The Pinnacle of Life – Chapter 0151 - 0160

Alex grabbed the	e stove a	and pulle	ed his h	nead out	of it.
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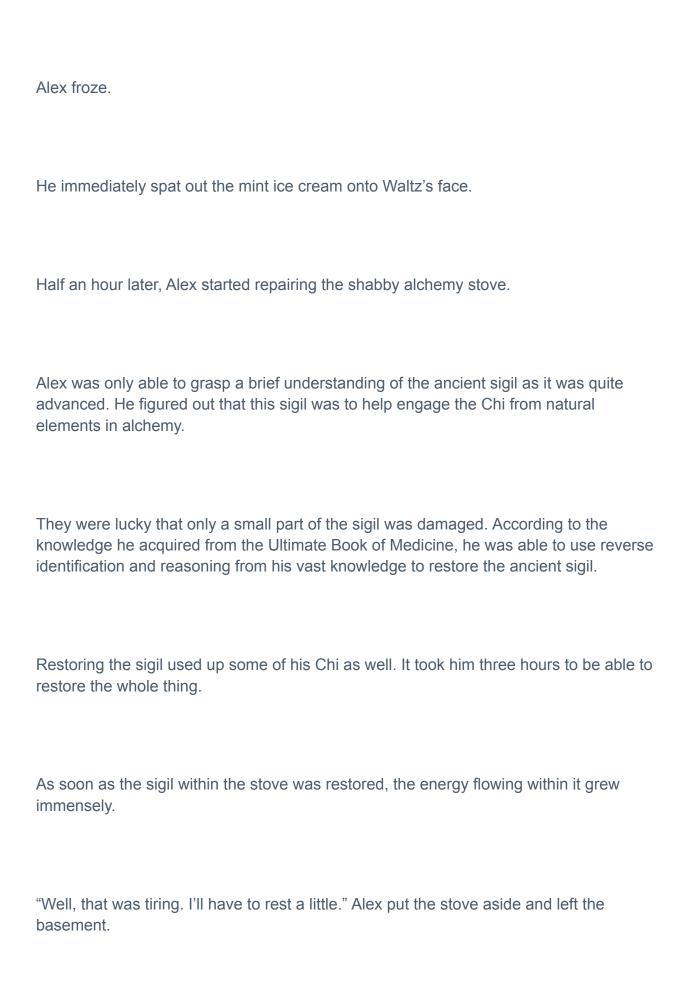
He then rushed to the table excitedly and started scribbling on a notebook. He had used up seven notebooks for the past two days. All of them were filled with weird symbols that Waltz did not recognize.

"I love nerds. Brother, you look so cool when you're focused on work!"

Waltz sat on the table and shoved a spoonful of ice cream into Alex's mouth. Alex was still focused on writing, hence he completely ignored her. After noting down all the sigils that he had figured out, he put down the pen and let out a sigh of relief, as if a boulder had been lifted off his chest.

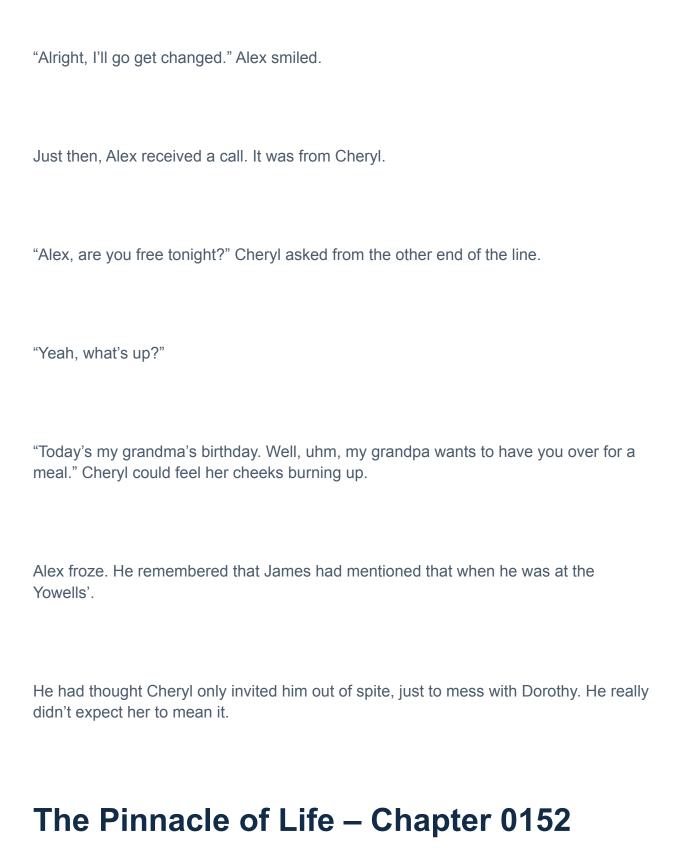
Suddenly, he felt extremely thirsty. A spoonful of ice cream wasn't enough for him, hence he snatched the whole bucket of ice cream and gobbled it all up.

