

## Chapter 1856

Upon hearing that command, the duo could only exchange glances.

Knowing that it wouldn't do them any good to cause a scene, both of them simply followed the phantom soldiers' lead...

Eventually, they arrived at what appeared to be a palace of sorts within the city...

After being led in, the two soon saw an armor-clad ghost sitting atop a throne, looking all high and mighty...

Unbeknownst to them, the ghost went by the name of Yohr God, and he was the ruler of Phantom City.

"Your highness! We captured these two foreigners in our city's town!" reported one of the phantom soldiers as two others led Gerald and Rey forward.

Upon hearing that, Yohr got to his feet before squinting his eyes at Gerald...

After a while, Yohr was prompted to say, "...You're quite the special one!"

"Thank you, though... Who are you again...?" asked Gerald in a composed tone.

Booming with laughter, Yohr then replied, "You... don't even know who I am? You truly have some nerve coming here if you don't even recognize me!"

“He’s our city’s magnificent king, Yohr God!” snapped one of the phantom soldiers standing at the side.

Hearing that, Gerald and Rey couldn’t help but feel slightly surprised. To think that there would actually be a ghost king here!

Whatever the case was, Gerald felt that it was best not to immediately offend these people. It was honestly amusing how Gerald was the one trying to be reasonable with actual ghosts instead of the other way around.

Regardless, Gerald then said, “Just so you know, we’re not here to cause any trouble! We’re simply passing through the most feminine place!”

“Passing through? Where exactly are you headed to?” asked Yohr in a much sterner voice now.

“I’m off to seek the Phangrottom Clan!” declared Gerald, seeing no reason to lie.

Even so, upon hearing Gerald’s answer, Yohr’s expression instantly grew gloomy as he said, “You can’t be serious. In case you didn’t know, anyone who barges into their territory will definitely suffer a terrible fate! Do you honestly think you can make it back in one piece with just the two of you? How utterly ridiculous!”

Watching as Yohr then snorted disdainfully while glaring at them, Gerald simply chuckled before smiling as he replied, “But of course I’m serious. Why wouldn’t I head there when even you called me a ‘special one’?”

“Are you talking back to me? Are you trying to court death or something?!” growled Yohr as he instantly

transformed into a dark fog that bolted toward Gerald!

In barely a split second, Yohr was already standing inches away from Gerald's feet, his eyes glaring straight into the youth's.

"Aren't you afraid of death at all?" scoffed Yohr as he continued staring at Gerald.

"Hah! As if I'd come here in the first place if I was afraid of dying! Regardless, perhaps this will answer your question!" retorted Gerald with a snort as he separated his spirit from his body!

Staring at Gerald's ghost form, the surprised Yohr couldn't help but exclaim, "...So you're a cultivator who's half human and ghost? Color me surprised!"

While Yohr was well aware that there existed other half human and ghost cultivators like Gerald, he also knew that these hybrid cultivators were generally much stronger and had way more capabilities than fully human ones.

With that in mind, Yohr then turned to face his phantom soldiers before ordering, "...Untie them!"

After watching the soldiers do Yohr's bidding, Gerald then returned to his body.

Rey himself had been shocked silent this entire time. Based on what he had just witnessed, he now knew how that innkeeper had ended up getting all tied up the other day. After all, just like what had happened moments ago, Gerald's physical body had gone unconscious while he was in his ghost form. If Rey remembered correctly, this was similar to having an out-of-body experience!

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

## Chapter 1857

“...Leave us be! All of you!” ordered Yohr at his soldiers, prompting the phantom soldiers to quickly leave the room...

Once they were gone, Yohr immediately gestured for Gerald and Rey to take a seat before looking at Gerald and asking, “Now then... I wonder how I should address, good sir?”

“I go by Gerald Crawford!”

Nodding in response, Yohr then turned to look at Rey, cueing the boy to add, “You can just call me Rey!”

“I see, I see... A pleasure to meet both of you, Gerald and Rey. I admit that I may have been a bit offensive earlier... With that in mind, I do hope that you don’t take that to heart!” said Yohr in a respectful tone as he smiled subtly.

Upon hearing that, Gerald and Rey were rightfully confused. After all, Yohr’s attitude toward them had just taken a complete one-eighty!

“...We don’t. Regardless, we really are just hoping to pass through Phantom City to accomplish something important elsewhere! With that in mind, I hope you’ll just let us go!” replied Gerald, not wanting to waste any more time than he needed to here. Every second counted when it came to obtaining the Phangrottom Talisman...

“Of course, of course... But before that, I do have a favor I’d like to ask from you!” said Yohr.

“...A favor?” asked Gerald in return.

“Indeed! Essentially, I hope that you’ll bring a Phangrottom Jade back once you’re done with your mission!” said Yohr as he retrieved a sheet of paper from under his armor before handing it to Gerald.

After taking the paper and looking at the sketch of the Phangrottom Jade, Gerald couldn’t help but ask, “...And why do you need this jade?”

“That... I’m afraid I can’t tell you about that for the time being... However, I’ll definitely tell you more about it once you bring it back!” replied Yohr in an almost pleading tone.

“...Fine. Consider it done!” said Gerald since he just wanted to leave this place already.

“I appreciate it, Gerald and Rey! I’ll get my men to escort you out right this instant!” declared Yohr with a wide smile on his face as he ordered for his soldiers to re-enter the room.

Escorted by the phantom soldiers, Gerald and Rey then left Phantom City rather easily... and soon after, they got to Quay Waves.

Quay Waves itself was a large ocean that separated the Phantom City from the territory of the Phangrottom Clan. With that in mind, the duo would have to scale the ocean in order to get to their destination. However, how were they going to do it?

“...Are there no boats to ride to cross this ocean?” asked Gerald as he looked at one of the phantom soldiers.

“Negative. We’ve never been there either, so even if we had boats, we wouldn’t know how to get there.

Regardless, this is where our escort ends. The rest is up to you,” replied the phantom soldier as the rest of them nodded before quickly riding back to the city...

Watching as the soldiers left, Gerald and Rey couldn't help but feel that they had just been deserted.

“...Well... What should we do now, Mr. Crawford...?” asked Rey.

Gerald himself appeared rather perplexed. To think that this ocean would be the largest hurdle of their journey yet!

Looking around, Gerald saw that there really weren't any boats around. Did they actually have to resort to swimming...? Then again, Gerald knew better than to actually attempt to scale an ocean just by swimming...

Visit chapter list for next chapterChapter 1858

“...I'm sure there's a way across! It just hasn't shown itself yet!” declared Gerald as he immediately began searching for ways to cross the large oceans.

Seeing that, Rey began doing the same. However, even after quite a while had passed, they were unable to find any suitable modes of transportation.

With that, the duo could only sit by the beach, hoping for a miracle to appear...

“...Say, Mr. Crawford...? Do you really think that a ship will come if we just wait around...?” muttered Rey as he looked at the sky.

“I believe in miracles, so yes. Yes, I do,” replied Gerald in a confident tone.

The second his sentence ended, a low rumble could suddenly be heard coming from the ocean...

Getting to their feet, the duo watched wide-eyed as the ocean began bubbling and the waves began to part...! Within seconds, what appeared to be a solidified watery path appeared right atop the ocean’s surface!

Exchanging glances with each other, the delighted Gerald couldn’t help but say, “See? Miracles do exist!”

Before Rey could even reply, Gerald was already rushing over to the watery path... and upon stepping on it, Gerald felt that the path—that was formed by seawater—was soft to walk on, almost as though he was walking on an air cushion...

Seeing that it was safe to walk on, Rey quickly ran after Gerald... And after realizing that he too could walk on water, Rey couldn’t help but exclaim, “How... How truly magical, Mr. Crawford...!”

This was naturally a first for Rey, which explained why he was so shocked. Still, to think that he would be able to actually experience walking on water in his lifetime! Such scenes were usually reserved for television dramas!

Whatever the case was, both of them quickly began proceeding across the watery path... and after walking for about ten minutes, the duo was finally able to see the sole piece of land at the end of Quay

Waves...

The land, of course, was the territory of the Phangrottom Clan, and aside from Gerald and Rey, only seven other spirit explorers had ever managed to come this far...

Either way, the second they stepped on land, the watery path behind them quickly disappeared...

Noticing the presence of a stone tablet to their left, the duo walked over and saw that the words, 'Phangrottom Clan' had been carved into it. Beside the tablet, was a gigantic stone statue that was modeled after one of the past rulers of the Phangrottom Clan. From how grand it looked, it was evident that the statue symbolized how supreme the ruler was...

Regardless, upon confirming that they were at the right place, Rey couldn't help but exclaim, "We're finally here, Mr. Crawford! To think that we'd make it here in one piece!"

Nodding in response, Gerald then retrieved the key to the large entrance of the Phangrottom Clan's territory—that he had obtained from Torme—before inserting it into the door...

After turning it, a loud rumble could be heard as the large entrance began shaking rather violently... and within seconds, the entrance to the Phangrottom Clan's territory was opened.

The first sight that greeted them was several statues that appeared to be modeled after individuals from the Phangrottom Clan. For some reason, Gerald felt that the statues had been placed there for a reason...

Either way, thanks to how perceptive Gerald was, he was able to realize in time that a volley of arrows had just been shot toward them from inside!



“Duck!” yelled Gerald as he immediately pushed Rey to the side of the entrance.

Gerald himself was just in time to have his back against the opposite side of the entrance as hundreds of arrows began shooting out!

Had Gerald reacted any slower, both of them would’ve surely ended up becoming arrow-filled corpses by now...!

[Visit chapter list for next chapter](#)

Chapter 1859

As it turned out, there were traps littered all over the place here to prevent intruders from entering...

Either way, it was only a few minutes later before arrows finally stopped shooting out...

Once they were sure that the coast was clear, the duo then cautiously peeked beyond the door again...

Turning to look at the countless arrows littered on the ground, Rey couldn’t help but gulp as he muttered, “...Thank god you reacted so quickly, Mr. Crawford... Otherwise, we would’ve surely been pierced to high heaven!”

“Indeed... I’m assuming even more traps await us inside. With that in mind, do be careful and stick close to me! Never walk around randomly, understand?” replied Gerald.

“You don’t have to tell me twice, Mr. Crawford...!” replied the still slightly rattled Rey.

Even if Gerald hadn’t said that, Rey would’ve still done the same. As if he’d dare to even move five feet away from Gerald after witnessing all that!

Regardless, the duo then cautiously began entering the area...

Meanwhile, back in the real world, Juno and Yrsa were simply waiting for the duo’s return at Mr. Bates’s place. Since they had no idea when Gerald and Rey would return, all they could do at the moment was wait there.

“How much longer will they remain in there, Mr. Bates...?” asked Juno.

“I wish I could answer that... After all, even I don’t know what could happen there... We can only hope that their fortune protects them there...” replied Mr. Bates.

While his reply was vague, Juno really couldn’t be bothered about it. After all, in her mind, she only hoped that the two would make a safe return...

It was at that moment when all three of them suddenly heard whispers coming from within the nearby forests...

Raising a brow, Juno turned to look at the source of the voices... and to her shock, the speakers appeared to be the Soul Hunters from before! To think that they had managed to survive the incident that had befallen them back at the wooden bridge!

“Mr. Bates! It’s the Soul Hunters!” said Juno.

Snorting in response, Mr. Bates then replied, “They just don’t know when to give up, do they?”

Upon hearing that, Juno and Yrsa were momentarily stunned. To think that Mr. Bates knew about them...

“Leave from the back and find someplace to hide. I’ll be dealing with them, and until I say it’s safe to come out, remain hidden!” ordered Mr. Bates.

“Got it! Be careful, Mr. Bates!” replied Juno as she quickly held onto Yrsa’s hand before leading her out the back door...

Barely even seconds after they left, the cloaked man could be seen barging into Mr. Bates’s courtyard with several Soul Hunters.

Seeing that, Mr. Bates walked out and simply stared at the cloaked man right in the eye...

Smiling subtly, the cloaked man then stared back at Mr. Bates before saying, “Been quite a while, Mr. Bates!”

“How have you still not given up, Leandro?” replied Mr. Bates without beating around the bush.

The man Mr. Bates was squinting at went by Leandro Zaborowski, and he was the leader of the Soul Hunters...

Laughing aloud after hearing Mr. Bate's statement, Leandro then shamelessly declared, "But of course I haven't! I won't stop until I've obtained the Phangrottom Talisman! Once I finally have it, I'll be able to rule over the ghost world and make everyone there obey me!"

"Hah! And that's exactly why you'll never be able to obtain it, Leandro!" sneered Mr. Bates.

Visit chapter list for next chapter

## Chapter 1860

Upon hearing that, murderous intent instantly flashed across Leandro's eyes! Within a split second, Leandro's palm was already inches away from Mr. Bate's chest!

However, Mr. Bates had anticipated the attack! With that, their two palms clashed, sending powerful shockwaves flying all over the place! How absolutely powerful...!

Naturally, the two weren't about to stop there, and the duo continued exchanging blow after blow!

Witnessing all this from afar, Juno and Yrsa couldn't help but feel stunned. To think that Mr. Bates possessed such powerful martial arts skills! After all, he was able to be on par with Leandro's strength! With how things were going, however, it was honestly quite hard to see who was more powerful...

Not long after Juno had that thought, Mr. Bates failed to react in time to one of Leandro's attacks, causing his eyes to widen as Leandro's palm hit him square in the chest!

Snorting contemptuously as he watched Mr. Bates spurt blood out his mouth, Leandro then sneered, "Bold of you to think that you can still handle young people, you old b\*stard!"

Following that, Leandro kicked Mr. Bates right in his stomach, sending the old man flying backward! Landing quite a distance away, Mr. Bates—who was now lying on the ground—was unable to even crawl back up anymore...

Sadly, his age was the factor that disallowed the old man from winning against Leandro. There was simply no competing against a younger person's speed...

Regardless, Juno's fury instantly flared up when she saw what had just happened. While she wanted to go save him, she knew that if she revealed herself, not only would she expose Yrsa and herself to danger, but she would also let Mr. Bates down.

Biting her lower lip, all she and Yrsa could do was continue to helplessly watch as Mr. Bates continued getting beaten up by Leandro...

However, shortly after, a Soul Hunter donning purple attire came running over to report, "Leader! We've found quite a number of footsteps in the forest nearby!"

"Oh?" replied Leandro as he immediately dragged Mr. Bates to his feet.

"Tell me... Did four individuals come looking for you? Did you open the portal for them, you old b\*stard?" interrogated Leandro as he glared at Mr. Bates.

In response, however, the infuriated Mr. Bates simply spat at Leandro's face before yelling, "Like I'd tell you that!"

"You mother\*cker...! Just perish then!" roared Leandro before instantly snapping Mr. Bates's neck!

Witnessing that, Juno and Yrsa could only close their eyes as tears began rolling down their cheeks... To think that Mr. Bates had died just to protect them...

“Lead me to the footsteps and we’ll follow them wherever they lead! Also, bring this b\*stard’s corpse along!” instructed Leandro as his subordinates immediately did as they were told.

Following that, it wasn’t long after before the group arrived at the Stonehenge lookalike... Upon seeing that, Leandro could instantly tell that this was where the portal to the most feminine place could be opened.

Taking a closer look at the stone pillar in the center of the structure, Leandro found that there were bloodstains left behind. Putting two and two together, he then returned to Mr. Bates’s corpse and lifted the old man’s hand... And true enough, there was a rather recent cut mark there...

