

2301

'F*ck!' Jonas cursed internally, 'How dare that penniless kid lie to my cousin sister? He's going to regret this.' He then scurried home hurriedly to ask for help.

The other side.

Tanya went to the first floor after asking the hotel owner and knocked on Darryl's room door.

Creak.

Darryl, who was lying down, opened the door quickly when he heard the noise. Realizing that it was Tanya, he smiled.

She smiled lightly and said apologetically, "Excuse me for coming at this hour, am I disturbing you from resting?"

"Not at all!"

Darryl shook his head and invited her into his room courteously.

"Are you really Darryl Darby?" Tanya fixed her gaze on him upon entering the room. She could no longer withhold her curiosity.

"Haha!"

Darryl burst into laughter. He thought that she was amusing for still refusing to believe his identity.

He took in a deep breath and took his gold mask out, indicating the Sect Master of Elysium Gate the next second. He chuckled. "Here's my proof. Miss Snyder, I suppose you wouldn't suspect me anymore, am I right?"

Tanya's delicate body shuddered with indescribable excitement the moment she saw the gold mask.

She could see that the gold mask was finely-produced and unique. It was clearly authentic.

Realizing that her idol was right in front of her, Tanya could not help it but to express her happiness. "I hope that you don't mind what happened this afternoon. My cousin brother..."

She was interrupted by Darryl before she could finish!

"I already forgot what happened earlier!" Darryl smiled at her and continued in a gentle tone, "However, the Chaotic Mountain Range incident isn't a trivial matter. I hope that you can arrange a meeting with the Head of the Dokko family as soon as possible."

"Sure!"

Tanya nodded and replied softly, "Sir Dokko will be coming to my house for a visit tomorrow. How about you come along and look for me, using this emblem tomorrow? I will introduce you to each other when the time comes."

She placed a jade ornament that she carried with her onto Darryl's hand as she spoke.

The jade ornament which was sculpted from rare and precious White Jade looked clear and shiny.

Tanya had been carrying the ornament with her since she was young, it was the indication of her status as the Elder Miss in the Snyder family. She had always treasured it and she never took it out casually. However, she gave it to Darryl because she became too emotional upon meeting her idol.

"Thank you!" Darryl took the ornament, feeling inexpressibly relieved.

He was not expecting that Tanya would be reliable in handling the matter. He would not let Rama down if he could succeed in advising the Head of the Dokko family tomorrow.

He was immersed in his thoughts when he noticed a hint of sorrow in Tanya's eyes despite her smile. He could not suppress his curiosity and asked, "Miss Snyder, will there be some difficulties?"

She smiled and shook her head. "It's nothing, we just have some small issues in the family business."

How could she trouble her idol with trivial issues about business when he was someone who should only be concerned with important matters?

Tanya recovered from her daze and realized that it was getting late. She smiled at Darryl politely, "It's late, I should go." She turned and left the room.

Darryl followed her to send her off. He waved his arm and bid her goodbye. "I'll see you tomorrow."

Phew!

Darryl heaved a sigh of relief after watching her leave. He felt liberated.

He was thankful for Tanya's favor. Otherwise, he would be facing obstacles trying to meet the Head of the Dokko family.

He pondered as he proceeded to walk back into the hotel.

"Hey, brat!"

A loud voice boomed from a distance. A dozen men charged over with speed and surrounded Darryl. The men leading them had a menacing expression with flames of anger flashing within his eyes. It was Jonas Dokko!

The men behind him were his subordinates.

Jonas was enraged when he saw his cousin sister walking into the hotel to meet Darryl. Who would be unaffected by the fact that their romantic interest seemed to be getting close to another man? Jonas had asked his men over, he was planning to teach Darryl a lesson.

He had been observing the movements within the hotel all this while. He only brought his men and charged when Tanya left.

Jonas stared at Darryl with disdain, a sinister smile on his face. "You brat, you should have left this place instantly instead of staying, after challenging me this afternoon. Also, how dare you take interest in my cousin sister? I will regret it if I don't teach you a lesson tonight! Take him!"

The subordinates held up their long swords firmly as they slashed towards Darryl as instructed.

Pfft...

A dozen swords danced and flashed with cold light in the night. It seemed like Darryl was about to be split into two.

Whoosh!

Darryl's body moved suddenly in that split second and the swords missed him as if they were blind. They did not even touch Darryl's shirt.

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What?

Jonas was dumbfounded. There was no way that he would be able to dodge a dozen swords! However, Darryl avoided them all like it was nothing, right in front of him!

“Jonas...Are you brainless, or just dumb? I already showed you my powers at the Green Dragon City Gate earlier. Do you think that you can teach me a lesson with these gluttons here? Hilarious!” Darryl stood there and mocked Jonas, staring at him with a half-smile.

The strongest amongst Jonas’s subordinates was only a Martial Saint, they were no match for him at all.

Whoosh!

Jonas’s face flushed crimson with rage when he heard Darryl’s words. He pointed his finger at him and roared, “Get him! I will reward those who manage to hurt him!”

The men exchanged a few glances before charging at Darryl once again.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Darryl let out a chuckle before he took action. He defeated the men easily. They all collapsed to the ground after just a few punches and kicks, wailing and rolling in pain.

