



No Hero Volume 8: The End, the Beginning, Part Two
Original novel in Chinese by: [御我 \(Yu Wo\)](#)
Translated by [Prince Revolution](#)

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No Hero Volume 8: The End, the Beginning, Part Two

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Prologue: Vampire Assassin

I quietly walked through the darkness without a sound, making it impossible for anyone to detect my presence. This was an innate ability of a vampire, a naturally-born race of the night—being able to tread silently while retreating under the cover of the dark.

However, I was not currently wearing an old-fashioned suit and cloak, the traditional clothing of a vampire. Compared to that type of complicated style of dress, black, skin-tight clothing was more appropriate for my current task.

The young master had once said I was very strong, but my strength was a different type compared to his or X's. If they were warriors, then I was an assassin.

If this had been spoken by any other person, perhaps it would be purely words of flattery, or even a joke. However, the one who had stated this was the young master. Since he had already said it in such a way, I was more confident that I could be a successful assassin.

I have to be!

Aside from assassination, the main type of work an assassin performed was stealth investigation. I currently needed to do the latter. However, if absolutely necessary, I would not reject the idea of executing the former either.

There were many distressing matters at the moment, the greatest one

being the master...the Sun Emperor. However, the choices he had presented were extremely simple: betray the young master or betray X. There was nothing that needed to be scouted out, and there was also no room for negotiation—

A vibration suddenly came from my chest pocket. It was my cell phone that had been changed to silent mode. *Perhaps I should have completely turned the power off before formally starting.* Although it was a quiet, subtle vibration, I was certain that there were many humans or non-humans that could sense the faint sound.

I answered the phone. "Ezart, is something the matter?"

"Hey, you have to promise me! If you plan on coming to blows with someone, you have to contact me! Otherwise, I'll tell on you to Ah Ye!"

"I do not want to make any move. I am simply investigating under cover." *If I truly do make a move, I would kill, not fight.*

"Investigate... Hmph! So boring!" Ezart evidently had no interest in a task like scouting, which relieved me. "Did the painkillers' effects wear off?"

I thought this over. It was actually not an easy determination, similar to how a drunk person would not believe they were drunk. I did not believe I could necessarily differentiate between the conditions of being or not being under the influence of the painkillers, but since a great amount of time had passed, there was likely not much of an impact left even if there was any remaining.

"I believe it has worn off."

"And you still want to do this?"

"Indeed."

"Pfft! You have more guts than I thought!"

"...Thank you for your praise." I abruptly thought of another matter and quickly reminded him, "Ezart, please do not mention me to the young master. The young master's 'ability to detect changes in expression' is extremely powerful. He will recognize if you are lying."

"Hahaha—" Ezart burst out into laughter for a long time. "Relax! If anyone could deceive Ah Ye, it's definitely me! I've tricked him to the point where he has no idea what parts of my words are lies! As a reward for how gutsy you're being, let me teach you how to deceive him. Do you want to learn?"

I should not be lying to the young master, but currently...

"I do."

"Then, you have to fight ten rounds against me!"

"...Three rounds." Hagglng typically started from cutting seventy percent, with the final deal ending at thirty or fifty percent. This was common bargaining knowledge.

"Pfft, fine!" Ezart did not seem to be particularly skilled at

haggling. *How fortunate.* "All you have to do is lie to him often. After a while, he'll be desensitized to it."

"I do not understand your words, and I am even more unwilling to lie to the young master 'often.' Moreover, you do not seem to lie to the young master frequently."

Ezart snorted and replied, "I'm going to go skiing. There isn't any danger. I'll be back in a few days."

...It turned out to be an extreme exploration that was highly dangerous, and he did not return for several months.

I understood. It was not truly lying, but rather exaggerating or concealing details. However, after enough occurrences, the young master would be unable to determine which words were exaggerations and which were actual lies.

"How about it, useful, isn't it? You got away cheap for just three rounds!"

"In reality, I feel it is very bad." I absolutely did not want to learn how to lie to the young master.

"But it's very useful!"

"It is quite useful." I could not help but admit that at this time, I indeed needed the skill of "deceiving the young master."

"Butler," Ezart suddenly called out.

"Yes?"

"Seriously though, don't accidentally die!"

"I will try my best."

"Not just try, but guarantee it!" Ezart stressed emphatically, "If Ah Ye goes crazy, it's no joke. He's not all that different from his brother, and what makes him lose control the most is when those by his side get injured or killed!"

I understood this very well. When I had previously been captured by Madam Avexila and had gotten injured heavily to the point of near-death, the young master had been extremely furious. From then on, I was the only person left that possessed the surname of Endelis.

"I understand. I will be highly cautious. However, I must turn off my cell phone from now onwards, and will be unable to be contacted for a period of time."

"Get in touch with me in at least three days. Otherwise, I can only tell Ah Ye that you might have been captured by somebody again!"

"That is fine." If I could not be reached after one day, Curtis would likely start to rashly attack others, let alone after three days. *Besides...I do not think I get captured often? Why use the word 'again'?*

"If the situation looks bad, use painkillers immediately. When you're

under painkillers, your strength fucking explodes! Even Ah Ye can't catch you at that speed!"

I glanced down at my left thumb where I currently wore a ring with an outrageous style. Previously, Ezart had worn it on his middle finger. However, I could only wear it on my thumb in order to barely keep it in place.

"I will try not to use the painkillers."

"Whatever, just don't die!"

"I will try my best."

Having lived for over a hundred years, the words "resting in peace" were constantly on my mind. When Sadina also passed, this intention had even reached its peak. Only now did I finally stop thinking about following after them. *How could I bear to give up my current life?*

I turned the cell phone's power off and raised my head to look up. In the evening, the distant cross was especially conspicuous. Daystar City was unlike Sunset City, which had multicolored lights glowing at night, making it as bright as daytime, a rainbow-colored day. Still, Daystar City was not lacking in light either. The streets could be said to be very bright, which was disadvantageous for concealing one's whereabouts. However, to a vampire, this difference was not a significant one.

Shadows always existed underneath light. Regardless of how many streetlamps were lit, the roads were filled with areas of darkness, which I traveled between. Despite walking among crowds of people, no

one could sense that a vampire was currently brushing past them.

I walked up to the church, its doors securely closed. Fortunately, there were a few windows open. This was extremely lucky, as “open windows” were an extremely rare sight in Daystar City. That was likely a result of the stifling hot weather, which resulted in air conditioning being on for all hours of the day, naturally making the windows impossible to open.

After flashing through the window in the furthest corner, I stood in the left corner in the very back. The inside of the church was very bright. There were not many shadows for me to stand in and advance through without attracting the attention of others.

The fair-haired pastor was currently standing at the altar, giving a sermon. Despite being busy with filming a movie, he still discussed with the production team to leave his Sundays open for him to preach. Consequently, the young master would also use this time to search for the whereabouts of the criminals.

The seats below were filled with believers, a stark contrast from the scattered little groups of “believers” in Sunset City. They were brimming with piety, almost to the point of being somewhat...zealous.

As I followed their line of sight, all I saw was the blond priest: Alex Simon.

He stood there giving his sermon, with his bright gold hair shining brilliantly, his voice gentle, and his expression extremely friendly. There was probably nobody that could ever hate such a person unless

they were intentionally trying to stir up trouble.

“The Lord said, If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

Alex adopted a tone of pity and distraught. This story was not unfamiliar, as it was related to the city of sin.

“Man asked, What if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? The Lord said, For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.”

His sermon was extremely agreeable and moving. Every pastor had their own preaching style. In my younger days, I had often been curious about the contents of sermons—Obviously, I did not personally attend a church, but would ask for other family members to go and record, or occasionally find a family member that was a believer to ask them questions. Although, the family members that were of the faith were always panicked and at a complete loss as to how to act in my presence.

Father Alex’s style of preaching was undoubtedly the warm and gentle type. He did not reject questions of validity, and even accepted the fact that due to difference in time periods, some contents of the Bible were meant to be symbolic as opposed to literal.

What a truly amazing pastor. If I was a believer, I would very likely have chosen this church, too. It’s no wonder that the believers here look so devout, to the point of near fanaticism, as if the God they believed in was standing right in front of them—Maybe that was not exactly incorrect either. They seemed as if they would do anything

Father Alex said.

After listening to a portion of Father Alex's sermon, I was able to confirm his skillfulness in his field. Regardless of his objective or his true identity, there was no doubt that he did his job as a pastor very well.

Based on the reactions of the believers, it appeared that Father Alex had likely preached for a while now. However, that did not signify much, since sermons were mostly only on Sundays, which meant that he had plenty of time to do "other things."

I shifted my feet and leapt out from the window once more. Then, I circled around and walked in through the back of the church. The door was actually unlocked, which was truly unexpected. Was it that their public security was just extremely good, or that they believed the church did not have any items of significant worth?

After entering from the back of the church, I located the pastor's room with great ease. This church had a similar layout to Father Yue's church, just larger in size. Considering Father Alex's fame, this church's scale was actually smaller than I had expected; it was simply a typical community church.

I was stunned upon walking into the room. The walls were completely covered with crosses of various designs, and even from different time periods. By rough approximation, there were likely over fifty of them in total. At first glance, it was truly extremely shocking—especially to a vampire.

Father Alex had stated before that he enjoyed collecting antiques, and had even asked me in the past if I would give him my cross necklace. It seemed that his fondness for ancient crosses was a true fact.

Up to this point, there did not seem to be anything suspicious. Even I felt as if I was being overly paranoid. However, since the matter involved both X and the young master, I truly needed to be extremely careful.

The person that concerned me the most in this matter was actually Alex Simon.

The Sun Emperor, the young master, the Church, and even Lieder, were all seeking something from recent events. Only Father Alex had seemed not to have any wishes. However, he had still appeared and gotten deeply involved, which meant that he undoubtedly had an objective.

I searched all over the room, but did not spot anything questionable. There were not even weapons to be found. Even Father Yue at least had a few ancient firearms collected, but Father Alex did not have anything related to a weapon.

Finally, I found an extremely simple-looking notebook in the drawer. The corner of the cover had the words "Alex Simon" written on it, so I concluded that it was likely his diary.

There should be quite a bit of information inside. However, I truly feel indisposed at the thought of secretly going through a private diary. Must I really do so? I had not found any suspicious evidence no matter

how I searched. *Could Father Alex truly be innocent?*

While hesitating, the sound of footsteps came from outside before I could even make a decision. I hurriedly returned the notebook to its original place and flashed over to a dark corner to hide in.

The person who entered was Father Alex; it appeared that he had already finished his sermon. I had acted too slowly. *Do I have to leave before thinking of or finding out anything? Perhaps I should take a minor risk and attempt to search other rooms while he is in this one?*

After a moment's hesitation, I decided to first see what he would do. If he did not do anything suspicious, I would then go and look around other rooms; there would still be plenty of opportunity to do so.

Father Alex walked up to his desk and retrieved the notebook that I had just returned to the drawer. He then sat down before the desk and lifted the book. *Is he going to write in the diary?*

After watching for a period of time and confirming that he had no intention to go off and do anything else, I decided to leave and scout around the other rooms. However, the moment I shifted my feet, Father Alex shut his notebook. He raised his head to look up at the crosses on the wall. Originally, I thought he was admiring his collection, but he unexpectedly spoke instead.

"You have been watching me for half a day now. If possible, could you show yourself so that we could talk face-to-face?"

I was silent for a long time, checking that nobody else was speaking

up. This place truly did not have any other people present, which meant he was undoubtedly referring to me.

Alex warmly said, "Do you have any doubts you would like to ask me about? It is fine if you just come out."

"You can see me?" I could not help but ask. Perhaps I was not as skilled at concealing myself as the young master had said.

"I cannot. I am merely able to 'sense' you."

Sense? As in, similar to a sixth sense? I could not comprehend it at all. Alex asked with interest, "Are you curious about the Lord, or are you curious about me?"

"I am not a believer."

Alex let out a soft sigh and said, "So you are here for 'me' then? Although that is not at all surprising."

Doubtful once again, I could not restrain myself from cutting straight to the point and asking, "Are you 'Sin?'"

He smiled and replied with another question. "Are you E.X.?"

For a moment, I was stunned, unsure of the reason behind this assumption. Finally, I intentionally answered, "And if I said I was?"

"Then, I would be very regretful to say that I must question that statement."

Alex stood up. "You are not E.X., and I am not Sin. If my guess is correct, I believe that you are 'Dark Sun,' and I would like to chat with you under the recommendation of a mutual friend. I hope that you can come out and see me in person."

A mutual friend? What kind of mutual friend would Dark Sun and Alex share? The young master never mentioned such a matter before.

Father Alex glanced over at the door, which was then slowly pushed open by someone!

I could not help but feel somewhat anxious. Alex's abilities were unknown, and all I had to rely on was my speed. Originally, I was sure that regardless of his ability, I would be able to flee as long as I made full use of x-speed. However, now with one more person, it would unfortunately be quite dangerous. *Should I take this chance to run first... Run?*

It seemed that the effects of the tranquilizers had indeed faded, as my first thought was not to "fight," but to "run away."

I glanced down at the ring on my hand, and after mustering a great amount of resolve, barely restrained myself from injecting the painkillers into my body.

Now that the door was open, all I could do was prepare myself as thoroughly as possible. Perhaps fleeing would be unavoidable. However, if confrontation was possible, that would be best. Moreover, I would absolutely not use the tranquilizers until the final moment!

Even when the young master had just undergone surgery and was in such great pain that he could not be himself, he remained unwilling to use painkillers. In that case, how could I use painkillers for an excuse as shallow as “not escaping as usual?”

I placed the ring-bearing hand behind my back and stopped my thoughts from running wild, instead concentrating my full attention on the person walking in. The door opened, and the person who walked in also wore priest garbs. To my surprise, it was—

Father Yue!

Chapter 1: City of Sin

I took a sip of black coffee. It was strong and bitter, which made me frown subconsciously, but cleared my head up quite a bit.

The secretary sat beside me, either typing or directly voice messaging. Although paper wasn't used much these days, there were still mounds of documents piled up on his desk; how extremely busy he was.

"Kyle, report today's schedule—"

"Ri Xiang Yan!" Someone hurtled in like the wind with a frantic expression on his face. Having not tidied himself in who-knows-how-long, his appearance would instantly fit in with the homeless if he were tossed out onto the streets.

How dare he call my full name again. I expressionlessly said, "Bill, drag him out and kill him."

As always, Kyle did not lift his head from the computer monitor. As he dealt with the screen full of messages, he said, "Just based on how he made your bad habit of calling my name wrong reappear after it had finally been corrected, he deserves to die. However, he has not yet finished teaching the young master's butler. So for the sake of the young master, please wait a bit more."

Ah Ye... I frowned and asked crossly, "Not yet still? How long has it been already?"

"Less than half a year," that damned Kyle reminded.

Half a year was indeed too short. No mistakes were allowed with Ah Ye, so even a decade of learning would not be enough.

"Ri Xiang—Ah, no, no, Sun Emperor, just listen to me!" An Te Qi waved his hands around, so excited that he could fly, as if he did not feel the murderous intent around him grow stronger and heavier.

Why is this guy getting crazier each day? Yet I can't replace him... *I growled angrily, "I don't want to listen to you!"*

"It's about Ah Ye!"

"... Go ahead."



"I'm guessing you won't need a drink?"

Father Alex brought over a tray with a coffee pot and two cups, and then smiled at me as he said, "But if you have a needle for drawing blood, I can also provide you with such drinks."

I smiled bitterly and tactfully responded, "I am not very used to conversing with someone while drinking their blood."

Although I have done it before.

Alex laughed lightly. "That is true; if I had steak for lunch, I wouldn't want to see the cow first."

However, as soon as he finished talking, the “steak” calmly sat down beside the vampire and started brewing coffee. The room was immediately filled with the coffee’s strong aroma.

Father Alex was sitting beside me, and the smiling Father Yue was sitting across from me. Normally, it would have been enjoyable to chat over coffee with these two, even if they were priests.

But at the moment, I could only find it ridiculously bizarre. As a spy, how did I end up sitting down to have coffee with the target of my investigation?

“I thought Dark Sun had come,” Father Yue said as he looked at me with interest, “I hadn’t imagined it would actually be you.”

Hearing this, I suddenly remembered that Father Yue knew that the young master was Dark Sun. *Then does Father Alex know?*

“I know,” Alex stated without warning, yet he remained calm as he picked up the coffee pot and filtered the boiled coffee into the cups.

It took me a moment before I could respond. *But, but how did he know? Was it my expression that revealed something... No, I was not particularly surprised just now. Although the young master always tells me that my eye brows or lips curved by a few millimeters, I do not believe there are many people with the ability to detect a few millimeters change on someone’s face.*

Moreover, even if my expression did change, could one so easily guess that I was thinking about the young master?

“What do you know... Ah! Is it about Ah Ye?” Father Yue concluded before he finished his question. As Alex handed him the coffee, he grinned and said, “Alex does indeed know about Ah Ye, but it has nothing to do with me. If the high levels of the Church know, why would he not?”

I asked calmly, “So Father Alex is a high level of the Church?”

The other two momentarily froze, before Father Alex gave Father Yue a helpless look.

“Ah! Oh no!” Father Yue said apologetically, “I’m sorry, Alex, but Charles seems to have this special power that makes people want to tell him a lot of things.”

Father Alex had already regained his composure as he responded, “You’ve told me that before. It does seem that way at the moment. Such an unfathomable power, isn’t it?”

All Elysees butlers have this unfathomable power to some extent.

After finally receiving some useful information, I asked persistently, “Father Alex, who are you?”

Alex sipped his coffee helplessly and under Father Yue’s amused expression, he sighed. “Actually, I’m a spare.”

Spare? I asked in confusion, “A spare for what?”

Alex smiled slightly and said, "A spare for Sin."

Sin's... I slightly opened my mouth but did not know what to further ask, especially since Father Yue was currently looking at Alex with an expression of pity...

Alex glanced at Father Yue and the latter gave him a smile. He then went on, saying, "Around a hundred years ago, there was an unimaginably strong 'Sin.' It was said that he had really caught E.X. then, but E.X. later escaped."

A hundred years ago? Was it the time that X went without a word for many years and left the mansion to me? His wordless farewell was because he had been captured? Or perhaps I am mistaken, since "around a hundred years" is too vague.

Alex indifferently described, "Although incredibly strong, the Sin at that time was still human after all, and would die of old age. As a result, the Church had always wanted to train successors that could match up to him. However, they were unsuccessful from beginning to end. At last, they decided that only that Sin could reach that level, so they—"

"Cloned?" I immediately blurted out. With the young master as an example, this was the first thing that instantly came to mind.

Alex looked at me curiously and said, "No, even now, clones have not been able to overcome the flaw of being unintelligent, much less a hundred years ago."

Ah... That is indeed true. The young master had mentioned this before as well. DSII was also controlled using a microchip, so DSII was technically a robot that was modified from the young master's clone—*Although I have always thought that DSII is more human than many actual humans.*

"I was mistaken." I nodded to gesture for him to proceed.

"They simply thought that a son would do as well as the father, so perhaps this kind of power could be inherited." Alex laughed. "So they used artificial insemination. But not all children are like their father, so there would be many candidates. They would pick the strongest one among the children to become Sin, and the rest—like me—would become spares."

I understood now, and surmised, "So you are Sin's brother, and he sent you here to get close to the young master..."

"No, no!" Father Alex stopped me and chuckled. "In order to prevent rebellions and the like, spares are excluded from the Sin Elimination Committee. It seems that there were some precedents in the past. And saying that I am his brother not quite accurate either. In reality, I've only seen him once from afar; all candidates received separate training."

I remained silent for a while, as I could not find any gaps in his story. Furthermore, Father Yue was also present and had not refuted at all. *Perhaps his statement of being a "spare" is true?*

However, even if there was an explanation behind Alex not being Sin,

this just made me even more confused. I asked, "Why are you telling me so much?"

"Why not?"

I did not expect Father Alex to respond in such a way. He then praised, "Charles, your hiding abilities are truly very strong. When you came in, none of our brothers sensed your presence. If it were not for this, I wouldn't have dared to meet you in private, let alone explain all this. I do not have any ill intentions. I simply wish that you and Ah Ye would stop misunderstanding me."

Being monitored? I frowned, "The Church treats you so..."

Alex laughed and said easily, "You've misunderstood me slightly. My brothers treat me very well. Although they don't need me now, they 'might' need me in the future. Yet they did not lock me away from sunlight in some secret underground institute. Even when I asked to become a normal priest, they granted my request. What's so bad about all this?"

"Yet they sent you after the young master." I still could not believe that the Church would let a spare for Sin become a normal priest. *The training alone likely costed them a fortune, and yet the result was becoming a normal priest?* This was truly hard to believe.

"Please believe me, this was only a big coincidence." Alex smiled bitterly, "My becoming the spokesperson of Daystar City was really a great mistake. Some brothers signed me up for fun, and after realizing that this was a great way to spread the gospel, they secretly helped

me, which eventually led to such a situation.”

He said helplessly, “In fact, I thought I would definitely lose to Sunset City’s spokesperson. I’ve seen An Xiang Ye’s commercials before; he really is an adorable boy, befitting of the title Angel. So I let the brothers do what they wanted, thinking that as long as I didn’t get first place, this fame wouldn’t last long. In that case, why not use this time to minister to the people and let more of them accept the gospel? But I had not imagined that...”

Had not imagined that the young master’s identity would be revealed, and that the Sun Emperor’s reputation would instead help him up to the first place seat.

“Please believe me, the Church is also troubled by what the brothers did.” Alex said softly, “Sin isn’t really happy about this. He does not enjoy watching this ‘brother’ of his become too famous.”

I looked at Alex. His expression was very sincere. Up until now, there was also nothing suspicious about him. *Should I believe him and stop investigating him, and spend my time on someone else?*

It would be great if I could tell the young master all this. The young master would be able to deduce more conclusions. As for myself, all I felt was confusion, uncertain of what could be trusted and what was suspicious.

Taking a deep breath, I thought: *Whether or not to believe Father Alex is not important, since I did not reveal myself because of him, but for someone else.*

I turned toward this someone and said, "Father Yue, can I trust that you will not harm the young master?"

"Of course," Father Yue said immediately. "How could I ever hurt that child? If I dared, even my wife would divorce me."

I thought you two never married?

"But, what about X?" I stared at him, refusing to miss a single change in his expression. "The person the Church wanted was never the young master. It was X. Do you want to help them catch X, Father Yue?"

Father Yue's smile faded, and his expression turned serious. He stared back at me, and without any intention of avoiding my question, sincerely answered, "Believe me, I have absolutely no plans to hurt E.X."

I thought: Aside from believing, I do not have much of a choice.



I carefully walked into the hotel, as this hotel was more heavily guarded compared to the others. Since the young master and the rest of the cast lived here, the Church had sent people to guard its surroundings. Despite this, no one detected my presence. However, I still concealed myself to the best of my power, since the young master's abilities were very astounding, and he was quite familiar with the way I moved.

The young master had once said that as long as I was within five

paces from him, he would always sense my presence. However, he was not as confident if I was ten paces away, and was definitely powerless if I hid further than that. Thus, I decided to stay twenty paces away.

Before I left, Ezart had been staying in the room beside the young master. Since he also shared the room with Nitewalker, there was a possibility that I could be noticed by Nitewalker if I barged in rashly. It was also possible that Ezart was currently with the young master or Luo Ye right now, so going into his room was simply too risky.

I opened my phone and checked that no one had called before dialing, saying quickly and quietly, "Ezart, it is me."

An "oh" came from the other end, and then he started talking to himself, saying, "I'm at my high school classmate's place. Yeah, you know, that Angel, Sunset City's spokesperson... Where are you?"

Ezart said a long string of words, roughly hinting that he was with the young master. I lowered my voice even further. "I am in the hotel, but I am afraid to go to the floor where you and the young master are staying."

"Oh? I transferred some stuff to our base. Go ahead and take a look first. I'm not in my room right now so I don't have a computer. I'll meet you online later when I'm back. 'Kay, I'm a bit busy, talk to you later!"

Having said so, he hung up the phone. I carefully thought about what he had said. First, it was "our base" and then he mentioned "room," so

did he mean he wanted me to go over to his room first and wait for him? What did he mean by "transferred some stuff?"

After pondering over this, I decided that Ezart was unmistakably hinting for me to go over to his room first. *In that case, I shall head over.*

I climbed the fire escape up to the floor where the young master was staying and slowly pushed open the door. Looking into the empty hallway, I began to worry if the young master would just happen to push open the door at the exact same moment. However, I then realized that it was a baseless fear, since such a coincidence could never happen. Moreover...

Using x-speed, I arrived in front of Ezart's room in an instant, and at the same time, swiped the door key that I had already taken out. After the door unlocked, I immediately flashed in and closed it.

Even after accounting for the time that the sensor took to read the door key, the entire process only took three seconds. If even this would "just happen" to be seen by the young master, then being discovered would likely be unavoidable.

"Charles Endelis?"

I started, and raised my head immediately to see a light blue figure.

"Poseidynne! Why are you here..."

I had not yet finished my sentence before another person peeked out

from behind Poseidynne's back with an extremely timid expression on her face. This time, I was so shocked that I could not find any words.

Poseidynne being here was simply somewhat surprising, yet it was obvious that she was here for the young master.

For non-humans, Daystar City was very dangerous, and what the young master was currently doing was also dangerous. But Poseidynne was a powerful non-human, so even if Daystar City prohibited non-humans, there was a possibility that it was not as dangerous to her—as long as she did not try to confront the Church directly.

However, that person behind Poseidynne should not be here no matter what!

"I'm sorry, Charles-gēge." The person lowered her head like a child apologizing and said, "I know I shouldn't be here."

If you know, then why did you come? I said helplessly, "Lady Briar, if you know, then why did you come here? Does the young master know that you are here?"

"Ah Ye-gē doesn't know... Charles-gē, don't call me 'Lady!'" Briar said uncomfortably, "It sounds so weird. I'm not anything like a lady."

I smiled slightly and responded, "Since you are the young master's fiancée, I should address you as 'Lady.'"

"And don't use honorifics!" Briar looked at me aggrievedly and sighed, "Charles-gē, I don't have a big brother, so I've always saw you as one."

But now Gēge is calling me 'Lady'..."

Gēge? I lowered my head to look at Briar. Although she was quite mature for her age, she was still a thirteen-year-old little girl. And right now, she was staring at me with wide eyes, appearing indeed similar to a younger sister—a younger sister who was being mistreated by her older brother.

"As you wish. Before Lady... Before Briar turns sixteen, I will not use honorifics, but after that I must, since this is my obligation as a butler. Is that acceptable?"

"No, at least until I'm eighteen!" Briar immediately refuted.

I felt as if I was bargaining at the market, with one of those extremely sharp vendors raising the price instead. Encountering this type of vendor typically only resulted in the basic twenty percent off.

I chuckled. "But are you certain that you will not become the young master's bride before you turn eighteen?"

Briar finally cheered up and laughed. "Daddy said that I am not to even mention the word 'marriage' before I'm eighteen, or else he'll shoot himself."

Eighteen? I though Mr. Bramble would say at least twenty. I guess that over these past years, Mr. Bramble has also started to accept this better.

"I see. Eighteen it shall be then." I asked sincerely, "If Briar is going to

see me as an elder brother, then listen to your elder brother and return to Sunset City, okay?"

Briar widened her eyes at me and firmly declared, "No!"

Saying that, she hid behind Poseidynne. Poseidynne also stepped forward, as if saying: *Try forcing the girl if you dare.*

It would be fine if it were only Poseidynne, since she was a formidable non-human. If she wanted to stay in Daystar City or even go sight-seeing at the Church, I would not have any intention of stopping her. Yet Briar was different. She was merely a defenseless thirteen-year-old girl with no means to protect herself.

I took a deep breath and lowered my tone to warn, "Poseidynne, if the young master knew that you brought Briar here, he would be extremely upset!"

Poseidynne hesitated for the first time upon hearing these words. This made me sigh in relief. *Thank goodness she still cares about upsetting the young master; otherwise, I truly would not know how to convince her to take Briar home.*

Briar's eyes reddened with tears as she shouted, "No! I'm not going back! I'm the only one who never gets to go. I can only watch Daddy leave for work, and sometimes he even comes back hurt. And now Ah Ye-gē too. He's always hurt so very badly.... Ah Ye-gē said that he was very strong, but why does he still get hurt so much!"

I was shaken by the words that sounded so familiar.

"Bri, don't cry."

Poseidynne turned back toward Briar and knelt down. Seeing that tears had started dripping from Briar's eyes, she immediately took out some tissues and gently wiped away Briar's tears as she promised, "I won't let anyone send you away. You don't have to worry. No one will touch even a hair on your head!" As she spoke, she turned around and glared at me sharply.

"Mhmm!" Briar resolutely nodded her head.

It seemed that Poseidynne had grown even more attached to Lady Briar than the young master. Recently, she had also been spending more time with Briar than the young master did. When I recalled how "she" actually had androgynous characteristics and could switch sexes as she wished, I suddenly had a somewhat foreboding feeling.

But no matter what, the thought of such a ridiculous love triangle that flashed across my mind just now could never truly happen... Could it?

Although Poseidynne's glare was very deadly, Briar was too important to leave alone, even if it meant that I might be drowned in a gulf. Since using "Young Master" as the reason had failed, I tried something else.

"Bri, Mr. Bramble would be very worried about you as well. If you were hurt, he..."

The situation grew stranger as I went on. Briar remained unconvinced,

which was not too odd, but why was her response to laugh at me?

I stopped speaking and just as I was about to question her, the door behind me suddenly rattled. *Did the young master return?*

Alarmed, I then discovered that both Poseidynne and Briar appeared to be hiding their laughter. Since they were currently hiding from the young master, they would not have such an expression if the young master were the one to open the door. *Could it then be Ezart? But why would they look at Ezart this way?* I turned around to see the person entering—

“Mr. Bramble!” *Dell and May as well...*

The three of them were carrying plastic bags emitting a faint fragrance, which indicated it was likely food. When they saw me, they immediately froze in place—the same reaction as mine.

We stiffly exchanged a few glances until Poseidynne urged, “What are you all spacing out for? Come in quick and close the door. What if Ah Ye finds out?”

May immediately turned around to close the door. As the three walked in, I took the plastic bags from them and started organizing the contents. As expected, a few contained food, but there was also something that concerned me even more: toothbrushes.

With so many people hiding here, the hotel room’s complimentary toothbrushes would undoubtedly be insufficient—which also meant that “everyone” was planning on staying here for a while.

As soon as I set out the food and utensils, Poseidynne immediately sat down and waved at Briar to eat together. Dell and May also sat around the table, eating intently with their heads lowered and refusing to look up.

I looked at Mr. Bramble. Although he originally also planned to sit down and eat, he did not do so under my gaze. As if nothing had happened, he feigned ignorance and asked, "What? Is something wrong?"

"Why are you here, Mr. Bramble?"

Mr. Bramble coughed a few times and said, "We are the young master's bodyguards. No matter if it's climbing a mountain of knives or diving into a sea of blood, where the young master is, we are too!"

If these words came from a normal bodyguard, I would have greatly admired their professionalism. However, given the young master's identity and current status, I only felt helpless.

"In that case, why is Briar here?"

Upon hearing the word "Briar," Mr. Bramble's expression immediately crumbled and he said painfully, "The child insisted on coming so strongly that I had no other choice!"

I furrowed my brows and replied, "Mr. Bramble, it is too dangerous here. Please take Briar home immediately. I am sure you absolutely do not wish for any harm to come to her?"

Briar immediately lifted her head, but did not say anything, only holding on to Poseidynne's hand tightly.

"Of course!" Mr. Bramble confessed, "Poseidynne promised me that she would protect Bri with her life. Why else would I have let this brat come along?"

I shook my head. "Daystar City is where the Church is most powerful. It is said that no non-humans exist here. It is already extremely difficult for non-humans to protect themselves here."

Mr. Bramble appeared to hesitate. It seemed that he was not difficult to convince. *Come to think about it, he probably does not want Briar to be in such a dangerous place either.*

Just then, Poseidynne stepped up and coldly declared, "No one can even dream of touching a hair on the person I protect with my life, not even the Church! If you have doubts about my abilities, you can go ask Nitewalker. He's also here, isn't he?"

I nodded.

Poseidynne snorted. "You guys have quite an eye for people. Nitewalker's also one of his clan's top fighters! If it weren't because of the disastrous situation the nightwalkers are in right now, he wouldn't even have responded to your invitation a few years back!"

To be honest, the young master and I were drawn by his driving skills, not fighting ability. Before we asked him to join us, we did not even

know that he could fight— A sudden “bang, bang” made everyone jump in fright. As we turned our heads to look toward the direction of the sound, we heard Ezart’s voice. “Tsk, this door’s a bit stuck!”

“Stuck? Do you want me to try?” *That is the young master’s voice!*

“You? Hmph, you think your raw strength is greater than mine?”

“Probably not. Why don’t we get the hotel staff to help us then....”

Everyone frantically spurred into action. Poseidynne pulled Briar into the washroom without hesitation. Mr. Bramble and the other two started swiping the plates and utensils off the table. Seeing this, I immediately helped to clean up.

“Ah, it seems to be working again!” It was apparent from the high decibel of Ezart’s voice that he was giving us a warning.

Mr. Bramble and the other two immediately turned and ran off. Mr. Bramble pulled open the wardrobe and ducked inside. May actually crammed himself into the cabinet under the TV, while Dell rolled under the desk.

After watching this unfold, I could only pick up all the utensils on the table, back flip onto the ceiling, and lay against the beam. Thankfully, the luxurious room had a high ceiling with decorative beams for me to barely hide on. Otherwise, I would not have known where to hide, as all the other spaces had filled with people.

The next second, the door opened.

Ezart walked in first, and it was indeed the young master who followed behind. However, I did not dare to survey the scene and only heard his voice. "Huh? Why do I smell food?"

"It's probably the chicken cutlet I had this afternoon!" *Ezart's lying abilities might actually be much stronger than I imagined.*

"You weren't full after lunch? Why did you buy food in the afternoon?"

"I saw people lining up when I was walking by, so I bought some!"

"Oh, was it good?"

"Awful. The store looked really fancy, but their chicken cutlet was a hundred times worse than a street vendor's!"

As the voices gradually moved from the entrance to the small living room, I did not dare to move in the slightest. The young master's abilities were not to be underestimated. The distance was so close that it would not be difficult at all to get discovered.

"Ezart, you're really not going to stay in the same room as me?" The young master asked in confusion, "The room's really spacious! Come help me take care of Shūshu!"

"Isn't Nitewalker already there? Why would I squeeze in, too? By the way, you should also be more careful now."

"Of what?"

“Don’t you know that you’re really famous now? When my expedition team found out that I knew you, everyone questioned me non-stop. Some even asked me if we did this and that... What’s that supposed to mean! If I even stayed together in a room with you and the media found out, then it would really be this and that!”

