

M Genius 1261

Chapter 1261

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Matthew explained, "Miraculous herbs will surely attract some bizarre animals. In fact, these animals were originally just some ordinary wild animals, but as they stayed around miraculous herbs, they absorbed the herbs' effects, which caused them to mutate over time and become bizarre animals. Such bizarre animals are usually very tough, so they're difficult to fight against. They keep watch near the miraculous herbs and wait for the herbs to ripen. Then, they'll swallow the herbs to make themselves stronger. Such bizarre animals are known as guardian beasts."

The several herb growers sitting across from Matthew nodded at his words before looking at him with greater respect. After all, ordinary people had no knowledge of these things, which were only known to people who had grown herbs for generations like them.

The crown prince looked stupefied. "What? There's such a thing? Oh, my, that'd be fun! Come on, where's this place? I want to go take a look!"

Matthew looked helpless. "Prince, you'd better not stick your nose in this. A guardian beast grows along with the miraculous herb it's guarding. Once the miraculous herb is about to ripen, the guardian beast will become extremely ferocious and hard to fight against. There are a lot of times when not even weapons can hurt the guardian beast!"

However, upon hearing Matthew's words, the crown prince became even more interested instead. "Is that so? But the more you talk about it, the more I want to go take a look!"

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Just then, an elderly man from Stonedale suddenly asked, "Silas, I've got a question here. What was the miraculous herb your ancestors planted back then? Why would you all risk your lives and even offer the Seven-Leafed Lotus as a reward to retrieve it? Could the herb be more valuable than the Seven-Leafed Lotus?"

Matthew slowly nodded; the elderly man's questions were also what he would like to ask. The Seven-Leafed Lotus was extremely rare, yet these herb growers were willing to offer it as a reward. This proved that the miraculous herb was far more valuable than the Seven-Leafed Lotus.

Silas looked somewhat embarrassed. After exchanging a brief look with several herb growers beside him, he finally said in a low voice, "Everyone, the miraculous herb that I'm talking about is actually the Seven-Leafed Lotus."

Upon hearing his words, everyone was dumbfounded, whereas the crown prince scowled at Silas, saying, "What do you mean? You're offering a Seven-Leafed Lotus as a reward for us to collect another Seven-Leafed Lotus? Are you nuts?"

Silas immediately said, "You've gotten the wrong idea, Prince. What we'd like to collect isn't just a Seven-Leafed Lotus, but a field of them."

The instant he said that, everyone at the scene was astounded. How valuable a field of Seven-Leafed Lotuses would be! After all, a single Seven-Leafed Lotus was rare enough.

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Siles then continued, "Our ancestors planted not a single Seven-Leafed Lotus, but a field of them back then. However, the guardian beast has gotten hold of the whole field, which is why we've got no choice but to offer such a reward to ask for help."

Upon listening to his words, everyone finally understood the situation.

Just then, Ambrose suddenly argued with a frown, "Siles, it's a little unreasonable of you to do things like this. You guys want to get a whole field of Seven-Leafed Lotuses, but you're only offering a single Seven-Leafed Lotus as the reward. Isn't this improper?"

Taking a deep breath, Siles replied with a nod, "I understand what you mean, Mr. Ambrose. Well, we do have a set of rules that we follow when doing business. As long as you guys can capture the field, we're willing to share all the Seven-Leafed Lotuses with you fifty-fifty. What do you think?"

Upon hearing this, everyone at the scene instantly got excited. A single Seven-Leafed Lotus was already worth risking one's life for. Now that these herb growers were willing to share one whole field of Seven-Leafed Lotuses fifty-fifty with those who reclaimed it, everyone was more than willing to take up the job, of course.

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Just then, the crown prince suddenly spoke. "So, you've got a lot of Seven-Leafed Lotuses over there? In that case, why don't you sell this Seven-Leafed Lotus to me?"

Upon hearing his words, everyone at the scene was startled; they turned to look at him.

Siles replied with embarrassment, "I'm really sorry, Prince, but this is the only Seven-Leafed Lotus we've got here. It's the reward that we've promised everyone, so we can't sell it—"

The crown prince immediately waved his hand dismissively. "Why can't you sell it? Yeah, this is the only Seven-Leafed Lotus you've got with you, but don't you guys have a lot of them on that field? Sell this Seven-Leafed Lotus to me first, and I'll give you one in return once we've collected the others."

Siles still wanted to say something, but the crown prince continued, "I know you're in a difficult situation. You're worried that the others might be unhappy with this, right? Well, how about this? To be fair, let's ask everyone for their opinion." Then, he immediately turned to the others and asked in a loud voice, "You guys aren't gonna object to my suggestion just now, right?"

Those from the Ten Greatest Families of Stonedale and the Ten Greatest Families of Eastshire looked at each other in speechlessness. In reality, they were inwardly seething with resentment, but none of them dared to voice their objection. After all, the crown prince had shown them who the boss here was when he came just now.

The crown prince shrugged his shoulders. "See? Nobody's objected to this. That settles it, then."

Everyone nodded, expressing their willingness to accompany these herb growers to collect the herbs.

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Silas panicked at once. "Prince, this... this isn't what we promised!"

The crown prince blew up at his words. "F*ck, who cares about what you promised? Like I said, I'll use it first and then give you another one in return later on, so what's the big deal? And besides, nobody is objecting to it. What you promised doesn't mean a thing!"

Looking embarrassed, Silas hurriedly turned to look at Ambrose, but the latter lowered his head and looked down without saying a word as if this had nothing to do with him.

