

An Understated Dominance Chapter 701 - 750

Chapter 701

Dahlia was going over some documents while drinking coffee. Suddenly, her office door was pushed open. Florence and Julie rushed in energetically, their expressions filled with happiness.

“Mom? Didn’t you go back to Swinton already? Why are you back so soon?”

Dahlia was confused.

“Dahlia, tell me truthfully, have you been chosen as the next matriarch?” Florence asked with a sense of urgency.

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“How did you find out?” Dahlia was surprised.

“Hahaha... It is real!” Florence was extremely excited. “Last night, your grandfather told me you were going to be the matriarch of the Nicholsons.

I

didn't believe him at first, but I can't believe you've come this far! This is amazing news!”

“Congratulations on your achievement, Dahlia! From now on, you are the queen of the aristocrats!” Julie flattered. While she was jealous and unyielding

toward Dahlia in the past, it has now been replaced with flattery.

The Glenstead Nicholsons were the most wealthy and influential aristocratic

family, and Dahlia's sudden rise to wealth and power was something most could only dream of.

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“I don’t think you should call me that. I’m still learning. It’ll take a long time for me to truly be able to lead the Nicholsons.” Dahlia had a clear head. Although the Nicholson matriarch title sounded good, she considered it merely a facade. She still required Regulus’ guidance and support to succeed. “No need to be humble, Dahlia. The patriarch already chose you as his successor, and that is enough proof of your skills. Sooner or later, the Nicholson family will be yours!” Florence looked proud, taking pride in her role in raising an exceptional daughter. “That’s right! Next time, we will be able to enjoy these fortunes with you!” Julie said with a grin. Since Dahlia had become the matriarch of a wealthy family,

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their entire family would also bask in the glory.
“Dahlia, it has only been a few days since we last met, yet you’ve become the matriarch. Congratulations.” At that moment, Dustin walked into the office, and the smiles on everyone’s faces disappeared instantly.
“Rhys! Why are you here?” Florence’s expression darkened, and her gaze was hostile.
“Hmph! Did you find out Dahlia is now of a different status and came here on purpose to suck up to her?” Julie looked at him in disdain. Only a vile person would come and curry favor right after they heard the news!
“I said I would catch James’ murderer in five days. I’m here to fulfill my

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promise.” Dustin gestured as he spoke. Soon, Nelson and a few more people dragged a bloody Hank into the office.

“He’s the murderer!” Dustin grabbed Hank by his hair and lifted his head.

“Mr. Hoffman?” Dahlia frowned when she saw him.

“Hmph! Enough with the tricks! Do you think you’ll be able to clear yourself of guilt just by capturing a random person? Dream on!” Florence’s expression was filled with hatred.

“That’s right! Who knows if you’ve found a scapegoat? Julie chimed in.

“Hank, why don’t you tell them what happened?” Dustin shot him a cold glance.

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“Hoffman! If you tell the truth, the worst you’ll face is around ten years in jail. If

you lie, don’t blame me for being merciless!” Nelson glared at him fiercely.

“I’ll talk, I’ll talk...” Hank eyed his surroundings and freed himself when nobody

noticed. He threw himself at Dahlia’s feet and cried out. “Ms. Nicholson, save

me! I beg you. Please save me!

“It’s Dustin! Dustin is framing me! He asked me to take the blame. When I refused, he beat me up and tortured me! Look at my hands. He cut them off! I

didn’t do anything, Ms. Nicholson! I know nothing about what happened!

Dustin did it; he killed your brother. He is the real murderer!”

Dahlia and the others’ expressions darkened as he spoke.

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“What?” Dustin’s expression darkened as Hank twisted the truth, and a murderous gaze flickered through his eyes. Hank deserved death for biting them back at this stage.

“You fucking slanderous dickhead, I’m going to kill you!” After a moment of disbelief, Nelson’s anger erupted, and he brandished his knife, ready to attack.

“Ms. Nicholson, save me!” Hank panicked and hid behind Dahlia.

“Hold on!” Dahlia took two steps forward to stop Nelson. “Until everything is clear, you’re not going to touch him!”

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“Ms. Nicholson, this scumbag is full of lies. I need to teach him a lesson!”
Nelson’s expression was murderous. On their way here, Hank had
promised

to confess everything and surrender himself. However, in the end, he went
back on his word and even bit back at them. It was abominable”

“Hmph! You’re just trying to silence the witness!” Julie suddenly cried
out. “Are

you furious that Hank refused to be your scapegoat and told the truth?”

“Rhys! You’re a bastard framing the innocent! You not only killed my son,
but

you’re also deceiving my daughter! You’re despicable!” Florence
criticized

Dustin.

“That’s right! You’re despicable!” Hank hid behind them and cried out. He

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knew very well that if he confessed to murdering James today, he would be a

dead man himself. He'd rather gamble and use Dahlia's sympathy to pressure

Dustin into backing off.

"Nelson, stand down." Dustin gestured backward.

"Yes, sir." Nelson gritted his teeth and took a few steps backward.

However,

his murderous never left Hank.

gaze

"Hank Hoffman, do you think you'll survive by playing tricks in front of me?"

Dustin was calm

"There you go! Did you hear him, Ms. Nicholson? He's planning to silence the

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witness. Get someone to apprehend him immediately!” Hank screamed in panic.

Dahlia was solemn. “Dustin, you said Hank was the mastermind. Do you have any evidence? This was a crucial moment. If Dustin didn’t have evidence, he

wouldn’t be able to clear his name

“That’s right! All you said were just empty words. Why should we trust you?

Bring out the evidence if you have it!” Julie chimed in.

“Hmph! He is the murderer! What evidence would he have?” Florence spat out.

“You want evidence? Fine.” Dustin nodded and gave Nelson a look. Nelson

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caught on immediately and made a phone call. Moments later, the man from earlier who was covered in multiple injuries was brought to the office. “This man right here was the man Hank hired He confessed to everything Ask him if you don’t believe me “Dustin pointed at the man “Did you have something to do with James’ death? Dahlia sized him up, her expression heavy “Y-yes, but Hank ordered me to do so! He paid me three million to kill James with a poisoned needle,” the man explained in fear. He’d rather go to jail than be tortured to death

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“You’re spouting nonsense! I don’t know you!” Hank glared at the man as he

bellowed

“Rhys’ Do you think a random actor you hired would be able to trick us?

Do

you take us as fools?” Florence scoffed loudly

“Oh, Dustin, you’re spending so much effort to frame Mr. Hoffman Don’t you

think you’re vile for stooping so low?” Julie pushed

“Ms Nicholson, the both of them have teamed up to frame me You can’t believe them!” Hank started fanning the flames.

“I have evidence to prove that Hank is the mastermind” the man suddenly claimed.

“What evidence?” Dahlia questioned immediately.

“I thought ahead when Hank asked me to kill someone and recorded our

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entire conversation. Here

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The man took out his phone as he spoke and played a video for everyone present. In the video, Hank was seen sitting across from the man at a cafe.

Their voices could be heard, and they were discussing their plan to kill James

and frame Dustin. Hank even paid a deposit on the spot. The entire process was recorded clearly, leaving everyone dumbstruck after watching it.

Florence, who was hostile earlier, was in disbelief. The sarcastic Julie was also rendered speechless. They had been so sure that Dustin was the killer, yet he turned out to be innocent. For a moment, they couldn't accept the truth.

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As for Hank, he stood frozen in his spot, his face drained of color. He thought they would have nothing against him as long as he didn't confess. He didn't expect the cunning guy to secretly record their interaction as a precaution. "See that!" Nelson was indignant. "All of you kept suspecting Sir Rhys and even hurled multiple insults at him. The truth is out now! What else do you have to say?" "I ..." Florence and Julie exchanged glances, looking embarrassed. "Hank, you bastard!" After regaining her composure, Dahlia turned around and slapped Hank hard on the face. Hank stumbled from the hit, almost falling to

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the ground, and his face swelled quickly. “I’m going to kill you for taking my son from me!” Florence roared and lunged at Hank, kicking and punching him.

She poured out all her pent-up anger. How could she hold it in when her son’s murderer was right in front of her?

Hank was overwhelmed by their attacks and covered his head, begging for mercy. After a while, when the three of them had had enough, Dustin said impassively, “Nelson, take him away. Find a place to bury him.”

“Yes, sir!” Nelson grinned and immediately gave the order to tie Hank up.

“N-no, don’t kill me! I’ll confess and surrender!” Hank panicked and started crying.

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“You’ll confess and surrender now? You should have done that much earlier!

Take him away!” Nelson didn’t bother with his nonsense and forcefully dragged Hank out the door.

“Hold it right there!” Suddenly, they heard someone yell. A white-haired elderly

woman walked in angrily with a group of people.

“Madam Alma?” Dahlia was surprised. The white-haired elderly woman was

no ordinary person. It was the Nicholson family’s matriarch and Regulus Nicholson’s first wife-Alma Hoffman. Her standing in the family was second

only to Regulus. Her authority was unquestionable, and no one dared defy her

commands.

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“Aunt Alma, save me!” Hank was ecstatic at Alma’s appearance. He kept calling out to her for help, looking like he had seen his savior.

“Madam Alma, why are you here?” After Dahlia returned to her senses, she

immediately went up to greet her. However, in the next second, Alma landed a

resounding slap across Dahlia’s face, stunning everyone into silence.

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“Huh?” Dahlia clutched her burning face, feeling confused. She never provoked Alma. She wondered why Alma hit her as soon as they met.

“Hey, you crazy bitch! How dare you hurt my daughter? You need to be taught

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a lesson!” Florence lost her temper immediately after she witnessed her daughter slapped. She rolled up her sleeves, prepared for a fight.

“How dare you!” At that moment, a huge man stepped forward, and said with

a fierce tone, “Be careful of how you speak to my grandma, or else I’ll shut

your mouth up forever!”

Intimidated by the man’s imposing manner, Florence stopped in her tracks but

continued with her insults. “What? You think I’m afraid of you because you

have more men?”

“Security! Chase these people out of here!” Julie ordered

“Chase us out?” The man sneered coldly and said, The entire Nicholson Corp,

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belongs to our family. Who would dare chase us out?”

“Oh, you have quite the attitude. Who the hell are you? How dare you be so

arrogant?” Julie

mocked

“I’m Julian Nicholson, Regulus Nicholson’s eldest grandson!” The man puffed

up his chest slightly with a proud look and continued, “As for my grandma,

she’s the Nicholson family’s matriarch!”

“The Nicholson family’s matriarch?” Julie and Florence were shocked by his

revelation. Their earlier arrogance vanished instantly and was replaced by fear.

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Among the Glenstead Nicholsons, the matriarch was only second in power to the patriarch, Regulus Nicholson. She had the power to mobilize all the resources of the Nicholson family freely, and a single word from her could determine the fate of many lives. They couldn't afford to offend these prominent and powerful figures.

"Hmph! What a bunch of ignorant country bumpkins!" Julian sneered with disdain.

Julie and Florence exchanged glances, remaining silent.

"Madam Alma, I don't understand what I have done to make you angry."

Dahlia took a deep breath, trying her best to keep her composure.

"What? Do I need a reason to teach you a lesson?" Alma said coldly.

Dahlia

frowned at her words. They were simple, yet they carried an overwhelming

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sense of authority.

“Madam Alma, there is nothing wrong with teaching me a lesson, but can you

at least tell me what I did wrong?” Dahlia’s expression never wavered.

“Hank is one of my men. Look at how you hurt him. Don’t you think you deserve a lesson for that?” Alma questioned.

“Madam Alma, there is a reason for everything. You should be asking what

Hank has done.” Dahlia stood her ground.

“I don’t care what he did. He’s not someone you can touch” Alma’s tone was

stern. “You should think twice before beating someone up. If you dare beat up

my people, don’t blame me for what I

do next!” Dahlia furrowed her brows upon hearing her words. She didn’t

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expect Alma to be so overbearing.

“Hey! Be reasonable. Hank is at fault. How can you blame us?” Julie couldn’t

hold back her anger any longer.

“Reasonable? Hmph! Everything I said is the most reasonable!” Alma’s expression was frosty.

“You-!” Julie gritted her teeth. In the end, she had no choice but to remain silent since Alma had a few powerful bodyguards behind her.

“Madam Alma, Hank hatched a plan and had my brother killed. Are you going

to protect someone like him?” Dahlia’s expression grew cold.

“That’s right! He must pay for killing my son!” Florence yelled.

“How would I know if you are telling the truth? Do you have any evidence?”

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Alma's expression never faltered

"The evidence is here. Please have a look." Dahlia received the phone and tapped on the video before handing it to Alma.

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Dahlia thought that would be enough to change Alma's mind. However, in the

end, instead of watching the video, Alma threw the phone on the ground.

She

stomped on the phone hard, shattering it completely.

"The evidence is gone now," Alma said impassively.

Dahlia and the others' expressions darkened instantly upon witnessing the scene. How could she openly destroy the evidence to cover up for the

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murderer? Where was justice in this?

“Madam Alma, what do you mean by this?” Dahlia frowned.

“You saw everything. Is there a problem?” Alma asked with a scrutinizing expression.

“If you insist on doing this, then I’ll have to report it to Grandpa Regulus.”

Dahlia’s expression was frosty.

“Do you think you are worthy of using the patriarch’s name to threaten me?”

Alma scoffed.

“Why not? Sir Regulus himself has appointed my daughter as his successor,

and she will rise as the new matriarch of the Nicholson family soon. When that

time comes, all of you will have to show deference to her!” Florence’s voice

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gained volume as her confidence grew.

“Successor? New matriarch? Who said so?” Alma looked at them with condescension.

“Sir Regulus said so himself. If you don’t believe us, you can call and ask him

yourself!” Florence declared and lifted her head proudly.

“Call him? I’m afraid that won’t be possible now.” Alma continued impassively,

“Last night, Regulus suffered from a brain ailment. His condition is critical. He

is now in a coma.”

“What? A coma?” The sudden news left everyone in shock.

“How could that be? Grandpa Regulus was perfectly fine last night. How did

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he suddenly fall ill?” Dahlia exclaimed in astonishment. When Regulus called last night, he sounded strong and energetic, not like someone who was ill. How could he just suddenly fall ill overnight?
“With Regulus’ age and the burden of his responsibilities, which led to exhaustion, he fell ill. As a result, I am now in charge of the family’s affairs. Any objections?” Alma’s icy gaze swept across the room.
“I ...” Florence and Julie exchanged glances, both at a loss for words. Dahlia, on the other hand, had her brows locked in a frown, her expression gloomy. They were just

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celebrating her promotion not long ago, but now, everything had changed in a blink of an eye.

“Alright, since there are no objections, I will take Hank away with me.”

Alma

gestured, and the two bodyguards behind her helped Hank to his feet.

Hank chuckled gleefully. “You didn’t expect it to turn out this way, did you?”

Hank taunted. sarcastically, “That’s right, I hired someone to kill James.

But,

so what? Without evidence and power, you can only watch as I go free.

How

sad!”

“You-!” Florence and the others were seething with anger, but none of them

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had the power to do anything.

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Chapter 705

“And you.” Hank turned his attention to Dustin and mocked, “Rhys, even when you tried so hard to have me captured and dragged here, you still had to let me go. How do you feel? Are you mad? You should be! It’s so much fun to see you guys stare at me in anger, unable to do a thing. Hahaha!” As Hank spoke, he suddenly howled in laughter, displaying an unruly attitude. He was the epitome of a dickhead taking advantage of his backing. Right at that moment, Dustin suddenly moved forward and kicked Hank hard in the abdomen. A deafening blast reverberated through the room as Hank

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was sent flying, crashing through the glass windows. He plummeted from the 30th floor, meeting a gruesome end.

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Everyone was quiet as a dull thud was heard. None of them could react in time to what happened. It was all too sudden. One second, he was laughing uncontrollably. Then, the very next second, he fell to his death.

“How dare you? How dare you murder so openly?! Who gave you the audacity?” After a brief moment to collect herself, Alma roared furiously.

Hank

was not only someone who worked for her, but he was also her nephew!

How

could this bastard just kill Hank on a whim and blatantly disregard her?

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“Madam Alma, please don’t go around accusing others! I did nothing! He was

the one who leaped off of his own initiative,” Dustin said nonchalantly

“There were so many of us watching you. How dare you deny it?” Alma pressed with evident displeasure.

“Who saw it?” Dustin looked at Nelson and the rest. “Did any of you see it?”

“No, I saw nothing.” Nelson shook his head.

“Did you see it then, Dahlia?” Dustin turned to look at her.

“Me neither.” Dahlia, too, shook her head. Hank killed her brother. He deserved it.

“There you go, nobody saw it.” Dustin shrugged and said with a smile,

“Madam Alma, is your age catching up with you already? Maybe you need to get your eyes checked.”

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“Playing the fool with me, aren’t you? I’m telling you, you lot are messing with the wrong person!” Alma growled with a dark expression.

“Madam Alma, you have to be careful of your words. Please provide evidence for everything, or else refrain from making unfounded claims,” Dustin said airily. “Oh, right, I’ve noticed that you’re pretty pale, you’ve barely got anything holding your skin to your bones, your gaze looks dull, you’re emotionally unstable, and your fingers tend to twitch every so often. I’m guessing that you don’t have long to live. I suggest you take care of your health.”

“You impudent bastard! How dare you curse my grandmother? Do you have a death wish?” Julian fumed, ready to throw hands.

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Florence and the rest of them were also startled at how brazen Dustin was to offend the matriarch of the Nicholson family, but they didn't show it. "Don't you dare try to provoke me, you brat! You'll regret it." Alma spat through gritted teeth, her gaze icy cold. "Madam Alma, you best keep your temper at bay. Getting angry often may speed up your aging," Dustin advised calmly. "You pesky bastard! I see you're the type to only cry and regret when it's too late!" Alma could not hold it in any longer. She roared exasperatedly, "Men! Get him!" "Yes, ma'am!" Her bodyguards immediately charged forward on her orders.

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“Don’t you dare lay a finger on Mr. Rhys!” Nelson instantly pulled his sword out and began slicing his way through them to protect Dustin. The men he brought with him today were all elites in their gang. Several bodyguards were no match for them at all. In just minutes, all the Nicholson bodyguards were on the ground, all battered up.

Alma’s expression darkened further at the sight. Julian, too, was beyond furious. He hadn’t brought any men with him, as he had rushed over in a hurry. Had he known this would happen, he would have brought the best guards the Nicholson family had along with him.

“Dahlia Nicholson! How dare you! Are you trying to go against the family?”

Alma roared. Seeing that she couldn’t use force against them, she

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immediately turned on Dahlia and put the blame on her.

“Madam Alma, I was the one who beat them up. If there’s anything you’re not

happy with, you should come at me instead,” Dustin reminded her nonchalantly.

“Hah! You lot are all in this together!” Alma yelled angrily. “Dahlia Nicholson!

You let your guards go against your elders and harm your family. I am officially dismissing you from your position! From now on, you are no longer chairman of Nicholson Corp.!”

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“Dismissed?” Everyone was shocked by Alma’s announcement.

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“Do you have the authority to do that? My daughter was personally appointed by the patriarch of the Nicholson family! You have no right to dismiss her!”

Florence was furious.

“Exactly! Ever since Dahlia assumed her position as chairman, she has brought in great revenue for the company! She managed to bring in over 500

million in profit within just a month! What right do you have to dismiss her from

her position?” Julie was extremely pissed by Alma’s actions.

Before Dahlia became chairman of Nicholson Corp., it had always been in a

state of loss. It was only through Dahlia’s hard work and determination to

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reform the company that it was brought back to life. Now that it was finally starting to pick up, Alma was going to dismiss her as she wished. How ungrateful!

