

Chapter 2551

In his mind, Fane would definitely lose. He had glanced at the condensing card earlier. There were some pill runes that even he might not be able to fill up.

Elder Eliot had mentioned before as well that the pill runes that were filled up needed to be at sixty percent refinement.

A refinement rate of fifty percent was required for the pill runes to be considered successful. That was because only fifty percent refinement would be able to bring out the medicinal properties of the pills.

Without fifty percent refinement, a pill rune would be considered a failure.

Sixty percent refinement would mean that the quality of the pill would be a level higher,

A pill of sixty percent refinement rate would fetch a higher price than a pill of fifty percent refinement rate. That was because a higher refinement rate meant a higher quality pill. That was something everyone knew.

With that in mind, Harold shook his head helplessly. Elder Eliot was getting crazier and crazier. There were a total of nine hundred and twenty runes on the condensing card. Of those present, it was probably that the number of them who would be able to fill up more than half of the pill runes could be counted with one hand.

Even he did not know if he would be able to do it. Thinking of that, he could not help but glance over at Fane. Fane was already putting all his focus into condensing the pill runes with a furrowed eyebrow.

Fane still looked confident as ever, which frustrated Harold even more. He felt like that guy was really good at acting. It was impossible to tell what was on Fane's mind.

Johnson was sitting right behind Harold. When he saw Harold looking back at Fane, he could not help but whisper, "Harold, what are you looking at him for? He'll definitely lose. I think he won't even be able to condense ten of the runes. After all, Elder Eliot said that we needed to have a sixty percent refinement rate.

"Haven't we looked into this guy before? He came from a small place, so what can he possibly do? You don't have to worry about him at all."

When Harold heard that, he felt like it was quite reasonable. Fane came from Heavenly Pills. Heavenly Pills was part of the Rosefinch Pavilion's territory. To them, it really was a small place.

Harold came from the inner region. That was where the strong fighters came from. Many geniuses spawned in the inner region, and the outer region was basically the countryside to them.

Harold narrowed his eyes and said, "I just feel like this guy is way too good at acting. Even now, he still manages to look like everything is within his control. It's so funny and annoying at the same time."

Johnson snorted, "He's just afraid of embarrassing himself. After all, he's probably never even seen half of the runes before, let alone be able to patch them up to a sixty percent refinement!"

Harold nodded. Johnson continued with a smile, "There isn't much talent where this guy came from at all. The fact that he's able to become a sixth-grade alchemist naturally means he must have some talent.

"However, that talent means nothing to us. He must have loved to show off among all those talentless bumpkins before this.

"He was probably praised so much that he doesn't know his place. Even here, he still thinks he can beat everyone. That's probably why he acted so arrogantly."

Harold nodded, feeling like Johnson's words were very reasonable. He thought that way as well. Fane acted the way he did because the place he came from had been far too impoverished.

Chapter 2552

There were no proper geniuses there at all. Fane had probably been the best among them and was naturally respected. Even after going to Phoenix Valley, he still felt like he was better than everyone else. That was why Fane dared to say all of that to Harold and even dared to make the bet.

With those thoughts in mind, Harold's lips twitched as he felt even more sure about things. Harold clearly knew Fane was that kind of person, so it was pointless for Harold to keep focusing on Fane.

Fane would definitely lose! Knowing that fact, Harold looked away and started to answer in earnest.

Time slowly ticked away. All that could be heard were people breathing. As they neared the end of the test, Rudy had already thoroughly given up all hope.

He had only been able to answer twenty percent of the condensing card, and he could not even guarantee that the ones he did answer were at sixty percent refinement. Rudy felt like he was in an incredibly hopeless situation.

He deeply regretted following Fane into the Elder Hall. He was already imagining what it would be like being called up alone to be berated by Elder Eliot after the results were out. He would be humiliated in front of everyone.

However, it was already too late for regrets.. There was no way for him to withdraw anymore.

