actually, I was the one who saved Princess Lia earlier today."

What?

Ares looked at Clyde suspiciously. "Are you sure?"



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## NH

Clyde nodded. “Of course. You know how something happened at the company today and I had to miss the familial commemoration to go settle it? On the way there, I met Princess Lia and saved her. When I was studying at Hilton University, I majored in medicine, after all. Helping her get rid of the snake poison was no big feat for me.”

Clyde’s lie was absolutely seamless and logical that Ares believed it wholeheartedly.

Ares flashed a smile of relief. “Good job. It seemed like making you go into medicine was a good idea, after all. You two should spend more time together. If you’re both okay with it, I’ll go to meet with the King of Atlantis myself and request for the two of you to get married.”

“Thank you, father!”

Clyde was overjoyed and started thanking Ares zealously.

Ares personally went to invite Lacey and Zeke to tonight’s celebration.

For one, he wanted to improve the father-daughter relationship between him and Lacey.

Secondly, he wanted to show off the family’s power in order to make Lacey stay by his side.

Lacey had never joined such a celebration so she readily agreed.

Ares was an extremely important figure after all.

# NH

Any celebration he held had to be a grand event.

The celebration was set to take place at seven in the evening.

Zeke and Lacey showed up at six thirty.

The grand hall of the Thistleton manor was already full when they arrived.

The crowd of Thistleton family members was eagerly waiting for the main characters of the day to show up.

Not only was Princess Lia's appearance highly anticipated, but Clyde was also a main character for the night.

The Thistletons were looking forward to Clyde and Princess Lia getting married.

That way, the entire Thistleton family would have a chance to be in the spotlight as well.

Zeke listened to the crowd's discussions before finally realizing that Clyde had pretended to be himself and fooled Princess Lia into thinking that Clyde was her nameless hero.

Zeke smiled coldly.

Clyde won't be able to keep up with this facade for long.

The snake venom in Princess Lia's body hadn't been completely cleared yet. It was only a matter of time she would have a relapse from the venom.

## NH

Once that happened, Princess Lia would definitely want Clyde to heal her again.

And if Clyde failed to do so. He would definitely reveal himself as a fraud then.

When Lacey heard that the celebration was for the arrival of Atlantis' princess, she was shocked.

"Gosh! I never imagined that I could have a meal with a princess. A princess, what a regal title!"

Zeke's mouth twitched unhappily.

As the wife of the Great Marshal, you're much more impressive than some princess. You don't have to envy her.

Soon, the crowd finally sat down and the celebration started.

The waitresses, dressed in all kinds of gorgeous dresses paired with their beautiful features, served plate after plate of delicacies to the guests.

The food was absolutely scrumptious. It was a fusion of both Western and Asian style cuisine, and every dish was extremely well-made.

The waitresses spoke in Atlantean as they introduced the various dishes.

Princess Lia was barely listening. Her gaze was darting around distractedly.

She had been starving for a while now, but since it

NH

was a grand event, she felt it wasn't appropriate to begin eating yet.

As she sat there with her stomach grumbling, her eyes coincidentally met with Zeke's.

For a split second, her body jerked as if lightning had struck her.

She felt that Zeke's gaze was horribly familiar.

It was as if a magical finger had strummed the chords of her heart.

His gaze... Isn't that my nameless hero's gaze?

But if he's my hero, what about Clyde?

She glanced at Clyde again.

His gaze was unremarkable and there was nothing special about it. In fact, it looked a little cunning.

What's going on?

"Have we met before?" Princess Lia interrupted the waitress introducing the dishes as she enquired Zeke.

The crowd looked in their direction at the sound of her voice.

Does Zeke know Princess Lia, too?

Zeke nodded. "Met? I saved your life."

# NH



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## NH

Princess Lia became very emotional as she exclaimed, “It was you?”

“You... you were the Nameless hero who saved me?”

“But... Clyde said he was the one who saved me.”

“What is going on?”

What?

Every member of the Thisleton family felt puzzled.

They looked back and forth at Zeke and Clyde.

Clyde felt guilty.

He had not expected that the real Nameless hero would turn out to be Zeke.

However, at this moment, he could not admit that he was the fake.

Thus, he tried to use reason to weasel his way out of the mess, “Princess Lia, don’t listen to his nonsense.”

“Zeke, you say that you’re the Nameless hero. So, where is your black veil?”

“I know for a fact that you do not habitually wear a black veil.”

Princess Lia turned her gaze upon Zeke.

Zeke replied casually, “I threw it away.”

NH

He had only worn the black veil because he did not want the traitor, Zoda Wood to recognize him.

Since the plan had succeeded, it was only natural that he threw the black veil away.

Pfft!

A youth from the Thisleton family could not help but sniggered, "Princess Lia, I would like to confess, actually I was the one who saved you."

"As for my black veil, I've also thrown it away."

Everyone in the Thisleton family roared with laughter and made fun of Zeke.

So far, in the Thisleton family, only Ares and Julian Thisleton knew that Zeke was The Great Marshal. The others haven't the slightest inkling about Zeke's identity.

That was the sole reason why they dared to mock Zeke without restraint.

Clyde sneered, "Princess Lia, this man is unscrupulous and he would use any means to get what he wants so you should just ignore him."

"In order to win your trust, not only would he pretend to be the Nameless hero, but he would also even go as far as killing me.

Princess Lia gasped, "Now that sounds a bit far-fetched."

"Isn't he a member of the Thisleton family? It

NH

seems impossible for someone to do such a thing to their own family member.”

Clyde asked, “Why not?”

“My elder brother, Julian is the perfect example.”

He stretched out his hand and pointed at Julian, “In actuality, Zeke is Thisleton family’s son-in-law .”

“In order to help his wife attain the position of the family’s heir, he went as far as to break all four limbs of the family’s eldest son.”

Looking at Julian in the wheelchair, Princess Lia gasped audibly.

“Did you really do this?” Princess Lia asked as she turned to look at Zeke.

Zeke nodded his head.

He felt that it was pointless to explain everything to Princess Lia.

She does not deserve an explanation from me.

A look of sorrow appeared on Princess Lia’s face.

“I have never imagined that such a vicious person could exist in this world.”

“Uncle Ares, I do not wish to eat at the same table with such a person.”

Princess Lia came from a wealthy family and she

NH

had seen her own elder brother die in a family feud.

Hence, she despised feuds that happen between wealthy family members.

Ares felt like he was caught in a difficult situation. "Princess Lia, in reality, things might not be what they seem."

"There are some complications about this matter. I'll explain it to you later."

Princess Lia was not pleased.

No matter what the complications are, it is wrong of Zeke to injure a family member.

At that point, her impression of Zeke was already in the negative.

Zeke did not feel inclined to stay here any longer.

He knew that princesses like these are used to being pampered and all of them have a superiority complex.

They would always make judgements based solely on their intuition.

Zeke could not be bothered to be treated as such.

If it weren't for the sake of maintaining the peace, Zeke would have given her a slap across the face that would send her flying.

"Lacey, let's go." Zeke said to Lacey.

# NH

“Okay!”

Lacey agreed immediately.

She was worried that Zeke would offend the princess should they continue to stay.

Before they could leave, however, Clyde said nonchalantly, “You lied to Princess Lia, and that’s considered treason.”

“Do you really think you can walk away just like that? How laughable.”

Zeke asked, “What else do you want?”

Clyde approached Zeke slowly, “You must receive slaps to your mouth as punishment.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

respect for you.”

Princess Lia felt a jolt of anger as well.

She clenched her teeth and ordered, “Kneel down in front of Clyde and apologize to him this instant!”

“If you refuse, don’t blame me for showing no mercy.”

Zeke replied, “I’m sorry, but he is not worthy of my apologies.”

You...

Princess Lia was beyond furious and she walked towards Zeke, saying, “I must teach you a lesson today!”

Zeke shot a glare at Princess Lia. “Do you really think that I’m afraid to hit you?”

His gaze was so cold and so intense that Princess Lia suddenly felt chills going through her heart.

Such a horrifying gaze.

Never before in her life had she felt so threatened.

Princess Lia had no doubts whatsoever that this brute would raise his hand against her.

Left with no choice, Princess Lia could only wave at the guard she had brought with her.

NH

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NH

“Seize him. He is rude to me.”

“Yes!”

Eagerly, the guards advanced towards Zeke.

However, just as the guards were passing by Princess Lia, she suddenly felt as if the room was spinning around her and she collapsed to the ground.

The guards were so alarmed that they forgot about Zeke as they rushed to break her fall.

In a matter of seconds, Princess Lia’s complexion had turned a shade of black. She was breathing hard and she looked extremely weak.

The captain of the guard asked in a panic, “Princess, what is happening to you?”

The princess replied weakly, “My... head’s spinning... I can’t breathe...”

“Help... help me...”

“Send her to the hospital right away!” Ares ordered frantically.

If anything untoward happened to Princess Lia at his residence, he would have to bear the responsibilities and give the kingdom of Atlantis an explanation.

And should Atlantis found his explanation unsatisfactory, there was even a possibility of war between the two countries.

NH

Zeke said suddenly, "It'll be too late."

"I'm afraid she'll be gone before even reaching the hospital."

Ares asked, "Do you know what's wrong with her?"

Zeke replied, "It's obvious, she's having a relapse from the snake venom that hasn't been totally cleared from her system previously."

"The remnants of the venom has now entered her limbs and her brain."

"Within three minutes, she would go into shock, her breathing will stop and cardiac arrest will occur."

"In other words, if the remaining venom is not removed from her body within the next four minutes, she will die."

Boom!

Everyone present was thunderstruck by Zeke's prediction.

Four minutes... that's too short of a time for any action to be taken.

Princess Lia opened her eyes with difficulty and looked at Clyde with hope, "Help...Help me..."

Before, it had been Clyde who removed the snake venom from her body, so, he should be able to do the same now.

NH

Clyde panicked under her hopeful gaze.

He only knew western medicine, and in western medicine, snake venom is to be treated with serum injection.

That being said, there was no way to get the serum at such short notice.

Even if there were serum available, he still had no idea what type of venom Princess Lia was suffering from.

Ares scolded, “Clyde, snap out of your daze, go and clear out the venom for Princess Lia now.”

Clyde had no choice but to put on a brave front and walked towards the princess.

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At this point, there was no other way but to pretend as if he was treating the princess.

He said to the butler, "Go and prepare all kinds of serums for me."

Huh?

Princess Lia questioned, "Serum?"

"You didn't use any serum to save me before. You only used silver needles to clear the snake venom."

"Besides, it's too late to find the serum now."

"I... I..."

Clyde stammered, unable to offer any explanation.

On the other hand, Lacey looked at Zeke in puzzlement.

Silver needles?

Isn't silver needles Zeke's kind of thing?

Could it be that Zeke was telling the truth just now and it really was him who saved the princess?

Zeke sighed and walked towards Princess Lia, ready to help.

If Princess Lia dies in Eurasia, there would be endless trouble for the country.

NH

It might even cause a war.

It's best if I help her.

However, when Princess Lia's guards saw Zeke advancing towards the princess, they thought he only wanted to take the opportunity to harm Princess Lia.

The captain of the guard ordered angrily, "Halt!"

"Or else, we will take action!"

Zeke continued on his path.

Damn it!

The captain of the guard drew a machete from his waist and swung it straight at Zeke.

Zeke immediately stretched out his palm to stop the weapon.

In less than a second, both the captain and the machete stopped in mid-action.

Zeke had only used two fingers to stop the captain's machete.

He exerted a little bit of force and the machete broke in two instantly.

What the hell?

Everyone's eyes widened in astonishment.

Even Princess Lia and her guards were petrified

## NH

on the spot.

In the country of Atlantis, the captain of the guard's skill was rated among the top ten.

Unbelievably, even with a weapon in hand, he was no match for an unarmed Zeke.

This guy really is too mighty!

Zeke casually took out his needle belt and unfolded it, saying, "Princess Lia has one minute left."

"If you try to stop me again, she will surely die."

Seeing the needle belt, Princess Lia's eyes lit up.

This needle belt looks familiar.

Isn't that the needle belt used by the Nameless hero?

Is... he really the Nameless hero?

Princess Lia hurriedly ordered, "Leave him alone so he can do acupuncture on me."

The guard made way for Zeke.

Zeke went to the princess' side and performed acupuncture using the Ammo Needle technique to rid her of the snake venom.

After a short five minutes, not only did Princess Lia live, but she also quickly recovered her rosy countenance, her normal heartbeat, and regular

## NH

breathing.

One could not even detect that she had just recovered from a life-threatening condition.

Her life was saved.

The princess looked at Zeke with gratitude in her eyes mixed with a hint of awe.

She was almost certain that Zeke was the Nameless hero.

He looks much easier on the eyes than that scoundrel, Clyde.