“I am now standing in as head of the family, so what I say goes! None of you have the right to interfere with my decisions!” Alma bellowed.

“Y-you you’re too much!” Florence and Julie were beyond furious, but there was absolutely nothing they could do.

As for Dahlia, she only watched with a dark expression and said nothing. She might be the chairman, but a majority of the company’s shares were held by the Nicholsons. She had no grounds to object to their decision.

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“Madam Alma, are you sure you want to do this?” Dustin squinted his eyes at

Alma

“What? Are you afraid now? It’s too late! My decision is final, and nobody is

changing that!” Alma was arrogant, thinking she had the upper hand.

“Madam Alma, don’t say I didn’t warn you, but I’m the only one who can cure

you. If you insist on being stubborn, I’m afraid your days are numbered,”

Dustin said coolly

“Nonsense! Do you think I’d buy your treacherous lies?” Alma looked annoyed.

“It’s up to you whether you believe me or not. After all, it’s not my life that’s at

stake.” Dustin seemed unbothered.

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“Hmph! What a load of crap! I don’t want to waste my breath with the likes of you. Let’s go!” With that, Alma turned and left with her men in tow. She had not been able to find fault with Dahlia in the past. But now that the opportunity presented itself, she would grab ahold of it and use it against Dahlia. She was going to be merciless.

“This is all your fault, Rhys! If you didn’t attack them, Dahlia would not have been dismissed!” The moment Alma left, Florence unleashed all her anger on Dustin.

“That’s right! Dahlia had a bright future ahead of her, even possibly becoming

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the next head of the Nicholson family! But because of you, now everything's gone down the drain!" Julie complained.

"This isn't Dustin's fault. He did that for us." Dahlia spoke up for Dustin because, though he acted impulsively, he did nothing wrong.

his way through them to protect Dustin. The men he brought with him today

were all elites in their gang. Several bodyguards were no match for them at all. In just minutes, all the Nicholson bodyguards were on the ground, all battered up.

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chairman of Nicholson Corp.!”

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As Alma left Nicholson Corp., she was in a terrible mood. A person of her status has never had anyone question her decisions. But today, she was publicly challenged and even lost one of her loyal aides. There was no doubt

that she'd be in a foul mood. However, they are currently in Balerno. If she

wanted to get revenge, she'd have to arrange for her trusted confidants to come over from Glenstead.

“Grandmother, Dahlia was personally appointed by Grandfather to be chairman of the company. Will it put you in a predicament when Grandfather

comes around to find that you've dismissed her from her position without

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consulting him about it?” Julian asked hesitantly. Although Alma’s actions had pleased him greatly, he was certain that such overbearing actions would be frowned upon.

upon.

“What do I have to fear when we don’t even know if he’s ever going to come around?” Alma said nonchalantly.

“Isn’t Grandfather just suffering from some of his old ailments? He should be

alright after resting up for a bit, shouldn’t he?” Julian was curious about what

Alma meant by that.

Alma meant by that.

“It isn’t an old ailment. I poisoned him. He most likely won’t ever be coming

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around anymore,” Alma said coldly.

“What?” Julian felt like he’d been struck by lightning as he stared at Alma in

bewilderment. “Gr grandmother, you’re joking, are you?” Julian said in a trembling voice, his eyes grew wide as saucers.

“Do I look like I’m joking to you?” Alma looked at him frostily, her gaze just as cold to match.

“B-but why? Why would you do that?” Julian seemed to lose his cool as a cold

sweat broke out. It was a major crime to harm the family head. There were unthinkable consequences if anyone found out. Most importantly, his grandparents had been married for half a century! Though they did not

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publicly show their affection for one another, they had been through thick and thin for 50 years! Julian could not comprehend why his grandmother would want to poison his grandfather. Was there some sort of deep grudge between them?

“Your grandfather had not been in the right mind when he thought of appointing Dahlia as the next head of the clan. He had intended to announce his decision to the whole family today. I advised him against it, hoping he would change his mind. But the old geezer was so stubborn and insisted on doing so. I was left with no choice. I could not let him do that, so I poisoned him last night. He’ll spend the remainder of his life on the bed,” Alma said

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calmly, as though it were the most reasonable thing to do.

“B-but even so, y-you shouldn’t have harmed him.” Julian gulped dryly.

“Who do you think I’m doing this for? I’m doing this for you!” Alma huffed.

“You’re my grandson and the first legitimately born grandson of the Nicholson

family. No matter what, you are the rightful heir of the family. But look at what

that old man did. Not only did he not put you in a position of importance, he

even insists on appointing an illegitimately born brat as the next family head! I

consider myself merciful for not taking his life!”

Julian fell silent at that, his thoughts were a mess. No matter how he saw it,

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he was indeed the one who should have been the next head of the family. He genuinely refused to accept Dahlia as the next head.

“Alright now, stop overthinking things. When the time is right, I’ll support you so that you become the next head of the family. Whoever stands in your way must die!” Alma said decisively

“Thank you for your support, Grandmother!” Julian quickly came to terms with what Alma said Since his grandfather no longer seemed to be thinking straight, he might as well just stay in bed. In the future, he would be the one in control of the Nicholson family!

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“Grandmother, I’m just curious about one thing. Since Dahlia is the threat, why

didn’t you take action on her instead?” Julian suddenly quipped.

“Even if I kill Dahlia, there’s always going to be a second one. The

Nicholson

family has a lot of descendants, and they are all threats to you. To solve the issue once and for all, we have to address the problem at its root.”

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Chapter 709

“I see. But why did you get Hank to murder James, then? Isn’t that unnecessary?” Julian wondered why his grandmother would waste such effort

to have James dead. James was an unimportant side character, and it was a waste of resources to even deal with him.

“James? I don’t even know who that is. Why would I want to kill him? I

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suppose Hank decided to take things into his own hands and just get rid of him. Anyway, that's not important. It doesn't affect us in the least what happened to him." Alma waved her hand dismissively.

As she spoke, she suddenly shuddered, and her breathing became erratic.

A

piercing pain hit her and spread out across her entire body.

"Are you alright, Grandmother?" Julian immediately noticed that Alma didn't

look good.

"It's nothing new. Go and get me my medicine from the car. Hurry," Alma instructed.

"Yes, Grandmother." Julian dared not hesitate even for a moment and quickly

ran over to the Rolls- Royce parked in front of them before he started rummaging around. In no time, he came back with a purple bottle.

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“Grandmother, your medicine.”

Alma quickly opened the bottle and poured out its contents, only to find it empty. “Where’s the medicine? Have I run out of them so soon?” She frowned

as the pain in her body increased in intensity, and she began shivering uncontrollably. “Quick! Go, search Hank’s body! My medicine is with him!

Hurry!” Alma reacted quickly.

She did a mental calculation and recalled that it was scheduled for today the

Killians should have provided her with the medicine Previously, Hank had always been in charge of retrieving the medicine from them and then secretly

sending it over to Glenstead and into her hands. Usually, the transaction should have already been completed by this time.

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“Hang on, Grandmother.” Julian immediately left with two men and hurried over to where Hank had fallen to his death. A short while later, he came running back, drenched in sweat. “Grandmother, I’ve searched him thoroughly. The medicine is not with Hank.” “He doesn’t have it? Could it be possible that he hasn’t gotten it yet?” Alma frowned and hastily urged Julian, “Call the Killians’ butler right away. Have him send the medicine over!” By then, Alma was already having difficulties standing up and had broken out in a sweat.

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“Yes, Grandmother!” Julian fished out his phone and made a call. But nobody answered. He made multiple calls, but they were all left unanswered. “Grandmother, I can’t seem to reach the Killians’ butler!” Julian was at his wit’s end.

“That useless piece of trash! He’s never there when you need him!” Alma gritted her teeth as the pain got unbearable. “Call Mr. Killian immediately. Ask him what all this is about!”

Without a moment to waste, Julian made another call. He managed to get hold of Mr. Killian and asked him a series of questions to clarify the situation.

His face fell. “Grandmother, Mr. Killian said that the medicine had been passed to their butler, and the transaction was completed not too long ago.”

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Julian looked perplexed.

“If the transaction has been made, then where’s my medicine?” Alma was panicking.

“Mr. Killian said that someone showed up to disrupt the transaction. The medicine has likely been intercepted.

“Who? Who dares take my medicine?” Alma roared, furious.

“They do not know yet. But they are looking into it now.” Julian shook his head.

“Hurry! Go, find out who it is! I don’t give a damn how many men you dispatch

or what price you have to pay. Get me my medicine!” Alma roared.

“Yes, ma’am!” All their men dispersed without a moment’s hesitation.

“Please calm down, Grandmother, I’ll help you to the car.” Julian helped his

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grandmother over to the car for a rest. But before they could get far, Alma's legs gave out, and she fell weakly to the ground. Her body convulsed, and she foamed at the mouth as her condition worsened.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 710 -
Chapter 710

“Grandmother!” Julian was terribly shaken when he saw Alma collapse suddenly. Without a moment to spare, he quickly started the car and sent her to the hospital.

After the doctors tended to her, Alma was no longer in life-threatening danger.

But her condition was far from good.

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“Doctor, how’s my grandmother doing?” Julian immediately went up to the

doctor the moment he stepped out of the ward.

“Mr. Nicholson, has your grandmother been frequently taking some special

medication?” the doctor asked.

“Yes. She’s been feeling unwell, so she takes some supplements occasionally,” Julian admitted.

“I’m afraid those aren’t as simple as supplements.” The doctor shook his head. “The patient’s heavily reliant on the medication, and she has great amounts of toxins in her body. And with her old age, I’m afraid there isn’t much we can do for her.”

“How is this possible? This is the best hospital there is! Is there nothing you

can do?” Julian frowned

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The best solution now is to let the patient resume her medication to keep her body running for the time being. If we stop the medication so suddenly, I'm afraid she'll have less than three days left to live." The doctor sighed. Julian was shocked by what the doctor had said. If his grandmother were to die, what was he going to do? He wasn't the head of the family yet. Without his grandmother backing him up and his grandfather in a coma, things would be difficult for him in the future. "Julian..." Right then, Alma, who was on the bed, slowly opened her eyes. Though the doctor had administered her painkillers, it was only a temporary

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relief that did not solve the problem at hand.

“Yes, Grandmother?” Julian swiftly went up to her and held her hand.

“My medicine... Have you found it yet?” Alma asked weakly.

“There’s no news of it yet.” Julian shook his head.

“How about Mr. Killian? Have him send another bottle of the medicine over. I’ll

pay double the price,” Alma said.

“Mr. Killian said that the medicine is too rare and that there’s a limited production of it annually, so even if they manufactured it immediately, it’ll take

at least a month for us to get it,” Julian said sombrely

“A month? I can’t wait that long! Think of something else!” Alma was getting anxious.

“I...” Julian was at a loss for words. He couldn’t get his hands on the

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medicine, and there was nothing the doctor could do. What was he supposed to do?

“Ma’am, we’ve got news!” One of the Nicholson guards barged in and reported. “Based on our investigations, it was a man by the name of Dustin Rhys who intercepted your medicine.”

“Who’s Dustin Rhys?” Alma frowned. She could not recall knowing such a person, even after racking her brain.

“Ma’am, Dustin Rhys is the person who kicked Hank off the building!” the bodyguard replied.

“So it was him!” Alma’s expression darkened. “So you mean to say that Dahlia

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has my medicine now?”

“That b*tch! She looks like a decent person. Who would have guessed that she’s so rotten within? How dare she mess with your medicine?” Julian hissed

through clenched jaws. From how he saw it, this was Dahlia’s ploy. She had

planned to threaten his grandmother by taking her medicine away. How ambitious and wicked!

“Julian, go find Dahlia right away! Make her give me back my medicine!” Alma

spat.

“Yes, Grandmother!” Julian immediately left with several of their men upon

receiving her orders.

Over in the chairman’s office at Nicholson Corp.

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 711 -
Chapter 711

“Dahlia, are we really leaving?” Julie seemed reluctant to part with the huge and luxurious office. Due to her position as the chairman’s secretary, she got to enjoy lots of benefits. No matter where she went, people were ready to shower her with attention and flattery. As a result, she even slept with several young and attractive men. But now that Dahlia has been dismissed from her position as chairman, Julia was no longer her secretary. “We’ve got no choice. They have the final say. Before the head of the family

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comes around, we have no choice but to obey their instructions for now.”

After

she cleared up the office, Dahlia sighed softly. It had not been easy for her to

get to where she was. Of course, she wasn't ready to give up yet. But Alma was now in charge, and Dahlia had no means of going up against her.

“This is all your fault! If you hadn't crossed the matriarch of the Nicholson family, Dahlia would not have been dismissed from her position!” Julie turned

to glare at Dustin, who was leisurely sipping on a cup of coffee. They were almost about to be kicked out of the company, and there he was, still eating

and drinking like he had no care in the world! How heartless!

“Why are you so flustered? Didn't I tell you that it wouldn't be long before the

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old lady comes and apologize? She'll even grovel at Dahlia's feet to ask her to resume her position as chairman' Dustin said confidently "Hmph! She'll do that? Do you think I'm naive even to believe you?" Julie rolled her eyes at him. Alma was the matriarch of the Nicholson family and had noble status. Dustin might be well-off financially, but he was no match for the prominent Nicholson family. "Rhys! Don't forget what you promised. If Alma doesn't do as you predicted, you'll have to return us the plot of land free of charge!" Florence suddenly quipped. Though her daughter had lost her position as chairman, it would make up for their loss if they could get their hands on that plot of land

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“Don’t worry. I never go back on my word,” Dustin assured.
“Alright, the car’s here. Let’s go.” With one final lingering glance around the office, Dahlia turned and left.
Just as they made their way out of the building, a white Toyota Alphard pulled up in front of them. The car door opened, and Julian and several bodyguards came out. They stormed up to them angrily.
“Dahlia, isn’t that Julian? Why is he back?” Julia wondered aloud.
“Are they back to give us trouble?” Florence cowered, an unknown panic creeping up on her.
“They’re not here to give us trouble; they’re here to beg us for a favor.”
Dustin

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smirked.

“Hey! Are you delusional? Don’t you see the vicious look on their faces?

What

makes you think they’re here to beg for anything? You should thank your lucky stars if they don’t just come up to you and start chopping you up!”

Julia

huffed angrily.

“Dahlia Nicholson!” Julian roared the moment he got near. “Give me back

my

grandmother’s medicine right now!”

“Medicine? What medicine?” Dahlia was caught off guard and stared at

him

quizzically.

“Hah! You’re playing the fool now? You think we don’t know that you’ve

sent

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someone to intercept my grandmother's medicine?" Julian glared threateningly at Dahlia

"This has nothing to do with her. I was the one who did it." Dustin took two

steps forward and said with full confidence, "The medicine you're referring to, I

assume, is this? The Zirtanium?" He took out a purple bottle from his pocket.

"That's right! Give it back!" Julian's eyes lit up, and he immediately reached

out, ready to snatch it out of Dustin's hand. But Dustin easily dodged him

"What's the meaning of this?" Julian asked with a dark expression.

"I can give you the medicine. But I have three conditions," Dustin said calmly.

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“You have no right to talk about conditions! Give me the medicine now, or I’ll

see to it that today is the day you die!” Julian threatened.

Without another word, Dustin lifted his hand and delivered a hard slap across

Julian’s face.”

Where are your manners? Can’t you speak properly?”

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Chapter 712

Thrown off by the sudden slap, Julian held his burning cheek with his hand in

disbelief. No one had ever dared to hit him all his life, so it took some time for

the fact to settle in with him.

Florence and the rest of them exchanged looks between themselves and

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stared with bewilderment. Dustin was too bold to slap the eldest legitimate grandson of the Nicholson family! “You... How dare you slap me?” When Julian finally came to his senses, his expression was dark, and his gaze looked like he could murder them at any moment.

“Yes, I’ve slapped you. So what? You speak so arrogantly. Did you think you didn’t deserve that?” Dustin countered calmly.

“You impudent bastard! Get him!” Julian bellowed.

“Yes, sir!” The bodyguards pulled out their weapons and charged toward Dustin.

But before they even managed to lay a finger on him, Dustin kicked each of them and sent them all sprawling to the ground. Just like that, the fight was over.

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Julian's face fell as he stumbled backward. They were the most well-trained bodyguards the Nicholson family had' And Dustin managed to wipe them all out single-handedly? It was clear that he was a skilled martial artist. "Now, can we speak like civilized adults?" Dustin asked. "How dare you, Rhys? Do you know what you've done? You're blatantly challenging the Nicholson family!" Julian roared as he glared at him. "Cut the crap. If you wish to strike a deal, talk properly. If you do not wish to do so, I'll just dispose of the medicine as I see fit." Dustin had had enough of Julian's big talk. "You-" Julian gritted his teeth. But in the end, he swallowed his anger and asked, "What on earth do you want?"

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“I told you, I have three conditions. If you agree to my conditions, I’ll give you

the medicine,” Dustin stated calmly.

“What are your conditions?” Julian asked with annoyance.

“First, I want you to apologize to Dahlia sincerely, and I want you to mean every word. Dustin held up one finger.

“Apologize? Why should I?” Julian’s pride would not allow him to do so.

He

was the first legitimate grandson of the Nicholson family, the one who should

have been the rightful heir. It was embarrassing for him to apologize to some

illegitimately born brat of the family.

“Because I have this.” Dustin raised the purple bottle in his hand. “Now, will

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you do it?”

Julian faltered for a moment, but his eyes still burned with rage. But for his

grandmother’s sake, he complied and went up to Dahlia with his head hung

low. “I’m sorry. I apologize for my previous actions.”

Dahlia, Julie, and Florence were all astonished by Julian’s actions. They had

never imagined that Dustin would be able to deliver what he had said earlier

on. He had indeed succeeded in getting

Julian to apologize without a fuss.

“Are you happy now?” Julian straightened up and asked frostily, “What’s the

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second condition?”

“It’s simple. Let Dahlia return to her original position.” Dustin raised a second finger.

“Okay. I can promise you that.” After a few seconds of contemplation, Julian nodded.

“This is great!” Julia cheered happily. “Dahlia, we don’t need to leave anymore! You’re still the chairman of the company!”

“This kid is pretty impressive! But there goes my plot of land worth two billion.”

Florence shook her head disappointedly.

However, Dahlia wasn’t too surprised. Instead, she fell deep into thought.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 713 -

Chapter 713

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It would not change a thing if Dahlia was reinstated. If the Nicholsons weren't happy with her performance, they could still dismiss her at any moment they wished.

“And the third condition?” Julian pressed.

“My third condition is for you to transfer all the shares of Nicholson Corp. to

Dahlia with absolutely no charges.” Dustin raised three fingers.

“What? All the shares? You might as well rob a bank or something!”

Julian's

frown deepened. Nicholson Corp. was worth over 100 billion dollars, and the

company had a promising future ahead. With the shares that they currently

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had, they would be worth at least 60 to 70 billion if they converted them into cash. Even for a family as wealthy as the Nicholsons, it was considered a huge amount.

“It’s quicker to extort you than to rob,” Dustin said reasonably. “Anyway, I’ve listed my conditions. It’s up to you whether you agree to them.”

“No way! That’s impossible!” Julian turned him down without much thought.

Once he becomes the family head, these assets would all be his. How could

he just give them away like that?

“Well, if you do not agree, then forget it.” Dustin gave a nonchalant shrug.

“Dustin Rhys! I have already fulfilled your ridiculous conditions! Not only have

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I apologized, but I even reinstated Dahlia to her position as chairman. You better not push your luck!” Julian did not look like he would bend to Dustin’s will anymore.

“Let’s be real. Zirtanium costs a bomb. Of course, if you want it, you have to pay a price.” Dustin. shook the bottle, and the pills rattled inside.