“Your turn!”

Darryl exclaimed in an unconcerned tone before he appeared right in front of Jonas in a flash and hurled his palm toward him!

Jonas was thrown backwards from the impact before he could react. He flew back almost a dozen meters before finally landing on the ground on his buttocks.

Darryl stared at him coldly instead of continuing attacking him. “My patience is limited. It’d be better for you not to disturb me or else, I wouldn’t just stop after one attack!”

Indeed, he had spared Jonas and his men. If not, they would have been dead already.

To be frank, Darryl was usually not lenient to a person like Jonas. However, he refrained himself from going hard on him when he remembered that he was Tanya’s cousin and he needed a favor from her.

“You...”

Jonas covered his face as he glared at Darryl with hatred. He clenched his teeth as he said, “Fine, don’t be so happy just yet. Just wait, we shall see...”

Giving no regards to his subordinates around him, he stumbled back onto his feet and fled dejectedly.

‘What an idiot!’

Darryl let out a cold chuckle before turning and he walking back to the hotel.

...

At the same time in Snyder Residence.

When Tanya arrived home, she wanted to tell her father about Darryl coming to visit but she held the urge because it was late.

The next morning, her father, Bob Snyder summoned her to the study when she just woke up!

Bob was sitting on a wooden antique armchair in the study with a book in his hands.

As the Head of the Snyder family, Bob was a humble and prudent man. He had been focusing on expanding his family business for the past decade and he became renowned among the business industry in Middle Terra. He was a pivotal individual.

However, Bob was anxious. Over the past two years, the Snyder’s family business had been facing some obstacles due to the many situational changes in the nine cities of Mainland.

“Father!”

Tanya entered the study. She bit her lips and asked softly, “Father, is it something urgent?”

Bob smiled lightly and replied in a gentle tone, “Tanya, how was the meeting with Dragon Tech? Will there be a chance for a collaboration?”

Tanya had always been the apple of his eyes because she was his only daughter and he loved her dearly.

Tanya sighed guiltily. “No...The owner of Dragon Tech did not even meet me.”

‘Huh?’

Bob's smile froze and he became stunned momentarily. He quickly regained his composure and comforted her. "It's fine, I expected it. We acknowledge that Dragon Tech is a huge tech company in the World Universe and they are the leading company who brought in technology development in Middle Terra. Although we are quite known in Middle Terra, we still have a long way to go to reach their level. It's only fair that they turned their noses up on us!"

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Tanya disagreed with her father's words but she did not say them out loud.

"Tanya?" Bob stared at his daughter as he thought of something and laughed. "I am glad that you are willing to take over the family business. However, you are a woman and it isn't appropriate for you to be engaged in business talks out there. You're not a little girl anymore. I have been thinking about your marriage so I wanted to ask you if there is anyone you are interested in."

Tanya's cheeks flushed in embarrassment when she heard that. She shook her head and said, "I...don't have anyone in mind."

She walked towards her father to hug his arm and shook it in a playful way. "Father, I don't want to get married yet. I want to stay by your side and help you out in our family business."

"Haha!"

Relieved to hear that, Bob laughed but he still shook his head. "Silly girl, you should get married when it's time! A daughter should not be clinging on to her father forever!"

His eyes flickered and he continued with a smile, "I don't want you to leave, either. So, I was thinking about finding you a husband who would get married into our family."

Tanya's petite body shuddered as she blushed. "Father, let's talk about this some other time."

She was extremely embarrassed.

'Father is already thinking about marrying me off although I am not interested in anyone? He even wants to find me a husband who would marry into the family. How embarrassing.'

"Fine, I'll stop..."

Bob burst into laughter when he noticed his daughter's embarrassment.

A maid briskly walked in and spoke courteously, "Sir, the Head of the Dokko's family and his second son, Jonas is here for a visit. They are waiting in the front hall."

'Uncle Dokko's here?'

Tanya's face lit up with joy and she rushed forward. "Father, hurry up! Let's go meet them!"

She would be totally uninterested if the Head of the Dokko family and Jonas visited them in the past but she was eager now that she was going to introduce Darryl to them!

To be able to help her idol out was an honor.

“Hmm?”

Bob was surprised to see Tanya’s excitement.

‘What is up with her? She used to be extremely repulsed whenever she heard Jonas’s name. Why is she so happy this time?’

The front hall.

A middle-aged man sat on a sophisticated rosewood chair in a long silk robe. He appeared tranquil and mighty, exuding an intimidating aura.

He was Colt Dokko, the Head of the Dokko family.

The Dokko family was the most influential family of cultivators in Middle Terra with a distinguished family name. As the Head, Colt had a noble character and valiant powers of a Level five martial king.

Jonas stood behind Colt silently in a neat suit. He looked decent and handsome despite the bruise on his face.

He did not disclose that the bruise was caused by Darryl’s attack the previous night. He said that he fell down by accident instead.

“Tanya!”

Noticing Tanya and Bob walking over, Jonas walked to them quickly with a fawning expression. “Tanya, did you sleep well last night?”