“What this and that!” The young master laughed out loud. “Okay, it’s up to you. I’m here at night anyways, so I can take care of him myself.”

“I think you should take care of your older brother first. Or else, how long are you planning on looking after him?”

The young master sighed. “Gēge is still avoiding me.”

“You can’t find out where he is?”

There was a moment of silence before a sentence floated up, “Maybe.”

Then, another long period of silence passed. Although I really wanted to know why the young master would not look for the Sun Emperor when he had the ability to, Ezart did not question any further. It was only after a long time when another sentence was voiced.

“Ezart, why is Gēge so insistent on killing his own father?”

... *His own father?*

“How would I know! You all have such a messed-up blood relationship.

But considering how immoral your previous dad was, it's not weird that he wouldn't want another dad to pop up."

"But Shūshu doesn't seem as bad as Bàba!" The young master muttered. Suddenly, he said, "I wonder if Charles is home yet. I'll call him and ask."

... *Oh no!* I had already turned on my cell phone earlier and trying to turn it off or switch to vibration now could possibly alert the young master. At such close proximity, it was impossible to move at all without the young master's notice... *Ezart, please stop the young master quickly!*

"Are you the butler's nanny? Take your time, I'm going to shower first!"

Ezart!

"Oh? Then I'll go back to my room first. Having only Nitewalker look after Shūshu isn't the best."

I had not imagined for the young master to respond in such a way. *Could Ezart have guessed the young master's reaction? If that is the case, then my inability to do so as his butler is truly a great failure...*

"Ezart, what are you going to do after showering?"

"Surf the net. There's someone waiting."

"Oh, yeah, that phone call... Remember to not take on any missions!"

Help me take care of Shūshu first.”

“Kay!”

Next came the sound of the door opening and closing, then the sound of the television turning on. Lastly, Ezart’s voice lazily announced, “You can come out now!”

I flipped down from the beam, quietly standing behind Ezart. When he turned around and suddenly noticed me, his entire body started and he nearly swung out his fists out of reflex. I hurriedly took a step back.

“Where’d you come from?” Ezart stared at me blankly as he relaxed his fists.

I pointed at the beam and explained, “I was hiding up above and flipped down.”

Ezart widened his eyes and whooped in disbelief, “You were hiding up there? How’s that possible? And here I thought you were in the washroom...”

At this point, the washroom door abruptly opened as Poseidynne and Briar walked out.

“Or in the closet.” Mr. Bramble pushed opened the closet door and stepped out.

“Hiding under the desk wouldn’t be bad either.” Dell stood up.

Ezart said in disbelief, "And yet you decided to hide on that impossible beam? Looks like that brat, Ah Ye, was right, you really are made of natural assassin material!"

Just then, May stepped out of the television shelf in an exceptionally bizarre position and began to untangle his body, stretching out his limbs as he loosened his muscles and bones.

Ezart paused in a moment of confusion before laughing out loud, gasping for breath as he wheezed, "Are you all from the freakin' circus? The people around Ah Ye are all so interesting!"

But for some reason, no one was paying attention to him and instead, they were all staring at me. Just when I was about to raise a question, my cell phone rang. I lowered my head and saw that it was the young master, so I immediately answered the phone.

"Charles, have you arrived at Curtis's place?"

I instantly responded, "Yes, I arrived last night."

"...Are you angry?"

"No, Young Master, how could I be angry?"

I only felt ashamed. As a butler, not only was I unable to help, I had also brought my master trouble. Although this was due to the effect of the painkillers, this still indicated that my level of self-control was truly too poor.

"Oh, that's good then." The young master sighed in relief and asked worriedly, "Has the effect of the painkillers passed?"

"Yes, it has," I replied as I glanced at everyone else. They were all staring at me intently, not even daring to breathe, afraid that the young master would catch them with his sharp ears.

"Where's Curtis? Is he beside you?"

"He is not here, perhaps in a meeting. He has always been quite busy."

I had not actually lied; Curtis was indeed not here and with how busy his work was, he could very likely be in a meeting. This was the "concealing way of talking" that Ezart had taught me. I hoped that it would not raise the young master's suspicions... *But why do I feel so awful? Although I did not lie, does this really not count as deceiving the young master?*

"Then, get some good rest and use this chance to learn some medical skills from Ah Shuu!" It seemed that the young master was not suspicious of me.

"Understood." It looked like I would have to spend some time to "study" with Ah Shuu now.

After hanging up, I lifted my head to find everyone studying me with suspicious and confused expressions.

Poseidynne asked with a strange look in her eyes, "We're hiding because we came here secretly and can't get discovered by Ah Ye, but

what are you hiding for? Weren't you beside Ah Ye to begin with?"

Before I was able to reply, Ezart loudly laughed. "This guy stirred up trouble and Ah Ye sent him home!"

This trouble seems to have been stirred up by you, Ezart.

Everyone stared at me with widened eyes as if in disbelief.

"What trouble could the butler have possibly caused?" Dell asked in an unconvinced tone, "Isn't he just in charge of washing dishes, cooking meals, mopping floors, and cleaning toilets?"

"You guys all underestimated him like Ah Ye! This guy fought me and even broke the French window in the hotel room!"

As I abruptly remembered this matter, I ignored the others' stares and hurriedly asked, "With the French window broken, why is the young master still staying in his original room?"

Ezart shrugged. "Ah Ye didn't want to change rooms 'cuz he was afraid that his brother might set up some kind of trick in the new one, so he asked the hotel to fix it during the day when he was out filming."

So that is the reason.

"Charles Endelis!" Poseidynne loudly exclaimed, "So you're also a stowaway! How dare you use 'Ah Ye might get angry' as an excuse to send Bri back? Hmph! If Ah Ye really did get mad, I don't think any of us could think about staying by his side; we all might as well just get

ready to be sent back! But if we really do get sent away, heh..."

Stowaway... Was the explosion from the washroom just now from the tap or the bathtub?

"I know that vampires can also drown! You haven't forgotten *what* I am, have you?"

Yes, a merperson... I suddenly missed the days when non-humans did not appear so brazenly, and fish stayed in the water as they should.

Chapter 2: My Eve

"Bill, aside from me, who do you think is the most important person to Ah Ye?"

"It's Kyle." The words came from Kyle with no hesitation.

"..."

The secretary gave a few awkward coughs, and then said, "I was just correcting you that my name is Kyle and not Bill. That was not an answer to your question."

"Do you think that correcting me is more important than answering my question? Bill?"

Kyle immediately answered, "Undoubtedly, it is the butler—If you ignore Dr. An Te Qi."

As expected, it is that vampire! I said spitefully, "So even the fiancée is not as important as the butler?"

"... You really are ignoring Dr. An Te Qi. He is just right here, though he is fast asleep on the sofa."

"What did you say? Say it louder?"

That Kyle is really getting more and more audacious. Should I demote him... No, no matter how much I demote him, his job would still be the same, which is being a secretary at my side, right?

I should lower his salary—Damn, previously he seemed to have mentioned having earned some money from some stocks. I forgot how much it was, but I recall it was several times over his yearly bonus.

It's probably better to just drag him out and give him a good beating. But if he took the chance to apply for sick leave, then these documents... Giving him a good scolding seems to be the way to go.

My face darkened as I growled, "Bill, you really have gotten rather auda—"

"Sun Emperor, there is a special reason as to why the young master would value the butler as thus."

To think you even interrupted me—Hm? What reason does Ah Ye have?

Kyle seemed unruffled even now, and said, "I believe that the existence of the butler is relatively unique to the young master. For him, Charles Endelis is not just a butler, but also a 'similar existence' to himself. Both of them are stuck in the boundary between humans and non-humans—"

I interrupted him in a towering rage, "Ah Ye is human!"

"Yes! I was wrong. It was a momentary slip of the tongue." Kyle admitted his mistake with no hesitation.

Unforgivable! This time, don't even bother trying to give an excuse!

Kyle sincerely said, "Sun Emperor, I truly do not suspect the young master as such. The young master is the one who suspects himself. If you wish to punish me, you can demote me, suspend my salary, or beat me up. But please, finish listening to me."

"... Speak."



After the young master left, everyone gathered around on the sofas and continued their meal. However, they looked a little nervous, and would look toward the door from time to time. They seemed rather afraid that the young master would suddenly barge in—*Would the young master really not come over to look for Ezart out of the blue?*

"Ah Ye doesn't have a keycard to this room, so he has to use the doorbell before coming in." Ezart looked around at everyone's nervous faces, seeming to find it very amusing. He sat on the single seat sofa, with a can of cola in his hands as he lazily said, "Butler, any results?"

I was in the middle of tidying up the chaos in the room, and had even found a bag full of leftover chicken bones. When I heard the question, I could not help but remember what had happened in the church, and replied a little weakly, "Yes, there is even too much information."

Suddenly receiving so much information made me feel a little overwhelmed. No matter how I thought about it, I would not have imagined that Father Yue would be involved in such matters. Thankfully, Yue Gang did not know anything, or else it would probably be rather difficult to maintain a simple friendship with him in the future.

I ought to find an opportunity to tell the young master all of this, but as of now I am... one of the "illegal stowaways." How should I inform the young master of such, and yet not let him discover that I am currently hiding here?

Yet another thing to be distressed about. I gave a sigh, and inquired, "How was the young master's shooting of the movie today? Did it go well?"

When I asked that, it was obvious that Briar and Poseidynne's attention was drawn.

Ezart shrugged his shoulders and answered, "Not much happened. It's just filming. That boring director even pestered me about joining in, but it's not like I need money right now. I'm not interested."

"Does the young master enjoy acting in movies?" I was extremely curious. Though the movie was just a front, the young master's "occupation" was after all... *What exactly was it again?*

I suddenly felt a little uncertain. He originally started as a print model, but then went on to shoot for advertisements. Later on, he released an album, but only one to date. Now he is starring in a movie, though the movie was still in the works. So it was hard to determine whether the young master should be considered a model, a singer, or an actor. However, seeing that currently most of his work is still print advertisements, he should still be considered a model?

"Not bad! He finds it quite fun. That guy was good at faking it in the

first place, and later on he had to lie to his bro all day and night, so his acting skills are top-notch!”

This method of training one’s acting skill truly makes one feel extremely helpless.

Ezart tore open a bag of snacks with his mouth, and in his hand was the remote control as he randomly pressed the buttons and switched the channel. He continued, “However, he said that the character is too much like himself so there’s no challenge at all. Next time, he wants to try a role that isn’t as similar to himself.”

This was the first time that the young master had clearly indicated that he wanted to continue doing something. When he had finished his album previously, he had not mentioned anything about making a second one, so it seemed that the young master indeed did immensely enjoy acting.

From the side, I heard Briar’s quiet mumble, “Ah Ye-gē is getting more and more famous.”

Poseidynne asked curiously, “Isn’t it good to be famous?”

Briar shook her head, saying, “Then, more and more people would like Ah Ye-gē, and he’s so terrible at rejecting them...”

She did not continue her words, but I believe everyone at the scene understood what she meant.

Poseidynne’s brows furrowed as she said, “Bri’s right. We have got to

watch Ah Ye closely! As expected, it was right for us to come here!”

At the side, Mr. Bramble tilted his head. Though he remained as silent as always, I believed that his feelings had to be very conflicted at this moment, seeing how his daughter was merely thirteen but had to worry about problems such as her fiancé possibly cheating on her and being too famous and attractive to others.

My cell phone rang, and I hoped that it was not the young master. I truly did not wish to lie to the young master anymore... Thankfully, it was not him.

When I received the call, Curtis reported to me in a polite tone, “Family Head, we found him.”

They found him? I heaved a sigh of relief, but then started to worry. I quickly asked, “You managed to find him this easily?”

If Curtis was able to find him with such ease, would it mean that others would be able to find him just as easily?

“No, it was not that easy.” Curtis paused for a moment, before he added, “However, it is rather easy with your help. When searching for someone, the absolute worst option would be not having a single place to start, and thus being able to search only for a needle in a haystack, which is the most inefficient method. That person seemed not to keep in contact with anyone, but only you are the exception to that. With your help in matters such as providing his email address and phone number, it was a great deal easier to find him.”

No wonder the people looking for him would always come and find me. What exactly should I do to not become his weakness? It is just as well that Poseidynne is here with us. Should I ask for her guidance in teaching me more battle techniques?

“Family Head, should we bring him back to the family?”

If that was possible, I would also want to do that. However, it would not work, for he absolutely would not go with Curtis. I could not help but sigh.

“Family Head?” Curtis’s voice immediately turned stern and he pursued the topic, “Has something happened?”

“Nothing has happened,” I quickly said.

“... Perhaps your young master is right. You ought to come back to the family and rest for a while.”

I emphasized, “I am truly all right! I was merely thinking that he would definitely not go with you, and felt a little vexed.”

Curtis merely calmed said, “I can make arrangements.”

“No, he would not go with you. I ask for you all not to come to blows with him!”

I suddenly became worried. His temper had never been good, and though I had already sent a letter over to explain my reasons, asking him to cooperate would probably be an impossible feat. It would

already be considered great if he did not immediately run away.

“Just follow him. If you are discovered, then show yourself and reveal your identity. Do not mind what he says. If he wants to make a move, then leave immediately, and then continue to tail him secretly... However, Curtis, please promise me that you would not come to blows with him no matter what happens.”

Curtis did not agree immediately. Instead, he asked, “May I ask how important this person is to you?”

I froze. *His importance...*

“He is both a father and a brother.”

“Understood.”

Understood? I was about to remind Curtis that that person did not like it when I meddled in his business, especially by using the influence of the family. However, in view of the current circumstances, I did not truly wish for Curtis to stay out of his business. I opened my mouth a few times, but still failed to say anything to stop him. Instead, the words that came out was, “I am sorry for troubling you.”

I merely hope that that person would not fly into a deep rage...

“It is my duty.” Curtis replied simply, and then said, “Family Head, I agreed to let you stay in Daystar City, but I hope that you can be cautious and stay safe. Please give a call every day, so that I can confirm your safety. Remember not to—”

"I will do so. Tomorrow I will call as usual."

With that, I immediately and decisively hung up. When I raised my head, I saw everyone staring at me, especially Ezart. He raised an eyebrow and asked, "Who was that?"

"Curtis."

"What were you two talking about?"

I frowned, and did not give him a reply.

Ezart sat up straight, and said in dissatisfaction, "I helped you hide things from Ah Ye, and you're planning to repay my kindness by hiding things from me? If you wanna do that, then I'm not doing this anymore! I'm gonna go tell Ah Ye right away that his butler is right here, so that you won't get a chance to do that!"

"It's regarding X." I said so, thinking that it should be enough to stop Ezart from asking further. However, I abruptly remembered that Ezart had never met X before, and it was highly likely that he would not know who he was. I quickly added on, "X is my—"

Ezart said in understanding, "I know, your big bro right! Ah Ye said before, that you really love your bro, like how he loves his bro."

Did the young master say it that like that? I said with a smile, "I am afraid I would probably not match up to how much the young master values the Sun Emperor in his heart."

Ezart waved his hand as he said, "It's about the same! That Ah Ye, though he can't even bear to see a small scrape on his brother, he usually wouldn't even remember to call his bro."

That was indeed true. The young master even made me remind him to call the Sun Emperor once it reached a fixed period of time; otherwise, it would probably result in the Sun Emperor calling us instead.

Not too long ago, there was once a time that three days passed and Curtis had not called to ask me if anything had happened. I was extremely curious—and yet I did not want to call to ask. On the fourth day, his call finally came, and he sounded extremely exhausted.

As it turned out, the Sun Emperor had been busy. According to Curtis, he was "razing everything in his path, with rivers of blood flowing down the battlefield, aiming to take down ten thousand enemies even if it meant losing five thousand of his own men. It is unknown whether there is a grand plan behind it..."

I gave it some thought, and realized that the young master had not called the Sun Emperor for ten days or so. After I reminded the young master to do so, Curtis returned to his regular schedule of calling me daily to ask if I was fine.

Seeing that everyone was nearly done with their food, I took the plates into the kitchenette next to the room. Though the hotel would send someone to clean up tomorrow, I intended to wash the plates first so as to prevent the room from smelling like food.

"Butler, brew some coffee!" Dell's voice came from the living room.

I took a quick look around, and in the end, I took a pot of black tea to the small living room. As I poured the tea for them, I said, "There are only the free sachets of instant coffee here, and they are all the three-in-one kind. I believe that none of you would like it, so I brewed some tea instead. However, there will not be any more tea bags after this serving."

Mr. Bramble's brows furrowed. He did not like coffee, but always had a cup of tea every morning. May and Dell instead needed coffee daily, but on top of that, Dell would drink cola like water, and May would drink fruit juice like water.

"I just knew that there was something I forgot to buy!" Dell smacked himself, and cried out in agony, "I'm an idiot, how could I only buy cola?"

Only bought cola? I ruffled through the plastic bag slightly. There really was only a copy of the evening newspaper, cola, cup noodles, and a few toothbrushes inside, not even a towel. Though we could request a few more towels from the hotel, there were too many of us. It would arouse suspicion if we wanted an extra five or six towels.

If it were just Mr. Bramble and the other bodyguards, it would not be an issue if they stayed here temporarily for a few days. However, seeing how Briar and Poseidynne were also here, and we were also highly likely to be staying here for a while, I believed that these items were far from enough.

I sighed, and said, "I will go out to buy some necessities."

“Coffee!”

Dell immediately yelled, his voice loud to the point I was a little worried. However, the sound of a loud explosion came from the television right at this time, for there was an action film playing and it had coincidentally reached the scene where there was a series of explosions. I suddenly felt like I could understand the reason Ezart turned on the television the moment the young master left, and even left it playing at a loud volume. It seemed that he was not as brash as his appearance would suggest, but rather, he was extremely attentive to small details.

I nodded and inquired, “Is there anything else that you would like me to purchase?”

Mr. Bramble took one look at me, and said slowly, “If it is you, I don’t think we need to explain further. Just do as you see fit.”

I nodded with a small smile, and answered, “As you wish.”

“Charles-gē, I’ll go with you,” Briar abruptly said.

I did not expect that she would say so, and stared at her in puzzlement as I replied, “It is fine for me to go by myself.”

Briar was extremely insistent as she said, “I’m going with you!”

I shot a glance at Mr. Bramble, and he looked at me and nodded his head.

This shocked me a little. Although we were merely going to the supermarket and Mr. Bramble did not object, we were in Daystar City after all, and it would be wise to be cautious.

Poseidynne seemed a little nervous as she said, "Bri, let me come along too! This is Daystar City—"

Briar shook her head as she said, "I am just a small human girl, and Daystar City is a lot safer than Sunset City where we live, isn't it?"

"You are with a vampire." Poseidynne spoke in a small voice, "To the Church, that would be enough."

"Poseidynne, didn't you say that Charles-gē is very good at hiding? Then it would be fine as long as he doesn't show up." Briar turned to me and said, "Charles-gē, it wouldn't be good if you appeared at the supermarket, right? It's not like there are any fewer surveillance cameras here than in Sunset City. Charles-gē, if you walk around the supermarket, you will really stand out. Everyone's heads will turn to look at you!"

"I am not wearing a vampire's attire." I looked down. I was wearing black from head to toe, which was extremely great for stealth—however, perhaps a little unfitting to walk in a supermarket full of grandmothers and mothers?

Briar looked at me and sighed. "May-gē, Dell-gē, if you didn't know Charles-gē and saw him in the supermarket, would you give him a second look?"

Dell answered with no hesitation, "I absolutely would!"

May pondered for a moment, before he answered, "Agreed."

As expected, it is too conspicuous to wear black from head to toe? I quickly replied, "I could change into something more casual."

May shook his head saying, "It has nothing to do with the clothes. You just look out of place."

However, I had already been going to the supermarket and the traditional market for a period of time... Though speaking of which, it was true that when I first started going, it did attract a lot of attention.

Briar raised an example, "If Ah Ye-gē's brother were to carry a basket and pick out carrots in the supermarket, would Charles-gē do a double take at that?"

The Sun Emperor carrying a basket in the supermarket, picking out carrots... I would freeze on the spot, and be unable to move for the whole day!

When I looked around the whole room, everyone's faces had turned similarly pale. The power of this example was really to be feared.

"I am not the Sun Emperor." I shook my head as I said, "Not to mention, I do not have that kind of imposing aura."

Briar said with a tone as though it was but a matter of fact, "But Curtis-shūshu calls you Family Head pretty often! Even if you aren't as

powerful as the Sun Emperor, it's still pretty powerful, right?"

It may be true that I was once a powerful figure, but now, all that is left are memories ... Also Briar, you address me as Charles-gē, but call Curtis Shūshu?

Briar said earnestly, "Charles-gē, you can bring me to the supermarket and then hide well. I'll take care of the shopping. Otherwise, you definitely will be spotted! Really!"

Hearing that, I too became hesitant. There would not be any fewer surveillance cameras in Daystar City than in Sunset City, so if the Church had any intentions of monitoring the hotel surroundings, I might possibly get discovered.

"Let's go, Charles-gē!" Briar walked to my side, and then automatically held my hand. If it were not for that, I believed that I was on the verge of forgetting the fact that she was still a thirteen year old girl.

I looked at Mr. Bramble, who picked up the evening papers, seeming not to have any objections.

"Bri, let me come along!" Poseidynne said gently, and she looked a little like she was acting coquettishly.

Briar shook her head, saying, "Poseidynne, stealth isn't your specialty. Charles-gē can carry me away, but he wouldn't be able to do that for you. Anyways, we'll be back really quick."

She was just short of saying the words, "Be good." What exactly

happened in that year I was asleep? How did the relationship between Poseidynne and Briar become so friendly? Moreover, I could vaguely tell that between the two, Briar was the one in charge.

“Charles-gē.” Briar raised her head and looked at me, as she asked, “Should we go?”

I gazed at her, and finally nodded and agreed, “All right.” *Miss Briar.*



Putting Briar down, I told every item that I needed to buy in detail to her.

“Can you remember that?” I was a little worried, for I had listed quite a few items, and remembering all of them without missing a single one was not too easy. It was a pity that I did not have any paper on hand so that I could write it down.

Briar nodded as she said, “It’s pretty similar to the things to prepare when Bāba’s going on a business trip.”

Hearing that, I felt truly relieved. In certain aspects, perhaps Briar was the one who reassured people the most in that whole room.

“Then I’ll be heading over!”

With that, she turned and headed to the supermarket. She looked just like a normal student walking around the supermarket after class, and indeed true to what she had said, she would not attract any attention from others.

I hid myself in the small alley, which I had already closely inspected and deemed to have no surveillance cameras. Briar had also agreed on that, for she said that the young master had taught her many methods of recognizing surveillance cameras as well as discerning their locations.

With nothing to do, I could only stay alert to my surroundings. The alley was rather clean, and it did not feel awful to stay there. If this was Sunset City, the alleys would always be a place filled with garbage, and on the ground, there would always be foul-smelling homeless people lying there—Or perhaps dead bodies lying there.

At this moment, I heard a ringtone coming from my chest. Ever since I started serving the young master, this phone rang a lot more often, from no one giving me any calls even in ten days, to picking up calls at least ten times in a day. Furthermore, it seemed like the number of times was growing with each passing day.

I took a glance at the cell phone screen. At the moment, this was truly the phone call I did not want to receive the most, but I still had to press the key.

“Did you think that if you left Ah Ye’s side, I would let you off?” The other person did not even start by stating who he was—Perhaps that was because he never needed to state his identity, for the whole world knew who he was.

“I did not think that, Sun Emperor,” I answered calmly.

The Sun Emperor's tone was extremely cold as he commanded like a monarch, "The time limit is the same. Within ten days, if you don't bring that person to the specified place—"

"Luo Ye."

"What?" The other person froze.

"That person' that you speak of is called Luo Ye." I abruptly realized that the Sun Emperor had never spoken the person's name since the beginning. Was this a coincidence or deliberate on his part?

"His name is not important at all!"

The Sun Emperor sounded like he was getting angry. Why was that so? It was but a name. It seemed that he was not accidentally omitting his name, but deliberately not wanting to mention the other's name.

"Mr. Luo Ye is your uncle."

I tried to remind him that the person he wanted to kill was not a stranger, but a blood relative. In the Ri family's current situation, a relative was considered something very rare indeed.

"He is not. He is nothing!"

The Sun Emperor's voice sounded like he was bursting in anger. Should I perhaps not continue to agitate him? However for some reasons unknown to me, I felt that compared to facing the cold Sun

Emperor, I felt better facing an angry Sun Emperor. If he was angry, it meant that he was at least not indifferent to what I said, and better still, he was not coldly calculating something.

I tried harder to persuade him, "No matter whether you acknowledge it, you are still related by blood. Killing him for no good reason—"

"My father searched for him for so many years, yet he has only suddenly appeared now. Where has he been all this time? Do you think that it is that easy to escape the Sun Alliance's search for someone?"

The Sun Emperor rebuked in a burst. This was... An explanation?

"Ah Ye told me that he was living in Daystar City. Like hell he was! The headquarters of the Sun Alliance used to be in Daystar City. No matter where he was hiding, there is absolutely no way he could be hiding where the Sun Alliance's headquarters were!"

The more I listened, the more I fell into deep thought. Indeed, it was so. Daystar City was an area where many economic alliance's headquarters were located, and there were countless surveillance cameras around. Under such circumstances, could an ordinary person really hide for so many years?

Even for a vampire specialized in hiding, it would also be an extremely difficult task to spend so many years in hiding. This could be seen just by looking at X, for due to the Church's pursuit, he could only spend many years in hiding, and become a wandering vagrant across the whole world.

“Why don’t you go back and ask the one in your family, how many sets of eyes he has in Daystar City and how much combat strength he has. If the person he is looking for is hiding in Daystar City, ask him if it’s possible that they wouldn’t be able to find or catch him!”

Hearing that, I knew that I did not need to ask Curtis about it. After all, if the Sun Emperor was saying so and even specifically told me to inquire about it, then I believed that the only thing I would hear from Curtis was a confirmation that what the Sun Emperor said was right. I was a little puzzled as I inquired, “Why did you not bring up all these suspicions before?”

The Sun Emperor fell silent, and following that he roared in anger, “I do not need to explain anything to a butler!”

I explained further, “But the young master needs all these explanations.”

The other end of the line suddenly went quiet.

“Have you ever brought up all these suspicions to him?”

Silence remained on the other end of the line.

I could not comprehend in the slightest as I asked, “Why did you not tell the young master?”

The Sun Emperor finally answered. In a stiff voice, he said, “Ah Ye does not need to worry about such things. All he needs is to live his life happily!”

However, it is rather evident that the Young Master is unhappy due to whatever is happening between Sun Emperor and Luo Ye, so why would he not tell the young master his suspicions, so as to seek his understanding? Even now, the person he chose to tell is me and not the young master.

Thinking back on it, back then when the young master failed to call home after a long period of time, the Sun Emperor also called me to give me a warning instead of calling the young master directly... Is the Sun Emperor not very good at communicating with the young master?

I was about to ask the Sun Emperor if he wished for me to pass on all these words to the young master, when he just said, "Remember, the time limit is ten days," and hung up. Evidently, he did not wish to speak any further—or perhaps, he did not want to hear me speak any further.

I put away my phone. *It seems like the items that I have to notify the young master of has somehow increased by one more.*

Behind me, I had felt movement that had been going on for a while. Turning around, I was unsurprised to see Briar standing behind me, and walked up to her to carry the plastic bags for her.

Briar asked curiously, "Was that call just now from Gēge?"

"Gēge?" I froze, not understanding who she was referring to. She quickly explained, "Ah Ye's gēge. Because Ah Ye-gē calls him Gēgē, I also followed along."

I wonder what kind of reaction the Sun Emperor would have if Briar calls him Gēgē straight to his face? I smiled and answered, "Indeed, the call just now was from the Sun Emperor."

"Gēge has also called me before." Briar paused for a moment, before she continued, "Actually, he gave me a phone."

The Sun Emperor gave... I looked at Briar, a little surprised. Soon afterwards, I did not find it strange anymore. Given how much the Sun Emperor values the young master, it would not be possible for him to ignore the fiancée that the young master chose, unless he took the fiancée matter as a children's joke. However, most people would take it as a joke. After all, Briar was currently merely thirteen.

However, the young master was serious about it, and I believed that the Sun Emperor fully knew that too. After all, the two of them were brothers, and no one understood the other more so than them, even if they always threw tantrums at each other.

"What did the master talk to you about?" In that moment, I started pondering if I should tell the young master. If I told him that Briar had called me to complain about it, then it ought not to raise the young master's suspicions.

Briar tried to recall it in detail and said, "Gēge asked me if I was serious, whether I really love Ah Ye-gē a lot, and if I'm willing to sacrifice my life for him."

I frowned. Asking all these questions to a thirteen-year-old seemed to

be going overboard.

“What was your answer?”

Briar replied honestly, “I told him I didn’t know.”

“Has the Sun Emperor made you feel troubled?” *I sincerely feel like I should talk to the young master about this.*

Briar shook her head, saying, “I thought that Ah Ye-gē’s gēge definitely wouldn’t let me be together with him.”

Indeed, rich and powerful families would usually carefully pick their prospective marriage partner based on how well-matched they are in social status. Given how much the master values the young master, naturally he would be even more particular about the young master’s partner. Briar was merely the daughter of a bodyguard, and there was a ten year age difference between the young master and her. Furthermore, she was still young and only thirteen years old as of now. Any normal parent or brother would object, let alone the master.

“But Gēge did not say that he forbids us to be together. He even said that if I want to be Ah Ye-gē’s wife, I have to get at least a Ph.D. in Economics.”

Economics? I was confused for a few moments. Perhaps he wanted to have Briar help manage the Sun Alliance. After all, the Sun Emperor did not have any relatives, and the young master clearly had not even stepped into the world of business. It also seemed that the Sun Emperor had no intention to have the young master help manage the

Sun Alliance.

Briar pondered a little, and continued, "And also to go for a check-up after my period arrives, to see if my body is healthy and able to bear children."

Master, you... talked to a little girl of thirteen about periods and bearing children?

Briar abruptly lowered her head, and softly said in embarrassment, "I even thought that Ah Ye-gē was unable to have children!"

"Hm? Why would you think so?" Actually, what I wanted to inquire more was the reason she had considered such a thing. *Would an ordinary thirteen-year-old think about something like having children?*

"Because Ah Ye-gē said that his entire body has been modified, and was filled with metal all over. S-So I thought that he couldn't. Hearing Gēge say that, I'm not sure whether Gēge just didn't think about whether Ah Ye-gē could have children or not, or he really is able to..."

No matter how mature and understanding Briar behaved, it seemed that she was too embarrassed to continue further.

"I will help you ask Mr. An Te Qi. I believe he is the person who will be the most knowledgeable on this."

"Okay!" Briar happily nodded. It seemed that this problem had been bothering her for a long time.

At this point, I realized that in that year that I spent asleep, I had really missed many affairs, be it the relation between Briar and Poseidynne, or between Briar and the Sun Emperor. These were all people who were the most important to the young master, but I was completely in the dark about them. How could I possibly serve the young master well like this?

“Charles-gē?”

Briar looked at me in confusion. I quickly came back to my senses and told her, “Bri, you are merely thirteen. You do not need to be so troubled over so many issues.”

“I’m almost fourteen.” Briar shook her head, and said, “If I want to get a Ph.D. in Economics, then I have to start studying hard now. Gēge even said that I can’t just read the textbooks. I also have to take some time to do an internship starting in high school. If it’s like that, then I really have to work very hard.”

Briar spoke with a maturity over what a thirteen-year-old girl ought to be like, “At first, Bàba said that it’s impossible between Ah Ye-gē and me. Even if Ah Ye-gē was serious about it, there was no way the Sun Emperor would let us be together! Bàba even told me not to get too serious with Ah Ye-gē! But now Gēge is willing to give me a chance, so I obviously have to work very hard!”

Indeed, the Sun family was undoubtedly the richest and most powerful family at the moment. Even if there were not many people in this family and the young master was rather easy-going, it still stands that it was still impossible to freely fall in love without any obstacles, for

the weddings of such families were mostly for a certain goal. I did not think that the Sun Emperor would actually be able to accept Briar. I was rather surprised.

Moreover, with how much the Sun Emperor valued the young master, I believed that if Briar started working hard now to be the young master's wife, it may very well not be considered too early.

At this point, I started to comprehend something, and asked, "Bri, the reason you insisted to come out with me, was it to have a conversation about this?"

As expected, Briar nodded, and seemed embarrassed as she said, "Gēge said not to tell Ah Ye-gē that he contacted me, so I couldn't tell him. I only brought it up to Bàba a bit, but I couldn't say too much either. If Bàba were to know that Gēge told me to get a health check-up in the future to see if I can bear children, he will definitely be mad!"

I can understand Mr. Bramble's rage.

"But..." Briar hesitated as she said, "I-I really wanted to talk to someone about this, but I can't tell Bàba, nor Ah Ye-gē. I definitely can't tell my classmates, and when Poseidynne heard a little, she became really angry, saying what's so great about the Sun Emperor. But—"

I interrupted her words that were faltering more and more, "The Sun Emperor is indeed great. No matter what people think of him, the Sun Emperor has created an incredible business empire, and is indeed worthy of his title of 'Emperor.'"

Briar nodded her head repeatedly, looking a little worried.

“The young master too.” I gave a helpless smile as I specially mentioned, “Other than being the most precious little brother of the Sun Emperor, he is also a hero. Now he has actually also become a celebrity. It really makes one want to ask him not to be this kind and hardworking.”

Briar gave a smile, but her smile looked a little bitter.

Seeing that, I squatted beside her to look her in the eye, and said, “Bri, the future that you are walking toward is definitely going to be a difficult road. Perhaps, it will be so harsh that you will regret agreeing to the young master’s proposal—”

“No!” Briar immediately refuted, “I absolutely will not regret this!”

Seeing that she was this resolute, I felt relieved. The young master’s attitude toward Briar had never changed, and if Briar could be as unwavering as him, then perhaps the two of them really would be a good match together.

I asked with a smile, “Do you like the young master that much?”

Briar’s face turned red, but she still nodded vigorously as she replied, “Yeah!”

At this point, I abruptly remembered the interaction between her and Poseidynne and quickly asked, “Do you not mind the matter between

the young master and Poseidynne anymore?”

Briar pouted, and showed a rare display of a little girl’s willfulness as she complained, “Ah Ye-gē said that as long as I am still around, he would not be together with Poseidynne. Otherwise, I absolutely would not forgive him!”

Her expression turned frustrated as she said, “Ah Ye-gē is really good, that’s right! But my Bàba says that a rich man’s kid would usually have a lot of women. If he becomes like that, I-I... Anyways, I wouldn’t stand for it!”

At this point, she suddenly raised her head and asked, “Ah Ye-gē has kissed Poseidynne before, right?”

“Indeed.” I nodded my head. That was the young master’s first meeting with Poseidynne. At that time, it was what Poseidynne requested in order to save Yue Gang, and the young master had actually obliged.

