

## Chapter 1961

Unexpectedly, Poppy and Keaton harbored a grudge against her because of that. They spread nasty rumors of her outside, causing the relationship between both families to sour.

Emma was certain that they were probably up to no good and had come to stir up trouble.

Staring at Emma lustfully, Keaton stood up and welcomed her. "You're back, Emma. Please take a seat and try this precious tea I've brought for you."

Sitting down, Emma replied coldly, "Poppy, why did you two come here all of a sudden?"

Poppy explained, "Emma, Keaton and I are here to ask for your hand in marriage."

My hand in marriage?

Emma frowned. "I'm sorry, Poppy. I'm still not interested in a relationship."

Poppy quickly tried to convince her, "Emma, don't reject us so quickly! Listen to me. I know that you used to look down on Keaton in the past, but he's an accomplished man now! I think that he's more than worthy enough for you."

Emma gave no reply. No matter how accomplished you are, you're just a clown compared to Zeke. Other than him, I'll never marry anyone else.

Trying his best to show off, Keaton bragged, "Emma, to be honest, I've earned our general manager Brandon Hilton's recognition. I was promoted to team leader yesterday. My future's really bright!"

Huh?

A look of surprise appeared on Sasha and Emma's faces at the mention of Brandon. They glanced at Keaton and asked, "Are you working at Linton Group?"

Mistaking their surprise for admiration, Keaton became even more arrogant.

"That's right! I've been working at Linton. Group for more than a year. Emma, I know that your best friend Sasha's company relies on business deals with Linton Group to maintain its operations. However, since you've offended our general manager, Brandon, he's terminated all collaborations with Sasha's company. I'm sure that her company is having a very hard time now. Emma, if you agree to my marriage proposal, I promise that I'll convince Brandon to resume Linton Group's business dealings with Sasha."

After a slight pause, he continued, "Also, Brandon is planning to oppose you. If he's set his sights on you, you'd end up in a miserable state. However, if you marry me, we'd be a family. He won't harm you for my sake. Emma, this is your last chance to overcome this obstacle. I hope that you can consider it carefully. Even if you aren't worried about yourself, you should think about Amelia."

The two ladies were completely nonplussed.

We're already the general managers of the company. Yet, you're using your measly position as the team leader to tempt us... Even if you don't feel embarrassed for yourself, we do!

Just when Emma was about to announce her position, Sasha stopped her.

She wanted to make a fool out of Keaton.

Looking at Madeline, Sasha asked, "Ms. Lowe, do you think that Emma should choose Mr. Williams or Keaton?"

With a conflicted look on her face, Madeline answered hesitantly, "Well... I respect Emma's decision."

Keaton immediately said, "Emma, I know that Mr. Williams, who has been pestering you a lot recently, is quite a skilled fighter. However, can that secure him a livelihood? If you stay with him in the future, do you want to lead a life filled with fights and violence? Only having money can lead to a stable and peaceful life."

Poppy was quick to agree. "Yeah! In this society, you can't go anywhere without money. As a team leader in Linton Group, my son earns twenty thousand each month. In a few years, he might be promoted to the position of director or manager. When the time comes, he'll rake in a monthly salary of a hundred thousand. On the other hand, that Zeke Williams is a gangster who only knows how to fight. If he can't even support himself, how can he support you? Compared to my son, that thug is nothing but a piece of trash."

Madeline sighed deeply and uttered,

"Emma, if I were to be honest, Poppy's not wrong. It's true that Zeke has done us a huge favor and that we should naturally be grateful to him. However, we can't possibly sacrifice your future just to thank him, right? From what I know, Zeke is broke. He hasn't even returned the fifty thousand which he borrowed from you. How can he support you and Amelia? On the other hand, look at Keaton! He holds a decent position in Linton Group and has a bright future ahead of him."

Chapter 1962

Even Madeline was siding with Keaton.

Sasha flashed a cunning grin at Madeline and said, "Ms. Lowe, you better not regret your words later!"

Madeline was puzzled. "Why would I regret it? I'm only speaking the truth for Emma to consider carefully."

Amelia, who had been silent throughout, suddenly spoke. "Grandma, how much did Zee borrow from Mommy? I'll return it to her for him. Please let Zee come back, okay? I miss him already."

Sighing, Madeline pulled Amelia into her arms. "Amelia, kids like you don't have to worry about these things...".

Amelia retorted, "But I really want to pay back the money for Zee!"

Amelia, naive as she was, thought that Madeline did not like Zeke because he had borrowed money from Emma.

She thought that her grandmother would accept Zeke if she returned the money on his behalf.

Madeline explained, "Amelia, Zee borrowed a lot of money from your mother. Your measly allowance isn't sufficient to cover the debt!"

With a look of disappointment, Amelia took out a black credit card and passed it to Madeline. "Grandma, here's a million. I'll repay the debt to Mommy for Zee first. When I grow up, I'll pay off the remaining amount."

What the heck?

Poppy and Keaton could not help but burst out laughing.

This six-year-old girl claims to have one million! How ridiculous!

Emma hugged Amelia tenderly. "Amelia, I didn't lend money to Zee. I merely paid for his medical bills."

However, Amelia insisted stubbornly, "Mommy, I really have a million."

Sasha stared at the credit card in Amelia's hands for a moment before her eyes lit up. "Wait! See if the credit card Amelia's holding is the black credit card that's reserved for the most distinguished VIPs. In the entire of Eurasia, only less than fifty people own this card. Apparently, the card alone is worth one hundred million."

Focusing their attention on Amelia's credit card, everyone soon widened their eyes.

That credit card really did resemble the legendary black credit card.

However, Keaton soon snapped out of his daze. "Do you actually believe that? Don't you know that one has to be over the legal age to register for a credit card? How old is Amelia? She doesn't even have an identification card yet! How can she possibly register for a credit card?"

At his words, everyone became amused.

That's right! At Amelia's age, she can't possibly sign up for a credit card. The black credit card is definitely fake.

However, Amelia panicked when she realized the adults did not believe her. "Zee gave me this card. It definitely isn't fake! It contains my million! Zee would never lie to me."

Keaton insisted, "Amelia, Zee was merely joking with you. If the credit card is real, do you know what the password is?"

Amelia was stunned. "Password? What's a password?"

"Haha!"

Keaton and Poppy burst out laughing.

If she doesn't even know what a password is, then the credit card is undeniably fake. There's no need to check its authenticity.

However, Sasha suggested, "We can just call the bank to see if it's fake or not."

"There's no need for that, Sasha. If Amelia doesn't even have an identification card, how can she sign up for a credit card?" Emma spoke up with an embarrassed expression.

"Perhaps Mr. Williams is so powerful that he can contact the headquarters of the bank directly and give Amelia special privileges to own a credit card!"

Emma retorted, "Even so, if we don't know the credit card password, we can't check it!"

Sasha replied, "I remember that the initial password for credit cards like this is the last six digits of the bank account number. Amelia, did Zee bring you to the bank to change the password?"

Amelia shook her head, looking very puzzled.

Although she did not have any expectations, Sasha still took out her phone, wanting to verify it.

What if... it's true?

She did not think Zeke was a liar.

After dialing the number to the bank's customer service, she followed the system's instructions, keying in the account number and password.

Usually, the next step would be the system automatically prompting the user to enter their queries.

Only special cases would enable customers to talk directly with a customer service agent.

However, contrary to what she expected, as soon as she keyed in the details, the call was connected to a customer service agent without any delay.

The person on the other end of the call spoke in a polite tone. "Hello, Ms. Jones. This is your personal customer service agent, Mina, How may I help you?"

Personal customer service agent!

Everyone's heart shuddered.

This meant that the card was real, and it had extraordinary powers.

Otherwise, there would not be a personal customer service agent.

Sasha took in a deep breath and tried to control her emotions. "H-Hello. I-I'd like to verify something. Who's the owner of this account?"

The customer service agent's voice turned solemn. "Are you not the owner? May I know what's your relationship with the owner?"

Sasha answered hurriedly, "I'm Amelia's godmother, Sasha Silvester."

"Okay. Please hold on for a moment," said the agent.

After waiting for about twenty seconds, the agent finally spoke. "Hello, Ms. Silvester. After comparing your voice, we've

confirmed that you're Ms. Silvester. Is there anything I can do for you?"

Sasha asked, "I'd like to know if this account belongs to Amelia."

"Yes, Ms. Silvester. The owner of this account is indeed Amelia," Mina replied.

"Okay. May I know how much money is in this account?" Sasha continued.

"After inquiring, this card's available balance is one million. Since this card is the most distinguished card for our customers, users are allowed to withdraw up to one hundred million."

All this information left the crowd dumbfounded and at a loss for words.

Sasha's mind went blank. She did not know what else to say, and the call went silent.

After some time, Mina finally asked, "Ms. Silvester, is there anything else I can help you with?"

"N-No, thank you," Sasha stuttered.

"Okay. It's been a pleasure to serve you. Feel free to contact me should you have any questions in the future. Goodbye."

Silence filled the air as soon as the call ended.

Amelia was the only one looking pleased. "See? I wasn't lying, Mommy"

Just then, Emma thought of something and asked hurriedly, "Amelia, let me ask you something. Where did you get that one million from?"

"Like I said, it's Zee who gave it to me, Amelia answered.

Emma pressed on, "Why would he give you one million?"

"Because that's the money I won. I bet ten on Zee when he went boxing. Then, he won. And I earned one million, Amelia explained. Winning one million by only betting ten? That's crazy!

Suddenly, a thought flashed through Emma's mind, and she knocked herself gently on the head.

The day Zeke borrowed fifty thousand from me was also the day he went to the boxing competition. Does that mean he's placing a bet of fifty thousand on my behalf by borrowing that amount?

After taking out her debit card with fumbling fingers, she inserted it into the machine to check her balance.

When the system read out the numbers, "one hundred and thirty million," her heart stopped for a moment.

To her, this string of numbers was an enormous figure.

Although Emma was not someone who loved money, the idea of a sudden windfall caused her to be extremely excited.

Meanwhile, the strongest reaction came from Madeline.

She grabbed Emma's hand, her voice trembling incredibly as she said, "Emma, I'm... I'm not hearing things, right? Do you really have a total of one hundred and thirty million in your bank? Am I hearing things, or is there something wrong with the system?"

Chapter 1964

Emma confirmed, "You heard it right, Mom. There's really one hundred and thirty million in it."

Tears streamed down Madeline's cheeks as she said, "More than a hundred million... Ordinary people like us can't even earn a fraction of it throughout our lifetime. Tell me, Emma. Where did you get this money from?"

Emma replied, "Of course, it's from my bet. Zeke must've helped me to bet on him when he borrowed fifty thousand from me back then. Now that he won, we earned more than a hundred million."

Madeline's lips twitched against her will, making her feel like slapping herself.

Zeke had given their family more than a hundred million without showing off to the world.

Keaton's family, on the other hand, began showing off and even insulted Madeline's family ever since the former was assigned an insignificant role of a team leader.

Keaton's family was like a family of clowns compared to Zeke.

After approving Zeke one-sidedly, Madeline began to find Keaton and his mother annoying. Hence, she requested them to leave in a polite manner, "Poppy, Keaton, my mental health hasn't been in its best condition recently. I need to take a nap now. I'm sorry, but I'll have to ask you to leave. Next time, I'll get Zeke to treat you two and our neighbors to a meal. It'll be his punishment. I can't believe this. How could he not inform us after giving our family over a hundred million?"

It was obvious that Madeline was blatantly showing off.

After receiving the "eviction order," blood drained from Poppy's and Keaton's faces.

However, Keaton was unwilling to accept the outcome.

Hence, he put up his last struggle.

He advised, "Emma, marriage is a big affair. You have to think it through properly. In today's world, money isn't everything."

Suddenly, Sasha snorted. "Didn't someone say we're living in a society where nothing is possible without money? Don't you think your statements are quite contradicting?"

"I..." Keaton was too furious to utter a single sentence.

Nevertheless, he still decided to be thickskinned and said in a threatening manner, "Emma, don't forget that you've offended my general manager, Brandon Hilton. He's a petty person, and he'll definitely get his revenge on you. No matter how much money you have, without power, he'll never let you off the hook. If you pick me, I'll persuade him to forgive you. In fact, this is your only chance. I hope you won't let it go to waste."

Emma threw another question back at him. "Oh, by the way, isn't it working hours now? Why are you at my house instead of the office, Keaton?"

The man seemed to be proud of himself as he responded, "I'm a team leader now. So I can just assign my members to handle my tasks. Whether I go to the office doesn't matter."

"Really?" Emma snickered. "So you're saying the company can function without you? Basically, you're just being paid to do nothing."

Keaton answered without hesitation, "Of course."

Emma and Sasha exchanged glances as if they were discussing something among themselves using telepathy.

Then, the two women nodded simultaneously.

This kind of person would only bring harm more than benefit to Linton Group if he continued working there.

Emma asked, "Keaton, do you have the contact number to Linton Group's Human Resource Department?"

The man replied, "Of course. The head of the department, Nathan Jordan, is my buddy."

"Could you please give me the Human Resource Department's contact number?" Emma said.



Since she had not assumed her post yet, it was natural for her not to have the department's contact number.

Keaton, who misunderstood her words, was thrilled. "Emma, are you planning to look for a job at Linton Group? Well, you don't have to worry. Instead, you can leave this to me. Since I'm close to Nathan, I'll definitely get a great job for you. Come on. Tell me. What position would you like?"

Emma replied, "You don't have to be bothered about this. All you need to do is give me the contact number."

"Of course. It's better for you to speak to Nathan directly. Let me know if you need my help. I'll put in some good words for you anytime." With that, Keaton gave her Nathan's contact number. After that, Emma immediately dialed the number.

Chapter 1965

The other party answered the call in just a matter of seconds. "Hello. This is Nathan from Linton Group's Human Resource Department. Are you Ms. Jones?"

Emma was surprised. "You know who I am?"

Nathan explained with a smile, "You're the company's new general manager. I work in the Human Resource Department. Naturally, I was the one who registered your information in the company's system. That was why I saved your number. I didn't expect you to give me a call personally. It's an honor."

"Mr. Jordan, I have a task for you. Check the employees' attendance right now. Those who are absent from work will have their contract terminated and will never be hired again. If anyone slips through the cracks, you may start packing your things and leave the company," Emma ordered.

Nathan replied immediately, "I'll get it done right away. I promise I won't disappoint you." He then hung up the call.

Meanwhile, Keaton eyed Emma with a suspicious look. "What's the meaning of this, Emma? Did you just give an order to the Human Resource Department? Are you telling them to fire me? Haha! You must be teasing me, right? Not only do you not have the right to give orders to Linton Group's Human Resource Department, but I also have a close relationship with Nathan. He'll never terminate my contract."

Sasha said frigidly, "Well, let's wait and see."

Just as she uttered those words, Keaton's phone rang.

As soon as he noticed who the caller was, he felt a chill down his spine.

It was from Nathan.

Why would Nathan give me a call out of the blue? Is this a coincidence... or are Emma's words taking effect?

Feeling uneasy, Keaton answered the call. "Hey, Nathan. What's up?"

Nathan's voice sounded extremely anxious. "Keaton, where on earth are you now? Why Aren't you at work?"

Immediately, Keaton replied, "I have some business to attend to. So I can't go to the office at the moment."

Nathan questioned, "You didn't apply for a leave of absence, did you?"

"I didn't have the time-"

Before Keaton could even finish his sentence, Nathan cut in, "Then you're doomed. You don't have to come to the office anymore."

"W-Why..." Although Keaton knew this matter had something to do with Emma, he could not resist the urge to question further.

Nathan whispered into the receiver, "The new general manager has given an order just now. Those who are absent from work without a valid reason will have their contract terminated. On top of that, they'll never be hired by the company in the future."

Keaton panicked. "New general manager? What do you mean?"

"You don't know about it yet, right? Our company hired a new one Nathan explained. while ago,"

Upon hearing that, Keaton panicked and started to beg, "No... Please make an exception, Nathan. I'm begging you..."

Nathan let out a helpless sigh. "It's not that I don't want to make an exception, but the new general manager has warned me not to abuse my authority. Otherwise, I'll have to pack my things and leave the company. I can't even save myself, let alone save you. This general manager is really aggressive. I don't want to risk my job by messing with this person."

The phone call ended when he finished his sentence.

Immediately, Keaton lifted his head and glared at Emma. "Tell me, Emma. A-Are you acquainted with our new general manager? What's your relationship with him? Are you using this relationship with our general manager to threaten Nathan?"

Emma finally uttered the truth, "Actually, I'm the new general manager."

"That's impossible!" Keaton said resolutely.

"You've never had any encounters with Linton Group, nor do you have the ability to manage a business. How could you possibly be the general manager of Linton Group all of a sudden?"

Just as Emma was about to explain the details, Keaton received a text from Nathan.

The text read: Hey, Keaton. When I was registering the general manager's personal information in the company's system, I found out that she lives near your house. It looks like you two are neighbors. Anyway, if you don't want to be fired, you can try begging her.

The text from Nathan had confirmed that Emma was indeed the company's new boss.

However, Keaton still could not accept the

harsh truth. In fact, he could not understand how all this happened. Emma is an ordinary girl. How on earth did she become the general manager of Linton Group when she had nothing to do with the company in the first place?

## Chapter 1966

Poppy, too, chimed in with a half-sarcastic and half-threatening tone, "I think I know what's going on, Emma. You must be dating the new general manager, right? You have neither the resources nor the abilities to be the general manager. So he must've done something intimate with you. People like you are willing to become the boss' mistress just to get what they want. I'm warning you. If you care about your reputation, you better ensure the general manager doesn't fire Keaton. If not, I'll expose this scandal of yours to the world. Let's see how you are going to live here in the future."

Emma scoffed, "Sure. If you do that, I'll make sure to lodge a police report and sue you for defaming me. Then you'll have to spend the rest of your life in prison. Let me tell you something. Don't you ever doubt me of having such capabilities. The fact that I can become the company's new boss out of nowhere is already enough to prove it."

Just as Poppy was about to say something else, Keaton stopped her.

Judging from Emma's expression, it looks like she really has the guts to send my mother into prison.

Unwilling to give in, Poppy said, "Keaton, why are you stopping me? I'm just speaking the truth."

Keaton whispered, "Mom, that's enough. Emma really is the company's new general manager. I've just confirmed it with Nathan."

What?

Poppy paled as a look of awkwardness and fear crept onto her face.

Keaton stuttered, "Emma, I... I'm so sorry. It's entirely my fault. I must've been blind to offend you. P-Please, forgive me... Can I please ask you a question? H-How did you become the company's new boss out of nowhere?"

After giving it some thought, Emma responded, "Well, I guess it's alright to tell you both the truth. Actually, Zeke is the boss of the company's headquarters. He's the one who established the Linton Group. Since he's the big boss, it's a piece of cake for him to make me a general manager of the company's branch."

"W-What?" Keaton was tongue-tied. "Zeke... Zeke is the company's boss? He's a billionaire? I can't believe I was trying to steal the boss' woman. How stupid... How stupid of me... Emma, please don't be angry. I'll leave right now. Could you please apologize to Mr. Williams on my behalf? I promise to leave this city and never bother you again."

Linton Group's boss was known to be incredibly rich. Hence, he would also be incredibly powerful. Anyone who is offended. him would meet a dreadful ending.

Keaton's only option was to run away.

He grabbed hold of Poppy, who was still frozen from the shock, and scurried out as soon as possible.

The first thing they did upon arriving home was pack their bags and flee the city.

As they exited the city, Poppy suddenly burst into tears. "Oh, my poor son. It's my fault. This is all my fault. I shouldn't have brought you there to ask for her hand in marriage."

Keaton sighed deeply and comforted his mother, "Mom, it's not your fault. No one would've known that Zeke was the boss of Linton Group's headquarters. Besides, to him, we're like insignificant bugs that can be crushed easily. It's better for us to live in hiding now."

Poppy asked, "Keaton, why don't we go back and apologize to him? After all, we've been neighbors for so many years. They won't eliminate us just like that, right?"

"If we admit our mistakes, it's possible that Emma might forgive us. However, the same could not be said for Mr. Williams," Keaton started singing.

"Why?" Poppy asked, puzzled.

"Back then, Linton Group was just a measly cement-producing company. Their annual profit was only two to three million. In just a few years, Linton Group has become one of the top ten biggest companies in Eurasia. Do you know what it means?"

Poppy suggested, "Mr. Williams has a strong business acumen?"

"No." Keaton shook his head. "Of course not. In Eurasia, once a company exceeds a certain size, it'll definitely be oppressed. It's impossible for them to reach such a size no matter how great their business acumen is. Only companies with power can enter the top ten rankings and even compete against state-owned companies."

Chapter 1967

"Moreover, as far as I know, Linton Group owns several military companies, too. And that means Mr. Williams might have a military background. Worst of all, he could have a powerful status. It's highly possible that he's a general."

Poppy's expression changed drastically, and she could not help but gasp.

The word "general" was enough to instill fear in Poppy's heart.

However, what Poppy and Keaton did not know was that Zeke was not even bothered by them.

After all, there was no need for him to put in so much effort just to hunt down two insignificant people.

