Justin chased after the young man into the woods at the town's outskirts. The young man suddenly stopped as a few others then appeared from the woods.

They wore ordinary clothes, but there was a menacing look on their faces. It was obvious these three were the town's street thugs.

"Dude, did you have to chase after me for a mere hundred tokens?" The young man who robbed Justin looked at him and sneered before walking slowly.

Adrian Lamar was the town's infamous street thug.

Those next to him were his mates.

Justin panicked but pretended to be tough once he saw that Adrian had backup support. "If you know any better, return the money to me! Otherwise, I'll make all of you suffer."

He had come from a wealthy family in Donghai City with some reputation, hence the street thugs in Donghai City would be polite to him. However, these few street thugs dared to rob him!

"F*ck, are you threatening me? Haha, how could

you be so arrogant in my territory? I think you're seeking death!" Adrian kicked and said, "Brothers, get him!"

All of them ganged up on Justin once he said that with some kicking and others punching him.

"F*ck you! Taking a hundred from you is an honor! You don't know how to appreciate it!"

"Beat him till he dies!"

"I want to see how tough you are!"

The punches landed on Justin who wailed in pain as he just started cultivating and could not fight back against these thugs with his low cultivation rank.

"Ah!"

Justin kept yelling and rolling on the floor.

The beatings from Adrian and the others got harder and harder. Justin's head was soon full of blood.

"My good brothers, I beg you to return the money to me." Justin was not angry at him as he continuously yelled. What would happen to him and Lily without the money?

He could endure this, but Lily might not be able to. Therefore, he had to get the money back.

"F*ck you! Did you hit your head on the way? It's

an honor for you if I take your money! You still dare ask for it back?" Adrian scolded and kicked Justin.

Justin was sprawling on his back with gritted teeth as he crawled to Adrian. "I beg you, Brother. Return the money to me as this bag of money is equivalent to my life. I'm begging you. P-please."

"Haha. Look at this loser, Adrian. He's willing to throw away his pride for a mere hundred." One of them laughed.

Adrian laughed as well and he grabbed Justin by the hair. "Hey Loser, don't you have any dignity? You are begging at me like a b*tch for only a hundred tokens, haha!"

"Brother, I beg of you. Return it to me." Justin's eyes were red as he pleaded non-stop.

He and Lily might have to sleep on the streets tonight if he did not have the money. How could he let Lily suffer?

"Fine. I'll return it." Adrian laughed and mischievously said, "We'll shower you with spring water before I return it to you? How does that sound?"

'Shower with spring water?' Justin's mind blanked as he did not know what that was and nodded in a panic. "Sure, sure, Brother. I'll do anything as long as you return the money to me."

When he finished saying, the thugs looked at each other and laughed before unbuckling their pants and peed on Justin.

"You..."

Justin was shocked and could barely react before being peed on. The thugs laughed and threw the money on the ground.

"Haha! We've met a fool who's willing to do anything for a mere hundred!" Adrian laughed as he and his friends left.

"W-woo..." Justin picked up the money and carefully put it in his shirt as his tears unwillingly fell.

As a rich heir, when had he even gone through such humiliation? Thank goodness he got the money back. At least, Lily could eat well and sleep comfortably tonight.

Justin removed his wet jacket, wiped off the blood on him, and returned to town to look for Lily.

•••

On the other end in the World Universe.

Donghai City First Hospital.

Chester was on the bed at the patient ward covered in bandages with blood seeping through.

The past few days, the Eternal Life Palace and Emei Sect had a huge battle which lasted for a day and night!

Although the Emei Sect was badly injured after the battle, the Eternal Life Palace was worse off. Their numbers advantage did not help as the Sect Master of Emei—Aurora Hensen was extremely powerful. Chester suffered dozens of stab wounds after the day and night battle.

He was then sent to the Donghai City First Hospital which had high medical skills. Despite not being able to heal internal injuries, they were rather highly skilled in treating external injuries.

At that moment, Chester was calm as he smiled at

Shelly Sullivan who was busy caring for him.

The Chief of Staff, Shelly was busy taking care of him attentively for the past two days in the hospital and Chester was grateful for that.

Chester could not help but say, "Shelly, you don't have to do it yourself. Let the nurses deal with my bandage and medication changes. You have taken care of me for the past two days and should get some rest."

Shelly smiled lightly and shook her head. "It's nothing. You're Darryl's sworn brother, so you don't have to be courteous with me."

News that Darryl, Chester, and Dax becoming sworn brothers had spread around, so Shelly naturally would have known too.

Chester laughed as he looked at Shelly. "So it's all because of Darryl?"

At the same time, Chester sized Shelly up and could not deny that Shelly was amazing. Not only was she pretty and had a good figure, but she was also gentle and caring too.

Chester was suddenly curious and asked, "Shelly, what's your relationship with my brother?"

It made one wonder if it was just because he was Darryl's sworn brother that she attentively took

care of him.

Shelly blushed slightly upon sensing Chester's stares before she gently said, "Brother Chester, don't think too much into it. Darryl and I... are just friends."

She would not have been the Chief of Staff at this time were it not for Darryl and could never forget his kindness.

Chester laughed at that and was about to continue asking when the door suddenly slammed open.

Thud!

He followed the sound and saw Dax standing by the door with reddened eyes.

"Dax, you..." Chester looked at him.

Dax was clenching his fist as he emotionally said, " Chester, do you even treat me as your brother?!"

Dax was trembling furiously with his hoarse voice.

"Dax, w-what happened?" Chester was stunned while looking at Dax before asking.

"Chester, do you even treat me as your brother?!"
Dax yelled with a hoarse voice and moist eyes. "
Why did you not tell me when you led the Eternal
Life Palace Sect to attack Emei Sect? I would've still
been kept in the dark were it not for my men
reporting this to me! I thought we agreed to share
our burdens!"

Dax just caught the news that Chester fought against the Emei Sect and failed miserably. He was then heavily injured before being sent to the hospital. Dax was shocked and angry at the same time, hence the rushed over once he could.

