

NH

Ares sneered, “Between a King Class warrior and a loser, who do you think is more likely to kill Luna who’s an Archduke? If he claimed that he killed Luna, no one will ever believe him as it doesn’t sound reasonable at all.”

“Besides, we have Luna’s body. This will be the proof that we killed her.”

His explanation rid most of Julian’s doubts.

At once, Ares contacted the Colonel’s personal bodyguard, Drake, and informed him on what happened.

Drake told him he needed to ask the permission of the King Class warrior who was guarding the Spirit Stone mine

Ares asked carefully, “Drake, can you help introduce me to the strongest of the King Class? Perhaps we can both improve our strengths after battling with each other.”

“Our nation will benefit greatly from this, too.”

Drake seemed torn. “I’m sorry, Ares. The identity of the strongest of the King Class in Eurasia is a piece of classified information. We can’t reveal it to anyone.”

“To be honest, I don’t even have the right to contact him. I have to ask the Colonel to relay my message if there’s any.”

Ares sighed in disappointment. “Forget about it then.”

NH

However, he was curious as to who the strongest of the King Class was.

Will he be more powerful or weaker than me?

Ares thought, "If he is weaker than I am, why don't I kill him and take over his position?"

If the strongest of the King Class dies, then I'll be the strongest person in Eurasia. This nation will treat me with the utmost respect, and I'll be guarding the Spirit Stone mine myself.

After Drake ended the call with Ares, he called Zeke and asked for his opinion.

Actually, Drake didn't know Luna was killed by Zeke instead of Ares.

Since the Spirit Stone mine was discovered and guarded by Zeke, even the Colonel himself had to ask for Zeke's approval before getting the Spirit Stones.

Zeke gladly agreed to his request, as he wanted to discover Ares' real identity and lure the Hidden Sect living in Mount Final out.

Of course Zeke wouldn't stop Ares' plan.

In the end, Ares got the Spirit Stones he wanted successfully.

He immediately brought Julian back to the Thisleton Manor and entered his retreat.

Right now, Julian was very excited.

NH

He thought he would be confined to a wheelchair forever; but now, he had a chance to stand up again and even gain back his power!

Julian was about to cry tears of joy.

Ares reminded him, “Julian, your limbs had been broken for a long time, so your bones and muscles are all distorted.”

“I need to break your limbs again to rearrange your bones and muscles so you can have a full recovery.”

“You need to bear with the pain and anguish. After all, what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger!”

Julian nodded firmly. “Sir, don’t worry. As long as I get to recover and go back to my power, I can put up with any pain.”

“Good,” Ares uttered and immediately took action.

Grabbing Julian’s limbs, he twisted them forcefully.

Crack!

Julian’s limbs broke once again.

“Ah!” Julian howled in pain.

Ares took his dagger and cut through Julian’s flesh and blood to destroy the deformed muscle tissues.

The pain was too much for Julian to bear.

The thought of spending the rest of his life in this wheelchair flitted across his mind. However, when he thought of how Zeke humiliated him, and how the other Thisletons looked down on him, he gritted his teeth and pull through the agonizing pain.

He had gritted his teeth so hard blood was trickling down his gums.

Ares took out the Spirit Stones and handed them to Julian. "Swallow them."

Julian hesitated upon hearing his command.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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He knew the Spirit Stones contained a violent force.

If he swallowed the Stones directly, would his body burst into pieces from the force?

But, Ares didn't give him the time to ponder over it.

He pushed the Spirit Stones into Julian's mouth by force.

Once the Spirit Stones entered his stomach, their forces began to flow out.

The violent force flowed throughout his body like hot lava.

Imagine the pain Julian had to bear as it felt like hot lava coursing through his entire body.

The pain was more excruciating and ten times worse compared to the pain he suffered earlier when his limbs were broken.

In the end, Julian passed out.

Ares immediately used his energy to help the Spirit Stones' force build and recover Julian's broken limbs.

The pain was so much it even rouse Julian to wake up again.

With that, Julian was tormented repeatedly until he felt death was a better option.

NH

In the meantime, an unwanted guest appeared at the New Linton Group today—Emily Clemons.

Emily was Zeke's ex-girlfriend.

Back then, she dumped Zeke because he was poor.

Zeke had to marry Lacey because he was left without a choice.

Even after they had broken up, Emily kept creating trouble for Zeke and Lacey.

However, she wasn't Zeke's match.

In the end, she was defeated and lost everything she had.

In fact, her entire family was ruined.

Her brother was locked up in jail while her mother went crazy.

The old Linton Group was now the top corporation in Rivermouth.

Since everyone in Rivermouth knew Emily had once offended Zeke, nobody wanted to hire her.

She had been struggling very much to survive and could barely buy herself a decent meal.

Therefore, she knew she had to ask for Zeke and Lacey's forgiveness in order to survive.

Therefore, Emily had made her way here to ask

Zeke and Lacey to forgive her.

In the new Linton Group's CEO office, Lacey was working diligently with Zeke hanging around by her side.

They weren't talking to each other, but the atmosphere was warm and harmonious.

Right then, someone pushed the door open forcefully, disturbing the peace in the office.

The person who came in was Dawn. The only people who get to enter the CEO's office without knocking were Nancy and Dawn.

After coming in, Dawn panted, "Lacey, Dawn, I have bad news!"

Both Zeke and Lacey turned to Dawn as they were baffled. "What happened?"

Dawn replied, "An old friend is here to meet you."

She paused and added, "Well, to be honest, I have never expected that she'd be so shameless to show up again."

Zeke and Lacey's interests were piqued. "Who is it? Stop making us guess."

"Forget it. I don't even want to mention her name," Dawn exhaled. "You can see for yourself."

She then turned and yelled toward the door, "Come on in!"

Soon, Emily walked in.

Upon seeing her, Zeke and Lacey stood up in utter disbelief.

I can't believe it's her! How can she show up here!

Emily did not look as glamorous as before. Instead, she seemed rather frail and exhausted.

Luckily, she was good at dressing up. On top of that, she was also more matured and she even looked more attractive than before.

Thus, no men would be able to resist her charms.

