

Chapter 101

Chapter 101 Society and Reality " Leander , is that really you ? " Yvette Sitwell stood there , her eyes trembling as she fought back tears . Finished She didn't understand why , but the moment she saw Leander Ashcroft again , she just wanted to cry - an uncontrollable urge to cry for no reason at all . " Of course , it's me . Is there a problem ? " Leander casually picked up his glass of milk , taking another sip , his face calm and unbothered . He had just returned to his villa at " Water Paradise ," and since it was the weekend with no classes , he decided to take a walk .

The view had caught his eye , so he sat down with his milk to enjoy it , never expecting to run into Yvette . It never crossed his mind that she had specifically come looking for him . " Is there a problem ? " Yvette's brows furrowed , her voice carrying a hint of grievance . " You've been gone for over a month with no word . Do you know how many times Madeline has tried to find you ? My mom's called you countless times , and as for me ... I was afraid something happened after you fought with Madeline that day ! " " And you ? " she continued , her voice rising .

" Not a single word , not even a call ! We couldn't even get through to you ! Do you know how long we've been looking for you ? How much we've been worrying ? " Leander was a bit taken aback by her outburst . He hadn't expected such a strong reaction from Yvette over his disappearance . " I admit , not giving any notice was my mistake ," he replied calmly . " But with or without me , it doesn't seem to make much of

a difference for you or Madeline , does it ? " " Madeline has all of you as friends . She doesn't need me . Plus , her career in entertainment is about to take off .

My presence doesn't matter . And as for you , well , we're not exactly close , so why are you making such a big deal out of it ? " Leander understood why Madeline and Monica had been looking for him , but Yvette's concern baffled him . " We're not close ? " Yvette froze , her heart sinking as she took in his words . 1/5 15:05 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 101 Society and Reality Finished She had spent days and nights worrying about him , only to hear him dismiss their connection with a single sentence . Tears welled up in her eyes , her body trembling as she weakly asked , " Leander ...

what am I to you ? Are we not even friends ? " " Friends ? " Leander paused , then raised an eyebrow . " Are we ? " From the beginning , when they first met at Monica's house , Yvette had treated him with disdain , contempt , and even disgust . He had felt it all . In fact , during that time , Yvette had never really looked at him as anything but beneath her . Sure , he had saved her twice , but only because she was Monica's daughter . If not for that connection , he wouldn't have bothered . Cold as it sounded , that was just who he was .

Their initial interaction , when Yvette saw him as someone trying to cozy up to her family , sealed the deal . From that moment on , he never considered her a friend . Even now , nothing had changed . Friendship was built on mutual understanding and trust , and there was none of that between him and Yvette . Aside from a few moments of Yvette lecturing him , they had no meaningful exchanges . How could they possibly be

considered friends ? At his response , Yvette's body swayed , and she stumbled back a few steps , nearly losing her balance .

She managed to steady herself , lifting her head to meet Leander's gaze . He had saved her twice , yet his coldness made her feel as though her heart was turning to ice . " Why ? " she asked , using every ounce of strength left in her to get out that single word . Leander simply smiled and shook his head . " Do I really need to answer that ? When we first met , did you honestly think we could ever be friends ? You should know the answer better than I do ." With that , Leander strolled away , not bothering to look back at Yvette , who was now trembling on the verge of collapse .

It was only after a long while that Yvette finally came to her senses . Tears streamed down her cheeks as she realized that from the very moment they met , she and Leander had been walking on diverging paths . Although they had crossed once , now they were only growing farther apart , destined to become strangers . She wiped her eyes , trying to hold back the flood of tears . 2/5 15:05 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 101 Society and Reality 46 Finished " Yvette , what are you crying for ? Are you really that upset because that guy doesn't see you as a friend ? Is it that hard to accept ?

" Her nose twitched as she tried to calm herself . " Yvette , you don't even like him . He's just an arrogant , self - absorbed fool . Why do you care so much ? " But no matter how hard she tried , the tears wouldn't stop . Passersby watched as this girl suddenly began crying , pausing to wonder what had happened . Back in the Seville Bistro suite , Monica grew worried when Yvette hadn't returned . She headed to the third - floor

balcony and caught sight of her daughter in tears . Alarmed , she rushed downstairs to bring Yvette back inside . " Yvette , what happened ?

" Monica asked , guiding her away from the crowd . Seeing Yvette's tear - streaked face , Monica didn't take her back to the private room but instead led her to a nearby coffee shop . " Mom ! " Yvette couldn't hold it in any longer . She collapsed into her mother's arms , sobbing uncontrollably . " I ... I think I've fallen for Leander . What should I do ? What am I supposed to do ? " Monica's brows furrowed in surprise . " You ran into Leander just now ? " Yvette nodded , unable to speak through her tears .

Monica's heart ached as she watched her daughter fall apart over someone who clearly didn't feel the same way . She had experienced that kind of pain herself in her youth - loving someone in silence , too proud to admit it . It was a struggle most strong women faced at some point . After waiting for about ten minutes , once Yvette had calmed down , Monica finally spoke . " Tell me , sweetie , how does Leander feel about you ? " Yvette wiped her eyes and thought back to Leander's indifference , the way he almost seemed to ignore her . A bitter smile crept onto her face .

" To him , I'm not even a friend . If it weren't for knowing you , he probably wouldn't have paid me any attention at all . " Monica didn't seem the least bit surprised , as though she had expected this answer all along . 3/5 15:05 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 101 Society and Reality After a brief pause , she sighed softly and said , " Yvette , don't be too upset . No matter what happens , you've got me ." 46 Finished " I may not be as accomplished as your dad in business , but when it comes to reading people , I'm not too shabby .

Leander - he may appear humble on the surface , but I can tell that his ambitions are sky - high . He's prouder than anyone , and if you look closely , he doesn't really regard anyone highly . " " I don't know if it's just my impression , but Leander strikes me as someone impossible to control . He may appear to have nothing , no wealth or power , but he's never cared about those things . He doesn't need them . " Yvette's eyes widened . It was the first time she realized just how insightful her mother truly was . She couldn't help but feel a surge of admiration .

Monica had hit the nail on the head . Leander never showed a strong desire for anything , as if those things held no allure for him . He didn't bow down to anyone , no matter how influential . The only time Yvette had seen him show even a hint of respect was toward her parents . Before Yvette could say anything , Monica gently took her hand . " Yvette , listen to me . " Monica's voice was tender but firm . " Loving someone can be a beautiful thing . I'm happy you've experienced that . Before Leander came to Ravenridge , no boy had ever had such an impact on you .

" " But I have to remind you - choosing a partner is a serious decision . You must consider every aspect carefully . " Monica looked up slightly , as if recalling a distant memory , her tone filled with nostalgia . " When I was in college , I had a love that felt like it would last forever . I was ready to give him everything . I thought I could face anything and endure any hardship . Even if it meant working our fingers to the bone , I believed it would be worth it . " " But later , I realized that it was all wishful thinking .

Under the pressures of reality , love without a solid foundation is fragile . " " No matter how much you care for someone , you still have to face the real world . If you can't even

guarantee a decent meal , and you're constantly overshadowed by others , is that the kind of love you want ? " Monica gently stroked Yvette's forehead , her voice full of wisdom and concern . " Yvette , no matter how you feel , I have to tell you the truth - this is the harsh reality of society , and it's something you'll have to face . "

Chapter 102 I Live There " Society , reality , huh ? " Yvette smiled bitterly . : " Mom , what if the person I like is not only kind but also incredibly capable ? " 46 Finished Monica furrowed her brows and nodded . " If the person you like is talented and exceptional , that's certainly the best case . " " But considering your family background , your partner should at least be someone with status -whether it's a local official , a city leader , or a top business elite . That's the kind of person who matches you .

" " I know Leander is special , but besides his physical abilities and pride , I haven't seen much else in him worth admiring . " " He's proud , to the point of arrogance . He doesn't regard anyone as his equal . He keeps to himself and rarely interacts with others . With that kind of personality , he'll struggle to advance in either politics or business . " " You can practically see where his future is headed . He won't be able to give you the life you want . " Yvette stared off into space , her mind racing .

Monica gently took her daughter's hand and said in a soft but firm tone , " Yvette , I'm not against you having feelings for someone , but the truth is , I don't see any future for you and Leander . " " You're destined to have many suitors - like Colin . Among them , Leander just doesn't measure Even if you were to end up together , it would only bring both of you endless heartache . " up . Yvette had never imagined her mother would talk

to her like this . Before , she had seen Monica as the kind and supportive wife who helped her father , Linden , in business .

But now she realized that her mother was much wiser than she had thought , seeing things with a clarity Yvette hadn't expected . No wonder her father , despite his dominance in the business world , still respected Monica deeply , and even deferred to her in family matters . " Yvette , it's not that Leander is a bad person . He's just not right for you . He won't be able to stand by your side under the spotlight or shield you from the storms of life . " " What you need is someone like Colin -a successful young man with promise ." Monica sighed quietly . She had seen right through Leander .

