

Chapter 2431

"I already know everything there is to know about this stream of Fortuna, and if my conjectures are correct, it will appear at a company called Linton Group," Erebus said.

Huh?

That puzzled Warren. "Being trapped inside the Unholy Valley and unable to leave all this time, how were you able to keep abreast of what's happening in the world outside?"

"I retrieved and analyzed part of Jared Mitxel's memories when his corpse landed down here recently," Erebus replied.

That had Warren's heart racing.

Elder Erebus is simply incredible, being able to delve into the memories of the dead the way he can.

That piqued his own desire to learn more.

"What are your thoughts on this stream of Fortuna, Elder?" Warren inquired.

To which Erebus replied, "Never mind that I wasn't able to leave Unholy Valley before. Wouldn't it be an affront to the dignity of Netherworld whether I allow another stream, Fortuna, to land in the hands of others once more? Now that I am free, I shall have to make this one mine, one way or the other."

Warren nodded swiftly in agreement. "That's what I thought too. As Zeke has already devoured countless streams of Fortuna for himself, it would be a disaster for Netherworld if he were to be allowed to secure this one as well."

"Yet, I am unable to openly vie for it, considering how inadvisable it is for me to appear publicly at the moment," Erebus said. "I have, however, come up with an alternate plan."

Warren quickly questioned, "If you would permit me to ask, may I know how you plan to approach this?"

Erebus then replied in a baritone voice, "You may show yourself now."

From behind a large rock, a silhouette steadily emerged.

Expressionless and trudging along stiffly, he looked as though he was being manipulated like a string puppet.

The sight of the newcomer caused Warren to jump.

"Killer Wolf! It's Killer Wolf! Dammit. You followed me! This here is Killer Wolf, General Cosmopolis, and Zeke's personal sidekick. Please rid us of him, or he may very well wind up wrecking Netherworld's plans."

"Fear not, for it was I who allowed for his presence here. Right now, he is already under the control of my negative energy," Erebus explained.

Only then was Warren able to breathe more easily. At the same time, he looked toward Erebus in intrigue. "May I ask how you managed to subdue him, Elder Erebus?"

"This chap was heavily wounded when he passed through here a couple of days back. I suspected that he might have ties to Zeke when I picked up Zeke's aura off him. That was the reason why I kept him around, and now, he is going to be the key to helping us secure that Fortuna," Erebus clarified.

"Please, tell me more."

"When the time comes, I shall use Killer Wolf to lure Zeke away from Linton Group. Then, I'll seize the opportunity to infiltrate, the place and absorb the Fortuna," Erebus

said. "Of course, it's not going to be that straightforward to pull off in practice, but rest assured that I have everything worked out."

"Please command me as you deem fit. I'll be willing to serve in any way I can!" Warren declared.

Over at Linton Group, Zeke was seated on the couch while going through several documents that were marked as urgent.

All of these documents contained information pertaining to matters of national interest.

Seated opposite him at the desk was Lacey, who was kept busy with the processing of some paperwork for the company herself.

"Don't mind me, Zeke. You should just attend to your own work," said Lacey casually to Zeke.

"Okay."

His reply was equally leisurely while he leafed through the documents he had on hand.

The sustained silence that ensued inside the office was disrupted only sporadically by the inconspicuous shuffle of pages being turned.

After an indeterminate period had passed, Lacey straightened herself up to stretch her weary back.

It was only then she looked up and noticed that Zeke was still around.

"Why are you still here, Zeke?" Lacey asked in surprise.

Zeke likewise placed down the file in his own hands. "How could I leave your side after the Progenitor of the White Muraco Clan has predicted that you might be in mortal danger," he said to her.

That had Lacey shooting him a wry smile. "I suppose that the Progenitor could have been mistaken. Since the worst has already passed for Linton Group, I should be safe now."

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"I don't think so. My gut feeling tells me that you might run into trouble within these next few days."

Lacey's helplessness was written all over her face.

Being aware of Zeke's overprotectiveness, she understood that it was what led him to constantly believe that she was in danger.

That became the cause for some vexation on her part.

He's the Great Marshal of Eurasia, and the security of Eurasia is his responsibility. So how could he continue to hang around me all day long?

That filled her heart with some guilt.

At that moment, Zeke suddenly felt the tingle of a familiar energy.

This is... an energy signature unique to Sole Wolf.

It was seemingly beckoning at Zeke as though it was prompting him to convene with them.

Zeke had tasked Sole Wolf and the others to find Killer Wolf, but he did not know whether they had managed to do so.

Immediately, Zeke turned to regard Lacey. "I may need to step away for a while. Just stay inside the office, and don't go anywhere else. Do you understand?"

Lacey nodded. "Yeah, I got it. Don't worry about me. Just go ahead and do whatever you have to do."

"Okay."

Zeke then hustled out of the office.

Following Sole Wolf's unique energy signature, he soon arrived at a quiet corner outside of the building, where he found Sole Wolf and the others waiting for him anxiously.

His heart skipped a beat when he gave the group a once over and noticed Killer Wolf was not among them.

As expected, something has indeed happened to him.

"Where is Killer Wolf?" he asked in his deep voice.

Sole Wolf's tone was heavy with contrite and grief. "We weren't able to locate Killer Wolf, Zeke."

That drew an irked frown from Zeke. "Haven't I already sent you Killer Wolf's exact location?"

Why couldn't you find him?"

"He was gone by the time we got there. We went in pursuit in the direction where his aura disappeared but did not manage to get far before it vanished completely. It was as though someone had snuffed out his aura," Sole Wolf explained.

Hearing that caused Zeke to become somewhat worried.

Killer Wolf's aura couldn't have vanished for no reason. Chances are, someone must have erased it. Should that be the case, then that person must have ulterior designs on Killer Wolf.

Having long regarded Killer Wolf as his brother, Zeke dreaded imagining anything untoward happening to him.

Despite his anxiety, he purposefully maintained a veneer of calm to offer his subordinates some words of comfort. "Chin up. I'm going to exert some energy to track down Killer Wolf's whereabouts. He has to be okay, for I would have known otherwise."

The lot of them then collectively looked to Zeke with anticipation.

Although they understood that Zeke had likely said what he did simply to console them, they would rather willfully have themselves believe otherwise.

None of them was ready to contend with the plausibility of Killer Wolf's possible demise.

Closing his eyes, Zeke unleashed energy that instantly stretched out for miles around.

At present, the feat of extending the range of his energy was now very much considered a cakewalk:

Soon, he opened his eyes and said, "I've got it."

That made the others tense up.

"I felt Killer Wolf's presence near Unholy Valley. His vital signs are still intact," Zeke said.

The lot of them breathed out in relief, but Bafflement soon followed.

"Why did Killer Wolf wind up in Unholy Valley? As badly injured as he was, that surely can't be the sort of place that he would find conducive for recuperation."

"I agree. There's something really fishy about this."

"Time's a-wasting, so let's just get over there and find him. Move out!"

Upon Zeke's command, the group made their way toward the direction of Unholy Valley with all haste.

Barely moments into their departure, two individuals stepped out from behind a small hill. They were Netherworld's Erebus and Warren.

Earlier, Erebus had used powerful means to veil their auras. That was why Zeke had not been

able to detect their presence.

The sneering Erebus had a look of disdain about him. "Hah! Falling for my tricks so easily. This famed Great Marshal is a far departure from his master and doesn't really amount to much, after all."

"Please do not underestimate him, Elder Erebus. His methods are highly unorthodox, and he excels at playing the long game. Quite often, there is more to him than meets the eye..."

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Erebus shot a look at Warren in a way that made the latter hold his breath.

"Are you trying to tell me what to do?" Erebus retorted.

Warren waved his hand furiously. "You've misunderstood me as I didn't mean it that way. It's my fault for having misspoken..."

That yielded a cold snort from Erebus. "Hmph. Just don't do it again. Let's head over to Linton Group."

Thereafter, Warren followed behind Erebus in silent relief.

My godfather Daemonium ended up dead because he was overconfident and underestimated Zeke. Elder Erebus is very similar to Godfather in this regard, so I do hope that he won't end up in defeat as he did.

Warren's esteem for Erebus had just taken a major hit.

Regardless, he cast aside those random musings as he hastened toward Linton Group alongside Erebus, all the while keeping his fingers crossed in the hope that there might be some basis for Erebus' brazenness.

Simultaneously, another two figures seized upon Zeke's absence to also sneak inside Linton Group.

Those two were the Guardian of Mount Kush and Sheldon, who had also set their sights on that stream of Fortuna.

