

From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 711[1,858 words]

11:22 Sat, May 23

Chapter 711 Rekindled Battle Spirit

Chapter 711 Rekindled Battle Spirit

+30 Free

At Wood Manor, a section of the outer wall had collapsed, as if a massive palm strike had be forcibly imprinted into it by sheer external power.

Through the gap in the outer wall, a man in his twenties strode forward and came to a stop about a hundred feet away from Leander and the others.

"Mr. Garin?" Seein

Billy, Arnold, A tightening.

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wcomer, Clovis' expression shifted slightly.

and the rest all changed their expressions in shock, their pupils

g before them had an identity unlike any other.

rs and young ladies of the ten great noble families were already figures out restraint. Yet this well-dressed young man was even more terrifying

ly and Jace, both heirs of major families, might scheme against each other and see one another. But in front of this man, they could only behave with utmost respect.

s no other reason. He was the top heir of Highcrest, the chief disciple of Elder d of the Gessingers, and the future successor of the Gessingers.

ordinary people, their world might be relatively simple. But within Highcrest's upper les, the background of the Gessingers and the true extent of their power were already no

Cret.

The Gessingers held dominion over Highcrest precisely because they possessed top-tier martial existences beyond the ordinary world. Garin was also the strongest disciple of Osmund, the most powerful figure in the Gessingers aside from the family head, Colden.

The heirs and young ladies of Highcrest all regarded him with deep caution. Wherever he went, those noble heirs and young ladies would treat him as the leader. Not a single one of them dared to offend him.

Because h

egendary Gessingers but also possessed terrifying strength

that su

heirs and young ladies, shattered a wooden boat cruise ship back to shore with his

bare hands. These class circle with awe and fear toward him.

that Garin, who practically stood at the pinnacle of the younger

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17:22 Sat, May 23

Chapter 711 Rekindled Battle Spirit

generation in Highcrest, would personally come to the Woods.

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"Mr. Woods, quite a clear mind you have there!" The "Mr. Garin" that Clovis referred to was none other than Garin himself. He swept a cold glance over Billy's group before looking at Clovis. There was a hint of seriousness in his eyes, but he still let out a cold laugh.

"You may have a clear mind, but unfortunately, your choice is not very good!" He clenched his fist, and several membership invitation forms appeared in his hand as he showed them to Clovis and the others.

On them were invitations from eight of the ten great noble families. The information was filled in, fingerprints were pressed, and seals were stamped. Clearly, eight of the ten families had already agreed to join.

Only the Dufays and the Woods had not submitted their invitation forms.

"Ancestor of the Gessingers has asked me to deliver a message to the Woods!" Garin said with a cold expression as he put the forms away. His gaze sharpened, and brilliance flashed in his eyes. "Follow us or get left behind!"

When this domineering, threatening statement was made, everyone present except Leander changed their expressions.

Clovis, a seasoned power player who had weathered countless storms in Highcrest's business world and stood among its true heavyweights, felt a sudden

ripple of unrest. His gaze tightened almost instantly.

For as long as anyone could remember, the Gessingers had always held an undisputed position at the top in Highcrest. That was something every major family in the city acknowledged without question.

But even though the Gessingers were powerful, they had never before acted so aggressively toward the other elite families. They had never used sheer force to pressure others. Yet today, Clovis could clearly sense something different—a raw, unmistakable ambition to dominate Highcrest completely.

That line, "follow them or get left behind," perfectly captured the intent behind the Gessinger Association. Joining it meant becoming subordinate to the Gessingers. Refusing it, on the other hand, likely meant total ruin and being erased from Highcrest's upper-class circle.

As arrogant as it sounded, no one in the room treated it like a joke. Everyone understood the truth. The Gessingers of Highcrest absolutely had the power to back it up.

"The Gessingers' ancestor?"

Billy and Arnold were still thinking through possible responses when Clovis, unusually sharp

Chapter 711 Rekindled Battle Spirit

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2/4

17:22 Sat, May 23

Chapter 711 Rekindled Battle Spirit

to the detail, immediately caught the implication in Garin's words.

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He had always known that the Gessingers were rumored to have a living legend, a peak-level king phase cultivator known as the Gessingers' ancestor.

Homer had once been one of the elite members of the Imperial Inner Circle's Royal Guard. After the collapse of the last royal family, he settled in Highcrest and was even honored with a medal by the Empire's Queen. By every definition, he was someone who stood far above the

masses.

But over a century ago, he had vanished without a trace. Rumors said he had left Highcrest and had not been seen again.

Now, hearing Garin bring him up so suddenly made Clovis feel unsettled. He found it hard to believe.

Garin noticed Clovis' expression and immediately understood what he was thinking. He let out a mocking smile. "I know exactly what you're thinking. Let me make it clear to you," he said coldly. "The Gessingers' ancestor, the original founder of the Gessingers and a former Imperial Inner Circle Royal Guard, returned to Highcrest the day before yesterday."

The moment those words landed, Clovis jolted. His entire body stiffened as if frozen in place. "How is that even possible? The founder of the Gessingers, that Imperial Inner Circle expert... he's still alive?"

Arnold and the others nearby were visibly shaken. Even their hands trembled slightly.

With Aubert gone in recent years, the Gessingers' influence in Highcrest has been slowly weakening. The Dufays, together with the Highcliffe O'Brien Family, were already close to being able to challenge them. But if what Garin said is true, then doesn't that mean the Gessingers' strongest card has never actually disappeared? A two-hundred-year-old ancestor from the Imperial Inner Circle... just how terrifying would that be?

Garin wore a satisfied expression and said proudly, "The Gessingers' ancestor has already made himself clear. In Highcrest, there should only be one voice, and that is the voice of the Gessingers. The unification of Highcrest's upper world is inevitable. He will personally take action to eliminate all discord. Every martial expert in Highcrest will be brought under the Gessingers. Both the business and martial worlds will belong to the Gessingers, forming the strongest family Highcrest has ever seen."

His words laid bare the Gessingers' ambition without any disguise. The massive force that had remained silent for over a century was finally showing its fangs. The weight of it all stirred something deep within Clovis. Without hesitation, he picked up the invitation form from the table. "Mr. Garin, the Woods will join the Gessinger Association."

3/4

17:22 Sat, May 23

Chapter 711 Rekindled Battle Spirit

He did not hesitate for even a second. Taking out a pen from his inner pocket, he quickly filled in the Woods family's representative details.

Behind him, Billy's expression turned solemn, but he did not dare say a word. He understood Clovis well. If there were even a sliver of hope, Clovis would never back down. But the fact that he made the decision instantly meant the situation had already reached a level beyond imagination.

"Are the Gessingers in Highcrest really that terrifying?" Billy let out a quiet sigh. For the first time, he felt small and powerless. Even someone of Clovis' standing, the head of a great family like the Woods, could only lower his head under that overwhelming pressure.

As Billy silently processed it all, a hand suddenly landed on his shoulder.

He paused and turned around in mild surprise. Leander stood there, looking calm

and composed.

"Billy, if you have a thought, why not stick with it?" Leander said, his tone carrying an unquestionable confidence. "The Gessingers might be strong, but they are not that strong. Once you sign that form, the Woods becomes nothing more than one of their puppets. But if you don't, the Woods still keep their dignity and reputation in Highcrest. They remain a respected, great family. That choice is not hard to make." He had no intention of interfering in the Gessingers' affairs in Highcrest. But when he heard that Homer intended to gather all martial experts under the Gessingers and build a so-called number one family, something inside him stirred.

The martial world respects strength, but as a martial artist, why would they ever submit and become someone's servant?

For nearly a month, he had been in seclusion, steadying his mind and tempering his spirit. But now, the fire in his eyes began to rise again, slowly but unmistakably. 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 712[1,260 words]

Chapter 712 Richard Wood

Chapter 712 Richard Wood

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"Leander, you..." Billy blinked, caught off guard. It was the first time Leander had ever spoken to him this seriously.

Leander held his gaze, eyes sharp and steady, not a trace of humor on his expression. "If you didn't want to join the Gessinger Association in the first place, then stick to it."

The moment Homer returned, he was set on sweeping through Highcrest's upper circles. It had nothing to do with Leander at first. But Homer had made it clear he intended to make every martial artist in Highcrest lower their heads. With Leander here, there was no way was staying out of it.

he

If Homer was determined to make the Gessingers dominate Highcrest's elite, then Leander was just as determined to make sure they didn't get their way.

"Leander, I get what you're saying, but..." Billy glanced at Clovis, who had nearly finished filling out the form, then looked toward Garin, standing off to the side, all confidence and swagger. His jaw tightened.

"I know what's holding you back, but you don't need to worry." Leander spread his hands casually. "I'm not some big shot, but I can promise you this. No matter what happens, I'll take the hit. You just do what you want to do." There was no pressure in his tone, and no overwhelming presence.