He could no longer hold back his frustrations once he entered the patient ward and saw Chester's injured body being covered like a dumpling.

At Dax's shouts, Chester's nose felt sore from feeling touched. "Dax, you and Darryl are my lifesworn brothers. The three of us previously fought together against the New World Army which caused your Flower Mountain to be badly affected. How could I drag you down into the beef between the Emei Sect and me? In addition, your brothers and sisters are still recovering. What would they do if

even you got injured? Who will take care of them then?"

Dax wiped away his tears at that, but still could not help but reprimanded, "Don't find excuses! The grievance of your wife's death isn't only yours to bear! Darryl and I were there too. Darry and I also have to bear the blame for not protecting Adina's safety if you really want to pinpoint."

Dax then looked displeased. "Anyway, you're wrong on this matter..."

"Ok, ok! It's my fault." Chester did not know whether he should laugh or cry, so he laughed and nodded.

"That's more like it." Dax let out a smile, walked over, and lightly punched Chester's shoulder before magically fished out two bottles of white wine. " Here you go, Chester. Drink up."

"Haha! You cheeky b*stard! Wanting to compete with me on drinking I'm weak!" Chester wobbly stood up. "Yes, yes, yes! I'm not your elder brother if I don't make you drink till you drop!"

"Wow, you're one to boast! Let's drink!" Dax took two small chairs over before fishing out a can of peanuts and some snacks from his pocket.

Chester opened the wine bottle and was about to

drink when Shelly quickly approached them before snatching the bottle away from Chester.

"Are you out of your mind? You cannot drink it!"
Shelly stomped her feet.

She had been in the medical field for years and this was the first time she saw someone with a dozen stab wounds still wanting to consume alcohol.
Unacceptable!

After Dax sized up Shelly for a moment, he tentatively asked, "Is this...my new sister-in-law?"

Shelly was not wearing her usual doctor's coat, but a short skirt and shirt.

"I-I'm not your sister-in-law." She had butterflies in her stomach and immediately blushed upon hearing Dax's question.

Chester became awkward as well as he rebuked Dax, "B*stard, don't talk nonsense! She's Shelly, the Chief of Staff here. Bloody hell! You should wash your filthy mouth!"

"Uh" Dax embarrassingly laughed and scratched his head before saying, "Dr. Shelly, can you pass the wine to Chester? He's so tough that a little alcohol won't harm him."

He was right as Chester was already a Martial Saint. These injuries which might seem serious won't be harmful to him and should heal in two days.

Shelly firmly said, "No, Chester can't drink for now. I-I'll even drink together with him when he gets better, but not now."

Shelly then also confiscated Dax's wine bottle and quickly left the patient ward.

"My, my Chester. Sister-in-law sure cares a lot about you." Dax giggled.

Shelly—who was already by the door, overheard Dax and blushed even further.

On the wide road at the Great East, a horse carriage was traveling at leisure speed. Darryl and Jewel were chatting and joking inside the carriage.

They were initially driving a car, but it ran out of petrol not long after, hence Darryl immediately hailed a horse carriage. The two of them admired the passing scenery and Jewel would sing for Darryl when they grew bored. The entire journey was pleasant.

They were getting closer to a huge city not far away. Beautiful flowers in a variety of colors bloomed on either side of the city gates could be seen from a distance.

"We're here at Hibiscus City," said Jewel excitedly upon seeing the city gates.

"Hibiscus City?" Darryl muttered to himself.

Jewel laughed and said, "Hibiscus City is named after the assorted species of hibiscus that grows around the city. The Jade Sect Main Altar is located at the Hundred Flower Valley which lies a few kilometers away from Hibiscus City. Their sect only accepts female disciples."

Darryl laughed and said, "Let's rest in Hibiscus City tonight then. We'll continue our journey tomorrow."

"Sure!" Jewel cheered from feeling overjoyed.

Jewel had previously come to Hibiscus City but was a wandering beggar then. She could finally enjoy the city's sights and experiences at that moment.

The horse carriage entered Hibiscus City as they

were talking.

The city was bustling with life from street vendors with some selling make-up products while others sold candies. There was even a monkey circus show and talk show.

Jewel was elated as she dragged Darryl along the streets while holding a candy in one hand and cotton candy in the other.

On the other end of the New World.

There was only a mountain road leading to the Palace as two figures walked in silence. It was none other than Justin and Lily.

The sun shone brightly accompanied by a light and comfortable breeze. However, Justin had a depressed look on his face.

Previously, he was almost beaten half to death before being peed on. Thankfully he got the money back, found a hotel, and booked a better room for Lily that night before getting himself a smaller room from the reluctance of spending the money on himself.

After the night, they continued their journey the next day.

Justin had learned his lesson and stuffed the money bag in his clothes in case other thugs wanted to rob him.

They were soon exhausted after walking on the mountainous road for a while. They looked and saw an inn at the foot of the hill from afar.

It was a small inn with a door sign. A tent was set up at the front with some tables and chairs in it.

"Lily, let's go there and rest! We could have a cup of tea before continuing," said Justin happily while smiling at Lily.

They were exhausted and thirsty after such a tiring journey. The thought of having a cup of hot tea made them feel better.

"Sure." Lily gently nodded as she was also tired from the walking and slight sweating.

Justin's heart was aching as he said, "Lily, there's still a distance to the inn. Why don't I carry you, get on then." He then squatted in front of her.

"No, no... It's inappropriate." Lily softly replied.

"Lily, there's nothing inappropriate about carrying you since you can't walk," said Justin excitedly.

"It's... It's fine. I'll walk by myself." Lily smiled lightly before slowly walking ahead.

She would only accept one man in her entire life and that was Darryl. How could she let Justin carry her?

Justin sighed before chasing after her.