Lacey and Zeke exchanged glances, overwhelmed with emotions upon seeing an old friend.

They didn't even know what to say to her.

Thud!

Unexpectedly, Emily fell to her knees in front of Lacey and Zeke.

"Lacey, Zeke, I'm really sorry. I am here to apologize to both of you. I've been reflecting on my mistake all the while. I know I was really wrong back then. I am nothing but a beast. Please forgive me."



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Lacey exhaled and said, “Emily, just get up. Let bygones be bygones. We are no longer related in any way, so I hope we will never meet again. You should leave now.”

Emily sighed sadly. “Lacey, I know you won’t forgive me. It’s fine, you can do that, but please give me a chance to redeem my sins.”

At once, Emily slapped her face repeatedly without hesitation.

The sound of her slaps was so loud that they echoed in the room for a long time.

“That’s enough!” Lacey stopped Emily.

She did that not because she pitied Emily, but she didn’t want Emily to continue her act.

That was because she knew Emily wasn’t someone who’d kneel and apologize to someone so easily.

It was very obvious that Emily was acting to gain their sympathy.

However, Emily wouldn’t stop slapping herself. “Lacey, if you refuse to forgive me, I’ll continue slapping myself until I die.”

Lacey grew impatient. “Emily Clemons! Why would you do that? Forget it. Stop slapping yourself.”

“Tell me the reason you came.”

Emily was delighted. “Lacey, I know you aren’t that cruel. I’m really desperate right now. I haven’t eaten anything since yesterday. Can you please take me in?”

“If you refuse to do that, I’ll die of starvation. Please give me a chance to help you, Lacey. I promise I’ll work diligently!” she implored.

Lacey’s first reaction was to turn her down.

If what Emily wanted was money, she would give it to her without hesitation.

However, if Emily wanted to stay by her side, she wouldn’t let her do so.

First, they had a complicated past. It would be terribly awkward to see her every day.

Second, Emily was Zeke’s ex-girlfriend. If she was allowed to stay, what if she and Zeke rekindled their relationship?

Lacey knew Zeke wouldn’t get back together with Emily, but she couldn’t help but feel jealous at that thought.

She was about to say no when Emily started groveling at her feet.

“Lacey, don’t chase me away. I’m left with no other choice.”

Lacey couldn’t bring herself to say no. She turned to Zeke, hinting him to make a decision.

NH

Zeke rejected her instantly. “Dawnie, see her out. From now on, don’t let people like her in. You might think it’s fine, but she disgusts me.”

Zeke knew Emily’s apology wasn’t sincere at all.

Besides, she was someone who’d resort to despicable means to achieve her goal. What if she harmed Lacey just to rise through the ranks?

He didn’t want to have any regret in the future, so it would be best to reject her before it was too late.

Dawn pouted, “Ha! If I knew she came to ask for forgiveness, I wouldn’t have let her in.”

So she called, “Security! Come, take her away.”

Two security guards appeared at the door and pulled Emily out.

Emily’s wails turned louder as she grabbed onto the door, refusing to let go.

“Lacey, weren’t we best friends? If you refuse to take me in, I’d rather die out there.”

“My brother is in jail and my mother had gone crazy. You’re my only best friend. Have you forgotten about how I used to help you in college back then?”

“Your family was so poor, you didn’t even have enough pocket money. I’d use my own money to help you when it was almost the end of the month.”

“Once, I didn’t even have enough for myself, so by the end of that month, we could only afford to eat bread and plain water for ten days straight.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Emily's words hit Lacey right in the heart as everything she said was true.

Lacey couldn't help but pity her.

"Wait," she told the security.

Emily was about to shed tears of joy because Lacey had finally softened up.

So she wiped up her tears. "Lacey, I know you are not that heartless."

"Zeke, Emily had indeed helped me a lot then," Lacey explained. "Why don't we take her in?"

Zeke didn't know how to react as he stroked Lacey's long and silky hair. "What should I say? You're too kind or you're too soft-hearted and gullible? But since you're the legal representative of the new Linton Group, you get to call the shots."

Lacey replied, "Okay, then. You can work as a clerk here, Emily."

"Your pay scheme will be equivalent to the level of a general clerk."

To be honest, Emily was slightly upset with Lacey's decision.

She thought Lacey would arrange for her to be a manager, or at least a procurement specialist, because that was her previous job.

However, she was only taken in to be a clerk

instead and that meant she could not take advantage of this position and get any kickback.

Well, at least I get to stay, Emily thought. I can take advantage of Lacey instead.

I can even replace her and be the boss of this company.

After Emily left to go through the employee entry procedure, Lacey turned to Zeke with an upset expression.

“Zeke, are you happy now?” she asked.

Zeke was confused. “Why would I be happy?”

Lacey returned, “Your ex is now working here. Aren’t you happy?”

Zeke was speechless.

He didn’t know how to react to Lacey’s question as it was clear that she was jealous.

“Lacey, you were the one who told her to stay. Why are you blaming me now? Do you want me to make her leave?” he inquired.

Lacey exhaled. “Forget it. Since I agreed to let her stay, I shouldn’t go back on my words. But I know her well, so she would certainly try to hook up with you as she hasn’t given up on you yet.”

After a brief pause, she said, “If you can’t resist her seduction—”

Zeke chuckled and cut her off. “Silly girl. That’s utter nonsense. I have the prettiest wife on earth. Why will I get myself the b***hiest woman on earth? Please don’t insult me, okay?”

Lacey cracked a victorious smile. “What a smart choice you have made.”

However, Lacey was right to be worried because Emily had indeed set her eyes on Zeke.

One day, Zeke sent Missy to school like usual before dropping Lacey at work.

After Lacey went upstairs, Zeke took the car to the parking lot when a figure suddenly entered the car.

It was none other than the notorious Emily.

Panting, Emily pleaded, “Zeke, can you give me a ride to Clearview General Hospital? My chest feels tight. I think I’m going to faint any minute.”

Hmm?

Zeke frowned and glanced at Emily in suspicion.

Since Emily’s cheeks were flushed red and she couldn’t catch her breath, she seemed ill indeed.

Zeke didn’t think much about it and nodded.

Halfway to the hospital, Emily suddenly removed her blazer.