While all this was happening, unbeknownst to Leandro and his men, Juno and Yrsa had secretly been tailing them...

[Visit chapter list for next chapter](#)

[Chapter List](#)

[Chapter 1861](#)

Regardless, Leandro then ordered his men to slit Mr. Bates's neck. With how fresh the corpse was, blood immediately began flowing out...

As it turned out, they were unwilling to let Mr. Bates rest in peace even after mercilessly killing him... How absolutely inhumane...

Even so, this perfectly explained why Mr. Bates had been so reluctant to help Leandro and his subordinates. With that in mind, it made sense why the old man had chosen to die rather than compromise with such a person.

Though Leandro thought he was smart by obtaining Mr. Bates's blood to activate the Stonehenge lookalike, he quickly found out that it wasn't as easy as he imagined.

After all, even after he ordered his subordinates to pour Mr. Bates's blood onto the stone pillar, nothing happened.

"D\*mn it!" scowled the angry Leandro as his fury raised even further.

Unable to contain his anger, he retrieved a knife before slowly walking over to Mr. Bates's corpse... and to relieve his wrath, he began slicing the corpse up! How unbearably cruel!

Even the other Soul Hunters could only quiver in fear as they watched their leader commit those heinous acts. None of them even dared to make a sound for fear that he would vent his anger out on them next.

Once he calmed down a little, Leandro glared at his subordinates before ordering, "Set up camp here! We're waiting for them to return!"

Since he wasn't going to be able to enter that place, all he could do was wait for Gerald and his party to return...

Whatever the case was, the other Soul Hunters immediately got to work, not daring to waste any time for fear that Leandro's anger would spark again. Fear was apparently a great motivator since the men were able to set up a temporary encampment around the Stonehenge lookalike in no time at all...

Leandro's plan was to ambush Gerald and his party the second they returned. What a truly wicked plot...

Meanwhile, Gerald and Rey themselves were quietly exploring the Phangrottom Clan's territory, careful with each step so that they wouldn't accidentally trigger another death trap.

Naturally, they had no way of knowing that Mr. Bates was now dead. Still, once Gerald eventually found out that not only had Mr. Bates been killed, but his body had been desecrated so vilely as well, he would surely fly into a rage. Leandro and his subordinates were definitely going to have hell to pay once he finally returned...

They still did not know what had happened out there, and they were also unaware of the result in which Mr. Bates's corpse was being dismembered just to protect them.

If Gerald learned about that, he would definitely be deeply furious. He would certainly not let Leandro and his subordinates off. He would also gain justice for Mr. Bates, making Leandro and his subordinates pay a heavy and horrible price.

But those things would only happen after Gerald gained the Phangrottom Talisman.



Gerald brought Rey along and walked into the territory of the Phangrottom Clan.

Regardless, as the duo made their way to the center most part of the territory, they instantly became vigilant when the torches around them started lighting up!

Following that, a deep and spine-chilling voice called out, "Who goes there?"

Forget Rey, even Gerald couldn't help feeling afraid when he heard that voice!

Being a scaredy-cat, the pale-faced Rey was already hyperventilating as Gerald replied, "I'm a cultivator! I go by Gerald Crawford!"

Seconds after he shouted that, both Gerald and Rey's immense fear finally died down.

Now that he could breathe properly again, the still fearful Rey couldn't help but look at Gerald as he exclaimed, "W-what the hell was all that about, Mr. Crawford...?!"

"Can it!" snapped Gerald.

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter List [Chapter 1862](#)

Upon hearing that, Rey went silent, not even daring to breathe too loudly... And a split second later, a black figure suddenly appeared before them!

Wielding a scepter, the individual had a crown made of bones atop his head, and his mask bore two sharp fangs... In other words, the person looked utterly terrifying...

Staring at the two, the individual then replied, "...And I go by the Grim Phantom. I'm the ruler of the Phangrottom Clan! Why have you come?"

Each word the Grim Phantom said felt domineering and pressuring at the same time, and with how immensely imposing the Grim Phantom's aura was alone, Gerald could already tell that there was no way in hell he would be able to win against the Grim Phantom in battle.

The Grim Phantom's power was probably way past the Thousand Souls Realm...! Gerald couldn't even begin fathoming how truly powerful the Grim Phantom was!

After doing his best to shake some of the fear off, Gerald cleared his throat before respectfully saying, "...Good day, sir. You see, I'm a half human and half ghost cultivator who's come to borrow the Phangrottom Talisman in order to save all the souls in the world... The anaconda has died, you see, which means that the large entrance of the ghost world is now open..."

"Hah! Everything is simply going according to destiny! With that in mind, nothing will change even if you do take my scepter! Regardless, since the entrance of the ghost world is now open, I'm sure that vast changes have already taken place in the world. Perhaps you'll even find everything to be foreign once you return!" sneered Grim Phantom as he looked straight into Gerald's eyes.

"Even if that's the case, I'd still like to try! At the very least, know that I'll strive to make the residents of both the human and the ghost world live harmoniously! After all, I'm sure none of us wish for mass suffering and pain to occur!" replied Gerald in a determined tone.

Hearing that, the Grim Phantom couldn't help but see Gerald in a new light. As it turned out, Gerald truly was thinking of the benefit for all the souls in the world.

Understanding that, the Grim Phantom couldn't help but sigh as he declared, "...Fine, then! Take it!"

While this definitely surprised Gerald and Rey, they were equally delighted to hear that. After all, neither of them had anticipated that the Grim Phantom would hand the talisman over that easily!

Regardless, even after the Grim Phantom had handed the Phangrottom Talisman to Gerald, the youth honestly found all this hard to believe...

Even so, he forced himself to snap out of it before saying, "Thank you, Grim Phantom...!"

"You're very welcome. Keep to your word and don't make me regret handing the talisman to you! Make sure to save all the souls in the world!" replied the Grim Phantom in a slightly more casual tone.

"Definitely!" replied Gerald as he nodded.

Gerald knew that the Grim Phantom trusted him greatly. Otherwise, why else would he hand the talisman to them that easily? Whatever the case was, since the Grim Phantom was placing that much trust in him, there was no way Gerald was going to willingly disappoint the great individual. He would definitely save all the souls in the world!

Either way, just as Gerald was about to leave with Rey, the duo heard the Grim Phantom shout, "Hold it!"

Turning around, Gerald couldn't help but ask, "...Is... something the matter, sir...?"

While Gerald wondered if the Grim Phantom was about to go back on his word, he immediately shook the thought off. There was no way such a superior individual would ever go back on his word! Then... Why was he stopping them...?Chapter 1863

"You can't leave the way you came in. I'll be frank and say that there are people waiting to ambush you if you return the same way!" explained the Grim Phantom.

Feeling slightly startled by that claim, Gerald then asked, "Are... you sure, sir...?"

Before Rey could chime in, the Grim Phantom simply waved his hand, summoning what appeared to be a viewing portal...

Staring wide-eyed at it, Gerald and Rey realized that the area shown in the portal was none other than the Stonehenge lookalike that they had used to enter this place! Even more shocking was the fact that not only were several tents now pitched around that area, but there were also multiple Soul Hunters patrolling the grounds!

As it turned out, Grim Phantom had been telling the truth! To think that the Soul Hunters would simply wait there to ambush them as soon as they returned!

"...Mr. Crawford... Do you think that Mr. Bates, Miss Zorn, and Yrsa are...?" muttered the stunned Rey.

"...Don't worry, they don't appear to be anywhere in the area. With that in mind, I'm sure they haven't been captured!" replied Gerald in a calm tone.

Even so, his deduction was only partially correct, though Gerald didn't know about that...

Whatever the case was, Gerald then turned to look at the Grim Phantom before asking, "Do you know any other ways out of this place, sir?"

Nodding slightly, the Grim Phantom then waved his hand again... and just like that, another portal—similar to the one the duo had used to come here—appeared before them...

"You can use this exit. Call it a secret exit of the Phangrottom Clan, if you so wish. Now hurry and leave!" replied the Grim Phantom.

"Thank you, Grim Phantom!" yelled Gerald as he immediately led Rey into the portal...

The second the duo were on the other side, the portal instantly closed behind them!

Stumbling to gather their bearings, Gerald and Rey began looking around... only to realize that they were in a forest of sorts.

Before them, was a rather familiar-looking house...

"...Say... Isn't that house...?" asked Rey.

"It is! It's Mr. Bates's house!" exclaimed Gerald with a nod.

To think that the secret exit of the Phangrottom Clan would lead straight behind Mr. Bates's home!

“...You know, I feel that Mr. Bates truly has an extraordinary identity... He’s definitely related to the Phangrottom Clan!” declared Rey.

After all, not only did the secret exit lead straight to the back of his home, but a portal leading to the most feminine place could be opened by merely using his blood! There was simply no doubting the fact that Mr. Bates had a deep relationship with the Phangrottom Clan!

“Whatever the case is, let’s go check on them!” replied Gerald as the duo quickly headed into his home...

However, upon entering, they soon realized that Mr. Bates, Juno, and Yrsa were nowhere to be seen. The more worrying thing, however, was the fact that the insides of the house looked all topsy-turvy!

With such a huge mess before them, Gerald and Rey instantly revealed solemn expressions... As it turned out, the Soul Hunters had already been here!

At that moment, several soul hunters donning purple clothes suddenly bolted out from nowhere!

After successfully surrounding the duo, the leader of that group—who was the only one wearing grey clothes, evidently signifying that he was the strongest among them—sneered, “We’ve been waiting for you two for ages, you know?”

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

## Chapter List

### Chapter 1864

Realizing that the Soul Hunters had been lying in wait for them even in Mr. Bates's home, Gerald couldn't help but frown as he sneered, "You Soul Hunters just don't know when to quit, do you?"

"Quit the cr\*p and hand over the Phangrottom Talisman already! Your only other option is to receive a one-way ticket to hell!" warned the grey Soul Hunter in a frigid tone. Once he retrieved the Phangrottom Talisman, then their mission would surely end in success!

"Hah! Dream on!" scoffed the fearless Gerald as he exuded an imposing aura.

Furious to hear that, the grey soul hunter then yelled, "You only have yourself to blame for what I'm about to do to you then! Men! After them!"

Upon hearing that, the other Soul Hunters immediately began bolting toward Gerald and Rey!

At that moment, a glint of murderous intent flashed across Gerald's eyes as the youth retrieved the Phangrottom Talisman!

Once it was in his grasp, the talisman immediately began emitting a dark purple light... that soon released an immense wave of energy! The next thing anyone knew, countless ghosts—who appeared to be warriors of the Phangrottom Clan—suddenly manifested!

The Soul Hunters didn't even have time to register what was happening before they were mercilessly attacked by the ghosts...! Within seconds, the only thing that remained of the Soul Hunters were pools

of blood...

“H-Holy sh\*t...!” exclaimed the shocked Rey as he immediately began rubbing his eyes in disbelief.

“T-to think that the Phangrottom Talisman was this powerful... How absolutely terrifying...!” added Rey, an incredulous expression on his face.

Gerald himself simply smiled subtly as he hid his talisman again before calmly saying, “That’s the true power of the Phangrottom Talisman!”

Since the Phangrottom Talisman could be used to control all the spirits in the world, it wasn’t really all that shocking to know that it held such immense power.

“Regardless, let’s hurry and leave this place already! We still need to locate Miss Zorn and Yrsa!” added Gerald.

Following that, the duo left Mr. Bates’s house and began walking into the forest depths... and it wasn’t long after before a faint cry caught both their attention.

They recognized that voice anywhere... It was definitely Juno!

Swiftly making their way to the source of the sound, the duo soon found the two girls—who had slightly stretched their heads out to make finding them easier—hiding behind a large stone.

“Juno!” yelled Gerald the second he reunited with the two girls.



Immediately throwing herself into Gerald's embrace, Juno could only bawl her eyes out as she cried out, "I-I'm sorry, Gerald... Mr. Bates... He's... He's dead...!"

Upon hearing that, Gerald and Rey instantly went pale from shock.

However, Gerald quickly snapped out of it before gently patting Juno's back as he consoled, "...Don't worry, we're back now... Nothing else will happen now that I'm here...!"

After calming down a little, Juno then told Gerald everything that had happened... and by the end of it, Gerald was so furious that he could barely hold himself back from roaring in anger...!

Leandro and his subordinates... They were definitely going to pay a heavy price for what they had done to Mr. Bates...!

[Visit chapter list for next chapter](#)

Chapter 1865

Had Mr. Bates not helped them, Gerald would've been unable to obtain the Phangrottom Talisman in the first place...

With that in mind, since Mr. Bates had died so valiantly for them, Gerald definitely had to avenge the old man! Not doing so would simply mean he was letting Mr. Bates down!

"We definitely have to avenge Mr. Bates...!" growled Rey in indignation.

“I agree with Rey...! Mr. Bates... He died to protect Juno and I... We can’t let the villains do as they please any further...!” added the uncharacteristically angry Yrsa.

“Worry now, I’m definitely not letting those scoundrels go...!” declared Gerald in a frigid tone.

Following that, Gerald got to his feet before saying, “All of you, stay here. I’m dealing with them right this instant!”

“Alright! Also, please, be careful!” replied the concerned Juno who wasn’t about to stop Gerald.

Nodding in response, Gerald then turned around and swiftly began making his way to the Stonehenge lookalike where the Soul Hunters had set up camp...

Gerald was determined to completely obliterate the Soul Hunters off the face of the planet on that very day. All of them needed to pay for their sins, especially their b\*stard of a leader, Leandro...!

Since Leandro had defiled Mr. Bates’s corpse so much, Gerald wasn’t about to hold anything back against that scoundrel. He wanted Leandro to be utterly terrified of him by the end of all this, and even then, Gerald was still going to make him suffer a punishment way worse than what his men were about to face.

To top it all off, Gerald wasn’t going to allow Leandro to reincarnate either...

Regardless, upon arriving at the encampment’s entrance, two Soul Hunters—who were standing guard there—immediately fixed their gazes on Gerald.

However, before they could even say a word, their eyes widened as they felt a sudden acute pain on both their necks. Looking down, the last thing they saw were huge gashes on their necks... before they eventually flopped lifelessly to the ground...

With those two out of the way, Gerald then casually continued walking into the campsite...

At that moment, Gerald appeared very much like the manifestation of the god of death himself... After all, everywhere he passed by ended up pooling up with blood...

None of the Soul Hunters were going to make it out alive today...!

Reaching the center of the encampment, Gerald drew his Astrabyss Sword out when he saw over ten Soul Hunters rushing toward him... Of course, Gerald made short work of them. They were barely even noteworthy to him.

Right now, Gerald was no longer a mere cultivator... He was a true Soul Hunter.

By that point, Leandro had realized that something was wrong, so he immediately rushed out of his tent... Only to see that Gerald had killed so many of his subordinates...! While Leandro was shocked, he was also fuming with anger!

“Leandro! I heard you mercilessly killed Mr. Bates! For that, I’m making you pay the ultimate price!” yelled Gerald in a furious voice.

Ignoring his statement, Leandro then ordered, “Men! Get him!”

Upon hearing that, all the remaining Soul Hunters immediately dashed toward Gerald... But of course, they were nowhere near his match. As if such minor characters would ever stand a chance against a protagonist!

With a single slash of the Astrabyss Sword, all of the assaulting men simply toppled to the ground, dead!

Seeing how strong Gerald truly was, Leandro couldn't help but widen his eyes. While he was now slightly worried, he wasn't about to retreat. After all, he was much stronger than the rest of his subordinates!