They finally reached the inn after some time. At the entrance, Justin's touched the iron saber on his waist. He realized that in this world after yesterday's beaten up by those street thugs, 'You will get bullied if you are powerless.' He had spent twenty tokens on a saber to pretend to be someone powerful so that those street thugs who saw him might not mess with him.

At the entrance, Justin scanned the surroundings and noticed several patrons at the inn with none looking like thugs. He then let out a sigh of relief before immediately sitting down. He then asked for two bowls of noodles and some tea.

"Lily, the table is a little dirty. I'll help you wipe it."

He used his sleeve to wipe the table and Lily's bench. Even though the entire journey was arduous, he still took great care of Lily.

In less than 15 minutes, the noodles and tea were served. Justin smiled and said, "Lily, we're lucky there's an inn at the outskirts! Eat quickly! We'll then be on our way. I'll find the best hotel for you once we reach the city!"

Lily gently responded.

In her heart, she did not mind enduring hardships so long she could locate Darryl sooner.

"Boss! Come here!"

Someone yelled at that moment as a few people with swords and sabers approached the inn from a distance. These people were those from the martial arts world.

Once they entered the tent, they sat in a group next to Lily and Justin. The leader who had a five-inch long scar on his face looked intimidating.

He was Odin Mcmillan—an infamous bandit.

Odin and his men sat down before slamming on the table and yelled, "Bring us your best wine and meat! Bloody hell! I'm exhausted after such a long journey!"

The owner quickly came out and served them for

fear of offending them.

Justin trembled upon witnessing the scene and dared not lift his head. He lowered his head and quickly ate his noodles before leaving.

He was still traumatic from yesterday's horrible beatings and felt that these men should not be offended. In a short while, he stood up upon finishing his noodles, paid for the shopkeeper, and left.

However, Lily almost fell from tripping over a small rock and losing balance when she walked past the neighboring table—crashing into Odin.

Damn.

Justin was shocked at that and immediately smiled before apologizing, "I'm so sorry. It was an accident."

"She's the one who crashed into me, not you. Why are you the one talking? F*ck off to the side." Odin reprimanded coldly at Justin.

His eyes then brightened when they fell on Lily.

Gorgeous!

Gorgeous.

Who knew he could meet such a perfectly gorgeous lady.

Lily was exhausted from the journey at that moment, so she was feeling a little weak. Nevertheless, it did not take away any of her beauty.

The next moment, Odin grabbed her hand for a closer look before smiling and saying, "Pretty lady, our fates are intertwined for you to crash into me. If you come and drink with me, I'll forgive you."

"Haha!"

"Wow, Brother. You got lucky today!"

The few men beside Odin teased as they were a bunch of bandits used to doing evil after all.

Lily was furious and squirmed, but was held firmly by Odin. She was almost in tears. "Let... Let me go."

Justin panicked at that and quickly approached Odin before saying, "What are you doing? Do not touch her!"

He drew the saber from his waist and said, "Let me tell you, I'm a follower of the Hall of Swords. Don't offend me."

At that very moment, Justin was extremely nervous as the Hall of Swords was just a lie to frighten them.

Hall of Swords? Odin was stunned before he started jeering, "What Hall of Swords? I've been around for years. How come I've never heard of this name? B* stard, who are you trying to scare?"

Slap!

Odin lifted his hand and slapped Justin's saber

away. At that instant, Justin felt a huge energy force from Odin and ended up stumbling back a few steps from loss of balance.

Haha!

The men laughed.

"I thought he's powerful, but he's just a loser."

"Haha! Holding a saber and pretending, who's he trying to scare?"

Taunts and jeers came one after another. Justin was anxious and furious as he too felt extremely embarrassed.

Justin sensed danger upon the bandits' arrival, so he wanted to leave as soon as possible. Who knew trouble would still come knocking in the end.

"B*stard, f*ck off while I'm still in a good mood."

Odin laughed, took out his saber, and pointed at

Justin's face.

"I don't want to trouble you. Just leave your woman here and f*ck off."

Odin looked at Lily with a smile before grabbing her waist.

"You, let go of me! Let me go!" Lily struggled, but how could she break free? She was just a lady in the end. Justin's eyes were red upon seeing that as he roared and charged forward.

Even with the risk of death, he would fight it out against them as he could not possibly let Lily be humiliated! It was the only thought on his mind.

Thud!

Before he could rush forward, Odin sneered as he grabbed Justin by the collar and punched him twice.

The two punches made Justin's nose bled profusely.

"F*cker, aren't you the Hall of Swords disciple?"
Odin yelled and punched him again.

The punches got harder with each blow. In a blink of an eye, Justin had fallen to a semi-conscious state as he slumped like mud on the floor and could barely stand up.

"F*cking loser." Odin kicked and spat on him before smilingly looked at Lily and hugged her waist. "Hey beautiful, why don't you kiss me as an apology since you crashed into me just now? How does that sound?"

Odin then leaned in.

At that moment, Justin did not know where he found the strength to grab onto Odin's pants. "
Brother, I beg of you to not touch her. I'm begging

you. She really did not mean to crash into you. I apologize on her behalf. If you think it's not enough, you can further punch me. Brother, I beg of you not to touch her. Please, please..."

"F*ck off! Don't bother me!" Odin kicked Justin away.

"Brother, I beg you. I'm really begging you, please ..." Justin's face was full of blood as he kept wailing. "Brother, she really did not mean to crash into you. You can hit me if you're still angry. I beg you not to touch her."

Lily was touched by his words and felt very uncomfortable from seeing how badly Justin was beaten.

"Tsk, tsk." Odin looked at Justin with a smile and said, "I did not know a loser like you could have such deep feelings. Haha! Fine, I won't touch her but I want you to crawl through here."

Odin lifted one leg and put it on the bench. He then pointed to the gap beneath his leg.

"Haha! This would be fun to watch!"

"B*stard, crawl through!"

"As long as you crawl through, Odin will let her go! Haha!"

The men jeered while the remaining inn's patrons

looked over with great interest at the scene.

Justin's face tensed and said, "Brother, I beg of you to stop making things difficult for us..."