“How awful, awful!” Briar was so angry that she kicked the pebbles on the road continuously. She muttered softly, “Poseidynne says that if I kiss Ah Ye-gē twice, I would win against her. B-But, I’m still too young. Bàba would be angry, Ah Ye-gē...”

“The young master would not be mad.” *He would be very happy about it.* That was what I strongly believed.

Briar’s face turned sour as she said, “But he would want to keep kissing, just like how he wanted to keep hugging after my showers...”

I'm just thirteen!"

I nearly broke into laughter. It seems that I would not need to worry about the young master letting others go into the queue. His private life would probably be the same as now, and it seemed that it would not change for many years.

At this time, Briar suddenly turned to me with curious eyes, saying, "Charles-gē is definitely different. It seems like I can tell you anything, and I feel more relaxed after doing so."

"You are welcome to talk with me at any time." I said as I patted her head. Though it was simply not a dignified thing to do to the future mistress, as for now... It would not hurt to treat her as an ordinary little girl.

Briar nodded her head with an extremely sweet smile, giving off the feeling of a dainty and delicate lady. Perhaps, the young master, who was a late bloomer, with the little miss, who was an early one, really was a match made in heaven.

Chapter 3: The Purest Criminal

"It seems to me that, while the young master was originally very concerned about his body having undergone a significant amount of modification, it began to worry him even more ever since he found out about the issue of his life expectancy."

Upon hearing these words, I turned my head to glare at An Te Qi. If it weren't for this overtalkative bastard, how would Ah Ye have found out about his life expectancy issue so early? Although Ah Ye had asked the question first, couldn't this guy have just dodged the topic?

"Sun Emperor, if you found out that Dr. An Te Qi was acting half-heartedly toward the young master, what would you do?"

Kill him!

Kyle sighed, and I seemed to hear a mutter along the lines of "keeping company with a lord is like keeping company with a tiger." Before I had the chance to order for the secretary to be dragged out for a beating, he spoke up once again. "But ever since you hired that butler, the young master appears to have been mentioning his own modifications less, as if he no longer minds as much."

That was indeed the case. Why else would I be willing to put up with that damned vampire by Ah Ye's side! Ah Ye causes enough trouble by himself. There's no need for another one—For shame! What am I saying? Ah Ye is a lovable and sensible child, he would never cause...cause...

"Sun Emperor." Kyle comforted, "Regardless of what thoughts regarding the young master you are having right now, dispel them! Overthinking will cause you to age prematurely."

I narrowed my eyes dangerously and asked in suspicion, "You don't normally try to intervene with Ah Ye's matters. If it weren't for my orders, you would avoid it if you could. Why are you suddenly bringing this up voluntarily today?"

Kyle honestly responded, "Because I feel like you want to do something after hearing Dr. An Te Qi's report, Sun Emperor, and it makes me uneasy. For the sake of preventing an imminent catastrophe, I think intervening a bit is worth it."

"What imminent catastrophe?! Anything I would want to do is for Ah Ye's bene—what is that expression on your face right now!"

He lowered his head and quietly answered, "But Sun Emperor, the young master will be upset."

"You don't even know what I was planning on doing, yet you are confidently saying that he will be upset—And what is that face this time?!"

"Kyle, you're really becoming more impudent now. The fact that I placed you in an important position does not mean that you are necessary!" I stated frigidly, "Call Bai Lian Yue here. Starting from today, you are to go to another branch!"

Kyle not only remained fearless, he even seemed extremely worried as

he replied, "You are transferring me, Sun Emperor? What exactly are you planning—"

I slammed my hand down on the table and roared, "I just said, get out this instant!"

Kyle sighed. "Understood." He immediately began to collect his documents, laptop, and other items.

Before he walked out of the office, he turned around to look at me in concern to say, "Sun Emperor, before you do anything, please think about the sight of the young master crying."

"...Scram!"



Just as I was thinking of bringing Briar back, my cell phone rang once again. Perhaps it would have been more accurate to say that I answered at least ten to thirty calls daily.

The moment I picked up the call, Ezart's voice came from the other end. "Butler, Ah Ye just received information about a criminal that escaped from P29. He asked me and Nitewalker to watch over Luo Ye, so I couldn't follow Ah Ye there."

Receiving a criminal's information was nothing out of the ordinary. In the past, the young master would often have me and Nitewalker watch Luo Ye as well while he went out searching for the criminal himself—
Now that I think back, perhaps the young master was actually having Nitewalker watch over me and Luo Ye.

“The bodyguards all said that the criminal is the one that wreaked havoc in Sunset City before, and that the guy had made Ah Ye act really strangely in the past. They don’t want Ah Ye to face that person alone, so they want you to follow.”

The criminal that can control people with his words? If I recall correctly, Solitary Butterfly said that his name is Josh. If he has appeared, does that mean Lieder is also currently in Daystar City? Could he still be scheming something against the young master?

“Just go along and see. You’re the only one who can secretly follow Ah Ye anyways! The bodyguards know Ah Ye’s location. They said something like sending the coordinates to your cell phone like before.”

“Understood. I will go and shadow the young master—” Just then, I suddenly spotted Briar and hurriedly said, “I must first escort Briar back.”

“No need, Charles-gē. Ah Ye-gē isn’t exactly slow. If you bring me back first, you really won’t be able to catch up.” Briar smartly added, “Have Daddy come pick me up. I can go back to the supermarket and wait for him there.”

That was indeed a possibility. Regardless of Daystar City’s true appearances, the public security seemed quite decent. The supermarket was brightly lit, and many people flowed in and out. Even if a girl was there alone, she would likely not be in any danger.

But I thought that Bri would make a fuss about following me. After all,

did she not come all the way to Daystar City to follow the young master?

I asked in slight concern, "Bri, you are not by any chance planning on secretly following me, are you?"

Briar stared at me with wide eyes and replied in disbelief, "Charles-gē, how could I possibly follow you without you knowing? I don't even think Poseidynne could do that! For that matter, even Ah Ye-gē said that he has no way of tailing you!"

That is true. I nearly flushed at the stupidity of my own question. However, tracking the young master down was the most important task now; there was no time to feel ashamed.

Briar urged, "Charles-gē, go quickly. I hate that criminal since he made Ah Ye-gē turn very weird last time. Don't let Ah Ye-gē chase after that person by himself."

"Understood. I will head out immediately."

Although I said this, I still hid in the darkness for a bit. Once I saw Briar walk over to the supermarket entrance, I finally turned and left.

Upon checking the navigation on my cell phone, I discovered that the young master was not far from me. His speed was not that fast, so he did not appear to be using any means of transportation.

I spun around to scale up the walls and began to sprint horizontally across the walls above the fourth floors. This was also something that

the young master had taught me. The surveillance cameras would rarely capture the walls of the middle floors, since nobody could advance quickly in such a place... At least, not in the past. As a result, it would be much more difficult to get filmed in this area if one walked this way.

This knowledge was extremely useful for a vampire. The young master needed to use various methods to walk in places like this, such as crawling, climbing, grabbing, or leaping forwards. However, I could directly step onto the walls and sprint as I did on flat ground.

It did not take much time before I arrived at the young master's vicinity. According to the phone's indication, I was around fifty to a hundred meters away. After a moment's hesitation, I decided to turn off my cell phone again before looking around for the young master's whereabouts.

The area was an extremely empty and spacious park rather than a building. While it was not completely deserted, there were not many people flowing in and out, so it would likely not be difficult to locate the young master.

The park had many shadows cast from the trees. Now that the sky was already darkening, I could simply walk underneath the shade as the most effective method of concealment. Despite this being the case, I searched for a long while to no avail, and began to consider the possibility of turning my phone back on to confirm the exact location...

"Gēgē, could you help me pick up that ball?"

I raised my head to see several children standing next to a fountain, staring at a small ball inside the pool with sorrowful expressions. The person they had pleaded for help from was a young adult. He turned around to stretch out his arm and fished the ball up with a single sweep, passing it over to the children. They happily left without voicing a word of thanks.

The young adult did not seem to mind and returned to his seat next to the park's fountain. He wore a hooded T-shirt. Although he pulled the hood down to cover the majority of his face, I could still glimpse the thick, black-rimmed glasses he wore. Both of his hands were stuck into his pockets, giving him a laid-back appearance.

There was no sign indicating this young adult had any relation to the young master, but I still recognized it was him with a single glance.

His straight back exuded a lonesome yet strong ambience. Even in Daystar City, he still attracted people's attentions. The young master truly was ill-suited for concealment. All those passing by could not help but secretly shoot him a glance.

Perhaps it was not by coincidence, but by fate that the young master has taken the path of becoming a model?

I approached with slow steps. The young master had previously mentioned that I needed to move within ten meters distance for him to detect my presence.

With belief in the young master's words, I slowly moved until I was at the boundary of approximately ten meters. Since I already knew that

the young master had arrived here to search for a criminal, I had to move as close to him as possible; if I stood too far, I would not be able to help the young master in a timely manner if anything went wrong.

With absolutely silent footsteps, smooth breathing, and an unwavering mindset, I shifted over to the shade of a tree that was not far from the young master's side. *He does not seem to be moving, which should mean that I have not been discovered...perhaps?*

I calmly studied the other person, now even more certain that it was the young master. He had a hood for concealment; however, his figure and the curve of his chin...were things that I would never mistake! I had even used a surgical blade to cut into DSII, who shared an external appearance identical to the young master, so my recognition of the young master's appearance could not be any sharper.

Why is the young master sitting next to the fountain? His posture did not shift in the slightest. Despite his eyes not being visible, his head did not turn in any direction to look around. He was not searching for something, but looking at something...

I followed the direction of his gaze toward the sandbox where the children played. There was a silhouette that appeared to belong to an adult rather than a child—*It's him!*

Josh.

He was crouched next to a sandcastle in the sandbox. From a normal perspective, an adult playing in that type of sandbox was an extremely

peculiar and conspicuous sight. There were quite a few children playing around in the other park facilities, but Josh was alone in the sandbox. Judging by the expressions of the parents around the area, it seemed they also harbored some misgivings regarding Josh.

The young master quietly watched Josh. After a period of time, the sky finally turned pitch-dark, and all the roads lit up. The parents in the area all gradually took their children and left. When there were no people remaining, he finally moved.

The young master walked over to the sandbox, silently standing still. No matter how immersed Josh was in playing, it was impossible not to notice the young master.

Josh raised his head, his expression initially one of utter confusion. However, as he was crouching and looking up, he seemed to catch a glimpse of an angle that the hooded clothing could not conceal, and that single look caused him to leap up. With a finger pointed at the young master, he stuttered "You, you..." repeatedly, unable to complete his sentence.

The young master calmly responded, "Sit and don't move."

I was not certain of what Josh had seen, but his face was as white as paper as he obediently followed the command. For once, he turned his head away, not daring to look at the young master.

"Is Lieder also here?" The young master had evidently been wondering this, too.

Josh started, then hurriedly waved his hands as he responded, "I don't know—I really have no idea!"

The young master still stood in the same spot. However, Josh panicked further and began to explain as if his life was at stake.

"Lieder wanted me to just stay here. He didn't say where he was. He said you would come find me, b-but he also said that you were the only one who could make sure I wouldn't get caught again. So he forbade me from running, telling me to listen to him and wait for you to arrive here."

The young master tilted his head at this and said, "He wants me to kill you and eliminate future danger for all eternity."

Josh was dumbstruck for a moment. He then shouted, "As if! Lieder isn't that kind of person!"

The young master coldly chuckled.

Josh appeared to be too afraid to retort to the young master. He spoke with great grievance, "Although Lieder is very vicious, he would never deceive me. He said that if you found me, I should inform you that he wants to make a deal with you."

"A deal?" The young master's tone was flat, seemingly not very interested. Perhaps he had already resolved to erase the prospective troubles forever.

Since the beginning, the position that the young master had adopted

was to capture Josh and bring him back to P29. After Josh utilized me to attack the young master, the young master had been furious and had been wanting to kill the other person for a long time. After that incident, Lieder had later used Josh to capture me and the young master, then went a step further to harm the master...

Truthfully, I already felt it extremely unexpected that the young master had not killed Josh the moment the latter had been located. The young master never dawdled—perhaps he simply wanted to inquire about Lieder first.

Josh nodded repeatedly as he answered, “Lieder, h-he’s had this strange power ever since he came back from exploring the ancient tomb. He wanted me to tell you that he is willing to tell you what power he got from the ancient tomb in exchange for my freedom.”

When Josh said the word “freedom,” extreme longing showed in his expression. He was terrified of the young master, yet the person he was appealing to for his freedom was also the young master.

The young master stood up straight. With his hands in his pockets, he lowered his head to ask Josh, “What kind of power did Lieder obtain?”

Josh was overjoyed at hearing this. He quickly replied, “As long as Lieder is able to see the entire process of someone using their ability to its full extent, he can replicate it to use himself, like my ability to make others listen to me. B-but it’s not as great as he imagined, since he can only retain one ability at a time. If he wants to change abilities, he needs to give up the one he previously possessed.”

As I listened to this, I suddenly realized that the young master had not actually agreed to the exchange. *Perhaps...*

"Copying other people's abilities?" The young master murmured to himself. He let out a deep sigh as he said, "These special abilities really are troublesome."

"Y-You aren't going to catch me anymore, right?" Josh inquired apprehensively before frantically adding, "Crap. I forgot to say something. Lieder said this was really important, and that I had to say it or else you would definitely not let me go."

The young master remained silent, but he did not make any move to kill the other either.

Josh raised a hand and earnestly stated, "I swear that unless I'm in a life-or-death crisis, I will never use my ability again!"

The young master did not respond.

"I just want to be an ordinary person! Lieder even helped me find a job as a school guard. I've already worked there for quite a few days already. E-Everyone really likes me!"

Seeing that the young master still did not reply, Josh began to panic even more, to the point where tears were nearly about to fall from his eyes. "Really, I won't ever use my ability again. I-I don't want to be locked up anymore! P29's people are horrible, always sticking tubes into my body and making me take all kinds of drugs. Getting stabbed with tubes really hurts, and consuming the drugs always makes me

feel terrible. Please don't drag me back there, I beg of you!"

I inwardly sighed. Josh truly was as innocent as Solitary Butterfly had stated. At the moment, the young master was likely thinking of handling Josh by directly killing him, rather than bringing him back. After all, the young master currently had to watch after Luo Ye, film a movie, and continue chasing after other criminals. Unfortunately, he might not have any mental capacity to watch Josh.

The young master finally opened his mouth to ask, "They used you as an experiment?"

Josh stared at him blankly for a moment. Then, he answered with a perplexed expression, "I just remember them saying something like exploiting my ability, not experimenting on me."

The young master let out a bitter laugh—*At least, I think it's a bitter laugh?* I honestly had no way to confirm, as the young master rarely made any sound similar to a "bitter laugh." As "Ah Ye," he would never do so, while as "Dark Sun," it was a possibility. However, most of the time, his face was void of expression as Dark Sun. Or, when he was threatening criminals, his expression would turn frigid and his tone would carry his wrath.

Why is the young master letting out a bitter laugh?

Josh wrung his fingers together anxiously but did not dare to continue speaking.

After a long period of time passed, the young master finally spoke,

“Deal accepted. I will completely erase your files from P29. But remember, you can only use your ability in a life-or-death crisis. In addition, whether it truly is a critical situation like that is up to me to decide, so it’s best you never use it at all.”

Josh let out a breath of relief. I was somewhat astonished that the young master had unexpectedly chosen to let Josh live. Although the young master possessed two entirely different faces, he would typically act more like “Dark Sun” in situations such as these—merciless and direct.

The young master coldly stated, “Your freedom is limited. You can only move around Daystar City. You must never leave this place.”

“All right! As long as you don’t kill me, anything is fine!” Josh agreed, then after a moment’s hesitation, asked, “I can’t go out for a vacation? I was planning on eventually going out to find Little Butterfly—”

A pistol pressed against Josh’s forehead. Aside from the hand holding the gun, the young master’s stance did not change in the slightest. His other hand was still stuck into his pocket as before.

“The moment you take a single step outside of Daystar City, I’ll blast your head off! I recommend you don’t even go to the outskirts of the city. If you cross what I believe is the city’s boundaries, I will still kill you!”

Josh’s eyes welled up with tears as he frantically nodded.

The young master sharply stowed the gun away, and without any

intention of fighting, immediately turned to leave.

“Are y-you really Ri Xiang Ye?”

The young master stopped in his tracks.

“Are Dark Sun and Ri Xiang Ye really the same person?” Josh asked disbelievingly, “Lieder said that Ri Xiang Ye is extremely kind-hearted and would agree to the deal, letting me live. But y-you... Are you actually Ri Xiang Ye’s twin? You just share the same face?”

The young master remained quiet for a while. His head was lowered, and with his hood, I was unable to see his expression. Before long, he began to walk away again without giving any sort of response.

Josh, the young master truly did let you live.



I only dared to pursue the young master once I adjusted my emotions so that they returned to their stable and steady state. Fortunately, the young master did not walk quickly, at a pace that made it seem as if he was merely strolling. He did not seem in a rush to return.

Is the young master not concerned about the Sun Emperor killing Mr. Luo Ye? I was somewhat puzzled.

I could only follow behind him as he walked from the park onto the street. Although there were quite a few people on the roads, I was worried about the surveillance cameras capturing me. As I walked, I lowered my head and suddenly realized that the young master’s choice

to wear clothing with a hood was truly the most appropriate decision.

When I saw the young master stop to glance at the items in a shop's window display, I quickly darted into the neighboring shop, and while the staff was not paying attention, grabbed a black cap—of course, I did not forget to toss some money onto the counter.

With the cap on, I felt significantly more at ease, especially since the cap's design had the brim stooping very low, allowing it to cover most of the face... *Wait, where is the young master?*

I glanced around but was unable to locate him. *I lost him? Did he return to the hotel? Should I also go back—Calm down! Do not panic. The young master was just looking at the store's display, perhaps...*

I walked over to the display window and peered inside and really did catch sight of the young master. He was currently standing at the counter to pay for his purchase, and he now wore an additional army-green windbreaker that was roughly thigh-length. The measurements appeared to be quite a few sizes over, which made his figure seem wider. This made it even more difficult to recognize the young master.

As expected, the young master is thorough. I should buy one later, too.

Before the young master exited, I quickly concealed myself into the darkness and watched him pass right in front of me, feeling somewhat anxious as the distance between us was only around five steps. This was much lower than the ten steps that the young master had mentioned.

As the young master walked by, I counted to myself. Only once he walked over ten steps away did I begin to follow. However, the moment I moved, he abruptly froze—*I have been discovered!*

A second later, the young master began to advance forward again. However, he pulled out a cell phone from his pocket to answer it. *So it was actually the phone ringing?*

I sighed in relief and continued onwards.

“What?” The young master suddenly cried out in alarm. “What is Bri doing here?”

Bri? Who is the one that called? Were Mr. Bramble and the others discovered?

The young master’s shout was not small—while in Sunset City it would be insignificant considering how there were howling youths everywhere on the streets, nobody on the streets of Daystar City shouted. While the street itself was still noisy, several people still shot him glances when he cried out.

It seemed as if he also noticed that he had been too loud. He lowered his voice, and since I could only hear intermittent words, I was forced to summon the courage to approach closer. Then, I turned around and feigned looking at the coat on display. I was currently less than even five steps away.

“...Poseidynne is also here? You guys... Where exactly did Bri disappear?”

Bri disappeared?

“You, you guys are so infuriating!” The young master’s footsteps grew more and more frantic as he ground out through clenched teeth, “Tell Ezart to drive to the supermarket entrance. Bramble, May, Dell, and Poseidynne are all to go to my room and protect Luo Ye with Nitewalker. And call Melody to tell her to set aside her manager duties. You are all to stay in my room tonight. Aside from you guys, nobody else is allowed to enter, and you are all forbidden from leaving as well! You are not allowed to call room service either!”

Briar has gone missing? She was an intelligent child and would not have run off by herself, which meant she had definitely been taken somewhere... I really should have escorted her back to the hotel!

The young master hung up the phone and immediately began to break into a jog. He now appeared extremely worried. The supermarket was not far; it seemed as if he planned to run there. I swiftly followed behind.

Upon arriving at the supermarket entrance, the young master began to look around. Then, he entered the alley where I had previously waited for Briar. *Has he already discovered my presence? Did Mr. Bramble mention me or not?*

Not long afterwards, the young master walked out again, his brows tightly furrowed together. I could not tell if he had found any clues.

While he was walking to the supermarket entrance, I darted into the

alley from the opposite side. After sneaking a glance at the young master and confirming that he was waiting for Ezart at the door, I made a call.

“Curtis, how many surveillance cameras do you have in Daystar City?”

Curtis immediately replied, “As many as the stars in the sky.”

“The Sun Emperor too?” *The young master should have a way to sneak into the Sun Emperor’s surveillance network.*

“Yes. While he has already relocated his general headquarters, he should not have removed the cameras that had originally been here. After all, this place is still the largest business metropolis. Even if the headquarters is not in this location, the Sun Emperor would still need to be in control of everything here. Is this explanation to your satisfaction, Family Head?”

“...It is.” However, I felt somewhat apprehensive by suddenly being asked a question in return.

“Then, I hope that you will also provide a satisfactory explanation in return.”

Despite Curtis’s extremely calm tone, I felt as if I was listening to the Sun Emperor’s frigid words. I hurriedly gave a simple description of the course of events. I then reported the supermarket’s name and the surrounding streets as I anxiously asked, “Are you able to see me through the surveillance cameras?”

If Curtis could see me, I feared it meant that the young master could discover me as well.

"Family Head, please wait a moment." After this statement, his voice grew somewhat distant. "Dong Fang, help me check the surveillance cameras. The street name is..."

Dong Fang? Ah, the butler Dong Fang Lei that I met last time. His efficiency seemed to be quite high, as Curtis replied in the blink of an eye, "We did not see Family Head on the surveillance cameras, but we did see the girl. She left the supermarket and walked into the alley a second time, and never exited again."

She entered the alley a second time? Why would Bri walk into this alley again?

"Found it."

"What is it?"

"There is a gate in the middle of the alley. A male wearing a windbreaker brought her inside, then left from another road. A car picked them up." Curtis sighed in admiration, "We still cannot locate any trace of you, Family Head. Your concealment abilities make me feel quite uneasy."

"My sincerest apologies..."

"That was a compliment."

Was it truly?

Curtis voiced, "Family Head, there is no need for concern. I am sure that your young master has also discovered her tracks. He seems to be waiting for a car... and it has arrived."

What? I instantly looked out and swiftly shut my cell phone.

Indeed, the young master had gotten into a car and was sitting in the front seat. The driver was Ezart. *Oh no, what should I do now?*

Click.

That sound is... I stared at the trunk that was now open. Ezart even began to press down hard on the gas pedal a few times without moving, as if sending me a message.

Taking the opportunity, I instantly lowered myself and flashed into the trunk before weakly shutting it so as to avoid closing it too loudly and alerting the young master.

"Ezart, hurry up and drive. Make a left after the second traffic light..."

The voice in front gave an indistinct reply. I was currently lying down inside the trunk that was fortunately not overly cramped. When I heard the voices, I made a great effort to shift forward in attempt to hear more clearly.

The young master was flustered and frustrated as he asked, "Why did Bri come to Daystar City? Did you know, too? And you didn't tell me!"

"Huh? She just got here! I was just about to tell you, and then this happened."

The young master shouted emotionally, "You should have told me first thing! And how could you have let her go out by herself?!"

"She wanted to go herself, saying that since she was just an ordinary little girl, going to the supermarket would be fine. She said it would be much better than us going, so she went."

Briar had not been alone. If she had been, I was certain that Mr. Bramble, Poseidynne, or even Dell would never allow her to go. However, the fact that Ezart had said it this way meant that my existence had not yet been exposed.

"Bri, she..." The young master stopped midway, seemingly at a loss for words.

"Ah Ye, is it all right for you to appear so openly? Why don't we go back and have the others look for her?"

Ezart attempted to divert the topic. Regardless of what he said, letting Briar go the supermarket "alone" was simply too suspicious.

The young master indifferently replied, "It's fine. The Church already knows my identity. Plus, I called DSII to take a plane over. As long as DSII and I appear at the same time, they won't be able to accuse me of anything."

Ezart shook his head as he said, "You can't always rely on DSII as an alibi. Would people really be unable to guess that DSII is a robot? The streets are filled with people that have body modifications now."

"They won't be able to, even with a direct confrontation. DSII possesses all my memories, so he can respond and act exactly how I would. If he did not state that he was DSII, even Luo Chu-gē would likely be unable to tell."

The young master fell silent for a moment before continuing, "DSII is really weird. Even though he's controlled by a microchip, his responses are too much like a real human's. Bàba said that within the near future, there will probably be nobody, including himself, who could ever make a robot this similar to a real human. Back then, Gēge burned all the other microchips and the researchers in a fire in order to cover up the secret of my modifications."

Burning... even the researchers?

Ezart snorted. "Although your brother can be f***ing excessively heartless, sometimes it really makes sense."

"But Charles was able to tell," the young master suddenly said. "Not long after he arrived, he was able to tell that DSII wasn't me, even before I had told him everything!"

Ezart retorted in exasperation, "You've already told me hundreds of times, idiot. Can you please stop constantly flaunting how amazing the butler you found is?"

"Have I said it before..."

"Hundreds of times!"

"Oh, make a right in front."

The car abruptly made a sharp turn. I exerted a great amount of effort to support myself with all four limbs in order to prevent my head from striking the walls. Ezart's driving skills were identical to his outward appearance, and it only made me feel more grateful that the young master had found Nitewalker as a chauffeur.

"Why are you all silent with that sullen look?"

The young master truly did sound depressed as he asked, "Ezart, what if Bri is hurt?"

"She's a hostage, and a little girl at that. They won't hurt her for no reason. If you're that worried, why not ask Poseidynne to help? I think with regards to looking for people, she would be more useful than me."

The young master instantly answered, "No way. Poseidynne is a non-human, so having her use her abilities here would give the Church a reason to open war against us."

Ezart did not appear to mind as he said, "What difference does it make? The Church was looking to pick a fight with you anyways!"

"Picking a fight and opening war are not the same." The young master's tone was strict as he stated, "The Church cannot decide

whether or not to open war just because of a single person. Gēge is more like a dictator. He can make these decisions by himself. But the Church has many people. Even when it comes to major matters like chasing E.X., not everyone believes that they need to capture him.”

That is indeed true. I had originally investigated these matters in secret without informing E.X. However, I had not imagined that the young master had done so, too.

When it came to hunting, the Church would occasionally keep a close eye on the target and occasionally be very lax, depending on the mindset of the main party involved at the time of the event. This was the reason E.X. could even reside in an ancient castle for a period of time, employing myself and my honorable father as his butlers. It was a great contrast to how he was now constantly migrating around.

However, what remained unchanged was the fact that since the very beginning, they had never given up on pursuing E.X.

“But if any non-humans cause havoc in Daystar City, the Church will not allow it no matter who is the source of influence!” The young master angrily said, “Like the matter when you injected Charles with painkillers and created a disturbance with your fight. If it weren’t for the fact that you two were fighting each other without involving others, and that Charles’s status is more on the special side, the matter would have been very serious!”

“Well, nothing happened in the end anyways!”

The young master let out a big huff. “If Poseidynne appears this time

too, and even uses her abilities, the Church would never let her go!" He paused for a moment before continuing, "Right now, it's best not to use any more non-humans to upset the Church. In the beginning, I had only said that I was bringing Melody and Charles here. Then Nitewalker was added, and now Poseidynne as well..."

"So that's why you locked them all up in the hotel room? I guess that's good too. It'll keep the situation from worsening."

"It's already worsening!" The young master cried out loudly, "Why did Mr. Bramble and the others bring Bri too? She isn't even able to protect herself. It's so dangerous for her to be here!"

"She was the one that wanted to come." Ezart said, "You're too overprotective of your fiancée! If you just toss her to one side and charge into enemy lines all by yourself without even a call to say you're safe, how could she not worry?"

The young master fell silent for a moment. Then, he weakly vented, "There's just been too much going on recently. It's been busier, so I just-just forgot to call."

Ezart ignored the justification and continued to scold, "Forget Briar, you didn't even bring your bodyguards. Is there something wrong with your head? What do you see your bodyguards as? Are they protecting you, or are you protecting them? How much more could you be looking down on them?"

"I'm not looking down on Mr. Bramble and the others—"

"You're definitely looking down on them!" Ezart immediately interrupted. His tone was even indignant as he said, "And the bodyguards are being abandoned at home because following their master is too dangerous. F***ing hell! If I was your bodyguard, I would just quit my job! And why? Because you'd be treating me like a freeloader!"

The young master remained quiet.

"Your terrible trait of trying to carry everything on your shoulders is something that will never change!"

The young master finally opened his mouth to quietly defend, "I did change. I asked you to stay back and help me."

Ezart's voice finally softened somewhat upon hearing these words. "All right! I guess you did change a tiny bit."

"Turn right."

Another sudden turn. I began to wonder if it was perhaps not a problem with Ezart's driving skills, but rather an issue with the timing of the young master's cues.

"Stop."

The instant the command was voiced, the car was sharply braked. This time, I was extremely certain that the timing of the young master's prompts was more concerning than Ezart's driving ability.

After the car's engine was turned off, I stealthily opened the trunk a crack to see the young master and Ezart leave the car. There seemed to be a hotel in front of us, but with my limited vision, I could only see half of a large entrance. The doors were highly luxurious and not at all lacking in elegance. It was a hotel that was at least four or five stars.

Ezart tossed the car keys at the young valet staff, who furrowed his brows but cheerfully and respectfully inquired, "May I inquire if you are lodging here?"

He was likely expecting a tip for the valet parking. I had the strong urge to dash forward and help the young master pay.

The young master's back was facing me, making it impossible to see his expression. He replied simply, "Looking for someone."

The young valet staff unexpectedly started in alarm and hurriedly answered, "Understood, I will help you park your car immediately." He took the keys and immediately headed over to drive the car... *Why is he in such a rush?*

With no other option, I could only make a split-second decision to open the trunk and use x-speed to dart backwards, charging past the car lane in front of the hotel and hiding behind a statue decorating the courtyard.

My heart was racing so quickly that it felt as if it would jump straight out of my chest. I made sure to wait several seconds before turning around to glance at the young master just in time to see Ezart spin around and ask the young master, "What do you want to do?"

“They dared to touch my Bri!” The young master’s voice was beyond furious. “No matter who it is, I’m going to make them pay!”

Chapter 4: That Which Hides in the Darkness...

"Ah Yan..."

*"It's Sun Emperor!" I furiously glared at the other person. One of the two secretaries is impudent after staying for so long, while the other, though he obeys commands, is impolite because he lacks the ability to differentiate personal and professional matters. Neither of them **is** satisfactory!*

Bai Lian Yue said in a grieved voice, "I simply wanted to ask what you wanted to eat for dinner."

"You won't be here by dinnertime. I'm going to have you go over to Ah Ye later."

"Did you request for me to come here just to dispatch me to your younger brother's side—" Bai Lian Yue immediately burst out. However, he realized his own mistake midway through his words. "No, Kyle is not by your side, so you wouldn't send me out as well."

Definitely disobedient. But, as expected of a secretary I had personally chosen, he was still on the more intelligent side. I ordered, "Of course. Go handle the matter with Ah Ye in the afternoon and return here for work at dawn."

"You..." Bai Lian Yue's expression fell as he said, "Never mind. You have always thought that secretaries do not need to sleep. Kyle has really spoiled you! What do you want me to do with Ah Ye?"

"P29's criminals escaped. Ah Ye will not just let it go." I looked at the secretary with a frown. "Kyle said P29 is an organization under your management. What did you do there?"

"I did not really do much. Most of it was research-related to see if any of those abilities could be replicated. However, there have not been any results yet. I have already cut the expenditure as much as possible, only continuing with a small amount of research and drills. The worthwhile people are brought out to be used, but there are not many of them. Nearly all of those people have issues. The majority of them truly are criminals. P29 is a failing business, yet it has to continue, hmph! Fortunately, I was able to gain quite a decent subsidy from the government to help break even by threatening to release all the criminals."

I sneered. "Anyone with power would want to use it, thinking that they are absolutely unrivalled. How many people are as good and honest as my Ah Ye, who possesses the greatest strength and support yet has not become corrupted?"

"Yes, yes, yes, your Ah Ye is the most lovable, most powerful, and most compassionate—So my task is to prevent Ah Ye from hunting down those criminals?"

"Ah Ye will not do as he is told." I spoke somewhat gloomily as I tossed a binder down. "That is why I want you to take this film project and distract him with it. If the criminals indicated in there are located, let Ah Ye go and deal with them."

"Understood." After agreeing, Bai Lian Yue thought of something else

and quickly asked, "Wait, Ah Ye's authority is higher than mine in the Sun Alliance. It will be too difficult to hide anything from him."

"No need to hide it from him. There are no lies in the plans. It not only involves the Church, it also points to criminals that are all dangerous."

Bai Lian Yue stared at me curiously as he inquired, "You are really willing to do this?"

I was silent for a moment. "I'm not. But rather than letting Ah Ye charge into unknown dangers, it's better to have him go capture targets that he is more than capable of dealing with. The Church must have their apprehensions about me, which makes them much better than those absolutely disgraceful things that have recklessly knocked a blow on me before. The Church will not rashly make a move against Ah Ye."

"That's reasonable." Bai Lian Yue nodded. "However, why not just have me deal with the Church? There is no need to get Ah Ye mixed in."

"That will not do." I calmly replied, "I want Ah Ye to get mixed in."

Bai Lian Yue's eyes widened. I could understand his shock. If it weren't for An Te Qi's report, I definitely would never have allowed Ah Ye to get involved in any trouble—

"You...you are definitely not Ah Yan. Who are you? You dare to disguise yourself as the Sun Emperor?!"

"..."



"Another hotel. Why can't they find a more abandoned place to hide?"

The young master's voice carried some resentment as he angrily huffed, "If we break into a fight here, it would be impossible not to draw the Church's attention!"

"It might be those Church guys that actually captured your wife, you know!" Ezart plainly stated, "They obviously would not be afraid to draw their own people's attention."

The young master first retorted, "Not my wife yet," before adding, "They shouldn't have been the ones who took Bri. We are still collaborating on the film. Plus, it's unlikely for them to actually turn hostile. I have my gē backing me, so I doubt they really want to open war. That's why I don't think they would kidnap Bri."

Ezart replied with an "Oh." He then raised his head to glance up the long staircase as he asked, "Is it okay for us to just casually stroll up? Although this is the fire escape, won't we still be discovered?"

"I was originally going to take the elevator."

"I see..."

"But I was afraid they would blow up the elevator. If we cause too much of a disturbance, it won't go well."

I was grateful that the young master had not taken the elevator. If the young master and Ezart had done so, I would have had to stay back to first watch what floor the elevator stopped at before instantly racing up by myself, rather than continuing to follow them closely as I was currently doing.