“Dustin Rhys! Don’t bite off more than you can chew! You can’t have the shares of Nicholson Corp. If you insist on having it, you’re just asking for trouble. And if it comes to that, don’t think that Dahlia will be reinstated to her

position of chairman anymore!” Julian threatened.

Florence and Julie’s expressions immediately darkened when they heard that.

All they wanted was for Dahlia to maintain her position as chairman. They

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dare not even dream about the company's shares. They knew that if they were too greedy, they might end up with nothing at all, and that would be terrible for them.

"Dustin, take what you can get and stop while you're ahead. Pushing too hard

will get you nowhere!" Florence went up and persuaded him.

"That's right... We can't afford to offend the Nicholsons. It's good enough that

we can benefit a little from this," Julie echoed.

"I need to make the most of this opportunity. We won't be getting another opportunity like this anymore." Dustin shook his head stubbornly.

"What do you mean you need to make the most of this? Who do you think you

are? Do you believe that you can get the better of the Nicholsons?"

Florence

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was on edge. She considered themselves lucky enough that Dahlia was reinstated. It would be greedy of them to ask for more.

“Dustin, you have only two options. Give me the medicine, and Dahlia gets

reinstated, or I’ll give

you hell, and you end up with nothing. The choice is yours to make.”

Seeing

Florence back down. gave Julian the confidence he needed to throw his weight around.

“I stand by what I said. If you’re unwilling to give up the shares, then we don’t

have a deal,” Dustin insisted.

“Are you really so adamant about burning bridges?” Julian snarled.

“Don’t scare me. I’m easily frightened. Who knows? I might just tremble and

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drop this bottle of medicine into the sewers. We'd be in trouble then, wouldn't

we?" Dustin gave the bottle another shake.

"You!" Julian was so furious. But he had said and done all that he could, and

nothing seemed to work!

"If you can't call the shots, call your grandmother. Ask her if she agrees to my

condition." Dustin suggested to Julian

Julian took a deep breath and fished out his phone, giving his grandmother a

call. It was true that he wasn't in a position to call the shots on such a huge matter that concerned the entire family.

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“Hello, Grandmother. The medicine is indeed with Dustin. But, he has a condition that I can’t agree with...” Julian started discussing the issue with Alma once she picked up the call. His expression was quite a sight to behold,

it changed with every second that passed. No one could tell what Alma was

saying on the other end of the line.

“Dustin! Are you out of your mind? If the matriarch of the Nicholson family

loses her temper, not only will we not be getting anything out of this, but we’ll

also be implicated and get into trouble because of you!” Julie grumbled.

“Rhys! If my daughter loses her position as chairman because of you again,

you’re never going to hear the end of this!” Florence was agitated.

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Wouldn't things have turned out just fine if he'd just agreed to give them the medicine? Why did he have to insist on making them pay such a ridiculously high price for it? Things would get out of hand if they burned bridges! Just as Florence and Julie were about to lose their cool, Julian ended the call with a frown on his face. "Grandmother has agreed to your condition

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 714 - Chapter 714

"Madam Alma agreed?" Both Florence and Julie were dumbstruck when they heard that. All their grumbles and doubts transformed into pure shock. They hadn't expected the Nicholsons to agree to the unreasonable request from

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Dustin. Those were shares worth billions! Could they bear to let it go like that?

Wasn't that too much of a price to pay?

At that moment, even Dahlia looked surprised. She could not comprehend why the Nicholsons were willing to pay such a ridiculous price for just a bottle

of medicine.

"Since she's agreed, then get your grandmother to make a trip here to sign the papers. We'll make a fair transaction." Dustin smiled. He wasn't the least

bit surprised by Alma's choice. He knew very well what people heavily reliant

on Zirtanium were like. They would never be able to resist the temptation. After all, the Nicholsons had trillions in assets! Sacrificing one company wouldn't hurt them too much.

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When Julian finally drove off, Dahlia could no longer hold back her curiosity.

“Dustin, what was that medicine you had with you? How did you manage to make Madam Alma buy it at such a ridiculous price?”

“That was Zirtanium. It’s a type of chronic poison. But for Madam Alma, this is

what she needs to stay alive.” Dustin explained,

“So that’s what it was.” Dahlia nodded in understanding. No wonder the Nicholsons yielded to his absurd request. So it turns out that Dustin held Alma’s lifeline in his hands.

She had initially been worried that the Nicholsons would go back on their word

and dismiss her from her position as chairman after reinstating her. But now

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that Dustin had gotten the shares of the company from them, there was no way they could do that anymore.

“The older a person gets, the more they value their life. To Madam Alma, paying several tens of billions to live another year amounts to nothing.”

Dustin
smiled.

“This Zirtanium, where did you get it from?” Dahlia wondered

“I intercepted it from Hank Hoffman, of course.” Dustin wasn’t one to hide his actions.

“Hank Hoffman?” Astounded, Dahlia quickly understood what he meant.

“So you mean to say that you used what had originally belonged to Madam Alma to threaten her?”

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“You could say that.” Dustin nodded.

“Um...” Dahlia and the rest of them were all rendered speechless. It was one thing to be greedy but to threaten someone with what had originally

been theirs without even having to give anything up for it was something else.

Dustin was basically a con man! Despite being shocked, they had to admit that his ways were indeed effective.

What followed next was a smooth transaction between both parties. When Alma arrived, she signed the papers that approved the transfer of shares to Dahlia without any hesitation.

Once Dustin made sure that there was nothing wrong with the signed papers,

he returned the Zirtanium to her.

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Dahlia finally heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that the company's shares were now hers. From that moment on, she would have full control over Nicholson Corp. As for Florence and Julie, it would be an understatement to say that they were over the moon because they would also benefit from Dahlia's ownership of the company.

"Grandmother, do we give them the shares?" Back in their car, Julian was very upset when he saw how pleased the group of them looked.

"Hmph! I'll give it to them now. But we'll just wait and see if they're able to handle it!" Alma didn't look any happier about the situation than Julian did. "Go

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back to Glenstead and get our men here immediately! I want them to give back everything that they've taken from us and more!"

"Yes, Grandmother!" A cruel smile broke out on Julian's face. As expected from his grandmother. She wasn't one to let anyone get the better of her! Dahlia and the rest of them were up for a tough time ahead!

"Dustin, you've helped me out once again! Thank you." It was rare to see such a radiant smile on Dahlia's face.

"Why are you thanking him? He was the one who brought all this trouble on us! He was only doing what he needed to do to rectify the problem!" Florence huffed.

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“Exactly!” Julie nodded. “Dahlia, never praise your men too much. It gets to their heads.”

“Hey, isn’t it time both of you upheld your end of the deal?” Dustin wasn’t pleased by what he heard.

“Deal? What deal?” They looked at each other quizzically.

“Don’t go back on your word. We promised this. If you lose the bet, you’ll have to bark like a dog,” Dustin reminded.

“Who agreed to that? Why don’t I remember ever agreeing on something like

that? Do you recall this, Aunt Florence?” Julie resorted to playing dumb.

“Of course not!” After a slight pause, Florence promptly shook her head.

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“Rhys! Don’t go around spreading lies! We never said anything like that!”
“You’re playing dumb, are you?”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 715 -
Chapter 715

Dustin simply smiled and pulled out his phone before playing the voice recording of their conversation. Their agreement on the bet was loud and clear. After listening to the recording, both Florence and Julie blushed a crimson red. They hadn’t expected Dustin to record it.

“Dahlia, there are things to handle in the company, so I’ll be off now!”
Julie

quickly wormed her way out.

“Oh! Right! I’ll go help her out.” Florence nodded furiously. Then, the two of

them escaped in a flash, without a moment to lose.

“That’s just how they are. Please don’t take it to heart.” Dahlia was

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exasperated too.

“Forget it. I’ll let it slip this time. But only for your sake.” Dustin appeared benevolent.

“Thank you. You’re the best!” Dahlia smiled. Then, as though having a sudden

thought, she bit her lip and said shyly, “Dustin, I appreciate you always being

by my side. Why don’t we get married again?”

“What?” Dustin was stupefied the moment he heard what she said. For a moment, he simply didn’t know how to react!

“To be honest, I’ve been giving it some serious thought for the past few days. I

had acted too rashly in the past. I’d like to make up for my mistakes, and I hope that things can return to how they were before.” Dahlia had a serious

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look on her face. Because of how shy she felt, both her ears were flushed red, but still, she plucked up the courage to say the words that had been on her mind for quite some time. She just never found the right opportunity to say them. She knew that if she didn't say them now, someday he'd be taken by someone else.

Dustin began to sweat profusely. Had it been in the past, he would have nodded straight away without a moment's hesitation, but now, things were different. He realized that his feelings were more complicated now that Natasha was present.

On the one hand, it was his ex-wife, with whom he had three years' worth of memories together, and he still had lingering affection. On the other hand, it

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was a gentle and caring friend who had romantic feelings for him. He really

could not choose between the two.

He considered himself both courageous and witty and was always decisive in

various situations. However, when it came to love, he had to admit that he was a mess. Sometimes he resented himself for his indecisiveness when it came to things like this.

“What, are you not willing? Or do you despise me?” Dahlia’s brows knitted

together slightly when she saw Dustin staying silent.

“Of course not! It’s just...” Dustin broke off mid-sentence.

“So, it’s because you can’t bear to part with Natasha?” Dahlia had a wistful

expression. “Then answer this: between Natasha and me, who do you like

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better?”

Dustin’s thoughts became even more of a mess when he heard that. Who did

he like more? Honestly speaking, he didn’t know either!

Dustin was anxious as beads of sweat formed on his forehead. Then his phone began to ring. That

seemed to be a lifeline for Dustin, and he quickly fished his phone out to answer the call. “Hello? Who’s this?”

“Hey, Rhys! It’s me, Adam.” A familiar voice came from the other end of the line.

“Oh, hey buddy! Is anything the matter?” Dustin was pleased to receive the

call from Adam. At least he proved himself useful in Dustin’s time of need.

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“To be honest, I’ve got some good news for you.” Adam beamed and chuckled. “My sister has taken a leave from work, and she’s making her way to Millsburg as we speak.”

“Scarlet?” Dustin’s eyes widened. “What’s she coming here for?”

“To meet you, of course!” Adam feigned helplessness as he let out a sigh.

“You have no idea how much she’s tortured me just to get out of me some information about you. I had no choice but to give in and tell her your whereabouts. Please don’t blame me for betraying you, brother. You have no

idea what she is capable of. I really couldn’t take it any longer. I believe you

have the means to handle her. Of course, you don’t need to worry too much.

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She doesn't listen to anyone else but you. Everything will end up just fine if

you can deal with her.”

“You fuc-”

“Oh right, I have some matters to attend to. I'll hang up now. Good luck!”

Dustin was so frustrated that he was a hair's breadth away from cursing, but

before he could curse at him, Adam had already ended the call. Dustin could

only clench his teeth to suppress his rising anger. That bastard really knew how to make things difficult for him. He was already having such a hard time

handling both Dahlia and Natasha at the same time. If another person were to

be added to the equation, a catfight might just break out!

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 716 -
Chapter 716

Somewhere on the outskirts of Millsburg, in a military base, several thousand soldiers stood neatly at attention. From generals to privates, everyone stood with their backs straight. They all stood in well-arranged rows, and it was a grand sight to behold. Other than the usual troops, prominent figures from both the military and political fields were there. They all stood there in anticipation, a little nervous.

“General Winslow, will the Scarlet Warrior really be here today?” Dylan, who

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stood near the front, whispered to General Winslow, who stood in front of him.

He had suddenly received notice from the army that the Goddess of War, Scarlet Spanner, would be visiting Millsburg. As a high-ranking commander of the Dark Panther Cavalry and a direct subordinate of Scarlet Spanner, he rushed over immediately.

“Of course! Don’t you see that both of her trusted aides are here?” General Winslow gestured for Dylan to look in front of them.

Dylan looked over, and just as General Winslow said, there were two graceful and stunning female generals standing at attention right in the front row. They

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were both major generals of the Dark Panther Cavalry and considered third-ranking officials. They stood out in stark contrast to all the other high-ranking officials around them just because they were Scarlet Spanner's trusted confidants. Because of that, they held a higher status than those around them, so much so that even the second-ranking officials had to show them a certain level of respect. As though noticing something amiss, one of the major generals turned around and met Dylan's gaze with her own cold and stern gaze. Startled, Dylan lowered his head guiltily, not daring to meet her gaze. When facing such a person of authority, his arrogance disappeared, and there was

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only fear. It was true that he looked down on others. Regardless of their gender, the generals of the Dark Panther Cavalry were all elites, whom he was in no position to look down on

Just then, a whirring sound came from above. Everyone lifted their heads and

looked up, only to see a military chopper quickly making its way toward them.

The wind from the whirring blades hit them all.

“She’s here!” Dylan’s expression turned serious as he straightened up, puffing his chest out.

When the chopper reached the military base, it hovered overhead for quite some time, not making its descent.

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“What’s the matter?” Just as everyone began to wonder, the helicopter’s door opened up, and a figure fully clad in red stuck its head through the door, looking around inquisitively. Then, amidst the troops’ stares of horror and bewilderment, the figure leaped out the door, jumping down from over 300 feet in the air.

With a loud thud, the red figure landed heavily on the ground, appearing like a

deity that had descended from the sky. For a moment, the ground shook, sending billows of dust into the air.

What just played out shocked the crowd silly as they all gaped in amazement.

How could someone survive jumping at such a height?

As the smoke and dust cleared, they noticed a huge crater, and right in the middle of it stood an elegant figure in red.

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It was a lady dressed in a red tracksuit who had a long sword in one hand. She had her silver hair cropped short and had looks that were to die for. She could captivate someone with just a single glance. However, unlike the usual gentleness of women, there was a deep set of strength etched in her brows, exuding grace and grandeur. Her eyes, especially, were aloof and indifferent, seeming to see through everything. She seemed uninterested in everyone. Just one look from her was enough to make one feel inferior and ashamed of themselves.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 717 -
Chapter 717

The lady was none other than Scarlet Spanner, one of the two well-known

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aces of the Spanner family and the best Goddess of War Dragonmarsh ever had.

“As expected of the one and only Goddess of War. It’s truly amazing how she

made her appearance! “Dylan exclaimed inwardly, marveling at her.

She had just jumped from a height of over 300 feet and appeared to be perfectly fine. That was no feat that an ordinary human could accomplish!

Though he was from the Dark Panther Cavalry, he had only ever seen her heroic moves from afar. To be able to see her pull such a dangerous stunt up

front and near truly left him shell-shocked.

“Welcome, General!” Her two trusted aides bowed and greeted her first.

“Welcome, General!” The rest of the troops followed after them, bowed, and

greeted her. Their voices reverberated throughout the entire military base.

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Scarlet gave them a sweeping glance. It was nothing more than a simple act, but everyone felt an inexplicable pressure just from her gaze, making it difficult for them to even breathe. It wasn't until Scarlet looked away that the pressure gradually disappeared.

She walked up to her two confidants and asked casually, "Do you have any information on the person I was looking for?"

The two major generals were named Georgia and Bridget, respectively.

"We've searched the entire Millsburg for someone with the same name, but

none of them was the person you wanted. We suspect that the person isn't here," Georgia said with her head bowed.

"That's impossible!" Scarlet said. "Adam would never have the guts to lie to

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me. He must be here but under a different name. Keep searching!”

“Yes, ma’am!” Georgia answered and quickly left with her men.

“I plan to stay here for an extended period. Get me a place to stay,” Scarlet ordered.

“I’ve already arranged for that, General! It’s at Fallonge estate,” Bridget reported.

“Lead the way!” Scarlet wasted no time on small talk.

“Yes, ma’am!” Bridget nodded and drove off with Scarlet, leaving the rest of the troops in their dust.

“Who exactly is the Goddess of War here for, General Winslow? She seems

so anxious to find that person.” Dylan could no longer hold in his curiosity when he saw the car leave.

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“How would I know?” General Winslow rolled his eyes. “Who dares meddle in her personal affairs?”

“You’ve got a point there.” Dylan chuckled awkwardly. Scarlet was an intimidating figure in the army, so nobody dared speak freely about her. “I’m not sure who she’s after, but I’m certain that it’s a man,” General Winslow said thoughtfully.

“A man?” Dylan’s eyes widened. “No way! What kind of man can make the Goddess of War place such importance on him?” Scarlet was such a skilled martial artist, second to none, and was an amazing woman who

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trumped every woman in Dragonmarsh. If word were to get out that she had traveled such a distance to Millsburg just for a man, it would create a significant commotion among the public! At the thought of that, Dylan could not help but feel slightly jealous. Scarlet was a gorgeous fighter who was beyond everyone's reach. To be able to get Scarlet's attention was something worth boasting about. Dylan wondered who the lucky bastard who caught her eye was.

Over in the moving car, Scarlet carefully pulled out a well-kept photograph. In it were a teenage boy and girl, at the peak of their youth. The young girl leaned on the boy's shoulder, a hint of a smile replacing her usual aloof

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expression. Looking at the pair of youths in the photo, a look of melancholy came over Scarlet, as though she was reminiscing about the past. After gazing at the photograph for a moment, she pressed it to her chest and sighed. “Where are you, Logan? I’ve been searching for you for the past 10 years.”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 718 - Chapter 718

“Achoo!” Dustin, who had finally wormed his way out of his predicament with

Dahlia, began sneezing the moment he got back to the Flame Dragon Dojo.

He wondered if someone was bad- mouthing him behind his back.

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“Sir!” Right then, someone called out to him. Dustin looked up to see Abigail standing up from her seat, waving excitedly at him. It looked like she had been waiting for quite a while.

“My apologies, I was caught up with something else earlier on, that’s why I’m late.” Dustin walked up to her with a smile on his face.

“That’s alright, I just got here too.” Abigail wasn’t bothered by it.

“Oh, right, where’s your father?” Dustin looked around but did not see Michael.

“Dad ran into some urgent matters he had to handle, so he can’t make it here.

He told me to come here myself. Also, he wanted me to pass this letter to you.” Abigail pulled out a letter and handed it to Dustin.

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Dustin opened the envelope and found two objects in it. One was a neatly folded letter, and another was a gold pendant with an 'R' engraved on it.

After

going through the letter, Dustin was certain that Mr. Robinson would not be

returning any time soon.

“What did Dad say in the letter, Sir?” Abigail’s curiosity got the better of her.

“Your dad said that he needs to go away for a long time. Probably as long as

half a year. But if things get settled quickly, he might be able to come back after a month. He says that you should pay attention to your martial arts training and practice well.” After a slight pause, Dustin continued, “Also, if we

were to run into any issues, we can go to Ronald Reeds with this pendant,

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and he'll help us out. He's got a deep friendship with your father.”

“Ronald Reeds? Who's that? Is he really powerful?” Abigail scratched her head, wondering.

“Ronald Reeds is one of the five ultimate grandmasters of Balerno. Do you think he's powerful?” Dustin smiled.

“One of the five ultimate grandmasters? Of course, he is!” Abigail's eyes lit up.

“Consider this a good luck charm from your father. Keep it well. Make sure

you don't ever lose it.” Dustin handed the gold pendant to her. The value of a

token from a grandmaster was priceless.

“But Sir, this pendant is a gift from my father to you; you should have it.”

Abigail quickly decided

against taking it.

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“I have no use for it. Since you’re going to be my student anyway. I’ll give it

back to you. Now, you hold on to it.” With that, Dustin stuffed the gold pendant

into Abigail’s pocket.

“Thank you, Sir!” Abigail smiled sweetly at him, and then, standing on tippy

toes, she swiftly planted a peck on his cheek.

“Hey, kiddo! I’m your mentor now! Watch your manners!” Dustin tried to look

stern.

