

The Invisible Rich Man – Chapter 2291

After taking a deep breath, Gerald slowly began flipping through the pages, making sure to be particularly gentle for fear that the thousand year old book would accidentally turn to dust.

To his dismay, however, he couldn't understand what was written in it at all! At most, he was able to gather based on the crude sketches on a few of the pages that the book was detailing some sort of sacrificial ritual, not unlike what he had seen on the sea map back then.

Carefully and slightly excitedly carrying the book over to the old man, Gerald was prompted to ask, "Can you read this, senior?"

Raising a slight brow, he then gave the book a look before eventually shaking his head as he said, "Unfortunately, I can't. However, based on the sketch, I'm assuming they're attempting to summon rain."

"What? Isn't this a sacrificial ritual?" replied Gerald.

"Whatever it is, it doesn't matter. After all, though you've finally managed to find the book, you can't make heads or tails of it! It's no different from a brick!" said the old man before laughing aloud. To think that after all that effort, it was ultimately just a waste of time.

Chuckling in response, Gerald then replied, "While I can't read it, there's someone who may just be able to..."

“Oh? Who?”

“A good friend of mine... Regardless, I’m saying this since after getting to know the descendants of the Seadom tribe, we were given access to a secret room that contained several books in an unknown language. However, this friend of mine seemed to be able to read them just fine,” replied Gerald as he thought about Master Ghost.

“I see... Perhaps he’ll be the key to cracking this code,” said the old man with a nod.

“Indeed... Either way, I’ll be taking my leave. I’ll definitely come back to visit when I have the time, senior!” replied Gerald as he carefully slipped the ancient book into his coat pocket. After placing his hands together and bowing in respect, Gerald then turned to leave.

“Hmm? You’re leaving already?” asked the old man, looking slightly surprised.

“Yeah! Don’t worry, I’ll definitely return to visit once I’m free!” declared Gerald rather enthusiastically.

“Aren’t you at least going to change back into your original clothes? They’re completely dry now!” replied the old man.

“Just leave them there for now! I’ll switch clothes again the next time I return!” yelled Gerald who was now so far away that even all his shouting sounded faint.

“How impatient can that boy get...?” muttered the old man to himself as Gerald disappeared in the distance.

Shaking his head with a chuckle, he then turned to look at the piles of books scattered all over the place before walking toward them to start tidying up.

The truth was, he had read nearly every book in here throughout his stay, which meant that he had no actual issues with understanding the language of the Seadom tribe. With that said, he had only lied to Gerald about not understanding since he wanted the boy to stay for another day or two.

Still, to think that Gerald would actually know someone capable of reading the Seadom tribe's language! The boy was also lucky that he had managed to find the exact book he needed in a single day.

Clapping the dust off his hands once he was done rearranging all the books back on the bookshelf, the old man then muttered, “Return when you're free? I'll be lucky if you still remember me after ten years! Then again, I'll probably be dead by then...”

Shaking his head, he then waved his hand causing a large shale to cover the cave's entrance before sitting cross legged on his bed. Closing his eyes, the old man then entered a cultivating state.

While it was still raining outside, it was much lighter than before. Understanding that, Gerald made a mad dash till he got to his car. Ignoring how drenched he was and how muddy his

shoes were, Gerald immediately took his coat off the second he got into the car to check on the book. Thank heavens it had remained dry.

Leaning against his seat, Gerald couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief as he said, "Alright... I've finally found it..."

Once he had caught his breath, Gerald began driving out of the forest to return to the Grubb manor. On his way there, he made sure to send a text message to Master Ghost, telling him to bring Jobson and Fujiko to the Grubb manor as well. There was something important that he needed to attend to.

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Though he had accelerated the entire way, it still took Gerald four whole hours to get from the forest to the Grubb manor. Regardless, upon Gerald's arrival at the manor at about nine that night, his return was quickly notified to Lucian who upon learning that instantly urged Aiden to head to the reception room. Lucian himself then jogged out the manor together with his butler to greet the youth.

