

The Understated Dragon Lord

Chapter 101

Chapter 101 Dent Let Me Down

Chapter **101** Don't Let Me Down

After getting a nod from River Yu, Isabella hurried over to her dad, Chris. 'Dad, since Master **Yu** approves, why won't you let Daniel lift the curse for you? Just lie down on the bed, and I'll have Daniel chase away the curse and those nasty bugs in your belly!"

"Alright! I'll play along if that's what you want. After all, I'm your dad and you're my daughter! But just to be crystal clear, if that good-for-nothing **can't** get rid of this curse, he's out of here **on** the spot! My daughter's assistant has to be an Ivy League **grad** to step foot in Prosper Group. And another thing, your assistant

has to be a girl!" Chris would never accept some country bumpkin as an assistant for his **daughter**.

He always thought his daughter was too naive. What if she got tricked by this scumbag? That'd be big trouble. He labeled all these rural riff raff the same – no good! These types always look for shortcuts instead of doing honest work. He was sure this so-called Daniel was only cozying up to his daughter for

money.

It wasn't a common problem, but these things certainly happened in big companies. To protect his daughter, Chris was determined to nip any potential threat in the bud!

“If Daniel doesn’t find any bugs in your body, I’ll definitely fire him. But if he does manage to get those critters out of your belly, then you’re not allowed to oppose me hiring him as my assistant!” Isabella insisted on hiring Daniel because of his connection with Jessica.

In Florida, The Evans could do almost anything, but this was New York. To do business here, The Evans needed to connect with The Matthews, New York’s richest family. And the best link between the two

families was Daniel.

Daniel wasn’t just Jessica’s assistant; he was also her pretend sweetheart. The icing on the cake was his skill in medicine. A man like that was very valuable.

Although Chris wasn’t sure what his daughter was planning, he nodded in agreement. “Fine! If that punk can extract the bugs from my stomach, I’ll agree to him being your assistant.”

Chris didn’t believe he was cursed because he could never trust some country kid over Master Yu!

With her dad’s promise in hand, Isabella turned to Daniel with eagerness. “You better not disappoint me!”

“Don’t worry, I just need three minutes, and I’ll have those two bugs out of your father’s stomach!”

Daniel’s **bold** claim set River Yu off into a fit of laughter. “Hahaha...

“Why are you laughing, Master Yu?) asked **Daniel**.

“I’m laughing because you have no idea what you’re talking about! Mr. Chris isn’t cursed, and there are not bugs in his stomach. Trying to catch two non-existent bugs from his belly now that’s a joke!”

“Master Yu,” Daniel replied, “you’re not laughing about that. You’re laughing because you’re certain I can’t lift the curse you cast. You think I can’t even find those two bugs, let alone remove them. I bet you think

that even if I split Mr. Chris open, I wouldn’t find any bugs!”

At these words, Sophia Immediately panicked. “What the heck are you planning? You dare to cut open my

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Chapter 102

Chapter 102 Standing by Her Daughters Side

Chapter 102 Standing by Her Daughter's Side

Sophia wasn't just spouting words; she actually charged forward, aiming to kick the troublemaker out! Isabella stood guard in front of Daniel, blocking Sophia.

"You freaking witch, if you dare make a move, I'll scratch you so bad, not even your mother will recognize you!" Isabella raised her delicate hand, her nails painted coffee **brown**, flashing them menacingly at Sophia. With the length and sharpness of her nails, she could easily tear up Sophia's face beyond

recognition.

"Dear, are you not going to control your precious daughter? She wants to scratch my face for some country boy?" Sophia whined to Chris.

Chris had seen this drama countless times at home; clashes were almost a daily event. That's precisely why he had invested in New York and put Isabella in charge—to keep the two ladies apart and avoid dealing with their squabbles!

He was at his wit's end with the two women.

Deciding to lay down, he faced Daniel and said, "Go ahead. I want to see how you plan to lift this curse.

