

Hitched 1721

Chapter 1721

The shouts grew louder and louder, all demanding that the Black Reaper beat Evan to death.

The Black Reaper saw that Evan had accepted the challenge and gave a disdainful snort before turning to the referee.

The referee scurried forward and, after giving some instructions to the large man and the small boy, blew his whistle.

Before the whistle's sound had even faded, the referee had already scrambled far away.

He looked terrified of getting caught in the crossfire of the Black Reaper's lethal strikes.

The Black Reaper glared at Evan and made the first move!

As he threw a punch, the crowd below held their breath.

The Black Reaper packed enough power in his swing to drop a full-grown ox.

Evan could tell that this Black Reaper was indeed tougher than Number 44 and Shekao.

He easily dodged the Black Reaper's attack. Due to the height difference, it was difficult for him to attack the Reaper's upper body, so he focused his attacks on the lower half.

Soon, the Black Reaper went from active offense to desperate defense!

A cold knot of dread tightened in the stomachs of the Thyania elders as they watched. Being only on the defensive meant the Black Reaper was already at a disadvantage!

And the two had only been fighting for just over a minute!

For the Black Reaper to be put at a disadvantage in such a short time was an absolute first in his fighting history!

Evan's movements were terrifyingly fast. The crowd could only see the Black Reaper retreating continuously, completely unable to see how Evan was striking. Suddenly, the Black Reaper was forced to the edge of the ring. He dodged, his center of gravity shifting backward...

The crowd's eyes widened in an instant. The group of Thyania elders shot to their feet.

However, to everyone's astonishment, just as the Black Reaper was about to fall out of the ring, Evan suddenly grabbed his wrist and, with a brute force, yanked him back!

The crowd stared, bewildered.

Falling out of the ring meant losing. Why would Evan save him?

Did he not want him to lose?

Just as everyone was puzzled, Evan kicked the back of the Black Reaper's knee!

With a thud, the Black Reaper collapsed onto the ring!

Evan moved with lethal precision, seizing the man's ankle. A sickening crack echoed through the arena.

Only then did everyone understand Evan's intention!

He hadn't pulled the Black Reaper back to save him, but to cripple him!

After all, once the Black Reaper fell out of

ring, the match would

overece

and to. Evan wouldn't be abl lay another hand on himi

Seeing this, the Thyania elders roared in fury, "Stop!"

Driven past the point of endurance, the Black Reaper's master vaulted onto the stage in a blur of motion.

A Zhinora elder saw this and quickly leaped onto the stage as well, blocking Evan and questioning coldly,

"What do you think you're doing?!"

Before the Black Reaper's master could answer, he heard several more cracks!

It was followed by the Black Reaper's agonized scream, "Ahhh—"

The group of Thyania elders stared with wide eyes.

The Black Reaper's master rushed over, squatting down to check his student's injuries!

Discovering that Evan had crippled him, he glared at Evan, his eyes blazing with fire. "You... you..."

Evan knew what he was angry about. After all, he was old and had finally managed to train a successor, only for that successor to be crippled by him content

Understandable, but not worthy of sympathy!

Evan didn't feel he had done anything wrong. His ruthlessness was forced upon him by them!

Thinking about what the Zhinora fighters had endured, and then about his masters and the elder Jake...

The Thyania martial artists deserved it!

It was hard for them to train one

successor but it was even harder

for

giora to produce a naturally

fighter!

When Jake fell all those years ago, all the people of Zhinora mourned and grieved!

"I'll kill you!"

The Black Reaper's master suddenly roared and charged at Evan!

Chapter 1722

The Zhinora elder's face darkened as he intercepted the blow.

"What do you think you're doing? Are you all such sore losers?!"

The audience below erupted, shouting in agreement.

"What's the meaning of this, Thyania? The kid won the match fair and square. Why are your big shots interfering?"

"You're old men, veteran-level figures. Have you no shame?!"

"And jumping onto the stage during a match is against the rules. The organizers are leading the way in breaking the rules. Do you have any decency?!"

It wasn't just the Zhinora martial artists shouting; fighters from other countries were chiming in as well.

The Black Reaper's master gritted his teeth. Forced by the pressure, he didn't strike again. Instead, he glared at Evan and said coldly,

"I challenge you. Do you dare to accept?!"

Everyone was speechless.

A legendary, high-level figure was publicly challenging a little kid?

Had he truly lost all sense of shame?!

The Zhinora elder on stage, his face grim, was about to refuse when Evan said, "I dare!"

Everyone was speechless again.

The kid dared to accept? Did he have a death wish?