Meanwhile, in Emma's residence, Madeline lifted a cup of tea to her lips with trembling hands and drank it absent-mindedly.

Her mind was currently filled with words like "big boss," "Mr. Williams," and "Linton Group."

Never in her wildest dreams would she have thought Zeke was a billionaire who owned such a big company. On top of that, he even gave Emma a general manager position in one of the branches, changing their family's fate completely.

Just then, she recalled how she often scolded and humiliated Zeke, calling him names like a lecherous hooligan.

Her heart pounded furiously, and she began to panic.

If Zeke were mad at her, a simple order would be enough to make her suffer miserably.

With that thought in mind, she asked Emma cautiously, "Emma, do you think Mr. Williams will keep me accountable for treating him so harshly in the past?"

Emma reassured her, "Don't worry, Mom. Mr. Williams doesn't have time to be calculative with people like us."

Feeling relieved, Madeline nodded. "Hmm... That's true. You know what? I'll give you my full support to be with Mr. Williams. He's the only son-in-law I'll ever approve of."

"Ms. Lowe, didn't you say you'll never approve of Zeke until you die? Instead, you said Thomas was the only one you approved," Sasha teased.

Embarrassed, Madeline lowered her face that was blushing and muttered, "I-I was crazy back then. Those words were nonsense. Please don't take them seriously."

Emma sighed deeply.

Mr. Williams already has a beautiful wife. He'll never be attracted to an ordinary girl like me.

Meanwhile, at the top floor of Linton Group's building, Boxing King was surrounded by Sole Wolf and the others. He was in a tight situation.

His burning gaze was fixed on Zeke as he uttered with a trembling voice, "You... Who are you?" Although he more or less knew who Zeke was, he still found it hard to believe.

Zeke smirked. "Do you really need me to answer that? I think you already have the answer, right?"

"The people who can catch a bullet with their bare hands must be elites of the elites. They could even be King Class warriors! If you can make so many elite warriors obey you, then you must be... the legendary Great Marshal," Boxing King deduced.

"It looks like you're not stupid after all," Zeke stated.

"You should be punished for not getting onto your knees in the presence of the Great Marshal!" one of the men shouted.

Boxing King took in a deep breath and pretended to be composed. "Nevertheless, this is purely my speculation. Nothing is confirmed until you prove your identity."

Sole Wolf roared, "How dare you ask Zeke to prove his identity? You're looking for death!" Zeke waved his hands dismissively. "It's fine."

With that, he released his energy to form a Dragon King Sword. It floated in the air with its tip aimed at the Boxing King.

Vibrating at a high-frequency, it produced a buzzing sound that blew the opponent's mind.

Dragon King Sword! It's true! He's the Great Marshal! Besides, he's the only person who can solidify his energy. Thump!

Without hesitation, the Boxing King got onto his knees before Zeke. "I, Seeker of Defeat, am honored to meet you, Mr. Williams!"

Mr. Williams?

This form of address caught the crowd's attention.

Everyone in the world addressed Zeke as the Great Marshal. However, the Boxing King used "Mr. Williams." It seemed as though the latter had a close relationship with the North.

Moreover, only those affiliated with the North had the right to address Zeke as Mr. Williams.

However, Zeke was not surprised by that. Previously, in order to protect Bryan, the Boxing King used the name of the North to intimidate Zeke. Hence, the former had guessed that the Boxing King was a part of the North.

Chapter 1968

Only a high-ranking official could issue a decree from the North. soldier from the North

Since they were considered a family, Zeke would not make things difficult for the Boxing King.

"Please get up," Zeke said.

"Thank you, Mr. Williams!" The Boxing King got to his feet, staring at Zeke with a gaze filled with affection and gratefulness.

"Tell me. What's your identity? Why are you protecting Bryan?" Zeke inquired.

"I am the Seeker of Defeat, the first batch of the North's warriors and army chief of the North's Wolf Warriors," Boxing King announced.

Oh?

The crowd's interest was piqued.

The North's army was formed decades ago, and its founder was a mysterious warrior. There were only vague records of the first batch of warriors from the North. Even the identity of the North's founder was a secret that no one knew of.

Never in their wildest dream did they expect to meet someone from the first batch of the North's warriors.

The Seeker of Defeat was their senior. Immediately, everyone's gaze toward him changed, filled with kindness and respect.

Zeke, who was slightly interested, asked, "Since you're from the first batch of the North's warriors, then I have a question for you. Who is the founder of the North?"

With great respect, the Boxing King answered, "Mr. Williams, the founder of the North, is your master, Pietro White."

Zeke was not the least surprised by this response. In fact, he had already guessed that the old man was the one who created the North.

After all, he was the only person in this world who was capable of doing such a thing.

Zeke continued, "You're one of Master Pietro's subordinates, too. Why didn't you follow him instead of hiding here, working as a boxer to eke out a living?"

Surprisingly, the Boxing King got very emotional. "That's not true, Mr. Williams. My life has never been difficult. All these years, I've never forgotten my mission. In fact, I've been working hard without making any careless mistakes while I wait patiently for the master's return."

Intrigued, Zeke asked, "Oh? Your mission? What is it?"

Boxing King paused for a while. He glanced at Sole Wolf and the others, looking as though he was suspicious of them.

Zeke continued, "Don't worry. These men are fine. They are my confidants. There's no need to be cautious of them."



"I see," Boxing King said. "Okay. Mr. Williams, do you know about the Northern Conquest Army?" Zeke shook his head. "I don't."

It was his first time hearing about them.

He turned to Sole Wolf and the others. "What about you guys?"

The crowd, too, shook their heads.

Zeke told the Boxing King, "Go on."

The latter nodded and explained, "Northern Conquest Army, as the name suggests, is an army that heads to the north and carries out conquests."

At that moment, the Boxing King gazed in the north's direction as he fell deep into thought, recalling an old memory.

Zeke, too, looked in the same direction. Suddenly, his heart skipped a beat when a thought came to him.

The direction of the north. Isn't that where Mount Kush is? Could Northern Conquest Army be the secret team that went to conquer Mount Kush with Master Pietro?

Everyone's gaze was fixed on the Boxing King, who explained everything slowly.

It turned out that, during Boxing King's early years, he was an elite boxer of the north and the south. Many of his fights were held abroad. He was so invincible that he won every fight, earning the title of the Boxing King.

One day, he encountered a powerful opponent who broke all four of his limbs, leaving him on the brink of death.

It was at this critical moment when Pietro saved his life. Boxing King had become the former's faithful follower ever since.

After that, Pietro brought him back to the North, creating the North's army that was led by Pietro and nine other army chiefs.

And after a year of development, the North's army began to take shape, and things were settling down. Suddenly, Pietro and all ten army chiefs, including Boxing King, headed north. He called them the Northern Conquest Army.

However, the army chiefs did not understand the meaning behind the name. Thus, they asked Pietro about it.

Unfortunately, Pietro avoided talking about it every time. In the end, the Northern Conquest Army decided to give up and stop asking.

With Pietro in the lead, the army traveled for ten days and arrived at the Secret Realm of Mount Kush.

It was at that moment when they finally understood the meaning of the name "Northern Conquest Army." With that in mind, they went on and conquered the secret realm.

Although they did not know why Pietro led them to conquer Mount Kush's secret realm, all of them vowed to serve Pietro till death. Hence, no one raised any objection.

## Chapter 1969

Upon finding the entrance of the secret realm, Pietro went in first, and the Northern Conquest Army followed closely behind.

The entrance had the ability to prevent ordinary people from entering. Only skilled warriors could pass through with no difficulties.

Each member of the Northern Conquest Army paid a tremendous price for entering the realm. In fact, one of them died on the spot.

Finally, just as Boxing King and another army chief, Brantley Fleming, were about to enter, a group of men suddenly charged toward them, launching into a merciless attack.

The group of men exuded negative energy, looking gloomy and lifeless. On top of that, some of them had rotting bodies, making them look like actual corpses.

Despite that, they were extremely powerful. Even Boxing King and Brantley were no match for them.

Meanwhile, Pietro and the others, who had already entered the secret realm, were terribly injured. They could not pass through the entrance again to help their comrades.

In the end, Brantley was kidnapped by the enemies while the Boxing King had suffered severe internal injuries. In fact, he was not completely healed even until this moment, and his strength had decreased significantly.

Pietro gave the Boxing King an order through the secret realm's entrance, instructing the latter to rescue Brantley at all costs. If all failed, he would have no choice but to kill him. Basically, Brantley must not fall into the enemy's hands.

Otherwise, the whole of Eurasia would be destroyed.

Thus, the Boxing King had been following the trails, which finally led him to this place.

However, when he arrived, the enemies vanished, and he could no longer find their tracks. Hence, he had no choice but to settle down in the area and investigate secretly.

Upon hearing that, Zeke interrupted the Boxing King. "You said the men who ambushed you two at the entrance had negative energy and looked lifeless, right? Were they from Netherworld?"

The Boxing King was surprised. "Do you know about the existence of the Netherworld? I've just found out about them recently."

Zeke admitted, "To be frank, I'm here because of the Netherworld."

Feeling relieved, Boxing King stated. "As expected of Pietro's heir. You really do live up to your name."

"Please continue. What did you find out throughout the years? Why do the people of Netherworld want to take Brantley away? And what does this have to do with Bryan?" Zeke asked.

Boxing King continued explaining everything in detail, "After losing track of the people from Netherworld, I stayed here and continued investigating in secret. And after years of investigations and spying, I finally found out why the men from Netherworld kidnapped Brantley. The truth was, those from the Netherworld were no longer humans. This is because their physical structures differ from humans. Hence, their entry into the secret realm was rejected by the entrance. The reason they kidnapped Brantley was to conduct research on his physical structure. From there, they'll modify their bodies so they can pass through the entrance with ease."

"Oh. So what you're saying now is that Bryan is working with Netherworld to analyze Brantley's physical structure?" Zeke asked.

The Boxing King nodded. "Yes, that's a way to say it. The Netherworld folks need many human bodies for their experiment. Since Bryan is in charge of Linton Group's pharmaceutical department, getting human bodies is a piece of cake for him. As a matter of fact, the human bodies that have been used by Netherworld for their experiments were all provided by Bryan."

"Damn it!" Zeke cursed. "How dare a human work with Netherworld? I'm going to kill him!"

Boxing King expressed, "Mr. Williams, as far as I know, Bryan doesn't know that he's working with Netherworld. I think they must've used sorcery to make him do such things. Bryan isn't aware of all this. He's just their puppet."

Zeke nodded thoughtfully. "Then, have you discovered where Netherworld carries out their experiments?"

An apologetic look appeared on Boxing King's face. "To be honest, I've secretly followed Bryan many times when the bodies were being transported. However, a warrior from the Netherworld would always take over the delivery when they're halfway there. I know I'm not a match for them. Hence, I have no choice but to give up halfway in order to prevent myself from being exposed and startling the enemies. I'm sorry, but I don't know where the Netherlands are."

Zeke responded, "Okay. It's fine. I'll continue investigating. Sole Wolf, tell the men to release Bryan and watch him closely. We're going to find their whereabouts, no matter what."

Chapter 1970

Sole Wolf replied, "Got it."

Zeke then turned to Boxing King again. "Anything else? Go on."

The Boxing King continued. "If I remember correctly, you have a conflict with Thomas Fleming, right? If not, why would he ask me to attack you last time?"

Zeke answered with a slight smirk. "Yes. We do have some conflict."

The Boxing King said, "Well, to be honest, Thomas is Brantley's son."

"Oh?" Zeke sighed with sorrow. "Brantley is a hero of Eurasia. How did he produce such filthy offspring? It's no wonder Thomas seems to be surrounded by negative energy. I didn't know he had such an identity."

"By the way, one of the army chiefs of the Northern Conquest Army is called David Jones. Coincidentally, his daughter is Emma Jones. He had a close relationship with Brantley when they were younger. On top of that, they even arranged for their children to be married ever since they were kids."

"Huh?" Zeke furrowed his brows. "Emma's father is David Jones, who's also a member of the Northern Conquest Army? Are you sure about this?"

The Boxing King nodded immediately. "Of course."

"So David has followed the rest of the Northern Conquest Army into the secret realm?" Zeke questioned.

"That's right," Boxing King confirmed.

Zeke said, "But based on what I know, David was locked up by Kush Clan and has been in a coma for many years here. After that, he was kidnapped by the Netherworld folks."

"What?" The Boxing King was stunned. "Mr. Williams, this is a grave matter. I hope you aren't joking about this. Are you sure David is still in the human realm and not in the Secret Realm of Mount Kush?"

Zeke nodded. "Yes."

The Boxing King took a deep breath. "David must've returned from the secret realm. He must've returned with important news. It could even be news about Mr. White. And now he's in the hands of the Netherworldfolks. If they managed to get the news out of him... Oh no... This is terrible."

Clenching his fists, Zeke promised, "We must find the people of Netherworld and rescue both David and Thomas at all costs. Sole Wolf... Ah, never mind. I'll personally follow Bryan."

Soon, both Brandon and Bryan were locked up in prison, looking extremely despaired.

Not only was Zeke the founder of Linton Group, but he was also an important person in the military. Thus, he requested for both of them to be sent into the military court.

Once the duo was in the military court, their lives would be doomed.

Of course, Bryan would not give up so easily.

After pondering for some time, he realized the only person who could save them now was Thomas because he knew the latter had a relative who worked as a general.

No matter how powerful Zeke is, he'll never defeat a general.

Hence, Bryan bribed one of the guards, borrowed his phone, and gave Thomas a call.

The call went through quickly.

"Who's this?" asked Thomas.

Bryan replied, "Mr. Fleming, it's me."

Thomas feigned ignorance and asked, "Oh, it's you. What's the matter, Mr. Hilton?"

In truth, he had already known what had happened to the Linton Group's branch and had even experienced Zeke's powers.

Thus, he knew Bryan's purpose in calling him was to ask for his help.

However, he was slightly intimidated by Zeke's powers after the incident. Thus, he had no intentions of being concerned with Bryan's wellbeing to prevent himself from becoming Zeke's enemy.

Bryan let out a sigh. "You obviously know what I'm talking about. Please, Mr. Fleming. You're the only one who can help us now."

Thomas, too, sighed. "Mr. Hilton, you think too highly of me. I'm just a businessman. Besides, Zeke is not only a businessman, but he is also involved in the military. I can't even save myself when I'm faced with him, let alone save you. I'm terribly sorry. If there are no other matters, then let's end this conversation here. Don't worry. I'll visit you often in prison."

"No, wait!" Bryan said hurriedly. He then warned, "If you dare to hang up now, I'll drag you into this mess."

Upon hearing that, Thomas fumed, "Why is that so? How are you going to drag me into this mess when I have nothing to be afraid of?"

## Chapter 1971

"Fine. I shall be honest with you then. I know you have a relative who's a general. If you could ask your relative to speak up for me, we'll definitely be pardoned. However, if you don't, I'll expose all your filthy tricks in the military court. For example, the fact that you instigated me to attack Amelia or the part where you brainwashed me and my cousin, Brandon, to kill Zeke. Once you're in the military court, there's nothing you can do to save yourself. Even getting your relative's help will be useless," Bryan stated.

Thomas fumed, "Nonsense! You're slandering me! Since when did I ask you to kill Amelia and Zeke? How dare you frame me?"

Bryan chuckled. "Oh, Mr. Fleming. Do you really think I'd be that stupid for not recording our conversations? Even though it's just a voice recording, it's already enough to prove that you hired people to kill others."

Thomas took a deep breath and scoffed, "I don't know what you're talking about. Anyway, I've changed my mind."

Considering our past relationship, I'm willing to get someone to do something to save you. Once you're released, we'll cut ties with each other and never be in contact again."

"Deal!" Bryan answered, and the call ended.

Thomas threw everything in the room in a fit of rage.

How brave of you, Bryan! How dare you threaten me?

Still furious, Thomas decided to get rid of Bryan and the rest of his family after helping the latter to get out of jail.

I'll never be at peace until someone dies.

He whipped out his phone and dialed a number. "Uncle, it's me, Thomas. Yes. I need your help with something..."

After ending the call with his uncle, he secretly contacted some assassins. "Hey, Kian. I need you to kill some people..." Meanwhile, Thomas' uncle, who was a general, got in touch immediately with the prison guard in charge of Bryan's cell.

Unfortunately, the prison guard relayed this news to Sole Wolf.

He knew the latter's other identity was General North. Thus, he did not dare play any tricks under Sole Wolf's watch.

Sole Wolf snickered. "Well, who would've known that this little kid could get help from a general? Okay then. Let Bryan go. Once we reel in the catch, we'll teach them a lesson."

The prison guard was puzzled. "But. General, why do you fear the other party? You don't have to obey his instructions. After all, he only has a general, and he is miles away from you."

Sole Wolf smirked. "You don't need to know so much."

The other person nodded in agreement.

In reality, whether or not Thomas pulled strings, Sole Wolf was still going to let Bryan free.

Now that opportunity appeared, he was more than happy to do Thomas a favor.

Little did Bryan know he was targeted by Zeke as soon as he was released from prison.

After sneakily leaving the prison, Bryan asked his cousin, "Brandon, what are you planning to do next?"

The latter sighed. "Well, I can't return to Linton Group. So I guess I have to go solo now. I still have some savings from the past. It should be enough to start a company. By the way, I think you should work with me, Bryan. With your medical skills, our company will be able to launch within a short amount of time. We could even compete with the Linton Group."

After listening to him, Bryan frowned and said, "You still want to remain in this city? Don't you fear Zeke might take his revenge on you?"

Brandon answered, "Why should I be afraid? Mr. Fleming has a powerful general supporting him. Why do we need to be afraid of Zeke?"

Bryan nodded after giving it some thought. "Good point. Still, give me some time to think about this matter."

"All right. Do give me an answer as soon as possible. I'll prepare the documents to register a new company once I get home."

Soon after, both of them parted ways.

Instead of thinking about Brandon's suggestion, the first thing Bryan did was pack his bags, getting ready to flee the city.

He was not going to remain in the city. No one understood Thomas better than he did, The latter was definitely going to murder Bryan for threatening him.

## Chapter 1972

Bryan wasn't planning on telling Brandon about this matter. He can stay here if he wants to. Maybe Thomas will be calmer once he kills Brandon, and he'll save the trouble of killing me to get his revenge.

He was more than willing to sacrifice his cousin for his well-being.



At the same time, Zeke was hidden somewhere outside of Bryan's house, watching his every move through the windows.

Suddenly, a wave of negative energy traveled from a distance and entered Bryan's house instantly.

Something is happening!

Zeke observed carefully, watching the wave of negative energy entering Bryan's body after infiltrating the latter's house.

Bryan, who was still busy packing his bags, stiffened. His movements slowed, and he had a blank gaze. He stopped packing his bags, found a place to sit down quietly, and remained still like a sculpture.

He must have been controlled by Netherworld's negative energy. It looks like Netherworld is in action again, but it's still daytime. It's not convenient for Bryan to move around now. The Netherworld folks will probably wait until night comes before they make him do something.

Zeke was feeling slightly impatient. He initially wanted to follow after the negative energy to find the people of Netherworld. However, the energy disappeared as quickly as it came, leaving no traces behind.

Thus, he had no choice but to suppress his emotions and continue spying on Bryan.

Thomas, on the other hand, was still furious.

Not only did Bryan fail to complete his tasks, but he even threatened him.

This man was practically Thomas' jinx.

On top of that, when Thomas asked his uncle to help Bryan, he got scolded terribly. Hence, it was natural for the former to transfer his anger onto Bryan.

The idea of killing Bryan was unprecedentedly strong.

Suddenly, three shadows slipped through the windows and entered Bryan's room.

Those three men were the assassins hired by Thomas to kill Bryan.

"How can we be of assistance, Mr. Fleming?" asked one of the assassins.

Thomas turned around immediately, startled by the voice.

After realizing it was the three assassins he hired, Thomas' face flushed with anger. "Hey! Can't you knock on the door before entering? You gave me the shock of my life."

The assassin smiled. "My apologies. It's a habit from our job. Anyway, may I know who you would like us to kill this time?"

Thomas immediately passed pictures of Brandon and Bryan to the assassins. "It's them. Don't spare either of their lives. I'll pay you double the usual amount if you succeed."

"What's wrong?" Thomas started to feel nervous.

The assassins asked, "Brandon and Bryan are cousins, right?"

"Do you know them?"

One of the assassins admitted, "To be frank with you, we owe them our lives. They treated many of our injuries."

Thomas scoffed, "Hah. Since when do professional assassins like you guys talk about loyalty? So I guess this means you won't take the job?"

"Um... About that... It depends on how much you're going to pay us. If it's the usual amount, then it's really not worth killing our benefactors. After all, doing that will only bring harm to ourselves," one of the assassins answered.

Thomas snorted. "In the end, money is the problem. Okay. How about triple the usual pay?"

The three assassins were immediately won over. "Wonderful! We love dealing with straightforward people like you."

The truth was, the assassins were going to kill both Brandon and Bryan even if Thomas had not increased the reward.

In fact, there was no such thing as a savior to them. They only cared about benefits.

