

The Almighty Lord Caspian by Cath Nitfisch #Chatper 431 -
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Chapter 431 A Mighty Convoy

“Alright, I’m looking forward to it!” Jyn declared, though her expression had stiffened.

Everyone was stupefied.

The two major conglomerates were going head to head, and no one could predict the outcome.

of their battle.

A procession of over a thousand cars abruptly appeared along the freeway on the outskirts of Southlake City.

A Lincoln limousine came to a stop, and Ace stepped out of it.

Staring at the city before him, he narrowed his eyes and asked, “So this is Southlake City?”

“Yes, Mr. Garland. This is Southlake City,” an elderly man with a beard replied respectfully.

Ace’s eyes flashed viciously as he growled, “Nixon and five thousand of our experts died here!”

Behind him, nearly ten thousand people chorused in unison.

“Kill Caspian Lynch! Avenge our friends!”

“Kill Caspian Lynch! Avenge our friends!”

Their hearts were filled with rage.

The incident at the Stewart family estate had been a harsh blow to the Traditional Martial Arts

Association.

Nixon, their head eldet, had died a tragic death, along with five thousand other martial arts experts from TMAA.

The results of that fight humiliated them, and if they did not seek revenge, they would be the laughingstock of the entire martial arts world.

“Let’s go!” Ace commanded with a wave of his hand.

With a deafening roar, the cars sped into Southlake City.

Over at Zott Manor, Bernard came running in as he shouted in a panic, “Bad news, Mr. Zott! Something terrible is going to happen!”

“What’s going on? Why are you making such a big fuss?” Lincoln questioned with a solemn expression.

+15 BONUS

He was displeased with Bernard's inability to stay composed despite having worked under him. for so long now.

"Mr. Zott, I just got the news that a massive convoy appeared on the freeway heading into Southlake City. There are over a thousand SUVs, all bearing the TMAA's logo! I'm afraid something terrible is about to happen!" Bernard reported urgently.

Lincoln froze when he heard that. Previously, Caspian had warned him to be on his toes whenever people of unknown identities entered Southlake City.

And now, over a thousand SUVs bearing the logo of the TMAA had come! That definitely spelled bad news!

Lincoln's chest tightened. He deduced they were here to take revenge after the incident at the Stewart family estate.

Even though he hadn't been present that day, he knew the gist of what had taken place there.

"Quick! Pass the order down to stop those people from entering the city center! I'll report this matter to Mr. Lynch!" Lincoln instructed.

"I'm on it!" Bernard replied before rushing off at once.

Lincoln was anxious. He knew full well his men wouldn't be able to hold back the people from the TMAA. It was easy enough to imagine what would happen if those people entered Southlake City.

Without wasting any time, he immediately called Caspian.

After receiving the call, Caspian, who was still at the banquet, calmly instructed, "Just keep an eye on them first. Don't do anything yet. Await further instructions from me."

He ended the call before musing over the fact that the people from the TMAA dared to come over to Southlake City. They were indeed too bold for their own good.

Still, he knew that while Lincoln's men could deal with regular folks, they would not be able to put up a fight against an organization like the TMAA.

Noticing the unusual change in Caspian's expression, Willow asked, "What's the matter, hubby? Did something happen?"

"Something urgent came up, honey. I'll go and deal with it," Caspian informed as he stood up.

Seeing the serious look on his face, Willow knew it was no small matter.

"Alright, hubby. Stay safe. I'll wait for you," she said, nodding her head.

She didn't bother asking questions as she trusted Caspian's ability to resolve

any kind of crisis.

“Okay,” Caspian replied with a nod before leaving the hotel.

Meanwhile, Jyn had noticed every move Caspian made. She turned to Ginger and said, “Find out what happened.”

+15 BONUS

“Yes, Ms. Morrison!” Ginger said with a trace of menace hidden within her gaze.

She had escorted Zayn to the private plane earlier, but he had slapped her before getting onto the plane.

He also threatened her by saying that if she didn’t help him get his hands on Jyn, he would not only force her to return the money but also kick her out of Diatoran!

Zayn was no prince. He was ruthless and wicked, and Ginger didn’t doubt that he would make good on his threat.

He even had connections in Dhord City. Ginger knew that if she pissed him off, she would not be able to stay in the country.

This was all Caspian’s fault! If not for him, she would not be suffering this

way.

As soon as Caspian left the hotel, Sylvia caught up to him and called out, “Caspian!”

“Give the order to the armored battalion. Summon them and tell them to get ready for a fight with the TMAA!” Caspian instructed grimly.

Sylvia grew tense after hearing the first half of the command. Why was Caspian summoning the entire armored battalion? Was something major about to happen?

But she relaxed again when she heard they were about to battle against the TMAA.

“Caspian, should I inform John and tell him to dispatch the military unit as well?” Sylvia asked tentatively.

John was currently stationed a few dozen miles outside of Southlake City. He didn’t return to South Aridlands.

After thinking about it, Caspian nodded and said, “Alright. Tell John to gather five thousand of his people. We must eradicate the TMAA! They’re a motley group of fighters without any proper leader. If they remain grouped together, sooner or later, they’ll be a source of trouble!”

Thanks to its name, the Traditional Martial Arts Association sounded like a respectable association. But in reality, it merely consisted of a bunch of ruffians who used that name to form cliques and expand their own influence and power.

Their influence had extended into many regions of Diatoran.

+15 BONUS

All along, the TMAA had been based in Dhord City. However, the power dynamics in Dhord City were complicated, and making a move there would definitely cause an upheaval.

Instead, they chose to expand their influence into Southlake City, but their decision was irrefutably a risky one that would lead to their doom!

Outside Southlake City, a fight broke out between the two sides.

Armed with weapons, nearly ten thousand fighters from the TMAA were roaring for a fight. Their expressions were cold and ruthless.

Meanwhile, Lincoln was leading a force of over 20 thousand people from Eastcove's underworld to stop them.

Even though Caspian told him not to make a move, he could not sit still and do nothing—not during such a critical situation.

Lincoln cared a lot about Southlake City. It was his home. He spent decades building up his life and empire here.

He was not going to let anyone harm the city in any way.

Although Lincoln had the advantage in numbers, the TMAA had sent all of its core members to Southlake City.

Alas, the fight was one-sided from the get-go.

As blades whizzed through the air, heads rolled one after the other.

Anguished cries rang out in every direction.

The fighters from Southlake City's underworld forces fought a bloody battle and sacrificed their lives to protect the city.

Within moments, the battleground looked like hell on earth.

"Kill them! Kill them all!" Bernard roared as he slashed at the enemy with his machete. He had lost all sense of reason. He raised his weapon again and again. His clothes were drenched with blood.

Nevertheless, the experts from the TMAA were too powerful. Lincoln's people could not hold a candle to them!

Chapter 432 Who Can Stand Against the Armored Battalion

+15 BONUS

Although the members of Southlake City's underworld forces knew a bit of fighting, they couldn't be considered true martial arts experts. Naturally, they couldn't even put up a fight against the experts from the TMAA.

Blood continued to splatter every single second, and Lincoln was heartbroken by the sight. These men were all his comrades and friends.

Still, despite the catastrophic losses, Lincoln didn't intend to retreat. He was going to stay put with his men until Caspian arrived.

He knew that the tides would turn the moment Caspian showed up!

"Southlake City is weaker than I expected!" Ace said with a derisive scoff as he watched the fight from a nearby cliff.

These fighters from Southlake City couldn't even take a beating.

Ace couldn't understand how Nixon, TMAA's head elder, could've died in this city, along with the other five thousand men. Who on earth killed them?

In fact, Ace was starting to think he had gone through all this trouble for nothing.

He had gathered all the finest experts in the TMAA to take down Southlake City, avenge their fallen comrades, and seize the Eldorian Scroll fragment.

However, from the looks of it now, Southlake City was no threat to the TMAA at all.

"Southlake City is just a tiny city, Mr. Garland. It doesn't have a single powerful person! All of those rumors were lies! How dare Caspian openly stand against us? He's got a death wish!" a bearded elderly man declared with a chuckle.

He was Hector Kline, the second elder of the TMAA.