"Brother, I couldn't finish the ice cream in the bucket, so I actually spat the rest out back into it."

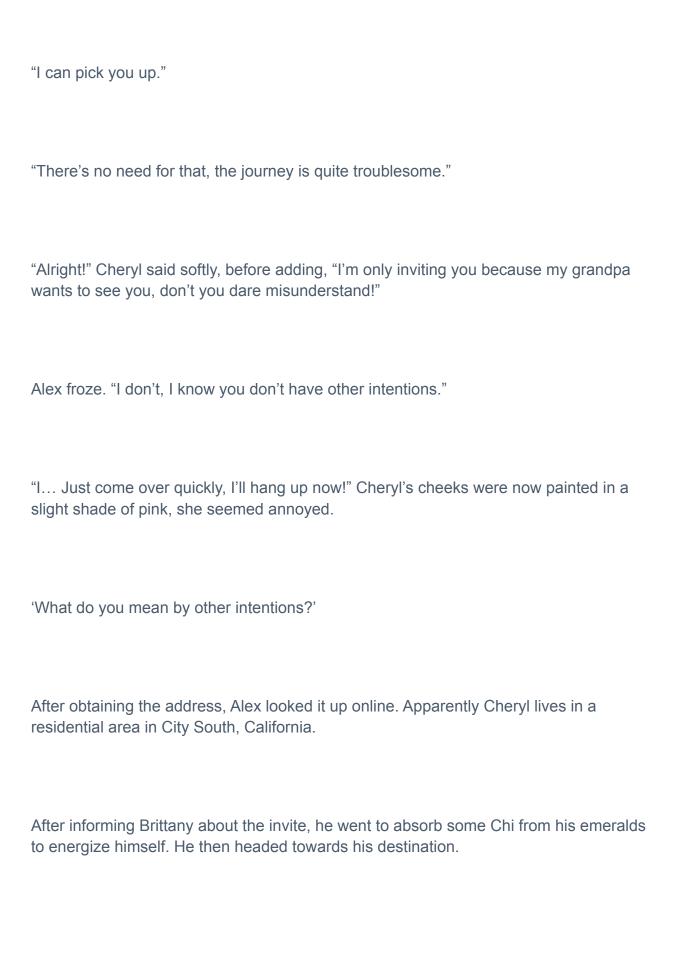


Just then, he heard light laughter coming from the indoor swimming pool on the first floor. Following the noise, he couldn't look away from what met his eyes. Three gorgeous women were hanging out in the pool, wearing different swimsuits.
These three gorgeous women were Waltz, Maya and Brittany.
The first two women were extremely charming, there was no doubt about that.
Even Brittany, who was middle-aged, looked amazing in a swimsuit. She took good care of her figure and beauty, she usually practiced yoga at home too.
"Hey, Alex, want to join us?" Maya asked.
"Yeah, you've been cooped up in the basement for two days, you must smell bad. Come in here to wash up." Waltz waved to Alex. She was wearing a black bikini.
When Waltz came out of the water, Alex felt as if there was a spotlight shining on her.
Alex felt exhilarated.

If he were to swim in the pool with such eye candy, Alex just knew that he'd feel refreshed and energized.
Brittany turned to look at Maya and Waltz, and she couldn't help but sigh.
These two girls were both equally amazing, yet Alex was married. But this man was secretly hanging out with Waltz too. She didn't know what to do with her son.
And just like any other mother, she wanted a grandchild. But Dorothy
Even if Brittany was blind, she could sense that her son and Dorothy were facing problems in their relationship.
'What kind of wife wouldn't want to spend more time with her own husband?'
Dorothy had not even come by once since that time they had a meal together. When Brittany was still in a vegatative state, Claire didn't come by to visit her as well. All of these indicated that the Assexes were not on good terms with them.
Brittany would rather Alex have an affair with Maya or Waltz She didn't intend to stop her son at all. She'd rather her son just choose one of them and produce a grandchild. That way, it would be too late for Dorothy to stop anything.



"No problem, just give me the time and address, I'll be there." Alex smiled.



Cheryl was picking an outfit in front of her mirror. Clothes were all over the room, yet she still couldn't find the right one.
Suddenly, an old lady walked in with a sweet smile. "Cherry, picking an outfit, I see?"
Cheryl was frustrated. "Grandma, I don't think I have any suitable clothes."
The old lady hugged Cheryl's arm. "Aw, my dear granddaughter is all grown up now. It's not that you don't have any suitable clothes, it's just that you think you don't have the perfect outfit. You're perfect in any clothes, my dear, that's how I see it."
"Grandma!"
"That's the same for him too. If that boy really likes you, he'd still see you as a beautiful angel, even if you were in rags."
Cheryl's face was bright red, her heart was pounding out of her chest.
Grandma then said, "I'd really like to see just how amazing this boy is. He's managed to charm both of you for some reason."