“Got it!” Abigail stuck her tongue out at him, looking naughty and adorable.

“Mr. Rhys...” Just then, a smartly dressed middle-aged man who was slightly

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Chapter 718

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paunchy made his

way in. It was Roderick Brooks, who was also known as Big Bucks Brooks.

“Mr. Brooks, what brings you here?” Dustin smiled at him. “Abigail, go pour

Mr. Brooks a cup of tea,
he instructed.

“No need for that.” Roderick raised a hand to stop her as he said with a chuckle, “I’m here to bring you some good news today.”

“What’s the good news?” Dustin’s brows furrowed slightly with doubt. Adam

had given him a call and said that he had good news for him too. That turned

out to be anything but good.

“You wanted me to keep an eye on the Stoneray Order and to keep tabs on

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the whereabouts of the 900-year green lotus, didn't you? We have the results now!" Roderick smiled.

"So? How is it? Were they successful?" Dustin asked with anticipation. As he had no use for the green lotus due to its age previously, he hadn't bought it back then. But some time later, he heard that the Stoneray Order had purchased it, and Dr. Linden Watkins even had a special method to speed up the aging process. Hence, he got Roderick to get his men to keep an eye on it and verify if the news was indeed true.

"To tell you the truth, Dr. Linden Watkins had already come out of his

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laboratory last night, and the 900-year green lotus that he had been working

on has already been transformed into a thousand-year green lotus!”

Roderick

told him what he had learned.

“Great! That’s wonderful!”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 719 -

Chapter 719

Dustin felt excited. He had been searching for the thousand-year green lotus.

He only needed a Cherusia to produce the nine-fold Longevitum if he got it.

“It is wonderful, Mr. Rhys, but I’m afraid it wouldn’t be easy to get it.”

Roderick’s comment lowered Dustin’s spirits.

“I’ll buy this precious herb no matter how much it costs!” Dustin had an

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unwavering determination to get his hands on it.

“It isn’t about money, Mr. Rhys. The Stoneray Order does not lack money.”

Roderick shook his head.

“Well, what do they want if not money?” Dustin wondered.

“The Stoneray Order likes collecting rare and precious objects. The rarer, the

better. Whether you are seeking medical help or special herbs, they only want

rare items as payment,” Roderick explained.

“Where would I be able to get rare objects so suddenly?” Dustin frowned.

Things would be much easier for them if they could pay them off. But it would

be tricky if the Stoneray Order did not accept money.

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“Mr. Rhys, I’ve prepared some rare objects. But I’m not sure if Dr. Watkins will accept them.” Roderick had his doubts.

“We have to give it a try no matter what. Please come with me, Mr. Brook,”

Dustin invited.

“My pleasure.” Roderick nodded.

The three of them then drove to Stoneray Valley.

Stoneray Valley, as the name suggested, was a huge valley tucked away in a mountain range.

Mountains surrounded it on three sides, and there was only one entrance. It had a strategic location where a large river separated it from the outside world. There was only one way to get into Stoneray Valley, which was by boat.

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After a two-hour drive, Dustin, Abigail, and Roderick finally arrived near Stoneray Valley. However, when they made their way to the entrance, they were shocked by what they saw.

A little way off, the place was packed with people. The queue stretched a long

way out, and they could not begin to imagine the number of people there.

“Mr. Brooks, is Stoneray Valley usually so crowded?” Dustin was shocked by

the sight before him.

“There is usually quite a crowd here to seek medical help, but it was never so

packed. It is quite weird.” Roderick didn’t understand why there were so many

people there either.

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“With the amount of people here, we’d have to wait until tomorrow before we

can get in. “Abigail sighed. Had their two-hours journey been a wasted effort?

“Hey, excuse me, buddy.” Roderick approached a man in front of him and asked politely, “May I know what’s going on here today? Why is there such a huge crowd?”

“Don’t you know? Today is the day Dr. Watkins will take a new student. Whoever passes his examination and gets first place will be accepted into Stoneray Order and granted a wish,” the man informed them.

“A wish?” Roderick turned to look at Dustin. “What do you think, Mr. Rhys?”

“Of course, we can’t miss out on such a great deal!” Dustin smiled. It’d be

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perfect if they could get the thousand-year green lotus without having to give anything in return.

“But Sir, look at the line! How long are we going to have to stand in line for?”

Abigail crouched on the ground, resting her chin on her palms with a look of defeat.

“Who said anything about standing in line? Watch and learn.” Dustin walked

up to the few people at the front of the line and whispered something in their

ears. Once they reached a deal, he

returned and said, “Alright, that’s settled. They’ve agreed to swap places with

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us. Go on over.”

“Swap places?” Abigail was stunned. “They’re at the front of the line!

Why

would they agree to do

that?”

“Why not? I gave them one million each. They’re more than happy to

swap

places with us,” Dustin said casually.

“A million?” Abigail could not believe her ears.

“What? Is there a problem?” Dustin asked calmly.

“Well...” Abigail was stunned. There wasn’t much she could say at this point.

Was this the power of money? It was amazing!

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 720 -

Chapter 720

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Dustin and the rest took a boat into Stoneray Valley after registering themselves. They passed by green mountains, clear blue waters, and lush trees. The scenery was beautiful. After traveling about ten miles, they reached

their destination and got out of the boat.

There was a huge building that looked like a palace. It was majestic and breathtaking. They followed the crowd and went up a flight of stairs. Then they

entered a lavishly decorated hall.

There were already many people gathered in the hall. Everyone hoped they would be chosen by Dr. Watkins and be accepted into the Stoneray Order.

The Stoneray Order was famous and distinguished in Millsburg. Even the Fabulous Five and the Tremendous Three had to show them respect. To be accepted into the Stoneray Order was the same as making it big in life.

But Dr. Watkins was strict when choosing his students. And he would only

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accept ten students each year. It was almost a one-in-a-million chance to be his student.

As Dustin admired the hall, a commotion broke out by the door.

They turned around to see several young people walking in with their heads

high. Leading the group were a beautiful woman dressed in white and a man

dressed in black. The others behind them looked like regular lackeys who tagged along to show off their powers.

“Hey.. Isn’t that Miranda Killian from the Killian family? I didn’t expect to see

her here.”

“I heard that Miranda Killian is an unmatched medical genius. When she was

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18, she was already
on the same level as reputable doctors in Stonia.”
“And it’s not just Miranda Killian! That man beside her is amazing too!
He’s
Preston Huffner, Dr. Bruce Darby’s best student. He’s so young, but his
medical skills are out of this world!”
The crowd whispered among themselves when Miranda Killian and
Preston
Huffner appeared.
One was a medical genius and the daughter of a well-known family. The
other
was a famous doctor’s best student with exceptional skills. No matter
where
they went, they were the center of
attention

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“Hmph! They are just a bunch of people with average skills. How boring.”
Preston looked around
with disdain.

“Preston, I guess one of us will be the best student this year,” Miranda said
with a smirk.

“If you want it, I’ll let you have the position of best student. How’s that?”
Preston seemed generous.

“I’ll thank you in advance, then, Preston.” Miranda hid her giggles behind
her
hand. She was interested in something other than the best student position.
She was only competing for that position because of the thousand-year
green
lotus. She could have her wish granted if she passed the examination and
became the best student. And she had her eyes on the thousand-year green
lotus.

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As Preston and the gang walked into the hall, they paused as their path was blocked.

“Hey! Get out of the way! Even dogs know better than to block people’s way!”

Preston glared at the group of three in annoyance.

Everyone willingly made way for them except for these three. The three stood

there indifferently, not showing them any respect.

“And dogs know better than to force their way through. So quit complaining

and get lost.” Dustin countered.

“How dare you insult me?” Preston’s expression darkened. “Do you even know who I am? How bold of you to speak to me like that!”

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 721 -
Chapter 721

“Does it matter to me who you are?” Dustin shrugged.

“You insolent bastard! I am the leader of Asclepia, Dr. Bruce Darby’s best student! Your disrespect toward me is a direct disrespect toward Asclepia! Just a word from me is enough to make you vanish from the medical field! Don’t test me!” Preston threatened.

The people who showed up were people involved in the medical field. Asclepia’s power stretched across the nation. And all prestigious entities in the medical world respected them. It was easy for them to wipe out a small fry.

“Oh, I’m so scared. Well, go ahead and do as you wish, then,” Dustin replied dismissively.

His unconcern attitude and disregard fueled Preston’s anger. “Y-yo-you

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bastard! Just wait!”

“Are you done yet? If you are, please get lost.” Dustin waved his hand impatiently as if he was driving a bug away.

“You-!” Preston gritted his teeth.

As he was about to get violent, Miranda tugged on his arm. “Preston, there’s

no need to stoop to levels of such lowlife. People like him can only hope he’ll

ever get to our level. He’ll never be as good as us, so all he can do is run his

mouth.”

“That’s right! Only incompetent people waste their time talking. People with

real skills speak with their actions!” Their lackeys added.

“You rascal! You sound sure of yourself. If that’s the case, let’s have a

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challenge.” It was clear that Preston wasn’t pleased. Since he couldn’t win him in an argument, it was time he put his skills to use.

“I’m not interested.” Dustin flat-out rejected.

“Hah! Are you not interested, or you don’t have the skills? Or perhaps, you

simply don’t have the guts?” Preston snickered as if he had seen through Dustin’s brave act.

“Hmph! Here I was thinking that maybe we’ve got ourselves a worthy opponent. It turns out he’s just a cowardly chicken!” Miranda mocked.

“This is what we call a champion boaster. They always win in an argument.

But once things start getting serious, they chicken out faster than anyone else.”

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“A slacker will always be a slacker. No matter what they say, the facts won’t change!”

The lackeys ridiculed and mocked Dustin, looking at him as if he were nothing more than a mere clown.

“Hey! That’s enough!” Abigail was angered. Had it not been for her concerns for decency, she would have taken action much sooner. They were a bunch who did not watch what they said.

“What? Are you just going to stay silent and let a girl stand up for you? What a worthless bum!” Preston continued to taunt.

“I intended to ignore you, but you seem adamant about getting on my nerves.

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Fine, you wish to challenge me, don't you? I'll take you up on that challenge."

Dustin did not wish to tolerate them anymore. Just because he couldn't be bothered to take action did not mean that he wasn't capable of doing so.

"Wow! You're finally acting like a man!" Preston gave a cunning grin.

"Alright, I won't take advantage of you. Let's just go through with Dr. Watkins'

examination. Whoever gets a higher rank in the examination wins. The loser

will be the winner's dog. How's that? Do you dare to take up the challenge?"

Preston was dead set on winning.

Preston was going to defeat Dustin so that he could crush him under his feet,

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utterly humiliating him. Only by doing so could he vent the anger in his heart.

“Well, if you insist on becoming my dog, I’ll agree to it, then.” Dustin had an impassive look.

“Hmph! Keep talking tough. Let’s see how much longer you can stay arrogant!” Preston sneered.

“Everyone, did you all see that? We are all witnesses to the challenge. The loser shall be the winner’s dog.” Miranda was quick to back Preston up.

“That’s right! The loser will be a dog!” The lackeys followed along. It wasn’t every day that they came across someone they could humiliate. They were going to grab hold of every opportunity that came their way.

“This young man is acting so recklessly. Why would he accept Preston’s

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challenge? At a medical examination too! Isn't he inviting defeat upon himself?"

"If he doesn't have the ability, he should admit defeat. But he insists on being

arrogant! He's going to embarrass himself when he loses."

"Young people these days are too proud. They don't know their limits."

The crowd around them started whispering and commenting on Dustin's actions. From their point of view, Dustin was too arrogant and would end up

embarrassing himself.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 722 -

Chapter 722

"Silence!" As everyone got into a heated discussion, a loud voice roared. Then, a group of elders of the Stoneray Order entered the hall.

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Dr. Linden Watkins, leader of the Stoneray Order, walked before the group.

Several other elders and some of the administrative disciples followed behind

him.

“Is that Dr. Linden Watkins? He has such a grand aura coming from him!”

“Whoever does well in the examination today will be chosen as Dr.

Watkins’

student. And will be learning from Dr. Watkins himself. The chosen one will

have a bright future ahead!”

The mood turned serious when Linden entered. Everyone looked at him with

respect in their eyes.

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Linden was the best of the great three doctors in Balerno. Not only was he a skilled doctor, but he also had many students in the entire country. Everyone respected him. It would be a big achievement to become his student. “We have some interesting candidates here today.” He looked at the crowd, briefly focusing on Preston and Miranda. Asclepia had managed to make a name for themselves in the medical field. And now their influence increased and would soon be on the same level as the Stoneray Order. Preston and Miranda’s presence within Asclepia helped them recruit more geniuses. Linden paid close attention to these rising talents of the younger generation.

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“Let’s begin.” Linden nodded to the rest of the elders. Then he sat in the center as the other elders sat on both sides of him.

“The examination will begin.” An invigilator dressed in black stood before the

crowd. Then he announced, “There are three parts to this examination.

First,

you will need to identify some drugs. Second, you will have to produce a medicine And finally, you will cure a sick patient.”

“Now, please get ready for the first test.” With a wave of his hand, more than

ten disciples of the Stoneray Order walked in. They held a wooden box with

medicine bottles inside.

“These bottles contain medicine that we’ve prepared. For your first test, you

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will taste it and identify the herbs used. Each of you will get a piece of paper, so list its components. Ten points will be deducted for each mistake. If you make three mistakes, you're disqualified," the invigilator announced. The hall immediately buzzed with discussion when they heard that. "My goodness! They call this simple? How are we supposed to identify the herbs used by just the taste of it? Can anyone even do that?" "Exactly! I don't think anyone can do that without at least 20 years of experience!" "If the first test is this tough, I can't imagine how difficult the next two tests will be!" Everyone began complaining about how difficult the test was. Though everyone knew that the Stoneray Order had strict criteria for accepting

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students, this was harder than they thought.

“Silence!” The invigilator roared. “If anyone is dissatisfied, you can choose to

give up. The Stoneray

Order will not accept incompetent students!”

His simple statement was enough to silence the crowd’s grumbles and complaints. None of them were ready to give up so quickly after such a long

journey there.

“If we have no objections, we will begin now. You will be given a medicine

bottle and must list the ingredients within 30 minutes. Whoever completes this

within the given time will continue to the next test.” The bottles were given out,

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and the timer started counting down.

Upon receiving the bottle, everyone quickly tasted the medicine.

Every second counted. Whoever finished the test in the shortest time would

show that they were better than the rest. They might even attract the attention

of the invigilators.

However, everyone frowned when they tasted the medicine. This was much

more challenging than they had thought.

There were all sorts of herbs in the medicine. After they were brewed together,

it was impossible to identify the specific herbs used. The taste was a mixture

of bitter, sweet, and sour. It tasted disgusting.

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“Challenging indeed. But I’ll handle this just fine.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 723 -

Chapter 723

Preston smiled faintly after taking three sips of the medicine and wrote on the

paper. He listed down all the herbs in the medicine.

When he was halfway through, he took another sip to ensure he did everything correctly. When he was sure of his judgment, he listed the rest of

the ingredients. It took him less than 10 minutes.

“I’m done.” Preston raised his hand to inform the invigilators that he finished.

Although he spoke softly, he managed to attract the attention of everyone in the hall.

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“Is he serious? He’s finished already in such a short time?”

“Hmph! I don’t believe he’s that good. I bet he just guessed the herbs!”

The crowd whispered among themselves. Some were amazed, while some were doubtful.

“Let me check.” The invigilator went to Preston and took his answer script. His

eyes immediately lit up after going through the list.

“Not bad at all. Your answers are all correct. There’s not a single mistake. Perfect score.” The invigilator praised.

An uproar broke out among the crowd at that.

“Damn it! Did he get a perfect score? Is he that good?”

“As expected of Dr. Darby’s best student! He lives up to his name!”

“Fuck! I haven’t written a word, and he’s already listed every ingredient and is

continuing to the next test. We’re not even competing at the same level.”

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The crowd was shocked. Preston's talent showed them how much they lacked medical skills and knowledge. They had no hopes of getting first place. So, they could only focus and try for second or third place.

"I'm done too." Right then, Miranda raised her hand.

The invigilator approached her and nodded in satisfaction when he saw her answers. "Very good. Perfect score as well."

"Another perfect score? Aren't they too good at this?"

"Oh man... What can I say? They're way too good for people like us.

"They are terrifying! I don't think I'm cut out for this. I'm giving up!"

Miranda's perfect score destroyed everyone's spirit. Many could not stand the pressure and chose to give up.

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“Hey, buddy! Are you not done yet? Do you need some help?” Preston turned to look at Dustin, a sarcastic smile on his face.

“Preston, I think he needs some help. He hasn’t even written a word!”

Miranda

turned to look at Dustin’s paper and covered her mouth to hide her snigger. She looked just like a mean b*tch.

“No way! It’s such a simple test! You can’t even manage to think of a single

herb? My, aren’t you a

dumbass?” Preston mocked him, exaggerating his words.

“What’s the rush? We have lots of time,” Dustin answered casually.

“No matter how much time you have, it won’t change anything. Trash will always be trash. It doesn’t matter how hard you struggle. You’re never going

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to succeed.” Preston taunted.

“I say, stop struggling and just be Preston’s dog. At least he might give you a

bone when he feels like it,” Miranda said with a smirk.

“Are you sure that you’re going to be the winner?” Dustin asked suddenly.

“Why not? We’ve both scored full marks, and you have not even written a word. Isn’t it obvious who the winner will be?” Preston’s lips curled into a mean smile.

“Well, seeing how confident you are, I’ll teach you a lesson today.”

Without

another word, Dustin quickly wrote a long list of ingredients on the paper

He wrote with great ease, without any hesitation. The crowd was stunned and

amazed, wondering if he was secretly an expert.

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Even Preston and Miranda were flustered. He wrote so fast and with complete certainty. They began to doubt if they had chosen the wrong person to bully.

“Done.” While everyone was still shocked by Dustin’s fast writing, he had already submitted his answer to the invigilator.

The invigilator frowned when he saw Dustin’s answer. Then, in a frosty voice,

he said, “Wrong answer. You get zero marks!”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 724 -
Chapter 724

“Zero?”

Everyone was shocked before they burst out in laughter. They looked at Dustin like he was a fool.

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“Hahaha... How hilarious! The audacity he has to act so arrogantly when he got zero marks!”

“He looked so certain of himself that I had begun to think he was all that. In the end, he was just pretending!”

“Even I could at least get a few points if I simply wrote some herbs. How did you manage to get zero points? What a joke!”

Everyone started to ridicule him.

They initially thought Dustin was an expert when he wrote confidently and quickly. But in the end, the zero he received said a lot about him and exposed him as a fool.

“Rascal, I must say, you sure are shameless. How can you behave so

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arrogantly when you're getting zero? I am amazed." Preston sarcastically gave him a thumbs-up.

"If you don't have the ability, then admit that you don't. You are humiliating yourself if you insist on being arrogant!" Miranda looked at him like he was an idiot.

"Zero?" Dustin ignored the insults thrown at him and looked straight at the invigilator. "Are you sure you didn't make the wrong judgment?" Dustin asked.

"What? Are you questioning me?" The invigilator raised a brow.

"I don't think I've made any mistakes with listing the herbs, so I'm just curious why you gave me zero points." Dustin countered.

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“You’ve indeed got most of the herbs right, but you added aconite to the list,”

the invigilator said icily

“Alright, let’s put aside whether I got that wrong. Even if aconite were a wrong

answer, I’d only get ten points deducted. Why did I end up with zero?”

Dustin

pressed.

According to the rules, one mistake meant he lost ten points. He would only

be disqualified after three mistakes. He really could not comprehend how he

ended up with zero marks.

“If it were just a regular mistake, I would not have given you zero points.

