

Rising from the Ashes (Andrew and Lauren)

Chapter 3331

[531 words]

---- Chapter 3331 Franz let out a bitter smile. "That's right. Andy killed Julius. That guy doesn't hold back when he makes a move, does he? But according to Clarence, Julius had it coming." Philip scoffed. "Honestly, I thought Julius would be smart enough to come to Azure Gate and fight for the country. That would've saved his life. But he pushed too far and forced our hands. He brought it on himself. And now Andrew only has Harmony Sect left on his list." Franz nodded. "Exactly." Just then, Bridget and Luna walked over. Philip said, "Bridget, you've done a lot.

Thank you." Bridget replied, "It's nothing. I overheard you saying Andrew's group is almost at Harmony Sect?" Philip confirmed, "That's right, they should be close by now. He's done a tremendous amount for Holtrien. The Umbral Peak Sect and the Divine Alchemists are both on board. The way he brought them in was... unconventional, but, well, you know how Andrew is." Bridget let the comment slide with a small smile, but Luna could not hold back a grin. ---- She asked, "Is that your way of saying Andrew's recruiting style was just plain brutal, Mr.

Turman?" Bridget's expression shifted to something more serious." General, make sure Andrew's team stays on guard when they reach Harmony Sect. Dorothy is not someone to underestimate. She plays the innocent, but her manipulation runs deep, and I'm worried..." Philip raised a hand to stop her. "I know what you're worried about. Harmony Sect is going to see Andrew as a prime target the moment he walks in. Dorothy is an expert at seduction and using her charm to get what she wants. You're afraid Andrew's young and hot-blooded and won't be able to resist. Relax.

That's one mistake Andrew won't make. I trust him on that." Bridget gave a slow nod. "Alright. Then we will wait for him to arrive. However, we still need to be on guard against Dorothy. Even if she can't completely get to Andrew, I'm afraid she won't have any shame about pushing for a dual cultivation session just to drain his energy for herself." Philip frowned. "That is a problem. Still, Andrew's sharp, and he knows right from wrong. An old schemer like Dorothy is going to have a hard time pulling one over on him. Besides, Andrew can have his pick of women.

Why would he ever fall for cheap tricks like that?" ---- Bridget looked a little embarrassed. "Well, the thing is, Harmony Sect was practically built around knowing how to handle men I've gone up against Dorothy before. I know exactly how dangerous that woman is." Luna's eyes went wide with alarm. "Wait, Mom, you're not saying that Madam Fontaine would actually go after Andrew, are you? Like?" Bridget hesitated.

"With Dorothy, you can never be sure. When it comes to advancing her cultivation, that woman would do anything. That's the whole foundation of the Harmony Sect.

It doesn't matter who you are or how old you are. If you can help their cultivation grow, you're fair game." Luna looked both furious and flustered at the same time. " Harmony Sect is absolutely shameless!" Philip and Franz exchanged deeply uncomfortable looks.

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Chapter 3332

[923 words]

---- Chapter 3332 After a full day of non-stop travel, Andrew and his group had crossed more than half of Holtrien and finally entered the mountain range where the Harmony Sect was located. The moment they truly stepped into its territory, Valerie gasped. " This place is absolutely stunning!" Eric said coldly, "Yeah, the scenery here is beautiful. But with this many beautiful women just waiting for us, is this a welcome...

or are they resting comfortably while waiting for us to walk into a trap?" "Harmony Sect welcomes the Lloyd family's Dragon Prince and his honored guests!" Hundreds of Harmony Sect disciples, every single one of them a woman, spoke in perfect unison. Led by a breathtakingly stunning woman at the front, they bowed gracefully toward Andrew and his group. The whole thing caught everyone off guard, including Andrew himself. They had all braced for a confrontation, a fight, or at the very least a tense standoff.

Instead, they were met with a reception that was not just polite but downright elaborate. Andrew actually felt a little thrown off by it. He stepped forward ---- and addressed the woman at the front. "Excuse me, would you happen to be Madam Dorothy Fontaine, the head of Harmony Sect?" Dorothy's beautiful eyes lit up as she looked Andrew over, clearly liking what she saw more and more with each passing second. She replied in a soft, almost coy voice, "I'm Dorothy Fontaine, and it's my pleasure to welcome you, Mr. Andrew Lloyd." Andrew gave a respectful nod.

"Madam Fontaine, we came in such a rush that I didn't bring anything as a proper gift, and I sincerely apologize for that. Once things settle down and you visit Chetvine, the Lloyd family and I will absolutely make it up to you." Dorothy covered her mouth and let out a light, melodic laugh. " Mr. Lloyd, you're far too kind. You're on our turf now, so if anyone should be playing host, it's us." Then, she gestured and added, "Please,

everyone, come right in." With Dorothy leading the way, Andrew and his group followed her into the lush, fragrant valley where the Harmony Sect was nestled.

Nyx, Valerie, and Rowan all looked around in pure amazement. The scenery was almost too beautiful to feel real. Nyx sighed dreamily. "I feel like I just walked into the Garden of ---- Eden." Valerie laughed softly. "Nyx, we're in Holtrien. We don't really do the Garden of Eden here. If anything, this place is like something straight out of a fairy tale." Jerome quickened his pace and fell into step beside Andrew, whispering, "Andy, something about the scent of these flower petals doesn't feel right. And Harmony Sect is being way too friendly.

"We have to stay alert." Andrew replied calmly, "Mr. Thorton, I know what I'm doing. Also, tell Eric not to get too close to the flowers along the path. It has an aphrodisiac effect, and it only works on men." Jerome was startled and quickly went back to warn Eric. After hearing this, Eric muttered under his breath, "Harmony Sect is really playing dirty. But the person they're truly targeting probably isn't us both, it's Andrew." Before long, the group was escorted into the Harmony Sect's grand reception hall. It was clearly the space reserved for their most distinguished visitors.

Dorothy sat at the head of the room in a flowing, pale yellow dress that moved as if it had a life of its own. She looked like an innocent young girl as she smiled at Andrew. She said gently, "Mr. Lloyd, you and your group have had quite a ---- long journey. Let's not get into business just yet. Why don't you all stay the night here at Harmony Sect and rest up? We can talk tomorrow. How does that sound?" Andrew smiled politely. "Madam Fontaine, I appreciate the offer, but things are a little too urgent for that.

"I think it's best we get straight to the point." Eric mentally rolled his eyes at the suggestion. If they stayed the night in a place like this, surrounded by every one of these women, he was pretty sure he would not make it to morning in one piece. There was no way he could hold his own against this many of them coming at him all at once. Dorothy did not seem the least bit bothered by the refusal and kept right on smiling. However, Giovanni let out a sharp, dismissive scoff. "There is a saying that guests should follow the host's arrangements. Mr. Lloyd, you have traveled a long way.

"Are you really going to turn down the host's arrangements just like that?" Andrew's expression remained calm as he turned his gaze toward Giovanni. "We are not here as guests. We came to invite the members of the Harmony Sect to join us and stand with us against a common threat. Holtrien is facing a crisis right now, and hiding away to live in comfort while that's happening? That's ---- not something a person of character does." Giovanni scoffed again. "Harmony Sect is a small, modest sect. We don't have the kind of strength needed to get involved in a full-scale war.

"On top of that, we've always stayed out of the outside world's affairs. The military and the other major powers can handle the fighting. Harmony Sect is nothing but a group of weak women. Even if we went, we wouldn't be of any help." The meaning behind his

words was obvious. He was clearly trying to distance Harmony Sect from any responsibility

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Chapter 3333

[765 words]

---- Chapter 3333 Andrew smiled. "You're right. Harmony Sect is just a group of weak women who can't help much. Then may I ask, Elder, are you a woman disguised as a man, or something else mixed in among them?" Giovanni flew into a rage and finally realized he had walked straight into Andrew's trap. His face turned red as he snapped, "I am a man, not a woman, and certainly not a woman in disguise." Andrew shrugged. "But just now, Elder, you were the one who said the Harmony Sect was nothing but women." Giovanni was furious. "You..." Dorothy shot Giovanni a sharp look.

Although her gaze was stern, to outsiders it still looked charming and alluring, as if she were flirting rather than scolding him. Andrew sneered inwardly. That Dorothy was skilled, no question about that. She was working her magic every second without even trying. Unfortunately, it just did not work on him. "Mr. Lloyd, please forgive my disciple for speaking out of turn," Dorothy said, offering Andrew a graceful, apologetic smile. ---- Then, she continued, "But as Elder Cantino pointed out, the women of Harmony Sect are not fighters.

Even if we wanted to help, what could we possibly do down there?" Andrew's tone stayed even. "Madam Fontaine, you're selling yourself and your sect far too short. Harmony Sect is one of the Eight Ancient Sects. Everyone knows what you're capable of, so there's really no need for the humility act." Dorothy smiled brightly, her eyes locking onto Andrews with a glimmer that was anything but subtle. "My, my... To think Mr. Lloyd holds us in such high regard. I'm genuinely flattered." The flirtation in her eyes was completely unmasked.

However, Andrew held her gaze without flinching, without so much as a flicker of reaction. That caught Dorothy off guard on the inside. He was young, sharp, and full of energy, and yet he was sitting there completely unfazed by her. His reputation, it turned out, was well earned. Dorothy let out a small sigh, as though she were reluctantly backing down. "Mr. Lloyd, I know you're a man who means what he says and doesn't waste time.

Since you've come all the way to Harmony Sect, I suppose refusing to join the fight for Holtrien really isn't an option anymore, is it?" ---- Andrew just smiled and said nothing. Dorothy was secretly irritated. Andrew had not even bothered to deny it. He just sat there with that calm, slightly pressuring energy, and she had practically conceded on her own. She steadied herself and pressed on. "That said, Mr. Lloyd, if you want Harmony Sect to join the war effort, there is one condition you'll need to agree to first." Andrew did not hesitate. "Go ahead, Madam Fontaine.

If it's within my power, I won't back out of it." The smile on Dorothy's face spread into something warmer and far more deliberate. "It's simple, really. We need you to enter into a dual cultivation partnership with Elder Charlotte Easterling. Once that bond is formed between our two sides, Harmony Sect will be entirely at your command." Andrew's brow furrowed, and he went quiet for a moment. Eric, on the other hand, could not hold back a dry laugh. "So after all that dancing around, it comes right back to this.

Madam Fontaine, to put it plainly, you want Andrew to sleep with Elder Easterling. Is that it?" Dorothy bristled, visibly caught off guard by how bluntly Eric had put it. ---- Harmony Sect's dual cultivation was not as simple as just sleeping together. But the way Eric put it made it sound vulgar, which she found deeply distasteful. She argued, "I think you've got the wrong idea there. Dual cultivation in the Harmony Sect is a legitimate and structured martial practice between a man and a woman.

The focus is on advancing one's cultivation and achieving growth in the martial path; it's not as simple or as crude as what you're suggesting." She added, "Mr. Lloyd is an exceptional man, truly one in a million in all of Holtrien. He's exactly the kind of partner our disciples have always aspired to cultivate with." Eric was completely unmoved. This crafty woman could dress it up however she liked, but the story was the same either way. Not only that, but she did not even have the decency to look embarrassed about it.

From across the room, Valerie, Rowan, and Nyx all spoke at the exact same time, their voices cold and firm "We don't agree to that." Just like that, the entire room hit a wall, and the atmosphere went tense.

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Chapter 3334

[846 words]

---- Chapter 3334. Dorothy did not get angry and simply smiled. "May I ask, who are these three to Mr. Lloyd?" Before Andrew could answer, Nyx replied coldly, "We're his

girlfriends and his future wives." Dorothy laughed brightly. "I didn't expect Mr. Lloyd to be such a romantic man. Three confidantes, all top-tier beauties. Even I feel a little jealous." Nyx let out a cold snort. Any goodwill the three women had felt toward Harmony Sect's beautiful scenery vanished in an instant. They only felt that Dorothy was shameless beyond belief. Yet, Dorothy showed no sign of embarrassment.

She continued, " So, Mr. Andrew, my request isn't too much, is it? As long as you and Charlotte cultivate together for one night, Harmony Sect will join the war without hesitation." Andrew felt a strong resistance in his gut, but his voice stayed calm. "Madam Fontaine, may I ask why this is necessary? What exactly does Harmony Sect stand to gain from me cultivating with Elder Easterling?" Dorothy's eyes lit up. "Oh, the benefits are enormous, trust me. In the past hundred years, Harmony Sect has never come across a ---- dual cultivation partner even half as ideal as Mr.

Lloyd." Andrew sneered. "From what I know, dual cultivation with the Harmony Sect isn't exactly a good deal for the man involved. It might look like a pleasurable arrangement on the surface, but it drains a man's core energy at the root. So I'm going to have to decline, Madam Fontaine." Dorothy sighed with what looked like genuine regret. "First of all, Mr. Lloyd, you've got it wrong. Cultivating with Charlotte wouldn't harm you in any way. If anything, it would only benefit you. And second, if you decline, then the Harmony Sect simply won't be able to join the effort.

The choice is entirely yours, Mr. Lloyd." Andrew's eyes turned slightly cold. "And if I insist that the Harmony Sect join the war? Madam Fontaine, will you choose to resist, just like the Umbral Peak Sect and the Divine Alchemists?" The threat in his words was unmistakable. At this point, Andrew no longer needed to hold back. He was already one of Holtrien's top martial powers, and acting overly restrained was just a waste of time. Sometimes, a top-tier powerhouse needed to show the bearing of one. Dorothy's expression shifted slightly, a flicker of discomfort crossing her face. "Mr.