Cheryl wasn't the only one who was acting differently. James had been constantly praising Alex as well. Grandma was starting to get jealous of Alex.
The doorbell chimed, it would seem that Alex had finally arrived.
Cheryl had never felt her heart race so much when she opened the door.
Alex looked calm, holding a basket of fruits. However, he froze as soon as he saw Cheryl. "Dr. Coney, is your shirt inside out?"
Cheryl looked down at her shirt. She wanted to curl up into a ball of embarrassment.
She had been picking an outfit out for more than half an hour, yet she ended up wearing it inside out. She felt extremely awkward.
"Come in, I just randomly put something on. Did you think I'd doll up for you?" Cheryl rolled her eyes.
"Uhm, no. You don't even have to wear anything if you'd like."



The old man seemed energetic, his gaze was as sharp as daggers. The young man on the other hand looked like he was extremely full of himself.

The old man yelled out loud. "Hey Coney, I've got you the best grandson-in-law ever. Look at my grandson, he just came back from overseas. Your granddaughter seems to still be unmarried, so I'll give you a hand. If this keeps up, she'll end up becoming a spinster!" Comment by Melisa Chan: replaced "Christmas Cake" with this just cause not many in the west would be familiar with the term since it originated (and probably mainly used) in Japan. An alternative is "old maid"?

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Cheryl was exceptionally annoyed by the old man's words too, her face was filled with disgust.

'What do you mean by 'spinster'?

'I just have high standards for men!'

James replied, "What brings you here, Wilson? What makes you think I'd welcome you at my doorstep? Were you banned from working in Michigan? Is that why?"

This old man was Patrick Wilson, he had quite a history with James. The two used to be
apprentices under a famous doctor, they were like godbrothers. James was older than
Patrick, so became the older brother.

However, Patrick didn't learn medicine to save lives, he wanted the money.

Back then, he would use his master's title to scam others. This was why their master expelled him and was no longer deemed as one of his disciples. However, Patrick had the mind of a businessman. Even though he couldn't become a famous doctor, he managed to start up a health care centre, selling ancient spa treatments.

To their surprise, his business was extremely successful, and he managed to open a few more branches in other states.

James knew exactly how his spa treatment worked. It wasn't entirely a scam, yet the advertised effectiveness was way too misleading. The price for said treatment was off the roof too.

Patrick's grandson was Zachary Wilson, an actual doctor. He graduated from a prestigious medical university overseas as well.

Zachary had met Cheryl before and was absolutely mesmerized by her beauty. He had many dreams about her as well, and he enjoyed every second of those dreams.

He couldn't help but burn up when he thought about her exceptionally curvy body.
He noticed Alex, a complete stranger, was handing Grandma a jade statue. He felt upset and competitiveness grew within him as his gaze turned cold.
Patrick huffed. "Coney, are you deaf? I said I've got you a grandson-in-law. Cheryl will become the Wilsons' daughter-in-law from now on."
Cheryl just couldn't bear listening any further. "Did I agree to this?"
Patrick was shocked. "My grandson is a postgraduate from the prestigious Mediziner University, his future is bright! With our family's wealth, you won't have to worry about anything for life! How dare you reject our offer? You haven't even found anyone at this age. Do you really want to become a spinster?"
James replied, "You're too late, Cherry already has a husband. This man, Alex Rockefeller, is my grandson-in-law."
"What?"
When Zachary realized that his doubts were true, his feelings for Cheryl immediately turned into anger.

'How dare you marry someone else?
'I'd already decided to have you as my wife!'
Alex was puzzled, he turned to Cheryl and met eyes with her.
Cheryl inched closer towards him and nudged his arm gently, her eyes pleading.
Alex smiled softly and nodded.
He had agreed to be Cheryl's pretend-husband temporarily.
Suddenly, Patrick snapped. "Coney, what are you bullsh*tting about? How would I not know if your granddaughter had gotten married? If she really did, you would've definitely sent wedding invitations to Baker and the others! Listen, stop making unbelievable lies up. What? Do you think my grandson doesn't deserve your granddaughter?"

Patrick approached Alex and dragged him closer. "Hey brat, I don't care who you are. Cherry is definitely going to be my granddaughter-in-law. Tell me, how much money is enough to make you leave her?"