She only had a tight-fitting V-necked shirt

underneath which showed her cleavage and curvy figure.

She kept caressing her breasts as she panted, “It’s so hot, so hot in here! I’m about to die from this heat...”

Zeke glanced at Emily from the corner of his eye as he sneered silently.

He knew what Emily was up to, but he focused on driving and ignored her.

Upon seeing Zeke’s attitude, Emily gritted her teeth and did something even more seductive.

She ‘accidentally’ ripped her stockings and revealed her long fair legs.

“Ah! This is bad. Luckily, I brought a spare pair of stockings.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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After taking off her high heels, Emily started changing into the fresh pair of stockings.

Her long, slender and fair legs kept appearing in Zeke's line of sight.

Besides, as she kept 'panting' deliberately, a normal man with desires would've bitten her bait by now.

Nevertheless, Zeke was no ordinary man.

He stepped on the brake and demanded, "Get off my car now. I'll fire you if you ever do this again!"

Huh?

Emily was dumbfounded, as she hadn't expected Zeke to reject her seduction.

Am I not seductive enough, or does he have a strong willpower?

Emily got off Zeke's car hurriedly amidst his angry yells.

She felt miserable as she watched him drive away.

Tears rolled down her cheeks as she raised her head to stare at Linton Group, which was at a distance away.

Everything Lacey has now is supposed to be mine.

I should be the Great Marshal's wife, the legal

representative of the new Linton Group, who is leading a happy and prestigious life.

But because I was vain and materialistic, I dumped Zeke.

A sense of despair and guilt washed over her instantly.

Five days later, at Thisleton Manor.

The door of the retreat opened, and two burly men walked out.

They were Ares and Julian.

After pushing his wheelchair out, Julian gave it a forceful punch and broke it into pieces.

Right now, Julian was no longer a cripple.

His limbs were healed, and his power had also increased along the process.

It was as if he was another man.

Julian lamented, "Everything I've gone through was worth it."

He asked, "By the way, Sir, what stage am I now?"

Ares shot him a mysterious smile. "Make a guess?"

After thinking about it, Julian replied, "A Grand Master?"

Ares swept his gaze across the Thisletons before pointing at their head coach. “Are you a Grand Master warrior?”

The head coach nodded at once. “Yes, that’s right. I am one step away from the Archduke Class.”

Ares told him. “Okay. Unleash your full strength and attack Julian now.”

Huh?

The head coach seemed stumped.

When Julian was at his peak, he was merely a newbie Grand Master.

Even if he had recovered fully, he would be no match for an Archduke.

If I unleash my full strength, I’ll kill Julian on the spot. What should I do?

Displeasure appeared on Ares’ face. “If I notice you making any compromise without using your full strength, I’ll kill you on the spot.”

The head coach had no choice but to agree. “Then, I apologize in advance, Sir.”

Julian seemed terribly anxious too.

He had just woken up from the unbearable pain that made him faint, so his body was still feeling unwell.

Julian didn’t know how was his recovery progress,

but he knew it would be too much to ask for a full recovery.

But even if I am at my peak, I am no match for the head coach, he thought.

Nevertheless, Julian had no time to ponder about it as the head coach was already launching an attack.

Julian had no choice but to fight back.

However, his attacks were insignificant in front of the head coach.

The head coach merely swung a punch at him and he collapsed at once.

Ares reprimanded at once. "Head coach, you didn't unleash your full power! If you compromise on Julian again, I'll kill you immediately."

"Start again!"

The head coach seemed torn. "Mr. Thisleton, I'm really sorry. I have no other choice. Here we go."

He attacked Julian once again. This time, he unleashed his full power.

If he lose on purpose, Ares would notice it right away.

It was as if someone had splashed a pail of cold water on Julian.


The head coach didn't even attack me seriously, but I collapsed under his punch.


I am too weak.


The head coach came at Julian once again and defeated him with just one punch.

Ares announced, "Loser! Do it again!"

The term 'loser' pricked at Julian's nerves.

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

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The head coach defeated me, and even Sir called me a loser. I can't take it anymore!

Julian leaped up in anger and launched himself at the head coach.

This time, an angry Julian took two punches from the head coach before he collapsed.

Ares retrieved his dagger and pointed it at Julian furiously.

"I wasted two Spirit Stones on you, but is this how you repay me? If you lose again, I'll take your life right away!"

Julian was terrified as he knew his father wasn't joking.

His father would kill him without hesitation!

So even though he was badly beaten up, he rose again to the challenge and leaped toward the head coach.

This time, he took ten punches from the head coach before he was defeated.

As he landed on the ground, his mind spun and he got dizzy at once.

Ares sighed as he was utterly disappointed. "You useless prick, you don't deserve to live. I'll kill you right now."

"Ah! No!"

Threatened by death, Julian suddenly regained consciousness.

He endured the aches all over his body and jumped up. "Sir, give me another chance! Head coach, let's do this again."

The head coach leaped forward without hesitation.

Right now, Julian's emotions were a complex mixture.

He hated himself for being a weak fighter and felt ashamed of himself being beaten up in front of his family. At the same time, he was angry at his father for wanting to kill him. Lastly, he felt guilty because the two Spirit Stones were wasted on him.

At this moment, there was only one thing in his mind.

I can't lose even if I have fight and lose my life!

This thought had turned into a strong power which surged across his whole body.

Then, he opened his eyes wide.

There was a horrifying anger blazing in his eyes.

The head coach was only a few inches away, but he suddenly felt that he had slowed down.

He's so slow I can even anticipate his moves!

Julian immediately saw the weakness in the head coach's attack and threw him a punch.

Thud!

A dull thud was heard as the head coach flew backward for almost a hundred meters before hitting a tree.

The thick tree broke in half after the head coach landed on it!

As a result, the head coach spat out blood and died tragically.

Wow!

The rest of the Thisletons who watched the entire incident were dumbfounded.

They had no idea how Julian's power could increase greatly in just a blink of the eye.

His casual punch even sent the head coach flying!

The strength that erupted from him... Is he now an Archduke?

Even Julian himself was staring at his fists in shock.

He couldn't believe his punch was so powerful!