The crown prince didn't care that much, though. Immediately, he went over and took the wooden box before putting it in front of Matthew. "Matty, I saw you keep staring at the Seven-Leafed Lotus. You want it badly? Here, take this and use it first. Just give me another Seven-Leafed Lotus in return when the job's done!"

Little did Matthew expect the crown prince to snatch the Seven-Leafed Lotus for him in such a way. He couldn't help but give the crown prince a grateful look. After all, he really needed the Seven-Leafed Lotus very much at the moment. With the Seven-Leafed Lotus, Crystal would be safe.

In fact, this was exactly the reason Ambrose didn't stop the crown prince; he surmised that the latter intended to give the Seven-Leafed Lotus to Matthew. Since the herb would be used to save his goddaughter, why would he stop the crown prince?

Without saying another word, Matthew took the Seven-Leafed Lotus and made a gesture of gratitude to everyone else. "Everyone, thank you for letting me have the Seven-Leafed Lotus. To tell you the truth, I need it to save someone's life. Please rest assured, for I'll be giving twice as much of it back to you guys after collecting the Seven-Leafed Lotuses this time."

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Just then, Edmund suddenly said, "No problem, Mr. Larson! Since you need it to save someone's life, there's no way we're gonna battle against you for it. We, the Ten Greatest Families of Stonedale, have no objection to this!"

Everyone from the Ten Greatest Families of Stonedale looked at Edmund in bewilderment. However, when Edmund shot them a meaningful glance, they instantly realized his intentions. Edmund's idea was simple: since the crown prince was here, there was no way they could stop the Seven-Leafed Lotus from going to Matthew. Since that was the case, they'd better do Matthew a favor so that they would at least get on his good side. At the realization, everyone instantly held their tongues.

Of course, those from the Ten Greatest Families of Eastshire still looked as black as thunder with bitterness on their faces. One of them, an aged man, spat and muttered, "Hmph! So much for Woodside's rules!"

Upon hearing this, the crown prince was annoyed at once, and he jumped to his feet with a slap on the table. "F*ck, just spit it out if you've got something to say, you old geezer! Do you think I can't see you hiding among the crowd like a f*cking coward?"

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The crown prince curled his lips. "Stop feeding me that kind of f*cking nonsense! My mom told me that no one could talk to us like a Dutch uncle in our lives! Believe it or not, if you say that bullsh*t about you being an elder in front of me again, I'm gonna break your f*cking leg!"

The aged man still wanted to say something, but he was stopped by those next to him. Actually, many from the distinguished families vaguely knew some of Poison Spider's past. Abandoned by her parents and the elders of her family, she single-handedly brought up her younger brother and son. In her early years, she had even been violated by men dozens of years older than her in order to get a morsel of food. Therefore, Poison Spider didn't care a damn about seniority. If the old man were to keep on arguing with the crown prince, he would only bring trouble upon himself.

In the end, with nobody objecting to it, the Seven-Leaved Lotus went to Matthew. Running upstairs at once, he prepped the Seven-Leaved Lotus before carefully feeding it to Crystel.

With the Seven-Leaved Lotus ingested, the iciness of Crystel's body gradually went away at last, upon which Matthew had a few maids help her get dressed.

A little while after that, Crystel walked out of her room. At the moment, she looked no different from normal people, but in reality, she had two kinds of energy—one extremely hot and the other extremely cold—flowing within her simultaneously thanks to the Frost Charm and the Seven-Leaved Lotus. The two kinds of energy couldn't blend together directly because the process would be very painful. With Crystel's physical condition, there was no way she could bear the pain. Therefore, Matthew could only keep the two kinds of energy in equilibrium for the time being.

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However, such an equilibrium came at a price. The price being, the extremely hot energy and the extremely cold energy in Crystal's body would erupt in succession, causing her body to occasionally be extremely cold one moment and extremely hot the next. Such a situation would put Crystal in a great deal of pain. Even so, it was much better than having her soak in that medicinal bath all day long.

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Matthew took Crystal downstairs, by which time everyone downstairs had packed up and were ready to set out.

Matthew handed Crystal over to Ambrose, asking the latter to send her back to Eastcliff first. After that, he equipped himself lightly and set out with the group of herb growers.

These herb growers came from Stonedale. Living deep in the mountains, they made a living as herb growers for generations. Of course, they owned many properties out there, and it could be said that any of them had a personal net worth of hundreds of billions.

After flying to the city where the herb growers lived, everyone traveled by car for a full half day before finally reaching the little mountain village where they lived. Located deep in the mountains, the village was very much out of the way, but it was built magnificently. There were no high-rise buildings, but every house in the village was a villa with exquisite decor. Silas was the village's current chief, so he enjoyed high prestige in the village.

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The crown prince and Matthew stayed in the village. After dinner, Matthew got Silas to come over, asking to take a look at the dead body of the person who had previously returned to the village.

Silas looked stupefied. What's the point of looking at the dead body in the middle of the night? But luckily, the person's dead body hadn't been buried yet, so Matthew and the crown prince got to see the dead body.

The body was well-preserved. However, after checking on the dead body, Matthew knitted his brows into a deep frown.

Following Matthew closely, the crown prince asked in a whisper, "Metty, any findings?"

Matthew explained in a grave voice, "There are three wounds on the body, but only one of them is a bite wound, which means the guardian beast rarely attacks with its fangs. And besides, none of these wounds were fatal; he died of poison. In other words, the guardian beast is poisonous, and we've got to watch out for this when we come across it later!"

