

The Invisible Rich Man – Chapter 2301

After updating each other and knowing that they had truly lost Gerald, the men helplessly regrouped before reporting the incident to Lucian.

At the time, Lucian was entertaining Jobson and the others as they had their tea. As expected, upon picking the call up, his smile instantly vanished. A frown now on his face, Lucian then growled, “Get back here...!”

Hearing the clear change in tone, Jobson who was enjoying some dessert was prompted to ask, “Is something the matter...?”

“The men I sent out to help Gerald and Aiden have lost track of them, Senior Jobson!” muttered Lucian with a sigh. Still, to think that they’d make such an amateurish mistake at such a critical moment when they were key personnel of his family.

Laughing in response, Jobson then replied, “And here I thought it was something serious!”

“... Is this not serious enough? Gerald and Aiden are dealing with the military here... What if something happens to them?” said the worried Lucian.

“You truly underestimate that boy,” replied Jobson as he stuffed a cupcake into his mouth.

“While I know that he’s strong, this is the military we’re talking about... Aside from the traps that Maddox has probably already prepared for him, he also has access to powerful weapons...!” said Lucian as he considered calling his friend in the military to step in.

Extending his hand and cupping it over Lucian’s phone, Jobson then replied, “That’s exactly why I said you underestimate him. Correct me if I’m wrong, but Gerald alone was able to take out the respected elders of the three major families in Yanam, right?”

Nodding slightly, the confused Lucian who had no idea how this contributed to the conversation said, “... Indeed, and several others in those families were killed as well. Without their leaders, the three families are about to completely crumble...”

“I see... I see... Now tell me, which is stronger? The military? Or the three families?” asked Jobson as he sat beside Lucian while gesturing for Fujiko to bring him more dessert.

“Well... though the military has access to modern weapons, the three families have cultivators... With that said, if they’re pit against each other, I feel the three families are definitely stronger...”

“Bingo. So if Gerald was able to take them out alone, do you really think the Yanam military stands a chance against him? Truth be told, had your men managed to tail him all the way, I feel they may have ended up burdening him more than being a help!” replied Jobson with a satisfied smile, knowing that Lucian finally understood his point.

Smacking his forehead, Lucian who was now feeling much better then said, “... I get it. To think that I’d overlook something like this! All that worry was for naught!”

"I agree. Either way, let's just wait for his return. Even if he fails to rescue her today, I'm sure he'll be able to obtain some relevant news," replied Jobson as he continued eating.

Realizing that Jobson was almost finished with his plate of desserts, Lucian turned to look at his butler before saying, "Get more dessert for Senior Jobson."

"I'm good. While the desserts are good, I'm afraid I may get tired of them if I have any more. With that said, do you have any tea?" asked Jobson.

"Of course! Green or black?" replied Lucian with an enthusiastic nod.

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"Either will do. Still, all of you truly underestimate him. That boy's way stronger than any of you could ever imagine..." said Jobson as he nonchalantly waved his hand.

"... Including me?" asked Fujiko as she pointed at herself. She, for one, believed that she understood Gerald extremely well. While she didn't know why he was this strong, after spending so much time with him, she was pretty sure that she knew the extent of his capabilities.

“But of course. In fact, the boy probably isn’t aware of how strong he is either,” replied Jobson with a shrug before laughing heartily. From the looks of it, he appeared to be the one who knew Gerald best among the rest of them there. Regardless, Jobson’s tea arrived shortly after and the old man began drinking it in satisfaction.

Moving back to Gerald, he had been maintaining a safe distance from the military cars this entire time.

Feeling slightly impatient, Aiden who just wanted to know how Lindsay was doing was prompted to ask, “Where the hell are they going...? It’s been almost an hour now! All this is just too weird...”

“A bit anxious, aren’t we? Are you this impatient when you carry out other missions?” replied Gerald with a slight frown.

“But Lindsay...” muttered Aiden who knew better than to behave the way he currently was. However, he simply couldn’t help it. After all, Lindsay wasn’t someone random he had to save. Since emotions were involved, Aiden couldn’t deny that it slightly affected his professionalism.

“What about her? Also, last I checked, you’re not that emotional a person. Are you going to commit suicide if you find out that she’s dead?” sneered Gerald.

“I... No, I wouldn't go that far...” muttered Aiden who didn't dare to further anger Gerald.

“Good. Now be a bit more serious and stop saying such pointless things,” replied Gerald who could sense how much Aiden liked Lindsay. Even so, Aiden's impulsiveness would only lead to their ruin, so Gerald had to keep him in check.

Recalling how anxious he had been when Mila first disappeared and his family got captured, Gerald reminded himself that he had only been able to start making rescue efforts after forcing himself to calm down and think things through. With that said, being anxious was completely useless.

“I was just venting a little...” muttered the slightly aggrieved Aiden.

Before Gerald could reply, he noticed that the military cars had suddenly slowed down. With that, he was prompted to say, “Quiet down. They're about to make a move.”

“In this forest...?” muttered Aiden as he looked out the car window.