Tanya nodded and hummed in acknowledgment.

She walked toward Colt with a smile. “Uncle, you’re here!”

“Hmm!”

A smile spread across Colt’s face. Tanya and his son were both remarkable individuals and they looked like a perfect match standing next to each other.

'Not bad.' Colt was very protective of his son and his care extended to Tanya too because he looked up to her. He also knew that Jonas was obsessed with her. Colt had always considered Tanya his daughter-in-law.

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Bob walked towards them and smiled at Colt. "You finally have the time to come for a visit?"

The Dokko family was a family of cultivators whereas the Snyder family owned a family business but they were close acquaintances. Bob and Colt were very close to each other as if they were sworn brothers.

Bob greeted them and then instructed the maids. "Bring us some decent tea."

The maids served them tea. Bob and Colt chatted for a while before Colt said cheerfully, "I'm actually here today for Tanya!"

He explained everything!

Jonas had gone to his father right after he returned home the night before. He had begged his father to help Tanya regarding the collaboration with Dragon Tech.

Colt was famous in the community so he barely interfered in the business industry. However, he had to agree this time because his son begged him desperately. Plus, the matter was concerning his future daughter-in-law.

Phew!

Bob gave Tanya an accusing glance when he heard that.

He let out a bitter chuckle and replied, "I can't believe that Jonas made you come to visit because of this. How dramatic!"

"How is this dramatic?"

Colt shook his head, his expression serious. "Our family has been close to yours, we are like one big family. One has to know his limits. The owner of Dragon tech turning his nose up on your family is equivalent to looking down on the Dokko family too. I cannot just watch from the sidelines regarding this, even if Jonas had not asked me to interfere!"

Bob nodded with a smile when he heard that. "You are right, but businesses are all about profits that come from social relations. I think that we should put a hold on this for now."

"Fine!"

Still smiling, Colt continued, "We'll talk about this later. I am actually here today for another important matter, a wedding between our families!"

'A wedding?' Bob froze for a moment then recovered quickly. "What wedding?"

Colt explained, "Bob, Jonas and Tanya are not young anymore. Also, Jonas has always adored her. Therefore, I brought Jonas here today to ask for your blessing for their marriage."

Jonas's face was lit up with excitement.

Indeed, Colt had decided last night that he would take this opportunity to ask Bob about their marriage.

'What?'

Tanya's was frozen on the spot. Her mind was buzzing!

'He had asked Uncle Colt to ask for father's blessing for our marriage?'

"Well..."

Even Bob was stunned. He regained his senses immediately and nodded with a smile. "What a coincidence, I was just talking to Tanya about marriage. I don't have a son and she is my only daughter so I wanted to get her a husband who is willing to get married into my family..."

He was interrupted by Jonas before he could finish.

"I'm willing to!" Jonas looked very agitated and his tone was dignified.

He did not mind getting married into the Snyder family as long as Tanya could become his. He figured that he would not get mistreated here since the two families were on great terms.

"Shut up!"

Tanya's delicate face was crimson at that moment. She stomped her feet in anger as she said, "I...I don't want to get married now, not to mention to you."

To her, Jonas was a total good-for-nothing. He was far from the ideal husband she had in mind.

Bob froze and asked in astonishment, "Why?"

He was confused with his daughter's reaction because he had always thought that Jonas was alright. Jonas had always liked her and they had grown up together, he was arguably her childhood sweetheart. Why was she so repulsed by him?

Phew!

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Colt looked as astonished as Bob. He did not expect that Tanya would reject his son in such a blunt manner.

Tanya took in a deep breath and turned to Bob, her expression serious. "Father, I told you that I don't want to get married just yet. I want to help you in managing the family business. Also, Jonas is not my type."

"Tanya!" Jonas panicked and explained himself hurriedly. "I know that you have your opinions about me but you just have to say it, I'll change! I promise to be good to you forever!"

Tanya did not reply..

"Haha..."

Colt laughed and glanced at Tanya. "Tanya, you're still young. It's good that you have your own opinions but you have to understand that Jonas's feelings towards you are sincere. I know that you want to help to manage the family business but that would be exhausting for a woman. Wouldn't it be great to have someone to help you out if you get married to Jonas? Also, you would have the Dokko family's support when our families merge because of the wedding. The Snyder family's business can only go up from there."

Tanya bit her lip hard but she did not reply. Her expression was neutral but she still did not show any signs of agreeing.

"Tanya!"

Jonas was extremely anxious and he wanted about to say something.

"Sir!"

A maid walked towards them and said, "A man named Darryl Darby is here. I have already invited him in."

Darryl Darby?

Not just Colt, even Bob was shocked when they heard that name. Darryl Darby, the individual of a great reputation around the nine cities, was visiting the Snyder Residence in person?

They were also unsure at the same time as there had been people impersonating Darryl to con people in various places over the past few years.

The one at their door now might just be another con artist.

Tanya's face lit up with joy and excitement because her idol showed up just in time to relieve her from the awkward situation.

"F*ck!"

Jonas regained from his daze and burst into anger. "It's that penniless con artist again! He has the guts, how dare he come to the Snyder Residence!"