And yet, for some reason, Billy felt an unshakable sense of trust settle deep in his chest. His eyes flickered, and in the next second, he reached out, snatched the invitation form right out from under Clovis' pen, and tore it to pieces on the spot.

Garin's eyes narrowed at the sight, a cold glint of killing intent flashing within.

"Billy, have you lost your mind?" Clovis shouted, panic written all over his expression.

Billy didn't flinch. His voice came out low and firm. "Dad, I'm perfectly clear-headed. And you know it too. The second we sign up, the Woods won't be the Woods anymore. We'll just be the Gessingers' lapdog. Our ancestors came to Highcrest and built everything we have from nothing. They left us one rule. We push against the current. We don't take the easy path just because everyone else does. We don't follow the crowd, and we don't take orders from anyone. The Gessingers can suppress us. They can be stronger than us, but they will never own us. I've never forgotten that."

Arnold and Aveline stared at Billy, stunned. In their eyes, he had always been a careless playboy, chasing after pleasure without a second thought. But what he had just done shattered that image completely.

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Chapter 712 Richard Wood

59

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For a moment, it even felt like everything before had been an act, like he had been hiding in plain sight. Like this version of him, calm and clear, was the real one all along.

"Billy..." Clovis' lips trembled. Deep down, he understood every word Billy had said.

But the Gessingers were too powerful now. Their influence was overwhelming, almost unimaginable. And with Homer, a king phase who had lived for over two centuries, backing them, any resistance from the Woods would be nothing more than a futile struggle.

Garin let out a cold scoff and looked at Clovis. "Mr. Wood, seems like you didn't raise your son very well."

His gaze shifted to Billy. "I heard you're nothing but a spoiled rich kid, wasting your days chasing women and living it up. Looks like the rumors are spot on. You act without thinking. Do you even understand what it means to tear up an invitation personally issued by the Gessingers?"

The moment his words fell, he stepped forward.

Clovis' heart jolted. He instinctively moved to step in front of Billy, but Garin casually flicked his hand. A pale green streak shot out like a whip, slamming into Clovis and sending him flying more than ten meters before crashing onto the lawn.

Clovis, a Grandmaster, coughed up blood the instant he hit the ground, shock flooding his expression.

By then, Garin was already standing right in front of Billy. "You tore up the Gessingers' invitation. That means you're openly defying our authority." His voice dropped. "Get down!"

His eyes darkened, and an invisible pressure surged outward, crashing down over the entire area.

Rachel and the others all went shocked. Garin's presence was even heavier than what Ignatius had unleashed that night at Ironwood Bar. It felt denser, more oppressive, suffocating.

Billy wasn't a martial artist. Under that crushing pressure, his face turned ghostly white, fear clawing its way into his chest.

But the pride of the Woods held him up. He clenched his teeth and stood straight, forcing his body to endure the overwhelming aura of a peak Martial Sovereign.

"The Gessingers have only run a backwater like Highcrest, and you have the nerve to call that authority?" Just as Billy was about to buckle under the weight, Leander's voice rang out from the side.

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der looked the same as he had that night when he faced Ignatius and Rowa t it felt unreal

he there, only Maeve remained completely at ease. not the slightest bit rattled busy lately with her tour, but anything related to Leander never slipped past

an absolute monster. He's the kind of guy who can slice a supersonic fighter jet out

of the sky trike. Why would he be scared of someone like Garin?

oint, the Woods, along with Ava, who was visiting, all saw Leander as nothing but a

Sessingers are extremely powerful. They've ruled Highcrest for nearly three hundred years without
ling, always at the very top. And Leander is seriously saying he's looking forward to watching fall?
If their ancestor heard that, he'd probably lose it on the spot.

've got a death wish!" Carin had completely written Leander off as someone asking

to He immediately lashed out, power surging through his arm as his fingers curled like five rp
stingers, clawing straight down

strike landed, a huma

der's head.

than an eggshell. It would shatter

34

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Chapter 712 Richard Wood

+35 Free Coins

Boom!

Just as Garin's hand was about to come down on Leander's head, a fierce gust tore in from the left.

It hit hard and fast, carrying overwhelming force. Garin's expression shifted. He pulled his hand back at once, then snapped his arm forward. His reach seemed to extend out of nowhere as he drove a punch straight into the incoming force.

Boom!

The two forces collided. Garin's body jolted violently, and he staggered backward, taking five full steps. Deep footprints were pressed into the grass beneath him.

An older man approached with his hands clasped behind his back, dressed in a white robe. There was a faint resemblance between him and Clovis.

"Dad?"

"Grandpa?"

Clovis and the Woods siblings both cried out the moment they saw him.

Garin shook out his arm. His gaze turned dark as he spoke in a low voice. "Richard Wood?"

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From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 713[1,987 words]

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Chapter 713 Choosing Sides

Chapter 713 Choosing Sides

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"Richard?" Garin shook his arm. It felt a little numb after he took the blow to his arm. That numb sensation was enough to warn him that this intruder was stronger than

he was.

Nevertheless, he quickly recognized who that intruder was when he laid his eyes on

him.

It was none other than Richard Wood, the Wood family's former patriarch. He also happened to be the Wood family's sole elite Martial Sovereign.

"It's you, Old Mr. Wood. Are you going to interfere in the Gessinger family's business?"

Garin might have addressed Richard respectfully, but there wasn't the slightest fear in his eyes.

"The Gessinger family rules over us all. Plus, you've got a King Phase master backing you. I'm old and decrepit, so how could I stand in your way?"

Richard then shook his head lightly as he continued with a smile, "However, this Leander fellow here is the Wood family's guest. So, I'm afraid I'll have to stop you if you intend to kill my guest in our home, Mr. Garin."

He wasn't idle as he spoke. By the time those words fell, he had already positioned himself right by Leander's side. When he did, his straight-backed posture bent ever so slightly. It was as if he thought himself lower than Leander in terms of status.

"Cut the crap, old man!" Garin spat, his etiquette lessons forgotten as his impatience got the better of him.

"Your grandson, Billy Wood, tore up the Gessinger family's invitation for your family to join the association. As if that weren't enough, your guest here even insulted my family to my face. Forget me, even my forefather would kill them on the spot for such disrespect!

'Stop me, and you'll find yourself standing against the entire Gessinger family! You're just an elite Martial Sovereign. You're not that much stronger than me. The Gessinger family has several Martial Sovereigns, Transcendent Realms, and even King Phase masters.

"Do you really think a family like yours has the strength to go against mine?"

His cultivation was a notch below Richard's, but he wasn't the slightest bit intimidated. After all, he had the Gessinger family's unwavering support. That meant that even a Transcendent Realm had to respect him or face the consequences.

Heck, even King Phase masters with no background might not dare to lay a hand on him.

1/6

Chapter 713 Choosing Sides

Richard wasn't angered. Still, his voice lowered slightly as he said, "Mr. Garin, I am willing to apologize to the Gessinger family on my grandson's behalf due to his rudeness. However, don't you think it's overkill to kill someone else for such a minor offense?"

Garin sneered before pointing straight at Leander. "I am willing to spare your grandson for your sake. I can overlook this slight as long as he grovels to me. But this guy? Hah! He insulted the Gessinger family and claimed that our ending is nigh!

"So, I'm sure you'll have nothing to say if I kill him."

His arm shook as soon as his words fell. Then, he unleashed his Spinesnap Fist at Leander and wasn't stingy with using his internal energy in his attack.

Richard immediately reacted, pushing a palm out to block the attack. A pale yellow palm print swept Garin's Spinesnap Fist and sent him staggering back once more.

"Do you have a death wish, you old coot?" Garin roared after having failed twice in a row. The scowl on his face deepened and twisted in humiliation.

"Mr. Garin, I have to say that I truly admire your bravery!" Then, Richard shook his head gently and remarked, "I'm not stopping you. I'm saving you! You'd best leave the Wood Family Manor if you know what's good for you.

"I can promise you this. You will die where you stand if you attack him one more time. You can choose to follow my advice, or not. It's up to you."

Richard sounded dead serious, each word laced with warning.

Garin's heart tightened at his tone.

Although he and Richard were both elite Martial Sovereigns, Richard had ascended to that Realm for years. He had finer control over his strength and possessed more combat experience than Garin did. Therefore, he didn't doubt that Richard could kill him if he wanted to.

Nonetheless, Garin didn't think Richard was capable of pulling such a stunt. Even so, he couldn't just ignore that warning after it was spoken.

"Fine, Richard, Fine. I understand that the Wood family refuses to join us, and I will be reporting it as is. We'll see just how your family struggles to survive once the Gessinger family's powerhouses show up!"

In the end, Garin decided against launching a third assault. Instead, he took a step back before vaulting over the wall and disappearing before the Wood family's eyes.