"F*ck you!" Odin kicked him. "I gave you this chance on the fact that you have such deep feelings. I'll ask you one last time, are you going to crawl or not?"

At that, Odin grabbed Lily's wrist and was about to kiss her.

"Brother, I'll crawl. I'll crawl!" Justin choked as he yelled from panic and almost burst into tears. He knelt and crawled through with gritted teeth.

"Haha!"

"Odin, he really crawled through! Haha!"

"Just like a b*tch! Haha!"

The men's taunts and jeers made Justin tremble.

After crawling through, he fumbled to stand up
with a hell of a heartache. He had thrown away his
dignity, pride, and ego for Lily!

"Brother, please let her go." Justin was already in tears. Teardrops that were mixed with blood.

"F*ck you. Do you really think I'll let her go if you crawled? Haha! Do you think she's going anywhere when I have my eyes on this woman? Haha!" Odin

laughed before kicking Justin's chest.

Thud!

When the kick landed on Justin, he felt a cramp in his chest before yelling out loud and flying a few meters back. He badly landed on a table and broke it.

There was only one patron at that table. He was in his thirties and wearing a black coat.

His forehead had a crescent moon mark.

The black coat man frowned as his dishes were spilled before coldly saying, "I can't even eat in peace. Everybody should f*ck off."

He slowly stood up with his electric-like eyes as he glared at Odin and his men.

Buzz!

At that moment, he emitted a powerful aura.

Everyone in the inn felt their throat close up.

The black coat man's aura was so powerful and rendered them barely able to breathe! Especially his extremely intimidating eyes!

Odin suddenly locked eyes with him and could not help but to gasp.

'Too powerful! This man's aura is too powerful!'

One of Odin's men then saw the crescent moon

mark on the black coat man's forehead before exclaiming, "You're Matteo Hanson, the deputy head of Incandescent Sect?!"

Incandescent Sect was one of the New World's strongest sects! Disciples of the Incandescent Sect were widespread and powerful!

The Matteo Hanson before them was none other than the Incandescent Sect's Deputy Head who was only below one but above thousands!

Legend stated that Matteo Hanson was exceptionally skilled in martial arts and had a crescent moon mark on his forehead since birth.

He was both just and evil with a rebellious and untameable temperament. He was also extremely cruel such that those who crossed him never lived to see daylight.

It was rumored that a hundred years ago the White Cloud Sect Master unintentionally offended Matteo who then proceeded to break the arms of 8,000 White Cloud disciples. This shocked the entire martial arts world.

In the New World, people coined him as the Evil Samaritan.

Legend mentioned that Matteo preferred to roam the mountains and rivers alone. None had expected to meet him here!

Odin and his men were instantly scared to half death. They were sweating profusely.

"Those who disturbed me... Unforgivable! All of you should just kill yourself..." Matteo said firmly and icily while glaring at Odin and his men.

Odin and his men looked at each other. They were both frightened and shocked at the same time.

They had to kill themselves just because they knocked over his food?

Odin swallowed hard as he patiently and respectfully said, "Master Hanson, I'll pay you back for these mere dishes." Odin was truly anxious.

Matteo's expression did not change and calmly said, "I'll only say it once. Kill yourselves."

Odin was sweating profusely but decided to go for it as he yelled, "Matteo Hanson! I'm only being polite because you are the Incandescent Sect Deputy Head! Don't take it too far! Do you think we're afraid of you? We just merely knocked over your dishes. Why should we kill ourselves?"

Buzz!

At that instant, Matteo slowly lifted his hand as a ball of fuchsia-color flames appeared in his hand. At the same time, the surrounding air was distorted due to its high temperature!

He then casually lifted his arm and threw the ball of flames at Odin and his men.

Although he did it lightly, the people watching were trembling!

Buzz!

Odin and his men wailed in pain as the flames burned them. Their wails were loud and constant before slowly faded as Odin and his men were burned into ashes!

Everyone in the inn was flabbergasted at that scene and could not say a single word. It was eerily silent.

"Losers," Matteo muttered coldly and threw a silver token at the Inn Boss before leaving.

Justin instantly gritted his teeth and quickly stood up to follow him.

Matteo suddenly stopped in his tracks and looked back at Justin coldly. "Why are you following me?"

He then looked at Lily who was behind Justin.

'This woman is exceptional. She's like an angel from heaven and utterly gorgeous. No wonder those bandits lusted after her.' Matteo thought.

"Sir, thank you for helping me out." Justin was filled with gratitude and bowed deeply.

Matteo laughed lightly and flatly said, "I killed them because they disturbed me, not because I wanted to help you."

He then turned and started leaving.

Thud.

Justin suddenly knelt in front of him and respectfully kowtowed to Matteo before saying, " Sir, my name is Justin Quinn. I hope you'll take me in as your disciple!"

After what just happened, Justin was very sure of one thing. Everyone would step on you if you had no strength in this world!

The scene of Matteo's strong aura was deeply imprinted into Justin's memory.

He wanted to become stronger and not be bullied anymore!

'Wanting to acknowledge me as your master?'

Matteo squinted his eyes and gave Justin a look. He then snickered disdainfully before turning around and left.

He thought, 'Any Tom, Dick, and Harry want to worship me as their master nowadays.'

"Sir, sir!" Justin yelled as he prostrated non-stop.

Matteo did not seem to have heard him as he walked further away.

Lily then came over and helped Justin up. "Justin, why do you want to be his disciple?"

Justin wiped some blood away. "Lily, this isn't the World Universe. It'll be hard to find Darryl and I need to be strong to protect you."

Justin quickly stood up and chased after Matteo while Lily sighed before following suit.

What was Matteo's cultivation level? He walked a few steps before realizing that Justin was still following him and coldly said, "Dude, you still dare to follow me? Aren't you afraid I'll kill you?"

At that, a huge aura exploded from Matteo.

Justin stopped in his tracks and shuddered as he could not help but swallowed his saliva with a fearful face.