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the problem is, you listed aconite as one of the ingredients, which reacts with the Fritillaria bulb in the medicine and becomes a deadly poison! If a doctor cannot even understand the difference between medicine and poison, what makes you think you can join the Stoneray Order? And this is the reason why I've given you zero points. Are you happy with my explanation?" the invigilator asked gravely.

"Of course not," Dustin answered. "You were the ones who brewed the medicine. I'm only listing what I think is in there. So even if it's poisonous, that's your problem, not mine."

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“How dare you!” The invigilator lost his cool right then and there. “Why would the Stoneray Order put something poisonous into our medicine? You are simply spouting nonsense!”

“Hey, rascal! Are you just here to create problems for everyone? You know you can’t win, so this is your way of disrupting things?” Preston asked with irritation

“We should drive this troublemaker out, or things will only worsen.” Miranda looked at him with contempt.

“Get out! Get out!” Many of the people there echoed in agreement. How dare

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a person who scored zero marks behave so arrogantly? He was only going to embarrass himself even more.

“Guys, throw him out of here!” The Stoneray Order’s disciples rushed toward

Dustin on the invigilator’s order.

“Hold on.” Just as they were about to grab Dustin, Linden, who sat at the main

seat and had

watched everything happen, spoke up. “He’s a promising talent. Let’s keep him around.”

Upon hearing that, everyone was taken aback. No one expected Linden to speak up for someone who was trash.

“Dr. Watkins, this person is making baseless claims and slanderin

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 725 -
Chapter 725

“He said nothing wrong. There is aconite in the medicine.” Linden’s words shocked everyone.

“What?” That invigilator froze in disbelief. “Dr. Watkins, you must be mistaken.

I remember that aconite wasn’t listed in the recipe.

The elders beside Linden did not say anything but had puzzled expressions.

The medicines were brewed according to a recipe, and no one would dare to

change it. How is it possible that it contained aconite?

“Originally, Aconite was not included. But I just felt like adding it, so I did,”

Linden said casually,

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“You felt like it?” When the crowd heard that statement, they exchanged looks with each other. Wasn’t Linden too carefree?

“Dr. Watkins, when aconite is combined with the Fritillaria bulb, it becomes poisonous. Why would you add it?” The invigilator frowned. He had said the same thing just now to criticize Dustin. Now, Linden had confirmed that there was really aconite in the medicine.

“It’s to test everyone, of course,” Linden said casually. “If we strictly follow the recipe, it would be too simple and boring. They would easily be able to guess the ingredients.

“However, adding aconite would make things more interesting Everyone must

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think outside the box to notice the little surprise I prepared for you. “Unfortunately, none of you noticed it. Except for this man, who was sensitive enough to spot it. So technically speaking, he is the only one with a perfect score!”

The crowd became uneasy when they heard that. It seemed this was all planned by Linden. Most importantly, Dustin was the only person who successfully noticed the special ingredient added to the medicine! Before Linden revealed the truth, the crowd thought that Dustin was just an attention seeker, SO they mocked him as much as they wanted. None of them expected that they were the real fool.

“How’s that possible? I didn’t even notice that there was aconite. How did that

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bastard know?” Preston’s brows furrowed as he frowned. He was usually proud and arrogant because of his talents. He could not accept losing to someone else.

“Does this scoundrel have some insider information?” Miranda had a doubtful

look on her face. Even though she was talented, it took her a few years to be

on the same level as her seniors. Even her mentor, Dr. Darby, always praised

her and considered her a potential successor.

She had never once made a mistake regarding medicine. That was until today. So she was annoyed.

“So, I was wrong?” The invigilator’s lips twisted to a frown, and he was speechless. He felt ashamed of his actions.

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“Young man, you surprised me. But I have a question for you. Can you guess

why I’ve added aconite to the medicine?” Linden smiled at him thoughtfully

“It’s to poison us,” Dustin answered confidently.

“Oh? Could you explain?” Linden raised a brow

“Based on the herbs, their properties, and the dosage. The toxic effect should

start in about 30 minutes. And if I’m not wrong, this is all for our second test,”

Dustin said calmly.

“And what else?” Linden nodded in approval.

“They mentioned that the second test is to produce medicine. But what you want us to do is to come up with the antidote while we are poisoned.

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However, it won't be easy to produce the antidote while we are experiencing the effects of the toxin." Dustin revealed the truth.

"Hahaha... Young man, you sure have talent!" Linden laughed heartily, his eyes shining with admiration toward Dustin.

"You are right! That is our next test for you. Whoever manages to produce the antidote will move on to the next round. Whoever fails to do so will never live to see the next day!"

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 726 -
Chapter 726

"What?" Everyone shouted in shock. A bottle fell out of someone's hand and

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broke into pieces as it crashed to the ground.

Nobody expected the medicine they tasted to be poison!

It was supposed to be just an easy examination to identify the components of

the medicine. How did it turn into a life-threatening situation? Was it necessary for the examination to be so extreme?

“Dr. Watkins, isn’t this going too far?” The invigilator frowned. Linden had

always done his best to save lives, so using poison to test them seemed unusual.

“There is a fine line between medicine and poison. There are times when poison can also be used to save lives. It all depends on how someone uses them. As long as it’s effective, it doesn’t matter how it’s being used,”

Linden

said seriously.

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“But-”

“Enough.”

The invigilator was about to say something when Linden raised a hand and cut him off. “The Stoneray Order does not accept incompetent students.

Anyone who isn’t confident in your own skills, you may choose to quit.

“All you need to do is walk straight to the door, collect the antidote, and get

the hell out of here. However, your life will be in your own hands if you continue.”

“I. I’m out!”

“Forget it. I don’t want to risk it. I’m giving up.”

“Damn it! This is gambling with our lives! Who would be brave enough to continue? I’m quitting too!”

When they learned their lives were in danger, most gave up.

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Although being accepted into the Stoneray Order would promise them a bright future ahead, nobody was willing to risk their lives for it. The price to pay was too high.

Furthermore, if the first test was so difficult, won't the second test be even more challenging?

Who would want to take such a risk when they were not confident?

Before 30 minutes were over, most people in the hall had left, and only a few people stayed. The remaining ones were either really confident or really skillful.

Since Dustin had already made known that there were aconite and Fritillaria bulbs in the

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concoction, it increased their chances of producing the antidote.

“Alright, those who should leave have already left. Those who passed the first

test can proceed directly to the second test,” Linden announced.

As soon as he said that, a large door at the side of the hall slowly opened, leading to a big alchemy

room.

It had everything they would need. Many herbs, alchemy furnaces, charcoal,

and minerals were

available for them to use.

“Go in.” The invigilator led the group into the alchemy room.

It was a large room. Besides the alchemy equipment, there were rows of cabinets filled with various medicinal herbs. At a glance, it had all sorts of medicinal ingredients. There were even some rare and precious herbs.

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“Your second test is to produce a medicinal pill.” When everyone was ready, the invigilator continued, “On the table before you is a recipe. All you need to do is produce Curax, which will be your antidote.

“The judging criteria are easy. Whoever produces a higher-quality Curax will receive a higher score. You have an hour. If the pill is successfully produced before times up, it will be considered a pass.

The timer started counting down, and the invigilator announced, “Your test starts now!”

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With no time for hesitation, everyone began moving. Producing a medicinal pill was challenging to accomplish. And with the time limit of an hour, it was even more difficult. Everyone had to be quick and careful to avoid making mistakes while producing the medicine. Once there was any mistake, it would be a failure. “You just got lucky in the previous round, bastard! This time, I’m going to crush you!” Preston glared at Dustin and then quickly made his pill. He was going to beat everyone by producing the highest quality Curax! “Hmph! He’s just an ordinary doctor! Let’s see what other tricks he has up his sleeves!” Miranda said angrily, unwilling to admit defeat. She put all her effort into producing the medicinal pill. Her pride as a genius

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did not allow her to be defeated a second time.

“Curax?” Dustin ignored them and read the recipe given. He smiled thoughtfully.

Many people were able to produce medicinal pills. But to stand out and beat

everyone, one must put in extra effort and skill.

“That’s odd. Why does my head hurt?”

“I’m having a stomachache. I feel like I might shit my pants!”

“Oh no! It’s the poison’s effect!”

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 727 -

Chapter 727

Right then, many of them began showing signs of poisoning. Some felt dizzy,

and others experienced severe abdominal pain. Some even had cramps.

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Although their symptoms were different, it would affect their production of the medicinal pill. But giving up was not an option. They could only grit their teeth and continue.

“Who do you think will be number one today, Dr. Watkins?” an elder with a white beard asked.

“Preston and Miranda are performing well and gifted in the medical field, so they are considered geniuses. But I think the young man will do better.”

Linden looked at Dustin.

“Him?” The elder followed and looked at Dustin too

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Then, he asked, curious, “But Dr. Watkins, he’s a nobody. Maybe he was luck

y in the previous round. He’s still not on the same level as Preston and Mirand

a.”

No matter their family background, talents, or medical accomplishments, they

were not on the same level. And Dustin’s good luck would not change anything.

“Hahaha... We’ll find out soon enough.” Linden smiled

and said nothing else. He sat and watched. He refused to believe that someone

e who could see through his plans was just a nobody.

“Bang!” After a moment, an explosion was heard in the hall.

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A man's alchemy furnace burst when he made a mistake. The hot liquid, burning charcoal, and furnace fragments splattered all over his face.

"Ah!" The man screamed in pain as he clutched his burned face.

"Somebody bring him away!" The invigilator waved his hand, and several members of the Stoneray Order moved to help the man.

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

As the first person was carried away, several others had their furnaces explode as well. They had burned faces and were carried out too.

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Some made mistakes because of the poison's effects and the pressure they were under to save themselves. Some burnt their pills, some could not solidify their pills, and some of their furnaces exploded. The number of people who were eliminated increased quickly. "Done!" When there were still 30 minutes left, Preston shouted as he showed the crowd the red pill he had taken from the furnace. The invigilator walked to Preston and looked at his pill. Then he praised. "Not bad, you have indeed produced a Curax. And it is a good quality one!" "A good quality Curax? That's amazing!"

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“As expected of Dr. Darby’s best student! Impressive!”

“He managed to produce a Curax of good quality even though he was poisoned! That’s amazing!”

Everyone was shocked to hear what the invigilator said.

Preston

quickly completed the task under such stressful conditions. It showed how amazing his medical skills and accomplishments were.

“Done!” Not long after Preston was done, Miranda finished hers. The pill she produced was like Preston’s in both looks and properties.

“Very well done. A good quality Curax too!” The invigilator nodded, very pleased. The two geniuses from Asclepia had not disappointed him.

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As time continued, others successfully produced the Curax. Yet, they mostly failed. Soon, one hour was almost over.

“Dr. Watkins, it seems like Preston and Miranda are winning. As for that young man you had your eyes on, I guess he won’t pass this test if he hasn’t produced the pill by now.” The elder smiled.

Suddenly, Dustin’s furnace exploded with a loud bang.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 728 - Chapter 728

“Bang!” When Dustin’s alchemy furnace exploded, everyone turned and looked at him. Some were shocked, some were confused, and some were enjoying what they saw.

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After a moment of shock, Preston and Miranda laughed out loud. “Hahaha! His furnace exploded? And here I thought he might secretly be an expert. It turns out he just managed to make his furnace explode?” Preston ridiculed. Because of Dustin’s excellent performance in the previous test, Preston thought he was a strong opponent. So, he did his best to produce the pill. But now that Dustin’s furnace exploded, Preston thought he had just been overreacting. If someone’s furnace exploded, that person was not suitable to be considered his rival. “What were we expecting? Trash will always be trash. Just because he got lucky

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ky once will not change anything. Under a bit of pressure, he can't take it and starts making mistakes." Miranda looked down on Dustin. How could an ordinary doctor compare to medical geniuses from Asclepia like them?
"Dr. Watkins, you always had an eye for talent. But I think you might have made a mistake today. The elder had a faint smile on his face. It was a big problem for an alchemist's furnace to explode and was considered a rookie mistake. No matter how well Dustin did in the previous round, the fact that his furnace exploded proved that he was still bad at alchemy

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when compared with Preston and Miranda.

“We don’t know that yet.” Linden shook his head.

“Dr. Watkins, time is running out, and that young man’s furnace has exploded.

How will he be able to succeed?” The elder chuckled.

Linden remained silent as he watched on.

“You failed to produce the medicinal pill, so you’re eliminated!” the invigilator

announced as he walked up to Dustin.

“Hang on... Who said I failed?” Dustin asked calmly, not, giving up yet.

“Didn’t you fail when your furnace

already exploded?” The invigilator frowned. He

believed that Dustin was only there to create trouble for them.

“Hey, bastard. You should just admit your

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defeat. There's no point in continuing to be unreasonable. If you can't produce a single Curax, how are you different from trash?" Preston looked at him with mockery.

"Stop embarrassing yourself here. Just leave!" Miranda glared at Dustin too.

"Why are you two complaining non-stop? It's true that my furnace has exploded, but that doesn't mean I failed to produce a pill," Dustin said calmly.

"What? Are you still continuing to be stubborn? Do you think that you can just magically produce a Curax out of thin air?" Preston smirked.

"Why not? Now open your eyes wide and look here. This is the real Curax!" W

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ith that

said, Dustin brushed aside some shards of the furnace. Then, he took out a dark red pill from the broken pieces.

It was really a Curax!

“What the f*ck? He actually did it? Is this true?”

“It’s true! It is Curax! In fact, it looks like it’s good quality!”

“Damn it! He produced that even after his furnace exploded? That’s amazing!”

The crowd excitedly commented when they saw the pill in Dustin’s hand. Logically speaking, an exploded furnace would mean that one had failed. But this young man had broken all the rules and surprised everyone.

“You... How did you do it?” Preston stared at him, wide-eyed with disbelief.

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Miranda was shocked too, and she refused to believe it. She had thought that they'd easily be able to defeat Dustin. But he actually made it and managed to produce it!

"If you can do it, there's no doubt I'd be able to do it too." Dustin smiled faintly. As he spoke, he passed the pill to the invigilator. The invigilator frowned after taking a good look at the pill. From the looks of it, it was indeed Curax. But it seemed like there was something else in there.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 729 - Chapter 729

The Curax that Dustin produced was different

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from the regular Curax in terms of color, scent, and size.

“Hmph! So what if he managed to produce the pill? Just looking at it, we can’t

tell its quality is not up to standard!” Miranda folded her arms arrogantly.

“Exactly! The test for the second round is to compare the quality of pills that we

’ve produced. This pill that he produced from an exploded furnace is definitely

trash!” Preston regained his confidence.

The pill he produced was good quality, and Dustin’s was a low grade.

They were

on completely different levels!

“How weird...” The invigilator studied the pill for a while.

Because he was scared to make a decision by himself, he took the pill and showed

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owed it to Linden and the rest of the elders. “Dr. Watkins and elders. I think there’s something strange about this Curax. But I am not sure.”

“Oh? Is that so? Let me see?” An elder took the pill and looked at it seriously. Then, he was shocked.

“Dr. Watkins, this young man is something else. Please have a look.” After studying the pill repeatedly, he passed the pill to Linden.

“Interesting.” Linden smiled widely after looking at the pill. The young man indeed had many tricks up his sleeves.

“Dr. Watkins, what quality is this pill?” the invigilator asked.

“Can’t you tell? This is a top grade pill!” The elder said.

“What? Top grade?” The invigilator was taken aback, Though good

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quality pills and top grade pills sounded like they weren't that much different, there was actually a very big difference between the two. It would not be an exaggeration to say that 100 good quality pills were no match for one top grade pill. Not even Linden could produce a top grade pill. Even Preston and Miranda were still not capable of making top grade pills. Was it possible that Dustin was even more skillful than Linden? "Don't just stand there. Go ahead and announce the results!" Linden urged. "Sure..." The invigilator gulped before he turned around and raised the pill in his hand.

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With a loud voice, he announced, “According to our united decision, this pill is a top grade pill. The person who produced this has received a perfect score!”

“Top grade pill? How is that possible?” The crowd shouted.

However, Preston and Miranda stood there, frozen in place, disbelief on their faces.

Everyone knew

how difficult it was to produce a top grade pill. Even professional alchemists could

only

make one top grade pill out of every 100 pills that they created. And even

then, it was

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“Why not? Now open your eyes wide and look here. This is the real Curax!” With that said, Dustin brushed aside some shards of the furnace. Then, he took out a dark red pill from the broken pieces.

It was really a Curax!

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Miranda was shocked too, and she refused to believe it. She had thought that they'd easily be able to defeat Dustin. But he actually made it and managed to produce it! "If you can do it, there's no doubt I'd be able to do it too." Dustin smiled faintly. As he spoke, he passed the pill to the invigilator. The invigilator frowned after taking a good look at the pill. From the looks of it, it was indeed Curax. But it seemed like there was something else in there. An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 730 - Chapter 730 "What? He changed the recipe?" Everyone was surprised by Linden's explanation

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tion.

Every recipe

was created only after millions of experiments. The smallest change in ingredi

ents or

dosage would disrupt its balance and cause the production of the pill to fail.

For someone to change the recipe, they needed talent and lots

of experiments. For someone to be able to change up the recipe on the spot a

nd succeed right away, he had to have crazy good luck,

1

or he must be a medical genius who was out of this world.

“No way! That’s impossible!” After a moment of shock, Preston continued, “Th

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ere's no way you can change the recipe so easily! Even my mentor can't
chan
ge a recipe that's meant to produce a good quality pill into one that
produces t
op grade
pills within such a short time frame! How is it possible that this bastard
can do
that?"

"Exactly! He's just an ordinary doctor! How would he be able
to change the recipe?" Miranda added.

Even with her talent, she was still unable to do something so complicated.

The

re was no way that bastard doctor was better than her!

"Young man, these people don't seem to believe

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in your ability. Would you like to explain how you did it?” Linden shot him a faint smile.

“There’s nothing to explain. I simply added a few other herbs,” Dustin said.

“Hmph! You claim that you added other herbs. So tell me, what were the herbs you added?” Preston glared at him.

“Angelica root, licorice, white creepers, and honeysuckle.” Dustin did not find it

necessary to hide the information from them. He wasn’t worried that they might steal the recipe from him, as it took skills to produce top grade pills.

Besides, it was just Curax, not

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some rare or expensive medicine. There was no point in keeping it a secret from them.

After processing the information, Preston exclaimed with his brows furrowed, “That doesn’t sound right! It is true that Angelica root, licorice, and white

creepers can enhance the effects of Curax. But honeysuckle reacts adversely with some other herbs in the recipe. It might cause some harmful effects when added!”

“If you don’t understand, don’t try to show off.” Dustin looked at Preston like he was looking at an idiot.

“Though Curax functions to detoxify the body, all the herbs used are consider

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ed to have strong effects. So when weak people take the pill, they will feel
nau
seous. Honeysuckle can neutralize the effects of the stronger herbs,
making t
he
medication easier for weaker patients. You should know this, don't you?
To thi
nk that you've been accepted into Asclepia! I expected better of you!"
Dustin's
last sentence was directed toward Preston.
"You-!" Preston was at a loss for words, and his expression darkened.
Dustin's words made so much sense that Preston couldn't even retort him.
Is i
t possible that this bastard could produce top grade pills?

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“Hahaha! Brilliant! Absolutely brilliant!” Linden laughed and clapped after hearing what Dustin said.

The more Linden looked at Dustin, the more pleased he was with him. In fact, he even had the urge to have Dustin marry his granddaughter!

“Who is this person, and why is he so good?”

“Who knows? But he sure is a secret genius! There’s no doubt that he will be accepted into the Stoneray Order.”

“He beat Preston and Miranda in the first two rounds. I wonder how he will do in the final test.”