2/6

Chapter 713 Choosing Sides

"Thank you, Grandpa." Billy was genuinely grateful for the support. He hadn't expected his grandfather, who had always been unbelievably strict with him, to step in and protect his friend. Honestly, he was surprised that Richard wasn't chasing him with a stick right now.

To Billy's shock, Richard actually smiled at him instead. He even patted Billy on the shoulder before turning his attention to Clovis. "I already know what happened, and Billy is right. The Wood family can't join the Gessinger Association!

"I don't care if we'll lose everything and have to start over elsewhere, but I will never allow our family to become the Gessinger family's dogs. If things take a turn for the worse, we'll just leave Highcrest tonight.

"The Gessinger family may be powerful, but are they really going to hunt us forever and wipe us out to the last man?"

Then, he waved, dismissing them all.

"Wait here. I have something I'd like to discuss with this... with this young man. Would willing to take this discussion to my study?"

you be

The young man he was referring to could only be Leander. Still, there was an odd glint in his eyes when he looked at Leander. Plus, he was being polite, almost to an excessive degree. He was acting as though Leander were truly an honored guest.

Everyone else in the Wood family couldn't help but stare at him in bewilderment. After all, the Richard they knew was an austere man. He rarely smiled and was especially strict with the younger generation.

Yet, he was being unexpectedly warm to this mysterious man who had only just arrived at the Wood Family Manor. Frankly, none of them could wrap their heads around Richard's strange behavior.

A slight frown creased the corner of Billy's mouth. He was the only one who noticed that there was something other than warmth when Richard spoke to Leander. It was faint, but beneath all that, he had sensed a trace of fear from his grandfather.

His mind whirled a mile a minute. Alas, none of his thoughts made sense, not even to him.

"You've invited me yourself, Old Mr. Wood. How could I say no to that?"

Leander had a hunch as to why Richard was being so respectful. So, he nodded in agreement. Richard chuckled as he gestured respectfully. "Then, please follow me!" The two of them ignored everyone else and headed straight for Richard's private study,

376

leaving the rest of the group even more confused than ever before.

Only Maeve seemed to have figured something out as the corners of her lips curled into knowing smile.

"I, Richard Wood, am honored to stand in your presence, Sovereign!"

Richard bowed deeply at the waist as soon as the door of his private study swung shut behind them.

Leander wasn't surprised that something like this would happen. After all, he already had a feeling that Richard had recognized him.

Although he hadn't shown his face in public that many times, every one of those appearances had shaken the world. Martial artists who had watched those battles had a solid impression of what he looked like.

Since Richard was an elite Martial Sovereign, he had likely watched one of those battles as well.

"There's no need to be so formal. Please rise. Billy and I are friends. If you think about it, I should be the one greeting you respectfully."

Leander smiled faintly and raised his hand. Only then did Richard slowly straighten himself.

His heart couldn't help but stutter as he laid his eyes on Leander's serene smile.

He could still remember what happened a month ago. He had been passing through Mornwick, specifically Ravenridge, at the time when he had happened to witness Leander battling six King Phase masters all by himself.

He even bore witness to the fact that Leander hadn't just taken them all, but had

also absolutely pulverized them. Leander's display of strength had shaken his very soul.

Yet, the Leander who was standing before him now looked just like an ordinary college student. He felt completely different from the Leander who stood on top of the food chain.

"You asked me to come to the study... What is it you want?" Leander leaned against the chair and asked casually.

Richard didn't dare sit. Instead, he could only bring himself to stand before Leander, his eyes blazing. "I made my request for one reason and one reason only-the fate of the Wood family!"

His fists clenched tight as his voice turned heavy. "The Gessinger family has nearly complete

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10 losing sides

control over Highcrest. They want to wipe out all their opposition and turn the upper chelon into their obedient slaves. My family will never stand for such injustice: Homer Gessinger, the Ancestor of the Gessinger family, has returned. He publicly declare that he would force every martial artist in Highcrest to do his bidding! I'm no saint. I'm just a man who would bow to the strong. So, I know I need to pick a side if I

want my family to

Arrive.

Since that's the case, I'd rather throw my lot with you. Sovereign Ashcroft. I believe you're the only one capable of putting Homer in his place!"

He clasped his fists and fell to one knee.

1. Richard Wood, in the name of the Wood family's second patriarch, swear that

the Wood family will follow and obey all your commands from this day forth. I only ask that you protect my family from harm."

Richard had lived long enough to sharpen his instincts. The Wood family would never bow to the Gessinger family, so they needed someone more powerful than the Gessinger family to protect them. This was their only shot at survival that wouldn't compromise their dignity.

Hence, Leander was their best choice.

Plus, Leander was friends with Billy. That meant that Leander wouldn't cast the Wood family aside or enslave them even if they became his vassals. Leander couldn't help but smile when he saw the determination in Richard's eyes. "There's no need for you to go this far, Old Mr. Wood. I'm not like the Gessinger family. Absolute obedience isn't my style, and I don't need the Wood family to swear fealty to me!

Billy is my friend. He's like a brother to me. So, the Wood family will naturally be under my protection."

He rose to his feet and looked out the window. He could see white clouds stretched

across the endlessly blue sky. His gaze grew deeper as he considered his current situation.

He had been in Highcrest for a month, choosing to live a quiet life to temper his mind and spirit. Alas, not only had he failed to break through his spiritual cultivation,

but he also felt as though he had hit a strange roadblock somehow.

had a feeling that a battle between him and the Ancestor of the Gessinger family

was

Wable.

Also had a hunch that the same battle might be the key for him to achieve the Origin Jong Realm.

56

16:08 Mon, May 25 M MA

Chapter 713 Choosing Sides

"A nine-star King Phase master, huh?" He bared his teeth in a grin, his eyes blazing

with interest. "If it's a monster like him, then I wouldn't mind having a taste of that power!" 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 714[1,675 words]

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PPP.

Chapter 714 A Gamble

Chapter 714 A Gamble

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As Leander spoke, an unmatched pressure swept through the clear sky. The study seemed to experience a sudden reality shift as gravity doubled out of nowhere, nearly forcing Richard to his knees despite his elite Martial Sovereign strength.

Leander gazed at the horizon for a long time before the fire in his eyes slowly sputtered away, causing his aura to dissipate.

When he turned back, he saw that Richard was flushed. It seemed that his blood flow was disrupted due to enduring an unimaginable pressure.

"Old Mr. Wood, my apologies. I was so caught up in the moment that I forgot you were there."

Leander smiled faintly and sent a streak of pale blue energy flying to the crown of Richard's head. Shortly after, Richard's breathing steadied, but his heart was still thumping wildly against his ribcage. So, this is Jeff Ashcroft. The same man who stands on top of the food chain.

This is his true colors!

Richard felt utterly reassured at the fact that he'd just made a wise decision for his family.

As Leander's eyes returned to their usual shade of indifference, he now looked no different than an ordinary college kid working part-time to make ends meet.

He shrugged slightly, curiosity flickering in his eyes as he inquired, "Old Mr. Wood, I do want to know something. Why are you in such a rush to pick a side? Do you really have that much faith that I'd be able to stand against the Ancestor of the Gessinger family?"

"After all, one wrong decision and you'll be instead of glory."

ding the Wood family to their demise

Even though a battle between him and Homer was inevitable, the outcome of that battle was still up in the air. Yet, Richard had chosen his side, thus staking the entire Wood family's continued survival on his victory. Honestly, he didn't see that coming.

┐

"Life itself is a gamble," Richard replied.

Then, he continued, "Back when my grandfather came to Highcrest to build his fortune, he studied the situation and made a few big bets at the key moments. That was how he climbed up the social ladder and became one of the top figures in Highcrest's business world.

"It was his risky gambles that laid the foundation for the Wood family's legacy. What I'm doing now is no different. I'm betting that you, Sovereign Ashcroft, can stand against the Ancestor of the Gessinger family. I'm sure that the Wood family is willing to stand behind you.

After a pause, he added honestly, "I'll be frank. I've also prepared a backup plan in case things go awry.

"If the Ancestor of the Gessinger family insists on moving against us and you've determined that you will not come

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Chapter 714 A Gamble

+10 Free Coins

out on top against him, then I will surrender half of the Wood family members to the Gessinger family to do as they

wish.

"Naturally, I've also arranged for the rest of the family to leave Highcrest for the sake of the Wood family's continued survival."

His candor made Leander regard him in a new light. He remarked lightly, "I should've known that the elites who had the skills to make it big in the global financial hub like Highcrest could never be simple businessmen."

Leander nodded with a satisfied smile. Suddenly, his eyes took on a chilly edge. Richard could sense a terrifying force emanating from him. It was as if the slumbering beast had awakened.

"Don't worry, Old Mr. Wood. Since you're willing to bet everything you have on me, how could I let you down?"

