

# **From Outcast to Overlord: The Unyielding** **Heir Novel**

Chapter 231 A Beautiful Encounter " Are they finally here ? " A Finished Leander's eyes glinted faintly , the corner of his mouth tugging into a slight , dismissive smirk . He didn't even flinch . Those twelve auras , though strong and varied , were nothing more than some pests buzzing in the dark . They weren't even worth a second glance . He took another slow sip from his glass , then glanced toward the stage . Maeve stood under the spotlight , her eyes gleaming like stars .

In that moment , her radiant smile overlapped with the memory of a girl who had once stood at the brink of despair , ready to throw her life away . He had never felt particularly close to Maeve . Still , watching the girl who had once lost hope in life now stand confident , alive , and shining stirred something faint and hard to name . Onstage , Maeve moved with an easy grace , arms swaying gently as the opening chords of a familiar melody floated through the air . " Alright , everyone ! " she called out , beaming . " I bet most of you already know the name of this song , don't you ?

Come on , shout it out with me ! " The crowd erupted in a wave of voices , loud and passionate . " A Beautiful Encounter ! " Maeve gave a soft nod , her eyes twinkling with emotion , her lips slightly parted . " I always open my concerts with this song , but I've never told anyone why . Do you know why ? " The venue went quiet . Her die - hard fans - people who had followed her for years - held their breath . They all knew this tradition . But the reason behind it was a mystery - until now .

Maeve smiled softly , but a trace of unfamiliar sadness crept into her expression , her eyes glistening with unshed tears . " Tonight , " she said softly , " standing on this stage , with the support of Jeff Enterprises , I finally want to tell you the reason . " The reason I always open every concert with ' A Beautiful Encounter ' is because of one person . This person didn't just save my life . He saved my entire world . " Her voice wavered as the memory washed over her . " Three years ago , I hadn't even entered the entertainment industry yet .

But becoming a singer was the dream I'd chased for ten long years . I worked so hard , hoping one day I'd stand on a 1/4 13:25 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 231 A Beautiful Encounter stage like this , singing for people who believed in me . Finished " I thought I was finally on the verge of making that dream come true . But then , out of nowhere , a nightmare hit - and everything came crashing down . " I was hit with a strange illness . I lost my sight completely . My family searched everywhere for a cure - brought in the best doctors , professors , specialists . But nothing worked .

" My world went dark . I thought that was it for me . That I'd never see light again . In the middle of that darkness , I made a choice to end everything . I went to Glenwick , and I jumped off a cliff . " She held the microphone , a smile unlike any she'd ever worn lighting up her face . " But I never imagined that jumping off that cliff would lead me to him . " " I didn't die . He saved me . Deep in the mountains , he took care of me , day after day . He got me through the wilderness , through wild terrain filled with dangerous animals .

And then , he found a spiritual elixir that healed my eyes . " Because of him , I saw the world again . Because of him , I found hope again . " If it weren't for him , there would be no Maeve Reyne tonight . I wouldn't be on this stage , living my dream . " He gave me everything . He brought me back to life . This song , ' A Beautiful Encounter , ' was written for him . Every word , every note tells the story of the moments we shared . " Her voice trembled as she spoke , and by the end , tears were already streaming down her face . " Because of him , I became who I am today .

But sometimes , I just don't understand - why do the kindest people always face the hardest trials ? He saved me , brought me back home , and promised he'd return with the spiritual elixir to heal my eyes . He did send the elixir to me . But he ... he didn't come back . He never came back . And he never will ." She stood there , alone on the stage , shoulders trembling like a lost child holding back tears . " I just want to see him again . Just once . To say thank you . To tell him that I like him - so much it hurts . But I know that's just a foolish dream .

The day he left , I didn't even see his face . I still don't know what he really looks like - if he's tall or short , skinny or strong ." She dropped to her knees , hands covering her face as tears streamed down , hitting the stage floor one after another . " That's why every concert , the very first song I sing is ' A Beautiful Encounter . ' It's for him . Just in case he's watching from above ... I want him to know that I'm still here , and I've made it . I hope he can see me now ... " 2/4 13:25 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 231 A Beautiful Encounter Finished The venue fell utterly silent .

Then , like a wave crashing over the silence , the crowd erupted . Fans raised their glow sticks and arms , their voices filled with emotion . " Maeve , keep going ! " " Maeve , you're incredible ! He must be watching you now ! " " Maeve , I'll support you forever ! May the one you love rest in peace ! " Many fans had tears in their eyes . This was the first time they had heard such a raw , heartbreaking story from Maeve . Even the most well - connected tabloid reporters had no idea she carried such a painful memory - let alone that someone had meant that much to her .

As the song soared into its climax , Maeve was still struggling to recover . Her voice was hoarse , heavy with emotion , but no one minded or complained . The entire crowd swayed in unison with their glow sticks - even the wealthy and aloof celebrities in the VIP seats were silently moved . Yvette was stunned. She never imagined Maeve's feelings for Leander ran this deep . She turned her head toward him - and even Leander looked surprised . He hadn't expected that he - a man the world believed was dead - had taken up such a big space in Maeve's heart .

He never imagined that in less than a month , after saving Maeve and healing her eyes , she'd grow so attached to him . He shook his head in silence , all the more resolved to keep the truth from Maeve - that he was still alive . If she ever found out , she'd never let him go again . But there were still things he had to do , and he needed to face Daphne . He couldn't bear to hold Maeve back or derail the life she had finally rebuilt . Meanwhile , Troy's brow twitched , and the wine glass in his hand shattered into fine shards . His entire body trembled with barely contained rage .

Maeve had just poured her heart out for Leander . To Troy , it was no different than a public confession . And even if the world believed Leander was dead , Troy couldn't stomach it . Not when the man she spoke of was very much alive and sitting just a few feet away . He clenched his jaw , humiliated . It felt like he'd been betrayed . He swore to himself that once this was over , he'd make sure Leander disappeared for good . No grave . No trace . He had to make sure Maeve never recognized Leander .

3/4 13:26 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 231 A Beautiful Encounter 166 J Finished After finishing the song , Maeve slowly pulled herself back together . As the final note faded , she looked out at the audience and gave a small , apologetic bow . " I'm so sorry , everyone . I let my emotions get the best of me just now . " The crowd immediately waved her off with kind smiles and cheers of " It's okay ! " echoing warmly throughout the venue . Their support wrapped around her like a hug , and it hit her right in the heart .

Wiping away her tears , she whispered into the mic , " I really wish he were still alive ... I wish that more than anything . " You might not believe me , but his voice was on a whole different level . If he ever became a singer , I swear , he'd be famous across the country . " My dream was to stand on stage with him to sing a duet . But now , that dream will never come true . " She looked up again , face composed , and gave the audience a soft , radiant smile .

" So tonight , " she said brightly , " I'm going to choose one lucky audience to sing ' You Are My Love ' with me - to stand in for him and help me fulfill that dream . Sounds good ? " The venue erupted with cheers and applause . Fans jumped to their feet , waving

and shouting things like " Pick me ! " Maeve's eyes drifted over the crowd before settling on Leander , oblivious with his head buried in his phone . A playful smile slowly curved across her lips . Without hesitation , she lifted her hand and pointed straight at him . " Let's welcome this gentleman to come up and sing with me !

" In a flash , every head turned toward Leander . Sensing something was off , he looked up - and froze . Hundreds of eyes were locked on him . Maeve was smiling from the stage , finger still aimed at him like a spotlight . " What the f \* ck ? " Leander froze , completely stunned . And for the first time in his life , a curse slipped out of his mouth .

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Chapter 232 Assassination Begins All eyes in the room shifted to Leander , whose brow furrowed with confusion . Finished His reunion with Maeve had been far from harmonious . In fact , he had never treated her kindly - yet now she actually wanted him to join her on stage . Leander was sure she was doing it on purpose . If he hadn't been so meticulous in hiding his identity , he might've thought she had already seen through him . Everyone else was quietly envious that Leander had become the lucky one chosen to perform alongside Maeve tonight .

But to their surprise , Leander remained unmoved and simply waved his hand dismissively . " Sorry , I don't sing ." His tone was firm , almost cold . The last thing he wanted was to be in the spotlight with Maeve . The more time they spent together , the higher the risk she'd recognize him . And if he started singing , his voice and mannerisms would give him away instantly . Upon hearing Leander's refusal , Maeve

pursed her lips , clearly not ready to give up . With a playful smile , she turned to the audience . " Looks like this gentleman is a little shy . What do you say ?