The emergency stairs were spacious and sealed; however, the slightest noise would be greatly amplified. This forced me to stay extremely cautious. Everything would be fine if I could continue following the young master.

“When they took Bri, they didn’t try to specially avoid the surveillance cameras, which means they wanted us to follow. They might want to discuss conditions.”

It was no wonder the young master did not seem to be in a rush. If the other party was planning on discussing conditions, they would not harm Briar.

The young master hesitantly said, “I think it might be Lieder that took Bri. The person was wearing a long, khaki trench coat that looked similar to what Lieder wore before.”

“Ah Shou? Then don’t worry. That guy might have a few loose screws in his head, but he sticks pretty closely to his principles. He won’t hurt your little wife. Tch, it seems like finding a little girl to be your wife wasn’t bad at all.”

“I already told you she’s not my wife yet!” The young master sounded somewhat annoyed. “Lieder has done so many bad things, yet you’re

speaking up for him!”

“How am I speaking up for him—”

At that precise moment, the young master spun around sharply and swung a fist in Ezart’s direction. With a miserable cry, a person heavily crashed into the wall and collapsed nearby...

Ezart remained in the same upright standing position, staring in disbelief at the figure that had appeared only after being knocked down. He roared out indignantly, “Invisibility? That’s breaking the rules!”

“That’s why I hate these kinds of annoying abilities the most!” The young master ground out through gritted teeth.

Ezart sent another kick flying at the person, who let out a faint groan, and could not even let out a shout before falling unconscious. Ezart then turned to ask, “How did you notice that guy? Damn, he’s only wearing socks on his feet. I bet his footsteps didn’t even make a sound!”

“He was too close. I could hear his breathing.”

The young master lowered his head to look at the unconscious person. After some hesitation, he stomped down strongly on the person’s calf. The crack of the shattering bone accompanied another scream. However, the victim’s scream did not last long before he fainted from the pain once again.

I should truly focus on maintaining a distance of ten or more steps.

"You're not killing him?" Ezart frowned, "Invisibility is a pretty annoying ability. If he fired a gun from a further distance away, even you wouldn't have been able to notice, right?"

"A lot of people escaped from P29. There are too many that would need to be killed." The young master shook his head and stuffed something into the person's clothing as he continued, "Kyle-gē will come and take this person back to P29. This person might not have done anything bad yet. Maybe he just escaped from P29. Since he needs to run around and seek refuge, he likely didn't have any time to do much."

"Your heart has gone soft." Ezart clicked his tongue as he said, "In the past, you would kill anyone that harmed your brother or the people around you even faster than someone chopping up radishes."

The young master furrowed his brows at these words and asked with hesitation in his voice, "This doesn't seem to be a good thing?"

Ezart instead replied, "Nah, it's pretty good."

The young master glanced at Ezart without much of a response. Instead, he said, "Put your knuckles on. There are others."

"Mm, more ability-users?" Ezart frowned.

The young master's voice turned cold. "No, they're vampires!"

Not good, I have been discovered!

As Ezart removed the knuckles fastened to his thigh, he asked, "How do you know they're vampires?"

"Their style of movement and hiding places are very similar to Charles'." The young master then let out a "hmp" as he added, "But they're much worse than Charles!"

... So the vampires the young master is talking about do not include me?

Just after Ezart put his pair of knuckles on, a mass of shadows descended from the ceiling. There were approximately a dozen or so people total. They did not wear the "standard vampire outfits," instead sporting simple black clothing. However, the fangs at the corners of their mouths indicated they were indeed vampires.

"Didn't you say this city doesn't have non-humans?" Ezart growled, "What are those then? Humans with teeth modifications?"

The young master did not respond, only murmuring, "As expected, it wasn't the Church that kidnapped Bri. But who dispatched so many vampires?"

Ezart slammed his knuckles together with a resounding clang as he shouted, "Who cares! Anyways, we need to wait until we snap their legs first. Then we can find your wife and take our time asking the questions."

The young master did not reply any more, simply extending his silver claws without a sound.

Compared to Ezart and the young master, these members of my race were not quite powerful enough. Based on the color of their blood ability, I doubted their generation number was very low. They would have to spend a tremendous amount of effort and many years in order to become truly powerful vampires. This was perhaps the reason they had been hired by humans.

The young master's slide steps made all these vampires stare at him in astonishment, almost in disbelief at their own eyes. In that moment of shock, the young master grabbed one of the vampires' heads and slammed it strongly into the wall. With a bang, a large section of the wall fell off, and the vampire weakly slid down onto the floor, no longer showing any signs of movement.

Ezart raised an eyebrow and commented, "You trying to kill them?"

"They're vampires. If you don't hit a bit harder, they'll run away when we go up and look for Bri later."

"Oh!" As soon as Ezart replied, his fists smashed into another vampire's stomach, nearly causing them to vomit.

That is hitting too hard... They might die. I felt some sympathy. Perhaps it was my own resilience that had given the young master the impression that vampires could endure such severe damage?

However, I was a pureborn vampire, of the fifth generation as well.

While my age was on the lower side, I possessed an innate superiority. These vampires that were many generations higher were likely nowhere as resilient.

Truthfully, the scene of their fight with the young master and Ezart was too tragic to describe with words. It was not a fight; it was a purely single-sided massacre... and the side with smaller numbers was beating the side with greater numbers.

"Stop, stop! No more fighting, I'll speak! I'll tell you everything!" The final vampire fell to the ground and stuttered in terror, "The hostage is on the highest floor and is n-not injured!"

The young master nodded and reached out a hand to grab the vampire's head, slamming it down onto the ground with a loud bang. The vampire's skull surprisingly did not burst. *Perhaps... it is the empty emergency staircase that is amplifying the sound.*

"Ezart, don't put your knuckles away. The situation is getting stranger." The young master glanced around the floor covered in vampires with an expression of doubt and suspicion. However, he shook his head and said, "Forget it, let's just go rescue Bri first."

"O.K."

While the young master had been bickering with Ezart along the way, he was finally unable to continue joking now that they were nearing their destination. Instead, he anxiously charged up in a rush, kicking open the fire escape doors upon arriving at the entrance. The strike forced the sturdy double doors to hang limply, rocking on each side.

I did not dare to enter the brightly lit corridor, and instead hid inside the stairwell to stealthily watch the young master. He did not hold any misgivings with regards to which room he should enter as he walked straight toward his target. The moment he left my range of vision, a loud bang echoed out, indicating that the young master had likely used his foot to kick open the door as he had previously.

Thinking that he should have already entered the room, I gathered the courage to step out into the bright hallway that offered no protection and discovered that this was probably a "presidential suite." There was nothing along this corridor aside from the elevator and a large, hinged door. It was an extremely elegant wooden door that even sported an old-fashioned lock with a keyhole. This was also the reason the young master could kick open the door.

"Bri!"

Upon hearing the young master's shout without being able to see what was occurring, I abandoned my concerns of being discovered and stealthily walked over to the door. Ezart was standing at the entrance.

"Ezart, this is Charles." I spoke in hushed tones, "Do not move. I require your assistance to cover me."

The other person froze, then purposely knocked his fists together to emit a sonorous clang, taking the opportunity to answer, "Don't speak, Ah Ye will notice!"

I pinched his back to indicate that I understood, then secretly stole a

look inside the room to survey the situation.

“Ah Ye-gē, I’m sorry...”

Briar stood next to the sofa, too timid to raise her head. However, she did not appear to be injured, and a wave of relief instantly washed over me.

“It’s O.K. Bri, don’t move.”

Briar looked at up the young master in bewilderment.

The young master coldly inquired, “What exactly are you planning? Taking Briar and hiring those weak vampires to block my way. Those vampires had absolutely no intention of hurting me!”

Just then, I finally noticed that there was another person sitting on the sofa. His back was facing the doorway, so that all I could see was his hair and collar—the collar of a khaki trench coat.

The other person did not reply. Instead, Briar’s eyes widened in great astonishment. She turned to glance at the man, then shifted her gaze back onto the young master as she asked, “Ah Ye-gē, didn’t you ask him to come pick me up after finding out that I had snuck into Daystar City?”

“What?” The young master replied in exasperation, “Why would I send *him* to pick you up? Bri, have you lost your mind? You would just walk away with anyone?”

Briar froze, shame coloring her expression. However, it vanished in a flash, and was followed by a look of understanding as she responded in an upset voice, "Oh, right, Ah Ye-gē is fighting with Gēgē right now, so you wouldn't have asked him to pick me up. I forgot."

Regardless of whether the young master was fighting with the Sun Emperor or not, he would never have sent Lieder to fetch Bri. *Bri, what exactly do your words mean?*

The young master evidently did not understand either. He stared blankly at the trench coat-clothed man whose back still faced him. After a moment of contemplation, he unexpectedly used a commanding tone to utter, "Stand up."

The other person really did stand up, to my disbelief. *Is Lieder such an obedient person?*

"Turn around and look at me." The young master gave another order.

The man once again obeyed, turning to face the young the master. However, it was unexpectedly—

Mr. Kyle!

Mr. Kyle always wore a well-ironed suit, as he was currently wearing. He had simply added an additional khaki trench coat over it. His expression seemed somewhat helpless.

At this point in time, I finally understood why Briar had quietly followed him away, as well as why she had been taken aback by the young master's rebukes. If it had been Mr. Kyle, even I would not

have harbored any suspicions, let alone Briar.

The young master's face was extremely unsightly, yet he did not appear surprised. He had likely realized who it was when he had used a commanding tone to speak.

"Kyle-gē, was it Gēgē who sent you here... Oh no! Shūshu!"

The young master dashed forward to pick Briar up, then shouted, "Ezart, we're leaving!"

Mr. Kyle opened his mouth to warn, "It is too late, Young Master."

The young master did not look back as he answered, "It is not too late. Melody and the others are all there. Don't underestimate my people."

Mr. Kyle slowly stated, "Young Master, your people all belong to the Sun Emperor. They have no way of disobeying him."

The young master finally stopped and spun around to glare at Kyle. He simply emphasized once more, "You underestimate my people."

Mr. Kyle did not respond further. Although his expression did not shift much, it was evident that he did not agree with the young master's words.

"Why does Gēgē want to kill Luo Ye so badly?" The young master furiously shouted, "Why is he unwilling to meet him even once? If he agreed to meet and talk a bit, I wouldn't care what happens after!"

Mr. Kyle weakly said, "Young Master, I am just a secretary carrying out my orders. I do not know what the Sun Emperor is thinking, but I will pass your request onto the Sun Emperor."

The young master angrily answered, "Don't pass it onto him! Gēgē wouldn't listen to you. Tell him to pick up my call and hear me out!" Then, he turned to leave without stopping.

Mr. Kyle loudly shouted, "Young Master, you can leave Briar here. I will take responsibility for her safety."

The young master did not pay him any mind, nor did he let Briar go as he walked straight out the door.

Not good! I had absolutely no time to flee. Just then, Ezart took a step backwards to push the large shuddering door open. On the outside, it appeared as if he was helping to open the door for the young master. However, I immediately understood his intent and hid behind the door, even going as far as temporarily holding my breath—I had not forgotten that invisible person's fate.

As the young master walked past, he spoke in a low voice, "Bri, hold on tightly. I run very fast, so it may be a rough ride."

Briar replied with an "Mm" before quietly apologizing, "Sorry, Ah Ye-gē. I caused you trouble."

The young master simply rubbed her head as he ran and softly said, "Don't worry, it's fine as long as you're unharmed."

Ezart huffed in exasperation, "If you guys continue flirting over here, your uncle might be so long dead that his bones could be used as drumsticks!"

"As if!" The young master replied in a vexed voice, "Anyone 'dealt with' by Gēgē won't even have bone ash left, so there's no way there would be bones to play on a drum with!"

Ezart was struck speechless.

Despite the two continuing to ceaselessly throw jabs at each other, their steps were extremely swift. They bounded out of the room and charged directly into the elevator. During this period, the young master's expression remained wooden and frigid. If not for Ezart's words constantly easing the tension, the young master's appearance might even have frightened Briar.

The current young master... was likely at least halfway to Dark Sun's frame of mind. It was as clear as day to me.

Just now, when the young master passed by me, there was merely a door between us... Perhaps due to the fact that he was focused on Briar, or because he was anxious over Luo Ye's situation, or possibly as a result of the door's aid... I decided to attempt decreasing the distance between us to five steps as I tailed behind. This allowed me to see the young master's facial expression more clearly.

The young master was indeed correct.

I am an assassin.

Chapter 5: Red Bowties

"An Te Qi reported that he found something critical."

That damn Bai Lian Yue just kept staring at me with a dubious expression on his face, not caring at all about what I was saying. It was as if he was still wondering if I really was the Sun Emperor or not.

"If you keep staring at me with that suspecting look, I'll—"

Bai Lian Yue raised his chin. "You'll what? Have Dark Sun kill me?"

Dark Sun... I roared in anger, "What are you blabbing about? Even if I wanted to kill you, I wouldn't make Ah Ye do it. I'll call the adjudication squad in here right now and have them completely dismember you!"

"So merciless yet so doting to Ah Ye. You really are Ah Yan." Bai Lian Yue let out a sigh of relief.

"..." I pushed the telecommunications button on my desk, but another hand immediately covered it.

"All right! I won't fool around anymore. Ah Ye's matters are most important. Go ahead and tell me, what exactly is this critical finding that would even make you want Ah Ye to clash with the Church? Such a thing is beyond inconceivable!"

I pushed Bai Lian Yue's hand away and calmly elaborated, "Dark Sun's microchip has an eternal command that forces him to always protect

me. Even if it requires him to sacrifice his own life, he will do so without hesitation."

Bai Lian Yue stared at me blankly. "Isn't that something we were aware of since a long time ago?"

"But I will eventually have to die."

"What nonsense are you saying?" Bai Lian Yue's eyebrows furrowed as he said, "You are only in your thirties. Why are you talking about death? Everyone's expected life span is past 120 nowadays, and Ah Ye is only ten years younger than you. You two brothers are—"

"Ah Ye can live up to thousands of years," I coldly said.

Bai Lian Yue was shocked as he asked in disbelief, "Really?"

"I don't have time to waste telling you lies!"

Kyle would never ask such pointless questions! But he would spout more nonsense to try and stop me. Really, neither of these secretaries is perfect!

I pulled the topic back. "If I, his target to protect, dies, what do you think would happen to Ah Ye?"

"What would happen?"

"I don't know. An Te Qi conducted various tests, and each result was different. The only similarity they shared was that—"

When I recalled Ah Ye's "results," I had to take a few deep breaths before I could continue. "None ended well."

Bai Lian Yue understood. "So, you need Ah Ye to protect you without using his life? Is that possible?"

"It wasn't, up until a few days ago."

Bai Lian Yue happily exclaimed, "That's great then! From now on, you no longer have to worry about Ah Ye getting injured for the sake of protecting you."

Do you really care? You're probably just acting happy. I looked at him with a smile that did not reach my eyes as I said, "The fix is very simple. The difficult part is that there is no way of truly confirming if it really was fixed. No matter what happens, Ah Ye will always act if I am in danger, regardless of whether or not that damned microchip is in his brain."

"Having a young brother like Ah Ye really must make you feel both proud and worried."

Both proud and worried. These few words really do describe everything. Ah Ye, what are you doing right now? I hope you're working on your modeling job rather than being a hero.

Ah Ye, oh Ah Ye. I'm proud of you for being a hero, yet I also hate that you are a hero. Do you understand?



I stood on the street and watched the car turn to leave immediately. This time, there was no opportunity to secretly jump into the car. Since the young master was in a great rush, he had personally decided to drive, and Ezart naturally had no way to help me open the trunk from the front seat.

What should I do now? Should I race up to the rooftops and charge forward... No, the distance is too great. Even if my speed passing through the rooftops was as fast as the cars on the streets below, I was afraid I would not be able to maintain it for as long as cars could. Moreover, if I did manage to successfully endure until the end, I would likely not have any more strength to do much else afterwards.

As a result, I called Curtis to request his fastest car. While I felt that pompously using the main leader of the Elysees family as a butler was a behavior that truly could not be more inappropriate, I was still grateful that Curtis was in Daystar City to help me resolve so many issues.

“Understood, Family Head. The car will arrive immediately.”

“I apologize for the trouble.”

“It is no trouble at all.”

Soon afterwards, a car came to a sharp stop before me. The car was entirely black on the outside, and there were also black screens stuck onto the windows to block the sun. The car was slightly longer than a typical car. Overall, it did not have the appearance of a domestic

vehicle; however, it was not overly eye-catching either, especially seeing as I had noticed a large number of luxury vehicles speeding on the roads here during my past few days at Daystar City. A slightly longer black car would not be sufficient to draw attention.

While Sunset City did not have so many valuable cars, I believed that it was because Sunset City had too many brawls that would result in the cars getting scraped or hit by stray bullets. Maintaining a car's glossy exterior would be much too difficult. A luxury car in particular would be the first thing to get attacked in Sunset City.

The other party walked out of the car, seemingly in attempt to open the door for me. However, since time was pressed, I had long since entered the car. He paused for a moment before sitting back in the driver's seat and turning to inquire, "May I ask where you would like to go, Family Head?"

"Dong Fang Lei?" I stared at the other person in slight astonishment.

"Yes. What is your command?" His eyebrows and gaze were collected and displayed a great amount of respect. The obvious enmity from before had vanished without a trace—or at the very least, had been concealed very well.

"Go to the hotel the young master is residing at—"

Mid-sentence, I began to wonder if this person knew which hotel it was. However, Dong Fang Lei instantly responded, "Understood."

Seeing as he expressed no confusion and immediately started the

engine, I decided that there was no need to explain further. He pressed down on the accelerator and charged straight out, forcing my body against the back of the seat.

Fortunately, having experienced the driving skills of DSII, the young master, and Melody, I no longer minded the driving style comprised of astonishing speed and thrilling evasive maneuvers.

I was slightly anxious about the young master's situation; however, I could only sit here in the car and wait. The atmosphere was heavy for unknown reasons as well. *I am afraid that Dong Fang Lei still disapproves of me. Yet he can drive without a word, while I have nothing to do.* After thinking over this for a moment, I decided to make a call.

"Curtis, why did you send over your personal butler?" The moment I spoke, I realized that the frequency of calls I made seemed to have increased daily, just as much as the calls I received.

Curtis answered in a matter-of-fact tone, "It is because you requested the 'fastest.' This specially modified car in addition to Dong Fang Lei as the driver is the only way to conform to your request. Is the speed to your satisfaction, Family Head?"

I was at a loss for words. *It seems like I must only say "very fast," rather than "fastest" in the future. Otherwise, I may one day accidentally request for the "fastest plane" and something unimaginable could appear.*

"I have truly inconvenienced you."

"It is not a problem. I hope that you are not frightened by Dong Fang Lei's driving style. With Daystar City's traffic situation, using such a method is the fastest method."

I did not mind the driving style. On the other hand, Curtis sounded quite delighted. It was as Sadina had said; he truly possessed the enthusiasm to serve. Perhaps I did not need to worry about troubling him after all and should give Curtis more orders instead. This would allow him to feel more like a butler.

"Family Head?"

"He drives very well." I spoke honestly. He undoubtedly drove quickly enough. Moreover, his speed and evasive technique were extremely stable. While there was still a disparity compared to Nitewalker, I believed that comparing Dong Fang Lei to a non-human species that could control water on the pavement while driving was much too unfair.

"In that case, I will leave Dong Fang Lei by your side for the time being."

"Hm?"

"You will likely often require a car in this time. Considering your personality, Family Head, I do not believe you would drive quickly."

"...I understand." I had absolutely no way to refute this point.

"Dong Fang can help you handle many matters. Please do not hesitate

to give him your orders, especially when it comes to combat—”

Suddenly, a loud sound came from nowhere as the car violently swerved. Just as I was feeling astonishment that Dong Fang Lei drove even more wildly than Melody did, one side of the car left the ground—*Something is wrong!*

I twisted my body and crossed the space between the front seat and the driver’s seat. My left hand caught hold of Dong Fang Lei while my blood ability burst out from my right hand to block the shattered fragments of the windshield. Then, I passed through it to exit the car. At that moment, the vehicle was already flipping through the air.

With x-speed, everything slowed down, just as it did in films. I had faintly felt this in the past, but as I grew more used to x-speed, the time around me seemed to flow even more slowly.

After leaping out of the car window, I heard the firing of a gun before I had even descended. The instant my feet came into contact with the ground, an ear-splitting explosion blasted out from behind, a wave of scorching heat subsequently sweeping toward us. However, with x-speed, I just barely escaped the radius of the explosion in a split second.

With Dong Fang Lei still in tow, I did not stop moving, and continued to use x-speed to step onto the wall of a building, charging straight up to the rooftop. Regardless of what had taken place, staying there to play the role of a target would be unwise.

“Family Head! Family Head—”

I used my arm to place Dong Fang Lei down properly onto the ground so that I could finally respond to the disembodied cries coming from the cell phone. I was somewhat puzzled, as I had not turned on the speaker function of the phone. Could Curtis truly shout at such a great volume?

"I am here."

"What happened?" Curtis anxiously asked. However, his tone was calmer than before after hearing my response.

"Our car flipped over, and subsequently exploded. It seems to have been detonated as a result of a gunshot," I accurately described.

"...Family Head, may I request you not to speak of such a critical matter with a calm tone?"

"Mm...Our car flipped over! And then it exploded!" *I wonder if this tone sufficiently suits the criticality?*

"..." The other person evidently did not intend to grant me a score. Instead, he changed the topic and pressed, "What about Dong Fang? Is he unconscious?"

I turned my head to inspect Dong Fang Lei's condition. It seemed that his mind had cleared already. He glanced around without any trace of panic on his face, professionally surveying the surroundings instead. However, anger flashed through his face several times before it finally returned to its stoic state.

“No need for concern, he is not injured.”

At that moment, I suddenly noticed that Dong Fang Lei had a red bowtie connected to his collar. *If I recall correctly, that bowtie indicates—*

“Dong Fang!” The voice coming from the cell phone suddenly increased in volume. Curtis’s voice carried a matchless coldness as he declared, “You should know what will happen if the family head sustains any injuries!”

This was undoubtedly the speaker function. *Curtis can remotely control my cell phone?* A wave of helplessness washed through me. While Curtis was not as powerful as Sadina, he had quite a few more secret tricks up his sleeve in comparison.

“Yessir!” Dong Fang Lei’s expression turned even colder. He turned to face me and stiffly said, “My greatest gratitude for Family Head’s rescue just now.” While his words were those of thanks, his face did not express any appreciation. Instead, he appeared to be humiliated, as if I had not rescued him but rather ruthlessly shamed him.

With Dong Fang Lei’s “status,” my act of rescuing him was likely indeed a dishonor. I raised the phone to ask, “Dong Fang Lei is a member of the red bowtie squad?”

“Indeed, Dong Fang Lei is the first captain of the red bowtie troops.”

“Troops?” I was puzzled as I said, “I recall that when I was

strengthening the red bowtie squad in the past, it was merely a unit of bodyguards used to protect the important members of the family.”

“It is currently still a unit of bodyguards. It has simply been expanded slightly.”

Off to the side, Dong Fang Lei pressed the earpiece on his left ear as he shouted furiously, “Team 2, check all hands and raise the guards. If any person approaches a 100-meter radius of the family head, shoot them dead without exception, regardless of who it is! Teams 3 and 4, all of you search the surroundings for the enemy. If you have the ability to keep some alive, do so; if not, kill them all! Team 5, what is the status of the surveillance cameras? And where did that damned Team 1 leading the way go? They didn’t notice the obstacles set up on the road! You had best prepare yourselves for what you’ll face once this mission ends!”

...Expanded slightly, was it?

I purposely lowered my voice as I inquired, “Curtis, exactly how many people did you dispatch to my side for protection?”

“I do not know. Dong Fang Lei alone is responsible for the task of your protection. There are as many people as he believes are necessary.” Curtis diverted the responsibility completely onto Dong Fang Lei. However, Dong Fang Lei was ultimately a bodyguard himself. Even if he was the captain of the troops, he did not have the main authority. The number of people he wanted to dispatch was undeniably according to Curtis’s intention.

"I want to secretly follow the young master. If you send so many people to follow me, how can I carry out any task 'in the dark'?"

I was starting to feel regret. Just now, I should have simply taken a taxi back to the young master's hotel rather than ask Curtis for aid... Although perhaps that would not have been better. That may have resulted in an innocent taxi being overturned instead.

"Family Head, you are evidently no longer 'in the dark'." Curtis calmly stated, "Please return. If you have already been discovered by the Church, I'm afraid you will not be able to help, and may instead bring your young master more trouble."

Curtis's words were indeed true. However, the young master was...

"Team 1?" Dong Fang Lei shouted several times without receiving any response. With an unsightly expression, he reported to me, "Family Head, we should leave this place now."

The door to the rooftop was abruptly slammed open, and I nearly grabbed Dong Fang Lei to leap off the building. However, the people entering all wore suits, sunglasses, and red bowties under their collars. They were also carrying briefcases with them. The sole difference between their appearance and the typical office worker was the fact that their builds were on the taller and sturdier side. In addition, they were dressed identically, to the point where they seemed like duplicates of the same person when standing together.

One of the people walked out to say, "Captain! Team 3 is here to report."

"Where is Team 1?" Dong Fang Lei's face was rigid as he asked, "Eliminated?"

"We discovered from the surveillance cameras that Team 1 is currently making an all-out effort to rush back. It seems that their communications earlier were disrupted. They have not encountered the enemy."

Dong Fang Lei nodded, his expression relaxing slightly upon hearing the report. He then turned his head to look in my direction.

"Family Head, since the enemy is unknown, I do not recommend proceeding with the initial plans to the hotel." After straightforwardly stating this, he did not speak further, and Curtis did not say anything on the other end of the line either.

I silently nodded.

I was extremely concerned about the young master's situation. However, since I was currently being targeted by an unknown enemy, rashly going over could possibly bring more danger to the young master.

"Let us leave then."

Dong Fang Lei nodded, and with the bodyguards surrounding us, we began to head toward the doorway.

The door closed shut without a noise. Unlike the rooftops in Sunset

City which always had rusty iron doors, this was an automatic glass door that could not be blown shut by a gust of wind.

A person from the team stepped forward and attempted to open the door, placing a small black box on top of the card-reading opening device on the side. Approximately a dozen seconds after the operation, he turned to report, "Captain, it won't open."

"Blast it off!" Dong Fang Lei commanded without hesitation.

The person withdrew a gun and fired several shots at the lock, destroying the entire device. However, the door still did not open. He opened his briefcase to pull out an even larger firearm and fired at each of the door's four corners.

The gunshots were loud, yet amid the music of the gunshots, I heard a different, unusually fragmented noise. Moreover, it sounded familiar to me, similar to—*The sound the young master makes when he returns home every night by climbing up from the balcony!*

I turned my head to glance toward the source of the noise, spotting a shadow climb up from the edge of the building. I instantly let out a low shout, "Dong Fang—"

Dong Fang Lei had also noticed my actions. As he spun around to face the same direction, he yelled, "Enemy attack!"

He pulled out a gun and mercilessly opened fire at the figure. However, the enemy leapt into the air, twisting its body oddly to evade the bullet. In that moment, it was no longer alone—multiple shadows jumped up

from all directions. This location was clearly the top of a roof, yet they had climbed up from the smooth, glass windows of the skyscraper!

Several people arrived in succession, more than a dozen. They all wore black military uniforms, with gold plates embedded in the crucial areas. The most important characteristic was the golden mask worn over their faces. The middle of the mask bore the emblem of a sun. It was common knowledge that this was—the Sun Emperor’s adjudication squad.

Dong Fang Lei’s calm vanished entirely without a trace. He roared out furiously, “Damn it all! Equip yourselves and get into formation to protect the family head.”

How could this be? I thought it would be the Church attacking us—how could it be the Sun Emperor?!

Everyone opened their briefcases—or to be more precise, the briefcases automatically opened. Stored within were two firearms rather than documents. They appeared to be small-scale machine guns equipped with additional magazines below the gunstock. Dong Fang Lei pressed the small ear piece in his left ear and murmured to himself, “Master, the enemy is the Sun Emperor. I require your further instructions.”

After saying this, he walked up to me and opened his palm to reveal a small ear piece. He respectfully stated, “Family Head, please wear this ear piece.”

With a nod, I allowed him to help me wear it.

“What is the current situation?” Curtis’s voice rang out from the ear piece.

Dong Fang Lei reported back, “There are approximately fifteen members of the adjudication squad. They have not yet made a move—” I knelt down onto the ground, a sharp pain flashing through my right knee.

“Family Head?”

Dong Fang Lei attempted to support me up in shock, but his head was instead pressed down by me as I stated, “There is a sniper!”

“Form a human barrier to protect the family head! All other teams are to immediately locate the sniper!” Dong Fang Lei rapidly barked out a string of commands as he simultaneously inspected my injury.

The other teams formed a human wall surrounding the two of us, going as far as to holding their briefcases up to block their bodies. Just as I was about to remind them that the other party was using armor-piercing bullets that would likely render the briefcases useless, a layer of faint white light materialized in front of the briefcases, an extremely familiar sight. The rectangular briefcases subsequently proceeded to “expand,” changing from a box-like shape to a slightly curved, smooth surface that had the appearance of a shield.

A torrent of strikes sounded out in succession, the majority of the armor-piercing bullets vaporized by the white energy, while the ones that bypassed the energy shield did not leave a single mark on the briefcase shield upon contact.

It appears that the family's military force has developed quite well. This put me much more at ease. After personally witnessing the Sun Emperor's armor-piercing bullets and the Church's energy weapons, I had been greatly concerned about the family's growth, yet remained unwilling to inquire too much, afraid of the others' misgivings on my perceived interference.

Curtis's anxious voice came from the ear piece. "Dong Fang, what happened?"

"The enemy used a sniper to attack the family head," Dong Fang Lei reported through gritted teeth. He immediately followed this with an order, "Open fire! Do not give the adjudication squad any opportunity to come closer!"

The sound of gunfire erupted as Dong Fang Lei lowered his head to inspect my injured knee with shame displayed on his face.

I suddenly felt extremely apologetic toward the situation. The moment we had been attacked, I had instinctively jumped up to the rooftop, a non-human's territory. Yet I had forgotten that this place was Daystar City, not Sunset City. It was a place known for holding no non-humans, so the rooftops were naturally not within the scope of a non-human's power. Rather, since there were no obstructions in the way, it was a location that was an easy target for snipers.

"Dong. Fang. Lei!" Curtis ground out each syllable of the name, his tone beyond furious. It was to the point where I thought back to his tone from the time when he had questioned whether or not I truly

loved Sadina. However, Sadina was no longer alive, so what was the reason for the sudden rage?

“You have protected me for so many years without error, yet something goes wrong less than half an hour after I send you out to protect the family head—I am warning you! Seriously warning you! If the family head gets injured again by even a single hair, I will grind your bones into ash!”

“Yessir!”

I was about to speak up to inform Curtis that there was no need but was interrupted by the sound of gunfire persisting in the background. At the moment, it was not a good time to approach a discussion. Snipers from both sides had already begun to exchange fire.

The team member who was breaking the door shouted back, “Captain, the door has already been broken through!”

“Roger.” Dong Fang Lei grasped my arm and said, “Family Head, let me help you inside.”

I wanted to stand up and say, “I am able to walk by myself,” but the words died at my lips, leaving behind a pained hum instead. The ache from my knee burned like fire. I raised my hand to glance at the blood that covered it to see dots of silver mixed within. It was powdered silver. Evidently, the Sun Emperor had a comprehensive knowledge regarding vampires—or perhaps it was I who had allowed him to discover a vampire’s weakness?

Dong Fang Lei's left hand suddenly shifted position onto my lower back. I had a fleeting sense of unease before he lifted my entire body up onto his shoulder in a single sweep. *Your words just now were to "help" me up, were they not?*

Does this have any relation to my carrying him under my arm while fleeing the car earlier?

"Retreat! Teams 6, 8, and 9 go forward and open a path!"

As soon as Dong Fang Lei shouted this, everyone sprang into motion. Three people raised their briefcase shield and firearm each in one hand, giving them the appearance of the special military forces in films. The posture they used when raising their guns was flawlessly professional as they glanced around to probe out any dangers in front.

"Safe!"

Dong Fang Lei charged forward while still holding me propped on his shoulders. Behind him, the red bowtie troop members were shooting fire as they retreated. The number of bullets and the firepower coming from the gun was astonishing, preventing even the adjudication squad from gaining the opportunity to break through.

Surveying the situation, I promptly suggested, "May I request you to let me down? I can walk on my own." *This time, I refuse to let even a hum escape regardless of the pain!*

The other person appeared to be too busy to hear my words. His rushed footsteps raced down the stairwell as he simultaneously

continued to communicate with the other teams through the ear piece.

“Have you broken into the building’s surveillance system yet? Can you confirm that the elevator controls are in our possession?”

“That cannot be confirmed!” A person in the rear group responded.

“Forget it! We’ll take the fire escape.” Dong Fang Lei resolutely decided.

I once again proposed, “The staircase is long, carrying me the entire way would be a great burden. Please let me down to walk.”

Dong Fang Lei glanced at me, then lowered his head like a confessing young maiden as he asked in a grieved voice, “Does Family Head believe I am inadequate? You may report this to the steward and have him grind my bones into ash.”

His tone made it seem as if he was saying “Steward, please note down my minor offenses” as opposed to a punishment as severe as grinding bones into ash. Moreover, while sounding like a young maiden confessing, he was still carrying a person on his shoulders while his footsteps flew down the stairs as swift as the wind... Most importantly, Curtis could hear the words Dong Fang Lei had just voiced.

“You are performing very well.”

I did not truly believe Curtis would actually grind Dong Fang Lei’s bone into ash. However, I was not familiar with the methods Curtis used to handle matters; I could not ascertain that such an action was not a

possibility. As a result, I decided to voice a compliment first.

“Enemy attack!” The three paving the way in front cried out alarm as gunfire erupted.

“Dong Fang!” I shouted in worry, “Let me down!”

Dong Fang Lei pretended not to have heard me—or perhaps he truly could not hear me this time. He simply held me up on his shoulders with his left arm while his right hand frenziedly fired the machine gun. The surrounding red bowtie troop members were also opening fire, the gunshots deafening, and I could barely hear the sound of my own voice.

Do these machine guns never run out of bullets?

I was greatly puzzled. Upon observing the red bowtie troops, I discovered that they would periodically press down against both sides of the gun stock and subsequently fiercely open fire once more. Another point worth mentioning was that aside from Dong Fang Lei, who was forced to use his left hand to carry me, the others were all carrying either one firearm in each hand, or one firearm and one energy blade. I could also faintly spot several people in the back holding weapons that were large enough to be rocket launchers.

When Dong Fang Lei pushed the stock of his machine gun downwards, I paid special attention to his actions and noticed that his suit was filled with magazines. It was practically a magazine-holding bulletproof vest. It was no wonder that their figures had appeared to be exceptionally well-built; it was due to the additional layers of

magazines!

