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“Got it,” replied Master Ghost with a nod.

“Either way, let’s put this incident aside for the moment. I’ll need some time to consider how to resolve the issue,” said Gerald as he puffed on his cigarette as well, now completely calm.

Truth be told, he simply couldn’t figure out how Daryl had led the entire Crawford family to Yearning Island. After all, it was extremely difficult to even locate and get to the place!

He already had everything needed to get to that island, right? Could the past Daryl have taken the same approach as him to locate Yearning Island...? But if that was the case, then Takuya would’ve surely told him about it. What more, the Futaba’s would’ve surely recorded such a major incident, but since Takuya had been so bewildered when Gerald first mentioned the topic, Gerald was sure that the record didn’t exist.

Regardless, after giving a nod, Master Ghost pointed at the ancient book before replying, “Can I keep that for a while?”

“What do you intend to do?” asked Gerald.

“I’d like to look through it whenever I have the time. While the possibility is low, there’s always a chance that I missed something out,” replied Master Ghost.

“I see... Feel free to take it, then, but keep it safe. I still need to return it to the ancient ruins,” said Gerald with a nod. While the book was useless in his hands, the same didn’t apply when Master Ghost had it.

Watching as Master Ghost then carefully kept the book, Gerald was prompted to stub out his cigarette before getting to his feet with a stretch and saying, “Well, do get some rest for now. We’ll be saving Lindsay first before resuming our main mission...”

After thinking things through, Gerald realized that he wasn’t all that devastated. After all, he already knew that it wasn’t going to be easy to save his family. This failure only solidified that the journey was going to be a complicated and dangerous one.

He hadn’t obtained any new information about the Sun League either, though Gerald was pretty sure that he would only get the slightest chance of learning a thing about them once he got rid of the Crawfords. While achieving that would surely be no piece of cake, Gerald had made up his mind. He wasn’t stopping till he got to his goal.

Either way, upon returning to his room and getting a cold shower, Gerald was able to put those thoughts away just in time for him to turn in for the night.

Fast forward to the next morning, Gerald was determined not to talk about the incident again. With that in mind, he immediately went off to look for Lucian and the others to discuss how they were going to get more news from the military.

“Really?!” exclaimed Aiden once they were all gathered with excitement after hearing Lucian’s good news.

“Indeed! Remember that friend of mine? He was able to eavesdrop on a conversation between Maddox and his subordinates!” replied Lucian with a nod.

“He must not have wanted to attract unnecessary attention. After all, he did do all this at night, which is rather suspicious, to say the least...” muttered Gerald though he knew better than to slander them without any evidence. Still, after obtaining all this information, it was getting clearer and clearer that those from the Yanam military especially Maddox were involved in this affair.

“Truly so... Regardless, since my friend didn’t follow him not wanting to accidentally expose himself and get into trouble with the military, we don’t exactly know where he went...” said Lucian.

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Upon hearing that, Gerald quickly replied, “No worries there. Aiden and I will just head over to have a look.”

“Agreed!” added Aiden who would’ve requested to do so even if Gerald hadn’t wanted him to come along in the first place.

Hearing that, Fujiko then said, “I’m coming along too!”

“Just stay here. Don’t worry, I’ll definitely ask for your help in the future when I need it,” replied Gerald as he shook his head.

“But... I’m stronger than Aiden!” muttered Fujiko, feeling slightly puzzled.

“Take into consideration that we’ll be making our move at night. With that said, it’d be slightly inappropriate for you to be with two men in the dark. Besides, we won’t know where Maddox will go, so I’d prefer if only Aiden came along with me,” replied Gerald.

Hearing how resolute he was, Fujiko had no choice but to obey. After all, she remembered promising him that she’d listen to all his orders as long as he allowed her to follow him to Yanam back then. With that said, she’d rather listen than to potentially get sent back to Japan.

Regardless, pleased to hear that Gerald and Aiden were stepping in, Lucian who knew how powerful Gerald was then said, “I’ll be notifying my friend about this so that they can cooperate with you once you’re there, then!”

If they truly managed to locate Lindsay, then they’d surely be able to bring her back by dawn.

“Unnecessary. Aiden and I will just wait at the entrance of the military base. Speaking of which, I need to know what he looks like,” replied Gerald who’d rather not trouble others if he could do it himself.

“Hold on, let me find a picture of him,” said Lucian as he fished his phone out. After scrolling through several pictures, he finally managed to find the group photograph that had been taken during an event that had Maddox in it.

Showing it to Gerald, the youth then took a careful look at it before replying, “Alright, I’ve memorized his face.”

“Glad to hear. Either way, though you’re heading over at night, do be careful. Remember, since Maddox was trying to lure you over in the first place, he probably has all sorts of preparations to deal with you should you appear!” muttered Lucian after lowering his phone in a slightly worried tone.