Should we give him a bit of courage ? " Suddenly , the room erupted in thunderous applause , all urging Leander to take the stage . Right on cue , Frankie had the spotlight cast directly on him . In an instant , Leander found himself in a dilemma with no easy way out . Yvette caught sight of his grim expression , covered her mouth , and let out a quiet laugh - clearly amused . " Phew ! " With a sigh and a helpless shake of his head , he gave in and started walking toward the stage . Not far away , Troy's eyes burned with jealousy , his expression darkening .

" Did that b \* stard already tell Maeve everything ? " His fists clenched tight , a flicker of murderous intent flashing in his eyes . His biggest trump card was keeping Maeve from learning Leander's true identity . If she ever found out Leander was still alive , he'd lose all his leverage - and be cast out of her world forever . And if he killed Leander after Maeve learned the truth , she would hate him for the rest of her life . He'd have no chance of ever winning her heart . " He probably hasn't .

Maeve must've picked him at random - it was just dumb luck that it 1/4 13:26 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 232 Assassination Begins happened to be him ." Finished Emma's eyes shimmered slightly as she spoke in a low , steady voice . " Let's set this aside for now . We need to focus on the situation in the Umbral Court . I can feel it - they're already here ." She swept her gaze across the room , expanding her senses to the limit . In the faintest corners of the venue , she'd already picked up traces of a cold , unsettling presence . " I feel it too . They'll move as soon as the time hits .

It's been 23 hours and 40 minutes since the bounty was issued yesterday . In another twenty minutes , it'll be time , " Elias said with a nod . His expression grew heavier with each word . " Let's go . Time to move . " Emma rose to her feet , Elias following right behind . Troy cast one last look at Maeve and Leander on stage , his eyes dark with reluctance - but still , he followed the others . In a blink , the three top young elites of Astria's martial world disappeared from the venue . Back on stage , Leander finally stood beside Maeve . " If you don't know the song , it's fine .

I'll lead , " she said sweetly . Seeing Leander's expression as dark as the bottom of a pot gave her a strange sense of satisfaction . She had pulled him up here on purpose - payback for the cold shoulder he'd always given her . " You sing . I'm just standing here , " Leander replied flatly , taking the microphone without emotion. He barely responded the whole time , humming a few lines half - heartedly . When the song ended , he didn't even glance at Maeve - just stepped off the stage and walked away without a word .

Maeve chuckled quietly to herself , but let him go , staying on stage to sing a few more songs on her own . Outside the venue , at a dim corner near the stairwell , a figure drifted silently down the corridor like a shadow . The two security guards from Jeff Enterprises barely had time to react before they collapsed to the ground . The intruder was headed straight for the backstage area , until a graceful silhouette blocked his path . 2/4 13:26 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 237 Assassination Begins Finished " What's this ? " He lifted his head slightly , mild surprise flickering across his pale face .

" One of the Four Beauties of Astria martial world , Emma Reyne from the Tri - Peak Sect ? " Standing before him was Emma , her palm faintly glowing with icy energy . The

temperature in the corridor dropped in an instant . " You're one of the Twelve Talons , Marrow ? " Emma recognized the man at a glance , her voice cold and sharp . " I didn't expect the entire Twelve Talons to mobilize just to kill Maeve . Is this how the Umbral Court deals with a defenseless girl ? " Marrow smirked , his smile completely void of warmth .

" If a prodigy from the Tri - Peak Sect like you weren't guarding her , why would we need to show up in full force ? " A chill gathered in her palm , frost already creeping along the corridor walls . Her eyes sharpened , brimming with battle intent . " If you want her , you'll have to go through me first . I'm curious - are the Twelve Talons from the Umbral Court really as terrifying as the rumors say ? " She didn't wait for a reply . With a flick of her wrist , she struck with a powerful palm . " Heh , if it's a fight you want , I'll gladly oblige !

" Marrow grinned , meeting her palm head - on . Their clash sent a violent shockwave through the corridor , blowing murals clean off the walls . Boom ! With a deep thud , the wall behind them exploded . The two were blasted out of the venue , their figures vanishing into the night sky . On the steel - framed rooftop of a neighboring hall , another showdown had begun - Maddox from the Twelve Talons faced off against Troy . " If you want to touch my fiancée , you'll have to get past the Levington family's Cloudveil Palm !

" Maddox raised a brow , a playful gleam in his eyes , laced with mockery . " Good . I've been meaning to see what Thaddeus ' son is really capable of . " The two clashed with fierce intensity , their movements wild and fluid , clothes billowing despite the still air .

They fought fiercely , exchanging blow after blow , gradually pushing the battle outside the venue . 3/4 13:20 Wed , Oct 13 Chapter 232 Assassination Begins Finished

Elsewhere , Elias moved like a gust of wind , locked in combat with Thornton from the Twelve Talons near the artificial mountain beside Maplebrook Manor .

Inside the venue , everything remained calm . Maeve continued singing passionately , and aside from Leander , no one realized that a deadly battle had already erupted just beyond the walls . As her final song ended , thunderous applause echoed through the hall . Maeve stepped off the stage gracefully , her gaze drifting toward the table where Emma and the others had been . It was now empty - something that made her pause in quiet confusion . She scanned the room . Several guests had already stood and gestured invitingly , eager for her company .

Yet , for reasons she couldn't explain , her feet carried her toward Leander's table instead . Leander was reclining on the couch , chewing on a piece of fruit , completely unfazed by her presence . Yvette greeted Maeve with a polite smile . While the two women chatted casually , neither noticed the silent danger drawing closer . High above , perched on a wooden beam cloaked in shadow , a figure waited - Emdalf , one of the Twelve Talons . In his fingers , a silver needle glinted coldly , thin as a strand of hair . His eyes gleamed with killing intent .

With a subtle flick of the wrist , his silver needle sliced through the air like a streak of cold light , flying straight for Maeve's left temple . " Target eliminated , " he whispered , confident in his strike . The moment he released the needle , he was sure that Maeve was finished . But just as death closed in on her , two fingers suddenly appeared in its

path . The hair - thin needle halted midair , caught effortlessly between them . Send Gifts 。 60

Chapter 233 Demons Dancing in the Dark Finished Emdalf was the deadliest assassin among the Twelve Talons . Though his raw combat strength lagged behind the others , his mastery of hidden weapons was unmatched - his signature silver needle fired with inner strength was as lethal and precise as a sniper round . Since joining the Umbral Court , he had never missed a single kill . Once the needle entered the bloodstream , it dissolved without a trace , leaving no evidence behind . That perfect record had earned Emdalf both fear and fame , ultimately securing his place among the Twelve Talons .

To him , killing Maeve was nothing more than routine . With Emma and Troy distracted by his comrades , all it took was a flick of his wrist to end her life . To his shock , the silver needle he prided himself on - nearly invisible to the naked eye - was suddenly caught between two fingers , halting his assassination attempt and leaving him in utter disbelief . Although his needle wasn't as lethal as the hidden weapons of the Tarlyn Guild , it excelled in being virtually undetectable .

Even an ordinary martial arts master might not notice it - but this was the first time in his life that his attack had been intercepted midway . " Who is he ? " His eyes locked on the figure - a young man in casual clothes , lazily holding a slice of watermelon in his other hand . " How is that possible ? " He stared in disbelief - stunned that the person who had just stopped his attack was a man barely in his twenties . As he tried to guess Leander's identity , the young man slowly turned his head and shot him a chilling smile , one laced with quiet menace . " Oh no !

" A chill ran down Emdalf's spine . Instinctively , he tried to retreat - but it was too late . In the very next moment , his body suddenly froze . In the blink of an eye , the silver needle reversed course . With terrifying speed , it shot back the way it had come and buried itself in his forehead , piercing clean through the back of his skull . In his final moment , Emdalf didn't even understand how he had died . A legendary assassin - one of the Twelve Talons - fell without a sound .

1/5 13:26 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 233 Demons Dancing in the Dark 66 Finished Emdalf made his move in silence , while Leander's silver needle struck clean and left no trace . No one in the venue noticed anything . Maeve was still chatting with Yvette , and Frankie had already taken the stage to host the evening's auction . your world ... Could you tell me " Maeve , that man you mentioned earlier - the one who saved about him ? I really want to know the story between you two .

" Yvette's tone softened with genuine curiosity , and without realizing it , she had already started calling Maeve by her nickname . " Him ? " Maeve's gaze darkened for a moment . She paused , then slowly nodded . " He's a very cold person . On the surface , he acts like nothing matters . Even when we first met , he treated me with indifference . He never once spoke gently to me . " But no matter what danger I faced , he was always there - always finding a way to help me . He carried me through the forest on his back , protected me from fierce beasts , and even cured my eyes .