Ever since Nixon's death, the position of head elder had been left empty.

Hector figured he would become the head elder once

they returned to Dhord City. The thought of that ignited the fire in his eyes.

The day he had been waiting for all this while was finally coming.

"I'm curious to know what's so special about Caspian. Just how powerful is he?" Ace remarked as he stared into the distance.

"That being said, since I've come to supervise the fight in person, I doubt he can do anything."

Ace had faith in his abilities.

So what if Caspian had killed Nixon? He was over ten times more powerful than Nixon. Less than a handful of people in Diatoran could hold their own against him.

+15 BONUS

Withdrawing his gaze, Ace looked at Hector and said, "Hector, you'll be the head elder once we take down Southlake City."

"Thank you, Mr. Garland! I will do my best!" Hector declared as he got on his knees.

"You may rise," Ace said with a wave of his hand.

He had no other choice anyway. Nixon was gone, and he could only rely on a few others.

This trip to Southlake City was made to prove the might of the TMAA.

Ace figured that having someone like Hector to lead the men in the fight would boost their morale.

Covered in blood, Bernard approached Lincoln and howled, "Mr. Zott, we can't keep this up anymore. They're too strong! We can't beat them. If this continues, we're all going to die!"

Even Bernard couldn't take it any longer.

In less than half an hour, they had lost a third of their people—nearly ten thousand of the fighters from the underground forces.

Bodies were strewn all over.

They were bound to lose every single one of their people if the fight continued. These fighters were once street thugs and hooligans, but even though they were vicious fighters, they couldn't stand their ground against the martial arts experts.

"Bernard! No matter what happens, we have to hold on until Mr. Lynch arrives!" Lincoln shouted.

"But..."

Bernard was anxious. Would Caspian really show up? They were all doomed if he didn't!

But, of course, he dared not voice his doubts out loud.

"Don't just stand there! Don't forget who's the reason why you're still alive today," Lincoln growled as he eyed Bernard. "If you dare retreat, don't blame me for cutting all ties with you!"

Bernard froze briefly. But soon, he tightened his grip on the machete with a hardened expression. He was out of options.

"Come with me, men! Let's kill them!" he roared.

"Let's kill them!"

"Kill them all!"

+15 BONUS

Emotions ran high as Bernard let the men into the fight once more. They were prepared to fight to the bitter end, for they knew how brutal things would be for the people of Southlake City if the bastards from the TMAA got into the city.

It would be an unthinkable sight!

“What a bunch of fools. They overestimate themselves. Resistance is futile!”

Ace mocked with a scornful sneer.

In his eyes, Bernard and the others were simply engaging in a meaningless struggle before their deaths.

“Charge, Armored Battalion! Do your duty to defend the nation!”

“All who invade our territory must die!”

“The invaders must die!”

All of a sudden, many figures streaked into view. They were dressed in silver armor and armed with curved blades.

With sharp, piercing gazes, they rushed into the fight like a horde of ferocious beasts!

In an instant, howls of agony rang out from the TMAA’s experts. They were powerless against the armored battalion.

The blades of the soldiers glinted as the TMAA’s experts were slain.

It seemed like Bernard and the others were doomed just moments ago, but the armored battalion completely turned things around.

“Mr. Lynch has come to save us! Let’s kill these punks, everyone!” Bernard shouted emotionally.

Once again, the fighters from Southlake City rushed into the fight, and the battle intensified once more.

Soon, the experts from the TMAA were on the losing end of the fight.

Ace was startled by the unexpected change in the situation. He knew that if he didn’t do something to stop the situation from getting worse, the TMAA might be losing all of their men who were out there fighting.

“Hector, lead 800 of our eternal grandmasters into the fight to wipe out that armored battalion!” Ace shouted.

“Yes, Mr. Garland!”

Hector and the eternal grandmasters immediately confronted the armored battalion head-on.

+15 BONUS

The eternal grandmasters were the core members of the TMAA. They were the reason why the TMAA managed to gain a foothold in Dhord City.

Ace was indeed doing whatever it took to get his hands on the Eldorian Scroll fragment.

Ace let out a deep breath as he watched the eternal grandmasters and the armored battalion clashed.

He had carelessly jumped to conclusions earlier, but thankfully, he kept a trump card up his sleeves.

The armored battalion had to be the most powerful force in Southlake City, right? That had to be all, right?

Ace couldn't even bring himself to imagine what he could do if something unexpected cropped up again.

Southlake City was just an average and insignificant city in Diatoran.

If Ace hadn't been here to witness the fight himself, he would never have believed that so many expert fighters dwelled in this city.

They fought with agility and precision. Their moves were disciplined and well-honed. It was clear they had undergone rigorous training.

Ace never expected such fighters to show up here today.

A few figures appeared in front of Lincoln.

"Mr. Lynch!" Lincoln greeted respectfully.

Chapter 433 The Extent of the Traditional Martial Arts Association's Strength

"Do you know your mistake, Lincoln?" Caspian icily asked as he shot a glance at Lincoln.

Lincoln immediately fell on his knees and replied fearfully, "I do, Mr. Lynch! I went against your orders by acting on my own accord!"

"Since you're aware of it, why did you do it anyway?" Caspian questioned.

Lincoln dared not meet Caspian's gaze as he knew the latter was infuriated. He was right. Caspian was furious that Lincoln's unauthorized move had led to the deaths of thousands of people.

If Lincoln didn't do a good job of explaining himself, Caspian would definitely punish him!

"I would never dare to disobey your orders, Mr. Lynch, but I can't just stand by and do nothing, either!" Lincoln replied emotionally, his eyes pooling with tears. "The TMAA wants to barge into

Southlake City!

“I’ve lived in this city for decades, and I know that those people will go around slaughtering everyone once they manage to get into the city!

“How can I let the people of Southlake City face such a calamity just to save my own skin? Even if I die, I won’t let the TMAA enter our territory!”

In the end, Lincoln staunchly declared, “If you wish to punish me, Mr. Lynch, I’ll accept it without protest!

Caspian was a little moved.

Lincoln had a point, but orders could not be disobeyed in the military. Then again, Lincoln wasn’t in the army.

He and his men had zeal and principles of their own. It would be a little cold-hearted of Caspian if he insisted on punishing them for what they had done.

“Don’t do this again! If you wipe out the TMAA, I’ll act like your insubordination never happened!” Caspian said.

“Understood, Mr. Lynch!” Lincoln replied with a firm nod. Despite not being a martial arts expert himself, he was no coward.

“Come with me, everyone!” Lincoln shouted before raising a machete and joining the fight.

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As time went on, the fight grew more intense. The armored battalion continued advancing, and the TMAA suffered severe casualties.

“Retreat!”

+15 BONUS

“Quick, back away! These people are insane!”

“We can’t win against them. Make a run for it!”

Such cries rang out from the TMAA experts as the armored battalion turned the fight around, and those from Southlake City felt even more energized.

They continued to charge toward the enemy and kill all who stood in their way.

“Stand your ground!” Hector roared savagely. “I’ll take down anyone who backs away from the fight!”

He immediately killed one of the TMAA’s martial arts experts who tried to retreat.

If they retreated, it meant the TMAA had lost the fight, and Hector’s dream of becoming the head elder would be dashed.

He couldn't live with that. He had waited long enough for this day to come. Hector swiftly killed a few more martial arts experts who tried to flee, and he succeeded in striking fear into the hearts of the remaining ones.

"Get th

"Get them!"

"Charge, everyone!"

Since they were doomed, either way, they might as well give their all in the fight. For all they knew, there could be a slim chance of victory.

Thus, in the blink of an eye, the experts from the TMAA regained their fervor and fought ferociously.

Upon seeing this, Caspian frowned. Their side had only just managed to gain the upper hand in the fight. Things would get a lot more challenging if their opponent decided to go on the offensive once more.

"Sylvia, go and deal with that man!" Caspian commanded while pointing at Hector.

As long as the leader was dealt with, the experts from the TMAA would be running around like headless chickens, and they would certainly retreat.

"Got it!" Sylvia acknowledged.

Capturing the leader was a basic battle strategy.