Donning caps and masks, they wore uniforms emblazoned with the name of Blue Empyrean Logistics while they pushed a trolley into the building.

Blue Empyrean Logistics was a business partner of Linton Group whose staff were a frequent sight around Linton Group's premises. Hence, none of Linton Group's staff were inclined to be suspicious of those two.

Thus, the Guardian of Mount Kush and Sheldon successfully managed to reach the elevator without drawing any unnecessary attention to themselves.

They then proceeded to execute the next part of their plan, which was to take the elevator up to Lacey's office.

For a corporation as large as Linton Group, their elevators were predictably manned in order to prevent criminal elements from using them for devious purposes.

The elevator operator was immediately alerted to the two men's presence the moment they neared. "Hold up. What are you here for?"

"We're here to see Ms. Hinton," came Sheldon's swift reply.

"May I know if you have an appointment with her?" the operator asked.

Sheldon shook his head. "No."

"You can't go up without an appointment, so kindly head over to make one at the front desk first," the elevator operator asserted.

"Although we haven't made a prior appointment, we've something here that she said would allow us access to her at any time," Sheldon said.

That piqued the operator's curiosity. "What is it?"

Sheldon clenched a fist and extended it toward the unwary elevator operator, who stared at it unwaveringly with both eyes.

When he got close enough, Sheldon suddenly drove his fist into the elevator operator's throat. The poor operator did not even have time to let out a whimper before he passed out cold.

In order to prevent others from noticing, Sheldon wrapped an arm around the unconscious man's waist to prevent him from falling over.

From the perspective of any observer, those two were merely behaving in a friendly manner while they chatted away.

Fortunately for them, it was an off-peak period, so no one else was likely to be riding the elevator. Sheldon swiftly grabbed ahold of the operator and stepped inside the lift.

He then hit the button for the highest floor where Lacey's office was situated.

"There must be at least three dozen offices on the top level, Master, so I'm not sure which one is Lacey's," Sheldon said. "It's going to be impractical to try to go through every single one of them, so why don't you wait around while I try to find out?"

That yielded a cold snort from the Guardian of Mount Kush. "Why didn't you

just ask the elevator , you moron?"

"But he's already passed out," Sheldon protested.

"I'm the consciousness of the Kush Clan and am most adept at probing the minds of others. The task of tapping into his consciousness is almost too easy for me."

Tapping into his consciousness...

Sheldon was stunned. Without question, Master is akin to a god among men.

Casting a casual glance in the elevator operator's direction, the Guardian of Mount Kush then said, "Lacey Hinton's office is the fourth one to the left of the elevator."

"Truly, I am in awe of your sublime abilities, Master," Sheldon enthused.

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The Guardian of Mount Kush did not react to Sheldon's attempt at flattery in the slightest.

Were you expecting me to thank you for offering me praise, you insignificant nobody?

The lift did not take long to arrive at the top floor, and the duo soon found themselves standing outside Lacey's office.

A knock on the door elicited a prompt response from the inside of the room. "Who is it?" Lacey asked.

Without replying, Sheldon turned to regard the Guardian of Mount Kush.

The latter then pointed at the door with a single finger, which caused the lock to slide open with a mechanical click and allowed the two to stroll into the office.

Lacey, who was busying herself inside, got a bit of a fright at the unexpected appearance of these two.

How did they manage to get in here while the door was clearly locked from inside? I didn't hear any sound of the lock being picked at all.

Lacey got onto her feet and regarded the pair warily.

"Are you with Blue Empyrean Logistics? Whoever allowed you in here?"

Lacey had yet to be able to identify them past the headwear and masks they had on.

That had Sheldon grinning. "You must have met too many people to not remember me, Ms. Hinton. Should I feel disappointed at how quickly you have forgotten about me?"

Hearing that voice caused all the nerves throughout Lacey's body to tighten up.

"Sheldon. You're Sheldon Guerrero! H-How dare you show your face here at Linton Group!"

Sheldon removed his cap and mask to reveal himself. "That's right. Not only have I the guts to come to Linton Group, but I'm also going to really make my presence felt here today."

Lacey flew into an immediate rage. "Hmph! I think that it must have been too long since you were last reminded of what pain actually felt like. You ought to know that Zeke isn't going to let you off for this."

Sheldon chuckled, "Hah! Do you figure that we haven't done our due diligence before calling on you? Zeke just left in a hurry, and I reckon that he won't be back for a while. Besides, so what if he returns, eh? Would he be a match for my master?"

Master?

Lacey looked at the man beside Sheldon curiously.

That must be Sheldon's master, but why would the boss of Intercontinental Group possibly bow to anyone else? What sort of character is this master of his?

At that moment, the Guardian of Mount Kush also removed his disguise. He went up to the window and peered out toward the east.

Then, he exclaimed, "The purple light rises. Fortuna flourishes! What splendid Fortuna this is!"

Fortuna!

Lacey's heart skipped a beat.

Although she did not have a concrete grasp of what Fortuna was, she had heard Zeke mention it often enough to know how vital Fortuna was to Eurasia.

Could Sheldon and his master be here for Fortuna? No. I can't allow them to

get what they want.

The thought of that spurred Lacey to make a dash for the outside. As she ran, she shouted, "Somebody, help..."

Stupid b*tch!

Enraged, Sheldon chased Lacey down in an attempt to strike her in the face.

What he had not expected was for a handful of worms to suddenly fly off Lacey's body. Swift as lightning, they darted toward Sheldon and fired themselves unerringly into the unguarded Sheldon's face.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Once they made contact with the skin on Sheldon's face, they immediately exploded. Despite their lack of size, the magnitude of the blast they brought to bear was anything but, reducing Sheldon's face to an indistinguishable palette of gore upon impact.

Screaming in pain, he clutched his face and writhed around on the ground in agony.

His heart-rending wails made the hairs of any would-be observer stand on end. "My face, oh, my face... What is this? What the f*ck is this thing?"

Those that attacked Sheldon were the aegis worms Dawn had gifted to Lacey. Once a threat to Lacey's person was detected, these critters would come alive and be spurred into retaliation against her would-be attackers.

The color drained from Lacey's face at the sight of Sheldon's horrific predicament, for she had not expected those pretty multichromatic insects to pack such destructive potency.

Wouldn't I be killed if they were to ever blow up on me?

The Guardian of Mount Kush glared at Sheldon in scorn. "Witless fool. How could you not have expected Zeke to have some defensive countermeasures left in place on Lacey? You can't harm her for now, or you may risk alerting Zeke to our presence."

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Sole Wolf reacted swiftly. He shot forward to hold Killer Wolf. "Killer Wolf, wake

up! Wake up now!"

Before Killer Wolf even opened his eyes, he growled, "Who is it? Get out here right now!"

With that, he began thrashing violently and was even ready to hurt someone.

Clearly, Killer Wolf had yet to fully come to his senses.

Zeke hurriedly shouted, "Heed my command, Killer Wolf!"

As if those five words were a spell, the initially crazed Killer Wolf instantly calmed down.

He then leaped to his feet like a spring and saluted Zeke. "General Cosmopolis, Killer Wolf, heeds your command!"

Zeke continued, "Killer Wolf, snap back to your senses."

It was then Killer Wolf finally opened his eyes and warily scanned his surroundings.

When he realized there were no enemies around, he let out a heavy sigh of relief and mumbled, "Zeke. So, it's you all."

Zeke then asked, "Killer Wolf, you still have some remnants of negative energy in your body. Use your energy to force it out first."

Negative energy?

Upon hearing that, Killer Wolf could not help but shudder. "The negative energy is strong."

As a terrified look crossed his face, his eyes drifted toward the bottom of Unholy Valley.

Zeke hastily asked, "Killer Wolf, tell me what happened to you? How did you come to a place like this?"

Killer Wolf began recollecting what happened.

"I was grievously injured after escaping Golden Sands Mountain. I was barely conscious of anything around me as I fled north. Midway, I sensed something strange. It interfered with my consciousness. I was too hurt back then to resist it, so I was led to this place. I vaguely remember a sudden wave of powerful negative energy from the

bottom of Unholy Valley surrounding me just as I came here. I tried to resist, but that wave of negative energy was too strong. I failed. The wave of negative

energy soon took over my consciousness, and I passed out. By the time I woke up again, you were already here."

Zeke looked at the bottom of Unholy Valley and fell into deep thoughts. "A strong wave of negative energy?"

Killer Wolf nodded in affirmation. "Yes. As for how powerful it is... Let's put it this way. The most powerful Netherworldian we've encountered so far is Daemonium.