" To me , he's like a god . He gave me back my life and gave me the strength to chase my dreams . Everything I am today is because of him . " As she spoke , a gentle smile touched Maeve's lips . The brief month she had spent with him had been the happiest ,

most precious time of her 20 years . Yvette glanced discreetly at Leander , then asked cautiously , " You said you never met him again ... So , you don't even know his name ? " A trace of sorrow flickered across Maeve's face . She shook her head , eyes dim . " No. He never told me his name . Not even my sister or my dad knows .

" But no matter what his name is - whether he's handsome or not - it doesn't matter . I've already made up my mind about him . " I was planning to marry him once my eyes healed . I wanted to stay by his side for the rest of my life . But ... the elixir returned , and he never did . I know now - I'll never see him again . " Tears shimmered in her eyes as the sadness grew stronger . Leander took a sip of wine , expression unreadable , as if none of this concerned him . Yvette's heart tightened . She nearly blurted out the truth .

At that moment , Maeve reached into her pocket and pulled out a small wooden box .  
2/5 13:20 Wea , UCI 15 Chapter 233 Demons Dancing in the Dark : 866 Finished " This is the only thing he left me , " she whispered . " I've kept it with me ever since . Every time I hold it , it feels like he's still here ... standing quietly beside me , shielding me from the storm . " Her fingers gently brushed over the box , her eyes glistening with tears . Sensing Maeve's sorrow, Yvette couldn't help but feel a wave of empathy .

She let out a quiet sigh and gently comforted her , " Maeve , don't be too heartbroken . Maybe the man you're waiting for isn't gone - maybe there's just something keeping him from finding you . I truly believe you'll see him again one day . " Maeve had no idea there was a deeper meaning hidden in Yvette's words . She simply thought Yvette was being kind and offered her a soft , grateful smile . " Thank you , Yvette . " Yvette forced a

smile in return . If only Maeve knew the man she longed for was sitting right beside her at that very moment , casually scrolling on his phone ...

no one could say how she might react . As the final item was auctioned off for thirty million , the charity gala officially came to a close . Guests began to leave in waves , and Frankie moved to oversee the wrap - up . Maeve and Yvette , deep in conversation , were chatting like old friends who hadn't seen each other in years . They were among the last to leave . Leander quietly followed them out of Maplebrook Manor . Boom ! Suddenly , a deafening explosion erupted near the side of the venue .

A wall collapsed , and two figures - one in black , one in white - tumbled out in a fierce struggle . It was Emma and Marrow . Boom ! Two more blasts followed , and Elias and Troy landed hard , their own battles forcing them into the open . Behind them , their opponents emerged in a blur of motion . In the blink of an eye , six more figures appeared outside the venue - each exuding an overwhelming presence . Maeve and Yvette were stunned . Frankie quickly waved over the Jeff Enterprises ' security team , who surrounded Maeve protectively.

However , Marrow , Thornton , and Maddox stood in place , unfazed by the guards . They sneered in unison . 3/5 13:26 Wed , Oct 15 A Chapter 283 Demons Dancing in the Clark interd " The Tri - Peak Sec really does live up to its name , Marrow said , his cold gaze sweeping over the defenders . " And Thaddeus ' son is impressive - he's inherited seven - tenths of his father's skill , which isn't bad at all . " A cruel smile curled on his lips . " The three of you are truly the best young talents in Astria's martial world today . But unfortunately for you , we didn't come alone .

" Fighting the three of us alone would already stretch your limits . But the Twelve Talons of the Umbral Court number twelve in total . Tell me - how do you plan to win this fight ?

" As he spoke , several figures emerged from the shadows . Then , like phantoms , eight more soared through the air , landing behind him . Eleven assassins stood tall , each one radiating bloodlust and power . Emma , Elias , and Troy exchanged a grim look . The pressure was suffocating .

In a one - on - one fight , they had no fear of any of the Twelve Talons - but facing eleven opponents with just the three of them , they stood no chance . Emma and the other two shared a glance , then moved in unison , falling back until they stood protectively in front of Maeve , forming a solid shield around her . The terrifying scene unfolding before Maeve sent a chill through her . She quickly turned to Emma , her voice filled with alarm . " Emma , what's going on ? " " Maeve , it's time I told you the truth , " Emma answered , her tone grave .

" The people you're looking at are all members of the Assassin Group . And they've come for you . I came here from the Tri - Peak Sect to protect you . " Maeve froze , stunned . She could tell at a glance that the assassins were no ordinary foes . Each one exuded danger , their presence sharp and oppressive . She had no idea why she had become their target , though . " Don't worry , Maeve . As long as I'm here , no one will lay a finger on you . " Emma patted Maeve's head , her eyes flashing with confidence as she faced the eleven elite assassins across from them .

" Marrow , do you really think just the eleven of you are enough ? " Marrow , noticing Emdalf's absence , raised an eyebrow but dismissed the thought with a smirk . " Oh ?

Do you think the three of you can stand against the Twelve Talons ? " " Can you do it ?

" 4/5 13:26 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 233 Demons Dancing in the Dark 20 Finished Just as Marrow's voice fell , a powerful voice rang out from the side of the venue , calm yet laced with overwhelming inner force . " If they can't , then what about me ? " All eleven assassins turned in unison , eyes narrowing at the voice's source .

A middle - aged man in white stepped into view , hands clasped behind his back , each stride steady and composed . His presence was like an unshakable mountain - calm , commanding , and impossible to ignore . With every step , the aura of a true grandmaster radiated from him . Behind him stood Trevor , respectful and silent . Troy's eyes lit up in recognition . He gave a slight bow . " Dad , you made it ! " Emma and Elias also bowed . " Greetings , Mr. Levington . " The man gave them a slight nod , then turned his gaze on Marrow and the others . " Sending out eleven of the Twelve Talons ?

Impressive . If it's numbers you want , then let me even the odds . " Marrow and the others exchanged looks , a flicker of seriousness crossing their faces . The legendary head of the Glenwick Levingtons , one of Astria's most formidable Martial Sovereigns , had arrived . Leander watched the scene unfold without much reaction . He simply tilted his head toward the starry sky , a faint smirk tugging at his lips . " What a night ...

Demons dancing in the dark . " Send Gifts 10 60

Chapter 234 The Confrontation of Martial Sovereigns Finished Leander stood with his arms crossed , surrounded by a ring of Jeff Enterprises guards . His gaze swept across the night , a glint of amusement in his eyes . The scene at Maplebrook Manor was far livelier than he'd expected . And the true heavyweights in attendance weren't limited to

Thaddeus . Standing at the center , Thaddeus hadn't noticed Leander , who was surrounded by guards - his focus locked on the Twelve Talons . " The Twelve Talons ? Shouldn't there be twelve of you ? Why only eleven ? " He raised his voice , taunting .

" Bring out the last one , too . It's been a while since I've had a proper warm - up , and I'm curious just how formidable the Umbral Court's top assassins really are . " Thaddeus stood tall with one hand behind his back , emanating the calm intensity of a grandmaster . His tone was casual , but his eyes were sharp as blades . Marrow narrowed his eyes . Emdalf had been gone for nearly ten minutes with no word - odd , but not yet alarming . He replied coldly , " Mr. Levington , it seems this girl means a great deal to your family .

Even a top - tier Martial Sovereign like yourself has been stirred . " " Of course she does ! " Thaddeus said without hesitation . " My son Troy is engaged to Maeve- she's the future daughter - in - law of the Levington family . I don't care how strong the Umbral Court is . If you threaten her , you threaten us . " " No more talk , " he added . " Let's begin . " Marrow and the others exchanged brief glances , then nodded . In the next moment , the eleven figures shifted positions in an instant , shadows flashing across the field as they surrounded Thaddeus at the center .

Each stood at a different angle , targeting a vital point on Thaddeus ' body . Their movements were unified , each playing their part in a deadly formation - a complete killing machine , with synchronized steps and perfectly matched breathing . " Is this ... an Attack Arc ? " Thaddeus frowned slightly , already recognizing the subtle coordination among them . Although the eleven appeared to remain in place , each was

shifting their steps ever so slightly , forming a hidden formation that locked him in . " A formation ?

I didn't expect the Twelve Talons to be capable of this ." 1/5 13:26 Wed , Oct 15

Chapter 234 The Confrontation of Martial Sovereigns Finished On the sidelines , Troy's expression darkened . He had heard of many coordinated Attack Arcs , such as the Seven - Segment Array of the Wanda Sect , the Seven - Star Arc of the Unity Sect , the Six Realms Arc of the Azure Sect , and the Goldflare Array of the Twinfang Sect . Each of those was legendary in the martial world of Astria . When executed , every member became a living part of the formation - breathing , striking , and moving as one .