With that in mind, he retrieved his own sword and began charging toward Gerald...! With a mighty leap, Leandro then attempted to decapitate Gerald!

Of course, Gerald wasn't about to let him do that.

Taking a step back to avoid the attack, Gerald then scoffed, "Give it up, Leandro, you're no match against me! Killing you would be as easy as slaughtering a chicken!"

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapterChapter 1866

Glaring at Leandro all the while he said that, Gerald then sheathed the Astrabyss Sword... Before fishing out the Phangrottom Talisman and showing it to Leandro as he added, "I'm assuming you know what this is?"

Eyes now widened, Leandro couldn't help but exclaim, "The... The Phangrottom Talisman! You've actually managed to obtain it...!"

Now that he knew that the talisman was with Gerald, Leandro was more determined than ever to kill him! Once that was done, he would surely obtain the talisman!

His expression now twisted with greed, Leandro glared at Gerald before yelling, "Once I finish you off, the talisman will be mine!"

Following that, he began swinging his longsword toward Gerald...!

Of course, Gerald wasn't about to let the villain have his way. Before Leandro was even able to hit him, Gerald simply waved his hand... and out shot a purple blast of energy!

Unable to dodge the attack, Leandro ended up being flung to the ground! As if that wasn't enough, his longsword shattered to pieces upon impact!

Not giving Leandro a chance to recover, Gerald bolted forward before stepping right on Leandro's back while shouting, "You'll pay the ultimate price today, Leandro! For killing and defiling Mr. Bates, I'm taking away your right to be reincarnated!"

Watching as Gerald then aimed the talisman at him, Leandro could only yell, "No...!"

What followed were screams of agony as Leandro's body instantly got engulfed in dark purple flames...!

Backing away from the burning body, Gerald watched as the flames completely engulfed the sinful man... and by the end of it all, all that remained of Leandro were smoke and ashes...

Naturally, after witnessing all that, the other Soul Hunters were terrified beyond words. Dropping all their weapons and equipment, all of them immediately began fleeing!

Though Gerald saw this, he left them alone. After all, since he had officially avenged Mr. Bates and Leandro was now dead, the Soul Hunter Organization was sure to crumble soon anyway.

Whatever the case was, Gerald quickly called the rest of his party over since all this was finally over.

After searching around for a bit, Gerald eventually found Mr. Bates's dismembered body...

Upon seeing what Leandro had done to him, Gerald's fury instantly flared up again. Now that he thought about it, perhaps he had let Leandro off too easily...

All of a sudden, Gerald suddenly thought of something. Taking the Phangrottom Talisman out, Gerald then stared at it for a while...

The Talisman was extremely powerful, right? Since that was the case, maybe he could use it to repair Mr. Bates's body... While he knew he couldn't resurrect Mr. Bates, at the very least, he wanted Mr. Bates's body to be intact so that the old man could rest in peace...

After thinking about it for quite a while, Gerald then aimed the talisman at Mr. Bates's body, making sure to concentrate his thoughts on the reconstruction of the old man's body...

Surprisingly, the talisman reacted to Gerald's thoughts, and after emitting a bright light, Mr. Bates's body parts began merging together again!

Of course, this made Gerald very happy. To think that the Phangrottom Talisman was even capable of restoring bodies!

Either way, after connecting Mr. Bates's body again, Gerald and his party eventually found a proper spot to give him a good burial...

Standing before Mr. Bates's new gravestone, Gerald then solemnly bowed as he said, "Thank you for everything that you've done for us, Mr. Bates...! I've avenged you so you can rest in peace now...!"

"Please rest in peace, Mr. Bates...!" added Juno as her eyes began tearing up again.

Had it not been for him trying to protect them, he could have probably survived... Even so, death eventually came to all, and maybe his fate was simply predetermined...

Regardless, after bidding their final farewells, Gerald and the three then set off to return to the city...

After all, though Gerald had finally obtained the Phangrottom Talisman, there was still much to do. To think that experiencing all that only marked the beginning of something else...

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter 1867

After flying for an entire day and night, Gerald and his party finally arrived at their city.

Throughout the flight, the four had slept soundly. After all, it had been ages since they had last been able to sleep so comfortably.

Regardless, after disembarking, the four took a cab back to the Sacrasolis Palace.

Once they arrived half an hour later, Rey immediately sighed as he stretched while saying, "We're finally back, brother Gerald...! It feels great to finally be back in the city!"

Rey, for one, was simply pleased that he didn't have to sleep in the open again. That was enough living out in the wilderness for a while now...

"Speaking of which... Do you have any place to stay, Rey?" asked Gerald.

Hearing that, Rey frowned slightly as he replied, "I... don't, actually. After all, I set off with you in a hurry after coming here last time..."

"I see. Well, how about this? Why don't you live together with Juno and I? And I'm sure Yrsa would prefer to live with us too. Don't worry about space, there's a lot of empty rooms at our place. What more, it'll also be more convenient for us to take care of each other if we live together," suggested Gerald.

"I accept!" exclaimed both Rey and Yrsa at the same time. After all, it was good enough for them as long as they had a roof over their heads.

"Then it's settled! I guess we'll be taking you to your new home now! Also, do rest up today. We're going to get busy again when tomorrow comes!" replied Gerald.

Following that, Gerald and Juno led them to their home...

Gerald's home was a luxurious villa that wasn't all that far from the Sacrasolis Palace. Naturally, this



shocked both Rey and Yrsa the second they arrived at the villa.

“H-holy cr\*p! I didn’t know you lived in such a magnificent villa, brother Gerald!” exclaimed Rey who had never even stayed in a villa before. With that in mind, knowing that he would be staying here now naturally made him very pleased.

Shaking his head in resignation, Gerald and Juno then led the duo to their respective new rooms...

Upon entering, Rey and Yrsa were immediately at a loss for words. After all, their rooms were simply wonderful! Happy couldn’t even begin describing the emotion they were currently feeling.

“Alright, rest well, you two. You deserve this rest after working so hard the past few days. Also, once you’ve unpacked your things, come down and we’ll have a nice dinner together tonight!” said Gerald.

After seeing them nod in agreement, everyone then dispersed to get their own things done.

Gerald himself simply returned to his room.

However, it wasn’t long after before his phone began ringing...

Checking to see who was calling, Gerald realized that it was an unfamiliar number. While Gerald could certainly tell that it was a local call, the initial units of the phone number were quite special, to say the least. That alone was enough to tell Gerald that the caller wasn’t an ordinary person.

After briefly hesitating, Gerald eventually decided to pick the call up as he calmly asked, “Hello? May I know who’s speaking?”

“Before that, is this Mr. Gerald Crawford I’m speaking to?” asked a male voice from the other end of the call.

“That would be me, yes. Who is this?” replied Gerald, feelings slightly more curious now.

“Ah, a pleasure to finally get to speak with you, Mr. Gerald Crawford. My name is Harold Lee, and I’m the one in charge of the Great Council of Jhanglum City in Dragenott. I’m currently investigating a rather perplexing psychic case, you see, and I’m hoping to seek your help!” said Harold.

As it turned out, the caller was someone from the Great Council of Jhanglum City...

Visit chapter list for next chapterChapter 1868

Now that he knew that the caller was the one in charge of the Great Council there, Gerald knew it was best if he gave Harold face and helped him out.

“...Alright, I’ll be at your office tomorrow morning!” replied Gerald.

“Glad to hear it. I truly appreciate your help, Mr. Crawford. I’ll be waiting for your arrival tomorrow!” said Harold in a respectful tone before finally hanging up.

Gerald’s Sacrasolis Palace had always been reputable, even when it was first founded. What better proof of that statement than the fact that Gerald was the first person Harold had contacted in order to solve this psychic case. It was evident that Gerald’s capabilities were well known far and wide...

Whatever the case was, rest came first, and the four of them enjoyed a well-deserved sleep...

Early the next morning, Gerald woke Rey up and told him that they were heading to the Great Council.

It was only once they were in the car when Rey curiously asked, "Why exactly are we heading to the Great Council today, brother Gerald?"

"You'll find out once we get there!" replied Gerald, prompting Rey to remain silent. Whatever the reason was, at the very least, Rey was sure that something must have happened...

It was about twenty minutes later when they arrived at the Great Council building.

Upon getting out of the car, the two were immediately greeted by the sight of Mr. Harold who had already been waiting for them at the entrance.

Seeing the two, Harold quickly walked toward them before welcoming them with a warm smile and saying, "A pleasure to meet you, Mr. Crawford!"

"Likewise, Mr. Lee. I've brought along my disciple, Rey, if you were wondering who this is," replied Gerald in a polite tone as he shook hands with the man.

Hearing his name being called out, Rey quickly added, "It's an honor to meet you, Mr. Lee. I go by Rey!"

"The same goes for me! Regardless, let's head in before we continue talking, shall we?" replied Harold who was still smiling. It appeared that he truly felt relieved with the duo's presence...

Regardless, after they entered the Great Council building, the two were led to a big meeting room...

Inside, many subordinates could be seen working hard to crack the case. However, the second they noticed Harold, Gerald, and Rey, they immediately fell silent.

Clearing his throat, Harold then yelled, "Alright, listen up, everyone! Allow me to introduce all of you to Mr. Gerald Crawford and his disciple, Rey! They're here to help us solve the case, so let's give them a warm welcome!"

Upon hearing that, all the subordinates immediately got to their feet and began clapping excitedly to welcome the duo. Naturally, all of them had heard about Gerald before, and now that the real deal was before them, they were definitely overjoyed!

Now that that was out of the way, Harold then gestured for Gerald and Rey to take their seats before saying, "Now then... Without further ado, let the meeting commence!"

With that said, his subordinates instantly resumed discussing the case.

After one of them came forward with a file and placed it on the table before Gerald, Harold smiled as he said, "Please have a look at the information we've gathered about the case."

Nodding as he returned a subtle smile, Gerald then began reading through the documents...

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapterChapter 1869

After reading through it, Gerald couldn't help but raise a slight brow as he asked, "Who exactly is this, Lord Van Tage...?"

“Ah, he’s a person who claims to be able to see the past, and also predict a person’s future. Quite a number of people believe that he truly has the power to read these time-based events, so it’s no wonder why he’s become quite popular of late. I’m honestly surprised that you haven’t heard of him before, Mr. Crawford,” replied Harold.

With how busy he had been, it really was no wonder why Gerald hadn’t heard about that man before.

Leaning closer to Gerald, Rey then whispered, “I know about him, brother Gerald... I’ve read through many of his articles and even seen videos of him before. The truth is, I think he’s just a phony...”

“Phony or not, we’ll be able to tell once we’re there!” replied Gerald in a calm tone.

Since Gerald wasn’t really able to gather much from the information in the file, he knew that their next best bet would be to head straight for the crime scene...

After a slight pause, Gerald then closed the file before asking, “Can we head to the crime scene now, Mr. Lee?”

“Of course!” replied Harold without the slightest hesitation.

With that, Harold immediately—and personally—led the duo to the crime scene...

The crime scene itself was a studio apartment located in Jhanglum City’s Lotus Bay. The victim was a woman in her late twenties who went by the name of Fay West.

She had apparently died in her sleep the night before, and while that was already concerning enough, the real shocker came from two black handprints on the ceiling right atop her head!

It didn't help that aside from Fay herself, nobody else had entered her home that night, as proved by her surveillance camera's footage. While the investigators did go through the footage of the camera across her apartment for extra measure, the end result was simply the same... Only she had entered her home before her death.

What more, after doing an autopsy on Fay's body, no signs of what had killed her were found! Not an injury on her body, nor were there any traces of poison. It truly was perplexing...

After an entire day of investigating and gaining no new information about the unusual death, Harold finally decided to bring in the big guns, which prompted him to call Gerald the night before...

Since Gerald was quite famous for dealing with the paranormal, Harold believed that he was the perfect person to help them crack the case...

Regardless, the trio soon found themselves stepping foot into Fay's studio apartment.

Upon slowly entering, Gerald's expression instantly went sour. An overwhelming feminine aura had completely enveloped the insides of the studio apartment...

Since the human body naturally consisted of masculine aura, immense feminine auras like this would surely trigger a repelling feeling...

Noticing the change in Gerald's expression, Harold immediately asked, "...Did you manage to find something, Mr. Crawford?"

Shaking his head, Gerald then monotonously replied, "Not yet, though I must say, this place has an overwhelming feminine aura..."

Following that, Gerald headed to Fey's bed before lying down... True enough, there were two distinct, black handprints right above him...

Naturally, this surprised Harold and his men, though Gerald paid them no heed.

Instead, he simply closed his eyes... and when he reopened them, a woman was lying right next to him...

Of course, she was none other than Fay West herself.

"Find anything?" asked Fay in a curious tone.

Turning to look at her, Gerald then asked, "...Why did you choose to believe in Lord Van Tage?"

Simply giggling in response, Fay then turned to look at the black handprints on the ceiling...

Just as Gerald did the same, he was suddenly jolted away from the scene when Rey's voice called out, "B-brother Gerald! Are you alright?!"

Opening his eyes, he couldn't help but raise a slight brow as he looked at Rey while asking, "What's wrong?"

Visit chapter list for next chapterChapter 1870

“W-we thought you were possessed! After all, you didn’t respond to us no matter how much we called out to you! You scared us half to death, you know?” replied the stunned Rey.

Choosing to ignore Rey’s statement, Gerald then hopped off the bed before saying, “Regardless, I’ve just discovered something important!”

Immediately drawing everyone’s attention in the room, Harold then quickly walked over before asking, “What exactly have you discovered?”

Pointing at the handprints on the ceiling, Gerald then replied, “There’s something wrong with those black handprints!”

Confused, Harold then asked, “...I’m not quite sure if I follow...”

“Think about it. Why would a killer leave such obvious handprints after doing the deed?” replied Gerald.

Upon hearing that, Harold found himself frowning. After thinking for a while, he then replied, “...Are you saying that the killer is trying to mislead us?”

Nodding in response, Gerald then replied, “Bingo. Regardless, bring Lord Van Tage in for questioning. I have a sneaking suspicion that Fay’s death is related to him!”

Not even questioning any further, Harold then turned to look at his subordinates before ordering, “Send some of our men out to bring Lord Van Tage in for questioning right this instant!”



Watching as Harold's subordinates ran off to do as they were instructed, Rey then inched closer to Gerald before saying, "...Don't you feel that all this is simply too bizarre, brother Gerald...?"

"It is. After all, I believe that instead of humans, ghosts are the true perpetrators of this crime! I'm actually telling them to bring Lord Van Tage back to the office to protect him!" whispered Gerald in response.

After hearing that, Rey finally saw the bigger picture.

Since nothing else could be done here at the moment, Gerald then said, "Alright, let's head back to the Great Council building for now!"

With that, everyone did as Gerald told...

On their way back to the building, however, Harold's phone began ringing.

Answering the call with his other hand, Harold then said, "Yes?"

"Bad news, sir! Lord Van Tage is dead...!" replied his subordinate.

Upon hearing that, the screeching of tires could instantly be heard as Harold slammed on the brakes.

"What? Dead?!" exclaimed the shocked Harold.

From Harold's reaction alone, Gerald could already tell that they were too late.

"So... I'm assuming that the dead man is Lord Van Tage?" said Gerald with a sigh just as Harold was turning to look at him.

Surprised that Gerald could read his mind, Harold quickly snapped out of it before nodding.

"I see... Then let's head to the crime scene immediately!" declared Gerald.