He's my ideal type!

At the same time, she felt guilty.

She had been generous to the fake Nameless hero all the while neglecting and even antagonized the real Nameless hero.

I was extremely stupid.

Zeke packed up his silver needles, ignored Princess Lia, took Lacey by the hand, and prepared to leave.

"Wait." Princess Lia spoke quickly.

Zeke stopped in his tracks, but he did not turn around. With his back facing the princess, he asked, "Is there anything else?"

Princess Lia took a deep breath and said, "You

NH

have saved my life and thus, my country Atlantis is now indebted to you. I must thank you.”

“Why don’t you come back with me to my country? I can promise you that you’ll be the second most powerful person.”

“More than that, in the future, I can even make you the king.”

Upon hearing the princess’ proposition, Lacey felt anxiety gripping her heart.

She knew full well that Princess Lia was both a beautiful and powerful person.

No man could withstand such temptation.

Will Zeke... fall for her?



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NH

However, Zeke merely sneered.

“Princess Lia, can I ask you a question?”

“Do you think that just because you are the princess of a country, that all men in the world ought to flock to you to the extent where they’ll even be willing to be your slave?”

The princess replied, “Isn’t that so?”

“I am wealthy, powerful, and beautiful. No man on earth can resist such temptations.”

Zeke shook his head, “A word of advice from me princess. Some men are better than others. The sky is not the limit.”

“The wealth, power, and beauty that you are so proud of may not mean a thing in the eyes of some.”

At that, Zeke turned to leave, taking Lacey with him.

Princess Lia was dumbfounded by his reply.

Did I got rejected?

I’m The Princess of the Kingdom, Atlantis and someone dares reject me?

The audacity of that man!

Hmph, it doesn’t matter. The more you reject me, the more I want to have you. You shall be my conquest, Zeke Williams!

## NH

With that thought in mind, Princess Lia decided to put the matter of Zeke out of her mind first and cast her frosty gaze upon Clyde Thisleton.

“Clyde Thisleton, let me ask you. Where did you save my life before?”

Clyde stammered, “I... I... I can’t remember.”

Princess Lia snorted, “How dare you lie to me?”

“For deceiving a princess, you should have been sentenced for decapitation.”

“However, for the sake of Uncle Ares, I shall spare your life.”

“Though you may keep your life, you shall still receive punishment. Guards, cut off a finger.”

“I trust that you have no objections with that, Uncle Ares?”

Ares was angry too, so he merely nodded his head, “No objections.”

Very well, then.

Princess Lia gestured to the guards.

A guard walked towards Clyde with a knife in hand.

Following a scream of pain, one of Clyde’s fingers fell to the ground.

To prevent Clyde from reattaching the finger, the

## NH

guard picked the finger up and kept it.

As Ares' gaze swept across the Thisleton family's descendants, a pang of sadness pierced through his heart as realization dawned on him that the legacy of Thisleton shall end with him.

I can't believe that while I've been a prisoner for two years, the Thisleton family has become so superficial, ignorant, and vain.

Even summing up the total achievements of this whole bunch won't be able to compare to my first child, Lacey Hinton.

The thought of Lacey reminded Ares that after a week or so, it will be her birthday.

This was the first time he would be celebrating for her so he was determined to give her a grand present.

Previously, when Hannah would celebrate Lacey's birthday, it was on the date that they found her.

However, the date that Ares had in mind was the day she was born.

Meanwhile, after leaving the Thisleton Manor, Zeke and Lacey headed towards the Linton Group headquarters.

All the way, Lacey was a little depressed.

Noticing his wife's state, Zeke asked, "Lacey, what's the matter?"

## NH

Lacey felt wronged, “That Princess Lia is the daughter of a King, she has money and power. Why did you reject her proposal?”

“I felt that it was regrettable.”

Zeke burst out in laughter.

Is Lacey jealous?

Zeke gave Lacey’s delicate nose a pinch and said, “Silly girl, I’ve refused her openly and even made a dig at her. Why are you still so jealous?”

Lacey retorted, “Hmph, I’m not jealous. Aren’t you a bit too full of yourself?”

At this very moment, Lacey’s mobile phone rang.

It was Ares calling her.

On the phone, Ares told Lacey that in a week’s time, it would be her real birthday.

Ares was preparing to give Lacey a grand birthday celebration.

After ending the call, Lacey subconsciously covered her lower abdomen and gave Zeke a mysterious smile.

“Zeke, in a week’s time, it will be my birthday.”

“I want to thank you for the grand birthday gift that was given by you in advance.”

The grand birthday gift that Lacey mentioned

# NH

was, of course, about the new life that was growing in her womb.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

However, Zeke was still unaware of Lacey's pregnancy.

Upon hearing his wife's words, he was a little confused. When did I give you a gift?

Zeke thought that Lacey was hinting at him to give her a big present on that day.

Thus, he decided that on her birthday, he would reveal his real identity of being the Great Marshal to Lacey.

This revelation can certainly be considered a big gift.

Over the next few days, Princess Lia sent three or four waves of emissaries to issue edicts to Zeke.

The purpose was to persuade Zeke to go to Atlantis to be the princess's husband.

Besides the very attractive conditions that were offered, a generous amount of betrothal gift was sent as well.

However, Zeke would always reject the proposals and he would even throw out the betrothal gift in the presence of said emissaries.

Nevertheless, Lacey was jealous all the time and felt as if she had been terribly wronged.

She was fearful of losing Zeke.

There was nothing Zeke could do except to keep on coaxing and comforting her.

## NH

At the same time, he had also warned Princess Lia that any new emissaries would be killed without exception.

Time flew past.

In the blink of an eye, it was Lacey's birthday.

It has been said that a child's birthday was exchanged with the blood, sweat, and tears of a mother.

In order to commemorate the sacrifice of her biological mother whom she had never met, Lacey stayed at the residence of her biological mother the day before her birthday.

Hannah Lawson and Daniel Hinton were both there to accompany Lacey that night.

Early in the morning, Lacey called Zeke on the phone informing him to come early to the Thisleton Manor for the birthday celebration.

Naturally, Zeke agreed.

He went downstairs, got into his car, and was about to pick up his parents, Diego Williams and Faith Sullivan when his phone suddenly vibrated while giving off an alarm at the same time.

Zeke fished out his mobile phone and his face suddenly turned solemn.

The words 'Monarch Order No. 1!' can be seen flashing on the phone screen.

## NH

Zeke immediately turned the direction of the car and sped towards Glasbury.

After half an hour, Zeke arrived at the entrance of Glasbury.

Coincidentally, he ran into Ares at the entrance.

Ares was panting hard and he was drenched in sweat. Apparently, he too had received the 'Monarch Order No. 1' as well.

Ares asked, "Do you have any idea about why they would issue the 'Monarch Order No. 1'?"

Zeke shook his head as he replied, "I'm not sure."

"But seeing that the No. 1 monarch order would only be issued if there's an emergency at the border or a national war starts, I would presume that the situation is serious."

"Come on, let's go in and have a look."

Half an hour later, the two men came trudging out, their faces were solemn and stern.

Just now, the colonel had informed them that Pike of the Bloodsworth Syndicate had suddenly returned and was leading the Bloodsworth Syndicate to attack Eurasia's border.

It seemed that Pike's power had increased compared to what he had in those bygone days.

Every man, team, or squad that was sent against him had been vanquished and the Eurasia frontier

NH

defensive forces were utterly defeated with countless casualties.

Eurasia's frontier borderline had thus been torn open at several points.

Putting the whole of Eurasia at severe risk.

Presently, Ares and Zeke were the only ones who can control the situation.

The Chief Colonel had requested that the two join forces to protect the southeast border and defeat the enemy.

Ares took a deep breath, gritted his teeth, and made an important decision.

"Zeke, you'll stay back."

"Even if I have to fight till my last breath, I'll make sure to drag Pike down to hell with me."

"That's why you need to stay back, Lacey can't live without you."

Zeke shook his head, "No way."

"Every citizen has the responsibility of protecting the country. How can I ignore Eurasia's safety for personal reasons?"

"Besides, you may not be able to defeat Pike."

"It's better that you stay."

"The chances of me terminating Pike is higher.

NH

Between the two of us, one must remain to take care of lacey.”

Ares sighed repeatedly, saying, “Don’t try to persuade me.”

“I should have died two years ago. The fact that I’m still breathing right now is already a bonus for me.”

“I would rather die on the battlefield than live out of it.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

Zeke found himself in a difficult position, “What about Lacey...”

Ares sighed, “Eurasia’s our country, without it, where would our home be?”

“At this point, we have to protect our country first.”

“As for Lacey, there’s no other choice but to leave her behind for the time being. We’ll definitely make it up to her later.”

Seems like that’s the only choice...

Though it was a tough decision for Zeke, it had to be done.

It was not easy being an army wife.

For a country to be peaceful and the citizens to be safe, the sacrifices made by army wives cannot be dismissed.

At the Thisleton Manor, the auditorium was decorated grandly and luxuriously. It was comparable to a royal palace.

It clearly showed how important this birthday celebration was to Ares.

Lacey, the Thisletons and the guests were all present.

The only ones that were absent were the two most important men in Lacey’s life; her husband, Zeke Williams, and her birth father, Ares.

## NH

Lacey caressed her tummy, her face full of longing for her still-absent husband.

She was looking forward to how happy Zeke would be once he knew that he was going to be a father.

However, they waited and waited but there was no sign of the two.

Seeing that the birthday ceremony was about to begin, anxiety rose within Lacey and she had the urge to call Zeke.

However, just as she took out her mobile phone, a car drove into the Manor.

It belonged to Zeke's dad, Diego.

Lacey heaved a sigh of relief and went to welcome them.

Faith and Diego came down from the car.

"Huh?" Lacey was stunned for a moment. "Dad, Mom, where's Zeke?"

Diego was taken aback, "What? Zeke isn't here?"

"We went to look for him. He wasn't home or in the office. He didn't pick up any phone calls either. So we thought he had come here earlier."

"What on earth is he doing?" Lacey murmured and took out her phone, dialing his number.

However, after several successive calls, no one

# NH

answered.

Hannah and Daniel were both worried. They, too, took out their mobile phones and called Zeke's number.

The Thisleton family members dialed Ares' number as well.

Nevertheless, neither Zeke or Ares could be reached.

Finally, Clyde snorted, "That's enough, don't waste your time."

"Can't you see the truth? They are not going to answer any calls."

"Zeke Williams must have gone to Atlantis to marry Princess Lia and be a prince. You have been jilted, Lacey."

"As for my father, he must be missing the celebration on purpose."

"Father has so many children, all of whom are better than you. And yet, he has never attended any of our birthday parties. So why would he attend yours who's but a long-lost daughter?"

No!

Lacey replied furiously, "You are talking nonsense."

"I am certain that I'll be able to contact Zeke. He will never betray me."

## NH

Again and again, Lacey dialed Zeke's number.

At the same time, on a fighter plane heading towards the southeast border, Zeke watched Lacey called his mobile phone repeatedly with an aching heart.

He could imagine how anxious Lacey must felt at this moment.

However, he could not pick up the call.

At this moment, all information about Zeke and Ares was classified.

That includes every call and every spoken word.

If it weren't for Zeke and Ares's special title, their mobile phones would have already been confiscated.

In the end, unable to withstand the torment in his heart any longer, Zeke picked up the phone to answer.

Ares instinctively held Zeke's hand, "Have you thought it over?"

"If you answer the call, you'll be violating the No. 1 Monarch Order. You'll be punished by the Chief Colonel."

Zeke replied, "I shall bear all consequences."

With that, he answered the call.

When the phone was connected, Lacey cried with

# NH

joy.



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## NH

She said pleadingly, “Williams, where are you? Tell me, are you arriving soon? I’ll go and meet you at the entrance now, all right?”

Zeke took a deep breath and said, “Lacey, I’m very sorry. I am headed to the Southeast, and will probably only make it back after a year or so. I’m sorry. I will definitely make it up to you in the future.”

With that, Zeke hung up immediately, for fear that he had spoken too much.

It would not do Lacey any good to know more.

Ares discovered that Zeke’s nails had already been buried deep into his flesh.

God knew how torturous it must have been for him to say those words just now.

At the end of true love is death, and only love that ends in death is love.

Lacey’s brain was buzzing away, and all she could think of was Zeke saying “I am sorry”.

Williams is not coming to the birthday party?

Does that mean that I will never meet him again?

No, this is not real. This is not real!

Clyde sniggered, “Hey, you heard it yourself. Zeke said he was going to the Southeast. Atlantis is at the Southeast! This means that he is going to Atlantis to marry Princess Leia, and he does not

## NH

want you anymore. He says he will be back in a year or so; They will probably have a child by then, and you can just prepare yourself to be his mistress!”