Having been punished by Darryl the night before and leaving a bruise on his face, he became overwhelmed with hatred the moment he heard his name.

The more he thought about it, the angrier he became. He pointed at the maid and shouted, "Don't you know how many con artists have claimed to be Darryl Darby throughout these years? How can you let him in just like that? Is this how you do your job?"

The maid became fidgety and nervous. "Sir, that man has Miss Snyder's emblem. I didn't dare to ask him to wait."

'What?'

Jonas froze and his mind could no longer process properly.

'He has Tanya's jade ornament?'

Jonas was still in a daze when a light footsteps were heard. A man and a woman walked into the hall. The man looked handsome and smart with an extraordinary aura whereas the woman looked cold but attractive. Her beauty was incomparable.

It was Darryl and Gonggong.

Jonas noticed Tanya's jade ornament in Darryl's hand from just a glance. His body trembled with jealousy and loathe.

The jade ornament was the Snyders' family heirloom. Tanya had been wearing it since she was young and she treasured it very much. He never had the chance to even hold the jade ornament in his hand and to have a proper look at it before. Yet, Tanya chose to give it to that kid as an emblem?

'He is just a penniless con artist. How did he manage to get that?'

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Fuh!

Bob finally regained his senses. He looked at Darryl from head to toe. "You must be Darryl Darby, the Sect Master of Elysium Gate and the emperor of Westrington."

His eyes were filled with suspicion as he said that because Darryl was dressed in an extremely common attire. He did not look like a hotshot who was famous in the nine cities at all!

Colt and the Snyder family's subordinates around them fixed their stares on Darryl with caution all at once.

Many of them were attracted to Gonggong, especially the men. They were staring right at her.

Pretty!

She looked really pretty!

They could not believe that such a perfect woman existed. She looked like an angel sent from above.

Under the crowd's gaze, Darryl smiled lightly as he gave Bob a handshake. "You must be Mister Snyder, Tanya's father. You're right, I am Darryl Darby. Excuse me for coming to your place and intruding."

Darryl was secretly observing Colt when he said those words.

He could clearly sense that Colt had powerful internal energy. He was a Level five martial king just like him.

Jonas walked towards Darryl in big strides with a mocking expression. "Brat, how dare you bring your bullsh*t to the Snyder Residence? Do you know what kind of place this is? Do you know what are the consequences of trying to scam people here?"

His gaze on Darryl was filled with hatred.

It was because he got beaten up instead last night when he wanted to teach Darryl a lesson. He wouldn't usually act this overbearingly in front of Darryl because Darryl seemed to be too powerful.

However, he became egotistical and fearless because his father was there.

Darryl let out a light chuckle and ignored him.

Jonas scoffed, thinking that he felt guilty. He turned to the crowd and exclaimed, "This is the brat who has been telling lies. He did not just claim that he is Darryl Darby, he also said that he received an invitation from Rama to request a few men from the Dokko family to guard Chaotic Mountain Range."

He turned to Colt and continued, "Father, don't trust him. The Rama who came to our house days ago was peculiar. His talk about the Wild Deserted Secret Region and Raksasa Tribe were all lies! This brat is with him, they're both bad people."

Whoosh!

Upon hearing his son's accusation, Colt squinted his eyes slightly and he stared at Darryl from top to toe, his expression hostile.

Rama had visited the Dokko family days ago to talk about the Chaotic Mountain Range's situation but Colt thought that he was talking nonsense because there was no mention of the Wild Deserted Secret Region on the other side of the Chaotic Mountain Range in the ancient books in their family's collection. As for the Raksasa Tribe, they had never even heard of it.

Colt had gotten rid of Rama immediately then.

"Your Excellency!"

Bob, who had been quiet, looked at Darryl with a half-smile. "You said that you are Darryl Darby, can you prove it?"

Tanya could not help but to interrupt. "Father, it really is him. I can prove it."

She then walked to Darryl with adoration and eagerness on her face. "Darryl, show them your golden mask." He had the one and only golden mask which indicated his status as the Sect Master of Elysium Gate. Everyone would stop doubting him after seeing it.

Darryl hummed in acknowledgment and nodded before taking out the mask.

Everyone present had their gazes fixed on the mask in an instant, their faces filled with disbelief.

The golden mask of Elysium Gate's Sect Master?

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'Is he really Darryl Darby?'

"Haha!"

Jonas could not help it and burst into laughter. The crowd muttered amongst each other. He pointed to the mask in Darryl's hand. "Brat, I have to give it to you. The mask looks super authentic! Let me tell you something, there are way too many who claimed to be Darryl Darby and there are also many fake masks like this one! Will you believe me if I say that I can make one that is similar to yours within just half an hour in the Snyder family's factory?"

Most of the people in the room burst into laughter.

Darryl frowned, looking displeased. 'Is he crazy? Is he picking on me just because I got closer to Tanya? It's not like I have any grudge against him.'

"Jonas Dokko!" Tanya was extremely furious. "Can you please stop butting in? He is Darryl Darby, why are you accusing him of being a fake? Also, did you forget who saved us when we were captured at the Green Dragon City Gate in Westrington?" She was annoyed that Jonas was biting on the hand that had helped him. Not to mention, he wanted to marry her.