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter List Chapter 1871

Nodding in response, Harold then hung up before stepping on the gas as they sped to the crime scene.

As Gerald had earlier told Rey, instead of being the perpetrator, Lord Van Tage was simply another victim. From what he could currently deduce, Lord Van Tage must have encountered something terrible with Fay which led to both of them being targeted and eventually killed...

While Gerald had successfully predicted that Lord Van Tage would end up dying next, he was unfortunately a bit too late to prevent his death...

Regardless, the trio soon arrived at Lord Van Tage's home... The Elysian Labyrinth.

Since it was well known that this was Lord Van Tage's home and he already had a cult following, it was no surprise that several people were already there, looking immensely shocked. After all, hovering right under one of the house's beams, was Lord Van Tage's lifeless body!

For a bit of backstory, after graduating from university, Lord Van Tage had dedicated his life to researching the field of psychology. While his rise to fame was simply by chance, once people started coming to him for consultations and tests, they never stopped seeking his help. And just like that, he became a celebrity on social media.

After getting so used to his presence, it truly was shocking to find out that Lord Van Tage would end up dying in his own home of all places...

Moving back to Gerald and his party, after approaching the crime scene, Harold turned to look at his subordinate—who had just walked up to the trio—before asking with a serious tone, "What's the situation like?"

"Well, according to the witness' descriptions, Lord Van Tage had simply been conducting another of his many consultations earlier when all of a sudden, he began floating! The witnesses could only stare in horror as he squeezed his own neck till he eventually died of strangulation!" reported the subordinate.

Harold was rightfully stunned after hearing that. To think that something that terrifying could happen in the real world...!

As for Gerald, he went ahead and stood right beneath the hovering corpse before looking around... Even so, he simply couldn't see anything out of the ordinary.

“Find anything, brother Gerald...?” asked the confused Rey.

“...Well, for starters, this place is brimming with feminine aura, just like Fay’s place. In other words, I’m pretty sure the culprit is the same individual,” replied Gerald.

“I see... Still, don’t you find all this a bit too bizarre, brother Gerald...? Who in the right mind would strangle themselves to death...?” muttered the bewildered Rey.

Frowning slightly as he narrowed his eyes, Gerald then replied, “Not him, that’s for sure. I’ll be frank and say that from what I can gather, a ghost must have possessed him! How and why else would he strangle himself to death! Still, no ordinary ghost could’ve done this!”

Feeling a chill run down his spine, Rey then quickly held onto his neck before fearfully stuttering, “A-are you saying that that very ghost could be observing us at this moment...?”

“Negative. I can’t sense its presence,” comforted Gerald, prompting Rey to breathe a sigh of relief. Still, Rey couldn’t help but feel goosebumps all over when he thought about how ghosts could secretly be observing him at all times...

Shortly after, Harold walked over to the duo before asking, “Find anything out of the ordinary, Mr. Crawford?”

Visit chapter list for next chapterChapter 1872

“From what I’ve managed to gather up till this point, the killer was never a human, but instead, a grudgeful ghost!”

“...Come again? A grudgeful ghost? Are you absolutely sure, Mr. Crawford? This isn’t exactly a minor

case,” replied Harold in a slightly doubtful tone.

Truth be told, Harold didn't really believe in ghosts. However, with so many supernatural occurrences happening before his very eyes, what other choice did he have but to believe?

“Since you've hired me to solve the case, you'll just have to trust me, Mr. Lee. Regardless, I promise you that I, Gerald Crawford, never lie about things like this! If you still refuse to believe me, however, then let's not continue wasting each other's time,” replied Gerald as he immediately turned around to leave.

If his judgment wasn't going to be trusted, then he may as well just leave.

Quickly stopping Gerald from leaving, Harold then sighed before saying, “You misunderstand me, Mr. Crawford! I'm not doubting your capabilities at all! However, do keep in mind that this case is getting a bit out of hand now. I need something a little more... Convincing to calm everyone, if you know what I mean...”

“Mr. Lee, I assure you one hundred percent that ghosts are among us. Regardless, if I'm staying then let's not waste any time arguing about their existence. The main focus now should be to capture the grudgeful ghost before it causes any more trouble!” declared Gerald in a serious tone.

“...Yes, yes... You're absolutely right! Fine then, I place my trust in you, Mr. Crawford! With that said... What should we do next?” asked Harold.

“For now, I suggest that you and your men head back first while I remain here with my disciple. Call it a hunch, but I believe that the grudgeful ghost still has some unfinished business here. With that in mind, it will surely return tonight!” replied Gerald.

Upon hearing that, Harold simply agreed. Since he had chosen to trust Gerald, he believed that Gerald

had a plan. Besides, Gerald was the expert in the supernatural here, so who was he to question his decisions?

With that, Harold and his men soon left the building...

By that point, the crowd from before had dispersed—since it wasn't like there was anyone to give them advice anymore anyway—, and the Elysian Labyrinth was promptly cordoned off...

To pass the time, Gerald and Rey simply remained in their car outside the dead man's home.

Once night came, Rey couldn't help but ask, "...Are you really sure that we'll see the ghost tonight, brother Gerald...?"

"Putting it simply, all ghosts instinctually feel the need to return to crime scenes involving them. Adding that to the fact that night is usually the most active time for ghosts, I'm pretty sure that the grudgeful ghost will make a return!" replied Gerald.

With how confident Gerald sounded, Rey was inclined to believe that Gerald must be right.

Seeing that Rey had asked, Gerald took his phone out to check the time... Apparently, it was already ten.

Nodding as he slid his phone back into his pocket, Gerald then said, "Alright, let's make our move!"

Following that, the duo left the car before stealthily making their way to the Elysian Labyrinth's entrance...

Just as Rey was about to open the door, however, Gerald suddenly called out in a hushed tone, “Hold it!”

As Rey turned around to look at Gerald, wondering what was wrong, he couldn’t help but furrow his brows as Gerald placed his hand on Rey’s forehead.

The truth was, Gerald was currently transmitting some power into Rey...

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter List

Chapter 1873

“...What... exactly are you doing, brother Gerald...?” asked the confused Rey.

“I’m transferring some power into you so that you’ll be able to see ghosts like me from now on. However, be warned that these evil spirits can be much scarier and more vicious than you could ever imagine. With that in mind, I advise you to steel your will!” explained Gerald.

Since this was going to be Rey’s first time seeing a real evil spirit, Gerald knew that the experience could be quite unnerving. With that, he made sure to tell Rey to prepare himself in hopes that his disciple wouldn’t end up just wetting his pants and fainting on the spot...

“Got it, brother Gerald! I’ll be sure to keep myself in check!” replied Rey, determination in his eyes.

Nodding in response, Gerald then led the way into the Elysian Labyrinth...

Once inside, Gerald quickly summoned the Astrabyss Sword before saying, "Spirit Summoning Spell!"

Following that, he began changing an incantation of sorts to summon any nearby ghosts. Once the spell was successfully completed, any spirits lingering around would instantly be compelled to head to the Elysian Labyrinth...

This was also the reason why Gerald had emphasized so much on Rey steeling his spirit earlier. After all, neither of them knew what kinds of ghosts would show up.

Regardless, with the completion of the spell, Gerald and Rey then waited there in silence...

However, it wasn't long before a chilling breeze blew on the back of Rey's neck, causing shivers to run down his entire body!

"B-brother Gerald..." whimpered Rey.

Upon hearing that, Gerald instantly swung the Astrabyss Sword at the evil spirit that had manifested right behind Rey!

Rey himself quickly turned back to look at what Gerald was attacking... only to find his eyes widening in shock when he saw an evil spirit with a tiny face glaring at him! While the tiny face glowed a dark blue,



the spirit's eyes were a bloody red, making the evil spirit all the more terrifying to look at!

Realizing that Rey was so scared that he couldn't even breathe right, Gerald quickly yanked his disciple to his back before yelling, "Stay behind me! I'll deal with it!"

Now that Rey was in a safe position, Gerald leaped forward to strike at the spirit again!

Even so, the evil spirit wasn't about to allow itself to get hit that easily. Quickly morphing into a black miasma, it immediately began trying to escape!

Of course, Gerald wasn't about to give it that chance. Extending his arm, Gerald then yelled, "Soul Chain!"

And just like that, his Soul Chain was summoned and it quickly wrapped around the evil spirit!

"Pull!" instructed Gerald, resulting in the chain forcefully dragging the now angered and roaring spirit right before Gerald...

"Did you honestly think you were going to be able to escape a cultivator's grasp, evil spirit?" mocked Gerald in a disdainful tone.

Upon realizing that the spirit had been captured, Rey—who had just calmed down—quickly walked over to Gerald's side... only to feel his heart skip a beat once more when he saw how truly horrifying the evil spirit looked up-close!

"Don't worry, it can't attack you now that I've bound it! Speaking of which, if you're still feeling intimidated, don't worry too much about it. After all, this is just the first of many, and the more spirits

you see, the less threatening they'll eventually seem!" comforted Gerald, knowing that Rey was finding it hard to accept all this.

Gerald knew for a fact that many people would've already wet themselves upon seeing this evil spirit for the first time. While Rey was initially scared, he eventually became tough enough to handle this much, and that made Gerald feel rather satisfied. After all, he of all people knew that adapting to such horrifying spirits took time, so Gerald wasn't about to force Rey to adapt to them that quickly.

Regardless, after nodding in response, Rey then muttered, "Um... Brother Gerald... about that evil spirit..."

Visit chapter list for next chapter

#### Chapter 1874

Realizing that Rey was looking at the evil spirit, Gerald then replied, "I'll be exterminating it so that it can't cause any further harm!"

Following that, Gerald took the Phangrottom Talisman out... and upon waving it before the evil spirit, it instantly let out a mighty roar!

However, the longer it roared, the feebler it sounded, until eventually, it was reduced into nothing but ash... And just like that, Gerald had defeated the evil spirit!

Thanks to the Phangrottom Talisman, dealing with spirits was no longer a major issue for Gerald.

Rey himself could only stare dumbfounded by how easily Gerald had exorcised the evil spirit. To think that the Phangrottom Talisman was that powerful!

“The talisman is truly incredible, brother Gerald!” exclaimed Rey.

“Indeed. Why else do you think the Phangrottom Clan see it as a worthy treasure?” replied Gerald.

If even the Phangrottom Clan treasured it, it was undoubtedly a powerful item... It certainly explained why people even risked their lives just to obtain the talisman. Even so, in the end, the talisman could only ever belong to Gerald....

Regardless, now that the issue had been dealt with, Gerald was prompted to say, “Alright, we’re done here! Let’s head to the Great Council!”

With that, the duo left the Elysian Labyrinth, and not too long after, their car came to a halt before the Great Council building...

Despite the fact that it was already midnight there, the entire building was still brightly lit and the atmosphere there was as tense as ever... After all, Harold and his men had anxiously been waiting for Gerald and Rey to report back.

Regardless, upon seeing Gerald and Rey step out, one of Harold’s subordinates—who had been stationed in front of the building to report the duo’s return—immediately ran toward Harold’s office before excitedly reporting, “S-sir! They’re back!”

Upon hearing that, the delighted Harold instantly got to his feet and rushed out of his office.

Seeing Gerald and Rey there, he quickly greeted them before asking with an expectant look on his face, “What’s the situation like, Mr. Crawford?”

Looking at Harold, Gerald then calmly replied, "I've already exorcised the evil spirit, Mr. Lee. Everything's settled now!"

Hearing that, Mr. Lee immediately heaved a sigh of relief before nodding. By this point, he fully believed in Gerald's words.

"Now then, if there's nothing else, we'll be taking our leave!" added Gerald.

"Of course! Again, we're extremely grateful for all your help, Mr. Crawford!" replied Harold as he personally saw them off till they got their car...

It was only after the duo left when Harold finally returned into the building...

"...Um... Sir? Do you really think the case has been solved...? Just like that...? I mean, not to be rude, but the idea of ghosts existing..." muttered one of Harold's subordinates now that Gerald and Rey had left.

It was natural for them to feel doubtful. After all, anyone would feel skeptical over the existence of ghosts.

Even so, the harsh reality was that ghosts truly did exist in the same plane as they did. Just because they couldn't see them, didn't mean they weren't real...

Visit chapter list for next chapterChapter 1875

Now that the case was done and they were still awake anyway, Gerald and Rey returned home to get Juno and Yrsa out to have supper.

Heading toward a local night market, the four found a nice stall and took their seats there.

Upon sitting down, Rey couldn't help but exclaim, "Wow! To think that there'd be such a place in the city!"

Rey, for one, had never come to places like this before, so he pretty much had no idea that locations like these existed in the first place.

"...What? Didn't you study here? How could you have spent all your years in this university without finding out about this place? Your university life was a complete waste!" joked Gerald before snickering.

Chuckling sheepishly, Rey then scratched the back of his head in slight embarrassment before replying, "Still, that just shows that I work more and play less!"

Though Rey unconsciously praised himself, the trio simply rolled their eyes in response. None of them could win against Rey when it came to narcissism!

At that moment, the stall's owner walked over with a menu, a smile on her face as she said, "Welcome, welcome! There's a discount on everything today, so make sure you choose whatever you like!"

Upon hearing that, Rey instantly exclaimed, "Really? Then I'm ordering lots then, brother Gerald! After all, I won't be the one paying the bill!"

Watching as Rey then laughed before grabbing the menu, Gerald simply shook his head at his childish disciple.

Not that Gerald really minded it. After all, he had plenty of cash to spare, so treating his party wasn't really a big deal to him.

While that was the case, by the time the food—that Rey ordered—arrived ten minutes later, the amount was staggering, to say the least!

“...You... ordered quite a bit, Rey! Can we even finish all this?” asked Juno as she looked at the boy.

“Don't underestimate my appetite, Miss Zorn!” replied Rey as he patted his chest.

Unsure of how to even respond to that, Juno simply shook her head, hoping that he meant what he had just said.

With that, all four of them began eating their meal.

Seeing how rapidly Rey was gobbling down his food, Gerald couldn't help but laugh as he said, “Rey, the food's not going anywhere! Why are you eating like you haven't had a meal in a hundred years? Are you a hungry ghost or something?”

Looking up at Gerald with his cheeks still stuffed with food, Rey then chewed a little before replying, “I can't help it, brother Gerald! We haven't eaten the entire day, you know?”

Sighing as he shook his head, Gerald then said, “You barely care about your image at all, do you, Rey?”

While some may consider that to be an insult, it was a compliment in Gerald's book. Essentially, he was saying that Rey wasn't a pretentious person, and such people were very easy to get along with.

Whatever the case was, after eating a while longer, Juno couldn't help but ask, "Speaking of which... What's our next plan, Gerald?"

Visit chapter list for next chapterChapter 1876

Now that there were no further distractions and they were mostly done with their meals anyway, it was high time to discuss things more seriously.

"Well, I'm thinking of starting a new office in a new place. If things work out, we'll have our own established company that deals with psychic matters. That way, people will know where to find us if they have issues regarding such things," replied Gerald.

After solving today's mystery, Gerald had thought about how the Great Council only dealt with matters between humans up till this point. If he established a company that specialized in dealing with the paranormal, those seeking help would be able to get actual results instead of having clueless investigators.

What more, with the gates to the ghost world now open, more incidents like this would surely happen, which further prompted Gerald to give serious thought about the idea.

Either way, after listening to Gerald's suggestion, the trio immediately nodded without the slightest hesitation.

"I think that's an excellent idea, Gerald!" said Juno as she looked at him.