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The crown prince and Matthew stayed in a villa. After dinner, Matthew got Silas to come over, asking to take a look at the dead body of the person who had previously returned to the village.

Silas looked stupefied. What's the point of looking at a dead body in the middle of the night? But luckily, the person's dead body hadn't been buried yet, so Matthew and the crown prince got to see the dead body.

The body was well-preserved. However, after checking on the dead body, Matthew knitted his brows into a deep frown.

Following Matthew closely, the crown prince asked in a whisper, "Matty, any findings?"

Matthew explained in a grave voice, "There are three wounds on the body, but only one of them is a bite wound, which means the guardian beast rarely attacks with its fangs. And besides, none of these wounds were fatal; he died of poison. In other words, the guardian beast is poisonous, and we've got to watch out for this when we come across it later!"

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Chapter 1264

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Silas looked shocked and excited as well. All of a sudden, he found it a great decision to get Matthew here. Compared to the others, this man was much more professional.

Matthew darted a look at the crown prince. "I'd say you better stay out of this. This is not funny!"

The crown prince dismissed his warning, though. "Worry not! My uncle has arranged for me a bunch of even mightier bodyguards this time. There's no way you could beat them."

Matthew was instantly left speechless. Indeed, there's no way I could compare myself with him in terms of resources. "By the way, you've got to keep your eyes peeled after going into the mountains. This guy said the word "dragon" before his death, so I suspect that the guardian beast might be a venomous snake, which is good at making surprise attacks. There might be danger lurking in the dark, so you must be careful," he said.

The next day, everyone packed up and set out for the mountains after breakfast, accompanied by about a dozen herb growers from the village.

A barely noticeable flicker flashed across Matthew's eyes when he saw how lightly-armed these herb growers were. He knew that Silas and his men didn't tell them the truth, but he didn't point it out. These herb growers had their own plans, but so did Matthew.

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Sitting in one of the cars were none other than Robert and the others. Lord Voodoo was in the car, too, but he now looked like an old man in his seventies with silvery hair.

Sitting next to Lord Voodoo was the tubby Hunter, who had fully recovered from his injuries thanks to Lord Voodoo personally treating him for his injuries. Members of the voodoo clan were experts not only in using poisons but also in using medicine.

Robert said between clenched teeth, "I've checked it out. Ambrose has gone to Eastcliff, so Matthew is going into the mountains alone. The crown prince is tagging along with him, but the bodyguards around him can't be put in the same class as Ambrose in terms of fighting skills. As long as we go into the mountains, we'll surely find the opportunity to kill him!"

Lord Voodoo slowly nodded before getting out of the car with a cold gleam in his eyes. He uttered between clenched teeth, "He got away in Woodside last time. This time, I'm gonna f*cking kill him!" He had truly suffered a great deal at the hands of Matthew; he was even forced to bite off part of the Immortal Charm. Because of that, he hated Matthew's guts.

On the other hand, Hunter got out of the car and went into the mountains right away without saying a word. He had been holding a grudge against Matthew after all his disciples died in Woodside.

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Exasperated, the crown prince asked, "Hey, Siles, how much longer does it take to get there?"

Matthew replied softly, "We're getting there very soon."

Siles shot a look at Matthew in surprise. Just as Matthew had said, they were indeed approaching their destination, but how did Matthew know that?

The crown prince was surprised. "How do you know that?"

Matthew replied, "Don't you feel that it's getting hotter?"

The crown prince shook out his clothes. "Now that you mention it, it's really a little hot here. But what does this have to do with it?"

Matthew explained helplessly, "The Seven-Leaved Lotus usually grows on volcanic rocks. And besides, the environment surrounding it has to be particularly hot. I guess we're probably near the mouth of a volcano."

The crown prince had a look of realization on his face. "Oh, I see! Hey, Siles, are we almost there?"

Silas nodded before pointing at a high mountain in the distance. "There it is."

Delighted, everyone hurriedly rushed forward.

Unexpectedly, as soon as they reached the foot of the mountain, a group of people came out of the mountain forest, saying, "This place has been sealed off! No one's allowed in!"

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Chapter 1265

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Naturelly, everyone on Matthew's side was peeved, and Edmund became the first to step forward.
"What gives you the right to seal off the forest? This forest isn't yours!"

The other group of men was led by a man with a scar on his face. He shot a disdainful look at Edmund, saying, "You're quite a talker, eh? Who do you think you are? I can seal off whichever place I like. Are you unhappy with it or something?"

Edmund was angry as well. He yelled, "Who are you talking to? How dare you speak to us like this? Do you know who we are? Do you have a death wish or something?"

However, the scar-faced man shot back conceitedly, "I don't need to know who you are! Now listen here, I'm gonna count to three, by which time you guys are gonna get out of here at once! Otherwise, forget about leaving the forest alive!"

Edmund was so infuriated by the man's words that he burst into laughter instead. "Oh, wow, you really scared me. Forget about leaving the forest alive, huh? Are you sure about that? Alright then, just count to three and let me see what you're gonna do to me!"

The scar-faced man's face darkened at Edmund's words. He drew a machete on Edmund right away. "Since you have a death wish, I'll grant it! One! Two! Three!" Then, with a bellow of rage, the man slashed at Edmund with his machete.

Although Edmund wasn't worth a damn to the crown prince, he came from an old and distinguished family, after all. Having been trained in martial arts since childhood, he was pretty skilled at fighting. Seeing the scar-faced man attacking him with the machete, he instantly made a dash forward, grabbing the man's wrist while punching him in the chest simultaneously.

