

From Outcast to Overlord: The Unyielding Heir Novel

Chapter 311 Could That Guy Be Leander ? " Excuse me ... wait a minute ! " Finished Ethan's voice came from behind , and before Leander could react , he had already arrived at his side . " Is there something you need ? " Leander paused and turned slightly . Even seeing his long - lost younger brother , his face remained calm , unreadable . Ethan's eyes narrowed as he studied Leander . The closer he got to Leander , the stronger the feeling of familiarity grew . " Have we ... met somewhere before ? " he asked after a moment , trying to place him , but failing to recall any clear memory .

" I think you're mistaken , " Leander said lightly , shaking his head with a faint smile . " I don't think we've met before . " " Really ? " Ethan frowned . He trusted his instincts , yet Leander's casual demeanor confused him . " Could it be ... I'm imagining things ? " he murmured to himself . Lost in thought for a moment , he snapped back to reality only to see Leander already climbing the dorm stairs , paying him no mind . Ethan's gaze lingered on Leander's retreating figure . Even if they had met before , why should he care about some ordinary guy without martial prowess ?

He finally shook his head and turned away . On the sixth floor , Leander's eyes flickered as he instinctively touched his chest . That spot- once where Gareth had stripped him of his martial power - now sent a memory spike through him . Earlier , from observing Ethan , he had sensed something unusual : two martial powers running through his younger brother , unlike ordinary men . " So that's it ... Gareth removed my martial

power and grafted it onto Ethan . " Leander's fists clenched slowly . He couldn't understand why the Ashcrofts treated him and Ethan so differently .

They were both legitimate heirs of the Ashcroft family . His own talent had surpassed Ethan's ; his cultivation had always been stronger . Yet he had been cast aside , stripped of his martial power , and thrown out of the family . Ethan , who was weaker , had been granted the martial power , rising to become the family's one true prodigy . 1/4 16:08 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 311 Could That Guy Be Leander ? #Finished He stood in silence for a long while , then withdrew his gaze . His emotions calmed down . Even without his martial power , he had forged his own path with sheer will and talent .

A couple of martial powers were nothing to brag about . Give Ethan three or five more , and the strongest of the young generation would still be him - Jeff Ashcroft . At Room 606 , Leander knocked on the door . " Yes ? " a voice called from inside . A tall , thin , bookish - looking young man with thick black glasses turned to look at him . " Looking for someone ? " " No , I stay here , " Leander said with a smile . It seemed that this young man would be one of his future roommates . Two figures immediately jumped from their beds , clad only in boxers .

One was broad- shouldered with eight - pack abs , standing nearly six foot three , his honest - looking face giving off a friendly vibe . The other , flashy and stylish with bright blond hair , wore a Rolex and designer underwear from Enatria . It was obvious he came from a wealthy family . " Whoa ! The last legend of our dorm has arrived ! " the three exclaimed in unison , their curiosity piqued . " Nice to meet you guys , " Leander greeted , moving to claim his bed . " Come on , buddy , we'll help you settle in !

" The three young men busied themselves making his bed , wiping his desk , and cleaning his chair . Small talk flowed easily , and camaraderie grew naturally . The bespectacled gentleman was Evander Dawson , from Ascendia in Mornwick . The tall , muscular man was Luke Hunter , a true Northeasterner . The stylish blond was Nathan Bennett , a Seagate native whose family owned several clothing factories and ranked among the city's wealthiest . After brief introductions , Leander offered his name and mentioned he was from Ravenridge , Mornwick . " Mornwick ?

Then we're practically from the same hometown ! " Evander adjusted his glasses and smiled . " It doesn't matter whether we're from the same hometown , " Nathan laughed , slinging an arm around Leander's shoulder . " Dorm mates first . Let's clean up , then hit Saffron House tonight for a feast , and later the club - I'm picking up the tab ! " Leander saw their excitement and didn't want to dampen it . He nodded in agreement . 2/4 16:08 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 311 Could That Guy Be Leander ? 44 Finished Meanwhile , Ethan walked along the campus path .

Young girls glanced at him , some shy , some bold enough to ask for his number - but he refused every advance . His heart belonged to one person only : Daphne . " Daphne ! " he called , dialing her number . " I'm going to visit Durham Abbey to see my mom after dinner . She misses you . Can you come with me ? " His voice carried a gentle , inquiring tone . There was a long silence before she finally answered , " Okay . " Ethan's face lit up . After chatting briefly , he hung up . He thought of his mother at Durham Abbey , a trace of sorrow crossing his eyes .

Ever since Gareth stripped Leander's martial power and threw him into the mountains , she had never returned to the Ashcroft Residence . She had spent nine years at Durham Abbey , praying and meditating without ever leaving . There was a family dinner today , and he wanted to bring her home . But knowing how stubborn she was , he sighed . As he moved forward , his steps suddenly froze . " Huh ? " His pupils contracted sharply , his hand clutching his chest . A searing pain shot through him , twisting his expression .

He collapsed onto the grass , the pain unrelenting , like something inside him was being ripped away . " What's happening? " He focused inward , trying to steady his inner energy . His eyes widened in shock . " Is that ... Leander's martial power ? " Though young at the time , he remembered clearly where his father Gareth had implanted the martial power in him . Only later had he realized that the extra martial power belonged to his elder brother , Leander .

The dual martial powers had once more than doubled his cultivation speed , allowing him to rise as the hottest young prodigy in the martial world . He had wielded them freely , without a hint of anomaly - until now . Now , the martial power boiled within him , disrupting his inner energy , threatening to sever itself from his body entirely . 3/4 16:09 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 311 Could That Guy fle Leander ? " What ... what's going on ? " 44 Finished He forced his inner strength to suppress the pain . Slowly , the torment eased .

He frowned in thought ; then , realization struck him like lightning . His eyes went wide as he recalled the young man he had just met in the dorm . His face drained of color . "

Could that guy be Leander ? " Send Gifts 匪

Chapter 312 Saffron House : Finished Ethan's gaze faltered , almost frozen . The familiar feeling he had sensed from Leander earlier only fueled his suspicion . If that wasn't his elder brother , why would he feel such recognition toward someone he had never met ? Why would the martial power react so strangely ? His eyes flickered , disbelief gripping him . He remembered the day he learned that Reginald had labeled Leander the Ashcroft family's source of troubles . Gareth had personally stripped Leander of his martial power and abandoned him in the mountains . Ethan had raged for days .

Even at eight and a half , he had understood the hopelessness of a ten - year - old child left with nothing in the wilderness . Survival odds ? One in 10,000 at best - truly more impossible than a miracle . And yet , here Leander was , alive , standing before him . He pressed his hand to his chest . The pain surged again , but it was nothing compared to the shock in his heart . " If that was Leander ... why didn't he acknowledge me ? Did he not recognize me ? Or ... am I overthinking this ? Was it just a coincidence ? " He racked his brain for answers , finding none .

After a moment , he leaped to his feet , determined to return to the dorm to find the young man and demand an explanation . Just then , a fragrant breeze reached him - Daphne was already there . " Ethan , what's wrong ? " she asked , noticing his pale face . He paused , then shook his head , forcing a smile . " I'm fine . " He had wanted to tell her that he might have run into Leander , but recalling her feelings for Leander - and their upcoming engagement next month - he hesitated .

If Daphne knew Leander was alive , would she still go along with the Florian family's arrangements and get engaged to him ? Or would she leave him and run back to Leander ? Seeing Ethan refusing to tell her , Daphne didn't press further . They walked side by side , admired by onlookers who envied the pair of prodigies .

Meanwhile , Leander and his three roommates made their way out of the dorm toward Highcliffe University's entrance , " Leander , you're two days later than the three of us , " Nathan said , slinging an arm around his 1/3 16:09 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 312 Saffron House 44 Finished shoulder . " We went to Saffron House the night before last . Today , you cat your fill - no holding back . I'll even round up a few ladies , and we'll hit Nevernight and have a blast . Drinks and fun are on me ! " Luke and Evander waved in excitement . Leander smiled faintly , amused by their enthusiasm .

Though just meeting them , he could already read their personalities . Nathan , wealthy and generous , loyal to friends ; Luke , honest and straightforward , the most innocent of the bunch ; Evander was bookish and seemed a bit scheming , but he was honest and sincere with his friends , always ready to bond with anyone . All were trustworthy companions , like Liam had once been . Saffron House was one of the most luxurious restaurants near the university , styled in classical Astrian architecture , with four floors and a circular design covering nearly 21,500 square feet .

Its elegant , old - world charm drew affluent students and was a hotspot for the city's wealthy youth . Nathan pulled up in a Mercedes S , parking in front of the glowing , imposing building . " Leander , check this out ! " Nathan gestured toward the restaurant . " Saffron House is the most famous restaurant near Highcliffe University and one of the most famous in Highcliffe . Students from all top universities come here - Stanton Academy , Highcliffe Medical University ,

Highcliffe Film University , and even Highcliffe University of the Arts . Pretty impressive , huh ?