The crowd whispered among themselves excitedly. Their view of Dustin was now different.

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“If there are no objections, then we shall continue to the third test.”
Without wa
sting any time, Linden waved his hand.
Soon, an old man in a wheelchair was pushed in by two students of the
Stone
ray order. The old man’s face was pale, and he had sunken cheeks.
Because
of long–term paralysis in the legs, the muscles in his legs
had shrunk, making them appear much smaller
compared to the upper body. “Your third test is to heal
a patient. This patient has been paralyzed for
eight years. He has recently asked us for help.
“Many of our
disciples don’t know what to do with his sickness. Your task will be to find
out

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the cause of the condition and try your best to help the patient feel sensations

in his legs.

“Within the time limit, you are allowed to observe and touch the patient yourself. But you are not allowed to ask the patient any questions.

The result is based on your own abilities. Each of you will have 15 minutes to t

reat the patient. Who’s going first?”

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 731 -
Chapter 731

Linden looked around the place.

There were only a few who made it through the second round. They were either very skillful or extremely gifted.

“I’ll go first!” A middle-

aged man stepped forward confidently. It was finally time he showed off his 20

years’ worth of experience with acupuncture.

He walked up to the old man and examined him closely. Then, he felt his puls

e. Finally, he took out several silver needles and inserted them into different pr

essure points on the old man’s leg.

But the patient stayed expressionless and did not react at all. The middle-

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aged man frowned and continued inserting several more needles, but it was all useless.

“Time’s up! You have failed!” the invigilator announced all of a sudden.

“Wait! I’ll try one more time.” The middle–

aged man did not want to accept his failure

“Drag him away!” The invigilator did not want to waste any more time and orde

red other disciples to drag the middle–aged man away.

“Hah! How could he just perform acupuncture without even finding out the cause of the sickness? What a terrible doctor!

Watch me!” A lady walked up to the patient.

Then taking out a pill

that could improve blood circulation, she fed it to him. Next, she began massa

ging the patient’s leg and his hips.

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The lady was confident with what she was doing. She had assumed that the patient's circulatory pathways were blocked. So once she gave him a massage and cleared the pathways, he would regain sensation in his legs. Unfortunately, things did not go as expected. No matter how hard the lady massaged his legs, the patient remained unresponsive even when she broke out in a sweat as she massaged harder. "Time's up! You're out too!" the invigilator announced once again. The lady could only accept defeat with a resigned sigh. Two other people tried treating the patient, but none of them succeeded. The patient simply sat there, unmoving.

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ng.

“What a bunch of useless people. Let me do it!” After so many failures,

Presto

n could not continue

watching.

Based on his observations, he was sure he knew what was the cause of the old man’s sickness. He

was confident he could treat the old man and make him feel his legs.

“Hey, bastard! You’re better than me in alchemy. But you’re still not as good as me when it comes to treating patients! Watch how I’ll defeat you today!” Then, Preston began his treatment.

He first took out two silver needles and inserted them into the back of the patient’s head. Then, he inserted a few more along his spine, neck, back, hips, and knees. He added another ten needles in total.

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With his jaws clenched, Preston pulled out a white pill but looked unwilling. Th

en, he fed it to the old man.

“Hey, could that pill be ... Tigarius? The pill that can renew one’s blood marrow?”

“It is Tigarius! That thing’s worth is almost the same as gold! It’s so rare that you can’t buy it even if you’re rich!”

“As expected of a member of Asclepia. He’s so rich and generous!”

The crowd commented and praised Preston for his bold and generous action.

Tigarius was

a pill that could improve someone’s health and renew their blood marrow.

If an

ordinary person took it, it would promote

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health and life span. If martial artists were to take it, it could greatly increase t

heir powers and bring them to the next level.

It was truly a rare treasure that was hard to come by..

“You have to give some to win

some. It is worth sacrificing a Tigarius to win the competition!”

Preston drew a deep breath and waited for Tigarius’s effects. Then, he inserte

d a final needle into the patient’s chest.

The next moment, the

patient sat up and his legs, devoided of any sensation, began to move.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 732 -

Chapter 732

“His toe moved!”

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“Oh, my God! It worked! That’s amazing!”

“No wonder he’s Dr. Darby’s best student!”

Everyone was shocked to see the old man’s toe twitch. After all, doctors must

be highly skilled and talented if they wanted to pass the third test.

Yet all the other doctors had failed to treat the old man. On the other hand,

Preston managed to

make the old man’s toes twitch when his legs had been paralyzed for the last

eight years.

It was amazing!

“How do you feel, sir?” Preston removed his silver needle and smiled.

“I-I think I’m starting to feel my legs again!” The old man was overjoyed.

Since

he lost all sensations in his legs, nothing he did could make them react

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anymore.

Now, his legs felt numb, and he could even control some of his toes.

Although

the results were just small changes, it was still a miracle for someone who had

been in such a state for the last

eight years.

“That’s good to hear. You’ve been paralyzed for too long, so you’ll take a while to recover. But don’t worry, I just have to treat you for another month,

and you’ll be fine by then!” Preston promised. confidently.

“Thank you so much! You’re incredible!” The old man was grateful.

“No problem. It was an easy task,” Preston replied proudly.

As Bruce’s disciple, treatments like this were not new for him. And to treat his

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patient, Preston was willing to use something as valuable as Tigarius. So, it was impossible for the old man not to recover.

“You managed to help the patient regain sensation in his legs in such a short time. That’s impressive. You have passed the test!” The invigilator nodded in approval.

“Congratulations, Preston” Miranda smiled. The fact that Preston passed all three tests while others failed showed how good Preston’s skills were “You’re next, Miranda Let’s show that person how powerful Asclepia disciples truly are!” Preston shot Dustin an arrogant smirk.

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So what if Dustin was good at alchemy? He would merely be a pharmacist.

Preston was skilled in everything, including alchemy, medicine, and even witchcraft The gap between the two of them was as clear as day

“Don’t worry, Preston I’ll teach him that there’s always someone better than

him” Miranda glanced at Dustin hatefully before approaching the old man to

start the treatment.

If she wanted to pass the test, she had to continue what Preston had begun

And although the patient’s condition was hard to treat, she felt more confident

after seeing Preston’s results

“I’ll begin now.”

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Miranda took a deep breath and pulled out her silver needle. She lifted the old

man's foot and inserted it into a pressure point under his foot.

The old man instantly hissed in pain and jerked back. Without hesitation, Miranda immediately inserted another four needles into several pressure points in his body. This helped to improve his blood circulation and clear any

blood clots.

Since Preston had started the treatment with the aid of Tigarius, all she had to

do was clear any blockage in his veins to let the old man recover faster.

After dozens of needles, the old man's legs began to tremble. He could even

control the toes on one of his legs now.

"My legs don't hurt as much now. That's incredible!"

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 733 -
Chapter 733

The old man pinched his thigh and was happy to feel a slight pain. His legs had been completely numb before this, but he was slowly regaining sensation

in his legs. This was wonderful!

“There. All done.” Miranda grinned as she observed her work.

“You must be extremely talented to be able to treat his symptoms so quickly.

No wonder you’re a genius in the medical field!” The invigilator was pleased.

“So I guess that means I passed?” Miranda raised an eyebrow.

“Of course. Both of you passed with flying colors,” the invigilator answered

with a smile. His answer made Preston and Miranda very happy.

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They had initially received full marks on the first two tests. But because of Dustin, their marks. dropped after the second round. Still, thanks to this round,

they've managed to raise their points. back up again.

“Did you see that, bastard? That’s how good our medical skills are!”

Preston

taunted. “It only took us half an hour to let this patient regain feelings in his

legs after being paralyzed for the past eight years. Can you do that?”

“Give up if you can’t, instead of making yourself look like a fool!”

Miranda

sneered.

Just because Dustin was good at alchemy, it didn’t mean he’d also be skilled

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in treating patients. After all, although both fields may have some similarities,

there's still a big difference between the two.

“Why are you bragging when you've only helped the patient recover partially?

Others might think. that you've completely cured him.” Dustin rolled his eyes.

“With my skills, curing him is a piece of cake! Just give me a month, and I'll

have him walking again!” Miranda puffed her chest.

“A month? Flowers would have wilted when you're done,” Dustin responded

disdainfully.

“Shut up! At least I can treat him. What about you?” Miranda sneered.

“What's so difficult about that? Just give me three minutes, I'll get him to

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walk,” Dustin answered.

“Three minutes?” Surprised, Preston burst out laughing. “Have you gone crazy? You’re telling me that you can treat someone who has been paralyzed

from the waist down for the past eight years in just three minutes? Do you think you’re a magician or something?”

“What a fool!” Miranda looked at Dustin in disgust.

After being unable to walk for eight years, the old man’s muscles would have

wasted away by now. So there was no way he could walk in just three minutes.

“Young people nowadays are so arrogant Several Stoneray Order elders shook their heads in disappointment

Even they were not able to do much when treating the old man, so they were

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sure that Dustin would not be able to do much as well

“That proud idiot is only making a fool of himself!” The invigilator sneered.

Even Linden wouldn't be able to get that man to stand up again.

“Since none of you seem to believe me, I'll just have to show you.” Dustin didn't bother explaining further. He took out a silver needle and approached

the old man. After checking for the spot he was aiming for, he fiercely pierced

the needle into the old man's body.

There was a hum as the needle began to vibrate. A burst of true energy surged from the top of the

man's skull and spread throughout his body.

The old man shuddered, and his eyes flew open. He could feel the blast of

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energy flooding him from head to toe. His heartbeat picked up its pace, and his breathing quickened.

“Done.” Dustin stepped back and waited with his hand behind his back.

“That’s it? Is this a joke?” Miranda ridiculed him.

“Who the hell do you think you are? Did you think poking him with a single needle would be enough to cure him? If it works, I’ll kneel at your feet and call you ‘daddy’!” Preston mocked.

Almost immediately, the old man in the wheelchair reacted to Dustin’s treatment. His face flushed, and he looked uncomfortable as his body heated up and sweat built up on his skin.

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“H-h-hot! It’s hot!” Seconds later, the old man jumped up like his butt was on fire, jumping off the wheelchair.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 734 -
Chapter 734

“What?” Everyone was shocked to see the old man jump up, and their jaws dropped in disbelief.

None of them expected the paralyzed old man to stand up so suddenly.

They also couldn’t believe that it had only taken Dustin a single needle to cure the man’s paralysis.

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“I-Is this real? Did that old man just stand up?”

“What the hell is going on? Did he really cure that old man with a single needle?”

“Holy shit! That’s amazing!”

After a silent pause, an uproar broke out. All the scornful looks Dustin had received earlier had turned to shock.

“I-Impossible!”

“How can a patient like that stand up so soon?” Preston shook his head, not

believing what he was. He refused to accept that Dustin could cure a patient

in three minutes when he needed a month.

“How can this be? How did he do that?” Miranda was stunned.

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As someone who claimed to be a genius in the medical field and was better than her peers, her confidence had been destroyed by Dustin. For a condition that she struggled to treat, he could quickly treat it while she hadn't been able to.

“Who the hell is he? How is he so good?” The invigilator was dumbfounded.

Although he had also looked down on Dustin earlier, he was now completely amazed by the other man's skills. After all, people would start to worship Dustin if they found out that he was great at alchemy and medicine.

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“H-he’s a genius!”

“Stoneray Order will be strong again if we can convince him to join us!”

The

elders of the group. were excited. They had yet to have someone as talented

as Dustin join them in the past decade.

“He’s so skilled despite his young age. He must be a monster.” Linden looked

at Dustin with.

amazement.

What Dustin did earlier might have seemed simple, but it was much more than

that.

For others, it may look like he only once inserted the needle into the old man’s

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pressure point. But Dustin had already inserted and removed it repeatedly. However, his movements had been too fast for everyone.

Even Linden had to admit he didn't have the skills to do that. In order words,

Dustin was far more skilled than he was in this field, yet Dustin was only in his twenties! What a

monster!

“Thank you so much!” the old man cried happily. He immediately got to his

knees and thanked Dustin for helping him to stand again after eight years.

“Don't mention it Dustin helped the old man up “You became paralyzed after a

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stroke, but now that the blockage in your bloodstream has been removed,
you

should be fine again Just make
sure to rest well after this”

To be honest, Dustin’s plan only succeeded thanks to the Tigarius Preston
had administered. Without it, the old man wouldn’t have recovered so
quickly.

“Who the hell are you?” Preston demanded. He couldn’t accept that a
nobody
like Dustin was better than him.

“That’s not important. What’s important is that it’s time for you to kneel
and
call me ‘daddy’.” Dustin smiled.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 735 -

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Chapter 735

“You- Preston cut off, his face red with anger However, even Miranda was forced to stay silent

“Well, they do that say heroes come in all ages Linden stood up and beamed

He added, “Congratulations on beating everyone else. So, tell me your wish

As long as it’s within my power, I’ll try my best to get it done!”

Most people joined the competition to join Stoneray Order, but some would

request and ask Linden for rare gems, ancient medical texts, panaceas, and more

“You’re as generous as rumors say. Well, Ill be straightforward I’m actually

here for your thousand -year green lotus,” Dustin answered frankly.

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“Thousand-year green lotus? It’s a rare herb. I must say, you’re quite ambitious” Linden raised an eyebrow

“Why? You can’t give it to me?” Dustin wore a fake smile.

“It might be a valuable herb, but I don’t mind giving it to you.” Linden chuckled.

“Bring me the herb!”

“Yes, sir!” The invigilator left quickly and returned, holding a wooden box.

The box opened to reveal a perfect, translucent green lotus with green leaves

and a yellow pod

Light shone on the herb, making it dazzle.

“That’s the green lotus!” Dustin was overjoyed.

Before this, he hadn’t bought it because it wasn’t mature enough. But thanks

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to Linden's care, the green lotus had truly transformed into a rare, prime thousand-year green lotus.

"Wait!" Miranda suddenly called out. "Dr. Watkins, could you mind letting me

have it? I'm willing to pay any amount!"

"If you had asked earlier, you might have had a chance. Unfortunately, it belongs to this young man now. It is his now, and he decides what to do with

it," Linden answered.

"What?" Miranda frowned. "Hey, you! I need that herb. Name your price!"

"Sorry, but I need it too so I won't sell it," Dustin refused.

"I'm one of the Killians. You better think twice before answering,"

Miranda

yelled threateningly.

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The Killians of Oakvale were one of the strongest families in Millsburg, and everyone was aware of this.

“So what? I said no. Leave!” Dustin snapped, unbothered.

“You!” Miranda gritted her teeth to suppress her anger.

“Fine! You better not regret this!” She turned around and left. If she couldn’t buy it, she’d have to steal it.

“Hey, kid. You’ve angered Miranda, so you’d better be careful.” Preston sneered before following Miranda.

Although he recognized Dustin as a genius in the medical world, Dustin still lacked the skills to survive in the real world.

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“Thank you for the herb, Dr. Watkins. I’ll be leaving now.” Dustin grabbed the

herb and was about to leave when the invigilator stopped him.

“What’s the hurry? I don’t mind giving the herb to you, but on one condition you have to join Stoneray Order Linden smiled.

“Dr. Watkins, I don’t like being held back. The rules and regulations at the Stoneray Order might not suit me,” Dustin declined politely.

“It’s fine. As long as you agree to join us, you can ignore all those rules,” Linden promised.

“Furthermore, after seeing your outstanding performance, I’ve decided to promote you to elder. You will have free access to most of our resources!

“What? He’ll promote that guy to an elder?” Linden’s words stunned everyone.

”

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 736 -
Chapter 736

“This is a joke, right, sir? I-it isn’t proper to promote him to an elder when he

just joined the group!

“He’s right, Dr. Watkins. This is the first time there’s been an exception like

this. That’s not normal!

“Sir, we know you favor talented individuals, but I’m afraid others might be

unhappy with your decision.”

The elders and many disciples of the Stoneray Order were upset when they heard that Linden would promote Dustin to elder, which was only one rank below the assistant leader.

Disciples usually started as junior disciples before becoming intermediate

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disciples. Then, they would be promoted to senior disciples. As senior disciples, if they made any major contributions, they would be promoted to upper disciples.

Upper disciples were then categorized into three classes-upper third, upper second, and upper first. Only upper first disciples had a chance of being promoted to elder.

Getting promoted to a higher rank took years, so for a junior disciple to climb

the ranks and become an elder would take at least a few decades.

However,

Dustin was now offered to take the top spot for free, pissing many people off.

“You fools. His skills are more than worthy of becoming an elder!” Linden responded firmly.

Dustin had completed all three tests perfectly, which was something even

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Linden couldn't be sure he could do. That was why Linden desperately tried to recruit Dustin into the Stoneray Order.

“Sir, he might be skilled, but he doesn't have enough experience yet. It's fine if you take him in as an upper disciple, but I think appointing him as an elder is going overboard,” a white-bearded elder advised.

Stoneray Order has existed for centuries; there has never been such a young elder.

“Shut up! I said that it's fine!” Linden shouted angrily, scaring the others into silence. After all, he was the one with the ultimate power.

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Linden turned his attention to Dustin and smiled. “So, what do you think?
If

you agree to join us, you can become an elder and get the thousand-year
green lotus. I also swear never to stop you from doing what you want.”

“It’s an honor, sir. I accept your offer. Thank you.” Dustin smiled. At this
point,

only an idiot would turn down such an attractive offer.

However, Dustin was more attracted by Linden’s position than anything
else.

His position was very influential in the entire country. After all, no one
would

claim that they never fell sick.

No matter how powerful someone was, they would still look for Linden
when

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they were sick. Therefore, it was easy to see why Stoneray Order ranked first

in terms of connections and influence. It was a once in a life chance to receive

an offer to become one of the Order's elders.

“Great! We'll start preparing a banquet to welcome our newest elder!”

Linden

ordered.

His disciple immediately got to work. Although they were unhappy with Linden's decision, they didn't dare to voice it.

At noon, Dustin finally left with Abigail and Roderick holding the thousand-year

green lotus and a Stoneray Order Elder Emblem With that badge, all of the Order's disciples had no choice but to obey him.

“You were so cool today! You got the treasure and taught those two brats a

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lesson!” Abigail exclaimed excitedly in the car. She watched the whole competition and was glad when Dustin beat those arrogant “geniuses”.

“She’s right! They’re nothing compared to you!” Roderick praised.

“Enough with the praises. You guys should look behind us first,” Dustin answered coolly.

“Behind us?” Puzzled, Abigail and Roderick turned around. It turned out that

several cars were following them from about 400 feet away.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 737

Chapter 737

“Are we being followed?” Roderick frowned and ordered his driver, “Go faster,

Gary!”

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“Yes, sir!” The driver, Gary, immediately stepped on the accelerator, and the car shot forward.

Suddenly, a black van popped out from the fork in front and stopped on the road horizontally.

Gary paled and stomped on the brake, causing the tires to screech. Still, the momentum caused their car to collide with the van.

There was a loud bang as the impact caused the van to flip, and Roderick’s Rolls-Royce could no longer work. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

However, when Dustin and the others tried to run away, the cars that were following them had already caught up to them.

“Grab them!” The doors opened, and several burly men carrying expandable

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batons jumped out and surrounded them. They looked scary and threatening.

“Who are you? How dare you rob my car?” Roderick roared, pissed that someone would dare to harm him when even the Fabulous Five respected him.

Miranda and Preston got out of the car, a smirk on their faces. “How kind of you to show up now.”

“We meet again. Are you surprised?” Preston smirked.

Dustin narrowed his eyes. “So it’s you two. Do you plan to rob us or something?”

“And if we do? You better give us the thousand-year green lotus if you want to leave!” Preston sneered.