The group of men stood in front of the mountain forest with haughty looks on their faces, as though they were giving Matthew and the others orders.

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The two men swiftly exchanged several blows, but neither of them could do any harm to the other.

Seeing the situation, the scar-faced man flew into a rage. "No wonder you're so arrogant! Turns out you're proficient in martial arts, huh? F*ck, so what if you're skilled in martial arts? With so many men on our side, I'm still gonna cut you down! Guys, kill them!"

Following that, those behind the scar-faced man charged at the crowd with a bellow.

Those from the Ten Greatest Families of Stonedale charged toward them as well. Their leader, an aged man, roared, "We're from the Ten Greatest Families of Stonedale! Who are you to stand in our path? Do you wanna be enemies with the Ten Greatest Families of Stonedale?"

Upon hearing this, those on the scar-faced man's side were startled, and the scar-faced man stepped back with a frown. "You guys are from the Ten Greatest Families of Stonedale?"

Edmund replied proudly, "That's right! I'm Edmund Albright, the heir of the Albright Family of Stonedale!"

The scar-faced man paled slightly at Edmund's words. The next instant, however, he said with a sneer, "Hmph. So what if you're from the Ten Greatest Families of Stonedale? I'm telling you, you guys can't afford to offend the big shot on the mountain! Here's a piece of advice: go back where you came from, and this matter will have nothing to do with the Ten Greatest Families of Stonedale. Otherwise, I'm afraid it's gonna be too late for you to regret offending someone you shouldn't mess with!"

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With that, those from Stonedale surrounded the group of men in an intimidating manner.

The scar-faced man gritted his teeth, yelling, "Let me tell you this: we're sealing off the mountain with permission from Master Levi, King of the South, and Martin Newmont, King of Rivenia! Are you sure you want to clash with the person on the mountain?"

The instant he said that, those from Stonedale instantly changed color. Even though they didn't know who the person on the mountain was, that person had to be someone extraordinary to be able to get permission from both King of the South and King of Rivenia. Such a big shot might really be someone that the Ten Greatest Families of Stonedale couldn't afford to mess with!

Everyone instinctively turned to look at the crown prince. Perhaps only the crown prince can solve this matter, they thought.

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Chapter 1266

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Shooting a glance at the crown prince, the scar-faced men replied disdainfully, "Who do you think you are? What right do you have to know about Mester Levi's affairs?"

The crown prince's face darkened at once. Immediately, he rushed at the scar-faced men and slapped him twice across the face.

Infuriated, the scar-faced men drew his machete and slashed at the crown prince with it.

The crown prince reacted promptly. Catching the machete with bare hands, he snatched the weapon and then slashed the scar-faced man's shoulder with it, causing the man to let out a scream of pain.

Those behind the scar-faced men wanted to rush toward him. Just then, however, the crown prince stepped on the man's neck and pointed at the crowd with the machete in his hand, saying, "Listen up, you bunch of morons! I'm the crown prince of Mightwater! One step forward, and I'll cut your legs off!"

Upon hearing his words, those men immediately stopped dead and looked at the crown prince in horror, not daring to take a step forward. After all, the name of the crown prince of Mightwater was too intimidating!

The scar-faced men stopped screaming as well. He asked in a trembling voice, "Y-You're the crown prince of Mightwater?"

The crown prince darted a look at him. "The one and only!"

The scar-faced man was on the verge of tears; he really couldn't understand why he would run into such a devil incarnate. "Prince, I-I really didn't know it was you. Please be the bigger person and spare me..." he implored in a trembling voice.

The crown prince hemmed softly and stepped out of the crowd. "Master Levi gave you guys the permission to seal off the mountain? Why have I never heard him talk about this?" he asked slowly.

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The crown prince let out a sneer. "What a good-for-nothing! Weren't you acting all cocky just now? What right do I have to know about Master Levi's affair, you say? Hmph! I just had dinner with him a few days ago, but he didn't mention this to me."

The crown prince let out a sneer. "What a good-for-nothing! Weren't you acting all cocky just now? What right do I have to know about Master Levi's affair, you say? Hmph! I just had dinner with him a few days ago, but he didn't mention this to me."

No one dared to say anything, for the crown prince definitely wasn't bragging. Levi thought very highly of Phoenix, so it wasn't unusual for the crown prince to go to Levi's place for dinner.

After the scar-faced man pleaded with the crown prince piteously, the latter finally let him off, asking, "So, tell me—who the f*ck is the person on that mountain?"

The scar-faced man pulled a long face. "Prince, I-I really have no idea. I work for Master Elrich of Galvania, and he personally gave the order to seal off the mountain. Not only that, but he's now attending to that big shot on the mountain, so that big shot has to be someone extraordinary!"

Everyone at the scene gasped at the scar-faced man's words. Master Elrich of Galvania was a real bigwig in Galvania who was on an equal footing with the Ten Greatest Families. But such a bigwig was now attending to that person like he was the latter's lackey? Just who the hell could the person on the mountain be?

The crown prince curled his lips in disdain. "Never mind, I reckon you don't know what's going on either. F*ck off and let me go up the mountain to take a look myself!"

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Everyone at the scene gasped at the scar-faced man's words. Master Elrich of Galvania was a real bigwig in Galvania who was on an equal footing with the Ten Greatest Families. But such a bigwig was now attending to that person like he was the latter's lackey? Just who the hell could the person on the mountain be?

The crown prince curled his lips in disdain. "Never mind, I reckon you don't know what's going on either. F*ck off and let me go up the mountain to take a look myself!"