However, they were only using this as an excuse to raise the amount of their pay.

After finalizing the amount, three of them turned and left.

As they reached the window, three shadows flew past on the outside.

The assassins froze. "Who-" Before they could even finish, the three shadows merged with theirs, and all three of them froze to the ground, looking as if they were in a trance.

## Chapter 1973

Thomas, who walked out of his bedroom, roared when he saw the assassins still in his house, "Hey! What are you guys still doing here? You have already taken the deposit. Why aren't you carrying out the mission? Aren't you worried about ruining your reputation if you regret it now?"

Suddenly, the three assassins turned around stiffly, still rooted in their spot.

The expression on the three men's faces sent shivers down Thomas' spine.

Although their expression was frozen, their gazes were filled with murderous intent. At that moment, they looked like demons.

A wild idea came to Thomas' mind all of a sudden. Could they be demons instead of humans?

A foreboding feeling rose in his heart as he retreated his steps slowly. "What are you guys up to? Hurry up and carry out the mission now."

"Die!" A word forced its way out of the assassins' mouths, and they charged toward Thomas.

I knew it!

Without hesitating, Thomas ran into the bedroom, slammed the door shut, and locked it from the inside.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

The three assassins kicked the door with great force.

Even so, Thomas was not afraid, for this door was made with special reinforcements. It was even bulletproof.

Nevertheless, what happened next was something he never expected. After several kicks from the opponents, a loud crack could be heard, and an enormous hole was formed in the door.

In the next second, the three assassins slammed against the door, crushing it to pieces. Immediately, all of them barged in.

Thomas had nowhere to run to. He shuddered terribly with fright. "A-Are you guys bought over by someone? But that's impossible. Bryan and Brandon are like beggars now. Where did they get the money from? Fine. How much are they paying you? I'll pay double. No, I'll pay triple!"

Despite that, the assassins ignored him and drew their daggers.

The weapons glinted coldly in the dark, causing Thomas to shiver violently.

Then they launched their attack on Thomas without any reservation.

"Ah! No..." Thomas let out a scream that lasted less than a second before stopping abruptly.

In the blink of an eye, the three assassins' daggers had stabbed into Thomas dozens of times, forming countless holes in his body that bled profusely. In the end, he lost all signs of life.

Thomas' maid rushed in when she heard the commotion. Her mind went blank at the sight of the scene before her. She shivered uncontrollably and instantly let out a blood-curdling scream.

Just then, the three assassins finally stopped and turned their heads slowly, smiling oddly at her.

Then, they raised their daggers and stabbed their throats.

Their heads crashed to the ground as blood spurted uncontrollably from their necks.

"Ah!" the maid shrieked and passed out.

Meanwhile, Zeke, who was still spying on Bryan, received a call from Sole Wolf.

The latter said in a grim tone, "Zeke, something happened. I've just received news that Thomas is dead."

"Huh?" Zeke's heart skipped a beat. "Could. Are there such coincidences? Thomas, a person with a unique identity, dying during such a crucial moment? Did you manage to find out if he's in any way related to the Netherworld?"

Since Thomas was Brantley's son, his identity was, naturally, unique.

Sole Wolf answered, "The details are still being investigated. We have yet to find traces of the Netherworld."

"Okay, Tell me, what's the current situation there?" Zeke asked.

"I'm not sure about the details since I've only received this news not long ago. I'll get to the bottom of this as soon as possible and come back to you. By the way, you can read the news too. This incident is already the talk of the town," Sole Wolf informed.

"Okay."

When the call ended, Zeke immediately looked up for news about Thomas.

Just like what Sole Wolf said, the news about Thomas' death had spread throughout the city.

This was because Thomas was quite an authoritative person around the area.

Moreover, his death was too gory.

The media had revealed pictures of the crime scene. Although they were blurred out, it was obvious that the house was full of blood, and there were numerous holes in Thomas' body.

Lying beside his body were three other corpses. Their necks were slashed, and one of their heads had rolled to the corner of the room. It was an eerie scene.

According to the media's report, Thomas' maid was the witness. She stated she saw the three men killing Thomas and then taking their own lives in front of her.

#### Chapter 1974

The identities of the three men had been uncovered as well. They were notorious killers from the local area.

There were many conclusions people drew from this incident, but the media was ninety percent sure that Thomas had hired these killers to murder someone. However, due to insufficient pay, they ended up killing him instead.

Since Thomas was quite famous around the area, the killers knew that there was no way they could continue to live on. Hence, all three of them committed suicide in the end.

Although this was the consensus opinion from both the media and the society, Zeke thought otherwise.

Thomas was always generous with his money, and he would never hold back from paying someone.

Besides, even if they weren't in agreement for their pay, they wouldn't have resorted to killing him.

On top of that, they didn't need to commit suicide after killing him.

Something's definitely fishy here.

With that thought in mind, Zeke started studying the photos from the crime scene. Soon enough, he managed to find some clues in them.

He noticed that one of the killers had two shadows. One of them was near the window in a position as though they were going to escape through it.

It's the Netherworld! I knew it was them. But why did they kill Thomas out of the blue?

At the thought of this, Zeke recalled who Thomas really was. He was Brantley's son. It must have something to do with his background for the Netherworld to do something like this.

Logically, Thomas deserved to die after all the evil deeds he had done.

But he was still the son of the hero from the Northern Conquest Army, Brantley. It would be the end of the Fleming bloodline if he died.

For that reason, Zeke was determined to save Brantley. He couldn't let the hero's bloodline end, after all.

He immediately made a call to Sole Wolf and ordered him to keep an eye on Thomas.

Thomas had no family to call his own aside from his eighty-year-old mother.

It was a custom for the locals to finish up the funeral as soon as possible if it was a funeral for a younger member of the household.

Hence, Thomas' funeral happened the night he was killed.

At night, darkness and silence enveloped the land. Midnight soon came.

There was finally movement from Bryan, who had been in his room all day.

Zeke was glaring intently at him, watching his every move.

The latter got up and changed his clothes quickly before leaving.

He rushed out with steady footsteps as though he was a martial artist.

However, according to the information on him, Bryan was not a martial artist. Instead, he was a middle-aged man who had problems walking.

It was obvious that he had something to do with the Netherworld now that he could walk with ease.

Zeke followed closely behind.

He was surprised to find that Bryan's destination was Thomas' grave.

There were two men guarding the grave. They were probably Thomas' nephews.

Both of them had no idea who Bryan was and had assumed that he was here to pay his respects. Even though he was late, they still got up politely to welcome him.

However, Bryan landed a blow on the back of their heads right as they got up.

Both of them fainted on the spot.

Unless he was a martial artist, there was no way he could have been so strong. He looked around to make sure that there was no one else present before starting to dig the grave.

At the sight of this, Zeke finally understood what the Netherworld was up to.

There was no doubt that they wanted to use Thomas' corpse for their experiments.

He was Brantley's son. Since they were blood-related, there was a greater chance of success if they performed the experiment on Thomas.

Bryan's body was full of negative energy and was as strong as a martial artist. So digging up the grave was fairly easy for him.

Soon enough, the grave was dug up, and the coffin inside was visible.

Bryan left the place briskly once he opened up the coffin and took the corpse.

Just as Zeke was about to follow after Bryan, a figure suddenly appeared by his side.

"Zeke, you're here."

It was Sole Wolf. Naturally, he had shown up since Zeke had ordered him to keep an eye on Thomas.

Zeke nodded and said, "Yes. Was there anything weird during Thomas' funeral?"

"Everything was normal," Sole Wolf answered while shaking his head.

"Okay. Let's go after him."

"All right!"

Chapter 1975

With that, they started going after Bryan.

To avoid getting noticed, Bryan took the smaller paths that cars couldn't pass.

This continued on for the whole night.

Dawn broke when Bryan arrived at a remote cemetery. There was no more movement from him after he entered the place.

"Should we reel in the catch now, Zeke?" Sole Wolf asked.

Zeke quickly shook his head and said, "No. They probably haven't arrived at their final destination. I'm guessing they're just taking a break while avoiding getting noticed by others. They will probably continue with their journey once it gets dark again. We'll observe and go with the flow then."

"Okay."

Sure enough, by sunset, Bryan finally started moving again. He got up and dug up two fistfuls of dirt before shoving it into his mouth, chewing quickly to replenish his energy.

Then, he heaved Thomas over his shoulder once again and continued on with his journey.

Zeke kept up with him from behind.

After two nights of following after Bryan, they finally arrived at a remote area.

However, soon after entering the area, Bryan vanished completely. His presence and even his scent were nowhere to be found. It was a bizarre sight to behold.

Zeke and Sole Wolf stopped in their tracks immediately.

"How weird," the latter muttered as he took a glance around, trying to look for Bryan. "He can hide, but how is it possible that even his presence had vanished? Did he just die suddenly or something?"

Zeke shook his head. "It can't be that simple. Stay alert and follow me." They continued walking forward.



Before long, Zeke halted in his tracks and stopped Sole Wolf from going further. "Do you feel a strong wave of negative energy coming from the front?"

Nodding, Sole Wolf answered, "Yes. But it's not filling up the area. Rather, it feels like it's trapped. You can't feel it unless you pay close attention to it."

"Stay close to me. And be prepared to fight anytime."

"Understood!"

Sole Wolf got ready to face off their enemies while following Zeke, his body and facial expression tense.

They had only taken a few steps forward. when Zeke stopped walking again. He then reached out to feel his surroundings.

He had barely stretched out his arm when he retracted it.

"It's a barrier. One formed with negative energy."

A barrier!

Sole Wolf's eyes bulged as he said, "I've read about barriers in storybooks before. I never expected it to actually exist in real life too."

"Well, it's not really accurate to say that it's a barrier since it's not an actual barrier. It's just that someone used negative energy to close off a certain area. People can still enter the place easily, but it'll be difficult if they want to leave. That's because once you go near the borders, you'll start to hallucinate, making it so that you can't leave this place," Zeke explained patiently.

Upon hearing that, Sole Wolf nodded in understanding and said, "The people of Netherworld really are cunning."

Zeke continued, "You have to be at least an Ultimate Class warrior to be able to make a barrier out of negative energy. One might even have to be in the Celestial Class, in fact. It seems like there are some higher-ups of Netherworld here. This might even be one of their branches."

"Should we call Killer Wolf, Ares, and the rest over here, Zeke? If we really are at one of their branches, will the two of us be able to handle all of them?"

Zeke didn't dare to let his guard down. "Call them over. But tell them not to enter the barrier. Just tell them to wait for us outside."

"All right."

Sole Wolf quickly called Killer Wolf and the others before briefing them on the situation and telling them to get here as soon as possible.

Once he was done with that, both Zeke and he hid their presence and slowly passed through the barrier.

They managed to get through without any problems.

There was still nothing but wilderness inside.

Yet, they were still unable to sense Thomas' or Bryan's presence.

"I can feel someone's presence a few miles away. Come on, follow me," Zeke said after sensing his surroundings.

Both men had their guard up as they made their way forward, their speed neither slow nor fast.

After some time, a small town appeared before them.

However, everything about the town was weird.

## Chapter 1976

The whole town was in complete ruins, and looked so monotone it was as if the whole place had been painted in black and white. It looked like it had been abandoned a long time ago.

The town had all the necessary places. There was a supermarket, a post office, and even a small plaza.

However, all these places were abandoned a long time ago. There were no products in the supermarket, the post office was dilapidated, and there weren't any workers anywhere. The place was also overgrown with shrubs.

There was only one road in the town, neglected in the many years with multiple rusty and unusable vehicles parked beside it.

However, there were a number of villagers on the side of the road chatting with each other.

These villagers were wearing tattered clothes, each one of them as thin as a stick, and their hair a disheveled mess. They looked like they were refugees on the run.

In fact, to call them refugees would be an understatement as they looked more like beggars.

The villagers gave off the same aura as the town-somber and dead.

If they hadn't moved once in a while, Zeke would have assumed that they were dead.

No one would believe it if someone were to say that there wasn't anything weird about the place.

"What's up with this town. Zeke? Are these people dead or alive? Maybe they're zombies like those from Netherworld?" Sole Wolf whispered.

Shaking his head. Zeke answered, "I'm not sure. I can't really tell. Anyway, I need you to search for Bryan immediately. I'll look into what's going on here."

right." With that, Sole Wolf took his leave while Zeke continued venturing into the town.

"All

"Hey. There's someone new."

One of the "refugees" had noticed Zeke.

At his words, the rest of the "refugees" turned to stare at him.

Greed and hunger shone in each of their eyes. The villagers drooled as they continued to stare as if they were about to die of starvation but had found a big, fat piece of meat.

Something occurred to Zeke at the sight of this as a shiver ran down his spine.

He wasn't afraid. They couldn't harm him, after all. But the thought that they would do something made his scalp prickle.

He forced out a calm front as he continued forward while observing the villagers at the same time.

He soon noticed something.

There were men and women among these people, but there were no elderly or children. All of them were middle-aged.

They scrutinized Zeke as though they were looking for something.

In the midst of it, one of the doors of the houses opened and a figure rushed out toward Zeke before wrapping their arms around his leg the next second.

"Are you a doctor? You're a doctor, right? Please, I beg of you. Please save my children. I will do anything you ask as long as you save my children."

Children? Are there children here?

Zeke took a look at the woman and he couldn't help but frown.

Although her hair was a mess and her clothes were filthy, she had beautiful and sophisticated features. It was clear that she used to enjoy a life of luxury.

Her nails, especially, were a clear indication of that as there were traces of manicure on them.

There's no way a villager would go for a manicure.

The only explanation he could think of was that she used to live in the city.

Zeke took a glance at the other refugees and noticed a bigger problem.

All of them had something to show that they used to live in the city. For example, some had gold necklaces, some had diamond rings, and some had expensive bracelets.

Are they all from the city originally? Why are they gathered here at a remote town, then?

The woman was still pleading Zeke for his help.

He nodded slightly, about to agree to help.

He wanted to check if they were alive, dead. or if they were zombies like those from the Netherworld.

However, right when he was about to speak, a rough voice interrupted.

"Ava, are you f\*cking crazy? Are you so desperate for help that you've gone mad? This man here is obviously a thug. How would he know anything about medicine? Aren't you afraid that he'd kill your children?"

"No! He's not a thug. I can smell medicine on him. I'm sure that he has experience in the field. Besides, the vibe he gives off is that of a doctor," Ava insisted as she shook her head.

There was indeed the smell of medicine on Zeke since he had been visiting Emma and Amelia at the hospital.

The group of villagers was now staring at him with anticipation after hearing what Ava had said.

The man with the rough voice scolded, "What a load of crap! Do you have the nose of a dog? How can you even tell that there's the smell of medicine on him? I'm the only doctor here, and I'm the only one who can save your children. If you continue to beg this man, I will stop treating them at once. They'll definitely die without me."

Ava hesitated for a moment at his words. However, after making up her mind, she gritted her teeth and continued to beg Zeke, "Sir, please save my children. I'm willing to do anything if you promise to help."

D\*mn it!

"You're done for now, Ava!" the man shouted furiously. Taking a deep breath, Zeke said, "All right. I'll help you."

Thrilled by his words, Ava quickly got up and led him to her room.

At the sight of this, the vulgar man instantly threatened, "D\*mn it! Hey, you! The newcomer! If you're going to butt into somewhere you don't belong, I'm going to f\*cking kill you!"

Zeke ignored him and continued making his way to Ava's room.

"Hah! You must have a death wish!" the man shouted and dashed toward him, about to beat him up.

Shocked, Ava quickly spread her arms to shield Zeke with her body. "Mateo, come for me if you're going to do anything. Just don't hurt him."

"All right, then. I'll end your life! Right here, right now!" With that, Mateo swung his hand forcefully at her.

At the same time, Zeke gathered a ball of energy and struck the man with it.

The man named Mateo lost his balance in an instant, and he knelt on the ground with a thud. Those who didn't know what happened burst out in laughter.

Back then, no one dared to offend Mateo since he was the only one who practiced medicine. The villagers needed favors from him, and he used this as an excuse to climb over their heads.

It was a comical moment now that he was kneeling before the newcomer.

Meanwhile, Mateo was beyond puzzled as to what had just happened.

He couldn't wrap his mind around it.

It felt like there was an elephant pressing down on him earlier, and he couldn't help but kneel.

What the hell is this?

By the time he snapped back to his senses, Zeke had already gone into Ava's room.

Cursing under his breath, Mateo quickly barged into the room.

Zeke was stunned at the sight before him

the moment he entered.

He saw four children lying on a bed, each of them about the same age.

They look similar to each other, so they must be Ava's children. She's already so poor but has so many children. It'd be a miracle if she can actually raise them properly.

The children's faces were sallow and their bodies were thin. All four of them lay motionless and breathlessly on the bed. It was as if they had already lost their consciousness.

Zeke's preliminary diagnosis was that their bodies were weak due to malnutrition.

His diagnosis proved to be true when he was done checking up on each of them.

Ava was worried sick as she asked, "What's wrong with them, sir?"

"It's nothing too serious. They are just malnourished and their bodies are unable to replenish their energy. That's the main reason why their bodies are weak. Just feed them with healthy foods and they'll be fine."

The woman frowned at his words. "That can't be. I give them meat every day. How is it possible that they're malnourished?"

Huh? They eat meat everyday? But how is it possible that they are able to eat meat every day with living conditions like this?

Seeing that Ava wasn't going to believe his words anytime soon. Zeke pulled out a few pieces of candy from his pocket and fed them to the children.

Sugar was the most efficient food source of energy.

As the candy melted in the children's mouths, all four of them slowly gained their energy.

They slowly opened their eyes and mumbled weakly, "Mommy... I want... I want water..."

Tears of joy and relief streamed down from Ava's face. Her children were finally awake.

"Okay. I'll go boil some water for you guys right away. Wait for me, okay?" she sobbed.

While speaking, she quickly went to boil some water.

## Chapter 1978

Because there wasn't any cookware to boil water in Ava's room, she could only use some broken shingles to boil the water.

This confused Zeke. How did they cook their food when they don't even have a kettle to boil their water?

When the villagers outside saw that he had saved the children, they started getting on their knees, grateful for what he did.

"He's the Divine Doctor!"

"They've been unconscious for three days. But the Divine Doctor performed a miracle and managed to save them!"

"Please, Divine Doctor, please save my children, too. They're going to die soon!"

"I'm willing to do anything as long as you help me, Divine Doctor!"

Their words shocked Zeke. Do all these people have children? But why aren't they out here with them, then? Is it possible that they're malnourished like these children too?

Mateo was enraged at the sight of the villagers begging Zeke for help. "Get up! Get the hell up, all of you! Why are you begging him for help? All he did was give the children some candy. They only woke up because kids love candy. Don't you know he's only causing them more harm by feeding them candies while they're sick? It's bad for their bodies! The spiritual elixir I have is the only thing that can save your children. I won't care for them anymore if you continue begging him."

It was obvious that none of the villagers believed in Mateo anymore.

"Hmph! Stop lying to us, Mateo. Are you taking us for fools? How can a mere piece of candy save them?"

"Yeah! To hell with your spiritual elixir! Not only did my children fail to get better after drinking it, but their conditions also worsened."

"That's right. It was the same for my children, too." "The newcomer is the true Divine Doctor. Please, Divine Doctor, help us."

Since Zeke was already planning to investigate the place, he agreed without hesitation.

Just then, an old lady rushed over and grabbed his arm. "Divine Doctor, please come and take a look at my children first. They're about to die soon. Please, I beg of you..."

"Lead the way."

Hearing that, she pulled him toward her house.

The woman looked to be about fifty years old. She had wrinkles all over her face, and her movements were clumsy and slow.

However, she had probably aged prematurely due to the harsh environment. In reality, the woman might not actually be that old.

"How old are you, ma'am?" Zeke asked.

Sighing, she replied, "Would you believe. me if I said that I'm only in my early thirties?"

Early thirties...

Zeke couldn't imagine what kind of torment they had been through.

The old woman's house was also just another desolate building. He studied the place and realized that there wasn't any cookware either.

To his surprise, there were five children in the house.

Four girls and one boy lay unconscious on the bed. All of them looked like they were about to die soon.

Zeke took their pulse instantly.

After a moment, he retracted his hand and heaved a sigh.



"Divine Doctor, how are my children?" the old woman asked nervously.

"They're malnourished and need to replenish their energy."

At his words, she started crying. "But I've given all my food to them. I haven't eaten in two days. So how can they still be malnourished? Please think of a way to save them, Divine Doctor."

By then, Zeke only had one candy left on him.  
He originally kept them just in case he needed to coax Amelia.

Caught between a rock and a hard place, Zeke hesitated as he didn't know which of the children he should give the candy to.

In the end, he gave the last piece of candy to the old woman and told her to choose herself.

Her face paled instantly.

There were five children but only one piece of candy. He was basically telling her to save one of them and let the rest of them die.

As a mother, there was no way she could make a decision, for no matter what she chose, she would surely regret it for the rest of her life.

If it was possible, she would rather sacrifice herself to save them.

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## Chapter 1979

She could not accept the harsh reality. She gazed at Zeke, her face filled with anguish as she pleaded earnestly, "I-Is this the only one? Please, Divine Doctor, I'll sacrifice anything for five pills. I'll even give up my life in exchange for them!"