With his personality , he was bound to clash with society and would never succeed in business . 1/5 15:05 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 1021 Live There 46 Finished Even Leander's academic performance left much to be desired . He often skipped classes , and last month , he didn't even show up for the exams . This meant his chances in politics were close to zero . The only path left for him , Monica figured , was the military .

But given Leander's pride and his inability to blend in or communicate well with others , he'd likely remain a low - ranking soldier , unable to build the kind of life Yvette deserved . Whether it was business , politics , or the military , Leander had no real prospects . Monica couldn't imagine him as a son - in - law , and she knew Linden wouldn't approve either . He simply wasn't a match for their daughter . She didn't want to watch her daughter suffer and be looked down upon because of a poor choice of a partner . Sigh Yvette took a deep breath .

Aside from Leander's skills in combat , what had shocked her most was his exceptional talent in music , particularly the piano , at an international level . But even if Leander pursued that path , becoming a world - renowned musician , it still fell far short of her ideal husband . She stood in silence for a moment , her tears drying on her cheeks , her emotions now fully settled . " Mom , I understand everything you've said . " " Don't worry , I know what I need to do from now on ." Her eyes gleamed with determination .

Leander had always been cold and distant , never once showing any real interest in her . There was no reason for her to hold on to him . Colin was her real future . Perhaps if she tried dating Colin , she could finally forget about Leander . " I'm glad you understand . I've always known you were the smartest girl , " Monica said with a gentle smile , her face full of love and pride for her only daughter . " Now , go freshen up . Your friends are waiting for you at the Seville banquet . " Monica patted Yvette's shoulder .

Yvette quickly went to the restroom , washed her face , and , after making sure she looked fine , returned to the Seville private room with her mother . They used the excuse of shopping for personal items and didn't mention Leander . At the banquet , Yvette did her best to focus on the celebration and not think about him . After a few drinks , she managed to push her worries to the back of her mind . 2/5 15:05 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 102 1 Live There 46 Finished After the banquet , Colin stood up and announced , " Everyone , today is Yvette's birthday . I've planned a private party at Villa No.

7 in Rivergate Haven . Let's all go there and continue the celebration for Yvette's big day ! " " Villa No. 7 in Rivergate Haven ? " At that moment , even Linden was visibly

moved . Victor Lane's eyes narrowed slightly , and he couldn't help but ask , " Colin , are you talking about the Rivergate Haven ? The most luxurious estate in the city ? " Colin nodded , and the group was stunned . Even the least impressive villa in Rivergate Haven , like Villa No. 36 , was considered a mega- mansion . But Villa No. 7 ? Its opulence was beyond their wildest dreams .

Ginny immediately raised her hand , excited . " If Colin's inviting us , of course we have to go ! " Jade , Shiloh , and Victor were also eager to see such a magnificent place . Only Autumn remained calm . Linden and Monica had initially wanted to join , curious to see the extravagant mansion , but then decided against it , thinking it best to let the younger group have their fun . Colin and the others hopped into three cars and made their way to Rivergate Haven . When they arrived at Villa No. 7 , only Autumn and Yvette managed to remain composed .

The rest were like wide - eyed tourists , amazed by the grandeur of the villa . They tried to capture every detail in their minds , secretly dreaming of one day owning such a lavish home . Villa No. 7 was the epitome of luxury in Ravenridge - its decor , size , and layout were unmatched , leaving everyone in awe . They couldn't help but wish they could live there every day . As the night progressed , music filled the villa , and the group danced and partied , enjoying the entertainment Colin had meticulously prepared .

At eleven o'clock , the party came to an end , and everyone gathered at the villa's entrance , ready to head home . As they were about to get into their cars , Colin , who was walking behind them , suddenly jumped up , grabbed a bouquet of flowers from

beside the villa's high wall , and then knelt on one knee , holding a small , elegant box .
" Yvette , I'm asking you - will you be my girlfriend ? Will you go out with me ? "

Everyone turned around in shock . Yvette stood there , equally stunned , frozen on the spot . " Yvette , you've always known how I feel about you .

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Finished With those words , he opened the box , revealing a diamond necklace , its brilliance undeniable . " Wow , how romantic ! " Jade and Ginny , both starry - eyed , clasped their hands together , envious of the scene . Victor and Shiloh quietly sighed , feeling inadequate in comparison , while Autumn merely watched with indifference .

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She had come to terms with a lot and had even considered starting something with Colin . But everything was happening so fast , and she hadn't had time to process it . " Should I say yes ? " The flowers and necklace were right in front of her , yet Yvette hesitated . She couldn't figure out why she was still so conflicted . As she wrestled with her thoughts , footsteps suddenly echoed from behind the group . Jade and Shiloh instinctively turned their heads and saw a young man approaching with one hand in his pocket , walking casually , as if he hadn't even noticed the scene in front of him .

" Leander ? " Jade and Shiloh gasped in unison . After all , Leander had been absent from school for quite some time , so seeing him appear here caught them off guard . Hearing his name , both Yvette and Colin turned to look . Yvette even took a step back , instinctively putting some distance between her and Colin . Colin's expression darkened

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Yvette , recalling the BMW she had seen earlier that day with someone who resembled Leander , blurted out , " What are you doing here ? " " Nothing much . Just heading home to sleep ." 4/5 15:05 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 102 | Live There Leander's response was casual . " Home ? To sleep ? " Everyone looked bewildered . Does he live here ?
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Chapter 104 What Is There to Explain ? Leander appeared at the front gate of the villa , then slowly made his way across the lawn toward the entrance . Finally , he stopped right in front of Yvette and Ginny . Finished The two women stood frozen in place the entire time , not even reacting when Leander was directly in front of them . Inside the luxurious Villa No. 1 , Yvette and Ginny sat on a plush couch , still reeling from the

shock . The opulent surroundings , like something out of a royal palace , were lost on them . Does Leander actually live in Rivergate Haven's Villa No. 1 ?

Ginny still couldn't wrap her head around it . It was as absurd and difficult to accept as finding out the parents who raised you for eighteen years weren't your real parents - only to discover that they were the ones who killed your real father . " Leander , do you ... really live here ? " Ginny asked , her voice filled with disbelief . Leander sat across from them on the other couch , hardly needing to guess why they had shown up so late at night . " You came all the way here at this hour just to confirm if I live here ? I have to ask - don't you find that a bit pointless ?

" He shook his head lightly . " I already told you before . If you didn't believe me , then , why bother coming to check again ? " Ginny was at a loss for words . Truth be told , she never believed Leander actually lived in Villa No. 1. She never even felt the need to verify it . From the start , she was convinced he was lying . If Yvette hadn't dragged her out here in the middle of the night , she wouldn't have believed it now , either . Leander had been nothing more than a regular high school student from the countryside , no more well - off than they were .

If he wasn't broke , he was at least living an ordinary life- working part - time at a bar , living in a cheap rental . She thought she had him figured out . But now , he was suddenly living in Ravenridge's most exclusive mansion , and it made no sense . Isn't this house supposed to belong to Frankie ? Even if Leander has money and comes from some ultra - rich family , how could he possibly live here ? Could he be Frankie's

illegitimate son ? No , that's way too ridiculous to believe ! Yvette sat in silence , staring at Leander for a long time .

Her expression grew more serious before she finally turned to Ginny and said , " Ginny , wait for me at the door . I need to talk to Leander . " 1/4 15:06 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 104 What Is There to Explain ? 46 Finished Ginny nodded and stepped outside the living room , understanding the cue . Yvette's eyes narrowed as she lowered her voice and said firmly , " Leander , aren't you going to explain ? " Leander lounged on the couch casually , replying nonchalantly , " Explain ? What is there to explain ? " Yvette's face hardened , and she spoke deliberately .

" Back at the Shade Bar , you beat up Tobias Zimmerman , the North District's big shot , and walked away without a scratch . Then , you vanished for over a month . Now , you've suddenly moved into Villa No. 1 , which belongs to Frankie Wainwright . " " Where did you go during that month ? What have you been doing ? And how are you living in Villa No. 1 ? What's your connection to Tobias Zimmerman and Frankie ? I want answers to all of these . " Leander picked up the can of soda on the table and took a sip , his face completely calm , unaffected . " Explain to you ?

" He put down the soda and shook his head . " Yvette , your habit of thinking everything revolves around you is getting worse . " " What I do , who I know , and where I live - why would I owe you an explanation ? Who do you think you are ? Do I need to report every aspect of my life to you ? " He gestured casually toward the door and said coldly , " If you came here in the middle of the night just to talk nonsense , you can leave . I'm going to bed . " Leander had no intention of explaining anything to Yvette .

There was no way he could tell her that he was Frankie Wainwright's benefactor , the secret chairman of Leandrix Corp. , or that he had taken down a major underground figure , earning the name Mr. Leander , feared across the state . Even if he were willing to share those things , Yvette would never believe him . It would be like a familiar face suddenly claiming to be a billionaire - anyone would laugh it off , assuming it was a joke . Yvette rose from the couch , walking slowly toward the door , her gaze turning cold as a flicker of disappointment crossed her face .