"I'm glad you think so. Speaking of which, Rey, Yrsa. Both of you will have to start your formal training soon! Juno and I will be training you separately, and once you're ready, we'll start sending you out to fight real battles. With that in mind, both of you had best mentally prepare yourselves!" declared Gerald.

Upon hearing that, the two disciples exchanged glances before nodding slightly.

Rey himself had a determined expression on his face as he replied, "Got it, brother Gerald! We won't let you down!"

Truth be told, Rey had been waiting for this moment for quite a while now. After all, he was rather keen to learn about the many ways of properly dealing with ghosts.

While it was true that he ended up getting slightly frightened earlier—due to it being his first time properly seeing an evil spirit—he had to admit that the experience was a valuable one.

Regardless, as the four continued chatting as they finished their meals, loud crashing noises—that were quite close by—immediately caught their attention.

Turning to face the source of the sound, the group saw a rather intimidating-looking gang armed with wooden bats slowly making their way toward them. As they slowly made their way forward, the hooligans made sure to vandalize all the stalls around them with their bats!

Naturally, the scene instantly caused Gerald and his party members to frown. To think they would bump into such a situation while eating!

The stall owner herself was already packing her wares up, looking extremely anxious.



“Huh? Are you closing already? But we haven’t even finished eating yet!” asked Rey as he looked at the panicking stall owner.

“Look, just leave while you can! Don’t worry about paying! Consider it to be my treat!” replied the stall owner in a hasty tone as finished packing up and prepared to push her cart away.

“Who exactly are those people...? And why are you so terrified of them?” asked Gerald next.

While he obviously knew that they were gang members, he wanted more details about them.

Sighing in response, the stall owner quickly replied, “They’re from the Hoklux gang, and they run illegal protection rackets around here! I can’t say any more than that, so please, just let me and my daughter leave already!”

Just as she was about to continue pushing her cart away, an angry yell could be heard saying, “Stop her!”

Following that, several members of the gang quickly rushed forward to block her path.

Surrounded by the bat-wielding men, the stall owner and her daughter couldn’t even take another step further!

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

## Chapter List

## Chapter 1877

Shortly after, a scar-faced man walked up to the woman before scoffing, "Planning on going somewhere, boss?"

"...Big Brother, we just run a small business...! We really don't have any money to give you...!" replied the stall owner in a resigned tone.

"Cut the cr\*p!" sneered the scarred man before slapping her right in the cheek!

Due to how hard he had hit her, the woman ended up staggering two steps back before having to lean against her cart to support herself...

"Mother!" yelled the woman's daughter as she immediately ran over to her to help her up.

Following that, she glared at the scarred man before shouting, "You utter b\*stard...! To think that you'd dare to hit a woman!"

"Hmm? This your daughter, boss? She's quite a looker!" sneered the scarred man, a malicious smile on his face as he walked over to the stall owner's daughter before yanking her over to his side!

"L-let go of me, you b\*stard...! What are you planning to do?!" shouted the poor girl as she attempted to break herself free of his grip. Sadly, she was far too frail to even garner a response from him...

Regardless, upon seeing that he wasn't planning on releasing her daughter, the now teary-eyed stall owner quickly pulled her daughter back!

Once the girl was behind her, the stall owner turned to face the scarred man before pleading, “Please, Big Brother...! Just leave her be...! I’ll give you the money...!”

Smiling even more sinisterly after hearing that, the scarred man then replied, “Hah! I don’t want your money anymore! Instead, why don’t you and your daughter just follow me and be my servants? I’ll make sure you have a comfortable life! How about it?”

It was evident that this despicable man preferred women over money, and he now had his eyes on both the stall owner and her daughter...

Understandably frightened after hearing that, the duo knew that they weren’t going to be able to avoid trouble tonight...

Not wanting her virgin daughter’s future to be destroyed by him, the stall owner eventually proposed, “...Big Brother, how about this... Leave my daughter be and I’ll willingly follow you...!”

“What? You dare bargain with me?! Since you’re that foolish, men! Get them!” yelled the scarred man in a rage. Since they dared to resist him—despite the fact that he had been ‘courteous’ enough to ask—, he was no longer against using force!

Whatever the case was, upon hearing his order, his underlings immediately rushed forward and began dragging both the stall owner and her daughter away!

While there were still people around, none of them dared to step in. After all, nobody wanted trouble with these hooligans...

All of a sudden, a masculine voice yelled out, "Stop right there!"

Surprised, everyone turned to look at the source of the voice... And standing there while pointing at the scarred man, was Rey!

Glaring at the youth, the scarred man then sneered, "Huh? Who the hell even are you? Look, just finish your meal and don't be a busybody, kid!"

"I'd rather be a busybody than be a b\*stard like you! To think there'd be a man on this planet who would dare bully two innocent women with his group of hooligans!" scoffed Rey.

At that moment, Gerald, Rey, and Juno could only stare wide-eyed at Rey. After all, none of them had expected him, of all people, to confront those gangsters...Chapter 1878

"You tired of living or something, kid? Are you seriously meddling in my affairs? Do you even know who I am?!" growled the scarred man as he continued glaring fiercely at Rey.

"Don't know, don't care! Regardless, let them go already or I'll call the Great Council over!" retorted Rey before fishing his phone out in hopes of threatening the gangster.

Upon hearing that, the scarred man and his underlings instantly began laughing mockingly.

Once he was done laughing, the scarred man then jeered, "Do you honestly think they'll come over when they know we're involved! Go ahead and call them then! See what happens!"

Hearing that, Rey was slightly taken aback. To think that these hooligans weren't afraid of the Great Council's power!

Shaking his head, the scarred man then signaled for his men to go after Rey, prompting Rey to instinctually take a step back...

However, before he could take another, he suddenly felt a firm pat on his shoulder.

Turning around and seeing that it was Gerald, Rey then whispered, "...Brother Gerald..."

Simply pushing Rey back into his seat, Gerald then calmly replied, "Just relax and leave the rest to me!"

Understanding that everything was going to be fine now that Gerald was stepping in, Rey chose not to say another word.

Quite frankly, Gerald would've eventually stepped in even if Rey hadn't. Still, Rey did simplify things for him. Now he could skip talking with those numbskulls in the first place and simply go straight to teaching them a well-deserved lesson.

With that, Gerald took a step forward... before vanishing into thin air!

As everyone's eyes widened, wondering where he had gone to, their question was promptly answered when several of the scarred man's underlings fell to the ground!

Staring at the youth—who was somehow already standing close to him—, the scarred man now realized how fearfully fast and powerful Gerald truly was.

Not wanting things to just end like this, the scarred man quickly snapped out of his shocked state before turning to look at his remaining subordinates and ordering, "D\*mn it all! Attack!"

To his horror, before his remaining men could even react, Gerald had already taken all of them out! The only one left standing was the scarred man himself!

Realizing that he couldn't even see Gerald's afterimage before his men went down, the now terrified scarred hooligan knew that he stood no chance against this youth...

Feeling a breeze before him, the scarred man then quivered as he realized that Gerald was now staring him right in the eye...!

Sneering, Gerald then declared, "Get out of my sight! I never want to see you or your men here again! Ignore that and all of you can expect to receive one-way tickets to hell!"

Gulping as he immediately nodded in fear, the scarred man then quickly scurried away with his underlings like the pitiful rats they were...

With that dealt with, Gerald then walked over to the stall owner and her daughter before smiling as he said, "Everything's alright now."

"T-thank you... Thank you so much...!" cried out the relieved stall owner.

"Don't worry about it. I'm only doing what's right!" replied Gerald in a humble tone.

Still, to think that Rey would be faster than him when it came to seeking justice for others...

Gerald was thankfully around when all this happened, otherwise who knew what kind of trouble Rey would get into... While Rey's righteousness was definitely applaudable, he was still a bit too weak to be taunting others...

Visit chapter list for next chapter

Chapter 1879

"Speaking of which, we're not full yet, boss! With that said, why don't you resume business?" said Gerald.

"Oh! Just give me a minute and I'll make more for all of you to eat then!" replied the stall owner almost instantaneously, a wide smile on her face.

Since they had just saved her, it was only natural that she felt the need to repay their kindness with hospitality. With that, she quickly began setting up her stall again before getting to work... and not long after, a massive plate of food was served at Gerald's table.

"I'm truly grateful for your help today, so all this is on me!" declared the stall owner.

Before Gerald or the girls could even reply, Rey was already saying, "You're being way too polite, boss! It was only a small matter to us!"

Upon hearing that, the trio could help but stare at Rey with raised brows, thinking how shameless he was.



“Well, small or not, it was still a great help to us! Now eat up and do tell me if you need more!” replied the stall owner before happily returning to work.

Once she left, Juno couldn't help but glare at Rey as she said, “Hey, don't go acting so impulsively next time, Rey!”

Scratching the back of his head in response, the slightly embarrassed youth then chuckled sheepishly before replying, “I was just trying to help, Miss Zorn!”

“I get that, but you have to consider your own capabilities before picking a fight like that! Had Gerald not been present today, you'd surely have been beaten into a pulp!” retorted Juno.

Just about anyone would've stepped up to deal with those hooligans if they had the capability to. However, the fact that no one did meant that they all understood that they were never going to be able to take on those bat-wielding gangsters without getting into serious trouble.

Whatever the case was, Rey then grinned cheekily before replying, “I know, I know, I won't do something like this again, Miss Zorn... I'll just leave it to brother Gerald!”

Hearing his name, Gerald then cleared his throat before saying, “While it's true that your righteous behavior deserves praise, even I implore you not to be so impulsive in future!”

Compliments aside, Gerald had to make sure to properly share how he felt about today's events.

“Got it, brother Gerald! I'll keep that in mind!” replied Rey as he nodded, completely understanding where Juno and Gerald were coming from.

Essentially, Gerald was telling him not to be overly righteous when the odds were stacked against him. After all, he was still nowhere near as strong as Gerald yet. Still, Rey couldn't help but wonder how great it would be if he could deal with foes the way Gerald did...

Regardless, it was about half an hour later when the four finally finished their meal and began to leave.

Naturally, Gerald insisted on paying the stall owner, and in the end, she was forced to accept the payment. Gerald, for one, knew that life wasn't easy for her and her daughter, so he would've paid her regardless of how much she objected.

Either way, upon returning home, the four then headed to their respective rooms to get well-deserved rest. After that busy day, all of them were rightfully exhausted... Well, most of them.

Gerald, for one, knew that he couldn't just sit there and do nothing now that he knew that the scarred man and the Hoklux Gang existed. They were already causing trouble and fear to members of society, and they would surely get more and more daring in the future if something wasn't done now.

With that in mind, Gerald laid down on his bed... and before long, his ghost form flew out before quickly heading toward the Hoklux Gang's headquarters...

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter 1880

Tonight, some people were simply fated to mysteriously disappear off the face of the planet...

Soon enough, Gerald found himself hovering over the Hoklux Gang's headquarters...

As previously seen, the Hoklux Gang was a bunch of hooligans, and the head of the group was a vicious man known simply as Roger. From the rumors Gerald had managed to gather, he was frequently summoned to the Great Council for 'coffee talks'.

Upon phasing through the headquarters' ceiling, Gerald was immediately greeted by the sight of the scarred man kneeling before a seated person—whom Gerald assumed to be Roger—while saying, "I apologize, master...! We truly are useless for being defeated by others...!"

"That you all are! Rubbish! To think that all of you weren't a match for a single man! You've truly embarrassed the Hoklux Gang this time!" retorted Roger as he glared at the scarred man.

Hearing that, the scarred man and his subordinates simply lowered their heads, not having the guts to even look up.

"Y-you don't understand, master...! That person was so powerful we didn't even have a chance to fight back...!" replied the scarred man.

"Excuses! Just admit that you're weak already! What are you even here for if you're that pathetic!" scoffed Roger with a snort, clearly unwilling to believe his subordinate. Of course, had Roger been at the scene while Gerald did the deed, he would've thought much differently.

"Regardless, our gang has lost face today because of this! We can only regain our pride by dealing with that person! To think he has the nerve to go against us... He must crave death! Go look for him immediately!" ordered Roger in a furious voice.

"R-right away, master...!" replied the scarred man in a respectful tone.

“There’s no need for that! I’m right here!” yelled an unfamiliar voice at that moment, causing Roger and his men to instantly feel astonished.

After realizing that they couldn’t even detect the source of the voice, Roger stood up before roaring, “Who the hell are you? Show yourself!”

However, the only response Roger got was a tight slap across his face! The slap itself was so hard that Roger found himself landing a good distance from where he had initially been standing!

Upon seeing that, everyone was rightfully dumbfounded. There was nobody even remotely close enough to Roger to cause him to be flung like that...!

As the horrified scarred man took a step back—unsure of what was even happening anymore—, a sudden gust of wind blew past him... and seconds later, he was prompted to hold onto his now bleeding neck as his eyes bulged from his skull!

Not even knowing how that gash had suddenly appeared on his neck, the scarred man soon flopped to the ground, dead...

Roger himself had just gotten to his feet again at that point, only to end up getting stunned again when he saw his dead subordinate.

Before he could even react, his eyes widened as blood suddenly began gushing out of his own neck! And just like that, the dying Roger dropped to his knees before splashing into his own puddle of blood...

Seeing how unusual their leaders’ deaths were, the subordinates instantly began screaming as they

attempted to escape the scene...

Gerald himself—who was still invisible—simply glared at the two fresh corpses without the slightest remorse...

Visit chapter list for next chapter

Chapter 1881

To Gerald, they deserved to die.

Instead of letting them come and cause trouble, Gerald would rather get rid of them in advance. That way, he would be able to avoid getting into bigger trouble.

After staring at them for a few seconds, Gerald took out the Phangrottom Rune.

With a firm wave of the Phangrottom Rune, Gerald exterminated the souls of those two.

People like them didn't qualify to be reincarnated. They should just turn into nothingness.

After dealing with the matter, Gerald left right away.

Gerald knew that the next morning, the death of the head of the Hoklux Gang would be reported on every news channel, and the news would definitely shock the whole city.

However, most of the people would only feel glad seeing as the gang's head had finally been punished for his evil deeds.

After going back to his place, Gerald returned to his body and fell asleep.

The next morning, a phone call woke Gerald up.

When Gerald was awakened, he took his phone and saw that it was from Harold.

Gerald could roughly guess what Harold was calling him for. He had to be calling for help to solve the murder case of the head of the Hoklux Gang.

After hesitating for a few seconds, Gerald answered the call.

"Hello, Mr. Lee."

Gerald greeted Harold with a weary voice.

Harold seemed to be able to sense Gerald's tone, so he immediately apologized politely, "Mr. Gerald, I'm sorry to call you this early in the morning. However, something strange happened in the headquarters of the Hoklux Gang last night. The head of the gang and one of his subordinates died. Their deaths were very strange, and the other underlings said that they didn't see anyone when it happened."

As expected, Harold was indeed calling Gerald regarding that very case.

“Oh, really? Okay, I will go there right away!”

Gerald pretended to be surprised before agreeing to help.

After hanging up, Gerald got out of his bed.

When he went out of his room, Rey and the girls were already watching the television in the living room. The news about the death of the leader of the Hoklux Gang was being reported in the news.

When Gerald came out, the three of them looked at him simultaneously.

“Why are you looking at me?”

Gerald asked in surprise.

“Gerald, does the matter of the Hoklux Gang have something to do with you?”

Juno seemed to have sensed something, and she questioned him immediately.

“That’s right. It was me.”