Lloyd, Harmony Sect is a small operation. ---- We certainly have no desire to end up like the Divine Alchemists or Umbral Peak Sect. "That said, you can't just use your power to steamroll us into submission. We have always kept a clean reputation in Holtrien. And as it happens, I even have some acquaintance with Patriarch Donovan. Surely that counts for something, Mr. Lloyd, doesn't it?" Andrew hesitated for just a moment. This woman was something else. She looked soft and delicate on the outside, but every word out of her mouth was calculated, and she never left herself without an exit.

She was a true veteran of this kind of game. "Madam Fontaine, your condition really does put me in a difficult position," Andrew said finally, his voice measured and deliberate. "Perhaps I can offer Harmony Sect something else instead." He continued, "After this is all over, I'd be willing to have Medicine God's Covenant supply Harmony Sect with a batch of premium-grade elixirs." Dorothy's eyes widened with immediate interest. "Is Medicine God's Covenant in Chetvine yours, Mr. Lloyd?" Andrew nodded. "It is. So, what do you think, Madam Fontaine?" ---- Dorothy was clearly tempted.

The offer stirred something in her, but what she truly had her eye on was Andrew's rare, high-purity vital energy. If Charlotte could absorb it, her power would leap up to rival Dorothy's own. That meant Harmony Sect's future successor was within reach, and not just any successor, but one who might one day surpass even her. With genuine reluctance, Dorothy shook her head. "Mr. Lloyd, your offer is incredibly tempting. I won't pretend otherwise. But Charlotte's future and Harmony Sect's long-term growth have to come first.

What if we both meet in the middle?" Andrew had been half a second away from simply forcing her hand. However, she had already brought up her connection to the Lloyd royal family, and now she was offering a compromise. He decided to hear her out and see what kind of move she was about to play. Dorothy smiled and suggested, "Here's my proposal. If you can resist Charlotte's presence when you meet her, keep your composure and stay completely unaffected, then Harmony Sect will drop every condition, no questions asked.

But if you meet Charlotte and find yourself unable to hold back and willingly pursue the cultivation with her, then it can hardly be said that Harmony Sect forced anything on anyone, now can it?" ---- Andrew frowned slightly, wondering what exactly Dorothy was playing at. On the surface, this seemed almost too simple because all he had to do was resist a temptation. That should have been nothing for him, which was precisely why something about it felt off.

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---- Chapter 3335 Valerie quickly said, "Honey, you can't agree to this. Charlotte is definitely up to something. There's no way this is as simple as it sounds, and we shouldn't fall for it." Nyx followed immediately. "Exactly, honey, we don't agree. If it comes down to it, we'll just fight. I don't believe they would dare refuse." A cold glint flashed through Dorothy's eyes, though her voice remained calm. "Harmony Sect may be entirely women, but if we're pushed too far, we won't hesitate to fight back, even if it means bloodshed." Andrew felt a chill in his heart.

Dorothy was indeed difficult to handle. If she had acted like Monty or Julius and resorted to force right away, it would have been easier for him to simply overpower her. Dorothy was a different kind of problem entirely. Jerome whispered, "Andrew, I strongly advise against agreeing to this. Everyone knows Harmony Sect's techniques are unlike

anything else; strange, unpredictable, and designed to get under your skin in ways you won't see coming.

Even with your level of skill, if they hit you from an angle you're not expecting, it could go sideways fast." ---- Dorothy did not seem the least bit anxious. She smiled and said, "Take all the time you need, Mr. Lloyd. If not today, then tomorrow. If not tomorrow, then next month. The Harmony Sect isn't going anywhere, and as I've already mentioned, cultivating with Charlotte won't do you any harm whatsoever. If anything, it'll actually give your martial growth a boost." Giovanni chimed in with a smirk, "Mr. Lloyd, you're a man who.

has torn through every obstacle in your path without breaking a sweat. Surely you're not actually intimidated by a sect full of women?" Everyone in the room could see exactly what he was doing. It was a blatant attempt to goad Andrew into reacting. Eric did not miss a beat. "You know, Elder, every other word out of your mouth is something about the women of Harmony Sect. Honestly, I'm starting to wonder, are you actually a man? Maybe just take it off and prove it so we can all move on." Giovanni shot to his feet.

"What did you just say?" It was the second time in one sitting that he had been hit with that particular insult, and it stung twice as hard the second time around. He was a man, very much so. In fact, he had spent years harboring private ambitions over every female disciple in Harmony Sect, including Dorothy herself and the highly sought- after Charlotte. ---- Those two in particular had always been just out of his reach, no matter how far he had risen within the sect. He had cultivated with plenty of women along the way.

However, Dorothy and Charlotte were the ones he truly desired, because with them he could gain both beauty and martial advancement. Andrew took a slow breath and decided he was done letting this drag on. He had places to be and no patience left for the back- and-forth. Eventually, he replied, "Alright. We'll do it your way, Madam Fontaine. Bring out Elder Esterling." Dorothy's face lit up immediately. "Mr. Lloyd, are you serious?" Andrew replied coldly, "When a man gives his word, he keeps it. Of course, I'm serious. But I also expect you to keep your promise.

If I remain unmoved by Elder Esterling and resist her charm, then it only means that the Harmony Sect and I are not meant to be. At that point, I ask that you honor your word and defend the country." Dorothy smiled. "It's a deal. However, Charlotte cannot appear in public. She is in a private chamber in the rear hall. Mr. Lloyd, you may go alone to see her." Andrew shook his head. "Madam Fontaine, that lacks sincerity. If I go in there alone and Harmony Sect has something set up, I'd ---- rather not find out the hard way.

I'm not saying you would, I'm just saying a little caution never hurt anyone." Dorothy smiled sweetly. "Mr. Lloyd, you're very thorough, and I admire that. Don't worry, it's just an ordinary herb room. The interior is completely open and visible, and we will all wait outside. Your people will stand less than ten feet away. If anything happens, they can intervene immediately. So you need not worry. Harmony Sect has neither the courage

nor the desire to see anything happen to you." Andrew let out a cold snort and stood up. "Then I'll head to the back room.

Excuse me." Harmony Sect insisted on this so-called dual cultivation. For most men, this might have been an offer they would laugh about and accept without hesitation. However, Andrew was not the type to take whatever was handed to him. This had nothing to do with playing it cool or acting above it all; he was just genuinely put off by the whole thing. If he and Charlotte had actually developed something real between them, that would have been a completely different story.

However, being thrown together with a stranger and treating something that intimate as nothing more than a training exercise was where he drew the line. If word got out, people would have plenty to say about the kind ---- of place Harmony Sect really was.

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---- Chapter 3336 As Andrew made his way toward the cottage, Nyx, Valerie, and Rowan all tensed up. At the same time, they felt a flicker of irritation too. They could not help wondering whether their husband was really that eager, since instead of fighting, the other side was practically offering him a beauty on a silver platter. Nyx snorted. "I'm going in with him." Dorothy stepped forward quickly. "That won't work, I'm afraid. If you

go in there with him, it defeats the whole purpose." Andrew glanced back over his shoulder. "Nyx, relax. I know what I'm doing.

I'm not going to do anything stupid." Nyx bit her lip. "If you run into any danger, just shout. I'll come in and get you right away." Andrew nodded, said nothing more, and pushed the door open. The door to the cottage closed automatically behind him. Everyone waited outside, each with their own thoughts. Valerie, Rowan, and Jerome were all worried that the Harmony Sect might be plotting something. Meanwhile, Dorothy and Giovanni wore matching expressions of barely concealed ---- satisfaction. Besides Giovanni, a few male disciples were also present.

In the Harmony Sect, women held the highest status, and ordinary male disciples had no right to stand alongside the sect's leader. Only a handful of handsome and talented men, along with Giovanni, the sole male elder, were considered qualified. Yet whether it was the younger male disciples or Giovanni, their eyes were filled with envy. Especially Giovanni, who could not help licking his lips. Charlotte was Dorothy's personal disciple and the only one of her kind in the entire Harmony Sect.

What made her even more exceptional was that she was born with a rare natural constitution, the Pale Specter Constitution, that made dual cultivation extraordinarily beneficial for her partner. Giovanni had always believed that Charlotte's first cultivation partner would be him. She was only in her early 20s, at the peak of youth and beauty. Because of the special techniques she practiced, she had remained untouched until now. Within the Harmony Sect, Giovanni had both the highest seniority and formidable strength. In his mind, he was the natural choice to cultivate with Charlotte.

Yet, Dorothy had set her sights on Andrew instead. ---- Compared side by side, whether in looks or age, Giovanni knew he could not match Andrew. The realization made him deeply resentful. He cast a dark glance at Valerie, Rowan, and Nyx. He silently sneered, 'Andrew's got women everywhere he goes; he's practically drowning in them. A guy living like that has to be running on empty by now. So when he walks in there and sees Charlotte, I give him about 30 seconds before he completely falls apart.

He'll embarrass himself, and then it'll be my turn after all.' Dorothy, however, was thinking differently. 'Andrew's martial power far surpasses anyone in the Harmony Sect. If we refuse to join the war and try to fight him head-on, it won't end well. The smarter play is to let Charlotte work on him. Let him get so caught up in her that he loses himself completely. 'Charlotte practices our highest technique. She will seize Andrew's powerful essence and strengthen herself. And once Andrew tastes that pleasure, he may become reluctant to leave Harmony Sect at all.

By the time Charlotte has absorbed enough from him, I can step in and drain the rest. When he is no longer useful, we can send him away. 'Even if the Lloyd royal family is dissatisfied, they won't openly challenge us. After all, how could they admit that Andrew lost himself in women at the Harmony Sect and ruined his own ---- future? That kind of scandal would be too humiliating to reveal.' Outside, everyone was lost in their own

thoughts. Inside the room, as soon as Andrew stepped in, a rich floral fragrance washed over him.

At first, he suspected poison and held his breath to protect his inner energy. Then, a soft voice sounded, "Mr. Lloyd, you don't need to be on guard, The fragrance is harmless. It only calms the mind and sharpens awareness." Andrew looked around. The room was small but set up with real care. A chessboard sat in one corner, ink and quills were neatly arranged on a writing desk, and dried flowers were mounted like pressed artwork along the walls, still carrying a faint, lingering fragrance. It looked like the room of an elegant and refined young woman.

There was nothing modern about the decor, only an old-world charm that felt almost timeless. By the window, resting on a bed, sat a young woman in a flowing sky-blue dress, her back to Andrew, her face turned toward the glass. Even from behind, her figure was graceful, leaving plenty to the imagination. The beautiful voice had clearly come from her. ---- Andrew kept his tone respectful. "Miss, I'm here at Madam Fontaine's request. Forgive the intrusion." Charlotte rose slowly, still with her back to him, her voice soft and unhurried. "Please don't apologize, Mr. Lloyd.

If anything, the Harmony Sect is the one who overstepped. Coming to you with a request like this right from the start... A man of your standing would naturally find that distasteful." Andrew had not expected Charlotte to be so courteous and understanding. After a brief moment of surprise, he could not keep a stern face and smiled faintly. "It's fine. Then... should we begin?" Charlotte gave a soft hum in response, yet still did not reveal her face. Andrew did not rush and instead sat down on a chair nearby. Charlotte slowly loosened her outer robe, and Andrew was momentarily startled.

He had not expected her to be so direct. He said, "If you do this, you may be putting yourself at a disadvantage." Charlotte revealed one slender shoulder and smiled shyly. "Mr. Lloyd, since we are meant to get intimate tonight, what difference does it make whether it is sooner or later?" ---- Soon, her flawless, snow-white figure stood before him. Andrew's expression remained calm as he looked at her. He did not seem to be gazing at a breathtaking body, but rather at something as ordinary and unmoving as a stone.

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[880 words]

---- Chapter 3337 Charlotte said softly, "Mr. Lloyd, please come over to the bed." Andrew frowned and replied, "According to what Madam Fontaine said, as long as I do not fall for your temptation, that counts as a pass. So whether I sit on the bed or not should not make any difference." Charlotte bit her lip lightly and said, "If you do not come to the bed, how can we begin? And if we don't begin, how can I tempt you?" Andrew had not expected such twisted logic, so he let out a cold laugh. Then, he set down the Godslayer and walked over to sit 'on the edge of the bed.

Charlotte finally turned halfway around, revealing a flawless profile, her skin smooth and luminous without a single visible pore. A few strands of hair fell by her ear, which made her look even softer and more delicate. When she fully turned to face him, Andrew took in the full picture. Her features were natural and unadorned, expressive in an effortlessly captivating way. She was undeniably beautiful, though her personality seemed softer than the others.

She did not have Lauren's commanding presence, Nyx's ---- dominance, Valerie's spoiled charm, or Luna's sharp intelligence, but she was still a top-tier beauty without question. Andrew smiled and commented, "Ms. Easterling, you truly are stunning, so with that, I will be taking my leave." He stood up as if he really meant to walk out.

Charlotte looked shocked and asked, "You don't want to touch me?" Andrew replied calmly, "Why would I want to touch you?" Charlotte frowned in confusion and said, "I practice the Art of Seduction, and before I ever reveal my true face, I have already set

the trap through my movements and even my scent. The moment a man truly sees me, he always falls. It has always worked before, every single time. Yet you seem completely unaffected, which is strange." The confusion on her face looked genuine, and oddly enough, that made Andrew's impression of her tick up a notch.