As formidable as the Black Reaper was, he was still of the new generation. His master, however, was a former champion!

He had defeated countless experts in his life. While not the best in the world, his name was known globally!

The Zhinora elder was very worried and looked at Evan. "You..."

Evan insisted, "I want to fight him!"

The Black Reaper's master immediately called the referee over and had the Zhinora elder removed from the stage.

The whistle blew, and the entire arena fell silent, all eyes riveted on the stage.

The Black Reaper's master glared at Evan and asked, "Who is your master?"

Evan replied coolly, "Someone I can't beat doesn't deserve to know."

The Black Reaper's master gritted his teeth.

"Arrogant! I don't care who your master is. Today, I'll make sure you die on this stage!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he moved like the wind, appearing instantly in front of Evan, his hand reaching for Evan's neck.

Evan dodged and attacked from behind, but the master immediately evaded.

A match between experts was naturally a much greater spectacle.

The crowd below was dazzled!

The Zhinora elders were filled with shock.

"This child's skills are truly

remarkable! To be able to dodge et

such fierce attacks time and time again! Even I might not be able to evade all of them!"

"Who on earth did he learn this from?"

The elder who had gone on stage to protect Evan earlier kept his eyes fixed on him, muttering,

"He hasn't really shown his moves before, but now that I see his style... it looks a bit like someone's, but there are differences..."

As he was murmuring, suddenly, the

pounceaper's master took a heavy

punch from Evan and was sent stumbling back to the edge of the ring!

He clutched his chest and spat out a large mouthful of blood!

Evan lunged forward, giving him no chance to breathe, and kicked him off the stage!

The crowd was stunned!

The elder who had protected Evan and the group of Thyania elders were utterly shocked!

They all stood up and exclaimed in unison, "Jake Warner!"

At the sound of this name, the other veterans' eyes went wide.

"He... he's using Jake Warner's techniques?!"

The Thyania elders' brows tightened, and they all jumped onto the stage!

Seeing this, the Zhinora elders immediately followed!

The Zhinora elders formed a defensive perimeter around Evan, glaring at the Thyania elders.

"If you dare to make a move, we'll fight you to the end!"

The most senior Thyania elder asked, "What is his relationship with Jake Warner?"

The Zhinora elders didn't know either and replied, "That's none of your business! Is this tournament going to continue or not?"

The Thyania elders frowned together.

"He was just using Jake Warner's moves!"

Years ago, Jake had challenged and defeated dojos in seven countries, shocking the entire world!

Among the older generation of

martial artists, there wasn't a single

one who didn't know of him. They had studied videos of his fights over and over again

Although they couldn't learn his techniques, they were familiar with them!

Evan hadn't faced a worthy opponent before, so he didn't need to use Jake's moves

and could easily defeat them.

Chapter 1723

But the Black Reaper's master was a true expert. When fighting him, Evan had used fifty percent of his strength.

These elders recognized it at a glance: he was using Jake Warner's style!

Evan stepped out from behind the Zhinora elders, his small brow furrowed as he said,

"I challenge you all. Do you dare to accept?!"

The Thyania elders were stunned. If this had been ten minutes ago, they would have rolled their eyes and not even bothered to respond.

But now, looking at the Black Reaper's master, their hearts were in turmoil.

None of them were confident they could beat Evan now!

But if they didn't fight, it would be admitting defeat!

The whole world was watching. For a group of veteran-level figures to concede to a small child was too humiliating!

Evan clearly had no intention of letting them off the hook, pressing them aggressively.

"If you dare to fight me, we start now. If you don't, then look at the camera, admit defeat, and tell the world: 'Zhinora rules! Long live Jake Warner!'"

The elders' expressions darkened with rage and humiliation.

Forget fighting; just seeing Evan use Jake Warner's techniques made them nervous.

In front of Jake Warner, they weren't even worthy of being considered lackeys!

But if they admitted defeat, wouldn't that be a slap in their own faces? For years, they had been telling the world that Jake Warner had been afraid of them, which was why he never dared to challenge the Thyania dojos!

Seeing them remain silent, Evan added,

"If you're scared, two of you can come at me at once!"

The old men were taken aback.

The crowd was shocked. "The young master is going to fight two-on-one? Good heavens, that's beyond incredible!"

The people who had been calling him "kid" earlier now changed their tune.

"The young master is incredible! The kid is a legend!"

Someone even shouted at the Thyania elders.

"You don't even dare to accept a two-on-one fight? How pathetic is that? Thyania martial artists are trash!"