However, I sensed that the person at the bottom of Unholy Valley is stronger than Daemonium by perhaps two or three times...

Killer Wolf's words made everyone gasp.

Daemonium by himself was already powerful enough. Even Zeke had needed the help of Ossa Dei to kill Daemonium.

Yet, Killer Wolf was telling them that the person at the bottom of Unholy Valley was several times mightier than Daemonium.

Zeke then walked over to the edge of the cliff and looked downward.

"My master once told me that he has set up a Soul Pinion Formation at the bottom of Unholy Valley to trap a demon of a person there. Apparently, that person is a terrifying being and a disaster to Eurasia. If he comes into the world, Eurasia will certainly be annihilated. If my guess isn't wrong, the negative energy that was controlling Killer Wolf should be that person's."

The people's faces paled.

Zeke's master must be someone even more powerful than the Great Marshal himself.

Therefore, they could only begin to imagine how mighty the Soul Pinion Formation he had set up was. However, the trapped person within that Soul Pinion Formation could still release negative energy to control those above Unholy Valley, so they could not begin to comprehend how powerful that person was.

Zeke then let out a wave of energy that entered Unholy Valley to explore the place.

Right then, Sole Wolf tentatively asked, "Zeke, why didn't your master kill the person once and for all back then instead of Trapping him in the Unholy Valley?"

Zeke sighed. "It wasn't that my master didn't want to do it, but that he was

not powerful enough back then to kill him."

If the Great Marshal's master didn't have enough power to kill him... The crowd's hearts lurched.

For the first time, they could see how they were worlds apart from the ones who wielded great power.

Zeke, who was exploring the bottom of Unholy Valley with his energy, suddenly cried out, "Oh no!"

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What's wrong?

The others' hearts leaped into their throats.

Zeke then said, "I don't sense the Soul Pinion Formation in the bottom of the valley; I only sense the remnants of it."

In a shaky voice, Ares muttered, "Great Marshal, do you mean that... the person might have destroyed the formation and escaped?"

Zeke inclined his head. "It's very likely."

The crowd panicked.

Eurasia was suffering many troubles, and they were already stretched thin with the things they had to do. If the person at the bottom of Unholy Valley were to come out at a time like this...

Eurasia was bound for much tougher times.

Zeke went on. "Also, I sensed something familiar down there. It's Warren! He must be involved in the breaking of the Soul Pinion Formation and the escape of the demon!"

Hearing that, the others gritted out, "He's horrible! We really should've killed him back then."

Zeke uttered, "I now have a question I'm thinking about. Since the demon has escaped, he clearly had a chance to kill Killer Wolf, so why didn't he do it?"

Sole Wolf replied, "Could it be that the demon didn't know who Killer Wolf was? Maybe he thought Killer Wolf was just a passerby, so he ignored him?"

Ares shook his head. "No. Even if he doesn't know who Killer Wolf is, how can Warren not? Warren will never pass up on an opportunity to end Killer Wolf's

life.”

All of a sudden, Zeke said, "Distraction."

The others turned to look at him in confusion. "Distraction?"

Zeke explained, "This might be their way to distract us. They used Killer Wolf to lure us here so that they'll be able to create a window of opportunity to harm Lacey! Lacey's foretold doom might be that demon! D*mn it, we've been tricked! We're going back right now!"

Upon hearing that Lacey had foretold doom, the group became even more anxious than Zeke as they swiftly returned the way they came from.

No one knew better than them how important Lacey was to Zeke. As a matter of fact, it would not be an exaggeration to say that Zeke thought of her as far more important than himself.

Zeke would be far more devastated if anything were to happen to Lacey than if anything happened to him. If that happened, and Zeke could not recompose himself anymore, Eurasia would begin walking its final path to doom.

Furthermore, Lacey was nice to them all, and she was the daughter of Ares. Naturally, they would also be concerned about Lacey's safety.

In the meantime, at Linton Group, the thunder and lightning did not last long before they came to a stop.

Then, the dark clouds parted, and the sun shone on the land again. Even a beautiful rainbow appeared.

If one were to take a closer look at it, one would notice a pure ray of holy light descending toward the people among the rays of sunlight.

It was the Fortuna.

Those who saw that ray of Fortune Regardless of whether they were an adult or a child, man or woman-would feel relaxed and at ease. Even the thoughts in their minds would become more intellectual.

Just a glance, and the effect was already so intense. One could imagine what benefits that ray of Fortuna would bring if one were to absorb it.

It was evident how powerful the Fortuna was.

It was so powerful to the point ordinary people, and even ordinary warriors, would not be able to hold it in themselves. If they forcibly tried to take it in,

they would explode.

Even Zeke had trouble absorbing one of the Fortunas, and he suffered through immeasurable torment because of it.

At Lacey's office, The Guardian of Mount Kush was thrilled beyond words as he looked at the stream of Fortuna.

He took in a deep breath, but he still could not stop his heart from thumping loudly against his ribcage. "This is amazing! This stream of Fortuna is unbelievably strong! I'm here now. This ray of Fortuna shall belong to me!"

With that said, he released a strong wave of mental energy, ready to devour that descending ray of Fortuna.

At the same time, Erebus, who was at the bottom of the building, was equally elated by the sight of the stream of Fortuna.

It was dozens of times stronger than he expected it to be.

This is the perfect time for me to devour this ray of Fortuna.

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Erebus' grand wave of negative energy then shot up into the sky toward the ray of Fortuna.

Coincidentally, The Guardian of Mount Kush's mental energy encountered Erebus' negative energy just as both were about to devour the ray of Fortuna.

Instantly, alarm bells began ringing in their heads. They realized that they were not the only ones after the Fortuna.

Without dwelling on it any further, The Guardian of Mount Kush's mental energy shot toward Erebus' negative energy.

At that, Erebus ignored the ray of Fortuna. to counterattack The Guardian of Mount Kush's mental energy.

Boom!

After a thunderous noise, The Guardian of Mount Kush's mental energy exploded alongside Erebus' negative energy before both dissipated.

The explosion even twisted space itself, and the shockwave blew the clouds in the sky away.

Fortunately, the civilians only assumed the noise as a crash of thunder and

did not think much of it.

The Guardian of Mount Kush fumed. "D*mn it! How dare this person try to compete against me for the Fortuna? They're far too bold! Let me see who you really are today!"

With that, The Guardian of Mount Kush leaped out of the window and flew to the top of the building.

"Get out here right now!" The Guardian of Mount Kush sent his mental energy in all directions.

Only the powerful could sense his mental energy, and Erebus was certainly one of them.

When he sensed The Guardian of Mount Kush's mental energy, he snapped, "How dare you compete against me for Fortuna and even speak impolitely with me! You must die!"

At that, he jumped to the top of the building with Warren as well.

Erebus was faster than the speed of sound,

so the people did not even see them soaring in the air.

Otherwise, his action would have astounded the entire world.

Just as they landed on the rooftop, they saw The Guardian of Mount Kush.

Erebus coldly uttered, "I don't care who you are, but this ray of Fortuna is mine. Anyone who tries to steal it from me will die, so I'd say it's best for you to leave now."

The Guardian of Mount Kush let out a snort. "Honestly, what you're saying is what I'm thinking. If you want to steal this ray of Fortuna from me, you'll have to pay with your life!"

Erebus began laughing. "Haha! Life? I've already died two hundred years ago! What life can I have? You're actually using this to threaten me? You're too naive!"

Oh?

The Guardian of Mount Kush's interest was piqued. "You've lost your life a long time ago? Could it be that you're a Netherworldian?"

Erebus grinned. "That's right. I'm Elder Erebus of Netherworld."

The Guardian of Mount Kush barked out a mocking laugh at that. "And here I

wondered who you were. As it turns out, you're just a loser!"

His words enraged Erebus. "Shut it! You and I have only exchanged one blow. Our match hasn't yielded any results yet, so how can you say that I'm the loser?"

The Guardian of Mount Kush replied, "As far as I know, the Netherworldians tried to enter the Secret Realm of Mount Kush the other day, but they were all stopped outside by the barrier set up by the Kush Clan. What are you but losers, then?" Warren gasped. "You're from the Kush Clan?"

The Guardian of Mount Kush nodded. "That is correct."

At that confirmation, Warren began studying The Guardian of Mount Kush from head to toe.

To ordinary people, the Kush Clan was a mysterious entity, one even more mysterious than the Netherworld.

In fact, it was Warren's first time encountering someone from the Kush Clan.

They don't seem any different from normal people.

However, what Warren did not know was that the person in front of him was not a man of the Kush Clan at all. It was only the Kush Clan's consciousness residing in a normal man's body.