The corner of Leander's mouth curled with absolute confidence, causing the huge weight on Richard's shoulders to finally ease.

"This is a crucial moment that will determine whether the Wood family has what it takes to rise to an even greater height. The Gessinger family has ruled Highcrest for far too long. It's high time they stepped aside."

A spark of anticipation and hope unfurled in Richard's heart when he saw Leander's undeniable ambition.

Leander had won every single battle he participated in and had never tasted the bitter tang of defeat ever since he stepped onto the stage. It didn't matter who his opponents were or how many enemies had gotten in his way because he always emerged victorious.

That was precisely why Richard had chosen to bet his chips on him.

It was already 8 p.m. by the time Leander came out of Richard's study. Billy, Rachel, and the others had been waiting for him in the corridor. So, Billy didn't hesitate to rush right over when he saw Leander leaving the room.

"Leander, what did you and my grandfather discuss?"

Billy was dying of curiosity. His strict grandfather, who valued family honor above all else, had just invited a foreigner like Leander into his private study for a discussion.

"You'll find out soon enough. There's no need to be so impatient," Leander said as he patted him on the shoulder. Then, he added, "Your family's hosting a banquet tonight and I won't be attending. I'll see you around."

He walked right past Billy after that. He also didn't bother sparing Rachel a single glance as he passed her by. Instead, he strode to the end of the corridor.

"Leander, wait up!" Rachel had wanted to ask him to take her with him. Alas, he had already disappeared from her sight within seconds. Her eyes dimmed as her heart sank with disappointment.

She'd been trying so hard to close the distance between them, but he'd always treated her with the same indifference.

Maeve's eyes flashed, hidden beneath the wide black hat on her head. Then, she promptly took advantage of the

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Chapter 714 A Gamble

Wood family's inattention to chase after Leander.

"Hey, you blockhea

Maeve had to jo

Do you ne

Maeve

right

"No

called out.

+10 Free Coins

up to him after leaving the Wood Family Manor and stepping onto the bustling streets. from me?" he asked flatly, glancing at her.

ised to his indifference. So, she merely clasped her hands behind her back as she walked her face up to shoot him a mischievous look.

1. I'm just curious how someone as extraordinary as you ended up pretending to be some part-time job at Highcrest."

ed with interest. It was a gaze that could charm almost any man in the world, except the one before

perience life, to feel what it's like to be one of the many," Leander answered succinctly. Yet, his words completely at a loss for words.

ander's status, leaders of the world's greatest nations would treat him with utmost respect. Plus, martial rom all over the globe worship him as though he were a god. Yet, he had chosen to go into seclusion at the of his power and live as an ordinary Joe in the city.

he'd even gotten himself a job at the bar! Frankly, his way of thinking would be incomprehensible to most.

nce you've followed me this far, you might as well join me," he said out of the blue. laeve blinked in surprise. When the words registered, she couldn't help but beam with delight. "Of course. Where are we going?"

She didn't care where they were going because she was willing to follow him to the ends of the earth as long as she could stay by his side.

"To meet the Gessinger Estate," he replied curtly.

Leander and Maeve chose a quieter route amid the hustle and bustle of Highcrest's glittery city in order to arrive at their destination. They chose to cut through a park in order to head to the Gessinger Estate.

When they arrived at the gates, Leander tore off a strip of his sleeve. Then, he used two fingers to carve dozens of swift strokes across the cloth before finally stopping.

Before Maeve could snap out of her confusion, he'd already flicked his arm to send the strip of clothing right into the heart of the Gessinger Est

His actions caused th

iny portion left e

's go." Aff

one pillar, punching it so deeply that there was only a
gcity lights.

Chapter 714 A Gamble

"As morning

The but

touch

the Gessinger family of Highcrest was thrown into an uproar.

first to discover the cloth that had been embedded deep in the stone pillar. He didn't

dare. spered away to report his findings to Colden.

stare in disbelief when he went to the scene of the crime.

oft. Yet, it had been driven into solid stone as though it were a spear. He couldn't imagine just how skilled the individual had to be to pull off a stunt like that. anscendent Realm martial artist, but even he knew he could never pull that off.

the Gessinger family's honored guests, Osmund Desmares, narrowed his eyes. Pe could damage a stone with a strip of cloth. However, he didn't have the skills to keep the piece of cloth completely intact while edding it so deeply in stone.

the two stood there in stunned silence, a robed figure suddenly appeared before the

pillar. It was none other han Homer Gessinger himself.

He stared at the strip of cloth, his eyes burning with anticipation.

"Good!" he exclaimed, his eyes growing sharper.

"I've left Highcrest for over a century, so I never imagined that someone this

powerful would exist here. Ah, the plot thickens."

As his words fell, he placed his palm on the pillar. A stream of Primordial Energy flowed into the stone, forming a current that served to pry the cloth loose. Then, he swiftly caught the cloth and spread it open. There were only two lines on

the strip of cloth. However, whoever wrote this had etched it onto the cloth with his own energy.

The first line read, "You must defeat me if you wish to move against the Wood family. However, if you insist on moving against the Ashcroft family, then we shall settle the score at Highcrest."

Colden and Homer's eyes moved to the next line.

Their faces promptly stiffened as soon as they landed on the second line, staring at it in utter shock.

The second line was short as it stated, "Regards, Jeff Ashcroft."

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From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 715[1,617 words]

Chapter 715 Getting Rugged by the Most Beautiful Girl on Campus

Chapter 715 Getting Bugged by the Most Beautiful Girl on Campus

"Written personally by Jeff?"

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Homer looked at the second line of bold words on the strip of cloth, then turned to Colden and Osmund, taking in every change in their expressions.

"Do you guys know Jeff?"

For more than a hundred years, he had stayed in the forbidden lands of the western outskirts, hidden within rocky mountain mines, focusing entirely on cultivation. He had never stepped into the mortal world.

It was only recently, when he sensed countless King Phase experts stirring, that he left the mountains and returned to Highcrest. But he knew little about the current international martial arts world, nor was he familiar with the rising talents of this era.

Hearing this, Colden quickly nodded.

“Jeff is said to be the most famous figure in the underground world over the past two years. Since his debut, he's defeated one master after another. At such a young age, he's already reached the peak of the martial arts world and has competed with many King Phase experts.

“On international martial forums, people are already comparing him to figures like the Arbitration Office's Supreme Arbiter and the Lord of Netherweb!”

As he spoke, he went on to list Leander's achievements one by one-cutting down a supersonic fighter jet with a sword, defeating the Arbitration Office and the Lord of Netherweb, and finally, just a month ago, killing six King Phases alone.

Homer listened silently. His eyes twinkled the more he heard, filled with curiosity and excitement.

"I spent a hundred years in the mountains, seeking only to reach a higher level and find a path beyond the King Phase. Now, I believe that among King Phase experts, fewer than twenty can match me.

"Yet, I never expected that in these past hundred years, such a peerless genius would appear in this world. Excellent!"

With a flick of his hand, the strip of cloth in his palm was instantly shattered into dust.

"Pass down my order. From this day forward, the Gessinger family shall see the Wood family as an enemy. Either the Gessingers or the Woods will rule Highcrest- one cannot coexist with the other!"

"What?" Colden and Osmund were both stunned, their eyes widening in shock.

Colden couldn't help but say, “The Wood family is backed by Jeff. He may not be as powerful as you, but he's still a King Phase expert of this era. We could target other wealthy families and avoid the Wood family-why must we go after them specifically?"

Chapter 715 Getting Bugged by the Most Beautiful Girl on Campus

To him, making a move against the Wood family meant directly opposing Leander.

+10 Free Coins

Although Homer was the former Imperial Commander and a key figure in the King Phase battles a century ago, possessing immense strength, Leander was also a dominant force, rising rapidly to the top.

If the two were to clash, he had no confidence at all.

"What, you think I don't have absolute confidence in defeating this rising junior?" Homer seemed to read Colden's thoughts and let out a faint, amused smile.

Colden didn't know how to respond.

As he hesitated, Homer suddenly let out a cold chuckle.

With a single grasp of his hand, the sea behind the harbor villa seemed to be struck by a massive hammer. Enormous waves surged upward, rolling and twisting until they formed a towering wall of water that stretched across the horizon, dozens of feet high. It extended nearly a thousand feet over the sea.

If this massive wall of water were to crash down, it would become a devastating tidal wave, swallowing countless buildings and lives.

Such power-casually displayed-felt like a natural disaster descending upon the world, as if he were a god or a demon.

"Even among King Phase experts, there are differences in strength. Those below nine-star King Phase masters mean nothing at all!"

With a single sentence, Homer completely silenced Colden and Osmund. After a brief pause, both of them bowed deeply.

"As you wish."

That same day, Leander, dressed in casual clothes, sat in the cafeteria of Highcrest University, Around his many beautifully dressed female students cast

curious glances at this refined young man wearing glasses.