Upon seeing them, Gerald nodded before asking, "Good evening, Mr. Grubb. Have my friends arrived?"

"... Friends?" replied Lucian in a confused tone as he led Gerald to the reception room.

“I guess they haven’t. Either way, do prepare three guestrooms for them since they may need to stay for quite a while. Don’t worry, we’ll all leave once we’ve rescued Miss Lawrence,” said Gerald as he estimated how long it would take for Master Ghost and the others to come over.

Just as he figured that they’d be here by the hour, Lucian who finally realized how drenched Gerald was hurriedly replied, “No problem, but before that, do get a change of clothes! You’re soaked from head to toe!”

Simply nodding in response, Gerald then followed the butler to another room to get himself changed. Taking the opportunity to get a cold shower as well, Gerald returned about ten minutes later, looking fully refreshed.

Seeing Gerald, Lucian was prompted to ask, “So... Did things go smoothly, whatever you were doing?”

“They did, indeed,” replied Gerald with a nod.

“Glad to hear. Regardless, while you were gone, we think we’ve managed to find the person responsible for kidnapping Lindsay!” declared Lucian with a smile.

“Go on...”

After exchanging glances with his butler, Lucian then said, "We believe that Maddox Chabert is the culprit!"

"Never heard of him before," replied Gerald after thinking for a while.

"While you may not know him, he definitely knows you," said Lucian.

"... Hmm? Havel offended him before?" replied Gerald, understanding just how many enemies he must have accidentally made throughout the years.

"You could put it that way. You see, Maddox is from the Yanam military, and he's the one in charge of Yanam's seas. From what I've been told, Maddox's first reaction upon hearing that you had returned to Yanam was to propose to Carter to have your life ended while you were still out at sea. Since that didn't happen, it's fair to assume that Carter denied that," replied the butler.

"So you're saying that he's captured Lindsay to threaten me?" asked Gerald as he thought about it.

"I believe so. I know a few people from the military, and after asking around, it appears that Maddox has rarely appeared at work in the past few days. For those who managed to catch glimpses of him, they stated that aside from him looking immensely vigilant, Maddox had apparently gotten ten replacement soldiers to follow him at all times as well. What more, some also said that he had taken a few items from the military's equipment department!" explained Lucian.

“... It doesn't add up,” replied Gerald after thinking about all that he had just heard.

“What do you mean?” asked Aiden who had been silent the entire time.

“Well, if Maddox kidnapped her to threaten me after Carter rejected his proposal, I find the timing for that to be a bit off. How long has Lindsay gone missing again, Aiden?” replied Gerald as he turned to look at Aiden.

“About a week ago. While we immediately took action after I got the mission, my superiors had actually received the request from the Lawrences a few days prior,” said Aiden.

“Bingo. But we've only been here for three days,” replied Gerald.

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“... Are you saying that Maddox's actions simply coincided with your return? As in, he kidnapped Lindsay to lure you back and finally deal with you, not knowing that you were planning to return anyway...?” said Lucian as he tapped on his desk

“It's certainly a possibility,” replied Gerald.

“Indeed... Regardless, I’ve already told my friend to keep an eye out on Maddox. With that said, he’ll definitely notify me the second Maddox does anything weird. With any luck, we’ll soon get the opportunity to tail Maddox and hopefully be able to save Lindsay. So, what do you think, Gerald? Any better suggestions?” asked Lucian.

“Not at all. I’m fine with that plan,” replied Gerald with a nod, knowing that going with Lucian’s plan was probably their best bet of saving Lindsay, at least for the moment

The second his sentence ended, one of Lucian’s servants entered the room with a dripping umbrella in hand before saying, “There are a few people claiming to be Gerald’s friends at the door, master.”

“How many are there?” asked Gerald.

Upon hearing that, the servant went silent for a moment before eventually replying, “Three, I presume. Unfortunately, it was a bit too dark for me to say for certain...”

Nodding in response, Gerald then said, “Invite them in.”

Though Lucian knew that Gerald wouldn’t just invite anyone random to his house, he couldn’t help but ask, “... Care sharing who those individuals are...?”