Erebus then turned to ask Warren, "Does he speak the truth?"

Warren answered, "My godfather had indeed brought us to Mount Kush the other time, but we were stopped by the barrier outside."

"You useless trash!"

Erebus lost his temper and swung a fist at Warren in response. Warren was sent flying, and he nearly fell off the building.

He only managed to save himself by grabbing the edge of the building in time.

Cold sweat drenched Warren in no time. How dangerous it is to accompany a king! My life is in perpetual danger when I'm beside a crazily powerful person like Elder Erebus.

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Erebus snarled, "You're really a piece of trash! You can't even break past one of

your opponent's barriers. You've embarrassed me!"

Warren climbed back onto the rooftop with difficulty before getting on his knees. "Elder Erebus, please forgive me! Please! There's a misunderstanding here. It's not that we couldn't break through Kush Clan's barrier, but that we were attacked by a group of warriors from Eurasia led by the Great Marshal before heading to the Secret Realm of Mount Kush. I'm sure you can imagine what it's like to be surrounded and assaulted by a group of warriors from Eurasia. It's already a miracle we managed to escape them. Nevertheless, although we escaped them, we were severely injured. Naturally, we wouldn't be able to break their barrier after that. The truth is that, if we were to head to the secret realm when we were at our peak state, we would have broken the barrier with ease."

Erebus raised his brows in understanding. "I see. Hmph! Here I was wondering why my disciple is so weak."

At that, Warren wiped the cold sweat off his forehead as his heartbeat slowed down.

He was glad that he was smart enough to come up with a lie to salvage some of Netherworld's reputation. Otherwise, Erebus might really end his life there and then.

However, The Guardian of Mount Kush did not believe him at all. "Only a three-year old would believe a lie like that. Just admit it if you're not strong enough. Why must you look for excuses?"

Warren hastily said, "Elder Erebus, my godfather, Daemonium, was hurt by Eurasia's warriors and then by the barrier at the Secret Realm of Mount Kush. That's why the Great Marshal had the opportunity to kill him. Technically, this man's also partly responsible for the death of my godfather. Please, Elder Erebus, avenge my godfather!"

Erebus huffed. "Hmph! The fact that he has the guts to compete for the Fortuna with me has already marked him a dead man! I might as well avenge Daemonium while I'm at it."

It was a bold statement.

The Guardian of Mount Kush roared, "Who knows who'll end up dead by the end of today? Take this!"

The fight began.

Warriors like them had long achieved Celestial Class. In fact, some were even above Celestial Class. Naturally, they would not engage in a close combat

battle.

The Guardian of Mount Kush unleashed his mental energy while Erebus unleashed his negative energy. The two waves of energy collided midair.

Mental energy and negative energy were their most powerful attacks. Whoever lasted longer would emerge as the victor.

Both waves of energy crashed into each other, releasing a shockwave that was on the same level as one released by a nuclear explosion.

The space itself was tearing, and the air was blowing away all the clouds.

It was as if the end of the world had come.

Fortunately, both had set up a barrier that enclosed their battlefield into a small space so that the shockwaves of their attacks would not affect their surroundings.

Otherwise, everyone within the area would be dead.

Of course, that was not for the sake of Eurasia's citizens; it was only because they were worried that Eurasia would hold them accountable if the destruction they caused was too massive.

Eurasia was the sleeping lion of the east. If they were to enrage Eurasia, it would definitely utilize the nation's power to come after them and decimate them.

Of course, Eurasia would suffer a huge loss. as well.

There was a reason Eurasia had not utilized the nation's power to go after them all those years- the price they would have to pay would be far too great.

Boom! Boom!

The enclosed space within the battlefield was already nothing like its original state. Despite that, the winner remained undecided.

If the battle continued, both parties would end up suffering.

Furthermore, the Fortuna had been stunned by their mighty display of power and was starting to show signs of leaving.

Upon attaining a certain amount of power, the Fortuna would develop a mind of its own.

When The Guardian of Mount Kush saw that the Fortuna was about to leave, he panicked. "Stop! Stop! We can't fight anymore!"

Erebus taunted, "Are you afraid? What a worthless man! Get lost if you are. I'll spare your life."

"Bullsh*t!" The Guardian of Mount Kush cursed. "You're the one who's f*cking scared! Open your d*mn eyes and take a good look at the scene. Our fight is about to frighten off the ray of Fortuna! None of us will be able to get it if that happens. If the two of us fight until the end, and if Zeke comes now, he'll reap the benefits without doing anything at all. We might even have trouble staying alive by then!"

Chapter 2440

Erebus also realized the seriousness of the situation and hurriedly said, "Okay, I'll call out one, two, three. Let's stop attacking together."

"Fine!"

"One... Two... Three!"

Both of them withdrew their attacks at the same time, and the scene was finally quiet again.

Looking at the Fortuna suspended in midair, hesitating to descend, Erebus uttered, "I used a ploy to lead Zeke away. He should've found out that it's a scam by now and should be on his way back. We don't have much time left. Tell me. How should we quickly decide the winner and determine who absorbs the Fortuna?"

The Guardian of Mount Kush replied, "How about this? Let me devour this ray of Fortuna. When the next one arrives, I'll help you devour it."

Enraged, Erebus yelled, "To hell with you! Do you take me for a fool to believe that you'll help us after we help you devour the Fortuna this time and you've gotten stronger? Who knows? You might even steal the next ray of Fortuna from us too!"

The Guardian of Mount Kush scoffed. "The Kush Clan is different from you lot. We never go back on our words -"

"Cut the cr*p. You might as well let my Netherworld swallow Fortuna, and when the next one appears, we'll help you," Erebus interrupted.

Naturally, the Guardian of Mount Kush did not agree.

Just as they were at a stalemate, Erebus suddenly muttered that something was wrong.

"What is it?" Warren hurriedly asked.

Since Erebus had said so, something terrible was definitely about to happen.

"I can sense that Killer Wolf is rapidly approaching our direction. If my guess is right, Zeke must've noticed that it was a ploy to lure him away and is quickly making his way back," Erebus

replied.

Panic struck Warren upon hearing that. "We don't have time to waste, then. We must quickly think of a solution."

It was the Guardian of Mount Kush who ultimately spoke up. "Why don't we go with this? None of us will devour this ray of Fortuna. Let Lacey do it instead. Once she has done it, we'll take her away to buy us some time. Then we'll battle, and whoever wins gets to devour the Fortuna within her. What do you think?"

"Hmm, that's not a bad idea. But Lacey is an ordinary human being. How can she withstand Fortuna?" Erebus questioned.

The Guardian of Mount Kush explained, "I'm sure you have no idea of this, but Lacey is an ultra female, which is a perfect match with Zeke's ultra male. The two have the same lifeline and similar auras. Since Fortuna has an innate affinity with Zeke, it'll naturally have the same with Lacey. Hence, it'll be much gentler and won't take her life once it has integrated into her body."

Erebus nodded in approval. "This is indeed a good idea. All right. Let's go with what you've suggested."

"Sure." With that, a part of the Guardian of Mount Kush's consciousness swept into Lacey's office downstairs.

Under the guidance of this powerful consciousness, Lacey slowly "floated" up to the roof of the building from the window.

She immediately noticed Warren upon arriving at the rooftop and instinctively mistook him for Zeke.

"Why are you here, Zeke? Didn't you go out to handle some matters?"

Warren chuckled lewdly. "I didn't get to sleep with you last time, little tramp, so I definitely won't let you go this time. Just wait. I'll give you an unforgettable experience tonight!" Lacey's face lost all color when she realized that the man before her was not Zeke but his impersonator.

"You... You're that impersonator! How dare you come back! Zeke will definitely take your life when he gets back. You'd better leave the Linton Group immediately."

Warren responded, "Of course, I will leave, but before I do, I'll take you with me too. I wouldn't want to miss the chance of claiming such a lovely young lady."

"Y-You..." Lacey blanched with anger.

"Cut the cr*p. Time is running out. Hurry up and guide Fortuna down with me," Erebus commented.

"All right!"

With that, the Guardian of Mount Kush, Erebus, and Warren began guiding Fortuna down from the sky together.

Chapter 2441

Under the guidance of the trio's formidable powers, Fortuna descended rapidly with the instinctive desire to integrate into Lacey's body.

As soon as it approached Lacey, the latter felt a crushing pressure and involuntarily fell to one knee, panting heavily while looking flushed.

She felt as though her body was about to be crushed, and it was excruciating.

"Save me... Save me..." Lacey subconsciously cried out.