Sylvia's expression hardened as she hoisted her weapon and charged at Hector.

"Let me see what you can do!" she said as she suddenly attacked him.

Hector, who was in the middle of a fight, briefly froze when he heard the voice.

+15 BONUS

At the very next second, he sensed a murderous air coming from her. She was no ordinary woman!

He immediately flipped over to avoid her attack.

"Who are you? Answer me!" Hector demanded as he stood up.

"You're not qualified to know who I am!" Sylvia fired back derisively.

Uninterested in wasting her breath, she charged at Hector again.

Hector thought he could buy himself some time to identify Sylvia's weakness if he attempted to talk with her. He didn't expect her

to crush his chance to do so. All he could do was engage her in a fight.

Their figures brushed past each other as their weapons clashed, and the sound of metal breaking rang out.

Hector's weapon broke in half!

He couldn't believe that a woman could be this powerful.

Before he could regain his senses, Sylvia came at him with her weapon raised.

"Argh!" Hector shouted as his face scrunched up in pain. He went flying backward.

Blood gushed out of a deep wound on his shoulder, and his bone was just barely peeking through.

Once Hector regained his balance, he glared at Sylvia. He only had one thought in mind—flee!

She was too powerful. Be it in terms of strength or reflexes, he was no match for her. He wouldn't have a chance to escape if he didn't back away now.

Thus, he turned around and ran for his life.

"Look! I think Mr. Kline's running away!!

"Mr. Kline got injured!"

"Retreat! Let's all retreat!"

—

Hector's retreat sent the rest of the TMAA experts into a tizzy.

They had already felt the urge to retreat earlier, and now that Hector was fleeing, none of them were interested in sticking around any longer.

Therefore, they all began to flee. Bernard and the others from Southlake City ran after them.

In the distance, Ace's expression darkened. He assumed they would emerge victorious, but the

+15 BONUS

Just who were these people? Why did they seem like trained fighters?

"Mr. Garland! Help, Mr. Garland! Save me!" Hector cried out in agony as blood trickled out the corner of his mouth.

Sylvia was hunting him down, and he was injured. If Ace would not help him, he would not leave this fight alive.

"No one can save you!" Sylvia growled as she aimed her weapon at Hector's neck and thrust it forward.

Hector's expression froze. All the blood drained out of his face. Was he going to die just like that?

12 out

Just then, a figure whizzed past Sylvia, and a muffled thump rang

Sylvia felt a strange force that sent her flying backward. It was a strong force that belonged to someone more powerful than her. "Mr. Garland!" Hector exclaimed in joy. "You're useless!" Ace snarled as he glared at Hector.

Hector quickly lowered his head and kept quiet. It was obvious that Ace was furious.

Sylvia only managed to regain her balance after stumbling over 30 feet backward.

She stared at Ace in shock.

"Who are you? Where's Caspian Lynch?" Ace asked as he glowered at Sylvia.

"What gives you the right to speak his name?" Sylvia shot back in displeasure.

"The audacity! Tell Caspian to get out here. I won't bother arguing with a woman!" Ace growled with a frown.

He could sense that Sylvia was no weakling. At the very least, she was an innate grandmaster at the peak of her strength.

It was hard to believe that an innate grandmaster could be found in a tiny place like Southlake City. Furthermore, she seemed to be Caspian's subordinate!

In that case, just how powerful was Caspian? He even had an innate grandmaster serving him. Ace was intrigued by Caspian.

"A nobody like you isn't qualified to meet Caspian!" Sylvia retorted as she fearlessly charged at Ace.

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Chapter 434 Over a Dozen Fighter Jets

Their figures collided briefly before Sylvia was thrown backward once more.

Her brows furrowed as she coughed up a mouthful of blood. It had been a long time since she last fared this badly in a fight.

Ace was even more powerful than the generals of the enemy forces she encountered in battle along Diatoran's borders!

of

It would be hard for her to subdue him. Now she understood how he became the chairman o

the TMAA.

"Hurry up and tell Caspian to show himself! I don't want to waste my time!"

Ace demanded with a scornful scoff.

"You!" Sylvia was infuriated that someone was disregarding her.

But before she could say anything else, a figure appeared before her.

“Caspian!”

“I’ll deal with him, Sylvia,” Caspian said.

Since Ace was the chairman of the TMAA, he certainly wasn’t a mediocre martial arts expert.

“Ace Garland, right? They’ll be memorializing your death on this day next year!” Caspian declared with a smile.

Ace guffawed. This was his first time being threatened after becoming the chairman.

But soon, his laughter faltered, and his expression hardened as he asked, “You’re Caspian Lynch?”

Caspian had seized the Eldorian Scroll fragment and killed Nixon, so there was no way he was just an ordinary person.

“Who are you?” Ace questioned as he eyed Caspian.

“You’re not good enough to know who I am,” Caspian responded with a faint chuckle.

Though he had spoken lightly, his words were a slap to Ace’s face.

“Nixon and five thousand of my people died at your hands. That’s reason enough for me to kill you. However, I’m a generous man, so I’ll give you a chance now. Hand over the Eldorian Scroll fragment, and I’ll let bygones be bygones,” Ace offered with an insincere smile.

He knew that Caspian was a rare talent. If he could somehow get Caspian to join the TMAA, he could expand his power and influence even further.

+15 BONUS

“Hah! Are you dreaming? Would you dare to take it even if I offered it to you?” Caspian retorted with a contemptuous sneer.

He couldn’t believe someone would act this arrogantly in front of him. Who did Ace think he was?

“You’ve got quite a lot of guts, but since you’re not wise enough to know what’s good for you, don’t blame me for not going easy

on you!

“The Eldorian Scroll fragment will be mine once I kill you, and I’ll raze Southlake City to the ground! Anyone who dares to offend the TMAA will pay with their life!” Ace announced with a maniacal laugh. in as a gust of no

Caspian’s expression grew energy exploded out from him.

“Let’s see if you’re capable of doing that, then!” Caspian growled as he pulled out his Diatanium dagger.

At the same time, a deafening sound rang out. Ace's expression hardened. The gust of energy alone proved that Caspian was not to be underestimated!

Thus, he dared not let his guard down. He mustered all his strength and prepared himself for the fight against Caspian.

Sparks flew as their blades clashed.

Due to the wind stirred up by their fight, small craters began to appear on the ground.

The fight between Ace and Caspian only intensified, and after dozens of exchanged blows, one of them was knocked backward.

The figure crashed onto the ground, looking pathetic and stirring up a cloud of dust.

It was Ace, the chairman of the TMAA, who had been knocked away.

Meanwhile, Caspian remained standing with one arm behind his back, looking like the undisputed winner.

"How could this be? Even Mr. Garland can't defeat him?" Hector exclaimed.

He was thunderstruck. If he had not witnessed the fight, he would never have believed that this was the outcome.

"Mr. Garland!" Hector shouted as he rushed over to Ace. The others from the TMAA also crowded in to check on Ace's injuries.

Ace was lying in a crater on the ground, his body littered with wounds. His blood had soaked through his clothes.

+15 BONUS

He couldn't contain his emotions. How could he have lost the fight—and in such devastating fashion?

He was a supreme grandmaster! He could even hold his own if he had to face off against over 100 innate grandmasters alone.

Yet, he suffered such a crushing defeat at Caspian's hands.

Was Caspian even more powerful than a supreme grandmaster? Was he an ultimate supreme grandmaster?

Ace quickly shot down that possibility. Caspian only looked to be in his 20s, so how could he possess such terrifying strength?

Immediately, Ace thought of retreating.

Noticing the sour look on Ace's face, Hector asked softly, "Are you alright, Mr. Garland?"

The other experts from the TMAA looked down as well.

Ace was their role model, yet someone as mighty as him had just fought a losing fight in a tiny place like Southlake City,

Alas, Ace was not the only one who couldn't accept this outcome. The others from the TMAA couldn't believe this was possible either.

But there was no denying that they had lost! The TMAA had suffered a tragic loss!

"Help me up," Ace quickly instructed.

Hector hastily helped Ace back onto his feet.

"Retreat! Hurry up and retreat!" Ace shouted.