Ares chuckled in delight. "Good job, Julian. You didn't let me down!"

Julian's curiosity was piqued. "Sir, what happened

to me? Why has my power increased out of a sudden?”

Smiling, Ares explained, “Previously, you were like a sword without edges. The head coach was a grindstone who created your edges!”

“A sword without edges and a sharp sword are very different.”

Julian was delighted. “So you did that to force me to unleash my full power. By the way, what stage am I now?”

Ares replied, “You’re a top Platinum Archduke, as strong as the Great Marshal in his peak. But of course, you are still far away from the King Class, which I am in.”

What?



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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NH

Julian was both excited and suspicious. “Sir, are you sure I am comparable to the Great Marshal at his peak?”

“Of course. The power of the Spirit Stones combined with a King’s energy is beyond your imagination,” Ares revealed.

Julian clenched his fists and gritted his teeth in determination. “The tides have turned, one should never look down on a young man. Zeke Williams, just you wait and see. I’ll return all the humiliation you threw on me. Not only will I cripple you, but I also want to destroy your family!”

Once he regained his power, the first thing he wanted to do was to take revenge on Zeke.

It was obvious he hated Zeke immensely.

Ares patted his shoulder. “I support your decision to take revenge. However, I think destroying his family is too lenient a punishment.”

“I was thinking, maybe you could take over his position as the Great Marshal and destroy his reputation at the same time.”

Julian’s eyes lit up instantly.

“Zeke is suffering a permanent injury now, so he isn’t fit to be a Great Marshal. I should take over his position since I am as strong as him in his peak.”

“It looks like you already have a plan,” Julian said to Ares.

NH

Ares nodded and grinned wickedly. “I heard Zeke’s ex-girlfriend went to him.”

Julian smirked at once.

Ares hadn’t revealed his plan, but from the word ‘ex-girlfriend’, Julian could roughly figure out what it was.

Looks like I have to meet Zeke’s ex-girlfriend personally.

The weather gradually turned cold as autumn arrived.

Emily’s clothes couldn’t meet her needs any longer, so she decided to go shopping after getting off work earlier than usual.

She had been working in Linton Group for only a few days and hadn’t made any new friends yet, so she had no choice but to do shopping alone.

Her lonely figure seemed desolate in the mall.

Unwittingly, she entered a designer store.

Under the salesperson’s suggestion, she put on a red mink coat.

The coat enhanced her elegance greatly, so the salespeople started buttering up on her.

“Miss, you look a few years younger after putting on this coat.”

“Yes, you look much prettier in it.”

“It would be a waste if this coat isn’t worn by you.”

Emily loved this coat too.

With a gentle smile, she inquired, “How much is it?”

The salesperson replied, “It isn’t that expensive. It costs eighteen thousand eight hundred.”

What?

Emily’s heart sank upon hearing the answer.

Her monthly pay was only six thousand, and she hadn’t even received her pay yet.

All the money she could lay her hands on was not even more than five thousand.

To her, eighteen thousand eight hundred was an enormous figure.

With that, she exhaled as she took off the coat. “I’m sorry. I won’t get it.”

What?

The salesperson who had just praised her were immediately displeased.

“Miss, it really suits you a lot!”

“It will be your loss if you don’t buy it.”

“Let me think about it. Give me your number,” Emily said. “I’ll let you know in a couple of days.”

NH

Her rejection was clear, but the salespeople just wouldn't give up.

"I'm sorry, Miss. You must buy this coat no matter what because you had just tried it on. This is one of the rules in our store."


"Please don't make it difficult for us."

Emily knew they wanted to press her to get the sale, so she had no choice but to tell them the truth.

"I'm sorry. I don't have enough money."

What?

The salespeople started throwing threats and vile comments at Emily.

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 Wait! I Have Something to Say!

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“You don’t have enough money? Why did you enter our store in the first place?”

“If you don’t have the money, shop at thrift shops instead. Why are you here pretending to be someone rich?”

“I don’t care. You’ve already tried it, so you need to buy it. You must scrape up enough money even if you have to sell your body.”

The salespeople were so loud and attracted the attention of the other customers.

Only the elite, successful, and wealthy women would come and shop here.

After getting to know the situation, they started mocking Emily too.

“How dare you shop here if you don’t have money? That’s very bold of you.”

“I’ve seen plenty of women like her.”

“Ha! People like her are the reason we socialites get a bad reputation.”

Emily’s head drooped in embarrassment.

Once, she was a wealthy woman who led a lavish lifestyle and used only luxury goods.

Yet, she was now being mocked by others.

What a joke. I feel like an ugly duckling that is being despised by everyone else. This is so

humiliating.

She was so embarrassed that she wanted to dig a hole and hide inside.

When everyone was still criticizing her, suddenly, a gust of cold wind blew in from the entrance.

The crowd turned to look at the entrance instinctively and was shocked by what they saw.

The store's glass door was wide open as two groups of armed individuals barged into the store and surrounded everyone.

Then, a charming gentleman walked into the store under the escort of ten bodyguards.

Each bodyguard had a passcode-locked briefcase with them.

It was a grand sight indeed.

The crowd was stunned and started wondering who this young man was.

This young man was none other than Julian Thisleton who came for Zeke's ex-girlfriend, Emily.

Julian's grand entrance terrified the salesperson, but she suppressed her fear and went to greet him professionally.

"Welcome, Sir. How may I help you?"

Julian's reply was curt. "Get lost!"

NH

The salesperson was astounded by his reply and immediately got out of his way.

Julian swept his gaze across the crowd before landing on Emily.

A smile crept across his face as he walked up to her.

Meanwhile, Emily was on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

Her first thought was that Zeke had sent these men to chase her out of Atheville.

She knew Zeke was the Great Marshal, a big shot in the military, so he could mobilize the soldiers easily.

She was so shocked that she staggered backward. To her surprise, Julian came to her and took her hand gently.

“Silly girl, why didn’t you bring money when you came here? I am here to deliver money to you.”

Emily was confused. What is going on?

I don’t even know who you are. Why did you call me ‘silly girl’?

Plus, why would you even give me money?

Julian looked at his ten bodyguards and they immediately unlocked their briefcases.