Just as the Fortuna was about to bear down on Lacey, a spirit suddenly sprang out of her body and crashed straight into the approaching Fortuna.

A closer look revealed that it was in the shape of a dragon.

It was Zeke's Fortuna that he had temporarily integrated into Lacey's body to deal with this kind of critical situation. Just as the Guardian of Mount Kush had predicted, how could Zeke not arrange some means of self-defense on Lacey?

As the two Fortunas collided, the other Fortuna retreated several meters, whereas Zeke's Fortuna also received a heavy rebound, hitting the ground and smashing a big hole on the roof.

The figure of Zeke's dragon Fortuna became much more transparent, and it was clear that he was seriously injured.

Cough, cough! The dragon kept coughing as he shouted at the other Fortuna, "We are born from the same root, Fortuna, so why should we torment each other so cruelly? Be considerate and let me devour you, okay? Don't worry. I'll definitely treat you well in the future."

However, the other Fortuna did not have a strong mind of its own and did not understand the words of the dragon Fortuna at all, so it bore down on the latter again.

Seeing this, the dragon Fortuna panicked. "All right. I've lost, okay? Just retreat. I admit that I can't beat you."

However, not only did his words not have any effect, it made the other Fortuna press down even harder.

The Guardian of Mount Kush and Erebus looked at the dragon Fortuna while feeling overjoyed.

Haha! What a fruitful day! We even forced out Zeke's Fortuna! Although his dragon isn't as strong as this ray of Fortuna, its advantage lies in having a mind of its own, and it would make a powerful helper to carry out autonomous attacks, making it not any worse than this ray of Fortuna.

At that moment, what went through their minds was not to divide both Fortunas among themselves but to claim them both.

After all, a human's greed and desires were endless.

Seeing that the other Fortuna was about to press down on Lacey, the dragon Fortuna could only grit his teeth, gather all his strength, and fly toward the former again.

This time, he did not choose to meet the other Fortuna head-on but to use his entire body to hold back the latter.

However, the dragon appeared to be too weak as his efforts merely slowed the descent of the other Fortuna that was about to press down on Lacey,

He also noticed that even with such a distance, Lacey already could not bear it and had fainted on the spot.

The dragon Fortuna looked up to the sky and roared, "D*mn it! I can't take it anymore. Hurry back and back me up, Zeke!"

Meanwhile, the aforementioned man, who was thousands of miles away, suddenly sensed a disturbance in his mind.

He vaguely recognized that it was his Fortuna resonating with his consciousness, pulsing with a sense of danger.

Zeke's heart began to beat furiously. Something must've happened to Lacey. This d*mn distraction!

He immediately said to the others, "Lacey is in danger. I'll head back first. You guys do your best to rush back."

"Got it!"

They panicked and could not help but quicken their pace upon hearing that Lacey was in trouble.

Despite running at full speed, Zeke still thought it was not fast enough.

He communicated with Ossa Dei and said, "Ossa Dei! Help me quickly, Ossa Dei!"

However, Ossa Dei was a little reluctant and scoffed. "Hmph! You said you would take me to meet those of the Dragon Bloodline. Why did you fail to keep your word and still won't let me see them?"

Hearing that, Zeke chided himself inwardly. Oh no! I've been too busy lately and totally forgot about this matter!

Chapter 2442

In actuality, Dawn is of the Dragon Bloodline.

I merely forgot to tell Ossa Dei about it.

"Don't worry. When we return, I'll definitely introduce you to someone from the Dragon Bloodline," Zeke quickly replied.

However, Ossa Dei remarked coldly, "Hah! Do you think I can't sense it if you don't say it? To be honest, I've detected long ago that Dawnie is of the Dragon Bloodline."

Zeke was utterly surprised. "If that's the case, why didn't you merge with her?"

Ossa Dei replied indifferently, "It wasn't the right time. When it's time, I'll personally search for the Dragon Bloodline. Only one of their bloodline is worthy of my noble identity."

Zeke did not inquire if the time was right, merely uttering, "It's extremely urgent, Ossa Dei. I urgently need your help now. Hurry! Help me increase my speed. I'll reward you handsomely once this is over."

"All right!" Ossa Dei did not nag this time and exuded its full strength to boost Zeke's speed.

The latter was already running at the speed of sound, and with Ossa Dei's current boost, his speed became several times faster.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that it was teleportation.

Along the way, Ossa Dei had mixed emotions.

In truth, it was not that it was unwilling to merge with one from the Dragon Bloodline, but purely because it could not.

Just yesterday, Ossa Dei was shocked upon discovering that it had unknowingly become part of Zeke's body.

In other words, the man's body had forcibly merged with a part of it without its knowledge.

Now that a part of Ossa Dei had become one with Zeke, it could not leave him at all, so how could it run off to merge with someone from the Dragon Bloodline?

If he can absorb a part of me without me being aware of it, Zeke must be of extraordinary

origin, and his physique is far superior to mine. Of course, it would also surpass those of the Dragon Bloodline by a large margin.

Ossa Dei realized that the man was most likely the descendant of a prominent figure in ancient times.

It then communicated with Zeke telepathically. "Let me ask you, Zeke. Do you think your physique is different from ordinary people?"

"I'm an extremely rare ultra male," Zeke replied casually.

Ossa Dei shook its head. "No, it's not just being an ultra male. Was your ancestor a prominent figure in ancient times?"

Being an ultra male alone is not enough to absorb a part of me without my knowledge.

"I've no idea," Zeke replied.

Ossa Dei let its imagination roam.

Zeke's surname is Williams. Which prominent figure in ancient times had that surname? Gosh! Could it be him? Impossible, absolutely impossible! He perished thousands of years ago. Even if his bloodline has survived many generations, it should've been diluted badly by now, and it would never foster such a noble physique. I must've gotten it wrong.

Zeke was unaware of Ossa Dei's thoughts and just desperately rushed back.

All he could think of was that if he went back a second earlier, Lacey had a higher chance of getting out of danger...

Over at Linton Group, Zeke's dragon Fortuna was still struggling to fight back against the other Fortuna.

Rather than saying he was fighting back, it was more fitting to use the term "being crushed" as that was what the other Fortuna was doing to him.

The latter's systematical descent only made the desperate resistance of the Fortuna in dragon form look ever more childish and ridiculous as it hardly had any effect on the other Fortuna.

Crack!

One of the dragon's bones was crushed, causing him to roar in pain. Despite that, he still did not dare to slack off and persisted with gritted teeth. Slack off and persisted with gritted teeth.

I can't give up. As soon as I give up resisting, the Fortuna will descend upon Lacey, and she'll die. If that happens, Zeke will skin me alive! That man regards her as more important than his own life!

Looking down at Lacey, he noticed that she was still in shock.

Even her mouth and nose were bleeding from the powerful aura of the

Fortuna, which had evidently caused her serious internal injuries.

The dragon roared at her, "Run, Lacey! Hurry! I can't take it anymore... Zeke, why the hell aren't you back yet!"

Chapter 2443

However, his efforts were futile. Lacey was in a state of shock and could not regain her senses.

The dragon Fortuna was getting desperate.

Crack!

Another of his bones broke, causing him to hurl curses in pain, and blood started to spurt from his nose and mouth.

"Fortuna, stop resisting and just give up." The Guardian of Mount Kush and Erebus persuaded, "There's no way you can handle this Fortuna. It's much stronger than the previous ones. Come and fuse with me. I promise I won't treat you badly! What do you get by following Zeke? Aren't you just giving your life to his woman in the end? Don't worry. As long as you follow me, you'll have all the glory, wealth, and power you want."

"Cut the cr*p! You only know how to make empty promises. If you're so capable, show some sincerity now," the dragon spat.

The Guardian of Mount Kush and Erebus were overjoyed to see that it was showing signs of submission.

"Fine. Let's hear it. What should we do to show our sincerity? Just say it. As long as we can do it now, we will definitely do it."

"All right. Since you said so, I'll have to trouble you guys to help me hold back this ray of Fortuna. Not for long, just until Zeke returns," the dragon Fortuna replied.

"Y-You..."

The two were instantly furious, feeling that the dragon was toying with them.

Just as the dragon Fortuna was in despair that the other Fortuna was about to press down on Lacey, a black figure suddenly arrived in a flash.

Everyone took a closer look. Who else could it be but Zeke?

The Guardian of Mount Kush and Erebus' hearts instantly skipped a beat. Sh*t! We're in trouble!

They exchanged glances and began speaking telepathically.

"Let's get rid of Zeke first, then take Lacey and Fortuna away. "

"Deal!"

