

From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 691[1,064 words]

Chapter 691 Vanish Without a Trace

Chapter 691 Vanish Without a Trace

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The True Martial Heavenrend used heavenly lightning as its core and celestial metal as its body, but one final and crucial step remained the sword spirit.

For a sword to possess life, it must first have a soul. To unleash the sword's true power, Leander had to use his own spiritual strength to forge a sword spirit. Only then would man and sword become one, mind and intent aligned. With a single thought, the sword could travel thousands of miles and strike down enemies across the heavens.

Leander's spiritual strength had already reached the Origin Realm. Once one entered this realm, divine arts formed naturally. His eyes gleamed as his spiritual strength spread outward in fine ripples, enveloping the sword.

Clang, clang!

His spiritual strength transformed into countless needle-like strands that repeatedly struck the sword. This was known as Mind Tempering. Only through continuous refinement could a sword spirit be condensed and its spirit awakened.

Clear ringing filled the air like a flowing melody. He focused completely, pouring all his mind into the process.

Once, ten times, a hundred times... one million times.

Within an hour, his spiritual strength struck the sword one million times. Only then did the sword release a joyful hum. A thin streak of light emerged from its core—the newborn form of the sword spirit.

"Good."

Leander's gaze sharpened as his spiritual strength intensified. The light sphere expanded and enveloped the newborn soul. His spiritual strength became like a womb, while the streak of light was a seed beginning to take form within it.

This process would take seven to ten days. During this time, he had to remain in absolute focus. Once the sword spirit matured, the True Martial Heavenrend would be complete.

Genevieve watched from a distance without approaching. She understood that any interference would ruin the refinement process.

The moment she sensed the light sphere, she detected fluctuations in spiritual energy.

"He cultivates both martial arts and spiritual strength?"

Shock filled her eyes. Leander's martial strength alone had already surpassed that of most prodigies in the Lesser World. Now, he was also displaying powerful spiritual strength. Both paths complemented each other, making his true strength impossible to

measure.

She had believed she understood at least part of him, but now realized she had only seen the surface.

"Martial cultivation, spiritual strength, and artifact forging as well?"

Her heartbeat quickened. Among all the geniuses she had ever encountered,

Leander was undoubtedly the most versatile and terrifying.

A faint, unfamiliar feeling stirred in her chest as she watched him, and her pulse quickened without her realizing it.

Leander remained fully focused, blending into the night as he carefully nurtured the newborn sword spirit. Ten minutes passed

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before his expression suddenly tightened.

A soft sound echoed from within the light sphere.

Crack.

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A fracture appeared at the center of the newborn sword spirit. The crack spread rapidly until it split completely in two.

He frowned deeply. He pushed his spiritual strength to its limit, trying to force the two halves back together. No matter how hard he tried, the crack remained stable and visible. The moment his control weakened, the sword spirit would collapse entirely, wasting everything.

"How is this happening?"

Confusion surfaced in his mind. The first two steps had gone smoothly. Only this final step had failed.

Realizing force was useless, he withdrew his spiritual strength. The fractured light immediately dimmed and scattered.

After a brief pause, he tried again, reconstructing the sword spirit through Mind Tempering.

This time, it lasted half an hour before the same outcome occurred. The sword spirit split apart again and could not be repaired.

He repeated the process multiple times until dawn. After more than ten attempts, the result never changed. Each sword spirit lasted no more than an hour before breaking apart.

"I understand now."

He withdrew his spiritual strength completely. He had found the cause.

The sword spirit required continuous and perfectly balanced spiritual strength. It could not be too strong or too weak. Absolute precision had to be maintained throughout the entire process.

Although his spiritual strength had reached the Origin Realm, his control had not reached that level of fine precision. This was why the sword spirit kept collapsing. At his current limit, he could only maintain stable output for about three hours. That was far from enough compared to the time required for full maturation.

"I made it sound too simple."

He lightly stroked the dark sword and shook his head.

"To successfully condense the sword spirit, my spiritual strength is still insufficient.

At this rate, I must break through another level to complete the True Martial Heavenrend."

Beyond the Origin Realm lay the Origin Breaking Realm. In other words, his spiritual strength needed to reach that level to succeed.

He was already at the peak of the Origin Realm, only one step away. However, that final step required an opportunity. Without it, even a year or more of cultivation would not be enough.

He exhaled slowly, stored the black sword in his spatial ring, and stood up.

"Come here. I have something to tell you."

His voice turned serious as he called out to Genevieve.

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Genevieve nodded and stepped forward, appearing instantly before him.

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"Do me a favor-pass a message to the Highcliffe Ashcrofts. Tell them I will be gone for a while. During this period, no matter what happens, they are not to act rashly. Everything must wait until I return. As for us, put it aside for now. Whatever happens in the future, I will face it."

His tone was calm but firm. Genevieve froze slightly. Although they had not known each other long, he had never spoken to her in

such a serious manner.

She had intended to refuse, but after meeting his gaze, she unconsciously nodded. Leander took out his phone, sent a message to Daphne, then crushed the device in his hand.

After defeating six hundred-year King Phase masters alone, his name had shaken the entire international martial world. The Arbitration Office, Netherweb, the Blood Clan, and the Shadow Wolf Clan all began secretly mobilizing to track him down. Yet no one expected that the man who had shaken the world would suddenly vanish without a trace.

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Olivia Harris is an emerging author celebrated for her captivating romantic and steamy novels. With a talent for crafting deep emotional connections and fiery chemistry between her characters, Olivia's stories offer readers an escape into worlds filled with passion, intrigue, and heart-stopping drama.

From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 692[1,205 words]

Chapter 692 Time's Up

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After Leander killed six hundred-year King Phase masters in a single battle in Ravenridge, the underground world was shaken to its core. Countless martial artists trembled at the mention of his name, their expressions changing whenever he was brought up.

Veteran experts began comparing him to Lucas, The 16 Supreme Arbiters, and the Lord of Netherweb. In their eyes, Leander already had the right to stand alongside those legendary figures who once ruled at the very peak.

Across the world, independent martial artists flocked to Ravenridge, hoping to see him for themselves. Some even wished to become his disciples.

At the same time, powerful Western forces-including the Arbitration Office and Netherweb-as well as non-human races like the Blood Clan and the Shadow Wolf Clan, deployed elite intelligence operatives to investigate him from every angle. The Martial Alliance also sensed the growing tension. They planned to have Julian and Elowen of Envine reach out to Leander and quietly watch over him.

Then, without warning, he disappeared. He seemed to vanish from the face of the earth. Even Julian and Elowen-both hundred-year King Phase experts-as well as the top agents of the Arbitration Office and Netherweb, could not trace his whereabouts.

It was as if he had been erased. No one could contact him. Even Frankie, Gumus, Tommy, and the others under him lost all

connection.

Inside the grand hall of the Arbitration Office, sixteen frozen thrones stood in silent rows, symbols of absolute authority. Hidden in darkness, the 16 Supreme Arbiters listened to a report from the three remaining Chief Arbitrators.

"Jeff is missing? In a land as vast as Astria, you still can't find him?"

The central Supreme Arbiter spoke in a low, drifting voice, a trace of surprise in his tone. In the past, he had treated Leander as an insignificant junior. That perception had changed.

After Leander killed six hundred-year King Phase masters, they all recognized the terrifying extent of his power and the boundless potential he possessed. He had become their greatest threat.

Another Supreme Arbiter paused briefly before speaking in a cold, decisive tone, settling the matter with a single statement.

"Leave it for now. He has likely found a secluded place to cultivate and attempt a breakthrough. Once he succeeds, he will return. The day he reappears will mark the beginning of the second War of the King Phase."

At the headquarters of the ancient assassin organization Netherweb, flames roared around a ritual altar. Within the firelight, several ancient figures could be faintly seen, their forms distorted by shifting green haze.

Below the altar, a black-robed man bowed deeply, his entire body shrouded in dark mist.

"Fifty Earth-tier operatives infiltrated Ravenridge for seven days. They found nothing regarding Jeff. Not a single lead."

His voice was steady and precise.

Silence followed, broken only by the crackling of flames.

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Chapter 692 Time's Up

After a long pause, the fire surged upward, and an ancient voice echoed outward.

"Recall all operatives from Astria. Until Jeff reveals himself, no one—not even a Heaven-tier assassin—is to take action. Disobedience will be punished by death."

A flicker of shock crossed the black-robed man's pale face before he bowed again.

"Understood."

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Not only the Arbitration Office and Netherweb, but also the Blood Clan, the Shadow Wolf Clan, and hidden agents from major

Western factions withdrew from Astria.

A storm was gathering.