Grandma was so angry that she couldn't speak as well.
Cheryl's tone was cold. "I'm the one who decides who I marry, I don't care what that man promised you."
Zachary said, "Cherry, we're childhood friends, you know? I've missed you so much for the past few years. Besides, we really are engaged, you can't just go back on your word like that. You know what? How about I compete against this guy? What does he work as?"
'Compete?'
James' eyes lit up. "Alright, then so be it. You guys can compete against each other. Alex is a doctor as well, you can compete on medical expertise."
James was very confident about Alex's medical skills, even more so than his own.
Moreover, if Alex were to defeat Zachary and have him give up on his own, then there wouldn't be any more problems from now on. They'd be able to live a peaceful life. This was just great!

Zachary huffed at Alex. "You're a doctor too? Then tell me, which prestigious medical school did you graduate from?"
Alex folded his arms behind his back. "I never studied in a medical school."
Zachary asked again, "Oh? So that means you were a disciple. Then who was the famous doctor that taught you?"
Alex replied, "I never had a teacher too."
Zachary's expression became more smug. "You've never graduated from a medical school, or learned from a famous doctor. Then, how are you a doctor? Are you just a bluff? Don't tell me, you don't have a doctor's license?"
Alex nodded. "You're right, I don't."
Both Patrick and Zachary started laughing out loud.
James and Cheryl seemed upset too. They had originally asked Alex to help them kick these two out, yet he lost before the competition even started. How would he be able to fight them off now?

Cheryl glared at Alex, extremely frustrated.

She thought, 'You could have helped me if you just made up some sort of lie! Do you really want to cut ties with me that much?'

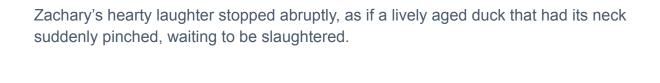
As the laughing continued on, Alex spoke up once again. "I've never been to a medical school, because none of these universities deserve to have me as one of their students. I have no teacher, because no doctor deserves to have me as their apprentice. As for the doctor's license, is that thing really all that important? Can you really become a famous doctor as soon as you get the license?"

Zachary cackled harder. "That's the biggest bluff I've ever heard! Really now? No university in the world deserves to have you as one of their students? You probably can't even get in. Do you really think it's that easy to get enrolled?

"I'll tell you what, I've been learning medicine since I was three. I memorized the prescription verse at the age of four. I even memorized the whole Compendium of Materia Medica at the age of eight too! I'm one of the best graduates from Worthington Medical University and also one of the best Master's students in Mediziner University. All my theses earned me multiple awards. Just look at you, you're dirt compared to me. You don't even have anything to go up against me."

Alex took a glance at him and said, "Really now? If you're so great, then why can't you cure your wet-dream problem?"

Gasp!



In that instant, he was flushed with anger.

Alex nonchalantly said, "Aha, did I just expose the truth?"

"Nonsense! You're the one with wet dreams, same goes to all your family members!" Zachary was infuriated.

It was his greatest pain as it happened almost every night. In the middle of the night, he was always jolted awake by the discharge, and had to clean up after himself. It was so bad that he dared not share a bedroom with his classmates when he was studying overseas, fearing his condition would be exposed.

However, Alex exposed his woe right in front of Cheryl, so he felt searing pain in humiliation as if his skin was being torn off.

Therefore, he would never admit to it.
Cheryl and James looked at Zachary amusingly.
James said, "Zachary, why don't I check your pulse and see if it is legitimate? If it is true, it might affect your reproductivity, and you need to be treated as quickly as possible."
"I said, I am healthy and there is nothing wrong with my body!" Zachary was extremely frustrated.
"You're a doctor as well. It is an illness, don't you know it? Your refusal to let me check your pulse is a sign that you have a guilty conscience. A little discharge here and there is fine. Then, is it possible that your conditions are very severe? How could I possibly let Cheryl marry you, knowing that you are having issues with your manhood?" James said.
Zachary snorted. "Fine, just check it if you want to. The traditional medicine practice is nothing but wizardry. During my time overseas, I had spent time in research and proved that traditional medicine is pseudoscience, just like the practices by those witch doctors. Such practice is completely out of touch and it should be phased out."
However, after checking his pulse, James shook his head. "Zachary, you need to pay attention to your condition. Do you have wet dreams every night? It is quite severe already, you have to get it treated soon!"

Zachary was so embarrassed that he had an impulse to hit himself against the corner of the table.
Zachary was not convinced and said, "I am strong and energetic. Please do not speak nonsense."
Cheryl snorted. "My grandfather is known as the genius doctor of California. How dare you question his abilities? I think you're the one who knows nothing! Don't ever think that studying overseas for a few years gives you the right and confidence to doubt our practice! How dare you actually say that traditional medicine is pseudoscience, it's preposterous!"
"Other than wet dreams, you have severe renal insufficiency too." Alex shook his head.
"You Nonsense!" Zachary rebutted as his face turned grim.
Alex said with a faint snort, "Nobody can endure such over-frequent discharge every day. No matter how healthy you are, the over-frequent discharge will put a tremendous strain on your body, eventually you will be wasted! I daresay the modern practice that you admire so much would not be able to diagnose your illness. In the end, only traditional medicinal practice that you claim fraud can cure your ailment. Now it's just renal insufficiency, but it might turn into renal failure a month later. When the time comes"
Zachary knew what would happen without Alex continued saying.