She was nothing like Dorothy, whose emotions were impossible to read, because everything showed clearly on this young woman's face. It seemed she was naive and pure at heart, even though she had grown up in the Harmony Sect and had never been taught to treat undressing as something intimate. To her, taking off her clothes in front of a man was simply part ---- of training. Andrew cleared his throat and said, "Ms. Easterling, you should put your clothes back on.

Maybe you did try to tempt me in secret, but I still have some self-control." Charlotte smiled brightly and said, "I don't believe that." She suddenly threw herself onto him and exhaled, sending a pink mist straight into his nose. Instantly, Andrew felt his vision blur and his mind grow heavy. He was shocked and wondered if Harmony Sect's special powder could really harm him. At once, the holy light within his body surged through his veins. At the same time, he grabbed her by the shoulders and pushed her away.

Charlotte let out a soft cry and looked at him with resentment, as if accusing him of not understanding romance. Andrew stood up, shook his head, and said calmly, "It's pointless. Charlotte stared at him in horror and blurted out, "Madam Fontaine said no man in the world can resist this Soul Snare Powder. How are you completely fine?" Andrew grew impatient and said, "Do you have any other tricks? ---- If not, I am leaving." Charlotte clenched her teeth and demanded, "I am offering myself to you for free. Why don't you want me?" Andrew shook his head and said, "No means no.

There's no special reason." Suddenly, tears filled Charlotte's eyes as she pleaded, "Please, just accept me. If I can't complete Madam Fontaine's order, she will definitely punish me." Any other man, seeing her standing there vulnerable and on the verge of tears, would have given in out of sympathy. However, Andrew remained unmoved because he knew this was all part of the Harmony Sect's twisted methods. He said calmly, "Ms. Easterling, don't be scared. I'll speak to Madam Fontaine and tell her this is not your fault.

I believe she will give me that much respect." Charlotte rushed at him again, smiling, and asked, "Mr. Lloyd, have you ever seen a woman as beautiful as me?" Andrew replied, "I have plenty around me." Charlotte froze, then her tone sharpened as she asked, "But have you ever met a woman who could make you feel pleasure like I can?" ---- Andrew's expression turned strange as he said, "Well, the women by my side are all quite skilled too." Charlotte's face flushed red with anger as she said, "Then you must want something new and exciting.

Have you not grown tired of your women after so long?" Andrew shook his head and said, "I have not grown tired. And if I ever did grow tired of them, I would grow tired of you even faster. So please have some self-respect." Charlotte gritted her teeth and

said, "Andrew, what if I insist on having you? You can be unwilling, and you do not have to care about cultivating with me, but you will give me your essence, and then we are done."

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Chapter 3338

[779 words]

---- Chapter 3338 Andrew's voice turned cold as he said, "So this is what Harmony Sect's so-called dual cultivation really is. You talk about pleasure and making men addicted, but in the end, you are targeting a man's very foundation. You should do less of this kind of thing Goodbye." With that, he pretended to be angry and walked toward the door. Charlotte panicked and rushed after him, pleading, "Mr. Lloyd, please don't leave. I only spoke harshly because I was anxious. Maybe the Harmony Sect's techniques were created to steal a man's essence, and they are truly wicked.

But I swear, until now, I have never done such a thing." She added, "I'm about to break through to the next level, and it just so happened that you came to Harmony Sect, so Madam Fontaine arranged this. At first, I didn't resist. But when I saw that you were kindhearted and had no lustful thoughts even after seeing my body, I-! began to like you. And if you're not willing, I'll do whatever you say. I won't do anything wrong by you." She was blocking his path, so he said coldly, "Move aside. I have had enough of this pointless game with Madam Fontaine.

If Harmony Sect refuses to listen to reason, then I may have to use force." ---- Tears streamed down Charlotte's face as she half-covered her chest with one hand and raised the other to beg him. "Mr. Lloyd, don't you believe me? Everything I said is true. I may belong to the Harmony Sect, but I never wanted to cultivate with men." She explained, "But many things are beyond my control. My technique has already reached a bottleneck, and she won't keep tolerating me refusing forever." Her legs gave out beneath her, and she sank to her knees right in front of him.

The tears came in full force now, real and unfiltered, the kind that made it hard to look away. Andrew let out a slow sigh. "I don't know how much of what you're saying is true and how much isn't. But if you genuinely don't want to do this, then you could always just leave or say no." Charlotte gave a bitter smile and said, "Mr. Lloyd, you make it sound easy. Harmony Sect's rules are strict, and Madam Fontaine, as warm as she acts, is actually fierce and ruthless. If I showed any sign of disloyalty, she wouldn't hesitate. I have lived inside the Harmony Sect since I was a child.

There's nowhere else in this world that would take me in." She pleaded, "So I beg you, Mr. Lloyd, save me just this once. From now on, I will be devoted to you alone. When you need me, I will serve you. If you find me annoying, I will leave, but please don't abandon me." ---- Her voice trembled with fear and desperation Andrew said, "Lift your head." Charlotte looked up, her eyes full of tears and pleading. Andrew asked softly, "Are you truly afraid of Madam Fontaine?" Charlotte nodded, fear flashing across her eyes.

Andrew said, "Fine, I will help you this once." Overjoyed, Charlotte jumped to her feet and threw herself at Andrew for the third time. She murmured, "Mr. Lloyd, I'll give myself to you. Don't worry, I won't do anything to your energy. It will just be simple affection between a man and a woman. We stay in here long enough to make it look right, then we walk out. "Madam Fontaine doesn't need to know whether I actually got what she sent me for; she just needs to believe I'm yours now. After that, your name alone will be enough to shield me.

Once she knows I belong to you, she won't dare pair me off with anyone else." Andrew could not help but laugh. The more she spoke, the more he realized she was both naive and cornered by circumstance. By now, he was almost sure that Charlotte was truly ---- inexperienced and pure at heart. Nonetheless, having an intimate relationship with her was still completely inappropriate. Valerie, Nyx, and Rowan were waiting outside, and he could not possibly indulge himself in there. So, Andrew wrapped an arm around Charlotte's waist.

Feeling the warmth, she closed her eyes and waited, thinking he had finally changed his mind. However, a sharp pain struck the back of her neck, and she immediately lost consciousness. Andrew laid her gently on the bed and said softly, "Forgive me." He waited for half an hour, and with the earlier struggle, nearly an hour had passed in total. Figuring the timing was right, Andrew picked up his sword and pushed the door open to step outside.

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Chapter 3339

[802 words]

---- Chapter 3339 The moment Andrew stepped out, Dorothy and the others perked up with excitement, believing their plan had worked. Giovanni, unable to hold back, hurried forward and tried to slip past Andrew to sneak a look inside and see what kind of scene awaited. Andrew shifted to block him and said calmly, "Ms. Easterling wore herself out,

and she needs more rest. Please don't disturb her." Giovanni was burning with jealousy and remarked sarcastically, "Mr. Lloyd, you're unexpectedly so considerate.

What a fine gentleman." Even though his tone was bitter, he did not dare push his luck and peek inside. Valerie was furious and glared at Andrew with hurt in her eyes. The latter forced himself to ignore the uncomfortable looks from the three women and turned to Dorothy. He said, "Madam Fontaine, I have fulfilled your condition. We can leave the sect now, right?" Dorothy smiled and replied, "There's no need to rush off just yet. Mr. Lloyd, may I go in and check on Charlotte?"

We wouldn't want ---- her body overworked." Andrew nodded and said, "Go ahead." A few moments later, Dorothy came back out wearing a look of pure delight. Charlotte was still flushed and asleep, her internal energy surging visibly beneath her skin, and the sheets were messy. Although there were no obvious signs left behind, it was not hard to imagine what encounter had taken place. Still, Dorothy felt puzzled, because Andrew seemed remarkably composed. Harmony Sect's techniques were not a mild thing.

Even the strongest, most vigorous man would walk out of a session looking like a hollowed-out shell, with his energy, focus, and vitality all crashed to the floor. Even high-level martial artists came out glassy-eyed and unsteady, yet Andrew looked exactly the same as when he went in. Dorothy thought for a moment, then her joy deepened. It seemed Andrew was an exceptionally rare and powerful cultivation partner. If Charlotte, and even she herself, could make use of him for years or even decades, how much would their power grow? Her gaze toward Andrew became more suggestive.

---- Andrew pretended not to notice. After resting briefly at Harmony Sect, Dorothy acted decisively and immediately ordered all disciples to head down the mountain and make for Azure Gate. Soon, the entire sect assembled. Only then did Andrew realize that although most of the Harmony Sect's members were women, their strength was far from weak. Dorothy herself stood at the peak of the martial god level. On top of that, two of the senior elders, both charming and alluring women, were also at peak martial god level. This foundation was far stronger than the Umbral Peak Sect.

Among the Eight Ancient Sects, the Harmony Sect had always carried the most unusual reputation, and few ever praised their martial strength. Now it seemed they had quietly built up their power while everyone underestimated them. Even the ordinary female disciples kept their energy restrained, clearly skilled fighters in their own right. Jerome smiled and said, "Andy, Harmony Sect's strength might be the most intact among the Eight Ancient Sects. The Umbral Peak Sect, the Divine Alchemists, and the Thunder Sect all suffered losses, even though they had numbers.

The Harmony ---- Sect, on the other hand, didn't lose a single member and is now coming down to cooperate. This trip was worth it." Eric squeezed in beside them and asked awkwardly, "Hey, Andrew, did you really do it with that Charlotte?" Andrew shot him a look and said irritably, "I did nothing. You are overthinking." Eric looked half-

convinced and asked, "Then why was Dorothy so happy? She acted like you completely claimed her precious disciple, Charlotte. There's something wrong with the people of Harmony Sect, if you ask me." Andrew sighed and explained, "I knocked Charlotte out.

Then I took one of her aphrodisiac pills and made her swallow it. So when Dorothy went in and saw her condition, she assumed Charlotte and I had already been intimate, which is why she was so pleased." Eric stared in shock and said, "That actually worked?" Then he burst into laughter. "You are ruthless. You refused a delicate beauty and even knocked her out. Andrew, you are killing me. Is Charlotte going to be furious when she finds out?" Andrew replied calmly, "That's not my problem." Jerome praised him and said, "Andy, you're both wise and decisive.

Now that Harmony Sect's disciples have left the sect, ---- even if Dorothy discovers the truth later, it won't change anything. Back inside Harmony Sect's main grounds, Dorothy walked at the rear with several senior elders and Giovanni. Giovanni said, "Madam Fontaine, we only left two disciples behind to guard the gates. The rest have all left. Still, I can't shake the feeling that we agreed too easily and did not get the better end of the deal."

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Chapter 3340

[747 words]

---- Chapter 3340 Dorothy said calmly, "There is nothing unfair about this. Getting our hands on Andrew's essence alone already puts us ahead. More importantly, the situation was not in our favor. If Andrew had decided to act recklessly and force Harmony Sect into submission, we would have gained nothing and still ended up bowing to his power." Another alluring elder laughed softly and said, "Madam Fontaine is right. Overall, the Harmony Sect still benefited this time. The Eight Ancient Sects facing the enemy was unavoidable.

Andrew came on strong, and in the current Holtrien, no one could stop him. Since we all had to yield anyway, showing loyalty early and getting benefits from him was the smarter move." Dorothy smiled, "Exactly. Charlotte seems to have gained a lot. Andrew's essence must be incredibly powerful, At the very least, it should help her break through to Martial God." Giovanni and the other elders were stunned. "One session and she jumps straight to martial god? Madam Fontaine, that seems impossible." Dorothy snorted and said, "I already checked Charlotte's inner energy.

There was indeed a powerful force circulating inside her. As long as she uses it properly, reaching the martial god level ---- will not be difficult. Andrew truly is a rare and supreme cultivation partner." One female elder covered her mouth and laughed. "Madam Fontaine, in my opinion, if there is a chance, you should also cultivate with Mr. Lloyd. With your charm, once Mr. Lloyd tastes the pleasure, he surely will not refuse." Dorothy blushed slightly but did not get angry.

Instead, she chuckled awkwardly and said, "We can't rush such matters." At that moment, a soft sound came from inside the room as Charlotte woke up. Dorothy hurried forward and asked gently, "Charlotte, how do you feel?" Charlotte did not answer at once. She looked around and asked, "Madam Fontaine, what happened to me? Where are the others?" Dorothy smiled and replied, "They have already left the sect. We were only waiting for you to wake up so we could leave together. Charlotte, well done. Hurry and refine Andrew's essence." Charlotte froze and mumbled, "Andrew's essence? Madam Fontaine..."

I-I failed to tempt him and did not cultivate with him. How could I have obtained any essence?" Dorothy and the other elders were stunned. ---- "Charlotte, did nothing happen between you and Andrew inside the room?" "That is impossible. When we saw you, your energy was surging. It was clearly the sign of a successful session." Another elder added, "And the room was a mess. You two were alone together. There was no way that nothing happened." The elders spoke one after another, all convinced that something was off. Charlotte struggled to speak, and finally, tears rolled down her cheeks.

She sobbed, "Andrew had no reaction at all to my seduction techniques. In desperation, I used the last method you taught me, Madam Fontaine. I undressed completely in front of him and hoped he would lose control. "But Andrew remained unmoved. In the end, he knocked me unconscious. As for what happened after that, I do not know. But it is true, Nothing happened between us." Dorothy sucked in a sharp breath. "Nothing happened? So, everything was staged by Andrew to deceive us? Damn it! He is courting death. Charlotte was right there, and he turned her down completely.

