Harvey froze after he heard those words.

The reason he had been staying in Hong Kong and Las Vegas for so long was so he could keep the citizens of Country H safe.

That way, the dastardly ambitions of the Island Nations and The Empire would never come to fruition.

This was justice. That was why Harvey had no guilt in his conscience and toward the citizens as a whole.

But when Queenie told him Country H would be safer if he sat on the throne...

Harvey was at a loss.

Fate is a fickle mistress, after all!

Queenie studied Harvey's dumbfounded expression before narrowing her eyes at the higher-ups of the Yorks of Hong Kong, who were also at a loss.

"The Yorks of Hong Kong had been waiting for a suitable successor for so many years," she began with a small smile.

"And you are the most qualified person to serve that role, Harvey."

Queenie then leaned towards Harvey and began to

whisper in his ear.

"If you think I'm not good enough for you..."

"We can just turn the marriage into a show."

"As long as we do a good job acting out the show, the people of Country H will be safe."

"Fair trade, don't you think?"

Harvey was rendered completely speechless. As he stood there in a loss, Lexie returned to her senses.

She walked up to Queenie, furious, and pointed a rude finger at the latter.

"Queenie, you f*cking b*tch! Shut your mouth right this instant!"

"Is your brain working?!"

"You're just an adopted daughter of Lord York! Even if Harvey marries you, do you think he can become the new young lord so easily?!"

"Are you insane?!"

"Let me tell you something! An adopted daughter like you can't just spout bullsh*t to the crowd on such an important occasion!"

Having reached this point, Lexie was filled with unbridled rage.

She had been planning to get Vince under Marcel for so

many years, just for Vince to officially take the position of the young lord.

How could she accept such an unexpected turn of events?

At the same time, the higher-ups came to their senses as well. Several of them clapped to signal the guards.

"Hurry! Get Queenie and Harvey out of here!"

"Don't let them shame us! They're ruining Grandma York's birthday banquet!"

At their orders, the family guards stepped forward and swarmed the place in the next moment.

Queenie was already prepared for this situation. She clapped as well, and the elites of the Yorks of Hong Kong came forward instantly.

A fight could break out at any moment. The tension in the air was so thick, it could be cut with a knife.

As the head of the head house—as well as Vince's father—Cory York couldn't just sit and watch quietly any longer.

He slammed the teacup in his hand and stood up furiously. He glared at Queenie with narrowed eyes.

"What are you trying to do, Queenie?"

"You may be an adopted daughter, but you're still a part of the family's third generation!" "How dare you try to cause trouble at Grandma York's birthday banquet!"

"Who gave you permission to act this way?"

"How dare you!"

Cory's words had a different meaning; he was hinting to everyone that someone was guiding Queenie behind the scenes.

Everyone's gaze fell on Marcel, who remained perfectly calm from the very beginning.

Many assumed that he was the one who instructed Queenie to say such scandalized things.

For a time, the situation was extremely tense.

A glint of pride flashed in Cory's eyes when he saw that his words were enough to shock the crowd.

He gave a cold chuckle and waved his hand.

"For the sake of your father, Grandma York, and the fact that you're my junior..."

"I'll let you off the hook this time."

"I'm giving you ten seconds to get out of here!"

"If you don't, don't blame me for killing you with my own two hands, even if we're blood-related!"

Cory waved his hand once more. The people from the head house instinctively stood up, prepared to move forward.

Julian, who stood in front of the crowd, laughed coldly and took his men to step forward with him.

Since he was already on Harvey's side, he had no choice but to fight till the bitter end.

He was surprised to see Harvey was fooled into being the son-in-law of the family, but he understood why Marcel would do something like this.

If Queenie were to rise to power, she would probably be met with a lot of resistance.

However, the outcome would be different if a prominent figure that had just come to Hong Kong and Las Vegas were to rise in her place.

Besides, Julian knew that Harvey was incredibly powerful.

If Harvey were to become the new lord of the family, then there might be a chance for the Yorks of Hong Kong to rise as the lowest of the five hidden families!

The five hidden families were powerful clans with long histories!

Even climbing a single rank was considered near impossible; only a top talent would be able to achieve such a feat.