Inside the briefcases were stacks of bills

arranged neatly!

Under Julian's order, the bodyguards poured all the cash on the floor.

The stacks of bills piled up into a hill on the ground, forming a shocking sight.

Julian just smiled. "Silly girl, why didn't you tell me you like the clothes in this store? I could've bought up the entire store. Maybe even the whole street if you have told me in advance."

He turned to the salesperson. "Where's your boss? I want to buy this store from him."

Silence ensued.

Everyone's eyes widened in disbelief as they stared at Julian and Emily.

Sure enough, 'money speaks louder than actions'.

He is flanked by ten bodyguards, and even the military has cleared a path for him too.

Right now, his money is left piling up on the floor.

He is even going to buy this entire store because she liked something in the store.

Looks like she isn't an ugly duckling, but a swan instead.

We might be elites and socialites, but...



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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We are the Ugly Ducklings compare to her.

Did we just mock her for being a materialistic and foolish woman?

How idiotic of us!

A myriad of emotions flooded Emily at once. She was shocked, curious, and also touched.

She had no idea who this man was and why did he help her, but she enjoyed being revered by everyone inside the shop.

Emily went along with Julian and pretended to be his girlfriend. With a coquettish voice, she whined, “Darling, please don’t buy this store. This coat is the only thing I like here. We’ll just pay for it.”

Julian seemed stumped. “But their boss is going to gift this store to us. Why won’t you accept it? If we say no, the boss will grovel at our feet until we accept it.”

Huh?

Emily was perplexed by his words.

Julian glared at the salesperson. “Why haven’t you called your boss?”

The salesperson was utterly terrified and only regained her senses upon hearing Julian’s demand. She immediately left to contact the owner.

Soon, she returned with a middle-aged man who

had a potbelly. He was indeed the owner of this store.

“Which one of you want to buy over my store by force? Step forward now!” he shouted angrily the moment he stepped into the store.

Julian replied icily. “It’s me.”

Once the owner spotted Julian, his body trembled in fear. It was as if he was prey who had just met its predator.

Oh dear, why is this big shot here?

That’s Julian Thisleton of the royal Thisletons! In ancient times, he could be a prince, next in line to the throne!

Horror overwhelmed him as he got on his knees in front of Julian subconsciously.

“Mr. Thisleton, welcome here! I apologize for the delay.”

Julian sneered, “Did you just say that I don’t have the right to buy over your store?”

The owner refuted at once. “Of course not, Mr. Thisleton. You can have this store if you like it. There is no need for you to buy it from me.”

“I-I’ll draw up the transferal agreement now.”

As the owner spoke, he glanced at his assistant, who promptly took his hint and started drawing up a transferal agreement.

The crowd was astonished at the drastic turn of the events because they knew the owner of this store was a capable man who had considerable influence in the military.

However, he was currently kneeling before this young man and even gifted this store to him for free!

This young man must be extremely powerful. But why did his girlfriend come shopping here? This place simply has nothing much to offer her.

Soon, the owner's assistant finished drawing up the transferal agreement.

The owner handed the transferal agreement to Julian, who then stuffed it in Emily's hands.

"Darling, sign here. This store belongs to you now."

With trembling hands, Emily signed her name on the transferal agreement.

She was once an office worker with a monthly salary of six thousand, but now she had turned into a wealthy lady and the owner of this designer store.

In the blink of an eye, she had the privilege of becoming someone wealthy.

Emily felt so blissful.

After signing the agreement, she rolled it up and knocked it on the head of a salesperson.

“I wanted to inspect the store in disguise, but you thought I am a materialistic and poor woman.”

“Well, people like you won’t do well in the service industry,” she concluded.

The bunch of salespeople burst into tears and got on their knees while sobbing.

“Miss, it’s all our fault. Please forgive us!”

“We’ll never repeat our mistake.”

Emily glanced at the customers. “Which of you said that I have insulted the reputation of socialites?”



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The group of customers was so frightened that their legs turned to jelly. Thus, they sank to their knees and apologized profusely.

“Damn it!” Julian cursed, “How dare you b****es bully my woman?”

“Feed them to the sharks in East Skuld.”

Thud!

Upon hearing this, they broke down and started begging for mercy.

“Let’s not bring ourselves down to their level. If we were to do that, would it not be an insult to our stature?” Emily said, “Leave them be.”

“Alright,” Julian agreed, “I’ll listen to you.”

“However, all of you will still be punished.”

“All of you will have to kneel here for one day and one night to atone for your mistakes.”

“Yes!”

The group of people started kowtowing once again as they thanked him.

Emily held Julian’s arm as they walked out and entered a Malbec.

Only after they had gotten inside the car did Emily release Julian’s arm reluctantly.

“May I ask if it was the Great Marshal who sent

you here to help me?”

“Looks like he hasn’t gotten over me yet,” she said cheerfully. There’s still hope for me then.

“The Great Marshal?” Julian spat coldly, “Haha, he’s a nobody to me.”

Hmph?

She got alarmed and asked, “You weren’t sent here by the Great Marshal?”

“Then why did you help me? I don’t think we know each other.”

“Who on earth are you?”

“My true identity is beyond your wildest imaginations,” Julian replied, “Even if I revealed my identity, you still wouldn’t know who I am.”

“Why did you help me?” she asked.

“It’s very simple,” Julian answered, “That’s because we have a common enemy.”

“A common enemy? Who’s that?” Emily asked curiously.

“Zeke Williams,” Julian spat, “The reason I helped you was that I wanted to recruit you to help me take on Williams.”

Emily wasn’t sure if she should laugh or cry.

“Zeke Williams is the Great Marshal. He’s an

incredibly powerful man.”

“I’m nothing compared to him.”

“Even you can’t handle him, let alone me.”

“I’m afraid you’ve come to the wrong person.”

Julian shook his head. “No, that’s not true. I could have him killed anytime if I had wanted him dead.”

“However, that punishment will be too lenient.”

“I want to torture him slowly. I want to spoil his reputation. I want him to wish that he were dead!”

Julian then proceeded to give Emily an elaboration of his plan.

After hearing him out, Emily’s brows furrowed, “You want to replace him as the new Great Marshal?”