"And on top of that, he somehow managed to resist every technique she used, which means by our own agreement, we ---- lost. We didn't get a single thing from him, and now we're already marching down the mountain on his orders. This is..." Giovanni and the others looked at one another, their faces turning extremely ugly. Suddenly, Dorothy slapped Charlotte across the face. Charlotte's head snapped to the side, and blood trickled down the corner of her mouth. Dorothy scolded, "You useless brat! Andrew is incredibly powerful and the perfect cultivation partner. How could you let him slip away?"

And if nothing happened, why was there a foreign energy inside your body at that time?" Charlotte held her swollen cheek, heartbroken, and cried, "Madam Fontaine, I truly tried my best. That energy must have been deliberately transferred into me by Mr. Lloyd to mislead you. I can't feel it anymore." Dorothy refused to believe her and reached out to examine her again. The moment she did, she nearly lost all her composure. "That

bastard! Send the order immediately for all disciples to return, Andrew is playing tricks. I'll never let this go."

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Chapter 3341

[689 words]

---- Chapter 3341 Giovanni let out a cold laugh. "I'm going after them right now and stopping every single disciple." However, he had only made it halfway when Jerome stepped in front of him. Smiling calmly, Jerome asked, "Elder Cantino, why the rush? Is something wrong?" Giovanni roared, "Move. Andrew pulled a dirty trick. He actually dared to deceive Madam Fontaine." Andrew stepped out from the side and said, "Most of the Harmony Sect disciples have already headed down the mountain. So at a time like this, Elder Cantino, you'd better not cause any unnecessary trouble.

Giovanni gritted his teeth and snapped viciously, "I'm intercepting my own sect's disciples. That's none of your business, is it?" Andrew took the greatsword from Eric's hand and spoke casually, "Maybe it isn't my business. But whether the sword in my hand can tolerate what you're about to do... that's another story." Giovanni felt the blood drain from his face. That was a threat, ---- plain and open, and there was no mistaking it. He nearly choked on his own fury, Andrew gave a cold snort, and a domineering surge of inner energy burst from him.

Then, Giovanni's face turned pale, and for a split second, fear flashed across his eyes. He finally realized Andrew's internal force was terrifyingly powerful. Even Dorothy probably did not have one-tenth of his strength. His heart trembled, cold sweat trickled down his back, and he did not dare to continue the pursuit. Instead, he turned around and headed back toward the Harmony Sect gates. Eric could not help but smirk. "Serves him right. Madam Fontaine outsmarted herself this time." Andrew frowned. "Let's go take a look. I'm worried Dorothy might make things difficult for Ms.

Easterling." Eric raised an eyebrow with a grin. "Oh? Don't tell me the great Andrew is getting soft on her." Andrew reasoned, "It's not like that. I just don't want her dragged into this and punished for something she didn't do. She's a good person, all things considered." Jerome nodded. "That's true. After all, the Harmony Sect didn't really fight us head-on, and they didn't show much hostility. So ---- it's better to clear things up." Soon, Andrew returned inside the Harmony Sect gates. Meanwhile, Jerome and the others urged the disciples to move faster.

They wanted them as far away from the sect gates as possible, so even if Dorothy and the elders tried to stop them, it would already be too late. When Dorothy saw Andrew arrive, her anger exploded. "Andrew, do you have any idea how disrespectful this is to Harmony Sect?" Andrew answered calmly, "Madam Fontaine, you can blame me all you want. But the fact that you hit your own disciple so ruthlessly shows just how petty you really are." He walked over, took out a pill, and handed it to Charlotte. She lowered her head and sobbed silently, refusing to speak or take it.

Andrew placed the pill beside her hand, then turned to face Dorothy. Dorothy's anger had not subsided. Through clenched teeth, she said, "Andrew, since you're so deceitful, none of my sect's disciples will go with you." Andrew's voice turned cold. "Madam Fontaine, if I had been deceitful, it was because I had no choice. And we had a deal. As long as I could withstand the temptation, your disciples had to ---- leave the mountain. As for Ms. Easterling, I didn't lay a single hand on her.

By any standard, that means I won." Dorothy shouted, "Then why did you knock her out and stage that whole scene to make it look suspicious?" Andrew snorted. "Obviously, I did it so the Harmony Sect disciples would leave first. If I hadn't, Madam Fontaine, wouldn't you have found some excuse afterward to back out of the deal?" Dorothy fell silent. That was exactly what she had planned. If Charlotte failed to seduce Andrew, she would have stalled and made excuses until she secured Andrew's vital essence for herself. Giovanni stepped forward again, teeth clenched in fury. "Fine.

Even if you won, the way you went about it was shameless. Don't expect anyone in the Harmony Sect to respect you for it."

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Chapter 3342

[692 words]

---- Chapter 3342 Andrew said coldly, "Harmony Sect doesn't need to respect me. It just needs to serve the country. Also, I have a word of advice for all of you. I've never had much patience for the Eight Ancient Sects. So, I killed the patriarch of the Umbral Peak Sect and Julius Bowen of the Divine Alchemists. "But here, I held back, because at the end of the day, we're supposed to be on the same side. I've let things slide again and again. And yet Madam Fontaine and Elder Cantino, you both seem to think I'm someone you can push around.

Do you really want to force me to resort to violence?" Giovanni's face turned pale, and the other Harmony Sect masters felt the surge of power rising from Andrew's body. Their expressions changed instantly. Dorothy quickly stepped forward. "Mr. Lloyd, please wait. Fine, you won, and the disgraceful move did come from the Harmony Sect first. But no matter what, you owe Charlotte. After all, she suffered because of you." "She's the most outstanding disciple in my Harmony Sect, and you didn't even spare her a glance. If word gets out, how will people see the Harmony Sect?"

How will they see Charlotte? They'll say Charlotte is worthless, that even if she stripped naked, no one would want her." ---- Andrew let out a cold laugh. "Madam Fontaine, you really are relentless." He thought Dorothy was truly exhausting. Nonetheless, he did not want to bully anyone now. After all, most of the Harmony Sect disciples had already headed down the mountain. "I will compensate Ms. Easterling, and I'll apologize. Madam Fontaine, everything you've done was just to help her break through to the martial god level, wasn't it? That's fine.

I can help her myself." Dorothy's eyes lit up. "Really? So you're willing to partake in dual cultivation with Charlotte?" Andrew shook his head. "Not dual cultivation. I'll use my own method to raise her to the level of a martial god." Dorothy looked doubtful. "That kind of method isn't common, is it? Mr. Lloyd, are you sure it will work?" Andrew replied, "My people have all succeeded. Ms. Easterling is gifted, and she'll succeed too. If she doesn't, you can hold me accountable." Dorothy was overjoyed, as if stumbling into hope after a dead end.

Harmony Sect's training had always revolved around shared -energy practices between partners, and it had never crossed her mind that another path could produce the same results. ---- Nonetheless, if Andrew said he could do it, she was not about to argue. Charlotte's cheek was still red from the earlier slap, which had not been light. Through her tears, she stubbornly shook her head. "Forget it, Madam Fontaine. If you want to punish me, then do it. I won't obey any of your arrangements anymore. All of you only treat me like a tool.

If you really can't stand me, then just kill me.' Dorothy's brows shot up in fury. "You ungrateful brat, don't test my patience! Do you really think I wouldn't discipline you? And everything I did was for your own good. Mr. Lloyd, I'll leave Charlotte to you. Help her break through first. We'll wait outside. Once this is done, we'll head out and catch up with the others at Azure Gate." Andrew nodded. 'Then please step outside." Dorothy forced a smile and shot Charlotte a subtle but threatening look before leading the others out. Andrew closed the door and said apologetically, "Ms.

Easterling, I'm sorry. I didn't expect you'd be punished because of me." Charlotte lay facedown on the bed and said nothing, only sobbing harder. Her shoulders were shaking with every breath. Andrew stepped forward and gently patted her shoulder. "Come on, I'll help open up your meridians. I'm going to channel my ---- energy through your meridians and give you the push you need to break through to the martial god

level." Charlotte lifted her tearful face. "You're not lying to me this time, are you?" Andrew sighed quietly. "I'm not lying this time. I simply didn't have a choice before.

It was a split-second call, and I did what I had to do."

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Chapter 3343

[666 words]

---- Chapter 3343 Charlotte wiped her tears and said softly, "Mr. Lloyd, when I said before that I wanted to be your woman, I meant it. In the sect, all anyone cared about was whether I could break through to the martial god level quickly and inherit Madam Fontaine's position. "Elder Cantino and the others were always waiting for me to dual cultivate with them. But no matter what, I didn't want my body to be stained by them. And yet... I didn't have a choice." As she reached the painful part, she broke down again Andrew asked, "Then why were you willing to let me touch you?"

If you value your purity and guard yourself so carefully, then no one should be able to get close to you." Charlotte bit her bright red lip and murmured almost inaudibly, "You're different, and I'm willing." Andrew stiffened, stunned. "You really feel that way? But why?" Charlotte looked at him, tears shimmering in her eyes, yet her face flushed shyly. "I don't know. But you made me feel safe. My heart told me you're a good man. And you're excellent in every way. Even when you saw me like that, you didn't show the kind of desire other men did. Mr. Lloyd, will you take me with you?"

I don't want to stay in Harmony Sect anymore." ---- Andrew felt a slight chill run over his scalp. He never expected this young lady to think of him as a good person. But even if he was, he could not accept someone's lifelong devotion the moment they met. So he said, "Charlotte, let's not talk about that for now. If you don't want to stay in Harmony Sect, that's actually not a problem at all. As long as you're strong enough, the whole world opens up to you. You can go anywhere you want." After that, Andrew began helping her break through to the martial god level.

Charlotte truly was a rare talent in the Harmony Sect. With Andrew's guidance, the breakthrough came naturally, almost effortlessly. Half an hour later, as she felt the brand-new level of power surging inside her, Charlotte was overjoyed. She turned and suddenly tried to kiss Andrew. Andrew stopped her. "Don't move. Focus on stabilizing your realm first." Charlotte's eyes filled with tears again. "Mr. Lloyd, is there something

wrong with me? Or do you just not like me? Do you look down on me?" Andrew gave a wry smile. "It's neither. Matters between men and women can't be forced. Don't worry.

From now on, Madam ---- Fontaine won't pressure you anymore. And if she does, I'll step in. You're very talented. Train well, and one day you won't be any worse than Madam Fontaine." Charlotte said matter-of-factly, "But I still want to be your woman. And I'm not saying that because I want your energy. My cultivation can actually benefit you, too; it could help strengthen you." Andrew's heart stirred. He remembered what Bridget had once said, that if he wanted to advance faster in the Heaven and Earth's Five Elements, intimacy between man and woman would help.

Charlotte's unique constitution made her an ideal match for that cultivation, but Andrew quickly pushed the thought aside. Some things had to happen naturally; forcing them would only ruin them. Andrew's tone softened. "Charlotte, it's time for us to head down the mountain. You're a good person. I can see that. Once you go out and see more of the world, I believe you won't feel this way anymore." Charlotte gave a bitter smile, realizing Andrew would not give in to her. After bowing respectfully, she said, "Thank you, Mr. Lloyd.

I ---- won't give up." Then, she pushed the door open and walked out Dorothy and the others had already been waiting impatiently. After checking her condition, they were overjoyed and repeatedly thanked Andrew. However, Andrew had little interest in the praise. With a casual wave of his hand, he led the remaining Harmony Sect elders down the mountain.

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Chapter 3344

[668 words]

---- Chapter 3344. To the east of Holtrien stood Azure Gate. A brutal battle had erupted right in front of the pass as the Dark Clans' army attacked with a ferocity never seen before. As the overall commander, Philip had no choice but to personally step onto the battlefield. Deep within the Dark Clans' encampment, two figures watched from the shadows. One was Andrew's old enemy, Ragnar, the werewolf progenitor. The other was Jorge, the vampire progenitor. Both progenitors had personally arrived at the battlefield.

Yet neither dared to unleash their full power because the most ancient being of the Dark Clans, the Vampire Queen, had awakened. She could descend onto the battlefield at

any moment, and even the two progenitors felt a faint unease in their hearts. "The Queen was never interested in mortal war. But this time, she suddenly ordered an attack on Holtrien. It seems she intends to settle the grudge from 1000 years ago," Jorge said in his hoarse voice. Ragnar snorted coldly. "The Vampire Queen is the supreme ruler ---- of your bloodline.

1000 years ago, she was killed by Eastern martial artists and fell into slumber. Now that she's awakened and wants revenge, why drag us werewolves into it?" Jorge replied flatly, "Why don't you go ask Her Majesty yourself?" Ragnar, usually savage and fearless, instantly fell silent, and a trace of caution flashed in his eyes. "Jorge, the feud between our Western races and Holtrien has lasted for 1000 years. Since it has already come this far, we might as well fight to the end and wipe them out completely." After a moment of silence, Ragnar's tone turned ruthless.

"Too many brilliant talents have risen in Holtrien. First there was Reginald, and now his son Andrew. We've both fought him. We must kill him." Jorge's expression darkened. "I've had my eye on Andrew this whole time. The moment he shows his face on this battlefield, I'll kill him myself." Ragnar said, "The disciples of the Eight Ancient Sects of Holtrien have already entered the battlefield one after another. Good. Once they're all here, we'll wipe them out together. We'll completely end the bloodline of Holtrien's ancient sects.

From then on, no Eastern martial artist will ever stand against the Dark Clans again. And this feud that has spanned thousands of years will finally be erased." ---- The forces attacking Azure Gate were primarily werewolves, vampires, and the sirens. Aside from Marcato, however, none of the sirens' top fighters were qualified to stand alongside Jorge and Ragnar. Hence, no one came to discuss strategy with the two progenitors. They simply obeyed orders and charged forward as expendable troops.