Cory saw Julian's men stopping his own, and his expression changed.

He narrowed his eyes at Noah and exclaimed icily, "When did you join forces with an outsider, Third Brother?"

"Aren't you scared of dying once you stand on the wrong side?"

Noah slowly raised his teacup and replied calmly, "What are you talking about, Big Brother? I don't understand what you're saying."

"All I know is that Fourth Brother is the lord of the

family."

"As long as he's in this position, I'll follow him to the ends of the earth, no matter what he says or does."

"If he wants to make his son-in-law the new lord, then I'll support his decision whatever the cost."

"After all, the first rule of our family is to abide by the lord's decisions unconditionally!"

"You don't think you're the king's father, are you?"

"Did you forget about such a simple rule?"

Noah flashed Cory a faint smile.

"Or are you saying that you're above that after all that smooth sailing?"

"If I remember correctly, even the lord himself has no power to go against the rules."

"Not only are you trying to be the king's father, but you're also trying to be the king's grandfather?"

Noah's simple yet harsh words were enough to make Cory show a heinous expression.

"What's with all this slander, Third Brother?!"

"If the lord wants to get himself a son-in-law or make him the new lord, I have no objections!"

Cory took a deep breath.

- "But this so-called son-in-law has married!"
- "Do you want the family to have a son-in-law who already has a damn wife?!"
- "Is this some sort of sick joke?!"
- "Just because you said so, doesn't mean that it's true," Noah replied.
- "But I heard that he's already divorced?"
- "Don't tell me you're trying to be so pure as to reject a son-in-law who's married once."
- "When did you get so old-fashioned, Big Brother?"

"You..."

Cory was so enraged that he was rendered speechless.

When he was about to say something, a calm and dignified voice cut him off.

"Why haven't I known about such a thing?"

"Did you ask for my permission?"

"Or are you saying that my words mean nothing to you?"

The crowd spread out to both sides in an instant.

In the deepest part of the hall, Grandma York was seen clad in a white robe, surrounded by a dozen people.

Her face was quite skinny, but she still looked elegant. Her beauty from her youth was still apparent even at her current age.

She also carried a terrifying aura that seeped out of her body, giving others the urge to kneel after taking just one glance at her.

In the crowd with Grandma York, there was an equally calm man in a green robe.

He was none other than Walter York, the second lord of the family. He had been obsessed with martial arts, but he had yet to show that side of him. His head was raised up high; he seemed quite powerful, as if he could kill a bull with a single punch.

Harvey, who was standing in the crowd, glanced calmly at Grandma York.

The woman really did seem terrifying; her temperament alone was already giving quite the heavy pressure.

Judging from her arrogant attitude, everyone could tell that she would usually be pampered to no end, as if she was a queen; she would do whatever she pleased without any restraints.

People like her were the hardest to deal with. They were the most terrifying, too.

Her seniority, identity, background, power, and authority were enough to suppress anyone that would come in her way.

Even the lord of the family himself would have to pay his respects in front of her.

"Mother!"

"Grandma York!"

"M'lady!"

"Grandmother!"

The guests and the people from the fourth house immediately rushed to stand in front of Grandma York before dropping into a respectful bow.

Some were even making loud bangs as they groveled courteously.

Even Cory, Lexie, and everyone else who had been very fierce before hurriedly recomposed themselves and waited calmly for Grandma York to take over the situation.

Vince walked toward Grandma York and held her.

"Why aren't you resting in the back room, Grandmother? It's too noisy outside."

"Do you think I can just stay back there?" Grandma York replied.

"If I stay there any longer, the Yorks of Hong Kong will be in shambles!"

Many people's eyes twitched after hearing her calm words.

Grandma York then looked calmly at Noah.

"Come here, Noah."

"Is there anything you'd like me to do, Mother?"

Noah's eyes twitched, but he still went toward Grandma York before bowing respectfully. She hooked his finger, signaling Noah to get his face closer to her.

Right as Noah did that, he was forced to take a slap to the face, which swelled painfully moments after.

Slap!

Noah was almost sent flying before he steadied himself. He then bowed while covering his face.

"If you're in a bad mood, Mother, you can keep going until you're satisfied."