Daniel approached the bed, clutching his plastic bag. Sophia's eyebrows knitted in disdain. "You really are a country hick—with that dirty plastic bag reeking of mud. This is New York's most luxurious hotel, and they let you in with that? The security tonight should all be fired!"

"This hotel just got bought by my dad, and I'll be running it. I decide how the security operates here. You better shut your mouth!" Isabella retorted.

Unable to outmatch Isabella, Sophia ran to Chris's bedside. "Dear, look at what your daughter called me-

a whore!”

“Well,” Chris replied, “whores are known for looking pretty. She was complimenting you!”

Sophia had been Chris’s mistress, and he always felt guilty toward his ex–wife. So, when Sophia and Isabella argued, he usually sided with his daughter. Deep down, he knew that Sophia wasn’t with him for love. If the day came that he lost all **his** wealth, Sophia would surely leave him. But Isabella wouldn’t. His daughter would always be there, rich or poor. 1

However, a woman like Sophia was a different story entirely.

Chris’s words left Sophia fuming with a **red** face, but she dared not say anything more. She was smart enough to transform from mistress to wife, and she knew full well that she could not replace Isabella in Chris’s heart. Her only strategy was to bear a son to compete with Isabella. But her womb didn’t work.

She had been with Chris for years, never took precautions when making love, yet she never got pregnant. After medical checkups, Sophia knew her body wasn’t the problem. The issue had to be Chris’s. She had brought it up multiple times, but it only enraged Chris, who insisted he was problem–free and put the blame on her. Chris flat–out refused to visit the hospital.

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Chapter 103

Chapter 103 Sowing Discord

Sophia was well aware that Chris’s indifference towards having another child stemmed from having Isabella as a daughter. He didn’t show much interest in expanding the family.

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Daniel took out the little clay pot and poured out the used Fate Seeker. Sophia burst into laughter sight. With a look of disdain, she mocked Daniel, “What on earth is that thing?”

r at the

“Fate Seeker,” Daniel replied simply.

“Fate Seeker?” Sophia eyed the shriveled remains of the Fate Seeker in Daniel’s **hand**. “Its head looks like

a long-horned beetle, and its body like a cicada. This insect sure is weird.”

River Yu chuckled derisively. “This so-called ‘Fate Seeker’ is not a natural creature, it’s a man-made

object, and this cheat is using it to deceive people.”

“Man-made?” Sophia looked at River Yu with anticipation. “Master Yu, do you know how this thing is

made?”

Sophia had no sway over Isabella, but Daniel was just Isabella’s assistant, practically her underling. If she couldn’t get to the master, she thought she might as well settle the score with his dog to make herself

feel better.

“What high-level skill could you expect from a country bumpkin? He probably just twisted off the head of a long-horned beetle and the body of a cicada and glued them together. That’s how he made this so-called ‘

Fate Seeker,” River **Yu** sneered.

have “The Fate Seeker isn’t glued together—it’s bred from long-horned beetles and cicadas. I may Intervened in the process, but it’s definitely a product of nature. If you use it as a medicinal ingredient, I bet it could even cure cancer. Naturally, it’d be much more expensive than a cancer drug. Just this one here could **sell** for at least a million!”

River Yu erupted into laughter upon hearing Daniel’s words. “You’re calling that glued-together trash capable of curing cancer and selling for a million? Even the biggest fool, one who’s flushed their brain. down the toilet, wouldn’t buy your nonsense.”

Looking puzzled, River Yu turned to Daniel. “With this ‘Fate Seeker’ of yours, what exactly are you planning.

to do?”

“I’m going to use it to lift the curse,” said Daniel.

His response triggered another round of mocking laughter from River Yu. After he finished laughing, he spoke with disdain. “So you’re saying you can lift Mr. Chris’s so-called curse with that shriveled insect

corpse?”

“Master Yu, are you admitting that Mr. Chris is under a curse you’ve cast?” Daniel inquired.

“What curse I’ve cast? Mr. Chris is not **cursed** at all—he’s just having heart trouble. Quit spewing

nonsense!”