" " Looks good , " Leander said with a nod , unbothered by the luxury . Nathan tossed the keys to a valet and added a generous tip before leading the group inside . As soon as they entered the lobby , a young woman in a tight - fitting dress approached . She was voluptuous , with a blush on her cheeks and a sultry look in her eyes - clearly a knockout . She smiled slyly at Nathan . " Well , if it isn't Mr. Bennett . Bringing friends again ? " she teased , putting her hand on Nathan's shoulder . " Rubyanne , " Nathan replied , flashing her a playful look . " This is my new dorm mate .

Make sure he gets a private room . " Rubyanne Monroe giggled and led the four to the second floor . Leander noticed people on the first floor staring at them with envy , an unusual sight that caught his curiosity . Nathan leaned close and whispered , " Leander , Saffron House has four floors , each for a different VIP level . Top up 100,000 at once ? White Card - first floor access only . One million ? Blue card , second floor - that's me . " 2/3 16:09 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 312 Saffron House 44 Finished Leander nodded , intrigued .

He glanced at the elevators and the tall security guards at the stairs . " And the third and fourth floors ? " Nathan grinned . " Third floor ? That's for Green Card VIPS - millions in assets . Fourth floor ? That's reserved for billionaires and tycoons . Each of them holds a Purple Card Supreme . Their status is untouchable . Only someone like my dad could set foot up there . " Leander nodded and smiled without saying much . Rubyanne led the four of them into the private room , smiling warmly the entire way . After Nathan had them place their orders , she finally turned to leave .

As she did , Nathan lightly patted her on the rear , causing her to giggle flirtatiously .
Seeing Luke staring with envy , Nathan waved him off . " Luke , don't look at me like that . Don't be fooled by her playful behavior . She may shrug off a touch , but she's not to be trifled with . She's the owner's woman . You can joke around a little , but if you get serious , you won't make it out of this place alive . I even heard about some big shot from Westcrag who once had dinner on the third floor and tried to take her away .

Ended up with a broken leg and didn't dare make a sound -slunk back home like a coward ." Nathan's tone was casual , but pride and authority underlined his words . He did not mean to look down on his friends , but he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth and had been exposed to many things . Luke finally understood and quickly looked away . Nathan was about to pour them coffee when the private room door was suddenly flung open . A disheveled girl stumbled in , panic etched across her delicate features as she fell near the table . " Help me ! Please , someone help !

" Her face was lovely , her demeanor gentle and vulnerable - a true campus belle . "
Bianca ? " Nathan exclaimed , recognizing her instantly . Before he could react further , six black - clad bodyguards pushed in , blocking the exit . A young man in a white suit , holding a cigar , stepped forward . With authority in every movement , he pointed at the girl . " Take her away ! " Send Gifts 60 B 3/3 16:09 Thu , Oct 16 From Cinteast in Overlord The Unyielding Heir

From Cinteast in Overlord The Unyielding Heir Chapter 313 I Saw Leander " Take her away ! " :
2 44 Finished The young man's voice cut through the room - cold , commanding , like an order that brooked no opposition . A burly man in black stepped forward , reaching for the girl .

Nathan reacted instinctively , stepping in front of her . " What do you think you're doing ? " He scowled . Having navigated Seagate's elite circles , he'd seen plenty of arrogant brats like this . He was direct , principled , and had no tolerance for bullying . " Brat , back off . Mind your own business !

" The man in the suit shot him a steely glare , clearly unconcerned . The others in the room- Leander , slouched and indifferent ; Luke , honest and straightforward ; and Evander , with his quiet , bookish demeanor - might as well have been invisible to him . " Do you seriously think you can pull this stunt at Saffron House ? " Nathan didn't flinch . He positioned himself to shield the girl . " Bianca , don't worry . I won't let them touch you . " The girl nodded , partially reassured , but fear still clouded her wide eyes . She dared not look directly at the men in suits . " I'm not joking .

" The young man's eyes hardened , icy and merciless . He gestured sharply . " Throw that brat aside . Bring her here ! " Two bodyguards advanced . Luke immediately rose to Nathan's side . Towering at six - foot - three , he forced the men to hesitate . Evander adjusted his glasses and also stood , exuding quiet defiance . He , too , was siding with Nathan . Only Leander remained slouched , pretending none of this concerned him . The standoff held until Rubyanne's soft voice floated in from behind . 1/4 16:09 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 3131 Saw Leander 44 Finished " Well , Mr.

Marlowe , what's all this fuss ? What are you doing here ? " She entered with waiters balancing trays of food , her tone gentle yet commanding . " Rubyanne ? " Theron Marlowe's composure faltered ; a flicker of caution shadowed his eyes . He forced a smile and softened his tone . " Rubyanne , I'm just looking for someone . Nothing serious . " Rubyanne directed the waiters to

set the dishes down , her smile sharpening like a blade . " Mr. Marlowe , you're supposed to be dining on the third floor . And now you're on the second floor looking for someone ? Are you trying to play games with me ?

" Her eyes darkened , her voice dropping . " Theron , here's a friendly reminder . Last week , you caused trouble on the third floor , and Mr. Voss warned you once already . Are you planning to repeat it ? Shall I call him and let him deal with you directly ? " Theron's expression tightened ; a flash of unease crossed his face . Orion Voss owned Saffron House . Though Theron seldom bowed to anyone , Orion's influence demanded respect . Backed by a powerful family , he was leagues above Theron . Swallowing his pride , Theron stepped back and forced a placating smile .

" Rubyanne , it's a misunderstanding . I mistook someone , that's all . No need to trouble Mr. Voss . " Since the one I'm looking for isn't here , I'll return upstairs for dinner . Join me for a drink later . " Once he finished , he gave a wave , and his six bodyguards followed him out of the private room , taking the elevator up to the third floor . The girl exhaled , relief flooding her features . Nathan turned to Rubyanne , gratitude evident in his eyes . " Rubyanne , thank you . " He realized that without Rubyanne's timely intervention , their outcome would have been far from favorable .

Rubyanne nodded , her expression serious now as she finished arranging the dishes . 2/4 16:00 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 313 Caw Leander 零 Fintsheri " Mr. Bennett , after dinner , you should leave early . That is Theron Marlowe from Highcliffe's east side . His family is not a major family here , but outsiders shouldn't provoke them . If you clash with him , you'll be the ones at a disadvantage . " Nathan nodded again , silently acknowledging her warning . His family wielded

considerable influence in Seagate , and his social standing was at least on par with Theron's - perhaps even superior .

But this was Highcliffe , not Seagate . No matter how powerful his lineage back home , their authority didn't extend here . Confronting Theron in Highcliffe would place him at a disadvantage , and he would likely come out scorched . Rubyanne departed , and Nathan turned his attention to the girl he had just assisted , smiling warmly . " Bianca , are you all right ? " Luke and Evander turned as well , their expressions registering surprise . " Wait - you're Bianca Corwin , the campus belle from architecture ?

" Leander , however , remained detached , sipping his drink as if nothing had occurred . " Thank you all for helping me . If it weren't for you , I honestly wouldn't have known what to do ! " Bianca nodded , gratitude evident in her eyes . A freshman who had rarely ventured beyond her hometown , she was naive and inexperienced . Tonight , she attended Theron's dinner with some classmates . Though she barely knew him , Theron became increasingly forward after a few drinks . Even the friends she had come with tacitly supported him .

Seizing a moment , she fled the room - but Theron had a crowd following her . In desperation , she sought refuge in Leander's room , hoping someone would intervene . " No need to thank us . People like him deserve to be in jail , " Nathan said firmly , thumping his chest . The girl standing before him was among the most beautiful freshmen on campus , and he didn't mind playing the hero . " I won't keep you long . Here's my number - call me when you're back .

Next time , dinner's on me to properly thank you all . " Bianca retrieved a pen and jotted her number on a napkin , ready to leave , but Nathan quickly stopped her . 3/1 16:09 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 3131 Saw Leander :. 44 Finished " Bianca , what if you run into him again outside ? "

How about this - you stay and eat with us . When we're finished , we'll leave together . We drove here , and we're heading back to Highcliffe University , so it's on the way . You'll be safer that way . " Fear flickered in Bianca's eyes , but she reluctantly agreed , not wanting another encounter with Theron .

She sat down . " Alright , Evander , Luke , dig in ! " Leander , help yourself ! " Once the food was served , Nathan signaled Evander and Luke to begin . But his tone toward Leander was colder , and he addressed him formally by surname . Leander understood . Earlier , when a confrontation nearly turned physical , Evander and Luke had stood with Nathan , while Leander had remained seated , motionless . Nathan clearly deemed him cowardly and disloyal ; he no longer regarded him as a friend . Leander merely smiled , unaffected , offering no explanation . He ate scarcely anything .