"What?"

Hector was dumbfounded. He couldn't believe that Ace was telling them to retreat.

The TMAA came over in full force to take the Eldorian Scroll fragment. Were they going to

leave with their tails between their legs now without the fragment and after losing so many of their comrades?

Ace scowled at Hector, who was standing frozen.

"Why aren't you moving? Retreat at once! If we waste any more time, none of us will get to leave!" Ace commanded, flustered.

An overwhelming sense of fear washed over Hector. He had never seen Ace this panicked before.

Just who was Caspian? What about him made Ace so terrified of him?

+15 BONUS

"Retreat!" Hector commanded. Despite his reluctance, that was the only thing they could do

now.

Ace and the rest of the TMAA quickly fled. There had been almost ten thousand of them at the start, but now, only a third of them were still alive.

The TMAA had suffered a crushing loss in this fight. They wouldn't be able to build themselves back up anytime soon

When Lincoln noticed that the people from TMAA were about to flee, he wanted to hunt them down.

However, Caspian called out and said, "Hold it. Don't go after them."

"Now's a great chance for us to wipe them out completely, Mr. Lynch! You can't let them escape!" Lincoln urged anxiously.

Though the TMAA had just suffered a catastrophic defeat, given enough time, they could still rebuild their numbers and rise up again.

This was the perfect chance for them to kill Ace.

“I didn’t say I was letting them escape. I want to get rid of them in the way that makes them feel the most despair!” Caspian said with a faint chuckle.

“What do you mean, Mr. Lynch?” Lincoln asked in confusion. He didn’t understand what Caspian just said.

Just then, there was a loud commotion as over a dozen fighter jets appeared in the sky.

At the same time, several tanks were also advancing in full force, with thousands of soldiers charging along beside them.

All of their weapons were aimed at the fleeing members of the TMAA.

“What’s going on?”

“Why would the army show up here now?”

The experts from the TMAA were stupefied.

As for Ace, he had descended into despair.

Why would the army appear at a time like this?

Despite his reckless arrogance, Ace dared not go up against Diatoran’s army!

Chapter 435 Surviving Only in Name

“It’s too late! It’s all over!” Ace lamented after seeing the fighter jets. He was dumbstruck.

Even though they were too weak to defeat Caspian, they were still strong enough to escape.

However, the sudden arrival of the army had cut off their retreat!

John was the first to hop off one of the tanks. He rushed over as soon as he received the order

from Caspian.

“How dare you lay your hand on Lord Caspian? You’ve all got a death wish!”

John snarled at Ace and the experts from the TMAA.

“Kill them all!” he instructed with a wave of his hand, and the tanks behind him continued pressing forward.

At the same time, the thousands of soldiers fired their guns, and the bullets pierced through the crowd of Ace and all of his men.

They scrambled for cover.

They couldn’t figure out why the army was helping Caspian, but before they could wrap their heads around the situation, an overwhelming majority of them had died.

The stench of blood filled the air.

The sight of his subordinates going down one after the other enraged Ace.

“Charge forward! Clear a path!” Ace roared.

The only thing he could think of now was to find a way out as soon as possible. No matter how adept they were at fighting, they were powerless when confronted with guns.

Their only chance of survival was to find a way to break through the siege.

“This is fun!” John snorted.

He issued an order through his walkie-talkie. “Don’t let them escape!

The fighter jets up above immediately aimed their spotlights down on the ground. Once the lights zeroed in on Ace and his people, the soldiers started firing at them.

Bullets rained down from the sky, extinguishing the last flicker of hope in Ace’s heart.

In the face of such powerful weapons, even mighty martial arts experts like them were defenseless.

A bullet ripped through Hector’s abdomen, and blood gushed out of the wound.

“Save me, Mr. Garland!” Hector howled in pain as he clutched his wounded abdomen.

+15 BONUS

“Hector!” Ace roared.

He wanted to save Hector, but now that Hector had been hit, his fate was sealed. Within seconds, he had more bullets in him than one could even count.

“Caspian! I’ll rip you to pieces myself!” Ace howled in rage.

All of his most trusted subordinates had been killed by Caspian.

Ace wanted vengeance, but now was not the time for that. If he wanted to come after Caspian, he had to escape this place alive and rebuild his forces.

He dared not waste any more time. Mustering up every ounce of strength, he got ready to flee this place.

Supreme grandmasters had a heightened sense of awareness above and beyond that of ordinary people.

Ace was able to swiftly dodge all the bullets that came flying at him, but the rest of his people weren’t as fortunate.

They fell like dominos, row after row.

It was a devastating sight.

Lincoln and the others were stunned by the scene before them.

On the other hand, this was nothing out of the ordinary to Caspian. He had

seen his fair share of horrifying battles.

From the moment the people from the TMAA decided to attack Southlake City, their fate had been sealed. A crushing loss was the only possible outcome.

“Caspian, I’m going to kill you if it’s the last thing I do!” Ace ferociously declared as he broke out of the siege.

Behind him, all of his people had fallen.

Ace dared not stick around any longer. He swiftly disappeared into the night. When Sylvia saw him fleeing, she rushed forward and said, “I want to hunt Ace Garland down, Caspian!”

She couldn’t accept the fact that she had lost to him during their earlier fight.

“Don’t bother. Let him go. Now’s not the time to kill him. Either way, the strongest fighters in the TMAA will have gone down after this fight. Even if he gets away, he won’t be much of a threat,” Caspian said as he shook his head.

Following this fight, the TMAA would exist only in name. Caspian could easily destroy the

+15 BONUS

After hearing what Caspian said, Sylvia backed down. She obeyed his orders without question.

Just then, John approached Caspian and reported, “Apart from Ace Garland, the rest of the TMAA are all dead, Lord Caspian!”

After exchanging glances with his people, Lincoln gulped. He didn’t know how to react.

Caspian became even more awe–inspiring to him.

“Clean this place up. Burn all the bodies,” Caspian instructed as he glanced at Lincoln.

“Yes, Mr. Lynch!” Lincoln replied with a nod.

John and the army also jumped into action.

Too many had died in this fight. They needed to clear the place as soon as possible, lest it would lead to unwanted trouble..

Caspian looked at Bernard and the others. They had just gone through a bloody fight. This experience would surely change them, and he knew they would become even more resilient after this.

“All of you did well. No one backed down from the fight. You’re all worthy of calling yourselves honorable men.

“I will give the families of the deceased two million dollars each to support them in their time of grief. Everyone who took part in the fight will also receive 500 thousand dollars in cash as a reward!” Caspian

solemnly declared.

He was always generous with his subordinates. The fallen men were all heroes who died while defending the citizens of Southlake City, so their families deserved to be compensated.

Money was nothing but a meaningless string of numbers to Caspian. He didn't care about it at all.

"Thank you, Lord Caspian!"

"Thank you, Mr. Lynch!"

Everyone expressed their gratitude, moved by Caspian's gesture.

In the past, Lincoln's men had merely been street thugs. Everyone kept their distance from them, and no one respected them.

But ever since they started working for Caspian, they became responsible for maintaining the peace and security in Southlake City.

They started to feel a sense of respect from others.

+15 BONUS

Meanwhile, the banquet at Draymore Hotel had ended, and the attendees had already left.

Jyn was getting ready for bed in one of the hotel's luxury suites.

But after hearing Ginger's report, she stared at Ginger in disbelief and exclaimed, "What did you say? Everyone from the Traditional Martial Arts Association is dead?"

"That's right. According to the latest news, Ace Garland, the chairman of the TMAA, led about ten

thousand of his people over to Southlake City to snatch the Eldorian Scroll fragment from Caspian. However, not a single one of his men survived!

"A bloody fight took place on the outskirts of the city, and only Ace managed to escape. The fight had been even at first, but the army got involved, turning the tides in Caspian's favor!" Ginger trembled as she gave the report.

Just who was Caspian? Was he really just some guy who once served as a soldier?

Why would even the army show up to help him?

Jyn's brows creased. She didn't know what position Caspian held in the army, but she was certain he had to be someone of extreme importance. Otherwise, the army would not have shown up to protect him.