On the campus paths of Highcliffe University, Daphne walked absentmindedly, holding a book.

A week earlier, a stunning woman had come to see her and told her that Leander

had left. She called him immediately, but his phone was off. For three days straight, she kept trying, only to hear the same cold automated message.

Leander had truly disappeared.

She looked up at the sky and sighed softly.

"Ander, where did you go?"

At the Ashcroft Residence in Highcliffe, Gareth returned from his travels, his presence as commanding as ever.

Ethan and Reginald met him in the main hall. After a brief exchange, they brought up the mysterious old man who had appeared at

the estate.

"That man was unfathomable. Terrifying beyond belief. He forced Ander back with a single move. In terms of raw power, he is clearly above Ander."

Reginald's expression remained tense.

To their surprise, Gareth showed little reaction.

"Dad, Ethan, there is no need to worry. He will not harm our family. He came here to wait for someone-to take them away."

His tone carried a hint of bitterness and self-mockery, as if he had long expected this.

"Wait for someone?"

Reginald and Ethan exchanged confused looks.

Before they could think further, a graceful figure entered the hall.

Lydia wore a simple long dress. Though unadorned, her beauty remained striking, almost ethereal.

"Mom!" Ethan hurried forward, his face lighting up.

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Lydia smiled gently and reached out to stroke his hair.

"You've grown up. You're a real man now."

Her voice was soft and warm.

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"I know your brother's achievements have affected you. For someone as proud as you, that could not have been easy. Do not lose heart. Everyone must walk their own path.

"You may not surpass your brother, but your Dual Martial Power is a once-in-a-millennium gift. With proper refinement, your future holds no limits. Reaching the peak of the mortal world is only a matter of time."

Ethan sensed something unusual in her tone, as if she were giving final instructions.

Even so, her sincerity moved him, and he nodded firmly.

"Mom, thank you for your guidance. I won't let you down."

She then turned to Reginald.

"Dad,"

It was the first time she had addressed him with such genuine emotion since Leander had his martial power stripped and was expelled.

"There is something I have never told you. Ever since I married into the Ashcroft family-apart from what happened to Ander-you have always been the elder I respect the most. The family will need you from here on. Without you, it would not truly be the Ashcroft family."

Reginald frowned, unease rising.

"Lydia, what are you trying to say?"

Lydia did not answer. Instead, she asked about Leander.

Reginald shook his head.

"He sent word that he would be leaving for a while. No one knows where he went."

Lydia's brows drew together briefly before relaxing.

"He is no longer the child he once was. He has grown into someone who can stand above the world. If he chooses to leave, no one will be able to find him."

She paused, her smile faint but tinged with sadness.

"I just cannot wait for him anymore. When you see him, tell him this-do not do anything for my sake. Do not look for me. Walk your own path well."

Both Reginald and Ethan felt a growing sense of unease. Before they could press further, a figure appeared in the hall like drifting smoke.

It was the mysterious old man.

"Lydia. Twenty years have passed. The time has come."

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Chapter 692 Time's Up

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He looked only at her.

Lydia's expression turned solemn as she nodded.

Before anyone could react, the old man raised his hand. A beam of light tore open a rift in space before them. In an instant, both he and Lydia stepped into it and disappeared.

The rift closed just as quickly.

Silence returned once more.

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From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 693[1,210 words]

Chapter 693 The Young Man at Ember University

"Tearing open space with his bare hands?"

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Reginald stood frozen as the spatial rift slowly closed. He did not move an inch. Only after Lydia and the mysterious old man had completely vanished did he finally cry out in shock.

Controlling spatial ability, tearing open space with bare hands, and carrying a person through it- such strength had already surpassed the King Phase level.

Eastern immortals!

Those two words suddenly surfaced in Reginald's mind. He had never expected the mysterious old man who had forced Leander back with a single move to be a being that existed only in legend.

Ethan though less experienced, was familiar with such myths. That single act of tearing space apart left him completely stunned.

A heavy silence filled the hall. After a long moment, Reginald finally spoke.

"Gareth, from the day you brought Lydia home, I already sensed her background was unusual. Now it seems I was right. Who exactly is she?"

Ethan also turned to Gareth, waiting for an answer.

Gareth's hand trembled slightly as it clenched into a fist. His expression carried both helplessness and deep unwillingness.

He exhaled slowly and shook his head.

"Dad, I promised Lydia that I would never reveal anything about her-not even to you. From today onward, I will focus entirely on martial arts. One day, I will reach that place and bring her back. Until then, no one in the Ashcroft family is to mention her again. Understood?"

Reginald had countless questions, but after seeing Gareth's determination, he ultimately chose silence.

Ethan, however, could not hold back. He grabbed Gareth's shoulder.

"Dad, what are you saying? What is going on?"

His voice trembled, his eyes wide with disbelief.

"Where did Mom go? Are we just going to let a stranger take her and do nothing?"

Gareth's body trembled slightly. Conflict flashed in his eyes, but after a brief pause, he still shook his head firmly.

"It is not that we are doing nothing. It is true that right now, we are powerless. The place she has gone to is beyond my reach. It is a realm you cannot imagine. Even a hundred-year King Phase master entering it would face near-certain death at every step."

He turned and walked out of the hall without looking back.

"Even a hundred-year King Phase master would face near-certain death there? Could it really be that place?"

Reginald let out a deep sigh, as though he had aged ten years in an instant, and sank back into his chair.

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Chapter 693 The Young Man at Ember University

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Ethan stood motionless, staring at the ground in silence. This was the second time he had felt so powerless. The first had been at Southern Shore, when he faced the heir of the War God Sanctum. He had fought with everything he had, even joining forces with Daphne, Claire, and other martial world geniuses, yet they still lost.

This time was even more devastating. His mother had been taken right before his eyes, and he could do nothing but watch. No pain felt deeper than this.

He walked out of the hall like a man without a soul and looked up at the murky sky. Only then did he think of Leander.

Leander, if anyone can bring Mom back, it has to be you. Where are you?

A month had passed since the incident at the Ashcroft residence, and life had gradually returned to normal at Ember University in Highcrest.

Inside the university library, a young man sat in a side seat, quietly reading a book with clear enjoyment. His features were refined and handsome, and the thick, black-framed glasses on his face gave him a strong scholarly air. He wore a plain T-shirt, light blue jeans, and white canvas shoes, with no branded items. Altogether, his outfit cost just over a hundred.

At Ember University, where wealthy heirs and elite students were everywhere, his appearance stood out as unusually plain. Several male students nearby shot him contemptuous and mocking glances.

He paid no attention. His focus remained entirely on the book, his expression calm and unbothered. The female students, however, reacted differently.

Used to the flashy, rich heirs around campus, they found his quiet, scholarly temperament intriguing. Their eyes kept drifting toward him with curiosity.

Not far behind him, four female students sat together whispering and giggling softly. One of them stood out in particular. She had long, silky hair falling straight down her back, a delicate oval face, flawless features, and skin as pale as snow. Her figure was especially eye-catching-slim, graceful, and perfectly proportioned-enough to make nearby male students keep turning their heads.

The four seemed to be playing some kind of game. A minute later, the campus beauty reluctantly stood up and walked toward the young man.

"Hi," she said with a sweet smile, leaning slightly toward him. "Do you mind if I sit here?"

As she smiled, two faint dimples appeared at the corners of her lips, adding to her charm. Very few men could have remained unaffected.

The young man turned and returned a polite smile.

"Go ahead."

The girl was slightly surprised by his reaction. At Ember University, she was extremely well-known. Nearly everyone recognized her.

She had recently entered a pageant competition and was already stepping into the entertainment industry. Her fame on campus made her stand out like a celebrity. Even the girls who saw her looked at her with sparkling eyes, full of admiration. Hundreds of boys had asked her for her autograph. Yet, in front of him, she felt her charm had been greatly diminished, as if she had become nothing more than an ordinary passerby.

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Chapter 693 The Young Man at Ember University

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His reaction was simply too calm.

She glanced back at her friends. The other three were trying to suppress their laughter.

A competitive spark rose in her chest. She pulled over a chair and sat beside him. A faint fragrance drifted through the air as she deliberately leaned closer, testing his reaction.

She had always been disciplined and reserved, but she was not inexperienced with men. Over the years, she had encountered countless admirers, including those who deliberately feigned indifference to attract her attention.

In those cases, she always remained composed and waited for them to reveal their intentions first. She assumed this young man was doing the same.

Ten minutes passed. He still showed no reaction. To him, the book seemed far more interesting than anything else. She felt no different from the surrounding air.

"I don't believe you're really this unfazed."

A stubborn determination rose in her heart. For the first time, she decided to escalate her approach.