Pouring himself a drink , he leaned back in his chair , gazing out the second - floor window at the street below . Four broad Hummers were stationed at the corners of Saffron House , each packed with men in black , their expressions hostile and vigilant . Leander cast a glance at Nathan and the others , who were engrossed in cheerful conversation with Bianca , oblivious to the looming threat . He shook his head . Tonight's turmoil was far from over . Unbeknownst to him , within a courtyard at the center of Highcliffe , Ethan stood before a man , his eyes flickering with intensity .

" Dad , I think ... I saw Leander today ! " Before him , Gareth , who had been resting with his eyes closed , suddenly snapped them open . " What did you just say ? " Send

Chapter 314 The Alley Trap 44 Finished " What did you just say ? " Gareth's hand hovered over his cup , his expression serene at first , but in an instant , it contorted with disbelief . He spun toward Ethan , eyes flashing with a storm of conflicting emotions . " Leander ? " Even with decades of practiced composure , Ethan's words sent Gareth's heart hammering uncontrollably . Ethan hesitated briefly , then nodded . He recounted encountering a young man earlier that day and how his own martial power had begun acting strangely immediately afterward . Gareth's gaze froze for a moment .

He fell silent , then spoke in a low , grave tone , " Martial power is a gift granted to one in ten thousand . It is the foundation for true martial prowess . " With it , one earns the right to train in martial arts : That is the unshakable law of our world . " Since ancient times , martial power has been revered as a blessing , possessing a spirit that resonates with its chosen master . " After your encounter with that young man , your martial power stirred as if attempting to leave you . Is that ... " Is that really Leander ?

" Gareth's brow knitted in deep concern , his expression shifting with every passing second . Finally , he turned to Ethan with determination . " Go find him . Now . We need to know - without a doubt - if it's Leander or not . " Ethan nodded firmly . Leander had always occupied a sacred place in his heart . Growing up , he had idolized him , modeling himself after his hero , constantly striving to emulate his greatness . Now , with Leander's martial power coursing through him , Ethan felt a complicated mix of guilt and reverence .

The dual martial powers transformed his body , setting him apart from his peers . His skills advanced at an extraordinary rate , leaving other young prodigies in the martial world trailing far behind . Yet every time he reflected on how Gareth had stripped this power from Leander , a

pang of 1/4 16:10 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 314 The Alley Tror remorse gnawed at him . Finished Leander had once wielded this strength to elevate the Ashcroft family , shining brighter than anyone else , even forcing Ethan to step aside .

And now , thanks to that very power , Ethan stood at the pinnacle of Astria's young martial elites . He felt torn , unsure whether to embrace triumph or dwell in sorrow . After speaking with Gareth for a while , Ethan finally said , " Dad , after dinner , Daphne and I plan to visit Mom at Durham Abbey . " Gareth's hand trembled slightly . Though only forty - five , his face carried the wear of years , prematurely aged . He exhaled heavily . " Go ahead . Spend some time with her . " Ethan nodded and departed the courtyard .

Gareth remained , hands clasped behind his back , eyes fixed on a towering tree ahead , his expression a blend of longing and sorrow . " Leander , could it really be you ? It's been nine years ... Are you still alive ? " Regret and guilt flickered in his eyes as he shook his head and sighed softly . Meanwhile , at Saffron House , Nathan , Evander , and Luke were indulging freely in food and drink . After more than an hour , nearly everything on the table had disappeared .

Bianca , who had been tense while dining in Theron's private room earlier , finally relaxed and ate with gusto , chatting animatedly with the three men . Leander , however , remained distant . Since he hadn't stood up during the earlier conflict , he seemed almost like the most unnecessary presence in the room . Nathan wasn't the only one keeping distance - Luke and Evander also avoided him , though it wasn't clear if they felt animosity or just discomfort . Leander didn't seem to mind . Honestly , had he been in their position earlier , he likely would have behaved the same .

After a few more rounds of drinks , Nathan glanced at the time and stood . " We've had enough . Let's drop Bianca off at school first , then hit the club ! " Nathan glanced at Bianca sitting beside him . The newest campus beauty at Highcliffe University , she seemed to captivate him more with each passing moment . 2/4 16:10 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 314 The Alley Trap But after the scare she'd endured earlier , he didn't feel it was right to ask her along immediately . Instead , he resolved that they would escort her back first .

44 #Finished " Thank you , " Bianca said softly , her voice melodic as she nodded toward Nathan , making his chest tighten slightly . Luke and Evander didn't object , and Leander trailed behind them as they headed toward the parking lot . From the private room to the lot , Nathan remained silent toward Leander , his gaze distant and cold . He and the others went to retrieve the car , leaving Leander to wait with Bianca at the exit . Noticing Nathan's tension , Evander placed a hand on his shoulder . " Don't take it personally ," he said gently .

" Maybe Leander is just not the type to deal with drama . He probably hasn't faced something like this before . It's understandable he froze back there ." Nathan started the car , shaking his head in irritation . " I'm not angry . I just don't think he's worth being my friend . " Sometimes it only takes one moment to reveal someone's true nature . When those guys started trouble , you and Luke had my back instantly . But he just sat there , sipping his tea , nothing was happening . Who needs a friend like that ?

" like Evander wanted to defend Leander , but Nathan waved him off , clearly finished with the subject . Reflecting on Leander's behavior , Evander felt a pang of disappointment . He hadn't been in many fights himself , but he understood loyalty . Nathan might have come from a more privileged background , yet he treated them like genuine brothers . So when danger arose ,

Evander and Luke stepped up without hesitation . Leander , however , presented a facade of friendliness . When push came to shove , he remained unmoved , showing he wasn't really a good friend .

At the parking lot exit , Leander leaned against the wall , gazing off into the distance . Bianca fidgeted nervously nearby , her curiosity flicking toward him . Despite the chaos in the private room , she had noticed him . While others had defended each other without question , he had remained a passive observer . She had quietly lost some respect for him . Now , alone with him , he seemed to treat her as if she were invisible . The feeling was unsettling . 3/4 16:10 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 314 The Alley Trap # Finished Moments later , Nathan and the others emerged from the underground lot .

Bianca slid into the front passenger seat while Leander took the back . " Thanks for everything today , " Bianca said , her cheeks slightly flushed with embarrassment . " No problem , " Nathan responded with a grin . " We're all students at Highcliffe University . We've got to look out for each other ! " He patted his chest confidently . With the beauty by his side , his mood lifted instantly . Throughout the ride , he chatted and joked effortlessly with Bianca , tossing in the occasional corny joke that made her laugh with genuine delight .

In contrast , Leander and the other two in the back remained noticeably quiet . After about ten minutes , they approached a narrow , one - way alley that led to the university's rear gate . The street was barely wide enough for a single vehicle , deserted , and poorly lit , with neither shops nor pedestrians in sight . Nathan was midway through when two black Hummers suddenly slid in , blocking the exit . " What the ... " A

cold sense of foreboding hit him . He shifted into reverse , but then two more Hummers appeared behind them , sealing the alley entirely . Send Gifts 60

Chapter 315 Leander Attacks : C Finished Four Hummers rolled into the alley , two blocking the front and two sealing the back , shutting it off so completely that the black Mercedes S could not move an inch . " D * mn it ! " Nathan's eyes sharpened with alarm . He snatched up his phone , reaching for the only lifeline he had , but the screen turned blank . The bars vanished , the data went dead , and he felt the trap close around him . " Don't waste your strength . I don't leave holes in my plans . If I came for you , I came ready . I brought a signal jammer with me .

" The taunt came from ahead , sharp and filled with arrogance , like a laugh drawn out only to provoke . " You want to call for help ? Keep dreaming . " Theron stepped into the dim glow of the streetlamps . A cigar smoldered between his teeth , the smoke rising in lazy swirls around his head . He moved slow - like he owned the street , and a wall of black - suited bodyguards followed in his shadow . " Why you . " Nathan shoved his door open and jumped down . Luke and Evander rushed out after him , standing shoulder to shoulder .

At the alley's mouth , the guards spread wide , more than twenty men standing shoulder to shoulder , a barricade of muscle and menace . Nathan turned his head sharply . Behind them , thirty more figures advanced in perfect rhythm , sealing off their escape as neatly as a locked door . " That's right . It's me . " Theron's eyes glinted as the cigar burned low , his mouth curved in cruel amusement . " Rubyanne saved your skin earlier . You got away through pure luck . But now you're off Saffron House ground .

Out here , no one can shield you . " His steps grew heavier as he came closer , each one pounding into the silence of the alley until he stood face to face with Nathan and his friends . " You like to

play hero , don't you ? Tonight I'll show you what happens to heroes who don't know their place . " Nathan , Evander , and Luke felt the cold weight settle in their chests . Their muscles tensed , but their hearts sank . In the car , Bianca's face had gone white as chalk , her hands shaking in her lap 1/5 16:10 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 315 Leander Attacke as if her body no longer belonged to her .