The Thisletons broke out in roaring laughter.

Shut up!

Lacey let out a heart-piercing roar, “It’s not like that! Williams will definitely come. He was just joking just now, and he wants to give me a surprise. I... I’ll go to the door and wait for him there. If he doesn’t appear today, I’ll wait for a whole day for him. If he doesn’t appear for a year, I’ll wait a whole year for him.”

Lacey ran out of the room in tears.

Daniel and Hannah were already stupefied.

They thought that Zeke and Lacey would be the perfect couple to bring envy to all.

However, who would have thought that Zeke would abandon Lacey in the search for fame and fortune?

Sigh, Princess Leia was too big a temptation.

Lennon and Diego looked at each other.

Honestly, they could not believe that their son could be this heartless and cruel.

However, all signs clearly pointed at the fact that Zeke was the type of hypocrite Clyde had made

# NH

him out to be.

At that very moment, they did not know how to defend Zeke either.

Lacey waited at Thisleton's door from morning till night to no avail.

She had cried her eyes out and stared at the busy traffic in front of the door.

Never in her wildest dreams had she ever pictured the day when Zeke would abandon her.

All of his promises and vows? Lies, all lies!

The four elders tried their utmost best to persuade Lacey to head home.

However, she flatly refused to do so and insisted on staying at the Thisleton's family door to wait for Zeke.

Finally, Hannah had no choice but to remind her of the unborn child.

"Lacey, as much as you would like to push your limits, you should think for the child inside you."

Lacey's eyes finally lit up at the mention of her child.

She stood up and cradled her bump cautious.  
"Mother, both Little Williams and I are hungry. I'd like to have some chicken soup."

"All right, I'll make you some immediately!"

## NH

Hannah said while choking back tears.

For the next few days, both Zeke and Ares had vanished.

The Thisletons were used to this.

Ares used to disappear out of the blue in the past, and he would be gone for months on end.

On this day, Clyde gathered everyone from the Thisleton family.

“Father has been missing for a few days and we have not been able to contact him. According to our family rules, I am to temporarily assume the position as family leader. Is there any objection to that?”

Everyone shook their head.

“Very good,” said Clyde. “Where’s Lacey? Why don’t I see her?”

Someone whispered, “I’ve called her. She says she is too busy to be here.”

Clyde was furious. “As the family patriarch, how dare she disrespect me?”

Oh yes, I heard that Linton Group is her personal enterprise and it is not merged with Thisleton Group. Is that true? Hmph, not only is she ignoring the

patriarch, but she is also running her own business out there on her own. This is an ultimate

NH

insult to our family!

I hereby demand Linton Group to be merged with Thisleton Group. Is there any objection to that?

”



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## NH

Everyone immediately shook their heads.

“No objection.”

“You have our full support.”

“We will obey you.”

The Linton Group had already begun to take shape.

Even though they were not at the same league as Thisleton Group, they were still considered a hefty pie.

“Let’s go!” Clyde waved his hand. “Come with me to seize Linton Group.”

Linton Group.

After a few days of grief and despair, Lacey had slowly come to terms to the cruel reality that Zeke had abandoned her.

Right now, she pinned all of her hopes and dreams on the little life that was taking shape inside of her right now.

She knew that there was no way she could ever forget this man in her lifetime.

Hence, she wanted to give birth to Little Williams as a form of remembrance.

These few days, she was completely focused on her work.

## NH

She would settle the admin matters in Linton Group in the next few months so that she could focus on her pregnancy after on.

When she was working, her door was suddenly forced open.

It was Clyde, who had brought three Thisleton descendants with him.

They took their seats carelessly and could not stop chain smoking.

Lacey frowned and immediately opened her windows while reprimanding them. "Please smoke outdoors if you must smoke."

Second-hand smoke was bad for her baby.

Clyde said coldly, "Lacey Hinton, how dare you go against the orders of the family patriarch? What kind of punishment should I mete out to you?"

Lacey replied, "You have already called me Lacey Hinton. I am a Hinton, not a Thisleton. Since I am not part of the Thisleton family, there is no need for me to obey the family patriarch's orders."

What a cheek!

Clyde was infuriated further, "Thisleton blood flows within your veins, and yet you say that you are not a Thisleton. This is blasphemy! Men, come and pin her down. Today, I will teach her a lesson on behalf of our forefathers."

The three men that had come in with him

NH

immediately stepped forward in an attempt to take control of Lacey.

Lacey was completely shocked.

I am pregnant, and there is no way I can stand this treatment. I could have a miscarriage!

She immediately shouted, "Security! Security! Please come in now!"

The security guards appeared swiftly. "Stop it. This is not the place for you to do what you want. Get lost..."

However, before they could finish speaking, Clyde had already taken action.

He sent both of the security guards flying out of the room with two kicks. "Who are you to interfere in my business?"

Clyde was an orthodox martial arts practitioner.

There was no way that a couple of regular security guards could match up to him.

The Thisletons easily took control over Lacey, who did not dare to resist them too much in her bid to protect her unborn child.

Clyde said frostily, "Your bastard child brings shame to the Thisletons. Abort the bastard and we will talk."

Ahh, no!

## NH

Lacey lost all control over herself out of shock.

This child was her only spiritual sustenance right now.

If anything happened to this child, she would rather die!

“I’ll sign it, I’ll sign the contract!” Lacey sobbed loudly.

“Hmph, things would have been easier if you had cooperated with us from the start,” Clyde said.

“Sign it now.”

Clyde tossed the contract to Lacey.

Lacey had to endure her grief as she signed on the transferal agreement.

Linton Group was the hard work of Zeke and Lacey.

Now, everything was flushed down the drain.

At least, she managed to protect her unborn child.

The world would continue spinning as long as he was still there.

After ten months, it was finally time for her to deliver the baby.

Hannah, Daniel, Diego and Faith all came to accompany her.

# NH

It was a little girl.

Her brows were strikingly beautiful like Lacey's, while her mouth and nose were a carbon copy of Zeke's.

Conflicting emotions rose within the four elders.

While they were overjoyed by the smooth delivery of a healthy and beautiful baby, they were mourning the fact that this child was born into a pitiful father-less state.



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## NH

Lacey was more heartbroken than they were.

She had fantasized this scene more than once.

Zeke would be jumping for joy to see how beautiful and healthy his baby girl was, and how much she resembled him.

However, all these could only take place in her dreams.

Hannah forced a smile. "Lacey, do come up with a name for your child."

Lacey thought for a while and said, "Let's name her Missy Williams."

This was a very meaningful name.

The child was to take on Zeke's last name, Williams.

Her first name Missy represented how she missed Zeke!

Till now, Lacey was still unable to forget about Zeke.

After two years.

At the Southeast borders.

There were corpses piled up everywhere while blood flowed into murky red rivers.

The billowing smoke was engulfed in a strong smell of corpses which dissipated into the

# NH

surroundings.

Amidst the corpses, two figures stood strong and tall as they headed towards the enemy's direction.

The setting sun spilled over on the two of them, making them look as if they were soaked in blood.

One of them held onto a flag while the other carried a coffin on his shoulders.

Even though they were staggering due to serious injuries, they gritted their teeth and persevered.

They only managed to heave a sigh of relief when the rescue team finally arrived to form the defense line. They lay flat on the ground, panting like cattle.

The one with the flag was Ares, the God of War.

The nation would never fall as long as the flag continued to stand proud.

The one carrying the coffin was the Great Marshal, Zeke Williams.

His aim was to create fear in the enemies.

Despite the risk of death, he would rather be buried in this coffin than to lose guard over this line of defense.

Naturally, their enemy was the bloodthirsty Pike, who led the Bloodsworth Syndicate.

They had been in a standoff with them for three

# NH

years.

Throughout this period, Bloodsworth had activated countless frenzied attacks, only to be stopped in their tracks by Zeke and Ares.

Two days ago, the killing god Pike gathered all of his men at the Bloodsworth Syndicate for one more attack.

Zeke led his team and was engaged in a bloody war with them for a whole day and night.

While the enemy was about to be chased from the borders, he did not expect Pike to invite ten gods of war to support him.

Now, the tables had turned and Zeke's side was no longer the active party. They were now the passive side.

Despite that, Zeke's strong combat power still enabled him to slash and kill all ten gods of war.

Seeing that he had already lost his advantage, Pike immediately ran away in an attempt to save his life.

Of course, Zeke had a price to pay as well.

Right now, he felt that there was only a difference of one step between life and death.

Ares seemed to be as strong, if not stronger, than Zeke.

Other gods of war would have been completely

# NH

fatigued after two days and two nights worth of battles.

However, not only had Ares persevered, but he had also slashed and killed the gods of war together with numerous other masters!

Right now, all he had left was a strong belief that sustained his will to live.

Pfft, pfft!

Ares spat out two mouthfuls of bright red blood before saying, "My son-in-law..."

"Get lost!"

Zeke reprimanded him impatiently. "There is no family on the battlefield."

Ares laughed out loud, "You bastard! Even if we were in hell, let alone at the battlefield, I am still your father-in-law.

I... I won

't be around for much longer...

I have none but one request. Bury me at the border and make sure my grave faces the enemy troops. I want to defend our borders even as a ghost!

"

Zeke took a deep breath, "Don't worry, you won't die. You still need to babysit my kids! The

# NH

Bloodsworth Syndicate has been completely annihilated, leaving only Pike behind. They are as good as dead now. It's all safe here now. Let's go home."

Home...

Tears flowed freely down Ares' face.

While he defended the country, he had neglected his home.

It is time to go back and take a look.

Zeke said, "Don't go home yet. Looking at you now, you might just die on the way back. I'll arrange for your medical treatment at the Cygnus Room first."

Zeke only boarded the plane home after he made all the arrangements for Ares.

I've been away for three years.

How are you, Lacey?

How are you, my parents?

Will they forgive me for leaving without saying goodbye?



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## NH

Zeke's heart thumped faster as he drew closer to his hometown.

On the plane, Zeke treated his wound with a simple bandage.

According to the colonel's instructions, he was supposed to rest and recover in the hospital.

However, instead of going to the hospital, Zeke had gone home first.

He could not wait for another minute nor another second.

According to the information collected by his subordinate, Lacey had already moved in with the Thisletons.

I wonder if Lacey is getting along well with the Thisletons.

Are the few ignorant ones still targeting Lacey?

Before long, Zeke arrived at the Thisleton Manor.

Compared to the past, the Thisleton Manor was very quiet now.

There was no sight of any of their descendants, even in broad daylight.

Zeke walked straight towards Lacey's living quarters.

When he walked past the kitchen, a sudden sob caught his attention.

## NH

He looked towards the direction of that sob.

There was a little girl who was about two or three years ago, squatting by the kitchen door to wash some bowls.

She had an adorable and charming little face while her eyes, which were like a pair of twinkling grapes.

Just one glance melted his heart instantly.

Zeke felt a little perplexed.

At her age, this little girl should be completely pampered and spoiled by her parents.

Why is she doing chores?

Clang!

The little girl did not hold on tight to a bowl and broke one bowl accidentally.

She immediately reached out to pick up the pieces, and the broken pieces cut her fingers as well.

A bitter-looking female servant came out. "What's going on here?"

At the sight of the broken bowl, the servant grew angry, "You useless fool! What's the point of you living if you can't even do something small like this?"

The little girl's tears fell uncontrollably.

## NH

“Aunt, Missy is hungry and couldn’t hold the bowl properly. Can Missy eat a bit before continuing to work?”

“You good-for-nothing!” The servant went into the kitchen huffily and brought out a plain roll. “Eat it now. After that, go back to your chores immediately.”

Missy reached out for the roll immediately with a look of joy.

Unexpectedly, the servant tossed the roll into the pile of dirty dishes. “You clumsy fool; you can’t even hold onto a roll. This is the last roll, so it’s up to you whether you want to eat it.”

Ah?

Missy looked despondently at the roll that was soaking in the dirty water.

However, she was really too hungry.

Finally, she picked up the roll cautiously and was about to eat it.

Zeke could not take it anymore and immediately went up to stop her.

There was detergent in the water, and one could die from eating a roll that was submerged in that water.

What more a small child like this?

That servant truly had a scorpion heart.

## NH

Zeke stopped the little girl and said, “Little one, the roll has been submerged in the water and you shouldn’t eat it. You could get ill from that.”

Missy replied pitifully, “Missy is hungry. Missy wants to eat.”

Zeke thought for a short while and fished out the military compressed biscuits from his bag.

“Missy, you can have this first. I’ll bring you for a big meal later, all right?”

She was a little hesitant. “Mother says that I should not eat food given by strangers.”

Zeke smiled, “I’m not a stranger. You called me Uncle, didn’t you?”

Mmhmm.

Missy picked up the biscuit and wolfed it down after being convinced by Zeke.