Their strength didn't just add up - it multiplied . Troy had only heard of such formations in stories . He never imagined the Twelve Talons had mastered one . " Emma , is Mr. Levington going to be fine ? " Although Maeve didn't particularly like Thaddeus , he had come to help her . Now , seeing him surrounded by eleven people , she couldn't help but feel anxious . " Don't worry . Mr. Levington isn't someone who can be trapped by a simple formation . He's ranked fifteenth on the Astria Power Index ! " Emma smiled sweetly at Maeve , feeling completely reassured by Thaddeus ' presence .

" The Astria Power Index ? " Maeve murmured . Although she wasn't part of the martial world , Emma had mentioned the index many times . Maeve didn't fully grasp how it worked , but she knew anyone listed on it was among the most powerful martial practitioners in Astria . Boom ! A loud explosion echoed through the field , drawing everyone's gaze . Thaddeus had already collided head - on with Marrow , their palms

clashing in mid - air . Marrow alone was only at the Elite Grandmaster level and wouldn't normally dare to face a Martial Sovereign like Thaddeus .

But the Five Elements Earth Array they practiced allowed the combined power of all eleven to be channeled into one person . At that moment , Marrow was bolstered by the internal energy of his ten companions - enough to meet Thaddeus head - on . As their forces collided , Marrow's palm , dark with black energy , was shattered by Thaddeus ' overwhelming force . The ground beneath them cracked from the impact . Marrow stumbled back with a grunt , and the others looked pale , clearly shaken by the blow . " Do you think you can trap me with a half - baked formation ? What a joke !

" Ever since witnessing Leander's battle on Glidewing Mountain , Thaddeus had been pushed to his limits . Returning to Glenwick , he had thrown himself fully into training . 2/5 13:26 Wed , Oct 15 - Chapter 234 The Confrontation of Martial Sovereigns G Finished At this moment , his strength was undoubtedly greater than it had been nine months ago , and if the Astria Power Index were updated , there was no doubt that he'd rank among the top ten . " Cloudveil Palm ! " A sharp glint flashed in his eyes as he thrust his palm forward .

Mist rose from his strike , swirling through the air like ink on dark silk . The vapor coiled and condensed , gradually forming a massive hand wreathed in clouds . With crushing force , it slammed toward the eleven people . " Five Elements Earth Array , condense ! " Marrow , serving as the core of the formation , shouted the command . The other ten widened their eyes and roared in unison , channeling their inner strength into Marrow's

body immediately . " Severing Palm ! " Black smoke surged from Marrow's palm , laced with a sinister aura , as he struck toward the descending giant palm .

Boom ! The Large Cloudveil Palm collided with Marrow's strike . In an instant , all eleven figures were sent flying , tumbling back dozens of feet , their faces even paler than before . They couldn't even take one palm . " Is this Thaddeus ' true strength ? " Marrow gritted his teeth , now fully aware of the gulf between himself and a true martial arts master . The residual force of the Large Cloudveil Palm continued to push them back . With a flick of his sleeve , Thaddeus sent another wave of energy toward them . At that moment , the eleven had yet to regroup or recover their strength .

All they could do was watch as the next strike bore down on them . Boom ! Suddenly , a dark palm print shot in from the side , intercepting the Cloudveil Palm just in time . Black and white palm forces clashed midair , lighting up the scene in a swirl of opposing energies before canceling each other out and fading away . The sudden shift stunned Emma , Elias , Trevor , and the others - but Thaddeus remained still , his eyes narrowed . 3/5 13:26 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 234 The Confrontation of Martial Sovereigns " Hmm ? " He looked ahead . As the smoke cleared , a tall figure gradually emerged .

Finished The newcomer wore a flowing black robe . His long hair cascaded down his back . Though appearing in his forties or fifties , his slender face was tinged with healthy color , exuding a sense of vitality . His hands were unusually large , and a skull - shaped iron ring gleamed on his left thumb . He looked straight at Thaddeus and gave a slight nod , his eyes flashing with anticipation . " You're indeed the Martial Sovereign ranked

on the Astria Power Index . Impressive ! Thaddeus . It's an honor to finally meet you .  
Let me introduce myself first .

" As he gently tapped the skull ring , his voice turned cold . He introduced himself , " I'm Norman Ziegler , acting head of the Umbral Court . " Thaddeus ' eyes flickered , and for the first time , a ripple of emotion crossed his usually composed face . " Norman Ziegler ? One of the Six Wraiths ? " Emma , Elias , and Trevor - the top talents of the Astria martial world - all showed a drastic change in expression . None of them had expected that pursuing Maeve would draw out so many high - level experts from the Umbral Court , let alone its acting head - one of the infamous Six Wraiths .

Sensing Norman's overwhelming presence , Emma narrowed her eyes slightly . Even with Thaddeus here , the pressure was suffocating . Elias and Troy also tensed , eyes locked on the twelve figures across from them . It was clear that tonight's battle would be unlike any they'd faced before . The air grew thick with tension , as if the whole room had frozen . Maeve found herself struggling to breathe . She turned to Yvette , intending to apologize - but to her surprise , Yvette seemed entirely unbothered . She even glanced down now and then to quietly chat with Leander .

Meanwhile , Leander looked completely indifferent . His expression never shifted . He'd even pulled out his phone , casually playing with it off to the side - completely ignoring the chaos unfolding around them .

Chapter 235 The Strong Gathering Maeve was deeply puzzled . Finished I can understand why Leander's acting so nonchalant , but Yvette too ? How is she this calm , this unafraid ? Anyone would be shaken seeing Thaddeus go up against the Twelve

Talons . Even I feel a chill run through me , she thought . But Leander and Yvette ? They looked entirely unfazed , as if this was nothing new . Emma felt indignant seeing Leander's indifferent expression . She said in a low voice , " At a time like this , you're still playing with your phone ? Can't you see what's happening ?

This has nothing to do with you . Take her and leave . If you stay , no one can guarantee your safety ! " She had realized things were escalating quickly . A Martial Sovereign from the Umbral Court had arrived , someone likely on par with Thaddeus . Their side only , had three people . The enemy , however , had nearly the entire Twelve Talons . If a clash broke out , it'd be a miracle just to survive . " Go ahead , have your battle . Don't mind me . I'm just here for the entertainment . " He didn't even glance her way , his eyes still locked on his phone . " You ...

" Her beautiful eyes froze in anger , but with the fight about to erupt , she had no time to argue . Elias and Troy also glanced at Leander , their expressions full of disdain . Troy especially couldn't understand why the softest spot in Maeve's heart was given to someone he saw as a fool . " Yvette , please talk some sense into him and get out of here , " Maeve advised , worried . " These people are after me . I can't bear the thought of you getting hurt because of me . " However , Yvette just smiled gently and shook her head . " Don't worry about him , Maeve . He's just fine .

And you shouldn't worry , either . No matter what happens , he'll handle it . " Emma and the others scoffed silently . In their eyes , Yvette was delusional . What a joke . Look at the situation now - the martial arts masters rank from the Umbral Court are moving in , clearly hell - bent on capturing Maeve and fulfilling that bounty no matter the cost . Even

Thaddeus might not be able to keep things under control . And yet Yvette says there's no need to worry as long as Leander's here ? Ridiculous .

1/4 13:27 wea , UCT 15 Chapter 235 The Strong Gathering Maeve was still confused and wanted to say more , but the situation suddenly changed . 66 Finished Thaddeus ' gaze locked onto Norman . Sensing the powerful force hidden within him , he turned serious . Norman's cultivation was clearly on par with his own . He hadn't expected the Umbral Court to send someone of this level . " Thaddeus , " he said , " since you came here to protect our target , you've already made yourself our enemy . What are you waiting for ?

I've long wanted to test out your famous Cloudveil Palm and Heart - Crushing Palm ! " His fingers twitched slightly , internal energy swirling around them , glowing with a dark aura . " I was hoping for this ! " Thaddeus sneered , pressing his palms together as clouds of energy began to rise . Just as these two Martial Sovereign were about to clash , a long shout rang out from the side . " Thaddeus , how about letting me take this fight ? " As the voice landed , a tall man in blue robes arrived beside Thaddeus .

He was about 1.9 meters tall , with a plain - looking face that could easily go unnoticed in a crowd -but the massive iron spear on his back glinted with a chilling light . His presence alone was like a looming storm - quiet yet overpowering . Just his presence was enough to suppress even Thaddeus ' aura . " Master ! " Emma and Elias exclaimed in surprise . The man was none other than the " Spearstorm " -Yannick Garland , head of the Tri - Peak Sect and ranked sixth on the Power Index . " Norman , it's been 25 years .