Julian nodded his head. “That’s right.”

Emily studied him from head to toe as she had some doubts about his capabilities.

Although he had shown himself to be very powerful just now, the Great Marshal was no pushover either.

Could he truly replace the Great Marshal?

Furthermore, the reason behind the plight she was in was that she had tried to take on Zeke.

She was quite traumatized by what had happened to her and didn't have the guts to try any more funny business.

Thus, she was in a dilemma.

"You don't have to give me an answer now. I'll give you three days to think over it," Julian said, "Give me a call once you've made up your mind."

Julian then handed her his name card.

The name card was made of pure gold.

In the meantime, the car had arrived at Linton Group.

With the golden name card in hand, Emily got out of the car and walked towards Linton Group in a daze.

What should I do?

What choice should I make?

If we were to fail, I certainly wouldn't live to tell the tale.

But if we were to succeed, I would have a chance to become the Mrs. Great Marshal.

Subsequently, she trudged into the toilet in a stupor.

She was about to wash her face to freshen up when she overheard some laughter inside the toilet.

It was her supervisor and several female colleagues who were whispering among themselves.



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NH

“Hey, have you guys heard the latest news? That girl who just joined our department, Emily Clemons, is Director Williams’ ex-girlfriend.”

“Holy f***! So she’s that slutty b***! No wonder she looks so much like a slut.”

“I’ve heard of that b*** before as well. Rumor has it that she dumped Director Williams back then because she thought that he was too poor.”

“That’s right. She made Director Williams look so bad back then that he had no choice but to propose to Ms. Hinton.”

“Afterwards, she tried to harm both of them many times but to no avail. In the end, she even lost all her money.”

“So what’s she doing here?”

“Ugh, she’s obviously at the end of her rope so she has come to work here to make ends meet.”

“Holy s**t! What a shameless woman she is! If I were in her shoes, I would never crawl back to an ex-boyfriend and beg him for help.”

As they spoke, they walked out the toilet and bumped into Emily.

The air immediately became thick with tension.

Feeling utterly miserable, Emily waited for them to apologize to her.

Instead, the supervisor snapped, “Emily, why were

you eavesdropping on us?”

“Huh?”

Not only do you refuse to apologize to me, but you’re also blaming me for eavesdropping on you people?

“You’ve violated the company policy by coming here to eavesdrop on others during working hours and neglecting your work,” the supervisor announced, “You won’t be getting your bonus this month. And you have to clean this toilet for the next ten days.”

“Let’s go.”

The supervisor and Emily’s colleagues just walked away.

Even though they were quite far off, Emily could still make out their mocking laughter.

An angry expression flashed across her face while she balled her fists and her eyes burned with rage.

They’ve gone too far!

This is unacceptable!

Not only did they refuse to apologize after talking badly about me behind my back, but they have also punished me by deducting my bonus for this month and even assign me to clean the toilet.

What do they take me for?

NH

The stark difference between the respect she had commanded back in the boutique and the ridicule she received from her colleagues now left her on the verge of an emotional meltdown.

Is this how I want to live for the rest of my life?

Then what's the point in living at all?

Now that the heavens have given me to change the tide, why should I not seize the opportunity?

Without further ado, she whipped out her phone and gave Julian a call.

"I'll help you!"

"Great!" Julian laughed, "That was a very wise decision. And I admire you for that."

"I'll make the necessary arrangements for what happens next. All you have to do is execute the orders given to you."

"Please do it as soon as possible!" Emily rushed him. "I cannot wait for Zeke's reputation to be ripped to shreds."

On the other end, after Julian had hung up the phone, he turned to Ares and said, "Sir, Emily has agreed to help us."

"It's time for us to make our move."

Ares smiled contentedly. "A good beginning is half the battle won."

NH

“I must say the beginning looks very promising indeed.”

He then got in touch with the Colonel’s bodyguard, Drake, and conveyed his intentions of organizing a Grand Ceremony.

Ares and Julian’s plan was for Emily to accuse Zeke of being a playboy during the ceremony and tarnish his reputation.

Once Zeke had lost the support of the people, it would be easy for Ares to revoke Zeke’s title of the Great Marshal.

After that, Julian would come forth to do some good deeds beneficial for the country and its people to garner the support of the people.

He would then have a really high chance of being elected as the new Great Marshal.

Every King was a trump card of the nation. It was perfectly reasonable for Ares to organize a Grand Ceremony.

Thus, the Colonel agreed.

However, Ares was only a Second King. He certainly wasn’t as influential or powerful as a First King.

Thus, his Grand Ceremony would not be as impressive as that of a First King’s or that would cause a stir around the world.



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NH

However, it was still a Grand Ceremony. It certainly was more than enough to cause a stir across the nation.

As far as Ares was concerned, that plan was good enough for him.

Amidst the eager anticipation of everyone, the Grand Ceremony commenced as scheduled.

Ares wasn't as mysterious as a First King.

Although the First King had turned up at his Grand Ceremony, he had addressed the crowd with a mask on his face.

Ares, on the other hand, presented himself to the crowd without a mask.

After his speech, Ares turned to the guests in the audience and gave them a suggestive look. "I would like to thank all of you for attending my Grand Ceremony."

"If there is anything you guys need my help for in the future, please feel free to ask."

With that, the crowd broke into applause.

Of course, they knew that Ares was just being polite.

They certainly wouldn't take his words seriously.

A King certainly wasn't going to do them a favor just because they had turned up for his Grand Ceremony. After all, there was no such thing as a

free lunch.

But much to the audience's astonishment, there was one girl who took what he had said very seriously.

Getting to her feet, she announced, "I would like you to help me out, Ares."

This girl was none other than Emily.

Everyone in the audience was startled and began staring at her.

She looks rather normal. Why would she do something so unhinged?

Ares nodded his head. "Please, tell me what it is you wish for me to help you with."

"I want to lodge a complaint against someone," Emily replied, "I hope that you would be able to help me seek redress, Ares."

"Who do you wish to lodge a complaint against?" asked Ares.

"The Great Marshal, Zeke Williams!"

"What!"

A commotion instantly broke out among the crowd.