That would be an unbearable consequence — uremia!
He had secretly visited countless hospitals and specialists but to no avail. The reason he came to visit James today was to consult his expertise on the matter and cure his ailment. Who would have thought Alex would come right in and ruin his plans.
James looked at Alex. "I do not have a good solution to his issue, Alex. The only way is to remove his manhood, to prevent worsening of his conditions."
Zachary was on the verge of collapse after hearing James' suggestion.
It meant that he would be castrated, and that would be even worse than death.
"I can cure it," said Alex.
"Really?" Zachary's eyes lit up.
"Of course." Alex nodded and said, "I did not say I will cure you, though."

Zachary was immediately dumbfounded.

However, he thought again. If he were in Alex's position, seeing his girlfriend being so concerned by another guy, he would not lend a hand too. However, it did not matter anymore. As long as he could restore his body to its healthy state, he would no longer have to worry about having a girlfriend. After all, there were plenty more fishes in the sea.

As he thought about it, he immediately dropped onto his knees in front of Alex with a thud. "Genius Doctor Rockefeller, please, you have to save me! If you can cure my ailment, I promise I will leave Cheryl alone and cancel the arranged marriage, I will call you brother and Cheryl will be my sister-in-law. May you both be blessed with a happy and harmonious marriage until old age."

The sudden change of events was out of everyone's expectation.

The opponent had lost before the competition.

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However, the defeated opponent was not Alex Rockefeller.

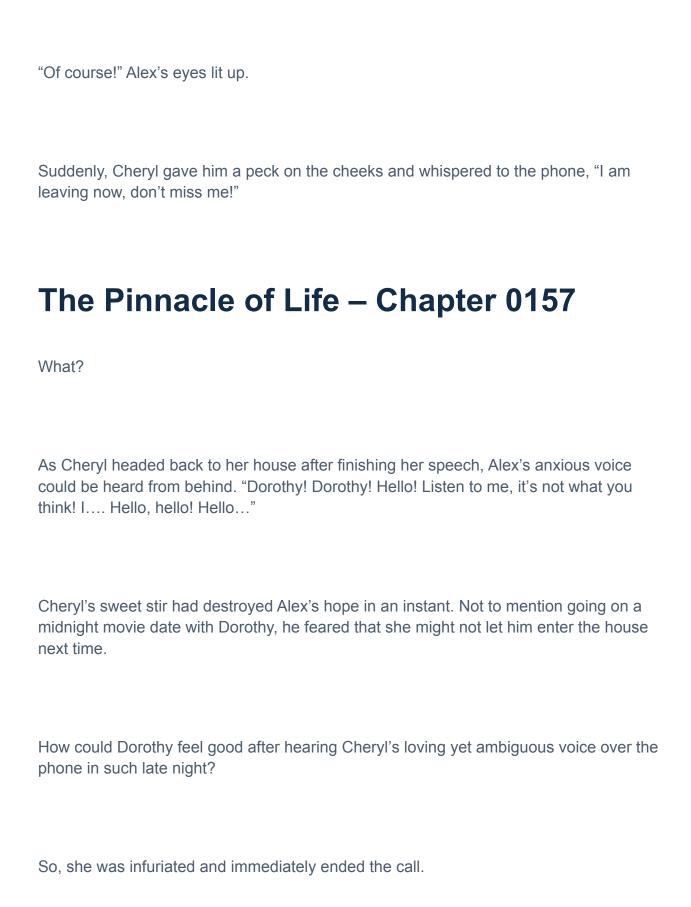
Cheryl looked at Alex with emotions pouring out of her eyes.

However, Alex's attention was on Patrick instead. "What do you think?"
Patrick chuckled. "I go with whatever Zachary says. It's all on you, little genius doctor."
Only then did Alex nod.
Zachary's ailment was nothing but a piece of cake for him.
An hour later at a neighbourhood park.
"Your marriage arrangement is now annulled. You are free now, so you do not have to look for a man to pretend to be your boyfriend anymore." Alex smiled at Cheryl, who had her hand wrapped around his arm.
What Alex meant was a not-so-subtle hint for Cheryl to leave him alone.