The two came to a consensus.

Although Zeke had merged with Ossa Dei and his strength had greatly increased, the two were convinced that if they joined forces, he was still no match for them.

Upon seeing Zeke, the dragon Fortuna finally saw a glimmer of hope. "Zeke, you heartless creature! You finally came back! Hurry! I can't take it anymore!"

This scene before Zeke angered him immensely.

Lacey was about to be crushed by the stream of Fortuna, while his dragon Fortuna had also broken several bones and might collapse at any time. Moreover, the Guardian of Mount Kush and

Erebus were still pressuring them.

You b*stards! How dare you mess around in Eurasia! Especially Erebus. He must perish today! If he hadn't held Killer Wolf hostage and lured me away, Lacey wouldn't have to suffer so much! If I hadn't left my Fortuna within her, she would've died by now!

Crack!

Another of the dragon Fortuna's bones was crushed.

The other Fortuna, on the other hand, was merely half a meter away from Lacey by then.

Without a second of delay, Zeke rushed toward the latter, intending to integrate the ray of Fortuna before fighting to the death with the Guardian of Mount Kush and Erebus.

How could the two allow that to happen?

"Stop him, Elder Erebus. We mustn't let him integrate with this ray of Fortuna. If he succeeds, we'll be no match for him!" the Guardian of Mount Kush cried.

Erebus responded, "Stop him! Don't let him get close to Fortuna. We just need to intercept him for half a minute, and then it will descend on Lacey. With that, our road to victory is secured."

The two immediately unleashed their powers to intercept Zeke.

The Guardian of Mount Kush's mental energy attack, combined with Erebus' negative energy, formed two barriers, preventing Zeke from approaching Fortuna.

Die!

The latter immediately activated Ossa Dei and unleashed his maximum power to attack the two barriers.

Boom! Boom!

The explosions were never-ending, and the fabric of space kept collapsing and mending incessantly.

Even the approaching Fortuna was shaken by the powerful blasts. A shocking scene happened.

Zeke had managed to smash right through the Guardian of Mount Kush and Erebus' barriers, forming two large holes in them.

Chapter 2444

How powerful!

The look on the Guardian of Mount Kush and Erebus' faces changed drastically.

Despite them being Celestial Class warriors, they could not believe that Zeke's attack alone could consecutively break their barriers.

Is he still in the Celestial Class? I think he has surpassed that stage!

Of course, they knew very well that the power Zeke had unleashed was not his alone, but also that of Ossa Dei.

Ossa Dei truly lives up to its reputation.

Warren yelled from the side, "Erebus, my godfather, Daemonium, found Ossa Dei first. Never did we expect Zeke to snatch it from our hands. We must take it back and avenge my godfather!"

Desire was written all over Erebus' face. "Legend has it that Ossa Dei is the remains of an ancient god. Its powers are indeed incredible! Guardian of Mount Kush, help me to obtain it, and this ray of Fortuna is yours. How about that?"

Ossa Dei and this ray of Fortuna are of equal value!

"Deal!" the Guardian of Mount, Kush replied.

Zeke wanted to lunge at Fortuna through the spatial hole he had blasted out, but the Guardian of Mount Kush and Erebus once again unleashed their immense powers and sealed it.

"Charge!"

Erebus looked at the vague outline of Ossa Dei on Zeke's right arm with burning desire.

This time, he took the lead in the attack, unleashing overwhelming negative energy that rolled like heavenly thunder as it swept toward Zeke.

The icy-cold negative energy condensed the air, forming snow that flew across the sky, making a spectacular scene.

"Help me, Guardian of Mount Kush!" Erebus shouted angrily.

The Guardian of Mount Kush also immediately unleashed powerful mental energy and sent it flying toward Zeke.

However, the latter showed no fear and swung his fist again, exerting his full strength.

He smashed the fabric of space itself, and the spatial turbulence raged everywhere, surging

toward Erebus' negative energy and the Guardian of Mount Kush's mental energy.

The sound of the ensuing collision was deafening as cracks appeared in the fabric of space. Where they were was no longer the human world.

"What is that?" Just as the two sides were at a stalemate, the dragon Fortuna suddenly roared in horror.

What's going on?

The trio instinctively shifted their attention, and when they looked in the direction that the dragon Fortuna was looking, they were instantly dumbfounded.

In mid-air, a "hand" was coming toward them.

It was extremely fast. At first, it was merely a black dot, but in the blink of an eye, it became the size of an adult.

When it drew close to them, that hand had already covered the sky and blocked off the sun, looking like a five-fingered mountain that fell from the sky.

That was not the most important thing.

What was more pressing was that the pressure the hand unleashed had suppressed every person present!

Indeed, all three Celestial Class warriors, the most powerful among their class, were overwhelmed by the aura of that hand.

An inexplicable fear rose within the trio, who felt as though they had seen their mortal enemy.

What exactly is this hand? It seems several levels more powerful than a Celestial Class. And it's only a hand. If the full body appears...

They all shuddered at the mere thought of it.

While they were still in a daze, the hand waved slightly, releasing a strange airflow that instantly wrapped around Zeke, the Guardian of Mount Kush, and Erebus, immobilizing them.

Moreover, their energy, negative energy, and mental energy were also sealed off.

After that, it reached Fortuna and Lacey.

Zeke's heart sank. Oh, no! It looks like the hand is going to abduct Fortuna and Lacey!

He struggled desperately but the airflow imprisoning him was too strong. He could barely wiggle, much less unleash any attack.

Zeke was utterly devastated and shouted, "Who are you? How dare you mess around in Eurasia! My country will show no mercy on you!"

The large hand let out a snicker with a tone full of contempt, not bothered the slightest by Zeke's

threat.

Seeing that the hand was about to take the Fortuna away, the Guardian of Mount Kush and Erebus were enraged. "Sir, you should know that first come, first served. We discovered this ray of Fortuna first. Isn't it inappropriate for you to take it away like this?"

Chapter 2445

"Haha!"

A burst of scornful laughter sounded, and it was definitely ridiculing them.

Finally, the huge hand grabbed onto the Fortuna.

In front of the huge hand, the ray of Fortuna didn't show the slightest sign of resistance. Instead, it just willingly let the huge hand grab onto it.

After grabbing the Fortuna tightly, the huge hand took Lacey as well before retreating.

"Lacey!" Zeke shouted angrily.

Not under my watch! There was no way Zeke would let anything harm the person he loved.

Turning his anger into power, he kept struggling. He even used his life force.

At last, he managed to break free from the airflow constricting him, and then he was chasing after the huge hand.

The huge hand snickered once more before it flicked Zeke away with just a finger.

Although the finger didn't come into contact with Zeke, the shockwave sent him flying a few kilometers away.

Initially, The Guardian of Mount Kush and Erebus wanted to fight back. However, they changed their minds immediately after seeing what had happened to Zeke. The opposition sent the Great Marshal, who has the Ossa Dei, flying with just a flick! We're definitely not strong enough to fight it.

In the blink of an eye, the huge hand disappeared.

Meanwhile, the invisible force binding Zeke and the other two also vanished.

Upon regaining their freedom, The Guardian of Mount Kush and Erebus immediately ran in the direction of the huge hand.

At that point, they didn't even bother ganging up on Zeke.

That huge hand had undeniably reminded them of the ancient Gods. Only the ancient Gods have that sort of power, right? If we can find even a trace of the Gods, we'll be able to increase our powers! Once we have that, we won't need the Fortuna or Ossa Dei!

After getting flicked away, Zeke suffered heavy injuries, and he was coughing out mouthfuls of blood.

In fact, he was so weak that he didn't even have the energy to go after the huge hand.

When he gazed in the direction that the huge hand had gone, his eyes were filled with anger and dissatisfaction. "F*ck! What the hell was that? It was so strong! It was a lot stronger than someone in the Celestial Class! Hmph! I don't care. Since it dared to mess around in Eurasia, I'm going to kill it!"

Right then, Zeke, The Guardian of Mount Kush, and Erebus had just realized how insignificant they were. It turns out there's such a ridiculously strong force in existence! Not even a person in the Celestial Class can beat it! There must be a few more levels higher than the Celestial Class. Basically, there will always be someone stronger!

"Zeke, what happened to you?"

"Where's Lacey? Where is she?"

"F*ck! There's a strong wave of negative energy in the area. It has to be someone from the Netherworld!"

"We're too late! Please forgive us, Great Marshal!"

Sole Wolf, Ares, and the others, had finally arrived.