After being stunned for a long time, he could not help but look up at Fane. All he saw was Fane with his chest puffed up and head held high. Fane held the condensing card in his hand as if he had completed all of the pill runes on the card.

At that moment, Rudy wondered how confident Fane was in his results. He did not have Fane's courage, nor did he have Fane's talent and ability, but he could not believe that Fane could actually get into the top fifty.

If he managed to get into the top fifty without even attending a single class, Rudy would definitely be dealt a heavy blow. Rudy had planned on talking to Fane after the test was over, but he could not hold back when he looked at Fane's calm expression.

Rudy whispered, "Fane, are you done?"

Fane nodded without turning around. Rudy felt odd when he saw Fane's calm nod, so he continued asking, "How do you think your results are? Can you get into the top fifty?"

Fane raised an eyebrow. He knew that Rudy asked that because Rudy did not believe he was capable of it. He turned and glanced at Rudy,

He whispered back, "I told you before, if I really wasn't confident, then I wouldn't have made the bet."

Rudy could not help but take a deep breath after hearing that. At that moment, Rudy had a lot he wanted to say, but he did not know how to voice out any of his words.

Time slowly ticked away, and the test finally ended in silence. Elder Eliot calmly walked out from behind, gathering the condensing cards one by one.

The condensing cards would only need a short time to determine everyone's results. After gathering everything, Elder Eliot did not waste a second before leaving the Elder Hall to determine the results.

Without the elder around, the hall became much livelier. However, everyone had incredibly serious expressions at that moment. Complaints and moans filled the room.

"I don't know what Elder Eliot is thinking. Why is this test so many times harder?! Does he just want to see all of us fail?"

Chapter 2553

"Who knows what Elder Eliot is thinking. We all know how he is. Just think about those pill runes on the card earlier. Eighty percent of them were pill runes that we normally wouldn't use at all.

"They were complicated runes that only seventh-grade alchemists use. I've never even seen them before, let alone be able to fill it up."

"My results will be horrible this time, I don't even have to think about it. I just don't know if there's anyone who'll do worse than me. It would be humiliating if I end up being called out alone to be scolded!"

"Being scolded would be letting you off easy. Don't forget how Elder Eliot is. If the results are especially bad, he'll just pull you out and berate and punish you publicly. You

won't just need to be fined spirit crystals,you'll even be forced to stand in a corner facing the wall!"

All those words were naturally heard by Rudy. After hearing what everyone had to say, Rudy felt incredibly bad. He was going green with regret. He should not have participated in the test.

He had never attended a single class and had only just become a sixth-grade alchemist. He did not have the chance to practice condensing nine hundred pill runes for that long, but his limits were already being tested.

Even though the condensing card had nine hundred pill runes as well, only a fifth of those pill runes was the easier sort. He was not able to do anything about the rest of them.

The more Rudy thought about it, the more frustrated he got. He scratched his ears, wanting nothing more than to just leave right then. Yet, he was worried that the situation would get a lot worse if Elder Eliot came back and realized that he was no longer there.

What could have been just a scolding might turn into a punishment several times worse. That was what he did not want to happen. He really wanted to talk to Fane, but looking at Fane's calm expression, his mood soured. He no longer wanted to say anything.

"You really surprised me." Harold's voice was heard in the front. Fane frowned, he had been resting and not wanting to say anything, but Harold still insisted on being an annoying fly, constantly circling around him and not leaving.

Fane did not feel like talking to him at all. He merely opened his eyes and said, "Can you stop being so annoying? We've already set our bet. You'll know everything when the results are out. Would it kill you to shut your mouth?"

At Fane's abrasive tone, Harold was stunned. He had thought that Fane would have realized his shortcomings after how hard the condensing cards were and stopped showing off in front of him.

Yet, he never expected that Fane would not be affected by it and remain as obstinate as ever. Each word Fane spoke seemed to be intent on stuffing his mouth.

Johnson suddenly stood up from the mat and shouted, "Fane! I can't stand the sight of you anymore! Do you insist on carrying on this farce?! Don't think we don't know who you actually are.