Finished Theron's force smothered every hope of escape . The whole thing was laid out before it even began . The ending had already been written . Both ends of the alley were locked . The phones were worthless . Even if they screamed , their voices would vanish into the night without reaching anyone . Only Theron and his hundred men held the power here . They could never fight off these guys alone . Nathan ground his teeth and forced his voice to steady . " What do you want ? " People rarely had the nerve to try anything with him in Seagate .

He was not untouchable , but fear of him kept most at bay . Yet now , penned in with nowhere to run , his chest grew tight as a cord , and he knew fear for the first time in years . Theron had come armed to the teeth , and every man around him was ready to strike . If each one swung just once , he and his friends would crumble under the storm . " What do I want ? " Theron jabbed a thick finger hard against Nathan's chest . " Back at Saffron House , you thought you were brave . You stood in front of that girl , acting like you could stop me . Where's that courage now ?

Where's the tough guy act ? " Shout at me again . Show me your pride . You had the nerve to take what was mine . Tell me , Nathan , who filled your head with that kind of courage ? " His voice cracked like a whip , and his palm flew out in a sudden strike . The slap echoed down the alley like the crack of wood on stone . Nathan's lip split open , a dark line of blood seeping at the

corner of his mouth . The impact shoved him back two steps . His fists tightened at his sides , his muscles screaming to hit back , but he forced himself still . He knew the truth .

The moment he raised a hand , the alley would collapse on him in a storm of fists and boots . "

Mr. Marlowe ! " The rage inside Nathan surged like fire , but he shoved it down , choking on his own fury as he spoke . " Whatever happens tonight , it's on me . It has nothing to do with my roommates . If you need to take someone , then take me . Let them go first . " 2/5 16:10 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 315 Leander Attacks He tilted his chin toward Leander and Evander to make his meaning clear . " Let them go ?

" #finished Theron burst out laughing , the sound bouncing against the brick walls like rolling thunder . " Those friends of yours were standing proud just now , ready to throw down with us . And you want me to release them ? You must be out of your mind , Nathan . " Theron stepped back and raised his hand . Three towering men pushed through the crowd , their massive frames throwing long , jagged shadows across the alley walls . " I like to think of myself as a fair man , " he said with a cold , deliberate smile .

" The three of you wanted to throw hands with my men earlier , so I'll give you the chance you were begging for . " Three against three . If you can knock down all three of them , then I'll call it a win . I'll drop the whole thing , and you can walk out with that girl . " Or you can hand her over to me right now . Tell me you're sorry , and then slap yourselves across the face ten times . Do that , and I'll let you leave this alley in one piece . The decision is yours . " Nathan , Luke , and Evander glanced at one another .

Their expressions shifted from shock to fury as the weight of the threat sank in . Giving Bianca up , bowing their heads , and striking themselves was nothing short of throwing away their pride . The three of them made their choice in a heartbeat . They nodded together , then Nathan stepped forward with his jaw tight and his voice heavy . " Fine , Mr. Marlowe . We'll fight them . But if we win , you let us walk away . You give us your word , and you keep it . " Theron's grin spread wide , sharp as a blade . He dipped his head slowly . " When I give my word , it stands . Beat them , and I'll let you pass . " His tone dropped , filled with menace . " But if you lose , I'll break you limb by limb and dump you in a junkyard where no one will ever find you . " The threat pressed against their chests like a weight . Luke and Evander's faces went pale , their breathing shallow . Even Nathan felt fear creep like ice into his veins . Losing meant ruin . Losing meant pain beyond repair . But the bow was already drawn , and 3/5 16:10 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 315 Leander Attacks there was no choice but to release the arrow . " Let's do it !

" : #frished Luke stepped forward . The warmth in his eyes vanished , replaced by a blaze of fury . He threw his fist with the force of a hammer , slamming it toward the guard in front of him . He had grown up in the Northeast , cutting wood in blistering winters and grueling summers . He had wrestled wolves with nothing but his bare hands and survived . His body was carved from years of labor , and every strike carried raw power , every kick rattled bone . Even the trained guard stumbled back under the force , forced to yield ground . Nathan charged next , his fists up and his body set .

He lacked Luke's raw strength , but he had trained in mixed martial arts and knew how to move . His blows cut sharp , his feet steady , his rhythm tight . His guard strained against him , the fight locked in balance . But Evander faltered . He had never been a fighter , and it showed . Within

seconds , his chest absorbed strike after strike , his breath ragged , his arms heavy . Bianca stared from the passenger seat , her heart sinking into regret so deep it felt like drowning .

If she hadn't foolishly agreed to go to Saffron House with her classmates tonight , none of this would be happening . Nathan and the others wouldn't be standing in the line of fire for her mistake . Leander's voice cut through the chaos . " Do you see it now ? This is the price of the choices you made tonight . " Bianca's head whipped toward him . His eyes were cold and steady , his tone merciless . " You ran into the first room you found and begged strangers to save you . That might have felt right in the moment , but your actions dragged someone else into danger they never asked for .

" From now on , if you light the fire , you put it out yourself . Don't make anyone else burn with you . " My friends are bleeding out there because of you . Remember that for the rest of your life . Bianca's lips trembled , her chest tightened , but no words came out . Before she could speak , Leander pushed the door open and stepped into the alley . A heavy crack split the air . Evander fell hard onto his back . The guard facing him shoved him down and raised his boot , driving it toward his chest . Evander's eyes widened . The heel was coming down , and his body refused to move .

Escape was 4/5 16:10 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 315 Leander Attacks gone . * Finished
Then, a shadow slipped into place beside him . A single kick lashed out , swift and precise . The bone snapped with a sharp crack . The guard shrieked as his body lifted and flew sideways . He slammed into the brick wall so hard the sound reverberated through the alley . His leg bent the wrong way , twisted and broken . Evander hadn't even caught his breath when a firm hand gripped his arm and yanked him upright . "

Leander ? " When he saw the man standing beside him , his eyes locked in stunned disbelief .

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Outcast to Overlord . The Unyielding Heir Chapter 316 Numbers Game " Leander ? " :
44 Finished Evander's breath caught as he was pulled to his feet . His chest rose and fell hard , and his wide eyes locked on Leander in disbelief . Back in the private room at Saffron House , Leander had stayed quiet , unmoving , almost like he was afraid to even breathe . Evander had pegged him for a coward who would never stand his ground . Yet here , in this dark alley , the bodyguard who had beaten Evander down with ease had been crippled in a single instant by one kick from Leander .

The bone - breaking strike echoed in his head . He struggled to accept what he had just witnessed . He couldn't even defeat the guy when he gave it his all earlier . " You all right ? " Leander's tone was casual . He dusted Evander's shoulder with one hand . A calm smile brushed across his lips as if nothing at all had happened . The haze lifted from Evander's mind . He shook his head quickly , regaining himself . Ahead of them , Nathan's deep grunt split the fight . Nathan had trained his body in mixed martial arts , but training was not the same as mastery .

He had lasted longer than expected , yet the tide had turned against him . His arms and legs faltered , and the weight of defeat pressed closer with every passing second . A vicious kick slammed into his ribs and forced him sideways . The bodyguard seized the opening and drove a fist toward Nathan's face . If the strike connected , Nathan's nose would cave in . His face would be ruined beyond recognition . But as the punch tore

forward , another fist blurred past Nathan's shoulder . Flesh and bone collided in the air with a violent crack that split the night .

The bodyguard screamed as his arm bent in a direction no arm should ever bend . His body was flung across the alley and skidded along the rough ground until he fell silent , out cold . A firm hand pressed into Nathan's back , steadying him before he hit the ground . His heart pounded , and he spun around . His eyes locked with Leander's cold , unreadable stare . " Leander ? " 1/5 16:11 Thu , Oct 16 Chopter 316 Numbers Game : finished Nathan's voice shook . His face carried pure shock , as if the man before him was not the one he had known all along .

Leander pulled him behind with ease and allowed a faint smile to linger . " So , tell me , how does it feel to play the hero , to throw yourself forward for the girl ? It doesn't feel as glorious as you thought , does it ? " Nathan froze , the words striking harder than any punch . He had no answer . Leander's gaze cut toward the front , his voice steady and piercing . " The only reason I sat still back in that room was because I wanted you to understand one truth . " Helping people is noble , but you must know where your strength ends .

" Sometimes reaching out will drag you into a place you can't crawl out of . That slap Theron gave you earlier was proof carved right onto your skin . " Nathan's eyes flickered , his lips parting with something unsaid . Before he could speak , Leander's hand pressed firmly on his shoulder . " Go back to Bianca . You wanted to be the hero tonight , and I'll see it through with you because you're my friend . But from here on , let me

handle what's coming ." He did not wait for an answer . His steps carried him forward , calm and unhurried .

Luke was still fighting hard , his strength forcing his opponent to give everything he had just to keep up . But suddenly , a pale , slender hand slid in from the side and clamped down on the bodyguard's wrist . The man's face twisted with alarm . He struggled to break free , but the grip was iron . His body was ripped from the ground as if it was weightless . He felt himself getting dragged up into the air , and then something slammed him down with crushing force . The ground roared as cracks split through the pavement .