River Yu suddenly seemed to have an epiphany and stroked his white beard thoughtfully. “I see now, you

Chapter 103 Sowing Discord

country bumpkin want to play tricks, trying to get me to acknowledge some imaginary curse!

2/2

There’s no curse on Mr. Chris to start with. Are you planning to grind that insect corpse into powder and feed it to Mr. Chris? After you feed it to him, you’ll claim that any bugs in Mr. Chris’s stomach were killed

by your

ur “Fate Seeker, so there’s nothing to show. But your Fate Seeker is useless in the first place. Of course, it shouldn’t be poisonous – if someone ate it, at most, they’d just feel a bit sick.

I’ve seen plenty of these old tricks. Trying to deceive me with this is futile. Even Mr. Chris has been in the business world for decades; how could you possibly fool him, you country kid?”

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Chapter 104

Chapter 104 The Centipede Curse

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Chapter 104 The Centipede Curse

Upon hearing River Yu's words, Chris's face darkened, and he turned to Daniel with a demand for clarification. "Are you planning on feeding me this foul insect?"

"This Fate Seeker would sell for a million, and it's not even for certain I would sell one. As for eating

ng it-

Mr. Chris, don't get your hopes up. This particular Fate Seeker is the king among its kin, one in a million. Even if you offered a hundred million, I wouldn't sell it. The most I would do, out of respect for your daughter, is let you smell it to lure out the two centipedes in your stomach."

River Yu burst into raucous laughter once more at Daniel's declaration. After regaining his composure, he taunted Chris, "Mr. Chris, did you hear that? You're not even worthy of eating this insect—just smelling it!"

His mockery lit a fire in Chris, who pointed at Daniel's nose and roared, "Who said I want to eat your stinking bug? Take your disgusting **insect** and get out! I'm not cursed; I don't need you!"

"Fine!" Daniel replied, cheerfully packing away the Fate Seeker, "Sure!"

With that, he turned to leave, but Isabella blocked his path. She looked at him earnestly and said with urgency, "You have to lift the curse from my father."

"You saw just now—I'm not unwilling, but he simply doesn't believe me."

"If you draw the worms out of my father's stomach, then he'll believe."

"Alright!"

Daniel felt obligated to comply, considering the offer involving The grass of tamed dragon—a plant that could grant him command over the seven dragon spirits manifested from within him. With it, he would have the power of seven dragons at his disposal.

The grass of sealed dragon was meant to suppress the seven dragon spirits to save his life. The grass of awoken dragon's purpose was to rouse the dragon spirits **from** their slumber. But The grass of tamed dragon could bring them under direct control.

All in all, Daniel needed to acquire all three.

Approaching Chris, Daniel placed the Fate Seeker onto his chest.

River Yu scoffed at the attempt, "You think that withered insect can break the curse? What a joke!" He staunchly refused to believe that a bug haphazardly glued together could undo his centipede curse.

The curse he had placed on Chris was no ordinary centipede curse; it was the pairing curse of both a male **and** a female centipede. Inside Chris's belly, they would merge and then separate; poisoned equilibrium kept by their perpetual union and division.

As such, River Yu could manipulate Chris's condition at will. If he wanted Chris to feel comfort, he would. If he desired Chris's suffering, he'd make it so.

As Daniel positioned the Fate Seeker on his chest, Chris was about to protest but instead caught a whiff of a strange, alluring scent. It clouded his mind, stealing away his desire to speak.

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The mysterious aroma seemed to roil in his stomach, as if worms were writhing. Then, an alien sensation crawled up his throat. And then, a dark, segmented head wiggled **out** from his open mouth.

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Chapter 105

Chapter 105 Surveillance

Centipedes? From Chris's mouth emerged real, **live** centipedes—one as **thick** as a thumb and about twelve inches long. Once the first one squirmed out, another swiftly followed.

Daniel deftly caught both centipedes with his bare hands and rushed them into a jar, Originally, there was one centipede in the jar, the one that came out of Isabella. Now with two more added, there were three in total. Upon meeting, the centipedes immediately attacked each other, and quickly, the first centipede was overpowered and devoured by the newer two.