"You're just a useless brat from the countryside. What have you seen before? Do you think your talent is good enough to brag in front of all of us? Let me tell you, you're completely wrong!"

Fane's lips started to twitch hopelessly. Sure enough, these flies kept on rendering him speechless and helpless.

Fane raised his eyebrow and replied, "Could you and Harold just shut up? Will you die if you just wait for a short while?"

Johnson was shaking in anger. He quickly walked in front of Fane. "Do you really think you can win? Don't you know how hard the condensing card is? If you can even answer a fifth of it, you'd be quite good!"

Chapter 2554

Fane took a deep breath and looked at Johnson as if he was looking at an idiot. "You don't know me at all, so how are you so sure that I could only answer one-fifth of the questions?"

Johnson snorted coldly as he said in an arrogant tone, "You come from Heavenly Pills. How could that small place cultivate any geniuses? Phoenix Valley gathered so many alchemic geniuses together, where could you possibly place among us?"

"I was looking at you favorably by saying you can condense one-fifth of the runes. After all, only one-fifth of the runes on the card were more commonly seen runes. The rest of the runes were all incredibly rare. Only a seventh-grade alchemist would be able to fill in ninety percent of them!"

Fane let out a laugh before he said, "If I really felt that I would lose, I would never have placed the bet with Harold. It's better if you just shut up..."

Before Fane could finish, he was interrupted by Johnson again, "It looks like you're still stuck being clueless. Do you think you can really get into the top fifty with those skills you have? How funny!"

Harold said from behind Johnson, "There are a hundred and eighty people in the test this time. There are only over two hundred alchemists in the whole of Phoenix Valley.

"Almost everyone is present here today. Do you really think you can outshine all these geniuses and become someone in the top fifty?"

Fane took a deep breath, really wanting to stuff his ears. That way, he would not need to talk to the two of them, but the two of them seemed unwilling to give up.

He knew that if he did not say anything back to them, they would only get worse.

Fane sighed as he stood up, faced Johnson, and said, "Can you stop making judgments on others with that pea brain of yours?"

His attitude made Harold and Johnson feel like Fane was just trying to be stubborn. Others also felt like Fane was only saying all that because the words he had said earlier had forced him to.

Some people could not help but say loudly, "I refuse to believe that you didn't think the test was hard. Why are you still pretending?"

"You'd better just prepare five thousand spirit crystals right now. If you can't produce them later, Elder Eliot won't let you off,"

"That's right Fane. Can't you just admit that you were being reckless? If you weren't so impulsive, you wouldn't need to pay such a heavy price..."

Just as everyone was talking among themselves, Elder Eliot walked back into the hall with the results in hand. As he walked, he looked toward them.

At that moment, Elder Eliot had a strange expression on his face. His gaze lingered on Fane for a long time, but after that, he averted it.

The fact that Elder Eliot was already back meant that they could no longer continue pestering Fane. Johnson frowned as he shot a meaningful look at Fane. After that, he turned around and went back to his original spot.

Elder Eliot stood at the center with a piece of parchment in hand. On it was everyone's results. Elder Eliot started to read the scroll in front of everyone.

He stared at every single name. He opened his mouth and tried to read it out, but started to hesitate. Everyone looked at Elder Eliot anxiously, wanting nothing more than to be able to look at the scroll to see the results.

Harold suddenly felt a bit nervous when he saw Elder Eliot's conflicted demeanor. After all, Fane remained standing tall as ever. Whenever he talked to Fane, it felt like Fane did not regard him as anyone important at all, which caused Harold to be incredibly frustrated.

Chapter 2555

All he wanted to do was for both of their results to be announced. Then he would throw his results at Fane so Fane would stop being so arrogant. That way, he would be able to vent out his frustrations.

Yet, Elder Eliot seemed so hesitant, which caused Harold to lose his patience. He could not help but say, "Elder Eliot, how are my results?"