Just as she leaned in closer, almost touching his arm, the young man suddenly spoke.

"I know you made a bet with your friends," he said calmly. "I'm not your entertainment. Suppose this is truth or dare, find someone else. I'm sure plenty of others would be willing."

His tone remained calm and flat. He closed the book, stood up, and walked toward the front desk, leaving her frozen in place.

At the counter, he presented his library card and checked out the book. The card bore the name Leander Ashcroft.

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From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 694[1,046 words]

2:34 pm TM

Chapter 694 The Wainwright Heir

Chapter 694 The Wainwright Heir

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After failing to forge the True Martial Heavenrend at the hillside villa in Ravenridge, Leander disappeared from the world's top powerhouses. No one knew where he

had gone.

He chose Highcrest-a place with a unique position within Astria and an equally special standing on the international stage.

Forging the True Martial Heavenrend required his spiritual strength to reach the Origin Breaking Realm. He was only one step away. yet that final step remained out of reach. He needed to find an opportunity to break through as quickly as possible.

Origin Breaking meant destruction followed by rebirth, a complete renewal of spiritual strength. At that level, raw strength alone was no longer enough. His state of mind had to undergo a true transformation.

At the hillside villa, he spent half a day thinking before making his decision. He would disappear from everyone's sight, cut off all contact with family and friends, and travel alone to a place he had never been.

True reclusion lies within the city, not the wilderness. That belief led him to Highcrest. In the heart of a bustling international metropolis, he intended to experience life as an ordinary person.

Over the past year, he had risen too high. Many things had become distant-beyond his reach, beyond his understanding.

After arriving in Highcrest, he cast aside every title and identity and entered Ember University as an ordinary student.

He was no longer the Wyvern Blade General, nor the Iron Sovereign, nor an invincible powerhouse. He was simply Leander-a regular college student from the mainland, living at the bottom of society.

Dressed plainly, he walked of the library with a book in hand. His earlier indifference toward the campus beauty had already drawn attention, and many eyes followed him, each filled with different thoughts.

Not long after leaving the library, a voice called out from behind him.

"Leander, why are you walking so fast? Wait up!"

Leander paused and turned.

A young man dressed in a Versace outfit and crocodile leather shoes hurried toward him. His refined, handsome features and expensive attire quickly drew the attention of nearby female students.

Beside him, Leander looked completely out of place. His entire outfit cost just over a hundred, making the contrast all the more striking.

The young man paid no attention to that. He casually slung an arm over Leander's shoulder as if they were close friends.

"Leander, I've been waiting at the entrance for over half an hour. You came out and walked off so fast I almost missed you." His name was Billy Wood, a direct descendant of the Wood family in Highcrest. Among the three sons of the main family line, he ranked third.

The Wood family was one of Highcrest's ten elite families, wielding immense influence. Their business empire covered nearly forty percent of the city, making them a true powerhouse,

As a core member of the family, Billy was naturally well-known at Ember University. Under normal circumstances, someone like Leander and someone like Billy would belong to completely different worlds.

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Chapter 694 The Wainwright Heir

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Their connection began by chance in a shared class. What started as a brief conversation turned into an unexpected friendship. From then on, Billy treated him like a close friend, often dragging him into various activities, leaving Leander both amused and helpless.

"Billy, I just finished reading and need to get to the cafeteria," Leander said with a faint smile. "Of course I'm walking fast. Why were you waiting for me?"

Billy did not answer. His eyes fell on the book in Leander's hand, and he grabbed it. "What is this?" His expression turned odd. "You're still reading something like this? Isn't it outdated? I can recommend some of the hottest web novels right now. Those are much more exciting."

He studied Leander's reaction but saw none, so he continued.

"Leander, I know you like studying, but times have changed. This isn't an era where knowledge alone is everything. Nowadays, building connections matters more. Meeting people and expanding your network is far more important than burying yourself in books."

He patted Leander on the shoulder, speaking earnestly.

"Leander, I've got a dinner tonight-lots of beautiful girls, and one of them is from a family on the same level as mine, a top-tier heiress. I'll introduce you. Come on, my car's over there."

He tried to pull Leander toward the parking lot.

Leander gave a helpless smile.

"Billy, you know my situation. My family isn't well-off. I worked hard just to get into this university. I need to take it seriously. I'd rather go to the cafeteria and eat quietly, then attend class this afternoon."

Billy frowned but still refused to let go.

"Leander, you're missing the point. Studying is fine, but it won't take you far anymore. There are countless college graduates every year. How many of them actually land good jobs? Plenty end up earning barely anything."

He spread his hands.

"You're working this hard for a better future, right? Then let me make it simple. After you graduate, come work for one of my family's companies. I guarantee it. Your salary won't be low-at least eight to ten thousand a month. That already puts you ahead of most graduates. In that regard, you don't need to worry about it anymore."

He winked.

"Now think about tonight's dinner again. That heiress has an even higher status than mine. If you connect with her, your future

life." changes completely. You wouldn't have to worry about money for the rest of your

Billy spoke sincerely, clearly hoping to bring Leander into his circle.

Leander remained unmoved. He simply waved his hand with a faint smile.

"Billy, I know you mean well, but I'm not interested in relying on anyone."

He took back his book, stretched lazily, and prepared to head toward the cafeteria. 2:34 pmTM

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At that moment, a faint breeze carrying a trace of perfume drifted through the air. A

slender figure ran toward him and stopped right in front of him.

"Hey, I need to clear something up about what just happened."

Leander looked up.

Standing before him was the same campus beauty from the library.

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Chapter 695 Shouldn't You Have Given Me a Heads-Up?

He pulled out chairs for both of them.

The cold beauty remained unfazed and sat down, clearly used to such occasions.

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Rachel, however, was somewhat surprised-she hadn't expected Billy, whom she had just met, to be the host. After a brief she gave him a polite smile and sat down.

As soon as she took her seat, she noticed Leander sitting across from her. Her expression shifted slightly.

pause,

Leander remained upright and calm, showing no reaction, as if he had not noticed her at all. That indifference made her faintly displeased.

"Leander, let me introduce you." Billy returned to Leander's side and pointed at the proud, cold woman. "This is Ava Watson of the Watson family."

Leander nodded politely with a faint smile.

Ava nodded in return, but a trace of cold disdain flickered in her eyes.

Given his outfit, his presence in such a high-end restaurant felt out of place.

Had it not been for Billy, she would not have bothered sitting at the same table. Leander noticed her contempt but did not care. He was here simply to experience ordinary life and had no interest in such judgments.

Billy was about to continue the introductions when the private room door was suddenly pushed open.

A young man in a sharp suit with slicked-back hair walked in, followed by several black-clad bodyguards.

His presence immediately filled the room.

He first swept a greedy glance over Ava and Rachel, then shifted his gaze to Billy.

"Well, well. Billy." A cold smile appeared on his lips, making him look like a venomous snake ready to strike. His tone turned sharp. "Billy, you're having dinner with my fiancée. Shouldn't you have given me a heads-up first?"

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Chapter 695 Shouldn't You Have Given Me a Heads-Up?

"Hey, I need to clear something up about what just happened."

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The young woman had long hair draped over her shoulders and a flawless, delicate face. Her eyes were fixed directly on Leander.

A hint of apology appeared on her face as she gave a slight bow.

"I really did lose a round of rock-paper-scissors to my roommates, so I came over to flirt with you. Sorry about that. I apologize for disturbing your reading."

The moment Billy saw her, his expression changed. He turned to Leander in surprise, clearly confused about how the two of them

were connected.

Leander remained calm and gave her a faint smile, casually waving it off. "It's nothing. No need to go out of your way to apologize."

Without waiting for her response, he turned and headed toward the cafeteria. The woman froze in place.

She had come over sincerely to apologize, yet he only gave a brief reply and left without even saying goodbye.

It was the first time she had

ever been treated like that by someone her age.

Billy watched Leander leave before snapping back to his senses.

He quickly turned to her and said, "Rachel, my buddy is just like that. He's always calm and steady. Don't take it personally."

The woman frowned slightly, said "It's fine," and then turned to leave as well.

Billy tried to call her back, but he could not think of anything to say. In the end, he could only shake his head helplessly.

In the cafeteria, Leander had just finished getting his meal when Billy showed up again.

He sat across from him, still visibly surprised. "Leander, what exactly happened between you and Rachel just now? Why did she come after you to apologize?" "Rachel?" Leander looked slightly puzzled. "You mean that girl?"

Billy's eyes widened in disbelief. "You seriously don't know Rachel Haley?"

"She's the most famous girl at Ember University-the number one campus belle. She's already made it to the finals of a major beauty pageant and could very well take the crown this year. And you've never heard of her?"