Amidst this intense fire, two figures still broke a path though and approached. Their movements shared some similarities with the young master's. Of course, there was still a great disparity between them and the young master. However, perhaps their weaknesses were also very similar?

"Attack their joints!" I immediately shouted at the crowds. Upon discovering that my voice was drowned out by the gunfire, I activated the vampire's Hollow Roar and repeated my words.

Dong Fang Lei froze for a brief moment before shouting, "Didn't you hear the family head? Hurry up and attack the joints!" The moment he finished giving the order, he pressed his ear piece, his voice extremely clear as he said, "Family Head, if you would like to voice a command, please lightly press down on the ear piece. Regardless of how noisy the surroundings are, the others will be able to hear your orders."

I had no intention of giving orders, nor was I an expert at commanding battles. I had merely recalled a possible weakness the enemy might possess.

"Dong Fang Lei." Curtis's voice suddenly came from the ear piece. Despite being in the middle of a battle, the sound could not be any more distinct, even though it did not block out the external noise either. The power of technology was truly impressive.

As I was still being carried, I could clearly sense Dong Fang Lei stiffen before responding, "Yes, Steward."

“Bring the family head over here.”

Dong Fang Lei was evidently taken aback by this. He hurriedly inquired, “Bring him to your location? But—”

Curtis spoke with an extremely frigid tone. “This is an order. Do you still have further questions?”

“None!” Dong Fang Lei used the ear piece to roar to his subordinates, “Use the rocket launcher to clear the way. No need to worry about the disturbance being too great, just open up a route immediately!”

If they really do use the rocket launcher, would blasting our way out not cause the staircase to collapse?

While carrying me on his shoulders, Dong Fang Lei retreated to the central, back section of the troops while the two red bowtie members carrying the rocket launchers just happened to pass by. The people in the back were still raking with machine gunfire as if their lives depended on it, in order to prevent the pursuit of the adjudication squad on the rooftop.

Perhaps I am overthinking it. There is no need to consider the possibility of the staircase collapsing, as this rain of bullets cannot be much weaker than the firepower of a rocket launcher.

“Dong Fang, is something the matter?” I sensed that his reaction to Curtis’s orders had been somewhat strange.

Dong Fang Lei hesitated for a moment, before unexpectedly removing his ear piece and leaning into my other ear that did not wear the ear piece to say, “The steward only addresses me by my full name when he is truly infuriated. He typically calls me ‘Dong Fang.’ Moreover...moreover...”

He debated whether or not to continue speaking. I also removed my ear piece and declared, “The current situation involves Curtis and seems to be unusual, yet you continue to keep things from me?”

Dong Fang Lei ground out through clenched teeth, “The steward is staying at the hotel your young master is currently residing in. He did not want to inform you of this—he said that if you found out, you would order him to leave no matter how unwilling you were to utilize your authority as the family head. That is why his sudden order for me to bring you to him just now was extremely unusual!”

Why did Curtis place himself in such a dangerous location?

He was Sadina’s sole grandson, as well as the main manager of the Elysees family. That hotel was not only where the young master was wrestling again the Church, but also where the Sun Emperor’s target, Luo Ye, was located. Now, even the adjudication squad had made its appearance. Although I did not know the reason the Sun Emperor was attacking me, it was evidently not a display of amicability!

I blurted, “Dong Fang, we are to immediately head over to where Curtis is!”

Dong Fang Lei quickly replied, “But it may be a trap—No! It is

unmistakably a trap.”

I angrily refuted, “That is Curtis Christopher, the head of the Elysees family. Whether it is a trap, or even hell, you must go!”

Dong Fang Lei continued to stare at me in a daze. *Does he not realize we are pressed against time?*

“Dong Fang Lei!” I let out a low roar of fury, “Hurry up and go to where Curtis is right this instant!”

“Understood!” Dong Fang Lei put his ear piece back on. Perhaps I was mistaken, but the corners of his mouth seemed to be tilted upwards slightly as he ordered, “Open fire! Clear a way for the family head!”

The rumble of the rocket launcher’s fire was at such a close proximity that a buzzing instantly filled my ears, momentarily rendering me unable to hear or see anything clearly. However, Dong Fang Lei was still able to quickly descend down the stairs once the red bowtie troops caught up. Moreover, his actions were not as simple as merely walking down the steps—which no longer retained their original semblance—but rather, jumped and dodged left and right to advance quickly through the rubble.

For a moment, I felt that my basic physical status was truly too poor. A vampire that was known for its inability to die possessed a body that could not even compare to a human’s. It was difficult to discern exactly who the non-human was.

I could not continue acting as a burden needing to be carried. I

focused my attention to first examine the wound and attempted to touch it with my hand. The slightest touch caused intense pain. However, the bone did not seem to be broken, a blessing amidst the misfortune. If it had broken, I would have been forced to wait until it slowly healed. The issue was that the bullet seemed to be embedded inside. If it could be removed, perhaps I would regain the ability to move without obstruction.

Perhaps due to the rocket launchers, there were no other obstacles along the way. The journey to the street was smooth, and we quickly boarded a car that had arrived to receive us.

Dong Fang Lei did not immediately drive away after getting into the car. Instead, he turned to look at me as he asked hesitantly, "Do you truly not need to visit the hospital?"

"No need!" I immediately rejected. "I am a vampire, what would visiting a hospital do? I can treat it myself. Start driving!"

Dong Fang Lei answered with a blank stare before nodding and subsequently starting the engine.

However, my response had been a lie. Even though I was a vampire, wounds still required dressing. If the injury resulted in excessive bleeding, the bleeding would have to be stopped immediately. Vampires could control their own blood; however, they could not continue expending their energy on preventing the blood from flowing out of the wound forever.

I pulled my tablet computer out. This tablet computer seemed to be

used for the communication with only a single person nowadays. After all, no amount of medical research could be compared to directly sending him the information and receiving back images, documents, and a detailed response. There were occasionally clips containing real operations that could be viewed as well.

“Ah Shuu.”

“Hi!” The screen turned on to display Ah Shuu holding a bowl of instant noodles, his hair wrapped up in four or five curlers. If it were not for the fact that I was extremely familiar with this person, I would have likely mistaken him to be a “her” at first glance.

There was no much time remaining, so I cut directly to the point and stated, “Please teach me how to remove bullets.”

“Someone got shot again?” Ah Shuu slurped up some noodles and swallowed as he sighed in admiration, “Isn’t your family’s life a bit too flamboyant? Is getting shot a form of entertainment? Plus, didn’t I already teach you last time? Did you forget already? I guess that makes sense, only a hard-blooded doctor like my old man would expect someone to know it with just a single lesson.”

“The situation this time is more complicated. The position of the bullet is the knee joint. Moreover, I wish for the joint to be used freely after the bullet has been extracted.”

“The knee was shot, and you want the joint to move about normally immediately after the bullet is removed?” Ah Shuu’s expression was... *How to describe it? Perhaps with the emoji he uses often:* 🤨.

I was not well versed in the popular slang that Ah Shuu used. However, I could not deny the fact that there was currently no word more appropriate than this emoji that could describe Ah Shuu's face.

I hurriedly added, "The knee bone is not broken. Moreover, the patient is not human."

"Oh? Let me first see the patient." Ah Shuu displayed evident interest upon hearing that the subject was not human.

"You have already seen him." I honestly confessed, "I am the injured subject."

Consequently, Ah Shuu's expression looked even more like...🙄.

Footnotes

There was also a [2020 April Fools version](#) of this chapter.

Chapter 6: The Silver Pieces of Betrayal

"Gē."

With that one word from Ah Ye, I immediately felt that something was off. The good mood from finally receiving a call from him instantly vanished. With this tone and this hesitancy, there must be something wrong!

Could it be that he's wounded again? That's not right, if he received an injury, Ah Ye would definitely keep it from me rather than giving me a call. Something even more serious must have happened!

"Ah Ye, what happened? Who dared to touch you—"

"No! Nothing big happened, don't panic..."

"You're hiding things from me again! If nothing big happened, then why would you call me!"

"What do you mean if nothing big happened, I wouldn't call you! Don't I always call you at night?"

Hearing that, I snorted and said, "Recently you only call once in three days."

Actually, it's not even once in three days, but I should not say the truth. Otherwise Ah Ye will definitely take it for granted and follow the same duration of time before calling again. Honestly, it would be good if I could hear from him even once in five days now. If this continues...

It's all that butler's fault! Isn't he even capable of reminding Ah Ye to give a call?

"O-Once in three days isn't infrequent..."

I threw the paperweight on the desk violently at Bai Lian Yue seated beside me. He caught it with one hand and even rolled his eyes at me. Then, I inquired calmly, "Ah Ye, tell Gēge what exactly happened?"

Now is not the time to debate over how many times he calls. It's rare for Ah Ye to seek help from me, so if I continue steering the topic away, he'll be even more unwilling to call me for help in the future.

"Gē... Luo Ye is still alive."

I was unable to speak for a long time. Never would I have guessed that it was that kind of thing from the past. How could he still be alive? That year, our father had cast an inescapable net in the area. The only way of escaping that was if he was dead. How could he still be alive?

Moreover, Father has been dead for so many years, so why would he appear now? Why did he contact Ah Ye and not me? Is it possible that he knows the truth... No! Let's not think about all these for now. Ah Ye is still waiting for me to speak. He definitely must be at a loss as to what to do. Ah Ye trusts others too easily, and would probably believe anyone with just a bit of coaxing.

To be able to survive under Father's merciless pursuit, Luo Ye is definitely not an ordinary person.

I opened my mouth, finding my voice a little hoarse as I said, "That person is with you, isn't he? Hand him over to me. I will deal with him."

Once I finished speaking, I knew that I was in trouble. If I said something like that, Ah Ye would definitely refuse...

"No! If you dare to do that, I'm never going to care about you again!"

The line cut off. To think that Ah Ye actually hung up on my call... It sounds like he's extremely angry and it seems like he won't hand that person over. How could I be so careless and make the mistake of telling Ah Ye that I intended to "deal with" him? Things will be troublesome from now on...

"Damn it!"



"You have my gratitude, Ah Shuu," I sincerely thanked. In these past few days, not only had he helped me save Mr. Luo Ye, he had now also given my legs their usual mobility. He was truly a good friend who could not be any more dependable.

"No need for thanks, just please don't continue challenging my limits." Ah Shuu said weakly, "Though I did my best to secure your injury, I have to warn you that pain is unavoidable. I believe you can endure it, but please, I beg you. You should rest properly if you get a bullet to the knee and not go to a shootout! Promise me that once your thing is settled, you will really rest and recover."

"Very well." *As long as the matter reaches a closure.*

"If there are any issues with your wound, you have to tell me." Ah Shuu looked extremely uneasy as he said, "This is my first time helping a seriously injured person take part in a shoot-out. Don't make me regret this for all eternity."

"Understood, I will certainly inform you."

I got off the vehicle and moved my leg. As expected, I could move it with ease now. I was not sure if I could use x-speed, but at the very least, I would not need to be supported by others.

"Family Head." Dong Fong Lei came dashing out from the driver's seat about to lift me onto his shoulder once more. I quickly took a few steps back.

He looked stunned for a moment and looked down at my feet. I calmly said, "I said that I can manage on my own. Hurry! We do not know what has happened on Curtis's end, and should delay no longer."

"Understood!" Dong Fang Lei turned to the others and said, "Move out."

At this moment, the red bowtie squad had all returned their guns back into their business briefcases as well as buttoned up all the buttons on their suits, immediately transforming from a special operations squad back to a secretary squad. Dong Fang Lei gestured to me and then took the lead. I walked behind him, surrounded by the red bowtie squad members on all sides.

The hotel staff came up to receive us, and Dong Fang Lei indifferently said, "We are going to the hundred-and-sixth floor."

The staff started and their attitude became more polite as they answered, "Understood." Following that, they rushed to press the elevator for us. The elevator was indicated as an "exclusive elevator" that was not usually open for regular hotel guests. It was as large as a cargo lift, and thankfully so, or it would not be possible for all of the red bowtie squad members to ride it together.

The young master had not stayed on a floor that required the exclusive elevator to access, since the room that he was staying in had been booked by the movie crew. Secretary Bai must have given special orders for the crew to be able to stay in this luxurious hotel, and perhaps the reason behind the entire crew staying here was for the sake of not letting others say that the young master was receiving special treatment.

"Family Head, have you all arrived?" Curtis's voice suddenly came from over the earpiece.

I pressed onto the earpiece, and hastily replied, "We will arrive soon."

I fell silent for a moment. Despite knowing that I ought not expose the fact that we knew that something was off, I could not resist asking, "Why did you suddenly want for me to come over? Has something happened?"

Curtis actually gave a chuckle as he said, "Nothing much. I merely miss my grandmother and wish to converse with you, Family Head."

Remember that time when you were captured in the cage together with Grandmother, I—Let's leave that for later, we will talk more when you arrive."

When I was captured in the cage with Sadina—Curtis was being controlled by Avexila's childe!

"Curtis is being controlled by someone," I informed Dong Fang Lei quietly, worried about the possibility of surveillance cameras in this place.

Once I said so, Dong Fang Lei's expression immediately changed. His face that could be considered delicate contorted in rage, and actually turned as terrifying as that of a demon. It was simply like a vampire's Face Morph!

I was shocked by this, and subconsciously looked around to see if the others were equally as astonished. Instead, I was greeted by the sight of over ten demonic faces...

Though my first reaction was shock, I soon felt joy afterwards. If the red bowtie squad felt such rage toward Curtis being caught in a perilous situation, that indicated their fairly good relationship with Curtis, and that could not be any more wonderful.

The elevator doors opened, and two human silhouettes stood in the corridor pompously, one on the left and another on the right. Though the corridor was wide enough for five to walk shoulder-to-shoulder and still have room left over, with the two standing there like that, it somehow gave off a feeling that it was impassable.

The chandelier above them was extremely bright, making it difficult to see their faces clearly. However, a strange feeling abruptly formed inside of me, and I walked up to attempt to see the other party more clearly. I had barely walked a few steps before I was stopped by Dong Fang Lei's hand. Even so, I still managed to gradually see the others' faces as my eyes adjusted to the brightness of the chandelier, and my disbelief grew more and more.

"Father Yue?" I said with disbelief, "Why are you here? W-Why are you involved in these matters?"

Father Yue's face was apologetic as he said, "I need the whereabouts of E.X."

X again? Even if he is living in that practically abandoned church in Sunset City, Father Yue is truly still someone from the Church, and seems to have a complicated background as well. I had clearly already known all of this, and should not have trusted him so much—However, I still felt a strong fury that stemmed from a sense of betrayal!

This person was Yue Gang's father and had always been very friendly to both me and the young master, allowing us to form a rare friendship with someone from the Church. I had even optimistically thought that if I could continue a friendship like this, perhaps the grudge between X and the Church could be resolved one day.

However, it turned out that this was an unachievable dream. With the rage from being deceived, I growled at him, "You promised before not to harm X!"

"I will not!" Father Yue quickly said, "Trust me, I do not want to kill him!"

"We only want to resolve the hatred between E.X and the Church."

The other person, Alex, sincerely and honestly said.

I continued staring at Father Yue. Regarding Alex, I had always reckoned him to have ulterior motives. If it were not for Father Yue, the scenario from before when the three of us had sat down and talked would never have happened in the first place.

Dong Fang Lei seemed to have trouble holding himself back as he asked, "Family Head, the steward's situation is unknown. Can we forcefully break through?"

"Hold on for a moment." Despite being extremely worried about Curtis's situation, I still patiently asked, "Father Yue, who is it that wanted you to be informed of X's whereabouts?"

Although I had a faint guess, I still wished that it was not that person. That enemy was way too powerful, to the point where one could not help but feel their blood run cold...

Father Yue's brows furrowed together.

"Is it the Sun Emperor?" I abruptly dropped the name of the speculated person.

Father Yue did not have much reaction to that. Instead it was Dong Fang Lei who suddenly turned to give me a look.

“What is he receiving in exchange for X’s whereabouts?”

This was the point I was truly concerned about. If possible, I hoped that he was only targeting me and not Curtis. I simply did not wish in the slightest to see the Elysees Family clash with the Sun Emperor, for though Curtis had mentioned earlier that the Elysees Family would not lose to the Sun Emperor easily, the Sun Emperor was still an opponent that we had to avoid clashing with at all costs.

Father Yue hesitated for a moment, but another person spoke up first.

“Judas betrayed his mentor for silver pieces. Despite knowing the lessons of the past, but as of today, someone has cast down silver pieces and I still have no choice but to bend down and pick them up, bowing to him willingly. Indeed, as expected of—”

Alex gave an embarrassed smile and said, “While I don’t approve of that person’s behaviour, I still have to commend his capabilities. Sorry though, we do not admit that this has anything to do with the Sun Emperor.”

Do not admit that it has anything to do with the Sun Emperor... So it indeed has something to do with the Sun Emperor? But why? The Sun Emperor only wants to kill Luo Ye. Is that not so? Just the news about X would be enough to threaten me. There is completely no need to drag Curtis and the Elysees Family, or even the Church into this. That would only complicate matters.

Or perhaps it is actually the Church? After all, both Father Yue and Alex are members of the Church. Or even worse...

"Has the Sun Emperor started working with the Church?" I deeply hoped that the situation was not so disastrous.

"We do not represent the Church." Father Yue shot down the notion firmly, and even clarified immediately, "The Church does not know of what we are doing. They only wish to kill E.X, which is different from our motives. Alex and I are moving on our own."

I started and realized that the other was not wearing his priest garbs. It was just that the style of his clothes was not too far off from the priest garbs, so I had not noticed until now.

I was still unclear about the current situation; however, I did not intend for us to stay tangled in this mess. In comparison to the Sun Emperor, the Church, or even the two cooperating together, Curtis's safety was currently still the most important!

I ordered, "Dong Fang, let's go—"

"I am very sorry, but we cannot let you all go over right now. Please stay right here. It doesn't need to be for long. Just twenty minutes will do."

As he spoke, Father Yue picked up a black exercise bag at his feet. That bag was so big that the young master could be stuffed into it, but

judging from the sound it made, it was clearly not a person but a heavy metal item inside.

Following that, Father Yue pulled out a spear from the bag. The style was very classic, just like the silver spears that I had seen before in his firearms collection cabinet.

“Family Head, what should we do?” Dong Fang Lei turned to look at me. His expression still looked very controlled, though perhaps it was just my imagination, but I thought his eyes seemed to be a little too red.

Once I heard “twenty minutes,” I felt uneasy. *What will happen in those twenty minutes?*

“Force your way through!”

Dong Fang Lei quietly asked, “Do we need to take their lives into consideration?”

Their lives... The other person is Yue Gang’s father, but... I gritted my teeth and shouted, “What needs to be taken into consideration is Curtis’s life. If anyone dares to stop us from advancing, annihilate all of them!”

The warning had already been issued. If Father Yue still refused to let us through, then I would no longer show any mercy. After all, Curtis’s situation was still unclear, and I did not wish for Dong Fang Lei and the members of the red bowtie squad to be injured as a consequence of holding back. These people were important combat power for the

family, and under the situation where it was unknown if our enemy was the Sun Emperor or the Church, or even the both of them together, I absolutely could not let them get injured so easily!

At this moment, Father Yue had actually slung the giant exercise bag onto his back, the pocket of the bag already open to reveal gun muzzles of various firearms. He praised, "Charles, it hasn't been long since we last met, but you seem a lot more daring now."

Under such a situation, I did not wish to chat more with the other, and directly ordered, "Prepare the rocket launcher!"

"Please do not do so." Alex was still unarmed, and merely clutched onto the cross on his chest. He sincerely said, "It will affect many innocent civilians. Perhaps you all do not care about that, but it is not like you know the location of the person you plan to rescue. To resort to rocket launchers so hastily, are you not afraid of causing a regretful scene to happen?"

Although I knew it was very possible that he was making excuses because they were unable to withstand such heavy firepower, I had no choice but to take his point into consideration. Curtis was merely an ordinary person, and really could not withstand the power of a rocket launcher.

"Family Head!"

Dong Fang Lei suddenly pushed me away. He charged forward and used his gun to block the flash of silver flying over. In the next second,

however, his gun left his hand and was pulled back all the way into Alex's hand.

Alex's cross had become a chain knife. A thin silver chain extended out of the cross's tail, and a sharp blade had popped out of the tip of it. That was precisely what had flown over and pulled away Dong Fang Lei's gun.

"Fire!"

Dong Fang Lei commanded, but Father Yue was even faster. His bullets shot out with unfathomable speed, forcing our side to retreat and dart behind the corner, using the wall to block the bullets. Dong Fang Lei was forced one step further, having to take out his briefcase shield before he could safely retreat around the bend.

On the opposite side, Father Yue did not even have a shield. He merely dodged continuously left and right, and with added protection of the bullet rain, he thoroughly executed the use of offense as the best defense.

If Yue Gang had half the skills of Father Yue, he probably would have only needed to purchase guns out of all the heavy equipment.

At this moment, Alex took out even more crosses, which were clearly all chain knives. However, he did not seem to be in the role of offense, for he swung the chains like a net. It was unclear what kind of material the chains were made of, for even when the bullets struck them unceasingly with clear ringing sounds, the chains did not break. It seemed like the chains truly could block the bullets.

From time to time, those chain knives would be wrapped around our side's weapons or shields, pulling them away to become new weapons for Father Yue.

"Dong Fang!" I was a little anxious as I shouted, "What is the problem? Are you all unable to hit him?"

Considering how dense the rain of bullets was, even if Alex really had cast a net, the bullets should still have been able to pass through the gaps, not to mention that the density of the blades were still far from that of a net.

"There is something about their priest garbs. We definitely shot them!" Dong Fang Lei gritted his teeth and said, "Family Head, please order us to use the strength of the Extraordinaries!"

Extraordinaries? I froze and stared at him, not understanding what he meant. However, he only returned my gaze with an unwavering one. Given how urgent the situation was, I should have immediately said, "Go ahead." However, the expressions on his and the red bowtie squad's faces made me hesitate. It was not an expression of one about to demonstrate their amazing prowess but rather one of resolve.

Anything that requires resolve is usually not a good thing.

"Why don't I break through with my x-speed—"

"Family Head!" Dong Fang Lei growled angrily, "You are the target of our protection, and not the person protecting us!"

I know that too, but their resolve... I gritted my teeth. Since they all had such resolve, who was I to deny their determination?

“Red bowtie squad members, use the power of the Extraordinaries!”

The moment I yelled that, I watched on as Dong Fang Lei’s appearance started to change unusually. First was his forehead, as blue veins started to burst out from his brows all the way to his forehead. Then his neck also erupted with protruding veins. However, he was not done, for even his eyes also changed. His pupils expanded at least twice the original size, making it nearly impossible to see the whites of his eyes. With that, the Dong Fang Lei who had initially possessed delicate features now looked completely unlike a human, now as ferocious as demon.

However, the extraordinary features Dong Fang Lei showed were the most tame, for the others had much more prominent ones. One person had scales sprout out from every inch of their skin, even including their face, which reminded me of that woman who had worn her bones on the outside.

Another person’s hands became extremely long, curving in a peculiar manner when he was moving as though his entire hand was boneless. It had transformed into something akin to an octopus’s tentacle.

Someone’s back had sprouted eight spider-like legs. Another person even turned completely transparent, while clearly still retaining a basic human figure. However, it would occasionally “shift” into an irregular shape...

Are they non-humans? It seemed that they were not. They merely had many “extraordinary features,” each one drastically different from the other. They were unlike any non-human races that I had heard of before.

“Abnormals?” Alex quietly exclaimed, “I wouldn’t have thought that the Elysees family had gathered so many abnormals. I thought that only the Sun Emperor’s P29 had so many abnormals.”

Dong Fang Lei and the others glared fiercely at Alex, clearly feeling very outraged by the term “abnormals.”

I was extremely confused. Since when had the world materialized “abnormals”? However, I caught the keywords from Alex’s sentence—“P29 had...abnormals.” If I was not mistaken, abnormals likely referred to those humans with special abilities.

Dong Fang Lei glanced at me, appearing slightly nervous for some reason. However, perhaps I had seen wrongly, for it was difficult for me to gauge subtle emotions with his current appearance.

Regardless, now was not the time to be concerned about emotions. I commanded him, “Hurry and break through!”

Dong Fang Lei and the other squad members stared at me with stunned expressions. After a moment of hesitation, Dong Fang Lei asked, “Do you not find us strange?”

I blankly answered, "I am a vampire. Do you think that I am in a position to be calling you all strange?"

Dong Fang Lei's mouth curled into a smile—In his current appearance, it felt as though a devil was grinning at me.

"Family Head, head over first. Leave the rest to us."

"How should I cross—"

Dong Fang Lei turned to yell at the others, "Charge!" and the person with the transparent fluid shape was the first to charge in. Father Yue's frenzied gunshots rang out again, and it all hit the person. Numerous bullets became stuck in the flowing water, not a single one making it through this "human barricade."

Due to this barricade, Dong Fang Lei and the others were able to go on the offense again. The scene was simply unlike one of humans attacking, if I were to put it in words, perhaps the phrase "Night Parade of One Hundred Demons" would be rather appropriate.

"Yue, change to energy weapons!" Alex said anxiously.

Father Yue immediately threw down the guns in his hands and used his feet to bring out another two weapons. However, Dong Fang Lei had already appeared right in front of him and swung a fist, forcing Father Yue to dodge and give up on picking up his weapons.

I managed to see this happen with extreme clarity. Dong Fang Lei had still been in the same spot in that second, but in a blink of an eye he

had already appeared in front of Father Yue. Truly, speed did not seem to be the question here. *He... teleported?*

After Father Yue and Alex were held back by the crowd, that transparent human barricade suddenly lurched at me, securely wrapping around me. Following that, it ignored all the enemies on the other side, and charged toward them like a wave.

Chapter 7: The Serpent and the Forbidden Fruit

Bai Lian Yue was completely shocked. "What is wrong? Your complexion looks terrible."

"I have a mission for you."

"... You really don't treat secretaries as humans, do you?"

Bai Lian Yue's work efficiency was only slightly worse than Kyle's, but his ability to complain was higher than Kyle's by at least three or four times!

"Fine, fine, wipe that scowl off your face. Just give me the job. It's not like I won't do it. Do you really need to put on such a frightening expression?"

"Go and kill someone."

He casually responded, "I thought it would be some kind of grand mission. That's simple. Who do you want me to kill?"

"Luo Ye." I calmly said.

Bai Lian Yue's eyes turned wide as he exclaimed, "Where did he pop up from? Wasn't he already long dead? Are you certain it's your fa—"

I gave him a look.

"Urgh, you don't have to mind that much, right? It's just your biological father."

Bai Lian Yue still said it. This secretary was really so daring, for he still had the guts to continue on even as I shot a glare at him. "So what even if you are not Ri Ji Yan's son? Right now, who in the Sun Alliance has the authority to question you about this? The only person qualified is your Ah Ye, but if he wanted this Alliance, you would give it to him with both hands. Need he even question you?"

Hearing Bai Lian Yue say that, it seemed like the term "biological father" held absolutely no meaning. In that case, why should I concern myself with such a thing?

I suddenly calmed down. Even if I was not Ri Ji Yan's biological son, even if I had my hands stained in his blood for the sake of saving Ah Ye that year, he had never done anything to let me down. He only targeted Ah Ye, and later on we had also verified that it had not been completely without reason...

"Ah Yan, are you all right?"

I shook my head, and sternly declared, "My father is Ri Ji Yan, not that Luo Ye person! Don't ever bring up biological fathers again!"

Bai Lian Yue lowered his head and admitted his mistake, "Understood. Then I'll send people to have him killed now—"

"Hold on." I indifferently said, "There is no rush to kill him. Go and find out who is pulling the strings first. He is my father's brother and ought

to know what our usual way of handling problems is. It was not easy for him to hide until now, so daring to appear means that he feels secure knowing that someone has his back. We must first find out who or what exactly he is relying on. Also..."

I looked toward the table. There was a folded photo frame there. The left side was Ah Ye as a child with his unbeatable cuteness, and the right side was Ah Ye's recent photo. Initially the photo in the right frame kept on changing, but now it had not been changed for two or three years. That was because Ah Ye would never grow again. Even if his hair got longer, there was absolutely no change at all in his facial features.

A lifespan of over a thousand years... Ah Ye, what kind of arrangements do I have to make so that you will have nothing to worry about for a thousand years?

I said to Bai Lian Yue with a smile, "Perhaps Luo Ye will be a good serpent and tempt Ah Ye into eating that forbidden fruit."

Bai Lian Yue, Yue Ya'er who had always supported me, finally showed a change in expression.

"Isn't it just making sure Ah Ye won't lose his life to protect you? Don't go over the top! Ah Ye loves you very much. Wanting to protect you is natural. It isn't because it's set into some microchip!"

"I will not go over the top," I calmly replied.

No matter how over the top it is, it would not top a thousand years.



“Curtis!”

I burst into the room. I originally expected to see a trussed-up Curtis, but there was nothing of the sort. Within the room, there was only someone that I would have never expected to see.

“Sorry to disappoint you. He is not here.”

How is this person here? He would actually come in person to such a dangerous place?

The Sun Emperor.

He sat behind the office table. The only person by his side was Secretary Bai. However, two whole rows of adjudication squad members stood on both sides of the room.

I sized them up. Perhaps I would not be able to defeat them all, but as long as I used my x-speed, they would likely be unable to stop me in time if I wanted to do something.

“Where is Curtis?” I asked as I walked, hoping to draw a little closer to the Sun Emperor. If I had no choice but to take action, it would be better if the distance between us was as short as possible.

"His whereabouts are not important." The Sun Emperor answered with a smile that made me feel uneasy. He continued, "The important thing is that he made a deal with me."

I froze in my tracks, lifting my head to look at the Sun Emperor. His smile was extremely carefree and relaxed, as though he was completely unafraid of me verifying that. I held my earpiece and quietly called out, "Curtis."

"Yes, Family Head."

Curtis truly is all right. I opened my mouth, and in that moment, I actually did not know how I should begin my line of questioning.

"Where are you?"

"I have already evacuated the premises."

I fell silent for a while, and then asked, "The Sun Emperor said that you made a deal with him. Is that correct?"

"... Indeed." Curtis's tone was a little hesitant, and he seemed apologetic as he said, "My apologies, Family Head, I—"

Even after a drawn out wait, Curtis did not continue on. He was likely at a loss as to how to begin. I removed the earpiece, but then heard the sound of something shattering. Looking down, I belatedly realized that I had actually crushed the earpiece.

"There's still the phone." The Sun Emperor appeared to be unfazed by my actions and even reminded me of that with what appeared to be kind intentions.

Once he said that, my phone coincidentally started ringing. I reached my hand into my pocket, and with the use of my blood ability, the thing in my pocket shattered to pieces. Since the other person was at a loss as to how to tell me, then why must I hear an explanation?

"I told you before." The Sun Emperor remained unruffled as he said, "Playing your butler game is one thing. Opposing me is an entirely different matter."

I calmly answered, "He originally did not need to protect me anyway. Now we are only returning to how it was before."

"How open-minded."

The Sun Emperor's elbow rested on the completely empty table. Rather, it was Secretary Bai seated beside him who was awfully busy. Even under such a situation, he was still glued to his laptop, typing away with furious speed. In comparison to his busy secretary, the Sun Emperor appeared very idle, making it hard to believe that he was the leader of the world's biggest economic alliance.

He asked with a smile, "But now, what will you use to protect your beloved vampire?"

X...

“While saying that you don’t need authority, you use the Elysees family as a shield against the Church, and also turn to them when necessary to protect those you wish to protect.”

The Sun Emperor scoffed and said disdainfully, “Giving up your authority? How pretentious! From the beginning up until now, you have never ‘given up’ on authority! It’s just that I use my organization, money, and power to get people to work for me, while you use emotions and you bloodline to tie them down, Charles Elysees.”

“I am Charles Endelis!” The roar came out of me before I realized that I had opened my mouth... I clenched my hands into a fist, my nails digging into my flesh. The pain made me a little calmer, and only then could I continue, “Sun Emperor, stop sowing discord. What exactly do you want? I have nothing!”

“Since you want me to be straightforward, fine—I have already given the Church X’s whereabouts, Charles ‘Endelis.’”

I stared at him, stunned.

The Sun Emperor indifferently stated, “Not to the two outside. Since you are already here and to make up twenty minutes, there’s still... ”

He glanced at Bai Lian Yue lazily, and the other did not even look up as he answered, “Eight minutes.”

“That was worse than what I expected. Clearly, their obstruction failed, so of course they won’t be rewarded.”

“Why?” I yelled agitatedly, “Is it because I did not hand Luo Ye over to you? You said ten days! It has not even reached the set date!”

“I exchanged a kind of ‘merchandise’ with the Church.” The Sun Emperor paid no mind as he said, “I am a businessman. If someone is willing to pay for my product upfront, why should I wait for a customer like you, who might not pay up even after a few days? Furthermore...”

He looked at me, with a smile of understanding as he said it in a matter-of-fact tone, “You did not intend to bring Luo Ye out to hand over to me, isn’t that so?”

Indeed... If I could hand him over, then why would I be so troubled about it! However, I cannot admit that now. Perhaps the Sun Emperor is only testing me and is not that certain about it.

I forced myself to stay level-headed, and then asked back in confusion, “Why are you so certain about this? To me, Luo Ye definitely cannot be compared to X. He is not the least bit important to me.”

The Sun Emperor kept his smile and asked, “Luo Ye is not important to you, but how about Ah Ye?”

I froze.

He no longer seemed relaxed as his expression turned stern and he proclaimed, “You are right. Luo Ye isn’t important, but Ah Ye is extremely, extremely important! Everyone who stays by Ah Ye’s side must revolve around him as the center, and never ever betray him!”

The Sun Emperor growled in fury, "Today for the sake of X, you can be threatened by me and debate whether or not to betray Ah Ye. Tomorrow for the sake of something else, you could betray him once more!"

His expression was unstable as he muttered, "You are even involved with the Elysees family and the Church... If I had known beforehand that you were such a troublesome character, I absolutely would not have let you stay by Ah Ye's side!"

The Sun Emperor glared at me hatefully, and gave his verdict like a monarch, "Charles Endelis, I have given you a test, and you have failed!"

I suddenly felt a violent chill. Only now did I truly understand everything.

"So you did not truly want to kill Luo Ye? This was simply a test for me?"

"What foolish nonsense are you saying, of course I want to kill Luo Ye." The Sun Emperor coldly said, "But I don't need you to be able to kill him. I was merely making use of this incident to test you in-passing."

Making use? In-passing? I stared at the Sun Emperor in disbelief.

"One has to pay the price for failure, but I don't intend to deal with you personally. It's pretty troublesome when Ah Ye gets angry."

The Sun Emperor gave a cold laugh as he said, “After losing the protection of the Elysees family, you and that dangerous thousand-year-old vampire will naturally be dealt with by the Church. Even without me personally making a move, I can get quite a bit of the battle spoils in return!”