When Sole Wolf saw the blood flowing out from the corners of Zeke's mouth, he was shocked. "You're hurt, Zeke! You're really hurt!"

"How could that be? Daemonium of the Netherworld is already dead, no? Who else is capable of hurting you?"

Upon hearing what Sole Wolf said, the rest were stupefied. With Daemonium dead, who else can harm the Great Marshal? Besides, he's one Ossa Dei away from being the ultimate force.

They couldn't accept the fact that the Great Marshal was injured.

Zeke took a deep breath and said, "One of the Gods harmed me!"

The Gods? The rest were stunned. "What Gods?"

"The Gods themselves!" Zeke answered.

What? The rest were flabbergasted. "Zeke, are you saying that Gods actually exist in this world?"

"The enemy utterly dominated me just now. Only the Gods have that sort of ability!" Zeke answered.

Chapter 2446

As soon as his words fell, the others gasped. Did he just say it had utterly dominated him? He must be kidding!

Zeke looked in the direction where the huge hand had disappeared and said solemnly, "Chase after it!"

Although he knew it was almost impossible for the others to catch up to it, he wasn't ready to just give up. I'm Lacey's last hope! I can't give up!

"Roger that!" Sole Wolf and the others chased after it unhesitatingly.

Obviously, they weren't going to defy their Great Marshal's order.

Zeke wanted to chase after it as well. However, the moment he tried to use his energy, he felt a sharp pain in his body, and he started vomiting blood again. That huge hand seriously injured me, and it even damaged my life force. I can't use my energy anymore. Without it, I'm only a little faster than a normal human.

After taking a deep breath, he had no choice but to give up chasing after the hand. If I continue using my life force to chase after it, I might die. My daughter still needs me. I can't die!

He then looked in the direction where the huge hand had gone and gritted his teeth. "Lacey, don't worry. No matter what, I'll save you! I don't care where that huge hand came from. Since it dared to bully my woman, I must kill it!"

With that, he started limping back home.

The dragon Fortuna coughed out a mouthful of blood and said weakly, "Zeke, don't worry. I doubt Lacey is going to be in any danger."

He had suffered a few broken bones, and his life force was also damaged, leaving him on the brink of death.

"Oh? How are you so sure?" Zeke asked.

"I felt it. When the huge hand was grabbing onto that stream of Fortuna, its grip was tremendously powerful. However, when it was grabbing onto Lacey, its strength decreased by a lot, not anywhere close to being able to hurt her. If it was trying to

harm her, why did it purposely decrease its strength?" Fortuna answered.

Zeke felt slightly relieved. "Yes. You have a point. Yet, why did it want Lacey? She's just an ordinary woman."

The dragon Fortuna smiled wryly in response. "Ordinary? I highly doubt it! Didn't you notice? Even though Lacey was less than a meter away from that

Fortuna, she wasn't the slightest bit injured. Instead, she merely fainted. Ordinary people would've been turned into a human paste and died on the spot! Therefore, she's not an ordinary woman. In my opinion, I think Lacey's background is a lot more. more complicated than we first thought."

Zeke fell into deep thought and nodded. Lacey, what other secrets are you hiding? How I wish you and I could be ordinary. That way, we can live like ordinary people. However, I'm the Great Marshal. There's no way I'll ever live a normal life.

"Fortuna, you've done well in protecting Lacey. I'll reward you handsomely," Zeke uttered.

"Haha! That's not necessary. I was just doing my job. If you insist, you should just give me Ossa Dei," Fortuna replied.

Zeke ignored it and left for his house to see Nelly.

Fortuna simply chuckled in response.

Zeke dragged his tired body back to his house.

After entering, he saw Daniel and Hannah watching the television with Nelly in their arms. The scene was rather harmonious.

Upon seeing Zeke, Nelly quickly got down from the couch and ran toward him. "Carry me, Daddy! Carry me!"

Zeke lifted Nelly into his arms and smiled. "Nelly, have you been a good girl?" Nelly nodded. "Daddy, I've been good. I even helped Grandma with household chores."

Zeke smiled. "Have you been helping around? Good girl! You're all grown up now, Nelly."

Hannah stood up and said, "Zeke, have you eaten? I'll make food for you."

"Thank you, Mom."

While walking away, Hannah mumbled to herself, "This boy... Why is he still so polite? What's there to thank me for?"

Chapter 2447

Zeke felt very guilty when he saw Hannah and Daniel. They trusted me to look after their daughter, but I've failed to do so. I've let them down.

Although Zeke was trying his best to keep calm, Daniel still managed to sense

something amiss.

Being a doctor, he was good at reading a person's expression.

"Daddy, where's Mommy? Why didn't she come back with you?" Nelly asked.

Zeke was slightly startled. "Well... She's working overtime."

Nelly was disappointed. "Mommy is working overtime again? It's okay. At least you're here, Daddy."

Daniel furrowed his brows. After taking a deep breath, he said, "Nelly, go and keep yourself entertained for a while, okay? I need to talk to your daddy."

"No! I want Daddy to carry me!" Nelly answered.

"Be good, Nelly. Your daddy must be tired after a long day's work. Go and keep yourself entertained, okay? I have something important to tell your daddy," Daniel uttered.

"Okay, then. Daddy, play with me later, okay?" Nelly asked.

"Okay!" Zeke kissed Nelly's forehead and put her down.

"Come with me, Zeke," Daniel said.

"All right." Zeke followed Daniel to the balcony.

Daniel then took out a cigarette and gave it to Zeke. "Zeke, answer me honestly, okay? Is Lacey in trouble?"

Zeke answered, "Dad, to be honest, Lacey... is indeed in trouble. She has been kidnapped."

"What?" Daniel's hand trembled so hard that he almost dropped his cigarette.

In response, Zeke quickly said, "Don't worry, Dad. I won't let anything happen to Lacey! I promise you! Besides, Lacey is extremely important to the enemy. They won't hurt her."

Daniel nodded solemnly. "That's good, then."

Although he didn't say much, one could definitely tell that he was heartbroken.

Seeing that, Zeke said, "I'm sorry, Dad. I've failed to look after Lacey and keep her safe. I've failed you guys. Beat me and scold me, Dad. I deserve it."

What a kid. Daniel forced a smile and patted Zeke's shoulder. "Zeke, you're the Great Marshal, and Lacey is your wife. You guys will never be able to live

peacefully. When Lacey chose to be with you, she was bound to face dangers in life. That was her choice, so this is not your fault."

Despite what Daniel said, Zeke was still feeling terrible.

"Time to eat!" Hannah shouted from the living room. "Hey! Dan! Did I not tell you not to smoke in the house? Why don't you listen? Don't you know the harm of secondhand smoke to children? Nelly, come here! Stay away from him!"

"We're coming!" Daniel put out his cigarette and said to Zeke, "Zeke, don't tell Hannah about this. I'm worried that she might overthink."

"Okay."

The two of them put out their cigarettes and headed in casually.

While eating, Hannah suddenly asked, "Zeke, I forgot to ask you about Lacey. Where is she? Why didn't she come home with you?"

Before Zeke could say anything, Daniel hurriedly answered, "Lacey is working overtime. A lot of things are going on in the office."

This girl... Hannah then grumbled, "Is she a workaholic or something? No matter how busy she is, she needs to eat! She needs food to keep working. Don't you think so, Zeke? Here, Zeke. I cooked your favorite dish. Eat up!"

After the meal, Zeke put Nelly to sleep and left home to find Lacey.

Before leaving, though, he needed to make arrangements for the people at home.

Since Daniel and Hannah were getting on in

in years, it could be hard for them to take care of Nelly on their own. Therefore, Zeke wanted to look for Dawn and ask her for help.

When he arrived at Linton Group, he saw Dawn frowning and looking concerned.

Chapter 2448

Seeing that, Zeke grew curious. Logically speaking, she wouldn't know a thing about Lacey's disappearance.

The battle was carried out in a small barrier up above. Nobody outside of it would know anything about what went on inside. The most they would notice was the sound of thunder. Since Dawnie

is usually so carefree, why does she look so troubled now?

Dawn's mood lifted immediately when she saw Zeke. "You're here, Zeke!"

Zeke sat down across from Dawn. "Dawnie, what's wrong? Why do you look so troubled?"

Dawn sighed and answered, "Two of my accountants have suddenly disappeared. Now, the company's accounts are a mess!"

"Oh, I see. It's all right. You just have to hire another two accountants, and they'll come to sort everything out for you," Zeke answered.

In response, Dawn said, "Well, that's just one of the issues I'm having. Zeke, you might find this unbelievable, but I think those two accountants are murderers! If they did murder someone, the Linton Group would be affected as well."