At that moment, a faint fragrance drifted over. Leander slightly raised his head and saw Rachel, the campus belle of Ember University and the future Miss Highcrest winner, standing beside him, holding two bottles of drinks in her hands.

"I knew you'd be here!" Rachel gave a sweet smile and simply sat down across from Leander.

"Do you need something from me?" Leander took a calm sip of his stew, his expression unchanged. He had no idea that the surrounding students were all looking at him with envy and jealousy.

"Here, I bought you a drink!" She pushed a bottle of iced tea toward him, her eyes filled with expectation.

"It's fine." He refused without hesitation. "I have stew."

He had no intention of accepting her kindness.

Chapter 715 Getting Bugged by the Most Beautiful Girl on Campus

Rachel frowned slightly. Then, under the shocked and stunned gazes of everyone in the cafeteria, she picked up the bowl of stew in front of Leander and drank it all in one go, completely unconcerned that he had just been drinking from it moments earlier.

"There, it's gone now. You can drink what i brought, right?"

She set the bowl down and looked at Leander stubbornly.

Leander pinched the bridge of his nose, feeling helpless. He could only let out a sigh. "What are you doing, Ms. Haley?"

"Ms. Haley? Can't you just call me Rachel? Aren't we friends?"

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A trace of disappointment flashed across her face as she spoke, her tone tinged with sadness.

"Rachel? I don't think we're that close, Ms. Haley. We're mutuals because we both know Billy, but we aren't exactly friends, are we?"

Leander added indifferently, "Besides, I'm just a poor student from Astria, living off part-time work and scholarships. You, on the other hand, are a future Miss Highcrest champion and the campus beauty of Ember University.

"No matter how you look at it, we're too different to be friends. Don't you see how the guys around us look like they want to kill me? All I want is to study quietly and work. Your attention is already causing me a lot of trouble!"

"Trouble?"

Rachel bit her lip, her face full of grievance. "I'm a girl, and you're a grown man. I'm not even afraid of what others think, so what are you afraid of? I just like hanging out with you. What's wrong with that?"

Leander shook his head and put down his utensils.

"Ms. Haley, with your status and reputation, you should be looking for someone like Billy—a wealthy young heir who can give you happiness and a life of luxury. Look at me. I make around 3,000 bucks at a bar.

"My pay was docked this month, so I only have around half left. I live frugally and eat cheap meals in the cafeteria every day.

"Do you really think there's any point in hanging out with me?"

Although Rachel's eyes were glistening with tears, her expression remained firm and stubborn.

"Who said I have to marry into a wealthy family? What I want is love-something I truly like and cherish. The person I like is you. It has nothing to do with your status or your background!

"I'd be happy eating simple food with you. But if I were with someone else, even if I had luxury cars and yachts every day, I wouldn't be happy! Let me make this clear, Leander. I really, really like you!"

After saying this, her pretty face turned red, but she still bravely met Leander's eyes, completely ignoring the fact

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Chapter 715 Getting Rugged by the Most Beautiful Girl on Campus

that everyone around them had their mouths hanging open in shock.

+10 Free Coins

Even Rachel found it hard to believe that she would confess to a boy she had only known for a little over two days -she did it willingly, with a hint of excitement.

Leander helplessly ran a hand through his hair. In the end, he could only sigh and use his final trump card.

"Ms. Haley, to be honest, I already have a girlfriend. ve got plenty of female friends around me too."

No matter how steadfast a girl might be, hearing the person she liked admit to being a playboy would affect her feelings. For someone like Rachel, who had only known him for just over two days, he hoped she would back off.

In his life, there were indeed many girls entangled with him, but without exception, they had all known him for a long time and gone through many experiences with him. That was why he was willing to let them into his life.

Rachel had only known him for two days. If not for Billy, they probably would never have met. Leander had no intention of letting her into his life.

2

Her beautiful eyes flickered. She suddenly stood up, looking as if she were about to leave in anger.

However, as she passed by Leander, she suddenly bent down slightly, tilting her head, and lightly kissed the corner of his lips-like a dragonfly skimming the surface of water.

After the kiss, she lifted her chin and walked toward the cafeteria exit. Her clear voice echoed through the hall. "Leander, no matter what you say, I won't give up! I'll

stay by your side no matter what. I don't care if you get annoyed-you can't get rid of me!"

Leander froze for a moment, unsure how to react.

Meanwhile, at another entrance of the cafeteria, a figure suddenly stopped in his tracks-it was Billy!

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From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 716[1,289 words]

Chapter 716 Looking for Trouble

Chapter 716 Looking for Trouble

Billy stood frozen at the cafeteria entrance. He had witnessed Rachel leaning down to kiss Leander.

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In that instant, it felt as if his mind had completely stopped. He blanked out completely. He lingered there for a long time before suddenly turning around. His expression turned sharp and cold as he strode out of the cafeteria.

On the campus road of Ember University, he pulled out his phone and made a call.

"Jace, it's me! For the underground fight we scheduled tomorrow night-I want to move it up. Let's do it tonight. Anyone who doesn't show up is a coward with no guts!"

After hanging up, the anger in his eyes still hadn't faded as he sped off down the road.

Leander had no idea that Billy had witnessed Rachel kissing him. He was still wondering why that guy hadn't come to bother him today.

But he welcomed the peace. After lunch, he went straight to the library. He knew that the cloth strip he had sent to the Gessinger family the night before must have already reached Homer.

If Homer insisted on targeting the Wood family, a battle between them would be inevitable. Once they clashed, his peaceful life in Highcrest would be completely shattered. Days like these, calm and simple, were numbered.

So he chose to enjoy this brief, quiet time, treating it as a final farewell to this place. "Hey!"

He had just picked up a book by Freud and was about to sit down when a beautiful face appeared beside him again.

"You again?" Leander frowned slightly, truly at a loss with this stubborn girl. No matter where he went, she always managed to find him and show up at just the right moment.

"I told you, I'm yours now! No matter how you treat me, I'll stay by your side!"

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Rachel smiled sweetly, holding a romance novel as she sat down next to Leander, practically pressing against his

arm.

The spot they had chosen was originally quite secluded, with very few people around. Leander liked quiet places like this. But because of Rachel's presence, many people had gathered nearby, pretending to read while secretly sneaking glances at the campus beauty.

"Ms. Haley, are you really planning to act so intimately in a place as sacred as the library?"

Seeing that she had no sense of restraint and was leaning even closer, Leander could only speak helplessly.

"What's the big deal? We're not bothering anyone!" Rachel rested her head lightly against his arm, looking cute and playful-completely different from her usual cold, goddess-like demeanor.

1/3

Chapter 716 Looking for trouble

+10 Free Coins

"But think you're bothering me." Leander raised his brows slightly, pretending to be angry, a cold glint flashing in his eyes as he tried to scare, her

"Let it bother you, then. It's not like you'd do anything to me anyway!"

To his surprise, Rachel showed no fear at all and leaned even closer.

Leander took a deep breath. Without another word, he grabbed her fair wrist and pulled her out of the library.

"Ms. Haley, I think..." Leander was about to speak when Rachel immediately cut him off.

"Call me Rachel!"

A sense of helplessness suddenly rose in Leander's heart. He felt that after staying in Highcrest for so long and getting used to a quiet, ordinary life, he was now struggling to deal with even a young girl like her.

"Fine, Rachel." His expression grew more serious as he continued, "Have you ever thought about this? Billy likes you, and he's my good friend. I only got to know you because of him. Now you're saying you like me-what about him? Don't you think this would implicate our relationship?"

Rachel didn't care about any of that. She replied just as seriously, "What do you mean?"

"From beginning to end, when did I ever say I had anything to do with Billy? Even if he likes me, that's his business. I don't like him-I like you! Just because you're his friend, and I met you through him, does that mean I'm not allowed to like you?"

Leander was instantly left speechless. He knew he couldn't convince her, so he decided to stop arguing and head back to the library to read in peace. But just then, his phone rang with a call from Billy.

"Hello, is this Leander? Here's the thing-Billy is at the underground fighting arena on Bauer Street. I don't know what's gotten into him, but he's already inside the octagon, fighting Jace one-on-one! I didn't know who else to call, but I think only you can stop him. Please, come and save him!"

Leander answered the call, but the voice on the other end wasn't Billy. It was Ava, sounding extremely anxious.

"Is Billy fighting Jace?"

Leander frowned slightly. He knew exactly what Billy was capable of. In a one-on-one fight against Jace, he was bound to lose.

"I got it. I'm heading over now!"

After hanging up, Leander was about to rush out of the school gates when Rachel grabbed onto his arm and refused to let go. Left with no choice, he didn't bother arguing-he simply picked her up and sprinted off.