After thinking about it, Harold felt like asking about Fane's results would seem a little forceful.

It was better to ask about his results first before trying to prod at Fane's results. That way, Fane would be able to feel the difference between the two of them.

Elder Eliot raised an eyebrow, picking up the parchment before he said, "There's nothing too special about your results this time, but you still remain in the top ten.

You're in tenth place.

"You managed to finish sixty percent of the pill runes, but out of the sixty percent, eight out of ten of them were not at the sixty percent refinement mark. Honestly, I'm not happy with your results!"

As he said that, Elder Eliot looked at Harold unhappily. Harold's lips froze as his body could not help but sway. He knew that his results this time were not the best.

It was mainly because he had not been in the best mood.

The moment he calmed down, he would immediately think about how disrespectful Fane was.

Those harsh words kept attacking him, causing him to find himself unable to calm down.

It was natural that he could not get good results with a frustrated mindset. Harold's face was a little pale. Even though he did not have results that were as good as he wanted, it should still be much better than Fane.

Thinking about that, he immediately turned around and looked at Fane with a challenging expression again. When Fane felt Harold's gaze, Fane's lips twitched slightly.

He really wanted to rush in front of Harold and tell Harold to stop with those petty actions.

He wanted nothing more than to just quietly wait for the results.

Harold's sudden turn of the head had been seen by Elder Eliot as well. Naturally, Elder Eliot was not thrilled.

"You have no right to try and show off in front of Fane because his results were better than yours. He got the fifth place!"

The moment Elder Eliot said that the entire field was shocked.

Everyone widened their eyes, thinking that they had misheard. Fane had gotten fifth place? Was that true?

Surely they were hallucinating, right? Otherwise, how could they have heard such an absurd result?! The one who questioned

it immediately was none other than Harold.

He shouted out, "Elder Eliot, what did you say? Fane is in fifth place?"

Elder Eliot had already expected that to happen. He did not hesitate to nod and replied, "Fane managed to finish eighty percent of the pill runes. All of those runes were at sixty percent refinement."

Elder Eliot announced all that with a serious expression, so there was naturally no room for doubt. However, despite that, everyone could not help but be filled with disbelief.

Chapter 2556

How could Fane be so talented? He had never even attended a single class and still managed to achieve such results. That kid really was something else.

No wonder he managed to keep his head up high no matter what Harold said. He actually had the skills to back it up!

Harold's breathing started to get erratic at that. His whole face reddened and his hands started to shake as he said, "Impossible! How could he manage to finish eighty percent?! He doesn't have that ability! He absolutely doesn't have that ability. I guarantee that he doesn't!"

Those words were all practically shouted by Harold. At that moment, Harold could no longer keep his composure, and everything he said seemed crazed.

Elder Eliot frowned and said, "Keep your composure. If you keep on acting this way, I'll throw you straight to the disciplinary elder. Then you'll learn what behaving yourself means!"

Those words successfully woke Harold up. He knew that he was too emotional, but he could not stand it. He could not believe that Fane was actually talented enough to beat him!

Elder Eliot coldly laughed, "Why wouldn't he be able to do this? Why would he not have the talent? How much do you know about him to dare make that judgment?"

At that moment, Harold's face was absolutely red. His face had a crazed expression on it. He could not accept Fane's results. He could not accept that Fane was better than him. Before that, he had been certain that his talents and abilities were far better than Fane's.

Fane was only able to be so arrogant

because Fane was ignorant. That ignorant

caused him to not know his limits. Yet, reality proved that his thoughts had all been false.

He was not as good as Fane. Fane had been so arrogant because Fane had known what he was capable of. That large change could not be accepted by Harold.

He had always been the one who was put on the pedestal. He had always been praised by everyone. Johnson knew that Harold could not accept the fact at that moment, but Johnson had no idea what to say to Harold.

Even Johnson could not accept the reality.

Harold's hands were shaking when he said, "He must have cheated! This must be from cheating. If he hadn't cheated, there's no way he would have gotten this result. He's clearly a newcomer.