These two centipedes, a pair, were accustomed to coexisting in balance, but when faced with another of their kind, they would band together against the intruder.

Witnessing two centipedes crawl from his mouth, Chris was dumbstruck. When he came to his senses, he dashed into the bathroom to vomit. It was utterly disgusting. Even after rinsing his mouth countless times, he still felt nauseated. Above all, he was confused.

Staring at Daniel, Chris demanded, "Country boy, what's going on here?"

"It seems you're asking the wrong person. This curse was planted in your belly by Master Yu," Daniel responded, turning to River Yu with a reminder in his grin. "So the real story, you gotta ask Master Yu!"

At that, River Yu got frantic. "Nonsense! How could I have done such a thing?"

"If the curse wasn't by Master Yu, then who cast it?" Daniel asked.

"You knew how to undo it, so it must have been you who cast it. Otherwise, how could you know that using the carcass of that insect would draw out these two centipedes?" Sophia chimed in eagerly.

"Exactly!" she added. "Dear, the worms from your belly must have been this country bum's doing. He looks like trouble. We should get the security to grab him **and** beat the truth out of him. Let's see if he keeps playing tough after that!"

"You freaking witch, shut up! Daniel was invited by me. How could he possibly curse my father?" Isabella countered, pointing to a corner of the room. "There's a camera right there. It's recorded everything that's happened in this room. I'll have someone review the footage, and we'll know what really happened."

"Camera? Dear, there's actually a camera in this room?" Sophia looked at Chris, panicking.

“What’s with the drama? Dad knows about the pinhole camera! Besides, this is the presidential suite; this room is the living area, Plus, only Dad **and** I have access to the footage. What are you panicking about?”

Isabella’s words dumbfounded Sophia.

“Is what she saying true, dear?”

“It’s true.”

“So, you both knew about the hidden camera and I was the only one left in the dark? Am I that much of a stranger?”

“Haha!”

Chapter 105 Surveillance

Isabella let out a cold laugh. “What else? You’ve always been a stranger, haven’t you? Shameless,

shameless woman!!”

“Dear, she insulted me!”

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Chapter 106

Chapter 106 Escape

“Pipe down a bit and let’s check the surveillance footage already,” Chris chided his daughter, which served as some comfort to Sophia. But she was far from pleased. What could she do though? They were father and daughter, and what was she in comparison?

If she didn’t produce an heir, she would always be an outsider to the Evans family.

Soon, they obtained the surveillance footage. The video displayed on the big screen showed River Yu treating Chris, who lay unconscious on the bed. River Yu took out a

bottle of liquid, dripping it into Chris's nostrils, and a sly smirk flashed across his face. Then, he produced a small jade bottle, uncorked the red stopper, and a centipede crawled out, heading straight into Chris's mouth.

Everyone understood the situation fully after viewing the footage. But when they looked up, River Yu had vanished.

Had River Yu escaped?

Enraged, Chris ordered the guards, "Lock down all exits of the hotel immediately! Don't let that old man get away!"

The security team swiftly sealed the entrances and exits and combed the entire hotel, but River Yu was

nowhere to be found. The surveillance cameras showed him fleeing through the hotel's back door.

Daniel handed a prescription to Chris, explaining, "The curse is lifted, but those centipedes tormenting your insides for so long must have done quite some damage to your body. Take this **medicine** according to my instructions. After half a month of rest, you'll be fully recovered."

With that, Daniel left.

Chris was somewhat **at** a loss. He turned to Isabella and asked, "That kid is really an assistant you're trying

hire?"

"Yeah! I want to hire him, but he hasn't agreed yet. I spent a whopping ten million just to get him to lift your curse. If I can get him as my assistant, I would only need to pay him five thousand a month. Imagine how cost-effective that would be!"

Chris was left speechless...

After exiting the hotel, Daniel felt peckish and decided to look for a barbecue stand to grab some late-/ night eats. Just as he entered an alley, a familiar figure blocked his path.

River Yu?

It appeared that after escaping the hotel, he hadn't left. He was waiting here for Daniel.