"I..."

Jonas stuttered with embarrassment and muttered, "We met a nice official in Green Dragon City Gate. What does it have anything to do with him?"

"Your Excellency!"

Darryl walked over and smiled at Colt, "You must be the Head of the Dokko family. Regardless of whether I am the true Darryl Darby, the Chaotic Mountain Range situation cannot afford any more delays. The consequences will be grave if the Raksasa Tribe gets past there. This incident requires the nine cities in the Mainland to unite so I hope that you can take this matter seriously and assign some of your men to help guard the Chaotic Mountain Range to prevent that from happening."

Darryl looked sincere as he explained.

Colt stifled a laugh and replied casually, "From what I know, there are no records of the Raksasa Tribe being in the nine cities in the Mainland for hundreds and thousands of years. It'd be a joke if the various forces in the nine cities get their men there just because of Rama's few words."

He stared at Darryl with a solemn expression as he continued, "I strongly believe that as the ace who is well-known in the nine cities, Darryl Darby wouldn't have trusted an absurd talk, especially after all he had experienced!"

Darryl had mixed emotions when he heard that.

'The Dokko family members are indeed full of themselves. Jonas Dokko is like that, even Colt Dokko is the same. Like father, like son indeed.' Darryl was about to retort but he was interrupted by Bob.

"That's enough!" Bob gave Darryl a glance and chuckled. "The words of the Head of the Dokko family are clear and I'm sure that you got the message. I wanted to ask you to leave but I don't want to make things ugly for you in front of Tanya. Just stop talking about the Chaotic Mountain Range."

He ignored Darryl after that without another word.

"Father!"

Tanya panicked. She wanted to talk on Darryl's behalf. However, she did not know how to start when she noticed Bob's dignified expression.

"Uhh..."

Darryl felt helpless at that moment. He finally understood Rama's difficulty, it was not easy to persuade them.

Jonas was extremely pleased to see Darryl's hopeless expression.

'I told you that this is just the start, for trying to oppose me. There are more to come.'

He planned to criticize Darryl in front of his father when he got the chance, in hopes that his father would teach him a tough lesson personally.

"Tanya!" Colt turned to look at Tanya with a smile. "Let's resume our topic. I am not going to pressure you since you're not willing to get married now. It wouldn't be a problem to postpone the wedding for another two years. As for the collaboration with Dragon Tech, I already got my men to send them a message and I'm sure that the owner will show me some respect."

Colt had been involved in the community for a long time and he was good at social connections. He decided not to push Tanya when he noticed how repulsed she was with Jonas. He chose to focus on doing Tanya a favor in business instead. He was clear that the Snyder family would owe him big time if he helped them in regards to the collaboration with Dragon Tech, since they were getting desperate.

He would ask for their blessing on the marriage again when the time was right. He was sure that Bob would talk to Tanya about it, on behalf of Jonas, even if she would still not be willing to get married to him then.

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“Well...”

Tanya bit her lip. She contemplated hard before she finally said softly, “Uncle, I will handle the business matter myself. I don’t want to trouble you.”

She was not stupid. She had to refuse his help as she knew that she would not have the courage to reject Jonas’s next proposal if she were to accept Colt’s help.

Colt smiled without saying anything.

“Tanya!”

Bob could no longer keep quiet. His brows furrowed as he reprimanded her, “Why are you rejecting your uncle’s help?”

Bob acted like he did not care about the collaboration with Dragon Tech but it was actually making him frantic. He had only kept it in because of his status.

“Exactly.” Jonas walked over hurriedly and seized the opportunity. “Tanya, you saw it yesterday. Dragon Tech’s owner is really arrogant, even I can’t handle him. It has to be my father. The collaboration between Dragon Tech and your family will be impossible if you refuse my father’s help.”

He had a sincere expression. “You have always wanted to prove your capabilities, haven’t you? You will be the youngest and most successful businesswoman in Middle Terra if you collaborate with Dragon Tech. Isn’t this what you always wanted?”

Tanya stayed silent when she heard that. Her mind was in a mess and she felt lost.

‘What should I do?’

The collaboration would almost definitely not happen if she refused.

However, she knew that Jonas would bother her every day, using that as an excuse if she agreed.

Tanya furrowed her delicate brows, contemplating.

Darryl, who was watching the scene, smiled. He finally realized the reason Tanya was unhappy and it was because of the collaboration with Dragon Tech.

He walked towards her and smiled. "Miss Snyder, do you wish to collaborate with Dragon Tech? I can help you."

'Really?'

Tanya's eyes lit up with surprise and joy. She asked, "You are...willing to help me?"

She thought from his perspective and remembered that there was nothing that he could not achieve as Elysium Gate's Sect Master. He must have ideas if he said so.

Darryl smiled and was about to answer her when Jonas walked up to them.

Jonas mocked, "Brat, why are you interfering in everything? Do you have any idea what Dragon Tech does? Do you know who the owner is? How dare you drop such big words as if you're going to help?"

The people around them started pointing fingers at Darryl.

"Con artists are getting better at boasting nowadays."

"Exactly. He's lucky that the Master is good-tempered or he would be thrown out of the house by now."