Zeke heaved a sigh.

He felt a twinge of sorrow when he noticed the old woman's desolate expression.

She has the heart of all parents. Asking her to pick just one child is probably worse than taking her life.

"Don't worry. I promise that all your children will be fine," Zeke comforted her.

"This spiritual drug can only help alleviate their pain. None of your children will die even if they don't take it. You can give it to whichever child you choose."

Zeke did not have the heart to tell her that it was not a spiritual drug but rather a sugar pill.

He hoped that this would help give them a sliver of hope in their otherwise bleak lives. The old woman still looked distraught.

Even if it were just to ease their suffering, the act of giving the pill to only one child felt like a betrayal.

At that moment, Mateo, a brute of a man, charged toward them and snatched the sugar pill away. "This is just a piece of candy. Don't be fooled by him! I'm going to toss this away right now."

With that, Mateo turned to run away.

The old woman crumpled to her knees as she screeched, "Mateo, you despicable creature! Give the drug back to me!"

Unfortunately, Mateo had no sympathy for the old woman. The people here were void of all humanity. The primal need to survive was so intense that morals and ethics paled in comparison, so much so that they eventually faded into nothingness.

Zeke could not watch Mateo take advantage of the old lady. In one swift motion, he seized Mateo's wrist and gripped it tightly.

Crack!

Mateo's wrist fractured immediately. The

coveted pill slipped from his fingers and fell onto the ground.

The old woman scrambled to pick it up and hastily shoved it into her only son's mouth.

Having made her choice, she apologized profusely to her four daughters. "Please don't blame me. I had to do it. I can't let our bloodline end here."

Sprawled on the ground. Mateo cradled his broken wrist as he howled. "This is so unfair! This is so f\*cking unfair! My children are also dying, so why are you the only one who gets the antidote? God, are you f\*cking blind? Can't you have mercy on me for once?"

It turned out that Mateo had tried to snatch the pill for his own children.

At the end of the day, all parents were the same.

Ring! Ring!

Just then, the crisp sound of a bell penetrated the air.

All the villagers faltered upon hearing the sound, their eyes taking on a hungry gleam. They swarmed toward the village entrance in a wild stampede, running like they had been possessed.

The old woman took her attention off her children. She beckoned at Zeke as she hobbled outside. "Let's go, Divine Doctor. Hurry, follow me."

"What is everyone doing?" Zeke inquired curiously.

However, there was no reply from the old woman. She was already far ahead of him, merging with the horde of people.

Just then, Ava appeared by Zeke's side.

She grasped his hand and prompted, "Divine Doctor, quick, follow me. It'll be too late if you keep dawdling."

Before Zeke could reply, Ava broke into a full sprint with his hand in hers.

Although the villagers were weak and malnourished, their frailty did not seem to impede them as they practically flew toward the source of the ringing.

What is it that has them so tempted?

Zeke saw the mass of people gathering at the village entrance and decided that he would just see for himself instead of pestering Ava for answers.

As he shuffled closer to the entrance, he realized that the villagers had crowded around two young men with wheelbarrows.

The young men were well-dressed and spruce—a stark contrast to the villagers' disheveled state.

There was a metal bucket and a rattan basket on each wheelbarrow.

The basket was filled to the brim with buns, but the contents of the bucket remained a mystery.

Zeke figured that the young men were here to provide food.

No wonder none of the villagers own cookware. They must receive food all the time.

The villagers stared at the wheelbarrows, hunger apparent on their faces as they struggled to suppress the urge to raid the wheelbarrows.

A famished villager finally snapped and

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A famished villager finally snapped and lunged for the wheelbarrow. He grabbed a bun and gobbled it up.

Chapter 1980

The crowd started to stir after they witnessed the man's actions. They were itching to go as well.

At that moment, a tatted-up youngster pulled out his gun and fired two shots at the villager who had grabbed the bun.

A guttural sound left his lips before he plopped dead on the ground.

Blood oozed out from the wound, creating a hauntingly beautiful rose.

The blood was a vibrant scarlet, indicating that the villagers were living, breathing people instead of zombies from the Netherworld.

The sound of the gunshot rattled the villagers, their bodies tense with fear. A deathly silence settled upon the petrified crowd.

The murderer scoffed, "F\*ck, do you animals want to die? How dare you rebel against us! Get in a line or starve to death!" Cruel as his words were, the line of people waiting to receive food did, in fact, "Scram, you pig! Don't use these petty tricks on me, or I'll put a bullet through your head!" the man shouted.

The villager took his cue to leave and fled instantly, his arms wrapped tightly around his measly dinner.

The second villager stepped forward. "Master, I have two wives and four children," he informed politely.

The youngsters doled out four pieces of meat and three buns.

Learning from the precedent event, the second villager scuttled away once he received his portion.

The villagers patiently waited for their turn to get fed.

Zeke noticed a pattern almost immediately. Each villager would receive portions of meat equal to the number of children they had, whereas adults were given a bun each.

Two hundred grams of pork should be enough to sustain a growing child.

So why are all the children malnourished? Did the adults eat all the meat? This speculation was unlikely, as the adults seemed to care a lot for their children. They would much rather starve and let their children eat their fill.

There must be more to it.

Soon, it was Ava's turn to get her ration of food.

"Master, I have a husband and four kids." she reported honestly.

The tattooed man sneered at Ava and asked, "Why is the woman here to get food? Where is your husband?"

Ava exhaled heavily. "I don't know. I haven't seen him in two days." The man made no comment and gave her the food.

Moments later, Zeke was the only one left.

The tattooed man was taken aback to see him. "Oh? Are you new here?"

Deciding that it would be best for him to lie low, Zeke nodded. "Yes."

"Do you have anything valuable with you? Give it to me, and I can find you a couple of pretty girls," the man offered with a smirk.

Zeke shook his head no.

The man seemed to grow irritated as he huffed, "Huh, yet another poor guy."

"Ava, your husband is probably dead out there, since you haven't seen him in days. Take this man as his substitute."

With those parting words, the man prepared to leave.

Ava quickly called out, "Wait, you haven't given Divine Doctor his food!" The man scrutinized Zeke as he echoed, "Divine Doctor? You're a doctor?"

Zeke gave him a curt nod.

The man chortled and taunted, "All right. If you're a doctor, cure the disease that's plaguing these children. If you succeed, I'll not only acknowledge that you're the Divine Doctor, but I'll also call you my grandpa!"

"I look forward to hearing you call me your grandpa, " Zeke responded with a serene smile.

Chapter 1981

Motherf\*cker...

The tattooed man was infuriated. Frightened, Ava hurriedly tugged Zeke to her side and muttered a stream of apologies.

The man gave Zeke a final glare before leaving with his wheelbarrow.

Ava heaved a sigh of relief and said, "You just got here, so you don't know how things work. Don't ever cross those two guys, or you'd be in deep trouble."

"How deep?" Zeke questioned.

Ava cast her eyes downward as she murmured, "Do you know what this village is known as?"

Zeke shook his head.

"We're the Village of Livestock. All the villagers here are treated like farm animals. Any day could be our last day on earth. Killing us is as easy as killing livestock," Ava explained.

Village of Livestock...

Zeke recalled how the villagers spent their lives eating food given by others, only to die at the hands of their providers, and he realized how befitting the name was.

He immersed himself in the energy of the village and the two men but detected nothing sinister.

Could it be that this village is not a product of the Netherworld? But what about the negative energy barrier?

To get to the bottom of things, Zeke sent a message to Sole Wolf, instructing him to stalk the two young men.

In the meantime, he followed Ava back to her home and continued to investigate the peculiar village.

Back in Ava's house, all four children were sound asleep.

Ava proffered a stale bun to Zeke. A blush colored her cheeks as she said, "Divine Doctor, you can have this bun. Master said that we are to spend the rest of our lives together, so this is meant to be yours."

Chapter 1981

Zeke shook his head and declined gently, "I'm not hungry. You can have it."

"Divine Doctor, it's best if you eat it quickly, or else someone will snatch it from you," Ava implored.

However, Zeke insisted that he had no appetite and refused to eat.

Ava gave up struggling and hid the bun. She then approached the bed with the meat in hand.

7:55

"It's time to eat, my dear children."

Ava's face radiated happiness and contentment. She was proud to be able to feed her children.

It was times like this that gave her a sense of accomplishment as a mother.

The smell of meat wafted up to the children's noses, invading their dreams. Their eyes flew open instantaneously. Eagerness was written plainly on their faces as they salivated at the sight of food.

Meat!

The children feebly propped themselves up and reached for the meat.

However, before they could even touch the food, the door swung open. A beggar in unkempt clothing stormed in and ripped the meat out of Ava's hands.

"D\*mn, I'm starving. Finally, we get some food!"

With that, he chomped down on the meat.

The children burst into tears and whined for food.

Ava yelped in surprise and pounced on the beggar. "Lucas, stop eating! This is for the kids; you can't have it! You can have my bun! Give the children the meat."

The beggar gave the children a cursory glance and tossed the youngest child a piece of meat before continuing to inhale the food.

Ava attempted to pry the meat from the beggar's grubby fingers. "Give the children the meat! This is meant for them. Look, they're going to die of starvation!"

Lucas shoved Ava off and yelled, "You stupid woman! Leave me alone! None of the three kids are my offspring, so why should I care if they die? They have nothing to do with me!"



Lucas had exerted such force that Ava stumbled backward and toppled to the floor. Her head knocked against the hard ground, leaving a horrifying gash.

Zeke's expression darkened.

Sick b\*stard! He's worse than a beast! He wouldn't even show kindness toward his own children. People like him don't deserve to live.

Zeke released a surge of energy. The sheer magnitude of his power oppressed Lucas instantly. Lucas' feet were glued to the ground, and he could not move a single muscle. It was as if someone had cast a spell on him.

Zeke casually plucked the meat from Lucas' hands and passed it to Ava. "Give it to your children."

Ava gaped at Zeke in awe.

What happened? Why can't Lucas move?

This incident reminded her of Mateo.

The same thing had happened to Mateo when he tried to attack Zeke.

This is really strange.

However, Ava had more important things to do at the moment.

"Thank you, thank you!" she exclaimed gratefully.

Chapter 1982

Paying no heed to her injuries, Ava accepted the meat and quickly divided it among her children.

The children gobbled down the food.

Zeke waited until the children had finished eating before retracting his energy.

Lucas jerked as if he had been electrocuted.

"F\*ck, I must've been possessed! What happened just now? Why couldn't I move? Did you do something to me?"

Lucas glowered at Zeke.

Zeke held his gaze but did not reply. In his eyes, Lucas was as good as dead, and Zeke was determined to make his death a reality.

Realizing that the children had devoured all the meat, Lucas exploded in fury.

"You b\*stard! You're seeking death! How dare you meddle with my family affair! I'll kill you!"

With that, Lucas lunged at Zeke to give him a good beating. Shocked, Ava darted in front of Zeke and shielded him with her body.

"Stop it, Lucas! Stop! Master has arranged for him to be with me. He can heal our children. If you don't want the kids to die, leave right now."

Leave?

"If anyone were to leave, it should be you! You are my belonging, and no one can take you away from me!" Lucas bellowed.

Lucas swung his hand forcefully at Ava's face.

However, another hand intercepted the slap before it could make contact. It was Zeke.

Crack!

Lucas felt like he had slammed his hand into a boulder. His arm snapped on impact.

He let out a bloodcurdling scream and collapsed on the floor, writhing in pain.

"Get lost immediately, or I'll kill you," Zeke threatened.

The menace in Zeke's voice was enough to convince Lucas. He booked it out of the house with his tail between his legs.

Right as he stepped through the doors, he spluttered, "Just you wait! You're dead meat! I'll make sure that I kill you if that's the last thing I do!" He jabbed a finger in Zeke's direction.

Anxiety gripped Ava's heart as she pleaded on Zeke's behalf, "Lucas, please don't! He's the only person who can save our children. You can't kill him!"

However, Lucas could not care less about Ava's concerns. He was gone in a blink of an eye.

Ava's expression clouded over. "Divine Doctor, you're in grave danger. Leave quickly and find a safe place to hide for a few days. I'll talk to Lucas. You can come back when he has calmed down," she suggested, her tone urgent.

However, Zeke waved her off. "He's just an average guy. He's no match for me."

"Divine Doctor, he's not working alone. He has five other buddies. All six of them were sent to this village because they committed cold-blooded massacres. They'll kill you for real!" Ava tried to persuade him.

Oh?

Zeke's interest was piqued. "If they committed such heinous crimes, shouldn't they be punished according to law? Why were they sent here instead? And who sent them?"

Dumbfounded, Ava replied with a question of her own, "Mr. Williams, do you not know about this village? Didn't you get sent here because you committed an unforgivable crime?"

Zeke shook his head. "I stumbled across this place by mistake."

This piece of information left Ava stunned. "By mistake? Then you must be really unlucky. I'll be completely honest with you. Every villager, apart from the children, is a criminal on death row, myself included. Since you're innocent, you can appeal to the masters. Who knows, they might let you leave."

Zeke's eyebrows knitted together as he tried to process her words. "On death row? In that case, who brought you here? Did you voluntarily choose to come, or were you forced to?"

"The masters brought us here. We were facing the death penalty out there, but the masters found us and offered us a life in this village. It was a no-brainer for us, especially since they promised us bed and board," Ava explained.

She then went on, "Of course, not every death row inmate fits the criteria. The people in charge did a medical check-up on each of us. A good friend of mine failed the test and could not come along. She was executed outside."

Chapter 1983

"A medical check-up? What were they looking for?" Zeke asked.

"Fertility. My friend could not reproduce, so she was eliminated." Ava then continued with a heavy sigh, "If I could go back in time, I would rather die than live in this hellhole."

"So your masters brought you here to reproduce?" Zeke repeated.

Ava nodded in affirmation. "Yes, to give birth to as many kids as possible. However, for some unknown reason, all our children are very weak and listless. The condition only gets worse as they grow older. They can't even stay awake most of the time."

"I have two husbands. My previous partner and I had three children before he suddenly became infertile. He disappeared without a trace after that. I suspect that the masters..." Ava trailed off. The unsaid words hung in the air, grim and heavy.

"Anyway, Lucas is my husband now. My youngest child is his biological daughter." Comprehension dawned on Zeke.

No wonder Lucas was only willing to give the youngest child the meat and not the other three.

Zeke gazed at Ava and vowed, "Don't worry. I'll save all of you from this place, and I'll make sure that justice is served."

Ava's lips curled up in a rueful smile. "Divine Doctor, thank you for the promise. I really appreciate it. However, one can only enter and never escape this village. The masters are more powerful than you can ever imagine."

"That makes me wonder-how powerful are your masters? And how many of them are they?" Zeke mused out loud.

"I've seen three masters-the two that bring us food and the one that brought me here. The masters own automatic weapons. I suppose that proves how powerful they are," Ava answered.

Zeke snickered disdainfully. So what if they own automatic weapons? Those weapons are nothing in the face of true power.

Zeke continued to bombard Ava with questions until he was satisfied that he knew the village well enough.

All the villagers were death row inmates who were brought here by the masters.

Their only purpose was to reproduce, and they were to give birth to as many offspring as they could.

Once they lost their fertility, the villagers would vanish mysteriously. There was a high chance that the masters had exterminated them.

None of the villagers could escape the village or contact the outside world. The village was essentially a prison-cut off from the rest of the world and devoid of resources. Their only sustenance was the food they received every evening.

Adults were given one bun each, whereas children received two hundred grams of meat. It was the bare minimum for them to survive.

It was not a stretch to call the village hell on earth.

At this moment, there was a sharp rap on the door, followed by an enraged roar. "Ava, come out here with that b\*stard! You better

do as I say, or I'll burn all of you alive!"

Sh\*t!

Ava's face turned a ghastly white. "I didn't think that he'd be back so soon. It's too late now. They'll torture you to death! Mr. Williams, you have to get out of here. Use the window to escape!"

Zeke appeared unruffled. "It's all right. They can't touch me. Come on, let's see what they want."

Ava rushed to block Zeke as he strode toward the door but to no avail. Both of them left the room.

Outside, Lucas had gathered five men to help him seek his revenge. Mateo was among the group. An air of malice surrounded them.

All six of them had rods in their hands, and a small crowd had gathered to witness the bloodbath.

In the eyes of the isolated villagers, this sort of drama was their biggest entertainment.

No one cared if someone fell dead. In their eyes, a human life was worth less than a bun.

Lucas' broken arm hung limply by his side. With his good arm, he lightly tapped his rod on the ground.

"Well, well. I see you haven't escaped. I'll have to commend you for your courage! Now, I'll give you two choices. Either you kill yourself, and I'll leave your corpse as a whole, or I'll tear you apart piece by piece and torment you until death finds you."

## Chapter 1984

"Of course, I won't let your corpse go to waste... Haha, it's been a while since we got to enjoy a proper meal of meat."

Lucas' words were chilling. Those people were thinking of eating human flesh.

Given how calm the man was when he spoke, it would not be surprising if he had done that previously.

They were indeed worthy of their title of the Vicious Six.

Zeke shot a cold glance at Lucas and his companions and said, "I choose to wipe you guys off the face of the earth!"

F\*ck!

Lucas was furious when he heard that. "You're still so stubborn even on the verge of your demise. Well, you asked for it! I gave you a chance but you didn't cherish it. Seems like we'll have to deal with you ourselves, then. Guys, grab your weapons and kill them all!" speaking,

Immediately after he finished Lucas took the lead and dashed toward Zeke

"Stop!" Ava screamed as she stepped in front of Zeke. "All of you, stop right now! He can't be touched!"

Lucas was boiling with anger when he heard that. "B\*tch! You are my wife! How dare you defend another man! I'll kill you as well!"

Ava replied, "If you lay your hands on him, I guarantee that you will regret it! He's not someone you can afford to hurt!"

"What a load of crap," Lucas fumed. "Us, the Vicious Six, can kill anyone we want to in this village!"

"Oh, really? What about the Holy Maiden's men? Do you dare to kill them as well?" Ava replied.

Lucas froze for a moment when he heard that. "What do you mean by that? Don't try to trick me. That's not going to work!"

"Actually, the Holy Maiden has specially made arrangements for the divine doctor to enter the village to treat the kids. Since he's affiliated with the Holy Maiden, he can be considered our master as well. If you kill the Holy Maiden's men, do you think she'll let you off?"

After hearing that, Lucas cooled off instantly and said, "Are you f\*cking kidding me? How come I didn't know that he was sent here by the Holy Maiden? Does anyone of you know?"

Lucas glanced at the villagers.

The crowd merely stared at him in a daze and no one responded.

"What a bunch of idiots!" Lucas mocked.

Ava explained at once, "Why would the Holy Maiden need to report her plans to us?"

As Lucas could not be sure if Ava was telling the truth, he did not dare to take any risk.

Turning toward Mateo, he asked, "Mateo, do you believe what Ava is saying or do you think she is lying?"

Mateo frowned and replied, "This fella does look like a doctor. However, that does not mean he's sent by the Holy Maiden."

"Damn!" Lucas' head throbbed. "What should we do?"

Even if there was just a one percent chance that Zeke was sent by the Holy Maiden, they would not dare to risk it.

The Holy Maiden was not someone they could afford to offend and it was not worth risking their lives because of Zeke.

Noticing Mateo's hesitance, Ava knew that her tactic was working.

She immediately shot a look at Zeke, beckoning him to admit that he was indeed sent by the Holy Maiden.

However, that was not what Zeke wanted. To him, Ava was not trying to help him but was saving the lives of Lucas and the rest instead. If Lucas were to take one more step forward, Zeke would finish him off.

Just when Mateo and the other guys were in a dilemma, an elderly woman suddenly ran toward them.

It was the mother of the child whom Zeke had treated earlier on. Even though she was just slightly over thirty, she looked like an elderly woman in her fifties due to the vicissitudes of life.

The woman made her way throu

crowd and knelt down in front of Zeke. "Divine Doctor, Divine Doctor, please save my child! He's in so much pain that he's almost going crazy! He keeps shrieking, rolling about, and banging his head. His forehead is already all bruised! Divine Doctor, please save my poor child."

When the crowd heard that, fear was written all over their faces and they began to murmur among themselves.

"Shrieking, rolling about, and banging his head? Those symptoms are not the same as our children's." "Exactly. I've never heard of anyone who had gotten such symptoms before."

"Could it be that his condition has worsened? That's why he's behaving in that manner?"

"That's very likely. If our children remained untreated, they could end up developing such symptoms as well."

"Since he's the divine doctor sent by the Holy Maiden, he should be able to cure our children."

## Chapter 1985

Suddenly, a thought flashed past Mateo's mind.

"Ah, I have an idea. Since you're sent by the Holy Maiden to treat the kids, why don't you go to her house and cure her child? If you manage to do that successfully, I will believe that you're indeed sent by the Holy Maiden. Or else, you will end up as our food."

nonsense. Zeke was focused on the child's condition and had no time to entertain Mateo's

He walked toward the woman and helped her up, saying, "Please lead the way."

"Thank you, Divine Doctor. Thank you!"