The Sun Emperor smiled and continued with a relaxed tone, “You want to know what kind of grand prize can be exchanged for X, a magnificent thousand-year-old vampire?”

I roared, “Say no more!”

To go as far as using others’ lives as a test... Never mind testing me for the sake of the young master, but X... X... This has nothing to do with him! X has escaped death for over a thousand years, only to be caught like this—from a test where he was “made use of in-passing” because of me!

The Sun Emperor tapped the table gently with his finger, seeming a little vexed as he said, “It does not seem like the Church intends to kill that thousand-year-old vampire immediately, which is a little troublesome. I have to keep it from Ah Ye, to prevent him from hearing that vampire is getting abused or the like, or he will secretly run out to save him—”

X... Abused...

“I told you to say no more!”

I charged at the Sun Emperor, and he did not even manage to react in time. As expected, the Sun Emperor had no fighting capabilities. To think he dared to appear here, did he believe that the adjudication squad could protect him?

In an instant, I stepped onto the office desk, towering above the Sun Emperor as I looked down at him. This person who caused me so much agony was so close that if I reached out my hand I could touch him... I suddenly felt pain in my leg, and turning around, I discovered that a whip was wrapped around my calf. The whip was even barbed, and a burning pain came from my legs. Clearly, it was silver powder at work again. This weapon that I had experienced from Avexila seemed to have become popular.

The person using the whip was Secretary Bai. I would not have thought him to be a fighter, given how his slender figure made him look like someone unskilled at fighting.

Secretary Bai's face had turned pale in shock, as he exclaimed, "He's so fast! Ah Yan, hurry and go. If he were to go all out, I probably can't hold him off—"

His words vanished within an ocean of loud shattering, the French window destroyed. I raised my head. Under the moonlight was the sight of frenzied strands of hair, their silvery-white glow that filled the sky bright enough to hurt the eyes.

"Young Master..." I murmured.

The young master looked at me coldly. He was dressed in casual wear and was not wearing his visor, but I could still recognize that that was not the young master. He was—Dark Sun!

Dark Sun was currently staring at me with a look as chilling as ice.

Why? Confusion arose, and in the next moment, the young master's words from before rang in my head once more.

Gēge is my only family! It was engraved into the microchip in his head that the sole reason for his existence was to protect the Sun Emperor, no matter the cost—even if it was his own life!

I had the intent to attack the Sun Emperor. Could it be... I quickly explained, "Young Master, I-I did not mean to. The Sun Emperor, he..." *He revealed X's whereabouts to the Church.*

My reasons vanished upon looking at Dark Sun's expression. He looked at me, unfeelingly, heartlessly, desirelessly, just like the adjudication squads on both sides. I seemed to be merely—an enemy target.

The young master right now... No, Dark Sun right now, does he still remember that I am Charles, the butler who signed an Endless contract with him?

I was unable to verify this, but then a mass of wild silver hair came rushing at me, giving me a clear answer. With a turn of my body, I forcefully broke free of the whip wrapped around my leg and dodged all these attacks—Or at least, I dodged the majority of the attacks.

The only thing that the young master would care about now is... I pounced toward the Sun Emperor, and as expected the young master immediately blocked in front of him. Even if just now my back was full of openings, he would not be able to pursue and attack, and could only go in front of the Sun Emperor.

The silver hair charged toward me again. I turned and evaded it, then feigned an attack on the Sun Emperor from the left side. The young master blocked it wonderfully, making sure there was absolutely no possibility that harm would come to the Sun Emperor. Just then, I put all my power into my feet for a powerful launch, then dashed past the young master and the Sun Emperor with my x-speed. Passing through the broken French window, I dropped straight down.

I escaped!

I heaved a sigh of relief. At least I avoided having to fight with the young master. Regardless of whether it was due to the microchip in his brain or due to true anger that I had raised my hand against the Sun Emperor, if the young master personally injured or even killed me, he would be upset... was that not so?

"Charles, save me!"

Young Master? Save me? I quickly turned back to look. The young master was standing by the side of the broken window, both hands holding guns with the muzzles pointed downwards. His facial expression was still that of merciless Dark Sun's. Afterward, the flashes that fired out from the guns made it impossible for me to see

the young master's expression clearly. Only the sound of non-stop gunfire and items getting blasted to bits continued to ring out.

Pain surged through my shoulder. I stepped onto the surface of the wall and drew to an emergency stop, turning my body toward another direction. With a burst of my x-speed, I immediately left the area.



“Urgh!”

In the middle of using x-speed to charge forward, I felt my knees suddenly give way, and my entire body fell forward. Falling with such speed caused me to roll for ten or more times before I barely managed to stop, and I lay on the ground with my entire body in pain.

No, I have to stand up quickly. I have to hurry and leave. If the young master catches up... I turned my head to look behind, and only then did I realize that the hotel had not been visible for a long while. I had been running with x-speed all along, and though not much time had passed, I had already managed to run quite a long distance... *Urgh!*

My knees burned with pain, as though they were on fire. Even attempting to sit up was difficult as my legs felt limp and weak. As expected, I had pushed it too much. My knee had just been hit by a bullet, and Ah Shuu had also warned me not to overdo it. However, not only had I attacked with x-speed, my leg had also been wrapped by a whip covered in silver powder. Ultimately, I even used my x-speed to escape and sprinted for quite a long time.

Pain throbbed in waves from various parts of my body, and my knee that was already injured to start with had long since become numb from the pain. A bullet had also hit my shoulder just earlier. At the time, I had not even had the time to inspect it. Thankfully, the shoulder injury did not affect my arm movements, and compared to the pain in my knee, the pain from my shoulder could almost be ignored.

I wanted to get up to take a look at my knee. *If the cloth securing my injury has come loose, perhaps...*

I was unable to speak for quite a while, the pain causing my whole body to sweat profusely. This would not do at all. I was completely unable to move. I shakily pressed one hand onto the finger of my other hand. A ring of an outrageous style was on that finger, the tranquilizer ring that I had borrowed from Ezart. Though I had previously claimed that I would not to use it rashly, I believed that given the current situation, it would not be considered rash to use it.

I pressed it once, sending the tranquilizer flowing into my body. However, I was still in so much pain that I kept sweating, and I had to press it again. It was still of no help until I pressed it for the third time. I then felt the pain gradually subsiding, and I was finally able to stand again.

I had been lying on the ground for far too long just now, and now I needed to make haste. I only hesitated for a moment, and immediately injected another shot into the knee that had taken a bullet. At the same time, I remembered that I had seemingly forgotten

to ask Ezart how many tranquilizer shots this ring possessed... *No, what exactly am I thinking?*

I had already injected myself with four shots. Previously, Ezart had merely injected me with two, and I had lost control and started fighting with him on the spot. Now I had already injected four shots, and yet I wished to continue injecting more?

The pain gradually faded; it appeared that the tranquilizers were taking effect. *Perhaps I ought to have waited earlier rather than taking four shots at once—Never mind, perhaps it is better this way. There are still many things to do, and it would be problematic if I were hurting all over.*

There are many things to do... At the moment, the most important task is...

Once again, I moved on, switching between x-speed and glide steps. Whenever I felt that I reached my limits, I switched back to advancing at a regular speed, but as long as I recovered a little, I immediately went back into the world of glide steps and x-speed.

Under the effects of the tranquilizers, I did not feel pain or fatigue. The only problem was that, as I went on, I went from wheezing to nearly being unable to breathe. However, I had no desire to stop and continued running onwards, intending to deal with it only if I actually collapsed. Instead, after a while, my breathing became smoother, completely different from the state of overusing x-speed.

I truly do not know what happened, but the only person who would be so anxious as to send hundreds of people to investigate because of something unusual about my condition had already been dead for many years.

My honorable father, if you knew what I was about to do now, how would you react?

I stopped in my tracks, for I finally saw my destination. It was a gorgeous and large hotel, some distance away from all of the buildings around it. I stepped onto a building taller than it, then jumped down directly. I released a great amount of my blood ability from my back, the blood transforming into a pair of wings.

I glided over and as I flew over the hotel, I did a large turn in the air. I reined in my blood ability slightly, letting the tips of my wings point forward, and then smashed through a French window to crash into the hotel. When I landed, my blood ability turned into two rapiers, one in each hand.

Three on the left, two on the right.

With my knees slightly bent, I raised my rapiers with both hands. Using x-speed, I passed through the two on the right. When I came to a halt, the two slowly collapsed.

I glanced at them from the corner of my eye and was shocked to discover that the heads were still attached to their necks. The rapiers had clearly sliced across their necks in the attack just now, so it was quite surprising that they had not severed completely with the extra

boost from x-speed. The strength of these people was truly far above any ordinary person. If it were not for the fact that I had a secret weapon like x-speed, I probably would not be able to kill them—The reputation of Sun Emperor's adjudication squad was well-justified indeed!

However, having one's neck completely or partially cut off made no difference, for the end result was still the same. They would not be able to crawl back up.

After dashing past the two, I did not linger around. I immediately stepped onto the wall behind him, and with a leap, I reached the ceiling. Once more, I dropped straight down, stabbing the two rapiers directly into their backs. The final person left standing kept firing at me non-stop, but he was completely incapable of hurting me as a result of failing to keep up with my speed, in addition to harboring apprehensions, unable to fire at will.

Even so, his firepower was strong and the continuous gunshots were deafening. If I were to draw closer, I would likely have to pay dearly for it.

With a dodge, I picked up the gun on the floor in passing and started shooting back in retaliation. What I did not anticipate was that it was much more troublesome than using rapiers. Though the other was hit by bullets repeatedly and his whole body was riddled with holes, he still persistently refused to fall. It seemed that the damage done to him by the bullets was greatly inferior to a slash from a blade.

I decided that I could hold it no longer. In reality, all this happened in the span of a few seconds, but the more it dragged on, the more likely that a mishap would occur. I threw away the gun and dashed up to him with the resolve to have to take a few bullets on the way. Once more, my surroundings moved in slow motion as I used my x-speed. While I was naturally unable to keep track of such a vast number of bullets, I was able to see the direction the gun muzzle was pointed, and with that, the bullets became significantly easier to avoid.

I focused hard on the muzzle and advanced in a zig-zig pattern. This allowed me to evade the majority of the bullets. While there were some that slipped through, they mostly just brushed past me and did not cause any major harm.

I stood in front of the other person. Though bangs were still ringing from the gun in his hands, the muzzle had long since been pointed past me. Two rapiers stabbed him in an upwards motion to pierce his throat, coming back out through the back of his head.

When I pulled out the rapiers, he fell to the ground. What was frightening was that the gunshots continued for a while before they came to a complete halt. These modified humans were truly unbelievable.

Bang!

I darted a meter to my left and turned around to look at the only person remaining in the room. He was standing by the office table, and the calm demeanor that he had always retained had finally been broken. While his arms were raised with a gun, he seemed to know

that it was of no use, so he did not fire. Instead, he stared blankly at me with wide eyes.

With another glide step, I arrived right in front of him. Unexpectedly, he praised, "You really are fast!"

It seems that I am hearing this remark all the time recently; I am certain that I truly am very fast. Moreover, in the current situation, speed seems to be the only thing I can rely on.

The opponent had never been responsible for combat and likely did not have much ability in self-defense, similar to the Sun Emperor.

However, he did not have Secretary Bai at his side, let alone Dark Sun.

"Charles, what are you—Urgh!"

I knocked the other person unconscious with a single punch.

Chapter 8: Pandora's Box

"Why?"

Ah Ye stood before the shattered French window. He looked down below as the strong winds blowing outside caused his hair to fly all over the place. My first instinct was to take off my windbreaker and put it over his shoulders, but I refrained from doing so, since I knew well that cold of this degree simply couldn't affect him. Rather, I was the one who needed the jacket at all.

He turned around, asking simply, "Why?" His expression was one of utter loss and helplessness, as though there had not yet been enough time for him to register grief.

I indifferently explained, "It was just to draw you away from Luo Ye. No need to go downstairs. He'll definitely be dead either way!!"

Ah Ye stared at me with the strangest emotion in his eyes and shook his head with a bitter smile.

Since when did my Ah Ye start holding back his tears? That child had clearly loved to cry before. All it took was for someone around him to be injured, and he would weep and cry out in pain. Yet now, that butler had even been shot at, and Ah Ye is still able to hold back his tears?

"Gē, you still don't understand. I simply can't leave. Charles wants to kill you, and he's so powerful, I can't leave your side. Forget Luo Ye,

even if the adjudication squad was sent to dispatch Melody and the others, there's no way I could leave you."

No way... as in "would never," or "not possible"?

"Gē, why did Charles attack you?" He stared straight at me, as though he believed in that butler even more than he trusted me.

I gave a displeased expression as I replied, "He's the one who attacked me, yet you're asking me why?"

Ah Ye opened his mouth, but could not explain. He turned his head away and said, "Charles left. I can't ask him."

"In that case, just wait until I find and drag him back here. You can ask him then."

A look of fear suddenly showed on Ah Ye's face as he pleaded, "Gē, please don't bring Charles back. Don't go searching for him!"

I froze. This had not been part of the plan. Immediately, I feigned anger and shouted, "He dared to raise a hand against me. No matter how you beg, I just have to make him pay!"

"Make him pay?"

Ah Ye's smile was filled with indescribable pain. It was an expression I had never seen him wear before.

Ah Ye, you've only been living outside for a few years, yet you've grown up so quickly. Your gēge is starting to feel that he can't keep up. Could you go a bit more slowly and let Gēge take care of you for a few more years?

"Gē, Charles has already raised a hand against you. The moment I see him, I... I'll have to kill him. As for payment... if only it could be resolved with a simple punishment."

I finally saw tears welling up in Ah Ye's eyes. Although the sight was heart-breaking, it was also slightly relieving.

Not yet. He had not yet grown to the point where he wouldn't cry anymore.

In the end, I couldn't suppress the desire to comfort him and said, "You may not even be able to kill that guy in the first place. Did you see how fast he is?"

Ah Ye hesitated for a moment, and his look of agonizing despair finally eased a bit as he nodded and said, "Mm, he was probably the one tailing me before. I felt like something was off the whole time, but I could never find anything. So, turns out it was Charles... Ah!"

"What's wrong?" I hurriedly asked.

Ah Ye's face fell as he answered. "Ezart! He must have been helping Charles hide right under my nose."

His pupils flashed unceasingly. This wasn't a metaphor; a great many symbols were actually flashing by in an orderly fashion. This phenomenon would happen whenever he switched into "Dark Sun mode." Every time I saw those eyes, I would always wonder just what kind of world Ah Ye saw through those eyes of his.

Ah Ye would always say that it wasn't very different, but he had been modified when he was seven years old. Could he really still remember how the world had originally appeared?

Ah Ye took out his phone to make a call. "Ezart, come up right now, I'm on the... Help me, quick, I—"

While I was stunned, Ah Ye had already hung up. From beginning to end, his expression remained calm and unruffled, yet his tone was as urgent as if he were on the brink of death. It was just like before, when he had said "Save me" to fool that butler into turning around.

He looked at me with a cold and detached expression. The tears in his eyes had vanished without a trace.

Now Ezart had also become involved. While this was advantageous for my plans, it also raised the stakes. If something went wrong, Ah Ye would...

Did I bet a bit too much this time?



X, get away from here. I deeply apologize, but please, you must leave immediately. Do not respond to this, and do not trust any

other messages. Flee now, and hide someplace where no one can ever find you!

Just as I sent this message out, I immediately prepared to close all my browser windows and leave. However, a new unread message notification suddenly appeared on the screen... *Can he not listen to advice even once?*

I hesitated for a moment, but was still unable to restrain myself from opening the message.

Where are you?

If this were the only line, perhaps I would not have even dared to reply, afraid that the Sun Emperor or Curtis would intercept the mail. For that matter, it was possible that it had not been written by X at all. However, these three words were followed by a line of fine print: **In the past, when you were working as my butler, there was a woman by my side. What was her surname?**

Tong. I could not give him my location, since our messages could be monitored. I had to leave within five minutes. **What was Miss Tong's first name?**

That young miss... Thinking back to that time, X had been enshrouded in as many secrets as there were stars in the sky. However, the only way to get along with him in a friendly manner was to not investigate his matters. As a result, I could only swallow down his many secrets.

Xiao Ai. You've seen the directory log in the cell phone I once gave you, haven't you? My number is in the log. Call me.

I stared for a moment. The cell phone, an ancient model to begin with, had already been broken when it was sent and had been impossible to turn on. Moreover, it had been left in the metal cabin back in Sunset City.

What could X's words mean, then? I considered it carefully. While the cell phone had been unable to be powered on, there had been an accessory hanging from it with a phone number and written message: "Please call this number to return this phone if found."

Although the phone was not currently in my possession, I did indeed remember that phone number. At first, when X had suddenly sent the phone to me, I would curiously flip it around now and again to inspect it. However, since I had been afraid of provoking X's rage, I had not dared to actually call the number.

Is it possible X wanted me to call that number? After considering this for a moment, I responded with one final message before shutting off the device and standing up to leave.

The cell phone is not in my possession and I cannot check the directory. I must leave. What happened to Miss Tong in the end?

I did not know the answer to the last question. Of course, I did not expect a response from X either.

When I walked out of the internet café, it was only after stepping straight into a puddle that I belatedly discovered it was drizzling. I pulled my windbreaker's hood up further. I had never considered that this piece of clothing might also function as a raincoat and provide cover from the rain. It was truly an essential piece of clothing for staying hidden. *As expected of the young master...*

A sharp pain suddenly came from my left shoulder, where a bullet had been embedded. I had not yet had the chance to treat it. Despite having painkillers which numbed the pain, I would still have to find an opportunity to remove the bullet. Otherwise, it would end up impacting any future movements. Fortunately, it was not a silver bullet—a truly rare occurrence, seeing as all of my recent injuries had contained traces of silver.

The young master had not prepared to face me as an enemy... I shook my head.

He had used his words to deceive me into turning around, and had then fired at me without hesitation. The bullet in my shoulder was even still aching faintly. *The situation has already come to this. What am I still thinking! If I make the slightest mistake now, I will have no hope of reprieve. I cannot have such hesitation anymore.*

Concealing myself in the darkness, I treaded up the walls and moved between buildings. After crossing several streets, and with much difficulty, I eventually found a public telephone booth, something that was truly hard to find in this day and age. It rang over and over, and just as I was starting to think I had mistaken X's intent, the line finally connected.

“Endelis, where are you?”

It really is X's voice...

I could not help but furrow my brows as I stated, “X, the phone might be monitored—”

“Shut up with your nonsense. Where are you?”

I fell silent, uncertain of whether or not I should tell X. His troubles were already plenty enough, and the city I was located in was simply too dangerous for him. *If I told X, and he actually came over...*

X coldly said, “Charles Endelis, if you don't speak up, don't think about ever seeing me again!”

“If you do not see me again—that may be for the better.”

I no longer had the protection of the Elysees Family. Based on my previous experiences, I was afraid that I would become X's greatest weakness. If X truly did end up being captured by the Church because of me, a hundred deaths would not be enough to make up for my responsibility!

I took a deep breath, only then gathering the courage to say, “So long, X—No, it should be farewell.”

“Charles!” X roared in fury, “If you dare actually mean ‘farewell,’ I'll go to the Church in Daystar City right now and scream your name!”

"..." I was a bit nostalgic as I answered, "It has been a long time since I last heard you call me just 'Charles'."

"Charles. Endelis!" X ground each word out individually through his teeth, "Where in the world are you?"

I helplessly replied, "X, what would you do if you knew where I was?"

"Go find you." I never thought X would be so straightforward.

I chuckled bitterly and shook my head. "This is Daystar City, the city where the Church's headquarters are located. How could you come here? Moreover, what could you do even if you did?"

"Give you blood and money."

...These really were things I urgently required. I did not have much cash on me, and I could no longer use a debit card or credit card. However, X could not come to Daystar City under any circumstances. I had to persuade him to give up on the thought.

After speaking for so long, I raised my head to glance outside the telephone booth, deeply terrified that people might be lining up outside. Only then did I discover the force of the rain was actually getting stronger and stronger. The people on the street passed by, one after another, and there was nobody waiting outside the telephone booth.

I suppose that makes sense. These days, who would still be using a telephone booth?

Thinking back to the past, there used to always be people lined up outside telephone booths. Even when it was raining, there were many people who would refuse to leave. Who could say for what or for whom, but they would stubbornly persist in lining up outside in the pouring rain to make a single phone call. But then, cell phones appeared, and the even more advanced smartphones came out immediately afterward. How could something as outdated as telephone booths not be replaced...

"Charles? Where is your hideout?"

"By the ruins at the edge of Daystar City, inside a standalone red building." As soon as I said this, I suddenly realized that I had actually exposed myself! *Why is that? Could it be related to the tranquilizer's effects?*

"Ruins? That place with a lot of abandoned buildings?"

"You know of it?" *X had come to Daystar City before? This city, where the Church has its headquarters?*

"I've lived there, in the past."



I closed the door as I entered the room and walked over to the bed. The person tied to it turned his head to look at me, his expression no longer stupefied, but completely serene.

I placed some clothing down next to him and said, "I apologize for my rudeness, Head Butler Kyle."

"I'm a secretary!" Head Butler Kyle raised a brow and replied, "How many times must I correct you for you to no longer mistake my title? Charles Endelis, it seems you are not as obedient as your outer appearance indicates."

I untied the ropes binding his hands and feet.

Head Butler Kyle stared blankly for a moment, then sat up and stared at me suspiciously as he asked, "Are you sure you want to release me?"

"I am right here. Moreover, if I do not release you, how could you change clothes and eat something?"

Head Butler Kyle was currently only wearing a bathrobe. Although the night was not very cold, having him wear such clothing while trussed up was truly too humiliating.

Since there had been no way to confirm what items on his person may have had hidden tracking devices, I could only leave everything in the hotel and grab a bathrobe to clothe him in.

I had even given his teeth a once-over. After all, movies often included plots where transmission devices were hidden in someone's molars. Fortunately, Head Butler Kyle's teeth were clearly untouched—I had not wanted to remove any of his teeth on the spot.

Head Butler Kyle unworriedly donned the clothing and ate all the food without asking a single question. Once he cleared every bit of food, he put down the utensils and unflinchingly asked, “Why did you capture me?”

“Head Bu...you should know something.” I omitted his title. There was no longer a need to speak respectfully to anyone, including the young master—no, including Ri Xiang Ye!

Head... *Kyle* furrowed his brows. He was not wearing his glasses, which was honestly an unfamiliar sight for me. However, I could not complain, as I had been the one to discard his glasses.

“No, I do not know anything regarding this issue.”

I remained unmoved as I said, “You act in the highest position of head butler for the Sun Emperor. How could you not know anything?”

“That highest position is ‘secretary.’ I really don’t know anything.” Kyle massaged his temples, feeling a headache come on as he answered, “What did the Sun Emperor do this time?”

I smiled thinly and answered, “I did not say the matter was caused by the Sun Emperor.”

“If you came to capture me, that means the issue is not about the young master. Only the Sun Emperor would make you think of me, correct? You knew I was staying in this hotel because the young master brought you—”

At this point, Kyle abruptly paused before continuing as if he was speaking to himself, "No, the young master would actually have you return to the protection of the Elysees Family, because he would not want you to wade into these murky waters, which means he would not have helped you hide in Daystar City."

He raised his head to look at me, asking in a somewhat uncertain tone, "You followed the young master to my location? You actually have a way to tail him?"

"I do. Now it is your turn to answer questions. Why did you lead Briar away?"

Kyle studied me but did not take long to respond. "The Sun Emperor wanted to kill Luo Ye, so he had me lure the enemy away from its territory and deceive the young master into coming out. Those were the orders I received. Anything after that is likely Secretary Bai's affairs. He has recently been staying at the Sun Emperor's side. I was assigned elsewhere, so I do not know much."

He sighed and added, "Since the situation has now come to this, I more or less understand why the Sun Emperor has recently been bringing Secretary Bai around and delaying my transfer back to my original position. I would urge the Sun Emperor too strongly not to interfere with the young master's matters; however, Secretary Bai would not do so."

At this point, he met my gaze with utmost sincerity and said, "You must first tell me, what exactly did the Sun Emperor—"

A sound suddenly came from outside the building, as if someone had kicked a metal can. The two of us glanced backwards. When Kyle guessed, "Perhaps it's a homeless person," I knocked him unconscious once more.

"Charles Endelis!"

I started. *This voice is—*

"X?"

I promptly rushed out and spotted him in the hall without too much searching. *It truly is X!*

I stared in disbelief as the person walked over. He wore a formal suit, which was a rare sight. He even wore a pair of glasses, which made him look like an everyday white-collar worker. To be precise, he seemed to be the kind of white-collar worker Kyle was: one filled with an imposing confidence.

"X, you..." I stuttered in shock and asked one question after another. "You... How were you so fast? Don't tell me, were you in Daystar City from the start? How could you hide from the Church's pursuit?"

"Mm." X's only answer was a sound of affirmation as he removed his glasses and stowed them in his front pocket with a look of extreme loathing.

"You were actually staying in the city where the Church's headquarters are!" Completely exasperated, I asked, "What could you have been thinking?"

X indifferently replied, "Generally speaking, I don't stay here much. But—why not?"

I anxiously said, "This place has many of the Church's troops, you—"

He waved a hand impatiently to cut me off. "It's not like I plan on facing them head-on. When it comes to the ability to escape, who could beat a vampire?"

Who could beat you, you mean?

X looked me up and down. "What exactly happened? You've even stopped trusting in the Elysees?"

I fell silent for a while before I gestured toward the room Kyle was in, and said, "Let us first go inside."

Since I was in a rush earlier, I had not tied Kyle up. Leaving him in the room alone made me uneasy. I was afraid that if he managed to escape, X and I could face impending disaster.

Fortunately, Kyle was still inside, head against the bedside, just as I had left him after knocking him unconscious earlier. I placed him back on the bed before rebinding his limbs.

During this time, aside from raising an eyebrow at the initial sight, X paid no attention to who this person was, without asking a single question. He simply watched as I lifted Kyle onto the bed. Only then did he turn and glare at me with an extremely dangerous expression. If I did not clear up the situation, I would likely not have to wait for the Sun Emperor to get rid of me.

I could only tell X the full story, omitting no details. However, the narrative was riddled with my own doubts and suspicions, as I could not comprehend why the Sun Emperor would personally appear. Moreover, exactly what exchange had he made with Curtis and the Church?

After hearing everything, X only let out a cold chuckle. "Using you for a transaction? Hah, regardless, you are all alone in the world now. It does not matter what truly happened—"

"No!" I interrupted with an angry roar. "It is very important!"

I was filled with unfathomable fury. *Is it due to the tranquilizer?* However, I could still feel the stabbing pain from my left shoulder, which meant that the tranquilizer's effects should have mostly subsided already.

I was so agitated I could barely control myself, yet the other person remained as calm and unwavering as before. This was nothing like my usual interactions with X. Typically speaking, the opposite was true instead. I was truly too upset, which was not good... *I must calm down. Calm down!*

X unexpectedly asked, "Exactly what is very important?"

I raised my eyes to look at him. Since I had been trying to calm myself down the entire time, I had trouble understanding the meaning of X's question.

"What?"

X seemed to take pity on me as he asked, "Kaius died long ago, and recently, so did Sadina. To the you of the present, what else is important?"

I had not expected X to say such a thing. I stared at him blankly for a while before demanding in a low, enraged voice, "X, what is the meaning of your words?"

X answered even more coolly, "I mean to say that since all your loved ones have died, is the 'very important' thing you just spoke of actually important? Right now, there should no longer be anything important to you. In that case—"

"You are very important!" I glared at him. The fury that I had just managed to somewhat restrain flared up once more, and this time, I could not hold back.

X paused upon hearing this answer.

"The young master is very important." After opening my mouth, I could no longer stop. Face after face flashed through my mind as I shouted out each name. "Curtis is very important. Melody is also very

important. Mr. Briar's group and DSII are very important. The heroes are very important. Even the apartment the young master and I reside in is very important!"

Without my realizing, the number of people and things that were important to me had become very large. After losing my honorable father and then losing Sadina, the amount of important matters had instead continued to grow... I did not want to lose it all. I did not want to lose the young master I had finally found after so much difficulty!

However, as matters stood, I had ultimately raised my hand against the Sun Emperor. The young master's instinct was to eliminate all of the Sun Emperor's enemies. *Is there really any opportunity to recover the situation?*

Why has everything advanced so suddenly? Even as I thought we could return to our daily lives in Sunset City after the matter was resolved, have things already reached the point of no return, right before my eyes?

"The truth is very important... I want to know everything! I want to know why the Sun Emperor is set on killing Luo Ye. I want to know what the unspeakable secrets the young master had referred to are. I want to know why Curtis betrayed me, and what deal it was that he made with the Sun Emperor. And most of all, I want to know—"

I halted sharply. I had really lost control... However, I really did want to know; I desperately wanted to know exactly what had really occurred that had suddenly caused me to lose everything!

“Most of all, you want to know what?”

X stared straight into my eyes, not giving me any chance to avoid the question. I had already lost control to such an extent, yet he still had to be so forceful!

Having been pushed to this stage, I could no longer differentiate the emotions rising endlessly in my chest, and I had long been unable to tell apart anger and grief. If it were not for the fact that X was my elder who I regarded as both a father and a brother, I might have already thrown a punch at him. However, even now, both my hands were clenched tightly into fists, and I was unwilling to flee from any more questions.

“Most of all, I want to know if the young master had even the slightest hesitation when he shot at me.”

The pain in my left shoulder was growing stronger and stronger. *Have the painkillers already worn off? I really should have removed that bullet.*

X suddenly laughed and lightly exclaimed, “Very good! You’re finally acting like a young person.”

“... I am already a hundred and fifty years old.”

I weakly opened my fists, finally understanding why X had to say these things. Even in these heated circumstances, just as he had in the past, X had actually used any means necessary to exasperate me.

X uncaringly replied, "You are not even two hundred years old. Compared to someone as old as me, a vampire as young as you could even be considered an infant! Any other arguments?"

I was at a loss for words.

Somewhat impatiently, he said, "I don't know when it started, but you've always been completely apathetic like this. After Kaius's death, all you wanted was to quietly hide until your own death, as though you, and not I, were the one who had already lived a thousand years. Do you know how many more centuries, or even millennia, you would need to wait before dying? Do you plan on living like this forever?"

"I don't even want to live for millennia." The mere thought of passing a thousand years was incomparably terrifying.

"Then, what are you afraid of?"

"What?" I was dumbstruck. *Afraid?*

X grabbed my shoulders, the pain forcing a low grunt from me. However, he did not pay it any mind, and he continued aggressively, "You've lived a hundred and fifty years and already feel like you've lived long enough, so what are you still afraid of? Why must you force yourself to live cowering in fear, daring to do less than even someone like me, who is being hunted? If you really want to understand those great secrets, you must throw caution to the wind and be willing to risk your life!"

Throw caution to the wind... If that is what needs to be done in order to learn the truth of why I lost everything, so what if I use my life in exchange for it!

"Understood," I bit out through clenched teeth.

X showed a rare happiness when he heard my reply, as though he were not hearing about circumstances in which lives may be lost, but rather about some momentarily joyous occasion. If I did not understand X as well as I did, I might have assumed that he was looking forward to me throwing my life away.

"X, please release me. I was shot in the shoulder."

X went so far as to ask, "Shot by your young master? Does the injured area hurt?" He then actually grabbed my shoulder again.

"Yes, it hurts..."

X was silent for a moment. Then he answered, "I merely rested my hand on it. Your knee injury seems far more severe. If anything, that should be what hurts. What in the world did you do? I feel like there's something off about your condition—your complexion is white as a sheet of paper."

"Perhaps it is due the effects of the tranquilizer. I injected myself four times."

However, as I spoke, I also became uncertain. Even if the painkiller effects had faded, X was correct: *it should be my knee that hurts*

instead. Why is it that my left shoulder keeps hurting? Is there something special about the young master's bullet? Or...

X's eyebrows furrowed as he said, "From what you've said, you must have exceeded your limits already. Even with the tranquilizers, it's been so long that you should have already passed out from pushing your limits. But from what you described, it sounds like you didn't pass out even once?"

"I never lost consciousness." After a moment of contemplation, I continued in confusion, "I seem to have no sense of sleepiness either, despite having been active for over thirty consecutive hours. Moreover, most of that time was spent in battle and using x-speed for long periods of time. What exactly—"

I suddenly recalled—*Lieder's drug! The power to not require sleep!*

"You're not feeling any pain at all."

"What?" I looked at X, not understanding his words.

X's brows were knit together as he explained, "While you were in a daze just now, I pressed hard on your shoulder, but you didn't react at all. The painkillers' effects have not subsided yet."

I started. *If the effects have not disappeared yet, why does my left shoulder keep hurting?*

"Your young master hurt you too severely."

After saying this casually, he lifted the suitcase he was holding and dropped it on the table, before pulling blood bags out of it and throwing them at me.

“Drink these quickly, and listen to me in the meantime.”

I nodded and bit down on the blood bag. As soon as the first sip of blood entered my throat, I realized just how thirsty I was. These tranquilizers were truly dangerous, especially when combined with the ability of not requiring sleep... *Could it be that I no longer even have the ability to lose consciousness?*

This was a truly unnerving turn of events. Fainting was actually a defense mechanism to notify you that your body has exceeded its capacity and can no longer continue... *Never mind, if I am throwing even my life to the wind, not being able to pass out is a good thing.*

“I do not have much cash. Most of this is gold.”

X opened the suitcase. The items inside had been divided into multiple boxes, making it impossible to identify them. He opened one at random and showed me the gold baubles inside. Moreover, since they all seemed old-fashioned, bringing them to a pawnshop would not actually draw too much attention.

“You should only sell off one or two of these gold accessories at a time. Too many would draw unnecessary suspicion. The others are blood bags. There are not that many since they take up a lot of space and were harder to pack. If no one is too close on your tail, just find some human to drink blood from. Only, do not kill them.”

I asked in confusion, "However, if they make it known that I am a vampire, the Church may be able to gradually close in on my location."

"Relax." X said, undisturbed. "This is Daystar City, a city I am very familiar with. The people here would not casually say anything like 'I was bitten by a vampire.' They are terrified of being treated as an abnormal or lunatic, and fear others' suspicion that they might turn into a vampire after being bitten. So as long as you do not fatally harm them, they will not publicize this information lightly."

X reached out to open a flat box in the suitcase, revealing a suit. He then opened another, square-shaped box, containing a bundle of brown hair that was likely a wig.

As he pointed at the objects, he explained, "Your disguise is not bad, but in this kind of city, dressing up as a white-collar businessman is more appropriate."

I bitterly smiled and asked, "I thought you were an old-fashioned vampire that did not care for mundane matters. I never would have imagined you would turn out to be capable of integrating into the masses of mankind."