The scar-faced man and his men immediately made way for the crowd, who then went up the mountain right away. Watching them walk into the distance, the scar-faced man immediately took out a walkie-talkie and gave a signal to those on the mountain.

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Walking side by side with the crown prince, Matthew bypassed a few slopes before stopping in his tracks all of a sudden. He stared at the herb growers, asking, "Guys, isn't it about time for you to tell the truth?"

Upon hearing his words, everyone was surprised. The crown prince asked curiously, "What's going on, Matty?"

Matthew asked slowly, "Were the miraculous herbs on the mountain really planted by your ancestors?"

The herb growers paled slightly at his words.

Silas hurriedly replied, "Of course they were! We've been collecting herbs in this mountain forest for generations, and our ancestors have planted lots of herbs deep in the mountains."

Matthew asked coldly, "Is that so? If your ancestors were the ones who planted the miraculous herbs in such a remote location, why would somebody else come here and seal off the mountain to collect the herbs?"

Silas explained with embarrassment, "Well... There was a traitor in our tribe who betrayed the secret about the miraculous herbs and... and hence courted such a disaster..."

Matthew's face darkened at once. He said in a stern voice, "Silas, now that things have come to this, how could you still be lying to me? Do you guys not want to walk out of this mountain forest alive?"

The scar-faced man and his men immediately made way for the crowd, who then went up the mountain right away. Watching them walk into the distance, the scar-faced man immediately took out a walkie-talkie and gave a signal to those on the mountain.

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Chapter 1267

Everyone was surprised at Matthew's sudden blow-up.

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Silas turned slightly pale at Matthew's words. With a placating smile, he said with embarrassment, "Mr. Larson, I-I'm not lying, really..."

The crown prince also asked in puzzlement, "Matty, could you have gotten something wrong?"

Matthew shook his head. "I've been curious since the beginning. If they really just wanted to deal with the guardian beast, all they had to do was hire some expert fighters at a premium. Why would they hire people from so many distinguished families and powerful forces? After all, a much greater reward is needed to hire these people. These herb growers aren't dumb, so why are they willing to pay such a price? Now that I've seen those men just now, I've finally figured it out. Their main purpose in getting us here is to take advantage of our influence to deal with those on the mountain!"

Upon hearing Matthew's words, everyone turned pale and looked at the herb growers simultaneously.

Silas turned as white as a sheet, and his body began trembling slightly. Undoubtedly, Matthew was right!

The crown prince was the first to become furious. "F*ck! Turns out you bunch of *ssholes are fooling us, huh? Damn it, I'm gonna kill you all first!"

Frightened by the crown prince's words, the herb growers trembled like a leaf.

Just then, Matthew stopped the crown prince and said coldly, "What's the point of killing them? Let me ask you this, Silas: just who the person on the mountain is?"

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With a sigh of helplessness, Silas explained in a low voice, "I-I'm not so certain about that, actually. I just heard that the bigwig on the mountain seems to be from Bainbridge, and he's said to be somewhat related to the Nolan Family of Bainbridge."

With a sigh of helplessness, Silas explained in a low voice, "I-I'm not so certain about that, actually. I just heard that the bigwig on the mountain seems to be from Bainbridge, and he's said to be somewhat related to the Nolan Family of Bainbridge."

Upon hearing this, everyone around Silas changed color at once. The Nolan Family of Bainbridge was the number-one distinguished family in Cathay. If the Nolans really were involved, there was no way they were going to get mixed up in this!

Matthew's expression changed as well; he suddenly recalled the previous incident about Gilbert. Could this be the reason Gilbert came to the South?

Seeing that everyone was silent, Silas quickly said, "But, everyone, our ancestors were indeed the ones who discovered the medicinal herbs on the mountain first. They built a village here and kept watch for hundreds of years to wait for these herbs to ripen. But now, these people came all of a sudden to take these herbs away. A-Aren't they just being bullies? Please help us, everyone. After all, these herbs belong to the South. H-How could we let some outsiders take them away as they please?"

Those from Stonedale and Eastshire remained silent while weighing the risks and benefits.

Just then, however, Matthew said right away, "You're right! Naturally, we can't let outsiders take away things that belong to the South!"

The crown prince let out a laugh. "Haha! You're such a badass, Matty. Let's go! I'll go with you. The Nolans, huh? Ha! I'd like to meet them!" With that, he followed Matthew closely.

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Everyone quickly climbed the mountain. After a little over half an hour, they reached the platform below the top of the mountain. By the time they got here, everyone had been sweating profusely. The closer they got to the platform, the hotter it was.

At this moment, a bunch of people were standing at the corner of the platform, blocking the only path up the mountain. They were led by a young man who dressed like a dandy with his hair slicked back. With a trace of evil in his eyes, the man didn't seem like a decent person.

When the crown prince saw the young man, his lips twitched at once, as though he had seen his sworn enemy. "Why is this son of a b*tch here?" he muttered.

Matthew asked curiously, "Who is he?"

The crown prince answered, "He's Perry Lyndon, the distant nephew of Master Levi's wife. Somehow, he got acquainted with Master Levi and has been swaggering around in Gelvenia since then. He and I have always been at odds, though."

Matthew knitted his brows. Now that they had come across Levi's nephew, things were going to get troublesome.

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Chapter 1268

Perry darted a look at the crown prince before saying with a sneer, "Oh, I was wondering who it was. Turns out it's the son of my uncle's servant! What's the matter? Are you here to throw your weight around in the name of my uncle?"