When being asked, Gerald did not have anything else to say, and so, he chose to admit it.

“What? Brother Gerald, was it truly you who did it?”

Hearing his words, Rey shouted in surprise.

“If I didn’t go to them, they would have come and troubled us. I heard them talking about finishing us off, so I took action first!”

Gerald explained in a normal tone.

Juno and the two understood after hearing his words.

“Right, Rey, let’s go to the headquarters of the Hoklux Gang now. Mr. Lee called just now and asked us to go there!”

Later, Gerald told Rey.

“What? He asked us to go there? Brother Gerald, did they find out it was you already?”

Rey was startled and looked at Gerald doubtfully.

“Don’t worry. They won’t know it was me. They just want us to help solve the case. It’s better this way. I can just think of a random reason and tell them that. Anyway, they don’t know how we do our business.”

Gerald told Rey.



Everything was under Gerald's control. He would never leave any evidence behind.

Besides, only Gerald could handle such things flawlessly.

Having said that, Gerald and Rey left the house and headed to the headquarters of the Hoklux Gang.

Visit chapter list for next chapter

Chapter 1882

"Brother Gerald, you should be using that out-of-body experience technique, right? When will I be able to learn that?"

In the car, Rey asked Gerald curiously. He also wanted to learn that skill.

"Don't rush. You will learn it one day, but you should focus on the basics first!"

Gerald turned his head and looked at Rey.

Some skills were not that easy to master. One could not learn to run before he could walk.

They arrived at the headquarters of the Hoklux Gang as they were conversing.

The place was surrounded by many people inside and outside. It was really crowded.

There were already a few cars of the Great Council in front of the building, and the inspectors were working to maintain the order at the scene.

Gerald walked over with Rey.

“Rey, don’t say anything once we get inside. I’ll handle everything!”

Gerald reminded Rey softly as they walked in.

Rey nodded in understanding.

“I understand, Brother Gerald!”

Rey knew what Gerald meant.

When they arrived at the entrance, the inspectors of the Great Council stopped them.

“Where is Mr. Lee? He was looking for us. I am Gerald Crawford!”

Gerald glanced at the inspector who didn’t allow them to go in and asked, at the same time telling him his identity and name.

When he heard Gerald's name, the inspector showed a surprised expression on his face.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Crawford. Mr. Lee has been waiting for you for a long time!"

The inspector quickly let them in as he spoke.

Although he had never seen Gerald, he had heard of his name. He didn't expect that the person before his eyes would be Gerald Crawford, and so, he quickly made way and let them in. He didn't want to delay the investigation as he could not afford to be blamed for that.

Gerald brought Rey inside.

Once inside, Harold quickly came forward to greet them.

"Mr. Crawford, You're finally here!"

Harold greeted Gerald briefly and brought them to the scene.

Gerald pretended to know nothing. He pretended not to know the way and let Harold lead them in.

In the hall, it could be seen that Roger and the scarred man were lying in the pool of their own blood.

"What happened?"

Gerald asked suspiciously.

“They were killed in one strike. According to the underlings, Roger and the scarred man were lifted off the ground by an unseen force. Then, their throats were suddenly slashed, and they died on the spot. It was rather bizarre when they died.”

Harold shared every piece of information he had with Gerald

After Gerald heard it, he didn't find it surprising at all.

“Anything else apart from this?”

After a pause, Gerald asked Harold again.

Harold shook his head.

“Apart from this, there's nothing else.”

Harold replied helplessly.

Gerald took Rey along and looked around.

Even if it was Gerald who had done it, he still had to pretend that he was trying to solve the case.

“What a strong aura of resentment!”

Suddenly, Gerald felt a very strong aura of resentment, and he exclaimed.

Visit chapter list for next chapter

Chapter 1883

“Aura of resentment? Why didn’t I feel it?”

Harold asked in confusion.

Gerald glanced at Harold.

“You are an ordinary man, so you can’t feel it.”

Gerald gave a simple answer.

Hearing this, Harold felt a little helpless, thinking that it would have been better if Gerald could have told him this more implicitly.

Rey, who was standing at the side, found it rather funny.

However, only Gerald could see everything.

Rey thought that Gerald was just pretending when he said that. However, it was actually true. Gerald did

indeed feel a strong aura of resentment.

Gerald hadn't sensed this aura last night, but today, it suddenly appeared.

This genuinely surprised Gerald as he was sure that the aura wasn't coming from the souls of Roger and the scarred man.

This was because their souls had been eliminated by Gerald using the Phangrottom Rune earlier.

It looked like there was something wrong with this place. Someone must have died here, and the body must still be here somewhere.

"Mr. Lee, I suggest you search the place up and down. Apart from the bodies of Roger and the scarred man, there must still be a corpse hidden somewhere in this place. Otherwise, there wouldn't be such a strong aura of resentment here!"

After a pause, Gerald instructed Harold.

Harold didn't hesitate and took action upon hearing Gerald's words. He started ordering his men to check the place thoroughly.

As for Gerald and Rey, they began searching another place.

When there was no one around, only then did Rey ask Gerald, "Brother Gerald, what you said just now is all fake, right?"

Rey asked suspiciously.

“Who told you that? When I came here last night, I didn’t feel such a strong aura of resentment. It seems that the Hoklux Gang must have done too many bad things in the past.”

Gerald looked very serious when he said that to Rey. He was not joking.

After hearing that, Rey realized that what Gerald had said just now was true. He had initially thought that Gerald was just acting in front of Harold.

“Argh!”

After a while, a loud scream was heard.

Immediately, everyone ran in the direction where the sound had come from.

They came to a wall and saw a skull sticking out from a hole in the wall.

Seeing this, Rey looked at Gerald.

It was indeed true. He now believed in Gerald’s words.

Harold frowned, and his face turned gloomy.

Now, Harold believed in Gerald's ability even more, because everything was just as Gerald had told him.

"Smash the wall and dig out the corpse!"

Harold ordered his subordinates solemnly.

Then, they started working, smashing the wall.

Finally, the skeletons in the wall fell out one by one.

As the skeletons fell out, everyone was taken aback.

There wasn't just one set of skeletons, but a few.

"Oh, my God! There are so many sets of skeletons!"

When Rey saw this, he exclaimed.

"There must be more than one corpse here!"

Gerald reminded Harold.

As an inspector, Harold would naturally be able to see that. He was equally shocked. He didn't expect that there were still so many corpses hidden inside the Hoklux Gang. No wonder Gerald had said that there was a strong aura of resentment here. It seemed to be true.



“Quick. Get someone to put these bones together!”

After that, Harold ordered his men once more.

Rumble!

Suddenly, the sky turned dark, and the thunder rumbled.

Visit chapter list for next chapter

Chapter 1884

“Oh, no! The aura is getting stronger!”

Gerald was alarmed.

“Quick, Mr. Lee, get your men out of here. Get out now! The masculine aura in your bodies is the target of the grudgeful ghosts!”

Immediately, Gerald shouted at Harold.

“Retreat!”

Harold shouted right away without a second thought.

Hearing this, all the inspectors retreated from the hall with Harold and stood by the roadside immediately.

Once outside, Harold and his men saw the black fog rush into the hall of the Hoklux Gang from the sky.

Seeing this, everyone at the scene was terrified. They thought that it was very frightening as they had never seen such a thing happening before.

At that moment, only Gerald and Rey were left inside the hall.

Gerald glanced at Rey, who was behind him.

“What are you doing here?! Get out now!”

Gerald shouted.

“Brother Gerald, I want to stay to help you!”

Rey replied.

“What can you help me with?! You haven’t learned anything yet. I can handle this alone! Get out quickly before it’s too late!”

Gerald chased Rey out of the hall.

It was no laughing matter as Rey was an ordinary person just like Harold Lee. So, the masculine aura in their bodies was very alluring for the grudgeful ghosts.

“Brother Gerald...”

“Go! Are you not listening to me?”

Rey wanted to say something, but he was immediately scolded by Gerald.

When Rey heard that, he knew that he had no choice but to obey Gerald. So, he turned around and ran toward the door.

Bang!

However, it was too late. The door swung shut and blocked the entrance.

Seeing this, Gerald knew it was too late.

“You can’t go out now. Come back here!”

Knowing that Rey was unable to get out, he instructed Rey right away.

Rey walked to Gerald obediently, grabbing a corner of his shirt.

Swish!

The next second, a black fog appeared in front of them.

The black fog circled around them continuously, almost as if it was waiting for something.

Rey didn't dare to make a sound nor breathe.

"What kind of ghost are you? Show yourself!"

Gerald stared at the black fog and shouted angrily.

Having said that, Gerald summoned his Astrabyss Sword and swung his sword.

The black fog felt the power from the sword and retreated further away from them.

Then, the black fog morphed into a human form and stood in front of them.

It was a grudgeful female ghost with a pale face, red lips, and blood-red eyes.

This female ghost was formed by the fusion of a few female corpses, so it was a very powerful grudgeful ghost.

"I know you were killed by the Hoklux Gang. However, Roger is already dead, so you can rest in peace now!"

Gerald said to the female ghost.

The female ghost stared at Gerald and released a red ribbon toward Gerald without saying anything.

Gerald swung his Astrabyss Sword immediately and started battling with the female ghost.

Rey, who was hiding behind Gerald, moved here and there. He didn't dare to open his eyes to look at the female grudgeful ghost, thinking that it was too scary.

At the next second, the female ghost released another red ribbon from her other hand.

This time, the red ribbon flew toward Rey.

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter 1885

"Rey, be careful!"

Gerald shouted at Rey to alert him.

When Rey heard Gerald's warning, he immediately opened his eyes.

The next moment, Rey's waist was already tied by the red ribbon.

Swish!

Rey was dragged forward.

Seeing this, Gerald reacted quickly and cut the red ribbon with his sword.

Snap!

Fortunately, Gerald was fast enough. He cut the red ribbon and saved Rey.

“Soul Chain!”

After saving Rey, Gerald threw his Soul Chain toward the ghost.

The Soul Chain flew toward the female ghost.

However, the female ghost was not an easy target. She waved her red ribbon to block the Soul Chain.

Not giving her any chance, Gerald leaped forward and rushed toward the female ghost.

Gerald’s speed was so fast that the female ghost didn’t have any time to react.

Then, Gerald stabbed the female ghost with his Astrabyss Sword.

“Exterminate!”

Gerald shouted angrily in a deep voice.

With that, the Astrabyss Sword emitted a dark blue flame and engulfed the female ghost.

Then, using the power of the sword again, Gerald absorbed and annihilated the female ghost.

After finishing off the female ghost, Gerald fell to his knees. His body started emitting a blue dark flame. This happened when Gerald was absorbing the ghost into his body.

However, Gerald had no choice but to do this. This was the only way he could defeat the female ghost.

“Are you alright, Brother Gerald?”

Seeing this Rey immediately rushed forward and asked Gerald in concern.

“Don’t come here. Don’t touch me!”

Gerald reminded Rey.

Rey stopped moving at once.

After a while, the dark blue flame around Gerald finally disappeared, and he returned to normal.

Gerald stood up once again and looked at Rey.

“If you had touched me just now, you would have been consumed by the aura and been turned into a grudgeful ghost right away!”

Gerald uttered word by word.

Hearing this, Rey was shocked. He didn't know the consequences would be so horrible.

At the same time, the sky had returned to normal. The black clouds in the sky had disappeared completely.

Seeing this, Harold knew that the crisis inside must have been lifted.

**Boom!**

The door blocking the entrance of the hall was smashed, and Gerald and Rey walked out together.

Seeing them come out, Harold breathed a sigh of relief.

Harold quickly approached them.



“Are you alright, Mr. Crawford?”

Harold was concerned about his safety.

“I’m fine, Mr. Lee. The grudgeful ghost has been dealt with. It’s alright now. Roger and the scarred man were killed by that ghost!”

Gerald said to Harold.

“Thank you, Mr. Crawford. You are so incredible!”

Harold thanked Gerald excitedly. Now, he believed in Gerald’s power completely, and he would not doubt him anymore.

“It’s nothing, Mr. Lee. You are being too polite. This is our obligation!”

Gerald replied humbly.

Then, Gerald said to Harold, “Mr. Lee, since it’s safe now, I shall hand it over to you. We shall take our leave!”

Visit chapter list for next chapter

Chapter 1886

“Of course. Take care, Mr. Crawford!”

Harold said goodbye to Gerald respectfully.

After that, Gerald and Rey left the Hoklux Gang by car.

“Brother Gerald, it looks like the truth about this matter will not be discovered!”

In the car, Rey spoke, feeling very lucky.

“Hehe, I didn’t expect that there would be a grudgeful ghost in the hall. So, I just blamed everything on it. Anyway, those two deserved to die.”

Gerald said with a faint smile.

In truth, even without the grudgeful ghost, nobody would have found out that it was Gerald who had killed Roger and the scarred man.

It was just a coincidence, so Gerald simply put all the blame on this grudgeful ghost.

“Rey, next time when I tell you to leave, don’t hesitate. Fortunately, the grudgeful ghost this time was not particularly strong. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have been able to save you!”

Gerald reminded Rey.

“Okay, I understand, Brother Gerald.”

Rey nodded obediently.

What happened today was too frightening for him especially when the red ribbon had been tied around his waist. He still felt horrified when he thought about it.

Luckily, he had Gerald. Otherwise, he would have been doomed.

“Starting from tomorrow, I will teach you some basic skills. After you master the foundation, I will teach you how to protect yourself!”

After that, Gerald suggested.

“Really? That’s so great, Brother Gerald! I can finally start learning the skills!”

Rey shouted in excitement when he heard that.

The two arrived at the office in the middle of their conversation.

Upon returning to their office, they saw Juno and Yrsa watching the news about the Hoklux Gang. The news was broadcasting the scene when the sky above the Hoklux Gang’s place had turned dark.

“Hey, you’re back!”

Seeing the two of them, Juno stood up and greeted them.

“Yeah!”

Gerald replied with a smile.

“How was it? I can see that something happened from the television.”

Juno asked in concern.

Gerald smiled and answered.

“It’s nothing. There was just a grudgeful ghost hiding in the headquarters of the Hoklux Gang!”

Hearing his description, Juno understood it right away.

“So you blamed everything on that grudgeful ghost?”

Juno was quick-witted, and she guessed it right away.

“Yes. It saves me a lot of trouble that way!”

Gerald shrugged his shoulders and said.

“Great, then!”

Juno was assured after hearing it.

“By the way, Gerald, Yann called just now. He’s looking for you. You should go and meet him later!”

Just then, Juno remembered about the phone call and told Gerald.

“Yann? Why is he looking for me?”

Gerald was doubtful.

Yann Williams was a good friend of Gerald’s.

However, Yann was a playful man who just loved to eat, drink, and play. He always stayed out, so Gerald knew what kind of person he was.

Now that he was looking for him, there must be something.

“Alright. I’ll go and meet him later!”

Gerald didn’t say anything more and agreed to Juno’s suggestion.

“Juno, you can start teaching Rey and Yrsa some theoretical knowledge about cultivation in the evening!”

Then, Gerald told Juno.

“Okay, I know what to do.”

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter 1887

“Right. Then, I shall go and find Yann now. Call me if there’s anything!”

Gerald reminded Juno once more and left the office.

After he had left the office, he drove to Yann’s place.

On the way, he didn’t forget to call Yann.

The call was answered in a short time.

“Hello, Yann. Why are you looking for me?”

Gerald asked Yann, who was on the other end of the phone curiously.