After the appalling defeat the TMAA suffered, they were as good as abolished. Jyn got the feeling that the power balance in Dhord City would soon be undergoing a great upheaval.

“Tell our people to start buying up all of the TMAA’s assets and businesses!” Jyn instructed Ginger with a serious expression. “If anyone refuses to sell anything to us, just seize it by force! I want to take over all of the TMAA’s assets within ten days!”

Chapter 436 The Assassin Sent by the Morrisons

Shocked, Ginger stared at Jyn and exclaimed, “Ms. Morrison? Are you ...”

+15 BONUS

Was Jyn trying to capitalize on the situation at a critical time like this? With a resolute expression, Jyn declared, “Sooner or later, everyone in Diatoran will learn that the TMAA has suffered a devastating blow. Once the major powerhouses in Dhord City hear about this, they’ll surely find ways to seize the TMAA’s territory.

“Instead of letting someone else get their hands on it, why don’t we use this opportunity to expand Morrison Group instead? Plus, since the TMAA had the audacity to attack Caspian, I’m going to teach them a lesson!”

All along, the TMAA wielded a great deal of power in Dhord City, and no one dared to cross them. After all, their members were all martial arts experts.

However, things were going to be different now. Since the TMAA had been severely weakened by the fight, everyone would gang up on them to pick them apart.

Jyn had the advantage as she had caught wind of the news first, so she was determined to take action!

“Understood, Ms. Morrison!” Ginger replied.

“Also, we need to hold a product launch in two days. I want to beat Southlake Corporation within half a month,” Jyn added with a fierce gaze.

She was focusing all her attention on challenging Southlake Corporation. Jyn wanted Willow to back down by proving to the latter that she was the best match for Caspian.

After dealing with the mess, Caspian headed back to Riverside Villa. The car pulled up at the entrance, and Caspian got out.

All of a sudden, he frowned and growled, “Who goes there? Why are you sneaking around?”

He had sensed a formidable presence lunging at him, and his expression hardened. The attacker was no ordinary person.

Without even a moment of hesitation, Caspian threw a punch.

A gust of wind stirred, and Caspian had to take a half-step backward. He was surprised that the other person managed to push him back.

Even though it was only half a step, it was enough to shock him.

+15 BONUS

Caspian had been in numerous battles and encountered countless powerful opponents, but no one ever managed to make him stumble backward.

This was a first!

Meanwhile, Caspian's punch had sent the figure flying backward before crashing against a large tree trunk.

The tree trunk cracked from the force.

Upon checking, Caspian saw that his assailant was an elderly man in a robe. The elder fell to the ground and spat out a mouthful of blood before staring at Caspian in disbelief.

"You're Caspian Lynch, the Stewart family's matrilocal son-in-law?" the elderly man asked in shock.

"That's right. Did the Morrisons send you?" Caspian questioned curtly.

"How did you know?" the man exclaimed. He was even more thunderstruck now.

Caspian had figured out his identity when all he did was ask a question!

The attacker was Anton Torrez, the man Tristan tasked to kill Caspian

After flying into Southlake City, Anton immediately began investigating

Caspian. Once he found out where Caspian lived, he lay

in wait nearby to ambush Caspi

Anton thought he had a foolproof. Alas, he underestimated Caspian's vigilance and alertness.

Caspian had noticed his presence before he even made his move,

Due to that, Anton had no choice but to attack Caspian as quickly as possible, but he couldn't even withstand a single punch

from the latter.

Caspian's punch had severely injured him.

Wasn't Caspian supposed to be nothing more than the Stewart family's matrilocal son-in-law? While he had served as a soldier

for a few years, he now wasted his days away doing nothing worthy of mention.

In Anton's eyes, Caspian had to be a useless piece of trash. Why else would anyone willingly become a matrilocal son-in-law?

However, Anton now realized just how wrong he was.

Although Caspian was a matrilocal son-in-law, he was no slouch when it came to martial arts.

Few in Dhord City could've survived his punch unscathed, let alone Southlake City.

+15 BONUS

Anton wondered who Caspian truly was. Why was he willing to be the Stewart family's matrilocal son-in-law? What was he after?

All manner of questions surfaced in his mind. Though he had no answers to them, he knew that Caspian's identity was not as simple as he had thought.

"You don't need to know how I figured out who you are. Who sent you to kill me?" Caspian asked coolly.

Startled, Anton stammered, "That's..."

Caspian cut him off and remarked with a chuckle, "Even if you don't tell me, I know who it is. It must've been Tristan Morrison, the head of the Morrison family, right?"

Anton froze when he heard that. He didn't know how to respond to Caspian.

Caspian was not only a powerful fighter but a sharp and insightful man to boot.

Anton hadn't said much the whole time, but Caspian seemed to have known what was going on all along.

How could someone like him be an ordinary matrilocal son-in-law?

Meanwhile, Anton's reaction confirmed Caspian's deduction.

Jyn had gone over to the Stewart family estate to seize the Eldorian Scroll fragment, but she left empty-handed.

Naturally, that wouldn't remain a secret. The Morrisons would undoubtedly fill Tristan in on what had happened that day at the Stewart family estate.

Jyn was the most talented businesswoman in the family, but she was infatuated with Caspian. As the head of the Morrison family, Tristan certainly wouldn't tolerate such a situation. Based on Caspian's understanding of Jyn, he knew she wouldn't be

giving up so easily.

He also knew that Tristan would definitely find a way to get rid of him for Jyn's sake.

In the eyes of others, Caspian was just a nobody—nothing more than a matrilocal son-in-law. Naturally, he was far too lowly to be a good match for Jyn.

With a sigh, Anton said, “You're no ordinary person, are you? Just who are you? Why are you willing to stick around a place like Southlake City?”

“Considering your power, it would be easy enough for you to make something of yourself. I can't defeat you. Feel free to do whatever you want to me.”

After just a single punch from Caspian, Anton knew full well he was no match against Caspian. He posed no threat to the latter at all.

+15 BONUS

Instead of wasting more time, he'd much rather save himself the agony and take the easy way out.

Plus, he figured that Caspian might be too afraid to do anything to him due to his association with the Morrisons.

The Morrisons would surely go after Caspian if he died.

“Hah! Kill you? I'm not interested in doing that. However, it's not because I fear the Morrisons. I'm merely sparing your life on Jyn's account. Off you go now. Hopefully, you'll be making wise choices from now on,” Caspian said before walking off.

Anton had mixed emotions as he watched Caspian leave.

It was hard to believe that Caspian possessed such strength at such a young age.

Fortunately for Anton, Caspian didn't take his life.

Anton then left, shaking his head. He wanted to report the incident to Tristan right away.

Outside Dhord City was a mountain range that stretched across the heart of Diatoran. At night, the forest along the mountain range fell into complete darkness.

If one stumbled into the forest by accident, one would be stuck there for good with no chance of getting out.

It was rumored that numerous strange things had happened along the mountain range. Ordinary people dared not venture into this area, but at the moment, a figure was rushing through the forest.

It was Gilbert, and he was exhausted both physically and mentally. He had finally returned after fleeing from Southlake City. He exhaled in relief, but soon, his brows knitted.

Chapter 437 The Mysterious Shadow Gate

Not only did Gilbert have nothing to brag about his trip to Southlake City, but it even resulted in a severe loss.

Everyone in Shadow Gate had to abide by strict rules. Even though Gilbert was an elder, he would still be punished for failing in his mission.

Thinking about Shadow Gate's chilling punishment methods made Gilbert shudder.

Of course, he dared not defect either. Shadow Gate killed all of its defectors without exception.

It wouldn't be a quick death, either. The defector would be tormented to no end first.

Instead of fleeing in fear, it was better for Gilbert to face reality.

After glancing at the buildings just up ahead, he shook his head and approached them.

The buildings were so well-concealed among the mountain terrain that it would be hard for ordinary people to locate them.

Gilbert made his way through the bushes that were nearly six feet tall before arriving in front of a stone entrance.

He placed a round pendant into a dip in the stone entrance, and it slowly opened with a rumble.

Two figures abruptly shot out..

"Who are you? Identify yourself!" the men in masks demanded.