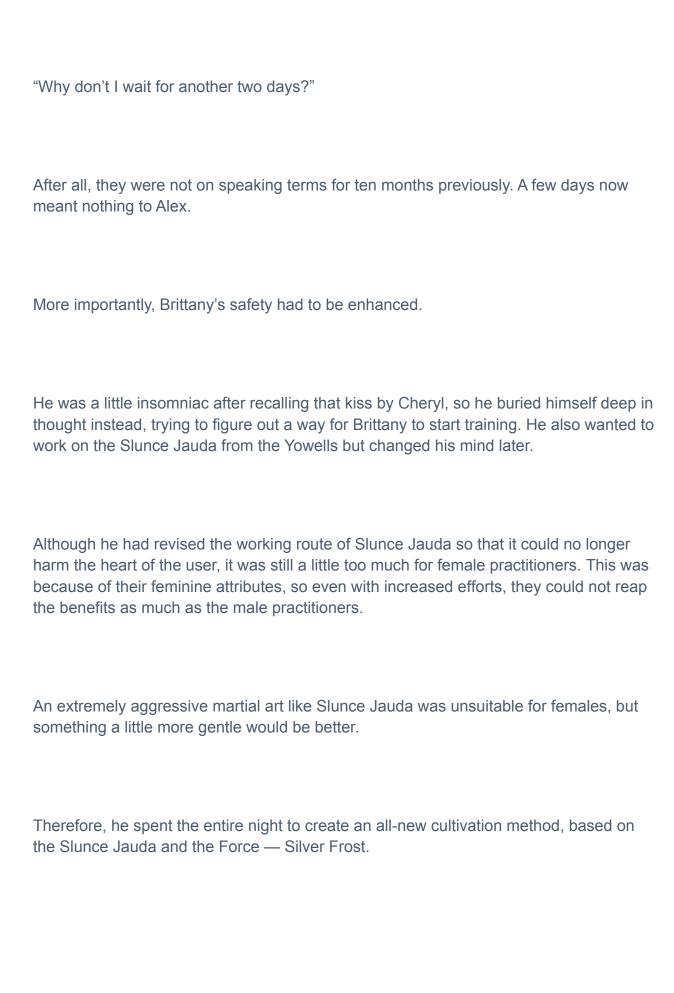


One day, she went to James Coney for a doctor's visit and got to know Cheryl's father. The relationship progressed from there, and eventually they got married. It was a happ life at first but it all changed after the man met a woman named Kiki.
That man cheated on her mother.
That woman was unscrupulous. She introduced him to drugs and led him astray. Eventually, he started beating his wife, his daughter, and even his parents. Cheryl's mother was severely injured after one such beating, when he was drugged, and passed away after a year of suffering.
As for the man, he fled the country and was never heard again.
As Alex listened to Cheryl's words, she recounted the story like it was someone else's, but she could not hold the sorrowful emotion and the tears began streaming down her face. So, Alex patted her on the shoulder to comfort her.
Instead, Cheryl rested her head on his shoulder.
A heavy stillness hung in the air, punctured by the occasional crickets' chirps. It was quiet all of a sudden, but silence spoke louder than words.

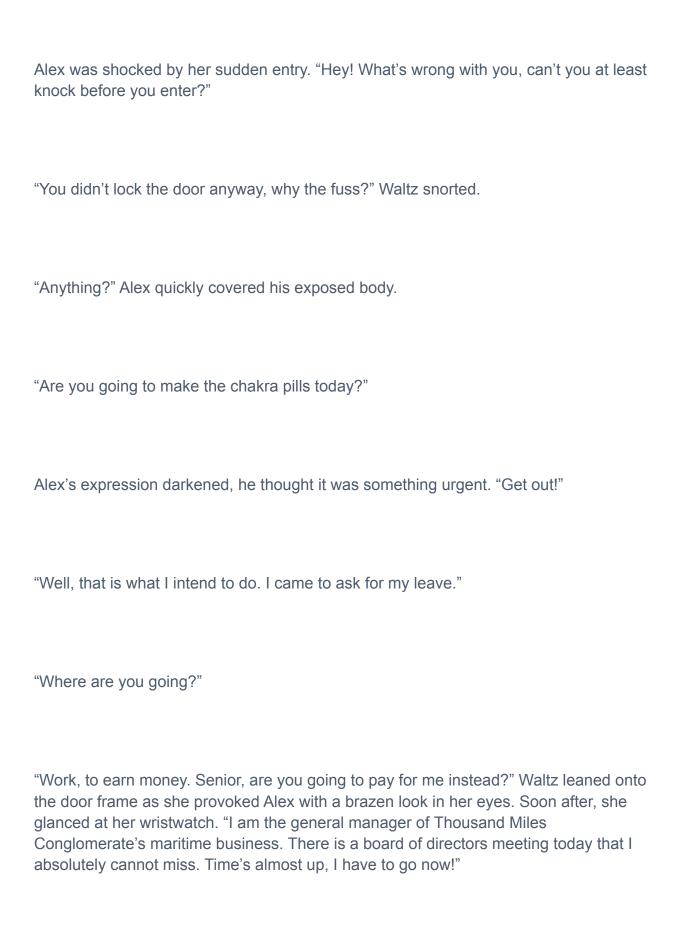
Alex broke the silence after a while. "You will be happy."
"That is why I am very hesitant in having a partner or getting married. What if he treats me like how my father treated my mother?" said Cheryl.
Alex replied, "You will be fine. After all, those people are of the minority."
"Then, will you hit me in the future?" asked Cheryl.
Wait a minute.
What did she just mean? Alex was a married man!
Dorothy called right at the moment.
"Alex, it has been a while since we watched a movie together at midnight. Would you like to go tonight?" asked Dorothy.
She decided to go to the hotel right after the movies.



