

Chapter 2553

"Right, submitting to someone like that is a disgrace!"

Chester took in a deep breath and gave the group a bitter smile before he turned to Dax and said, "Dax, I'm on his territory. I have to live by his rules. Based on our situation now, we will all die if I don't submit. Besides, Mr. Zhang is a man of great foresight. I have always admired him, so I don't feel embarrassed about serving him."

Chester understood Dax well, and he knew that it would be difficult for Dax to cover for him if he knew that he was only pretending. Besides, he could not tell Dax his plan in front of Zhang Jue.

Dax and the crowd were extremely aggrieved.

"Chester Wilson!"

Yvette stared at Chester with mixed emotions and exclaimed, "Darryl has always treated you like a brother. I can't believe that you're just another coward."

She became agitated. "We are no longer related after this! I will not address you as my brother anymore."

There was hidden meaning in her eyes despite what she said.

Indeed, Yvette was sharp enough to see through Chester's pretense in submitting to Zhang Jue. She said those words on purpose to help Chester to gain Zhang Jue's trust.

'Yvette is smart, indeed.'

Chester felt indescribably comforted as he nodded internally to Yvette's words.

Zhang Jue laughed.

Pleased, he turned to Chester and asked, "Are you really willing to pledge allegiance to me?"

Chester took a step forward and spoke out loud, "Mr. Zhang, you are a genius. It is an honor for me, Chester Wilson, to serve you. I will certainly follow you from this day onward, and I am not afraid to risk any danger to fulfill my duty to you."

"That's good to know."

Zhang Jue smiled as he pointed to a disciple of the Carter family and said in a calm tone, "It's not that simple to be my subordinate. Kill him, and I'll believe that you're sincere."

Zhang Jue was smart enough to test Chester that way because he guessed that he could only pretend to defect.

'What?'

Chester jerked internally and froze that instant.

Zhang Jue was ruthless to think of such a cruel measure to test him. He was talking about a disciple of the Carter family—Darryl's family. How could Chester kill him?

Dax and the others looked horrified as they fixed their gazes on Chester.

'Is he going to do it?'

The Carter family's disciple was sweating profusely with fear.

Chester stared at him with a poker face. There was not a single ripple of emotion visible on his face even though he was struggling internally.

He pondered if he should kill him. He was worried that Zhang Jue would see through his plan if he decided not to do it.

However, he would be forever stained with the blood of Darryl's family, and he would never be able to wash it off if he did kill him.

"What's the matter?"

Zhang Jue noticed that Chester was stalling; he chuckled lightly. "Do you need to think that long if you have already agreed to pledge allegiance to me? Or is it just an act?"

"I—"

Chester clenched his teeth as he spoke, "Mr. Zhang, don't take this the wrong way. Killing an insignificant member of the Carter family wouldn't be enough to demonstrate my genuineness. I will sacrifice my arm to prove my sincerity."

Chester unsheathed his longsword and struck with the speed of lightning. His left arm was sliced

off, and blood gushed everywhere.

Gasp!

Chester sucked in a cold breath as blood drained from his face that instant.

'That is—'

Zhang Jue, Dax, and the others became dumbfounded when they saw that.

'Did he just... slice his arm off?'

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Yvette was in agony; she almost could not suppress her impulse to go forward to check on Chester's wound.

'Brother Chester chose to do that instead of harming one of us....'

However, she knew that Chester's sacrifice would be wasted if she showed her concern.

She withheld herself when she thought of that.

"Mr. Zhang!"

Chester wrapped his wound as he stared at Zhang Jue. "I have proved my sincerity. Do you still have any suspicion?" He did not even look at his severed arm on the ground as he talked.

For him, losing an arm was nothing compared to saving others' lives.

Phew!

Zhang Jue took a deep breath and stared at Chester for a dozen seconds before he finally nodded. "Fine, Master Wilson, you're an indomitable man, indeed. I'd be wasting your talent if I still have any suspicion."

He turned to his subordinates and instructed, "Hurry, get Master Wilson some medication. Take the others back to the prison cell."