The harsh words were endless. The Thyania elders exchanged a look. Unable to bear the humiliation, they steeled themselves and accepted the challenge!

The venue erupted, and the internet exploded along with it.

The Zhinora internet community erupted in a massive wave of

vindication. The grievances and

frustrations they had suffered earlier had long since vanished!

A wave of collective pride swept through them.

After all, Evan was one of their own-a true son of Zhinora.

Watching the formidable Evan, the Zhinora internet community felt like they were on top of the world!

And among the Nipponorans, Koryons, and Thyaians who had been the loudest before, the Thyania corner was now the quietest!

The Nipponorans and Koryons had also gone silent!

No matter how the Zhinora internet community provoked them, they didn't make a sound!

Some of the more aggressive

Zhinora internet community even

started cursing their ancestors but they still played dumb, not saying a word!

After all, with the competition having reached this point, even if Evan lost, he was

still the brightest star online!

A five-year-old boy had shaken the entire Thyania martial arts world!

And what's more, he fought two-on-one!

So even if he lost, he was still the winner!

However—

Evan brought immense honor to his countrymen. Not only did he not lose, he won!

Fighting two-on-one, he challenged and defeated the entire roster of Thyania martial arts elders.
Although

Sustained some minor

injuries, he was victorious!

The Thyania elders lay defeated below the stage. The small boy stood on the ring, gasping for breath!

On the entire stage, he stood alone!

He didn't speak. He just pulled out a Zhinora flag from his pocket and held it high.

The Zhinora martial artists went absolutely wild!

The Zhinora internet community cried together!

Even the martial artists and social media users from other countries were incredibly shocked and moved!

They joined the Zhinora martial artists in their chant, "Zhinora! Zhinora!"

Amidst the chanting, Evan's eyes reddened. He silently asked in his heart:

'Jake, did you see that? The Thyania dojos you never had the chance to challenge years ago, I did it for you!'

'Did you hear that? They're all shouting for Zhinora!'

Chapter 1724

Evan stood alone on the stage, his mind filled with Jake's face and laughter.

After a long while, he fought back a lump in his throat and looked toward the elder representatives from Nipponora and Koryon!

The representatives from the two countries froze, then quickly lowered their heads, not daring to meet Evan's gaze, terrified of being called out!

They knew their own strength all too well. Even if their countries' best fighters were here, they might not be able to beat Evan, let alone them.

However, the next second, Evan's voice rang out across the arena.

"I challenge the Nipponoran elders and the Koryon elders. Do you dare to accept?"

Everyone in the venue immediately turned to look at them!

The live broadcast cameras instantly focused on them!

The few elder representatives looked flustered, wishing they could find a hole to crawl into!

Just as the elders were too scared to speak, two hot-headed young men from Nipponora and Koryon stood up with grim faces.

"Nipponora will never back down or admit defeat! Master, beat him!"

"The great Koryon Empire will never back down or admit defeat! Master, let's beat him together!"

The representatives from both countries' faces darkened. They looked at their clueless, reckless disciples, grinding their teeth in frustration. "Shut up!"

The two representatives glanced at each other, racking their brains for an excuse not to fight.

But Evan said:

"If you are unwilling to fight, then you will face the live cameras, publicly admit defeat, and say that you are afraid of Zhinora fighters and do not dare to fight them!"

Before the elder representatives could speak, people in the audience had already started jeering.

"We know you Nipponorans and Koryons are cowards. Just admit defeat, you can't win anyway."

"But after you concede, you'd better keep a low profile. Give it a rest with the 'Great Nipponora' and 'Great Koryon' talk. If you aren't dying of shame yet, the rest of us are certainly feeling the second-hand embarrassment for you!"

"

The representatives from both countries looked grim. They couldn't bear the shame

of directly admitting defeat, so they steeled themselves and went on stage.

Because they were direct participants in Jake's murder, Evan was especially ruthless with them!

As expected, the representatives from both countries were brutally defeated!

But what surprised everyone was what Evan said next.

"I know you are not the best fighters from Nipponora and Koryon. It's a pity they didn't come to compete today. Go back and tell them I want to schedule a fight with them!"

"If the top fighters from Nipponora and Koryon don't dare to accept the challenge, tell me online in advance!"

"If they dare to accept, then they should start preparing. Next October, I will

definitely go to Nipponora and Koryon to keep our appointment!"

Evan was throwing down the gauntlet to both Nipponora and Koryon before a global audience!

Tarquin, sitting in a private room on the second floor, frowned tightly!

It was only now that it dawned on him, that he finally understood Evan's true purpose for competing!

Challenging the Thyania dojos for Jake was one thing!