Yet, the next second, Justin changed his mind and said, "Sir, I'm but a nobody while you're a powerful person. You won't kill me for no reason."

Even though Justin said so, he was still afraid as Matteo was the Incandescent Sect Deputy Head with a weird temper after all. Who knows what he would do the next second as it was true that no one could fully grasp Matteo's attitude.

Matteo jeered and nodded. "Yes, indeed. I won't bother killing such a person like you, but my patience has its limits."

Justin gritted his teeth as he knelt once more. "Sir, I truly want to follow you. I'll do anything if you could let me be your disciple." Justin looked hopeful.

"Anything?" Matteo frowned before smiling mischievously.

Justin did not hesitate and nodded. "Yes, anything."

"Ok..." Matteo was silent for a while as his eyes fell on Lily. "Give me this woman since you want to be my disciple."

Matteo smiled tauntingly at that. It was true that he

was as much a pervert as those bandits with the only difference of having principles—he would never force a woman.

It would be best if Justin willingly gave her up.

Justin tensed at his words while kneeling there as he speechlessly looked at Matteo in bafflement.

He thought he had planned everything out so long Matteo would agree to be his master, he would do anything no matter how arduous the challenge was. He could endure any hardships without a frown as long as he could become stronger.

He never expected Matteo's request to be such!

Lily trembled from bewilderment as her impression of Matteo suddenly changed for the worse.

Justin gritted his teeth as he slowly said, "I'm sorry, I'm willing to do anything besides this."

Lily was touched at just how well Justin treated her.

"Haha!" Matteo could not help but laugh as he slowly said, "Dude, you said you'll do anything so long I'll be your master and yet you can't even agree to such a small request. How are you going to be strong? You have to know those powerful individuals are the loneliest. People like you who can't put their emotions aside will never be strong let alone worthy to be my disciple."

Matteo chuckled at that. "Yes, I've recently thought of accepting a disciple, but my disciple has to roam the entire martial arts world and be indomitable! I want my disciple to put down everything they have. By letting go of the woman you love can you then be indomitable! You can't do so but still want to be my disciple? Impossible." Matteo snickered and left.

Justin clenched his fist tightly upon looking at his back. He was unwilling to accept that he had just missed his opportunity.

Lily then approached him slowly and sincerely said, "Justin, thank you."

Lily was touched as scenes of him crawling under someone's crotch just for her was deeply embedded in her mind.

Justin slowly stood up and smiled. "Lily, you don't thank me as you are the most important person in my heart."

Lily was deeply moved. She approached Justin and took his hand. "You treat me really well. Let's go."

Justin was elated at that instant as his Goddess was holding his hand! It felt amazing!

Justin felt like he was on steroids and was filled with energy.

They arrived in town by evening and according to

the locals, this town was called Dragonia.

The streets of Dragonia were rowdy and bustling with life! The shops were busy with customers, it was a huge difference when compared to those few other smaller towns they had passed through.

Justin quickly asked a passerby and found out that the Palace was just a dozen kilometers away.

At that news, Lily was overjoyed and elated at the thought she could soon see Darryl.

At night, they both found a small inn and Lily called Justin after checking into separate rooms.

Justin stood by his room door with a smile and asked, "Lily, what's the matter?"

He was still feeling sweet and mushy from thoughts of Lily holding his hand during the day.

Lily bit her lip and gently said, "Justin, thank you for protecting me all the way. I think we should split ways tomorrow as the roads from Dragonia to the Palace are well-built with many people on it as well, so I don't think it'll be dangerous. It has been tough on you to protect me all this while, but I don't want to trouble you any further. I'm also afraid that Darryl might misunderstand the two of us..."

What?

Justin's smile was instantly stuck to his face as he

thought he misheard and concernedly looked at Lily. "Lily, you want to split up with me?"

He felt something building up in his chest when Justin said that.

He walked all the way here with her and was so used to seeing and caring for her every day. He did not want to split up with her.

"Justin, I know you treat me well but there's only one man in my life and it's Darryl. You and I just aren't destined to be..." Lily bit her lip and softly said.

Justin felt his mind buzzed as though all his energy had left his body, He was disappointed but still forced a smile. "Okay. I wish you and Darryl happiness. I... I won't follow you from tomorrow then."

Lily could feel his disappointment as she bit her lip before giving Justin a light and short hug. She then smiled and said, "Well, then... Good night!"

Lily then shut the door.

"Good night," Justin replied with a bitter heart.

However, he did not return to his room but turned and left the inn instead with tears flowing down uncontrollably.

"Argh!" Justin sobbed to the skies outside the inn and released all the grievances and wronged feelings he had.

He was disappointed and did not know what to think as he initially was here to protect Lily and help her find Darryl.

If that was the case, why was he so unhappy about it?

He has gone through so much humiliation throughout the entire journey only to receive a mere 'thank you' from his goddess.

Was it worth it? Was it worth everything that he did?

"Hehe." Justin walked on the streets with a selfdeprecation laugh.

He did not know how long he walked until he heard

footsteps sound from behind him and turned around feeling stunned.

It was Matteo Hanson who silently stood behind him.

Matteo smiled lightly as he said, "You put your Goddess on such a high pedestal which was even more important than your life and yet you are merely a passerby in her heart. What stupid emotions! Only by becoming strong can you ever roam freely! Haha!"

Matteo's words made Justin startle as impassioned tears kept falling.

"Sir..."

Justin gritted his teeth and took a step forward. "
Sir, I've thought about it and am ready to agree
with your request."

It was because of Lily a group of people urinated on him.

It was because of Lily he had to crawl under someone's crotch!

It was because of her he went through so many humiliations. In the end, Lily only had her eyes on Darryl. Why? For f*ck sake, why?

At Justin's words, Matteo smiled but said nothing.

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In her room at the inn, Lily sat by the bedside with a hopeful look as she would reach the Palace soon and could meet her husband!

'Hubby, I bet you'll never expect I came here to find you!'