Chester froze and exclaimed hurriedly, "Mr. Zhang, didn't you promise that—"

Zhang Jue interrupted him with a smile. "I only agreed to spare their lives; I did not say that I was going to let them free."

'F*ck!'

Chester was extremely infuriated to hear that. Zhang Jue was too sly.

Dax and the others could not resist at all because they were exhausted. All of them were tied up quickly and sent back to the prison cell.

Chester went to the altar hall as invited by Zhang Jue.

"Mr. Zhang!"

Chester sat in the hall. As he could no longer suppress his curiosity, he asked, "What are you planning to do to get rid of those from the Carter family?"

Zhang Jue stared at him with an ambiguous smile instead of replying to his question directly.

"Chester, do you still care about those captives even though you are serving me now?"

"Mr. Zhang, you've misunderstood!" Chester shook his head immediately and explained, "Dax Sanders and the others are all ambitious and heroic people. It'd be a shame to kill them all."

Zhang Jue nodded quietly and pondered. "I fought with Darryl Darby previously, and he was severely injured when he fled. I'm going to utilize those people from the Carter family to lure him to me."

'What?'

Chester jerked internally. 'Darryl was here?'

He was unaware that Darryl had already fought Zhang Jue a few times after he returned from the Wild Deserted Secret Region.

He asked subconsciously, "Mr. Zhang, if that's the case, then why don't you ask Dax and the others to yield? Darryl will definitely lose hope, and he won't oppose you again."

Chester was a sharp thinker. He guessed that Zhang Jue wanted to go against Darryl because he wanted to dominate the Nine Mainland.

Zhang Jue sniggered at Chester's suggestion, and he shook his head. "If only the others were as insightful as you to understand the situation, I would've saved a lot of trouble. Dax Sanders and the others are all stubborn as mules. They would rather die than submit to me, so they have to die eventually."

Chester jerked internally and replied hastily, "Mr. Zhang, I can persuade them on your behalf if you trust me."

He smiled and continued to say, "I am Dax's sworn brother. He might listen to me."

Indeed, Chester wanted to get an opportunity to meet Dax and the others in the prison cell instead of persuading them to surrender.

"Fine!"

Zhang Jue's eyes shone as he burst into laughter. "Master Wilson, you are ambitious. I did not trust the wrong person, indeed. This matter is yours to handle."

"Thank you for your trust."

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Meanwhile, Darryl staggered his way forward in the woods about 50 kilometers away from Lunar Hill.

When he realized that no army was behind him, he took a deep breath and sat cross-legged to recover himself via cultivation. Suddenly, he slumped forward. He could no longer hold himself after Zhang Jue injured his heart vein with the Sky Breaking Axe attack.

"Jewel—" He muttered to himself the moment he fell to the ground.

He had flashbacks of what had happened. He was in agony when he thought of Jewel's ill fate.

A car passed by slowly at that instant.

"Is that a person?"

"Let's check it out..."

When they noticed Darryl, the car stopped, and a few people got out of it. An 18-year-old girl led them. Her gorgeous facial features and attractive figure in a dress made her look as striking as a butterfly.

She was Cheyenne Yach, the Eldest Young Miss of the Yach family in Mistloren. The Yachs had been a business family for generations, but they were into cultivation in recent years due to the normalization of cultivation practice. They had become a famous family of cultivators in Mistloren in the past two years.

A few men in black suits trailed behind Cheyenne. They were her bodyguards.

Cheyenne walked forward and got a huge shock when she spotted the feverish Darryl. She noticed that he was dying from multiple injuries. He was barely breathing, and yet he could not stop mumbling.

Cheyenne lowered herself into a crouch and called out softly. "Hey, are you alright?"

Completely delirious, Darryl stared at Cheyenne in surprise when he heard her voice.

"Jewel..."

He took her into his arms before Cheyenne could react. He called out in surprise and agony.

"Jewel, you're fine! I'm so relieved..."

Darryl had mistaken Cheyenne for Jewel because of his fever, and he could not control his emotions.

The bodyguards nearby were also shocked, and they became irritated.

'Does that kid have a death wish? How dare he take advantage of Eldest Young Miss!'