The real goal was to use himself as bait to flush the rats out into the open.

He was using himself as bait to catch the culprits from all those years ago!

Today, he had stolen the show, becoming the center of global attention just like Jake once was!

The Thyania elders were soundly

defeated Nipponora and Koryon knew full well they couldn't beat him,

but they couldn't just back down in

front of the entire world. So what could they do?

The best way was to target Evan himself!

If something happened to Evan, they wouldn't have to worry about a humiliating defeat. They could even turn the tables and claim that Evan was afraid of them and broke his promise content

Evan was waiting for them to do just that, so he could follow the trail and uncover

the real culprits who had harmed Jake!

Tarquin saw through his son's plan, his frown deepening!

Seeing Evan leave the stage, Tarquin sent a message to Elliot.

[Take Evan directly back to our residence!]

Evan had achieved his goal; he wouldn't continue fighting in the tournament.

Tarquin knew that many people would now be trying to find out Evan's identity, and he didn't want Evan exposed!

After sending the message, Tarquin also got up and left the arena.

He was supposed to have a friendly match with Punikon's grandfather today.

Now that even Punikon's grandfather had been beaten by Evan, their match was effectively canceled.

Before he even got home, Tarquin received a call from Elysia.

Elysia was at the airport picking up Winona Newsom and had just found out what happened. She was worried, nervous, and surprised.

Tarquin comforted her.

"...Don't worry, Evan is incredible. He's our pride and joy. Besides, he was in disguise when he went on stage. No one knows his true identity but us."

Chapter 1725

Elysia asked, "Is he still going to Nipponora and Koryon?"

Tarquin replied, "It's undecided. Even if he goes, it won't be until next October."

That was the time Evan had publicly announced. The anniversary of Jake's death was in October.

Elysia didn't know about Jake's story yet and asked, "When are you guys coming back?"

Tarquin said, "Today."

Under the current circumstances, with so many people trying to uncover Evan's identity, he had to get Evan back to Jindale, back to their home turf, as soon as possible.

He could better protect Evan on his own territory.

"What are you doing now?"

Elysia said, "I'm at the airport picking up Winona. I'll video call you all later."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Tarquin immediately arranged for a private jet to return to Jindale that day.

When he arrived back at their residence, Elliot, Evan, and Elijah were already there. Elliot and Elijah had also just figured out Evan's true motive for competing. The two brothers had solemn expressions, their faces full of worry.

Evan was sitting on the living room sofa, hugging a pillow in silence.

When he saw Tarquin return, he furrowed his small brow, his lips moved, and he muttered,

"If you want to hit me, just do it! My goal is achieved anyway. If you hit me, I'll take it!"

Tarquin's brow tightened as he looked at him. "Do you really think I wouldn't dare to spank you?!"

Evan's eyes welled with tears as he choked back a sob. "Do it!"

Before Tarquin could even move, Elliot and Elijah grabbed his left and right hands, as if afraid he would actually hit Evan.

"Dad, let's talk this out calmly. Don't use your hands."

Evan sniffled and started to cry.

"I know I was putting myself at risk, but I'm not scared, and I don't regret it. I have to find the people who hurt Jake!"

"I need to get justice for him, and for all the masters who came before us!"

"I promised Jake, I..."

The little guy cried, wiping away his tears forcefully.

"Even if you beat me to death, I'm still going to do it!"

Tarquin was both heartbroken and angry. He had felt a vague sense of unease before, but he never expected Evan to challenge

Nipponora and Koryon!

He knew Evan was eager for revenge, but he never imagined Evan would plan to put himself in such danger!

Although he didn't know who the

people behind Jake's incident were, they were certainly not ordinary people. Otherwise, something would have been discovered after all these years!

Evan putting himself in harm's way was far too dangerous!

Tarquin looked at Elliot and Elijah. "Did you two know about Evan's plan before?"

Elliot and Elijah both shook their heads. "No."

If they had known earlier, they definitely wouldn't have let Evan do this!

They had also thought Evan was just competing to let off some steam. They never thought he would...

Evan wiped his tears again.

"I didn't tell anyone. I knew you wouldn't agree! If you're angry, you can hit me to vent! But you can't stop my plan!"

Tarquin, Elliot, and Elijah were speechless.

Angry, they were truly angry, because what he had done on his own was too risky!

But they could never bring themselves to hit him!

The father and his two sons watched Evan cry, their hearts aching. They knew the depth of Evan's bond with Jake.

Elliot frowned and said to Tarquin,

"What's done is done. Although it's risky, this is indeed a good way to find the

culprits! Let's plan carefully to ensure Evan's safety."