They were the guards stationed at the entrance, but despite merely being guards, they were both eternal grandmasters.

One could imagine just how powerful Shadow Gate was when even their guards were eternal grandmasters.

No one would've expected them to be hidden deep in the forest. As it was, ordinary people would never be able to find them.

Many forces in the martial arts world wanted to take down Shadow Gate, but no one knew the location of its base.

Over time, they grew wary of Shadow Gate.

"You bastard! Don't you recognize me?" Gilbert fumed. He was already in a foul mood, and these two guards aggravated him further by standing in his way.

“Oh! It’s you, Mr. Shane! Greetings, Mr. Shane!”

After recognizing Gilbert, the guards immediately stepped aside. They dared not offend him as

+15 BONUS

Gilbert snorted before stepping through the stone entrance.

Once he left, the two guards exhaled in relief. The back of their heads were drenched in sweat.

“Didn’t Mr. Shane head to Southlake City with a group of people to seize the Eldorian Scroll fragment? Why did he come back

alone? Where are the others?” one of the guards asked puzzledly.

“Quit yapping. That’s not something we should concern ourselves with!” the other shot back.

After passing through the stone entrance, Gilbert entered a brightly lit area.. It was an expansive, naturally formed valley with numerous buildings featuring historical architecture. The place gave

off an air of elegance.

The valley was also filled with the liveliness of nature:

However, Gilbert was in no mood to pay any attention to anything else. With a grim expression, he headed to the palace situated in the center of the valley.

Many members of Shadow Gate patrolled the path he walked on, but no one stopped him.

Soon, he arrived outside the palace. It was an extraordinary one built out of special rocks similar to obsidian, making the structure even more durable. The walls couldn’t be damaged with regular weapons.

The air inside the palace was chilly. Ordinary people wouldn’t be able to bear the cold.

At the moment, there were over a dozen figures in the center of the palace.

They were puzzled by Gilbert’s arrival.

As soon as Gilbert entered, he fell to his knees and said, “Greetings, Mr. Burton!”

In the center of the palace, a man in a cloak was seated on a throne made of human bones.

He wore a dazzling golden mask with an eerie-looking shape that struck fear into all who saw

1. it.

The man was Elijah Burton, the head of Shadow Gate.

No one in the martial arts world knew what he looked like—even the members

of Shadow Gate never saw his face before.

Elijah was an enigmatic figure.

After glancing at Gilbert, Elijah said in an uncanny voice, “Did you get the Eldorian Scroll fragment?”

It was hard to tell whether the low and husky voice belonged to a man or a woman.

+15 BONUS

Gilbert trembled, and his back was covered in sweat.

“About that, Mr. Burton....

Gilbert didn’t know how to answer Elijah’s question.

Noting Gilbert’s hesitance, Elijah asked coldly, “Did you fail to retrieve it?”

“Please have mercy on me, Mr. Burton!”

Gilbert immediately prostrated in front of Elijah and started banging his head against the floor. The moment he finished speaking, he felt a murderous force shrouding him.

“Explain yourself. If you don’t... You know what I’m capable of!”

The voice was icy and void of emotion, but that sentence alone was enough to make everyone freeze.

“Please forgive me, Mr. Burton. When I ...”

Gilbert gave a summary of everything that happened in Southlake City.

“Caspian Lynch? A matrilocal son-in-law?” Elijah said with a look of confusion.

Was Gilbert coming up with the most ludicrous lie possible?

Why would a matrilocal son-in-law have the gall to seize the Eldorian Scroll fragment from two extremely powerful factions like the TMAA and Shadow Gate?

It was also impossible to believe that five thousand fighters from the TMAA had died, including their head elder, Nixon.

While Gilbert was lucky enough to survive, over a thousand experts from Shadow Gate had also died at the Stewart family estate.

How could a matrilocal son-in-law display such formidable strength?

Who would believe such a story?

A red-haired man in a red mask stepped forward and said, “This is just your excuse, isn’t it, Gilbert? How can a matrilocal son-in-law do what you claim he did? Stop spewing such nonsense!”

Turning to Elijah, he continued, “I suggest that you punish Gilbert heavily, Mr.

Burton!”

The man in the red mask was Asher Cooke, the ninth elder of Shadow Gate. He had always been at odds with Gilbert, Now that Gilbert had just failed a mission, Asher seized the chance to knock him down a peg. Everyone in Shadow Gate harbored their own selfish desires. Their main priority was
+15 BONUS

Therefore, the others watched the spat between Asher and Gilbert without saying anything.

“What do you mean by that, Asher? You’re just trying to use this chance to get even with me! I did my best to complete my assignment, so stop being ridiculous!” Gilbert retorted hotly.

He knew Asher was slandering him to get him in trouble..

Gilbert was doomed if he angered Elijah.

“How am I being ridiculous? Who in the martial arts world wouldn’t want to get their hands. on the Eldorian Scroll fragment? You likely came up with a flimsy excuse to hide the fact that you took it for yourself!” Asher declared with a nasty sneer.

Stunned, everyone fixed their eyes on Gilbert.

The Eldorian Scroll fragment was indeed a treasure that many yearned for. With it, one could become a supreme grandmaster or maybe even more powerful than that.

It wouldn’t be surprising if Gilbert was trying to keep the Eldorian Scroll fragment to himself.

Meanwhile, a all the color drained out of Gilbert’s face. He was irritated beyond words.

Though he did consider keeping the Eldorian Scroll fragment to himself, he didn’t get his hands on it in the first place!

“Are you going to explain yourself, Gilbert?” Elijah asked icily.

Once again, Gilbert started banging his head against the floor until his forehead began bleeding.

“I’ve been nothing but loyal to you, Mr. Burton! I would never dare to betray you!” Gilbert cried out tearfully.

Chapter 438 Greeted by a Sea of Fans

Elijah sneered. He was thoroughly aware of what kind of subordinates he had. They all wanted to take his place.

Nevertheless, he didn’t care about that. They had banded together for selfish reasons and were using each other anyway. He would choose to close an eye as long as their actions didn’t go too

Lar.

Naturally, Elijah knew that Gilbert wasn't as loyal as he claimed to be, but the fear in Gilbert's eyes made it clear he didn't get his hands on the Eldorian Scroll fragment. Otherwise, there was no reason for him to return to Shadow Gate.

"Surely you don't believe him, Mr. Burton? We only have his word as proof," Asher piped up, stoking the flames once more.

He wasn't going to rest until he had Gilbert executed.

Gilbert scowled at Asher, who was blatantly trying to get him in trouble, but he couldn't do anything. Elijah could dictate his fate with just a single word.

"Seamus, what information do you have on Caspian Lynch?" Elijah asked as he looked at a bearded old man beside him.

Seamus Goate, the bearded old man, stood up and said, "Caspian Lynch previously served in the army for a few years. He's now the Stewart family's matrilocal son-in-law. His wedding had been an extravagant affair.

"Southlake City is filled with many rumors about him. It's said that he has connections with John Anderson, the high-ranking general from South Aridlands. He doesn't seem ordinary, and some say he possesses an extraordinary identity..."

"Oh? Is that so?" Elijah remarked in surprise.

The identity of Caspian, the so-called matrilocal son-in-law, wasn't as simple as everyone else thought.

Moreover, he now had the Eldorian Scroll fragment, which meant he must've grown even more powerful.

Elijah wouldn't be able to rest easy until Caspian was eliminated.

He glanced at Gilbert, and that act alone was enough to make the latter tremble.

Gilbert didn't know what was going to become of him.

"Gilbert, you failed in your mission, and it led to a serious loss for us. Hence, you should be punished heavily for that. But since you've done your best, a simple punishment will suffice.

+15 BONUS

"You will receive a hundred lashings, after which you'll be confined to your quarters for five days," Elijah said.

Gilbert was relieved. He had expected to die for his failure. This outcome was indeed far more acceptable to him.

"Thank you, Mr. Burton!" Gilbert said as he nodded once more.

Then, he was led away. Soon, his anguished howls echoed in the palace. Elijah's expression remained unruffled. He had his reasons for not killing Gilbert.

"Asher."