"Master Yu, you're waiting for me?"

“You country bumpkin, dare to mess up my plans?”

River Yu briskly patted down his trouser legs, and one after another, **tiny** centipedes scurried out from the cuffs. Dozens of centipedes rapidly encircled Daniel’s feet.

Chapter 106 Escape

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“What are you trying to do, Master Yu? Are these centipedes supposed to bite me to death?”

“Die? Of course **not**. I want to make you wish you were dead!”

Uttering his incantation in a strange dialect, River Yu watched as the centipedes reared up, ready to

attack Daniel.

Daniel snapped a small tree branch and started swatting manically at the centipedes. In a frenzy of crackling **sounds**, he beat them into a mushy pulp.

River Yu was stunned, staring at the decimated carcasses of the centipede curse he had meticulously cultivated over several years. The idea that a country boy could annihilate them all with a mere twig was utterly beyond his belief.

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Chapter 107

Chapter 107 Animal Control

River Yu, pointing at Daniel’s nose, cursed furiously, “You country bumpkin, you dared to destroy my centipedes? Today, I’ll make you wish you were dead!”

“Is the centipede curse that Joseph suffered your work as well?” Daniel Inquired.

“Which Joseph?”

“The head of the first family of New York, Joseph!”

“Was the curse on him also lifted by you?”

“Of course.”

“No wonder! I thought it was strange. After placing the curse on Joseph, I spread the news. The Matthews should have known that I had arrived in New York. No one else should have been able to remove his curse but me, yet they never came to seek me out! Was it you, country bumpkin, who spoiled my plans?”

“Since you’ve admitted it, I’m not going to beat around the bush. Today, I will settle the debt you owe me in full!”

“We definitely need to end this, but not on your terms—on my terms!”

River Yu took a bamboo flute, no longer than a pinky finger, from his waist. It was an enchanted flute capable of controlling insects. He placed the flute to his lips and began to play.

Woo—woo...

woo—woo..

A strange flute melody filled the air. Its sound wasn’t loud, but the pitch was so peculiar and the notes so unique that it was piercingly uncomfortable to listen to. It was as though someone were jabbing your eardrums with needles, so painful it felt as if they might be perforated.

Yet to Daniel, this sound had little effect. The noise from the flute was merely unpleasant to him, nothing

more

As the repellent call of the flute sounded, creatures began to stir, Rats began scampering out from holes in manhole covers, hissing as they emerged. Cockroaches and various insects crawled out from their hideouts, and even a few venomous snakes slithered from the roadside bushes.

“Your flute is quite something! Even in the city, it can summon so many venomous bugs and snakes. I bet if we were in the mountains, it could call out all the poisonous creatures within a ten-mile radius, right?”

Daniel's observation surprised River Yu. His eyes widened in disbelief. "You can recognize the purpose of this object?"

"It's just a flute that can manipulate animals, nothing new. Many curse masters possess such an item. To them, it's like the sword to a swordsman. Without it, how would a curse master collect venomous creatures? If they cannot gather poisonous bugs, they cannot craft their curses.

Chapter 107 Animal Control

2.2

His response left River Yu puzzled, prompting him to ask, "Could it be that you're also a curse master?"

"No! I'm not a curse master; I'm merely a country doctor!"

This assurance from Daniel set River Yu's mind at ease. If this country boy were a curse master, that would mean he had a master. River Yu didn't want to risk angering a powerful curse master just to deal with this country bumpkin. If Daniel's master turned out to be a formidable curse master, River Yu

certainly didn't want to make an enemy of him for no reason.

Fortunately, it seemed this country boy was just a rural doctor!

Now River Yu wouldn't have to worry about the repercussions of dealing with Daniel if he was only a doctor.

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Chapter 108

Chapter 108 Who Is Your Master

"You actually had a chance to live, but you missed it. So when these creatures bite you to death, don't blame them, and certainly don't blame me. The only one who's made a mistake here is you. You're too dim-witted, to be honest. I've lived a long time and I've never seen anyone as foolish as you!" River Yu's harsh words took Daniel by surprise.