" Leander , you're right . I'm not anyone important to you , and you don't owe me an explanation , " Yvette said , her tone firm . " But you've saved my life twice , so I feel it's my duty to warn you . Don't get involved with people like Frankie Wainwright and Tobias Zimmerman . And don't , under any circumstances , do their dirty work . " 15:07 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 104 What Is There to Explain ? : A 46 Finished " You have an incredible gift for piano , a talent on a master's level . Even if you decide to pursue music , you could achieve great things .

At the very least , you could become a renowned pianist . Why lower yourself to work for someone like Frankie Wainwright , an underground kingpin ? " " They might seem powerful now , controlling the city , but in the end , only a handful of people truly make it to the top . If you work for them , you're just cannon fodder . " Yvette continued as she approached the door . " Today , they might offer you benefits , like letting you stay in this villa . But when the day comes that you're no longer useful , they'll toss you aside without a second thought .

You won't even have the strength to defend yourself ." " People like Frankie Wainwright - they'll chew you up and spit you out without hesitation . You really think you're in their league ? " Reaching the door , Yvette turned around , a hint of sadness in her eyes . " Leander , from any angle , I don't want to see you get involved with men like Frankie . If you take that path , and you don't become a kingpin yourself , it will only lead to your downfall . Yes , you're strong , but that have no background , no foundation . Do you really think you can go far ?

" you Leander simply chuckled in response , not offering a single word of defense . Leander knew Yvette had misunderstood , thinking he was just one of Frankie's lackeys . But explaining himself to someone insignificant like her wasn't something he cared to bother with . As she saw his reaction , her heart sank . At last , she turned away . " Leander , I don't want to see you walk a path of no return . Be careful . " With that , Yvette left Villa No. 1 with Ginny . Back at home , Yvette sat on her bed , hugging her knees . Her heart was heavy with conflicting emotions .

The fact that Leander lived in Villa No. 1 brought her no joy . It didn't make her admire him more . Instead , it filled her with a growing sense of disdain . Leander had vanished for over a month , only to return and move into Rivergate Haven's Villa No. 1. She could only assume that during that time , he had done some shady work for Frankie . As a high school student with no money , no power , and no connections , how else could he have ended up living in such an exclusive mansion ? With Leander's skills , he was exactly the type of person someone like Frankie would use .

And this luxurious villa was just Frankie's way of pulling him deeper into his web . But one day , when Leander was no longer useful , he would be discarded like a pawn , up , and thrown away without a second thought . There would be no loyalty , no protection .

used 3/4 15:07 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 104 What Is There to Explain ? A3 (4) 46

Finished The thought made Yvette feel both sad and deeply disappointed . Leander , who she had once admired for his independence and pride , had chosen a path she couldn't respect .

Frankie Wainwright and other local kingpins like Gumus Mardin command respect , even fear . But their lackeys ? They're a whole different story , not even worth comparing . I can't believe someone as proud as Leander has let himself become just another one of their pawns . " Yvette , what are you thinking? Are you really falling for him ? Just because he saved you twice ? " she muttered bitterly , shaking her head as tears streamed down her cheeks . From her drawer , she pulled out a piece of parchment Leander had left behind the first time he visited her home .

After that day , she had carefully cleaned it and kept it safe . But now , she felt no desire to hold onto anything related to him . " Leander , after today , we're nothing but strangers ," she whispered softly . She struck a match and watched as the parchment burned to ash , the flames quickly consuming it . She opened the window and blew the ashes outside , letting the wind carry them away . It felt as though her feelings for Leander had vanished with them . What she didn't know was that , in the near future , she would come to regret her decision that night for the rest of her life .

Chapter 105 Target of Attention 46 Finished On Monday morning , after being absent for over a month , Leander returned to school . He had already heard from Glorious Entertainment that Madeline had started recording her new album . With the company's support , he no longer had to worry about her . His return to school was simply to honor a commitment - the promise to attend Highcliffe University . " Wow , Mr. Leander ! Oh my gosh , you finally showed up ! " As soon as Leander walked into the classroom , the entire room erupted with excitement .

His classmate , Liam Preston , who had been missing him for ages , rushed over , brimming with enthusiasm . The last time Leander was at school , he had stunned everyone by playing a piano piece that had captivated the entire audience . After that remarkable performance , he disappeared for over a month . Yet , during that time , his fame hadn't faded - in fact , it had only grown. Many of the new transfer students were eager to meet the senior who had delivered such a world - class performance . " What's going on ?

" Leander asked , puzzled , as he opened his locker to find it stuffed with letters , all brightly colored and perfumed , sealed with heart - shaped stickers . " What do you think's going on ? " Liam replied with envy . " You practically swept the whole school off their feet with that performance . Now , everyone calls you the ultimate heartthrob of our class . These are love letters from the girls who adore you ." Leander chuckled and shook his head , completely uninterested . " Toss them for me , will you ? Or you can read them yourself if you want .

" He casually placed the stack of letters on Liam's desk and leaned back in his chair . After being gone for over a month , sitting at his old desk felt strangely nostalgic . " Oh , by the way , Mr. Leander ! " Liam added , " Did you hear about Madeline ? She's gone to become a celebrity ! " " Yeah , " Leander replied with a slight nod , showing little reaction . Ever since that night at Water Paradise , Madeline had become nothing more than someone from his past . He felt no other connection . After some small talk with Liam , their homeroom teacher entered the classroom .

124 15:07 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 105 Target of Attention : " Alright , class . I have an important announcement to make ! " A 46 Finished " The school has decided to restructure the senior class based on the results of last month's exams . We will be forming an ' Elite Class ' of fifty students , and it will be led by Mr. Tim Wells , the head of the mathematics department . " " I will now read out the names of those who have been selected . Please report to Class One . From now on , that will be the Elite Class for the seniors .

" As soon as the teacher finished , the entire room buzzed with chatter . " What's going on ? They're splitting us up ? " " No way ! With only a few months left until the college entrance exams , why are they switching us around ? " " This is too sudden . We didn't even have time to prepare ! " Many students grumbled , but there was nothing they could do . The school's decision was final . " I'm doomed ! " Liam groaned , holding his head in his hands . " Mr. Leander , I did way better than I usually do on that exam . I ranked 46th in the grade .

If they're choosing based on scores , I'm definitely going into the Elite Class . We won't be in the same class anymore ! " Liam looked distraught . Leander hadn't taken the exam last month due to his absence , so he wasn't eligible for the Elite Class . Liam , however , was almost guaranteed a spot , which meant they wouldn't be able to chat during breaks like they used to . " No big deal . We can still keep in touch by phone , " Leander said with a wave of his hand , not particularly bothered by the situation .

It didn't matter to him what class he was in , or whether he had a teacher - none of it affected him in the slightest . Reluctantly , Liam walked out of the room as the teacher began calling out names , starting with Victor Lane . Victor strutted out of the classroom with his backpack slung over one shoulder , full of confidence . He had scored 706 on the exam , earning first place in the entire school .

As long as he maintained his performance , he was practically guaranteed to be the top scorer in the city and get a direct recommendation to Stanton Academy or Highcliffe University - several prestigious schools were vying for him . After reading a few more names of students with top scores , the teacher called out Jade Dempsey's name , followed by Liam . " Ugh ! " Peng sighed heavily . 15:07 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 105 Target of Attention 46 Finished His score was definitely good , placing him solidly in the top fifty .

But being at the bottom of the Elite Class wasn't going to be easy , especially since he'd be surrounded by the best of the best . And on top of that , he wouldn't have Leander to talk to anymore . " Stop whining and just go , " Leander said , giving him a pat on the back . Liam slouched his way out of the room . Everyone in the class thought the list

was finished since Liam had been ranked 46th . The rest of the students had scored outside the top fifty and wouldn't qualify for the Elite Class . But then , to everyone's surprise , the teacher called out another name , " Leander Ashcroft !

" Immediately , all eyes turned to Leander . The teacher adjusted his glasses and scolded him , " Leander , nice of you to finally show up for class ." Leander stood up , confused . " But sir , I didn't even take last month's exam . How could I be placed in the Elite Class ? " The teacher shook his head . " I don't know the specifics . It's a decision from the administration . Just go report to Class One and see what's going on . " He found it puzzling .

Normally , a student who skipped class for over a month would be at risk of expulsion , yet not only was he still enrolled , but when the Elite Class was formed , Tim had even advocated for Leander's inclusion as the fiftieth student . This left everyone scratching their heads . Since Madeline , the top student , had left for the entertainment industry , the other teachers reluctantly agreed to let Leander join the Elite Class . Filled with confusion , Leander made his way to the elite classroom .

As he entered , he quickly scanned the room and recognized several familiar faces : Victor , Jade , Shiloh , and Ginny were all present , including Yvette . The moment they saw Leander , everyone was taken aback . Liam , however , jumped up in excitement and quickly offered him his seat . " Wow , no way ! You got into the elite class too ? " Leander shrugged , helplessly . " I'm not sure what's going on , but here I am ! " Victor and the others exchanged skeptical glances . They all knew Leander had missed the last month's exam , so how could he possibly be in the elite class ?