Tarquin let out a long sigh, his brow still furrowed. He walked over and wiped Evan's tears.

"We won't stop your plan, but we

must be involved. From now on, we'll discuss the revenge plan together. You can't make decisions on your own anymore!"

Evan cried and threw himself into Tarquin's arms. "Okay..."

...

At Jindale Airport, Elysia scrolled through news about Evan online, feeling both worried and proud.

She felt a little more at ease after discovering that no one knew Evan's real identity.

"Elysia!"

Suddenly hearing Winona's voice, Elysia quickly looked up!

Keaton Huber, who had been hiding furtively in a corner, heard the voice and his

eyes lit up. He also looked over eagerly.

But when he saw the handsome man standing next to Winona, Keaton's face instantly darkened.

Who was that?!

Chapter 1726

Even though the other person was wearing a mask, Keaton could tell at a glance that he was a young, handsome man.

He had a great body and a first-class air about him.

Standing nearly six-foot-three, he had a great sense of style.

A low-key, mid-length trench coat looked like it was part of a fashion show on him.

Even standing next to the stunning, ice-cold Winona, with her commanding presence, he didn't look out of place.

At first glance, they even looked like a perfect couple.

He pushed Winona's suitcase, his eyes full of adoration as he watched her throw herself into Elysia's arms, gently reminding her to be careful.

After hugging Elysia, Winona linked arms with him and enthusiastically introduced him to Elysia.

He waved at Elysia, a polite greeting.

Elysia smiled and nodded, seeming quite pleased with him.

After the greetings, the three of them headed for the exit. Winona walked ahead with Elysia, arm in arm, while the young man followed behind, pushing the suitcase.

At one point, he even helped straighten Winona's hair, and she turned back to smile at him.

The scene was beautiful, but for Keaton, it was painful to watch.

After seeing them leave, Keaton felt an inexplicable irritation.

What was he so annoyed about?

He was annoyed at himself!

Wouldn't it have been better to stay home and sleep? What was he doing at the airport? Just to make himself miserable?!

He clearly had too much time on his hands!

Keaton yanked at his tie, the silk suddenly feeling like a noose. He marched toward

the exit, thumbing Tarquin's number on his phone.

"When are you coming back?!"

Tarquin was still in Thyania, on his way to the airport.

"Today. I'll be in Jindale tonight."

"...Is Evan coming back with you?"

"Yeah."

"Is he okay?"

"He's fine. What about you? What's wrong?"

Tarquin could tell from his tone that he was in a bad mood.

Keaton let out a heavy sigh. He thought about it, but couldn't stop himself from complaining.

"Winona's dating someone. Why didn't you tell me beforehand? If I had known earlier, I wouldn't have even thought about protecting her. That way, her boyfriend wouldn't get the wrong idea and think I'm some kind of rival!"

Tarquin was surprised. "Winona's dating someone?"

Keaton shot back, "Didn't Elysia tell you?"

Tarquin replied, "No, I haven't heard her mention it."

Keaton muttered to himself, "Could it be a secret relationship? Maybe she can't go public because she's a celebrity?"

Tarquin was silent.

Winona was pregnant; it was impossible that she'd be in the mood for romance.

Unless... she didn't plan on letting

Keaton know the child was his and

wanted to give the baby a complete

family by deliberately finding a

substitute father!

But if Winona had that idea, Elysia would definitely know.

Elysia would have mentioned it in passing during one of their chats.

Besides, that didn't sound like Winona's character at all!

Winona was a very pragmatic person; she wouldn't complicate a simple problem.

Finding a substitute father for the child wouldn't solve any problems. When the child grew up, the truth would easily come out.

At that point, besides having another man fighting with Keaton, there would be no benefit!

Tarquin was silent for a moment before asking Keaton, "Who told you Winona was dating someone? Are you sure you're not mistaken?"

Keaton immediately retorted, "How

could I be mistaken? I saw them

with my own eyes! Their interactions were very intimate! Elysia was also very polite to him. It was obvious she already knew about him."

Tarquin was curious. "You saw them with your own eyes? Are you at the airport right now?"

Keaton paused, not admitting he was there to pick up Winona. He lied, "I was here to pick up a friend and happened to see them."

Tarquin fell silent. "...Did Winona personally tell you that he's her boyfriend?"

"No, I didn't go up to greet them. But I saw how affectionate she was with that pretty

boy."

Chapter 1727

Tarquin paused for a moment before asking, "Do you need me to call Elysia and ask right now?"