Even though it was just a tiny biscuit, she made it look like it was the tastiest and most valuable biscuit in the world.

“Who are you?” The mean servant said disapprovingly. “Who are you to interfere in Thisleton Manor’s business?”

Slap!

Without skipping a beat, Zeke immediately gave that woman a slap. “Who do you think you are? How dare you say ‘our Thisleton Manor’?”

NH

F\*\*\*!

The servant exploded on the spot. “You hit me? I am a servant here at the Thisleton Manor. How dare you hit me?”



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NH

Zeke replied, "Not only will I hit you today, but I will also make sure you are brought to justice. It is a crime to abuse children."

F\*\*\*!

She jumped up, "The country's laws are set by us Thisletons! Are you trying to use the law to control the Thisletons? What a joke! Just wait and see, the Thisletons won't let you off so easily!"

Sigh.

Zeke suddenly sighed heavily. "Ares, the patriarch of the Thisletons, has been defending the borders with his life, hence earning the family's good name. However, this reputation is now tarnished by the likes of you. How sad is that?"

Zeke slapped her once again.

This strong slap was enough for the servant to collapse on the ground, bleeding from the mouth.

Ahhhhhhh!

She was about to go crazy.

I've already made use of the authority of the Thisletons, but he still had the cheek to slap me!

This simply cannot be tolerated!

She screamed out loud. "Help me! Come! There is someone here beating up a Thisleton!"

Zeke laughed. "Come out then."

## NH

Suddenly, three dark figures jumped out from the hidden corners and knelt before Zeke.

“Please instruct us, Great Marshal.”

Zeke was still nursing his wounds after leaving the battlefield.

For his safety, the colonel had arranged for people to silently protect and look out for Zeke.

Zeke said, “She has abused a child and insulted the Great Marshal. Investigate this thoroughly!”

Yes, sir!

The three guards took down the servant immediately.

Wh-what?

She was completely taken aback.

Great Marshal?

This common-looking simpleton is the Great Marshal, the pillar of the nation?

Did I, a mere servant, just get into an argument with the Great Marshal?

Oh my, I....I am just seeking my own death here.

Zeke told the three guards, “Take her away, and you don’t have to follow me around anymore. I will be fine.”

# NH

But...

The three guards looked hesitant.

They did not dare to go against the colonel's orders.

Zeke said, "Don't worry, I'll talk to the colonel myself."

Hence, the three guards left with his assurance.

Zeke squatted down to look at the little girl in the eye.

"Little one, your name is Missy, right? Where is your mother? Why didn't she take care of you?"

Missy said, "Mummy has to go for a business meeting and has no time to care for me, so she asked me to follow Auntie."

Zeke said, "Oh, your mother is a businesswoman? Then she should be a Thisleton. What is your mother's name?"

In a low, muffled voice, she replied, "My mother is Lacey Hinton."

Lacey Hinton!

The mention of this name sent a shock of thunder blazing through Zeke's mind.

She is Lacey's daughter?

Lacey has remarried!

## NH

At this moment, Zeke's heart was completely broken.

However, he did not blame Lacey at all.

He had left without bidding farewell and had not sent any news for the past three years. Any woman would have chosen to remarry!

According to the law, a married couple just had to be separated for a year before it was considered to be a divorce.

"Uncle, are you all right?" Missy asked him carefully.

It took a long time for Zeke before he could calm down.

Taking a deep breath, he said, "Missy, do you know where your mother is?"

For Lacey to hand her child to the servant only to be abused, it was most probable that she could not afford a nanny.

Seems like Lacey is going through a tough time now.

Zeke decided to clear all of Lacey's difficulties and gift her with endless wealth.

After all, Lacey was the only woman that he had loved, be it in the past, present, or the future!

Missy nodded, "Yes, I know where she is."

NH

“Missy, can you bring me to your mummy?” Zeke asked.

“All right.”



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NH

Missy immediately nodded, “Missy misses mummy too.”

The two of them got into the car to look for Lacey.

On the way, Missy whispered, “Uncle, are you a soldier too?”

Zeke replied, “Yes, I am.”

“Uncle, my Daddy is a soldier too. But he hasn’t seen me for a long time. Uncle, can I call you Daddy?”

Zeke felt an inexplicable sadness rise in his heart.

Seems like Missy’s father could not be with Lacey and Missy often as well.

He immediately agreed to her request. ‘All right.’

“Daddy.”

Sigh.

Zeke began to tear up.

If only she were Lacey and my daughter!

However, when I left three years ago, Lacey was not pregnant.

There is no way that she is my child!

Under Missy’s directions, Zeke arrived at the Salvation Hall.

## NH

The Salvation Hall was a well-known clinic at Atheville.

Zeke frowned. What is Lacey doing at the Salvation Hall?

Is she getting medical treatment?

The Linton Group covers the medical industry as well, and they should be able to settle most matters.

Lacey didn't get some complicated disease, did she?

With Missy's hand in his, Zeke walked into the Salvation Hall uneasily.

He noticed Lacey immediately.

Despite the fact that she was still wearing her old clothes, she was still as bright and beautiful as always.

There was nothing that could cover up her disposition.

At that moment, she was talking to a man dressed in a suit.

He noticed that she seemed to be pleading with that man.

Instead of interrupting them, Zeke found a place and sat down.

He wanted to listen in on their conversation.

## NH

Lacey said, “Mr. Wood, I beg you, you must save my daughter. If you don’t help us, there will be no one who can heal my daughter here at Atheville.”

Mr. Wood looked conflicted. “Sigh, it is not that difficult for me to help you. However, the tricky thing is that we need this particular expensive drug in order to heal your daughter. Even I may not be able to obtain this drug.”

Lacey immediately said, “Mr. Wood, please tell me the name of this drug. I will do anything in order to get it.”

Mr. Wood sighed. “It’s not just about the money. It is one of the ten rarest herbs in Eurasia, *Rhodiola rosea*. Have you heard of it, Ms. Hinton?”

Ssss!

Lacey immediately felt as if someone had just flung a bucket of ice cold water on her.

*Rhodiola rosea*.

It is a herb that is under strict control by the military, and it is banned from private sales.

It’s not even available in the black market!

It would be an impossible task to get her hands on it!

Suddenly, Mr. Wood’s tone changed. “Ms. Hinton, all hope is not lost. I am suddenly reminded that my mentor has one stalk of *Rhodiola rosea* among his prized collection. If I beg him, he might

# NH

just sell it to me.”

Hope was suddenly reignited in Lacey.

“Mr. Wood, please... You have to help obtain the *Rhodiola rosea*. Just name the price, and I’ll get the money to you no matter what.”

Mr. Wood said, “Didn’t I make myself clear? It is not just about the money when it comes to this herb. Agree to one more request, and I’ll get the herb for you. How about that?”

Lacey immediately asked him, “Just name it, Mr. Wood. If it is within my capability, I will definitely satisfy you.”

His smile suddenly became a little ambiguous and he slowly picked up Lacey’s hand.

“Of course you are more than able to handle this request. All you have to do is to lie down on the bed and leave the rest to me.”

Ahhh!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

Lacey paled from the shock and quickly retracted her hands.

“Mr. Wood, please mind your manners. Don’t make that kind of request anymore. I will never agree to it.”

Mr. Wood was dissatisfied with her answer, “To my knowledge, Ms. Hinton has been alone all these years. You’re still in your prime. It’s such a pity that you are widowed at such a young age.”

“This suggestion benefits both of us. Don’t worry, I promise that it’s going to be a pleasurable experience for you.”

Lacey felt like vomiting looking at his hideous face.

However, she forced herself to stay for the sake of treating her daughter.

“Mr. Wood, please stop saying these. It’s impossible. If you really want to treat my daughter, I will sell everything in my possession to pay you the amount you’re asking for.”

Mr. Wood looked disappointed, “Hmm, okay. Let’s just pretend that didn’t happen. What about if you accompany me for a drink and pay me ten million for your daughter’s treatment? I don’t think this request is over the line, right?”

Lacey could only force herself to accept his terms, “I... I can only drink a little. My alcohol tolerance is quite bad.”

# NH

“Sure.”

Mr. Wood poured the alcohol right away.

Zeke, who was sitting beside them, noticed that Mr. Wood had dipped his finger into the drink.

Damn it, he’s drugging Lacey.

There’s no doubt it was aphrodisiac.

However, Lacey did not seem to notice it and was about to drink the spiked drink.

“Stop, don’t drink it!” bellowed Zeke.

Mr. Wood and Lacey were stunned for a moment and looked in the direction of the voice.

When Lacey noticed that it was Zeke, she felt goosebumps all over and burst into a cry.

It’s him, he’s finally back!

The man that she had yearned for in her dreams; the man that she spent every waking moment thinking about had finally appeared before her!

Lacey got very emotional at the sight of him.

However, most of it were anger.

Where were you when the Thisletons bullied me and took over Linton Group forcefully?

Where were you when I was experiencing excruciating contractions in the hospital?

## NH

Where were you when I was chased out by the Thisletons because of a minor error? What about when we were roaming the streets as homeless people?

Why are you only back when I've become stronger and able to support myself?

Why? Why?

Indignation she felt all these while turned into tears and rolled down her cheeks.

She hugged Missy in her embrace and cried, "Let go!"

"You don't have the right to touch my child."

Zeke felt his heart constricting when he saw Lacey suffering.

Only God knew how Lacey got through all these years.

Zeke said guiltily, "Lacey, I'm sorry for your suffering all these years."

"Don't worry, I'll explain to you why I've disappeared these three years. I believe that you'd be able to forgive me when you know the reasons."

Lacey could only snort at his delusion.

Didn't you go Atlantis to look for Princess Leia?

And you expect me to forgive you?

## NH

Missy wiped the tears off his mom's face with his fingers, "Mommy, don't cry. You said daddy doesn't like crybabies. Daddy will not come back if we cry."

Lacey hurriedly wiped her tears dry, "Okay, mommy won't cry."

"Lacey, please go out and get some fresh air. I need to talk to Mr. Wood here," Zeke added.

Lacey knew exactly what he was up to.

She hurriedly replied, "Williams, you're not allowed to touch Mr. Wood. He's the only one who could save Missy right now. Besides, he did not hurt me in any way."

"Really?" Zeke retorted. He proceeded to pour some of the spiked drink into the fish tank.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

Not long after, the fish soon turned over their bellies.

Lacey paled at the sight.

It was clear as day that Mr. Wood spiked her drink.

She gritted through her teeth, "You're a monster!"

Mr. Wood was enraged that his plan was busted. "Damn it, you should be honored that I am interested in a widow like you. You really should know better..."

Slap!

Zeke slapped Mr. Wood across the face without hesitation, "You don't have right to humiliate some people."

"Lacey, please get out first. I'll deal with him."

Lacey contemplated for a bit before leaving with Missy.

She could not even remember the last time she felt protected by someone like this.

Mr. Wood was incensed from the slap.

He had never suffered this kind of indignation.

He clenched his teeth, "Bastard, you dare to slap me! You'd better kneel down and apologize to me right now. Else, I'm going to have to deal with you!"

## NH

Slap!

Zeke slapped him again, "Someone said something similar too just now. But she's good as dead now."

He was talking about the helper at Thisleton Manor who bullied Missy.

Ahh!

Mr. Wood was about to explode with rage after being slapped twice.

He took an arm strength bar and hurled it at Zeke's head.

"Bastard, you can get as cocky as you want in hell!"

Zeke reached out his hand and took hold of the arm strength bar effortlessly.

Mr. Wood was stunned. He then tried to snatch the bar back.

However, it was as if the strength bar was held by a robot.

He could not move it even by an inch, no matter how much force he exerted.

Damn it!

This fella is strong!

When he was in a daze, Zeke snatched the arm

NH

strength bar and flung it toward his nether region.

A loud noise ensued. Mr. Wood had his hands over his nether region as he slumped onto the floor.

Blood seeped from between his fingers.

His mouth was wide open but there was no sound.

The excruciating pain made him lose his voice.

Zeke spat coldly, "I'll forgive you since you've not made any grave mistake."

"Your life is spared but you shall suffer the consequences for your whole life. You wouldn't be able to get it on with a woman again."

Mr. Wood had been castrated.

It was impossible for him to be together with a woman anymore.

Zeke walked out of the Salvation Hall.

Lacey was still crying while hugging Missy. Her eyes were all red.

Zeke felt more guilty at the sight of her.

"Lacey, get on the car. The wind is quite strong outside. Don't let Missy catch a cold," Zeke said with concern.

Lacey thought for a moment and glanced at

# NH

Missy in her arms.

Missy hugged her tight, “Mommy, I’m cold.”

“Okay, we’ll get on the car.” Lacey got on the car with Missy.

Zeke drove toward the Thisleton Manor.