Yvette's eyes flickered with an unreadable expression . The night before , she had burned the brown paper that Leander left behind , determined to distance herself from him . Yet now , they were in the same class again , and it seemed she couldn't escape the presence of this boy who had always been so indifferent toward her . 3/4 15:07 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 105 Target of Attention " Looks like everyone is here ! " Z 5 . (4)

Finished The students cast curious looks at Leander as Tim , the head of the elite class , walked in .

He spotted Leander and visibly brightened , giving him a subtle nod before speaking up . " Every student here has been selected from various junior high schools for their outstanding academic performance . Those entering our elite class are the cream of the crop ! " " The purpose of this elite class is to encourage you top - performing students to foster a competitive spirit . As you challenge one another , you will also support each other in achieving even higher scores , aiming for excellence in the upcoming college entrance exams ! " His words rang true .

The school's goal in creating the elite class was to place these top students together to maximize their potential . Seated in the room , Victor , Yvette , Ginny , and others - each of whom had excelled academically - listened intently , their anticipation building . They all wanted to stand out and claim the title of the best among such talented peers .

Seeing their eager expressions , Tim was pleased . " If there are no questions , I'll start arranging the seating ! " Just then , Victor raised his hand . " Teacher , I have a question !

" He stood up confidently , his tone steady as he asked , " Since this is the elite class selected from the top fifty exam scores , why is it that someone who didn't take last month's exam is allowed to join ? " As his words hung in the air , all eyes turned to Leander . Although Victor hadn't named him specifically , it was clear whom he was addressing . " Yeah , if we're all in the elite class , shouldn't we all be on equal footing ? Why can someone outside the top fifty come in ? " Most of the students began to murmur in discontent .

After all , they had earned their spots based on hard facts - their scores - so Leander's inclusion felt like someone getting a free pass . Many of them felt disgruntled . At that moment , Leander found himself the target of attention . Send Gifts 60

Chapter 106 Battle of the Two Stars (46 Finished Victor had never been a person known for his open - mindedness ; on the contrary , he was quite the opposite , harboring a deep - seated grudge against anyone who crossed him . At Ravenridge High School , he was undoubtedly the king among the boys . In both sports and academics , he consistently ranked at the top , even serving as the president of the martial arts . club , which made him a favorite among the girls . With a wealthy background and significant resources , he had never faced a setback in his life .

But the first person to make him feel defeated was none other than Leander . Victor had harbored feelings for Madeline for nearly three years , but she had always kept her distance from him . Then Leander showed up and effortlessly struck up a lively conversation with her , leaving Victor completely ignored . This only fueled his resentment . To make matters worse , Leander had single - handedly defeated the

entire karate team , leaving Victor's proud martial arts skills in the dust . It was a clear indication to the entire school that Victor fell short in comparison .

Then there was the school anniversary celebration , where Leander's stunning performance completely overshadowed Victor , effectively stealing his title as the top male student . Leander had become his number - one rival . Initially , Victor had almost forgotten about this boy who had made him feel inadequate after Leander had been absent for over a month . But now , not only was Leander back , but they were also placed in the same elite class . Victor could no longer tolerate it .

In many respects , Victor knew he was not as talented as Leander , but as the reigning top student of Ravenridge , he would not allow Leander to share the same elite class with him . After Victor spoke up , a few like - minded students echoed his sentiments . They believed that Leander did not deserve to be in their elite class . Liam frowned deeply , wanting to say something , but the teacher , Tim , was already speaking . " I acknowledge what you're saying ! " He nodded .

" Leander did not take last month's exam , so according to the rules for selecting students for the elite class , he technically should not be here ! " " But I advocated for his inclusion ! " Upon hearing this , the students were momentarily startled , and Yvette and Ginny exchanged confused glances . They hadn't anticipated that the notoriously strict math group teacher would give Leander a free pass .

1/4 15:07 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 106 Battle of the Two Stars 46 Finished " You can say I'm being unfair or giving special treatment , but the reason I wanted Leander in the class is his remarkable aptitude in mathematics ! " A student who can delve so deeply

into math is likely to excel in other subjects as well ! " Tim stood taller , raising his voice slightly . " Let me make it clear . In a few days , we will have this month's exam . If Leander doesn't rank in the top fifty , I will have him removed from the elite class !

" After his declaration , the students stopped pressing the issue , knowing the exam was just days away . Once the results were in , Leander would naturally be out of the elite class if he didn't meet the required score . Victor shot a glance at Leander but kept quiet . In his mind , although Leander was somewhat gifted in math , it would be nearly impossible for him to score high enough across all subjects to make the top fifty . A week later , even if Tim decided not to remove Leander , he would be too embarrassed to stay . " Leander , they're obviously trying to push you out !

" Liam was furious , noticing that around sixty percent of the class seemed to be against Leander . These students were solely focused on academics , looking down on him and unwilling to share a class with him . " It's all right ! " Leander patted him on the shoulder and suddenly spoke up . " Mr. Wells , wait ! I've got something to say , too ! " Everyone turned to Leander , who locked eyes with Victor . " While I'm not sure why you're targeting me , since you want me out of the elite class , how about we make a bet ?

" Victor frowned slightly at the challenge but didn't back down , quickly asking , " What kind of bet ? " Leander shrugged and pointed at the desk . " I heard you're the reigning champion of the senior class , always scoring first in every monthly exam . Let's bet our scores this time ! " " If I score lower than you on this month's exam , I'll leave voluntarily . But if I score higher , you'll be the one to leave ! " " How about it ? Are you game ? "

15:07 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 106 Battle of the Two Stars 49 Finished Leander's eyes gleamed with determination .

While he typically preferred to avoid conflicts . with such petty rivals , Victor's unwarranted hostility left him no choice but to retaliate . Victor , sensing an opportunity to decisively defeat Leander , nearly laughed . " Betting on scores ? " He almost couldn't contain his amusement . If Leander challenges me in sports or talent , I would definitely lose . But challenging me on academic performance ? That's a whole different story . Every student in the elite class had already fallen short against Victor , who had maintained his first - place position for two years and six months .

No one had ever shaken his dominance . The idea of a new transfer student like Leander daring to challenge him on grades was laughable . The other students were equally stunned . This was the first time anyone had seen someone willing to bet their academic standing against Victor . Yvette and Ginny were bewildered ; in their minds , Leander was synonymous with aggression and brute force , not the type to challenge the top student academically . " Fine , I'll take your bet ! " Victor finally seized the chance to confront Leander head - on ; he couldn't let this opportunity slip away .

" Let's go by your rules : whoever scores lower on this month's exam has to leave the elite class , and the whole class , including Mr. Wells , will bear witness ! " Tim , standing at the podium , cleared his throat . " While private bets among students are against school policy , I cannot interfere if someone chooses to leave the elite class voluntarily ." After Tim's declaration , the students realized he had effectively approved

the bet between Leander and Victor . Leander grinned , keeping his thoughts to himself . Next , Tim began to arrange the seating in the classroom .

Instead of pairing specific students together , he decided to sort them based on their student numbers . By pure coincidence , Yvette and Leander ended up seated at the same table . Looking at the woman beside him , who had frequently boasted and acted like she knew it all in front of him , Leander shook his head quietly . Small world , he thought . Yvette , with her usual cold expression , didn't speak to Leander . She was either focused on her work or listening to the teacher's explanation , treating him as if he didn't exist .

3/4 15:07 Mon , Oct 13 aple 108 Battle of the Two Stars in the Leander was more than happy to be left in peace . It was just like before when he could nap peacefully at his desk without interruption . Meanwhile , the bet between Leander and Victor had started to spread like wildfire among the students at Ravenridge High School . It seemed like everyone knew about the upcoming academic showdown between Victor , the reigning champion , and Leander , the rising star . Some students , eager to stir the pot , dubbed the event the " Battle of the Two Stars .

" The senior year at Ravenridge High School , which had previously been dull and lifeless , suddenly buzzed with energy . Everyone wanted to know the outcome of the wager , though most had little faith in Leander , After all , Victor had dominated the senior class for far too long . He had never placed second , and his position as the top student was unshakable . Many believed that Leander was biting off more than he could chew by challenging Victor to this bet .

As the monthly exams drew closer , a dark figure moved stealthily through the abandoned cemetery on the outskirts of Ravenridge's eastern edge . The figure weaved through countless gravestones like a ghost . Shrouded in darkness , their face was impossible to see , but their menacing white teeth gleamed ominously . " The souls of Wood , Water , Metal , and Earth are already gathered . Now , I just need to find someone with the fire fate , and my grand plan will be complete ! Another ten years of life will be mine . Heh heh ! " " Let's hope this city of Ravenridge brings me what I seek !

" With a gust of black wind , the figure vanished into the night . Send Gifts

Chapter 107 A Matter of Life and Death Finished For the past few days , Leander had done nothing but sleep in class , while Yvette maintained her icy demeanor , never uttering a single word to him . The two hadn't exchanged any communication , and this had gone on for three days . Now , only half a day remained before the monthly exam . Yvette glanced at Leander , who had been fast asleep beside her the entire time , not moving an inch . Her mind was in turmoil . Though she hadn't paid him any attention , her heart wasn't nearly as calm as she made it seem .