Keaton immediately said, "No!"

Elysia was with Winona. If Tarquin called to ask now, wouldn't that expose him?

"Let's talk when you get back. Have a safe trip."

After hanging up, Keaton put his phone away and walked out of the airport.

Just as he stepped outside, he saw Winona standing by a car, leaning in close to the young man, talking and laughing. She even affectionately ruffled his hair.

The young man smiled and, ever the gentleman, bent down slightly, making a 'please' gesture to invite her into the car.

After Winona happily got in, he closed the door for her and got into the passenger seat.

Keaton pursed his lips and rolled his eyes.

Watching them drive away, driven by an itch he couldn't scratch, he climbed into his car and threw it into gear, tailing them.

He tailed them all the way to a restaurant...

The three of them got out. Winona linked arms with Elysia, chatting and laughing as they walked into the restaurant.

The young man followed behind them as usual.

Keaton sat in his car, his face dark. After a moment's thought, he pulled out his phone and made a call.

"Come have a meal with me. I'll send you the location in a second. And dress nicely!"

He hung up without giving the other person a chance to speak.

He opened WhatsApp, found her contact, and sent the location.

She replied, [I'm busy. I'm in the middle of a dinner meeting right now.]

Keaton didn't blink. He pulled up his banking app and wired her a cool fifty thousand dollars on the spot.

She immediately sent back a sticker with heart-eyes.

[You're the absolute best, Keaton! Wait for me, I'll be there in fifteen minutes!]

Keaton pursed his lips and sat in the car, waiting.

He wasn't even sure why he was getting a fake girlfriend.

It was just that seeing Winona with that young man made him want to have a young woman by his side, too.

It was as if not having one meant he had already lost.

About ten minutes later, a young, beautiful girl rushed over, calling out as soon as she saw him, "Keaton!"

Keaton immediately made a shushing gesture. "Keep your voice down! Get in the car first!"

The girl pulled open the door and hopped into the passenger seat, smiling. "What are you doing hiding in the car, all secretive?"

Keaton pursed his lips.

"In a bit, I'm taking you in there for dinner. I need you to pretend to be my girlfriend."

The girl was speechless. "But I'm your cousin!"

Keaton said, "Which is why you're obligated to help! If you don't want to, give me the money back!"

The girl immediately stuffed her phone into her pocket.

"Fine, I'll help! But you have to promise to buy me two limited-edition game skins."

Keaton was disdainful. "Can't you afford them yourself?"

The girl immediately replied, "I have money but I can't buy them! I told you, they're limited edition! want. the matching couples' set.

Keaton asked, "Are you dating someone?"

The girl shook her head. "No, but I have a crush. It just hasn't

out yet. Don't go prying

you even if you ask!

"So, is it a deal or not? If you promise to buy me the couples' skins, I'll do whatever you say and be a great girlfriend!"

Keaton nodded. "Deal!"

The girl was thrilled and immediately asked, "So, tell me first, how do I need to act?"

Keaton said, "Act obedient. Pretend you adore me, that you're very clingy, and that you're deeply in love with me."

The girl narrowed her eyes. "Keaton, what's going on with you? So many girls are crazy about you, and you have to find a fake to put on a show?"

"The point is, who are we putting this show on for? Don't tell me it's for my future cousin-in-law?"

Chapter 1728

Keaton immediately said, "Don't ask what you're not supposed to ask. Let's go. Just act natural and don't blow our cover. If you can't manage, just hold my arm, stand by my side, and don't say a single word."

The girl was very confident. "Don't worry! I guarantee you'll be satisfied!"

Keaton's expression soured. "Are you calling me a fossil now?"

The girl forced a smile. "Not old, not at all! My cousin is the most handsome man! The second most handsome in the world!"

She then said with a narcissistic expression, "My crush is the most handsome man in the world!"

Keaton rolled his eyes, pursed his lips, and led the girl into the restaurant.

The girl boldly linked her arm with his. At a glance, they really did look like a couple.

Inside the restaurant.

At a table by the window, Winona and Elysia were sitting together, with the young man seated across from them.

Their food had just arrived, and they hadn't even started eating when Keaton walked over with the young girl.

Keaton wore a look of surprise and astonishment, as if it were a genuine coincidence.

"Elysia? You're eating here too! What a coincidence!"

Seeing him act so convincingly, Keaton's cousin couldn't hold it in and broke into laughter.

The young girl was still too young and not very good at acting.

Keaton was speechless and secretly shot her a glare.