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The crown prince flew into a rage. "Watch your f*cking mouth, Perry! If it weren't for Master Levi being nice to me, I would've killed you long ago!"

Perry burst into laughter. "Kill me? You end what army? Let me tell you this, Shewn: you end your family are nothing but a bunch of trash to me! How dare you f*cking call yourself 'the crown prince'? Listen here, you f*cker—your uncle and your b*tch of a mother are both servants of my family, and you don't even deserve to lick my boots!"

Upon hearing Perry's words, the crown prince lost his temper at once. He pointed at Perry, growling, "F*ck you, you son of a b*tch! How dare you call my mom a b*tch? I'm gonna kill you today no matter what!"

Perry let out a gasp while stretching out his neck. "You went to kill me? Come on, make a slash here. I'll consider you capable if you dare touch me!"

The crown prince wanted to strike, but he was stopped by several men behind him. "Keep calm, Prince! He's deliberately prodding you into attacking him!" whispered an elder urgently.

The crown prince was beside himself with rage, though. "That's nonsense! There's no way I'd be afraid of him! How am I gonna show my face in public if I don't kill him today?"

However, the elder whispered quickly, "Prince, you know full well that Master Levi's wife has always wanted to bring you guys down. If you attack him, Phoenix and Poison Spider are gonna take the blame for this!"

Perry darted a look at the crown prince before saying with a sneer, "Oh, I was wondering who it was. Turns out it's the son of my uncle's servant! What's the matter? Are you here to throw your weight around in the name of my uncle?"

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Just then, Matthew suddenly dashed forward and punched Perry in the face before everyone else realized it.

Perry was just a rich dandy who had only spent a few days learning some showy but impractical fighting skills, so how could he be a match for a skilled fighter like Matthew? As a result, the punch knocked him dizzy, and he fell to the ground, unable to get up.

The crowd behind Perry immediately clamored at the sight of the scene. Two men rushed forward, wanting to save Perry.

However, Matthew picked Perry up and held a silver needle at the latter's temple. He shouted, "Step aside if you want him alive!"

The two men looked at each other, at a loss for what to do. Finally, one of them uttered between clenched teeth, "I'm warning you, you brat, he's Master Levi's nephew! If you dare hurt him, there'll be no place for you to gain a foothold in the whole South!"

Matthew responded by grabbing Perry's arm and breaking it with a single punch without saying a word.

All the men behind Perry were furious as he let out a blood-curdling scream. The man growled, "Are you provoking Master Levi?"

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Matthew replied in a cold voice, "I'm sorry, but Master Levi had a friend of mine pass on a message to me. According to what he said at the time, matters between young people should be solved by young people themselves. I don't think Master Levi would care about such a trifling matter between his nephew and me, right?"

Metthaw replied in e cold voice, "I'm sorry, but Mester Levi hed e friend of mine pess on e messege to me. According to whet he seid et the time, metters between young people should be solved by young people themselves. I don't think Mester Levi would cere about such e trifling metter between his nephew end me, right?"

The men wes startled for e moment. Then, he countered engrily, "Thet's f*cking bullsh*t! When did Mester Levi ever sey such e thing? Where does thet f*cking friend of yours come from? And how dere he cleim he's pessing on e messege from Mester Levi?"

Looking et the men, Metthaw uttered, stressing eech word, "Thet friend of mine is celled Billy Newmen!"

The instent he seid thet, everyone et the scene wes flebbergested. Billy Newmen is his friend?!

The men's fece chenged color et once. The next instent, though, he let out e sneer. "Whet en ignorent end conceited little bret from nowhere who deres to telk through your het! He he, Billy Newmen's your friend, huh?"

Just then, the crown prince stepped forward end replied with e sneer, "He isn't lying to you! Billy Newmen is indeed his friend, end Mester Levi hes indeed seid this to him. Hey, did you just sey 'f*cking friend'? You've got quite some nerve, insulting Billy Newmen like thet! Guess how Mester Newmen would punish you efter leerning about this?"

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The man was startled for a moment. Then, he countered angrily, "That's f*cking bullsh*t! When did Master Levi ever say such a thing? Where does that f*cking friend of yours come from? And how dare he claim he's passing on a message from Master Levi?"

Looking at the man, Matthew uttered, stressing each word, "That friend of mine is called Billy Newman!"

The instant he said that, everyone at the scene was flabbergasted. Billy Newman is his friend?!

The man's face changed color at once. The next instant, though, he let out a sneer. "What an ignorant and conceited little brat from nowhere who dares to talk through your hat! Ha ha, Billy Newman's your friend, huh?"

Just then, the crown prince stepped forward and replied with a sneer, "He isn't lying to you! Billy Newman is indeed his friend, and Master Levi has indeed said this to him. Hey, did you just say 'f*cking friend'? You've got quite some nerve, insulting Billy Newman like that! Guess how Master Newman would punish you after learning about this?"

At the crown prince's words, the man instantly turned deathly pale.

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Chapter 1269

Everyone knew that Billy was by no means inferior to Levi. After all, the former had once come close to gobbling up the Six Southern States and becoming its ruler, only that he later chose to retire to Eastcliff instead of doing so. Still, no one in the Six Southern States dared to underestimate him, and even Levi had to show him enough respect.

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On the other hand, this guy was only one of Perry's lackeys, so he was but a nobody in front of Billy. Taking a few deep breaths, he said in a trembling voice, "P-Prince, don't you dare try to scare me... How could a bigwig like Billy Newman be acquainted with such a young man? You—"

The crown prince sneered. "If you don't believe me, just ask those from Eestshire about it."