Women were such contradictory creatures . While Yvette was disappointed in Leander to the point of wanting to forget him completely , now that they sat next to each other , she secretly wished this could last forever . However , Leander had made the bet with Victor , and after the exams , he was almost certain to lose . When that happened, he would have to leave the elite class , and she wouldn't have him as her deskmate anymore .

What frustrated her even more was that while she worried about Leander's inevitable loss , he seemed completely unfazed , sleeping soundly as if the bet didn't bother him at all . This left Yvette utterly baffled . Finally , she couldn't hold back any longer . She leaned slightly and gave him a light nudge on the shoulder . " Leander , wake up ! " Leander slowly opened his eyes , his expression indifferent . " What's up ? " Yvette frowned and whispered , " What's wrong with you ? Have you forgotten about the bet you made with Victor ? " " What have you been doing these past few days ?

You do nothing but sleep in class . You haven't solved a single problem the teacher handed out , and you've barely listened to any of the lessons . The exam is tomorrow ! How do you expect to beat Victor ? " " Or are you just waiting to lose and get kicked out ? " she pressed , her voice filled with frustration . Despite Yvette's barrage of questions , Leander remained unfazed . He continued to lie on his desk , responding flatly , " It's my bet , and I'm not worried . Why are you ?

" With that , he slumped back onto his desk , falling right back to sleep , showing zero concern about the situation . 15:07 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 107 A Matter of Life and Death : 45 Finished Yvette , growing more agitated by his carefree attitude , fumed . After class , when everyone else had left the room , Leander finally stretched and prepared to leave . But before he could exit , Yvette grabbed his arm . Her gaze was sharp , her expression serious . " Leander , what's going on with you ? " Did you not take anything I said seriously that night at the villa ? " " I get it .

You have the freedom to do whatever you want . But what's wrong with following the right path ? Why are you getting involved with people like Frankie Wainwright ? If you're

set on walking that road , why even bother coming to school ? " She pointed at her textbooks in frustration . " You and Madeline came from the same small town . Look at her - she's at the top of the class and already stepping into the entertainment industry . She's bound to be a star . And what about you ? " " Just because you can fight , you're running errands for someone like Frankie Wainwright ?

Does that even sound respectable to you ? " " You're in school now , in this class . I want you to take yourself seriously . Don't give up on yourself . Even if it's not for the bet , do it for your own future . If you care at all about getting closer to Madeline , then use this time to study hard and make something of yourself ! " " But look at you - sleeping your days away . What's the point of even being here ? " Yvette's voice grew more passionate the longer she spoke . She didn't know why it bothered her so much to see Leander wasting away .

She had made up her mind days ago to forget him , yet now she desperately wanted him to listen to her advice . " Yvette , you're sticking your nose where it doesn't belong . " Leander remained as cold as ever , completely unaffected by Yvette's lengthy speech . " For me , sitting in class means nothing . The only reason I come here is to go through the motions . " " As for what you said about getting closer to Madeline , I couldn't care less . She's her own person , and I'm mine . " Leander spoke as he walked , heading straight out of the classroom .

Yvette sat at her desk , shaking her head in frustration . She couldn't understand why Leander never listened to her advice and always chose to go his own way , ignoring everything she said . The next day , the monthly exams arrived . All the seniors had

prepared themselves as they entered the exam hall . 2/6 15:07 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 107 A Matter of Life and Death 45 Finished This time , the seating was randomized , mixing students from different classes . Yvette arrived early and noticed Leander's name coincidentally listed in the same exam room .

She was seated near the back , while Leander was in the middle . Leander strolled in just before the exam started , looking as lazy as ever . When the test papers were handed out , Yvette focused on solving the problems , ignoring Leander . About forty minutes in , she reached the final fill - in - the - blank question , which was particularly tricky . As she was deep in thought , she glanced up absentmindedly and caught sight of Leander ahead of her . To her shock , he had already tossed his pen aside and was now fast asleep on his test paper and answer sheet . " Unbelievable .

This guy is sleeping during an exam ? " She felt utterly defeated . It was bad enough that he slept through class , but now he was doing the same thing during the monthly exams . She had thought that Leander , by challenging Victor Lane , must have had some confidence in himself . But now , it seemed clear that his bet had been nothing more than idle boasting . He didn't stand a chance . With the way he was acting , he'd be lucky if he didn't trail behind Victor by over a hundred points . For all four subjects , Leander followed the same routine .

After about thirty minutes , he'd fall asleep , and at the end of the test period , he'd turn in his papers and leave without exception . The day after the exams ended , Yvette waited for Leander at the classroom door . " What do you want now ? " Leander's tone was as uninterested as ever . Yvette stared at him for a moment before pulling a thick

notebook from her bag . " Here , take this . " Leander didn't take it . " What is it? " " It's my study notes . I've recorded all the key points from every high school course . Take it home and study .

It'll help you improve for the next exam ." Yvette's voice was sincere . As his deskmate , she felt this was the most she could do for him . Even if they couldn't end up together , she hoped he would turn his life around and stay away from the shady dealings he was involved in . 3/6 15:07 Mon , Oc Chapter 107 A Matter of Life and Death Leander gave her a strange look before shaking his head . " Take it back . I don't need it ." 45 Finished " Leander , what's wrong with you ? " Yvette was getting upset .

" You came from the countryside , and without acing your exams , what future do you think you'll have ? If your grades don't improve , you're destined to stay at the bottom of society . " She paused , then continued , " Or do you really believe that by running in those circles , you can rise to the top like Frankie Wainwright and Gumus Mardin , ruling the streets ? " Leander remained indifferent , his face showing no care at all . " Yvette , how many times have I told you ? Don't judge me based on your narrow perspective , " he said calmly . " Frankie Wainwright and Xavier Preston ?

Their level is nowhere near where I'm headed . " " And how do you even know my grades are bad ? " Yvette's face fell with disappointment . " You're always so stubborn , always acting like you know everything , aren't you ? " She shook her head , gathering her notebook with a resolute look . " Fine , Leander . From now on , I won't bother you anymore . I won't say another word to you . Do whatever you want . " Without waiting for

a response , she stormed out of the classroom , her frustration palpable . This time , she was truly done . There was no hope left for Leander in her eyes .

As she passed the campus newsstand , she noticed a large group gathered , curiously peering at something . Just as she was about to walk by , Ginny ran over , grabbing her hand . " Yvette , let's go check it out ! The rankings for the midterms just came out ! " Ginny said excitedly . " Let's see how badly Leander got crushed by Victor ! " Without giving her a chance to refuse , Ginny pulled Yvette toward the crowd . As soon as people noticed the school beauty approaching , they politely made space . Of course , everyone was eager to know who took first place .

Yvette and Ginny glanced at the board , and both froze in shock . " How ... how is this even possible ? " Victor and Jade happened to walk by as well . When Victor saw the rankings , he was stunned , his expression almost comical , as if he had been hit by a brick . Nearly everyone in the school had assumed that Victor would retain his top spot . After all , he had held the throne for so long . But this time , the name at the top wasn't his . 4/6 15:07 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 107 A Matter of Life and Death Instead , it was a name no one had expected .

。 , (45) ' Finished " Leander Ashcroft from Class Four , with a total score of 749. " For a moment , the entire crowd stood there in disbelief , frozen like statues . That score - 749 ! Even at the national level , no one has ever come close to such an incredible result . Just one point away from a perfect 750. Is this guy superhuman ? The shock was palpable , especially among those who knew Leander or had kept an eye on him .

Victor's face darkened like a storm cloud , his expression so grim that he seemed almost turned to stone . Jade tugged at his arm , but he wouldn't move .

Yvette , meanwhile , stood in a daze . Leander's earlier words echoed in her mind . " And how do you even know my grades are bad ? " She wandered over to a nearby flower bed and sat down , replaying every moment from the first time she met Leander until now . Every time she had doubted him , he had proven her wrong . Whether it was his fight with the karate team , his stunning performance at the school's anniversary event , or moving into the most luxurious villa in Rivergate Haven , Leander had always left her speechless with his capabilities .

And now , with an almost perfect score of 749 , he had once again shattered her doubts . Time after time , she had questioned his abilities , only for him to shut her doubts down with stunning , undeniable results . She couldn't help but wonder , with Leander's potential and the extraordinary abilities he had already demonstrated , could it be possible that even if he did decide to venture into the underground world with people like Frankie Wainwright and Gumus Mardin , he might actually surpass them , just as he had claimed ? Her thoughts were swirling , and she couldn't find an answer .

The more she thought about it , the more confused she became . Later that day , Yvette left school , choosing to avoid everyone . Needing some time alone to clear her head , she hailed a cab for a ride around Ravenridge's outer loop . " Take me around the outer loop , and then drop me off at the Spring Riverbank villa district , " she instructed the driver as she settled into the back seat . As she settled in , her gaze fell on something

strange - a yellow charm stuck to the dashboard of the car , its eerie symbols faintly glowing . She blinked in surprise , wondering what it was .