Feeling extremely grateful, the woman headed toward her house with Zeke.

next. The other villagers followed behind them, interested to know what would happen

7. 1 Along the way, Ava reminded Zeke softly, "Later on, regardless of whether you're able to cure the kid or not, just insist that you're sent by the Holy Maiden. That's the only way for you to save yourself."

Feeling curious, Zeke asked, "Who exactly is the Holy Maiden? All of you seem really wary of her."

"The Holy Maiden is our benefactor," Ava replied. "She often sends us food, daily necessities and helps us with repairing our homes. She even treats our illnesses. If not for the Holy Maiden,



we might not have a place to stay or food to eat. Who knows, we might not have been able to survive to this day."

"She's able to come and go as she pleases?" Zeke asked.

"Of course!" Ava replied.

"If that's the case, the Holy Maiden is also one of your masters. Since she's also one of those who have been holding you captive, it's ridiculous that all of you are so grateful to her just because of such petty favors." Hearing that, Ava shook her head and clarified, "No, no. The Holy Maiden is not the same as the rest of our masters. I can feel that she truly cares about us. In fact, she tried to free us once but was discovered by

the other masters. She was even punished because of that."

Hmm?

Zeke made sure he remembered the name.

Ava sighed and continued, "However, the Holy Maiden only visits us once a month or once every two months. There was even once that she did not visit for six months straight. If she could come here more often, our lives would have probably been better."

After a while, they arrived at the woman's house.

One of her children was behaving in a berserk manner, dashing around the house aimlessly. He had bloodshot eyes and was growling, just like a demon.

When the child saw Zeke, he started charging at him before he was quickly restrained by a man in the house.

Judging by the resemblance between the man and the child, it was likely that they were father and son.

The man bellowed at Zeke, "Get lost! Can't you see that my son is having a relapse?"

The woman explained at once, "He's the divine doctor whom I've mentioned to you previously. He's here to treat our boy."

Hearing that, the man immediately let go of his child and knelt before Zeke, pleading for him to help.

"Divine Doctor, please save my kid! He's going to die soon from the torture that this illness is causing him."

Ignoring the man, Zeke walked up to the child to check his condition.

However, the boy, who kept struggling and screaming, refused to cooperate.

Zeke had no choice but to use his energy to restrain the child, who quietened down in an instant, apart from making occasional growling sounds.

The crowd was amazed when they saw that. Without doing anything except for giving one light touch, the divine doctor had managed to calm the kid down.

They were starting to be convinced that Zeke indeed possessed true abilities and that there was finally hope for their children.

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Meanwhile, Ava fell into deep thought, a deep frown appearing between her brows.

She recalled that when Lucas and Mateo were attacking Zeke, they had also appeared to have been “restrained” momentarily.

Seeing that the child was reacting in a similar manner, Ava could not help but be suspicious of Zeke.

How did he manage to do that? What's his real identity? Why did he show up here? Could it be true that he's really here to free us?

Ava started feeling excited at that thought.

## Chapter 1986

Zeke started examining the child's body after laying him down and was shocked by what he had found.

The child's skin was crammed with wormlike, engorged veins.

His blood was flowing unusually fast, his pupil dilated, and he was huffing and puffing, gasping for air. It was evident that the child's life was hanging on a thread.

All these symptoms triggered a thought in Zeke's head as he finally found the answer to all his questions.

Cursed parasitic worms! This explains everything! All the kids here probably have these diabolical worms in them. Those wretched creatures in their body were sucking every bit of their nutrients, and that is why no matter how much they eat, they'll still be malnourished and weak. Someone is using them as incubators for these minuscule scroungers! D\*mn it! Who on earth would have a mind so twisted and blood so cold?

Hatred took over Zeke and sank his fingers deep into his palms.

"Divine Doctor... Will you be able to save my child?" The old woman was very concerned, but she only dared to ask timorously.

Mateo scoffed, "Hmph! Just look at his face. Obviously, he can't. He is nothing but a total sham, whose expertise is tricking kind people like you. What can actually save you now is this spiritual elixir of mine. It'd be wiser for you to beg me for it and get this quack out of my face. Failing which, you'll say goodbye to your kid forever."

The old couple weren't sure about it.

While they were contemplating, Zeke continued working on the child.

Since the root of the malady is clear now, it'll be easier to heal him. All I have to do is get the worm out of his body.

Zeke examined further, and very soon, he could pinpoint where the harmful worm was the child's stomach. It took residence in the stomach and digested all the food before the young boy could.

Zeke directed a wave of energy into the child's body, which pushed the worm up to the esophagus and eventually the throat.

A fountain of vomitus and blood gushed out of the boy's mouth, and lying in the mushy ordure was a peculiar black dot.

It was like a maggot, but with a black sheen all over it. This creature had most probably reached its full maturity.

Zeke wasn't sure about the type of worm he was about to deal with, as he'd never come across anything like it.

After the messy episode, the child showed signs of recovery. His face was slowly turning rosy, and his pupils constricted back to their original sizes as he panted by the bed.

The old woman tucked the child into her embrace instantly. "My child, oh, my poor child. How are you feeling now?" "I'm hungry, Mommy..."

"Of course you are! Here, have this." The old lady drew the only bun she had from her pocket.

It was her ration for the day, but she kept it for him.  
The young boy gobbled it down in seconds.

With the worm out of his system, he could finally digest the food he ate. Gradually, he regained energy and started moving about, just like any other child would, and then flashed a smile.

"Mommy, I'm feeling much better now. I've never felt like this before."

Tears rolled down the old woman's cheek.

She was guilt-ridden to have let her child go through the torment. She'd never imagined that the boy would be in such bliss before Zeke came into the picture.

The villagers went wild upon seeing what had happened. "The child is healed!"

"I can't believe it. He cured the boy!"

It was a sign that there was hope for their children too.

They started pleading with Zeke, hoping that he could save their loved ones too. Some even shed tears of joy.

"Divine Doctor, you healed... No, no, no. You brought the child back to life!"

"Divine Doctor, please, I beg you. Save my little one!"

"Oh dear, oh dear. My child will be saved! Finally! Lord has finally shown his mercy!"

After years of gloom and doom in this dark place, even the feeblest glimpse of hope would stir up waves of emotion.

Chapter 1987

Before the cursed parasitic worm could get away, Zeke killed it with a quick stomp. Then, sounds of bells hastily chiming filled the streets as he was about to leave the house to help the other families out.

The villagers immediately stopped crying and stood in line.

Zeke knitted his brows in confusion. Huh? It's mealtime again? I thought it was just moments ago.

Ava grabbed Zeke's hand and walked toward the exit. "Hurry up. Follow me."

"What's going on?"

"Don't ask and don't speak. Just follow me," Avasaid in a hushed voice.

Zeke did as told and joined the line of villagers with her.

It was the two young men who distributed food just now.

The tattooed man barged into the house that Zeke was in. "Whose house is this?"

"Me, Master." The old woman quickly took a step forward from the line.

"I've brought you good news. The clan leader really likes your eldest son and wants to take him as his godson. I'm here to take your son to the chief."

His words could've deceived others, but Zeke wasn't buying it.

He knew that it was pure blarney.

They must have sensed that the worm had fully matured, so they came here just for that.

The old woman's face soured, as she didn't want her boy to be taken away.

Those who had gone to the clan leader before this were never heard of again. No one knew if they were still alive.

It's my son's turn. Are they going to...

The old lady got more and more worried from the thoughts of what might happen to her child. "Master, my son's still very young. He won't be able to live without me. Is it... Is it possible to, you know, give him more time?"

"Shut your mouth. You should be counting your blessings, for the clan leader has his eyes on your son! Not only aren't you grateful, but you're also trying to get in the way! Don't you know what's good for you? One more word, and I'll chop off your tongue."

From the young man's ferocious attitude, the old lady backed down. She knew that her pleading would bring nothing but more harm, so she sealed her lips.

The man then swaggered into the room.

Blood drained from his face when he saw the young boy as fit as a fiddle. The latter was running about in the room, and he appeared to be pretty healthy. It wasn't how someone with a cursed parasitic worm in his system would behave.

The pool of vomitus was still there, and the carcass of the worm in it was conspicuous.

The worm was taken out from this kid, and it's dead! After years of incubation, and this is what we're getting?

The two young men were furious.

"Who did this? Who the f\*cking hell did this? Who crushed it?"

The bawl was ghastly, and the fearful villagers outside the room were trying to make sense of his reaction.

What ticked our masters off? Who crushed it? What did he mean? What was crushed?

Only Zeke knew what the man meant. He knew that they were talking about the worm that he stomped.

The tattooed guy raged as he exited the room and scanned every single person viciously.

"Which motherf\*cker did this? Own up now, and I'll grant you an easy death!" Right when Zeke wanted to confess, Ava grabbed his arm. "Please don't do that. I'm begging you. You won't want to mess with them."

Being responded with silence, the tattooed man pulled the old woman to him and lashed out. "F\*ck you! It must be you who did it! I'm going to kill you!"

As the last strand of hope fled from her soul, she closed her eyes. She wasn't willing to sell her son's savior out, even if it meant giving up her own life.

As long as my child is alive, I'm willing to die.

"Master! I know who did it!" Lucas yelled in the nick of time.

"Tell me! Who?" The tattooed guy let go of the old woman.

Lucas pointed at Zeke. "It must be this newcomer who did that. He was the only one who fiddled with the boy in the name of healing him. Who knows what he'd done?"

Chapter 1988

The tattooed man looked at Zeke.

"Oh dear. Is there no way out of this?" Ava whispered in despair.

Zeke sniggered and said to the tattooed man, "Remember that you said you're going to kneel down and call me grandpa if I could heal the kids? Time to honor your words."

The tattooed man's face turned steely. "I've belittled you. I can't believe that you know about the worms. Who exactly are you, and who got you here?" he asked while cueing his partner to find out more about him.

His partner got the message and immediately took out a booklet and flipped through the pages.

"There's nothing whatsoever of this man, neither are there records of new inhabitants for the past three months," he announced in a solemn tone after some time.

The two brutes felt threatened instantly. Obviously, this man, who knew about the cursed parasitic worms and killed it after forcing it out of the child's body, would be a formidable opponent.

Not willing to take any risk, he forwent the idea of capturing Zeke and coldly uttered, "Hmph. I shall report to the clan leader, and he will decide what to do with you. Now, let's go."

With a big wave from the tattooed man, he and his partner left.

Zeke had the intention of mowing them down but eventually dismissed the thought.

There was no point in getting rid of them, since they were just lackeys. Worse still, it might set off alarms.

Playing the long game might be a better idea. He thought that it would be better to use the two brutes as bait and lure in the big fish.

Zeke lightly kicked a pebble onto the back of the head of the tattooed guy's partner.

"Argh!" He let out a shriek and collapsed on the ground.

That enraged the tattooed man. He gritted his teeth and growled, "B\*stard! How dare you attack your master from behind? You must have a death wish! I'll make sure that the clan leader rips you apart!"

"Better make it quick, or else I'll turn this village into ashes, including all the worms!" Zeke gave an icy reply.

The tattooed man quickly got his partner over his shoulders and was ready to leave.

Again. Zeke shot a stone with his foot, and this time, it hit the tattooed man's knee pit, which drove the latter slamming onto the ground.

"You may leave, but your mate will have to stay as a hostage."

Fine! If that's what you want!

"Aren't you a gutsy one? But you'll regret one day." The tattooed man stared at Zeke with bloodshot eyes and scurried away. The silent crowd, with raised eyebrows, channeled their focus onto Zeke.

They realized that this man was way more than average.

Not only did he miraculously heal the child, but even their masters also didn't have his record in their book.

It seems that he came here on his own without the masters' knowledge. Who's this guy? Why is he here? What's his agenda?

Lucas was among the first few who'd regained their senses.

He looked at Zeke fearfully and jittered. "YYou... Get out of the village!"

He then turned to the villagers. "Dear all, we'd better work together to rid the village of him. He drove our masters up the wall, and they're definitely coming back for him. Who knows if they will make life harder for us?"

He gave Mateo a knowing look and continued. "Our masters' anger might even make them kill all of us. We need to take a side, and of course we need to side with our masters. This man has to go."



"You're right. I agree to kick him out of the village to prevent us from losing our lives." Mateo went along with Lucas.

More and more of the villagers chimed in and agreed to their proposition.

Yet, the majority were still contemplating and hadn't chosen their standing. Zeke was their children's only hope. Kicking him out would mean taking their children's lives.

Zeke gave Lucas a sharp glance. "If I leave, I can guarantee that every single one of you here and your children will be annihilated. I'm here to save you."

"Bullsh\*t! Who do you think you are to go against our masters? You've overestimated yourself! Let me remind you that our masters have automatic weapons. You can be the best fighter in the world, but you'll be smashed to smithereens when you're up against those machines! Those who want to see him gone, come and stand by my side." Lucas yawned.

## Chapter 1989

There was an uproar among the villagers.

In the blink of an eye, half of them stood by Lucas' side, while the other half stood by Zeke's side.

With that, the crowd split themselves into two camps.

Ava advised the crowd that was on Lucas' side. "Even if you don't care about yourselves, please think about your children. Our children are even worse than dead now. It's better for us to let the Divine Doctor cure our children. Since he said he came to rescue us, we're sure he has a way. If we stay here, I'm afraid of all our children. and we are going to die."

"It's your choice if you want to wait and die here or grab this last chance to survive."

Ava's words moved some of them.

Quite many of them stepped out of Lucas' camp and joined Zeke's side.

Da\*n it!

Lucas was beyond exasperated. "Fine. So you've decided to go against Master. Wait and see. Master will kill all of you, including your children..."

Zeke ignored Lucas and turned to a bald man beside him. "Please bring me to see your children."

The bald man responded with appreciation, "Okay, I'll take you right now. Thank you for saving us, Divine Doctor. If you can cure my children, I'll use my life to protect you forever..."

Zeke and his camp marched toward the bald man's house.

The crowd in Lucas' camp exchanged glances among themselves.

Lucas uttered, "Let's go and check it out. We'll surround them. After the Master arrives, we will help him to defeat them. Master will give us credits by then, and our life will be improved! Let's go!"

Under Zeke's leadership, his camp caught up with Lucas' camp.

A while later, they arrived at the bald man's house.

There were three kids in his house, one boy and two girls.

Zeke checked the eldest boy first, and all his symptoms showed that he had been poisoned.

However, his symptoms were not obvious, probably because the worms in his body had not fully grown.

Zeke forced a wave of energy into the boy's body and pushed the worms to his neck. The next second, the boy puked them out.

Those black worms were only the size of a mosquito and not fully grown.

After spitting the worms out, the boy still felt weak and strengthless, but a trace of color was finally seen on his face.

The bald man shed tears of joy upon seeing that.

All those present were left amazed witnessing this miracle.

As such, Zeke helped the other kid to cast out the worms.

At that moment, a fuss appeared outside the door, mixed with clashing sounds of metal.

Lucas' voice emerged, "It's Holy Maiden. She's here. Come on, let's welcome her."

Zeke's side was dumbfounded. Ava rushed to the window to check it out. "Sh\*t! It's Holy Maiden! She's brought an army and they are all armed."

The crowd began to panic as they all shifted their gazes toward Zeke. "Divine Doctor, what should we do now?"

Naturally, they had put their hopes on Zeke.

Zeke waved his hand casually. "It's all right. Let's go out and meet them."

Ava immediately reminded, "We should be careful. They're carrying the automatic weapon. Maybe we should talk to them from inside the house."

Zeke comforted her. "Don't worry. No weapon in this world can harm me."

The crowd was left bewildered by his boldness and arrogance.

How could a human body stand a bullet? He's only trying to comfort us. The crowd would not want to see Zeke risking his life as they still needed him to save their children.

They all kept persuading him to stay in the house and let them go out and face Holy Maiden instead.

## Chapter 1990

Holy Maiden was a kind-hearted person. Surely she would not mind the matter.

Nonetheless, Zeke, the Great Marshal, would not be easily persuaded by the crowd. In the end, he insisted on walking out himself.

Utterly disappointed, the crowd had no choice but to follow him out.

There was a well-trained troop outside the door, only ten of them, dressed in Muraco Clan's attire.

Some of them held metal weapons, while the rest carried automatic weapons.

A tattooed man was leading them.

At the back of the troop was a sedan. No one could see who was inside. Nevertheless, Zeke could vaguely smell a woman's sweet scent coming from the sedan.

It looks like the Holy Maiden is in there.

Lucas led his camp and bowed at the tattooed man.

"Master, the new guy insulted you and the other masters. We tried to teach him a lesson, but we couldn't beat him. We are willing to fight with you and destroy him."

Upon hearing that, the troop of the Muraco Clan all shifted their gazes toward Zeke, their eyes filled with hostility.

The crowd in Zeke's side was overawed with fright.

The tattooed man let out a boisterous laugh. "Hahaha. Are you afraid? I thought you were fearless. I swear I will break all your limbs today!"

Just then, Zeke showed a disappointed expression. "You only brought so few of your men. I find it somehow insulting. I advise you to bring your clan leader. He's the only one who deserves to talk to me."

How arrogant!

The tattooed man stomped his feet in wrath. "I can destroy you all alone! There's no need to inform our clan leader!"

Zeke responded, "Then, why did you bring your men with you?"

"I..." The tattooed man flushed in embarrassment. "I brought them to keep the crowd under control."

Zeke spoke again. "Is it? Then, let's fight one-on-one. And let them control the crowd."

The tattooed man was rendered speechless and enraged.

In the end, he cut off the conversation abruptly. "Enough of your craps! Boys, charge and kill him!"

Hold on a second!

Just then, Ava immediately stepped out. "You guys have gone too far. Holy Maiden, please listen to us. All the Divine Doctor did was cure our children. And the Master wanted to kill him.

The Divine Doctor only fought back to protect himself. Master was the one who started the conflict,"

The crowd on Zeke's side all started to plead for Zeke too.

Zeke displayed a bitter smile. Until now, you guys are still blind. The worms in your children's bodies come from them. They treat your children as vessels. When I cured your children, I destroyed their profits at the same time. Of course, they're going after me.

As expected, Holy Maiden did not respond to Ava's pleading.

Ava was overwhelmed with desperation. If even Holy Maiden doesn't want to help, we'll be doomed.

The tattooed man sneered, "Stop all the nonsenses. Who do you guys think you are to try to persuade Holy Maiden? Kill them now!"

Kill!

The troop of the Muraco Clan let out a battle cry and charged toward Zeke.

Right then, a loud voice hollered from the sky. "Stop it right there!"

The voice was so loud that everyone froze on the spot. The Muraco Clan halted their feet and lifted their heads, staring into the sky.

A shadow descended swiftly from the sky and struck toward the Muraco Clan.

They were unable to avoid in time as the shadow crashed into them.

Boom!

With a loud explosion, the entire troop got blown away.

As they shattered to the ground, blood spewed out of their mouths. The entire troop lost their battle power entirely as half of them died.

Chapter 1991

The shadow turned out to be a living man.

His power was so strong that a deep crater was formed upon his attack.

The villagers lost their minds instantly. Besides Divine Doctor, it seemed like someone else sneaked in too.

That someone was none other than Sole Wolf, the General North.

Sole Wolf half kneeled on the ground and uttered, "Zeke."

Zeke's heart skipped a beat staring at Sole Wolf. The latter's face looked utterly pale, and his mouth was covered in blood. There was a massive wound on his palm.

Sole Wolf seemed to be seriously injured.

As he was Ultimate Class, only a Celestial Class warrior would be able to harm him.

Could it be there's a Celestial Class among the Muraco Clan?

Zeke put up his guard right away.

The tattooed man was spitting blood as he scolded, "Bas\*rd! Who the h\*ll are you? How dare you come to Muraco? So you're on the same team as the new guy. What's your purpose here? Say it!"

Sole Wolf ignored the tattooed man completely.

In fact, due to his injury, he had no more strength to respond to the tattooed man.

As his fighting capability was also greatly affected, he figured he could not stand long against the Muraco Clan's troops. As such, he decided to descend from the sky and use the impact to beat some of his opponents.

Zeke walked over to Sole Wolf. "Who did this to you?"

Sole Wolf shook his head. "I have no idea..."

You don't know?

Zeke asked, "Was that someone you don't know?"

Sole Wolf smiled bitterly. "It's not like that. I didn't get found by anyone, and I didn't fight anyone. Yet, my body became injured."

Immediately, something came across Zeke's mind. He grabbed Sole Wolf's arm and observed it.

As expected, his blood veins were bulging, and his pupils constricted.

He was poisoned with worms.

Zeke was not surprised by that. After all, Muraco was the origin of poisonous worms. Hence, surely there would be traps using worms to prevent intruders.

Even Zeke, an expert in worms, could not guarantee that he could survive in Muraco, let alone a careless man like Sole Wolf.

Zeke said, "Come. Let's go into the house. I'll cure you."

Sole Wolf bit his lip. "D\*mn it. What a bunch of disdainful scoundrels! Why don't they fight me face to face like a real man?"

"All right. Stop the cr\*p," Zeke scolded. "Just admit that they're better than you. There is no fairness on the battlefield, only a matter of life and death. Come with me now. I'm afraid you're running out of time!"