I can't believe you actually joined the Umbral Court and even became their acting leader . You were once the famed ' Noble Edge . ' Seems you've truly fallen ." . Yannick sneered as he looked at Norman , clearly full of contempt . Norman wasn't angry . He merely scoffed coldly as he replied , " Yannick , you're still as sharp- tongued as ever after 25 years ! Traveling all this way just to protect your disciple's sister ? Since when did you get so sentimental ? " Yannick stood with his hands behind his back and ignored the question . He raised a palm toward Maeve .

" Norman , I'm not here to waste words . She is my disciple's blood sister . I demand that the Umbral Court cancel the bounty on her . If you withdraw and retreat now , there's no need for us 2/4 13:27 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 235 The Strong Gathering to fight ." Fintsherd " But if you refuse , " he continued coldly , " then tonight , I will make sure you die beneath my iron spear - whether you believe it or not ! " Leander turned off his phone and tilted his head slightly to glance at Yannick , secretly nodding to himself .

Although Yannick ranked sixth on the Power Index , his actual strength wasn't inferior to fourth - ranked Sean , almost at the level of half - transcendence . He looked ordinary , but his words carried overwhelming dominance , which Leander found quite interesting . Norman's eyes flickered . He didn't respond right away . As an old acquaintance of Yannick , he knew the man always followed through on his words . After a moment of thought , he suddenly smiled coldly . " Yannick , you're still as confident and arrogant as ever ! " Unfortunately , killing me today won't be easy .

And this place , Maplebrook Manor ? It's where you'll die . " You think Maeve is our target ? Ridiculous . A mere celebrity wouldn't warrant such a mobilization from the

Umbral Court . Our real target ... is you , Yannick ! " A cruel grin curled on his lips .  
Yannick's gaze narrowed as he sensed five powerful auras approaching fast . In the dark night , five figures moved like phantoms , covering tens of meters with each step , appearing in front of the Eleven Talons . They were all different in height , build , and attire .

One wore a straw hat that obscured his face , with his hands hidden in his sleeves and a long fishing rod strapped to his back . Another looked like a dwarf , barely 1.3 meters tall , with broad ears and eyes that crackled with electricity . Two others looked nearly identical - clearly twins . Each had only three fingers on each hand , their hands shaped like claws , exuding an overwhelming aura . The last one was entirely cloaked in a flowing black robe . His face was devilishly handsome , yet bore a disturbing aura .

A blood - red mark between his eyebrows made him especially striking and sinister . " Eldon Pike , Thorne Crackle , Twinclaws , and ... the Dreadlord Solane ? " 3/4 13:27 Wed , Oct 15 2 5 . 6 ) Chapter 235 The Strong Gathering Finished Thaddeus ' eyes widened as he named each of them . These were all martial arts masters of Astria from twenty - five years ago - once renowned across the nation . Each one had been strong enough to rank on the national Power Index in their time . These five had vanished for more than two decades , never to be seen again .

No one expected them to appear tonight alongside the Umbral Court . " Impossible ... " Emma , Elias , and Troy were dumbfounded . There were six Martial Sovereigns among forces of the Umbral Court - an unthinkable lineup . the The sudden arrival of the five

figures shook even Yannick . His eyes narrowed in disbelief . " How could it be you guys ? " Send Gifts 60

Chapter 236 At Last , Acknowledged " How could it be you guys ? " Finished Yannick's breath caught as his eyes landed on the five approaching figures . He froze , stunned . Each of them had once been beaten by his hand , one after another . Yet now , after years of vanishing without a trace , they had resurfaced - not just as members of the Umbral Court , but elevated to the rank of Wraith - level assassins . " Surprised , Yannick ? " The black - cloaked Dreadlord Solane sneered as he stepped forward , while Norman casually moved behind the others .

Dreadlord's eyes burned with scorn and cold hatred . All five had once suffered defeat at Yannick's hands . Their losses had driven them to withdraw from the martial world in silence - only to reemerge as shadows of the Umbral Court , lurking in darkness ever since . " Those humiliations from over two decades ago never left us . Tonight , the Umbral Court has pulled out all the stops . You really think a mere celebrity could justify us mobilizing all the Talons and Wraiths ? " No , our real target is you !

Over these twenty years , you've climbed high - sixth on Astria's Power Index - but every step we've watched with resentment . " And while you thrived , we fed our hatred , sharpening it into strength . Today , right here in Ravenridge , we're settling both old grudges and new ones ! You and Maeve will die tonight . " No one else will be spared either . The Tri - Peak Sect will be erased from existence ! " Dreadlord grinned , his face twisted with cruelty . Yannick frowned deeply , his expression dark .

Even someone as powerful as him - ranked sixth on the Power Index - felt uneasy at this moment . Back then , each of these five was strong enough to rank among Astria's elite . Though he had defeated them all one - on - one , those victories had only been by the narrowest of margins . Now , with all five returning and joining forces , he knew - he could take on three , perhaps - but five at once would be far too much . Thaddeus stood with his hands behind his back , a heavy feeling settling in his chest . Among the Six Wraiths , only Norman was on equal footing with him .

The remaining five were each as formidable as Yannick . If it came to a full - on fight , they would be at a clear disadvantage . 1/4 13:27 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 236 At Last , Acknowledged 9 : 0 " How could this happen ? " Emma's eyes darkened . 866 Finished She had believed that with Thaddeus and Yannick present , Maeve would finally be safe . Even the Six Wraiths had arrived now . Even with her faith in Yannick's strength , a deep fear began to creep in . Elias , Troy , and Trevor felt their hope fade , their spirits shaken . Buzz !

A long , sharp sound suddenly echoed through the air , stunning everyone . They saw a steel spear that had followed Yannick through decades of battles suddenly thrust out from behind him , flashing with a burst of cold light as he grabbed it in his hand . Without hesitation , he shot forward like a storm - borne dragon , his spear aimed straight at Dreadlord's face . Yannick had made his move . He understood what these five represented . If he waited for them to close in , his odds would shrink even further .

As Yannick charged , Thaddeus acted too - flashing forward ten meters and striking out with a powerful palm at Norman . The two Martial Sovereigns attacked together , using

their full force from the start . " Hmph ! " Faced with the incoming force , Norman's and Dreadlord's expressions changed . They slid backward several meters with a single step . Then , Dreadlord whipped out his iron fan , raising it in front of his face to block the strike . Norman's left arm bent into an eerie arc , sketching a semicircle in the air as it clashed directly with Thaddeus .

The sounds of metal and force exploded in the air . Both men were pushed back by the violent shockwaves . At the same time , the other four Wraiths dashed forward - attacking from the flanks with fishing rods , clawed hands , and mysterious gestures , trapping Thaddeus and Yannick within a deadly formation . The two men's movements intertwined , covering each other and defending themselves with impeccable coordination . A brutal battle had erupted . 2/4 13:27 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 236 At Last , Acknowledged Finished " Hah !

Since everyone's getting involved , we might as well join the chaos too ! " Marrow laughed coldly as he dove into the fray , with the ten fiends following close behind . " Maeve , stay here ! " Emma gave the order sharply before leaping into action with Troy and Elias to block the oncoming enemies . On one side , the eight Martial Sovereigns clashed fiercely , waves of force tearing across the land , uprooting trees and sending debris flying . Although Yannick and Thaddeus held their ground for now , the overwhelming numbers slowly pushed them back .

Elsewhere , the battle between Emma's group and the ten fiends intensified . Though they fought bravely , Emma and her companions found themselves retreating step by step under the enemy's pressure . The entire battlefield had reached a dangerous

stalemate . Maeve stared into the chaos , eyes fixed and unblinking . Just then ,  
Leander finally locked his phone and turned to Yvette . " Looks like it's decided . Let's  
go ." Yvette's eyes flickered . She seemed about to speak , but he had already started  
walking away into the darkness .

She hurried after him and asked in a soft voice , " You're really not going to help ?  
They're clearly losing . Maeve might be seriously hurt . Are you just going to let that  
happen ? " Leander paused briefly and glanced back toward Maeve - only to find her  
already looking at him . Their eyes met , and for a brief second , something passed  
between them . Leander remembered the blind girl in the forest , helpless and lost . A  
strange tug of emotion stirred inside him . However , he turned away , his gaze cooling  
again . " I already saved her once , " he said quietly .

" You can protect someone for a moment , but not forever . Everyone walks their own  
path . If they can't change their fate , then they'll have to live with it . " Yvette looked  
troubled . She wanted to object , but seeing Leander's detached expression , she could  
only sigh and shake her head . She understood him well - Leander didn't waste  
sympathy on those he didn't deem worthy . Watching Leander and Yvette disappear into  
the night , Maeve quietly let out a breath of relief .

She didn't know what they were talking about , but at least with them leaving , they  
wouldn't get dragged into the fight because of her . 3/4 13:27 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 236  
At Last , Acknowledged 1:13 L Finished Just as she turned her attention back to the  
raging battle , a phone ringtone suddenly rang out . She stiffened . " Where is the world

filled with flowers ... " She turned her head in shock . The sound was coming from Yvette's phone . The melody was familiar- " Innocent Dreamer .