On another front, the armies of the three great Western Empires were lined up across the battlefield, waiting for the right moment to strike. Holtrien had grown stronger year by year and had already become a threat to them. Even if they could not secure ultimate victory in this sudden war, they still intended to weaken Holtrien's national strength by at least 30 years. The country had developed too quickly, producing powerful figures one after another. It was time for a reset. When Andrew and his group finally reached Azure Gate, the scene that greeted them was brutal.

The fighting was still raging, and it was uglier than anything they had expected. Andrew did not waste a second. He ordered the Harmony Sect disciples to rush forward and reinforce the front lines immediately. As for himself, he did not make a move. ---- At Andrew's level, once he acted, his target had to be a key strategic figure. Otherwise, there was no point. "Are all of the Eight Ancient Sects here?" Andrew asked Franz. Franz replied, "Madam Ashford of Rainveil Sect has arrived. The Umbral Peak Sect, the Divine Alchemists, Harmony Sect, and Thunder Sect are all here as well.

The remaining three are still on the way. Mount Lorneau has the most disciples and the longest distance to travel. Only Sword Sect, Alfredo's side, is still observing and hasn't committed yet."

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Chapter 3345

[666 words]

---- Chapter 3345 Andrew's expression stayed cold. "Alfredo is supposed to be the successor of the Sword Sect, and he's sitting behind the walls of Azure Gate doing absolutely nothing? What is he, too shy to come out and play?" Franz forced a bitter smile. "He's probably still angry. When we returned to the country, you put him in his place, so he's holding a grudge." Andrew replied flatly, "Then I'll go teach him another lesson. That sword-swinging idiot is watching his own people die in front of him, and he's doing nothing.

Looks like I went too easy on him last time." With that, he carried his sword alone and stormed into Swordhaven Keep. Alfredo's disciples had originally shut their gates to all visitors. However, the moment they saw Andrew, their faces turned pale, and they trembled in fear. Andrew made a beeline for Alfredo, and the disciples and even Alfredo's sons did not dare make a sound. They stepped aside on their own. In the main hall of Swordhaven Keep, Andrew finally saw Alfredo ---- sitting leisurely. The latter was polishing his sword with his head lowered, unaware it was Andrew who had entered.

Hearing only footsteps, he said impatiently, "I told you I'm not seeing anyone. Why are you still bothering me? Do you have a death wish?" Andrew sneered. "You're the one with a death wish." He stepped forward and slashed out with his sword. After the initial shock, Alfredo flew into a rage. He raised his sword to block and shouted, "Andrew, don't push it too far! Whether Swordhaven Keep fights or stays out of this war is my decision. Who do you think you are, forcing my hand like this? Do you think I have no pride?" Andrew struck again, driving him into a corner.

His face was blank, his voice flat. "Mr. Topsfield, your pride means nothing to me. As far as I'm concerned, you're a clown." "How dare you!" Alfredo exploded. With a thunderous crash, Andrew's greatsword came down. It slammed Alfredo to the ground, pressing him there as sweat poured down his face and his expression twisted in fury. "Andrew, don't push me too far!" Alfredo was frantic, his fury spilling over. ---- The last time Andrew had dealt with him, right after returning to the country, he had already been humiliated beyond belief.

Now he had chosen to shut himself away in protest, wanting to show that he would not be coerced by anyone. Andrew said coldly, "Don't force me to kill you. This is your last chance. And the Eight Ancient Sects that should be there are already there. Swordhaven Keep will not be the exception. Julius, Byron, and Guillermo are all dead. Do you want to go join them?" Alfredo's mind exploded in shock. "Y-You killed them? Andrew, you..." Andrew grinned, but the smile did not reach his eyes. "What? You want to ask how I could do something like that?"

Right now, I'm thinking about killing you too, idiot. So are you going to fight, or not?" "I would rather die than be threatened into anything!" Alfredo roared back. Andrew's greatsword surged with overwhelming force and drove Alfredo straight into the golden floor tiles. Then, Andrew stepped on his face and body several times. With two choking cries, Alfredo spat out mouthfuls of blood. ---- Humiliated and furious, he rasped, "Andrew, are you really going to keep doing this to me?" Andrew did not reply. He simply struck Alfredo's chest with a palm.

Alfredo spat blood again and finally understood that in Andrew's hands, he was nothing but prey. "You've already advanced to Beyond Mortal... Wait! D-Don't kill me! Ill join the war. I'll fight!" Just like that, the fight went out of him entirely. Andrew's smile turned sinister. "Now you agree? Don't you think it's a little late?" Outside the hall, the disciples of Swordhaven Keep suddenly heard a piercing scream, and every one of them turned pale. Their master, their untouchable, larger-than-life master, was suffering miserably inside.

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Chapter 3346

[614 words]

---- Chapter 3346 Even though Alfredo agreed to join the war, Andrew had no intention of letting him off that easily. Only after another brutal round of punishment did Andrew finally stop. Alfredo's face was filled with terror, and there was no trace left of the Sword Saint's former pride. His entire body trembled, and when he looked at Andrew, it was as if he were staring at a ghost. At Andrew's current level, crushing a martial god like Alfredo was not child's play, but it was effortless.

With Swordhaven Keep officially joining the battle, all of the Eight Ancient Sects of Holtrien were finally on the battlefield outside Azure Gate. Alfredo, Monty, Rupert, Bridget, and Luther's arrival gave Holtrien's side a powerful boost of morale. However, in terms of sheer numbers, the Dark Clans and the three great Empires still held the

advantage. Inside Azure Gate, the command center had been set up. ---- Andrew walked in alongside Alfredo. Originally, Alfredo had refused to walk beside Andrew.

But when Andrew grew impatient and threatened to rough him up again, Alfredo had no choice but to follow. Seeing Alfredo bruised, battered, and his usually sharp and arrogant face marked up in shades of blue and purple, Luther, who had just arrived at Azure Gate, could not help but ask, "Mr. Topsfield Senior, what happened to you?" Philip and the others, who knew exactly what had happened, had to work very hard to keep their expressions neutral, struggling to hold back their laughter.

Luna had long been waiting for Andrew's arrival, and the moment she saw him, she ran over with a bright smile. "Honey, you made it!" Andrew smiled back and gave her cheek a light pinch. Luna glanced around the room and then said, "You all have serious stuff to talk about, so I'll go find Valerie, Nyx, and Rowan. Meanwhile, Alfredo merely snorted at Luther's question. He flicked his robe, found a seat, and said nothing. Luther smiled and took no offense. His strength and bearing were far beyond Alfredo's, so he calmly said, "Mr. Topsfield ---- Senior, you should still be careful.

We all come from the Eight Ancient Sects, and we're all on the same side here. If you have any difficulties, you can speak up. I've got your back, whatever it is." Alfredo shot back without looking at him. "My business is my own. Keep your concern to yourself. Now, can someone tell me why we're all crowded here? If there's nothing worth saying, I'd rather not waste my time." Philip cleared his throat. "We invited everyone here to assess Holtrien's current high-level combat strength. Also, the armies of the three great Empires are stationed north of Azure Gate.

That area is under the Cavendish royal family's defense zone. However, the Cavendish royal family alone won't be able to hold them off, so we need to send reinforcements." Alfredo immediately said, "Swordhaven Keep is willing to go." Philip nodded approvingly. "That would be ideal. Then Mr. Topsfield Senior..." Before Philip could finish, Andrew said calmly, "Swordhaven Keep will remain at Azure Gate to fend off the enemy. You're not going anywhere." Anger flashed across Alfredo's face, but when his eyes met Andrew's, he did not dare utter a single word.

---- The others felt a chill in their hearts. Even a madman like Alfredo had been subdued so completely by Andrew. Now, in Holtrien, very few people could withstand Andrew's words, or rather, his fists. Monty and Rupert, two giants who would normally be treated as honored guests anywhere in Holtrien, sat quietly in the corner. At this moment, they were as quiet as mice. They listened obediently, not daring to interrupt in the slightest.

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Chapter 3347

[687 words]

---- Chapter 3347 Andrew said, "Up until now, the Cavendish royal family still hasn't made their stance clear about fighting the enemy. We need to send someone powerful to the northeast to negotiate with the Cavendish royal family. The generals stationed there alone probably can't pressure them into making a decision." Jeffery from the Hearst royal family spoke in a low voice, "That's exactly what's been worrying me as well. However, the Cavendish family doesn't respond to just anyone.

Whoever we send needs to be someone with enough standing to actually get through to them; otherwise, it's a wasted trip." Philip agreed and turned to the room. "Alright, we'll go with that approach. Elder Jeffery, who do you think is the right person for the job?" Jeffery smiled faintly. "My first choice would be Mr. Lloyd, without question." Philip gave a satisfied nod. Andrew had clearly earned the deep trust of the Hearst family, and that was exactly what he had been hoping to see. Slowly but surely, Andrew was becoming the core pillar of Holtrien.

At that moment, a cold snort echoed through the room. ---- A young man stood up. He had a sharp nose, lean face, and an expression that carried a natural edge of arrogance. He said, "General Turman, Elder Jeffery, my name is Jakob Miller, and I'm here representing the Divine Dragon Order. Our leader has placed me in charge of all Divine Dragon Order operations here at Azure Gate, and I'd like to formally object to what was just proposed." Jeffery looked at him and nodded. "Mr. Miller, since you represent the Divine Dragon Order, your objection carries weight.

I'd genuinely like to hear your alternative." Philip's brow furrowed. "Jakob, you may be representing the Divine Dragon Order here, but as far as I know, Elio Anderson has already given his directive; Andrew is to be reinstated into the Divine Dragon Order." Jakob stood up, his polished leather shoes gleaming under the lights as he walked slowly toward Andrew. Then, he said calmly, "The Divine Dragon Order isn't a place you can walk in and out of whenever you feel like it. Since Andrew already left, coming back won't be that easy. I respect Mr.

Anderson's words, but within the Divine Dragon Order, he's not the only one who makes decisions. So whether Andrew returns or not is another matter. At the very least, his authority is below mine right now. Whatever I say, he has to follow." ---- As soon as those words fell, Philip's frown deepened. The others in the room could already sense the tension in the air. Divine Dragon Order was the most mysterious and elite organization in all of Holtrien, packed with heavyweights behind the scenes.

Even Philip had to be respectful and show courtesy to its three leaders, and Elio was only one of them. The other two leaders had not spoken yet, but their stance still carried

enormous weight. Jakob, it turned out, represented those other two, and the fact that they had placed him in charge of everything Divine Dragon Order-related at Azure Gate meant his voice could not simply be brushed aside. So Philip asked, "Jakob, then who do you think should go negotiate with the Cavendish royal family?" Jakob let out a cold laugh. "Looking around this room, there aren't many suitable candidates.

But if we're talking about the best choice, I'd say it's me. I happen to have some connections with the Cavendish royal family. Cormac Cavendish is actually a good friend of mine. So I think I'm the best person for the job." Philip and Jeffery were both reluctant. If the negotiation with the Cavendish royal family succeeded, whoever went would undoubtedly be credited with a major achievement. That was ---- why they had wanted this mission to fall to Andrew. However, now that Jakob from the Divine Dragon Order had shamelessly stepped in to claim it, they had no immediate way to refuse him.

At that moment, Andrew simply shrugged. "Since Jakob thinks he's up to it, then let him go. We're all working for Holtrien anyway, so it doesn't matter who takes the trip."

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Chapter 3348

[689 words]

---- Chapter 3348 Jakob burst out laughing. "Exactly, we're all working for Holtrien, so it doesn't matter who goes. Andrew, you've been out of the organization for so many years, but it looks like your attitude has finally improved. Not bad, you might still be worth training." Andrew smiled calmly. "Whether I'm worth anything isn't for you to judge. Besides, I still have a martial god from the Cavendish royal family being held as a hostage. When we go to the Cavendish family, we'll go together, and I'll return the hostage while we're at it." Jakob's expression turned cold.

"I can handle it alone, so you should stay at Azure Gate and serve the country." Andrew's tone became serious. "Jakob, I'm not trying to steal credit from you. I'm just worried you won't be able to handle the Cavendish family, and I also want to check whether there are any old acquaintances among the forces of the three great Empires," he said evenly.

"So you don't need to worry about me getting in your way." Having his thoughts exposed so bluntly, Jakob flew into a rage." Andrew, are you looking down on me?" Andrew did not even bother responding to him, but instead looked around at the others and spoke one final time. ---- "That's settled then, meeting adjourned, everyone get

back to your posts. General, Elder Jeffery, various sect leaders, and Sheena, Azure Gate is in your hands." Philip smiled.

"That works, you two can go together and watch each other's backs." At that moment, a cold snort sounded from outside as someone stormed into the command center. Everyone inside looked up in surprise. "Grand Elder Orson?" Someone chuckled awkwardly. "Well, look at that. The Grand Elder himself showed up in person to fight for Holtrien. Didn't expect that kind of dedication." More than a dozen people had entered, all top fighters from the Nieves family. At the front stood a man with wild hair like a lion's mane, his presence fierce and overwhelming.

He was Orson, the old patriarch of the Nieves family. Previously, he had gone to Chetvine intending to settle the score with Andrew, but the military had stopped him. Now he had arrived in a fury, his face dark and twisted. He growled, "I won't bother greeting the rest of you just yet. General Turman, Elder Jeffery, I'll apologize to you later. But where is that brat, Andrew? Get him out of here! He has repeatedly provoked my family, and with enemies surrounding ---- us from the west, I shouldn't be coming after him right now. "But he has gone too far.