“Gerald, I’ve got a good thing for you!”

Yann said to Gerald excitedly.

“Good thing? What good thing?”

Gerald was still doubtful.

“Ha! Ha! Ha! I’ll tell you later!”

Yann kept Gerald in suspense.

Hearing this, Gerald couldn’t help but roll his eyes. This lad was acting mysteriously again.

Regardless, Gerald didn’t say anything as he knew what kind of a person Yann was.

“Alright. Are you at home now? I’m on the way there. I’ll get there in about ten minutes!”

Gerald asked Yann in advance and told him that he was heading there.

“So soon? Yes, I’m at home.”

Yann was surprised, but he replied immediately.

“Okay. That’s fine. See you later.”

Gerald replied and hung up.

A rich kid like Yann was always like that. From his tone, Gerald knew that he had to be messing around at home at the moment.

However, Gerald didn’t want to bother about that. It was Yann’s personal matter after all.

Everyone had a different life.

After ten minutes, Gerald arrived at Yann’s place, a luxurious villa.

Gerald parked his car and walked to the door. Just in time, he saw Yann coming out through the door with a woman around his arm.

Seeing this, Gerald smiled helplessly. Just as he had expected, Yann was indeed doing that.

After seeing the woman off, Yann looked at Gerald.

“Hey, brother! You’re here!”

Yann was very excited at the sight of Gerald. He came forward and opened his arms.

Gerald and Yann hugged each other.



“You don’t even stop for a day. Be careful or your body won’t be able to take it!”

Gerald teased him.

“That’s not possible. I’m in great shape! I’m not afraid of playing with two together!”

Yann said confidently.

Gerald smiled in his heart. Yann was still his old self. He never changed.

Later, the two went to the living room and sat down.

Yann poured a glass of wine for Gerald, and they started talking while drinking.

“Tell me, Yann. Why are you looking for me? What is it that is so mysterious?”

Gerald went straight to the point and asked Yann directly.

His relationship with Yann was very close, so there was no need to hide anything. He could simply say what he wanted.

“Gerald, it’s like this. I discovered a place, and it is rumored that there are many treasures there. I hope you can join me to explore the place. We might find some good stuff.”

Yann didn’t hesitate and told him straightforwardly.

Visit chapter list for next chapter

## Chapter 1888

When Gerald heard him, he doubted for a while, thinking what good place it was that Yann was referring to.

“Where is it?” Gerald asked immediately.

“Hehe. Gerald, have you heard of Mount Dakriont?”

Yann tried to keep Gerald in suspense and asked him playfully.

Gerald hesitated for a while and nodded.

“I know. Isn’t it a tourist attraction? Why are you asking me that?”

Gerald looked at Yann in suspicion as he responded. He didn’t understand why Yann would be interested in a tourist attraction.

“Well, there is something you don’t know, Gerald. Although that place is a tourist attraction, there is actually a deep cave hidden in the mountain, and there are lots of treasures inside the cave.”

Yann told Gerald with a very excited expression on his face.

“Really? But, Yann, from whom did you hear about this?”

Gerald was a bit surprised, so he quickly asked Yann.

For Yann to know about such a secret, there had to be someone telling him that. And there had to be a plot behind this.

“Um...”

Yann hesitated and did not answer.

“Gerald, just tell me if you are willing to join me or not. If you are, I will tell you everything!”

After a pause, Yann suggested.

Hearing this made Gerald even more suspicious. He felt that there was something fishy going on.

It had been a very long time that Yann didn't look for him. And now when he came looking for him all of a sudden, he held some information that was so secretive. He must have some motives behind this.

“If you don't tell me the truth, I will not promise you anything!”

Gerald said frankly.

Although Gerald was close to Yann, he would not simply make a promise regarding anything. He had to think it through first.

“Um...”

“Yann, do you still see me as your brother? If you do, then tell me the truth. Where did you hear this from? Who are you working with actually?”

Gerald uttered word by word.

Gerald knew Yann wouldn't do such a thing alone. He had to be working with someone.

However, Gerald was still unsure if the collaboration was a good one or not. That was the problem.

Ding dong!

Before Yan could open his mouth to answer Gerald's question, the doorbell rang.

Yann got up to answer the door immediately.

When he opened the door, they saw a middle-aged man come in with a walking stick. A woman in a leather jacket walked inside together with him. Behind them, there were two bodyguards. They seemed to be rather high-profile people.

“Gerald, let me introduce you to the chairman of the Sun Group, Mr. Tye Lamano, and this is his secretary, Miss Hailey Hanks. They are the ones I am working with.”

Yann said to Gerald.

Gerald showed doubt on his face instantly.

Gerald more or less knew about this Sun Group. The company specialized in oil drilling and iron mining.

However, that was only superficially. In truth, Gerald knew that the Sun Group also ran a secret business, and that was treasure hunting.

It’s just that Gerald never expected Yann to work with people from the Sun Group.

“I’ve long heard about you, Mr. Gerald Crawford. Now that I’ve seen you in person, you are indeed an incredible person!”

Tye Lamano greeted Gerald with a smile.

“Hehe, you are being too polite, Mr. Lamano. I’ve long heard about the power of you and your company.”

Gerald replied politely.

“Gerald, Mr. Lamano is paying us thirty million dollars to explore Mount Dakriont and the secret cave this time. It’s a great opportunity!”

Yan walked over to Gerald and tried to persuade him once more.

Visit chapter list for next chapter

## Chapter 1889

Yan walked over to Gerald and tried to persuade him once more.

Gerald glanced at Yann and looked at Tye Lamano.

“Mr. Lamano, how did you know about the hidden cave in Mount Dakriont? And how did you come to know that there are treasures inside?” asked Gerald.

“About this, I cannot answer you. I can simply tell you that everything I know appeared on the map that my ancestors passed down. I only need you two to make a trip to the mountain for me. I know Mr. Crawford is very capable of psychic things and exploration. That’s why I asked Mr. Williams to look for you. I hope you can help us!”

Tye Lamano said in a serious tone.

Of course Gerald knew what Tye Lamano was thinking in his mind. He wanted the treasures.

“Mr. Crawford, I know you are looking for something, and according to the records from my ancestors, the item you are looking for is most probably in Mount Dakriont. I hope you can think about it!”

Seeing Gerald show no response, Tye Lamano suggested once more.

Gerald was startled when he heard that. He frowned and looked at Yann.

There weren't many people who knew about the item he was looking for. He bet Yann must have told Tye Lamano about it. Otherwise, the latter would not have known about it.

When Yann saw Gerald's face, he lowered his head and dared not look into Gerald's eyes. He knew Gerald would be angry with him.

After a while, Gerald spoke.

"Okay. I can promise that I'll join the exploration. However, once we are there, everything should be under my command!"

Gerald proposed.

Hearing Gerald's proposal, Tye did not have a second opinion.

"Of course, no problem!"

Tye agreed to it promptly.

To him, it was fine as long as Gerald was willing to go with them. As for the rest of the things, he couldn't be bothered.

“Mr. Crawford, let’s wish for a happy collaboration!”

Tye smiled and said to Gerald.

“Sure!”

Gerald replied indifferently.

Having said that, Tye and his secretary left the house.

After they had left, only Gerald and Yann were left in the house.

“Gerald, I...”

Yann looked at Gerald and lowered his head, not knowing how to explain this. He felt guilty for telling Tye about Gerald’s matter.

“Sigh. Yann, do you know what kind of business the Sun Group runs that you even dare to work with these people?”

Gerald asked Yann helplessly.

Gerald was well aware of the business of the Sun Group. That was what he found most worrying.



Hearing his question, Yann didn't know how to reply.

"I'm sorry, Gerald."

Yann could only apologize softly.

"Forget it. It's useless to say anything now. Since I've promised to take the job, I will do it properly. But Yann, I hope you can remember that you must discuss everything with me first next time."

Gerald didn't want to talk about it anymore nor did he want to blame Yann for anything. So, he simply reminded the latter.

After all, they were good friends.

More importantly, it was not a difficult thing for Gerald to handle, and the most important thing was that he wanted to get what he was looking for. That was the reason he had taken the job.

"Okay. I will, Gerald!"

Yann quickly nodded in response.

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter 1890

Yann felt glad that Gerald didn't blame him much. He had been shocked just now, thinking that Gerald

would be very angry with him.

“Alright, I will head home first. You keep in touch with Tye Lamano. Inform me of the time of departure in advance. I will go back and get ready for it!”

After that, Gerald reminded Yann.

“Okay, sure, Gerald.”

Yann nodded and responded obediently.

Having said that, Gerald left the house and returned to his office.

Soon, he was back in his office.

When he walked inside, Rey and Yrsa were studying at the table, and Juno was playing with her phone beside them.

“How is it? How is your progress?”

Gerald asked them as he walked in.

“Brother Gerald, you’re back!”

When Rey saw Gerald, he stood up and smiled at him.

“Brother Gerald, Miss Zorn taught us some basic knowledge about the spiritual world. I learned everything about the spiritual world, souls, and ghosts.”

Rey reported his progress to Gerald immediately.

After Gerald heard that, he nodded in satisfaction.

“Great. Not bad. Well, let’s have a meeting!”

Gerald replied to Rey and suggested a meeting to all of them.

The four sat around the table.

“There’s something I need to tell you. I was at Yann’s place just now, and I am going on a trip to Mount Dakriont with him soon.”

Gerald told the three.

“Mount Dakriont? Why are you going there all of a sudden? Isn’t that just a tourist attraction?”

Juno was surprised when she heard him. So, she asked him immediately in confusion.

“Yes, you’re right. It is indeed a tourist attraction. But this time, we are working with the Sun Group to find a hidden cave in the mountain!”

Gerald didn’t hide it from them and explained the situation clearly.

Now that Rey and Yrsa were in the team, they needed to know about everything.

“The Sun Group? How did Yann get involved with them?!”

Juno was taken aback once more. She didn’t expect that Yann would be related to the Sun Group.

Regarding the Sun Group, Juno was also very well aware of their business.

“Brother Gerald, this Sun Group is not a proper company. They run a proper business superficially, but they are engaged with other businesses in secret.”

Rey reminded Gerald about that.

“Huh? You know about this?”

Hearing Rey’s tone, Gerald asked in suspicion. He didn’t know that Rey also knew about the real businesses of the Sun Group.

“Of course I do. There’s nobody who doesn’t know about the Sun Group. It’s just that they are not willing to reveal it!”

Rey nodded and said.

“Well, you’re right. But this time, I have no choice. I need to look for something very important there, so I can only work with them!”

Gerald explained helplessly.

“Brother Gerald, I’m going with you, then!”

Rey proposed immediately.

Gerald glanced at Rey but did not agree to it right away.

Visit chapter list for next chapter

Chapter 1891

“Negative, you just stay here this time. I’ll be heading there with Yann!” replied Gerald as he looked at the trio.

“But... Mr. Crawford-”

“Look, I know you want to come with me to see and learn more of the world, Rey, but not this time. After all, none of us know what dangers await us at Mount Dakriont. There are simply too many risks involved! With that in mind, please just stay here and train with Miss Zorn for the moment!” replied Gerald before Rey could even finish his sentence.

In the end, Rey was still an ordinary person, which meant that his capabilities were vastly different compared to Gerald's. With that in mind, Gerald had only said all that earlier since he truly was worried for Rey's sake.

Besides, staying here to train with Juno would undoubtedly be more beneficial to Rey. By taking the time to properly train and learn about being a cultivator, Rey would definitely be able to solve problems together with Gerald—instead of simply being a sidekick—in the future.

Regardless, understanding where Gerald was coming from, Rey knew that it was best for him to simply agree.

Either way, once Rey agreed, Gerald turned to face Juno before adding, "As you may already have guessed, I'll be leaving everything in the office to you, Juno. If there's anything you're unsure about while I'm gone, we can discuss it once I return!"

Nodding in response, Juno then replied, "Roger that! Don't worry about me!"

Juno, for one, didn't mind Gerald's delegation of tasks. After all, it was the only way she would be able to support him.

"I'll take your word for it! Now then... both of you! Continue your training! As for Juno... I'd like to speak to you in private for a bit..." said Gerald, prompting Rey and Yrsa to resume training and Juno to walk over to the side with the youth.

Once they were out of earshot, Juno couldn't help but ask, "...Gerald... are you really sure that you're going to cooperate with the Sun Group...? I personally don't think they're all that reliable...!"

Smiling subtly in response, Gerald knew where Juno's worries were coming from. Even so, he simply shook his head before replying, "Don't worry, those from the Sun Group won't be able to even touch me. Regardless, I'm heading there in the first place to search for an important thing... Remember that picture of a lady that we've been trying to track down all this time? I have a hunch that it's going to appear at Mount Dakriont! With that in mind, I need to head there to see for myself!"

"...I see... Still, do be careful... Those from the Sun Group definitely have hidden agendas..." muttered the concerned Juno.

Simply nodding in response, Gerald then smiled as he gently patted her on the back...

At that moment, Gerald's phone began ringing. It was a call from Yann...

Already having a pretty good guess that Yann was calling to tell him that the departure time had been decided, Gerald simply stared at the phone for a few seconds before eventually picking it up and saying, "Hello? Yes, Yann?"

"Ah, there you are, Gerald. Tye's updated me on the departure time. We have to be at the highway entrance by nine tomorrow morning!" replied Yann.

"Got it. See you there before nine, then!" said Gerald before hanging up.

"Tomorrow morning? You're heading off so soon, Gerald...?" asked the surprised Juno.

"Indeed. From the looks of it, those from the Sun Group simply can't wait any longer!" replied Gerald.

“...Well, I suppose that’s that. Regardless, again, please be careful out there...!” said Juno with a sigh, not wanting to nag any further...

Soon enough, night fell and by then, Gerald had pretty much packed everything that he needed. While he had only packed four sets of clothes, the rest of his luggage consisted of equipment that he would possibly use during the journey.

After all, nobody knew what hurdles they would encounter during the journey, so all Gerald could do was prepare everything relevant that he could think of so that he wouldn’t regret being underprepared halfway through the journey...

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

## Chapter 1892

Regardless, since he made sure to pack early, Gerald was able to turn in earlier that night. After all, the more rest he got, the better shape he would be once he got up...

It was early morning by the time he finally got up again, and after a simple breakfast, Gerald then patted his backpack before driving off to the highway’s entrance...

It was nine sharp when Gerald finally met up with Yann, Tye, and the others. Just as they were about to greet each other, a loud ‘bump’ could suddenly be heard coming from Gerald’s car trunk, followed by a loud, “F\*ck!”

Raising a slight brow, Gerald—along with several others—immediately went over to investigate... And upon opening the trunk, Gerald was shocked to see Rey lying inside, his arms wrapped around a luggage bag!



“...What are you doing here, Rey?” asked the rightfully stunned Gerald.

Chuckling awkwardly in response, Rey then sheepishly grinned as he said, “I... well, I just really wanted to come along! So please let me come with you...!”

“What monkey business is this? Return to Juno’s side!” scowled Gerald, causing Rey to momentarily fall silent.

However, after a short while, Rey stared at Gerald with puppy dog eyes before pleading, “...Please...?”

Upon seeing how pitifully Rey was begging, Gerald could only facepalm as he sighed before saying, “...Oh, what the hell... Since you’re already here anyway... Fine, you can come along!”

“T-thank you, Mr. Crawford!” exclaimed the excited Rey.

“Who exactly is this, Mr. Crawford...?” asked Tye in a curious tone.