Leander touched his nose and shrugged. "I really haven't paid attention to that kind of thing. You know my routine-cafeteria, library, classroom, rental place. That's it. I don't have time for pageants or campus beauties."

Billy was speechless.

He covered his face and groaned. "Leander, even if you didn't know, you should've

at least heard me mention her before. Didn't! tell you I liked someone and wanted to pursue her? That's Rachel."

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"Oh?" Leander glanced up with mild amusement. "If you like her, why are you still sitting here talking to me? Why not go after her right now?"

Billy leaned closer. "I already made arrangements. I invited a friend to dinner today- the wealthy heiress I mentioned before. She's close friends with Rachel, and I asked her to bring Rachel along."

"Is that so?" Leander said casually. "Then, everything's already set. Why are you still here?"

Billy paused for a moment, then grabbed Leander's sleeve.

"Leander, I need your help. I can't handle two girls on my own. It'll be awkward. Come with me. Two guys, two girls-you'll be my wingman so I can get some chances to perform. I've never really asked you for anything, but this is important.

"My future happiness depends on it. Please don't refuse me."

His expression turned pitiful, but Leander remained unmoved.

He waved a hand. "Stop it. You know I still have class this afternoon. I can't help you. Find someone else."

"Come on, Leander!" Billy refused to give up and continued to plead.

After several rounds of refusal, Leander finally gave in. "Just this once. No next time."

Billy immediately lit up with joy and pulled him toward his Lamborghini Huracan.

The engine roared as the car sped toward Ebonpeak, heading to a high-end restaurant.

At the restaurant, Billy provided his reservation details. A waiter respectfully led them into a private room.

They waited for about ten minutes before the door suddenly opened.

Billy straightened immediately.

Two graceful young women walked in.

Leander lifted his gaze.

One of them had wavy hair and wore luxury brands styled tastefully. Her appearance was refined and expensive without being flashy, carrying an aristocratic elegance that showed excellent taste.

Her beauty was top-tier, comparable to the most famous campus belles, but her expression was cold and proud, giving off an unapproachable aura.

The other woman was Rachel. She wore a bohemian-style outfit with a pale yellow sun hat, looking gentle and naturally graceful, like a girl-next-door.

What stood out most was her unique classical temperament, as though she had stepped out of an ancient painting. In terms of presence alone, she even surpassed the glamorous woman beside her.

The moment Billy saw them, he quickly stood up. "Welcome, two beautiful ladies."

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2:34 pm

TM

Chapter 695 Shouldn't You Have Given Me a Heads-Up?

He pulled out chairs for both of them.

The cold beauty remained unfazed and sat down, clearly used to such occasions.

+20 Free Coins

Rachel, however, was somewhat surprised-she hadn't expected Billy, whom she had just met, to be the host. After a brief pause, she gave him a polite smile and sat down.

As soon as she took her seat, she noticed Leander sitting across from her. Her expression shifted slightly.

Leander remained upright and calm, showing no reaction, as if he had not noticed her at all. That indifference made her faintly displeased.

"Leander, let me introduce you." Billy returned to Leander's side and pointed at the proud, cold woman. "This is Ava Watson of the Watson family."

Leander nodded politely with a faint smile.

Ava nodded in return, but a trace of cold disdain flickered in her eyes.

Given his outfit, his presence in such a high-end restaurant felt out of place.

Had it not been for Billy, she would not have bothered sitting at the same table.

Leander noticed her contempt but did not care. He was here simply to experience ordinary life and had no interest in such judgments.

Billy was about to continue the introductions when the private room door was suddenly pushed open.

A young man in a sharp suit with slicked-back hair walked in, followed by several black-clad bodyguards.

His presence immediately filled the room.

He first swept a greedy glance over Ava and Rachel, then shifted his gaze to Billy. "Well, well. Billy." A cold smile appeared on his lips, making him look like a venomous snake ready to strike. His tone turned sharp. "Billy, you're having dinner with my fiancée. Shouldn't you have given me a heads-up first?"

2:35 pm TM

Olivia Harris is an emerging author celebrated for her captivating romantic and steamy novels. With a talent for crafting deep emotional connections and fiery chemistry between her characters, Olivia's stories offer readers an escape into worlds filled with passion, intrigue, and heart-stopping drama.

From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 696[1,329 words]

Chapter 696 A Name That Shocks Everyone

Chapter 696 A Name That Shocks Everyone

"Billy, you're taking my fiancée out to dinner. Shouldn't you at least give me a heads- up?"

The young man stood at the front with one hand in his pocket.

+20 Free Coins

His presence filled the room and put everyone on edge. In that instant, it felt like he had taken control of the entire private room.

His eyes narrowed slightly, carrying a dangerous edge as he stared straight at Billy. "It's you, Edward?"

When Billy saw him, his expression tightened right away. His tone turned heavy. It was clear he was very wary of the man.

Snorting, Edward pulled over a chair and sat down casually.

A cold smile hung on his face.

"Billy, everyone in Highcrest knows my family is about to join with the Watson family through marriage. Everyone knows Ava is my fiancée. And you still dared to ask her out to dinner? Wasn't the lesson I gave you at the racetrack last time enough?"

"What did you say?" Billy clenched his fists tightly. His voice trembled slightly from anger.

Even so, he stayed seated and didn't dare make a move.

Edward was the eldest son of the Dufay family, one of Highcrest's wealthiest families. He was also the future heir.

Starlight Entertainment, owned by the Dufay family, held major influence over the entertainment industry in Highcrest.

Many international-level stars had come from under them, making their reach wide.

More importantly, the family had built its power through underground connections. They had ties on both the legal and illegal sides. In Highcrest, they operated with very few limits.

Many people believed the family ranked first among the top ten families. Both the Wood family and the Watson family were a step below them.

As for Billy, he was the youngest in his family. He had an older brother and an older sister above him. His position in the Wood family was weak, and he stayed on the edge of power. He couldn't compare to Edward, who was already treated as the crown prince of the Dufay family.

Even though Billy was full of anger, he didn't dare confront Edward directly. He knew he would be the one who lost in the end.

"Edward, watch your words," Ava spoke up from the side. "Who's your fiancée?"

Her face stayed cold as she continued, "Our families are planning a marriage alliance, but until it's official, I won't admit I'm your fiancée. Also, I'm not close to you. Call me by my given name. I'm not used to other names."

The Watson family hadn't been doing well in recent years.

Their business had slowed, and things had been slipping year by year. Meanwhile, the Dufay family controlled strong resources in Highcrest, which the Watson family badly needed.

1/3

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TM

Chapter 696 A Name That Shocks Everyone

+20 Free Coins

Because of that, Ava's grandfather had personally approached the Dufay family to arrange the marriage between her and Edward.

She knew this was her family's decision.

She couldn't escape it, so she would have to compromise for her family's sake. However, she genuinely disliked Edward and couldn't stand him.

The Dufay family owned the largest entertainment company in Highcrest. Many celebrities were willing to get close to executives just to move up, but Edward was one of the worst.

He had been with countless young models and actresses.

His messy private life was already known to everyone in Highcrest.

Even though Edward stood out among the younger generation in Highcrest and had strong abilities, Ava couldn't accept someone who chased money, women, and pleasure all at once.

Before the engagement was finalized, she avoided him whenever possible.

She had never admitted in public that she was his fiancée and always kept her distance.

"Ava, you're being too distant." Edward smiled as he leaned a little closer to her. "You know exactly where your family stands right now. Without my family, yours wouldn't hold its place among the top ten. You'll end up with me sooner or later, so you'd better get used to that."

Ava's face turned pale. She parted her lips, but no words came out.

Edward's gaze shifted and landed on Rachel. His eyes moved over her in a slow, lingering way before he looked away.

"Ms. Haley, my brother has been after you for a long time. He's given you luxury cars and flowers. You turned him down every time. You wouldn't even accept a simple dinner invite, yet you have accepted Billy's invitation.

"Are you saying our family isn't as good as the Wood family? Or that my brother isn't as good as Billy?"

Edward controlled a large part of Highcrest's underground network and already had a strong presence.

When his gaze fell on her, Rachel instinctively leaned back a little.

This year's Miss Highcrest competition was fully handled by Starlight Entertainment under the Dufay family. Whoever they wanted to win would win. They controlled everything from start to finish.

Edward's younger brother, Jace Dufay, held a position as a public relations manager in Starlight Entertainment. From the moment he saw Rachel, he began pursuing her persistently.

More than once, he had told her that if she agreed to be with him, she could easily win the Miss Highcrest title.

However, Rachel had always kept her boundaries.

She came from a regular working family and didn't crave a flashy lifestyle. She relied on herself for everything and would never trade her body or dignity to get ahead.