At the underground arena on Bauer Street, the place was already packed, filled with deafening cheers and screams from men and women alike.

Inside the octagon, Jace, dressed in athletic shorts, swept out a powerful kick. The man in front of him was sent

+10 Free Coins

Chapter 716 Looking for Trouble

flying backward, crashing hard into the cage, his face covered in blood-it was Billy.

Billy was clearly exhausted and no match for Jace. But the burning anger in his eyes kept him going as he forced himself back to his feet and charged forward again.

What met him was yet another heavy blow.

"Stop the fight! Stop it!"

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Ava shouted desperately from the side, but no one intervened. Once inside the octagon, the fight could only end if one side surrendered or if the referee judged that a fighter could no longer continue.

In the front row of the stands, a young man sat with his arms crossed, watching everything with a cold smirk-it was Garin.

Beside him sat Rowan Zachman, the underground kingpin of Highcrest, along with Ignatius, Blood Hounds' strongest fighter.

After the Gessinger family declared their intention to sweep across Highcrest, Blood Hounds had been the first faction to submit and pledge loyalty.

"Billy looks like he's got a death wish, still refusing to give up. He's truly overestimating himself." Rowan shook his head slightly.

Garin let out a cold snort, his eyes icy. Billy had once torn up the Gessinger family's invitation. If he died here at Jace's hands, it would suit him perfectly.

Meanwhile, Billy crashed to the ground once again. After struggling for a long time, he couldn't get back up. The referee was about to stop the match and declare Jace

the winner, but Jace shot him a look that made him stumble back in fear.

"Stay out of this. We're not done yet!"

He shoved the referee aside and grabbed Billy by the hair. "You think you're tough, don't you? Competing with me over a woman?"

"I'll ask you one more time-do you admit defeat?"

Held by the hair, Billy was too weak to resist, but his faint voice still came through. "Admit defeat? If you've got the guts, then kill me..."

Jace didn't get angry-he laughed instead, a cold glint flashing in his eyes. Raising

his elbow, he prepared to strike the back of Billy's head with a deadly blow. "Jace, are you looking for trouble?"

At that moment, a voice suddenly rang out across the arena, and a terrifying killing intent instantly filled the air!

Chapter 17 Leander Showed His True Strength

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From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 717[1,132 words]

Chapter 717 Leander Showed His True Strength

"Do you have a death wish, Jage Dufay?" A cold voice rang across the arena Even though the place was buzzing, it reached everyone's ears.

Garin and Ignatius, the two elite Martial Sovereigns, were stunned momentarily before they turned toward aisle.

A man and a woman were approaching. The man led the way. Fury flickered inside his narrowed eyes.

"It's him!" Garin instantly recognized Leander,

He remembered Leander insulted his family at the Gessinger Estate, stating they would soon fall from grace

Rowan's eyes widened in disbelief, and he blurted out the man's name. "Leander?" "Do you know him, Rowan?" Garin's curiosity was piqued.

"Not really, but I've heard things about him. I only know he's an Astrian and currently working at a bar."

Since Garin was a Gessinger, Rowan didn't dare to mention that he once clashed with Homer over Leander, so he only briefed Garin on what he knew about Leander,

"From Astria?" Garin snorted. He expected Leander to be a bigwig, but it turned out Leander was an ordinary

person.

"I would've killed him if the old man Richard hadn't stepped in the other day."

His expression was frosty. In his mind, he would've gotten Leander if Richard hadn't intervened.

Ignatius remained silent. He fixed his eyes on Leander, curious to know Leander's motives.

"You?" Jace stopped, but he was still grabbing Billy's hair.

"I'll spare you if you stop now," bargained Leander,

Behind him, Rachel watched as he continued to march toward the cage. His words made her heart tremble. She could feel the threatening undertone of them.

"Who are you to threaten to kill me?" Jace burst out laughing. "Does defeating my two bodyguards and me make you believe you're invincible? You need to think before you make a threat. Do you think you can kill me?"

He mocked, "Billy has won the match before, but who knows what got into him, making him decide to fight me? He's only beaten because he overestimated himself. Why are you interfering?"

Then, he looked past Leander and focused on Rachel, grinning. "Rachel, did you see that? Billy is a pathetic loser. He's nothing compared to me. I'm the man who suits you better."

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Finally, he clenched his fist, ready to swing at Billy's head.

At the same moment, Leander stepped forward.

"I'm sorry, sir. Please keep away from the cage during a match." A burly man standing at six feet three with a piercing gaze sidestepped and blocked Leander's path.

"Move." Leander didn't waste his breath on the man. His hand shot out to grab the man's collar.

The man panicked when Leander lifted him off the ground and flung him at a pile of boxes nearby. He passed out

on the spot.

The audience was shocked.

The man was the reigning champion in the arena. He was known as the toughest fighter among everyone. But now, a young man easily tossed him around like a rag doll. They found it hard to believe.

The sight stunned Jace speechless, and he started to panic.

2

When he realized he was hidden safely inside the cage, he relaxed a little and challenged Leander. "Don't get so full of yourself. How about fighting me in the cage?"

His words failed to provoke Leander.

Leander stared ahead. He reached out to grab the chain-link fencing and tore it down.

He created a hole in the seemingly solid cage with his bare hand and stepped inside.

"What was that?" Before Jace could digest the development, his vision blurred. A hand squeezed his throat and lifted him off the ground.

"Do you think you're tough?" Leander's gaze was as cold as the Grim Reaper's, sending shivers down Jace's spine. Jace struggled, but strength had drained from his body. It got harder to see Leander's face.

Billy lay sprawled on the ground.

Ava rushed toward him.

He raised his head with all his strength. Seeing Leander, he felt a sudden vertigo.

"Why is it always you?" A trace of sad resignation and self-deprecation flashed across his eyes. The woman he loved didn't reciprocate his feelings. And when he was in danger, his love rival saved him.

Jace's vision was going black. Before he passed out, two voices pierced the air, and their owners landed right

beside Leander,

"Let go of him!" Ignatius' eyes blazed with fury. Jace was his and Rowan's godson. They only picked on Leander at the bar because of that.

2/4

weyhis True Strength

Despite Homer's advice to avoid messing with Leander, he decided to step in when Jace's life was hanging by a thread.

Beside Ignatius, Garin sneered.

A murderous glint flashed in his eyes. "Kid, he's one of the Gessinger Association. You mess with him, you mess with us."

"T-That's Ignatius, the top fighter of the Blood Hounds, and Mr. Garin."

"What are they doing here? I've been told they were insanely strong practitioners of ancient martial arts. If they're helping Jace, the other man won't stand a chance."

"What tough luck to cross the two of them at once."

The audience felt bad for Leander.

Rachel and Ava were also terrified.

"Him?" Leander tilted his head and squeezed harder.

All the crowd heard was a crack.

He snapped Jace's neck and instantly killed the man.

Dead silence enveloped the arena. Nobody expected him to kill Jace, the infamous second son of the Highcrest's Dufay family.

Rachel and Ava froze. Horror was written all over their faces.

"How dare you?" Ignatius was boiling with rage. Before he could act, Garin struck first, pressing forward with a palm.

"Richard isn't here to save you today. I'm going to kill you, because you asked for it!"

At that, a phantom palm print, formed by invisible force, pressed toward Leander. Even the audience could feel the overwhelming pressure.

Leander didn't move. Instead, a mocking smile curled his lips. He shed the pretense of an ordinary student and revealed his true self, the invincible Iron Sovereign.

"This is new. A mere Martial Sovereign thinks he can fight me."

The moment he finished speaking, that palm print slammed into him.

He didn't budge an inch.

The palm print shattered instantly, and the force vanished.

3/4

Chapter 712 Leander Showed His True Strength

Garin was rusted to the spot

Before he could dodge, weander raised his head slightly, then pressed one hand down.

A violent force slammed down on Garia, He didn't even get to cry out before it pressed him into the ground and shattered him into dust.

The impact shook the whole place.

Ignatius was terrified. Panic had paralyzed him.

An elite Martial Sovereign on his level was killed before his eyes.

As if he had just killed an ant, not a man, Leander turned to Ignatius. "How about you? Should I send you to the same place as your friend?"

At that moment, the supreme fighter finally showed his true strength after keeping a low profile for more than a

month.

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From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 718[1,345 words]

Chapter 718 The Two Families Struck

Chapter 718 The Two Families Struck

+10 Free Cons

A violent force slammed down on Garin, pressed him into the ground, and scattered him into dust, leaving nothing

behind.

After a moment of shock, the audience screamed in disbelief. They bolted for the exits. The horror they had witnessed overwhelmed them.

"Y-You..." Ignatius was in a panic. He pointed a trembling finger at Leander, but he couldn't finish his sentence.