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“Your medical skills were worse than mine, so now you’re doing something like this as revenge? Are all Asclepia people like this?” Dustin scoffed. “Shut up!” Miranda snapped, annoyed. Then, she added, “You only have two choices right now-give us the thousandyear green lotus, or we’ll beat you up!” “As if you guys can do that.” Dustin smirked. “I guess you’re going to be stubborn to the end, eh? Miranda, let’s teach him a lesson!” Preston urged. “I guess nothing will change your mind. Beat them up, boys!” Miranda waved her hand, and the men in suits charged toward Dustin, Abigail, and Roderick.

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“Let me deal with them!” Before Dustin could do anything, Abigail pulled out her bat and Chapter 737 rushed toward their opponents. She was skilled with the bat, and the men were no match for her. Her attacks broke their limbs. Besides being very strong, she was also nimble and quick, so she was able to defeat them swiftly like a wolf. “S-she’s so strong!” Roderick was astonished. Abigail looked like a delicate girl, so he never expected her to be such a strong fighter. Abigail continued running after the men, and soon, all of them were beaten up

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and laid on the floor unconscious.

Miranda and Preston lost their smug smiles and stared at the scene, confused.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 738

Chapter 738

“There! All done!” Abigail rested the bat on her shoulder like a thug and walked toward Dustin, smiling proudly. “How did I do?”

“Not bad. You’ve improved a lot in the last few days.” Dustin nodded, pleased.

Abigail was an extremely talented martial artist. Compared to regular martial

artists, she only needed to practice for one day to achieve what others needed

a year for. Furthermore, with Dustin’s guidance, there has been huge growth

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in her skills.

She used to struggle against ten opponents, but now, she could take them on easily.

“Duh. Don’t you know who I am?” Abigail lifted her chin smugly. For some reason, she woke up feeling extra strong this morning, as though she had endless bursts of energy.

“Are you two going to leave by yourself, or must I force you?” Dustin slowly turned toward Miranda and Preston.

“I underestimated you. I didn’t expect you to have a female bodyguard,” Preston got over his surprise and jeered. “But do you think a girl can stop us? How foolish!”

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“Do you want to get beaten up too?” Abigail turned around and glared at Preston.

“A beating? Pfft!” Preston chuckled.

“Don’t tell me you thought Asclepia disciples were only good at medicine?”

Well, geniuses like us are more than just skilled at medicine.

“We’re also skilled martial artists! We just keep quiet about this. Of course, if

you guys insist on being stubborn, I’ll have no choice but to teach you a lesson!” Preston took his jacket off and began to roll up his sleeves.

“Let’s see if you really are that strong!” Abigail jumped forward and swung her

bat toward him.

“Great timing!” Preston grinned.

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He stood his ground and flung out his hand instead. When his palm touched the bat, he pulled his hand back and struck the bat repeatedly. It created an air vortex that spun the bat around to hit Abigail.

“What?” Startled, Abigail stopped attacking and turned her face. However, she was too slow, and her bat slammed into her shoulder. She immediately winced in pain.

“That’s impossible!” Abigail gritted her teeth and swung her bat toward Preston again, her attack much faster and stronger this time.

“Foolish child.” Preston smirked and did the same thing, causing Abigail to be hit by her attack. She instinctively lifted her arm to block the bat. There was a thud as the bat cracked under the force, and her arm was injured.

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“That’s it! I’ll kill you!” Abigail cried furiously. Her stubborn personality caused her to attack again, but the results were the same. All her attacks on Preston were reflected and hit her instead. Right before the bat could bust her head apart, a stone shot out and shattered the bat, stopping the attack. “You’re no match for him, kid. Go and take a break.” Dustin told her. “I can still fight!” Abigail was upset. “Don’t be stubborn. Just watch and learn.” Dustin gestured for her to step back. Pouting, Abigail stood back reluctantly. “Pfft! She’s no match for me, so what makes you think you’ll win?” Preston mocked. He had yet to use half of his strength earlier.

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“Enough with the chit-chat and do your worst.” Dustin placed his left hand behind his back and extended his right to curl his finger, provoking Preston.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 739

Chapter 739

Preston’s face immediately darkened. He felt insulted by Dustin’s actions.

“Preston, don’t you go easy on him!” Miranda demanded.

“I’m going to beat the cr ap out of you!” Preston shot toward Dustin and struck

him with both palms.

Shadow Dance was a move that could defend and attack simultaneously, allowing Preston to catch his opponents off guard. Although Dustin’s feet didn’t move an inch, he raised a hand and swung it down fiercely.

True energy burst forth and broke past Preston’s defense. Instantly, Dustin slammed his palm into Preston’s chest brutally.

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Blood instantly splurged from Preston's mouth as he flew backward and landed on the car. The car dented from the impact.

"Did you see that, kid? That's how you're supposed to deal with him."

Dustin

turned his head and gave Abigail a small smile.

"Um..." Abigail forced a smile. There was no way she could learn that. He was

on a completely
different level!

"Preston!" Shocked, Miranda rushed over and pulled Preston out of the car.

Preston was as strong as a High-level martial artist, yet Dustin smacked him

away so easily. It
was shocking.

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“Are you alright, Preston?” Miranda asked worriedly.

“I’m fi-

“Before he could finish speaking, Preston coughed up another mouthful of blood that splattered all over Miranda.

“Don’t act all tough when you’re so weak. This is just to teach you two a lesson. Don’t piss me off again, or you’ll regret it,” Dustin retorted icily and

turned to get onto their car.

“Go to hell!” Just then, Preston sprung up. He fished out a bottle of potent poison and flung the powder toward Dustin.

“Hmm.” Dustin waved his hand without looking back.

Instantly, a gust of wind blew all the poison back to Preston.

“Aargh!” Preston cried out, holding his face.

The poison was so corrosive that it immediately burned and destroyed his skin. Seconds later, his face had turned into an ugly mess as blood dripped

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from his wounds.

“Serves you right!” Abigail spat.

It was bad enough that Preston tried to sneak up on Dustin, but how dare he

use such a dangerous poison! He deserved this!

“H-h-how dare you disfigure Preston’s face!” Miranda roared, goosebumps

rising when she saw Preston’s disgusting new looks.

“What the hell did I do? He was the one who brought it upon himself.”

Dustin

shrugged.

“Shut up! I dare you to tell me your name!” Miranda snapped.

“Why? Are you going to seek revenge? Ha, as if I’m afraid of you.”

Dustin

smirk. Then, he said, “Listen up. My name is Julian Nicholson!”

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Miranda gritted her teeth. “Julian Nicholson? I’ll remember you. This isn’t over!

I’ll get my revenge someday!”

She got into her car and left, making sure to remember that name.

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 740

Chapter 740

“Who’s Julian Nicholson?” Abigail asked, watching the car drive away.

“Just an ass hole. You don’t need to overthink it,” Dustin answered nonchalantly.

Abigail sighed helplessly. She couldn’t help but pity Julian, who was an innocent person.

Soon after the three of them reached Flame Dragon Dojo, Roderick bid them

goodbye and left. Dustin safely stored the thousand-year green lotus and began teaching Abigail how to fight with a staff.

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Abigail had finally built a solid foundation. She was also powerful, which made

her a perfect fighter. However, her attacks were too simple, so anyone with some skills could easily beat her.

Fortunately, Abigail's choice of weapon was a baton, so Dustin decided to make good use of this and teach her a staff combat technique.

Dustin has been practicing all sorts of combat techniques since he was a child

and has read various types of martial arts books of different levels. Dustin knew them all by heart, whether it was basic or advanced techniques or even

forbidden, arcane texts. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to call him a martial arts encyclopedia.

Two days flew by. Within those two days, Dustin guided Abigail and

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conquered two other guilds with Flame Dragon Gang-Stonefur and Slythorn.

By then, he managed to get Millburg's four dirtiest guilds under his control. In

other words, Dustin had become the king of the underworld. He had over 4000 men and was more powerful than the Fabulous Five!

After unifying the four guilds, he renamed them the Kirin Gang. Flame Dragon

Gang, Charging Tiger, Stonefur, and Slythorn each became the Kirin Gang's

subsidiary guilds.

With that, the Kirin Gang was ready to conquer the world!

Dustin was dealing with guild matters on the third morning when he received a call.

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Julie's anxious voice was heard as soon as he answered the phone.

"Dustin,

Dahlia was nearly assassinated just now!"

"What? What happened?" Dustin jumped up, alarmed.

"It's hard to explain over the phone. You should just come over."

"I'm on my way!" Dustin asked for the address and rushed over to the hospital.

When he entered the ward, he saw Dahlia lying on the bed with a pale face and a bandaged arm. Florence, Julie, and Victoria stood around her.

"Are you okay, Dahlia? Are you hurt?" Dustin quickly walked over, worried.

"You're here. Oh, it's nothing. Just some scratches here and there." Dahlia forced a smile.

"What do you mean it's nothing? You nearly died! Why are you acting tough?"

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Florence snapped.

“She’s right. If you were not lucky, we might be dead by now!” Julie was scared too. Although she hadn’t been injured, she was still shaken by the incident.

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An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 741
Chapter 741

“Dahlia, what happened?” Dustin frowned.

“Yesterday, I went to Glenstead to visit the Nicholsons and check in on Grandpa Regulus. I was on my way home this morning when someone ambushed me. Fortunately, a general was passing by and saved us,” Dahlia explained.

“Why didn’t you tell me you were going to Glenstead? I would have sent someone to protect you.” Dustin demanded, displeased.

“I brought my own bodyguards. I just didn’t expect something like this to happen,” Dahlia replied helplessly.

If it had just been a regular fight, her bodyguards could have dealt with it easily. However, they were no match for someone who wanted her dead.

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“Do you have any idea who’s planned the attack?” Dustin asked.

“Not yet.” Dahlia shook her head.

“You were attacked as soon as you visited Sir Regulus. It’s too much of a coincidence. If my guess is right, your family must have something to do with this.” Dustin narrowed his eyes.

“Our family? That can’t be right.” Dahlia’s brows furrowed.

“You’re the largest shareholder of Nicholson Corp. now. Sir Regulus even appointed you as the heir, so everyone’s aiming for your position. Considering all this, it’s not impossible for someone to resort to something like this,” analyzed Dustin.

Dahlia’s current position was bound to attract envy from some people who knew that if something were to happen to her, other family members would have a chance of taking over her position. To rich families like theirs, nothing mattered more than money and power. Familial bonds

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were useless to them.

“He’s right. They must be behind this!” Julie exclaimed angrily.

“Those assholes! How dare they hurt my daughter! I’ll get revenge on them!” Florence roared.

“We don’t have proof, so we shouldn’t make assumptions. Others might use this opportunity to cause trouble,” Dahlia stated thoughtfully.

Although she had her suspicions, that was all they were. Without solid evidence, nothing could be proven.

“I’ll start digging and get to the bottom of this as soon as possible,” Dustin promised.

“There’s no hurry for that. I have something more important to deal with.” Dahlia was serious.

Chapter 741

She explained, “I hired a doctor to check on Grandpa Regulus

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yesterday, and he said that we need to find a Panax root and use it to make a medicine that could wake Grandpa up again.”

“A Panax root? It’ll be difficult to find one.” Dustin thought about it.

“Dustin, you have one, don’t you? Can you-” Dustin cut her off before she could finish her sentence. “No! ”

“What?” Dustin’s response shocked her. She had only seen Dustin try to fulfill all her requests, so she didn’t understand why he was acting like this now.

“What do you mean by that, Rhys? It’s just a Panax root. Why are you being so stingy?” Florence snapped.

“Dustin, if you give it to us and we manage to cure Sir Regulus, Dahlia will officially get promoted. You’ll get recognized too!” Julie tried to convince Dustin with words.

“I can agree to anything but this,” Dustin responded firmly.

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That 500-year-old Panax root was an important ingredient for the nine-fold Longevitum. So there was no way he could give it away. “It’s just a Panax root. What’s the problem?” Florence glared at him.

“Exactly! You’re not using it right now anyway, so you might as well give it to Dahlia and earn her favor.” Julie echoed.

“Dustin, the Panax root is incredibly important to me. Grandpa Regulus won’t wake up without it. I know this sounds demanding, but I hope you can give it to me,” Dahlia asked again.

“I’m sorry, but it’s just as important to me, so I can’t give it to you.”

Dustin refused once

more.

Dahlia frowned. “If it’s a loss to you, I don’t mind buying it from you.”

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“It has nothing to do with money.” Dustin shook his head. “I won’t sell it no matter how much you offer me.”

“Then, what do you want? Is a Panax root more important than me?” Dahlia’s face hardened as her temper rose.

She wasn’t angry because of the Panax root. Rather, it was because Dustin didn’t seem to care about her.

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Chapter 742

“Stop throwing a tantrum, Dahlia.” Dustin frowned.

Dustin said, “I wouldn’t mind giving you anything else, even if it costs millions. But I just can’t give you my Panax root.”

“You’re right. I am throwing a tantrum! If you don’t want to give it to me, I’ll think of something else!” Dahlia turned her head away furiously.

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In the past, Dustin would get it done no matter what request she made. Now, all she was asking for was a Panax root, yet he turned her down firmly.

He obviously didn't care about her anymore. It seemed like she wasn't that important to him anymore after he got a new girlfriend.

"Dahlia is giving you a chance to prove yourself, Rhys! You better not ignore her kindness!" Florence exclaimed.

"Exactly! With Dahlia's looks and influence, many other men would be clambering to gift her Panax roots! You better appreciate this chance!" Julie jeered.

"If you need a Panax root, I can use my connections to help you get one. However, I can't give you the one I have because I need to use it to save someone," Dustin answered thoughtfully.

"Fine! You said you're going to use it to save someone. So tell me,

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who's the person that's more important than Grandpa Regulus?" Dahlia demanded.

"You know this person. It's Gregory."

"Mr. Jones?" Dahlia frowned, her temper cooling slightly. Then, she asked, "What happened to him? Is he sick again?"

In her memories, Gregory was either drinking or sleeping. She rarely saw him sober. And because he was a heavy drinker, his health wasn't the best.

"He's fine for now, but that doesn't mean he'll stay that way. I need to gather more herbs to treat him," Dustin answered truthfully.

"Since he's fine right now, you can lend us the Panax root. Once Sir Regulus gets better, we'll return another one to you. How about that?" Florence persuaded.

"She's right. Time is running out. Sir Regulus' life is in danger right

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now, so you should prioritize us first!” Julie insisted.

To them, Regulus’ life would directly impact Dahlia’s future and her position, so it was far more important than Gregory’s life.

“My Panax root is too rare. It’ll be extremely difficult for you to find another as mature as mine. So I’m sorry. I can’t risk Gregory’s life.” Dustin shook his head again.

A wild 500-year-old Panax root was incredibly rare, so Dustin couldn’t afford to take any chances.

“Geez! Why do you have to be so stubborn? We’re trying to talk to you nicely, but if you’re still going to be so stubborn, don’t think about meeting my daughter again!” Florence snapped.

“Do you even care about Dahlia? She’s just trying to borrow your Panax root, and it isn’t as though she won’t return it. What’s the issue?” Julie was pissed.

“Alright, alright. That’s enough.” Dahlia frowned.

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“Dustin has plans of his own, so we shouldn’t force him.”
ough she understood his actions,
she was still irritated. Dustin should know how to prioritize
matters better.

Since Gregory didn’t need to use it immediately, why couldn’t he
lend it to her temporarily so that she could treat her grandfather?

“Ms. Nicholson...” Just then, a tall, handsome young man in
military uniform entered the room. It was easy to see that he was
not a regular commander.

“Mr. Killian? What are you doing here?” When she saw the man,
Julie lit up and rushed over with a bright smile.

“Mr. Killian?” Florence and Victoria exchanged glances before
leaping up to welcome the new arrival, full of smiles.

This was the first time they met a real general since they’d only
ever seen them on television, so the two ladies were excited and

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nervous.

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Chapter 743

“I had just finished reporting back to the military base, so I decided to drop by.” Gavin Killian smiled.

“Greetings, Mr. Killian.” Dahlia tried to stand up.

“No need for formalities.” Gavin placed a hand on her shoulder to keep her seated. “You need to rest, Ms. Nicholson. You’re hurt.”

“It’s nothing.” Dahlia smiled.

“And this is?” Dustin looked at Gavin, puzzled.

He could tell from the badge on Gavin’s arm that he was a major general. For someone to be a general in his thirties, he must either be from an influential family or be incredibly talented.

“This is Mr. Killian. He was the one who saved me this morning,”

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Dahlia introduced.

This morning's incident was still fresh in her mind. Without Gavin's help, she'd be dead by now.

"I see Thank you, Mr. Killian." Dustin thanked.

"It was nothing," Gavin answered with a smile. "And you are?"

"Oh, he's my friend, Dustin Rhys." Dahlia blurted.

"Friend?" Dustin frowned, unhappy with her answer. Still, he regained his composure after a few seconds.

"Nice to meet you, Mr. Rhys. I'm Gavin Killian." Gavin extended a hand. Although his expression looked kind, his eyes showed an arrogant glint.

"Nice to meet you." Dustin shook Gavin's hand knowingly.

Killian wasn't a common surname. He ran into Miranda Killian two days ago, and now, he was meeting another Killian, so he couldn't help but wonder if the two were related.

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“Ms. Nicholson, I heard that you urgently need a Panax root. Is that true?” Gavin suddenly switched the topic.

Dahlia nodded. “That’s right. My grandfather is sick, and we need a Panax root to make his medicine. Unfortunately, finding one is quite hard, so I doubt I’ll get my hands on one soon.”

“You don’t have to search anymore, Ms. Nicholson. I happened to have a 300-year-old Panax root. If you’d like, you can have it.”

Gavin’s words shocked them.

“What? You’re giving it to me?” Dahlia was taken aback. She didn’t expect him to have a Panax root and for him to gift it to her so casually.

“Are you serious, Mr. Killian? Are you going to give us a Panax root?” Julie asked with disbelief in her eyes.

“Of course. I always keep my word.” Gavin puffed out his chest.

“Gosh, thank you so much!” Julie was overjoyed.

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“You’re such a kind man, Mr. Killian!” Florence and Victoria were happy as well.

Just moments ago, they were thinking hard, trying to find a way to obtain a Panax root. They never thought they’d get one so soon. Unlike Dustin, who was stubborn and stingy, Gavin seemed much more generous and honorable.

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Chapter 744

“Thank you for the offer, Mr. Killian, but I can’t accept such a precious gift.” Dahlia got over her surprise and became upset again. She hadn’t even repaid Gavin for his earlier kindness, so how could she accept his Panax root?

“Ms. Nicholson, a Panax root is meant to cure sic kness anyway. I don’t need it for now. So you might as well use it to save

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someone's life. Think of it as an act of kindness." Gavin smiled.

"But-"

Florence cut Dahlia off before she could refuse again. "Dahlia, you should accept it. You can always repay the favor later."

Florence kept/looking at Gavin eagerly.

"She's right, Dahlia. Saving a life is much more important. Without this Panax root, what are we going to do about Sir Regulus?" Julie advised.

"But..." Dahlia was at a loss for words. It would be difficult to repay the favor, but she had no choice but to accept the gift since Regulus' life was at stake.

"Ms. Nicholson, if you want to thank me, I do have a favor to ask," Gavin suddenly said.

"What is it?" Dahlia raised an eyebrow.

"I'll be hosting a banquet at Viridian Hotel tonight, so I'd like to

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invite you,” Gavin answered with a small smile.

“A banquet?” Dahlia hesitated before nodding in agreement. “It’d be my pleasure.”

Gavin had helped her a lot, so she couldn’t refuse him.

“Great. See you tonight.” Gavin smiled and left after chatting for a moment.

“What do you think of Mr. Killian, Dahlia?” Julie blurted out as soon as Gavin was gone.