Sole Wolf immediately followed Zeke into one of the houses.

After all, the Muraco Clan's troops had all been injured terribly. Hence, they would not be able to cause any harm now.

The tattooed man suddenly laughed. "Haha. I'll give you credit for being able to sneak into Muraco. But now you're going to die because of the worms. Stop making unnecessary struggles and wait for your death."

This is annoying!

Zeke kicked a pebble that landed squarely on the tattooed man's teeth.

His teeth shattered to the ground as blood spewed out of his mouth.

After going into the house, Zeke checked Sole Wolf's body without any delay.

A second later, his expression turned extremely ugly.

It seemed like Sole Wolf was poisoned by Heart Eater, one of the most poisonous worms in Muraco.

This kind of worm would slowly consume the human heart, and the person would eventually die of pain.

Most importantly, Heart Eater lived in the heart, and it was nearly impossible to chase them out.

The only way to chase them out was to combine a few rare herbs that could only be found in Muraco.

Nonetheless. Zeke could not acquire those herbs at the moment. With that, he could only try to chase the worms out with his energy.

However, it seemed to be in vain. As his energy reached the worms, the worms would become active and start eating the heart crazily.

## Chapter 1992

Sole Wolf screamed in agony, he was sweating incessantly.

Even if the worms were cast out by Zeke's energy, Sole Wolf's heart would have been consumed thoroughly.

Zeke was left with only one option but to find the spiritual drugs of the Muraco Clan.

Sole Wolf noticed Zeke's complicated expression. "Zeke, what's going on? You can't get the worms out, right?"

Zeke nodded. "It's not that easy. The main problem is I can't get all the spiritual drugs needed to expel the worms."

Sole Wolf said, "Zeke, if there's no choice, why don't you cut my body and take them out? I feel disgusted when I know that they are in my body."

Zeke replied, "The worms are in your heart? How could I cut it?"

Sole Wolf was enraged. "That bunch of useless bast\*rds! How dare they use such a dirty tactic? I swear I will destroy Muraco even if I can't survive. Zeke, forget it. Let me go to Muraco now and kill all of them."

Zeke uttered with a low voice. "Please don't act harshly. Holy Maiden has an important. place in Muraco. Maybe there's an antidote on her. Please wait here."

Zeke immediately used Ammo Needle and temporarily got the Heart Eaters in Sole Wolf's body under control.

Those Heart Eaters were in a hibernating state now. Hence, Sole Wolf's condition would not worsen for now, but it would not hold for long.

Zeke walked out of the house and stepped toward Holy Maiden's sedan.



The Muraco Clan's troop was overwhelmed with rage. "Stop right there! Don't you dare to take a step forward! You are forbidden to go near Holy Maiden! Boys, protect her!"

They had no more strength to stand up, yet they began crawling desperately toward the direction of Holy Maiden.

It showed how important Holy Maiden was to the Muraco Clan.

They could not even harm Zeke when they were uninjured. Hence, all their struggles now were meaningless.

As such, Zeke effortlessly got to the front of the sedan.

One female voice appeared from inside as he was a meter away from the sedan. "Stop right there!"

Zeke's heart skipped a beat upon hearing that sweet voice.

It's like an angel's voice. Who exactly is she?

Even someone like Zeke found it hard to resist such a feminine voice.

He even suspected she was deliberately trying to seduce him for a second.

Zeke intended to ask Holy Maiden to save Sole Wolf. Hence, he figured he should try to avoid conflicts.

"Please give me the Heart Eater's antidote."

Huh?

Holy Maiden furrowed her brows slightly. "Heart Eater? Do you know about worms as well?" Zeke replied, "A little."

The female responded, "I'm sorry. I don't have it."

Zeke repeated with an authoritative tone. "I'll say one last time. Give me the antidote now."

"I'm sorry." Holy Maiden sounded sincere. "I didn't bring it with me."

"All right then." Zeke let out a sigh. "Excuse me then."

For that moment, Zeke noticed a wave of death approaching his direction.

With his ability almost equal to Celestial Class, he was able to sense death easily.

Zeke knew for sure it was the worms.

She is trying to poison me. I have to admit. She's good for being able to release so many worms at once. But, it won't work for me.

Zeke released his energy and formed an energy barrier that blocked the worms quickly.

The worms turned around and bit Holy Maiden, causing the latter to cough up a mouthful of blood.

## Chapter 1993

Zeke's energy continued to spread and surrounded the sedan in no time.

He shook his body slightly, and the sedan got crushed instantly.

A young lady wearing Muraco Clan's attire was inside the sedan. She was wearing a hat, and her face was covered with black cloth.

Judging from her slim body, she was, without a doubt, a top beauty.

Even someone like Zeke could not help but feel tempted.

The others stared at her with their gaze filled with utter respect and admiration.

She was so perfect that even they did not dare to hold lustful thoughts against her.

Not to mention, she had such a prideful charisma that made others feel inferior beside her.

Zeke reached out his hand, and a long blade flew into his hand.

He pointed the blade toward Holy Maiden's neck. "Hand over the antidote now!"

The tattooed man and his men lost their minds as they shouted, "Don't hurt Holy Maiden. The fight's between us."

There was pure desperation in their voices.

Meanwhile, Holy Maiden showed indifference even though her life was being threatened. "Kill me then."

Zeke opened his mouth. "Do you think I wouldn't dare?"

Holy Maiden repeated, "Kill me then."

Zeke was somehow pissed. He could hear from Holy Maiden's tone that she wished to die.

Zeke responded. "I won't kill you. What I want is the antidote. If you refuse to hand it over, I will kill the entire Muraco Clan! Don't you dare to test me! Since I dared to come here in broad daylight, I'm confident I can walk out of here alive."

Holy Maiden hesitated upon hearing Zeke's threat.

After pondering, she said, "I don't have the antidote. Only the clan leader has it."

Zeke felt Holy Maiden was telling the truth. "Take me to the clan leader."

After giving it some thought, Holy Maiden nodded.

Zeke immediately settled Ava and Sole Wolf down. Then, he asked Holy Maiden to lead the way.

Even though Sole Wolf was poisoned, Zeke had managed to control the Heart Eaters inside his heart. As such, Sole Wolf was still able to protect himself.

Holy Maiden was indeed a perfect woman. Even the way she walked was gracefully elegant.

After getting across a vast forest, they came near Muraco.

Holy Maiden opened her mouth suddenly, her tone was still cold. "Aren't you worried that you will be attacked by worms secretly in Muraco?"

She seemed to be reminding Zeke about the danger in Muraco.

Zeke could not comprehend why Holy Maiden would be so kind to him.

He responded indifferently. "Don't worry. No one in this world can harm me, let alone some worms."

Holy Maiden asked, "May I know who you are?"

Zeke fell silent.

With that, Holy Maiden did not further push the question.

Before long, the two of them reached the entrance to Muraco.

The Muraco guards were guarding at the entrance. They became alert when they spotted Holy Maiden and Zeke. One of them took out his sword and pointed at Zeke. "Who are you? Get lost. You're not supposed to be here."

Holy Maiden immediately stopped the two guards. "He's my friend. Let him in."

The guards seemed hesitant. "But the clan leader says no stranger is allowed to enter..."

Holy Maiden seemed to be angry. "I said let him in."

The guards panicked upon hearing that.

They holstered their swords and cast a fierce look at Zeke, warning him not to act inappropriately.

With that, they entered Muraco.

All the buildings there show strong Muraco elements, mostly built with wood.

#### Chapter 1994

The people living there were all wearing the traditional costumes of the Muraco Clan.

The villagers were alert when they saw a stranger like Zeke. Some even looked hostile.

Thankfully, he had the Holy Maiden by his side. Therefore, no one dared to do anything rash.

On the way there, Zeke had encountered countless poisonous worm traps, but he had managed to overcome each and every one of them with ease.

Since Zeke had been trained personally by the elders of the Muraco clan, the poisonous worm traps were nothing more than a walk in the park for him.

The Holy Maiden was quite surprised and asked, "By the look of it, you seem to be well versed where poisonous worms are concerned. Have you studied them before?"

"Yes," answered Zeke in a casual tone. There was suddenly a hint of anticipation in her voice. "So, are you also a member of the Muraco Clan? Or are you related to the Muraco Clan?"

"Neither."

"Oh."

The Holy Maiden sounded extremely disappointed.

Zeke had no inkling why the Holy Maiden reacted in that manner all of a sudden.

The village was not huge, and it consisted of around a hundred families.

Very soon, they arrived at the house of the head of the clan. It was the only three-story house in the entire village.

"This is where the clan leader stays," announced the Holy Maiden. "Please wait here while I inform him of your arrival."

"Fine."

In small, dainty steps, the Holy Maiden made her way up to the third level.

However, after a few steps, a sultry voice rang out from the topmost floor.

"Erwen, you are back so soon."

Zeke looked toward the direction of the voice and saw a sexy middle-aged lady dressed in revealing clothes coming down from the third floor.

In terms of her voice, dressing, and even her movement, she was the embodiment of the word "sexy."

It was a direct contrast against the aloofness of the Holy Maiden.

That was also the first time Zeke knew of the Holy Maiden's name, Erwen.

She is exactly what her name suggests. Pure and cold like the snow!

At the sight of the alluring woman, the Holy Maiden broke into a sweet but shallow smile.

The Holy Maiden responded. "Yes, Yazmin. I just got back."

The seductive Yazmin said, "Erwen, how was your trip away from the village? Did you meet anyone interesting? Tell me. I have been locked up here for three days and three nights. I'm about to be bored to death."

The Holy Maiden shook her head. "No, Yazmin. I'm here to look for the head of the clan. Please inform him of our arrival."

Yazmin shook her head. "I doubt you can see him right now. He has entered seclusion and is still in it. By the way, why are you looking for him?"

The Holy Maiden turned and glanced at Zeke.

That was when Yazmin noticed him.

When she laid her eyes on Zeke for the first time, Yazmin's eyes lit up brightly, and she looked lustfully at him.

With her sickeningly sweet voice, she said to Zeke, "How do I address you, Handsome? There is such a manly aura coming from you. Have you eaten yet? Supper is on me."

As she was talking, her fair arm reached out to caress Zeke's chest.

A ball of energy went out from Zeke, and Yazmin fell to the ground in an instant.

"Don't try your tricks on me. If not, I won't hesitate to end your life."

Zeke knew very well that she had tried to get close to him in an attempt to poison him.

"You!" Yazmin was furious, and vulgarity was about to come out of her mouth.

However, her expression changed in no time. She glanced at Zeke in a suggestive manner and said, "Handsome, you are a decent man. I like it. Just wait and see. You will be mine eventually. By then, you will be fawning all over me."

Zeke was speechless. It seemed like that woman was masochistic.

He ignored the two women and walked up to the top floor. "Take me to your leader now."

Yazmin started to panic. "Handsome, stop right there. The leader is in seclusion right now. If you disrupt him, he will be very furious and won't let you off easily. You are not mine yet. I have no wish for you to die so soon."

Chapter 1995

However, Yazmin's words failed to stop Zeke.

Both the Holy Maiden and Yazmin had no choice but to come forward and stop him.

Just then, a deep, rough voice could be heard. "Who the hell is that outside disturbing my slumber?"

Yazmin's expression changed when she heard the voice. "Oh, dear. Erwen, I forgot to tell you. Cain came here to look for you. Quick, you'd better leave now."

What?

At the mention of Cain Muraco, a slither of nervousness appeared on the Holy Maiden's otherwise calm face.

She turned and attempted to flee without hesitation.

Zeke was curious. When he first placed his sword at her neck, there was no fear in the Holy Maiden's expression.

Yet, at the mention of the name "Cain", she got so frightened that she wanted to run off.

I wonder who this Cain is.

Then again, when that pure and innocent girl who did not seem to care much about the mundane affairs of the world started to panic, she actually looked more humane.

A burly and ugly man walked out of the third floor.

When he saw the Holy Maiden, his eyes glistened, and a perverted look appeared.

"Erwen, you're back. I have been waiting for you. Where have you gone to these few past days?"

Knowing that she had been discovered, the Holy Maiden could not help but sigh, and she stopped in her tracks.

"Yes. I went out of the village to attend to some matters."

The rough-looking man walked over to her with a smile and said, "Erwen, I'm here to discuss the date for our wedding. If everything goes according to plan, I think we should be able to get married this month so that our parents can stop worrying. Don't you agree? Oh, I have brought the dowry here as well. They are already in the room of the clan leader."

What?

Zeke took one look at the Holy Maiden and then at the burly man before sighing. They are so ill-matched.

For the Holy Maiden to marry someone who looked like that, Cain must be someone important.

The rough-looking man reached out for the Holy Maiden's hand, but she pulled away.

"It's better we keep our distance before the wedding so as not to go against the customs and rules of the Muraco clan."

"Fine."

Cain looked disappointed. "In that case, Erwen, why don't we go inside and discuss the details of our impending wedding? We should discuss our guest list. I have been so busy with the wedding these past few days. You should help me with some of the work."

The Holy Maiden turned to suggestion, "The leader of our clan is still in seclusion. If we disturb him now, his efforts will all go to waste. So, let's forget it. We will wait till he has completed his seclusion."

All of a sudden, Cain slapped himself on his head. "Since we cannot enter the clan leader's room, then why don't we go to your room instead? Since we have known each other, I have yet to enter your room."

The Holy Maiden became even more nervous.

According to the rules of the Muraco Clan, the Holy Maiden's room was a sacred place as well. Other than her dad and husband, no other man was allowed to enter.

If Cain were to enter her room, it was as good as acknowledging that he was her husband.

The Holy Maiden refused to accept that fact before the wedding night.

Yazmin was well aware of how she felt. She smiled and said, "Cain, my room is not too far away from here. Why don't the both of you go to my room instead? Erwen has just gotten back, and her room is still in a mess. It will not do well for her status as the Holy Maiden if you go there-"

Cain stared at Yazmin and cut her off. "Shut up. You have no right to speak."

Yazmin was so frightened that she kept quiet.

The Holy Maiden intercepted them. "I think Yazmin is right. Her house is not far from here. We will go to her house first. There will always be a chance for me to invite you to my house as a guest in the future."



Chapter 1996

Cain had no choice but to agree.

Before leaving, Yazmin called out to Zeke loudly, "Handsome, come to my house too. I will serve you my best drink."

It was only then that Cain noticed Zeke.

He eyed Zeke with caution and asked, "Who are you?"

Before Zeke could answer, Yazmin cut in. "Cain, he is a special guest whom the Holy Maiden has invited to the village."

There was a distinct tone of provocation in her statement.

When Cain heard that, he asked, "Special guest? What kind of special guest?"

Turning to Erwen, he questioned, "Erwen, is he your friend?"

One could detect the hint of jealousy in his question.

The Holy Maiden was as silent as ever.

The Holy Maiden was as silent as ever.

She could not be bothered to explain anything. Her sixth sense told her that maintaining her silence was the best way to go.

If Cain misinterpreted her silence, it was even better for her. Perhaps, this man may turn out to be my shield.

Nevertheless, it was a one-in-a-million chance, but she was still hopeful.

She had no wish to marry Cain.

True enough, Cain misunderstood as she had expected.

Through gritted teeth, he said, "Why are you keeping quiet? Is that a yes? Hmph! Nobody is going to take away the woman I want!"

He stared at Zeke with a murderous look. "I don't care who you are or where you are from. I want you out of here before the night ends! Erwen is mine! I will kill whoever tries to covet her for sure! Don't doubt my skills. I have a thousand ways to torture you!"

Zeke responded with disdain, "Don't worry about how we are related. Your threat alone is enough for me to slaughter your entire family. Get lost! Or else. I will seal your fate right now!"

F\*cker!

Cain was pissed off. "This is my territory. What gives you the right to judge me! If you don't get lost right now. I will give it to you!"

With that, Cain charged at Zeke with his fist up.

The moment Cain raised his arm, a slap from Zeke landed on Cain's face.

Slap!

Then, Cain's body flew in a perfect arc across the sky, and he smashed into the pond nearby.

Both Erwen and Yazmin were staring in shock. That was so impressive!

The pond was deep, and Cain did not know how to swim. He started struggling to stay afloat and looked extremely pathetic.

"Help, help!"

His calls for help spread far and wide. Eight men came rushing out of the third floor of the clan leader's house.

The eight of them, who were dressed in black, had accompanied Cain to deliver the wedding dowry.

When they saw Cain struggling in the pond, they turned pale with fright and started yelling, "Quick, save His Highness. Save him!"

"Holy sh\*t! We will show whoever hits His Highness no mercy!"

"The person who dared to do this must be sick and tired of living."

The eight of them scrambled to pull Cain out of the pond. Once Cain was out, he started vomiting and was unable to speak.

Once Cain was done with his purging, his men asked him, "Your Highness, who did this to you?"

They knew that Cain had been thrown into the water because of the prominent slap mark on his face.

Cain stared daggers at Zeke. "It's him. Kill him. F\*ck! I want to chop his body up and feed it to the pigs."

The eight men dressed in black picked up their weapons and charged at Zeke without another word.

At that moment, the immediate reaction of the Holy Maiden was to defend Zeke.

"Stop! As the Holy Maiden, I command you to stop right now!"

Zeke was confused. Why is she protecting me?

Even the Holy Maiden was shocked by her own action.

Oh dear, why am I protecting him? He has beaten my guards up and even destroyed my sedan chair. He has even forced me to bring him here. Rightfully, we should be enemies!

Chapter 1997

But, why is she instinctively protecting him....

Cain became even more infuriated. "Erwen, we're getting married soon. How dare you protect another man in front of me... I'll settle the score with you after we're married! All of you, ignore Erwen and kill him now! As the Saint of Black Muraco, I'm commanding you to attack him!"

All eight of the bodyguards in black charged toward Zeke instantly.

At that moment, Erwen was still protecting Zeke. Yet, the latter instantly rushed in front of her.

Zeke kicked the pebbles under his feet, and all of them shot toward all the men.

The eight of them were hit before they instantly fell to the ground, screaming in pain. Clearly, they could not fight anymore.

Zeke's gaze fell upon Cain once again. "Is that all you've got? How embarrassing."

Cain's body stiffened when he heard the threatening words.

He immediately shouted at the bodyguards, "Let's go. Get me out of here right now!"

All the bodyguards helped Cain up before they beat a hasty retreat.

Right now, Zeke's top priority was to see the clan leader and get the antidote. He had no time to waste on Cain.

After everything was settled, Sole Wolf would clean up the mess for him. By then, he would judge the situation.

Cain started yelling at Zeke from afar. "You just wait! All of you! I will never let you off the hook! White Muraco Clan, let me warn you. Send Erwen and that jerk's head to Black Muraco Clan by tonight. Otherwise, your clan will be exterminated."

Erwen and Yazmin did not hear Cain at all as they were still in utter shock.

Zeke's tactic was unbelievable.

Not only was he an expert in black magic, but he also successfully avoided thousands of poisonous worm traps. He was extremely strong.

Moreover, he had defeated eight burly men with merely a kick.

Apart from admiration and desire for the man, Yazmin's eyes were filled with mesmerization. This man is so strong. He's my man.

Zeke then walked toward the third floor. where the clan leader was at.

"Wait!" Yazmin hurriedly stopped him. "May I know your name?"

"Zeke Williams!" Zeke replied.

"That's a name with a great personality. You were too reckless. Do you know that you've caused huge trouble?" Yazmin questioned.

Zeke instantly halted his steps. "If you're going to stop me from seeing the clan leader, I'd advise you to not waste your time."

Yazmin quickly said, "I won't stop you from seeing him, but I have to tell you something. Cain is from the Black Muraco Clan. The clan is extremely powerful, many times more powerful than the White Muraco Clan. Throughout the years, their clan has been bullying our clan. Now, they're even planning to marry Holy Maiden, and we dare not reject them. I admit that you're strong, but you can't fight all of them alone. Could you defeat the entire White Muraco Clan alone? We can't defeat Black Muraco Clan, let alone you."

Erwen nodded in agreement. "Yazmin is right. You'd better leave now if you want to stay alive."

Zeke asked probingly, "If I run now, wouldn't the Black Muraco Clan vent their anger on your clan?"

Erwen then replied, "If I marry Cain, he won't do anything to the White Muraco Clan."

In a matter-of-fact tone, Zeke said, "I started this, so I'll take on the responsibility to deal with them. Certainly, I'll investigate your clan before I give you any punishment."

Yazmin became anxious. "So, you're here to investigate Village of Livestock? Are you an official?"

Zeke answered, "Investigation on Village of Livestock is not the priority. I'm investigating something out of your reach."

He was investigating the Secret Realm of Mount Kush.

Muraco was only colluding with Netherworld to build the Village of Livestock. The people did not even know about the Kush Clan, let alone the Secret Realm of Mount Kush.

Chapter 1998

Zeke certainly would not reveal everything to them.

Yazmin insisted stubbornly, "No matter who you are, the White Muraco Clan has never done anything sinful."

Zeke replied, "Justice will prevail."

While speaking, he was walking toward the clan leader's third floor.

Right at that moment, a small figure ran out of the clan leader's room.