Blood gushed from his lips , and his body went limp , lost to the darkness . Luke froze , his face draining of color . Theron and the rest of his men whipped their heads around in shock . Their stares filled the alley , heavy with disbelief . Leander motioned with a simple gesture , telling Luke to fall back . He stepped forward until he stood squarely in front of Theron . " So you're Theron ? " Theron's eyes narrowed as he studied him . He remembered the man from earlier . Leander had sat in silence and did nothing but finish his tea .

His presence was so dim that Theron had 2/5 16:11 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 316 Numbers Game written him off as useless . :. 22.0 Finished But now , in the span of moments , this same man had crushed three of his best fighters . It made no sense , yet the evidence was right in front of him . Even so , he had nearly a hundred bodyguards circling the alley , and his confidence did not falter . His voice was hard as stone as he

answered . " That's right . I'm Theron . " You've got nerve , kid . I gave you no thought before , but you've put my men in the dirt and have the gall to stand in my way .

So tell me , how do you want your life to end ? " The men stationed at both ends of the alley shifted , their fists tightening , their gazes sharp with threat . A single word from their boss and they would swarm . Nathan and the others felt a weight tighten in their chests . None of them knew what Leander planned to do next . Leander's quiet laugh slid into the air . He said nothing more . His hand lifted , and he leveled his finger straight at Theron . " You really enjoy cornering people and giving them no way out , don't you ?

Fine then , I'll return the favor and give you two choices of my own . " You slapped my friend . Now you're going to walk over to him , apologize , and start hitting your own face while you beg him for forgiveness . If you do that , I'll let you leave here with your pride shattered but your body still intact . " Or , I'll break you and every single man standing behind you , and then I'll drag you over myself and make you apologize . " There is no third way . Now choose . " The instant Leander's voice fell silent , the whole alley seemed to tremble .

Every head turned in his direction , every stare locking on him with disbelief , as though he had completely lost his mind . To most of them , he looked less like a man and more like someone raving in madness . The numbers told the story clearly . It was four against over a hundred . Anyone with common sense could see what that meant . Yet Leander had the audacity to stand in front of Theron and demand that he get on his

knees and slap himself bloody in front of everyone . That demand alone was outrageous , but Leander did not stop there .

He had the gall to claim that he would cripple not just Theron but also every last man packed into the alley . The words sounded so insane they defied belief . Every one of these men was a trained bodyguard , drilled in close combat and conditioned to 3/5
16:11 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 316 Numbers Game handle violence . 44 Finished Leander had already crushed three of them in the blink of an eye , which was shocking enough on its own . But the idea that one man could take on more than a hundred fighters and walk away was something no one present could even imagine .

Nathan , Luke , and Evander glanced at each other , their faces pale , each of them sucking in a sharp breath . They knew Leander's words had just thrown fuel onto Theron's rage . Once a hundred men charged together , even a man with the strength of a monster would be torn apart . Theron suddenly let out a booming laugh that shook the walls on either side of the alley . For a moment , he almost thought he was hallucinating . " You're an interesting one , punk . " Look at the situation you're standing in right now , and yet you have the gall to demand an apology from me ?

Confidence is good , but blind confidence is another matter entirely ." He stretched out a hand , his finger aiming for Leander's shoulder as though he was about to poke a hole through him . But before his finger could even land , Leander's palm lashed out . The strike cut through the air with the force of a breaking storm . Theron's body was lifted and hurled sideways like a kite with its string severed . He smashed against the brick

wall with bone - jarring force , his mouth and nose bursting with blood . His vision spun wildly as shock filled his eyes .

His mind could barely register what had just happened . He could not believe it .

Leander struck him . Another mouthful of blood spilled down his chin as he fought against the dizziness pressing in on him . His face twisted in rage as he roared , " Get him ! Every single one of you ! Tear that bastard apart ! I don't care if you break him or kill him ! Just do as I say ! I'll handle the law ! " Never once in his life had he been humiliated like this . The fury was too much to contain .

With one violent sweep of his arm , the command tore from his lips , and the guards on both sides of the alley exploded forward . A black tide of bodies surged , crashing down on Leander like a wave bent on drowning him . In seconds , the narrow alley boiled with bodies pressing together . The crowd closed in , forming an unbreakable wall around Leander . " Leander ! " 4/5 16:11 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 316 Numbers Game (4)

Finished Nathan cried out before he even realized it , rushing forward to help . Luke and Evander gritted their teeth , ready to throw themselves into the storm .

But in the very next heartbeat , all three of them froze in place . Their legs locked beneath them , their breath caught in their throats . Because before their eyes , men in dark suits were sent flying back in every direction as if struck by invisible hammers . Leander's figure flickered among the mob like a shadow , a phantom weaving between bodies . Each step he took brought down three or four men , and with every motion , more were flung aside . The air filled with the sounds of bodies crashing against the ground and bones snapping under the force of his strikes .

Barely a minute passed before the hundred guards were no longer standing . They lay scattered across the alley in every direction . Some writhed with broken arms and shattered legs , others lay motionless in unconscious heaps , but none of them could stand and fight again . At the heart of the devastation , Leander stood alone , straight and unyielding , like a spear thrust into the earth and pointed at the heavens above . Not far away , Theron's legs trembled uncontrollably . His eyes were wide with horror , the bravado stripped out of him , leaving only fear .

Leander's gaze cut through the alley like a blade as he turned toward him . Step by step , he walked forward , his presence heavy enough to crush the air itself . " You take pride in overwhelming the few with your numbers . " A crooked smile bent across Leander's lips , carrying a cruel and dangerous charm . " Time for a taste of your own medicine . "

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From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir Chapter 317 Wave Alliance Finished The alley looked like a battlefield . The ground was covered with bodies , every inch filled with men in black lying broken and motionless . There was barely a place left to step . Nathan , Luke , and Evander stood rooted in place . Their faces showed only shock , and their minds could not catch up with what had just happened . Back in the room in Saffron House , Leander did nothing against these people . He had sat still , calm and quiet . They had thought he was weak , a man too afraid to lift a hand .

Now all of that had been torn apart . The one who looked the most refined had turned out to be the most ruthless . Leander had become a storm of fury . With bare hands , he had taken down more than a hundred trained guards . His strikes were swift and merciless , each one ending a

fight before it began . Nathan's chest tightened as the truth hit him . Leander had not refused to join them in the confrontation because of fear . He had simply chosen not to act . Shame pressed down on him as he remembered the resentment he once carried .

He had doubted Leander's worth as a brother , but in the moment of greatest danger , it was Leander who had stood tall and destroyed everything in their path . Theron now faced him . His body was rigid , his legs shaking so badly they could barely hold his weight . He had arrived with more than a hundred men . His plan was to crush Nathan and his friends , to show them how small and foolish they were . They were nothing more than prey caught in a trap . Yet the young man he had barely noticed before had ripped that trap apart with nothing but his fists and feet .

The sight tore at his sanity . It felt unreal , like waking in a nightmare . Theron came from the Marlowe family on the eastern edge of Highcliffe . He had heard stories of fighters who could take on entire squads of soldiers without effort . And now his trembling heart told him that Leander was one of those monsters . " It's your turn ," Leander said . His voice was steady , yet it carried the weight of iron . " Stop ! " Theron's shout came out with all the strength he could gather . 1/5 16.11 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 31 : Wave Alliance #Finished You can't touch me .

If you lay a finger on me , my brother will destroy you . He's the vice president of the Wave Alliance . If you hurt me , he'll make sure you never set foot in Highcliffe again . He'll bury you so deep no one will remember your name . " The thought of his older brother , whose power stretched across the city , gave him a flicker of courage . His fear loosened . Leander's face did not shift . He stood as if the name meant nothing , as if the Wave Alliance was dust in the wind . But Nathan's face drained of blood . Fear carved itself into every line . " Leander , stop !

" All the doubt that once lived in Nathan was gone . He rushed to Leander's side , his voice cracking . " Leander , don't do it . Let it end here . Please , let's leave while we still can ! " He grabbed Leander's shoulder , his eyes pleading for him to listen . Leander's mouth curved in a faint smile as his gaze fell back on Theron . " Your brother means nothing to me . I don't care if he is vice president , president , or king of a nation . I don't know the Wave Alliance , and I don't care to know it . But I meant what I said ." The air split with a sharp crack as his hand came down .

Theron screamed as his legs folded beneath him . He crashed to the ground , his knees shattered . " You broke my legs ! " His voice trembled , the pain tangled with shock . For a moment , the agony was silenced by the utter shock swelling within his heart . He had spoken the name of Wave Alliance , yet Leander had not flinched . He had broken his legs as if the threat had never been spoken . Across Highcliffe , only a select few had the confidence or privilege to cross the Wave Alliance . Leander was not one of them , yet he had done it without hesitation .