Just as the thought crossed her mind , the driver suddenly turned around . 5/6 15:07
Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 10 A Matter of Life and Death 23 CO Finished " Ah ! " Yvette screamed as she saw his face . His eyes glowed a menacing blood - red , emitting at hypnotic , evil energy . Without meaning to , Yvette found herself staring straight into the driver's gaze . It felt as if her very soul was being sucked into those menacing , crimson eyes . Her vision went black , and she collapsed into the back seat , unconscious . " Ha , today's the day my life will be extended !

" He pulled off his cap , revealing a ghostly pale face twisted in a sinister grin . He hadn't expected to find someone with such a powerful fire element in her life force so soon after arriving in Ravenridge . And to top it off , she was a young , beautiful girl . With a wicked smile , he floored the gas pedal , speeding toward the outskirts of the city . Yvette's life seemed to slip further and further away with each passing moment . Send Gifts 19 60 616 15:08 Mon , Oct 13 From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir

Chapter 108 A Race Against Time #Finished The following morning , Leander stepped into the classroom , where a unique atmosphere enveloped him - one infused with awe and deep respect . His classmates , who had once questioned his place in the elite class , now fell silent , their expressions a mixture of astonishment and admiration . They regarded Leander as if he were a mythical being , a marvel that transcended their

understanding . A score of 749 points - was such an achievement even conceivable for an ordinary person ? It was clear that only someone truly extraordinary could attain it .

Victor had just taken the monthly exam and celebrated his personal best with a score of 710. Yet , when measured against Leander's astounding score , Victor's achievement seemed to fade into insignificance . After the exam , the classmates had discreetly inquired about Leander's score . The teachers had explained that aside from a minor one - point deduction for the language essay , every aspect of his answers - both the reasoning behind them and the steps he took to arrive at those solutions -was remarkably clear and flawless . There was no basis for any further deductions .

To achieve such perfection in an exam - what else could one call Leander but a prodigy ? Leander , however , remained unfazed by the attention and made his way to his seat . The spot that once belonged to Victor was conspicuously empty , a clear sign that their wager had concluded with Leander emerging victorious . Sitting alone , he observed that Yvette had not yet arrived . She was usually the first to step into class , yet today , as lessons commenced , she was still nowhere to be seen . This absence puzzled Leander , especially since the teacher had already taken the podium .

Though he typically did not concern himself with such matters , he laid his head down on the desk , yielding to sleep . After a few classes had passed , Tim entered the room , calling for Leander to accompany him to the principal's office . Curiosity sparked within Leander . He rarely engaged with teachers or administrators and found himself wondering why the principal sought him out . " Leander , we have finally been waiting

for you , " the principal announced , standing with a broad smile as Leander entered the office . " What can I do for you ?

" Leander asked , his tone calm and steady , ready for whatever was to come . " Please , have a seat , " the principal said , gesturing toward the chair across from him . "

Leander , your remarkable score on the recent exam has captured the attention of several prestigious universities , including Highcliffe University and Stanton Academy . Their admissions representatives have come to our school , hoping to meet with you . What do you think ?

" The universities mentioned were among the elite in Astria , renowned institutions steeped in 1/4 15:08 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 108 A Race Against Time 45 Finished history , where countless students dreamed of studying . Most students would have been swept up in a frenzy of excitement at the prospect of such esteemed schools seeking them out . Yet , Leander remained composed , his demeanor unflinching . After a moment's contemplation , he replied , " I have a clear goal for my university choices . I only wish to attend Highcliffe University . I will not consider other schools .

" The principal was taken aback by Leander's straightforwardness , surprised that he would target Highcliffe University so decisively while dismissing the others . " Very well , " he nodded , acknowledging Leander's determination . " I will contact the admissions representatives from Highcliffe University today . They should arrive the day after tomorrow . I'll send someone to inform you when they come , all right ? " With an uncharacteristic warmth , the usually stern principal smiled at Leander .

This was the first time he had encountered a student achieving such a remarkable score of 749 , a record in the school's history . He could see the potential in Leander , envisioning a future where the young man might become a significant figure , reflecting positively on their institution . " Thank you , " Leander replied , rising to take his leave . Throughout their conversation , he maintained a courteous demeanor , balancing respect with confidence . The principal nodded to himself , secretly admiring Leander's composure ; students like him were indeed a rarity .

As he approached the classroom door , Leander spotted Ginny rushing out , her expression frantic and filled with anxiety . He glanced her way but chose to walk past her , dismissing Ginny , who often came across as self - important and entitled . " Leander ! " To his surprise , Ginny , who usually showed little interest in him , abruptly halted him . " Did you see Yvette yesterday ? " she asked , her voice tinged with urgency . " Yvette ? " Leander replied , a hint of indifference creeping into his tone . " She left the classroom around five - thirty yesterday afternoon . Is there a problem ?

" At his words , Ginny's agitation only deepened . " Just now , Yvette's mother called me . She said Yvette hadn't come home all night and asked if I had seen her today . We tried calling Yvette , but her phone goes straight to voicemail ! " " Yvette is missing ! " As Ginny finished her frantic message , a trembling voice broke through on the phone , laced with panic and desperation . " Ginny , is Leander there ? Please let him take the call ! " Ginny handed the phone to Leander , who heard Monica's voice quaking with emotion .

2/4 15:08 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 108 A Race Against Time " Leander , is that you ? " A
45 Finished " It's me , Ms. Hollis , " Leander affirmed with a nod , his heart beginning to
race . " I'm begging you to help us find Yvette . I already called the police . It has been
over two hours with no word . Please help look for her . Yvette has always liked you ! "
Monica , overwhelmed by her daughter's sudden disappearance , began to ramble ,
revealing secrets Yvette had confided in her . " Liked me ? " Leander felt a flash of
surprise at the revelation but quickly shook his head , brushing it aside .

The weight of the situation pressed heavily upon him , and he knew he had to act .
Monica was utterly distraught , completely beside herself , her words tumbling out in a
jumbled rush of anxiety . Leander quickly reassured her , " Ms. Hollis , don't worry . I'll
go find her right now . I'll do my best . " After offering a few more comforting words , he
finally ended the call . " Yvette is missing ? " Leander found the news troubling . In
Ravenridge , Yvette was the daughter of a wealthy family -few would dare to harm her .

If she had indeed been kidnapped for ransom , the kidnappers would have made
contact by now . Yet , according to Monica , there hadn't been a single message , not
even a hint of her whereabouts . Just as he prepared to call Jamero and mobilize the
city's entire workforce to search for Yvette , Ginny , who stood nearby , broke the tense
silence . " That's strange . She just celebrated her birthday a few days ago . How could
she suddenly disappear ? " " Her birthday ? " Leander's eyes narrowed , a sense of
urgency rising within him .

" Tell me Yvette's exact birth date and time , down to the hour if possible . " Startled by
Leander's sudden intensity , Ginny quickly relayed Yvette's birth details . " As I thought -

fire year , fire month , fire day , fire hour . It's a Fire Destiny Chart ! " A chill ran down Leander's spine as he processed the implications . Today was a Fire Day , and only one hour remained until noon , the peak of yang energy . " D * mn it ! If this is true , Yvette's life is in danger !

" He furrowed his brow , weighing his indifference toward Yvette against the near - desperate , 3/4 15:08 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 108 A Race Against Time Z3 C 45 * Finished hollow tone of Monica's voice . The thought of something happening to Yvette sent a shiver through him . He could hardly fathom the devastating blow it would deal Monica . " You should go back . There's no need to follow me . I'll handle this . " With a brief command to Ginny , Leander dashed toward the school gate , not looking back , leaving her standing there , bewildered . " This guy ...

" It took Ginny a moment to comprehend the situation , but by the time she gathered her thoughts , Leander had already disappeared . A shadow darted out of the school grounds like lightning , racing toward a tall building two miles away . Leander ascended the building's outer wall with ease , his hands finding footholds effortlessly as he climbed several meters per second . In just minutes , he reached the rooftop , where desolation greeted him . His eyes gleamed with a faint blue light as Nirvana Energy surged within him .

The air around him roared , swirling into a massive vortex at his feet , forming a small tornado that danced around him . The wind from all directions rushed toward him , and he felt like a god of the skies , towering above , fierce and untouchable . As the vortex

took shape , Leander's voice rang out , powerful and clear . " Nirvana Energy , Wind God's Spell , Hear the Wind Sing ! " Send Gifts 60

Chapter 109 A Savior from the Shadows . " Hear the Wind Sing ! " Finished With a low growl , Leander summoned countless distinct sounds , carried on the wind , to gather around him . "

Hear the Wind Sing " was his own unique technique , a method that harnessed the rare Nirvana Energy within him . This energy served as a guide , drawing the airflow from all directions to his side , enabling him to perceive even the subtlest of movements . In this world , such a feat could only be accomplished by Leander .

With his current strength , he focused intently , collecting sounds from a radius of a thousand miles . Every whisper , every rustle of leaves within the entire city of Ravenridge and its outskirts flowed clearly into his ears . In this domain , he was God - supreme and untouchable . In an instant , Leander's ears were flooded with innumerable sounds from near and far - a cacophony that would overwhelm anyone else . Yet , his expression remained steady , his mind razor - sharp as he filtered and discerned every note of the chaotic symphony with unwavering focus . " Got you !