Immediately, Alex dialed her number but it was not picked up.
Then, he called again but her phone had been turned off.
Helplessly, he could only send her a message explaining that he was invited by Dr. James Coney to a birthday celebration, conveniently leaving out the fact that he was the only outsider invited and he pretended to be Cheryl's boyfriend.
The night passed.
The next morning, he called Dorothy again. As a general manager of her subsidiary company, she could not possibly leave her phone turned off at the time. That being said, every time he tried to make a call, the call failed to be connected.
"Crap, could it be that I have been blocked?"
He thought of going to Dorothy's office and giving her an explanation in person.
However, he thought again. She was still mad now and would not accept his explanations at all. Furthermore, his relationship with Cheryl was not something that could be cleared up with just verbal explanation.



It was a remarkable feat, for only the greatest of masters could create a new cultivation method from the ground up.
Yet, for Alex, who had an extraordinary cultivation method like the Force, it was nothing but a piece of cake.
The reason he spent the entire night was to incorporate a technique from the Force into Silver Frost, in order to give it a room for upgrade. In the future, if necessary, he could even integrate it into a more powerful cultivation method.
"Senior!"
The restroom's door was busted open right after Alex sat down on the toilet. Waltz, who dressed in a suit and tie, appeared in front of him.
Getting used to seeing her in dresses, it was rather surprising for Alex to see her in such an outfit.
She seemed to have the capability to look good in whatever she wore, unlike some seedy-looking people, who could not change their seedy looks no matter how expensive the clothes they wore.



"I'll be back by afternoon,	and I'll bring	a watermelon	for you	later. Be a	good	boy at
home!"						

Only now did Alex know that Waltz had a legitimate profession. Apparently, she was the head businesswoman of all maritime businesses in California.

As the clock struck nine, Alex went down to the basement and attempted his pill concoction.

Why would he need a cauldron for pill concoction?

This was because pill concoction was different from medicinal cooking, in which the herbs just had to be thrown into a cooking pot in order to be cooked. After all, it was just medicine, so its effects were incomparable with concocted pills. Since each portion of medicinal herb had different properties, the purpose of pill concoction was to eliminate all the useless portions of the herbs, leaving only the essential portions. Then, the essential portions would be supplemented with Chi, or even the essence of heaven and earth, to be condensed into one single pill.

Therefore, regular cooking pots could not be used for pill concoction as they would shatter the moment Chi was exerted into the pill.

Three hours later, Alex finally completed his first batch of chakra pills.
The first two attempts had failed.
Fortunately, Waltz had gathered sufficient medicinal herbs. Alex also made sure to be prudent with his usage of the ingredients since it was his first attempt at pill concoction.
He continued with another few attempts after that.
As his success rate increased with more attempts, subsequently he managed to complete seven more batches of chakra pills in the two hours.
A total of eight chakra pills were concocted, including the first batch.
It was worth noting that the alchemy circle inside the cauldron, which shimmered during the pill concoction, had greatly helped to stabilize the process.
Alex took one himself and found it to be working just as he expected.

After that, he went to Brittany, and with some persuading and convincing, she finally agreed to take up Silver Frost.
"This is a martial art to improve your blood circulation. It is quite similar to yoga, which you used to practice, but brings in greater benefits. The more you practice it, the healthier you get and the younger you look!" Alex meant well. "Your body is still frail after just waking up from a long coma, so it's necessary to pick it up."
"All right, I will do whatever you say, Son!"
"First, swallow this pill. Let me help you."
An hour later, Brittany was propelled from a regular lady into a Beginner-Royal ranked fighter. With consistent training, her body defense could only get stronger.
"That was a good workout, but I feel much more energetic now! Let me take a shower first, I will prepare braised pork later, it's both you and your father's favorite"
Brittany's voice halted all of a sudden, after all, she had yet to get used to life without her husband.





Why would	Michelle	want Alex	to a	accompany	her	to an	auction of	of medicina	herbs?

That was because during the period of time, the Yowell family had been mobilizing their people to gather the medicinal herbs requested by Alex. Yet, a few precious herbs slipped through their grasp.