Since there's a temporary ceasefire, I came to reason with you. One of us walks away from this, and one of us doesn't. Your choice." The room went still. Philip and Jeffery both felt a cold jolt run through them. Orson was clearly serious this time. Jakob looked delighted at the chaos. "Andrew, Grand Elder Orson is looking for you, and you're staying quiet. What, are you scared?" Andrew looked at Orson calmly. "I don't think we need to fight. Grand Elder Orson, we can settle our issues after the war. If we fight now, it'll only hurt unity." Orson let out a sharp, cutting laugh.

"A little late for that kind of talk, kid. If you don't have the guts, then get on your knees and apologize right here in front of everyone." Andrew looked at him with a serious expression. "If that's how it is, then I'll just defeat you first. Actually, forget killing you, I'll just beat you half to death. Save what's left of yourself for the battlefield; Holtrien could use those old bones of yours." Orson grinned viciously. "Now that's what I like to hear.

Let's go outside, we'll fight right on the grounds of Azure Gate." ---- At once, many people felt a surge of excitement, thinking a real show was about to begin. After all, Orson was no ordinary man. Anyone who knew the Nieves family knew that he was operating at a level comparable to Guillermo at his peak, and it was his reputation alone that kept Sylvan Peaks standing tall.

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Chapter 3349

[638 words]

---- Chapter 3349 Someone in the crowd said, "Grand Elder Orson has always had a fiery temper and never backed down from a fight. Now that he's facing the Lloyd family's Dragon Prince, it's hard to say who will win." Another voice argued, "In my opinion, the Lloyd family's Dragon Prince will lose badly. No matter how gifted he is, Grand Elder Orson has been famous for decades, and in the end, experience beats youth." "That's nonsense," someone else shot back. "I heard that over in Chetvine, even the National Advisor, Mr.

Guillermo Vazquez, fell at Andrew's hands, so Grand Elder Orson might just be walking into his own downfall." Meanwhile, Andrew and Orson stood atop Azure Gate, and their auras steadily rose. There were hundreds of thousands of spectators, including martial artists who had rushed in from across Holtrien, soldiers from the military, disciples from ancient sects, and members of powerful families and hidden clans.

Those who knew Andrew's true strength believed Orson was asking for humiliation, while those who did not thought that no ---- matter how talented Andrew was, he could not possibly match Orson. The Nieves family members in the crowd were the most confident of all, cold smirks planted firmly on their faces. Previously, Orson had been blocked from entering Chetvine to deal with Andrew, but now he could settle the score in front of nearly every major power in Holtrien.

Although a full-scale war was looming and Orson could not openly kill one of their own, they believed Andrew would at least be crippled Only Jeffery, Alfredo, Philip, and several sect leaders looked at Orson's aggressive posture with quiet amusement. The old man was leaning too hard on his reputation and his years, and this time around, that wasn't going to be enough. As for Alfredo, he was practically glowing. He had just been beaten down himself, so seeing Orson about to suffer felt deeply satisfying.

Orson shouted first, "Brat, you killed my great-grandson, Skylar, and repeatedly humiliated the Nieves family. Today, you'll pay! Die!" He charged forward in huge strides, crossing over 100 yards in just a couple of steps. Then, he leaped into the air and threw a ---- punch that shattered the air itself, aiming straight for Andrew's head. A cold glint flashed in Andrew's eyes. He did not move from his spot, but instead threw out a punch of his own. A massive wave of force formed in front of his fist, like an overturned steel bowl, blazing with light and whipping up a violent storm.

Their fists collided head-on. Orson felt as if his skin were about to tear apart, and the flesh on his face visibly twisted under the pressure. "You..." Extreme shock filled his eyes. He roared and tried to pull back to create distance. Andrew flashed a mocking smile. Orson wanted to retreat, but it was too late. Andrew's fist instantly opened into a

palm and clamped down on Orson's wrist. With a sudden yank, he locked Orson's arm in place like it was trapped in iron shackles. "Let go of me!" Orson bellowed.

His aura exploded outward as he struggled wildly, but Andrew's grip did not move an inch. Orson attacked frantically with his other hand, sending blasts of ---- energy that tore through the air. The entire Azure Gate shook under the aftershocks of the two powerhouses clashing. Weaker spectators instinctively retreated, afraid of being caught in the crossfire. "Old bastard, if you're done playing, it's my turn." Andrew's calm voice rang out from within the storm. Then, a massive phantom fist erupted, wrapped in streams of fire and streaked with red lightning.

It exploded forward and struck Orson head-on. Orson spat out a mouthful of blood, and his powerful body frame rocketed backward at a speed that made his charge forward look like a slow walk by comparison.

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Chapter 3350

[625 words]

---- Chapter 3350 One of the guard towers on Azure Gate was smashed to pieces as Orson's body crashed through it. And that was not the end, because he kept flying backward while screaming in pain. He did not stop until he had been blasted more than 100 yards away. When he finally hit the ground, he clutched his chest and glared at Andrew. "Y-You..." He tried to speak, but he could not finish a single sentence. Then, he spat out another mouthful of blood and dropped to his knees. The entire crowd watching was stunned.

Even Alfredo, Rupert, and Monty, who had already experienced Andrew's strength, felt cold sweat run down their backs as they watched the clash. Andrew had truly become a War God in every sense, and perhaps the only true War God in the entire Holtrien army. What was a War God? It referred to someone undefeated in battle. Jakob, the martial god from Divine Dragon Order, blurted out in disbelief, "Beyond Mortal!

He has already stepped into the ---- Beyond Mortal level, so that puts him on the same level as the three leaders." His face turned pale as he realized there was no point in competing with Andrew anymore. Orson coughed up another large mouthful of blood and forced his head up, roaring fiercely, "I refuse to accept this!" Andrew gave him a disdainful smile. "Even now, you still refuse to accept it.

You only have seniority on your side, but in my eyes, you are nothing more than a bug." As soon as he finished speaking, Andrew grabbed the top of Orson's head and lifted the old man straight into the air. "Let go of me! Let go!" Orson screamed. He struggled with everything he had, but he could not break free and could only howl in pain. The members of the Nieves family were terrified, hands gripping their weapons as they rushed forward to save him: Andrew kicked Orson in the chest midair. Orson screamed again and was sent flying several hundred yards off Azure Gate.

He landed hard on the open plain outside the pass. He lay there helpless, unable to get back up. Andrew did not even spare him another glance. Instead, he ---- swept a cold gaze over the people of the Nieves family and the other forces of Holtrien gathered at Azure Gate. Finally, he said calmly to Nyx, "Nyx, let's go." Nyx smiled faintly, her beauty almost enchanting. She silently praised how impressive Andrew was. The two of them walked one after the other toward the northeast of Azure Gate, drawing countless eyes.

Jakob gritted his teeth and snapped at his subordinates, "What are you standing around for? Let's move!" He and Andrew still had to head to the Cavendish royal family's headquarters to negotiate. Andrew was also bringing someone along: the martial god from the Cavendish royal family. After witnessing Andrew nearly kill Orson in just two moves, the martial god was fully intimidated. Now, as he followed behind, he trembled the entire way and did not dare voice a single complaint. Andrew did not even seal his cultivation, simply letting him walk freely.

Yet this man, named Asher Cavendish, behaved like a meek little kitten, following Andrew like a servant and obeying every move. ---- Only after Andrew had left did an uproar finally explode across Azure Gate. "Hurry, save Grand Elder Orson, hurry!" The members of the Nieves family rushed out of Azure Gate in panic to rescue him. Jeffery and Philip exchanged a glance and smiled, neither of them surprised by what had happened. Alfredo and the others, however, felt a deep chill in their bones. From this day forward, Holtrien might truly belong to Andrew alone.

He stood supreme, untouchable with his martial arts.

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Chapter 3351

[508 words]

---- Chapter 3351 Northeast of Azure Gate lay the stronghold of the Cavendish royal family. Right now, the Cavendish royal family was facing off against the three great

Western empires: Mirelan, Soraine, and Fraines. Among them, the Mirelan Empire stood at the top, unmatched in power, while the Soraine Empire, just like its name suggested, had already begun to decline and no longer carried its former glory.

As for Fraines, it was the most unpredictable empire on the Western continent, sometimes fierce and dominant, and other times surrendering so quickly that it barely looked like a major power at all. Andrew and Nyx brought Asher with them as they stepped into the territory of the Cavendish royal family. Almost immediately, elite members of the Cavendish royal family spotted Asher. Shock flashed across their faces, but they stayed calm on the surface and quietly turned around to report the news. Andrew smiled faintly and said, "The Cavendish royal family really has eyes everywhere.

"We just arrived, and you already knew." ---- Asher's voice tensed as he asked, "Andrew, what are you planning to do?" Andrew replied calmly, "If the Cavendish family cooperates, then everything will be easy. But if they refuse, then there might be a bloodbath." Asher's heart sank. Within the Cavendish royal family, Cormac ranked as the second strongest. The strongest was the current patriarch of the Cavendish royal family, Atticus Cavendish. "Right now, Holtrien is surrounded by powerful enemies. Our family should step up. That's the bigger picture.

"So in a moment, please hold back your temper and do not make a move." Andrew smirked. "And what about the personal grudge between the Cavendish royal family and me? With your family's pride, I doubt you can just pretend nothing ever happened." Asher hurried to respond, "I can talk to the patriarch as well. At this point, we are all Holtriens. If we start fighting among ourselves, it will only look bad. That's how I see it." Andrew chuckled. "Fine.

"Since you are being so reasonable and thoughtful, I have nothing more to say." Asher quietly let out a breath of relief and made up his mind to ---- stop the Cavendish family from acting impulsively. Otherwise, with how ruthless Andrew could be, the Cavendish family would humiliate themselves in the worst way. Meanwhile, on the other side, Jakob of the Divine Dragon Order had already arrived at the Cavendish family stronghold with three subordinates ahead of them. Jakob said with respect, "Patriarch Atticus, greetings. I am Jakob Miller, here on behalf of the Divine Dragon Order.

"Sorry to intrude." Atticus looked imposing, his thick black beard framing a stern face. He replied calmly, "Mr. Miller, since you are here representing the Divine Dragon Order, please have a seat. Whatever you have to say, speak plainly." Jakob felt a surge of relief and quickly took his seat. Even though he represented the Divine Dragon Order, he still had to show proper respect in front of Atticus because this man stood on the same level as the three leaders of the Divine Dragon Order.

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Chapter 3352

[672 words]

---- Chapter 3352 Jakob carefully chose his words and said, "Patriarch Atticus, here's the situation. I came to discuss Holtrien joining forces to resist our enemies. The Cavendish royal family has always been a pillar of Holtrien. General Turman and the heads of the Eight Ancient Sects all hoped that you would put the bigger picture first." Atticus did not answer right away. Instead, he looked toward the other senior members of the Cavendish family seated throughout the grand hall. The room was packed, with nearly 200 people present.

Both the Hearst and Cavendish royal families had deep benches, with a younger generation that was sharp, talented, and coming up fast. Put plainly, the two generations beneath Atticus were thriving, and that kind of momentum only pointed in one direction: upward. This was the sign of a top-tier family that was destined to flourish again. In contrast, although the Lloyd royal family currently enjoyed soaring prestige, their younger generations had not developed as well as those of the other two families. However, the deeper reason was not that the Lloyd royal family lacked strength.

It ---- was because of the scars left by past events that had dealt them devastating blows. During the last ancient war between the Eastern and Western continents, the Lloyd family's ancestor, Valerius, had fallen in the Outlands. At that time, Holtrien had practically been dominated by the Lloyd family alone. However, their brutal clashes with the Blood Queen and the all-out war against the Dark Clans had cost them dearly. An entire generation had nearly been wiped out. Meanwhile, the Hearst and Cavendish royal families had not suffered such catastrophic losses.

A martial god from the Cavendish royal family spoke in a deep voice, "Defending our homeland is our family's duty. But since Philip has chosen to stand with Andrew and the Lloyd royal family, then our family will chart its own course. We won't go down the same road as them." Jakob smiled and said, "Sir, what you said makes perfect sense. I didn't come to demand that the Cavendish family join the military faction. As long as the Cavendish family sends more troops and contributes to Holtrien's defense, that will be enough. ---- Atticus responded in a steady voice, "Mr.

Miller, we don't need the Divine Dragon Order to remind us. My family has never been the type to lag behind. However, the humiliation that the Lloyd royal family and Andrew brought upon us must also be repaid. Otherwise, we will not participate in the battle at Azure Gate." He added, "Moreover, Andrew has detained one of our martial gods. Does he truly believe he is already the supreme ruler of Holtrien?" Jakob's eyes gleamed with

amusement as he replied, "Patriarch Atticus, you may not know this, but Andrew is actually on his way over. He should be here any moment now.

So how your family chooses to handle this, whether through negotiation or otherwise, is entirely up to you." Atticus narrowed his eyes. "Andrew had the nerve to walk straight into my family's territory himself? Either he's too young to know better, or he's skilled enough that he genuinely doesn't see us as a threat. Either way, I'll be the one to find out personally." "Patriarch Atticus, your courage and sense of honor are something I deeply admire," Jakob said with a respectful nod. "That said, I would strongly suggest that both sides keep this civil.

No point letting things boil over." Atticus replied coldly, "That will depend on Andrew's attitude." ---- Jakob secretly felt pleased. He had known the Cavendish royal family would never let Andrew off easily. If he managed to persuade the Cavendish family to join the war and defend Holtrien, then once he returned to the Divine Dragon Order, it would clearly look like he had played a major role. Then, all the benefits would naturally fall to him. At that moment, a warrior rushed in to report, "Patriarch Atticus, Mr. Asher has returned." Atticus lit up with surprise. "Asher is back? Good.