Whoosh!

Cheyenne was embarrassed and annoyed because of the sudden hug. She struggled to free herself from Darryl's arms and said, "Leave him on the hill for the wolves."

'How despicable. That man tried to take advantage of me even though I was checking up on him out of kindness.'

Dash!

The bodyguards proceeded to move Darryl to the barren hill.

"Wait!"

A shout echoed in that split second, and a handsome figure rushed forward. His eyes were locked onto Darryl; they shone with unconcealable agitation and excitement.

It was Zhu Bajie.

Zhu Bajie had always lived free and easy. He met Darryl in the Yellow Sea Continent years ago, and they agreed to meet up in an inn in a small town. However, Darryl did not show up, so Zhu Bajie went to look for him. He had left Debra and Shentel in the inn. However, he had failed to find Darryl, and Debra and Shentel were also nowhere to be seen when he returned to the inn.

He had searched for the women in a few locations but to no avail. He figured that they had left with Darryl.

He had wanted to help in the subsequent war between the Nine Mainland and the Raksasa Tribe, but he received news that they had formed a treaty. He had been traveling around since there was no war.

He arrived in Mistloren about a year ago and stumbled upon the Yachs when they got robbed by bandits. He helped them out of a sense of justice. Cheyenne was there, and she admired Zhu Bajie for his vigor and valiant strength, so she asked him to be her master.

"Master!"

Cheyenne looked at Bajie, who had rushed forward in confusion. "Do you know this man?"

Zhu Bajie continued to stare at Darryl in excitement without replying to her question. "Hurry, take him back." As a master of disguise, Zhu Bajie realized that the man was Darryl; he only needed one look despite the makeup and the scars on his face.

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A day later.

At the Yach Manor in Yellow Dragon City, Mistloren.

Darryl laid on the bed in a room, and he had quite a few nightmares.

He dreamt that Jewel had suffered a horrifying death, and those from the Carter family were all murdered by Zhang Jue.

Fuh!

Darryl was startled awake by the nightmares; he noticed that he was in a room when he opened his eyes. He was covered in a cold sweat as ripples of pain spread from the wound in his heart vein.

'Where am I?'

He looked around and noticed that the room had a lavish design with an old furniture layout. The room looked old-fashioned with its luxurious rosewood furniture.

Creak!

Darryl was astonished when someone pushed the door open, and a few people entered the room swiftly.

They were Zhu Zhu Bajie, Cheyenne, her brother, and her cousin sisters.

Cheyenne's cousins were all beautiful women; they were in simple dresses, but they looked charming. They looked more classy than some famous artists.

Zhu Bajie was the first to approach Darryl with laughter. "Brother, you're finally awake!"

Zhu Bajie turned to Cheyenne and said, "My wonderful apprentice, get the housekeeper to prepare some medication. This is your master's sworn brother. You should address him as your uncle, understood?"

'Apprentice?'

Darryl was dumbfounded to hear that. 'D*mn, when did Zhu Bajie start taking in

apprentices?'

Even Cheyenne jerked with surprise before a hint of conflict emerged on her delicate face.

"Master, why should I? He's a pervert."

She felt embarrassed and offended when she remembered that Darryl had hugged her.

Cheyenne's brother and cousins stared at Darryl with curiosity.

"Of course, he's my sworn brother." Zhu Bajie insisted with his brows furrowed, his tone dignified without any room for questions.

Cheyenne bit her lips and greeted him. "Nice to meet you, Uncle."

Her cheeks flushed red the moment she shouted those words. She was very conflicted about addressing Darryl that way, but she dared not defy her Master's order.

Darryl nodded in acknowledgment as he stared at Cheyenne from top to toe in a trance.

'Did I mistook that girl as Jewel?'

Darryl had been delirious the day before, but he remembered hugging a girl before he fainted, and he figured that it was Cheyenne.

He could not deny that her features were pretty similar to Jewel. He could have mistaken her as Jewel when he saw her in his feverish state.

He felt a pinch in his chest and burned with anxiety the moment he thought about Jewel.