X was silent for a while. Then, he spat out with an immeasurable amount of resentment, "You're right, I do not care for mundane matters. At the very least, I did not in the past, up until every city became full of surveillance cameras, and every human possessed cell phones and could contact others at any moment. There is also the damned internet that can broadcast information to the entire world!"

I quietly listened. Although it had not been for long, I had already started to experience the terror of surveillance cameras myself. If not for the young master's prior advice on how to evade them, I likely would have no way to stay on the run and avoid capture for very long.

"If I did not learn how to assimilate with humans, the Church would have latched onto me like maggots, impossible to get rid of. There would be no place I could find shelter, and no moment I could relax! This, this... damned world!"

I did not know how to console the other person, especially since, in a few years, it was possible that I might also be complaining of such things—if I were still alive in a few years.

X put the clothes and wig in my hands as he said, "Charles, wear this wig and glasses. If the Elysees Family will no longer protect you, you will be in great danger. Following me will not be any safer either. Two people together make too obvious a target. Moreover, the Church is always right on my trail."

As he spoke, his brows knit together more tightly, as if the person fleeing for their life for the first time was him and not me.

"You should not have any issues though." X studied me, his expression easing slightly as he continued, "You have always lived among humans, and you appear to be gentle and easy to pick on. As long as you do not encounter people you are well acquainted with, nobody will believe you are a vampire."

Is that a compliment?

“Toughen up, Charles, and become stronger!” X forcefully patted my shoulder. “I know Kaius did not want you to become too powerful, but those were the 1960s when you could stand still, letting the humans shoot at you, and still not die!”

X, there must be something wrong with your perception of a vampire’s strength. Sadina once nearly killed me with a letter opener.

“Yet because the Elysees Family Head was your father, Kaius, he had enough power to protect you. Now, however, the humans keep modifying themselves to become stronger, and Kaius has long since passed away. With Sadina dead now as well—”

I suddenly looked up at X, who only raised a brow rather than avoiding the subject. He had always been like this, even in the past: when my honorable father had passed, X had also acted like this, as if someone’s death was nothing to grieve over, or was even a happy occasion worth celebrating... *To someone like X that has lived for millennia, perhaps death truly is a joyous event?*

After making this connection, I no longer minded if X constantly mentioned Sadina or my honorable father.

I placed the empty blood bag down and asked with a bitter laugh, “X, I am too weak, am I not?”

X laughed and passed another bag of blood to me and, contrary to my expectations, answered, “You finally care about strength. In reality,

you are not weak considering your age. Rather, you are exceedingly strong.”

“Exceedingly strong?” I shook my head. “Are you certain you are referring to me?”

He disinterestedly responded, “What kind of vampire less than two hundred years old is not darting around in hiding? Who would be like you: you, who knows me, whose residence everyone knows the location of, who even found a hero for a young master? It would be easy if you lived on Elysees territory the whole time, but you did not stay there for very long, did you?”

I quietly said, “Despite not living there, I still received the family’s protection.”

“That’s right.” X nodded. “So I’m quite satisfied that the young master you found knows how to stir up trouble, which has given you substantial training.”

“Young... Ri Xiang Ye, he...” *Is very well-behaved.* Yet, after recalling everything that had occurred these past few years, I could not say these words out loud.

“Your young master is indeed not bad. However, since you have already had a falling out with him, he has become your most frightening enemy.” X’s gaze locked onto me as he stated, “He taught you a lot, but it is precisely because he taught you that he is also the one that understands you best. If anyone could capture you while you are in hiding, it would have to be him!”

Indeed, anything he did not teach me was taught to me by Poseidynne, which was not too different, since Poseidynne was right by the young master's side.

How can I become stronger in a short period of time? Strengthening my blood ability was impossible; it was an ability that could only be improved bit by bit over time. The only part that could be improved to some extent was fine control, but that had already been enhanced greatly under Poseidynne's guidance. Even she had once mentioned that my ability could only continue to advance through engagement in actual combat.

After pondering the idea for a while, I suddenly recalled a previous conversation with Lieder.

"X, would an energy weapon help my strength at all?"

X turned his head to look at me. After a long moment of silence, he answered, "You could purchase a dagger-type."

Dagger-type... I really am an assassin.

"Why did you think of using an energy weapon?" X furrowed his brows and asked, "You are a vampire. A blade produced by our blood ability is a vampire's source of power. Although your current situation is an emergency for which you might use an energy weapon, you absolutely must absolutely not lose sight of your bearings. A vampire's strength is their blood ability!"

"I understand." I quickly explained, "Someone once told me that I could be very powerful because of my extremely high speed. He said, abilities can always improve with external help, but speed will always be a limit, so no one could stop me if I possess an insurmountable weapon."

After saying this, I was a bit unsure. While Lieder had spoken these words confidently, X, the one standing before me, could already resist me easily. Claiming that no one could stop me was truly an exaggeration. However, with the urgency of the current situation, I could not care whether Lieder's words were excessive flattery or not.

"My blood ability is very far from the level of being insurmountable, which is why I thought of using an energy weapon to supplement the deficiency."

X frowned deeply, his expression giving me a somewhat uneasy feeling that reminded me of the young master... *No, Ri Xiang Ye! Why am I unable to change how I address him? If I have no choice but to face him directly, and I call him Young Master while fighting him, it would truly come out as too derisive!*

I took a deep breath. Ri Xiang Ye also used energy weapons and was undoubtedly much more practiced in using them than I. In that case, what could I even do with an energy weapon? It was merely wishful thinking to hope that using an energy weapon would allow me to become stronger.

The corners of X's mouth tilted upward, his smile not quite reaching his eyes as he stared at me. I had witnessed him smile more today

than I had over the past hundred years, a realization that made me feel profoundly powerless. X seemed very happy that I had finally been caught in dangerous circumstances...

However, he did not harbor any ill intent. He simply believed that I had been too well protected, and that my combat ability was too lacking. I could not continue relying on the family forever, and the current situation was proof of this. X was correct.

“Charles Endelis, perhaps you are a being more terrifying than even your young master.”

...Huh?

Chapter 9: The Chosen One

Ezart charged into the room. This guy was Ah Ye's first friend. He had his hair dyed orange red, a tattoo on the left side of his face, and a very muscular physique—When I first heard that this kind of person was Ah Ye's friend, all I wanted to do was kill him.

If it was not for An Te Qi claiming that it would have a bad effect on Ah Ye if his first friend died violently or disappeared off the face of the Earth, I really would make him vanish without a trace!

Ah Ye has no standards to speak of when choosing his friends, accepting riffraff of any sort. At first, I thought that it was because Ah Ye trusts people too easily. However, all the people I picked for him were adept with the pen and sword, yet he refused to keep them by his side. It wasn't that he did not want to keep anyone that I sent over though, since he accepted that female vampire and the three bodyguards.

To think that those people all passed the test.

Perhaps Ah Ye has a much more discerning eye than I had originally thought. This way, perhaps I do not need to be too brutal...

The moment Ezart saw the situation in the room, he unclenched his fists and then looked suspiciously at Ah Ye.

Ah Ye's face was mournful as he said, "Ezart, Charles attacked me."

"The butler attacked you?" Ezart started at this and asked, "How could 'that butler' possibly make a move against you? Besides, he can't possibly defeat you. Is he simply asking for death?"

Ah Ye froze, and said, "Charles is very strong. He's even faster than before. He attacked Gē—He attacked me!"

Ezart's face was still full of suspicion, that bastard! He dared to not believe Ah Ye's words... Though they were indeed lies.

"Charles said that you are on his side, too?" Ah Ye's face was sorrowful as he asked, "And even aided in hiding him. Is that true?"

Ezart scratched his head as he said, "I did help hide him, but that has nothing to do with whose side I'm on! Ah Ye, are you mistaken? That butler would actually not stand with you? Is he being controlled by someone again?"

"No, his head was clear." Ah Ye seemed unable to continue lying much further, and cut to the main point, "Ezart, where is Charles hiding? I'm going to find him to ask him clearly!"

"How would I know!"

Dark Sun's cold expression flickered across Ah Ye's face for a moment as he asked, "Are you really on his side?"

"What nonsense are you spouting!" Ezart's expression changed and he roared, "He's your butler, not my butler. Why would I stand on his side?"

Ah Ye fell silent for a moment, and then said, "I can't tell."

"What?"

"I can't tell if what you said was the truth or a lie."

Ezart's expression shifted. He stared hard at Ah Ye, and only said two words, "Dark Sun?"

Ah Ye did not reply back, but the look on his face was true to what Ezart had guessed. It was Dark Sun.

"Why did you become Dark Sun?" Ezart slowly retreated, and warily asked, "What exactly have you done to the butler?"

"Where is Charles?"

Ah Ye drew closer to Ezart step by step. Faced with his good friend of many years, Dark Sun's face did not falter one bit. However, I could hear his anguished cries, the helpless and frail Ah Ye that was hidden behind Dark Sun's face...

If I simply cancelled the plan and explained everything, Ah Ye would immediately stop suffering now. However, the phrase "thousand years" immediately came to mind. His pain right now was only temporary. For the sake of his thousand years, all of this was required. All of this was necessary...

All for the sake of Ah Ye's upcoming thousand years.



My current state was truly strange. I did not feel the slightest desire to sleep, and even if I were to shut my eyes to try and get some rest, I would get up very quickly.

Though in the current situation, not requiring sleep may perhaps be a good thing. However, would it really not become an issue in the long run?

As for Lieder's medicine, X was also unable to come up with an explanation for it. He merely told me to drink more blood, which I did and drank four full bags, with each bag containing two hundred and fifty grams of blood. In the past, drinking a thousand grams of blood would be enough to make me not feel hunger for the entire day. If I was not too active, there would be no issues lasting two days on it. However, as of now I had chugged down four bags in one shot, and my hunger was still not satiated. I probably would have been able to drink more if it were not for X's concerns that we did not have enough blood bags, hence chasing me out to find some fresh human blood.

"Go and hunt for food! You must drink till you start feeling full, to test how much you need to drink before it's enough."

Once X gave an order, there was no room for negotiations. I had merely just removed the bullet from my left shoulder when I was forcefully chased out, not even having enough time to advise him to leave quickly.

I put down the man in my arms and lay him leaning against the alley wall. There were already two others there, all young men in their twenties. Losing five hundred grams of blood would not cause them too much harm, and given the excellent security of Daystar City, it ought to be fine leaving them in the alley.

This time, I finally began to feel somewhat full. If I add the thousand grams of blood I drank earlier, with the five hundred grams or so each from three people, that means it took about two thousand five hundred grams of blood for me to be satisfied? Is this normal, or is it perhaps because of my heavy injuries that I need so much blood?

I was uncertain of how long this blood could last me. Though it was not difficult to get blood in this current era, it would still be largely inconvenient if I would feel hunger periodically.

After I had drunk my fill of blood, I felt much more energized, and the heaviness I felt from my knee seemed to have lightened. Pain still throbbed in my shoulder from time to time, but it did not hinder my movements.

I moved my hands and feet, making sure that I had no problems with a range of motions before I then rushed over to the location. What I was about to do was truly risky and required utmost caution.

I wore a disguise of a brown wig, an office suit, and thick glasses. Without a closer look, even I would be unable to recognise myself. However, I was still extremely worried about being discovered. I hesitated for a long time before I got on a taxi. If I did not use x-

speed and merely walked and glide stepped, it would take far too much time and energy.

I got out of the car two streets away from my destination, and then slowly walked in the shadows, going through numerous hidden sentry posts along the way. This place was simply much too dangerous, but I had no choice but to return here—the hotel that I had just escaped from.

Walking up the hotel walls, I carefully avoided the surveillance cameras that were practically everywhere. I looked at the French window, the majority of which was covered in cracks spreading in a spider-web pattern. With much difficulty, I managed to find a small patch that was still transparent and looked in, inwardly thankful that the people inside had not switched rooms.

Everyone in the room was injured, and I could tell that their injuries were casually bandaged. Bramble seemed depressed as he drank his tea. It appeared that there were no more tea bags and what he was drinking was canned tea. Every time he took a mouthful, he frowned. Bandages were wrapped around his left arm, and the rest of him was covered by his clothing, so I could not tell where else he was injured. However, there were quite a few areas stained with blood.

May was seated on the sofa, not saying a word with his head hung low. On the left side of his face was a massive bruise, and his left eye was so swollen he could only keep it partially open. Half of his face remained delicate while the other side was disfigured, making him look rather frightening.

Dell was lazily sprawled over the three-seater sofa. He was not wearing a top, and half of his chest was wrapped in bandages. Though he wore a lazy expression, his face looked extremely pale.

Melody was seated on the only office chair, idly looking at the nail polish on her fingers. On the table was a nearly emptied glass of blood. For someone who valued beauty over all else, her neck to shoulder was covered in charred black burns. They were not bandaged, since for a vampire, it would be more effective to drink more blood than apply medicine.

I walked to the other window. The curtains were drawn, but there was still a small gap. When I peered through the gap, I saw Briar lying on the bed. She did not seem to be having a restful sleep, as she would roll around from time to time. On the bed, another person was seated while looking at her with worried eyes. That person was Poseidynne. It seemed like these two were unharmed.

Nitewalker was standing behind Poseidynne, right in the utmost corner of the room. It looked like he was guarding the two.

At this moment, the bathroom door opened, and Ezart walked out. He was not wearing a top either, and his abdomen was bandaged. However, some parts of the bandages were reddish in color, so it seemed that quite a bit of the blood had seeped through the bandages even after he wrapped it up.

He exchanged a look with Poseidynne, the two of them not speaking a single word. Then, Ezart headed toward the living room.

At this point, the situation in the room was fully clear to me, unless there were more people in the bathroom. However, I believed that Ezent could not possibly have been sharing the bathroom with someone else.

Where is Luo Ye? Was he already killed?

I pondered for a while, and then jumped off the building. I targeted someone who had just wrapped up his conversation on his phone, and brushed shoulders with him. In-passing, I took his phone and of course, I did not forget to throw a golden ring into his pocket.

Then, I returned to my original spot above the hotel's French window, and dialed Melody's number.

"Do not speak."

Inside the room, Melody's eyes turned wide.

"You should be able to recognize me from my voice. Now, leave the room by yourself and do not alert any others. Do not bring any electronics with you, and then walk to a place with fewer people. If you contact anyone else or have someone accompany you, I will leave immediately."

Melody had already composed herself by now and calmly said, "Is that so? Okay, I'll go and pick it up from you now."

When she met the questioning gazes of everyone in the room, she explained, "The blood delivery I ordered arrived. He's waiting outside."

I'll go and get it. You all better look after the young master's two precious wives well."

Dell made a cutting remark, "Of course Bri goes without saying, but to look after the other... I think it's more like she'll be looking after us!"

Bramble's face turned darker and May's head hung even lower.

Melody raised an eyebrow, and said, "What are you saying, bodyguards?! That fish is strong indeed, but her sense of alertness is terrible! By the time she discovers the danger, she's probably already half-dead! If you all don't keep watch, then who will?"

Dell sat up, May raised his head, and Bramble finished his canned tea in one gulp. Dell chuckled and replied, "Of course we'll keep watch!"

"That's more like it."

Melody gave a snort, and then took out a silk scarf from her bag to cover up the burn marks on her neck. Her footsteps rang loud and clear as she stepped out of the room. After waiting for a while, I saw her exit through the hotel doors, and she rejected the attendant's suggestion to call a taxi for her. She walked by herself on the road, her graceful and beautiful posture attracting many admiring gazes.

After walking for a distance, she turned into an alley and moved all the way in. She then shouted, "Come out! This is the only alley around with no surveillance cameras, and I can't be too far from the hotel."

I checked the surroundings for a while, and just as she was about to impatiently leave, I jumped to the alley entrance and blocked her exit.

Melody froze and said, "Your skills sure have improved really quickly. Could it be an advantage of a pureborn vampire? Forget it, that's not important here. Butler, did the young master call you here to say something?"

I remained silent, not sure how much the youn—Ri Xiang Ye had told Melody. She seemed not to know of the clash between me and Ri Xiang Ye.

"I wish to know the exact events that transpired last night. Where is Luo Ye? Is he dead?"

"The young master and Ezart didn't tell you? Oh right, what's up with Ezart? He doesn't answer my questions. Putting aside the fact that he suddenly rushed out in the middle of a fight yesterday, there hadn't been a wound on his stomach when he'd left, and it looked as though his stomach had been sliced open when he returned. I asked him who injured him, but he didn't say a single word and only wore a foul expression.

At this point, she looked at me and asked in suspicion, "Could it be that you injured him?"

I shook my head and answered, "I did not see him yesterday."

Melody nodded. She seemed not to suspect what I said and merely asked, "The young master is at the Sun Emperor's place right? When

he called back, his only orders upon listening to our report was for us to stay here and await orders. He didn't say anything else and wouldn't let Bramble and the others follow him. The three of them were so disheartened that they nearly wanted to quit their jobs."

Quit? At first I was astonished, and afterwards I quietly said, "Perhaps it may be a good thing if they quit."

Melody froze. She stared at me in disbelief and asked, "What did you say? Y-you're the butler right? That butler?"

"... If the butler that you are referring to is Charles Endelis, then I am indeed 'that butler.'"

Melody glared at me, seeming to finally realize that something was off. She retreated a few steps and said cautiously, "You don't seem like him. 'That butler' cannot defeat me, but you... keep giving off a dangerous vibe!"

"I was injected with a lot of tranquilizers." I could not help trying to explain, but once I said that, it felt like a foolish excuse. No matter whether or not there were tranquilizers at play, I was no longer "that butler" from before.

"What exactly happened?" Melody inquired seriously, completely retracting her casual attitude used with familiar people. She added, "Don't come over!"

Such a distance would be nothing with x-speed. I did not remind her, and merely asked with some curiosity, "Did Ri Xiang Ye not tell you?"

Her eyes widened, and in a strange tone, she shouted, "What did you call him?"

I fell silent for a moment, then repeated, "Ri Xiang Ye."

"Charles. Endelis. Did you raise a hand against the young master?" Melody's expression was stern, and her voice turned into the Hollow Roar unique to vampires.

"... No." *He was the one who raised a hand against me.*

Her expression eased a little, but her gaze was still sharp as she said, "Fine, I'll tell you what happened. But you also have to tell me what on earth happened between you and the young master! As well as what matter of business Ezart has been up to!"

"I do not know of Ezart's business."

Melody shouted in rage, "Even if you really don't know what happened to him, you must at least know something! Right?"

I pondered for a moment, and then nodded my head in agreement.

Melody drew a deep breath, and then started narrating the events of that day.

"I was summoned back by the young master, who then ordered all of us to stay in his room. We didn't know what to do so we could only

look at each other helplessly. Not that I want to say it, but I really don't like that guy."

"To whom are you referring to?" I asked in puzzlement. *Could it be possibly Ezart? However, at that time he was rescuing Briar with the young master, so he should not have been in the room.*

Melody's lips were pursed as she said, "Who else is there aside from that Luo Ye!"

"He looks similar to the Sun Emperor." I was a little surprised, for I had thought that Melody would like him because of that. It would not have occurred to me that she would instead dislike him.

Melody gave a cold snort and said, "One high and mighty monarch is enough. He isn't that person, so showing such an attitude only makes one dislike him! Who does he think he is? Hmph! But even if I dislike him, the young master wanted us to protect him, so we had to follow orders."

At this moment, her expression suddenly turned strange as she said, "But the people who burst in that day, were no other than the adjudication squad."

As I expected. I stared at Melody with furrowed brows, recalling Kyle's words: *The young master's people all belong to the Sun Emperor.*

Melody, where do your loyalties lie?

"My!" Once Melody stepped through the door, she saw many familiar faces seated on the sofa with dark expressions. However, among those people, the only person who was supposed to be here was Nitewalker. She could not resist asking, "How long have you all been here?"

"We just arrived today." Dell seemed discouraged as he lamented.

Melody burst into laughter. "Are you all even professional bodyguards? To think you would be discovered by the young master in less than a day!"

The three bodyguards were unable to retort. Dell had a pitiful look, while May and Bramble looked rather surly.

"It's fine!" Melody comforted, "I mean, who's our young master? It's extremely difficult to hide things from him. Even if he found you all, it's no big deal. I'll help speak up for you guys. You guys know our young master's personality too. He can't stay angry for long. I don't even think he could punish you."

"Briar is missing." Poseidynne clenched her fist. If it were not for Ah Ye sternly forbidding it, she definitely would have gone out looking for her.

Melody was shocked and exclaimed, "You actually brought Briar over, too?"

She received a confirmation from reading everyone's faces, and then weakly said, "Did you all feel masochistic and have nothing better to do? To bring the young master's precious one to this kind of place, are you forcing him to punish you?"

"Who is Xiang Ye's precious one?" Luo Ye suddenly asked.

When they heard the words "Xiang Ye," everyone almost could not react, for simply too few people addressed the young master as such. If they did not call him Young Master, then they would be calling him by his nickname Ah Ye.

"His daughter." Melody casually pointed at Bramble, and then continued, "She is also the young master's fiancée."

After saying that, she pointed at Poseidynne and said in poor taste, "This is the backup fiancée."

"Xiang Ye is already betrothed to two people at such a young age?" Luo Ye asked in astonishment, "Was it arranged by the Sun Emperor?"

Melody nearly rolled her eyes at that. *The main point was that he was too young, and not that he had two betrothed? Damn these rich people...* She tried to remain patient as she said, "Of course not. If the Sun Emperor arranged it, would he arrange for Ah Ye to marry a bodyguard's daughter?"

Bramble raised an eyebrow, but did not say anything. After interacting with each other for so long, everyone knew each other's personalities, and he understood that Melody had no ill intent.

Luo Ye coldly answered, "It is precisely because he is the Sun Emperor that he would do such a thing."

"This is the little girlfriend that the young master found on his own. If anyone were to stop him and Briar from dating, he will immediately fall out with them." Melody intentionally exaggerated, to prevent this person that popped out of nowhere from ruining the young master's happiness and stirring up a lot of unnecessary trouble.

Luo Ye frowned. It seemed that he too had realized that now was not the time to be meddling with such matters, and hence he did not speak any further.

Melody turned to ask everyone, "So that means, someone snatched Briar out from your hands?"

Everyone fell silent, while her gaze shifted left and right. Bramble and the others were trained professionals, so their expressions were unfazed and could not be read. However, Poseidynne was not trained. She too knew that she would not be able to conceal her emotions, and thus turned her head to one side, refusing to look at Melody.

Melody felt that something was really off, and questioned, "You all couldn't possibly have let Briar go out on her own, right? Hm, I don't think so. She's Bramble's precious daughter. It's absolutely impossible... Who was with Briar?"

Everyone forcefully suppressed their panic. It was really much more difficult to hide things from Melody than the young master.

"Is it Ezart? Is he also missing?"

Everyone seemed to be sticking to the rule of "silence is golden."

"I understand." Melody looked deep in thought as she said, "It's the butler, right? He hadn't left at all."

Everyone's expressions changed.

"I knew it!" She clapped her hands together.

"How did you know?" Poseidynne finally could not resist asking.

"How hard could it be to guess?" Melody laughed. "There aren't many people by the young master's side, and most of them are already seated here. Within the remaining people, how many of them are trusted by you guys? I would say if it isn't Aren or First Wind, then it's the butler. But someone you don't dare to name could only be the butler that the young master had sent home!"

Everyone looked at each other in dismay, and Dell quietly said, "Thankfully the young master isn't this smart."

Melody snorted and said, "Our young master is just overly concerned and therefore unable to make a good judgment right now. Once he realizes it, he will most likely figure out something is wrong too. Just wait for your punishment!"

"It's none of our business!" Dell wailed loudly, "When we first met the butler, we didn't even know that the young master had sent him away!"

"You're the ones who brought Briar." Melody rubbed it in further. Glancing at Bramble's and Poseidynne's expressions, she comforted,

“Don’t worry, regardless of who captured Bri, they would not purposely harm a little girl.”

Bramble frowned and did not say anything; Poseidynne’s expression was full of dismay, clearly not believing what Melody said.

Luo Ye seemed displeased as he said, “Why would Xiang Ye get involved in so much trouble? Do you mean that as his older brother, Ri Xiang Yan did not lend a hand to help him resolve these problems? This should be just a small task for the mighty Sun Emperor. Is he not willing to even help with this?”

Melody laughed out loud and said, “Our young master’s hobby is looking for trouble, and nobody can stop him from that, even the Sun Emperor himself!”

Luo Ye shot a glance at her. Though her words sounded a little derogatory, everyone’s expressions looked proud at that. He understood that he was being kept out of the loop, so he fell silent and did not speak further.

There was nothing to do while they waited, and everyone just stared at one another. Because Briar’s safety after disappearing was unknown, even Dell was unable to joke around. Only Melody seemed to not know what silence was as she bugged Nitewalker to remove his sunglasses so that she could take a look. However, Nitewalker did not even respond to her and simply changed the television channels.

Suddenly, the three bodyguards jumped to their feet. Seeing that, Melody knew that something was up. With a quick glide step, she

dashed in front of Bramble and the others. It was not that she looked down on them, for even she would be afraid of their firepower—if there was a distance between them, she would not have an advantage. That was precisely why she would choose to stand in front of them, so as to let them fire bullets from the back and achieve the maximum efficacy in battle.

At this moment, Nitewalker joined Melody at the front. She looked at the two short tridents the other held, and then understood that he also specialized in close combat. She gave a smile and said, “This weapon is pretty uncommon.”

Everyone was facing the room door, and Melody had planned for the worst. The door being kicked open was a small affair, but if they were down on their luck then it would probably be blasted open. What they did not expect was that the room door opened normally.

“Young Master, you’re back?” She shouted gleefully.

Hope appeared on everyone’s faces, but the person that entered was not the one they were hoping for. There were several people, all dressed in black military clothes. They wore masks, and right in the center of the masks was the sun emblem that everyone recognized.

Though the adjudication squad in front of them and the people in the room answered to the same boss at the very top, there were still countless layers in the middle to reach there. In other words, Melody, Bramble, and the others had no intention of treating the adjudication squad as colleagues.

However, regardless of whether they wanted to treat them as colleagues, at the very least they could not treat them as enemies. As the person with the highest authority at the scene, Melody took the initiative to walk up front to deal with them.

One of the adjudication squad members also walked up to her. Without saying a word, he handed her a document. Melody received the document, and upon taking a look, her expression immediately changed. This was an execution order, personally signed by the Sun Emperor, and the target was—Luo Ye.

She knew that she would only have a few seconds to decide what to do. The adjudication squad were not human; they would not give her ample time to respond, nor would she be able to delay time by befriending them. They simply executed orders.

Melody turned and yelled, "Call the young master!"

May immediately sprung into action, but as soon as he glanced at his pulled-out phone, he immediately put it back down.

"The phone has been turned off remotely."

Been turned off? At this point, Melody was out of ideas. The adjudication squad sure was "good." They did not have room for negotiations nor compromises. Unless they were all utterly annihilated, they would execute their orders to the end.

The rest of them also realized that something was wrong. Even though the people they were facing were the adjudication squad that

answered to the same superior, they did not have any intentions of putting down their guns.

Melody's expression was pained as she said, "They have come under the Sun Emperor's orders to kill Luo Ye."

Luo Ye stood up. His face had turned a little paler, but he still kept his composure.

Melody first looked toward Nitewalker, who gave her a small nod, and then she turned to Poseidynne. These two were the only people who did not need to follow the Sun Emperor's orders, and neither of them were weak, especially Poseidynne. If she was willing to help, they might be able to fend off the adjudication squad here with the two. If that was the case, then the others would not need to choose between the young master's protection orders, or the Sun Emperor's execution orders.

Poseidynne raised an eyebrow, and said, "Don't look at me! I'm not a bodyguard, and the only person I promised to protect is Briar!" *It's a no go!* Melody shot Poseidynne a hateful glance, but she knew that the other had not done anything wrong. She could only feel resent by herself.

The adjudication squad made a move, and the person at the very front walked past Melody. In that moment, she was at a loss as to what to do. Bramble and the others also frowned, and though she did not know what they would do, she knew that as the person with the highest rank here, what she did would have the largest impact on the three bodyguards.

Young Master... Sun Emperor...

"Nitewalker, let's go!" Melody gritted her teeth, and then roared to the three bodyguards, "You all decide for yourselves!"

As she finished her words, she formed a blood claw and taking advantage of the adjudication squad's inability to react in time, she made a large swipe.

I'm so dead. This time, I'm really dead meat, right?

Melody smiled, her mood suddenly turning happy. *Perhaps this time, I can finally meet my beloved.*

With both the blood claw and the trident simultaneously striking, the adjudication squad member in front fell, not blocking the view anymore. Melody saw the Bramble and the others raise their guns.

Will the target of their shots be me or...

Before she could finish her thoughts, bullets screamed out.



"You all opposed the Sun Emperor's orders?"

I felt a little shocked at that. It was not unexpected for Melody to make a move, for even though she looked like she did not care about anything on the surface, I could feel that she actually valued the young master a lot. If she could choose an address for the young

master, I believe she would definitely call the young master “little brother.” However, even Bramble, May, and Dell had opposed orders?

Melody did not continue her story after she stopped here, but since she was standing here now and had even been in the same room as Bramble and the others earlier, I believe that the target the guns had pointed at had not been her.

“Yeah. If it were you, you would definitely fight, too. Why are you so shocked?”

I... Taking a deep breath, I calmly asked, “What happened after that?”

“After that, we fought of course!” Melody suddenly burst into laughter. “But Poseidynne also helped out. Though she said she wasn’t going to help, she was secretly using her water currents to lend a hand. Then...”

She suddenly frowned. I could not hold back my curiosity and asked, “Then what happened?”

“Reinforcements came.” She indifferently said, “Those adjudication squad members are pretty good, but not to the point of being terrifying. After all, we are still people who were sent by the master to stay by the young master’s side. Those adjudication squad members can’t do much to us, but they have an advantage that we don’t—there were so many of them it was like toys from a factory line. We were heavily surrounded and even Poseidynne had to become serious...”



“We can’t stay here any longer!”

Melody retreated as she fought, and not having the time to turn around, she directly roared in her vampire voice, "We can't care about the young master's orders to stay here anymore! Jump out of the window!"

For Bramble and the others, jumping out the window was simply certain death. Normally they would be able to descend using the equipment on them, but given that they were surrounded by enemies right now, they really had no choice but to "jump" out the window. However, the three of them were not vampires, and definitely would not suddenly sprout wings to fly.

However, since Melody said so, they started retreating backwards without any hesitation, escorting Luo Ye while firing shots. Upon turning back though, Dell cursed quietly while May immediately shouted back to report, "There are enemies outside the window. We are surrounded! I repeat, we are surrounded!"

Melody was so busy, she practically had to do ten attacks with two hands. Regardless, she had no choice but to glance at the situation, and then realized in shock that a whole crowd of military men in black were dropping down outside the window. Though she did not know why they had not broken in through the window, it was clear that they would not let them escape out of the window safely.

Melody drew in a sharp breath. The best case scenario that she could imagine right now would be that the adjudication squad would complete their mission to kill Luo Ye and leave directly after, not eliminating her and the others in passing.

She understood that there was no chance of that happening. Though they were not colleagues, she was different from the bodyguards like Bramble and the others. She too had received missions to “eradicate” and “annihilate,” and of course in those missions, adjudication squad members were also in the team.

As long as no one stopped them, the adjudication squad members would eradicate anyone who dared to raise a hand against them, because that was regarded as declaring war against the Sun Alliance.

“Melody!”

She felt heat on the side of her neck, and immediately glide stepped away, even knocking away a few adjudication squad members in the process since she was surrounded by enemies. Immediately, her whole body cried out in pain, but she did not have the time to check on her injuries before she was forced to defend herself. She could barely keep up with the assaults from various directions, and could only barely block a few attacks aimed at vital areas. As for the rest of the body, she could not afford to pay any mind...

Something flashed in front of her eyes, reducing her vision to a large sea of white, while sounds akin to the ocean’s waves reached her ears. Melody’s eyes turned wide, but she did not dare to move a muscle, for water currents were on both sides of her. They were far from a trickle of water; such an imposing sight would probably only be seen at the seashore during a typhoon.

The adjudication squad in front was cleared out like the autumn wind blowing away fallen leaves. Melody stood up, panting heavily. Only then did she feel a sharp pain from her neck, which made her break out in cold sweat.

Someone walked to Melody's side and placed a hand on her neck. The pain at her neck immediately subsided, and she felt as though it was being bathed in warm water.

Melody was so comfortable, she was almost starting to feel a wave of lethargy come over her. She said, "You can both attack and heal. Poseidynne, you must be a legendary non-human, right?"

"Legendary what?" Poseidynne snorted as she said, "A dull title!"

Melody did not speak any further. Since a legend like White Stone whom all the non-humans of Sunset City knew about existed, it was natural for there to be a legend that did not want to let others know of their existence, such as Poseidynne. Regardless, it would be wise to follow as they wished.

"When is the young master—"

Their words were interrupted by the sound of uniform footsteps. Clearly the water currents just now were unable to immobilize the adjudication squad, and they had returned.

Poseidynne's expression was uncertain and clouded. However, Melody and the others were quite courageous, completely unwilling to ask Poseidynne for help and not even casting a single look at her. This

instead made Poseidynne feel guilty. She gritted her teeth and turned to say to them, "You all owe me one! Hide behind me."

Everyone felt very upset about having to be protected by others despite being bodyguards, but they did not intend to pay with their lives for it, and promptly gathered by Poseidynne's side.

Water rushed out from all sources, from the faucet in the bathroom to even the fire sprinklers on the rooftop. Though this was a high-rise building, in current modern day society, tap water could be found everywhere. Moreover, they were in a hotel, and one simply could not compare the number of water towers on the rooftop and the volume of water that could be held to an ordinary household's water tower.

As long as she had an endless supply of water, Poseidynne was equipped with unlimited weapons. She stepped forward bit by bit, the lower half of her body submerged in the translucent water with a slight tint of blue. What was strange was that the people standing behind her were not wet in the least bit.

Water was truly something hard to defend from. Watching the enemy being swept off their feet by something that was everywhere and usually not noticed like water, Melody sincerely hoped that Poseidynne would be blissful with the young master to the end—Being lovers with her was definitely better than being her enemy!

"W-What exactly are they made of?" Poseidynne seemed flustered and exasperated as she shouted. Even after a few waves hit them, the adjudication squad members would still stand back up.

"Mix of metal and human flesh?" Melody replied honestly.

"... Your description can't be any grosser!" Poseidynne gritted her teeth and complained.

Melody raised an eyebrow, and said, "Your future husband is also a mix of metal and human flesh."

"..." Even Bramble, Dell, and May cast a sidelong glance at that, especially Bramble, given that this "mix of metal and human flesh" was also his daughter's "future husband."

Footsteps were heard once again, and Poseidynne finally went berserk as she shouted, "I don't care anymore! It's fine even if we destroy the building, right?"

No, that would be a big problem. Destroying an entire hotel under the Church's eyes isn't something that one can escape unscathed from. Melody felt her scalp tingling.