Silence stretched between the two. The atmosphere in the car was quite tense and awkward.

Zeke broke the silence in the end, “Lacey, was he kind toward you two?”

Lacey was puzzled by his question, “Who are you talking about?”

Zeke replied, “Missy’s biological father.”

Lacey was agitated by the question, “Williams, what kind of woman do you take me for?”

“Lacey, I didn’t mean that. Why would you think that?” Zeke hurriedly explained.

“Missy is two years old, and you left three years ago. You’re saying that Missy was another man’s child. So are you accusing me of having another man as soon as you left?”

Zeke was stumped.

Lacey is spot on with her analysis.

Missy is not another man’s child.

NH

Then, there's only one other possibility.

Missy is my child!

Missy... is my daughter?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

Zeke stepped on the brake and looked at Missy in pleasant surprise.

He could not seem to accept the fact.

“Lacey, are you saying that I’m Missy’s father?”

Lacey nodded her head, “Yes.”

“I was pregnant even before you left. I always subconsciously covered my lower abdomen to protect her. But you misunderstood it for my period, and even prepared brown sugar water for me...”

Lacey felt a lump in her throat at the thought the past, and she went silent.

Hahaha!

Zeke burst into an uncontrollable laugh after confirming that Missy was indeed his daughter.

He had never been so happy before.

It was as if he was a man who found a ship after being deserted on an island after a few decades.

I have a daughter now!

Lacey did not leave me either.

She’s still my wife!

The usual impassive Great Marshal shed tears.

He was almost begging at Lacey, “Please let me

# NH

hug our daughter.”

Lacey was touched by his earnest look and nodded her head.

His gaze was full of fatherly love.

Zeke hugged Missy.

He could not help but kiss Missy when he saw her cute demeanor, “Missy, daddy’s here.”

Missy was overjoyed at the revelation. She traced Zeke’s face, “Are you really my father?”

Zeke nodded, “Of course.”

Missy was ecstatic, “Daddy!”

“I have a daddy now too. Now my friends can’t say that I don’t have a father anymore.”

Zeke felt a sharp pang in his heart.

Lacey attempted to bring Missy back into her embrace for Zeke to be able to concentrate driving.

However, Missy held on tightly to Zeke and refused to let go.

Lacey could only drive while Zeke hugged Missy.

She fell asleep in no time in Zeke’s embrace.

Only then did Zeke whispered to her, “Lacey, what happened to Missy?”

## NH

Lacey sighed, “She’s diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis. She’s still young, so the symptoms are not that apparent and won’t affect her much. However, her condition might get worse after half a year. Missy might be paralyzed from the waist down. She might even... die.”

Zeke was in a turmoil of emotions after Lacey explained Missy’s condition to him.

With this physical condition, one would most likely encounter genetic mutation. It would not be easy to survive.

However, those who survived would be the crème de la crème.

Zeke examined Missy’s condition, “Don’t worry, Lacey.”

“I will make sure to cure Missy, no matter the cost.”

Lacey slowed down and brought the car to a stop.

Zeke furrowed his brows, “Lacey, why did you stop?”

Lacey replied, “Mom and dad are selling fruits around here. I don’t think they’ve eaten. I’m bringing breakfast for them.”

Hmm?

Zeke furrowed his brows.

Mom and dad are selling fruits by the roadside?

## NH

The Linton Group alone would provide for them for years to come.

Why would they resort to selling fruits by the roadside for a living?

Zeke posed his questions.

Lacey sighed again, “It’s a grandmother story. We’ll talk about it later.”

Lacey got off the car and bought some bread and coffee.

Missy was roused by the aroma of the bread and coffee, “It smells so good.”

The hawker grinned as he passed the bread to Lacey, “She gets prettier by the day. Here, have this bagel.”

Thank you, uncle.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

Missy thanked the hawker and gobbled down the food.

Lacey looked lovingly at her daughter, “Her appetite is getting better.”

Lacey thought Missy had her breakfast at home.

However, Zeke frowned at the sight.

He deliberately hugged Missy and trailed further behind Lacey and asked Missy in a low voice, “Missy, did you not have breakfast in the morning?”

Missy nodded her head, “Yes. Aunt said I could only eat after doing all the dishes.”

Zeke felt for his daughter, “Missy, what do you like to eat? Daddy will bring you out later.”

Missy carefully replied, “Daddy, I... want to try the KFC that I saw on the TV. Could you bring me there?”

Sure!

Zeke agreed immediately, “Daddy will bring Missy there later.”

It has not been easy for Lacey. Even KFC was a luxury for her.

What happened to Lacey these three years?

Lacey arrived at a nearby market.

## NH

The market was situated at the center of an urban village. The place was filthy, unhygienic with seemingly endless chatter.

Zeke noticed a group of onlookers abuzz with excitement as soon as he entered the market.

It was chaotic with sounds of items crashing and shrieks.

It sounded like Hannah and Daniel Hinton.

Damn it, someone is bullying mom and dad.

Zeke jostled his way into the crowd.

Eight ruffians flipped over the fruit stall and the fruits were scattered all over.

The ruffians did not stop at that and even stepped on the fruits.

Daniel and Hannah protected the remaining fruits on the trishaw as they shivered in fear.

The leader of the ruffian, Scarred Face brandished a steel baton as he dashed toward Daniel and Hannah.

“Hey old man. Pay your protection fees.”

“Otherwise, your remaining fruits and the two of you will suffer my wrath!”

Daniel stood before Hannah to protect her.

“Brother, we just paid our due for this month ten

NH

days ago. Why are you asking from us again?"

Scarred Face merely replied, "Stop yakking. You guys ate yesterday. Why are you eating again today?"

Daniel felt helpless, "Sure, if you put it that way. But it seems like we are paying more than others."

"We need the money to treat my granddaughter. But now we're giving it all to you."

Stop the yackety-yak!

Scarred Face's patience was running out, "I'm asking you one last time. Are you going to pay up or are you going to get the hell out of this place?"

Daniel was exasperated, "Please give us a way out. This is money for my granddaughter's treatment. You guys are essentially killing her if you take this money."

Damn it!

Scarred Face was enraged and was about to hurl at him with the baton.

Zeke was about to speak when Lacey spoke up, "Stop it."

"I'll pay the protection fees."

Scarred Face stopped as he eyeballed Lacey, "Saves me the trouble."

Lacey walked over to Daniel and Hannah's side,

NH

“Mom and dad, are you guys alright?”

Guilt was written all over Daniel’s face, “I’m too weak.”

“I can’t even fork out the money for Missy’s treatment.”

Lacey soothed him, “Mom and dad, don’t worry. I’ve figured it all out.”

She glanced at Scarred Face. “How much is the protection fee?” Lacey flipped through her purse as she asked him.

Scarred Face replied, “Twenty thousand.”

What on earth?

Lacey stopped searching her purse and looked at him in surprise, “You guys might as well rob us. Twenty thousand for a fruit stall is over the line.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

“Hey, listen. Twenty thousand is a discounted price,” Scarred Face barked at them.

“Did you know you guys offended somebody important? You would have lost your lives if it weren’t for our protection.”

“Are your lives not worth twenty thousand?”

Lacey asked, “Who did we offend?”

Scarred Face, “I’m not telling you.”

“The fact is, this person has been targeting you and we are the ones protecting you guys all this while.”

Lacey breathed in deeply and thought for a moment.

She knew who was targeting her father and mother.

“I don’t have much with me now. Only two thousand,” Lacey replied.

“Give me some time and I’ll try to get the money.”

Poor b\*\*\*\*\*!

Scarred Face cursed at her. Then he left with his subordinates after snatching the money.

Zeke’s heart bled at the sight.

They’re in a worse condition than I thought.

## NH

What happened to them these three years when I wasn't around?

Of course, Zeke would not let Scarred Face off so easily.

He hugged Missy and walked out of the crowd, "Stop right there."

"Did I say you guys could leave?"

Scarred Face and his people were stumped and turned around.

"Who the hell are you? You don't even have the right to speak here."

Zeke smiled thinly, "I'm here to take your lives."

Daniel and Hannah finally saw Zeke.

The two of them widened their eyes in surprise, and their hearts were thumping as they quivered uncontrollably.

Zeke is back!

After abandoning his wife and daughter for three years, he is finally back.

Why did he come back?

Their minds went blank and they were at a loss.

Zeke carried Missy and approached Daniel and Hannah, "I'm sorry, mom and dad. You guys have suffered all these years. Don't worry, I will explain

# NH

everything later.”

Then, he passed Missy to Lacey.

“Lacey, please look after Missy. Leave this to me.”

“Don’t let Missy watch.”

He turned around and approached Scarred Face.

Daniel and Hannah finally regained their composure after some time.

They watched Lacey in astonishment, “Lacey, what happened?”

Lacey sighed, “I’m not sure. He said he would explain later. Just wait for his explanation.”

Hannah could only sigh.

What is there to explain?

It’s unforgivable that he abandoned his wife and daughter to head to Atlantis and marry Princess Leia.

His explanation would be futile.

Zeke stood before Scarred Face and ordered, “Kneel and apologize. Cut off your tongue to atone for your sin of chastising others. I shall let you live then. Otherwise, prepare to die!”

Scarred Face and his people were stumped.

Then, they burst into a mocking laugh.

NH

“Hahaha! Who the hell are you to order us? You want me to cut off my tongue? Are you high?”

Zeke replied, “I’m their son-in-law. Do you think I have the right to intervene here?”

The crowd was in an uproar at the revelation.

“Hmm? Is he the bastard son-in-law? The one who abandoned his wife and daughter to marry a rich woman? How does he have the face to come back here?”

“This kind of person is unforgivable.”

Zeke could only smile bitterly at the murmurs.

It seemed my name was tarnished though and through.

It’s okay. I’ll prove that I’m innocent.

The ruffians burst into a cackle.

“Haha! So you’re the jerk! You look exactly like a rich woman’s boy toy.”

“Why are you back all of a sudden? The rich woman’s done toying with you? Are you abandoned?”

Slap!

Zeke slapped him across the face without hesitation.

“This is your second chance for retribution. Do as

NH

I say. Or else, prepare to die.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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# NH

Damn it!

Scarred Face was incensed for being humiliated.

I'm the one people look up to in this neighborhood. This bastard dares to hit me in front of all these people!

Die!

Only his death shall put me at ease!

Scarred Face waved his hands, "Brothers, kill this goddamned bastard!"

His seven subordinates waved their weapons in hand and dashed toward Zeke.

The crowd gasped.

These eight people were among the best fighters in town.

They were rumored to come from the Inspection Brigade.

They only used two months to conquer the whole street just one year ago.

This jerk is going to die in their hands.

Zeke did not move a finger even when their batons were about to hit him.

The crowd could not bring themselves to see the beatings and closed their eyes.

# NH

Bang!

After sounds of punches, silence ensued.

The crowd opened their eyes to peek at the scene.

The Hinton family son-in-law did not even let out a cry.

I guess he's been beaten to death or fainted.

However, the crowd was taken aback at the sight before them.

The Hinton family son-in-law did not suffer any injuries and stood his ground.

However, the seven subordinates of Scarred Face were scattered all over on the floor and were motionless.

Their bodies were bruised and they bled all over. It was uncertain whether they fainted or died.

Scarred Face was terrified as he looked at Zeke. He froze on the ground and could only tremble.

Wh-what did I just witness?

His seven unbeatable subordinates were flung outward when they approached Zeke. They were motionless afterward.

He did not even see Zeke move a finger.

Is he a human or a devil?

# NH

Only a devil could have such power.

Zeke approached Scarred Face, “It’s your turn now.”

Scarred Face took a few steps back as fear engulfed him.

“I... I apologize. I will apologize to them.”

“Pl-please let me go!”

Zeke replied, “We’ll talk about the apology later. You mentioned that someone is targeting my mom and dad. Who are they?”

He had to get to the root of the problem to eradicate the enemy.

Scarred Face was petrified, “I... I can’t reveal his identity. Believe me, you can’t afford to offend him. Even I can’t.”

Zeke stepped on Scarred Face’s leg.

Crack!

A hole appeared on the ground as Scarred Face’s leg sank into the ground.

His bones were shattered as blood splattered all over the floor.

Ouch!

Scarred Face let out a wail and he crouched and wrapped around his leg, “My leg... My leg...”

NH

The stench of piss filled the air.

The pain made him lose his bowel control.

Zeke added, “Now, will you tell me who is targeting my family?” he glanced at Scarred Face’s another leg as he said.

“I’ll say it! I’ll say it!”

Scarred Face did not dare to hide it anymore and admitted, “It’s the captain of the Inspection Brigade, Wilfred Bradley.”

“He ordered me to harass them.”

Zeke looked at Lacey, “Do you know this Bradley guy?”