His cousin quickly lowered her head, desperately trying to stifle her laughter. Elysia and Winona were stunned, clearly not expecting to run into Keaton here. Winona looked uncomfortable. After all, she was carrying Keaton's child.

And she was already three months along; the baby was starting to take shape.

Winona met Keaton's gaze for a second before quickly looking away, her eyes landing on the girl beside him.

Keaton, in turn, looked at the young man sitting across from her.

The man had taken off his mask by now, revealing delicate features and a stunningly handsome face. He was drop-dead gorgeous.

Keaton felt an inexplicable annoyance, but he didn't show it.

He offered a tight smile to Winona and Elysia. "The buzz around this place has been hard to ignore, so I decided to treat my girlfriend to a meal."

Elysia frowned slightly, looking the girl up and down before asking Keaton with some displeasure, "Your new girlfriend?"

Keaton nodded. "Yep!"

Elysia asked, "When did this happen?"

Keaton said, "We've been seeing each other for a month or two. Just made it official. Isn't she pretty? Isn't she cute?"

Elysia pursed her lips. She fell silent.

She certainly had no issue with the young girl, but she had a big issue with Keaton.

Although Winona and Keaton had no official relationship, he was still the baby's father seeing him flaunt another girl in front of Winona made Elysia furious.

But as furious as she was, she couldn't find the words to confront him.

After all, he didn't even know about the baby, so she couldn't call him a jerk.

She glanced at Winona, who was smiling at the young girl, feigning composure.

"She is very cute and pretty. Mr. Huber has good taste."

Keaton narrowed his eyes and said, "Your taste isn't bad either. The young man is quite handsome. How long have you known each other?"

Winona was distracted and didn't catch the undertone in his words. She replied, "We've known each other for many years."

Keaton's words were dripping with

sarcasm Really? You've known each other for so many years, but I've never heard you mention him You two must not be that close, right?"

Winona was speechless.

The young man was speechless.

Keaton smiled benevolently. "Don't mind me, I'm just kidding."

Winona pursed her lips. "We're very close!"

Keaton gave a humorless smile and continued to pry for information. "He looks very

young. Is he still a university student?"

Winona nodded. "He's a senior this year."

Keaton said, "What a coincidence.

My girlfriend is also a university student, though she just started her freshman year at the University of the Artstondon Which university does your young friend attend?"

Chapter 1729

Winona was taken aback for a moment.

"That is a coincidence. He's also at the University of the Arts London. What's your girlfriend's major?"

Keaton paused. "...Camberwell College of Arts, painting major."

Winona was very surprised. She immediately looked at the young man across from her. "Shane, you guys go to the same school!"

Only then did the young girl look up. When she saw the young man, they were both shocked.

"Shane Gould?!"

"Yvette Lorraine?!"

The girl was ecstatic. "What are you doing in Jindale?"

The young man stood up and replied politely, "I'm here for a few days. What are you doing in Jindale?"

The girl said excitedly, "I came to Jindale to see my aunt."

The young man glanced at Keaton again, suspicious. "Is this your boyfriend?"

Keaton looked at him, full of hostility. "Yes!"

As soon as Yvette Lorraine heard that, she quickly let go of Keaton's arm. "No, no, don't get the wrong idea! This is my cousin!"

Keaton froze.

Elysia and Winona were confused.

Yvette, ignoring Keaton's expression, rushed to explain, "He's really my cousin! My actual cousin! We're blood-related, there's no way we could be a couple! He's the one who dragged me here today to pretend to be his girlfriend!"

Keaton was speechless.

Winona and Elysia were speechless.

The atmosphere became so awkward it was indescribable. Keaton glared at his cousin, grinding his teeth. "Yvette Lorraine!"

Yvette couldn't care less about his predicament.

In front of her crush's friend, even her own brother would be thrown under the bus, let alone her cousin.

Yvette, fearing that Shane Gould would misunderstand and say something to her crush, turned to Keaton and said, "Keaton, tell Shane the truth-tell him we're family!"

Keaton was speechless. Could he even still call this his cousin?

Seeing that he wasn't talking, Yvette ignored him and looked at Shane Gould to explain, "His mom is my aunt! I came to Jindale because my aunt has been in a bad mood lately, so my parents ranged for me to come and keep her company. Do you understand?"

Everyone was speechless.

Keaton clenched his jaw so hard his teeth ached, wishing the ground would just open up and swallow him whole.

He really had too much time on his hands. The moment he saw Winona with a younger man, he suddenly felt the urge to parade a young woman in front of her.

What was the point of all this?!

And now, a scene of epic social suicide.