Because of that, she had always kept her distance from Jace.

Hearing Edward question her directly, she felt afraid, but she still forced herself to speak.

2:35 pm

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Chapter 696 A Name That Shocks Everyone

"Mr. Dufay, it's my choice to have dinner with whom. It has nothing to do with the Dufay or the Wood families."

"Oh?" Edward's eyes turned cold as he stared at her. The pressure he gave off made it hard for her to breathe.

Seeing this, Billy quickly stood up.

+20 Free Coins

"Edward, I booked this private room. We're eating here. Please leave. If there's something to settle, we can do it another day."

Even though he feared Edward, there were two beautiful women in front of him. He couldn't care about that now. He just wanted Edward gone so he wouldn't ruin his

plans.

"You want me to leave?" Edward glanced at him sideways and smiled with amusement. "Since I'm already sitting here, this room is mine now. I'm hosting an important guest here. Billy, take that kid next to you and get out. As for Ava and Ms. Haley, you can stay. When my guest arrives, I'll introduce you." Edward spoke in a calm, matter-of-fact tone, as if this were already decided.

There was no room to argue.

From start to finish, Leander didn't say a word. He just sat there drinking tea, as if none of this had anything to do with him. Even when Edward called him "that kid," his expression didn't change at all.

"Edward, don't push it too far!" Billy slammed the table as his eyes widened. "I booked this room. What right do you have to kick us out? Do you really think your family controls everything in Highcrest?"

Edward crossed his legs and took out a cigar. He lit it calmly and didn't even look at Billy.

He blew out a puff of smoke with a dismissive expression.

"When I say leave, you leave. Forget whether you can afford to cross me. Once my guest shows up, you won't even have the nerve to say no. Believe it or not."

Billy looked angry and let out a cold laugh.

"Fine. I want to know who this important guest is."

Edward's expression stayed calm as he spread his hands slightly.

"Tyce O'Brien, the direct heir of the O'Brien family from Highcliffe."

The moment the name was spoken, the room went quiet.

Billy and Ava's faces changed right away.

Even Rachel, who didn't know much about powerful families, widened her eyes in shock.

Only Leander remained seated, steady and unmoved.

2:35 pm TM

Olivia Harris is an emerging author celebrated for her captivating romantic and steamy novels. With a talent for crafting deep emotional connections and fiery chemistry between her characters, Olivia's stories offer readers an escape into worlds filled with passion, intrigue, and heart-stopping drama.

From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 697[1,137 words]

Chapter 697 A Glimpse of Him

"Tycen?"

Billy and Ava both froze at the same time. Their pupils shrank, and fear showed on their faces.

+70 Free Coins

Earlier, when Edward mentioned an important guest, they had assumed it would just be some heir from a wealthy Highcrest family. They never expected the person he meant to be someone with that kind of background.

Rachel didn't know much about these elite families. Still, since she lived in Astria, she had heard of the four major families of Highcliffe.

The Ashcroft family, the Florian family, the O'Brien family, and the Valence family. These four families dominated Highcliffe and had a deep influence across the country. The head of any one of them stood at the very top of power. If they made a move, the whole country would feel it.

The younger generation from these families stood out even more. Ethan, Daphne, Tycen, and Eira. Every one of them was a top figure among their peers.

Compared to the four major families, even the so-called Top Ten Families of Highcrest were still weaker combined. Now that Tycen, the heir of the O'Brien family, had shown up in Highcrest, it was huge news for the entire upper-class circle.

Even their grandfathers would treat Tycen with respect.

They felt both shocked and uneasy. The Dufay family was strong in Highcrest and ranked first among the top families, but the others still had enough influence to keep them in check.

Now that Edward was hosting Tycen, it meant the Dufay family had managed to align themselves with the powerful O'Brien family. If that were the case, the Dufay family would rise even further and likely take over Highcrest's upper circle in the future.

Thinking about that, both Billy and Ava looked troubled. Billy's face turned pale, and his earlier confidence and pride disappeared.

He might have tried to stand up against Edward alone, but with Tycen involved, even if his older brother or sister showed up, they would still have to back down.

"What's wrong, Billy?"

Edward leaned back with one leg crossed, his tone teasing.

"Do you want to stay in this private room? You can wait here, and when Mr. O'Brien gets here, he can deal with you himself."

Billy's expression kept shifting. He tried to speak a few times, but he stopped himself each time. He turned to Ava and saw that she stayed silent too. In the end, he had no choice but to give in.

"Ava, Ms. Haley, Leander, sorry. Let's go somewhere else to eat."

For an heir from a top Highcrest family, saying that was humiliating. Still, Billy had

no choice. He felt frustrated and unwilling, but he had to leave.

There was no way they could stay once the O'Brien family was involved.

"Wait."

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2.35 pm TM

Chapter 697 A Glimpse of Him

Edward's voice turned cold.

"Billy, that's not how it works. Whether Ava and Ms. Haley stay or leave is up to them. If they want to stay and sit with us, they're

welcome to."

He raised his hand and pointed at Leander

"But you and this guy have to go."

Billy's face darkened. He had booked the room and invited them first, yet now he was being kicked out. That alone was humiliating

If Ava and Rachel stayed behind, it would be even worse. He would become a complete joke in Highcrest's upper circle.

Rachel didn't react much, but Ava hesitated.

As the leading figure of her generation in the Watson family, she carried a lot of responsibility. If she stayed and got the chance to meet Tycen, it could greatly benefit her family. It might even bring unexpected opportunities.

But she also knew Billy had invited her today. If she agreed to stay, it would mean openly disrespecting him. Their relationship would likely fall apart after this.

After thinking it through, her feelings won over her interests. She pressed her lips together, then slowly stood up.

"Billy, Rachel, let's go."

Rachel nodded and stood up right away. When Billy saw that both of them were willing to leave with him, he finally felt a bit relieved.

The group walked out one after another. This time, Edward didn't stop them. He just watched them leave with a cold look.

Leander followed behind Billy the whole time. He stayed silent from beginning to end. There wasn't even a hint of anger on his face.

Edward kept his eyes on Leander and felt nothing but disdain.

From start to finish, Leander didn't say a single word. He just stood there quietly, looking hesitant and unsure, with no confidence at all.

Even a calm person would get upset at some point, but Leander showed no reaction at all. Edward thought Billy was foolish for keeping someone like him around. He looked down on him even more.

As the four of them reached the end of the hallway, two figures appeared from the other side.

They walked forward with confidence. It was obvious they came from powerful backgrounds. One of them had a pale face and looked slightly weak, and his steps were a bit unsteady. His eyes, however, were sharp, as if he could see through everything.

The other man stood out even more. He was tall and good-looking, with a strong presence. He carried the natural authority of someone used to being in charge.

More than ten bodyguards in black followed behind them. As they passed, guests in nearby rooms quickly closed their doors, afraid of offending them.

Hearing the movement, Edward stepped out of the room and saw them approaching.

2/3

Chapter 697 A Glimpse of Him

His arrogant expression disappeared right away. He put on a polite and eager smile.

"Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Wave, welcome. I'm really honored that both of you came."

The two men were Tycen and Rodrick, both well-known figures from Highcliffe.

The Wave Alliance had grown strong in Highcliffe, and Rodrick and Tycen planned to expand it into Highcrest.

acing the eldest son of the Dufay family, Tycen only gave a slight nod as a greeting. Rodrick smiled and spoke.

20 Free

"You're too polite, Mr. Dufay. Your family is an important partner of the Wave Alliance. Since you invited us, we had to make time

come."

His words were just polite, but Edward clearly enjoyed hearing them. He laughed and gestured for them to head inside.

Rodrick was about to step in when he noticed Tycen hadn't moved. He was staring down the hallway without blinking.

"Mr. Tycen, what's wrong?"

Rodrick stopped and asked.

Tycen narrowed his eyes

sion kept shifting. He was looking in the direction where Leander had just disappeared.

"I think I saw him

"Him?"

g."

sly and let out a breath.

at if he wasn't mistaken, Highcrest would be completely shaken by that person's appearance.

the two were talking, Edward suddenly spoke up.

Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Wave, the person you're looking at was just sitting in this private room.

"Do you know him?"

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From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 698[1,252 words]

Chapter 698 Stepping In at the Last Second

Chapter 698 Stepping In at the Last Second

"Do you know him?"

Edward followed their gaze and saw they were He grew curious.

"Oh?"

+30 Free Coins

looking toward where Leander and the others had just left.

Tycen turned around and spoke to Edward first.

"You mean the people who were in this private room just now? Who are they?"

Edward's eyes shifted slightly. He gave a faint smile.