With one strike, he had crippled him . " Obviously . " Leander's voice was calm , his eyes like cold steel . " I told you I would break you . " 2/5 16:11 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 317 Wave Alliance
:. 44 Finished His hand struck again . The sound of snapping bones echoed in the alley . Theron's arms dropped , useless and limp at his sides . A ragged scream tore from his throat . His body shook with pain , but the terror in his eyes was greater than anything his body felt . He had never imagined himself brought so low , broken so completely . The truth hit him like ice .

Leander was no man bound by fear or consequence . He was a madman who cared nothing for the cost . A madman who had chosen to destroy him without mercy . Nathan stood frozen . His body would not move , his mind felt blank , and he could not make sense of what had just

happened . Leander had gone through with it . He had not stopped at threats . He had snapped Theron's limbs as if they meant nothing . Nathan's head rang with a piercing hum . The world spun around him , the ground itself tilting like he had lost all balance . " Apologize .

" Leander's voice sliced through the silence , sharp and cold . His eyes locked on Theron with the weight of a storm . Destroying Theron's arms and legs was not enough . He demanded more . Fear clawed through Theron's chest . His insides twisted as terror ate at him . One look into Leander's eyes told him the truth . If he refused , even for a moment , Leander would kill him without pause . The man standing before him was not bound by reason or fear . He was a madman who cared nothing for consequence , " I ... I'm sorry ! " Theron lowered his proud head toward Nathan .

He put his hands in a prayer and rubbed them as though he was begging for mercy . Only then did Nathan snap back to himself . The sight shook him out of his haze . He stumbled forward and grabbed Leander's arm . " Leander , we need to go . Come with me , now ! " Leander did not move . His voice fell heavy in the alley . " You'd do well to remember that broken limbs are not the worst thing I can do . 3/5 16:11 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 317 Wave Alliance 44 Finished " Come after me if you want to . Rally your men . Use every weapon and trick you own .

But if you do that , you'd wish I only stopped at broken limbs . Because I wouldn't . I'd see to it that your life . is snuffed out . And if you test me further ... " I'll erase your entire family . " The words echoed like a funeral bell that tolled in the distance . Silence smothered the alley . Not a soul dared to breathe . Leander turned and followed Nathan without looking back . Nathan climbed into his Mercedes S - Class , his face pale , his hands tight on the wheel . He slammed the accelerator .

The sedan smashed against the Hummer , blocking the exit , metal screeching as it forced its way through , then shot down the street at breakneck speed . The ride stayed silent until they reached the university . Nathan pulled up to the women's dorm and dropped Bianca off without a word . His lips stayed pressed tight , his jaw set like stone . When the car finally rolled into the parking lot , Nathan let out a long , heavy breath . His hands still gripped the wheel , his knuckles white . He turned toward the backseat . His eyes locked on Leander with dread carved into his face .

" Leander , we just got ourselves into serious trouble . " Leander's expression stayed calm , his tone even . " Serious trouble ? You mean Theron ? " Nathan nodded hard , his voice heavy . " Theron's the least of our problems . He's just another spoiled heir in Highcliffe . The Marlowe family on the east side is nothing but a third - rate name . He wouldn't dare push too far against us . I wouldn't be too worried if this was only about him . " But the danger is not him . It's what he said about the Wave Alliance . "

Leander's eyes showed no sign of concern . " The Wave Alliance ?

Am I supposed to be impressed ? " Nathan studied him for a long time before letting out a deep sigh . " Leander , the Wave Alliance is more than impressive . " You just got here , so you don't understand . Its full name is Rodrick Wave's Alliance of Commerce . It was built by Rodrick Wave , heir of the Wave family . " The Waves may only be a second - rate aristocrats , but Rodrick is a storm . He took his small foundation and shook the entire city . His business strikes crushed rivals that had ruled for decades . People already speak his name alongside Ethan , Daphne , and Dwayne .

Those people are the brightest heirs in Highcliffe . 4/5 16:11 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 317
Wave Alliance 44 Finished " He's only twenty - five, but he controls a billion - dollar

public company . His reach extends over endless rivers of capital . Two years ago , he formed the Wave Alliance , and in no time , it became a giant . It pulled in scholars , entrepreneurs , and even rising politicians . " In Highcliffe's elite circle , eight out of every ten heirs have already joined the club . Even Dwayne , the most powerful of them all , holds an honorary seat within it .

The Wave Alliance now stands as the greatest force in Highcliffe high society . " By the time Nathan's words faded , Luke and Evander sat frozen . Their minds reeled , and they could not find a single word to say . Send Gifts 60

Chapter 318 The Nun by the Candlelight , Leander's Mother Luke and Evander froze in place , their faces drained of color . They did not have the same prestigious background as Nathan . News didn't reach them as quickly as it did him . As for the Wave Alliance , they had heard rumors , but never grasped the full weight of what it meant . Only after Nathan's explanation did they finally understand just how terrifying the Wave Alliance truly was . It was the most powerful force in Highcliffe's elite society . That name alone could make countless people back away .

Worse still , nearly eighty percent of the city's wealthy heirs and heiresses had joined . Taken together with the power of the families behind them , their reach was strong enough to sweep across several states . Who could possibly stand against that ? Even state governors and provincial governors would think twice before confronting the Wave Alliance . What chance did a handful of college students with no real backing have ? When Leander still showed little reaction , Nathan pressed on . " Leander , you've got remarkable skill .

Giving them a lesson just now was fine - we had justice on our side . Even with all their influence , the Wave Alliance wouldn't make too much trouble for us over that . " But you went too far . You broke Theron's arms and legs . If his brother really is the vice president of the Wave Alliance , once he learns what happened , no one in all of Highcliffe will be able to protect us . " Nathan's expression grew darker with each word . The Wave Alliance's power was legendary , even in Seagate .

His own father , one of the city's ten richest men , had often spoken of it with awe , praising its founder , Rodrick , as if he were larger than life . To make an enemy of the Wave Alliance in Highcliffe was to sign one's own death warrant . Luke and Evander stood pale and silent . Their families were comfortable , even well - off , but compared to the true elite , they were worlds apart . How could they ever hope to challenge such power ? And now , they had offended none other than the Wave Alliance , the group that held half of Highcliffe in its grip .

Everywhere one looked in this sprawling city , there were traces of the Wave Alliance's influence . 1/4 16:11 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 316 The Nun by the Candlelight , Leander's Mother & C Finished Seven or eight of the top families in Highcliffe had members tied to it . If those people ever joined forces , crushing a few nameless college students with no powerful backing would be child's play . " It's all my fault . Nathan lowered his head , his voice heavy with regret . He silently cursed himself for letting the night spiral so far out of control .

If he hadn't acted on impulse when Bianca barged into the private room , they wouldn't have clashed with Theron . They wouldn't have drawn the wrath of the Wave Alliance at

all . While the three of them sank into sighs and self - reproach , Leander only smiled faintly . He patted each of them on the shoulder . " Why the long faces ? I don't think it's as bad as you imagine . We left cleanly , without leaving much of a trail . Even if the Wave Alliance wants to find us , it won't be easy . We don't need to sink into despair . " Nathan's eyes lit with sudden realization .

He smacked his forehead . " You're right ! " He jumped out of the car and circled his Mercedes S. Aside from a few scratches , the vehicle was intact . Relief softened his features as he climbed back inside and spoke in a lowered voice . " First thing tomorrow , I'll swap out the temporary plates , get a new paint job , and fix the bodywork . Even if the Wave Alliance starts digging , they won't trace it back to us so easily . And if all else fails , I'll call my father . With his position , he should be able to say a few words to the right people .

Worst case , we apologize , pay some money , and put it behind us . " Luke and Evander nodded quickly . Their nerves still twisted tight , but the sheer terror on their faces eased at last . " Alright , guys , no need to worry so much . " Leander waved a hand with a calm smile . " Forget whether the Wave Alliance can even track us down . Even if they do , I'll take full responsibility . " Nathan frowned at his easy confidence and shook his head . Leander is still far too reckless . What he had done tonight - facing down a hundred men single - handed - was enough to leave Nathan in awe .

His admiration was genuine . But no matter how strong a man's fists were , how could that ever compare to the might of the Wave Alliance ? With just a word, they could mobilize the authorities , twist the system , and see Leander locked away for life . And

there were darker whispers . Nathan had heard that the Wave Alliance counted among its members figures of extraordinary strength , men and women whose power seemed almost 2/4 16:11 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 318 The Nun by the Candlelight , Leander's Mother superhuman . To fight a hundred enemies alone was nothing to them .

44 Finished He was certain that some within the Wave Alliance were even stronger than Leander . When fists failed and influence faltered , the crushing weight of their power would leave no escape . Across all of Highcliffe , only three among the younger generation dared to provoke the Wave Alliance without fear . And Leander was not one of them . But with so much already weighing on them that night , Nathan swallowed his doubts . Together , they returned to their dorm . The room was unusually quiet after all that had happened .