Heart missing a beat, Asher quickly replied, "Yes, Mr. Burton!"

"I'm commanding you to lead a team of 500 eternal grandmasters to Southlake City and seize the Eldorian Scroll fragment.

Caspian Lynch is not to be underestimated. You'll need to rely on your wits to complete this mission.

"Make sure you bring the Eldorian Scroll fragment back at all costs," Elijah said.

Asher smirked. This was the perfect chance for him to make a name for himself. If he managed

to get the Eldorian Scroll fragment, he would get a wider variety of options!

"Understood, Mr. Burton! I will certainly succeed!" Asher declared with a nod.

He had always been a ruthless man, after all.

Over at Southlake City Airport, a luxury airliner just landed.

"Mia!"

"I love you, Mia!"

"Mia! You're my one and only!"

Nearly ten thousand fans had crowded into the airport.

Mia Patel was an international superstar with tens of millions of fans in Diatoran.

When her fans found out she was coming over to Eastcove, they scrambled to greet her at the airport. Crowds would always gather wherever she went.

Mia's path to fame had been smooth sailing, and people loved to discuss that. She shot to fame and became an international superstar in just two short years. Few could emulate such success.

+15 BONUS

Many speculated that Mia had hooked up with someone influential. After all, such relationships were a common thing in the entertainment industry.

Only Mia knew that her success was credited to one person.

Mia

got off the plane dressed in a mini dress. She also had a cap and a pair of sunglasses on.

She stepped into the airport with dozens of bodyguards around her.

Her long legs and voluptuous figure fueled the desires of many. Her fans were still shrilly chanting her name as if they were in a trance. "Mia! Mia! Mia!"

They all wanted to get as close to their favorite celebrity as possible.

However, Mia didn't react at all. This was a common occurrence for her. Her bodyguards escorted her out of the airport. As soon as she stepped out, she saw a pink Maserati parked on the side of the road.

When Mia saw Jyn standing next to the Maserati, she squealed, "Jyn! I missed you so much!"

She quickly rushed up to Jyn and hugged her.

"Let's go," Jyn said with a smile.

Once they got inside the car, they drove off with over a dozen luxury cars clearing the path before them.

"Jyn, thanks for making me the brand ambassador for your new company's latest product," Mia said.

"You're being too polite with me, Mia! We're good friends, aren't we?"

Jyn and Mia started chatting. They were both beautiful young women of similar age. They became fast friends after meeting each other by coincidence at an event.

Out of the blue, Mia solemnly declared, "To tell you the truth, Jyn, there's another reason why I came to Southlake City. I'm looking for a man!"

"What? You're looking for a man?" Jyn repeated.

She was curious to know what kind of man received such attention from Mia. All kinds of rumors regarding Mia abounded. Everyone claimed she got involved with

directors for the sake of getting famous,

However, those were all baseless rumors.

Jyn knew Mia very well. Even after becoming a celebrity, Mia held fast to her principles. She

+15 BONUS

Yet, Mia was now saying that she was looking for a man.

Jyn knew the entire entertainment industry would be astonished if this news got out.

"You can get any man you want, Mia," Jyn said with a chuckle.

"It's not what you think, Jyn. The man I'm looking for saved my life once. I never told you about this..." Mia said seriously.

when she first joined the entertainment industry, she had p through a difficult period.

Many people from the production team, including directors and screenwriters, lusted after her. They would only give her roles if she slept with them.

However, Mia rejected them all. Later on, even her management company gave up on her.

At the time, Mia couldn't take the setback. She attempted to take her own life by jumping into the river, but a handsome passerby saved her.

That man gave Mia an address and told her to look for someone there.

It was then that Mia got her big break and shot to fame, becoming the megastar she was now.

All along, Mia had been searching for the man who saved her, to no avail. But after asking around all this while, she finally heard that he could be in Southlake City!

Chapter 439 Hottest Female Celebrity in Diatoran

"I never knew you went through such hardships, Mia! Don't worry. I'll definitely help you find your savior," Jyn assured.

Mia nodded and smiled before looking out the window.

She knew full well why she abstained from relationships all along. She was waiting for him- the man who saved her from the clutches of death!

Meanwhile, over at Southlake Corporation, Caspian was startled as he looked at the photo in his hand.

"Mia Patel?"

"That's right! Mia's the hottest celebrity in Diatoran right now. She has tens of millions of fans. I can't believe Jyn got Mia to be her company's brand ambassador! We're in big trouble now," Willow said anxiously.

Mia was too famous. According to the latest news, over 50 thousand people went to Southlake City Airport to welcome Mia.

No other celebrity had accomplished such a feat!

If Mia became the brand ambassador for Morrison Group, the company's latest product would fly off the shelves. That was bad news for Southlake Corporation.

Southlake Corporation had to prepare itself for a brutal fight—one with no room for retreat.

However, Willow didn't notice that Caspian was staring somewhat dazedly at Mia's photo.

A memory flitted back into his mind....

It was about an incident that took place three years ago.

At the time, he was already Lord Caspian, the Diatoranian God of War.

He was heading to the border to supervise a military campaign when he saw a young woman attempting to take her life by jumping into the river, so he rescued her.

Then, he found out she was a lesser-known female celebrity.

Caspian had been in a rush to leave, but as he pitied her, he gave her an address and a contact number that belonged to a director before leaving.

He never asked for her name, and she didn't know who he was either.

All they had between them was that brief encounter.

+15 BONUS

Several years had passed since then, and Caspian realized her name was Mia. She was now an international superstar.

In the photo, Mia looked even more beautiful now.

"Hubby? Hubby! What's on your mind? Why aren't you answering me?"

Willow asked.

"Huh?"

When Caspian snapped out of his reverie, he saw Willow eyeing him in confusion with her arms crossed.

"What's going on with you, hubby? Why were you ignoring me? What were you thinking about?"

"Oh. It's nothing. What did you say?" Caspian said with a sheepish chuckle.

Rolling her eyes, Willow asked irritably, "What should we do now?"

"We'll hire a celebrity too! It's not like we can't challenge them with a brand ambassador of our own!" Caspian declared with a smile. It was a straightforward matter.

"That's easy for you to say. How are we going to find someone as famous as Mia?" Willow reported with a pout. Her worry was etched on her face,

Southlake Corporation was in a crisis. If the company failed to find a suitable ambassador, its sales numbers would pale in comparison to Morrison Group's

But how could they find another celebrity as famous and influential as Mia?

There was no point in hiring a lesser-known

celebrity.

Willow was at a loss.

“Don’t be silly. Have you forgotten about the famous celebrity we know?”

Caspian teased as he nudged Willow’s face.

Willow’s eyes brightened at once.

“Rebecca! Why did I forget about her?” Willow exclaimed in excitement.

Even though Rebecca wasn’t as well-known as Mia, she was also a top star.

Her latest movie brought in billions of dollars at the box office, and her posters were still plastered everywhere!

It would be best to get her to be the brand ambassador for Southlake Corporation.

Even though she had been in some promotional material for Southlake Corporation in the past, that was such a long time ago.

Plus, Rebecca was their friend. If Caspian said the word, she would definitely lend them a hand.

+15 BONUS

“How stupid of me, hubby. I wouldn’t have remembered that if you hadn’t reminded me!” Willow sweetly said as she hugged

Caspian.

Caspian pecked her on the cheek, and she immediately blushed.

“My wife isn’t stupid at all!” Caspian declared affectionately.

“You’re just a smooth talker,” Willow retorted with a huff, though she was secretly pleased to hear that from him.

She still felt like she and Caspian were in the honeymoon phase.

“But still, what are we going to do about the issue with our product?” Willow asked worriedly.

“What issue?” Caspian queried in confusion.

“Although we do have a new product range entering the market, we don’t have enough supporting data. We don’t know how the consumers feel about our latest product,” Willow explained with a sigh.

“Easton Research Center has all the data. And technically speaking, we’re all supposed to have access to it. But when our company asked the research center for the data, they told us it was classified information.”

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The consumer data on the luxury goods market was supposed to be public information that all businesses could request to have.

Southlake Corporation had previously managed to get the data, but this time,

the research center refused their request.