"Brother Zhu." Darryl struggled to get out of the bed as he said, "Hurry, we should go rescue them."

He wondered what had happened to Jewel and those from the Carter family; he had been unconscious for a few days.

Zhu Bajie stopped him before he could leave the bed.

"Brother, how can you save them? You're heavily injured." Zhu Bajie smiled bitterly as he tried to comfort him. "You should recover first by getting enough rest here. I've asked my apprentice to prepare medication for you."

Zhu Bajie turned to Cheyenne and proceeded to introduce them. "My wonderful apprentice, I

know that he looks shabby like a beggar, but he is actually—"

Darryl stopped him before he could finish that sentence.

"Brother Zhu, don't disclose my identity," Darryl approached Zhu Bajie and whispered in his ear.

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His whisper was so light that only he and Zhu Bajie could hear it.

The Endless Sky Organization was under Zhang Jue's control, and they had informants scattered around the Nine Mainland. He chose not to let Cheyenne and the others know his true identity for safety.

Zhu Bajie was intelligent enough to understand Darryl's intention immediately.

Then he glanced around him and said, "Long story short, he's my sworn brother, and you have to treat him with respect. You should take good care of him from today onward. Understand?"

"Yes, Master." Cheyenne nodded with clenched teeth despite her unwillingness because she could not say no.

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Pleased with the answer, Zhu Bajie waved his arm to dismiss Cheyenne and the others.

"Brother Zhu!"

After they left, Darryl could no longer suppress his curiosity. "Where are we?"

"You're at the Yach Manor in Mistloren," Zhu Bajie replied with a chuckle.

'What? Mistloren?'

Darryl froze instantly and exclaimed in panic, "Oh, crap."

Zhu Bajie became extremely curious. "What's wrong? What's happening?" It had been years since the last time he met Darryl, and he was puzzled by how desperate and anxious he was at the time.

Darryl explained what had happened in the past few days with a bitter smile.

"Zhang Jue?"

Zhu Bajie furrowed his brows after he listened to the story and said, "F*ck, is he really that despicable?"

"Brother Zhu, the Carters are captured, and Jewel's safety is unknown. I have to go back," Darryl replied anxiously.

Zhu Bajie took a deep breath and consoled him. "Anxiety won't help when you're so heavily injured. Why don't you stay here while you recover? I'll ask around for information and rescue Jewel and the Carters when there's a chance."

"Thank you, Brother Zhu." Darryl's face lit up with joy as he expressed his gratitude.

Zhu Bajie nodded and told Darryl to rest before he immediately stepped out of the room.

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At the same time, at the Endless Sky Organization's main altar.

Chester walked to the prison cell with a solemn expression.

He announced to the disciples on patrol when he reached the entrance. "I'm here to advise the Carters to surrender according to my master's order."

The disciples opened the gate for him when they heard that.

Chester took a deep breath before he entered the prison.

"Chester Wilson!"

Dax was in the corner of the cell when he noticed Chester's arrival. He stood up abruptly and scolded him. "Darryl and I have always respected you. Why did you turn to Zhang Jue? Answer me!"

Dax almost shot flames from his eyes when he said that. He still did not understand why Chester would submit to Zhang Jue as he had always been a just person.

The others started to shout at him; they followed Dax's suit.

"He's right! You are seeking personal gain by selling out on us. How shameless of you to come to see us!"

"Leave! We don't want to see you."

"We must have been blind for trusting and respecting you so much."

The group's angry shouts came one after another. Yvette was the only one who stood there without a word as she stared at Chester quietly.

Chester's expression was pained when he turned to Dax. "You've misunderstood, Dax."

"It's true!"

Yvette could no longer hold it in and spoke up. "Can't you guys see that Brother Chester is only pretending to submit to Zhang Jue? He's doing that to ensure our safety! Otherwise, we would've been killed by Zhang Jue already."

The whole prison cell became deadly silent.

They turned to stare at Chester, especially his arm. They felt extremely guilty when the sudden realization hit them.

"Brother Chester!"