Where is he?"

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Chapter 3353

[614 words]

---- Chapter 3353 Asher was the first one through the door, but he did not walk toward Atticus or greet anyone in the hall. Instead, he stepped to the side and gestured respectfully behind him. "Mr. Lloyd, Ms. Kerrigan, please, come in." Andrew and Nyx then walked into the Cavendish family stronghold, surrounded on all sides by nearly all of the family's top experts. Immediately, hostile gazes shot toward them from every direction. Andrew remained calm and walked straight to the end of the grand hall, then stopped.

After that, he greeted, "Patriarch Atticus, I'm Andrew of the Lloyd royal family." Atticus stared at Andrew, a cold glint flashing in his eyes, but he did not speak. The martial god from the Cavendish family, who had spoken earlier, let out a cold snort. "Mr. Lloyd, you sure made quite an entrance, coming alone to the stronghold of the Cavendish royal family. Do you think the Cavendish family has no one worth worrying about, or are you just that full of yourself?" Andrew replied calmly, "I didn't come to cause trouble.

I only wanted to assist the Cavendish family in fighting the three ---- empires outside." The martial god sneered. "You? Helping us? Out of the goodness of your heart? You really think we're going to buy that?" Andrew glanced at him indifferently. "Whether you believe it or not does not concern me. And what I choose to do is not for you to control." The martial god let out another cold laugh, and his aura surged instantly, Yet Andrew remained unmoved, and the man did not dare act recklessly. At that moment, Atticus stepped in.

"Andrew, I actually had a decent relationship with your father, Reginald, back in the day. We traveled across Holtrien together, north and south, more than once, which makes it all the more surprising that you and my family can't seem to see eye to eye. "My third brother, Asher, was held by you. While it may not seem like a big deal to some, the Cavendish family would very much like an explanation." Andrew responded with an easy smile. "My explanation is straightforward: Asher is standing right here, and I sent him back without a scratch on him.

If you don't take my word for it, Patriarch, ask him yourself. As for how the misunderstanding happened in the first place, I think the details speak for themselves. -- -- "Back in Chetvine, Asher and Cormac stepped in while I was in the middle of taking down Guillermo. In the heat of the moment, I couldn't tell friend from foe, and I reacted. If that offended you or your family, Patriarch Atticus, then I apologize." No one expected Andrew to be this reasonable. The Cavendish royal family members looked at one another in confusion. An elder spoke up, "Asher, tell us.

Were you harmed while you were with him?" Asher answered honestly, "I was fine. Nothing happened to me at all. Andrew treated me very well. In fact, I was the one who insisted on inviting him here to the Cavendish royal family." The moment those words came out, the Cavendish family members became even more confused. Originally, they had been watching Andrew like hawks, waiting for Asher to speak about his grievances and any suffering he had endured.

They had been ready to make their move the second he did But now, Asher, who had been detained for several days, looked cheerful, almost as if he had become Andrew's biggest supporter. Asher was the third strongest figure in the Cavendish royal ---- family, a heavyweight in every sense. The whole room did not know what to make of it. Had the man lost his backbone entirely?

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Chapter 3354

[856 words]

---- Chapter 3354 Jakob, who had originally been looking forward to watching the drama unfold, grew furious and asked coldly, "Andrew, what exactly did you do to Mr. Asher? Because whatever it was, it's got him acting like a completely different person. We are all citizens of Holtrien. You had better not try some underhanded tactics." His words instantly stirred up anger among the Cavendish royal family. Another elder from the Cavendish royal family shouted, "Asher, just speak openly. If Andrew threatened you, the Cavendish family is not afraid of him.

At worst, we will go down together." Others quickly chimed in, "Exactly. So what if we go down fighting?" "The Cavendish royal family has never been afraid of anyone." "Andrew, the Lloyd royal family has gone too far!" Facing the wave of accusations, Andrew simply smiled and said nothing. Asher stepped forward quickly, his voice firm and clear." Everyone, nothing I said was forced out of me. Mr. Lloyd never ---- laid a hand on me. What happened in Chetvine was a misunderstanding. We were both acting on behalf of different sides, and things got mixed up.

That's the whole story." The Cavendish hall went silent again. If what Asher was saying was true, then the family had spent all this time assuming the worst about someone who had not actually done anything wrong. Andrew had not hurt Asher, yet here they were carrying on as if he had committed a serious crime. Jakob sneered, clearly wanting to add fuel to the fire. However, Asher turned and fixed him with a cold stare before he could get a word out. He said, "You're not a member of this family, so I'd appreciate it if you kept quiet.

If your meddling is what ends up driving a wedge between the Cavendish family and Mr. Lloyd, I will personally make sure you answer for it." Jakob was enraged, his face turning red as he protested, "Mr. Asher, what are you saying? I was helping you. Are you seriously accusing me of working against you?" Asher replied flatly, "Did I ask for your help? I know exactly what kind of person Mr. Lloyd is. Now that he has come here, the Cavendish family should immediately form an alliance with him to resist our external enemies. As for you?

You're an outsider, and this conversation doesn't concern you." ---- Jakob's expression changed drastically, and he found himself unable to say a single word. He could not understand why Asher had become so submissive toward Andrew. Atticus sensed that something deeper was at play and said in a low voice, "Asher, if you have something to say, say it plainly." Asher replied directly, "Atticus, the Cavendish royal family's true enemies right now are the three great empires, not our own people, and most certainly not Mr. Lloyd, who is one of Holtrien's strongest pillars.

I believe the previous misunderstandings can all be resolved. "Now that he has come in good faith to help the Cavendish royal family, the right move is to thank him, clear the air, and move forward; not to keep rehashing the past." Atticus frowned and asked, "But you were captured and held by him for several days. Do you truly have no resentment?"

Asher gave a bitter smile. "It would be a lie to say I had none. But I have now learned everything about Mr. Lloyd's character and what he has done. He disregarded his own injuries and forced the Eight Ancient Sects to fight the enemy.

"Just that alone is something no one else in Holtrien had the ability or courage to do. So now I am convinced. I have no resentment toward Mr. Lloyd. On the contrary, the Cavendish ---- royal family should follow the tide of the times and support him." Hearing one of their own say such words, the entire Cavendish royal family erupted in an uproar. Many of them even suspected that Asher had been brainwashed by Andrew. At that moment, a warrior rushed in urgently and reported, " Patriarch Atticus, the armies of the three great empires have already launched their attack.

"We must move to full defense immediately." Atticus said in a deep voice, "Everyone, set aside other matters for now. Right now, we will face our powerful enemy together. The three great empires have remained still for so long. Since they are attacking now, their offensive will surely be fierce. "The Cavendish royal family has limited strength. So I ask everyone present, even those who are not from the Cavendish family, to give their full support.

The Cavendish royal family will remember every contribution and repay it with gratitude afterward." Inside the Cavendish stronghold, besides their own three main legions, there were also senior members and martial experts from across the north and south of Holtrien who had been summoned to assist. ---- At this moment, they all responded solemnly, "We will follow Patriarch Atticus' orders and fight off the enemy first." Armor was strapped on in unison. In an instant, everyone moved to their defensive positions.

Jakob, eager to prove himself in front of the Cavendish royal family, also led his subordinates into the fight.

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Chapter 3355

[810 words]

---- Chapter 3355 Atticus paused when he passed Andrew. He hesitated for a brief moment, then said with great respect, "Your reputation is unmatched in Holtrien. As for the grudge between you and the Cavendish family, since Asher has spoken like that, I am not someone who fails to see the bigger picture." "So from this moment on, we are even.

Whether you stay or leave is entirely up to you." After saying that, he walked past Andrew and headed straight toward the battlefield Nyx looked at Andrew and said, "Since the Cavendish family has already said their part and cleared the air, why should we stick around? Come on, honey. Let's go." However, Andrew shook his head and replied, "Nyx, let's watch for now. The combined forces of the three empires are no joke. If the Cavendish royal family can't hold the line, I'll have to send reinforcements here.

Otherwise, if the Cavendish family falls, the entire eastern front of Holtrien will collapse." Nyx let out a cold snort, clearly unwilling. Yet, she trusted Andrew without question and did not argue further. The two of them then climbed up onto the defensive fortress. ---- Looking east, they saw the three empires arranged in three massive columns as they launched a full-scale assault. At Atticus' command, he shouted, "Cross the border and meet the enemy.

Stop them before they set foot inside our homeland!" Tens of thousands of artillery shells were fired at once, blanketing the sky like a deadly storm. However, before the shells could crash into the enemy ranks, powerful warriors from the opposing side leapt into the air and smashed them apart mid-flight. With high-level fighters directly involved in the assault, it had turned into a brutal clash of raw strength and steel. Asher had just returned, and without hesitation, he led the Cavendish royal family's legions into a fierce charge.

The armies of the three royal houses were battle-hardened and proven through countless campaigns, yet the Cavendish royal family represented only a portion of Holtrien's total forces, Facing them was the united coalition of the three great empires of the western continent, and in sheer numbers, they outmatched Holtrien by five to one. Because of that, the Cavendish royal family's strategy leaned heavily toward defense. This first charge was meant only to shatter the enemy's initial wave of main forces.

After that, they would immediately ---- withdraw behind their fortified lines and rely on their defensive positions to hold the ground. Andrew and Nyx stood atop the high wall, watching as the battlefield below erupted into savage close combat. The scale of the collision made Nyx's face turn slightly pale because it was the first time she had ever witnessed a war of this magnitude. However, Andrew remained calm and composed. Not far away, Atticus noticed that Andrew and Nyx had not left, yet they also had not stepped in to help the Cavendish family.

A trace of disappointment flickered through his eyes, but it vanished quickly as his focus returned to the ever-shifting battlefield More than a dozen violent auras suddenly surged from the rear ranks of the three empires. Without exception, they were all martial god-level powerhouses. They cut straight across the battlefield and charged toward the Cavendish royal family's defensive lines. Terrifying waves of martial energy gathered in the sky, churning violently. Asher and the others narrowed their eyes and shot upward into the air.

---- Within moments, a massive battle erupted in the sky itself. On the Cavendish family's side, there were originally four martial gods from the main house, but Cormac was nowhere to be seen. Atticus had not yet joined the fight either. That left only Asher and a white-haired martial god from the family stepping forward at first. Along with Jakob and two independent martial god experts who had answered the Cavendish family's call, there were five martial gods in total. Yet, they had to face 12 martial gods who had surged out from the three empires.

The imbalance was obvious the instant they clashed. The numerical disadvantage showed immediately, and almost as soon as the fight began, the elderly martial god from the Cavendish royal family was ambushed by two opponents, coughed up blood, and crashed down toward the battlefield below. Seeing this, Atticus' face turned icy as he shot into the air. He handed battlefield command over to a Cavendish family general and personally joined the slaughter. As the strongest figure of the Cavendish royal family, Atticus' arrival instantly tied down three enemy martial gods at once.

---- Even so, the enemy's top-tier strength was overwhelming. There were still four martial gods left unengaged. With no equal opponents to hold them back, some directly supported their troops and launched devastating attacks against the Cavendish defensive lines. In contrast, others doubled up and joined their comrades to hunt down Holtrien's martial god experts two against one.

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Chapter 3356

[645 words]

---- Chapter 3356 Andrew quickly said, "Nyx, we have to step in now. Go save that martial god from the Cavendish family out of trouble." Nyx gave a soft snort and replied, "Fine. Honey, be careful." Andrew smiled and said, "Don't worry." The moment he summoned Godslayer, he shot straight into the sky. A massive blade of light burst outward and instantly dominated half the sky, while a terrifying aura spread in all directions. From the ranks of the three empires, two identical martial gods with green eyes and flaming red hair locked their cold gazes onto Andrew.

The twins needed no words, and as if sharing one mind, they split left and right and rocketed toward him. Asher shouted a warning, "Mr. Lloyd, be careful! Those two are the Twin Demons of the Night from Mirelan." One of the twins sneered and said, "The Cavendish royal family actually knows our names... Not bad. But knowing who we are won't save them from being wiped off the map." Asher cursed loudly, yet his own

opponent quickly suppressed him, forcing him to dodge again and again in a desperate struggle. ---- The twins turned their attention to Andrew, and one of them called out, smirking.

"We don't waste our time on nobodies. Brat, give us your name before we finish this." Andrew did not even acknowledge them. He swung twice, and two colossal black-and-crimson arcs of sword energy crashed down, swallowing the Twin Demons whole. The two martial gods roared in fury, drew in a sharp breath, and threw their fists upward toward the sky. Yet in the next second, their expressions changed drastically as they both spat out blood and were blasted straight into the ground.

At Andrew's current level, a single strike could easily deal with one martial god, and even if it did not kill, it would leave them gravely wounded. The Twin Demons of the Night, fighting together, might have been able to trade two or three blows with him on equal footing. However, they had not bothered combining their attack because they had not taken Andrew seriously enough to bother. That arrogance cost them immediately. The fall of the twins shocked every martial god from the three empires. Immediately, two more martial gods shot toward Andrew at full speed.

---- Andrew did not even glance at them as he shifted midair in a series of sharp flashes. In an instant, he slipped between the two incoming martial gods and dove straight toward the ground. The two attackers were moving too fast and did not expect Andrew to change direction so abruptly, so they overshot him by more than 300 yards. When they turned around, they saw Andrew already descending with his sword raised toward the twins, who had just struggled back to their feet.