Seeing Winona and Elysia both narrowing their eyes at him, Keaton swallowed hard and forced an explanation. "There's this girl who been relentlessly pursuing me 4 didn't know how to turn her down, so I asked my cousin to help me put on

a show."

"We just happened to see you guys, and I thought she could get some practice in. I

didn't expect her to run into someone she knew."

Winona and Elysia were speechless.

Keaton gave an awkward laugh. "Well, you guys enjoy your meal. We'll be leaving now."

With that, he forcibly dragged Yvette Lorraine away.

Yvette couldn't help but call out to Shane Gould, "Shane, please don't misunderstand! If you don't believe. met can take you to meet my aunt right now! I'm really his cousin, not his girlfriend!"

Keaton was half-dead with anger. After dragging her into the car, he couldn't help but demand, "What is wrong with you?!"

Yvette retorted, "What do you mean, what's wrong with me? That's my crush's best friend! If he gets the wrong idea, how am I supposed to pursue my crush?!"

Keaton pursed his lips. "So you just sold me out?"

Yvette grumbled, "You almost got me into big trouble, and I'm the one who's supposed to be mad! If I had known my crush's friend was here, I never would have agreed to act with you!"

Keaton was speechless.

Chapter 1730

Leaning back in his seat to cool down, Keaton asked Yvette, "So what's the deal with that Shane Gould? What's he like?"

Yvette told him the truth. "His family seems well-off, but I don't know his background. I just know he's an amazing guy!"

"He's got a great body, he's handsome, he has a good personality, and he's at the top of his major. He's a big deal at our school. A lot of girls like him!"

Keaton frowned, asking unhappily, "Is he more amazing than me? More handsome than me? Do more girls like him than me?"

Yvette paused, then her eyes narrowed. "Keaton, be honest. Is Shane Gould your rival in love?"

Keaton was speechless.

Yvette said, "Look at how bitter you sound. Only a rival would make you so competitive!"

Yvette continued with a look of regret, "I was so afraid I'd break character and laugh earlier, so I didn't dare to look up. Then my attention was all on Shane Gould, so I didn't even get a good look at the girl sitting across from him!"

"No, I have to go back and see! I need to see what kind of girl has captured my cousin's heart!"

As Yvette was about to open the car door, Keaton quickly grabbed her. "You stay put! I don't have a crush on anyone. I was just asking casually."

Yvette looked at him with narrowed eyes. "Liar!"

Keaton fell silent. "...That matching couples' skin you wanted. Do you still want it or not?"

Yvette immediately piped up. "Yes, yes, I do! You said you don't have a crush, so you don't! Whatever you say is right! Let's have a good talk about you and Shane Gould. Do you want the truth or a bunch of lies?"

Keaton's face was dark. "The truth, of course! You don't have to flatter me just because I'm your cousin!"

Yvette cleared her throat. "There's not much to compare between you and Shane Gould!"

"In terms of earning potential, you're definitely stronger. In terms of looks and physique, you're about equal. However, his reputation is way better than yours!"

"You're a notorious playboy with a reputation that precedes you."

"He's the golden boy—a campus legend with a spotless record and a GPA that's the envy of his peers."

"If I had to choose, I would definitely choose him, not you!"

Keaton glared at her, his lips pressed into a thin line. He was silent.

Yvette said, "You can't get mad! You told me to tell the truth!"

Keaton's face was like a thundercloud. "...Yvette Lorraine, you have any idea how close you. to being disowned?"

Yvette was puzzled. "What?"

Keaton snapped, "I'm about to smack some sense into you!"

Yvette froze, then in a fright, she pushed open the car door and jumped out.

Before running off, she didn't forget to shout, "You promised me the matching skin

set! You can't go back on your word!"

Keaton rolled his eyes in frustration

and made a call. "I need you to look up a university student. Shane Gould, a senior at Camberwell College of Arts University of the Arts: London. Focus on his relationships and character."

After hanging up, Keaton didn't leave right away. He lit a cigarette and sat in his car, waiting for the information.

He didn't get the information, but he did see Winona come out.

Keaton reflexively ducked, his heart hammering against his ribs at the thought of Winona spotting him.

Winona and Elysia chatted for a while at the restaurant entrance before Elysia got into a car and left.

Winona and Shane Gould got into another car together.

On some strange impulse, Keaton started his car and followed them.

The car drove all the way to a villa district and entered Riverside Manor.

Keaton's face turned incredibly dark.

Riverside Manor was where

Winona's new house was. After her previous home was exposed, she hadkan agent selfit and bought a

new one here.

Bringing Shane Gould here was the same as bringing him home!

Were they already living together?