“He’s a general despite his young age, so he’s definitely an excellent person,” Dahlia responded casually.

“Not just that. I think he likes you.” Julie grinned teasingly.

“Nonsense!” Dahlia glared at Julie. “We’ve just met. How can he like me?”

“Why would he give you a Panax root if he didn’t like you? He even invited you to his banquet. Isn’t it obvious enough?” Julie

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pressed.

“But...” Dahlia was speechless. She glanced at Dustin and let out a breath of relief when she realized he didn’t seem bothered.

“Dahlia, Mr. Killian is young but accomplished. He’s an excellent man that’s hard to come by. Why don’t you try and flirt with him a little? Who knows what might happen.” Florence had an eager expression.

If Dahlia were to marry a general, they’d also gain fame. It would be more fame than what they’d get if she married an aristocratic family. After all, being powerful was more important than being wealthy.

“Mom, you’re doing it again!” Dahlia grumbled.

“Haven’t you gotten over Rhys yet?” Florence glared at Dustin disdainfully. “He knows that you need a Panax root, but he won’t

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give it to you. What's the point of keeping a man like him?"

"Exactly!" Julie nodded. "You saw how that guy refused despite how we begged him, yet Mr. Killian, whom we barely know, was willing to help us. Can't you see who's the better choice?"

Dahlia frowned when she heard this. After comparing the two men, she realized that Dustin seemed much more selfish than Gavin.

"Are you going to believe him when you've only met him once?"

Dustin suddenly asked.

"Are we supposed to believe you, then? What makes you think you're trustworthy?" Florence snapped.

"She's right. Mr. Killian not only saved Dahlia, but he also helped us in times of need. What about you? What have you done?" Julie sneered.

"First, he saved you. Now, he's gifting you a Panax root. Don't you

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think this is too much of a coincidence?” Dustin asked.

“What do you mean?” Dahlia raised an eyebrow.

“You don’t know who that man is or his intentions, so you shouldn’t trust him so easily,” Dustin warned.

“Hmph! I bet you’re just jealous.” Julie jeered. “You’re jealous that he’s better and more powerful than you!”

“It’s bad enough that you’re useless, but how dare you insult Mr. Killian! You’re despicable!” Florence yelled

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Chapter 745

“I’m just stating the truth. It’s always better to be careful,” Dustin replied calmly.

“Dustin, Mr. Killian isn’t that kind of person,” Dahlia retorted firmly, unhappy to hear Dustin talking bad about her savior.

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“Do you really know him well enough? Besides his name, what else do you know about him?”

Dustin asked back.

“I-” Dahlia was taken aback.

When she came to her senses, she immediately declared.

“Anyway, Mr. Killian isn’t a bad person. You better not judge him with a petty mindset!”

“Petty?” Dustin chuckled unhumorously.

“You’re right. I am petty. And since you seem to believe him so much, this petty man will take his leave now. Goodbye.” Dustin turned around.

“Dustin, stop right-” He left before Dahlia could stop him.

“Let him leave! What the he ll is wrong with him? We just said a few words!” Florence scoffed.

“Yeah. Mr. Killian is a thousand times better than a petty man like

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him!” Julie snorted.

“That’s enough! He’s gone now, so stop talking about this!” Dahlia frowned, agitated.

Her relationship with Dustin had only begun to improve, and she didn’t want problems to arise again.

Out of the hospital doors, Dustin sighed.

Although he didn’t care about Florence and Julie’s words, he was unhappy about Dahlia’s distrust of him.

“Dustin Rhys…” A black sedan pulled over, and the windows were lowered, revealing Gavin’s face.

“Mr. Killian, how may I help you?” Dustin replied.

Gavin had obviously been waiting for him.

“I will only say this once, so you better listen closely.” Gavin’s

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expression was cold as he said, "Dahlia Nicholson is mine, so you better stay away from her from now on."

"And why should I?" Dustin narrowed his eyes. He didn't expect Gavin to show his true colors so soon.

"Because I'm from the Killian family of Oakvale and a major general. And because I'm stronger than you. Is this answer good enough?" Gavin sneered arrogantly.

"Those labels mean nothing to me. Here's some advice. Don't piss me off," Dustin retorted, unfazed.

"Hmm... Interesting." Gavin grinned.

"A loser dares to challenge me? Fine. Let's see what you've got."

With a snap of his fingers, his car drove off and out of sight.

Right after that, several other cars pulled over in front of Dustin,

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and several law enforcers wearing distinctive uniforms stepped out, their faces stern.

“Are you Dustin Rhys?” The leader asked.

“I am.” Dustin nodded. “How may I help you?”

“Someone reported you for killing Hank Hoffman, so you’re under arrest!” The man yelled.

“Someone reported me? Who?” Dustin was shocked.

“Me!” Another person stepped out of the car. It was Julian!

“I witnessed you murdering my friend, so I reported you!” Julian cried out.

“So you’re up to no good again.” Dustin narrowed his eyes.

“You killed an innocent man, and plenty of evidence proves that. Take him away!”, The leading enforcer signaled his men to handcuff Dustin and haul him into the car.

Julian watched the cars drive away, sneering, “You’re dead meat

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this time!”

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Chapter 746

Dustin didn't resist as he was dragged into the car. He was blindfolded, and a hood was placed over his head to ensure he couldn't see anything.

That was the start of a long, shaky drive.

Dustin could tell that they had driven out of the city, so these enforcers were definitely not from the investigation bureau.

After some time, when Dustin began to feel sleepy, the car finally stopped. The doors opened, and the metallic stench of blood pierced his nose. He could also smell the disgusting scent of rotting flesh.

“Where are we, sir?” Dustin asked curiously.

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“Sh ut your mouth and get in!” The man beside him snapped as he dragged Dustin forward.

They passed through several checkpoints and heavy iron gates before riding an elevator that kept going deeper underground. After a while, the elevator came to a halt with a clang. Different noises instantly surrounded Dustin-cries, wails, shouts, and laughter. There was also a nasty, damp stench.

The man took the hood off Dustin’s head, and Dustin finally realized that they were in an underground prison.

In the center was a long, dark corridor that seemed to go on forever. Rows of prison cells lined both sides, each packed with dozens of people.

Some were cursing or glaring at him menacingly, while others were begging for mercy. There were even some who began to cackle hysterically when they saw Dustin.

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“Move it!”

The man pushed Dustin forward. They walked passed a few cells before stopping in front of the cell at the corner. When the metal gates opened, dozens of cold, ruthless glares shot toward him.

“Get in.” Two officers pushed him into the cell and swiftly left after locking the doors.

“Hey, kid. What trouble did you get into to end up here?” A bald, muscular man suddenly asked.

“I killed someone,” Dustin answered straightforwardly.

“How many?” The other man questioned again.

“One.”

“Why did you kill that person?”

“And why do you need to know that?”

“Cut the crap and answer the goddamn question!”

“Fine. The guy I killed was a rapist. He killed my brother-in-law,

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so I threw him off a building,” Dustin explained.

“Really?” The bald man stared intensely at Dustin before he burst out laughing. “Well done. You did the right thing!”

“What?” Dustin was taken aback by the bald man’s response. He assumed that the bald man was going to beat him up.

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Chapter 747

The same went for everyone else. At first, their eyes had been filled with hostility. However, after hearing Dustin’s answer, they smiled welcomingly at him.

“If you had done an evil deed, you’d be dead by now. Fortunately, you were just avenging your wife, so you’re a real man!”

“It seems like Shadow Gang will have a new member!”

Everyone in the cell studied Dustin carefully. Although they didn’t

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seem happy to see him, they didn't seem as hostile anymore.

"What are you guys talking about?" Dustin was confused.

"Over here, there are all sorts of guilds and gangs. Ours is Shadow Gang. Our rule is simple: settle scores fairly. You can kill your enemies, but you can't hurt innocent people. If you're caught, you'll be heavily punished." The bald man grinned.

"He's right. We might not be good people, but at least we're honorable men who won't allow others to hurt innocent people!"

The other men agreed.

Dustin was surprised. It seemed like not everyone here was evil.

"You're one of us now, kid." The bald man threw his arm over Dustin's shoulder as if they had known each other for a long time.

"Come on. I'll introduce you. These guys here are Beardy, Limpy, and Scarface. And here we have-"

"Don't let my limp fool you, kid! I killed dozens of corrupt

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government officials before being sent here!”

“I’m no slouch either! I came across of bunch of dicks who were raping and killing women, so I castrated them and tore off their limbs!”

“That’s nothing compared to what I did. There was a gang of bandits that wiped out a village, so I took all of them out myself. Unfortunately, the police were in conflict with the bandits, so they blamed me for the village’s destruction.”

The men stopped being hostile and began boasting about their achievements.

“Interesting.” Dustin smiled. He didn’t expect to find such honorable men in prison.

“What’s going on? Is there a new kid?” a raspy voice asked from the corner of the cell.

Everyone immediately fell silent, respectfully. Dustin turned and

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saw a bony older man yawning as he sat upright on his mat. The older man's hair was unkept, and his face looked gaunt. His hands and feet were bounded with thick iron chains, and metal rods pierced into his shoulders. Metal rattled every time he moved.

"Hmm?" Dustin was surprised. He didn't expect to run into a fully developed divine-level martial artist here. After all, this would mean that the older man was only a step away from becoming a Grandmaster.

"Did we wake you up, Mr. Adler? We'll be sure to keep quiet, so you can keep sleeping." The bald man smiled apologetically.

"It's fine. There's nothing to do besides sleeping and eating anyway. It's been a while since we had a newcomer. As the gang leader, I should welcome him." The older man yawned.

"Hurry. Pay your respects to Mr. Adler." The bald man quickly

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tugged Dustin.

“No need for formalities.” The old man waved them off before asking Dustin, “Did you offend some high-ranking official?”

“How did you know?” Dustin was surprised.

Although Julian said he was the one who made the report, Dustin was sure that Gavin had something to do with this.

“Everyone here is a criminal who has killed at least ten people, but you’ve only killed one. You’ve clearly offended someone powerful,” the old man replied.

“May I know where this is?” Dustin was even more curious now.

“This is a place you can enter but never leave.” The older man sighed.

“It doesn’t matter who you are or where you’re from. Once you’re in here, you’ll never get out. It’s just like the underworld. That’s

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why it's called 'Azkaban'!"

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Chapter 748

"Azkaban?" Dustin was alert when he heard the name.

Azkaban was known throughout Balerno. Rumors had it that the inmates here were either extremely wicked or caused great harm to the country. And there were all sorts of criminals- assassins, despised martial artists, bloodthirsty maniacs, and more.

The prison had one rule: once you entered the place, there was no way out.

Unlike other prisons where inmates who performed well would be given chances to reduce their sentences, the inmates here only had two choices. They could either stay here for the rest of their lives or die.

Therefore, no one has ever left or escaped the place. This was also

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the place where Duane Welch had been sent to.

“Do you understand the seriousness of the situation now?” The older man asked, concerned.

“This place is a different world. Everything on the outside no longer has anything to do with you now.”

“Is there no way to get out?” Dustin questioned.

“Get out? How?” The older man shook his head with a bitter smile.

“The cells are made of indestructible dark steel. Beyond this, many checkpoints and skilled martial artists guard the place. Nothing could get in here, not even a fly.”

“Now that does sound worrying,” Dustin muttered.

“Stop overthinking, kid.” The older man patted Dustin’s shoulder.

“You’re lucky you met us instead of those wicked men or you’d be dead meat by now.”

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“You’re one of us now, so you definitely won’t starve!” The bald man patted his chest confidently.

“Thanks, guys.” Dustin smiled politely. He could tell that these men weren’t evil.

Suddenly, sounds of metals clanking resounded through the corridor. Instantly, everyone shrank away from the bars and huddled in the corners of the cell, terrified.

Dustin followed the sound and looked toward the dimly lit corridor. A plump man dressed in fine clothes was approaching them with several fierce-looking prison officers. He held a metal rod and kept striking it against the iron doors, causing sparks to fly.

“Hey, kid. Did your family members bribe the guards before you came?” the old man asked.

“No.” Dustin shook his head.

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“Then do you have any valuables with you?” the old man asked again.

“I’m completely penniless.” Dustin spread his hands.

“Oh, dear.” The older man sighed. “Those money-grubbers are here. You might have to endure some pain since you didn’t bribe the guards and have no money.”

“Don’t worry, kid. It’s just 50 canes. It’ll be over in the blink of an eye. It might keep you in bed for

about a month, but it won’t kill you!” The bald man promised.

“He’s right. You just have to remember not to resist, and everything will be over soon,” Others echoed, having gone through the same thing.

If someone had money, they could bribe the guards so that their punishment was milder. But if someone had no money, they’d have no choice but to suffer.

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Those who were lucky would suffer from a bruised bottom, while those who weren't might end up disabled.

The well-dressed, portly man continued striking the cages before stopping in front of Dustin's cell.

"I heard a new guy arrived. Who is it?" The well-dressed, portly man scanned the cell with cold

eyes. Those who met his eyes instinctively lowered their heads, scared of these men who controlled their lives.

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Chapter 749

"It's me." Dustin stepped forward.

The well-dressed, portly man gave him a look over and asked, "Do you understand the rules in here yet?"

"What rules?" Dustin asked.

"Everyone needs to get a beating when they first arrive. Naturally,

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I'm the one who determines how heavy the beating will be. Got it?" The well-dressed, portly man made a point to tap his baton.

"So, you want money?" Dustin raised an eyebrow.

"Smart boy!" The other man nodded, pleased.

"My men and I have to take care of trash like you every day. So we deserve that much, don't we?" He rubbed his fingers greedily.

"Sorry. I don't have any money." Dustin shook his head.

"You don't have any money?" The well-dressed, portly man frowned and snapped, "Then write a letter to your family to ask for money! Your punishment will be lighter the more you pay."

"I come from a poor family. We don't have any money." Dustin shrugged.

"F**k, you're just a hobo! What a waste of my time!" the welldressed, portly man spat.

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“Drag this f**ker out and give him 80 canes!”

“Hang on. Isn’t it supposed to be 50?” Dustin asked.

“I’m in a bad mood, so I’m giving you another 30 lashes. Got something to say about it?” The well-dressed, portly man glared.

“Don’t you think that you’re taking things too far?” Dustin narrowed his eyes.

“Are you telling me what to do?” The well-dressed, portly man sneered.

“Fine, since 80 seems too little, make it 100! We won’t stop until you’re crippled.”

“Have you thought of the consequences of your actions?” Dustin asked calmly,

“Pfft! Are you threatening me right now?” The well-dressed, portly man shot Dustin a scornful glare.

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“It seems like you haven’t fully grasped the situation yet. I’m the king here, so I decide whether you get to live. If you piss me off, I’ll make your life a living hell!”

He has seen countless people like Dustin, who arrived with arrogant attitudes. However, with a few canes, they immediately submitted and became obedient.

“You’re just a prison officer. Where did you find the balls to make such bold claims?” Dustin.

sneered.

“Just a prison officer?” The portly man’s face hardened, and his blood boiled. “You don’t know

when to give up, eh? Men, drag him out and beat him up till he’s dead!”

“Wait!” Seeing the seriousness of the situation, the old man begged, “Sir, he’s new here and doesn’t know anything. Please

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spare him!”

He fished out a gold nugget from his pocket and offered it to the well-dressed, portly man.

“F**k off!” The well-dressed, portly man slapped the gold away and yelled, “That punk dared to challenge my authority. I must make an example out of him. If anyone tries to stop me, I’ll take it as an act of opposition! Grab him now!”

“Yes, sir!” The prison officers immediately opened the door to grab Dustin.

“You were too reckless! We’re no match for them!”

“He’s right. Everything would have been fine if you didn’t talk back to them. You’ll be killed if you defy their orders!”

Others expressed their sympathy, but there wasn’t much they could do.

Although the evillest of evils lived here, none of them dared to go

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against these guards. It wasn't because they were no match for them.

Instead, they were too afraid to make a move as they were worried about getting caught by the skilled guards. If that happened, their lives would be utterly miserable.

"I'll show you what life in hell looks like!" The well-dressed, portly man seethed.

As soon as those words were spoken, bangs and crashes broke out as the prison officers who had barged into the cell flew out, and Dustin slowly walked out.

He went up to the well-dressed, portly man and fisted his collar.

Frigidly, he asked, "What were you saying again?"

An Understated Dominance by Marina Vittori Chapter 750

Chapter 750

Everyone was shocked by what just happened.

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The prison officers in Azkaban were far from ordinary. They were all powerful and highly skilled. Otherwise, they couldn't stand up to the evil criminals inside.

No one would have expected that Dustin could have beaten these elite fighters up so quickly.

It was truly frightening. Of course, more than shock, they felt fear. There were all sorts of experts in Azkaban, even Grandmaster martial artists. Beating up the prison officer would catch the mastermind's attention.

When that happened, the consequences would be unspeakable! After returning to his senses, the well-dressed, portly man began yelling, "Punk, you really have big balls! How dare you touch me?!"

It wasn't like nobody had challenged his authority before, but they had all ended up tortured to the brink of death.

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“So what?” Dustin said with a calm expression.

“For beating me, your punishment is now doubled! If you don’t stop right now, not even God can save you!” the man yelled.

“Young man, let go! Don’t make things worse!”

“The prison officer is no ordinary guard. You can’t afford to anger him. Hurry and beg for forgiveness!”

“All you suffered was some physical pain. You don’t have to dig your own grave!”

The others began to panic, trying their hardest to talk sense into Dustin.

Dustin would be in trouble if something happened to the portly man, and the rest of them would get dragged down with him.

Here, there was no such thing as law or justice. The warden had the final say.

Whether you lived or died was solely the warden’s decision.

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“You hear that? Let go now, or I’ll kill you!” the portly man said with a glare.

“You’re going to kill me, so why should I let you go? Since I’ll die anyway, I should just kill you,” Dustin said, smiling.

“Don’t you dare!” the portly man roared fiercely.

“I’m warning you. I’m the warden’s brother-in-law. If you harm a piece of hair on my head, not just you but all your friends, family, and everyone in this room will die!”

“Young man, you can’t beat them. While things haven’t completely reached the point of no return, you must stop before it’s too late! Or else, there will be a horrible price to pay!” the older man, Cornelius, was beginning to worry.

“Even if I let him go, he won’t let things go. We might as well die together,” Dustin said plainly.

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Dustin's unflinching attitude toward death frightened the well-dressed, portly man. For some reason, he began to feel nervous.

What was his life worth?

Was it worth exchanging it for the life of a death row convict?

"Sir, what happened today was just a misunderstanding. Why don't we let bygones be bygones, for my sake?" Cornelius said.

"Hmph, since you spoke up, Mr. Adler, then I'll spare his life this once!" the portly man said, using this opportunity to dig his way out.

His biggest fear was running into hotheads like Dustin.

They would want to fight to the death whenever things didn't go their way. If he got killed, it would be a greater loss.

"Young man, the prison officer has chosen to forgive you. You can let go now," Cornelius said.

"Alright." Dustin nodded and relaxed his grip.

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The portly man crashed to the ground.

At the exact moment Dustin turned his back, the portly man's expression twisted into a hateful look.

"Die!" He suddenly brandished a dagger and stabbed it into Dustin's back.

There was only one outcome for someone who dared to challenge his authority in public-death

The dagger was rammed into Dustin's back, but it didn't even break the skin.

On the contrary, it snapped into two pieces from the sheer momentum.

"What?" Looking at the broken blade in his hand, the man was shocked."

This was a treasured dagger that could slice through solid metal!

It was one thing not to be able to pierce the skin, but it even

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f**king broke.

Just what kind of monster was he?!

“Stubborn as always!” Dustin’s face turned icy, and he slapped the portly man.

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