"Murderers?" Zeke asked curiously. "What's going on? Tell me."

Acting all mysterious, Dawn uttered, "After they left, I went to their office to look for some information regarding the company's accounts. However, guess what I found in their drawer!"

After saying that, Dawn couldn't help but feel a chill running down her spine.

"What did you find?" Zeke asked.

"Skeleton hands! A pair of skeleton hands! There were even some blood vessels on the bone, showing they were probably severed not long ago. When I first saw them, they scared me half to death!" Dawn uttered emotionally.

A pair of skeleton hands? For some reason, Zeke immediately thought about the huge hand he had encountered. Is this related to the huge hand that took Lacey?

At that moment, he was still very worked up by the huge hand. Hence, he couldn't help but think about it when something related to a hand was brought up.

As he would soon come to find out, his suspicions were actually valid.

Zeke anxiously said, "Tell me about the skeleton hands!"

"Well, they're just an ordinary pair of human hands."

"Bring me to see them now!"

In response, Dawn answered, "Zeke, we shouldn't go there. I've already reported it to the police, and they've already sealed off the place."

"Dawnie, this is very important to me and isn't a small matter. Bring me there this instant," Zeke said.

Seeing how anxious Zeke was, Dawn knew how important the matter was to him. With a nod, she said, "All right. Let's go. I'll bring you there!"

With that, Dawn brought Zeke to the scene.

At that time, Zeke was overwhelmed by conflicting emotions. If this is related to the huge hand, that means it was a premeditated kidnap!

"Dawnie, when did those two accountants join the company?" Zeke asked.

After deliberating on it, Dawn answered, "Around two years ago."

Two years? They've been hiding in Linton Group for the past two years? How did I not notice anything? F*ck! With that in mind, Zeke asked, "Did those two accountants behave weirdly all this while?"

Dawn thought about it and shook her head. "No. They were like ordinary people."

"When the Linton Group was in trouble, neither of them left. Instead, they suddenly disappeared right after Linton Group was back on its feet. There's definitely something wrong with these two people!"

Dawn nodded. "Exactly! There's definitely something wrong with them. Not only did they kill someone, but they also kept a pair of skeleton hands in the office! That's so weird!"

Soon, they arrived at the office those two accountants worked in.

The office had been sealed off, and the police were busy conducting their investigation there.

Chapter 2449

The moment they wanted to go into the office, a policeman with a goatee stopped them. "Stop right there! This is a crime scene, so no one is allowed to go in."

Dawn quickly explained, "Officer, this is Zeke Williams, the owner of Linton Group. Let him in, okay?"

The police officer shook his head. "I'm sorry, but we're carrying out an investigation and collecting evidence. If we let people in, they might destroy the evidence."

In a deep voice, Zeke said, "Just leave. This case is more than any of you can handle. I'll take over it."

"Pfft!" The police officer couldn't help chuckling. "Excuse me? If the police aren't supposed to handle homicide, what would you have us do? Traffic control? I'm warning you. Leave now and let us do our jobs. Otherwise, I'm going to have you arrested. for obstruction of justice."

Instead of saying anything to the police officer, Zeke whipped out his phone and called the Special Unit. "Take over the homicide case in Linton Group. Get

the policemen here to leave the scene."

The Special Unit had the highest authority in criminal investigations in Eurasia, and it was one of Cygnus Room's branches.

"Understood!" the person on the other end of the phone call answered.

The police officer was amused. "Mr. Williams, who are you kidding? Why must you bluff? Why do you want us off the case? Do you have something to hide? Are you in bed with the murderers?"

Slap!

Without hesitation, Zeke gave the police officer a tight slap across the face. "Do you know that your last sentence can get you and your family killed?"

"B*stard!" the police officer fumed.

The other police officers were angered as well, and they all whipped out their guns and took aim at Zeke. How dare he touch our superior? Is he sick of living?

The police officer with a goatee gritted his teeth. "How dare you assault a policeman?"

Men, arrest him! Since he was stopping us from investigating the case, I strongly believe that he's in cahoots with the murderers. Arrest him!"

"Yes, Sir!" The rest of the police officers moved to arrest Zeke.

Right at that moment, the police officer's phone rang.

In a cold tone, Zeke said, "You better answer it before deciding if you want to arrest me!"

Seeing how confident Zeke was, the police officer was stunned. Is this guy legit? Is that why he's so fearless? Since I'm not in a rush, I should just answer my phone first.

He then waved his men away and said, "Let me take this call first."

Beads of cold sweat dotted the officer's forehead when he saw who was calling him on the phone. It was a call from the highest level of their organization. Normally, I don't even have the authority to talk to them! Why are they calling me all of a sudden? Could this be his doing? If that's the case, I've really screwed up big time.

"Yes, Colonel?" he uttered cautiously.

After a few seconds, the officer's face went pale, and he was sweating bullets. At the same time, his hands were trembling. "All right. Okay. I understand. Thank you!"

After hanging up the phone, the officer saluted Zeke and said, "Mr. Williams, I'm sorry. I've made a huge mistake. We'll leave everything here to you now!"

Zeke glanced at him and said, "Buzz off."

The officer breathed a sigh of relief. "You're truly magnanimous, Mr. Williams! Thank you."

Turning to his men, he yelled, "Let's go!"

The rest of the policemen were stupefied. What on earth is going on here? Our superior has always been a hot-tempered man, and he was just slapped in public. Based on his personality, he should be fighting back! Why did he apologize to the man who just slapped him? What the heck happened?

Chapter 2450

The police officer brought his men out of there and ran downstairs.

It was not until they arrived downstairs that he slowed down and began to pant.

Confused, one of his subordinates asked, "Boss, why did you back down just now? I can tell that the man is a person with influence. However, he's still supposed to abide by the laws in Eurasia, no? He attacked you, so he needs to be punished!"

"Do you know who called me just now?" the police officer retorted.

"Who?" the rest of them asked curiously.

"The head of the Special Unit!" he emphasized.

Upon hearing that, the rest of the policemen inhaled sharply. The Special Unit has the highest authority in criminal investigations in Eurasia. We're nothing compared to them! If the head of the Special Unit personally called, there's no doubt about that man's influence.

However, one of them was still unimpressed. "The Special Unit is also involved in drafting the laws in Eurasia. Since they're lawmakers, they should abide by the laws! If they can't do that, why should anyone else?"

The police officer with a goatee answered in a mysterious tone, "All right. It seems like I have no choice but to tell you guys the truth. In actuality, the

Special Unit told me Mr. Williams is the Great Marshal!"

As soon as those words fell, everyone stared at the goateed police officer in disbelief. What? Is Mr. Williams is the Great Marshal himself? We were pointing our guns at the Great Marshal? He's the face of the country, and we've just threatened to assault him! The Great Marshal can kill us for even pointing our guns at him! Instead, he only gave one of us a slap across the face. It now appears that Mr. Williams wasn't even acting arrogantly. In fact, he was merciful for letting us go!

Everyone lowered their heads, embarrassed by their actions.

Suddenly, someone uttered softly, "Since the Great Marshal is so interested in this case, it seems like it's of great importance. If something that big has happened in our jurisdiction, do you guys think the Great

Marshal will blame us for letting it happen in the first place?"

Upon hearing that, everyone became anxious at once.

Meanwhile, in the Linton Group, Zeke and Dawn were at the crime scene.

With Dawn leading the way, Zeke saw the pair of skeleton hands right away.

The pair of skeleton hands had been kept inside an evidence bag. Zeke opened the bag and cautiously took them out.

The moment his hands came into contact with the pair of skeleton hands, Zeke grew agitated. "This is it!"

Dawn was baffled. "What are you on about, Zeke? What do you mean? Could it be that you know whose hands they were?"

"You wouldn't understand it," Zeke answered. When I touched it, I felt the aura of that huge hand.

However, the aura here is hardly noticeable. It seems like those two accountants are the perpetrators. Also, kidnapping Lacey was their plan all along.

"Dawnie, pass me the information regarding those two people," Zeke uttered.

"Okay!" Dawn had already prepared the documents and given them to the police earlier.

However, the police had left the documents there when they left.

Hence, Dawn was able to fetch those documents with ease.

According to the documents, those two accountants were twins. The elder brother was Yannick Lewis, while the younger brother was known as Yoshua Lewis.

Both of them joined Linton Group right after they graduated.

Other than that, everything else about them appeared rather normal.

However, Zeke wasn't convinced. There must be more! These two men aren't as simple as they seem.

"Dawnie, did you contact their family?" Zeke asked.