Lacey shook her head, “I don’t know him.”

Zeke thought for a moment.

Lacey doesn’t even know him. Why would he target the Hintons?

It seems like Bradley has been instructed by someone else to do so too.

I’ll use Bradley to get to the mastermind.

Zeke ordered Scarred Face, “Get Bradley to come here now.”

Scarred Face nodded and dialed Bradley’s number.

# NH

“Wilfred, please save me. Come to Hinton’s fruit stall and bring more people with you—there’s someone hard to deal with here.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

The crowd only came back to their senses after Scarred Face hung up the call.

No one expected the son-in-law of the Hinton family to be so good at fighting.

Even Scarred Face and the rest, who had beaten up numerous people in the past, lost to him so easily.

However, so what if he could fight?

Could he defeat the Inspection Brigade?

The Inspection Brigade was the most violent force in the nation.

No matter how powerful an individual may be, he could never compare to the nation's forces.

A team rushed over quickly.

The Inspection Brigade operated very formally.

Every officer wore uniforms and were equipped with weapons. They looked extremely intimidating.

Wilfred Bradley, who was leading the team, exuded an even more intimidating and hostile aura.

The Inspection Brigade had more authority than the police.

Intimidated, the crowd started to back away from the Inspection Brigade.

## NH

When Wilfred scanned the venue, everyone went completely silent. It was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

Even the surroundings felt cold.

He asked, "Who's the trouble-maker?"

Scarred Face rushed towards him and pointed towards Zeke. "Wilfred, he's the one!"

Wilfred glanced at Zeke and a disdainful expression appeared on his face. "Lock him up."

The members of the Inspection Brigade immediately surrounded Zeke.

Zeke scoffed coldly, "Captain Bradley, you sure have some authority there. As far as I know, the Inspection Brigade is responsible for capturing spies and smugglers. You have no say over civil security."

Wilfred said, "Are you unwilling to relent? Fine. I now suspect that you're a spy. Please cooperate with our investigation."

Zeke said, "Don't spout nonsense if you have no evidence. Otherwise, I'll sue you for deliberate accusation."

"Sue me?" Wilfred laughed mockingly. "I'm the leader of this territory. How can you sue me?"

Zeke raised his head and gazed at the sky.

"Really? I'm afraid that there's a bigger world outside this place, where there's someone more

# NH

powerful than you.”

“What are you looking at, dumbass?” Wilfred was getting impatient and instructed the others, “Restrain him now. If he dares to resist, kill him.”

Zeke said, “Did you ask me what I’m looking at? I’m looking at the larger world outside!”

The larger world outside?

What larger world?

Everyone raised their heads and turned to where Zeke was looking.

A few black dots in the sky were approaching them.

Alongside a faint booming sound, the black dots were approaching them quickly.

Soon, the “black dots” stopped mid-air and hung over everyone’s heads.

They were four military helicopters!

The whirring of their blades were deafening, sounding like a rolling thunder.

Then, the doors of the helicopter opened and a ladder was lowered.

A dozen heavily armed soldiers clambered down the ladder.

Simultaneously, everyone could feel the ground

# NH

shaking.

A small commotion erupted in the crowd.

What's going on?

Is there an earthquake?

But Atheville is not in the earthquake zone. There hasn't been any earthquake for more than a century!

Suddenly, someone yelled in shock, "Look! What's that?"

Everyone started to glance around.

When they saw it, they were utterly astounded.

All around them, there were countless of tanks and armored vehicles heading in their direction.

The roads could not accommodate heavy weights.

Hence, the tank's tracks created deep imprints on the ground.

The black canons and the weapons lining the armored vehicles sent chills down one's spine.

This was no ordinary platoon—it was an artillery platoon!

However, it was a peaceful era now.

Why did these combat troops suddenly appear?

# NH

Terrified, the crowd started to run away and seek refuge.

If the Inspection Brigade were compared to a bunch of feisty trouble-makers, this artillery platoon would be Hades himself!

When the armored vehicles and tanks stopped, numerous soldiers rushed down the vehicles and surrounded everyone.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

The leader of the platoon was General Cosmopolis, Wolf's Greed.

As the captain of the Inspection Brigade, Wilfred recognized him instantly.

"What's going on? Why is General Cosmopolis here? If he's leading this platoon, it must be part of the Atheville army!"

Terrified, Wilfred rushed forward and saluted.

"Sir, Wilfred Bradley, Captain of the Inspection Brigade, reports!"

Glancing at Wilfred, Wolf's Greed ignored him and walked towards Zeke.

When he reached Zeke's side, he stood up straight and saluted.

"Sir, when did you come back? Why didn't you inform me? I could've welcomed you," said Wolf's Greed.

Zeke replied, "I just returned too."

Instead of dispatching the Alpha Suicide Squad to the Southeast battlefield, Zeke instructed them to remain behind and guard their stations.

Otherwise, the Bloodsworth Syndicate might attack the base by creating a diversion.

Wolf's Greed said, "Follow me, Sir. I've prepared a sumptuous feast for you."

NH

Zeke shook his head. “Not so fast. Let me settle the Inspection Brigade first. I heard that the captain of the Inspection Brigade is the leader of this territory. Is it true?”

His gaze landed on Wilfred.

At that moment, Wilfred felt a chill run down his spine, as if he had been plunged into icy waters.

His body went limp and he fell onto his knees, unable to control himself.

What the f\*\*\*?

Which big shot did I offend?

Even Wolf's Greed, the General Cosmopolis, addresses him as 'Sir'.

Then, he must be a general too!

Wilfred's voice quivered. “Spare my life, General. Spare my life... I've learnt my mistake! I won't dare to do this again.”

Wolf's Greed yelled furiously, “As a civil servant, you abused your authority and made such audacious claims! Having violated the law, you should be punished harshly! Someone, send him to the military court so he can receive his punishment.”

Wilfred's body trembled and the scent of piss permeated the air.

He wet his pants out of fear!

## NH

As he was ridden with multiple crimes, he would definitely be sentenced to death by the military court.

Hence, he started to grovel for mercy.

Zeke said coldly, "Let me ask you something, Wilfred. Who told you to target my parents?"

Wilfred looked troubled and hesitant.

However, under Zeke's coercion and intimidation, he told everything truthfully, "It's... It's Clyde Thisleton from the Thisleton family who told me to do it. He said that they wanted to save up money to pay for their grandchild's hospital fees. However, he doesn't want their grandchild to recover, so he ordered me to take their money."

Enraged, Zeke clenched his fists.

Missy was Clyde's own nephew!

How could he bear to be so vicious?

What a scoundrel!

Wolf's Greed said, "Let's go, Sir. We shall celebrate for you today."

However, Zeke shook his hand. "Never mind. I need to settle some things. You should return first."

Left with no choice, Wolf's Greed left with Scarred Face and Wilfred, who were under his restrain.

## NH

The venue was still filled with deafening silence long after they left.

The crowd was still immersed in their huge shock, unable to regain their senses.

Had they not witnessed it with their own eyes, they would not believe what they were seeing was real.

This old couple selling fruits actually had a son-in-law who was a general!

Why were they living such a low-profile life?

It was a piece of cake for their son-in-law to give them ten times the money they would've earned from selling fruits!

Yet, they were still troubled over the protection fees...

How frustrating!

The neighbors who had some fallings-out with the Hinton couple were terrified.

If their son-in-law wanted to take revenge, their entire family might be killed.

Within the blink of an eye, Daniel and Hanna were surrounded by a group of people.

Some tried to flatter them, while some apologized profusely.

# NH



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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## NH

Zeke walked towards them and said, “Dad, mom and Lacey, let’s go.”

As he spoke, he took Missy over and carried him in his arms.

“But these fruits...” Daniel was reluctant to part with his fruits.

Thinking about it, Zeke said, “Let’s give these fruits to the other residents.”

“Okay!” agreed Daniel.

The family got onto the car.

However, everyone remained silent in the car, causing the atmosphere to become slightly awkward.

Even Missy fell asleep in Zeke’s arms.

In the end, Zeke was the one who broke the silence.

“Dad, mom, why are you selling fruits on the streets? Just a day’s income from the Linton Group is enough to spend for the rest of your lives!”

Hannah sighed. “Let Lacey tell you.”

Lacey explained, “Actually, right after you left, Clyde took control over the Linton Group. In order to survive, I looked for jobs everywhere. However, as Clyde blacklisted me, none of the companies dared to recruit me. In the end, Clyde forced me to

## NH

return to the Linton Group and continue managing it. However, he only pays me five thousand a month. As the sole breadwinner of the family, I had no choice but to agree. Five thousand is barely enough to pay for the family's living expenses. There's not enough money for Missy's medical fees. Hence, Dad and Mom could only sell fruits on the streets to save up money."

What an asshole!

Zeke clenched his fists, his fingernails digging into his palm.

Clyde is trying to back the Hinton family into a corner! He even wants Missy to die from his illness.

I'll definitely take revenge on him!

Zeke consoled, "Don't worry, Dad, Mom and Lacey. I'll definitely seek justice for you. What's ours can never be snatched away from us!"

Hannah sighed heavily. "Let's not talk about this anymore. It's been so many years. We've gotten used to it already. What about you? Aren't you living a good life as a prince in Atlantis? Why did you suddenly return to Eurasia?"

Zeke was puzzled. "What prince? What are you talking about, mom?"

David lit a cigarette and said, "Zeke, you don't have to hide it from us anymore. We already know the truth. Three years ago, as you were unable to resist Princess Leia's temptation, and you

NH

abandoned your wife to become a prince at Atlantis.”

Zeke was astounded. “Why would you think of that? Do you think that I’m such an irresponsible man? Furthermore, Princess Leia’s assets are nothing to me. They can’t tempt me at all. I’ve never seen Princess Leia for these three years or even contacted her!”

Really?

A suspicious look crossed Daniel, Hannah and Lacey’s faces.

Zeke knew that everything he said would be useless.

He could only prove his innocence through his actions.

Hence, he assured, “Dad, Mom, Lacey, don’t worry. I’ll make all of you believe in me.”

Believe me! I did not immerse myself in luxuries for these three years. Instead, I was battling courageously on the battlefield!

The Thisleton family was extremely lively today.

It was because Ichiro Yamano from Japanio had come to visit.

The Thisleton family welcomed Ichiro enthusiastically.

In fact, Ichiro came here because of Clye.

## NH

When Clyde was younger, he studied abroad at Japanio and was classmates with Ichiro.

As both of them shared the same foul habits, they frequented brothels and bars together. Gradually, they forged a deep friendship.

With the pretense of making a diplomatic visit to Eurasia, Ichiro came to look for Clyde.

For these few days, Clyde brought Ichiro to the various bars and clubs to look for women.

However, no matter how beautiful the ladies might be, a day would come when the men would get tired of them.

Ichiro gradually lost enthusiasm for women.

However, he suddenly met Lacey this morning.

When he saw her, his eyes lit up. He thought that she was the most beautiful lady he had ever seen.

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## NH

Isn't she that beautiful, pure lady whom I've been searching desperately for?

The moment Ichiro saw Lacey, the initially sleazy and playful man made up his mind to settle down and start a family.

When Clyde heard that Ichiro had taken a liking for Lacey, he was over the moon.

If Ichiro married Lacey, he could gain a lot of benefits at no cost at all!

Firstly, if Lacey married, she would lose the right to compete for the position of the head of the family.

Secondly, he could become closer to Ichiro.

Ichiro was the second most powerful individual in Japanio.

He would most likely become the most powerful person in the future.

If he became allies with someone like him, his influence in Eurasia would skyrocket.

Hence, Clyde agreed without any hesitations.

Ichiro scanned the crowd and said, "Why haven't I seen Ms. Hinton?"

Clyde teased, "Looks like you've fallen in love with Lacey. I'll not have to worry anymore if she's married to you."

## NH

Ichiro said, "Well, you know that I've met a lot of women in the past. However, none of them, except for Ms. Lacey, could make me fall in love so deeply. I wish for nothing more than to marry her today."

Clyde applauded. "Good idea. Why don't we arrange for you to marry her today?"

Ichiro was elated. "Can we really do that? That's great! I'll ask someone to send the wedding gifts over."

Clyde replied, "I'll tell Lacey to come back now. We'll decorate the hall right away. When Lacey returns, we'll start the marriage ceremony and both of you can enjoy the night together."

The Thisleton family became very busy. They filled the mansion with celebratory decorations and lightings.

Ten minutes later, Lacey and her family arrived at the Thisleton Manor.

When Lacey saw the wedding decorations plastered all over the manor, she felt very suspicious.

"What's happening today? Why is the place bustling with enthusiasm?" Lacey asked a maid.

The maid replied, "You've finally returned, Ms. Hinton. It's your wedding day today! Mr. Thisleton was looking for you everywhere."