Curious, Daniel looked at the old man and asked, "Master Yu, I'm not quite following you. What do you mean by that?"

"Since you're going to die soon anyway, I might as well tell you straight so you can die with a clear understanding. When I asked if you were a curse master, I was giving you a chance to save yourself. Had you said 'yes,' I might have considered sparing your life! Unfortunately, your answer wasn't what I needed to hear. Since you aren't a curse master, you're not in the same trade, and I have no need to let you live."

"You would spare me just because I'm a fellow curse master? When you asked me if I was a curse master earlier on, were you just trying to check who my master is, in case I have a powerful one? If my master were someone not to be trifled with, you wouldn't **dare** to kill me. Otherwise, even if I were a curse master, you'd still want to take my life!"

"Since

you understand so much then, I'll give you another chance. Answer me honestly, who is your master? If I recognize your master's name, perhaps I'll spare your life out of respect for them."

"I'm merely a doctor, and my master is just a village medic. His name is not important." Daniel deftly avoided mentioning Noah Carter's name, heeding the old man's warning not to reveal it to other

"Your master is a doctor? Then how about you give him a call to tell him your location, so he can come and collect your corpse? Don't worry; although some of these creatures eat flesh, they won't strip your bones clean. I'll make sure to leave something for your master—maybe your balls!"

With a grim smile, River Yu lifted the flute and began to conduct the swarm of animals once again. The discordant whistle sounded, causing the mass of rats, insects, and snakes to commence their attack on Daniel.

Daniel stood still, calmly observing the encroaching tide of vermin that was originally destined for him. But as he watched, the creatures that initially targeted **him** began to cause a commotion.

Inside Daniel, after all, dwelled seven dragon spirits.

"Attack the one who called you forth!" Daniel commanded in an even tone. On his order, the frenzied

mass of creatures turned **in** unison **and** rushed towards River Yu. Rats swarmed over him, snakes

entwined around his ankles, and ants even crawled into his nostrils. To make matters worse, several

cockroaches made their way directly into his mouth.

Whatever the creature, the living mass began to assault River Yu.

River Yu let out shrieks as he frantically tried to get rid of the animals plastered to him. After a grueling half-hour battle, he managed to kill all the attacking vermin. He was alive, not seriously injured, but his body was riddled with bite marks and holes from the onslaught. Although the worst was over, River Yu still gasped painfully with each breath.

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Chapter 109

Chapter 109 Chametipedes Curse

The attack by the horde of snakes, insects, rats, and ants wasn't fatal, but the relentless bites were painful beyond words. It was not just physical pain that River Yu endured; he felt deeply humiliated. Those creatures he had summoned to tear apart the country bumpkin had turned against him instead,

“Good job, country bumpkin, tricking me like that?” River Yu snarled,

“What did I trick you about? You're neither a big-breasted beauty nor wealthy, what reason would I have to fool you?” Daniel replied with a dismissive tone.

“You claimed you weren't a curse master, just a rural doctor!”

“I didn't lie to you! I am a rural doctor!”

“A doctor? My ass! What was that back there, hm? How could you control all those snakes and vermin?”

“I didn't control them! Weren't they summoned by you? Oh, right, you summoned them to bite yourself, didn't you?”

“You...” River Yu was speechless with rage, unable to form a retort to Daniel’s mocking words.

“Enough!” Burning with fury, River Yu was ready for his last resort. With a vast open mouth, a strange guttural noise came from his throat, and then, a centipede **the** size of an earthworm wriggled out from his

mouth.

This centipede was capable of changing its body color to match its surroundings, like a chameleon. Chametipedes Curse? This was the Chametipedes Curse, and it was River Yu’s most powerful curse!

“Wow! Master Yu, way to go. It seems you’re really livid. That Chametipedes—that’s your mightiest curse, right? If I kill it, you might not die instantly, but you’ll have at most a hundred days left. Within those hundred days, unless you manage to place another strong curse, once the time is up, your life is over.”