" She had heard it countless times , but this version wasn't the original - it was someone else , and this voice had been etched deeply into her memory . It was that voice - the one that had carried her through the darkest chapter of her life . Three years ago , deep in the wilderness , blind and broken , it had been him who sang this song to her over and over , pulling her out of despair . She had thought she would never hear him sing again . Yet now , in the middle of chaos , that voice echoed once more - emerging from Yvette's phone .

Maeve turned around suddenly , as if possessed , and sprinted straight toward her .

Send Gifts

Chapter 237 Leander Makes His Move Finished Ever since the school's anniversary celebration , when Leander stunned the entire crowd with his heartfelt rendition of Innocent Dreamer " , the whole campus had been buzzing . That night , someone happened to record his performance . After some light editing , Yvette set it as her ringtone . She never expected someone would call her at such a moment ! The moment it started ringing , Leander frowned slightly , a bad feeling rising in his chest . Sure enough , Maeve shot toward them like she'd lost her mind , grabbing Yvette's arm with both hands .

" Yvette , tell me - where did you get that ringtone ? Who's singing ? Where is he ? Tell me , please ! " Her voice trembled with a sob . Gone was her usual pure and graceful

demeanor - right now , she was just a helpless girl , desperate to know the truth . Yvette froze . Only now did she realize what was happening , but she didn't know how to answer Maeve's question . She turned her head toward Leander . Maeve followed her gaze , and her pupils suddenly contracted . " It's ... you ? It's really ... you ? " Her voice quivered uncontrollably .

Back on the plane , she'd already felt something off about him . That bone - deep sense of familiarity - it had tugged at her soul . However , Leander had been cold , distant . His aloofness had made her second - guess everything . But now ... this voice , this song , this style - every note echoed memories burned into her heart . She would never mistake it . Even if her sister and father said that person had already died , she believed with all her heart- Leander was the one she had missed day and night ! " What are you talking about ?

" Leander knew Maeve had recognized his voice , but his expression remained cold and indifferent . " Why won't you admit it ? Ice Cube ... You're clearly my Ice Cube ! Maybe someone else sounds like you , but the way you sing - the inflection , the pauses at certain spots - can't be imitated . " Only Ice Cube himself can bring this song to life like that . Why won't you acknowledge me ? Why ? " 1/5 13:27 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 237  
Leander Makes His Move Finished Maeve's heart felt like it was bleeding .

Her hands trembled as she held Leander's arm , tears pouring down her face like a broken dam . I don't get it . We took the same flight . Shared the stage at the gala . Sat at the same table . I even poured my heart out on stage in front of everyone . He's been by my side this whole time . So why - why won't he acknowledge me ? " Ms. Maeve ,

you've really got the wrong person . I have no idea what you're talking about . " Leander gently shook off her hand . " If you have time to think about this nonsense , you'd be better off focusing on your own problems .

Tonight , your life hangs by a thread . Worry about surviving first . " With that , he shoved his hand into his pocket , turned to Yvette , and said , " Let's go . This is over . " In his mind , with the Six Wraiths joining forces against Yannick and Thaddeus , even though those two were ranked Martial Sovereign , they wouldn't last long . Meanwhile , eleven of the Twelve Talons had surrounded Emma's trio - they were already on the brink of collapse . Defeat was just a matter of time . He had no more interest in staying .

Yvette gave Maeve an apologetic glance and silently followed behind him - leaving Maeve standing frozen , as if turned to stone . The one who had once protected her deep in the jungle , cared for her every meal and need , searched far and wide for rare herbs to heal her blindness - that " Ice Cube " who had been so gentle and patient with her was now treating her like a stranger . I don't understand . Leander is clearly Ice Cube , so why won't he admit it ? Why is he still pretending not to know me , even now ? An unbearable pain swept through her chest , nearly tearing her heart apart .

The last time she'd felt like this was when she'd been told Ice Cube had died . Leander and Yvette disappeared into the night , but Maeve remained frozen in place , motionless for a long time . " Leander ! She already knows it's you , and you're still doing this ? You're being way too cruel ! " Yvette suddenly rushed in front of him , eyes full of accusation . " She knows you're the one she's been looking for ! And even now - when

she's one step away from death - you just walk away like it means nothing . Don't you know how much that hurts ? I'm a woman too - I know that feeling .

Why are you being so heartless ? All she wants is to see you again , to say a few words to you . Is that really too much to ask ? " 2/5 13:27 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 237 Leander Makes His Move 09 Finished Leander's expression didn't change . " It's pointless ," he muttered , shaking his head . He tried to walk past her , but she stepped forward again , both arms stretched out to block his path , refusing to move . He looked down , meeting her fierce , stubborn gaze . Something flickered behind his cold eyes . Sigh ... A soft sigh vanished into the night .

Meanwhile , on the plaza beside Maplebrook Manor , Maeve was still drowning in sorrow when she suddenly heard someone crying out in pain . She turned just in time to see Emma take a heavy palm strike to the back from Marrow . Blood spewed from her lips as she collapsed . Of the Eleven Talons , six had been focusing on Emma . She was the first to falter - crippled by Marrow's devastating blow . Elias and Troy had also suffered injuries . The remaining Five Talons had overwhelmed them , forcing them into a desperate retreat . They could no longer hold out . " Emma !

" Maeve paled and dashed toward her sister in a panic . " Are you okay ? " Blood trickled from Emma's lips . Her face was ghostly pale as she weakly said , " Maeve , run ... I can't stop them anymore . " " Emma ! " Maeve sobbed in despair , but she was just an ordinary person - powerless against eleven ferocious martial masters . " Hmph . So , this is Tri - Peak Sect's so - called prodigy ? " Marrow sneered as he strolled toward

them . " Took six of us just to bring you down . Impressive . " But unfortunately , you're both fated to die .

Allow me to send you two sisters off together ." With that , he raised his palm and struck . " Maeve , watch out ! " Despite her injuries , Emma mustered the last of her strength , summoned her inner energy , and pulled Maeve behind her - meeting Marrow's palm head - on . Boom ! 3/5 13:28 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 237 Leander Makes His Move Finished Force exploded outward . Emma groaned as both sisters were blasted several meters back , crashing to the ground . A small wooden box tumbled from Maeve's arms , landing at Marrow's feet . It was the only thing " Ice Cube " had ever given her .

She cried out and scrambled to her feet , completely ignoring the danger , dashing past Marrow to retrieve the little wooden box , clutching it tightly to her chest . This was her only memento from " Ice Cube ." She'd rather die than let it be taken from her . " Maeve ! " Emma's eyes went wide with horror . She had just regained a bit of strength , only to see her sister standing right next to Marrow . Marrow grinned . Dark energy surged from his palm as he raised it toward Maeve's head . " Let me send your little sister off first . You'll be next .

" Emma was gravely wounded and had no strength left to intervene . Elias and Troy were locked down , struggling with their own injuries - completely unable to help . Thaddeus and Yannick saw what was happening and wanted to rush in to assist - but the Six Wraiths held them firmly in place , forcing them into defense . They simply couldn't break away . Maeve ? She was utterly alone ! That blackened palm descended

. Maeve saw only darkness before her . She clutched the wooden box tightly and whispered in her heart , Ice Cube ...

if you won't admit who you are , then let this be our final goodbye . Closing her eyes , she waited for death to come , but nothing happened ... even after a long time . Puzzled , she opened her eyes . Marrow's feet were no longer touching the ground . A slender , fair hand had gripped his neck so tightly that he had been lifted up . " What is this ? With widening eyes , she saw a tall , upright figure standing beside her . His deep , dark eyes were like moonlight and starlight , locking directly with her own . " You're willing to risk your life just for a simple pair of goggles ?

" he asked . " Foolish woman ! "

Chapter 238 Instant Annihilation Maeve thought her final moment had come , Flushed She felt death approaching - icy and suffocating . In those fleeting seconds , the only face she could picture was Leander's . So , this is what my Ice Cube truly looks like... I finally saw you with my OTVN EYES . Even if he had never openly confirmed it , Maeve had always known - without a doubt- Leander was the " Ice Cube " who had haunted her memories . If this is how it ends , at least I'll die having seen him again . Her lips curled into a soft , serene smile . No fear - just comfort and joy .

However , just as she was preparing to embrace death , she realized with a jolt - she was still conscious , and completely unharmed . She opened her eyes in disbelief - Leander stood right beside her , his face calm as still water , one hand gripping the neck of the fearsome Marrow , hoisting him into the air as if he were no more than a feeble chicken . Those infamous dark eyes

of Marrow had already dulled . " You're willing to risk your life just for a simple pair of goggles ? " he asked .