What the f\*\*\*?

## NH

Lacey was puzzled. “My wedding day? Zeke, did you arrange this?”

Lacey subconsciously thought that this was a surprise Zeke prepared for her. She assumed that Zeke wanted to marry her again and start afresh.

However, Zeke shook his head. “No.”

“What’s going on?” Lacey asked the maid.

She replied, “Mr. Ichiro Yamano is going to marry you soon! Don’t you know that?”

“F\*\*\*!” A look of fury crossed Lacey’s face.

Indeed, that guy had confessed to her in the morning.

However, Lacey rejected him bluntly and without hesitation.

She had never expected Clyde to take matters into his own hands and matchmake her with Ichiro!

They were even going to wed today!

This was outrageous!

Zeke suddenly asked, “Ichiro Yamano? Is he from Japanio?”

The maid nodded. “He’s even the prince of Japanio.”

Zeke scoffed coldly.

## NH

When he led the Alpha Suicide Squad to conquer the nine countries, Japanio was the first one to surrender.

Ichiro's father, who was the King of Japanio, signed the Nine Nations Treaty of Alliance personally and even gave a public apology to Zeke.

If even his father did not dare to offend me, how dare he humiliate my wife? He's going to die.

Zeke consoled, "Let's go in, Lacey. If anything happens, I'll be there for you."

However, Lacey hesitated.

Ichiro was a diplomatic ally. Furthermore, as a prince, he was extremely influential.

Although Zeke was a disciple of the Great Marshal, even the Great Marshal himself might not be able to do anything to Ichiro. Naturally, Zeke could not either.

She decided to escape this place so that she would not drag Zeke down with her.

However, Zeke held Lacey's hand and walked into the living room.



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## NH

“Lacey, do you remember what I told you that year? When I chose to be together with you, I was prepared to make enemies with the entire world. Since I’m not even afraid of the entire world, why would I be concerned over an insignificant man like Ichiro Yamano?”

Zeke’s heartwarming words comforted Lacey immensely.

Her resolve wavered instantly.

This man is so loveable yet detestable!

Soon, Zeke and the rest arrived in the living room.

The living room had been set up as a wedding hall.

Although the set-up was simple, it looked extremely luxurious.

Ichiro spotted Lacey immediately and his eyes lit up brightly.

He was extremely eager to spend a passionate night with this beautiful woman.

“You’ve finally come, Ms. Hinton. I’ve been waiting for you for a long time.”

Clyde scolded unhappily, “Why did you only come now, Lacey Hinton? Don’t you know how long Mr. Yamano’s been waiting for you? Never mind, let’s cut the crap. Change into your wedding gown right away and marry Mr. Yamano.”

## NH

He shot a glance at the maid.

Holding the wedding veil, she walked quickly towards Lacey and tried to put it over her head.

However, Lacey yelled hurriedly, “Stop! Clyde, who are you to marry me off to Ichiro Yamano? I oppose to this marriage. I already have a husband.”

Clyde scoffed, “Who am I? I’m the head of the Thisleton family! Also, your husband is head over heels with Princess Leia from Atlantis. I can’t believe that you still miss him. You are a disgrace to the family! Forget it. As it’s supposed to be a celebratory day, I won’t argue with you. I command you to marry Mr. Yamano right away. It’s your honor that he has taken a liking to you!”

As he spoke, Clyde tried to put the wedding veil over Lacey’s head himself.

Carrying Missy in his arms, Zeke sighed.

Clyde is so domineering.

Lacey’s life depends on just a single statement from him!

Does he even treat Lacey as a human being?

Seems like the punishment of cutting off his finger was too light.

With Missy in his arms, Zeke walked towards him and said in a deep voice, “Who dares to touch Lacey?”

## NH

When his voice sounded, everyone was stunned.

Many of the Thisletons stood up in shock.

Zeke Williams!

Zeke Williams, who disappeared for three years, has come back!

Damn it! Why didn't he come back at another time? Why must he return at this juncture?

Today's wedding is probably going to be quite troublesome.

However, it doesn't matter!

Regardless of how troublesome it is, we must fulfil Ichiro Yamano's wishes—even if it means killing Zeke Williams!

Ichiro asked, "Clyde, who's this man carrying the child?"

Clye replied, "He's Lacey's ex-husband. The child whom he's carrying is theirs."

A disappointed look appeared on Ichiro's face instantly. "What? She already has a child? What a pity!"

Clyde panicked and assured him quickly, "Don't worry, Mr. Ichiro. As Zeke Williams is Lacey's ex-husband, he has no right to interfere with today's wedding. Their child is diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis and can only live for one more year. You'll not be affected at all. Please don't forfeit

NH

this marriage.”

Ichiro asked, “Oh, really? As long as that child dies, I will not forfeit the marriage.”

The Thisleton family heaved a sigh of relief.

Zeke was enraged.

These people are willing to sacrifice Missy’s life for their own profits!

Luckily, I came back.

If I returned a year later, Lacey and Missy would have been sabotaged by these scoundrels!

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## NH

Holding the wedding veil, Clyde walked towards Lacey. “I’m ordering you as the head of the family to wear the veil and marry Mr. Yamano. Otherwise, you’ll be punished for the sin of betraying the family!”

“I won’t!” Lacey was resolved.

“B\*\*\*\*!” Clyde was furious. “Are you going to betray the family?”

Zeke walked forward, grabbed the wedding veil and ripped it into pieces.

“Your father, Ares, is still alive, but you’ve claimed his position as the head of the family. I think that you’re the one who’s betraying the family.”

“Shut up,” scolded Clyde. “This is the Thisleton family’s affairs. As an outsider, you have no right to intervene.”

Zeke said, “What a joke! Lacey is my wife. There’s no one else who’s in a better position to intervene.”

Clyde laughed coldly. “Who gave you the courage to call yourself Lacey’s husband? Both of you divorced two years ago.”

Zeke said, “I had not come back for three years, so how was it possible for me to file for a divorce with Lacey?”

Clyde mocked, “Who said that you had to be present to file for a divorce?”

# NH

Huh?

Frowning, Zeke had a premonition.

He called Wolf's Greed quickly. "Wolf's Greed, help me check my marriage status with Lacey."

"Yes, sir."

Ten minutes later, Wolf's Greed replied his message.

"Sir, both of you are currently divorced."

Damn it!

A frosty glint appeared in Zeke's eyes.

Undoubtedly, Clyde had secretly arranged for their divorce.

Zeke yelled furiously, "How dare you, Clyde? You have broken a military marriage, and you'll be punished by the military court."

Clyde scoffed disdainfully, "A military marriage? You have the audacity to call yourself a soldier? After going to Atlantis and becoming a prince, you are now a foreigner. A foreigner has no right to be a Eurasian soldier."

Clyde's words sent Zeke into a rage.

He fought courageously on the battlefield, risking his life and wiping off the enemy. Everything he did was to safeguard the peace in Eurasia and shield the citizens from bloodshed.

## NH

However, he was accused by the citizens of Eurasia as a foreigner, who had no right to be a soldier...

This was the greatest humiliation to him!

Unable to control his emotions, Zeke kicked Clyde unhesitatingly.

As Clyde was trained in the martial arts as well, he raised his arm subconsciously to block Zeke's attack.

Crack!

With the crisp sound of bones cracking, Clyde's arm was broken into half by Zeke's kick.

Damn it!

When Clyde collapsed on the ground, the rage he felt was greater than the pain.

This bastard attacked me without any warning. He even broke my arm!

I've been utterly humiliated in front of Ichiro.

If I don't take revenge, how can I hold my head high in front of Ichiro in the future?

With blood-shot eyes, he yelled, "Die! You must die today..."

Before he could finish his sentence, the lively sounds of drums and trumpets sounded from the entrance.

## NH

Puzzled, everyone glanced towards the direction of the sounds.

A group of grand military honor guards marched in.

The soldiers were all wearing white military uniforms, with a sword hanging by their waist. An eagle-shaped badge was pinned to their suits, looking extremely intimidating.

Everyone recognized them with one glance. They were the 3rd Military Honor Guards, who were under the colonel's purview.

The honor guards rarely showed up in public.

They would only appear during National Day, the appointment of a new general or a diplomatic visit from a foreign leader.

In other words, their presence was very sacred and significant.

That's weird. Why are they here?

Clyde quickly welcomed the captain of the military honor guards. "Captain Quinn, why are you here? Come in quickly! Please forgive our discourtesy."

Captain Quinn said, "We are here to award the Medal of Peace."

What?

Everyone wondered if there was something wrong

NH

with their ears.



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## NH

The Medal of Peace was the most prestigious medal in Eurasia.

One had to rack up more than ten war accomplishments to receive a Medal of Peace.

The number of Medals of Peace awarded ever since Eurasia's founding could be counted on one hand.

Especially in an era of peace, it was rare for someone to be awarded a Medal of Peace!

Who was the one receiving this award?

After pondering about it, Clyde reached a conclusion instantly.

Without a doubt, the Medal of Peace is awarded to my father, Ares!

He probably disappeared these few years to protect the borders from the enemies.

No wonder he never told us where he went!

After all, the battles that happen at the borders are considered national secrets.

With a smile, Clyde said, "Captain Quinn, my father is not at home. I'll receive the Medal of Peace on his behalf."

As Clyde spoke, he stretched out his arms respectfully.

However, Captain Quinn shook his head. "The

NH

awardee is present, so you don't have to accept the medal on anyone's behalf."

Clyde was confused.

The awardee is present?

But my father has not returned!

Could it be that the awardee is someone else?

An embarrassed look appeared on Clyde's face.

Everyone eagerly waited in anticipation.

They wanted to see who else was worthy enough to receive the Medal of Peace.

With Captain Quin leading the military honor guards, they walked towards Zeke.

Captain Quin took a bow before bestowing the gift box to Zeke.

"Mr. Williams, you are the nation's hero for battling the enemies and safeguarding peace in Eurasia! The colonel has decided to award you the Medal of Peace. Please accept it!"

Sure.

Nodding indifferently, Zeke opened the box, took out the Medal of Peace and shoved it into his pocket casually.

He had received so many Medals of Peace that he had lost count of them.

NH

Hence, this medal was nothing but another small achievement to him.

Absolute silence enveloped the scene.

Everyone stared at Zeke in disbelief.

What... What's going on?

Didn't he become the prince of Atlantis? He's a foreigner now! How could he be awarded the Medal of Prince?

Also, what did he do for Eurasia that made him deserving of the Medal of Peace?

Unwilling to accept this outcome, Clyde said, "Did you make a mistake, Captain Quinn? After becoming the prince of Atlantis, he's been spending these few years enjoying life over there. Why does he deserve the Medal of Peace?"

Captain Quinn yelled furiously, "Shut up! You're insulting our hero!"

Still unconvinced, Clyde protested, "A hero should be someone who has accomplished impressive and revolutionary feats. But he has not done anything to deserve this!"

Captain Quinn said, "Looks like you don't watch television often."

Clyde was puzzled.

What does this have to do with watching the television?

## NH

Captain Quinn turned on the television in the living room.

It was playing the news at that moment.

The news reports featured an awards ceremony held by the colonel to honor to a group of courageous soldiers.

After watching the news, everyone was stunned.

In the past three years, a war had broken out at the borders.

An army of formidable enemies were going to invade Eurasia.

To prevent widespread panic amongst the citizens, this war had been kept top-secret.

Other than the frontline soldiers, no one knew about it.

At the most critical moment, the Great Marshal risked his life and led his soldiers to fend off the enemy.

The opposing army was extremely powerful. With ten Gods of War supporting them, they were almost crushing Eurasia's forces.

However, the soldiers of Eurasia did not abandon their posts. Their determination pushed them to continue fighting, using their bodies to shield the enemy's barrage of attacks.

In the end, the Great Marshal killed eight of the

## NH

Gods of War, while Ares executed the other two. They turned the tables and emerged victorious!

When everyone heard that, they were greatly moved.

They did not expect this many conflicts going on under the peaceful surface of Eurasia.

A war broke out in Eurasia for the past three years, yet none of them had been affected by it.

In fact, they did not know about it at all!



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## NH

The soldiers fighting in the battlefield were the heroes of the nation.

As the Great Marshal's disciple, Zeke had undoubtedly joined in the war and emerged a hero!

Suddenly recalling something, Lacey walked towards Zeke and lifted his sleeve.

It was just a glance, but she could not help but cover her mouth and weep.

There were numerous scars all over Zeke's arm. In fact, there was not an inch on his arm left uninjured.

There were wounds from knives, guns and swords...

Some of the scars had just healed. However, as he was carrying Missy, they were torn and bleeding now.

Lacey choked out, "I'm sorry, Zeke. I misunderstood you."

My husband is not a heartless man at all. He is a hero who has protected the nation.