"There were four people in the room. Two were heirs from wealthy Highcrest families, one was a Miss Highcrest contestant, and the last one was some guy dressed in cheap street clothes. This private room is the best one in the restaurant. Only a place like this fits your status, so I had them kicked out."

"Kicked out?"

Rodrick frowned slightly. It didn't sit right with him.

"They didn't do anything, and they just left like that?"

"Yeah!"

Edward smiled, his tone calm but full of confidence.

"To be honest, what I say in Highcrest still carries weight. We might all come from wealthy families, but the other nine aren't in a position to go against mine."

He said it to show what he could do. At the same time, he wanted them to understand the Dufay family's standing, so it would make things easier moving forward with the Wave Alliance.

"I see."

Rodrick and Tycen exchanged a glance and understood.

They both knew that if that person had really been in that room, he wouldn't have stayed quiet and walked

away.

Forget the heir of the Dufay family. Even if all ten top families in Highcrest joined forces, along with the local authorities, they still wouldn't stand a chance against that man. He could crush them without effort.

After all, that was Iron Sovereign, the one who stood above everyone.

The two of them walked into the private room. They relaxed a bit. As long as that man wasn't in Highcrest, they were free to act. They could move however they wanted and turn the upper-class circle of Highcrest into the Wave Alliance's playground. They planned to take it all for themselves.

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16:33 Wed, May 13 JM.

Chapter 698 Stepping In at the Last Second

+30 Free Coins

Outside the restaurant, Leander and the others had reached the street. Billy looked guilty and bowed slightly to the two girls again.

"Ava, Rachel, I'm sorry. This is my fault. I dragged you into this. Now we have to find another place."

Rachel was kind. She waved her hand gently.

"This isn't your fault. Edward was just too overbearing. It's fine if we eat somewhere else."

Ava nodded.

"Billy, we've known each other forever. You don't need to feel bad about this.

"Edward must've pulled some strings. He actually got close to Tycen. And I heard Rodrick, the head of the Wave Alliance from Highcliffe, showed up in Highcrest recently. They're probably planning something big.

"Right now, the Dufay family is closest to them. If we go up against Edward, we're the ones who'll take the hit. It's not worth it over a meal.

"There are tons of places to eat in Highcrest. Let's just go somewhere else."

She meant what she said. Even though she and Billy weren't a couple, they had grown up together. She didn't want him getting dragged into trouble because of Edward.

After she finished speaking, she glanced at Leander, who stood beside Billy. The look in her eyes turned even colder. even

Back in the private room, when Edward came in and caused trouble, Leander had stayed silent the entire time. He hadn't said a word. To her, that made him look completely useless.

She believed a man could lack money or status, but he should at least have some pride and courage.

Billy had been pushed around like that, yet Leander didn't react at all. His expression didn't even change.

In her eyes, someone like him wasn't even worth calling a friend.

Even though she looked down on him, she didn't say anything. A guy dressed like Leander didn't stand a chance against someone like Edward, the so-called underground prince of Highcrest,

Billy felt grateful for what Ava said. He turned to Leander and spoke with some apology.

"Leander, sorry you had to see that today. I really can't afford to mess with that guy. I had no choice but to back down. Let's go. I'll take you somewhere else to eat."

Seeing how friendly Billy still was toward Leander, Ava shook her head slightly. She liked him even less. As for Rachel, she had felt a bit of goodwill toward Leander when they met at the library before. After what just happened, that bit of goodwill was gone.

She didn't care about wealth or status, but she couldn't respect a man without backbone, pride, or loyalty

to his friends.

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Chapter 698 Stepping In at the Last Second

+30 Free Coins

Leander had already noticed the cold looks from both girls, but he didn't care. He smiled and shook his head at Billy.

"It's fine, Billy. I'm good with whatever. Anywhere you take me is already better than what I usually eat."

As he spoke, he glanced at a van in the distance. His eyes flickered for a moment.

Billy patted his shoulder. He was about to go get the car and take everyone somewhere else. Before he could speak, Leander spoke first in a low voice. "Billy, do you really like Rachel?"

Billy paused, then nodded. He lowered his voice as well.

"Leander, I've told you before. I really like her. I want to marry her. I'm serious."

"Is that so?"

Leander touched his nose.

"If I tell you you're about to get a chance to play the hero and save the girl, would you take it?"

"Save the girl?"

Billy's eyes widened.

"Of course I would! But what do you mean?"

He knew that stepping in like that could win her over. Still, he couldn't figure out how something like that would even happen in broad daylight.

Right as he finished speaking, the sound of an engine suddenly broke the moment.

A white van sped in from the side and rushed past the four of them.

As it passed Rachel, someone threw a bag of clear liquid out the window. It flew straight toward her.

Everything happened in a split second. No one had time to react. Rachel screamed as the bag drew closer. Billy tried to move in front of her, but his body didn't respond in time.

Just as the bag was about to hit Rachel's head, Leander moved.

He stayed calm and gave Billy a light push from behind.

Billy stumbled forward and ended up right in front of Rachel. The bag hit him directly and soaked him from head to toe.

"Ah!

Rachel and Ava finally reacted and rushed forward.

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16:33 Wed, May 13

1. JM.

Chapter 698 Stepping In at the Last Second

"Are you okay?"

Billy smelled his clothes and realized it was just water. He shook his head.

+30 Free Coins

Then he turned to look at Leander. His eyes were full of shock and confusion. He couldn't understand how Leander had known someone would target Rachel.

On top of that, in that split second, even he, with his martial arts training, couldn't react in time. Yet Leander had pushed him at the perfect moment so he could block it.

From those two things alone, he knew Leander wasn't ordinary.

He was about to ask something, but then he noticed Leander was looking ahead.

He followed his gaze, and his pupils shrank.

Two Mercedes SUVs had stopped nearby. More than twenty men in black got out and started closing in on them.

16:34 Wed, May 13

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From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 699[1,504 words]

Chapter 699 Finally Stepping In

Boom!

+30 Free Coins

The powerful engine of the Mercedes SUV roared down the street. Then more than twenty men in black pushed the doors open and rushed over.

“Rachel, you're my woman. I asked you out for dinner, and you didn't come. I thought you were busy! If my brother didn't tell me you were here, I wouldn't have known you were secretly having dinner with another man behind my back!”

A voice came from behind the group. One man stepped forward.

He looked about twenty-three or twenty-four. He wore a custom-made Italian outfit and expensive crocodile leather shoes. He looked like a typical rich playboy.

"Jace?"

Billy and Ava both froze for a second. This young man was Edward's younger brother, the second young master of the Dufay family, Jace.

Jace glanced at Rachel. A crooked smile sat on his lips, and his gaze was bold and disrespectful.

Rachel's expression turned cold. "Jace, since when did I ever become your woman?"

She came from a normal background, but she had always stuck to her own rules. She only did what she was comfortable with. There was no way she would trade her body for anything.

The Dufay family's Starlight Entertainment was running the Miss Highcrest competition this time. They were also the judges. At the end of the day, they decided who won. If they wanted someone to take the crown, that person would win. This kind of behind-the-scenes control was nothing new in the industry.

Jace had approached her more than once. He offered to make her the champion if she slept with him. She turned him down every time.

But he didn't back off. He only got worse. He kept harassing her without any shame. Now he even brought people to surround her in public.

By now, a lot of people had recognized her as a popular Miss Highcrest contestant, and a crowd started forming.

"Rachel, that's not very nice of you!"

Jace didn't care at all. He grinned.

"That night, when you were lying on my bed, you kept calling my name. Why are you acting so distant now? Did you forget all the fun we had once you got dressed again? You said you felt good more than once. You even said you wanted to be my sweetheart forever. Are you denying all that now?"

His disgusting words made Rachel's face go pale with anger. Ava couldn't take it anymore and stepped in.

1/4

1. JM.

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Chapter 699 Finally Stepping In

+30 Free Coins

"Jace, stop talking nonsense. When did Rachel ever have that kind of relationship with you? This is a public place. Are you trying to ruin her reputation in front of everyone?"

Jace looked at her with clear disdain.

"Ava, that's not how it works. Do I need to report what happened between Rachel and me in bed to you too?"

He turned back to Rachel and smiled even more shamelessly.

"Sorry, baby. I shouldn't have been so rough that night. Next time I'll be gentler. Don't be mad, okay?"

Rachel trembled with anger. Her face turned completely pale.

"Jace, you're shameless. You're disgusting!"

It was the first time she had ever said something like that. Those were the only words she could think of. She never thought the second young master of the Dufay family would go this far. He was making things up in public just to tear her down. If this spread, it would seriously hurt her chances of winning.