Knock, knock.

Suddenly, there were knocks on the door.

"Who is it?" Lily stood up slowly and asked.

Justin who was on the other side of the door replied, "Lily, it's me. There are some matters that I want to tell you since we're splitting up tomorrow."

Lily naturally did not suspect anything as Justin said so calmly. She then walked over to open the door.

Justin rushed in and jabbed Lily's acupoint once the door was opened.

Lily was caught off guard and trembled, but she could no longer move.

She angrily said, "Justin, you... What are you doing? Release me at once!"

Justin did not reply and knocked Lily unconscious before carrying her to the room next door. He then pushed the door open.

"Master, I've brought her here," said Justin softly.

There was a huge tub in the middle of the room filled with warm water and rose petals. Matteo was enjoying the soak in the tub.

"Good Disciple." Matteo slowly opened his eyes, smiled, and pointed at Lily. "Put her in."

"Yes!" Justin nodded as he undressed Lily and placed her in the tub.

Splash!

Lily's body was drenched.

"I'll take my leave." Justin took a deep breath before silently exited and closed the room door.

When he left, Matteo smiled while appreciating Lily's beauty.

"Oh Beauty, I didn't force you at all. It's Justin who gave you to me."

In a blink of an eye, Matteo evilly laughed as he approached Lily. He let out another laugh before hugging Lily's waist.

Justin leaned against the wall the moment the door was closed as his heart was aching badly.

'I'm so sorry, Lily. I didn't wish for matters to come

to this, but I've done so much for you yet received nothing in return. I didn't even experience your tenderness. It's unfair! I just can't accept it.

'My master, the Incandescent Sect Deputy Head have you now. I'm sure both of you are a better match.'

Justin ran out of the inn in extreme agitation and arrived at a bar.

"Get me some alcohol!" He yelled to the owner from extreme grief as he could not endure it! The thought of Lily being defiled hurt him badly.

After all, she was his beloved Goddess for many years!

He gulped the bowls of alcohol as Only by getting drunk could he forget about his troubles.

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At the inn, in the room.

The moment Lily gained consciousness and realized she was in the tub, she glared at Matteo, wishing she could kill him!

"You... You!" Lily lost it and could not believe she was no longer pure.

This must be a nightmare. It must be.

Matteo wore his clothes as he approached Lily and smiled. "Pretty one, you should be happy you're my woman now. Why are you crying?"

He was the Incandescent Sect Deputy Head—a highly respected person. She should be honored she could be his woman.

He could not deny after having met so many women that only Lily who's in front of him was truly perfect with nothing to nitpick on—regardless of her body or face. She was extremely gorgeous.

"Y-you! You're a monster. A monster!" Lily's face was filled with tears from dejection.

Why? Why was her life so tough? She could almost reach the Palace to meet her husband. Why was life playing tricks on her!

Matteo laughed and said, "Gorgeous, you have made a mistake. It's Justin who handed you to me. Haha!"

Lily's eyes were red and she did not speak for a long time.

Matteo then walked toward her. He looked at Lily in the tub and smiled before saying, "Don't be sad. I' ve never loved someone like I've loved you in my entire life. It's really love at first sight. I'll pamper you and love you. Come, the water is getting cold. Let me help you out so you don't catch a cold." Matteo extended his arm.

Lily furiously shook her head before he could even

touch her and loathsomely glared at him. She then wailed, "Don't touch me! Get off! Get away from me!"

At that, Lily pointed at Matteo and said, "You've defiled me. My husband won't let this go. He'll kill you! He'll kill you for sure!"

"Haha!" Matteo laughed out loud and taunted, "
Who's your husband? Who the hell does he think he
is? Do you think your husband is that great? Let me
tell you this, I have the support of several hundred
thousand Incandescent Sect disciples. Haha!"

"You..." Lily bit her lip and said nothing. The more she thought, the sadder she became. Tears kept falling as she yelled at Matteo, "Go away! I don't want to see you! Go away..."

Slap!

Matteo lifted his hand and slapped her before she could finish saying.

Lily yelled in pain as a red handprint was plastered on her face.

"Ungrateful b*tch! Do you know how many women want to be with me? You still dare to cry and complain?" Matteo sneered.

"Y-you should just die!" Lily's eyes turned red as all her grievances were converted into tears.

"Ungrateful b*tch!" Matteo lost his patience and no longer cared that Lily was of the fairer sex as he slapped her a few more times.

Slap! Slap!

The loud and crisp slaps reverberated throughout.

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On the other side, at the Great East Hibiscus City.

Darryl and Jewel were sleeping in an inn when a clamor of gongs and drums could be heard coming from outside.

Darryl abruptly woke up and rolled around on the floor before covering himself under his blanket as he could still hear the commotion.

As Jewel and he shared a room, Jewel would of course sleep on the bed and him on the floor.

"Why is it so noisy outside?" Jewel asked before immediately headed to the window and looked out.

"Darryl, come quick!" Jewel suddenly lost all her grogginess and became as excited as a small child.

The streets below were bustling with a huge crowd of people.

Vendors were yelling on both sides of the streets. Some were selling candies, some cakes while others lanterns. It was a lively affair. "It's so lively! Let's have a look!" Jewel laughed and dragged Darryl downstairs.

Darryl was still groggy but was totally helpless from being pulled along by Jewel.

He could not help but ask the waiter that he met downstairs, "Why is it so lively outside?"

The waiter smiled and said, "Both of you must not be from around here? Today is the Poetry League which was held once every three years!"

At that, Jewel immediately clapped her hands, smiled at Darryl, and said, "Yes, yes, yes! I remembered! The Artemis Sect holds the Poetry League once every three years. This year's Poetry League is held at Hibiscus City. We're so lucky! The Poetry League brings a huge crowd over! Would you please go together with me to have a look?"

Darryl smiled bitterly as he rubbed his sleepy eyes. "Ok, let's have a look."

Jewel cheered and quickly ran out of the inn.