Evander , frail by nature and worn down further by the fight , soon collapsed into sleep . Only Leander , Nathan , and Luke remained awake , gathered at the bedside , staring out at the city lights . " Leander , I owe you an apology . " Nathan turned to him , his voice heavy with remorse . " Back in the private room , I thought you didn't step in to support me . I held it against you and treated you poorly afterward . That was my mistake . " Leander only chuckled softly and shook his head . " We're friends . Why keep score ?

There's no need to explain - I understand . " At that moment , a powerful searchlight swept in from the distance , its beam grazing the edge of Leander's window before stretching across the horizon . " What's that ? " Leander tilted his head slightly . Nathan noticed and quickly explained , " That's the light from Durham Abbey on Westvale Peak

. Every night at ten , it sweeps across the city and shuts off half an hour later . " "

Durham Abbey ? " The name caught in Leander's thoughts . Memories stirred , flooding his mind . He rose to his feet , overcome by an impulse he couldn't ignore .

" You two get some rest . I need to step out for a while . " Without waiting for Nathan or Luke to respond , Leander left the dorm . Westvale Peak was known as one of

Highcliffe's scenic landmarks . On holidays and weekends , 3/4 16:12 Thu , Oct 16 พร

44 Chapter 318 The Num by the Candlelight . Leander's Mother crowds of locals and tourists climbed its winding paths . Finished And at the summit stood Durham Abbey , a centuries - old monastery , its spire rising solemnly into the night sky . At the base of the mountain , Leander stood motionless , his gaze fixed on the abbey's tower .

A deep stillness washed over him as echoes from the past returned . Leander , in this life , the most important thing is faith , a purpose to hold on to . I brought you here to light a candle and pray , not because of an empty ritual , but so your heart could find peace . You rascal , if you ever lose your way , remember this - come to Durham Abbey . I'll be there waiting for you . ' Words spoken more than a decade ago lingered in his ears , carrying a weight that stirred his soul . Leander's eyes darkened with memory , his thoughts churning restlessly .

He couldn't explain why his steps had carried him to Durham Abbey , yet before he knew it , he was climbing the winding path to the summit of Westvale Peak . The moment he reached the top , his brow furrowed . He sensed two familiar presences- Daphne and Ethan . What are they doing here ? Leander's figure wavered , and in the blink of an eye , he melted into the night . Monks moved quietly about the abbey

grounds , but not one of them noticed him pass . Weightless as shadow , he alighted on the roof of a small cloister . Inside , Ethan and Daphne sat in silence .

A thin veil separated them from his view , but Leander could see clearly . Both were seated on cushions , their faces solemn . Opposite them sat a woman , her long hair swept up , her body draped in a nun's robe . A rosary slid through her fingers , bead by bead , her worn face lined by hardship , as if time had pressed every sorrow upon her . From above , Leander's gaze trembled , his heart thundering with turmoil . That middle - aged nun ... Was she not his mother , Lydia Brookhaven ? Send Gifts 60 W

Chapter 319 One More Candle : Leander's eyes flickered , his thoughts rising and crashing like waves . 44 Finished If there was anyone in the Ashcroft family he still held in his heart , besides Ethan , it was the humble woman in plain robes below . His birth mother , Lydia . More than ten years ago , when he was just a little boy , Lydia had taken him up Westvale Peak to light candles and pray at the abbey . Nearly every weekend , without fail , she brought him there . Lydia told him that prayer was never about superstition .

It was about faith , about having something to hold on to when life grew heavy . He remembered one time he got lost in Durham Abbey . Lydia searched for hours before she finally found him . That day , he hadn't cried at all - but Lydia had clutched him tightly and wept until her face was streaked with tears . From that day on , Lydia told him , no matter where he went , no matter how far life carried him , if he ever couldn't find her , he should come to Durham Abbey . She would be there , waiting .

When Gareth stripped Leander of his martial power , Lydia had screamed herself hoarse , trying to shield him . Reginald only dragged her away with cold indifference , leaving her to watch

helplessly as her son was cast out of the Ashcroft family , powerless and broken . Nine years had passed , but Leander could never forget the look in her eyes that day - the despair so deep it seemed to crush her very soul . Tonight , he had come to Durham Abbey because something in his heart had stirred , pulling him back to those old memories .

What he hadn't expected was to find Lydia there , clothed in the robes of a nun , her fingers turning rosary beads , looking every bit a servant of the abbey . The sight left him shaken . Ethan and Daphne sat cross - legged before her . In Ethan's hands was a small food box , warmed by the quiet current of his inner strength . " Mom , Daphne and I brought you some chicken soup . It's still hot - please drink it while it's warm . " He lifted the lid , and at once the fragrance filled the quiet chapel .

" Ethan , that's thoughtful of you . " Lydia smiled , though a shadow of sorrow lingered in her brow , as if she carried a burden she could never lay down . 1/5 16:12 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 319 One More Candle Á · 4) Finished She sipped only a few mouthfuls of the soup before setting it aside , her appetite already gone . Seeing her like that , Daphne felt a pang of sorrow . " Ms. Brookhaven , please have a little more . It's only been a week since we last care , grown thinner again . " Lydia lifted her hand in gentle refusal . " The supper here was good tonight .

I ate enough , and I'm still full . " At her words , Daphne knew she couldn't insist , so she quietly gathered the dishes . and you've Lydia turned to Ethan and spoke softly . " Ethan , you told me not long ago that you were in seclusion , preparing to break through to Martial Sovereign . Didn't I say you shouldn't waste time coming to see me during this period ? Why are you here again ? " Ethan shook his head . " Mom , striving for Martial Sovereign is nothing compared to being with you . " He clasped Lydia's hand , his voice carrying a plea .

" Mom , tomorrow is the Ashcroft family gathering . I came to ask you to come home . Since Leander was cast out of the family... It's been nine years since you last returned to Ashcroft Residence to be with us ." Outside the window , Leander froze where he stood . The words struck him like lightning . " Nine years ? " He whispered to himself , his gaze locked on Lydia , unable to turn away . Could it be that all these nine years , she had remained here in Durham Abbey , never once returning to Ashcroft Residence ? Leander's eyes went still , his whole body rooted in place .

Inside the quiet chapel , Lydia reached out and gently stroked Ethan's head . A faint smile touched her lips , though she shook her head . " Home ? Where is home ? " Her voice carried such sorrow that it seemed to drain every ounce of strength from her . " The day your father raised his hand against Leander before my very eyes , the day he cast him into the mountains to live or die alone - that was the moment I lost my home forever . 2/5 16:12 Thu , Oct 16 2 C
Filled " I swore then that I would never forgive your father .

For a single word of judgment , he could deal such a cruel blow to his own child without a trace of mercy . A man like that is unworthy to be a father - and even less worthy to be my husband . " Though Lydia wore the robes of a nun , her words rang firm and unshaken . Ethan shuddered at her resolve , his tone heavy with grief . " Mom , it's been nine years since Leander's fate was sealed . That decision was forced on them . Grandpa and Dad were bound by a command passed down from the very first generation of the Ashcroft family . They didn't dare defy it . " Please forgive them .

Even if Leander is gone , you still have me . " Beside him , Daphne's hands trembled , sorrow written across her face . Everyone knew Lydia had always favored Leander . She had doted on

him with tireless devotion , far beyond what she ever gave Ethan . To see her beloved son stripped of his martial power by her husband and driven from the Ashcroft family - what greater agony could a mother endure ? Lydia's eyes clouded with desolation . She shook her head firmly . " Ethan , for as long as I live , I will never forgive your father or your grandfather . They killed Leander .

They destroyed him . "Unless they bring him back to me , I will never , for the rest of my life , set foot inside Ashcroft Residence again . " Ethan held Lydia's gaze , but in the end , he could only sigh in helpless surrender . He knew his mother's nature well : once she made a decision , nothing could change her mind . What cut him even deeper was the bitterness he could not swallow - why was it that after nine years of devotion and care , his place in her heart still could not compare to a son whose fate was uncertain , perhaps even long dead ?

Seeing the unshakable resolve in Lydia's eyes , a thought stirred within him . He nearly revealed that there might be news of Leander . But before he could speak , Lydia raised her hand to silence him . " Ethan , leave us for now . I want a private word with Daphne . " Ethan glanced at Daphne , but he could only obey , bowing out of the chapel and shutting the door behind him . Daphne , clad in a green dress , sat across from Lydia . Suddenly , Lydia reached out and grasped

3/5 16:12 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 319 One More Candle her hand tightly .

" Daphne , next month will be your engagement ceremony with Ethan . " But I know the truth . You don't want to marry him . In your heart , you've never let Leander , have you ? " go of 44

Finished Daphne trembled at the words . She had not expected that Lydia , cloistered in the abbey for nine long years , could still see straight through her heart . Though shaken , she gave a

firm nod . " Yes , Ms. Brookhaven . I can't forget him . I never will . " Lydia patted the back of her hand with a long , weary sigh .