"Yes, yes, I'm shameless. I'm disgusting. I shouldn't have said those embarrassing things in public. Sorry, baby. Don't be mad. Next time in bed, I promise I'll be gentler!"

Jace had no shame at all. He only pushed things further.

Rachel stood there like she didn't know what to do. The cold wind lifted her hair as she tried to hold it together.

She clenched her teeth. "Jace, what do you actually want? What's the point of doing all this?"

Jace smirked.

"Rachel, you already know what I want. I'm just reminding you. You're safer with me. If you're not, today it was almost water. Next time, it could be paint or even blood."

He smiled coldly, and the threat in his voice was obvious.

"Even if you don't care about yourself, think about your family. Your parents aren't young anymore. What if they get hit by a car or something falls on them? That wouldn't be worth it, right?"

Rachel's face drained of color. She looked shaken.

She wasn't afraid of him. What shocked her was how low he would go, using her parents to threaten her.

Jace, what are you trying to do? Don't push it!"

She forced herself to stay calm as she spoke.

She got along well with Ava, but she knew the truth. Ava cared more about her value and future.

16:34 Wed, May 13 M.

Chapter 699 Finally Stepping In

+30 Free Coins

If Jace really went after her and her family. Ava wouldn't risk much for her. Even if she wanted to help. there wasn't much she could do..

The Dufay family had strong underground connections. They operated in the shadows, while her parents were out in the open. If Jace really wanted to target them, it would be hard to stop.

Her thoughts were a mess. She didn't care what happened to her, but she couldn't accept anything happening to her parents.

"Heh!"

Jace smiled when he saw how shaken she was.

"You know what I want. Come to my office tomorrow. We'll talk face to face."

Rachel bit her lip. She knew exactly what he meant by that.

She felt completely stuck. Right then, Billy finally spoke up.

"Jace, shut your mouth!"

Billy stepped forward and stood in front of Rachel. He glared at Jace.

"You're a grown man, and you're pulling this on a girl. Aren't you ashamed? I feel embarrassed for you! Whatever you want to do to Rachel, I'll take it!"

He spoke not just because he liked her. He genuinely couldn't stand Jace's behavior.

"Billy, what does this have to do with you? Since when do you get a say in this? Rachel is my woman. You asked her out for dinner, and I haven't even settled that with you yet. And you still dare to speak up? What, did you not lose enough last time at the underground boxing match? That one million wasn't enough for you?" Jace looked at him with complete disdain.

"Don't

get ahead of yourself just because your family is in the same circle as mine. You know exactly where you stand in your own family. And you should know the gap between your family and mine."

Billy's expression shifted. He couldn't argue with that.

In terms of their positions in their families, they weren't that different. But overall, the Dufay family was stronger. Now that they had the O'Brien family backing them, the gap had only grown.

When they were younger, they were evenly matched. Now, Billy lost more often than he won.

He clenched his fists. Jace just gave a cold smile.

"I'm a fair guy. I can tell you like Rachel, so I'll give you a fair shot. I heard you've been training a lot lately. Let's fight right here in front of her. If you win, I'll leave right away. From now on, I'll compete with you the fair way. But if you lose, stay out of my way and stop running your mouth!"

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Chapter 699 Finally Stepping In

Before Billy could answer, Jace suddenly kicked out.

+30 Free Coins

His leg cut through the air with force. It was fast and strong, close to a trained fighter. It was obvious he had been practicing for years.

Billy sensed the danger right away. He raised his left arm to block.

Smack!

He was still too slow. The kick landed hard on his shoulder.

Jace was bigger and taller. The impact pushed Billy to the side, and his whole left arm went numb.

In just one move, he lost his balance.

Jace wanted to humiliate him in front of Rachel, so he didn't stop. He stepped forward and threw a straight punch at Billy's chest.

Billy stumbled back and barely dodged it. Then he tripped over a small ledge behind him.

Seeing that, Jace lifted his right leg high and brought it down in a heavy stomp.

If that hit, Billy wouldn't just be bruised. He would end up in the hospital for several days at least.

Just as the kick was about to land, a sigh came from the side.

He let out a quiet breath.

Right when everyone thought Billy was about to get seriously hurt, a figure suddenly moved in. A leg swung out and hit the back of Jace's knee.

Bang!

Jace lost his balance right away. His body tilted back as he stumbled three steps and fell hard to the ground.

Everyone was caught off guard. Rachel and Ava both froze.

Billy realized he was safe. He turned his head and shouted in surprise.

"Leander?"

Leander slowly lowered his leg and stood there calmly. There was a hint of helplessness on his face.

After being in Highcrest for a month, he had finally made his first move. Olivia Harris is an emerging author celebrated for her captivating romantic and steamy novels. With a talent for crafting deep emotional connections and fiery chemistry between her characters, Olivia's stories offer readers an escape into worlds filled with passion, intrigue, and heart-stopping drama.

**From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding
Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 700[
1,217 words]**

Chapter 700 Leander's True Strength

"Leander?"

Billy tilted his head slightly. A tall figure stood beside him. It was Leander.

+30 Free Coins

He froze in surprise. He knew exactly how capable Jace was. Jace had gone through strict combat training since he was young. It built his strength and made him stand out among people his age.

Jace was physically strong. His reactions were fast, and his power was top-tier. Even though Billy had trained in martial arts for years, he still could not beat him.

But Leander, who looked calm and bookish, had blocked Jace's powerful downward kick with one move. Not only that, but he had also sent Jace flying. Billy could hardly believe what he had just seen.

Ever since he met Leander, the guy had always been calm and polite. Billy had never seen him fight before. He definitely did not expect him to drop someone like Jace in a single move.

Leander lowered his leg and let out a quiet sigh.

He had come to Highcrest to relax and clear his mind. He wanted to live simply and experience an ordinary life. Before reaching his next breakthrough, he did not want to deal with trouble or conflicts. But things did not go the way he wanted. Today, he had no choice but to step in and protect Billy.

Ava and Rachel both looked shocked. They never thought Leander would step in.

Earlier in the private room, Leander had stayed quiet the whole time. They thought he was weak and spineless. But now, when things turned bad, he was the one who stepped up and saved Billy. Their view of him changed right away.

"Are you okay?"

Leander helped Billy to his feet. Billy shook his head, but he was still stunned.

"D*mn it!"

Jace had been kicked several feet away. Even with his strong build, his head spun for a while. It took him some time to get back up and look for the one who knocked him down.

When he saw Leander, his expression tightened with anger.

He was the second young master of the Dufay family. In all of Highcrest, very few people dared to cross him. Yet now, some nobody in cheap clothes had just kicked him flying.

"Kid, did you just sneak attack me?"

His eyes narrowed, and his face turned cold.

He had been trained in combat since he was a kid. He could hold his own against most pro fighters. Getting sent flying by a single kick made him feel completely humiliated.

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Chapter 700 Leander's True Strength

When he noticed the looks from the people watching, it only made things worse.

+30 Free Coins

He had no idea that Leander had barely used any strength. It was not even close to

a fraction of his real power. If he had gone all out, Jace would not have survived that kick.

"Can we just end this here?"

Leander did not answer him directly. He spoke in a calm tone.

Before, if someone like Jace caused trouble, he would either ignore it or deal with it right away. But now, he just wanted a normal life. He did not want to get tied up with Jace or the Dufay family.

"Just end it here?"

Jace let out a cold laugh.

"This is between Billy and me. You stepped in and even kicked me. You think we can just drop it? No way!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he stepped forward. He jumped lightly and swung his right leg in a spinning kick aimed at Leander's head.

The kick was fast. It was one of his signature moves. It carried a lot of force. If it

landed on a normal person, they would pass out on the spot.

Billy stood on Leander's left. The kick came from the right, aimed straight at Leander.

Rachel let out a small cry. Ava frowned.

Jace is going all out.

Smack!

Leander did not make any extra move. He simply raised his right hand and grabbed Jace's ankle.

The powerful kick stopped in midair. All its force disappeared right away. Leander pulled back slightly. Jace lost his balance and fell.

Bang!

Jace hit the ground hard. Dust rose as he landed flat on his back.

Leander acted like it was nothing. He glanced at Jace and shook his head.

"Kid, you've got guts!"

Jace stood up, holding back the pain. He waved his hand.

"You guys, get him! Beat him until he ends up in the hospital!"

He looked at Leander and laughed coldly.

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Chapter 700 Leander's True Strength

"You think you're tough? Let's see how many you can handle! If you beat them all,

I'll let this go!"

As soon as he finished speaking, more than twenty men in black rushed forward like predators.

(44)

+30 Free Coins

They were all retired elite soldiers. The Dufay family had hired them at high pay. They trained often and could each handle multiple opponents.