“No worries, dealing with such people is a piece of cake for me,” replied Gerald with a hearty laugh before patting his chest.

“Well, I’m sure the mission will go swimmingly then! Either way, since you’re making a move tonight, we may as well eat early so that you can rest a bit after the meal.”

Seeing that it was two in the afternoon, Lucian turned to face his butler before adding, “Order the chefs to prepare some food.”

“Right away, master,” replied the butler with a nod before hurrying out. About half an hour later, a multitude of dishes were served.

Throughout their meal, Lucian made sure to tell Gerald everything he knew about Maddox and the military in general. Naturally, Gerald made sure to note everything down. Once their meal was over, instead of heading back to their rooms to rest, all of them simply sat around in the reception room. It was when dusk began to fall when Gerald patted Aiden on the shoulder, prompting the duo to leave the reception room.

After they had left for a while, Lucian looked at his butler before saying, “Have some of our men follow them from a distance. While the priority is to keep both of them safe, should danger befall the duo, tell our men not to do anything rash. Instead, they have to report to me.”

While he was confident in Gerald’s strength, Lucian knew that Maddox was no ordinary person. With that in mind, Lucian was sure that the man had set several traps up for Gerald, and he was simply worried that Gerald would end up falling into one of them.

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“Right away!” declared the butler with a nod. Soon enough, eight of the family’s stronger men began tailing after Aiden and Gerald.

Throughout the duo's drive toward the Yanam military base, Aiden kept his fists clenched, clearly worried about Lindsay's safety. After all, who knew whether Maddox and his men would do anything inappropriate to her.

Sensing how tense Aiden was, Gerald smiled subtly before saying, "Calm yourself. Remember, our main goal today is to get a firm grasp of the situation. While it's best if we manage to find Lindsay as well, there's no need to be overly anxious if we can't find her yet."

Hearing that, Aiden then took a deep breath as he replied, "Got it."

"Good. Also, even if we do come across Lindsay, I need you to remain calm and listen to my commands. After all, not only are we still dealing with Yanam soldiers, but there's also a good chance that Maddox has already set up traps for us. With that said, if you behave rashly, there's a good chance that we'll quickly be overwhelmed. By that point, even if we do manage to escape, our next attempt to save Lindsay will surely be exponentially difficult to achieve," said Gerald, knowing full well that Aiden was prone to behaving rashly. It certainly didn't help that there were already a few instances where Aiden had nearly ruined his plans.

"Got it!" replied Aiden with a nod. Pleased to hear that, Gerald then began accelerating to the military base, sending water on the drenched road flying all over the place.

Sometime later, Gerald through his rearview mirror noticed several cars following them. Though it was still raining rather heavily, he was able to make out that those cars belonged to the Grubbs.

Shortly after, Aiden couldn't help but say, "... Have you noticed those cars? They've been following us for a while..."

Though Aiden was generally playful, in the end, he was still a special forces soldier of Weston. With that in mind, it made sense why he was eventually able to notice the same thing as Gerald.

Hearing that, Gerald then looked at the cars one more time before calmly replying, "They're cars owned by the Grubbs."

"... Huh? But why are they tailing us?" muttered Aiden, unable to see the connection.

"Perhaps Lucian sent them over as backup, fearing that we'd get into trouble. Either way, just ignore them. Their presence won't affect us," replied Gerald who didn't take them seriously at all.

After all, it's not like they were capable of helping. Hell, they could potentially end up burdening him! Still, he didn't want to tell them to leave since Lucian had probably sent them over out of kindness. Whatever the case was, it was going to take them at least three hours to get to the military base.

It was around then when Maddox could be seen preparing to send a group of soldiers out to continue setting up traps near the area where Lindsay was locked up. If everything went swimmingly, then once everything was set up, he would release the news so that Gerald would learn where Lindsay was. Following that, Gerald would surely come rescue her.

While it was true that Gerald was immensely strong, in the end, he was still only a human. With that in mind, the boy would surely be unable to survive all the traps and snipers Maddox had set up around the area. The second Maddox gave his command, Gerald would be hit by an onslaught of bullets, and Maddox was sure that the youth would finally die by then!

Shortly after, a soldier entered his office before reporting, “The captain has sent a representative to us, asking why you’ve been continuously leading soldiers out in the night. He also wishes to know why you’ve taken quite a few resources from the armory...”

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“Just make up an excuse. That good-for-nothing Carter is nothing but a coward... He’s probably just worried that his position will be negatively influenced if anything happens! How unfortunate for our military to have a person like him as our leader!” sneered Maddox.

“Loud and clear,” replied the soldier with a nod.

Juggling his army dagger that had a crimson blade, Maddox then looked at the soldier before asking, “Speaking of which, have all of you prepared the things I’ve told you to?”

“We have. We’re just waiting for your command before we set off,” replied the soldier.