Everybody knew that Zeke's wife was Lacey, Ares' biological daughter who had gone missing for many years.

In other words, Zeke was actually Ares' son-in-law.

She's attempting to lodge a complaint against his son-in-law on the day of his Grand Ceremony? Is she looking for trouble?

Waving his hands to signal for everyone to calm down, Ares said, "Everyone, please stay quiet."

"Tell me, why do you want to make a complaint against Zeke?"

"The Great Marshal is a heartless playboy!" Emily accused, "He toys with the feelings of women and dumped his wife for a vixen."

"He's a brute who is no better than a pig!"

"Who is this vixen?" Ares asked.

"That would be his current wife," replied Emily.

This immediately caused an uproar amongst the crowd.

Holy f***! The Great Marshal's current wife? That's Ares' daughter, Lacey Hinton!

She actually has the gall to call Ares' daughter a vixen...

She's dead meat!

There's no way Ares will spare her life.

As expected, Ares was furious.

NH

“I would say that I have a rather good understanding of the Great Marshal. Naturally, I don’t believe that he has done such a thing.”

“If you can’t produce sufficient evidence, I will sue you for defamation.”

“Of course I have the evidence.” Emily then fished out her phone and projected a picture of Zeke and her onto the big screen.

“Here’s a picture of me and Zeke Williams. I stood by him when he was at his poorest.”

“I spent five years of my youth on him.”

“Little did I know, he actually dumped in return.”

“This is a picture of Zeke proposing to Lacey Hinton in front of my family and me.”

“Not only did he hook up with my best friend, Lacey Hinton, behind closed doors but he also proposed to her in front of everybody at an extremely important event.”

“He humiliated me and crushed me emotionally so that I wouldn’t pester him anymore.”

“Boohoo! He may seem like a gentleman, but he does all kinds of cruel things behind closed doors.”

Emily’s wails echoed across the crowd.

Furthermore, it was being broadcast live across the whole of Eurasia.



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NH

Many people immediately leapt to Emily's defense and began criticizing Zeke.

"I certainly didn't expect the Great Marshal to be someone like that."

"And to think that I looked up to him in the past. Unfortunately, it looks like he isn't even fit to be called a man."

"Tons of young people in Eurasia look up to him. Every action he makes will have a great influence on the young of Eurasia and that affects the future of Eurasia."

"How can such a person deserve the title of Great Marshal?"

"That's right! I strongly suggest that we revoke Zeke Williams' title of Great Marshal."

These naysayers had been planted into the crowd by Ares beforehand.

After seeing those photos and hearing what those naysayers had to say; everybody including the audience before their television screens had fallen for what Emily had claimed.

All of a sudden, nearly the entire audience had turned against Zeke Williams as they began voicing their displeasure.

Ares was infuriated as well. "I certainly didn't expect the Great Marshal to be someone like that."

“If I had known this, I would never have given him my daughter’s hand in marriage no matter what.”

“He doesn’t deserve the title of Great Marshal.”

“As Ares, I hereby strongly suggest that Zeke Williams be revoked of his title as Great Marshal.”

Even Zeke’s own father-in-law, Ares, had denounced him.

Doubts about Zeke’s true colors began forming in the minds of the people.

All of a sudden, this ‘Revoke the Great Marshal’ sentiment had spread all over the country.

It even held the top spot among the hot topics on various search engines.

The higher one was, the harder his fall would be. The Great Marshal was in for a really tough time.

This controversy was inevitably going to spark a bloodbath.

Linton Group.

Zeke, Lacey, Dawn and Nancy were watching the live telecast on television as well.

As they watched the events unfold, they immediately hit the roof.

They all knew what really happened then.

Back then, Emily had been the one who dumped

Zeke because she felt that he was too poor.

Furthermore, she did all kinds of terrible things to him and even backed him into corners countless times.

Yet, she had twisted the truth and blamed it on Zeke instead.

What a shameless woman.

Dawn slapped the table in front of her furiously. “A leopard never changes its spots. I knew something like this was bound to happen.”

“What were you guys thinking back then?” Nancy asked, “Why did you spare her?”

“If I had been there, I wouldn’t have spared her. And I certainly wouldn’t have allowed something like this to happen.”

Lacey’s eyes began to redden. “Ugh, this is all my fault. I was too softhearted.”

“Zeke, I’m so sorry. If it hadn’t been for me, things wouldn’t have gotten into this mess.”

Zeke wiped the tears off her cheeks endearingly. “Don’t worry, Lacey. Emily is nothing but an insect to me. No matter how hard she tries, she will never be able to harm me at all.”

“Zeke,” Dawn asked curiously, “You’ve got a way to prove your innocence?”

He nodded his head. “Of course.”

Lacey heaved a sigh of relief. “Thank god.”

“Zeke, you should get to work on it immediately.”

“Otherwise, if this were to drag on, this ‘playboy’ persona will get stuck in the people’s minds. That would certainly complicate matters further.”

Zeke nodded his head. “Hmm, don’t worry. I’ll make the necessary arrangements right away.”

Just then, Zeke’s phone started ringing.

The Colonel had personally given him a call.

Any call from the Colonel had an SSS classification.

He certainly couldn’t take the call in front of the girls.

So he got to his feet and went downstairs then got into the car before taking the call.

“How may I help you, Colonel?” Zeke asked.

The Colonel’s voice sounded really anxious.

“There’s an urgent national level mission, Zeke.”

“What is it about?” Zeke immediately sat upright and started listening closely.

National level missions were a matter of National Security.

He could not afford to mishear even a word.

“The thirty six islands in the Southern Archipelago have been occupied by the Lundrian Army,” the Colonel revealed.

“Our land is being devoured as we speak. We have to take it back immediately.”



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What!

Zeke's eyes lit up menacingly.

How dare they encroach upon our sacred lands?

This goes against everything Eurasia stands for.

They must pay for what they've done!

Zeke immediately nominated himself for this mission. "Colonel, I am prepared to head down there and defeat these invaders."

This was so important that Zeke had completely forgotten about his problem with Emily.

"Very well, you'll be entrusted with this mission," the Colonel replied, "But bear in mind, I cannot tell the public about your involvement in this. What's more, I will be unable to offer you any assistance."