The girl was around five years old. She had fair skin and divine features.

It was obvious that she would grow up to be as beautiful as Erwen.

It's indeed true that many beautiful girls belong to the Muraco Clan.

The young girl ran toward Erwen. "Erwen, you're here. I've missed you."

Erwen smiled as she squatted down to pick up the girl. "Mona, did you behave yourself?"

Mona intoned, "Erwen, I've been good. You promised me that you would make ice cream for me if I behave myself. Erwen, can you make me some ice cream?"

Glancing at Mona sweetly, Erwen replied, "Sure. I'll make ice cream for you tonight."

"Hooray!" Mona jumped in excitement.

After that, she swept her gaze across Zeke.

She walked next to Zeke and tugged the corner of his shirt. "Mister, you're so amazing. You defeated the bad people. I saw everything just now."

Looking at the adorable girl, Zeke's heart melted.

He nodded slightly and said, "Thank you."

Mona whispered, "Mister, I'll treat you to ice cream at night. Can you help me with something?" Zeke replied, "What is it?"

Mona answered, "Mister, will you marry Erwen?"

Erwen blushed instantly upon hearing that. "Mona, what nonsense are you talking about? Mr. Williams, please don't mind her. She's just a kid."

Adamantly, Mona refuted, "Erwen, I'm not just a kid. I'm not talking nonsense. I know that you dislike Cain and I dislike him too. Everyone in our clan dislikes him. If you marry this man, you won't have to marry Cain."

The atmosphere turned somewhat flirty all of a sudden.

Erwen's face turned redder. She quickly stopped Mona from speaking.

On the side, Yazmin quickly changed the topic. "Mona, is your father at home?"

Mona shook her head. "No. Daddy went out to gather some herbs. He has not returned yet."

Yazmin then turned to Zeke. "Mona's father is the clan leader. The clan leader is not in, so you can't see him now."

Zeke gathered a ball of energy and went up to the third floor.

Indeed, there was no one on the third floor.

Zeke said, "Since he hasn't returned yet, I'll Wait for him right here."

Erwen ordered, "Yazmin, bring Mr. Williams to the guest room. We'll let him see the clan leader once he gets back. Since you're an official, the White Muraco Clan will cooperate with you. We have nothing to hide because we've never done anything wrong. You can investigate all you want."

Zeke nodded as his impression of the White Muraco Clan changed for the better.

It seems like I've misunderstood the White Muraco Clan. The clan seems to have nothing to do with the Village of Livestock and the cahoot with Netherworld.

He requested, "Please bring my friend over, as well as Ava and her family. I'm worried that they might be in danger in the Village of Livestock."

Apologetically, Erwen replied, "I'm sorry that your friend is poisoned with worms for trespassing into the White Muraco Clan territory by mistake. I have some spiritual drugs with me now. This will help suppress the Heart Eater temporarily. You should let her eat some of these while I arrange someone to bring her over here."

## Chapter 1999

The guest room appeared shabby, but it was clean and comfortable.

Before Yazmin left Zeke alone, she asked secretly, "Mr. Williams, what do you think about Erwen?"

Zeke was puzzled. He did not understand why she was asking him that.

Not knowing what to say, he replied casually, "She's quite nice."

Yazmin smiled and commented, "Okay. That's good to hear."

With that, she left the room.

Not long later, Erwen sent Sole Wolf, Ava and her four children over.

Zeke let Ava and her family stay in the main bedroom. Meanwhile, he stayed in the adjacent room with Sole Wolf.

That place was a safe haven for Ava and her family. It was clean, and they could use clean water and food there.

They were so grateful for Zeke that they would grovel at his feet.

After they settled down, Zeke brought Sole Wolf to the adjacent room.

"Sole Wolf, what did you discover?"

Sole Wolf answered, "Zeke, I stalked one of the guards with a tattoo from the clan. He went to a place. Then, I found out that there are two opposing clans here, White Muraco Clan and Black Muraco Clan. After entering the White Muraco Clan, I sensed negative energy, so I followed it. Then, I saw Bryan and Thomas, who are dead. They traveled past the territory of the White Muraco Clan and went into the Black Muraco Clan's area. Standing at the border of the two districts, I could feel that the place was filled with negative energy. I suspect that Netherworld's base is located inside the Black Muraco Clan."

While pondering about it, Zeke nodded. "It means that the White Muraco Clan did not collude with Netherworld. At least, they're not the ones who took the initiative to collude with Netherworld right? Village of Livestock is actually the Black Muraco Clan's idea?"

Sole Wolf declined to comment. "We can't judge the matter based on the surface. This can't prove that the White Muraco Clan is innocent."

Zeke was still confused. "What kind of role is the White Muraco Clan playing between them?"

Sole Wolf explained, "It's not as simple as it seems. Shall I summon Connor and the rest over? We'll reveal the issue about White Muraco Clan and Netherworld. Wouldn't the truth be exposed immediately?"

Zeke instantly rejected his suggestion. "We can't do that. First of all, our top priority is to wait for the clan leader to return and clear the poison for you. We can't delay this. Secondly, we know absolutely nothing about our enemies' capability. If we attack recklessly, we can't defend ourselves if they're too strong. The outcome will be bad if we fail!" Sole Wolf felt a headache from all the

thoughts. "Huh, I'm so aggrieved. The enemy is right in front of us, but we can't do anything..."

Zeke consoled, "Get some rest. I'll secretly investigate Muraco and Netherworld's capability. Once we have understood their background, we'll take action immediately. Know thyself and know thy enemies is the secret to victory."

"All right!"



With that, both of them then went to bed.

They were only asleep for a while before Zeke sensed some rustling noise outside their window.

It sounds like footsteps. Someone's here!

Zeke quickly released his energy to check the surrounding.

As expected, someone was wandering outside their window.

Zeke instantly pushed open the window. Seeing the window being pushed open, the person outside shuddered in shock and made a hasty retreat.

Clearly, Zeke would not let the person get away so easily. He immediately went after that person.

Several steps away, Zeke managed to grab the person's shoulder.

Since the person's shoulder felt soft, he could guess that the person was a woman.

"Ouch. You're hurting me," the woman yelled coquettishly.

Is it Yazmin's voice?

Zeke immediately let go of his grip before he turned her around.

It was indeed Yazmin.

Coldly, Zeke questioned, "Why are you sneaking around outside my window?"

Yazmin smiled with a flirty look. "Why do you think? I'm just being kind. I just want to see if you're doing well and if you want supper. I can't believe you think that I'm a thief..."

Zeke reprimanded, "Bullsh\*t. Tell me the truth! Let me warn you to not have any scheme against me. Your tactics are just child's play to me."

Chapter 2000

Yazmin complained exasperatedly, "Why are you always yelling at me? Can't you just smile? I thought Erwen was aloof. I can't believe you're even colder than her."

Zeke got a little irritated. "I'm going back to my room since you have nothing to say." With that, he turned to leave.

Yet, Yazmin hurriedly stopped him. "Wait. I have nothing for you, but someone wants to see you and tell you something important."

Looking at her eyes, Zeke questioned. "Is that true?"

Yazmin shifted her gaze. "Of course. Why would I lie to you in the middle of the night?"

Zeke could tell that she was lying to him.

However, he did not expose her.

I should just go and see what she's trying to do.

Since Zeke was strong and capable, he knew that Yazmin could not hurt him.

He asked, "Who wants to see me?" Yazmin answered, "Sure." +10 pearls Yazmin replied, "You'll find out later." Zeke then said, "Lead the way."

She then led Zeke through the village.

The village appeared beautiful under the moonlight.

Many lotuses covered the surface of the lakes around them. Yazmin plucked two lotus pods and gave Zeke one of them. As she continued walking, she started eating the seeds in the other one.

Zeke observed carefully and found that it was not poisoned.

Seems like she's not going to harm me.

When they finished eating the lotus seeds, they had arrived at their destination. It was a double-story building.

Yazmin said, "I've completed my mission. You can get in now. The person inside wants to see you."

Zeke asked curiously, "Whose residence is this?"

Yazmin answered, "You'll find out after you get in."

"You'd better not play any tricks." Zeke warned before he stepped into the house.

The interior of the house was spacious, bright, and clean. It was red in color, and the design showed that it was a girl's room.

He could sense a girl's scent in the room. This scent... seems familiar. It smells like Holy Maiden's body scent. Is this Erwen's room? According to Muraco's law, only Holy Maiden's father and her husband are allowed to enter her room. I'm in her room now, does that mean... D\*mn it. Yazmin has fooled me.

He instinctively tried to run away.

However, it was too late. The next moment, he had found a sword being rested on his neck.

"Do not move. Who are you? Why did you come in here?"

Oh no... It's Erwen's voice.

Zeke let out a sigh before he turned around slowly. "It's me."

Yet, he was instantly stunned.

At that moment, Erwen was not properly dressed. Her long hair was draped over her shoulders. She was dressed in a white lacey nightgown, and she appeared sexy in it.

Seeing the gorgeous aloof goddess in sexy sleepwear, even Zeke could not contain himself.

However, he had extremely great willpower. Hence, he still looked calm on the outside.

"You?"

Erwen gasped at him in surprise. "What are you doing in my room so late at night?"

Zeke quickly explained, "Yazmin brought me here. I didn't know this is your room! Yazmin, get in here!"

He turned to look at the door, but Yazmin instantly fled the scene.

Erwen castigated, "Yazmin, stop right there! Come here! Otherwise, I'll tell everyone about your embarrassing story."

Yazmin immediately halted her steps. With a bitter look, she came back to the house. "Erwen, you can't do this. You've promised me to forget about it. How could you threaten me with it?"

Erwen put her sword back and questioned, "Yazmin, what are you trying to do?"

Yazmin answered, "Nothing. I made a mistake and brought him to the wrong place. However, according to the rules of the village, apart from your father, the man who steps into your room will be your husband. Therefore, you have to marry Zeke now!"

## Chapter 2001

"Shut up!" Erwen blushed. "Mr. Williams isn't part of the Muraco Clan, so there's no need for him to follow the rules!"

Yazmin was getting anxious. "But he saw you in a sexy outfit! You're the Holy Maiden of the White Muraco Clan, so he must take responsibility!"

Erwen's face was as red as an apple before she dove back into the bedroom.

Yazmin grinned at Zeke. "What do you think? My sister is pretty sexy, right? Did your heart almost jump out of your chest earlier?"

Zeke scolded, "Is this your trick? Don't you think you're being childish?"

Disappointment flashed across her face. "What's going on with you? How can you not feel any sort of excitement when looking at a beautiful woman? Now I'm really wondering if you've been castrated."

What? Castrated? I'm the Great Marshal! How can you say that I'm castrated? At that moment, he was so furious that he raised his arm with the intention of slapping her. She promptly raised her arms in fear to protect her head.

In the end, he didn't hit her because he would never hit a woman.

Soon, Erwen changed into a proper attire and stepped out of the room.

She had recovered her usual icy and dignified demeanor as she went straight to the point. "It's getting late, and I don't welcome visitors at midnight. I'm afraid I have to ask you two to leave. Also, Yazmin, if you pull something like that again, I'll cut ties with you forever."

Zeke turned around and prepared to leave.

"Wait!" Yazmin suddenly pulled on his shirt. "Please take my sister with you."

"What did you just say?" Zeke wondered if he had heard her wrong.

"I want you to take Erwen with you," she reiterated seriously.

Erwen exclaimed, "What are you trying to do, Yazmin! If you continue to joke like this, then I really will cut ties with you!"

"I'm not joking! I'm being entirely serious here. Truth be told, the White Muraco Clan is about to be annihilated. When that happens, none of us may survive. You are our only hope. As long as you survive, our clan will continue to live on. That's why you must leave for the sake of the White Muraco Clan." Yazmin then turned to Zeke. "Mr. Williams, my sister is a kindhearted and pure person. She'll definitely get tricked in the outside world if no one else is there to look after her. I'm officially handing her to you. Once you two are out, you must treat her nicely. If you bully her, I won't let you go even if I turn into a ghost."

"Shut up!" Erwen cut her off. "Are you listening to what you're saying? Are you so sick that you're being silly right now?"

"No! I'm perfectly lucid!" A tear formed on the edge of Yazmin's eye. "This is the decision I made after considering all the pros and cons. Listen to me, Erwen. This is our best and only option right now. You and I both have to make sacrifices for the White Muraco Clan!"

"No way!" Erwen refused firmly. "White Muraco Clan is my home! Even if I die, I won't leave here! Tell me the truth, Yazmin. How do you know that the clan's about to be annihilated?"

Yazmin took in a deep breath. "That... I cannot tell you. In any case, more than ninety-nine percent of White Muraco Clan members will perish."

"I'm a member of the White Muraco Clan, and I'll die as one. I won't leave!" Erwen shook her head.

"Stop being such a stubborn brat! Are you trying to piss me off? If I'm the Holy Maiden, I would've run away with Mr. Williams."

Zeke, who had been keeping quiet, spoke. "Regardless of who's the one eradicating your clan, as long as you didn't do anything bad, I'll protect you. Of course, if you all did something outrageous, I'll personally destroy you all!"

Yazmin rolled her eyes. "Stop pretending to be an agent of justice here. In this world, there is no absolute good or bad. The White Muraco Clan had always been a kindhearted clan that helps the weak. The Black Muraco Clan, on the other hand, kills and pillages whenever they like! Our clan has been oppressed down by them so thoroughly that we're about to go extinct!"

Zeke asked, "Let me ask you this, then. Is your clan responsible for the Village of Livestock?"

Erwen shook her head. "In the name of the Holy Maiden, I swear that the White Muraco Clan isn't responsible for the Village of Livestock. That place was made by the Black Muraco Clan."

"Then why did you feed the villagers three meals a day? Aren't you indirectly helping the Black Muraco Clan by doing that?"

"What kind of logic is that?" Yazmin defended, "We feed the villagers three meals a day, and now we're accomplices to the Black Muraco Clan? Are you asking us to watch the villagers die from hunger? Is that justice? Let me tell you something. Black Muraco Clan is the one that forced us to feed the villagers, and if we don't, they'll no doubt die of hunger. All the food they eat comes right out of our clan's already meager food supply. In fact, the children there are eating better than ours!"

"Don't lie to me. I know those children were there to cultivate the cursed parasitic worms. You feed them food so you can use

them as a living vessel for those worms."

"That's ridiculous!" she shouted. "The worms inside their bodies are planted there by the Black Muraco Clan! After those worms mature, the Black Muraco Clan will harvest them! We don't get any benefits from the whole exchange! Those worms suck all nutrients from those children. If we don't feed them every day, they would've been turned into mummies a long time ago. In other words, we've been trying to save the village!"

Zeke remained silent as he had already guessed much of what Yazmin told him.

Seeing how sincere she is, it would appear that she isn't lying and that the White Muraco Clan is indeed innocent. This means all the blame is on the Black Muraco Clan.

Zeke asked, "Has the White Muraco Clan ever had any contact with Netherworld before?"

Yazmin and Erwen were confounded by the term. "We've never heard of that word before."

Erwen then continued, "I've heard that some demons have joined the Black Muraco Clan. Those demons are really powerful, so much so that they can manipulate the weather. Are those demons a part of the Netherworld you speak of? Ever since they arrived in the Black Muraco Clan, the clan began to grow Heart Eaters in the Village of Livestock."

Demons? Zeke wondered if the demons she mentioned were Daemonium and Warren.

He nodded. "It's possible that those demons you mentioned came from Netherworld. In that case, there's nothing for you to worry about. I'll protect the White Muraco Clan and make sure the Black Muraco Clan doesn't destroy you all."

After he finished speaking, he left.

Once he was out of their sight, Yazmin piped up carefully, "Say, do you think Mr. Williams' goal is to confront the demons who arrived in the Black Muraco Clan?"

Erwen sighed. "I don't know, but those demons are too strong. As powerful as Mr. Williams is, I don't think he can fight multiple of them at the same time. They probably aren't on the same level."

"You're right... I won't disturb you any further. You should rest now." Yazmin left with a face full of disappointment.

Unbeknownst to them, someone had been secretly observing them from around the corner of the corridor that led to Erwen's room.

After everyone had left, the figure also snuck away silently.

That person was none other than the tattooed man who had been beaten up by Zeke in the Village of Livestock, Peter Muraco.

Peter scowled as his fists tightened. "You think you can just leave after beating me up and causing so much trouble for the White Muraco Clan? You must be dreaming! If I don't sacrifice you to the Black Muraco Clan, my clan is doomed. That's why you must die!"

He closed his eyes before an idea flashed into his mind.

Like a shadow, he sneaked into the clan leader's home.

After making sure no one was around, he jumped onto the third floor through the back window and entered a small bedroom.

That bedroom belonged to Mona, who was currently sleeping soundly on the bed.

She was so adorable that it would melt anyone's heart just by looking at her.

Staring at her adorable face, Peter hesitated.

Chapter 2003

It didn't take long before Peter gritted his teeth and steeled his resolve. "I'm sorry, but you must die today for the White Muraco Clan. Remember, the person who killed you isn't me; it's Zeke Williams!"

From underneath his fingernail squirmed out a black worm the size of a mosquito. He then allowed it to go into Mona's body through her nose.

She didn't feel anything at all as she continued to sleep.

A wicked smile appeared on Peter's face before he left.

The next day, just as the sun rose, Zeke was woken up by the tolling of a bell.

He immediately went on alert as he got up from the bed.

The urgent bell continued to ring deafeningly throughout the whole village.

All residents hurriedly rushed in the direction of the bell.

It was then he realized that the sound originated from the direction of the clan leader's house.

When the residents noticed Zeke passing by, they all looked at him with hostility.

"The moment this guy arrived in our village, the bell rang. It must be related to him."

"I know, right? Outsiders always bring trouble to the village."

"The Holy Maiden is making a mistake. Why did she bring an outsider here?"

Zeke wanted to follow the crowd and see what was going on, but a familiar voice stopped him. "Hold it, Mr. Williams."

He turned around and saw Yazmin.

She asked him with a panicked expression, "Where are you going, Mr. Williams?"

"I want to check out what's going on with the bell."

"There's no need for that. You should just wait here instead of going. That's the alarm bell in our village telling us that there's an emergency. When it rings, it means the clan needs to gather there. Since you're not a clan member, you shouldn't go."

He spoke in a commanding voice. "Has Mr. Andres returned? If he has, then tell him to meet me right away."



As the Great Marshal, everyone in Eurasia was his people. Therefore, he felt entitled to order the clan leader to come and meet him.

That pissed Yazmin off a little, as she thought he was being rude.

After all, they were still in the clan leader's territory, and Zeke was just a visitor. It was over the line that he expected the clan leader would meet him just because he ordered him to.

However, she was in a hurry to head to the meeting, thus she vaguely nodded in his direction and left instead of arguing with him.

Moments later, Sole Wolf and Ava approached him.

Sole Wolf asked carefully, "What's the situation, Zeke? Did someone die? Is that why the bell's ringing so loudly?"

Zeke replied, "I don't know what's going on, but I have a feeling that it's related to me. You two should hide in your rooms first. Don't come out unless I say so."

"I'm with you, Zeke. If anything happens, at least I can still help you out."

Ava quickly added, "If they're coming for me, you can just let me handle it, Mr. Williams. I came from the Village of Livestock. My life is worthless compared to yours. I only hope you can protect my child."

"There's no need for that. The Muraco don't pose a threat to me." Zeke shook his head.

Sole Wolf knew he was telling the truth, so he didn't say anything else. "All right, then. We'll just wait inside for your return. Be careful!"

Peter was currently holding Mona's "dead body" in front of the White Muraco Clan leader's house and crying loudly. "You mustn't die, Mona! You mustn't die! Whoever did this better not reveal themselves, or else I'll fight them to death, even if it costs me my life!"

The clan members who had gathered in front of the building were on the verge of tears as well.

Even though they didn't know what had happened, Mona's apparent death was clear for them to see.

She was the clan leader's precious daughter. He would most likely blame them for his daughter's death when he returned.

## Chapter 2004

The residents requested, "Tell us what happened and stop crying, Peter!"

Peter wiped his tears away and answered, "I came here this morning to grab the food we're supposed to send to the Village of Livestock. Every time I come here, Mona will greet me. However, she wasn't there when I came earlier. I thought she was simply still asleep, so I didn't think too much about it. However, when I passed by her bedroom, I saw the door was open, and she was sleeping on the bed. I went inside the room to wake her up, but when I did, I realized that she was already... Her face was blue, and her lips were purple. There were already no signs of life in her. She looked as though she had suffocated. I don't have any wife or children, so I've always treated Mona as my own daughter. If I find out who killed her, I'll drink their blood and eat their

flesh as revenge for her!"

The clan members were all riled up as they discussed how to locate the killer.

At that moment, an old wise man approached Mona before checking her eyes and arms.

Moments later, he spoke up emotionally as his arms trembled. "Mona was clearly killed by a worm! Dear god! Who could possibly be cruel enough to do that to her?"

When the clan members learned she died from a worm, they became even more agitated.

There had always been an unwritten rule in the Muraco Clan that no clan members could ever harm another clan member with the use of worms. Even the Black Muraco Clan wasn't allowed to do that to the White Muraco Clan.