"I wonder why Miss trusts him..."

The snide comments kept coming but Darryl ignored all of them. He took out the phone given by Paul James the previous night, and swiftly sent him a message.

The telecommunication in Middle Terra was still at its initial phase so phones were not common yet. But Dragon Tech had already built several signal stations and had formed their own intranet.

The internal staff of Dragon Tech were already using phones because of the accessibility.

Of course, it was only the staff that had the accessibility.

Tanya stomped her feet in anger as Jonas kept stirring up trouble and slandering Darryl.

Gonggong, who had been silent all the while, could no longer keep quiet. She turned to Darryl and whispered, "Darryl, are you okay with this?" She could not believe that Darryl could keep calm under all the ridiculing by the people. Jonas would be dead already if she was the one who was getting mocked.

Darryl exhaled and replied helplessly, "I have to. The most important thing now is to request for the Dokko family to send their people as soon as possible. If I act now, I will disrupt the unity and our cooperation in the future will be affected."

Gonggong did not say anything else after that.

The people continued ridiculing Darryl but he kept silent. It eventually died down, they assumed he was feeling guilty.

"Go!" Bob instructed his maids. "Prepare good food and wine. I am going to have a few drinks with Sir Dokko."

He did not even look at Darryl. He still suspected that he could be a con artist. He chose to not make a fuss about him as his daughter was there.

He was planning to find a time to distract his daughter so that he could deal with Darryl later.

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“Yes, Master!” The maids answered and proceeded to prepare.

The food and wine were prepared soon enough. There was a variety of food but only four sets of plates and cutlery were laid out. It was clear that Darryl was not included.

“Huh?”

Jonas stared at Darryl and shouted, “Why are you still here? Are you going to steal food and drinks from us? Let me tell you this, Tanya is a kind person, but-”

He was interrupted before he could finish.

“Master!”

The butler entered, covered in sweat. He could hardly conceal the excitement on his face. He went to Bob and said courteously, “Paul James, the owner of Dragon Tech is here.”

‘What?’

Everyone present was shocked. Then they turned to look at Colt with admiration.

They had known that the Dokko family was indeed respectable in the Middle Terra community. Even Paul was showing his respect to them.

The owner of Dragon Tech came in person just moments after the Head of the Dokko family said that he was going to help Tanya.

Colt was smiling in an enigmatic manner.

Jonas who was in the seat next to him looked proud and pleased. He gave Tanya an affectionate glance.

‘This is great!’

He assumed that the owner of Dragon Tech had come to visit because of his father’s message. He figured that Tanya would be grateful to him if the negotiation went smoothly. She would certainly be good to him and she might even agree to get married.

Nobody was paying any attention to Darryl at that moment. He was completely ignored.

He did not fret at all. He just stood there and waited silently.

Laughter was heard as a handsome silhouette walked into the hall under the crowd's gazes! It was Paul James!

He did not take long and came immediately once he received the message from Darryl.

Everyone had their eyes on him in an instant.

Paul was wearing a personally tailored suit and a limited edition watch on his wrist. He looked spirited and handsome with his short hair. He had the aura of a business tycoon despite his young age.

Everyone present was amazed by his appearance.

'A business magnate from World Universe, indeed! He has a special aura!'

Awed, the people's gazes returned to Colt again.

The owner of Dragon Tech had a huge influence. Who else could invite him here other than the Head of the Dokko family?

After all, Colt Dokko was an influential person in Middle Terra.

'This is...'

Even Tanya was stunned. She stared at Paul in a daze with mixed emotions.

'Is Mister James here because Uncle Dokko invited him? I can't reject his favor anymore, if that's the case.'

"Hello!"

Paul looked around him. Then, he walked towards Tanya in big, smart strides. He extended a hand and said politely, "You must be Miss Snyder, you came to my company yesterday."

Tanya was flattered that Paul would greet her personally. She shook his hand, still in a daze.

"Excuse me," Paul continued, "I couldn't meet you because I've been very busy, please don't take it personally. I have already signed the contract and I hope that we can work well together."

His tone was apologetic yet sincere.

"No, it's fine!" answered Tanya quickly. Overwhelmed with emotions, she was a little fidgety.

'Is the collaboration happening? Am I dreaming?'

The crowd was astonished by the scene unfolding in front of them. They turned to look at Colt again, admiration in their eyes.

'The Dokko family must be really powerful or Mister James would not be this polite to Miss Snyder! He even apologized to her in front of so many people.'

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Colt was indescribably pleased to be in the center of the crowd's attention.

He looked at Paul and nodded silently in acknowledgment.

Colt recognized that Paul held himself very well. He did not make anyone feel hostile toward him at all because of his humbleness and good manners. No wonder he could manage a tech company on such a large scale.

He figured that he should head over to greet Paul as well.

Colt had on a smile and walked towards them. "Hello, it is such an honor to have you here!"

He thought that Paul would accept his handshake but Paul only gave him a polite smile before looking in another direction.

Paul looked around and walked straight past him.

"What..."

The whole hall became dead silent when they saw that. Everyone was stunned.

"What's happening?"