The entire streets were extremely lively, crowded, and filled with people. Almost the entire Hibiscus City's townsfolk were there.

Jewel held Darryl's hand and walked in the crowd's direction.

The streets were packed due to the Poetry League attracting a lot of visitors with people from neighboring towns joining the affair too.

The huge number of visitors the Poetry League attracted was a great opportunity for the vendors to earn some cash. The streets were mesmerizing and lively filled with assorted stalls and vendors which sold food, toys, and even lanterns!

Jewel has never been so happy her entire life as she stopped to look at every stall.

The deeper they headed in, the livelier it became as waves of shouts came and went.

"Delicious candies!

"Sweet and sticky candies!"

Darryl walked along and his mood turned somewhat pleasant from feeling the crowd's liveliness.

After walking for almost an hour, they finally came to the most crowded area. Darryl could see there were close to a hundred thousand people in his immediate vicinity!

"There are so many people! Let's go have a look!"

Jewel pulled Darryl and waded through the crowd.

At the end of the crowd was a huge stage.

A gigantic stone pillar was situated on the stage which wrote, 'The Poetry League—meeting friends through poetry!'

A tall lady stood in the middle of the stage with a mic in her hand. She smiled and said, "Everyone! Who could create the best poem?"

Jewel tugged on Darryl's hand and gently said, "The Poetry League is held once every three years by the Artemis Sect. Every Poetry League will attract scholars and literati from all over. They would then compete in the Poetry League and whoever wins will receive the Gifted Hibiscus Scholar title.

The Gifted Hibiscus Scholar?

Darryl could not help but laugh at that. "What's the use of that title?"

Jewel shook her head. "I have no idea what usefulness that title brings, but it's still rather prestigious!"

The pretty lady on-stage said to her mic, "Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Penny and I'm the host for the Poetry League. I'll now come up with a theme on where everyone should base their poetry composition on. Whoever writes the best will earn the Gifted Hibiscus Scholar title! You should know this title is the highest honor for scholars and literati!"

Penny scanned the crowd. "It's deep into autumn, so the theme for this year's Poetry League is Autumn. Whoever writes the best poem wins!"

"I have a poem!"

A fat middle-aged man slowly appeared from the crowd and walked to the stage.

Instantly, everyone's eyes were on him with surprise plastered on their faces. The theme was just announced—how could he have composed a poem so fast?

They were curious and wanted to hear what he had come up with.

Penny—on-stage—was also surprised before she smiled lightly and said, "Please go ahead with your

poem."

The fat man nodded. He was silent for a while before starting to slowly swirl his head from side to side and reciting.

"Drinking deep into Autumn's night.

"Feeling like puking the next day's light.

"Though I was annoyed and bored.

"I lamented."

The minute he finished reciting, he anxiously asked Penny, "Gorgeous Penny, my poem is pretty meaningful right? Do you think I have hopes of becoming the champion?"

At his words, Jewel could not help but spit the candy in her mouth out before smiling and said, "Haha! Darryl, This man's poem is interesting. He just did doggerel! Haha!"

At the same moment, the crowd roared with laughter.

"Haha! I'm dying of laughter. What bad poetry, haha!"

"He wants to win? He must still be hungover."

The on-stage Penny also pursed her lips and smiled before saying to the fat man, "Sir, please go and

sober up."

At the same time, two burly men rushed up to the stage and kicked the fat man off-stage.

This Poetry League is no child's play. This man was a troublemaker for sure. The two verses he recited just moments ago could not even be considered doggerel.

After that, no one dared to go on-stage hastily.

After a few minutes, a middle-aged man in a long robe finally walked slowly on-stage.

He truly looked like a literati with his golden frame spectacles.

"Isn't that Roman Newmont?"

"Yes! It's Hibiscus City's scholar! He's truly talented"

"Roman!"

A few ladies could not hide their excitement as they covered their mouth and screamed. Roman was a nearby resident gifted poet who was great at writing poetry.

Penny sized Roman up before gently saying, "Sir, please start your poetry recitation."

"Hmm." Roman nodded. He took up the

microphone and walked two steps forward on the stage before slowly recited.

"Autumn brings the winter breeze.

"Three parts were bone-chilling.

"Seven parts were moon-drinking.

"Don't be melancholic for the nights are sleepless and endless."

"Wow!"

The entire crowd gasped and cheered.

'Great poem. Such a great poem! He could create such a great poem in less than fifteen minutes. Roman really has a deep literature understanding and background!'

Roman smiled at the applause he received and picked up the microphone before declaring, "I'm going to be this year's champion! The Gifted Hibiscus Scholar title is mine! I urge those who feel it's unfair to challenge my poem!"

At that moment, the crowd looked at each other with none dared to go on-stage.

Roman's poem was truly flawless. No one would dare to go on-stage only to be humiliated.

"Darryl!" Jewel tugged on Darryl's arm. "Go up and

try."

Previously, Darryl defeated the Artemis Sect Master at poetry and Jewel hoped Darryl could show off his talent at today's Poetry League.

Darryl did not want to go up but ended up nodding after looking at Jewel's hopeful eyes. "Ok!"

Darryl then squeezed through the crowd and walked up on-stage.

"Little brother, what are you doing on-stage? This is the Poetry League, please don't cause trouble." At that moment, Penny irritatedly looked at Darryl and said.

'This person looks ugly and wears strange clothes! He must be some film set's extra here to try and cause trouble by coming on-stage!' Penny thought.

Darryl was stunned for a moment before he immediately smiled. "I'm not trying to cause trouble, but only to recite a poem. I'm also not some little brother. The name's Darryl Darby."

"What? This dude wants to recite a poem?"

"Haha!"

"He must have gone nuts from the exhaustion of being an on-set extra!"

At the crowd's jeers, Jewel could not help but stomped her feet before turning back and yelled, " Don't laugh at Darryl! He's very talented! I bet none of you can compete with him!"