"He had never even attended a single one of your classes. Those new pill runes had probably never even been seen by him before. If that's the case, how could he finish eighty percent of them? Everything is fake. He's absolutely cheating!"

Harold sounded incredibly crazy. He wanted to tell everyone present that Fane had absolutely gotten those results from some form of cheating. Fane was not as talented as himself!

Elder Eliot sighed in exasperation. As he returned to the hall earlier, he had also anticipated the fact that the results would not be accepted so easily. However, he had not expected Harold to act so crazily.

Harold was trying to say anything to prove that Fane was not any better than him. If that had happened to any other elder, they might have consoled Harold. After all, Harold was a rare genius, but Elder Eliot did not have that in mind at all.

He frowned as he said, "Stop trying to lie to yourself. Everyone here knows that it's impossible to cheat on that test earlier. The test is about condensing pill runes. Every single thing you do in that test is down to your own abilities."

Chapter 2557

"You keep saying that Fane cheated, so tell me how he cheated? How is he supposed to cheat to end up with eighty percent of the pill runes?"

Those words successfully caused Harold to pale. Elder Eliot's questions made sense. Since Harold felt like Fane was cheating, then he should tell everyone how he cheated.

Those tests were focused on testing actual skills. There was no way to cheat unless Fane gave his condensing card to someone else.

However, everyone could clearly see that Fane had not handed his condensing card to anyone else. Everyone could be a witness to that.

Harold looked like a tomato at that moment. He could not refute Elder Eliot's words at all, nor did he know what to say.

However, he still refused to believe what had happened. He was not even willing to look at Fane, afraid that Fane would mock him. That would be too heavy of a blow to take.

Johnson reached out to grab Harold's arm. "Harold... His results must be right. It's fine, there's no reason to continue talking about it."

Johnson's words caused Harold to slowly calm down. However, his face was still pale. Elder Eliot sighed helplessly as he handed the parchment to Harold so Harold could take a look.

Harold shakily reached his hand out and accepted the scroll. Fane's results suddenly appeared in front of him. Fane was in fifth place with his results written there.

Each of the pill runes had achieved a sixty percent refinement. It was exactly like Elder Eliot had said, Fane had completed eighty percent of them. Not one more or one less.

Thankfully, Harold still had his wits about him. Otherwise, he would have let it slip that he wanted to look at the condensing card that Fane had just used. If he had done that, he would probably have invited Elder Eliot's anger.

He spat out in resignation as he looked down at his own results. His results were not the greatest this time. He was placed tenth and not many of his pill runes had qualified.

The other pill runes were not at sixty percent refinement at all. The two of them were clearly on different levels. When he saw that, Harold suddenly let out a laugh. His laughter stunned everyone present.

Everyone shot him a strange look. Harold was actually able to laugh at that time. What was he laughing about?

When they looked at Harold laughing, they immediately saw that Harold's laugh did not reach his eyes at all. He was not actually laughing. He had just lost control of himself.

"This is too funny! It's way too funny!" Harold could not help but mumble to himself.

From the moment Elder Eliot had entered the hall, he had thought of asking about his results before asking for Fanes. That way, he would let Fane know the difference between them.

Yet, the end result was that there really was a difference between the two of them, but it was the complete opposite! Elder Eliot knew that Harold's emotions were incredibly complicated at that moment.

Yet, time was still ticking. They could not delay things just because of Harold. Elder Eliot reached out and grabbed the parchment from Harold's hand.

Chapter 2558

He calmly started reading out the results to everyone present. Those with better results rejoiced in their heads. Those whose results were not good looked just like Harold earlier and were reminiscent of tomatoes.

The results were read from top to bottom.

At the start, Elder Eliot's tone was still calm. The more he read, the more sour the look on his face became. When he read the last five people, he already had a frown on his face.

When it came to the last name, Elder Eliot reached out and put the parchment into his pocket. His tone was cold, "Who is Rudy Glasc?!"