Garin was a match for his skills. Both were elite Martial Sovereigns. Besides, Garin was the disciple of the Gessinger family's guardian, Osmund. He had inherited Osmund's secret techniques and should be more powerful than Ignatius. However, a man like him was killed instantly, being smashed into dust. Ignatius belatedly realized that if Leander wanted him dead, he wouldn't stand a chance.

"Should I send you to the same place as your friend?" Leander repeated indifferently.

"N-No!" Ignatius shook his head violently. Despite his anger toward Leander for killing Jace, he didn't dare to move at all.

He finally realized the source of Leander's composure when facing him and Leander's rejection of his invitation. It was because Leander himself was a hidden master, and he couldn't be compared to Leander.

He remembered Homer stopping him at the bar, and fear coiled around his heart. If Homer hadn't stopped him in time when he tried to strike at Leander, he would've been dead meat.

"Take him back to the Dufay family. Tell them I'm expecting their revenge at any time." Leander tossed Jace's body like tossing a piece of rubbish at Ignatius' feet. Then, he helped Billy to his feet and walked away without sparing a glance at Ignatius.

Ava and Rachel snapped out of their trance and hurried after him.

In Leander's arm, Billy felt a wave of coolness stream into his back and flow into his limbs. His injuries were itching, and he recovered. The change surprised him.

"Leander, are you a practitioner of ancient martial arts?" He came to his senses and guessed.

"We'll talk about that later." Leander skipped the question and asked what was on his mind. "I don't get it. You clearly weren't Jace's match. Why did you fight him and even refuse to admit defeat?"

Billy pursed his lips and averted Leander's gaze, saying nothing.

Leander released him and let him walk on his own. Remembering the slaughter in the arena earlier, he trembled.

"Leander!" The two women caught up with them.

Despite her fear, Ava told him, "You need to leave Highcrest as soon as possible. Killing Jace and Garin? Their families would definitely hunt you down."

13

Chapter 718 The Two Families Struck.

+10 Free Coins

Rachel was still in a daze. Leander's behavior earlier shattered her impression of him. It was her first time seeing his disregard for human-life,

"What?" Billy's mouth hung agape. He couldn't believe his ears.

What had happened earlier came back to him, and his eyes widened. "Did you kill Jace and Garin?"

Leander nodded indifferently. "They deserved it. I've killed plenty of people like them."

The three others were horrified. Judging from his tone, he was used to killing people, and he had killed more than they could imagine.

At that moment, Rachel realized she knew nothing about him.

Billy, coming from an influential family, had seen his fair share of trouble. He was the first to calm down.

"Leander, no matter what, killing those two would draw their families' attention to you, especially the Gessinger family. They'll do everything to ensure your death. Come home with me. I'll ask for Grandpa's help to get you out of here."

Leander shrugged and waved him off. "It's fine. It's between them and me. It has nothing to do with your family. I can handle it myself."

He turned and walked down the street. When he passed Rachel, he paused and looked at her.

"Rachel, now you should understand that you know nothing about me. The person you've seen lately is only temporary. What you saw today is my reality. You have no idea that my world is full of killing and blood. Are you sure you still like me after seeing that?"

By the time he finished, he had reached the end of the street and was turning in another direction.

She was rooted to the spot. His words echoed in her mind.

A brief moment later, she raised her head, firmly announced, "Billy, thank you for everything you've done for me. Thank you for fighting Jace for me, but I need to make my statement. I can't return your feelings. I have feelings for Leander." His heart ached at her determination, but since he was aware of it, he quickly recovered and shot her an easygoing smile. "I understand. I must admit, he's way stronger than I. He's unusual. But first, we need to protect him. We need to get him out of Highcrest safely before the two families come for him."

Her heart was hammering against her chest, and she implored, "I'm counting on you, Billy. You need to find a way to save him. I'll get him now and take him to the Wood Manor, okay?"

He nodded vigorously. "Leave it to me. I'll do everything to have Grandpa save him." She relaxed at his promise. Then, she ran after Leander to find him. "Leander!"

He was strolling down the street toward the bar because he had a shift tonight. Then, he heard a familiar voice.

2/3

Chapter 718 The Two Families Struck

"Why the following me?" He turned around in puzzlement.

She had run up to him, huffing sweat beading on her skin.

"Stop wandering around. We need to go to the Wood Manor now." She grabbed his

hand without waiting for an

"Why are you following me?" He arched his brow.

"Is there a reason I shouldn't follow you? After you killed Jace and Garin, their families definitely won't spare you. We need the Wood family's help, or else you'll never escape." Determination set her eyes ablaze. "You're right that I know zero facts about you. Truth is, I don't care about your past. I have feelings for you, and I don't want to deny them. I don't care about anything else. All I know is that I care about you. I don't want to see you in danger. I'll do anything to save you. So, come with me now."

She cragged him with inhuman strength and hailed a cab on the roadside. Leander was overwhelmed. He let her pull him into the car without fighting back.

A strange feeling gnawed at him. It was his first time meeting a girl like her.

After witnessing him killing two people, there wasn't a trace of fear in her. Although he might be a cold-blooded killer, she came for him without a second of hesitation. Her devotion moved him.

Staring at their holding hands, he hid a bitter smile. He was confused, and he didn't know how to react to it.

He hadn't expected to meet a relentless girl like her when he first came to Highcrest for an ordinary life.

The cab was heading toward the Wood Manor. Meanwhile, the Dufay and Gessinger families were enraged by the bad news.

The head of the Dufay family, Clarence Dufay, knelt before Colden in the living room

in the Gessinger Estate. Miis

Mr. face was twisted with hatred as he asked for Colden's permission. Mr. Gessinger, that scoundrel killed my son. As a part of the Gessinger Association, we demand justice."

Colden's expression was frosty, and he was desperate to kill. He also lost his son, as Clarence did. He would never forgive Leander for that.

Before he could speak, a tall figure stepped forward and harrumphed. "A mere nobody killing my disciple? Today will be his death day! Enough talking, Clarence. Let's go to the Wood Manor. We both want the murderer of your son and my disciple to pay the price."

Clarence turned to the voice and was overjoyed to see Osmund.

With the powerhouse joining him, he was certain there was no escape for Leander, even if the latter was powerful.

3/3

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From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 719[1,053 words]

Chapter 719 Jeff Ashcroft the Iron Sovereign

Chapter 719 Jeff Ashcroft, the Iron Sovereign

“Come on. Let's find Billy. The ask for his grandfather's help!”

When the cab pulled up at the Wood Manox Rachel hurriedly dragged Leander inside.

He shook his head in resignation. Her stubbornness was impossible to deal with.

Billy and Ava were waiting inside. Arnold and Aveline were presented too. The montent Rachel entered the room, she pleaded, "Billy, please get your grandfather to help Leander!"

Billy nodded firmly and turned to Leander. "Don't worry, Leander. I've talked to Grandpa. He promised to handle this and ensure your safety."

Leander stifled a chuckle and played along.

Since Richard knew Leander's true identity, he naturally knew nobody could hold Leander accountable for killing

those two.

"Leander, just wait a moment. Grandpa will be out in a minute.” Billy invited him to sit. The rest had a solemn expression on their faces. The crisis was weighing on their minds. Unlike them, Leander enjoyed the pastries served, as if the idea didn't bother him at all.

Rachel was waiting on the side when an elegant hand rested/on her shoulder.

She turned around and blurted out. "Ms. Maeve!"

It was none other than the celebrity, Maeve. She asked with a smile, “I heard that he killed Jace Dufay and Garin Gessinger.”

Rachel nodded to confirm it. She couldn't help but worry about Leander.

Maeve offered Rachel a comforting smile. "You're worried about him. Could it be that you like him?"

The question took Rachel aback. She blushed and firmly nodded.

Maeve patted her shoulder and shook her head. "Don't worry. He'll be fine. He's way more capable than you can imagine."

Her words confused Rachel. She sounded serious, as if stating a fact. However, Rachel couldn't imagine how Leander could walk away unscathed after killing the second son of the Dufay family and the heir of the Gessinger family.

Judging from Maeve's expression, she reckoned Maeve knew his past.

Before she could press for more information, a commotion erupted outside. Then came a scream and a crash. The others shot to their feet and looked beyond the estate grounds with narrowed eyes. Right then, Richard

1/3

Chapter 719 Jeff Ashcroff, the Iron Sovereign

appeared in front of them, standing tall as he stared into the distance.

+10 Free Cons

Out there, a man in a black robe was approaching. His hardened face was twisted by murderous intent. The nearer he got, the more pressured the crowd was. Behind

him was Clarence with a gang of bodyguards and hired thugs.

Richard's gaze fixed on the man as he stated the incomer's identity, "It's the guardian of the Gessinger family, Osmund Desmares."

Everyone could easily recognize the man in a black robe. After all, his reputation preceded him. He was the famous and powerful guardian of the Gessinger family, second only to Homer and Colden. He was well-respected and experienced, having reached the Transcendent Realm decades ago.