Dax was the first to react as he exclaimed with sobs. "Brother Chester, I've misunderstood you! I'm sorry—"

Chester gave him an assuring smile and comforted him. "A little bit of sacrifice is nothing in exchange for your safety. Don't feel bad."

The others lowered their heads guiltily for misunderstanding and criticizing Chester even though he sacrificed so much for them.

"Brother Chester!"

Yvette could no longer suppress her curiosity and asked, "Do you have a plan?"

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Whoosh!

The group fixed their gazes on Chester.

Chester took a deep breath and smiled bitterly. "Zhang Jue wants to capture Darryl by using you guys as bait. He is not going to harm you for now, but he's an evil and vicious person. He'll sacrifice all of you eventually, regardless of whether he succeeds in capturing Darryl."

Chester's expression became conflicted as he continued to say, "I promised Zhang Jue to come here under the pretense that I'd advise you guys to surrender."

He felt powerless when he said that because he knew that the Endless Sky Organization's main altar was heavily guarded, and they had more than 100,000 elite disciples. There was no way that Chester could release all of them from the prison cell by himself.

Based on their situation, Chester could only choose to secure his position with Zhang Jue as he waited for an opportunity patiently.

'What?'

The group was shocked.

Yvette bit her lips and exclaimed, "Are you saying that we should fake a surrender? But that'd be too pretentious. Zhang Jue would know with one glance; he's not an idiot."

Chester nodded. "Yes, that's why I decided to pick only a few of you to pretend to submit to Zhang Jue as I did. He wouldn't suspect anything."

Dax exclaimed with a conflicted expression. "Brother Chester, that's too troublesome. Can't you just release us? Now's a great opportunity. Zhang Jue trusts you."

"Dax, it's not that simple." Chester shook his head and explained with a bitter smile. "I would've done that earlier if I could. Zhang Jue is still cautious toward me. I'm worried that his men might lurk at the foot of the hill if I let you go now. My previous efforts would all go to waste."

"Besides, I think I should stay with Zhang Jue after freeing you guys so that I could keep track of his plans against Darryl."

Fuh!

Both Yvette and Dax became silent.

They knew that it would be too risky for Chester, but it did not seem like they had any other choice.

The group exchanged glances after a short moment of silence as they wondered who Chester would pick.

Chester looked around before finally, his gaze stopped on a lean and tall man. "White Horse, you'll do. You should stay near Zhang Jue with me."

The person that Chester had chosen was White Horse from the Eternal Life Palace. He was also the first person to oppose Chester when he was selected to be the Sect Master years ago.

Chester figured that Zhang Jue would get suspicious if he chose Dax or Yvette. After all, Dax had a hot temper, and he would rather die than surrender. On the other hand, Yvette was intelligent and upright. She would never bow easily.

"Master!"

The White Horse jerked with surprise; his face was filled with terror. "I... I'm afraid that I will not live up to the task..."

It was Zhang Jue that they were talking about; staying around him as a spy would be even more dangerous than pulling a tiger's tooth.

"White Horse!" Chester's expression became grim as he shouted angrily, "You bear a solemn duty as one of the Four Guardian Kings of the Eternal Life Palace. Are you going to flinch now that the Eternal Life Palace is facing an unprecedented challenge?"

His voice was not loud, but it was filled with strength.

When he realized that the Sect Master was furious, blood drained from White Horse's face, and he nodded hurriedly. "I will abide by your decision and not disobey your order."

He looked sincere when he said that, but his eyes glistened with resentment and grimness.

'Chester Wilson, d*mn you for dragging me into this murky water! Do not blame me for being

dishonorable when the time for life and death comes.'

Chester nodded in acknowledgment at White Horse's words. Then he left the prison cell with White Horse after a few more words with the others.

A few minutes later, at the main hall.

Zhang Jue sat on his throne as he glanced at White Horse from top to toe with a smile. "Master Wilson is a man of his words, indeed. You've got a capable subordinate so soon! You did well!"

"It's all thanks to Mr. Zhang's modesty; White Horse was impressed," Chester replied with flattery.

White Horse made obeisance and bowed hurriedly before he spoke respectfully, "Mr. Zhang, I am White Horse, and I will be under your command."