When he asked that, Rudy was so scared his whole body shivered. He looked like a terrified rabbit. Fane helplessly looked at Rudy next to him.

At that moment, Rudy felt like dying. If he were able to, he'd have dug a hole in the ground.

"Let me say this again! Who is Rudy Glasc?!" That should cause Rudy to be unable to hide. All he could do was retract his earlier thoughts.

He reluctantly raised his hand. When Rudy raised it, Elder Eliot let out a cold laugh.

"In all my years of invigilating tests, it's the first time I've seen an alchemist scoring a zero. I see you have a six rank alchemist badge. You might have been tested before you came here.

"I don't know who actually allowed you to pass the test to be a sixth-grade alchemist. If I find out who it is, I have to ask him how someone as clueless as you managed to become a sixth-grade alchemist!"

Those words deeply embarrassed Rudy. He really wanted to say something for himself at that moment, because he definitely did not cheat on the test.

However, his results were plain for all to see. Anything he said would be useless. Elder Eliot did not care about all that.

"He scored a zero! Even I'm impressed." With Elder Eliot's words, everyone started to mock Rudy.

The first time, they had covered their mouths. When they saw that Elder Eliot did not stop them, they did not hold back.

"I remember he came with Fane. I can't believe their results are so different. I thought birds of the same feather flock together."

"I heard that the two of them are newcomers. Newcomers normally don't do very well but I have not seen anyone do this badly, he actually got a zero!"

"Of the pill runes he condensed, he did not even get a single one right. That's hilarious. He actually dared to participate in a test

with his level. Isn't he afraid of getting laughed at?"

Rudy's head lowered more and more at those words. The fire of anger started to roar in his head. His fists were clenched tightly as he swore to regain his dignity. He would make sure that everyone present would no longer dare to underestimate him.

Fane looked at Elder Eliot and saw that Elder Eliot did not plan on saying anything, so he said, "Elder Eliot, you're right. It's not good to have such horrible results. However, he came with me. He just became a sixth-grade alchemist. Being able to condense a pill rune of fifty percent refinement is already the best he can do."

After saying that, Fane said, "That's right since the results are out, can you pay up for the bet, Harold?"

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Those words served as a reminder to everyone present, and also managed to quiet down everyone that was there. Then did they remember the bet Harold had with Fane.

If Fane managed to get into the top fifty, Harold would have to give Fane five thousand spirit crystals. When the two of them placed that bet, no one believed in Fane.

They had thought that Fane was a mindless idiot.

Now it looked like Fane was merely confident in his own skills.

Since he had those skills, it was natural for him to place that bet. Harold's face suddenly paled, and his expression started to sink.

He looked at Fane with a complicated expression.

When Fane saw that Harold was not reacting, he raised his voice, "Are you planning on not paying up? Are you trying to void the bet? It looks like we really should have made a soul contract just now, then you wouldn't be able to regret things."

Fane's words were a slap to Harold's face.

Harold's body shook in anger as he straightened his back, "Who said I wasn't going to pay up? It's only five thousand spirit crystals. It's nothing to me!"

After he said that, he furiously retrieved five thousand spirit crystals from his storage and gave them to Fane.

Fane raised an eyebrow as he calmly stored those spirit crystals into Mustard Seed.

Elder Eliot nodded as he said, "If you're willing to place the bet, then you should be willing to accept your loss. That's the way of a true man."

Harold felt incredibly embarrassed and wanted nothing more than to smash his head into a pillar. Johnson hurriedly grabbed Harold's arm as he whispered,

"Let's go. Since the results are already out, there's no reason to stay here. We still have to attend classes tomorrow."

Harold sighed as he rubbed his chin, trying his best to suppress his complicated feelings.

After that, he bowed to Elder Eliot and said he was not feeling well and wanted to be excused to head back to rest.

Elder Eliot did not make things too difficult for him and merely waved Harold off. After Harold left, everyone else started to leave as well.