"Shouldn't Paul James have a friendly chat with Colt Dokko? Why is he being so indifferent towards him? He was a different person with Tanya previously!"

Paul walked towards Darryl instead.

The crowd gasped.

"Perhaps Paul James came to the Snyder Residence because of that kid, and not because of Sir Dokko's invitation?"

"How is that possible?"

"Brother Darryl!"

Paul bowed in front of Darryl respectfully and said, "The collaboration has been set up as you instructed. Are there any other orders?"

Wow!

Everyone could not believe what they were seeing. Their jaws dropped.

“Paul James came because of that kid.”

“Also, what did he just call him? Brother Darryl?”

“You...”

Jonas’s mouth gaped open as he stared at Paul blankly, at a loss for words.

He thought that Paul only came in person because of his father’s status. It was beyond his expectation that the person who got Paul here was the penniless con artist!

Colt’s expression was extremely sour.

“Mister James!”

Bob was the first to recover from the shock. He stared at Paul and asked out of curiosity, “What did you just call him?”

“Brother Darryl!” Paul gave him a smile and answered without much thought.

Bob gulped silently and asked again, “Then, he...”

Paul did not wait for him to finish. He turned to those around him with a light smile and said in a solemn tone, “Everyone, this is Darryl Darby, World Universe’s hero and the well-known Sect Master of Elysium Gate. He will always be Brother Darryl to me, though.”

What?

The hall erupted into chaos instantly as the people started talking among each other.

“Is he really...Darryl Darby?”

“It doesn’t seem like it. He is dressed way too commonly.”

“Yeah. He is totally different from what I thought.”

Darryl only smiled without saying anything.

Paul chuckled lightly and looked around him. “There’s nothing suspicious here. I am from World Universe, how can I not know Brother Darryl? Not to mention, he helped me a lot when he

hasn't established Elysium Gate yet. I can say that Dragon Tech today wouldn't be possible without him."

He glanced at Darryl with a serious expression. "I am willing to give Dragon Tech away immediately with just an order from him."

His tone was dignified and sure.

The hall became dead silent. Everyone was staring at Darryl, at a loss for words, especially Bob, Colt, and Jonas. Their expressions were conflicted.

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This was awkward. He really was Darryl. He hadn't believed it earlier and kept mocking him.

Tanya, who was standing by the side, looked at Darryl. She was trembling with joy.

Great! Finally, someone who could prove Darryl's identity.

"Jonas!"

At that moment, Colt had recovered from the unexpected turn of events and shouted at Jonas. "Quick, apologize to Darryl immediately!"

When he said this, Colt's gaze was stern and unquestionable. Colt had always been very protective of his second son. If it were anyone else, he would definitely not have made his son apologize.

However, Darryl was different. His identity was not to be underestimated. Not only was he the Sect Master of Elysium Gate, he was also the emperor of Westrington. How could he afford to offend such an existence?

"I—"

Jonas's heart skipped a beat. He was very resistant. But it was obvious from his father's expression that he had to obey.

Jonas lowered his head, avoiding eye contact with Darryl. He mumbled, "I'm...I'm sorry. I failed to recognize the golden mask earlier and have offended you. I hope you can forgive me."

Right then, Jonas felt very aggrieved. He had originally wanted his father to stand up for him and to teach this kid a lesson. However, he never expected that this person was truly Darryl Darby.

Darryl smiled and looked at Jonas. "Forget it. I won't take it to heart."

With that, Darryl turned to Colt and said seriously. "Colt Dokko, now that you've confirmed my identity, you have to consider the Chaotic Mountain Range situation as soon as possible."

Colt hesitated for a moment before saying, "Is this true or..."

Without waiting for him to finish, Darryl interrupted, "Colt Dokko, you don't have to doubt it. It is true. Otherwise, Yang Jian would not have sent people over. Even Yang Jian is so important to him. Is it fake?"

Upon hearing this, Colt was stunned for a moment. Curiously, he asked, "Sect Master, your Diyuan Continent has just suspended the war with the North Sanctuary Continent. Do you believe in Yang Jian?"

Darryl nodded solemnly. Then, he looked at Gonggong next to him. "This concerns the safety of nine cities in the Mainland. Why won't you believe me? This is Her Excellency Gonggong. Yang Jian was sent to investigate the Chaos Mountain Range with me. Now, everyone should believe me, right?"

As soon as he said that, the entire hall went into an uproar. Everyone stared at Gonggong in shock.

This...was the beautiful woman the water god, Gonggong?

No wonder she was so pretty and charming, like a fairy who had descended from the heavens.

"Darryl, you..." Gonggong was not at all comforted by everyone's admiring gazes. Instead, she stomped her feet in anger. Her real motive for following Darryl here was to assassinate him. She could not expose her identity.

But Darryl had revealed his identity here.

"Alright!"

At this moment, Colt nodded his head and said, "Since that's the case, I promise Darryl that I will send some men to the Chaotic Mountains as soon as possible."

Everyone in the World Universe knew that Yang Jian and Darryl were enemies. Now that Yang Jian was willing to let go of his grudges just to send some help to Darryl, it proved that the situation regarding the Chaotic Mountain Range was not baseless.