She heard that a good number of century-old medicinal herbs would be auctioned in this particular auction, so she had to check it out.

As for the herbs' efficacy, only Alex knew best.

Alex was thrilled. Just moments ago, he was told by Waltz that Pepper Kimmich would be attending the auction of medicinal herbs, and now Michelle came to invite him to it. Everything just happened according to his wish.

That being said...





She felt awkward. "Ahem, well, uh, I will be in my room. You both just assume I am not here at all!"
Looking at Brittany who had a blushed face as she fled the scene, Waltz was surprised but immediately came to her senses. "Oh no, Madame must have thought you were talking dirty!"
"Get lost, you were to one who did it, not me."
"Why don't we just get into it?"
In the end, Alex let Waltz consume a chakra pill and at the same time assisted her in strengthening her cultivation base. The entire process took a full quarter of an hour.
Alex retracted his palm. "How do you feel?"
Waltz felt an intense stir in her body, so she smashed a hole barefist through a solid marble rock in front of Alex. There were cracks all over the rock.
"A Amazing!"

Even she felt it was unbelievable, as she could never do it before.
"Are you at Mystic rank now?" Alex asked.
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"So close, yet so far. I am almost there, though." She started jumping around like an energetic maniac, running toward Alex and kissed him suddenly.
Brittany was initially in her room on the second floor but came out after hearing Waltz's voices. She just saw the scene unfolding in front of her eyes as she looked down from the helical staircase.
Gently shaking her head, she retreated into her room.
Alex headed to the auction of precious medicinal herbs by himself at half-past five. The auction was held in the form of a cocktail party on the highest floor of California's Splendor Center.

He entered the auction hall without any hiccups after mentioning Michelle's name at the entrance.
At this moment at the entrance of Splendor Center, a group of young men and women were chatting among themselves as they entered the building. Among them was a young lady in a white dress, she was Alex's sister-in-law — Beatrice Assex.
The other three were the ones that Alex saw back at the car dealership days ago: Mona Weiss, Wilson Jordan, and Sam Culver. The four of them were a little coterie.
Dressed smartly in a suit, Wilson took a few glances affectionately at Beatrice as he bragged, "The auction of precious medicinal herbs this time is the most prestigious auction in South California. I heard that the items that will be put up for auction tonight are tonics, which are worth at least a million dollars, and many century-old medicinal herbs that can hardly be found in the market."
"Why?" Mona asked as she flitted her fake lashes while looking at Wilson.
The look of adoration and secret admiration in her eyes were unable to be concealed.
However, Wilson liked Beatrice instead.

Seeing Beatrice's curious expression, Wilson continued, "It's because medicinal herbs like the century-old ginseng and Ganoderma are extremely rare items. Over the years, humans have been excavating them, so they are nearly extinct. Even if they are discovered occasionally, they will be seized by the rich and powerful people, and they will not be sold in the market at all. Therefore, don't ever trust those so-called century-old ginseng sold in pharmacies, they are nothing but fakes."
Mona looked at Wilson adoringly. "Wilson, you are so knowledgeable."
Wilson smiled humbly and looked at Beatrice, he found that she did not seem to pay much attention to their conversation.
"Okay then, let's go in. There is a buffet inside and it serves Australian lobsters!" said Wilson. "Don't you like Australian lobsters, Beatrice? That's why I got myself a few more entrance tickets to the auction from my uncle. These are not something that ordinary people can get a hand on."
Beatrice's eyes lit up at the mention of lobsters. "Thank you!"
Sam asked, "Wilson, what does your uncle do?"
"He is the manager of Splendor Center. This auction this time could be said to be mainly arranged by him."

The four of them entered the building.
After showing the entrance tickets, they entered the auction hall smoothly.
It was a crowded venue, with plenty of people socializing, chatting, eating, and such. Wilson did not forget to remind, "There are a lot of VIPs tonight, please behave yourselves and don't get into trouble."
And then, they went straight to the buffet.
Alex was there too, hungrily devouring an Australian lobster.
He was now famished as he was previously occupied with concocting chakra pills and helping both Brittany and Waltz strengthen their cultivation base. Furthermore, the lobsters looked delicious and tantalizing, so he quickly gobbled them up without scruple.
Beatrice, who was holding a dining plate, went straight for the Australian lobsters. However, she was greeted with a miserable sight of a few leftover heads and tails. Next to her was a man brazenly devouring a plate of lobster meat, which was filled to the brim.

"What a glutton!" Beatrice was irritated but she could only remain silent and curse secretly.
After all, she could not afford to offend anyone here because of her identity.
However, as she looked toward the man and he turned his head at the same time, she was dumbfounded in disbelief, with her mouth agape after their gazes met. "What, it's you? Why are you here?"