" Foolish woman ." With a flick of his arm , Marrow's body was hurled aside like discarded trash , crashing to the ground with a sickening thud - motionless . However , Leander never even glanced at the body . His eyes remained locked on Maeve . " Didn't I tell you back in the jungle ? In the wild , survival matters more than anything . Clearly , you've forgotten . " Maeve stood frozen , heart pounding like thunder . Foolish woman ? That familiar phrase tugged at something deep inside her . Only one person had ever called her that before - her Ice Cube .

At that moment , all her doubts vanished . She threw herself into Leander's arms . " You b \*stard ! You still won't admit you're my Ice Cube ?! Why ? Why did you wait so long to acknowledge me ? You heartless jerk ! " Her fists pounded weakly against his chest as sobs overtook her . Leander remained motionless with one hand in his pocket . His eyes were cold as he admitted , " Fine . I'll admit it . I'm him . But so what ? 1/4 13:28 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 238 Instant Annihilation Finished " You and I - we don't belong in the same story . We walk different roads .

Meeting again only stirs up what should've stayed buried . Let your father and sister keep believing I'm dead . It's better that way . " Maeve trembled , staring at him in heartbreak . " What do you mean it's better not to meet again ? Do you have any idea what it was like for me when I thought you were dead ? Every night I dreamed of you . I remembered that jungle every day and wished we'd never left it . " I wanted time to freeze there . But you - you knew who I was , and still stayed away . Am I that meaningless to you ? " Leander didn't reply .

In truth , Maeve really was insignificant to him . Not just any woman could move his heart . If there had to be an exception , it was Daphne . As Maeve sobbed in his arms , Emma stood

several meters away , completely stunned . Her eyes were wide with disbelief . She could hardly believe what she was seeing . Marrow , the leader of the Twelve Death Fiends and the strongest among them , is someone I can't even beat in a one - on- one fight .

Yet , just now , in the blink of an eye - before I could even react - Leander lifted him effortlessly with one hand and tossed him aside like he was nothing but trash . He's just a student - someone who's only made some minor progress over the past few months . How can he possibly have such overwhelming power ? Even the strongest among Astria's Nine Geniuses - Ethan , Daphne , Claire - couldn't pull off a one - hit kill like that . So how ... How could Leander , just an ordinary student , have done it ? By then , Leander had gently pushed Maeve aside . " Foolish woman .

If you want to whine or cry , now's not the time . Step aside . I wasn't planning to intervene , but since we've shared a history ... I'll help you . Just this once . " I'll take care of all your problems in one go . Now , move aside . " Maeve hesitated , a thousand words stuck in her throat , but still obeyed - stepping to Emma's side , though worry still filled her heart . After all , the ones standing ahead ... they're not just anyone . These are enemies even Thaddeus and my master , Yannick , couldn't handle . Every single one of them is terrifyingly strong .

2/4 13:28 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 238 Instant Annihilation 65 Finished Sure , he took down Marrow - but the others are still here . Can he really take them all on by himself ? Under the moonlight , Leander stood tall and proud . He turned slightly and looked at Emma . " The last time I saw you , you were getting crushed by some Jesund's inferior swordsman . Now , months later , you're still just as pathetic . " Emma's heart trembled .

That time in Ravenridge , she and Elias had been on the verge of being slain by a Jesund's swordsman - only to be saved by a mysterious man who broke the enemy's sword with a single finger . " Who ... exactly are you ? " she asked , eyes filled with disbelief . Leander didn't answer . He just gave a faint smirk , then began walking toward the battlefield . Emma's eyes narrowed . That back - the same one she had seen that night - overlapped perfectly in her mind with the mysterious figure who had saved them . " Was it him that night ? " she whispered , her eyes widening in realization .

The other ten members of the Twelve Talons struck Troy and Elias with a powerful blow , sending them flying over ten meters before crashing to the ground . As the ten turned their heads , they saw Marrow lying lifeless at Leander's feet - and froze in shock . Maddox narrowed his eyes , then bellowed , " He's not just anyone - attack him together ! " The moment the order fell , the other nine responded in unison . All ten moved , their figures swift and ghostlike , forming a tight encirclement around Leander .

Ten deadly strikes came from different angles , all aimed at Leander's vital points . " Ah ! Ice Cube ! " Maeve cried in panic . However , Yvette calmly stepped up and gently patted her shoulder . " Don't worry , " she said softly . " He'll be fine . No one in this world can beat him . " Maeve was still confused when , in the very next moment , her expression froze . Ten figures rushed toward them in unison - but Leander simply lifted his right hand , made a sideways sweep with his index finger , and in the night sky , a faint arc of light flashed by .

Instantly , all Ten Talons froze in place , as if paralyzed .. Emma , Elias , and Troy squinted tightly , unable to grasp what had just happened . Yet , Leander had already stepped out from the encirclement of the ten , without a single one reacting- almost as if

they were asleep . As Leander took his tenth step forward , a soft sound echoed . Ten streams of blood shot out from the necks of the warriors , and all Ten Talons collapsed 3/4 13:28 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 238 Instant Annihilation heavily to the ground , completely lifeless . " How is this possible ?!

" 4 ( 65 Finished Elias and Troy were so stunned , their eyes bulged out of their sockets . They were frozen in wide - eyed disbelief . They had fought long and hard , and still couldn't defeat the Ten Talons - but in the blink of an eye , all of them had been killed with a single move . Such a sight was beyond their imagination . Emma's eyes trembled over and over again . She thought , Even Thaddeus can only hold them back -he can't take them out in one strike . But Leander ? He's just an ordinary guy ... How does he have such power that shakes the world like this ?

Send Gifts 60 4/4 13:28 Wed , Oct 15 From Outcast to Overlord : The Unyielding Heir

Chapter 239 Meeting the Sovereign Maeve stood frozen , overwhelmed . She never imagined that Ice Cube would terrifying power . " Blazing Dragon Spear ! " " Heart - Crushing Palm ! " 65 Finished possess such In front , amidst the battle of the eight Martial Sovereigns , Yannick's iron spear danced like a venomous snake , striking out under the night sky with fiery bursts from its tip . Thaddeus ' palm glowed a dark purple . As he struck forward , a surge of inner force burst out like crashing waves . Both Martial Sovereigns had unleashed their ultimate techniques . " Dragon Claw Technique !

" Twinclaws growled lowly . Their hands intertwined , forming three - fingered claws like dragon talons , slashing into the air . " Lone Star Finger ! " Dreadlord folded his fan and

pointed a finger . The sheer force tore through the air , sharp enough to pierce anything . " Dragon Slash ! " Norman's palm turned into a blade , slashing diagonally . A pitch - black wave of energy shot , slicing the wind like a knife . " Triple Strike ! " Thorne clasped his five fingers into a hammer , spun , and struck down at an angle . The ground cracked layer by layer , stones shattering .

" River - Splitting Blow ! " Eldon's fishing rod transformed into countless shadows that poured down like rain , targeting Yannick and Thaddeus . All eight Martial Sovereigns attacked at once . Sand and debris filled the air as their powerful moves collided . Although Yannick and Thaddeus were strong , they were clearly outnumbered . 1/4 13:28 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 239 Meeting the Sovereign § 65 Finished The combined force of six deadly techniques struck them hard. Both staggered back with muffled groans , their inner energy in turmoil .

They skidded over 10 feet before regaining balance , their faces flushed red - clearly injured . Just as the Six Wraiths prepared to strike again , they witnessed a shocking scene - 10 of the Twelve Talons all collapsing with slit throats . Their expressions changed instantly . Although Talons were far beneath them , none of them could kill 10 at once . Yet , someone had just done it - in front of their eyes . They halted their attack and turned to look at Leander . Dreadlord narrowed his eyes and asked solemnly , " Who are you ? Why are you interfering in the affairs of the Umbral Court ?

" While Yannick and Thaddeus quietly adjusted their breathing , Leander had already stepped forward with a smirk on his lips . " The Umbral Court is really bold enough to cause trouble in Ravenridge . Don't you know that Ravenridge is my territory ? " He

stood alone , relaxed , with one hand in his pocket - completely unfazed by the Six Wraiths before him . " Your territory? " The Six Wraiths were momentarily stunned . Leander lifted his gaze and pointed at Yannick and Thaddeus behind him . " I don't care about your grudges with them , but Maeve is the spokesperson for Jeff Enterprises .