"I can take it!"

Slap!

Grandma York slapped Noah in the face once again, causing him to bleed out of his mouth. He stumbled backwards.

Julian came to his senses and held his father up before the latter could fall.

Even then, Noah wouldn't dare question Grandma York, nor would he even try to resist.

Everything else aside, the woman in front of him was his own mother.

He wouldn't dare go against her, even if he had all the courage in the world.

Slap!

"Today is my birthday! How dare you try to stir up trouble between Marcel and Cory in front of all these guests and the family?!"

"You think nobody in the family can hold you down?! Or do you think that I'm on the verge of death?!"

Slap!

"When did you get the right to shout at your big brother out in public?!"

Slap!

"Do you not know how to respect your elders?!"

Slap!

"Did I teach you how to act like this when you were a child?!"

Slap!

"What gave you the courage to be this arrogant in front of me?!"

Grandma York swung her palm across Noah's face every time she spoke; Noah showed a horrible expression while he kept stumbling back.

Slap!

"What?!"

"You were running your mouth just before I showed up!"

"Speak up, then!"

"Please calm down, Mother."

Noah wouldn't even dare cover his face as he forced out a smile.

"I wasn't the one who caused the trouble."

"I wouldn't dare cause such a big mess on your birthday, even if I have the courage!"

"It's just, Fourth Brother had been putting his heart and soul into the Yorks of Hong Kong for all these years! He worked hard for everything!"

"After his son passed away ten years ago, all he had was Queenie."

"He only wants a good son-in-law to succeed him! What's wrong with that?"

"This is only natural, right?"

"As a parent, I understand his feelings."

"I approve of his decision!"

"They might even give you a great-grandson soon enough!"

"You'd want that too, wouldn't you?"

Noah's respectful expression seemed odd no matter how Harvey looked at it.

He had no idea what exactly Marcel promised Noah for Noah to work this hard.

Even at this very moment, other than standing up and bowing, Marcel did nothing else, as if he was still in control of the situation.

Seeing this, Harvey was quite impressed by Marcel.

Patience was needed to achieve great things, and Marcel was really capable of doing just that.

He still managed to keep his calm even after Grandma
York showed up; he wouldn't take action unless it was
absolutely necessary.

Noah put his hands together and said, "Mother, those two are a match made in Heaven. Their wedding will be spread through the ages if they get married on your birthday! I think..."

Slap!

Grandma York swung the back of her palm across Noah's face once more, sending him right to the ground.

"When did you get the right to question me, Noah?"

"Today's my birthday, yet you dare cause me more trouble?"

"Are you trying to make me force my hand against Marcel so you have a chance to rise to power?!"

"Piss off already!"

"Since you're my son, I'll let you live!"

"If you open your damn mouth again, you won't even get to be the head of the third family anymore!"

"Do it, then!" Noah challenged.

Noah chuckled bitterly.

"Even if you're going to take my position away, I have to tell you everything!"

"Fourth Brother has finally let go of what happened ten years ago. He's ready to live a new life!"

"This is a great thing for the Yorks of Hong Kong!"

"All he wants right now is for his daughter to marry a good man—one of unparalleled talent!"

"This is only natural!"

"Can't you just fulfill Fourth Brother's only wish?"

"Shut your mouth!"

Grandma York took a step forward, her face frosty.

"I may be eighty years old, but I'm no idiot!"

"I don't care if he wants a dependable son-in-law!"

"But do you really think you can just make him climb the ranks of the family in this way?"

"Keep dreaming!"

"The Yorks of Hong Kong will only accept direct descendants of the family!"

"This is our legacy!"

"That is an undeniable fact!"

"That is a rule that our family set in stone!"

"Whoever that disobeys will be killed without mercy!"

"Even if the lord himself violates this rule, he'll be punished like the rest!"

"If you speak again, Noah, I'll have you killed once and for all, even though you're my son!"

Noah's eyes twitched frantically at Grandma York's threat.

He could see the murderous intent brewing in her sharp gaze. He knew he would truly be killed if he kept on talking.

Noah could only glance at Marcel before stepping back quickly and covering his face.

After dealing with Noah, Grandma York narrowed her eyes at Harvey, who was standing in the crowd. There was a distant look on her face.