Penny on stage smiled lightly and said, "Sure. Go ahead, Little Brother but don't say I didn't warn you. The consequences will be serious if you're here to cause trouble."

Darryl did not bother to reply. He saw a brush on the stage corner, walked toward it, and picked up the brush before dipping it in ink.

"What are you trying to do? Put that brush down!"
Penny stomped her high heels toward Darryl as she
was sure Darryl was there to cause trouble.

There was a commotion among the crowd as well. How would someone dare cause trouble at the Poetry League—an event that was held once every three years?

Darryl smiled as he walked toward the huge stone pillar.

The nearly three-meter-tall pillar which had the words, 'The Poetry League—meeting friends through poetry!'

Darryl held the brush as he waved and wrote his next poem on the stone pillar!

"What are you doing? Security! Someone is causing ..." Penny yelled but then she stopped abruptly!

Someone from the crowd yelled, "This dude's handwriting is great!"

Darryl's artistic and exquisite flowy handwriting was as good as a professional calligrapher.

His family hired a calligrapher to teach Darryl when he was still in school. He had not written for a few years but could get back the momentum and writing feelings when he picked up the brush.

The crowd's eyes were on Darryl's brush movement as he finally wrote the entire poem on the stone pillar.

He threw the brush aside when he finished writing the last word before walking toward Jewel. He grabbed her hand as they turned and left. The entire crowd was staring at the stone pillar in astonishment once Darryl left.

On the stone pillar, four stanzas were flamboyantly written.

Penny trembled as she opened her mouth slightly and read Darryl's poem.

"Over old trees wreathed with ancient vines and flying evening crows.

"Under a small bridge at a nearby cottage, a stream flows.

"On an ancient road in the west wind, a lean horse goes.

"Westward the setting sun goes.

"Far from home was the heartbroken one!"

Westward the setting sun goes. Far from home was the heartbroken one!

The entire city rumbled in cheers in the blink of an eye.

It was a great poem! There was nothing like it!

The entire poem never mentioned once about autumn, but painted the scene well and felt like autumn. There was even a hint of the autumn breeze!

The crowd was engrossed in repeatedly reading the poem while trying to relive its beauty!

Penny felt her legs went weak as she speechlessly stared at the stone pillar for a very long time.

"Where is that little one—no, I mean Sir Darryl Darby the scholar?" Penny anxiously stomped her feet, and scanned her surroundings but could not see Darryl.

"I think he left."

"Darryl must be a Poetry Saint! He deserves this title!"

The entire crowd broke out into heated discussions.

Penny bit her lip as she walked down the stage in her high heels. No matter what, she had to find Darryl Darby! The winner of this Poetry League was him for certain!

Penny was remorseful as Darryl was a gifted genius, yet she called him Little Brother.

"Excuse me, please let me pass through." Penny blushed as she passed through the crowd in search of Darryl throughout the city.

"That's such a great poem you just wrote!"

At the inn's entrance, Jewel tightly held Darryl's hand with a face filled with admiration. "Darryl, did you see everyone went berserk when you finished writing! You're so amazing!"

She held onto Darryl's arm with a great feeling. She knew he would have blown everyone's mind if once he showed his talents.

Darryl smiled and looked at her. "Is it? Tell me why it's great?"

'Haha! The poem was called 'Heavenly Pure Sand—Autumn Thoughts' by Ma Zhiyuan, the great poet from the Yuan Dynasty. How could it not be amazing?' Darryl thought.

Jewel cocked her head as she thought and said, " Anyway, I just find it amazing! The poem is written beautifully."

She did not know about poetry but could feel the melancholy within that poem.

Haha! Darryl laughed at that before extending his hand and ruffled Jewel's hair.

"Sir Darryl!" At that very moment, Darryl heard an excited voice calling from behind him.

He unconsciously turned his head around.

He could see a lady running in high heels from a distance to approach him. She then crossed a small road and started panting from exhaustion. It was none other than Penny.

"Sir Darryl, please. You have to go back with me. You are the only one worthy of the Gifted Hibiscus Scholar title," said Penny gently after approaching Darryl with beads of sweat on her forehead.

'Thank goodness! I found him! I finally found him!' Penny thought.

"Miss Penny, I thought I was your little brother? When did I become Sir Darryl?" Darryl said with an ambiguous smile.

He thought, 'The people nowadays like to judge a book by its cover.'

She never expected Darryl who stood before her was so talented. Penny blushingly bit her lip as she recalled how she looked down on him just moments ago.

Penny gently said, "Sir Darryl, I'm sorry. You have to go back with me. The Gifted Hibiscus Scholar has to be you."

"No, thank you." Darryl waved his hands as he pulled Jewel along and was about to walk into the inn.

Penny was stunned. The Gifted Hibiscus Scholar title was the highest honor every literati and scholar could dream of. Did he just turn down such a prestigious title?

Penny panicked and was almost in tears. She quickly stepped forward and blocked Darryl. "I'm so sorry. My attitude toward you previously was bad and I sincerely apologize to you. The Sect Master will punish me if I don't bring you back. I beg you, Sir Darryl. Please, I beg of you."

The Poetry League was organized by the Artemis Sect and only held once every three years! The Sect Master would be angry if she did not bring him back since Darryl's poem had won fair and square.

"Sir Darryl, I'll kneel before you." Penny bent her knees and was about to kneel.

Darryl lifted his hand just when her knees were about to touch the floor and lifted her with his gentle internal energy.

"Alright. I'll follow you back," said Darryl helplessly as he could only nod.

There were so many people on the streets. She would pester him till no end if he did not follow her back.

"Thank you, Sir!" Penny was overjoyed and quickly led the way.

Not long after, Darryl and Penny were brought to the city gates entrance.

About 200 cars were parked at the entrance. This scene shocked Jewel.

In the Great East, only the wealthiest of the wealthy could afford a small car as the car prices were costly. Normal folks could starve for their entire lives yet still could not afford one. At that moment, there were 200 in front of the city gates!

"Sir Darryl, please get in."