" Suddenly , he locked onto a raspy , dark voice laced with malicious intent . His eyes ignited with determination , and in the blink of an eye , his figure vanished from the rooftop . In the abandoned industrial district of Ravenridge , a place soon to be transformed for commercial development , most residents had already relocated to make way for the construction . Inside a dilapidated boiler room , heat waves shimmered through the air . Yvette , a stunning woman with a tall , graceful figure , found herself tightly bound , hanging from the rafters .

Her shoes lay discarded , exposing her delicate , smooth feet . The perfect curves of her body , outlined beneath her shirt , glistened with sweat as droplets trickled down her face , legs , and chest , a testament to the stifling heat of the boiler room . The sight of her beauty was striking , even in such dire circumstances . Before her sat a figure draped in a black robe , seated cross - legged , his grotesque face hidden within the shadows of his hood . Sinister red eyes glowed , radiating malevolence . " Truly a rare gem of this world .

Even an old man like me , who has renounced worldly pleasures for years , finds it hard to resist killing you , " he sneered . The black - robed man licked his lips with a crimson tongue , his body concealed beneath the flowing robe , save for his hands , which appeared as dry and bony as a skeleton's . Yvette's eyes widened in terror , her face pale with fear . She tried to speak , her lips moving , but 1/5 15:08 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 109 A Savior from the Shadows Finished no sound emerged . The memory of how this man had effortlessly subdued her the previous night haunted her .

When she had awakened , she discovered herself tied up inside the boiler room , and now , the reality of her situation pressed heavily upon her . At first , Yvette remained relatively calm , believing she had been kidnapped for ransom . Surely , the man had targeted her father's wealth . But as she watched him swallow a live scorpion whole , the horrifying truth began to sink in - this man didn't want money . He wanted her life . The figure before her was no ordinary criminal . His face alone was so monstrous that just a glance sent a chill through her body .

Despite the oppressive heat of the boiler room , she felt none of its warmth . " Little girl , I must say , I'm enjoying your expression . Those who died before you ? They were even more terrified than you are ! " he taunted . The black - robed man pulled back his hood , fully revealing his

twisted , nightmarish visage . Yvette felt her breath catch in her throat , petrified by the sight . Suddenly , fragments of news stories rushed through her mind - the string of grisly murders that had gripped the city . It became painfully clear : this was the man responsible for it all . But why her ?

The question echoed in her mind , drowning her in confusion . " I can tell you're wondering why I've picked you . Well , let me explain . It's because you were born at the wrong time ! " he sneered . " You were born in a year of extreme positive energy . Once I claim your soul , I can extend my life by another ten years . You should feel honored . Your mortal body will serve the great warlock of Hornsey ! " " Rest assured , after your death , I'll use my secret arts to refine your body into a half - human , half - puppet . You'll serve me for eternity !

" " By the way , you may call me the Black Sorcerer . " His voice dripped with chilling malice , and his expression twisted with satisfaction . Revealing his identity seemed to thrill him , a testament to his arrogance . With his power , he believed that even if someone came for him , he could handle it effortlessly . Whether it was the city's elite crime unit or law enforcement from multiple regions , he had no doubt he could annihilate them all . Such was the confidence of a wicked warlock from Hornsey . Yvette felt utterly lost .

Martial arts , magic - it was all too far beyond her comprehension . The world she inhabited seemed detached from such horrors . Soul - taking ? Life - extension ? The concepts were foreign , 215 15:08 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 109 A Savior from the Shadows enveloped in a shroud of fear and uncertainty . 45 Finished Yet , what she did understand , with terrifying clarity , was that the Black Sorcerer intended to take her life . Just like the others he had so mercilessly slaughtered ,

she too would face a brutal end in this boiler room . In that moment , terror swept through her entire being .

Never before had death felt so imminent . There were so many things she had yet to do . She hadn't even had the chance to thank Leander . She hadn't experienced enough of this beautiful world . She didn't want to die . At that moment , Yvette thought of someone - the young man who had saved her twice from the clutches of death . " Leander ? Why do I always think of him in moments like this ? " Her heart was a tempest of emotions . She yearned for Leander to materialize at her side , to confront the cold and terrifying figure looming before her , and to whisk her away from this nightmare .

" Judging by the look in your eyes , it seems you're still hoping someone will come to save you ," the Black Sorcerer remarked , his gaze sweeping over her as if he could see straight through her troubled thoughts . A sinister grin curled his lips . In the next instant , his withered hand emerged from the depths of his black robe . Countless tendrils of black smoke unfurled from his sleeve , swiftly enveloping the entire boiler room and swallowing Yvette in their ominous embrace .

What had once been an unbearably hot and oppressive space transformed into a chilling darkness in the blink of an eye . In this eerie atmosphere , Yvette couldn't even discern the contours of her own body . Panic surged within her as explosions erupted around her . The black mist receded , revealing the windows lining the boiler room shattering into a thousand shards , each fragment bursting outward like a deadly rain . Stray dogs lurking on the street were caught in the chaos , their bodies torn apart in an instant , reduced to mere remnants . " Is this ... truly the power of a human ?

" Terror gripped her heart as she struggled to comprehend the scene unfolding before her . The Black Sorcerer had merely raised a hand to summon darkness , engulfing the entire room . With a simple wave of his arm , he had transformed the glass into lethal blades capable of slicing through flesh . Could such extraordinary power really be wielded by a human being ? Yvette couldn't help but draw in a sharp breath .

She had thought the man before her was a complete madman , but now she realized this lunatic possessed a terrifying power beyond 315 15:08 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 109 A Savior from the Shadows : 45 Finished anything she could have imagined . With strength like this , not even the police , armed to the teeth , would be able to do anything against him . How could Leander possibly stand a chance ? Leander might be skilled in hand - to - hand combat , but that was all it was - just physical prowess .

How could that compare to this monster who wielded supernatural power with a mere flick of his wrist ? As time dragged on , Yvette felt her life slowly slipping away . The Black Sorcerer glanced up at the sky , the blazing sun hanging high above . It was finally noon . " Excellent ! " he exclaimed , a wicked grin twisting his lips . His voice was hoarse and sinister , sending chills down her spine . A soft tremor rippled through the air . In an instant , his hand formed a strange seal .

Yvette's vision blurred momentarily , and when she refocused , her gaze fell upon a gleaming silver needle in his hand . At first glance , the needle looked no different from the one the seamstress auntie down the street used to mend clothes . Yet for some reason , the mere sight of it sent a wave of chilling dread coursing through Yvette's entire body . Her fear reached an

unbearable peak . " Don't be afraid ! " the Black Sorcerer sneered , taking slow , deliberate steps toward her . " This is my special technique - the Soulrend Needle .

Once it pierces your body , it will perfectly strip your soul away , making it mine . Don't worry ; you won't feel any pain ! " He let out two eerie laughs , holding the needle delicately between two fingers . Faint yellow runes suddenly flickered across his palm , filling the room with an overpowering and evil presence . Yvette felt her resolve falter . In these final moments of her life , her mind wandered to those she cherished . " Goodbye , Dad , Mom , Madeline , Ginny ... " " And Leander ... " Bound tightly and unable to move , despair enveloped her completely .

She lost all will to fight back as darkness closed in around her , and she slipped into unconsciousness . The Black Sorcerer's eyes gleamed with greed . This was the final step on his path to immortality . With Yvette's pure soul , he could extend his life and wreak havoc for another decade or more . If he gained those extra years , he would have the time to delve deeper into Hornsey Forbidden Art , increasing his power exponentially . Before long , even martial artists at the level of Martial Sovereign would be easy prey for him .

Perhaps , in the future , one of the Four Extremes would 4/5 15:08 Mon , Oct 13

Chapter 109 A Savior from the Shadows fall to him . 49 Finished With this thought , the Black Sorcerer's gaze turned icy as the silver needle hovered above Yvette's forehead , mere moments away from piercing her skin . One swift thrust , and the young girl would lose her soul , banished to the afterlife forever . But just as the moment arrived , an

alarm suddenly blared in the Black Sorcerer's mind , followed by a deafening boom that shattered the air . The wall beside them exploded . Bang !

A figure shot through the wreckage , moving with the speed of lightning . A fierce gust of wind trailed in its wake , hurling debris toward the Black Sorcerer . " What ?! " His heart lurched , and in an instant , he leaped backward , channeling energy into his hands .

With a sharp motion , he waved them in front of him , creating a barrier to block the incoming storm of debris . Yet , the force behind each shard was immense , crashing against him like the strike of a mighty hammer . Each impact sent a jolt through his body , rattling his organs and causing his blood to surge .

He was forced back several meters before he finally came to a halt at the far end of the room . When he regained his composure and looked up , he saw a strikingly handsome young man now standing protectively beside Yvette . His expression was cold , eyes unwavering with a fierce intensity . " Dare to harm someone on my turf , you fiend ? "

Leander had arrived at last . Send Gifts " 60

Chapter 110 A Dark Wind of Death " Who are you ? " The Black Sorcerer's heart was already in turmoil . 45 Finished He had been causing chaos all across Mornwick , killing several people without leaving a trace . This time , after discreetly returning from Crestgate to Ravenridge , he had convinced himself that his movements were undetectable . With his level of skill , who could possibly track him down ? Yet , here he was , confronted by someone who had not only found him but had also managed to send him reeling with nothing more than the force from shattered stones .