Seeing all of them charge in, Billy panicked.

Leander's strong, but there's no way he can take on over twenty guys at once.

He tried to step forward, but Leander pushed him back.

At that moment, one of the men's fists was already close to Leander's face.

The punch was fast and heavy. It was about to land.

Leander stayed calm. He tilted his head slightly.

The man froze. His punch, which should have hit, missed Leander's face by inches.

Bang!

Leander flicked his left hand. No one saw what he did. The man suddenly dropped to the ground. He clutched his stomach and started throwing up.

Whoosh!

Another man rushed in. He spun in a full circle and kicked toward Leander's chest.

The spin added speed and power. That kind of force could easily crack bones.

Bang!

Leander stayed relaxed. The moment the kick came in, he lightly tapped the man's leg with his foot.

The man's body shook. He lost balance right. stopped responding.

and crashed to the ground. His right leg went numb and

The remaining men were shocked. They saw how strong Leander was. But with

Jace's order, they still rushed forward.

No matter how many came at him, Leander only made small movements. A simple pull or shift was enough.

In just over a minute, all twenty men were down and could not get back up.

Rachel and Ava stood there in shock. Billy rubbed his eyes. He still could not believe it.

"Can we end this now?"

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Chapter 700 Leander's True Strength

After taking everyone down with ease, Leander turned to Jace and spoke calmly.

+30 Free Coins

Jace looked shaken. He knew how strong his men were. He could not even beat

one of them. Yet Leander had taken all of them down in seconds. He had never seen anything like it.

"Is he some kind of martial artist?"

Jace's expression grew tense.

When he saw Leander looking at him, he hesitated. In the end, he waved his hand.

"Billy, you're lucky today. You've got someone backing you. Next time, you won't be so lucky!"

After speaking to Billy, he looked at Leander. There was a trace of fear in his eyes.

"I'll remember you!"

Jace left in anger. The men in black struggled to their feet. They helped each other back into the cars. The situation finally settled down.

Leander turned around calmly. At that moment, he met Billy's gaze.

Billy looked at him closely. There was curiosity and suspicion in his eyes.

"Leander, who are you, really?"

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Olivia Harris is an emerging author celebrated for her captivating romantic and steamy novels. With a talent for crafting deep emotional connections and fiery chemistry between her characters, Olivia's stories offer readers an escape into worlds filled with passion, intrigue, and heart-stopping drama.

**From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding
Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 701[
1,296 words]**

Chapter 701 Jace's Trap

"Leander, who are you, really?"

+30 Free Coins

Billy stared at him, his eyes sharp. It was the first time he realized Leander had a completely different side from what he showed on the surface.

Most of the time, Leander kept to a simple routine. He went between class, the library, the cafeteria, and his rented apartment, sticking to the same places every day.

He went to class during the day, read in the library at noon, and worked at a bar at night. His life barely had any ups and downs.

Billy had always thought Leander was just a regular Astrian student working part-time, trying to get a decent job in the future.

But now, it seemed like he had been wrong from the start. He didn't believe an ordinary college student could take on twenty people alone.

Rachel and Ava were both left speechless. They stood there in a daze for a moment before snapping back to reality. What Leander just did completely changed how they saw him.

Ava, in particular, couldn't look at him the same way anymore. She came from a wealthy family, so she was used to seeing capable people. Even so, Leander gave her a different feeling. The more she thought about it, the more she felt he wasn't as simple as he seemed.

Someone truly strong always stepped in at the right moment, handled everything cleanly, and ended it fast. That was exactly what Leander had just done.

People like him either had a reason to keep a low profile or were the type who kept their real strength hidden.

"Billy, what are you talking about?"

Leander smiled and looked at him helplessly.

"You already know my situation. I'm just a poor Astrian student. I practiced some martial arts when I was younger. I saw you were about to get into trouble, so I helped out. Why are you making me sound like some undercover agent?"

His expression looked completely natural, with no sign of acting or hiding anything. That made Billy even more confused.

"Did I overthink it?"

Billy shook his head to himself. The mystery around Leander only grew stronger. Just as they were talking, a Lamborghini suddenly drove up and stopped in front of them. Jace stuck his head out of the window and looked at Billy.

"Billy, don't think you can get cocky just because you've got someone strong with you!

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Chapter 701 Jace's Trap

+30 Free Coins

"I know you like Rachel. Let me be clear, she's mine. If you want to go up against me, fine. Three days from now, we will meet at the Bauer Street underground boxing arena. Each side brings three fighters, Best two out of three wins. If you win, I'll give you five million, and I won't bother Rachel again!

"But if you lose, you pay five million. Then you get on your knees and apologize to me. You got the guts to take that?"

His voice sounded cold and threatening. He was set on crushing Billy completely.

Billy's eyes shifted. When he heard that Jace would stop bothering Rachel, his emotions flared. He nodded without hesitation.

"Fine. I'll take the bet. Three days from now, Bauer Street. Don't be late!"

Jace smirked, clearly pleased.

"Good. That's what I like to hear. Guess the third young master of the Wood family isn't all talk. It's settled then. See you in three days!"

His gaze shifted to Leander.

“Oh, right, you're pretty good at fighting, aren't you? You've probably practiced some ancient martial arts, right? You can come with Billy when the time comes. I'll show you what a real martial artist looks like!”

After he finished speaking, the car sped off.

Billy stayed where he was, his fists clenched. His mind had already moved to the underground fight. If he won, he could finally get rid of a major problem standing between him and the girl he liked.

“Billy, and... Leander, thank you for helping me out.”

At that moment, Rachel walked over gracefully. A light fragrance followed her.

Her lips parted slightly as she spoke. Her expression was soft and charming, like rippling water.

"Thank you for standing up for me. But Billy, you didn't have to accept that bet for me."

She gave a small nod. Her calm and gentle manner carried a quiet charm that naturally drew people in. Billy returned the gesture politely and waved his hand with a smile.

"Rachel, don't worry about it. And don't think too much. Jace and I have never gotten along since we were kids. This isn't new. He just used you as an excuse. Even without you, he'd still find ways to compete with me."

He looked at her and felt his heart soften. His eyes were filled with affection. Rachel's gaze stayed clear. Even as she thanked them, she kept a careful distance.

At that moment, Leander suddenly remembered something and checked his watch.

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Chapter 701 Jace's Trap

"Billy"

He lowered his hand and gave him a quick nod.

+30 Free Coins

"I just remembered I switched shifts with a coworker today. I need to get there to clean up, or they'll dock my pay. I can't stay for the meal. You guys go ahead. If anything comes up, call me."

After he said that, he didn't wait for Rachel or Ava's reaction. He turned and walked down another street.

The three of them didn't expect him to leave so quickly. Ava's eyes flickered with a strange feeling. Rachel watched his back as he left and gave a faint, surprised smile.

Billy quickly explained, worried they might think Leander was rude.

"Don't misunderstand him. That's just his personality. He works part-time as a waiter at a bar in Downtown. He starts cleaning at 4 p.m. He's always on time."

The two girls nodded casually, but their mood had already dropped. They no longer felt like eating.

Leander walked toward Downtown. The bar he worked at was called Ironwood Bar.

A few streets away, the Lamborghini was parked on the side of the road. Jace looked at the information his men handed him, his expression dark.

"So that kid's name is Leander. A student at Ember University working part-time. Hmph. I thought he was someone important. Turns out he's just a nobody from Astria."

The file contained Leander's background. After coming to Highcrest, Leander had

cut off his past connections and even made a fake resume. They couldn't uncover his real identity.

"D*mn it!"

Jace kicked the car door, clearly annoyed.

The more he thought about it, the angrier he got. He had been beaten in public by someone with no status. If he had known more about Leander, he wouldn't have left like that.

He kept reading and saw Leander's workplace. His expression changed, and a cold look flashed in his

"Oh? This kid works at Ironwood Bar in Downtown?"

He let out a cold laugh.

eyes.

"You've got some nerve going up against me. You really don't know what you're getting into. I couldn't do much out on the street, but in a small bar, it's a different story. I can have people jump you at any time. You might be able to fight, but how many can you take on? You think you can handle weapons, too?"—

He smiled coldly and snapped his fingers.

"Call the boss of Blood Hounds. Tell him to bring people to Ironwood Bar and take care of that kid. And that kid knows some ancient martial arts. Tell him to bring Ignatius. Only he can deal with him!"

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Chapter 701 Jace's Trap

Jace's eyes turned icy as he slowly clenched his fist.

+30 Free Coins

"You crossed me. Jace. That's on you. Tonight, I'm going to break you. You'll be stuck in a wheelchair for the rest of your life!"

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