" Daphne , I have always regarded you as my daughter - in - law , ever since you were young . "

But in my heart , I believed you would be Leander's wife . " From the folds of her robe , she drew out a jade bracelet , its luster clear as ice . Her expression softened with remembrance . " I used to dream of the day Leander would bring you home as his bride . I prepared this bracelet ten years ago , intending to give it to you when you and Leander became engaged . " But ... "

Daphne hesitated for a moment , then took the jade bracelet in both hands . " Ms.

Brookhaven , this is the token you prepared for my engagement with him . Whether he's here or not , I will accept it . " Seeing the determination in Daphne's eyes , Lydia shook her head and let out a soft sigh . " You've always reminded me of myself , even as a girl - cold on the outside , warm within , with a will as steady as iron . Once you decide on something , it's for life . You're getting engaged to Ethan , and I don't even know whether to be happy or worried . " I know your heart isn't with Ethan , but he loves you truly and deeply .

As a mother , I can only pray that you treat him kindly . If you do marry him , don't let him suffer too much . " Though Lydia had spent nine years in the abbey without returning to Ashcroft Residence , Ethan remained her own flesh and blood . She could not help but worry for him . Daphne fastened the bracelet around her wrist and gave Lydia a resolute nod . 4/5 16:12 Thu , Oct 16 | Chapter 519 One More Candle # Finished " Ms. Brookhaven , you don't need to worry . Even though I don't love Ethan , if I must marry him . I will do my duty as a wife . " Not just for you , but because ...

Ethan is his younger brother . " At her words , a weight lifted from Lydia's heart . She gently caressed Daphne's face . " Hearing you say that , I can finally rest easy . " It's getting late . Go find Ethan and go down the mountain together ." Daphne bowed respectfully to Lydia , then stepped lightly from the chapel , joining Ethan as they left Durham Abbey . Alone , Lydia rolled up her sleeves and reached into the folds of her robe to retrieve a jade pendant . She held it tenderly , her touch gentle and reverent , eyes clouded with memory .

Carved in cinnabar on the pendant was a single name : Leander . After a long moment , she let out a slow breath , just about to snuff out the lamp and retire to her room for rest , when the chapel door opened again . A voice drifted through the quiet hall . " Blessed are those who are guided by God ... May I light one more candle ? " She paused mid - step , startled , and turned toward the entrance . There , framed in the doorway , stood a tall , commanding figure , upright and composed , yet radiating a quiet intensity .

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Chapter 320 You're Leander ? ㄟ Finished Lydia turned to look , and at the doorway of the chapel stood a tall , graceful young man , his features striking and noble . Though he was dressed simply , Lydia could sense an extraordinary presence about him , something beyond ordinary . It was Leander . He kept his gaze steady , controlling his emotions as best he could , and inclined his head slightly at the doorway . " I'm late today , " he said quietly . " May I light another candle ? I hope it's not too late ." Lydia returned to herself and offered a gentle smile . She nodded .

" To anyone with faith , it's never too late to pray , " she said warmly . She personally handed Leander three candles , and he stepped forward to take them . Just as she was about to light them for him , something made her pause . The candles slipped from her hands to the floor . Leander noticed immediately and bent to pick them up - but then he heard Lydia's trembling voice . " Leander ? " His eyes widened , a surge of emotion crashing through him . He was stunned .

He had worked so hard to restrain his feelings , leaving no trace of emotion- but how could Lydia have recognized him just like that ? " Leander ... It's really you ! Leander ! " With a cry that broke Lydia's voice , she turned and embraced him . Her tears flowed freely , soaking his shirt . Leander stood frozen, and even with his disciplined heart , he couldn't stop the sting in his nose . Moments passed , but his emotions swelled beyond control . His voice , trembling in a way he had never experienced , finally broke through . " Mom ! " That single word made Lydia's entire body shudder .

" Leander ... It's really you ! My Leander ... you're not gone ... My Leander isn't gone ! " 1/4 16:12 Thu , Oct 16 hapter A You're Leander Finmhed She could hardly believe her eyes . She could hardly trust what she felt . Ever since Leander's martial power had been stripped by Gareth nine years ago , a part of her heart had died . Even though she refused to accept that her eldest son was gone , she had to admit that the odds of him surviving were nearly nonexistent .

A ten - year - old child , stripped of his martial power , gravely wounded , abandoned in the mountains - anyone in that situation would almost certainly have perished . And yet here he was , alive , standing before her . Leander ... I must be dreaming , right ? " She

clutched his arms , feeling the warmth of his hands . Finally , she knew - this was no dream . This was real . She pulled him down to sit beside her , and it took her several long moments to steady her tears . Her eyes , wide and trembling , were fixed on him . " Leander it really is you ... I'm not dreaming , am I ?

" Leander sat cross - legged beside her and nodded , heavily but firmly . " Mom ... it's me . I'm back . " He hadn't planned to reveal himself today . His intent had only been to accompany Lydia under the pretense of lighting candles , to spend a little time with her and then leave . But he hadn't expected that Lydia would recognize him immediately . " Leander ... you're really back ! I've waited for you nine years ... and now you've come back to me ! " Ever since Gareth had driven Leander out nine years ago , she had stormed away from the Ashcroft family in fury .

She had come alone to Durham Abbey , praying and lighting candles every day . One bow , one prayer , for nine long years . She had never forgotten the promise she made to him : if he ever got lost , he should come to Durham Abbey , and she would be waiting there . And now ... her most beloved son , Leander , had truly returned . Lydia held Leander's hands , wanting nothing more than to just look at him , wishing time could stop . For nine long years , his small , tender face had haunted her dreams .

Every time she reached out to hold him , she woke up to emptiness , each longing dashed again and again . 211 16:12 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 320 You're Leander ? (44) ' Finished She was terrified that this , too , might be an illusion , vanishing in an instant . " Mom ... please don't cry , " Leander said , wiping away her tears . He had once been frustrated , secretly angry that she hadn't tried to find him all these years , but all that

resentment dissolved in the face of Lydia's nine years of devoted , solitary prayer . Lydia had always been the same mother , endlessly loving , unwavering .

" Leander ... where have you been all these years ? " she asked , her voice trembling . " After cast out of the Ashcroft family and left in the mountains , I sent people to search for you . Your grandfather stopped them each time . I could only search in secret , but I never found a trace of you . I thought ... I thought I'd lost you forever . " She held his arms tightly . Leander looked at her , warmth flooding his chest . He told her briefly about the years he had survived , skipping over the dangerous trials and battles he had endured to gain strength .

He told her simply that he had lived - and eventually made his way to Mornwick . As Lydia listened , tears streamed down her face . Leander had lost his martial power , his skills , and the protection of the Ashcroft family . From a privileged young heir , he had become a homeless orphan , exposed to hardship and hunger . Surely , he had suffered greatly over the years . At last reunited , they sat together , talking quietly , just as she had once told him bedtime stories . They reminisced about his childhood , sharing small , happy memories .

Hours slipped away unnoticed , deep into the night , the sky above glittering with countless stars . Yet the bond between mother and son remained unbroken , timeless , and unshakable . Lydia looked at Leander , and in his features , she could still glimpse the boy he had once been . She was filled with a deep , bittersweet emotion . " Leander ... you were just this tall when you were little . Nine years have passed , and now ... I

only reach your shoulders ! " When he had been cast out of the Ashcroft family , he had been just a ten - year - old child- small , fragile , vulnerable .

Now , he had grown into a strong , upright man . " Of course , " Leander said with a playful smile , just like old times . " You used to protect me ... now it's my turn to protect you . " Despite all the life - and - death struggles he had endured these past years , he had thought he had grown indifferent to family ties . But seeing Lydia now , he realized these feelings had always been buried deep in his heart , never fading . 3/4 16:12 Thu , Oct 16 Chapter 320 You're Leander ? F : Blood ties ran deep , unbreakable and irreplaceable . " By the way , Mom " Leander asked suddenly .

" How did you recognize me ? " 44 Finished Lydia smiled softly . " When you were born , you were weak and sickly . I went to Aurion Peak and gathered rare herbs to heal you . I continued this for three years , until you were four , when I finally stopped the treatment . But because you had been on the medicine so long , your body naturally carried a faint , unique herbal scent . " It's subtle, invisible to anyone else - but you're my son . How could I not recognize it ? " Leander's eyes widened as he realized . His heart swelled with gratitude .

Even after nine years , Lydia remembered every detail of him . With a mother like her , he felt his life was complete . " Leander , " Lydia said , her gaze softening , her voice dropping slightly . " Do ... you hate grandfather ? Your father ? " The words hung in the chapel like a frozen silence . your Leander didn't answer immediately . He paused , his expression hardening , his eyes growing cold . " Mom ... I want to know why they did it . " You have to tell me ... why all of that happened to me . " Send Gifts 60 B AIA