Fane did not want to stay in the crowd either. After making sure that the reward would be sent to their courtyard, Fane immediately left the Elder Hall.

The moment he returned, he arranged for Lou to collect his rewards. On the way back, Rudy had been quite depressed, Rudy merely followed behind Fane with his head hung low.

Fane did not say anything. He had merely helped Rudy a little earlier as a casual gesture. After all, Fane was not all that close to Rudy.

When he was about to enter his own room, Rudy suddenly shouted at Fane, "Thank you for your help today, Fane."

Fane raised an eyebrow. He had thought that Rudy would not express any gratitude to him. After all, Rudy was usually so prideful, but he suddenly turned humble. Fane nodded without turning around, it was not a big gesture to him.

The only thing he wanted to do at that moment was to hurry back into his room. Once Lou came back with the rewards, he would start refining the Green Sun Pill.

Just as Fane opened his door, Rudy once again shouted out, "Fane, I didn't plan on telling you this before, but after thinking about it, I feel like I have to."

Rudy's tone was very strange. There was a hint of anxiety in his sombreness. Fane frowned as he turned to look at Rudy who still looked as depressed as he was before.

Fane then furrowed his eyebrows and asked, "What is it?"

Chapter 2560

Rudy took a deep breath and said, "Ever since Grayson bid us farewell and headed to his courtyard, I haven't seen him at all.

"I don't know anyone here other than you and him, so I felt like looking for him when I was free. However, he did not seem to be there every time I went over. I asked the person who is staying in the same courtyard as him, but the guy claims to have never met Grayson."

Fane said curiously, "He never met Grayson? Do you mean Grayson is missing? He went missing in Phoenix Valley?"

Rudy nodded seriously, "I felt like something was wrong, so I found the time to look for Mr. Zayne. However, what made it stranger was that Mr. Zayne told me to mind my own business.

"He told me that you and I were safe. He said to not ask about anything else and to not think about it either. After that, he sent me back."

Saying that Rudy had a sour look on his face. It was evident how scared he was from his expression. Fane's eyebrows furrowed even further.

The two of them knew that Grayson's disappearance is not something as simple as that.

Otherwise, Mr. Zayne would not have said what he did. Fane took a deep breath as he pushed open the door to his room. After that, he waved at Rudy to come in and talk.

When the two of them went inside, Fane poured Rudy a cup of tea. Sipping the tea, Rudy managed to regain some of his composure.

"That's one of the reasons I insisted on following you around. I'm not an idiot, I know you don't want me around you. I'm just afraid. I'm worried that something might happen to me at any time if I don't follow you.

"Mr. Zayne was very direct when he said everything. When he talked to me, he had a strange expression. Those words seemed to have been meant to threaten me. He doesn't want me meddling."

Fane nodded as he drank a mouthful of tea. Ever since they entered Phoenix Valley, Fane had forgotten all about Grayson. After all, Fane was someone with big ambitions.

He had never been someone to hold petty grudges. Even though Grayson had infuriated Fane before, Fane lost the urge to do anything to Grayson as time passed.

He never expected such a sinister plot to be involved when he next heard that name. Fane took a deep breath as he started to have a worried expression as well.

Fane had always been someone who held back from showing his emotions, but after hearing Rudy's words, it was hard for him to control his expressions.

"So you're telling me that he's never been seen after he left for his own courtyard. Either he's completely lost, or he was captured by someone."

Rudy nodded seriously. It really did happen that way. Ever since Grayson bid them farewell, Grayson seemed to completely disappear from Phoenix Valley.

"This has to have been done by Phoenix Valley, but why would they kidnap Grayson and even threaten me..."

Fane took a deep breath as his mind raced. After thinking about it for a while, he said, "He was kidnapped in broad daylight. We don't know what his situation is like right now. What he really needs to know isn't where he is, but why he was taken.

"Even though Mr. Zayne sounded nice when he said the two of us were safe, it did not mean that things were as safe as Mr. Zayne claimed. He probably just said that to placate us. "