“Apparently. Still, it's a wonder what they're planning to do all the way out here...” replied Gerald who had a feeling that Lindsay may be close by. After all, why else would Maddox come to such a remote area in the dead of night? Adding that to how vigilant he had been upon leaving the military base, it was evident that his actions were nothing short of shady.

“Indeed... Regardless, just say the word and I’ll make my move!” declared Aiden rather enthusiastically as he unsheathed his army dagger.

“Relax. Let’s see what they’re planning to do first,” replied Gerald as he slowed the car down. Though they were quite a distance away, Gerald was still able to clearly see what the soldiers were up to.

Parking the car by the road, Gerald then placed a hand on Aiden’s thigh before whispering, “Let’s finally see what they’re up to. Don’t get discovered.”

After getting out of the car together, Aiden then gulped as he held on tightly to his army dagger while saying, “Loud and clear.”

As for Maddox, he had no idea that the two were keeping an eye on him. After all, to him, his plan was perfect, so there was no way Gerald would be able to learn about all this. Till he eventually released the news, he was certain that only a few people would even know about this place.

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Even those guarding the place had no idea who Lindsay actually was, which was why Maddox was so sure that nobody would be able to expose the incident till he released news about her capture. Everything was going to be perfect!

Whatever the case was, after getting out of the car, Maddox began walking deeper into the forest, making sure to carefully avoid all the traps that he had set up. Since the leader and team member who had been tasked with guarding the place had been informed that Maddox was coming over, they were already waiting for him by the time he walked over.

Watching as they quickly jogged over to greet him, Maddox who was now holding onto an umbrella looked around before asking, "So, how's the situation?"

"I mean... Nobody would ever come to such a remote place... Forget humans, both of us barely even see birds here!" replied the leader as he shook his head.

"Is that how you should report to a superior...?!" growled Maddox.

"N-no, sir! Nothing happened!" replied the frightened leader as he immediately straightened his posture.

"Good. Either way, I've brought your supplies for tomorrow so that I don't have to come over in the morning. The less I come here, the lower the chances of me getting found out," said Maddox as he gestured toward one of his soldiers who promptly walked over with a black bag in hand.

"We appreciate it, deputy captain," replied the leader as he took the bag with a nod.

Nodding in response, Maddox then turned to look at the soldiers who had just gotten out of the cars before ordering, "Alright, get to work. Everything needs to be set up within three days. I can't wait any longer!"

Following that, Maddox couldn't help but imagine Gerald falling into one of his traps upon entering the forest. Unable to move an inch, Maddox would then order his hidden men to begin shooting at the boy!

There was no way he was going to survive that!

"About time!" yelled Maddox with glee, only to realize that he had yelled his thoughts out!

Looking at his men, Maddox then cleared his throat before saying, "... Either way, it's eight now. We'll be leaving at midnight, so make haste, or I'll deduct your allowances!"

"R-right away, deputy captain!" declared the soldiers as they rushed to start work, not wanting their salaries to be cut.

Forcing a smile, the leader then walked up to Maddox before saying, "So... would you like to come in and have a seat, deputy captain...?"

Ignoring the question, Maddox simply asked, "Is she doing fine?"

"She is!" declared the leader.

"Good. Make sure to feed her the bare minimum just so she doesn't starve to death. This is a prison, not a hotel!" growled Maddox as he walked into the room and looked at the iron door.

"W-we've already been doing so... If we feed her any less, she'll die for sure! What more, the food she's been getting is worse than what strays are fed..." muttered the leader who had almost gagged when he first saw what he was supposed to feed her.

"Are you taking pity on her?" asked Maddox with a raised brow.

"O-of course, not! I'll do anything you ask!" stuttered the leader as he shuddered slightly.

Turning around, Maddox then said, "Tell me... Do you know why I chose you to guard this place?"

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“I can’t say I do...” muttered the leader as he shook his head.

“It’s because you’re smarter than the others, and I intend to train you if you do well. Don’t miss this opportunity,” sneered Maddox.

“T-thank you, deputy captain...! I won’t let you down!” declared the leader with a broad smile as he quickly began massaging Maddox’s shoulders.

Meanwhile, Gerald and Aiden were still keeping an eye on things from the forested area. Gerald, for one, had refrained from getting too close to them since he wasn’t sure whether they had installed any surveillance cameras nearby.

Regardless, after paying close attention to his surroundings for a while, Aiden was prompted to say, “... There’s a house over there I think...”

Aiden had only been able to see the building’s outline, which explained why he sounded slightly unsure of his statement. Regardless, upon hearing that, Gerald who had been sitting on a rock for a while now replied, “Indeed... Either way, what do you think Maddox plans to do? His actions have been extremely shady up till this point...”

“I don’ t know... Maybe he’s trying to hide a corpse?”

“With his rank? He could’ve just told one of his random subordinates to do the deed. With that said, he wouldn’t have come along if it was just to hide a corpse,” replied Gerald as he shook his head.

“Well... what do you think, then?” asked Aiden.