"This is to prevent words from getting out that your life force hasn't been damaged at all."

"There is no need to explain, Colonel," Zeke said, "I understand."

The Colonel laughed. "Hmm, I'm really sorry about this, Zeke."

"Don't worry, Eurasia will never aggrieve the heroes who protect the country."

"When things start to stabilize, I'll promote you to the unparalleled position of National Soldier."

NH

It was the Colonel's idea for Zeke to continue pretending to an ordinary person with a damaged life force.

He wanted to use this to lure out that assassin squad from the United States.

This squad posed as a severe threat to many important political figures in Eurasia. Therefore, they had to be eliminated.

That was why news of Zeke attaining the King Class had to be kept as a secret.

Without further ado, Zeke immediately set off for the Southern Archipelago.

He didn't even have time to bid farewell to Lacey.

Meanwhile, news of the invasion of the Southern Archipelago spread like wildfire across Eurasia.

As worried citizens condemned the actions of the Lundrians, they also urged anyone brave enough to come forth and claim back the Southern Archipelago.

This was good news to some and bad news to others.

This was certainly very troubling for the people of Eurasia.

Ares and Julian, however, were really excited upon hearing about this.

This was the perfect opportunity for Julian to gain

a position.

“Julian,” Ares instructed, “You have to seize this opportunity.”

“Now that Zeke has become the disdain in the public’s eyes, calls for him to step down are at an all-time high.”

“If you were to take back the Southern Archipelago at this time and win the hearts of the people, it would only be a matter of time before you were made the new Great Marshal.”

Julian, however, was rather worried. “Sir, the Lundrian Army has always been known for their ferocity in battle.”

“The fact that they were able to take over the Southern Archipelago just goes to show how strong they really are.”

“I’m afraid that I wouldn’t be a match for them.”

“Don’t worry,” Ares assured him, “I’ll be fighting alongside you this time. But of course, all the credit will be given to you.”

Julian was incredibly moved. “Thank you for helping me, Sir!”

With a King Class warrior at his side, who would even stand a chance against him?

Julian immediately wrote in to the military and nominated himself to join the fight.



He also requested for a troop of elite soldiers.

The military naturally agreed.

The more people they had on their side, the higher their chances of taking back those islands.

Ares and Julian led their troop of elite soldiers and rushed down to the Southern Archipelago overnight.

After a night of traveling, they finally reached their destination in the early morning, the southernmost tip of the mainland.

They were only separated from the Southern Archipelago by a strait.

From where they were, they could distinctly make out the countless Lundrian soldiers scattered across the Southern Archipelago.

The highest in command at this battlefield came over to greet them warmly.

“Archduke, Mr. Thisleton, the ferry has been prepared.”

“May I ask when would you guys be setting sail?”

“Right away,” replied Julian.

“Great!”

The military officer then hastily arranged for the troop of elite soldiers to board the ship.

However, just as they were about to leave, there was suddenly an enormous explosion on the surface of the sea.

As their attention was drawn towards this explosion, they immediately caught a glimpse of a black figure above the surface of the water.



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The soldiers were startled and soon started discussions among themselves.

“What was that? Why did it look like a person?”

“That black figure must have broken the sound barrier or have been travelling close to the speed of sound to produce that sonic boom.”

“A human being breaking the sound barrier? That’s ridiculous.”

Ares and Julian were equally flabbergasted.

They were extremely powerful. Thus, their senses were much more sensitive than those soldiers.

That black figure had closely resembled that of a person.

But how could a mere mortal break the sound barrier? Or even move close to the speed of sound?

“Sir,” Julian analyzed cautiously, “Do you think it’s possible that the number one King Class warrior has joined the fight?”

“Was that black figure him?”

Ares shook his head. “I don’t think so.”

“I’m a King Class warrior too. And my speed is nowhere near the sound barrier.”

“No King Class warrior could have moved at that kind of speed. Unless he is from the Ultimate

Class.”

“But up till today, no one has been able to prove the existence of Ultimate Class.”

“In my opinion, that black figure was probably came from some weapon that can break the sound barrier.”

Julian nodded his head. “Perhaps.”

“But be it a weapon or a human, it came from Eurasia’s borders so it couldn’t have come from the enemy.”

“Let’s speed up.”

In fact, that black figure was Zeke Williams.

Although he had yet to attain the Ultimate Power, he was still more powerful than anyone from the King Class.

Thus, breaking the sound barrier was a piece of cake for him.

In fact, he had reached here a long time ago. He had made one round around the thirty-six islands to find their highest in command and take him out.

However, the highest in command of the Lundrian Army had hidden very well. Zeke was unable to find any trace of him.

Hence, Zeke decided to do things the hard way.

NH

However, he changed his mind after noticing that Ares and Julian were here as well.

Why don't I use them to lure the highest in command out and then eliminate him for myself?

If I were to intervene personally and reveal my power, the enemies' highest in command will definitely be scared off.

The highest in command of these invaders has to die!

That was why he hid and waited patiently for Ares and Julian to make their move.

Soon, Ares' fleet approached the first of the thirty-six islands within the Southern Archipelago.

The outskirts of the first island had been completely occupied by the Lundrian Army.

Standing at the bow of the ship, Ares yelled, "Bring me your highest in command."

"I want to have a talk with him."

Watching from afar, Zeke cursed, "You useless prick!"

"They've already invaded our land. Yet, you still want to negotiate with them diplomatically. You're just a coward."

Soon, one soldier on the first island stepped forth.

He was in full military uniform and had an air of

authority around him.

He was none other than General Ragnar Maples.

“Mr. Ares,” Ragner said dryly, “Long time no see.”

“General Maples?” Ares was rather surprise.

As a matter of fact, both of them were friends.

Back then, Ares and Connor Black from the Prince’s Residence visited Lundr as messengers from Eurasia. .

Ragner had treated them with utmost hospitality.

They were on such good terms that they addressed each other as brothers.

Little had he expected that they would now meet again as enemies.

“Mr. Ares,” Ragner drawled, “I assume this isn’t a social call.”

He never would have expected that the Ares before him was actually Connor Black in disguise.



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