What baffled him even more was that this person was a young martial artist , barely seventeen or eighteen years old . It was incomprehensible . Martial arts was a path that began with ease but became increasingly arduous . Attaining internal energy might not be impossible , but becoming truly skilled - rising to the level of a master - required years of intense training . Time was the true measure of progress . Most masters were well into their forties by the time they achieved their status .

Even someone as extraordinarily gifted as Gareth had needed over a decade of relentless practice before he could make a name for himself . But this boy - he was far too young for such mastery . Leander's cold , indifferent gaze swept over the Black Sorcerer as though he were nothing more than a lifeless corpse , devoid of any emotion . After a brief pause , he calmly turned his attention back to Yvette , untying the ropes that bound her . His movements were gentle , almost delicate , as if the Black Sorcerer standing behind him posed no threat at all .

The sight of this stirred fury deep within the Black Sorcerer . Since mastering the arts of Hornsey , he had never faced anyone bold enough to turn their back on him during combat . It was practically inviting death . Yet here was Leander , treating him with such disregard , as though he were invisible . The boy clearly held him in no esteem whatsoever . This arrogance did not cause the Black Sorcerer to hesitate . If anything , it only deepened his resolve to kill .

From the moment he had betrayed Hornsey , he had sworn to one day become a formidable 1/5 15:08 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 110 A Dark Wind of Death 45 Finished force in the martial world , a name that would rival the Four Extremes , those whose fame had

echoed across the land . But now , this boy , turning his back on him , was nothing less than a grave insult . With a furious stomp , the Black Sorcerer sent tremors rippling through the boiler room , the ground beneath him cracking as he launched himself toward Leander .

His palms pulsed with internal energy , shrouded in a thick black mist laced with deadly poison . Even a grandmaster - level martial artist would find their organs corroding , their life fading swiftly if touched by such a toxic force . The Black Sorcerer showed no mercy with this strike . He wanted Leander to pay the price for his insolence . In the blink of an eye , his blackened palm struck Leander's back with a dark , ink - like imprint seeping into the pristine white of his shirt . A dull thud echoed through the air . Boom !

The impact was solid , but instead of triumph , sheer terror overtook the Black Sorcerer's face . Though he hadn't unleashed his full strength , he had used about seventy percent of his power . Yet it felt as if he had slammed into decayed leather - no impact , no damage . Leander didn't even flinch . Worse still , a numbness crept up the sorcerer's arm from the recoil . " How is this possible ? " His pupils constricted as he leaped backward , desperate to put distance between himself and Leander . The terror in his eyes was unmistakable .

He wasn't just a Hornsey sorcerer ; he was a martial artist as well , skilled in both realms . With his combined prowess , he was nearly invincible below the rank of Martial Sovereign . Even many Martial Sovereigns would hesitate to challenge him . That strike had carried enough energy to shatter stone or pierce steel , yet when it landed on Leander , it was like striking the boundless ocean - leaving not even a ripple . Even the

deadly poison woven into his attack seemed to dissipate , leaving only faint smudges on Leander's shirt . Could he be using internal energy to neutralize my attack ?

Is this boy a Martial Sovereign ? The Black Sorcerer's heart pounded in disbelief . But no , it was impossible . A seventeen - year- old Martial Sovereign ? Such a thing didn't exist . Martial Sovereigns were a rarity , and none could rise to such heights so young . Yet Leander remained unfazed , not even acknowledging the sneak attack . He calmly finished untying Yvette , gently leaning her against the wall . Only then did he rise to his feet , a cold , mocking smile spreading across his lips . " You used Hornsey's forbidden art , the ' Five Elements Needle , ' to murder four people .

I didn't 2/5 15:08 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 110 A Dark Wind of Death Finished come looking for you , but now you dare to stir up trouble in Ravenridge ? Don't you realize this is my territory ? " His voice was cold and piercing , rendering the Black Sorcerer speechless , completely stunned . The Soulrend Needle was a forbidden technique of Hornsey , a secret known to few . Even within the Hornsey sect itself , most practitioners were unaware of its existence , let alone those outside the order . Moreover , the Soulrend Needle was only its public name .

Its true name , " Five Elements Needle , " was known only to the highest ranks , such as the sect's leader . Yet Leander spoke of it casually , as if intimately familiar with every detail . How could this not leave the Black Sorcerer in shock ? " Are you a Hornsey sorcerer too ? " he asked , his heart skipping a beat , a deep sense of dread settling over him . Years before , he had betrayed Hornsey , killing his mentor in cold blood to learn forbidden techniques and seize greater power .

That act had branded him a traitor in Hornsey's eyes , and the sect had sent countless elite warriors to hunt him down . He thought Leander must be one of those warriors , but after sensing him carefully , the Black Sorcerer was stunned . Leander lacked any trace of sorcerer energy , not even the internal force of a martial artist . It left him utterly confused . " Hornsey has nothing to do with me , " Leander said , his voice sharp and devoid of emotion . " I just happen to know a little about your Hornsey techniques . " His tone grew even colder .

" But today , I don't mind stepping in for Hornsey and cleaning up the likes of you . " Leander slowly spread his fingers , then clenched them into a fist . The crack of his knuckles echoed through the boiler room . " Since you're unlucky enough to cross paths with me today , I'll send you below to apologize to the souls you've stolen . " The Black Sorcerer's pupils shrank as he asked in a deep voice , " You intend to kill me ? " " Of course . " Leander's reply was laced with chilling indifference .

He stepped forward , and a surge of energy radiated from him , powerful enough to make the nearby furnace shatter into pieces . Terror gripped the Black Sorcerer . Leander's strength was beyond anything he had encountered in his many years . Yet , despite the fear gnawing at him , he maintained his composure , breaking into a loud , mocking laugh . " I was wondering who had the audacity to speak with such arrogance . Now I understand . " " It turns out you're Jeff of Mornwick !

" 3/5 15:08 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 110 A Dark Wind of Death 45 Finished In that moment , he had pieced it all together , deducing Leander's true identity . " I know your martial skills are exceptional , but even so , how do you think you can kill me ? " " Even if I can't

defeat you , if I choose to leave , there's no way you'll stop me ! " The Black Sorcerer smirked confidently . " In all of Astria , only a handful like Gareth , Maximilian , Grayson , or Sean could dare claim they might kill me . Even if a Martial Sovereign stood before me , I'd escape unscathed .

And you , a newly crowned one , think you can take my life ? " " If you want to kill me , wait until you reach the Four Extremes - then we'll talk ! " As his words trailed off , black mist surged up around him , enveloping his already dark figure . Cloaked in his black robe , he seemed to merge with the mist itself . In the blink of an eye , he crashed through the wall , intent on fleeing . He knew his plan to harvest souls had failed with Leander's unexpected appearance . Though Leander was a newly ascended Martial Sovereign , his power was undeniable .

The Black Sorcerer wasn't afraid , but he knew he couldn't win in direct combat . Escape was his only option . " The Four Extremes ? " Leander shook his head , a faint smile playing on his lips . " What does that even matter ? " The Black Sorcerer had just broken through the wall , sure his escape was imminent , when suddenly an overwhelming force yanked at him from behind . The gravity around him seemed to multiply , and his movements slowed as though the air itself had thickened . Worse still , his body began to drag backward , pulled by an invisible force . " What's happening ?

" Panic edged into his voice as his feet left the ground , helplessly drawn back toward the boiler room . He turned in terror , only to see Leander standing calmly , one hand extended , his eyes icy cold . " I told you , I'm going to kill you today . Did you really think you could escape ? " Leander's voice was calm but deadly , his presence

commanding . Inch by inch , the Black Sorcerer was pulled back , his body immobilized by the force . Despite mustering all his energy , he couldn't break free , and within moments , he was mere feet from Leander .

No matter how hard he struggled , it was useless . " What kind of sorcery is this ? " Fear gripped him as he realized Leander's power was beyond anything he had encountered , something entirely incomprehensible . As the Black Sorcerer was dragged closer , Leander's fist , glowing with a jade - like sheen , was raised , ready to strike . Even from a distance , the Black Sorcerer could feel the terrifying energy 4/5 15:08 Mon , Oct 13 Chapter 110 & Dark Wind of Death it held . " Your life ends here . " Leander's voice was frigid , his fist poised to deliver the final blow .

Fmished " Jeff , we had no quarrel before this ! " the Black Sorcerer roared in desperation . " But if you push me , don't blame me for being ruthless ! " In a sudden burst of rage , black smoke erupted from every inch of his robe , flooding the boiler room . His body exploded with energy as he finally broke free from Leander's grip , disappearing into the swirling mist . The eerie wails of spirits filled the air , echoing through the room . From within the dark fog , the Black Sorcerer's voice emerged , dripping with malice . " Jeff , you forced my hand .

Fine , if I must wound myself to kill you , so be it . You will die here , in this ghostly realm ! " " Phantom Wail Realm! "