“Wait till night comes. Remember, if anyone asks, just tell them that I’m leading all of you out for a routine patrol. Don’t answer anything else!” ordered Maddox after thinking about it for a while.

Throughout this period, Maddox had been doing quite a few eye catching activities in preparation for getting rid of Gerald for good. Since it was clear that he was trying to replace Carter to become the new leader, Maddox was well aware that he could make new enemies within the military at any second. With that in mind, the less his men revealed, the lower the chances of his goals getting affected by those under Carter in the end.

“Not to worry! This isn’t my first day working under you, deputy captain!” replied the soldier with a chuckle.

“Glad to hear. Now leave me be. Once all this is over, not only will you get a two month vacation, but you’ll also be given fifteen thousand dollars to enjoy the new year with, ” said Maddox who was looking at his desk calendar as he gestured for the soldier to leave.

“I appreciate it, deputy captain!” declared the soldier with a wide smile before bowing and leaving Maddox’s office.

The second the door was closed, Maddox’s eyes went sinister as he stabbed his dagger into his office desk, causing the desk to crack a little.

“Once I end you, I’ll surely be promoted to military captain...” growled Maddox as he grinned wickedly.

Truth be told, he had already been planning all this ever since Gerald took down the three major families in Yanam. His excitement had only grown with Godwin's disappearance, thinking that he'd surely become the next captain with how capable he was.

Unfortunately, that d*mned Carter had appeared out of nowhere and snatched the position from him! Naturally, this caused several of the more diehard military captains Maddox included to feel utterly repulsed by him.

Regardless, once he got rid of Gerald, Maddox was going to make sure that everyone in the country would learn about what he did. Following that, they'd surely believe that he was better than Carter at protecting Yanam, thus giving him a chance to replace that coward...!

Fast forward to dusk, Maddox and his secretary who was holding onto their umbrella could be seen walking toward a large gate at the side of their base. Aside from the ten prepared looking people whom Maddox had transferred over, Maddox could also see the equipment that he had taken from the armory being loaded into the back of one of the SUVs.

Upon realizing that Maddox was here, everyone immediately declared, "Vice captain!"

"Everything ready to go?" asked Maddox as he looked at his men.

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"Indeed. We can set off as soon as you command us to," replied the secretary.

“Let’s head out then. The sooner we get things done, the sooner we return. I’d rather not attract too much unnecessary attention either,” muttered Maddox with a slight frown when he saw all the staff members looking at him. Once Maddox got into the leading car, it didn’t take long before they began making their way to a secluded prison.

Meanwhile, Gerald who had parked his own car in a well hidden corner near the entrance simply lit a cigarette when he saw the team of cars leaving.

Glaring at the vehicles, Aiden then muttered, “He should be in one of them, right…?”

“If you’re talking about Maddox, yes, I believe so,” replied Gerald as he took a puff of his cigarette before narrowing his eyes and starting to tail the cars at an appropriate distance.

Realizing that Gerald had made a move, those from the Grubb family began taking a detour using a smaller path instead of following them from behind. After all, though Gerald and Aiden were out in the open, a single car driving past the military base’s entrance wasn’t going to appear that suspicious. The same couldn’t be said if their cars were included in the equation, and they’d rather not run the risk of getting halted by the military.

Regardless, when they finally got to the main road again, they quickly realized that none of the cars were there!

“They aren’t here!” exclaimed the anxious driver of the leading car through his walkie talkie.

“Where have they driven off to?” replied the others at the back, feeling utterly confused.

“I... I don't know! They were clearly driving in this direction! It doesn't make any sense! They were only out of sight for about a minute! ”

“Then what should we do? The master will surely have our heads if we return like this!”

“I suggest we split up! After all, there are three roads here! With any luck, we'll be able to find them again! Remember to notify the others if you do!”

“Sounds good! I'm in on the idea! ”

“Then let's take our alternate paths now! Keep in touch and pray that we manage to find Gerald again! I really don't want to piss the master off! ” declared one of the Grubbs as the men immediately began executing their plan.

Moving back to Gerald, he hadn't disappeared due to a sudden acceleration or anything. The truth was, the military cars had simply turned toward the opposite direction not long after they left the base!

Sitting in the shotgun seat, Aiden who had already seen the military cars make several turns by now couldn't help but ask, “... Do they really have to be this cautious at their own base's entrance...?”

“The Yanam military probably isn’t that peaceful. Regardless, it’s clear that Maddox is doing something shady. After all, he wouldn’t have to be this cautious if he was merely executing a mission issued by the military,” replied Gerald with a subtle smile.

“Indeed... Either way, if this b*stard really did kidnap her, I’ll definitely tear him to shreds!” growled Aiden as he clenched his fists.

“Let’s not do that,” said Gerald as he shook his head with a smile, making sure to always maintain a safe but not easily detectable distance away from the military cars.

As for the Grubb family’s subordinates, even after speeding along all three roads for over ten minutes, none of them even came across a single car.