No sooner had Daniel finished speaking than the Chametipedes vanished from sight. To say vanished would be imprecise—it had blended in seamlessly with the ground. So perfectly did it match the colors that there was no discernible difference at all. Even the tiniest change in the ground’s hue caused the Chametipedes to adapt its coloration; it could become indistinguishable from its environment.

Noticing the Chametipedes had now silently approached Daniel’s feet, River Yu finally spoke, “You don’t know where my Chametipedes went, do you? Actually, it’s right behind you, near the heel of your shpe.”

River Yu attempted to deceive Daniel to create an opening for the Chametipedes to strike. Daniel knew River Yu **was** bluffing but decided to play along, turning his head to look behind.

Sure enough, at the moment he turned, the Chametipedes coiled **and** sprang with force, aiming straight for Daniel’s neck—a direct threat to his life.

However, the small branch Dániel had used earlier to take care of the other centipedes was still in his hand. As the Chametipedes attacked, Daniel swiftly swung the branch, striking the predatory creature mid-

leap.

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Chapter 110

Chapter 110 I Will Definitely Kill You

With a resounding slap, the Chametipedes was cleaved into two pieces, its torn body tumbling to the ground.

“Ah...” River Yu spat out a mouthful of fresh blood.

“You...

you dared to kill my Chametipedes? You dared? I'll make you pay for this!”

Enraged, River Yu clenched his fist and swung at Daniel. But weakened from the severing of his strongest curse, he stumbled and fell to the ground, knocking out two of his smoke-stained teeth against a rock

Daniel looked down at River Yu's wretched state and couldn't help but laugh. With one hand casually in his pocket and the other pointing at his own face, he mockingly taunted, “Still want to hit me? Get up

and aim here. I promise I won't dodge.”

Unable to stand due to the overwhelming pain, River Yu grabbed the halves of the Chametipedes' body from the ground and stuffed them into his mouth, swallowing them whole. Even dead, the Chametipedes still carried remnants of power that could restore some of his strength.

After regaining some vitality, River Yu stood up and glared at Daniel with murderous intent. “You will pay for what you did today! I will kill you! I will!”

With those parting words, River Yu left the scene.

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“Master Yu, I hope you take this lesson to heart. If I catch you cursing others again, the punishment won't be as lenient as today,” Daniel called out after him.

“Country bumpkin, don't be smug! I will definitely kill you! I will tear you limb from limb, mutilate y

your body!

River Yu bellowed in the distance.

Saturday morning, the warm **dawn** light shone through the floor-to-ceiling window, casting its gentle rays upon the bed where Daniel lay, sandwiched between pillows, drooling contentedly in his sleep, staining the pink pillow that Jessica had given him a light yellow.

The click of the door signaled the entrance of Jessica, clad in a form-fitting dress. “Hey, you’re still

asleep?”

She picked up a throw pillow and threw it at Daniel’s behind. The soft assault roused him from sleep.

“What? I was sleeping!”

“Sleeping? It’s after ten already, get up.”

“Why get up? It’s Saturday, you know, I don’t **have** to work!”

“That’s right, it’s Saturday. And tonight, you’re coming with me to King’s.”

“King’s? For what? Do they have a bigger bed there? Our bed is big enough. If you want to do something, we don’t need to book a hotel room, and **we** don’t have to wait until evening.”

“I’ll kick your ass!”

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Swinging the pillow again, Jessica landed another hit on Daniel.

“We’re going to the Prospera Group’s Unusual Stones Exhibition! Tonight, all of New York’s elite will be

there.”

“That’s at night, isn’t it? Why wake me up this early?”

“To shop with me?”

“Shop with you? You mean to carry your bags?”

“You’re my assistant; isn’t carrying my bags what you should be doing?”

“I’m your assistant Monday to Friday. Today’s Saturday. I’m off duty unless you sweeten the deal. Call me ‘ dear‘, then I might consider it.”

“Dear? Sure, I’ll kick your damn ass! Get your ass up!”

After hitting Daniel once more, Jessica, heels clicking firmly, stomped out of the room.

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