"Harvey, right?"

"I sent someone to tell you that you should be out of the borders within twenty-four hours."

"Not only did you disobey my order, but you even killed my personal guard!"

"I can let that go since Marcel's supporting you, but..."

"This is my birthday banquet!"

"I don't welcome you, so get out of here this instant!"

"You have no place here!"

Harvey looked at Grandma York calmly before putting on a warm smile.

"Since you're letting go of the fact that I killed Jacknife..."

"I'll ignore the fact that he's an Islander for now."

"Besides, I didn't come here for your birthday."

"You're not worthy enough for me, after all."

"I came because Lord York and Lady Judd invited me here."

"I can't leave unless they say so. It'll be rude of me if I do so without their permission."

"Simply put, your words mean nothing to me. Understand?"

Harvey was emotionless and poker-faced. He would usually respect his elders, but...

Since Grandma York couldn't tell right from wrong and had an Islander by her side as a trusted subordinate, Harvey had absolutely no respect for her.

"How dare you?!"

Grandma York's face darkened in an instant.

"You little b*stard!"

"Who gave you the courage to speak to me this way?!"

"Throw him out of here!"

"If he resists, gun him down!"

"Whoever that protects him will be punished the same way!"

At her behest, several women in plain clothes stepped out with a cold expression.

Their eyes were icy, and their murderous intent was blatant.

Naturally, they were all experts.

Walter shot a curious look at Harvey, eager to see the strength the legend who managed to kill several Sword Saints.

Swish, swish, swish!

The women in plain clothes pounced right at Harvey at the same time.

Their eyes were sharpened into an intense gaze, as if they wanted Harvey dead.

Right as they got close, a shadow could be seen flying from the back of the hall.

A hidden blade shot out from the shadow with a single wave.

The women in plain clothes trembled as a silver glare flashed in front of everyone's eyes. Bright red wounds could be seen on every single one of their wrists.

"Who dares to lay a finger on my son-in-law?"

Selena's frosty face could be seen as she glared angrily at the entire crowd. She looked very domineering.

"Lady Judd?"

"Sister-In-Law?!"

"What are you trying to do?!"

After seeing Selena protect Harvey at such a crucial moment, the higher-ups of the family were at a complete

loss.

The Hamilton family, Mendoza family, and the Clarke family, and everyone else were all shocked.

Nobody expected Harvey to have such a complicated relationship with the Yorks of Hong Kong.

Grandma York wanted him out of the borders, but Lady Judd was doing her best to keep him safe.

Vince and the members of the head house's hearts sank. They didn't think Selena would go so far as to do something like this.

"Nobody takes a single step closer."

Selena walked toward Harvey with a decisive look.

"Harvey is my dear son-in-law. As long as he stays in Hong Kong, he'll be under my protection!"

"Whoever dares to cross him will have to walk over my dead body!"

Selena's tone wasn't that loud, but her words were filled with determination.

Everyone could tell from her murderous intent that she would not hesitate to kill whoever tried to lay a single finger on Harvey.

"What the Hell is going on with you, Selena?!"

Grandma York was showing an utterly horrible

expression.

"Why would you say something so insane?!"

"You dare oppose me for a kept man like him?!"

"I'm not insane, Grandma York," Selena replied, unwavering.

"I can tell you right now that I hold Harvey dear!"

"He's an outstanding man! If he becomes my son-in-law and the new young lord..."

"The Yorks of Hong Kong will surely rise as the head of the five hidden families!"

Lexie chuckled coldly.

"Stop spouting nonsense, Selena!"

"Even if Grandma York agrees with you..."

"You want a live-in son-in-law to be the new young lord?"

"And you want him to take control of the Yorks of Hong Kong?!"

"Are you joking?!"

Selena glared coldly at the crowd.

"Ten years ago, I didn't stand up for myself!"

"But this time, I want Harvey as my son-in-law. I'll do everything in my power to make it happen!"

"If he becomes my son-in-law, he'll have the right to take control of the Yorks of Hong Kong!"

"Don't forget! Lord York is my husband!"

"He'll be the one to choose the new young lord!"

"These are the family's rules, after all!"