"Go ahead and destroy it." Melody weakly said. They had already defied the Sun Emperor's orders anyways, and doom was certain. It wasn't as if they could die a second time by adding the Church to the mix.

Poseidynne immediately raised both her hands high, and the water currents became so violent that everyone felt as though they were in a storm at sea. If it was not for the fact that everyone thought of themselves as trained bodyguards and wanted to keep their pride

intact even in death, they would be huddling together and shrieking in fear instead.

The footsteps stopped abruptly, and Poseidynne also froze in her movements. Her expression was cold as ice as she waited for the person to step in. She did not care whether they were a mix of metal and human flesh or not. Even if they were fully metal, she would turn them into scrap metal!

A figure turned the corner, and with a wave of Poseidynne's hand, the water currents rushed toward them violently. However, her beautiful eyes suddenly turned wide, and she gave a low shout. She forcefully turned away all of the water currents, but it was too slow and accidentally destroyed the door and decorative fireplace.

She gleefully shouted, "Ah Ye!"

"Young Master!" Melody happily shrieked. *The savior's finally here... Strange, what's that stick that the young master is holding?* Ri Xiang Ye stepped forward a little more, immediately answering her question. What was attached to the back of the long stick was a giant blade—the Death Scythe.

Did the young master bring the Death Scythe here? Melody was bewildered for a while.

"Ah Ye!" Poseidynne ran to Ri Xiang Ye's side, and smilingly said, "You're finally back. Where's Bri?"

However, Ri Xiang Ye did not say a single word. His expression was cold, and he did not pay any heed to Poseidynne, instead staring straight at Melody and the others.

"Ah Ye?" Poseidynne looked around but did not see Briar. Ri Xiang Ye also did not respond back to her. Gradually, she started to feel that something was wrong.

Melody's scalp started tingling. She recalled that a microchip was embedded in the young master's brain that caused him to be unable to defy orders, and he would obey the master's orders. In the past, the master pampered the young master to no ends, and would not give the young master any orders. But now... what exactly was this situation?

Ri Xiang Ye reached out to grab the Death Scythe resting atop his shoulders. In that moment, the glint of the blade kept flickering, causing everyone watching to feel as though they had been cut several times. In their hearts they started to realize, but still they did not wish to believe... After all, they had just made the decision to defy the Sun Emperor's orders for the young master. How ironic it would be if they did not die from the adjudication squad under the Sun Emperor, but instead was killed by the young master's own two hands!

"Ah Ye, what are you trying to do?" Poseidynne's eyes turned wide. She stared at the Death Scythe in Ri Xiang Ye's hands and started to feel more and more anxious.

The young master calmly said, "Poseidynne, Nitewalker, this has nothing to do with you two. Back down!"

Everyone's expressions changed. Nitewalker frowned. He seemed hesitant yet did not back down as ordered. Poseidynne looked at Melody and the others with conflicting emotions as she said, "Ah Ye, are you going to kill them?"

Ri Xiang Ye actually nodded as he said, "They defied Gēge's orders, so Gēge wants me to kill all of them. It can't be helped."

Poseidynne's heart sank. Though at first she had only gone to the apartment because she liked Ah Ye and had gotten acquainted with Melody and the others as a result, they had already spent quite some time together. Poseidynne did not think she could be so cold-blooded as to watch them be killed indifferently.

"Ah Ye, go and plead to your brother." Poseidynne beseeched, "Your brother listens to everything you say. If you go and beg him, he will definitely listen to you and let them go."

"No." The young master drew closer step by step, and said, "Gēge has set an order. I must obey."

Melody finally started to retreat slowly, but Ri Xiang Ye charged forward with a twirl of the Death Scythe. She immediately evaded with glide steps, but Bramble and the others were incapable of such a feat. They could only split up in three different directions with good coordination. This way, even if Ri Xiang Ye really attacked them, he could only pursue one person. As for who that person would be, that would depend on who was unlucky.

May suddenly felt a chill at the back of his neck. He was abruptly kicked by someone, causing him to crash on the ground, and his face immediately slammed into the ground. However, he had no time to shout in pain. With a quick turn of his head, he just happened to see a silver light flicker past. At his side, Nitewalker squatted down to dodge this attack. If it were not for his timely kick, May would already be decapitated by now.

However, the danger was not over. May twisted his body left and right, dodging in succession the sharp blade that attacked continuously. However, no matter how flexible he had trained himself to be, there would always be a limit. The scythe brushed past his waist, instantly drawing blood. Just as he was about to be tragically cut in half, May's entire body unexpectedly moved backwards as Bramble and Dell dragged him away.

Ri Xiang Ye continued to give chase, intending to swoop up the whole lot of them, including the disobedient Nitewalker. Then, a large dark-red blood claw swung at him, sending him flying into the wall.

"Melody!" Poseidynne shouted loudly, "Don't you dare raise a hand against Ah Ye! He was forced—"

Melody roared back in reply, "He is not the young master. He's DSII! The young master's movements are more fluid and using the Death Scythe isn't this strenuous for him. The young master can glide step too, while DSII can't! Not to mention—Would the Sun Emperor really send the young master to come and kill us?"

Everyone froze. Melody confidently continued, "If the Sun Emperor wanted to kill us, there are many methods of doing so. Would he send the young master to kill us personally? We are the people closest to the young master. Imagine how sad it would make him to have to kill us with his own two hands. Would the Sun Emperor really bear to do this to him?"

Everyone started to have their doubts, with only Luo Ye having an "as I expected" tone as he said, "I already warned you long ago that the Sun Emperor definitely wouldn't have good intentions toward Xiang Ye, and that it's just his facade, but none of you believed me!"

However, there was no way they could believe these words. They had seen and experienced how the Sun Emperor had treated Ri Xiang Ye before, simply pampering him to no ends. If it weren't for that unique personality of Ri Xiang Ye, the world's strongest prodigal son would probably have appeared a few years ago!

Ri Xiang Ye crawled up, and indifferently said, "Melody, no matter how you change the topic, it's of no use—"

"DSII!" Melody sternly interrupted him, and roared, "If you want to kill us, then just do it! Don't pretend to be the young master anymore! I don't know if the young master has to obey the Sun Emperor's orders or not, but he absolutely would not kill us with an indifferent attitude, definitely not!"

"That's right! The young master definitely isn't that heartless!" Dell shouted loudly.

“Seconded!” May said resolutely.

Bramble merely nodded.

Ri Xiang Ye coldly observed everyone present—and then smiled, his entire demeanor changing. His smile did not display the coldness of Dark Sun, but neither did it look like Ri Xiang Ye. If one were to compare, it would be like Ri Xiang Ye had gotten a more mischievous brother.

“Melody is great! Gēge told me that if you guys can tell that I’m not Ah Ye, he will give all of you a final chance—Kill Luo Ye and you will be pardoned.”

Chapter 10: King's Game

"Where is Charles?"

Ah Ye's hands were pressed against Ezart's abdomen, restraining him against the wall. In addition, I had just personally caught sight of Ah Ye extending his metal fingernails.

He fiercely threatened, "If you don't say it, I'll tear your intestines out!"

Ezart grimaced in pain and ground out through clenched teeth, "I'll say—say that the worst thing I've ever done in my life was getting to know a bastard like you!"

He dared to talk like that to Ah Ye?! I quickly glanced at Ah Ye, whose expression was as cold and unfeeling as before. However, his eyes had widened significantly, as if he was making a supreme effort to endure the pain...

"Ah Ye!" I hurriedly shouted, "I think he really doesn't know. There's no need to press him further."

Ah Ye remained indifferent.

I gritted my teeth and commanded, "Dark Sun, I order you to release him!"

Ah Ye went rigid. I was starting to worry that he would choose to continue extorting him for a confession because of the supreme doctrine of "hunting down all my enemies." This was not a part of my

prepared plans. Ezart could not get pulled into this matter. He is the final insurance and cannot become involved!

Fortunately, Ah Ye chose to let go. As soon as Ezart was freed, he let out a cold snort and turned to leave with his arm clutching at his bleeding stomach.

"Where are you going?" Ah Ye asked.

Ezart viciously replied, "Going down to see if your bodyguards are all dead!"

Ah Ye stared at Ezart's back. After a moment of silence, he said, "If you think knowing me is terrible, you can actually leave, Ezart."

Ezart stopped in his tracks for a brief moment before continuing forward, not even turning his head as he huffed angrily, "Want me to get lost? Too late! Don't even dream about it! You owe me so much, I'll never let you weasel your way out!"

Ah Ye watched Ezart leave. Only when he could no longer see the other person's figure did he turn to face me. "Gē, what exactly do you want to do?"

It's here! I calmly answered, "Mainly eliminate Luo Ye, while using the chance to also force out the hidden strength of the Church and Elysees, particularly the latter. That butler's family is too skilled at concealing themselves. I originally hadn't paid them much attention, until I recently discovered that they were actually quite complicated."

"Is that so?"

As I saw Ah Ye's probing gaze, I suddenly felt my scalp go slightly numb. I immediately answered, "Of course! The fact that I have the adjudication squad was made public ages ago. How could I let them continue hiding their forces!"

Ah Ye calmly asked, "That's not it, Gē. I meant to say, 'Is that it?'"

I started, then showed an injured expression as I helplessly replied, "What else should I be doing? Are you suspecting me? Do you think I'd harm you?"

Ah Ye shook his head and stated, "Gē obviously wouldn't harm me."

"It's good that you know that." I'm always doing what's good for you. Everything is for your sake, Ah Ye...

But right now, "letting Ah Ye trust me" was not a part of my plans either.

"That damn butler actually tried to kill me. Stay by my side for the time being. If he appears again—"

"I'll kill him!" Ah Ye's tone was so cold that I felt goosebumps form on my skin, and I once again wondered if I was truly gambling on too much this time.

An Te Qi, you'd better be successful. If you fail and let Ah Ye... I'll seriously make sure you know what wishing for death means!



"You killed Luo Ye?"

I stared at Melody as I felt a pain in my heart. Protecting Luo Ye for the sake of the young master or killing Luo Ye for the sake of protecting themselves. The situation was just like the choice I was faced with, of being forced to either betray the young master or betray X.

Seeing as they were all still alive and Luo Ye had disappeared, I thought it likely that they had chosen to protect themselves. While the young master might not truly blame them, could he truly be without grudge toward Melody, Bramble, and the others?

First, it was forcing me to choose between X and the young master. Now, it was forcing Melody and the others to choose between the Sun Emperor's orders and the young master's orders. *Why does the Sun Emperor feel the need to go as far as trapping us all in this dilemma?*

"No." Melody's expression was somewhat peculiar. "Before we could even make a decision, Ezart came back."

"Did the young master return?" As soon as I spoke these words, I sensed something was wrong. *Did Melody not just say Ezart had returned?*

If the young master had also returned, Melody definitely would not have said that Ezart had returned. Even if Ezart had been walking in front of the young master, their focus would always be the young master, not Ezart.

I watched Melody grin with a smile that did not reach her eyes. *What does that reaction mean? I truly cannot understand.*

"You called him 'Young Master' again."

I started, then hurriedly explained, "It was a mistake due to habit."

"Why force yourself?" Melody sighed and said, "I really don't know what would've happened for you to fall out with the young master. Whatever, forget it. Just listen to me finish, then quickly tell me what happened."



"Hey—You guys aren't dead yet, are you?"

Melody and the others blankly stared at the doorway. They could recognize Ezart's voice, but really did not know how to react this time.

Ezart dashed over and instantly spotted DSII. He froze and said, "Ah Ye, how were you faster than me... No! Who are you?"

"DSII." This time, DSII openly admitted it.

“Ezart, where is the young master?” With the young master still nowhere to be seen, Melody was starting to feel like crying. Right now, the only person that could save them still had not appeared.

Ezart frowned at the Death Scythe in DSII’s hands as he replied, “Don’t know. Right when we arrived at the hotel entrance, he suddenly shouted that he ‘needs to go save his gē’ and then ran off.”

The Sun Emperor was attacked as well? Melody was stunned. She truly had no idea what the current situation was. Could it be that the adjudication squad hadn’t attacked them on the Sun Emperor’s orders at all, but rather, that the Sun Emperor had been forced to issue that document?

The more she thought, the more confused she got. In the end, she decided to stop caring. If the Sun Emperor did not want to kill them, then everyone would be fine. If he really did want to kill them, then they could only see if the young master could protect them. If he couldn’t, she could only go and see her beloved.

“DSII, did Ah Ye tell you to come protect them?” Ezart began walking over toward Melody and the others as he said, “You came so quickly. Ah Ye didn’t mention you had arrived.”

DSII stopped him and declared, “Ezart, there’s no need to go over.”

Ezart shot him a sideways look and asked in discontent, “What is that supposed to mean?”

"You do not need to make a choice." DSII raised his scythe and pointed it at Melody and the others. "But they need to choose!"

Choose? Melody was starting to sense something was not quite right. DSII was essentially no different from the adjudication squad. He could not act on his own initiative; he could only obey commands. If he had received the order to kill Luo Ye, he would have directly done so. Yet he was currently demanding for them to make a choice... *Don't tell me the Sun Emperor is testing us to see whose words we would listen to?*

Then, whose orders should we choose to follow as the correct choice? The Sun Emperor's? Or the young master's?

"What choice?" Ezart stood between DSII and Melody's group.

DSII grinned. "If they kill Luo Ye, I won't kill them. If they refuse, I'll kill them. This is their choice!"

"Oh." Ezart nodded in comprehension, then suddenly smashed a fist at DSII while roaring, "Then I choose 'get rid of you!'"

Melody felt a surge of joy in her heart, to the point where she almost wanted to run up and kiss Ezart. She quickly dashed forward to support Ezart, attacking with great force and not holding back in the slightest against DSII. She had seen the young master behead DSII before, only for it to get reconnected! So rather than getting her head cut off, she would rather DSII's head get cut off. His could be reattached, while hers could not.

As gunshots boomed, Bramble and the others also made their decision. They had originally still been conflicted over what to do, but the choice that Ezart had brought up wasn't bad at all. Melody did not hesitate in the slightest as she charged forth. They refused to believe they could not defeat a single DSII if they all combined their strength together!

"So, you won?"



I really wanted to know what had happened afterwards, since Melody standing here now indicated that they had indeed won. If that was the case, then there was no need to hear about the course of the battle; I did not particularly want to hear about how they had beheaded DSII. In the current circumstances, that would just remind me that my final ending might not be much different from DSII's.

"Yes, we won. DSII is still far inferior to the young master. It might have been different if he had brought an energy weapon, but he was only carrying the young master's Death Scythe, which was completely useless! That's why he wasn't too hard to defeat. Poseidynne used a stream of water to make it impossible for DSII to stand, Nitewalker slashed at his body who knows how many times, and in the end, Ezart broke his neck."

At this point, everything had been explained; however, there was still one thing that had not been answered—*What about Luo Ye?*

I looked at Melody. She seemed to know what I wanted to ask as well and directly stated, "We also thought everything had come to an end, but then the adjudication squad appeared again. They still wanted to

kill Luo Ye but didn't ask us for our choice again. Even though we could defeat each one, there was no end to them, so the fight wouldn't end."

"The injuries on your bodies are from that moment?"

"Mostly, yes." Melody nodded and simply answered, "Their firepower was too great, and their weapons were extremely diverse, impossible to effectively defend against. Fortunately, they didn't want to kill us. They just wanted to kill Luo Ye. As a result, nothing too extreme appeared."

Such as missiles? It was a pity that they were unaware that the reason a missile had not been used to blow up the hotel was because the Sun Emperor had been on the level above them.

"The hotel staff did not do anything?" Considering how both sides had come to blows like this, even Sunset City's police would have made an appearance. *Is it possible that Daystar City's public security falls short of Sunset City's?*

Melody clicked her tongue. "At the time, many of the floors above and below were all sealed off. They said to the hotel staff that they were 'filming a movie,' and since there weren't rocket launchers and such, nobody paid any mind."

A production cast and crew claiming to film a movie is truly a flawless excuse...

“When the battle was at the point where we were starting to think twice, Ezart actually answered a call and said, ‘I need to go save Ah Ye,’ and ran off. We nearly spat blood. Fortunately, Poseidynne and Nitewalker didn’t run off with him, or else we might as well have slit our own throats.”

“Save the young master?” I urgently asked, “When I left, the young master was not in any danger. Is he all right? Is he injured—”

My words abruptly came to a stop. *Why did I...*

Fortunately, Melody did not notice this. She merely continued, “Don’t panic, let me finish. Someone then appeared right after we had disposed of a wave of adjudication squad members all at once.”

Melody took a deep breath and said, “The instant he arrived, he shouted, ‘Don’t move,’ and then we really could not move. I think he’s probably the person that controlled the young master before...”

I furrowed my brows and shot down this conjecture. “No! It is not Josh. I believe that was Lieder. He obtained an unusual ability that allows him to copy others’ special abilities. Was he wearing a cream-colored windbreaker and a pair of glasses?”

However, why would Lieder want to take Luo Ye away? He should not have had crossed paths with Luo Ye at any point.

Melody shook her head and answered, “He wore a large, dark jacket and a mask... Oh right, there was also an inverted cross symbol on the forehead.”

It was indeed Lieder.

“That bastard commanded for us to hold the adjudication squad off as he grabbed Luo Ye and used the opportunity to escape. Soon after he left, we discovered we were free of control, so we did not continue attacking the adjudication squad. Since they did not see Luo Ye there, they did not continue fighting either. While we were still hesitating about whether to run away or not, Ezart returned with a wound on his stomach.”

Melody raised her head and smiled grimly. “Although Ezart wasn’t willing to say much, he did mention that the young master was fine.”

She did notice after all. I was slightly embarrassed.

“Now it’s your turn.” Melody calmly asked, “What exactly happened that caused you to have a falling out with the young master? I’d sooner believe that the apocalypse was tomorrow than believe that you and the young master became enemies.”

“We indeed did not become enemies.” I could not help but refute this first.

Melody simply gazed at me without a question, quietly waiting for me to speak.

I took a deep breath and said, “It was the Sun Emperor. He used X’s whereabouts to pressure me to kill Luo Ye. The alternative would have been him revealing X’s tracks to the Church.”

"Another choice?" Melody frowned as she muttered this to herself. She then asked, "What did you choose?"

"Before I could even make a decision, the Sun Emperor had already exposed X's location to the Church."

Melody cried out in shock, "X was found by the Church?"

"No." I shook my head and answered, "Fortunately, X did not listen to me. He did not stay under Curtis's protection—"

"Wait a minute! What's wrong with staying by Curtis's side?" Melody said in confusion. "Aside from the Sun Emperor, the only person I can think of that could protect X from the Church is your nephew."

I smiled dully and replied, "My nephew deliberately pretended to be in trouble to lure me to where the Sun Emperor was."

Melody murmured, "X and then Curtis too... No wonder you're angry enough to refuse to call him 'Young Master'..." She lifted her head to ask, "So when the young master told Ezart he was going to rescue his brother, it was from your hands? You really wanted to kill the Sun Emperor?"

Had I really wanted to kill the Sun Emperor? I had undoubtedly been furious. The Sun Emperor had set up such a difficult dilemma, joined hands with Curtis to plot against me, and even endangered X. I had indeed lost my mind in anger and had actually made a move. *However,*

would I have personally killed the Sun Emperor? Murdered the young master's most important Gēge...?

I tossed aside the unnecessary thoughts and continued, "In short, I did not successfully harm the Sun Emperor. The young master suddenly appeared, preventing me from continuing my attack, and then I fled."

Melody continued to mutter to herself in a low voice, as if contemplating something. I quietly said, "I should leave, but I will not say we will 'meet again.' We may be enemies the next time we meet—"

"Wait! Don't you think the Sun Emperor is scheming something? Rather than saying he wants to kill Luo Ye, the more important objective seems to be 'wanting us to make a choice.' And this time, the Sun Emperor doesn't seem to care at all if the young master will be broken-hearted or not—"

At this point, Melody's expression suddenly changed. She urgently stated, "Go, now!"

I had also sensed it. I immediately turned around to see a figure standing at the end of the alley that could not be more familiar. Even with his back facing the light, only revealing his silhouette, I could still instantly recognize him.

Young Master!

How long has he been there? How much did he hear? Will he understand that I was forced with no alternative? I softly called out, "Young Master, I truly did not..."

Before I could even finish speaking, I received my answer. The metal fingernails that could tear through flesh were silently extended outwards. Without a single change in expression, he stated, "Melody, leave."

Melody hesitated for a moment, then sighed as she walked over to the young master. At the same time, she turned her head to silently say to me, "Hurry up and run."

I touched the ring on my thumb, debating whether to inject myself with the tranquilizer. However, even if I did, would I really be able to fight the young master? No matter how much I tried to correct myself, "Ri Xiang Ye" would never leave my lips as naturally as "Young Master." If I could not even change how I addressed him, how could I possibly be able to intentionally injure him?

I slowly backed up, deciding to leave in the end. My foot stepped onto the surface of the wall. As long as I used x-speed, the young master would not be able to catch up.

"Freeze!" The young master let out a low growl. "If you dare try to flee, I'll execute you."

Execute me? I froze and watched the young master reach out to grab a suitcase next to the wall. When he pressed a button on it, several silver threads shot out from inside and swung outwards. The Death

Scythe's immense blade lay horizontally at the bottom of the suitcase, with multiple sections of the scythe covering the top lid.

This was a clever variation of Dong Fang Lei's briefcase. Simply putting something inside the case would prevent others from noticing it, thus allowing one to carry it around however one pleased, no matter how dangerous the item inside was.

The young master truly did plan to kill me. Despite having realized this to an extent earlier, in this precise moment, I still could not bear the grief. I could not help but ask, "Even though the young master knows that this stage has been set by the Sun Emperor, you still plan on killing me according to his plans?"

The young master did not answer. Because of the glare of the light, his face was hidden in the darkness—*I suppose that is for the better. Regardless of whether the young master's expression is cold or, even worse, indifferent, I would rather not see it.*

I pleaded, "If you will not let me escape, can you at least let X go? He has absolutely no relation to any of this!"

The young master was silent for a while. Finally, he said in a low voice, "I will try my best."

I let out a sigh of relief. Despite the young master being unable to give an absolute answer, merely saying he would "try his best," he always kept his promises. "Trying his best" was already enough.

Since I had already procured X's safety in exchange for not running away, I merely stood motionless in place. Despite having waited for death for so many years, I was unable to keep myself from trembling now that the day had finally arrived.

If this was before I met the young master, before we signed the Endless contract, perhaps I might be able to face death more calmly. But all I feel right now is slight regret...

The Death Scythe swung down toward me. I shut my eyes, waiting for the conceivable pain. With the young master's strength, perhaps it could end with a single strike. *That would probably be less painful, would it not?*

Even though I had shut my eyes, my pureborn vampire instincts could still sense the relative position of the blade. I felt my heart clench. *It is here—*

Bang!

...There is actually no pain. Have I died? Amidst my confusion, a roar of unrestrained fury rang by my ear.

"Charles, why did you refuse to listen? I told you to leave Daystar City. Why didn't you leave?! Why did you have to stay here?!"

My eyes snapped open. The young master stood before me, the massive blade by my side, embedded deeply into the wall instead of me. At this moment, I was finally able to clearly see the young master's expression. His appearance was one of incomparable sorrow,

streams of tears flowing down his cheeks... It really was the young master, not Dark Sun.

The slight regret in my heart suddenly vanished without a trace.

He wailed out, "Why did you have to make a move against my brother?! You already know I cannot disobey the fundamental reason for my existence. I have to protect Gēge, I have to—kill you!"

The young master pulled his Death Scythe out, his actions the complete opposite of his words. He urged in a low voice, "Run! Charles, run into that building. I can't send my blade out in places that are too narrow, and I can't catch up to your speed. Run, now!"

I have to run first! I did not want to die anymore, at least, not by the young master's hand.

Before I could even move, the Death Scythe's hilt swept into my stomach. The burst of pain made my vision black out, and I instinctively rolled off to the side as the blade slammed down ruthlessly with so much power that it pierced halfway through the ground. If I had stayed still, I might have been the thing being pierced instead.

The young master was inconceivably strong when using the Death Scythe. The enormous blade cycled through the air without stopping, blocking off all escape routes. I could not even grasp any opportunity to use x-speed, afraid that the instant before I did, I would instead be sliced in half.

The only thing I could do was dodge for my life. However, there had already been several times where I had just barely evaded the blade. *Can I actually keep this up—*

“Ugh!”

The hilt struck the corner of my forehead with so much force that I collapsed on the ground, my head hurting so much it felt as if it would explode.

“Charles, hurry up and dodge—”

I lifted my head only to see a silver glint flash—

“Neither of you move!”

I felt my entire body abruptly lock in place. The darkness gradually faded from my vision, and I finally saw that the tip of the blade with its silver glint was stopped right in front of my face, only a few centimeters away, so close I could not even breathe.

Behind the scythe, the young master did not move either. His face was deathly pale.

I wanted to stand up and flee but discovered that I could not move a single step. It was at this moment that I suddenly realized something was wrong. *Who shouted “don’t move” just now?*

“Looks like I arrived just in time. I was almost too late.”

A figure walked up next to me. I tried my best to shift my eyes, an action I had never imagined would be so difficult. Finally, he crouched down next to me, and I could clearly see his face.

Lieder.

"I won't waste my breath chatting." Lieder carefully pushed aside the blade right in front of my eyes and then lifted me up to carry me across his shoulders. He sighed and said, "Thank God you're even lighter than you look. How interesting, are vampires all lighter than humans?"

Not at all.

Lieder walked past the young master, deliberately shifting away as he said, "Your young master has successfully disobeyed before, so it's best we don't linger around here any longer. Your young master is really inconceivably strong. If he actually frees himself, we might become souls reaped by that scythe. As always, if everything else fails, one must retreat."

Although Lieder spoke as if he was joking, his actions were extremely swift. He charged out from the small alley, stopping in front of a black car and tossing me into the front seat.

"Lieder!" The young master roared from the distance. "Just wait and see what happens if you dare hurt Charles! I'll kill you and completely dismember your body!"

"You nearly killed him, yet you still care if I hurt him or not?" Lieder sat in the driver's seat and softly said, "Tsk, tsk, Charles, you and your young master are honestly a bit like partners in a love-hate relationship—Ah, that isn't true, is it?"

I glared at him and finally ground out two words through my teeth, "What nonsense..."

Lieder let out a snort with a look of disappointment, and then the car raced out. However, there was something extremely strange: *With a target as large as a car, how did he evade the surveillance cameras?*

"Charles, oh Charles, I have been completely defeated by you. You and your young master were first played with by the Church, then you were used as a prop by Ri Xiang Yan."

Lieder let out a deep sigh as he said, "No matter if you're a thousand-year old vampire or even the head of an influential family of butlers, Ri Xiang Yan doesn't care at all. He only uses you as a tool to achieve his objective. Have you finally understood his true face?"

I could only glare at him, unable to respond.

"What do you want to say? Just say it." Lieder asked curiously.

I immediately blurted out, "How is that any different from you approaching me in the beginning only to use me?"

Lieder's face stiffened, then relaxed again as he replied, "You always surprise me, Charles. You're right, I'm not any different. Everyone is the same."

I can speak now? Upon discovering this, I immediately asked, "Lieder, what do you want to use me for this time?"

"Ah, I'm truly sorry this time." Lieder looked remorseful as he said, "I was being chased everywhere by the Sun Emperor, so I really had no alternative but to seek for shelter by cooperating with the Church. My task was to wait for an opportunity to hand either E.X. or you to them as soon as I had the chance."

My heart nearly froze over. I wanted to run away, yet I could not even move. I did not even have the ability to commit suicide...

"Charles, I honestly really like you. If it were any other situation, we probably could have been friends."

Lieder wore a look of regret as he softly stated, "Once I hand you over, I'll try to find a way to kill you if I get the chance, I swear."

"That won't do."

I started. The "that won't do" was not spoken by Lieder, and naturally had not been spoken by me—*There is someone sitting in the back?*

I glanced at the rearview mirror, but the back seat was much too dark. The car windows on both sides had blackout curtains drawn. However, despite being unable to clearly see the other person, I could see a pair

of legs, suit pants, and leather shoes. *Who could it be? That voice just now... is admittedly a bit familiar.*

Lieder stretched a hand out and the lights in the back suddenly lit up. The face that appeared in the rearview mirror rendered me completely speechless.

Lieder chuckled softly. "Do you know why I called you all foolish now?" I ignored him, instead shouting at the person in the back seat with matchless fury. "Why? The young master is your son! Moreover, he has been protecting you the whole time!"

"Is that so?" Luo Ye's gaze was indifferent, his smile insincere. His expression made him look... like the Sun Emperor.

He knows! I realized with a start. In actuality, Luo Ye had known the young master was not his child at all!

"Why?" My thoughts were in chaos, and I could only ask this single word.

"Without anyone's protection, I can't leave P29." Luo Ye calmly stated, "From beginning to end, I've lost over twenty years of my life already. I would even use my real child, let alone someone that isn't my child."

P29? I was suddenly somewhat confused as to why P29 had been brought up.

Lieder laughed out loud. "You still can't remember? This Mr. Luo is the Church's wanted criminal, the one you guys have been searching hard

for. In the past, he had been locked up by P29. In order to come out, he could only seek the Church for protection, just like I had. However, he was much more useful than I was. I only had to stay nearby to act at the slightest chance, while he was sent to stay by your side.”

Luo Ye’s expression darkened as he said, “I wasn’t locked up by P29. I hid in there myself.”

Lieder sneered, “You couldn’t leave either way, so what’s the difference between hiding and being locked up? How is the current situation of being controlled by others any better than being locked up either?”

Luo Ye is actually that criminal? I did not know what to think. In the end, the Sun Emperor had been right. Luo Ye had indeed harbored malicious intentions.

“It’s much better.” Luo Ye murmured in a low voice, “Wait until you can only stay inside a room for over twenty years, then you’ll understand. It’s really much better. Even though I’m being restricted, it’s worth sacrificing everything for!”

He looked up at me and smiled. “Perhaps you will understand after this.”

Epilogue: Character Introductions

The afterword contains spoilers for the plot. Please finish reading the story before coming to read the afterword. Thank you.



This volume should be named the volume of the Sun Emperor's machinations.

From this volume, you should be able to tell that Luo Ye isn't a big deal at all in the Sun Emperor's eyes. Our great Sun Emperor only ever takes action for Ah Ye's sake, especially now that Ah Ye's thousand years are at stake. In comparison, Luo Ye is simply as unimportant as a single leaf to the Sun Emperor.

I wonder, as everyone read the book, were you able to guess just how many goals the Sun Emperor wished to achieve? Perhaps, after reading volume 9, you will discover even more goals.

The great Sun Emperor is very busy, so he wants to finish everything in one shot, giving the author a huge headache, too. I just want to yell: Are you done yet? Isn't this enough? Just what else do you plan on doing?!



Because this series uses a first person perspective, I need to use many methods to bolster what has happened to present the full story to everyone to the best of my abilities. As a result, some things are shown out of order. I hope it does not cause any problems for anyone.

Originally, No Hero was supposed to conclude with this volume, but for some reason, the plot exploded on me again. It exploded so much that there's a whole extra book now. I have really underestimated No Hero. I would never have thought that a single moment of carelessness would have led to No Hero having more volumes than The Legend of Sun Knight. Nine volumes sure is a fascinating number. Nine, everlasting.¹ Fine, it can be considered lucky.

I will do my best to conclude the story with the next volume. I hope I won't have to change it to a perfect ten (sweats). I really don't dare to announce the number of volumes again in the future. It's inaccurate anyway. ~~Just as inaccurate as the date I turn in my manuscript.~~ At most, I'll say one to five volumes, five to ten volumes, or ten to fifteen volumes. I can handle announcements with a large range like that.

So, if I start a new series in the future, don't ask me in too much detail how many volumes it will be, since my prediction will be as inaccurate as poe divination.² You might as well throw the poe pieces and see how they land!



Addressing matters regarding Luo Ye in No Hero surprised even me. Even though I had already planned during Eclipse Hunter for this old man to still be alive, I had not known where he could make an appearance.

It took all the way until the late volumes of No Hero for him to rush out on his own. This is likely due to how, when it all comes down to it, No Hero follows the trajectory of the young master's life. He just has to solve this case of his dad who is not his dad what the heck.

Writing stories is truly mysterious at times. Plans that I thought of but haven't written are stacked as high as mountains. A series will have countless elements hidden behind it, many that I have thought of but might not write out. Sometimes, the difference with the story's time period is too great. Sometimes, it is simply a choice I made for the sake of the plot. But in any case, these elements already live in the author's brain. I really don't know what brain space it is taking up.

Luo Ye, this hidden setup that has lived in my brain, suddenly leaped out on his own one day to seek abuse. Everyone, how about guessing how he feels about his own son and his not-son?

His not-son who wants to protect him and his son who wants to kill him, hehe, what else can this be other than jumping out on his own to seek abuse?



Normally, No Hero always has a preview of the next volume. However, since the original plan was to conclude with this volume, I did not include a preview last time, thinking that I'd let everyone read the ending for themselves. I didn't think there would be another volume.

Uh, so this time, I will show a bit of a preview to make up for everyone's injured spirits from not getting the ending.

Please look forward to the appearance of the heroes who had no role in this volume!

Because the word count of this volume already exploded, I did not include the short character stories I had planned on writing. The next volume will definitely be the conclusion, so no matter if the word count explodes like a grenade or a nuclear bomb, I will still include short character stories at the end.

Even though I want to give a preview of what they will be, I'm afraid that what I say will be as inaccurate as divining by tossing poe. Who knows, maybe I will think of even better short stories to write and switch to those instead. So, I can only say "maybe," "possibly," "probably," it will be DSII and Dragon Peace, Briar and Ah Ye, and a story that will take place far in the future.

P.S. I am super happy that the Earth peacefully survived 2012. I wish everyone a happy 2013!

By Yu Wo



Character Introductions

Character
Introductions



Poseidynne

Connection: The young master's back-up fiancée candidate

The Young Master's Impression: So strong! I love her!

Poseidynne

Connection: The young master's back-up fiancée candidate

The Young Master's Impression: So strong! I love her!

Luo Ye

Connection: Said to be the young master's father, the master's uncle?

The Master's Impression: Kill!



Luo Ye

Connection: Said to be the young master's father, the master's uncle?

The Master's Impression: Kill!

Character
Introductions



Shuu Kahl

Connection: The butler's classmate.

The Butler's Impression: Medical Encyclopedia.

Shuu Kahl

Connection: The butler's classmate.

The Butler's Impression: Medical Encyclopedia.

Footnotes

¹ **“Nine, everlasting”**: Yu Wo mentions that nine could be considered lucky, as nine (九, jiu) sounds like the jiu in 長長久久 (chángcháng jiujiu), which means everlasting. In other words, “endless.”

² **“Poe divination”**: A traditional Chinese divination method that involves dropping two wooden pieces on the floor. The position of the pieces after landing indicates whether or not a future course of action is favorable.