“I feel that Maddox may be hiding something important here,” replied Gerald, who was only able to clearly see the exterior of the desolate house from where he stood.

“Could it be Lindsay?” asked Aiden.

“We don’t know that yet.”

“Still... Regardless, are we going to eventually sneak in or are we just going to continue observing from here?” asked Aiden as he clenched his dagger, fully ready to heed Gerald’s commands.

“Let’s wait a bit more,” replied Gerald as he crossed his legs...

It was sometime later when one of the cars was driven away. Thankfully, Gerald had parked his car behind a few large trees, and the darkness of night made it even harder for untrained eyes to detect.

Either way, it was almost four hours later when the other cars were driven off as well. After giving the cars a good look, Aiden couldn't help but whisper, "... Something's off."

"Elaborate," replied Gerald.

"Well... it's been raining this entire time, right?" asked Aiden as he continued staring at the boots of the cars.

"For three days in a row, yes. What's your point?"

"I'm getting to that... You see, when one of the cars passed by us earlier, I couldn't help but notice that the mud traces on its tires had been raised particularly high. In other words, they had probably been transporting quite a lot of heavy things earlier. With that said, the items have probably been left behind since I was able to discern all this in the first place," explained Aiden.

"You're not half bad!" exclaimed the surprised Gerald as she patted Aiden on his back. He hadn't considered all this at all!

Feeling slightly embarrassed to be praised by Gerald, the grinning Aiden then sheepishly scratched the back of his head as he said, "It was just a basic observation..."

"Regardless, I don't think we should make our move first. Still, we've definitely made quite a bit of progress just by locating this place," replied Gerald.

“... Huh? Why?”

“As you said, they probably left a bunch of stuff here. However, if they were simply leaving things behind, why did they have to spend so many hours here? The fact that they also scattered around the area throughout their time here leads me to believe that they were probably burying traps. Let’s continue talking about this once we’re back in the car,” explained Gerald as he got to his feet.

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“... Alright...” muttered Aiden in a helpless tone. While he had a feeling that Lindsay was definitely in there, since Gerald had prohibited him from entering, there was nothing he could do about it.

Regardless, after getting into the car, Gerald immediately began tailing the military cars again. After driving for a bit, he was prompted to say, “As I said, they probably have traps buried around the area. Adding that to the fact that there are probably people guarding the vicinity, I’d rather not risk getting caught while trying to save her. If we fail and get noticed, saving her in the future is going to be increasingly difficult.”

Shortly after, they caught up to the military cars again, and Gerald quickly slowed down to keep a safe distance from them. By that point, Aiden had mostly calmed himself, leading him to mutter, “... Well, at the very least, we now know that Lindsay is most probably in there...”

“From how shady Maddox has been, I agree,” said Gerald with a nod as they continued following the cars till they eventually arrived at the military base.

Naturally, Gerald didn't follow them in, and instead began driving back to the Grubb manor. It was around two in the morning when they finally got back.

Before entering their guest rooms, Gerald made sure to look at Aiden before saying, “Try not to think too much about tonight and get some rest.”

“I will...” replied Aiden with a firm nod...

Nodding in response, Gerald was just about to enter his room when the butler suddenly ran over while saying, “Mr. Crawford! Master has ordered me to lead you to him the second you return! He said it was extremely urgent.”

“What's the issue?” asked Gerald as he turned to look at the butler.

“I'm not sure either. However, following a call that made the master frown, he told me to keep an eye on the surveillance system and to also tell you to meet up with him the second you return,” replied the butler as he shook his head.

Frowning slightly, Gerald then replied, “Lead the way, then.”

With that, the butler then led the duo to where Lucian was currently resting. The second they entered, they were immediately greeted by a cloud of cigarette smoke. Looking at the ashtray that was brimming with cigarette butts, Aiden who was worried that all this had something to do with Lindsay was prompted to ask, "You called for us, Mr. Grubb?"

"Indeed. I received a call from Maddox about two hours ago," replied Lucian as he puffed on his cigarette.

"What? But he was still in a remote area located west of the military base back then..." muttered Gerald with a slight frown.

Ignoring Gerald's statement, Aiden then said, "Well, what did he say?"

"He was inviting me and those from a few other major families to discuss the development plans of each family over a meal. Maddox also stated that he wanted to take the chance to get the families to cooperate with each other in order to improve Yanam's economy," replied Lucian.

Chuckling in response, Gerald couldn't help but say, "Isn't he in charge of the Yanam's seas? Why's he meddling with the economy?"

"You're telling me. Regardless, as you can probably guess, events like these were usually officiated by the ministry of finance as well as the ministry of commerce and industry. With that in mind, since Maddox is taking the initiative to run the event this time, I can only assume that he's up to no good," replied Lucian with a nod.

“No need to even assume, he’s definitely planning something. Still, since he wants to hold a party so much, let’s go together,” said Gerald as he lit a cigarette.

“You... Want to go too?” asked Lucian, feeling slightly surprised.

“But of course! Since he wants to kill me that much, I may as well take that chance to meet him,” replied Gerald with a smile.