The men turned to look at those from the Ten Greatest Families of Eestshire, who lowered their heads in tacit acknowledgment without saying a word. All at once, the men's already pale faces turned even paler. After gulping a few mouthfuls of saliva, he said in a trembling voice, "B-But I didn't know these things! As the saying goes, ignorance can be forgiven—"

Matthew replied coldly, "Yeah, it's true that ignorance can be forgiven, but now that you've learned about it, don't you need to apologize?"

The men turned crimson at once. In the end, he lowered his head, mumbling, "I'm sorry..."

Matthew slapped the man across the face. "Is this how you're apologizing to Billy?"

The slap made the man see stars, but he dared not fight back. Gritting his teeth, he shouted, "I'm sorry! I was wrong!"

Everyone knew that Billy was by no means inferior to Levi. After all, the former had once come close to gobbling up the Six Southern States and becoming its ruler, only that he later chose to retire to Eastcliff instead of doing so. Still, no one in the Six Southern States dared to underestimate him, and even Levi had to show him enough respect.

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The crown prince sneered. "If you don't believe me, just ask those from Eastshire about it."

The man turned to look at those from the Ten Greatest Families of Eastshire, who lowered their heads in tacit acknowledgment without saying a word. All at once, the man's already pale face turned even paler. After gulping a few mouthfuls of saliva, he said in a trembling voice, "B-But I didn't know these things! As the saying goes, ignorance can be forgiven—"

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The man hastily backed away.

Perry, on the other hand, had a look of despair on his face. He said in a trembling voice, "Y-You better let go of me... I'm Master Levi's nephew. If you dare kill me, my uncle will never let you off..."

Matthew sneered. "Don't worry. Since you're Master Levi's nephew, of course I have to show him some respect! I don't necessarily have to kill you, right? I'll just break your arm or your leg at most," he said while squeezing Perry's broken arm.

Perry's face twisted into a grimace of pain. At last, he was scared. Although he had Levi backing him up, Matthew had Billy at his back, so he wasn't scared of him at all! "W-What do you want? I've done nothing to you!" he said anxiously.

Matthew replied, "Well, it's true that I've got nothing against you, but the crown prince is my friend. By insulting my friend, you're insulting me! If you don't want to have an arm or a leg broken, then behave yourself and apologize to him, and I'll spare you! Otherwise, I'll have no choice but to break your leg to help my buddy vent his anger. What do you think?"

Perry's face was livid with resentment. In the end, however, he had no choice but to bite the bullet and apologize to the crown prince.

Having vented his grievances, the crown prince said with a guffaw, "Well done, Matty!"

Matthew then said with a wave of his hand, "Now that you know you were wrong, what are you waiting for? F*ck off!"

The man hostilely backed away.

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Matthew replied, "Well, it's true that I've got nothing against you, but the crown prince is my friend. By insulting my friend, you're insulting me! If you don't want to have an arm or a leg broken, then behave yourself and apologize to him, and I'll spare you! Otherwise, I'll have no choice but to break your leg to help my buddy vent his anger. What do you think?"

Perry's face was livid with resentment. In the end, however, he had no choice but to bite the bullet and apologize to the crown prince.

Having vented his grievances, the crown prince said with a guffaw, "Well done, Motty!"

Matthew then said with a wave of his hand, "Now that you know you were wrong, what are you waiting for? F*ck off!"

Matthaw than said with a wava of his hand, "Now that you know you wara wrong, what ara you waiting for? F*ck off!"

Tha man hastily backad away.

Parry, on tha othar hand, had a look of daspair on his faca. Ha said in a trambing voica, "Y-You battar lat go of ma... I'm Mastar Lavi's naphaw. If you dara kill ma, my uncla will navar lat you off..."

Matthaw snaarad. "Don't worry. Sinca you'ra Mastar Lavi's naphaw, of coursa I hava to show him soma raspect! I don't nacassarily hava to kill you, right? I'll just braak your arm or your lag at most," ha said whila squaazing Parry's brokan arm.

Parry's faca twistad into a grimaca of pain. At last, ha was scarad. Although ha had Lavi backing him up, Matthaw had Billy at his back, so ha wasn't scarad of him at all! "W-What do you want? I'va dona nothing to you!" ha said anxiously.

Matthaw rapliad, "Wall, it's trua that I'va got nothing against you, but tha crown princa is my friand. By insulting my friand, you'ra insulting ma! If you don't want to hava an arm or a lag brokan, than bahava yoursalf and apologiza to him, and I'll spara you! Otharwisa, I'll hava no choica but to braak your lag to halp my buddy vant his angar. What do you think?"

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Having vantad his griavancas, tha crown princa said with a guffaw, "Wall dona, Matty!"

Matthew let out a chuckle. The crown prince had helped him so much, so there was no way he would sit by and do nothing about the former's predicament, of course.

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Heving deelt with Perry end his men, Metthaw end the others went streight up the mountein.

Upon reeching the top of the mountein, Metthaw found thet there were elreedy several dozens of people here. Stending et their center wes e tell end slender young women who wes weering e peir of sunglesses. With feir skin end en outstending poise, she oozed grece end cless through every pore. Heering the commotion behind her, she looked beck with e slight frown between her beeutiful eyebrows.

A young men next to her welked towerd Metthaw end his men. Glowering et them, he seid, "How did you guys get here? Where's Perry?"

Another young men chimed in with e curl of his lips, "Thet's obvious. Perry—thet idiot—must heve taken the wrong peth. There ere two peths leeding up here. Could he heve gone to guerd the peth on the west side?"