“Of course. One of them is a good friend, and the other is the young lady of Japan’s Futaba family. As for the third person, he’s an elder from another Japanese family. In case you’re worried about their trustworthiness, I know all of them well, Mr. Grubb,”

explained Gerald.

“Glad to hear,” replied Lucian as he noted down everything that Gerald had just told him.

Shortly after, Jobson’s voice could be heard saying, “I’ve heard that the Grubbs are quite influential in Yanam. To think that you were acquainted with such a great family!”

Upon realizing that Jobson, Fujiko, and Master Ghost who were being led into the reception room by the servant from before were here, Gerald immediately got to his feet before greeting, “Senior Jobson!”

Seeing that, Lucian quickly got up as well, understanding that Jobson was no ordinary person since even Gerald respected him.

As the butler immediately began serving the three new faces some hot tea, Jobson walked over to Lucian before placing his hands together and saying, “Ah, you must be Mr. Grubb! I’ve heard quite a bit about you!”

Before Lucian could reply, Gerald could be seen gesturing toward the seat beside him as he said, "Whatever the case is, do take a seat first, sir. After all, I'm sure the journey here was long and tiring."

Hearing that, Jobson then nodded as he, Master Ghost, and Fujiko took their seats. Once seated, Jobson was prompted to ask, "So... I'm assuming you've found a way to save that missing girl?"

"We have, though it'll probably be a while before we manage to get any results," replied Gerald as he poured more tea for Jobson.

Having a feeling that Gerald still wanted to talk about other things with them, Lucian then cleared his throat as he said, "Regardless, it's getting rather late so I'll be excusing myself first. Also, your rooms have already been prepared, so once you're all ready to turn in, just tell the servant who led you in to bring you there."

Following that, Lucian gave his butler a brief glance, and the two then began leaving the room with umbrellas in hand.

"Thanks for having us, Mr. Grubb!" called out Jobson just seconds before Gerald closed the reception room's door behind them.

Once the two were gone, Jobson's smile instantly vanished as he whispered, "So... Since you called all of us here, I'm assuming you've made progress in our main mission?"

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“I have indeed,” replied Gerald with a nod as he placed the ancient book that he had guarded carefully up till this point onto the table.

Frowning slightly, Jobson then asked, “... And this is?”

As the others got closer to the book as well, Gerald carefully opened it before pointing at the squiggly, worm like words as he said, “I found this in the ancient ruins, and I believe that it contains the Seadom tribe’s knowledge on how to get to Yearning Island.”

“This belongs to my family...?” muttered Fujiko as she curiously looked at it.

“It should be. Though I can’t read the language, the words look similar enough to the ones in the books in your family’s secret room back in the Futaba manor,” replied Gerald with a nod.

“Well, your assumption was right on the mark!” said Master Ghost after getting a good look at the book.

Chuckling in response, Gerald then playfully jabbed at Master Ghost’s arm before replying, “I knew you could read it! Hurry and see if there’s any information regarding how to get to Yearning Island!”

Immediately feeling pressured by Gerald's words, Master Ghost immediately said, "Just to clarify, I only learned a little about the Seadom tribe from my master. With that said, I'm no expert in the language, so don't expect my translation to be perfect..."

Patting his back, Gerald simply replied, "Just do your best!"

Nodding in response, Master Ghost then took a deep breath before picking the book up and attempting to translate it. Upon seeing that, everyone instantly went quiet, not wanting to affect his concentration.

Fast forward to half an hour later, Master Ghost made it past the fifth page before rubbing his slightly sore eyes as he said, "So... From what I was able to gather, the very start of the book details how to conduct one of the Seadom tribe's sacrificial rituals... With that said, I believe the parts about getting to Yearning Island should come much later on..."

Watching as Master Ghost then took a sip of his tea that had already gone cold, Gerald replied, "That's great progress! Don't worry, you're doing good. Take your time..."

Following that, Master Ghost resumed reading. However, once he got to the later parts of the book, his frown started getting deeper and deeper. As he had said, he was no expert in the language, and it certainly didn't help that most of the words were near indistinguishable since the book had been in that damp cave for so long.