In reality, Willow knew it had to be because of Morrison Group.

Southlake Corporation and Morrison Group were going head to head, and the research center. didn't want to offend either party.

Without the supporting consumer data, their team couldn't create the optimum marketing plan or make adjustments to their

product, making it harder for them to compete against Morrison Group.

"That's not a problem at all. Don't worry. I'll head to Easton with you tomorrow. I'm sure we can resolve this matter.

"We'll also invite Rebecca to be Southlake Corporation's brand ambassador and promote the latest product range," Caspian said as he held Willow.

"Thanks, hubby. You're the best! I love you so much."

Willow nuzzled her face against Caspian's chest.

"Is that all I'm getting? How about something more substantial?" Caspian suggested with a

+15 BONUS

"What do you mean?" Willow asked puzzledly.

Caspian murmured into her ear.

"What? In the office? That's too inappropriate! What if somebody sees us? I won't be able to face the employees as their CEO any longer!" Willow exclaimed.

"I won't do it. I had a hard time establishing myself as the CEO in front of everyone, you know? I won't let you ruin my image!

Willow couldn't believe that Caspian suggested they made love in the office! She rejected him without hesitation.

How could they do something so intimate in the office? What if someone saw them? She would never be able to hold her head up in public again.

In any case, she had a lot of matters to attend to every day, and the staff often dropped by to deliver documents to her.

She and Caspian would undoubtedly be interrupted if they did the deed in the office.

"That's easy," Caspian declared. "Who'd dare enter the CEO's office without permission? You can just make a call and announce to the employees that no one's allowed to come in."

Chapter 440 Downfall of the Traditional Martial Arts Association

+15 BONUS

After Caspian finished speaking, he picked up the landline on Willow's desk. "Yes, is this the receptionist? Tell everyone in the company that Ms. Stewart will be busy for the next two hours. No one is allowed to come to her office. Anyone who does will be fired on the spot!" After ending the call, Caspian smirked at Willow and said, "You have nothing to worry about now."

"Hubby, you're... so annoying..

Willow didn't expect Caspian to do what he just did.

She felt so embarrassed.

"Wait a minute. Why did you say I'll be busy for two hours?" Willow asked puzzledly.

Clearing his throat, Caspian replied, "Isn't two hours the average amount of time? Anyway, let's get started. We haven't done it in the office before..."

He scooped Willow into his arms, and soon, their passionate embrace heated up the office.

"You were such a brute just now, hubby. Look! You ripped my clothes. I'd be mortified if someone saw this," Willow shyly grumbled as she adjusted her outfit.

Caspian had been in too much of a rush earlier.

Willow never thought she'd be having sex in the office either, though she had to admit it felt different from doing it at home—it was quite thrilling.

"Why don't we try something new next time?" Caspian suggested with a chuckle from his seat on the couch.

Willow's breath hitched. What did he mean by that? Were there other ways to do it?

Ace made it back to the TMAA's headquarters. The moment he arrived, he announced that he would be going into seclusion for a while and wouldn't be seeing anyone.

At the same time, the news of the TMAA's crushing defeat had spread all over Dhord City.

All the remaining members of the TMAA were living in fear.

Lately, Morrison Group went into a frenzy and bought over the TMAA's businesses at absurdly low prices.

+15 BONUS

When the TMAA refused, Morrison Group seized the businesses by force instead.

Even after returning to the TMAA, Ace didn't show himself in public, and barely any of the high-ranking members of the TMAA

remained.

The TMAA was as good as dead since the ones still around were headless chickens.

All who bore a grudge against the TMAA used this chance to seek vengeance.

In the dungeon of the TMAA, Ace's expression hardened as he coughed up a mouthful of blood.

His face was pale, and his body was incredibly frail.

"Caspian!" Ace snarled through gritted teeth.

The TMAA was going through its worst crisis.

Ace knew full well what had been going on the past few days, but he was so preoccupied with his own condition that he didn't have the strength to care about anything else.

Nevertheless, seeing the way the TMAA was on the verge of crumbling apart gave Ace the urge to tear Caspian into pieces.

Just then, the low thud of footsteps rang out.

Startled, Ace turned around and growled, "Who goes there?"

A man wearing a cloak and a veil emerged.

Ace tensed up the moment he saw that man.

Despite being a supreme grandmaster and the chairman of the TMAA, Ace was just a pawn.

All along, he had been working for a mysterious person with the last name Lange. He didn't even know the person's full name and merely addressed him as Mr. Lange.

It was this enigmatic Mr. Lange who helped Ace establish the TMAA. He wanted Ace to expand the TMAA's influence to gain full control over Diatoran's martial arts world.

But Ace failed to accomplish that, and now, the TMAA was at risk of being eliminated for good. "Did Mr. Lange send you here to kill me?" Ace asked through gritted teeth.

He knew what kind of man Mr. Lange was. Besides, he was no longer of any use to the latter. Thus, there was no reason to keep him around.

"I'm sure you understand what Mr. Lange is like-"

The veiled man was halfway through his sentence when Ace got on his feet and roared, "Well, get on with it, but I won't be giving in without a fight!"

+15 BONUS

His reaction made the veiled man chuckle in a way that sent chills down a person's spine.

"Don't worry. Mr. Lange did consider killing you, but since you've tried your best, he's willing to give you a chance to make

up

for

your failures."

"Oh? Is that so?" Ace said doubtfully. He didn't believe Mr. Lange would be so benevolent.

"There's nothing I can tell you. You'll need to return with me."

"What? Where am I going with you? Do you want me to abandon the TMAA?"

Ace exclaimed in shock.

"And why not? Do you think there's any reason for the chairman of the TMAA to stick around any longer?" the veiled man asked

as he eyed Ace.

Ace kept quiet. The veiled man was right. The TMAA was nothing but an empty shell now. They were no longer the mighty force they were before.

Nevertheless, Ace had a hard time giving up just like that. He spent decades building the association up. It pained him to leave so abruptly.

"You don't have a choice in the matter. This is Mr. Lange's decision," the veiled man declared coolly.

Ace hesitated, but in the end, he clenched his jaw and said, "Alright! I'll leave with you!"

He was out of options. He was doomed if he stuck around here.

"Guess you're not a complete fool," the veiled man remarked with a cackle.

The two men left the dungeon, and moments later, a fire started. Everything was burned to a crisp.

The next day, a shocking piece of news spread like wildfire. Ace, the chairman of the TMAA, had died in a fire.

In an instant, all of the TMAA's enemies descended upon the TMAA, causing its members to flee.

The once mighty TMAA was gone in a flash.

Many were unaware that the fall of the TMAA was related to Southlake City.

But many factions and forces, including those from

Diatoran's martial arts world, were starting to pay attention to the seemingly unremarkable city.

“What? The TMAA has fallen apart?”

+15 BONUS

Caspian was taken aback by the news. Though the TMAA was indeed caught in a fairly dire situation, it shouldn't have crumbled apart so quickly.

“Is this information accurate?” Caspian asked with a frown.

“Definitely, Caspian. The TMAA has indeed been overthrown! According to the news, Ace locked himself up in the dungeon upon his return, and he died in a fire there,” Sylvia reported. “Oh? Is that so?” Caspian remarked as he rubbed his chin thoughtfully.

Ace's death was just a rumor. Though everyone said he had died in a fire, no one saw his body. However, it was indeed a fact that the TMAA was no longer in existence.

Sylvia asked quietly, “Caspian, should I get someone to investigate...”

“No need. It doesn't matter whether Ace's dead or alive,” Caspian said. Ace was insignificant to him.

It was only a shame that someone else must have gotten their hands on the TMAA's sizeable holdings and assets.

“Hubby, it's time for us to head off!” Willow called out once she appeared.

“I'm coming,” Caspian replied.

Caspian and Willow were heading to Easton.

They wanted to invite Rebecca to become their brand ambassador as well as get the consumer data they needed from Easton Research Center.

In order to face off against the aggressive Morrison Group, they needed to be fully prepared.

“What? Caspian and Willow have gone to Easton together?”

The moment Jyn heard the news, she got an unsettling feeling.