The first young men spet. "Thet schmuck couldn't even get such e petty job done. Whet's the use of heving him?"

Upon hearing their words, those from Stonedale and Eastshire were taken aback. Who on earth were these people, and what entitled them to be so disdainful of Perry? After all, Perry was the nephew of Levi, the King of the South!

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Having dealt with Perry and his men, Matthew and the others went straight up the mountain.

Upon reaching the top of the mountain, Matthew found that there were already several dozens of people here. Standing at their center was a tall and slender young woman who was wearing a pair of sunglasses. With fair skin and an outstanding poise, she oozed grace and class through every pore. Hearing the commotion behind her, she looked back with a slight frown between her beautiful eyebrows.

A young man next to her walked toward Matthew and his men. Glowering at them, he said, "How did you guys get here? Where's Perry?"

Another young man chimed in with a curl of his lips, "That's obvious. Perry—that idiot—must have taken the wrong path. There are two paths leading up here. Could he have gone to guard the path on the west side?"

The first young man spat. "That schmuck couldn't even get such a petty job done. What's the use of having him?"

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Chapter 1270

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Upon hearing this, the quick-tempered crown prince yelled at once, "Who the f*ck do you think you are, telling me to get lost? Do you know who I am?"

The young men laughed. "Who the hell cares who you are? Whoever you are, you're gonna go back where you came from with your tail between your legs in front of our lady!"

The crown prince growled in an angry voice, "You're quite arrogant, aren't you? Do you think I'm gonna take this lying down? What gives you the f*cking right to tell me to get lost? I'm telling you, I'm the crown prince of Mightwater! Now repeat what you just said if you dare!"

The young man was startled for a moment. "The crown prince of Mightwater? Who's that?"

A dark-skinned, lanky man next to the young man leaned over and whispered to him, "He's the son of Mightwater's Poison Spider!" This man was none other than Elrich Oldman, a well-known underworld bigwig in Gelvenia.

The young man's face took on a look of disdain. "Mightwater's Poison Spider? I've never heard of that! How dare he call himself the crown prince? He! Even my brother-in-law—the Young Master of the Nolan Family—dares not call himself 'the crown prince.' Who does he think he is? Like I said, get lost at once, or we're gonna be very unpleasant with you!"

Matthew frowned slightly. So these people are indeed related to the Nolan Family, huh?

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The young man spat out some swear words before pointing at Matthew and the others and saying haughtily, "You guys aren't allowed here. Get lost!"

Irritated, the crown prince wanted to lash out at the young man. However, he was stopped by Matthew, who stepped forward and argued in a soft voice, "Divine items that are born in nature should be owned by those who're capable of owning them. This is not Bainbridge, and you guys weren't the ones that planted the herbs either. Shouldn't you guys give us an explanation for telling us to leave?"

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Just as the young man was about to lose his temper, an elder next to him suddenly stepped forward with a fan in his hand. "You're right, my friend. Since everyone's here, I presume that fate brought us together. How about we go down together to take a look?" he said with a smile, looking as though he was a crowd-pleaser.

The young man panicked at once. "Mr. Quincy..."

The elder lowered his voice. "The guardian beasts are incredibly ferocious, and they're very good at hiding. These people came at just the right time. We can use them as bait to lure out the guardian beasts and reduce our casualties!"

Realizing what the elder meant, the young man laughed at once. "Okay! Since Mr. Quincy has said so, I'm gonna give you guys a chance."

Matthew looked at these people from afar. Although he didn't hear their conversation, he had a rough guess of what it was about. He chuckled inwardly without making a sound. Once all of us enter the cave, it'll be hard to tell who's the bait and who's the hunter.

With that, the young man stepped aside, allowing the crowd to walk forward a little. Only then did the crowd see what the top of the mountain was like.

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Stending on the edge of the huge pit, everyone could feel weves of scorching heet end smell wefts of sulfur. Undoubtedly, the huge pit probably used to be the mouth of e volceno.

The eerlier group of people hed tied ropes around the huge pit, so ell everyone hed to do next wes climb down the ropes.

On their wey up the mountein eerlier, Siles end his men hed told them about whet it wes like down there. Inside the huge pit wes e large ceve. After welking about two kilometers into the ceve, they would errive et where the Seven-Leefed Lotuses were.

However, the guardian beasts were also hiding inside the cave. Once everyone entered the cave, they would be ambushed by the guardian beasts anytime, so it was very dangerous.

Just then, the elder called Mr. Quincy came over and put his hand to his chest in greeting. He said with a smile, "Let me introduce myself, everyone. I'm Quincy Demron from Bainbridge, and the lady over there is Rose Demron, the Young Lady of the Demron Family. As she'll soon be marrying into the Nolan Family, she wants to get some rare and precious herbs to use as her dowry before getting married, which is why we're here. If we've caused you any trouble, please forgive us."

The top of the mountain was about several hundred meters wide with a huge pit at its center. The pit was over a dozen meters deep, surrounded by steep cliffs.

Standing on the edge of the huge pit, everyone could feel waves of scorching heat and smell wafts of sulfur. Undoubtedly, the huge pit probably used to be the mouth of a volcano.

The earlier group of people had tied ropes around the huge pit, so all everyone had to do next was climb down the ropes.

On their way up the mountain earlier, Silas and his men had told them about what it was like down there. Inside the huge pit was a large cave. After walking about two kilometers into the cave, they would arrive at where the Seven-Leafed Lotuses were.

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