Eventually, however, Master Ghost finally said, "... Alright, so apparently, the Seadom tribe had to leave Yearning Island about a thousand and two hundred years ago due to the arrival of a

group of people who suddenly took over their home... Since the invaders had mastered the elements of water and fire, the Seadom tribe had no choice but to leave..."

"The invaders are most likely cultivators of old..." replied Gerald as he thought about Jobson and the old man's ability to bend natural forces to their wills.

Regardless, upon hearing Master Ghost's groan after he resumed reading for a while, Gerald who had a bad feeling about that was prompted to ask, "... Is something the matter?"

"Well... According to the book, Yearning Island is a magical place that was formed by the essence of heaven and earth. With that in mind, to prevent others from easily locating it, the Seadom tribe had placed the sole method to get to Yearning Island on the island that they moved to after being kicked out of their home. In other words, you'll have to find the island that the Seadom tribe moved to in order to even remotely get a chance to get to Yearning Island..." muttered Master Ghost as he looked at Gerald.

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"C-come again...? Are you sure you didn't mistranslate...?" replied Gerald as his expression stiffened.

"Unfortunately, while I may mistranslate a word or two, I doubt that I'd get an entire section wrong..." muttered Master Ghost with a sigh, knowing that his translation was probably right on the mark.

Upon hearing that, Gerald flopped onto his chair, feeling immensely drained.

“G-Gerald?!” called out Aiden as he rushed to Gerald’s side.

“I’m fine, I just... need a moment...” muttered Gerald as he closed his eyes while waving his hand. This was simply too much, even for him.

After all, every clue he got only seemed to lead him further down the rabbit hole. While he had initially thought that he’d be able to get to the island by locating the Seadom tribe, that only ended up leading him to the ancient ruins of Yanam in search of his answer. Despite all his efforts to obtain this book, however, he now apparently had to search for yet another island.

It certainly didn’t help that he’d probably need to scour through that entire island to even remotely stand a chance of finding a way to get to Yearning Island. All these repeated let downs were starting to take a serious toll on his morale.

Truth be told, he was now most worried that he’d fail to get to Yearning Island even after finding the island that the Seadom tribe had relocated to. How much longer did he need to wait in order to reunite with his family...?

Looking at the disheartened boy, Jobson cleared his throat as he got to his feet before saying, “Well, I’m feeling rather sleepy, so I’ll leave you young people to talk among yourselves.”

Realizing that Jobson was leaving, Fujiko gave Aiden a look before whispering, "You said you were sleepy earlier, right? Let's head back to our rooms together. It's dark outside, so I'm a little unsettled to go out there alone..."

"I'm not sleepy... I'm staying here with Gerald," replied Aiden who failed to get her hint.

"Oh, for heaven's sake...! Just come along...!" grumbled Fujiko as she glanced at the exhausted looking Gerald.

"Fine..." muttered Aiden. Though he still didn't get the message, he still obediently followed her out and with that, the only people left in the room were Gerald and Master Ghost.

A short while later, Master Ghost took a cigarette out before handing it to Gerald and saying, "Care to have one?"

Taking in a deep breath now feeling much calmer than before, Gerald then frowned slightly before asking, "Are you sure you translated it correctly?"

"Most of it, yes. So, what's our next step? From what I can gather, the island mentioned by the book should be the one we had previously seen in the corner of the sea map. The one where we saw the Seadom tribe performing the sacrificial ritual," replied Master Ghost who was just relieved that Gerald was talking again.

“What else can I do? All we can do is try locating that island next...” muttered Gerald with a tired smile.

“It won’t be easy to locate that island,” replied Master Ghost as he began smoking.

“I know... I plan to head to the ancient ruins again to see if that old man will be able to help. After all, he was the one who had located this book for me in the first place,” said Gerald as he thought about the old man.

“Are you heading out already?” asked Master Ghost.

“No, I’ll do that after we save Lindsay. After all, I can’t just postpone things now that we finally have more clues on her case,” replied Gerald as he shook his head.