He did not go to Atlantis to enjoy a life of luxury. Instead, he used his flesh and blood to protect Eurasia's peace!

With a smile, Zeke said, "As long as you are safe and healthy, I don't care if I die."

## NH

“Stop saying nonsense!” Lacey clapped a hand over Zeke’s mouth. “In the future, never say that word again.”

“Okay,” agreed Zeke as he chuckled.

Missy wiped Lacey’s tears away and said, “Don’t cry, Mom. Dad said that he doesn’t like children who cry. If we cry, he will leave us again.”

Lacey squeezed a smile out. “You’re right. I won’t cry.”

“Carry me, Mom. Dad must be tired from fighting in the war. Let him rest for a while.”

Like the thoughtful child he was, Missy jumped into Lacey’s arms.

Hannah and Daniel were also weeping.

Oh no! We’ve misunderstood Zeke.

We should’ve known that Zeke is not a man like that. We did not trust him.

Luckily, the misunderstanding is resolved now.

Lacey and her child finally have a family.

Captain Quinn said respectfully, “Mr. Williams, you are our great hero. I salute you on behalf of the army.”

Zeke replied, “The real heroes are the soldiers who remain on the battlefield forever, unable to come back. You must give them a proper burial.”

## NH

Captain Quin promised, “Don’t worry. We’ll definitely settle everything well. Mr. Williams, we won’t disturb you any longer. We still have to take care of other matters.”

Zeke said, “Wait a moment. Someone here has acted on his own accord and broke up a military marriage. Please act as you deem fit.”

What?

With a frosty gaze, Captain Quinn scanned the room.

“The nature of a soldier’s job is very unique. Hence, they cannot accompany their wives frequently. For that, the nation are indebted to them. If someone dares to break up a military marriage, he will be punished severely! Who is it? Step forward!”

Clyde’s face turned pale.

He was the culprit who masterminded Zeke and Lacey’s divorce.

Now that Zeke had been awarded the Medal of Peace and was placed in the limelight, he would not spare Clyde so easily.

On the other hand, Ichiro did not seem so terrified.

As the Prince of Japanio, the Eurasians had to be respectful to him. They would definitely not dare to convict him of a crime.

However, it was such a pity that he could not

NH

marry Lacey today.

Clyde stepped forward and tried to defend himself, “I did not break up the military marriage. Zeke left without any explanations. Without hearing from him for three years, I thought that he had abandoned his wife. Hence, as the head of the family, I told Lacey to divorce him, and she did so willingly.”

Lacey interrupted quickly, “You’re lying. Never have I once said that I wanted to divorce Zeke. You’re the one who filed for the divorce behind my back. I knew nothing about it.”

Clyde was enraged. “Lacey, I’m your biological sibling. How can you bear to sabotage me?”



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## NH

Lacey scoffed, “Well, I’ve never seen a brother who tries to sabotage his sister either.”

Captain Quin raised his hand. “Arrest him!”

His military honor guards rushed forward and restrained Clyde.

“Who else?” asked Captain Quin.

Zeke glanced at Ichiro.

Captain Quin ordered instantly, “Arrest him!”

Ichiro was furious. “Stop right there! Who dares to touch me? I’m the Prince of Japanio, Ichiro Yamano! If you arrest me, you will sabotage the relationship between the two nations. This is a horrendous crime! My father will take revenge on you. You will not be able to bear the consequences.”

Zeke replied, “You’re a foreigner who has sabotaged the marriage of a high-ranking general. I’m suing you for interfering in another nation’s affairs.”

What the f\*\*\*?

Enraged, Ichiro roared, “I dare you to arrest me. My father will kill your entire family in an instant!”

Captain Quin scoffed coldly, “Not only did you sabotage a military wedding, but you also interfered with the nation’s internal affairs and threatened a soldier. You’ve just landed yourself in deeper trouble! Take him away!”

# NH

Captain Quin forcefully arrested Ichiro and Clyde.

Zeke's gaze became gentler as he said, "Lacey, tell me if anyone else in the Thisleton family bullied you. Let's settle all the scores today."

Everyone tensed up instantly.

Over the past three years, almost all of them had bullied Lacey and her family.

Now that Clyde had been arrested and Zeke was in the limelight, the Thisleton family would be doomed if he decided to deal with them.

Their fates lay in Lacey's hands now.

Scanning the crowd, Lacey sighed and said, "Forget it. Clyde has already suffered the consequences on behalf of the Thisleton family. Just ignore the rest."

Zeke smiled. "You're as kind as always."

The Thisletons heaved a sigh of relief.

However, Zeke warned, "I'll let you off the hook this time. If anyone dares to bully Lacey and her family, I'll definitely not spare them."

The Thisleton family did not dare to make any noises.

Grabbing Lacey's hand, Zeke declared, "Let's go, Lacey."

Lacey said, "Where?"

## NH

Zeke replied, "To the Civil Affairs Bureau. Let's get married again."

Okay.

As it was inconvenient to bring Missy along to the Civil Affairs Bureau, they asked David and Hannah to take care of her first.

Both of them arrived at the Civil Affairs Bureau quickly.

There were a lot of people waiting for their turn, with the queue stretching from the building to the outside.

Initially, Zeke wanted to tell Wolf's Greed to let them use the VIP channel instead of queuing up.

However, Lacey disagreed.

"There's no fun in cutting the queue to marry. We should just follow the rules and queue up. It's much more meaningful that way."

Helpless to oppose, Zeke had no choice but to agree.

Although it was a slight waste of time, it was fine as long as Lacey was satisfied.

After queuing for half an hour, it was finally their turn soon.

However, at that moment, a couple barged in front of them and cut their queue.

# NH

Zeke frowned.

Naturally, he was unhappy that someone was cutting his queue.

Hence, he said coldly, “Both of you aren’t so stupid to the point of not knowing how to queue, right? Go to the back.”

The couple spun around and retorted, “There’s such a big space here. Isn’t it meant for us to queue at? Why must we go to the back?”

Zeke replied, “Because we came here first.”

“Fine, fine!” The man whipped out a wade of cash impatiently from his pocket and said, “I’m short on time. I’ll just pay you for letting me cut your queue, okay?”

Looking at the money, Zeke’s brows furrowed further.

“Do you know that by doing this, I can shoot you on the spot?”

Anyone who insults the Great Marshal deserved to die!

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# NH

Pfft!

The man who cut the queue chortled. “Haha! Is the law so strict now? I’ll be shot dead just by cutting a queue. Who are you to threaten me?”

Zeke was about to whip out his gun and scare the man, when Lacey suddenly pulled his arm. “Forget it, Zeke. We are not short on time, anyway.”

The man looked at Lacey in surprise. “Huh? Why are you here too, Lacey?”

Lacey replied, “I’m here to register my marriage.”

The man scanned Zeke and mocked, “Haha! Didn’t you say that you wouldn’t marry forever? Why are you here, then? Did you start looking for men because you can’t stand the loneliness?”

The man had courted Lacey in the past.

However, she rejected him with the reason that she would not marry in her life.

Now that Lacey was marrying another man, he felt a bit unhappy.

Lacey’s face was flushed red with anger. “He’s my ex-husband. We’re here to remarry.”

The man mocked, “Lacey, there must be a problem with your eyes. Why did you find such a trashy man like him?”

If Zeke were not afraid that he would scare Lacey, he would have smashed the man’s skull already.

## NH

Zeke asked, “Do you know him, Lacey?”

Lacey nodded. “Yeah. He’s the current manager of the Linton Group, Daryl.”

After listening to Lacey’s explanation, Zeke learned that Daryl was now managing the company after Clyde seized control of the Linton Group,

However, as Daryl did not know Linton Group’s situation well, he faced a lot of barriers at work. In the end, they incurred a loss of tens of billions within half a year.

Left with no choice, Daryl blacklisted Lacey and forced her to work at Linton Group. Furthermore, he only gave her a salary of five thousand.

Zeke took a deep breath.

Daryl was the person directly responsible for Lacey and her family’s impoverished life.

Zeke was still planning to reclaim control of the Linton Group after remarrying Lacey.

Now that the manager was right in front of him, why not settle it once and for all now?

Hence, Zeke said frigidly, “You’ve come at the right time. Return Linton Group to Lacey right away and give all your assets to her as compensation for the emotional distress you’ve caused. In return, I’ll spare your life. How’s that?”

Daryl was stunned for a while before bursting into

# NH

laughter.

“Haha! Is that for real? You want me to give Linton Group to Lacey, in addition to all my assets as compensation for emotional distress? Buddy, you must have psychosis. What kind of nonsense are you talking about?”

The people in the queue were intrigued when they heard the words “Linton Group”.

Linton Group was a famous start-up in the Atheville business industry.

Within a year, it had gone from being an unknown company to the top five companies in Atheville.

They did not expect to see Linton Group’s founder here.

What an honor!

Zeke said indifferently. “You can choose to not believe me. However, you will have to bear the consequences.”

Daryl scoffed. “Haha! Well, I’d like to hear what consequences I’ll have to bear.”

Zeke replied, “Firstly, you’ll be blacklisted. You will not be recognized as a citizen of Eurasia. Secondly, you will go bankrupt. After going homeless, you’ll have to survive by begging on the streets.”

As Zeke spoke, he whipped out his phone and sent Wolf’s Greed a message, instructing him to

# NH

do all those.

Daryl laughed. “Haha! I’ve never seen anyone who is as full of crap as you. Oh no, I’m so scared of you! I’ll wait for you to blacklist me and make me sleep on the streets.”

“Next!” yelled the registrar.

Daryl and his girlfriend walked forward quickly and passed their identification documents to the registrar.



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## NH

“Hey Williams, you better blacklist me right now. If you do that, I won’t be able to marry my girlfriend.”

Zeke shrugged his shoulders. “As you wish.”

“Pfft!” Daryl spat, “You don’t know what’s good for you.”

The registrar logged Daryl’s girlfriend’s information successfully into the system.

However, an unexpected incident happened what he was trying to register Daryl’s identification.

Even after scanning Daryl’s identification card multiple times, an error kept occurring.

The registrar tossed the identification card back to Daryl frustratedly. “Are you crazy? Why are you using a fake identification card to register for a marriage? What a waste of time!”

Huh?

Daryl was dumbfounded. “A fake identification card? How’s that possible? I just applied for a credit card with this identification card. How can there be a mistake? Please try again.”

Taking the identification card back, the registrar scanned it twice again. However, it still could not get through.

“Please leave right away,” said the registrar unhappily. “We’ve encountered many people like you who try to register for a marriage with a fake identification card. If you don’t leave, we’ll call the

# NH

police.”

Daryl and his girlfriend were astounded.

Grabbing Lacey’s hand, Zeke walked forward. “Are you guys still registering? If not, move aside and stop wasting everyone’s time.”

Then, he passed his and Lacey’s documents to the registrar. “Here.”

Daryl glared at Zeke viciously.

If he guessed correctly, Zeke probably manipulated something behind his back.

Daryl’s gaze was full of resentment for Zeke. “I admit that I’ve underestimated you. I can’t believe that you can influence the government’s administrative system. However, regardless of how big your influence is, you can’t just blacklist someone that easily. You’re breaking the law, abusing your authority and playing dirty! Just wait. I’ll expose you to the media. You and your acquaintances in the system will be doomed.”

As Daryl threatened, he whipped out his phone and prepared to call his journalist friends.

However, Zeke grinned. “If I were you, I’d pay attention to Linton Group’s stocks.”

Daryl asked suspiciously, “What do you mean?”

Zeke replied, “I’d said that I’d make you bankrupt and homeless.”

## NH

Taking his phone out carefully, Daryl prepared to look at Linton Group's stocks.

The crowd also whipped out their phones to check.

When they saw it, a huge commotion erupted.

"What the heck? What's going on here? Why is the Linton Group selling off their shares in bulk?"

"The Linton Group's stock prices are plummeting. It's going to enter the negative territory!"

"What the f\*\*\*? I still have Linton Group's stocks. What should I do?"

"Isn't it obvious? What else can you do? Sell it right away before it reaches the minimum point, so you can mitigate your losses."

"Yeah! I'll sell it right away."

Daryl's expression was extremely ugly. "What the f\*\*\*? I'm the president of the company. Without my clearance, who had the audacity to sell the shares in bulk?"

He contacted his secretary quickly. "Hey, what's going on? Who let the company sell off shares in bulk?"

The secretary was on the verge of tears.

"President Chadley, I was about to call you. Someone hacked into the company's intranet. The right to manage the finances have been seized by the hackers! They are controlling our finances

NH

right now. We can't stop them!"

Daryl was about to fly into a rage. "F\*\*\* them! Where's the IT department? Tell them to shut the hackers out!"

The secretary replied, "The hackers are too skilled. Our IT department cannot compare to them."



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