This rule that not even their oldest ancestors had dared to go against had been broken, so how could everyone not be angry?

However, someone still asked, "How can you be so sure that Mona was killed by a worm? We should double-check it."

The old man shifted his gaze to another old man. "Please help me examine Mona's body, Bimble."

Bimble stepped forward and checked Mona's body.

Moments later, he concluded, "Mr. Jeremiah is right! Mona did indeed die because of a worm. Not only that, it's the most powerful worm of them all, the Killing Worm!"

The clan members couldn't hold back their anger any further when they heard that name.

"The Killing Worm is the most typical worm that the Black Muraco Clan uses! Is it possible that the Black Muraco Clan was the one who killed Mona?"

"We have endured the Black Muraco Clan's bullying all this while and obeyed every command they gave us. Yet, they still decided to kill Mona? They are beyond cruel!"

"I won't stand for this injustice!"

"We must find them and ask them why they're willing to kill such a young child!"

Under the influence of their emotions, the crowd was eager to rush off to find the Black Muraco Clan.

Peter suddenly shouted, "Listen to me! I think I know why the Black Muraco Clan did this."

All of them promptly shifted their attention to him.

Jeremiah stated impatiently, "Tell us everything you know, Peter."

Peter cleared his throat and spoke. "As you all know, the Holy Maiden brought an outsider here yesterday. His name is Zeke Williams. Yesterday, when he came to our village, he met with the Saint of Black Muraco, Cain. Both of them had a violent conflict, and it ended when Zeke threw him into a pond and almost drowned him. As you all know, Cain is someone who cares about his reputation very much. There's no way he won't seek revenge for getting beaten in front of his own men. He demanded we hand Erwen's and Zeke's heads to them before tonight. Perhaps he assassinated Mona because he was pissed off by how we refused to obey his demand and used her death as a way to warn us we shouldn't disobey him!"

The clan members exploded in anger.

"What? Is that how it really happened?"

"That outsider, Zeke, is going to doom us all. "

Chapter 2005

"The Holy Maiden has made a grave mistake. Mr. Andres is always warning us not to bring outsiders into the village. because it'll just bring us trouble... Why did she refuse to listen?"

"Mona's dead. Even if the Holy Maiden regrets her actions, it's useless now."

"Let's go and find Zeke right now. Even if he wasn't the one who personally killed Mona, he was still responsible for her death. He must pay the price for that."

"That's right! Let's go and find him right now!"

The crowd roared as they began to look for Zeke.

Among them, Yazmin's face was flushed red with anxiety.

She was sure Zeke wasn't the one who did it, so she stepped out and exclaimed, "Please calm down, everyone! I know everyone's sad about Mona's death. I'm sad too. However, we shouldn't let our sorrow blind us. I'm willing to bet my reputation on the fact that Mr. Williams wouldn't do such a cruel thing. In truth, Mr. Williams also loved Mona..."

A middle-aged man promptly jumped out as she began to speak. "I wasn't going to question you if you had stayed quiet, Yazmin, because I trust you. But now that you're actively defending Zeke. I can't help. but suspect you

The other clan members looked at the middle-aged man with a confounded look as they didn't understand what he was getting at.

Jeremiah waved his hand at the crowd to ask them to stay quiet.

He then turned to the middle-aged man. "What do you mean by that, Ryan? Just tell us what's on your mind. No need to worry about anything."

Ryan said, "I think that not only was Zeke involved in Mona's death, but Yazmin is too. I saw both of them make their way to Mr. Andres' house last night in a sneaky manner. It was very suspicious when I saw it, but I didn't give it too much thought. Now that I think about it though, it might be that they were heading there to hurt Mona!"

The crowd's fury was immediately directed. to Yazmin.

Jeremiah shouted, "Be quiet! Everyone stay quiet! Can you take responsibility for what you said, Ryan?"

The middle-aged man nodded. "Of course I can."

Jeremiah shifted his gaze to Yazmin. "Tell us, Yazmin. Did you and Zeke head to Mr. Andres' house last night?"

Yazmin shook her head. "I was heading out last night with Zeke, but we weren't going to Mr. Andres' house."

"Then why were the two of you outside?"

"I called him out last night because-" She

suddenly cut herself off. It would be a very bad idea if she told them she brought him to the Holy Maiden's room so they could elope together.

The Holy Maiden's reputation would be ruined, and there would be no escape from punishment for her either.

The clan members were furious when they saw how she refused to elaborate.

"Hmph! It seems like they really did cause, the death of Mona!"

"How could you do this to Mr. Andres and your fellow clan members, Yazmin?"

"She's a traitor for working with an outsider to hurt our own people!"

"According to our laws, she should be burned to death!"

"Since Mr. Andres isn't around, please give us the order to burn her alive, Mr. Jeremiah."

Yazmin was scared out of her mind. She would rather die by smashing her head than be burned to death as a traitor.

She hurriedly defended herself, "I didn't kill Mona! I swear on my name! I've always treated her as though she was my own sister. You all saw how much I love her! Why would I ever do such a cruel thing to her? Someone else is the murderer! You must find the true culprit instead of letting them go!"

The clan members asked, "Fine. You said you're innocent, so tell us where you went last night with Zeke."

She grew silent again.

If she told them the truth, Erwen would be ruined.

Chapter 2006

At that point, Jeremiah said with disdain, "Don't want to tell us, eh? Hmph! You're the biggest suspect right now, Yazmin. As such, we'll be imprisoning you. You better cooperate with our

investigation. Ian! Ryan! Bring her to the prison cell and keep an eye on her! The rest will follow me to find Zeke and avenge Mona!"

The clan members cheered loudly as they followed Jeremiah to the room Zeke was staying in.

Yazmin was still trying to defend herself and Zeke, but her voice was drowned beneath the clamoring of the clan members.

In the end, she was sent to prison by Ian and Ryan.

With Jeremiah in the lead, the clan members arrived outside Zeke's room.

They shouted, "Come out here, Zeke! Surround the room, and don't let the murderer escape!" The clan members promptly surrounded his room to ensure no one could get out.

Inside the room, Zeke furrowed his eyebrows. I knew that bell ringing had something to do with me. What do they mean by "murderer" though? Are they accusing me of killing someone?

He wanted to step out of the building, but Sole Wolf stopped him. "Let me go out with you, Zeke."

He was worried about letting Zeke step outside alone.

Zeke waved his hand. "Wait here. Don't come out unless I order you to do so."

Sole Wolf nodded resignedly and stared as Zeke walked out of the room.

It reminded him of the battlefield in the North.

Whenever things got too dangerous on the battlefield, Zeke would try to deal with it by himself so his comrades wouldn't get hurt.

It would appear that habit of his would never change.

When Zeke stepped out of the room, the crowd went wild.

Peter, who was carrying Mona, instantly exclaimed, "Do you know what you've done, Zeke?"

Seeing the dead Mona made Zeke's heart ache.

As a father, seeing a dead child was something that hurt him the most.

He asked in anguish, "What happened to her?"

Peter roared. "Stop pretending! You know what you did! Both you and Yazmin worked together to kill her!"

Zeke knew it was a ludicrous accusation, but he still kept his calm. "I have no quarrel with her. Why would I kill her?"

"You still need to ask? It's obvious that you used Black Muraco Clan's worm to kill her. I suspect that you're trying to accuse the Black Muraco Clan so the two clans will kill each other while you reap the benefits!"

"That's an absurd accusation. I didn't kill Mona, but if you hand her to me now, I can still save her life. If you refuse, then you'll be the one who truly murdered her!"

"Bullsh\*t! Mona is already dead! There's no way you can save her! I bet you just want her corpse for vile purposes!"

Sole Wolf used his energy to speak to Zeke telepathically. "I can't take this anymore, Zeke. Please allow me to wipe them all out."

He couldn't stand to watch the Great Marshal be insulted by a group of worthless scum. Besides, it doesn't matter if he really did kill Mona! All of you don't get to complain about it!

Zeke replied telepathically. "Don't do anything reckless as that will only make things worse."

Sole Wolf dared not disobey Zeke's will, so he kept his silence. Jeremiah stepped forward. "We have a witness who can prove you're the one who killed her. Do you have any evidence to show that you're innocent?"

"Witness? Who's the witness?" Zeke questioned.

"A clan member saw you sneaking into Mr. Andres' house with Yazmin last night. The time of Mona's death matched with the time you two entered the building. Don't tell me it's just a coincidence."

Chapter 2007

Zeke insisted, "I didn't go to Mr. Andres' house last night with Yazmin. We went to a different place."

"Then tell us where you did go last night with Yazmin and what you did there." Jeremiah crossed his arms.

Zeke was speechless.

His gut was telling him it would be a bad idea if he spilled the beans.

If the clan members knew Yazmin wanted him to elope with the Holy Maiden, both women would face a terrible fate.

Staying silent was the best option for him.

"Nothing to say, eh? I don't think we need to talk to him anymore, Mr. Jeremiah. The truth is right before our eyes, so let us just capture and punish him," Peter proposed.

Jeremiah waved his hand. "Take him down, people."

With that order, the crowd charged toward Zeke.

Zeke simply stood at his spot, unmoving. He viewed them as nothing but harmless ants.

Just as he was about to release his energy, a cold, feminine voice rang out in the open.

"Everyone stop!"

It was the voice of Erwen!

The Holy Maiden was only second to the clan leader in terms of power. Hence, her words still carried a lot of weight.

The crowd promptly stopped, so Zeke didn't release his energy.

Everyone was surprised to see the Holy Maiden walking out of his room.

It perplexed the clan members as she was well known to be a celibate and disciplined woman. It didn't make sense that she would be inside a man's room this early in the morning.

They all knew that the Holy Maiden would never stand within a meter of a man, much less go into a man's room.

Jeremiah's tone carried a hint of reprimand.

"What are you doing in his room this early in the morning, Erwen?"

Instead of answering his question, Erwen approached Peter and took over Mona's body.

Even though she was drowning in sorrow at that moment, she still defended Zeke. "I can prove that Mona's death has nothing to do with Mr. Williams."



The crowd erupted into chatter at her words.

"You're the Holy Maiden of Muraco, Erwen. You should be aware that you must take responsibility for what you say. Don't spout nonsense if you don't have any evidence!" Jeremiah warned.

"I do have evidence!" she said as she examined Mona's body.

"You have evidence? Good. Then show us your evidence. If it's reliable, then I'll declare Zeke to be innocent. Of course, if you fake the evidence with the sole intention of protecting him, then I'll have to punish you according to Muraco laws."

"Zeke didn't go to Mr. Andres' house with

Yazmin last night. They were in my room because I ordered Yazmin to bring him over."

The clan members stared at her in shock. "You brought this man into your room, Holy Maiden?"

"Oh my goodness! How can you let someone like that into your room?"

"You... Have you forgotten that you're engaged? It's almost time for you to marry Cain!"

Jeremiah waved his hand to silence the crowd before speaking with a serious expression.

"Even if he went to your room last night, it still doesn't prove that he's innocent. He could've killed Mona after leaving your room!"

She stayed silent before admitting, "I was with Zeke the whole night yesterday, so he didn't have the time to commit the crime."

That sentence was like a bomb that had been dropped straight into the crowd. The clan members were appalled.

Not only did Zeke enter the Holy Maiden's room, but he also stayed with her for the entire night!

The Holy Maiden was no longer holy!

She, the goddess in their minds, had been tainted, and that was enough to make a few of the clan members break down.

Zeke didn't expect that she would be willing to sacrifice her reputation in order to protect him and Yazmin.

The Muraco Clan saw her purity as more important than her life, yet she was willing to protect them both by claiming that she had been sullied.

Chapter 2008

Erwen's boldness was greater than that of an average person.

Jeremiah was so emotional that he almost lost control. "Ridiculous! Childish! Shameless! You're supposed to be the holiest and purest virgin, Holy Maiden! You are the representation of our entire clan! And now... You don't deserve to be our Holy Maiden!"

The clan members agreed with the sentiment and asked Erwen to be rid of her Holy Maiden status.

Erwen spoke. "I don't need you all to do it. I'll relinquish the title of Holy Maiden myself. Additionally, I'm willing to exchange my life for Mona's as repentance."

The clan members were confused. "What do you mean by exchanging lives?"

"Mona was indeed given the Killing Worm from the Black Muraco Clan, but the worm doesn't actually kill someone. It only makes them enter a comatose state that mimics death. If treatment isn't given to her within twenty-four hours, then she would die for real. Only the Soul Blood can save her." She

then slammed a palm on her chest and caused herself to cough out a drop of blood.

That was her Soul Blood.

The clan members were shaken.

Every member of the Muraco Clan would cultivate three drops of Soul Blood since they were young. They represented the individual's life force.

If someone lost all three drops of their Soul Blood, then that person would die.

Thus, when Erwen used her Soul Blood to save Mona, it basically meant that she was using her life to save Mona's.

There were some who couldn't bear to see it happen.

However, they didn't stop Erwen as she must atone with her life for what she had done.

After she fed her Soul Blood to Mona, life returned to the girl's face.

At the same time, Erwen's face became as pale as snow. She looked far weaker than she was a second ago.

Just as she was about to take out another one of her Soul Blood, Zeke stopped her. "Let me do it. I can save Mona's life."

She smiled bitterly. "You aren't a member of the Muraco Clan. Without Soul Blood, you can't save Mona."

"Who said she can only be saved by using Soul Blood? Your Soul Blood breathed life into her once more, which is enough for my medical skills to do the rest."

Doubt was written all over her face. "I know you're trying to be nice, Mr. Williams, but this is a matter of life and death. I can guarantee her safety."

"How sure are you that you can save her?"

"About sixty percent."

"I'm ninety percent sure I can save her without the use of any sacrifice."

Erwen was incredibly skeptical of his claim.

Even if it was just a standard complicated disease, doctors wouldn't even say that they were ninety percent sure they could succeed.

Therefore, it was hard for her to believe him when Mona was in a comatose state.

Zeke urged, "Trust me. I never do anything I'm not confident about."

Glancing at his serious expression, she determined that he wasn't joking.

She carefully handed Mona's body to him.

For some reason, he made her feel at ease, and she trusted him.

However, the clan members were unhappy about that.

"Stop right there! Hand Mona's body back to us!"

"You're an outsider! You don't have the right to touch the body of a female from the Muraco clan, even if it's just a corpse!"

"It's clear that he has ulterior motives! Mr. Jeremiah, we must take back Mona's body!"

"We should just hand him to Black Muraco Clan and let them deal with him!"

The clan members were getting so stirred up that they were about to take the girl's body by force.

The whole scene was a mess.

Just as Erwen was about to stop them, Zeke suddenly roared, "Everyone, stop!"

He stomped on the floor and caused a hole to form below him.

The deafening sound and the immense energy wave caused everyone to freeze.

Chapter 2009

At that moment, everyone on the scene felt immense pressure weighing on them.

They could barely breathe or lift a finger.

All of them glanced at Zeke with fear as though the person in front of them wasn't a man, but a demon.

The entire place fell into an eerie silence.

Zeke used the opportunity to manifest his energy into Ammo Needle and save Mona.

The state she was currently in was simply due to the fact that all her meridians had been blocked. Using the seventh needle of Ammo Needle, the Resurrection Needle, he was able to clear out all the blocks in her body.

It took five whole minutes before the crowd snapped out of their fear.

Even though they were still quite shaken, they couldn't understand why they felt fear toward him.

Still, they gathered their courage and confronted him again.

"Stop it, you b\*stard!"

"We need to take back Mona's body! We mustn't let her body fall into the hands of this outsider!"

"Charge! Attack!"

Zeke didn't stop them as he dematerialized the Ammo Needles.

The treatment for Mona had been completed!

Right before the crowd arrived in front of him, he injected a small burst of energy into her body to resuscitate her.

Mona abruptly sat up and began coughing in the next second.

The clan members froze as they stared wide-eyed at the girl with disbelief.

Mona is alive! And he didn't have to sacrifice anything to revive her! They had no idea how he did it. Even the clan leader couldn't do something like that.

After Mona finished coughing, she looked around at her surroundings, confused. "Why am I here? Why do you all look like that? Erwen, I'm so hungry. You promised me you'll give me ice cream."

Only when the girl called her name out did Erwen snap out of her shock.

She promptly hugged Mona and cried tears of joy. "You're okay, Mona! I'm so happy that you're okay. You made me so worried!"

The girl was even more confounded. "Is there something wrong with me, Erwen?"

To protect the little girl, Erwen didn't want her to know that she had been given a Killing Worm. "It's nothing, Mona. You don't need to worry about anything. You were just sleeping for so long that I worried you were sick."

"Oh." The girl didn't suspect a thing.

Letting out a scoff, Peter said coldly, "So what if you saved Mona, Zeke? Do you think it'll clear your name? Do you think healing the face that you slapped will be enough for us to forgive your actions? He's the one who brought us a disaster that we could've avoided! He was the one who incited the wrath of the Black Muraco Clan! I strongly suggest that we hand him over to them and let them deal with him!"

"I agree!"

"I also agree!"

"We all agree!"

The clan members all expressed the same opinion.

Erwen swiftly defended Zeke. "I already told you all that Zeke stayed with me for the whole night yesterday! He didn't have the motive or time to commit the crime. He's innocent."

Jeremiah waved his hand. "All right, settle down. How about we just ask Mona if she knows who's the culprit?"

It was only then that the clan members realized they could just ask her if she knew who committed the crime.

Jeremiah asked, "Let me ask you something, Mona. Did you notice anyone slipping into your room last night?"

The girl furrowed her eyebrows. "I don't remember clearly, but I think I heard. Peter's voice. He said something about not blaming him and mentioned someone called Williams."

That was undoubtedly referring to Zeke.

However, the crowd didn't understand why Peter said not to blame him and why he mentioned Zeke's name.

"If my guess is correct, he was telling her not to blame him for her death and to blame me instead," Zeke uttered in an icy tone.

## Chapter 2010

Since it made logical sense, no one questioned it.

Zeke stared at Peter coldly. "Someone's clearly trying to frame me. May I ask who's the first to accuse me of being a murderer?"

All the clan members turned their heads to Peter.

Peter was the first to suggest that Zeke was the murderer, and then Mona also said that Peter had been in her room last night.

Even an idiot was able to tell what happened. Peter was no doubt trying to frame Zeke as the one who killed Mona.

Peter began to panic when everyone's attention focused on him. "You're still trying to lie your way out, huh, Zeke—"

"Shut your mouth!" Erwen roared.

None of the clan members had ever seen her that furious before.

She had always treated Mona as her own sister. Of course she was going to be mad when Peter turned out to be the culprit.

"You have committed the sin of injuring one of our own! I brand you as a traitor! You shall be given the punishment of being burned alive and then drowned in the river! Do you admit to your crime?"

"I'm innocent! I really am!" Peter cried out. "Zeke is lying to all of you! You mustn't believe the words of an outsider! No matter how depraved I am, there's no way I'll ever hurt Mona!"

Zeke questioned, "Then how do you explain the things you said to her in her room last night?"

"That... That..." Peter stuttered before he tried to defend himself. "Let me ask you something, Mona. How do you think I've been treating you?"

Mona thought for a second before answering, "You've treated me nicely and given me tasty food to eat."

He nodded. "That's right. I've been treating you very nicely, almost like you're my own daughter. How can a father be cruel enough to hurt his own daughter? She's still a young girl, so she can't take responsibility for what she says. A testimony from her can't be taken seriously as children can be quite

unreliable, especially when they're sleepy. Let me ask you something else, Mona. Did you personally see me entering your room? Are you sure you heard me talking to you? Is it possible that you were dreaming?"

Mona fell into silence for a long while before she answered, "I was deep in my sleep last night, so I don't know if I was dreaming or if I really did hear your voice."

A sigh of relief escaped his mouth. "Hear that? Besides, I don't know a thing about Black Muraco Clan's worms. There's no way I'm the culprit."

Erwen declared coldly, "I will investigate this matter thoroughly. When I find the culprit, be it you or anyone else, they shall be punished with unimaginable pain."

Jeremiah waved his hand. "All right, that'll be the end of this matter. Bimble and I will continue to investigate who's responsible. Once we capture the culprit, we'll wait for Mr. Andres to deliver the punishment personally. Now, onto the next topic." He glanced at Zeke. "Did you beat the Saint of Black Muraco when he visited us yesterday, Zeke?"

Zeke nodded. "I did."

"Hmph! And did he say that he'll wipe the White Muraco Clan out if you and Erwen's heads aren't delivered to him by tonight?"

Zeke nodded again.

"I'm glad you admitted it. Now, you have two choices. First, we'll cut your head off and send it to the Black Muraco Clan. Second, you alone will defeat all their attacking forces. If you can't hold them off, and if we determine your survival will lead to our destruction, don't blame us when we work together with the Black Muraco Clan to take you down."

"It's just the Black Muraco Clan. They aren't even worth my time."

The crowd scoffed in disdain at his words.

The Black Muraco Clan was at least a couple of times more powerful than the White Muraco Clan. It was absurd that Zeke wanted to challenge the entire Black Muraco Clan alone.

Since his name had been cleared, the crowd began to dissipate.