"Damn it, stop!" "Save them, move!" The deadly aura radiating from Andrew made the two martial gods roar in panic as they realized they could not reach him in time. The other martial gods of the three empires were shaken to their core because they had not expected their overwhelming advantage to suddenly flip against them. By the time they forced back their own opponents and turned to look, Andrew's massive sword was already blazing with red and black energy like a raging dragon as it slammed down. "No!" Amid a piercing scream, the black-and-crimson beam struck the earth once more.

---- One of the twins was instantly vaporized within the pillar of sword light, reduced to nothing but fragments. At that moment, both Holtrien's forces and the armies of the three empires were completely stunned. The battle had only just begun, and already a martial god had fallen. Who exactly was this sword-wielding warrior from Holtrien? Asher and the others stared in shock, then their faces lit up with wild joy. Their morale surged instantly, and they launched fierce counterattacks one after another.

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---- Chapter 3357 Andrew did not pause for even a second. As soon as he pulled back his blade, he swung it brutally toward the remaining one of the Twin Demons. The two martial gods rushing in to rescue him were furious beyond measure. Naturally, they refused to let Andrew succeed again. They charged in at full speed, and before they even arrived, massive waves of palm force tore through the air and smashed toward Andrew's head. Andrew let out a cold laugh, and the strike that had been aimed at finishing the second twin suddenly shifted direction.

He spun smoothly and redirected the blow straight at one of the two rescuing martial gods. The man screamed in terror, spat blood, and was sent crashing toward the ground like a bent bow. With a single strike, Andrew wiped out his combat power completely. "Two more, surround and kill this kid!" a black-robed martial god rasped. He had originally been teaming up with another to pressure Atticus, but now he suddenly withdrew and called over two more ---- martial gods.

Together with the one already present and the last surviving twins, five martial gods from the three empires joined forces to besiege Andrew. The decision was swift and decisive. The moment they realized Andrew's destructive power was too great, they immediately adjusted their tactics. It was timely and effective, yet they still had not grasped just how terrifying Andrew truly was. Surrounded at the center by five martial gods, Andrew's face remained expressionless as his body continued to rise higher into the sky.

The five martial gods clung to him like shadows, circling as they ascended alongside him. An explosive, thunder-like aura began building across the heavens. Below, Atticus, Jakob, Asher, and the others fought their own battles, yet they could not stop glancing upward in shock. "Asher, go assist Mr. Lloyd," Atticus ordered in a low voice. At first, he had believed Andrew was standing by and watching the fight without any intention of helping the Cavendish royal family.

Back then, he had been deeply displeased and thought Andrew was deliberately watching the Cavendish royal family ---- struggle. If that were the case, then the Cavendish royal family would fight this war on their own without relying on anyone. Atticus had even developed a trace of contempt for Andrew. After all, Andrew kept claiming he acted for Holtrien, yet when the Cavendish royal family had fallen into a disadvantage, he had not stepped in. If that was not petty, what was? However, it was now clear he had completely misunderstood him.

The entire battlefield had shifted because of Andrew alone. The Cavendish royal family, which had been heavily suppressed moments ago, had been freed from pressure by his

actions. Hence, Atticus did not hesitate and ordered Asher to support Andrew. If Andrew had acted with such integrity, then the Cavendish royal family could not afford to look small in return. However, before Asher could rush over, Nyx forced back her opponent with a sharp slash of her dagger and said calmly, " Andrew doesn't need anyone interfering.

If the Cavendish family's martial gods go up there, they'll only get in his way." ---- The words sounded arrogant, yet neither Asher nor Atticus objected. Nyx was Andrew's woman, and she had every right to say that. Suddenly, a sound like tens of thousands of high-voltage power lines humming at once spread across the sky. In the next instant, a world-shattering pillar of sword energy burst from the heavens. With Andrew at the center, it swept outward in all directions. Asher, Jakob, and Atticus all stared up in utter shock.

They saw the five martial gods strike at the same time, their five violent streams of power weaving together as they shot toward Andrew.

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---- Chapter 3358 Just as the five streams of power were about to slam into Andrew, he gripped his sword with both hands and swept it outward in a wide arc. A black-and-crimson blade of light, stretching hundreds of yards, roared across the sky as if he had grabbed an entire mountain and swung it like a wrecking ball. The sheer violence and domineering pressure of the move left everyone staring in stunned silence.

Andrew's blade not only erased the combined attack of the five martial gods in an instant, but it also countered like a high- energy shockwave cutting through everything in its path. After two piercing screams, two martial gods from the three empires exploded midair. The remaining three felt their souls leave their bodies as they spun around and fled for their lives, abandoning both their troops and their allies without hesitation They bolted back the way they had come, their faces filled with terror as if they had just seen the devil himself.

Taking advantage of one enemy martial god frozen in shock, Nyx slashed her dagger across his throat and left a burst of shimmering light in her wake. Her graceful figure streaked ---- forward more than 100 yards as she caught up to another enemy martial god who had already been frightened out of his wits by Andrew, She drove him into

repeated desperate defenses, pushing him to the brink of death again and again. After a brief moment of shock, Atticus broke into wild joy and gave a direct order. "Cavendish royal family forces, full counterattack!

Kill them!" The army that had been pinned down moments ago was fired up and began striking back with full force. By Andrew's hand alone, three martial gods had already fallen in this battle. Martial gods were not expendable foot soldiers, and each one was a pillar of power. Nyx had also taken down one. Out of the enemy's original 12 martial gods, only eight remained. Of those eight, three were already seriously wounded. Without speaking, they began retreating one after another.

Every single one of them deliberately fled in the opposite direction of Andrew, pushing themselves to the limit to escape. With morale surging, Asher and the others gave chase. In the end, working together with Nyx, they killed another enemy martial god. From the command center of the three allied empires, the order to withdraw rang out. Like a receding tide, the massive army pulled back at once. The first wave of the offensive collapsed before it could fully take shape.

Andrew slowly descended back onto the city wall, his face calm and his breathing steady. Atticus walked over and gave a deep salute. "Mr. Lloyd, whether you fought for Holtrien or for the Cavendish royal family, I'm deeply grateful." Andrew waved his hand with a smile and said, "Patriarch Atticus, I already said that right now we stand together against a common enemy. When it comes down to it, we are all citizens of Holtrien, so there is no need for such formality." Atticus shook his head solemnly. "No, I have to say this. The Cavendish family misjudged you, and that's on us.

What you did today saved the lives of at least 1000 of our soldiers. That's not something I can just brush past." Jakob, Asher, and the others returned one after another. Each of them wore complicated expressions. The elderly martial god of the Cavendish royal family, Frederick Cavendish, who had previously glared at Andrew with open hostility, now walked over with sincere respect. "Mr. Lloyd, I was rude before. Please forgive me." Andrew smiled and said, "Mr. Frederick, a man your age still fighting like that on the front line.

That's genuinely something to respect." Frederick's face flushed red. He had nearly died on the battlefield, and if not for Nyx saving him, he would not have made it back alive. Now hearing Andrew praise him for fighting well, even Frederick felt he did not deserve it. Compared to Andrew, who had cut down enemy martial gods and faced five alone, forcing them to flee in terror, Frederick felt that even if he rode a rocket, he could never catch up to that level of strength. Jakob, however, felt a storm of emotions in his heart.

Watching Andrew win the respect of the Cavendish royal family so easily, while he himself had schemed for so long without even receiving a word of thanks or praise, was almost unbearable. Some people, he thought bitterly, just made everyone else look invisible without even trying.

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Chapter 3359

[596 words]

---- Chapter 3359 Andrew said, "Patriarch Atticus, judging from the current balance of power, I'm going to say something blunt. The Cavendish royal family may not be able to hold the northeastern front line. So the Cavendish family will still need reinforcements." Atticus smiled and replied, "Mr. Lloyd, what you said is the truth, and I'm grateful rather than offended. Come, let us withdraw to the Cavendish family headquarters first. As for how to respond next, we will have to rely on you, Mr.

Lloyd." Inside the command center of the three empires, a martial god dressed in black stood covered in blood. "That man on Holtrien's side was far too troublesome. The five of us surrounded him and still could not do anything to him." The black-clad martial god raged, "Not only that, he took the chance to kill several of our people. Marshal Cassata, it seems only you can step in personally. Otherwise, it'll be tough for us to seize Holtrien's northeastern stronghold quickly." The command center fell silent. Ordinary soldiers were not even qualified to enter.

Suddenly, a machine placed in the corner began to hum. The ---- hatch lifted, and a broad-shouldered figure slowly sat up from inside. He was a tall man with a thin mustache, sharp cheekbones, and fierce eyes. "Edmond, you went in with 12 men, correct? 12 martial god-level elites, the breakthrough specialists of the three combined armies, and not only did you lose, but you came back short several heads. Interesting." The marshal of the three allied empires, Azrael Cassata of the Fraines, spoke in a cold voice. "You have made me look very bad.

Do you understand?" The black-clad martial god, Edmond Munoz, lowered his head even further. "My apologies, sir." Azrael snorted. "Don't talk to me about apologies. I know you're not convinced. You are from the Mirelan, and you think I can't truly command you. So your politeness is nothing more than surface courtesy. "But Edmond, if this campaign fails, your Emperor won't be coming after me. He'll be coming after you. And given how he handles failure, do you really think you'd survive that?" Edmond's face shifted slightly, and he said with a trembling voice, "You're right, Marshal.

I'll make up for this failure." Azrael gave a cold laugh. "You don't have that ability, and the ---- facts have already proven it, have they not?" Edmond clenched his teeth and growled bitterly, "I didn't recognize who that man from Holtrien was. If we had known in advance, we wouldn't have been cut down by him like that." A strange glint appeared in

Azrael's eyes. "If I'm not mistaken, he is Holtrien's legend, Reginald Lloyd's son, Andrew. Of course, he's also a legend in his own right.

He once led the Iron Cavalry, and he's widely acknowledged as the top candidate to become the future leader of the Divine Dragon Order." Those titles shocked Edmond. "Marshal, that man was Holtrien's Andrew Lloyd? The one who rose to supremacy during the struggle in the Outlands?" Azrael replied coldly, "It seems that only I can personally deal with him among the three allied empires. My original target was the Patriarch of the Cavendish royal family.

But now, I'll have to reveal myself early and kill this young man first." Edmond quickly said, "With you taking action, Marshal, our chances are absolute. When the time comes, we'll break through the mountain pass in one strike and drive straight into the heart of Holtrien. With the Dark Trinity tying down Azure Gate in the east, we can launch a full-scale assault deep inside Holtrien."

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Chapter 3360

[613 words]

---- Chapter 3360 Azrael sneered and said, "You're thinking about this all wrong. How many times have we marched against Holtrien throughout history, and how many times have we actually won? Not once. "The situation looks favorable right now, but Holtrien is the kind of nation that gets stronger the harder you hit it. The more pressure you apply, the more united they become. So we don't rush. We grind it out, step by step. One day from now, I'll go meet Andrew myself." Edmond bowed and stepped back. "Understood, Marshal.

I'll take my leave." Left alone, Azrael muttered to himself, "Andrew, my old rival, we crossed paths again. Back then, I failed to kill you, but this time on the battlefield, there will be nowhere for you to run." Inside the mountain pass stronghold, Andrew and Nyx were welcomed warmly by the Cavendish family. Andrew got straight to the point. "Patriarch Atticus, Nyx and I will stay in the northeast for now, but we can't be here long. The real center of this war is down south at Azure Gate." Atticus and Asher both showed clear disappointment, yet ---- Atticus still forced a smile. "Mr.

Lloyd, we're all fighting for Holtrien. Whether you stay here or go to Azure Gate, it's for the same cause, so why not remain here and help us deal with the armies of the three empires?" Andrew shook his head. "The three empires only moved when it suited them.

The real threat is the Dark Trinity under the call of the Vampire Queen. On the western continent, the Dark Clans are ancient powers operating in the shadows, while the three empires are the surface-level forces.

"It's similar to Holtrien, where the military and the ancient sects shared power; the details differed, but the structure is about the same. So if we want to truly end this war, our target has to be the Vampire Queen." Atticus was stunned. "Mr. Lloyd, no one even knows where the Vampire Queen is. Also, ending someone like her will be nearly impossible, so in my view, if we push back the Western armies, the crisis will calm down. That'll be the smartest move." Andrew shook his head again.

"Maybe, but if the Vampire Queen refuses to back down, even the emperors of the three empires will be dragged into it. Her followers, vampires, are likely spread across the world, and once their one true Queen calls for them, no vampire could refuse. So as long as the Vampire Queen's will remains unbroken, this war will never truly end." The room fell into heavy silence. ---- Asher finally asked, "Then what do you think we should do?" Andrew answered in a low voice, "For now, we fight to the bitter end.

But we also have to shift from reacting to taking the initiative." Jakob let out a cold scoff from across the room. "Initiative? Easy words, Andrew. What does that actually look like in practice? There are hundreds of thousands of soldiers from three empires outside these walls, and the Dark Clans massed outside Azure Gate are an even bigger nightmare. Other than fighting back with everything we have, what initiative is there to take? Stop acting like you have all the answers." Nyx's head snapped toward him, her patience gone. "And who exactly are you to talk to my husband like that?

Say something like that again, and I won't think twice about killing you." Jakob flared with anger, and the word "bitch" almost slipped out. However, Nyx's gaze was ice-cold and deadly serious, so he swallowed the insult before it left his mouth. If they truly fought, he knew he was no match for her. 1

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