After Osmund led his men into the estate, Richard greeted him, "What brings you to my humble abode, Mr. Desmares?"

Osmund glanced at him indifferently. The mainstay of the Wood family meant nothing to him.

2

"Cut the crap, Richard. I'm here for your grandson, Billy Wood. He knew the murderer of my disciple. He isn't innocent in this matter. Bring him here. I have a few questions for him."

Clarence remained silent, but his deadly glare was intimidating. He followed Osmund here to avenge his son.

"I see." Richard nodded. "I've been told about the tragedy, and I'm deeply sorry about it. However, it has nothing to do with the Wood family. You're barking up the wrong tree."

Usually, Richard would've spoken with more respect and humility. However, he was feeling confident today. After all, Leander was backing him.

Osmund's expression darkened when he caught the edge in Richard's tone. "Richard, I know the Wood family is involved with Jeff Ashcroft. However, Mr. Homer has declared us enemies, and it won't end well. Sure, my hands are tied now. Still, Billy Wood is involved. Hand him to me and let me question him. All I want is to find the murderer. I won't lay a finger on the innocents.

Richard calmly shook his head. "Is there a chance you'll give up on the matter?" Osmund coldly said, "A life for a life."

Finally, Richard stopped dodging the issue. Instead, a relaxed smile curved his lips as he mocked, "Fine. I'll cooperate with you on this matter. And I admit, the murderer is among us."

Then, he sidestepped to reveal Leander.

The crowd was stunned.

"Grandpa!" Billy cried out. The turn of events confused him. After all, Richard had agreed to help Leander escape, but Richard had just exposed Leander.

Fury replaced the surprise Rachel felt. In her eyes, the Wood family had gone back on their word and sold Leander

2/3

*he Iron Sover

Osmund stared at Leder

somewhere before

sense of fame

Just then, Leander turned around and challenged, "I'm the person you've been looking for

Rachel's hopes were crushed the moment he faced the crowd. She was plunged into the desperation that Leander was done for, and there was no escape for him.

Billy was eaten alive by guilt. He blamed himself for his uselessness and for sending Leander to a trap.

Seeing the murderer of his son, Clarence roared, "You b'stard, was it you who killed my son? You'll pay for this!"

He turned to Osmund eagerly. "Mr. Desmares, please teach him a lesson. It's about justice for Jace and Garin!" He shouted his plea, only to realize Osmund was quiet. He looked up and found primal terror in Osmund's eyes, as if looking at the most horrifying being in the world. Osmund stumbled backward.

"Mr. Desmares," Clarence called again, but Osmund ignored him.

Osmund's eyes were fixed on Leander in total horror, and his body began to shake. "J-Jeff Ashcroft?"

A terrified scream echoed across the estate. Osmund's face was pale with fear, and every bit of his intimidating aura was gone.

Other than Maeve and Richard, the rest looked lost. They had no idea of Osmund's fear, nor why he called Leander "Jeff Ashcroft."

An idea dawned on Ava, and she blinked. Slowly, her jaw dropped, and her eyes widened in disbelief.

A second later, a shrill scream startled the crowd. "Wait, isn't Jeff Ashcroft the Iron Sovereign?"

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From Outcast to Overlord The Unyielding Heir (Leander Ashcroft) - Chapter 720[1,099 words]

4:45 pm P pp.

Chapter 720 A Thunderous Cry

Chapter 720 A Thunderous Cry

+30 Free Coins

The moment the name came out of Osmund's mouth, a sense of familiarity kit Ava. She racked her brain to remember where she had heard it before.

A few moments later, her cry of surprise rang through the compound when she finally remembered. "Isn't Jeff Ashcroft the Iron Sovereign?"

In recent years, the Watson family had been declining fast.

It had fallen to the bottom of the Top Ten Families of Highcrest. The ambitious families were coveting their position. Still, the Watson family had a strong foundation.

Their family guardian was terrifyingly powerful. He could easily crush stones and split mountains. He was on par with Ignatius and Garin.

It was a secret from the other families in the upper circles. Only the cream of the cream knew about it.

She was his disciple, a real martial artist. She had reached elite Martial Master, only one step away from Martial Sovereign. It was her biggest secret, she kept even from her closest friends.

Over the last two years, her mentor mentioned Jeff more than once. Jeff was the hot topic among the international martial arts world. He always blew the martial artists' minds with his achievements. She had always hoped to see the invincible man, but never got the chance.

But now, hearing Osmund, who was in the Transcendent Realm, addressing Leander as Jeff made her mind go blank.

It turned out the undefeated hero she had always admired was none other than the Leander she despised. Holding the cup, Leander smiled faintly. "You sound like you know me."

A question filled his mind. He had never set foot in Highcrest before, let alone met the Gessingers. He wondered how the family guardian knew him.

Osmund's earlier swagger vanished. Seeing Leander killed his last hope. The primal fear streamed in his body.

Without a second's hesitation, he clasped his hands and dropped to one knee. "It's my honor to see you again since Aorinth Peaks, Sovereign Ashcroft. I didn't expect to meet you today, and I sincerely apologize for my offense."

Back then, the rumor of a rare relic appearing in Aorinth Peaks stirred up a commotion. The top fighters one could name had rushed there. Being one of the stronger figures in the Transcendent Realm, he joined the treasure hunt, hoping to get lucky and take a share.

Unfortunately, he returned empty-handed and even witnessed a slaughter.

It was all Leander's doing.

Chapter 720 A Thunderous Cryer

*30 Free Coms

Dozens of the Chief Arbitrators from the Arbitration Office surrounded him, but he wiped them out, painting the land red with their blood. Even Rhaedor, the God of Madness, the top fighter back then, was beaten to a pulp.

From that day on, Leander's face was imprinted on his mind. He would never dare forget it.

Today, he led the Dufays here to demand an explanation and capture the murderer. He didn't expect the culprit to

be Leander.

The group behind him traded strange looks.

Earlier, Osmund was motivated to crush the Wood family. But now, he bowed to and flattered an ordinary-looking young man. They had a hard time digesting the change in his attitude.

"You felt sorry, huh?" Leander finished his tea in a gulp and glared at the other man. "Someone demanded a life for a life moments ago. I wonder where he went." Leander shook his head. The faint smile slipped from his face, replaced by a cold look. "If you know my name, you would've heard my style too. I won't forgive anyone who's after me easily."

At that, he raised his right hand, his palm facing Osmund's group. "Sovereign Ashcroft, please spare us!" Osmund's face was twisted by fear.

Leander was unmoved. He clenched his right fist.

With a crack, the air around Osmund and his group distorted. The invisible force continued to compress their bodies until all of them burst into clouds of blood.

The rest were shaken to their cores. Even Richard, a man used to dangerous situations, was trembling. In Leander's eyes, a transcendent expert was no different from a bug.

As blood poured down like rain, a brilliant flame shot from his palm to vaporize them.

Finally, he withdrew his hand and poured himself another cup of tea, as if it was nothing. Richard clasped his hands behind him. After decades, he finally felt excitement again.

First, Leander killed the Gessinger family's heir, Garin. Then, its guardian, Osmund. It was basically declaring war against the family.

At this point, Homer must continue to stand against Leander for the sake of the family's image and reputation. As a result, a battle was unavoidable.

Besides, Leander also killed the head of the Dufay family. It wasn't only a blow to the Dufay family, but also a reminder to the other noble families.

Rachel's feet were rooted in place. She stared at Leander's face, but her mind was blank.

She recalled their first meeting. A lot had happened since that time. It felt like a dream to her.

4:46 pm PPP

Chapter 720 A Thunderous Cry

+30 Free Coins

He was always quiet and mysterious in the library, like a fresh breath of air. On the roadside, he defended Billy and put down a group of men in the blink of an eye, like a hero. At the bar, he faced the big shots of the Blood Hounds calmly. At the arena, he killed Jace and Garin in cold blood.

Every time, she thought she had finally seen the real Leander. But now, she finally realized she had seen only the tip of the iceberg. The harder she wanted to understand him, the more unreal she felt.

She could no longer tell which side was the real him, nor distinguish it from the Leander she had always known.

Billy shared her opinion.

He might not have looked down on Leander since they had met. Still, he always believed that he was stronger than Leander. He only perceived Leander as a student who was worth his time and sincerity.

However, the events over the last three days shed new light on Leander's capability. Now he finally realized why his grandfather had asked him to cherish his friendship with Leander and why Rachel had fallen for Leander.

Leander finished his tea.

Ignoring the startled crowd, he rose to his feet and opened his mouth. Then, a shrilling roar rang out in the compound.

The thunderous cry escaped his mouth, shaking the ground with its majestic presence.

Meanwhile, Homer's eyes snapped open in the Gessinger family's seaside villa.

3/3

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