We invited her here , and we'll ensure her safety . If you're trying to kill her , you're disrespecting Jeff Enterprises . " Anyone from the Umbral Court will die tonight . " His voice was calm , yet it sent chills down everyone's spine . " You want to kill us ? "

Dreadlord laughed coldly . " Young man , you may have some skill , but to defeat all six of us alone ? You're dreaming . " I don't know how you could be so arrogant , but mark this - only two people in the entire Astria have the power to do that . " To him , Leander was still not on their level .

Each of the Six Wraiths was a peak martial arts 2/4 13:28 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 239 Meeting the Sovereign master , ranked among the top five in Astria . ( 65 ) \* Finished 価格 Thaddeus and Yannick had already lost against them . Leander defeating all six alone seemed impossible . Nevertheless , Leander only smiled faintly . " Oh ? Two people ? Who are they ? " Dreadlord took a step forward and mocked , " One is Gareth Ashcroft , ranked second on the Astria Power Index - a legend in Highcliffe . " Gareth's power shook the entire Astria . He had become the top Martial Sovereign 10 years ago .

With his current strength , killing the Six Wraiths would be effortless . Maeve's eyes flickered slightly . Even though she wasn't deeply involved in the martial world , she had heard of Gareth . He was a legendary figure of Highcliffe . Twenty years ago , he had crushed countless prodigies in Highcliffe , earning even the praise of high - ranking

government officials . " Gareth ? " Leander snorted lightly . " And the other ? "

Dreadlord's expression tightened slightly. His tone dropped as he said , " The other is the undefeated Sovereign of Astria - Jeff Ashcroft ." The room fell silent .

Everyone felt the immense pressure of that name . Maeve's eyes lit up . She had heard Emma speak of Jeff many times . Even without knowing the martial world , she respected and admired his legendary rise . She turned to Emma - only to find her stunned , eyes trembling , finger pointing at Leander , unable to speak . " Emma , what's wrong ? " she asked in confusion . Emma swallowed hard , her face filled with disbelief . " Could he be ... " She had already guessed , but before she could say it out loud , Dreadlord sneered again . " So , you'd like to try to kill six of us ? Which are you ?

Jeff or Gareth ? " 3/4 13:29 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 239 Meeting the Sovereign 65 Finished He still didn't see Leander as someone above them . The Six Wraiths subtly shifted , ready to attack . Yannick raised his spear to help , but Thaddeus stopped him , shaking his head . " Yannick , we don't need to interfere anymore ." Yannick was confused , but at that moment , Leander suddenly raised his hand , a playful smirk on his lips . " Since you're all so eager to find out , I won't disappoint you . " As he spoke , he casually waved his sleeve . A blast of invisible force slammed down from the sky .

The ground shook violently , as if an earthquake had hit . Boom ! A massive trench , over 20 feet long , tore open in front of Leander . Among the Six Wraiths , only Dreadlord and Norman reacted quickly enough to leap back - yet still suffered internal injuries and coughed up blood . The remaining four didn't even have time to react . They

were crushed into the trench- nothing left but broken bones . " Wait ..." The entire crowd was frozen , stunned beyond words . Yannick's arm trembled , eyes wide with shock .

Meanwhile , Thaddeus stepped forward , bowed respectfully to Leander , and declared , " It's my pleasure to meet you , Sovereign . " In that instant , the entire battlefield stood in awe . Send Gifts 60 □ W

Chapter 240 Lord of Umbral : Finished Yannick , known as the " Spearstorm " and ranked sixth on Astria Power Index , was stunned . In just a moment , four of the Six Wraiths were killed , and two were seriously injured . His eyes widened in disbelief . For most Martial Sovereigns , projecting inner strength beyond 10 feet is already impressive . Meanwhile , by just casually waving his sleeve , Leander's energy struck over 30 feet away , reducing four Martial Sovereigns to dust . The sheer power shattered Yannick's understanding of martial strength .

He had roamed Astria for decades , but never had he seen someone this terrifying . " It's my pleasure to meet you , Sovereign ." Before everyone's eyes , Thaddeus - head of the Levingtons and ranked 15th in Astria - bowed deeply to Leander with utmost respect . " Sovereign ? " That word made everyone tremble. Across Astria , there was only one person worthy of such a title - the Iron Sovereign . Emma's eyes quivered , her body frozen . She saw only that familiar silhouette - Leander . Earlier , when Leander declared Ravenridge his territory , she had begun to suspect .

Now , with Thaddeus bowing before him , it all became clear . " Is ... Is he really Jeff ? " Even though the evidence was right before her eyes , Emma still found it hard to believe

. Her hands trembled uncontrollably . When she first met Leander , he had delivered Maeve back home . He wore tattered clothes , looking like a beggar . Naturally , she looked down on him . If he hadn't saved Maeve or claimed he could cure her blindness , she wouldn't have even spoken to him . Later , when he actually found the cure , their father , Jackson , planned to let Maeve marry Leander .

1/4 13:29 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 240 Lord of Umbral 65 Finished However , Emma strongly opposed the idea . She and her father even lied to Maeve , claiming Leander had died . This was all because she believed Leander wasn't good enough for Maeve - or their family . However , now , a cruel truth stared her in the face . The man she once scorned was none other than Jeff , the undefeated Sovereign of Astria , feared by all . Her body trembled , and she nearly coughed up blood from the shock . She wasn't alone .

Not far away , Troy , Trevor , and Elias were all dumbfounded , their expressions frozen in disbelief . Elias had once seen Leander living in a shabby rented room and treated him like a random student . Trevor had argued with him on a plane and even planned to take revenge , seeing him as a foolish kid . Troy had wanted to kill Leander quietly after tonight's events , seeing him as nothing but a threat to Maeve's heart . Each of them had looked down on Leander - never treating him as someone worth fearing .

Nevertheless , now , the truth hit like a slap in the face - that nobody they despised was the Iron Sovereign , Astria's most powerful man . Yannick snapped out of his daze and realized - if anyone in Astria could unleash such overwhelming power , it had to be Jeff . Maeve stared blankly at Leander , her expression shifting . She had often imagined

what her mysterious Ice Cube looked like - tall or short , handsome or plain - but she never expected him to be a hero of legendary strength , the top - ranked warrior in Astria , whom her own sister admired so deeply .

This surprise was almost too much to take in . " Sovereign ? You're Jeff ? " Norman and Dreadlord coughed up blood , barely clinging to life . From 10 feet away , their eyes widened in shock . " Now that you know , why bother asking again ? " Leander's voice was cold . " Enough talk . Let me send you on your way ." 2/4 13:29 Wed , Oct 15

Chapter 240 Lord of Umbral Finished The Six Wraiths looked formidable , but they were only peak Martial Sovereign , nowhere near Leander's level .

Leander had once killed six masters of the Pre - Transcendent Realm at Waterfront Plaza in West Listin , and even one of the Transcendent Realm . The Six Wraiths could do nothing against him . " To kill a Martial Sovereign like chickens , to treat them like ants - that's the Iron Sovereign , Jeff . Emma's heart sank . The stronger Leander showed himself to be , the more foolish her past decisions felt . Norman and the Dreadlord now fully understood why Leander had been able to kill all the elite killers sent by the Arbitration Office at West Listin . They couldn't compare to him at all .

" Sovereign , please spare us . The Umbral Court never meant to offend you . We beg for mercy . " Norman - acting leader of the Umbral Court - bowed deeply and pleaded for his life for the first time ever , throwing away his pride . He knew Leander could kill them as easily as swatting flies . " Mercy ? " Leander sneered . " You should've thought about that before storming into Ravenridge . Remember this - in your next life , don't

ever mess with me ." Without emotion , he raised his hand . A crushing force swept through the night . Norman and Dreadlord turned pale .

The air around them was heavy with the scent of death . Everyone held their breath , expecting Leander's final strike , but suddenly , he paused . His eyes shifted . " Haha ! " A burst of laughter echoed from the shadows . A tall figure stepped out of the darkness behind Norman and Dreadlord . He seemed to blend into the night itself . " Seeing you in person lives up to the name . The Iron Sovereign truly lives up to the legend . " The newcomer wore a black coat . He was tall , around 30 years old , and disturbingly handsome . His black , glowing eyes locked onto Leander .

3/4 13:29 Wed , Oct 15 Chapter 240 Lord of Umbral He casually stepped in front of the two wounded men . 65 Finished Only now did everyone sense his presence - his approach had gone completely unnoticed , even by powerful figures like Yannick . As he arrived , an invisible pressure filled the air . Weaker fighters like Emma felt dizzy and uneasy . Even Yannick and Thaddeus felt chills run through their hearts . This was the presence of a supreme master . The mysterious man smiled , his voice carrying an air of power and timelessness as he said , " Jeff , allow me to introduce myself .

I'm the leader of the Umbral Court . People of the last era called me the Lord of Umbral .  
" Send Gifts 60