"That's great!" Seeing that Colt finally agreed, Darryl smiled in relief.

Afterward, Bob welcomed Darryl and Gonggong warmly. Colt accompanied them as they enjoyed the fine wine and delicacies. At the same time, he asked Darryl about the Chaotic Mountains Range.

On the other hand, Jonas could only stand quietly at a corner as he poured himself some tea.

Darryl told Colt everything he knew and discussed ways to set up defenses.

Gradually, the sky turned dark. Bob immediately ordered the maids to arrange rooms for Darryl and Gonggong to rest.

...

Darryl had drunk a lot in the afternoon and was sleeping soundly.

Without a sound, a slim figure pushed open the door of his room and walked in.

Under the moonlight, he saw a beautiful and cold face. It was Gonggong.

Gonggong held up a dagger tightly as she slowly approached Darryl, who was now lying on the ground. Listening to Darryl's even breathing, Gonggong bit her lips, a cold glint flashed across her eyes.

On the way to the Zhongyuan Continent, Gonggong had been unable to find an opportunity to assassinate Darryl due to Qiongqi's protection. Tonight, the opportunity finally came.

This was the Snyder's Family residence. Just that afternoon, Darryl had been drinking with Colt. If Darryl were to die here, the Snyder Family and the Dokko Family would not be able to get away with it. No one would suspect her at all.

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When she reached the foot of the bed, Gonggong raised her dagger and proceeded to stab Darryl, but then hesitated.

At this moment, Gonggong was biting on her lips tightly. She looked at Darryl, conflicted. If she were to kill him, the West Blue Continent, the Earth Yuanyuan Continent, and even the Southern Cloud Continent would definitely fall into chaos...

After interacting with Darryl for the past few days, Gonggong gradually understood his character. Although he was usually cheeky and mischievous, he was not muddled at all during crucial moments or when the situation required him to be serious. Especially if the matter was to do with the nine cities in the Mainland, it could be said that he was extremely righteous.

For the sake of the safety of the nine cities in the Mainland and for the unity of the various powers, he had traveled thousands of miles to the Zhongyuan Continent alone to convince the Dokko Family. Throughout these two days, he had been mocked by so many people. Even so, he had endured it all.

If such a person was killed, it would be a great loss to the Nine Mainland.

But...if she did not kill him, how was she going to explain it to Yang Jian?

Just as Gonggong was hesitating with the dagger in her hand, Darryl, who was lying on the ground, heaved a huge sigh.

Darryl had been through a lot in the past few years, and he was very cautious with his actions. Furthermore, Pang Tong had reminded him when he left Earth Yuan Continent, hence he had been on guard against Gonggong these past few days. When Gonggong had entered the room earlier, Darryl had woken up.

The reason why he did not move was because Darryl wanted to use the silence to make a counterattack.

However, when he saw Gonggong standing there in a daze for a long time without moving, Darryl could not take it anymore.

Sigh!

Darryl sighed softly and slowly sat up. He looked at Gonggong with a smile. "Your Excellency Gonggong, you came to my room in the middle of the night without even greeting me. What are you trying to do? You're still holding a knife? Did you plan to kill me?"

Gonggong was shocked. She never thought that Darryl would wake up so suddenly. She had already concealed her aura and it was impossible for him to detect it.

Gonggong did not know that Darryl was already showing signs of breaking through to the Heaven Ascension and so he could sense any movement.

“That’s right, I’m here to kill you.” Gonggong reacted quickly and shouted. She raised the dagger in her hand and plunged it down at Darryl’s heart.

Initially, Gonggong was a little hesitant, but now that Darryl had discovered it, she no longer hesitated.

Chi...

The dagger drew a cold light and was about to pierce Darryl’s heart.

At this critical moment, Darryl smiled. With a flash, he swiftly avoided the attack.

‘What?’

At that moment, Gonggong’s body trembled. She was extremely shocked. She was able to sense that Darryl’s strength was much stronger than before.

Could it be that Darryl was about to break through to the Heaven Ascension?

“Tsk tsk... Your Excellency Gonggong, we’ve been following each other for the past few days. Soon, we’ll be resisting the Raksasa Tribe together. In my heart, being with you is even more intimate than seeing my woman. You actually want to kill me now?” Darryl looked at Gonggong with a faint smile as he teased.

Upon hearing this, Gonggong’s beautiful face turned red in embarrassment. Darryl was really immoral. He dared mock her? He deserved to die.

Triggered, Gonggong’s inner force burst out gracefully. She reached out to Darryl and slapped him!

“Again?”

Darryl laughed and did not panic at all. Gonggong was too fast and he wasn’t able to dodge. At that time, Darryl was only able to use his internal energy to block the attack.

Bang!

When their hands collided, there was a dull vibration. At that instant, Gonggong took a few steps back, her expression furious.

Gonggong's guess was right. Darryl was about to break through to the Heaven Ascension. His Yang internal energy was extremely pure. Gonggong was no match for him with that palm strike!

“You—”

Gonggong only felt a tightness in her chest as she tried to stabilize herself. She looked at Darryl in shock and anger, her beautiful face filled with disbelief.

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