“Ah, he’s my disciple, Chairman Lamano... He goes by Rey!” introduced Gerald.

Upon hearing that, Tye instantly found himself feeling more comfortable as he replied with a smile, “Your disciple, you say? Well, let’s go together, then! Who knows, your bond could make you stronger!”

Hearing that, Gerald couldn’t help but glare at Rey again before signaling for Rey to follow him into

Yann's car.

Only three cars were going to be driven for this journey, and Gerald's wasn't one of them. Instead, it was simply left behind in a parking lot.

Regardless, only three people were in Yann's car, with Yann naturally being the driver. Sitting beside him was Gerald, which meant that Rey was the only one sitting in the back...

None of them said a word during the first half of the journey. Eventually, however, the nervous Rey mustered up the courage to mutter, "P-please don't stay mad at me, Mr. Crawford... I know I've done wrong...!"

Upon hearing that, Gerald—who had his eyes closed up till this point—reopened his eyes before fishing his phone out...

"Hello? What's wrong, Gerald?" asked Juno on the other end of the line, sounding relatively surprised that Gerald had called out of the blue.

Rey himself grew increasingly worried when he realized that Gerald had just called Juno...

"Nothing much, I just wanted to inform you that in the end, I've decided to bring Rey along!"

[Visit chapter list for next chapter](#)

Chapter 1893

Naturally, that statement made both Juno and Rey rather surprised. Even so, Juno was quick to recover and simply went with it.

Rey himself hadn't expected Gerald to take his side instead of ratting him out.

With that, after Gerald ended the call, Rey couldn't help but look at Gerald for a while before muttering, "...Um... Mr. Crawford-

"There's no need to say anything. You're already here anyway so let's just make the most of it. Regardless, please hold your tongue as much as possible once we get there. And please listen to my orders if I give any to you!" replied Gerald, not even waiting for Rey's sentence to finish.

"G-got it, Mr. Crawford! Don't worry, I'll be extremely obedient!" declared Rey as he nodded rapidly.

At that moment, Yann—who was still driving—couldn't help but smile as he said, "You know, you have a rather fine disciple, Gerald. After all, he's worried enough about you to sneak over!"

"Hah! He's just someone who makes me worry all the time!" scowled Gerald in a playful tone.

Realizing that Gerald was grinning, Rey—at the very least—knew that Gerald wasn't angry with him anymore. With that, Rey couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief as he embarrassedly scratched the back of his head.

Truth be told, Rey very much preferred gaining knowledge of the world by participating in adventures with Gerald rather than simply training indoors. While it was true that danger was aplenty out in the open world, Rey truly believed that adventuring was the best way for him to gain more experience.

Whatever the case was, since even Yann was now talking, Gerald figured that it was as good a time as any to introduce Rey to him.

“Speaking of which, this man goes by Yann, Rey. You can choose to address him as Mr. Williams or Brother Yann,” said Gerald.

“A pleasure to meet you, Brother Yann! My name is Rey!” replied Rey with a smile.

“Got it!” said Yann before chuckling in response.

“Now that that’s out of the way... By estimation, how long should it take for us to get to Mount Dakriont...?” asked Gerald as he looked at Yann.

Before Yann could even reply, Rey beat him to it by saying, “I’ve already checked the route in advance, Mr. Crawford! From the highway entrance, it should take approximately six hours before we get there!”

Following that, Rey showed his phone to Gerald, and displayed on it, was a navigation system. Rey himself had keyed in Mount Dakriont as their destination the second they got into the car.

Nodding in response, Gerald then muttered, “Six hours, huh... That’s going to take quite a while... Guess I’ll take a short nap first.”

There really wasn’t much else to do in the car for six hours, so he may as well get some shut-eye.

Watching as Gerald leaned against his seat before lowering it slightly and promptly falling asleep, Rey decided to do the same. After all, in order to hide in the trunk, he had woken up much earlier than Gerald, which explained why he had been sleepy for a while now.

Regardless, upon realizing that the two had dozed off so quickly, Yann could only chuckle in a slightly bitter tone. After all, being the driver, he couldn't exactly rest like the duo. Thankfully, he was used to driving for much longer, so he knew he could handle six hours just fine...

It was around three when Gerald and the others finally left the highway and arrived at Mount Dakriont.

Mount Dakriont itself was a scenic traveling spot that didn't have its own city. Aside from its unique geographical location, Mount Dakriont was also famous for how spacious it was. This was made evident by the fact that at a glance, Mount Dakriont didn't even seem to have an end...

Either way, for those who came all the way up here for trips, five days was usually the minimum. After all, it was a well-known fact that nobody would be able to truly enjoy their experience here if they only stayed for a single day.

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

## Chapter 1894

Whatever the case was, after parking the car, Gerald and the others immediately headed to the ticket counter to officially enter Mount Dakriont. While a single ticket cost sixty dollars, Tye was the one paying, so Gerald and his party didn't have to worry about the entry fee.

Upon entering, rather than anxiously getting straight to business, the first thing the group did was to find a spot to relax in instead.

After eating some of the rations they brought along—to replenish their energy—Tye cleared his throat

before saying, "Alright, listen up, everyone. We'll be staying the night here, but we set off at the break of dawn, understand?"

Hearing that, everyone simply nodded in agreement. After all, it wouldn't be long before night came, and traveling in darkness was never a good idea. Aside from obviously being more dangerous, one could easily lose their bearings as well. With that in mind, it was objectively a better choice to set off once morning came.

With that out of the way, Tye then ordered one of his men to book a cabin for them to stay the night in. Naturally, lodging was never going to be cheap in this place. Adding that to the fact that the wooden cabin—that the group eventually settled with—looked extremely exquisite, a single night there cost a whopping hundred and fifty dollars!

Regardless, Yann, Gerald, and Rey were grouped together to stay in one of the cabin's rooms. Upon entering that room, Rey immediately suggested, "Alright, Mr. Crawford and Brother Yann, how about this? You two take the bed while I'll sleep on the couch!"

"There's no need for that. You can take the bed!" replied Gerald.

"But, Mr. Crawford—"

"No arguing. You get the bed," said Gerald, not even waiting for Rey to finish his sentence. Hearing that, Rey knew he had no choice but to give in. While he didn't say it, Rey honestly felt touched. Gerald really was too nice to him...

While it was rather late when the trio finally decided to hit the hay, they received sufficient rest and were awoken by the chirping of birds at the start of dawn...

By the time Gerald and his party went downstairs—all packed up and ready—, they saw that Tye and the others were already waiting for them.

“There you all are! Had a good sleep?” asked Tye with a smile.

“How kind of you to ask, Chairman Lamano! We had a pretty good sleep, at least I did,” replied Gerald in a polite manner as Tye nodded before fishing out a map...

Pointing at a spot on the map, Tye then said, “Alright, we’re currently here. Our first stop will be the Officer Viewing Deck which is about five miles from where we are. Is anyone against that?”

Naturally, nobody had any objections. After all, Tye was the owner of the map. Gerald himself could only hope that they would be able to deal with any issues that arose during their journey.

With that, the group then did one final double check—to see if they had everything with them—before setting off...

As they traveled on, Gerald and Yann could only stare speechlessly at Rey who seemed to be photographing just about everything. Was that boy here for an adventure or a trip...?

Eventually getting rather annoyed by all the ‘snapshot’ sounds, Gerald couldn’t help but mutter, “Rey, could you quit it for a while...?”

Chuckling in response, Rey simply replied, “But it wasn’t easy for us to get a chance to come here, Mr. Crawford! These photographs will prove that we’ve been here!”

Visit chapter list for next chapter

## Chapter 1895

“Just let the boy be, Gerald. I, for one, appreciate his liveliness since all there is out here is miles upon miles of boring scenic views...” said Yann.

Upon hearing that, Gerald could only sigh in agreement. After all, it was estimated that at least two hours were needed before the group would be able to cover five miles and finally arrive at the Officer Viewing Deck. With that in mind, Gerald had to admit that Rey’s childishness would—at the very least—keep the trek amusing...

Regardless, it was almost noon by the time the group arrived at the Officer Viewing Deck.

The Officer Viewing Deck was located quite high on Mount Dakriont, and it allegedly got its name due to the fact that an officer used to come up here to enjoy the view, many centuries ago. While that was the formal name of the viewing deck, it was also colloquially known as the cloud viewing platform. As the name suggested, all sorts of clouds could be seen from up here as well.

Whatever the case was, upon arriving, Tye turned to look at the others before saying, “Alright everyone, we’ve arrived! Let’s take a short break and have something to eat first! Bear in mind that we’ll start taking the rough mountain path after this!”

While the others seemed to agree, Gerald, on the other hand, walked toward Tye before asking, “Could I please have a look at the map, Chairman Lamano?”



Though he was surprised to hear that request, Tye handed the map to Gerald.

“Thank you!” replied Gerald before immediately inspecting the map.

“Is something the matter, Mr. Crawford...?” asked the curious Tye.

A short while later, Gerald then pointed at the map before saying, “Well, after looking through the map, I feel that we could’ve arrived at our destination sooner if we didn’t take the path to the Officer Viewing Deck. After all, from this point on, all that awaits us are rough mountain roads, and I can assure you that that’ll hinder our progress quite a bit!”

Upon hearing that, Tye took a closer look at the map... And true to what Gerald had said, they could’ve arrived at their destination much sooner if they simply took an alternate path. Why hadn’t he noticed it before?

“...I see... Correct me if I’m wrong, Mr. Crawford, but are you suggesting that we go all the way back to where we started from?” asked Tye.

“Indeed, though just to clarify, it is merely a suggestion. Naturally, you’re the one who will make the final call. That’s all I wanted to say, now if you’ll excuse me,” replied Gerald before walking over to where Yann and Rey were.

Gerald wasn’t particularly keen on helping them, to be quite frank. Had it not been for the fact that Yann was cooperating with them, Gerald would’ve simply brought Yann and Rey along, making it a manageable party of three.

Regardless, as Tye watched Gerald reunite with his party, Tye himself began pondering what Gerald had just said. While it was true that they could technically arrive at their destination faster if they

backtracked, Tye concluded that backtracking at this point would simply waste even more time.

With that, Tye made up his mind to simply continue going down the path he had picked. So what if it was a little further away? The important thing was for them to arrive at their destination....

Shortly after, the party resumed their journey. However, it wasn't too long later when the weather suddenly began changing rapidly...

Seeing how drastic the changes were, Rey couldn't help but mutter, "Isn't the weather changing a bit too quickly...? It wouldn't surprise me if we got hit by a sudden thunderstorm!"

The second Rey's sentence ended, a low rumble could be heard emanating from the sky, prompting the rest of the party to stare at Rey...

Upon realizing that he shouldn't have jinxed it, Rey simply lowered his head, feeling rightfully embarrassed...

Even so, Gerald was used to Rey saying things like this. With that, he diverted everyone's attention from Rey by saying, "Regardless, let's focus on finding someplace to escape the rain!"

After all, walking around so many trees in a thunderstorm was a recipe for disaster... Thankfully, the group soon found a cave to take cover in.

Upon entering, Rey couldn't help but exclaim, "Holy! This place is huge!"

True to Rey's words, a few hundred people could probably fit in this place...

Visit chapter list for next chapter

## Chapter 1896

“...Hey, come over! Hurry and have a look at all this!” called out one of Tye’s men who had earlier scouted ahead.

Upon hearing that, everyone followed the source of the voice... and soon enough, they all widened their eyes in utter amazement.

A little deeper into the cave, a bright light of sorts could be seen glimmering beautifully... What more, all sorts of natural jades and jadeites could be seen growing all over the place!

“Holy cr\*p...” muttered Rey as he rubbed his eyes in disbelief. He had never seen such pure and natural-looking jades and jadeites in his life!

The sentiment was, of course, shared by everyone else there. To think that such a wondrous place existed here of all places... How truly magical!

Quickly snapping out of it, everyone immediately began looking around the mystifying cave...

Shortly after, Gerald was just in time to notice that one of Tye’s men had taken out a hammer!

Knowing full well where this was going, Gerald immediately yelled, “Stop!”

Hearing Gerald's voice—and realizing that the command was directed toward him—, the man then raised a brow as he glared at Gerald while asking, "...What? Go get your own!"

"Nobody should take any of these jades or jadeites! They belong to nature!" retorted Gerald.

"Bah! Mind your own business!" scowled the man before aiming his hammer at one of the jades!

Realizing that his advice wasn't getting through, Gerald immediately bolted toward the man, hoping that he could stop him in time! Unfortunately, Gerald was just a second too late.

The second the jade dislodged from the earth, a low rumble could instantly be heard... and following that, the entire cave began quivering! Gerald had had a gut feeling that something bad would happen if someone tried to take any of the precious stones, and unfortunately, he was dead right.

With how much the cave was shaking, everyone became increasingly anxious.

Just as they were about to start leaving the cave, a massive stone suddenly came crashing down, completely blocking the entrance!

Well... this was swell. Everyone was now trapped in here!

Unable to contain his anger, Gerald immediately stomped his way over to the man that had caused all this before punching him right in the nose while yelling, "You god dmned bstard...!"

The second the man fell to the ground, the rest of Tye's men instantly aimed their weapons at Gerald!

“Stop! Everyone, calm down!” yelled Tye as he tried to maintain peace between the two parties.

After a few seconds, Gerald took a deep breath before narrowing his eyes at Tye while asking, “...Correct me if I’m wrong, Chairman Lamano, but I specifically recall that my condition for leading you here is that you listen to every word I say!”

While Tye was momentarily stunned to hear that out of the blue, he had to admit that he really had made that promise.

Understanding that he was the one in the wrong, Tye quickly yelled, “Men! Put your weapons away!”

Once Tye’s men reluctantly kept their weapons again, Tye smiled subtly toward Gerald while saying, “Mr. Crawford... I truly hope that we can cooperate nicely... With that in mind, since my men have retracted their weapons, could you avoid pushing any further into this matter...?”

While Gerald knew where Tye was coming from, what was the point of only saying all this now that they were trapped?

Whatever the case was, they needed to find a way to leave the cave as soon as possible...

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter 1897

After a slight pause, Gerald then looked at Tye before replying, “...Fine. Regardless, if you wish to leave

this place safely, I implore you to tell your subordinates to be more obedient. No more touching things at random! Trigger one more trap and we'll probably end up stuck in here forever!"

Knowing that he had made himself extremely clear this time, Gerald then turned around without saying another word. Whether or not Tye decided to listen was up to him...

Momentarily staring at Gerald's back—as the youth walked off to find another exit—, Tye couldn't help but glare at the man who had caused all this. Had he not been so greedy, none of them would be trapped here!

The man himself quickly lowered his head to avert his gaze, not even daring to look Tye in the eye...

Huffing in response, Tye then looked at all his subordinates before declaring, "Alright, listen up! If any of you even dare to touch anything at random again, I'll personally chop your hands off! Got that?"

With how stern Tye's command was, his subordinates knew he meant business, prompting each and every one of them to quickly nod in response...

While this was happening, Gerald, Rey, and Yann were already scouting ahead, hoping to find other passageways that they could use to leave the cave.

Unfortunately, even after looking around for quite a while, none of them were able to find another exit path! From the looks of it, this place seemed to be mostly sealed off from the world, save for the one exit that was now blocked...

"...Not to be a downer but... there doesn't seem to be any other exits here..." muttered Rey, clearly getting more and more anxious by the minute.

“...As much as I hate to admit it, Rey’s right! We truly are trapped in here!” added Yann before sighing in frustration.

By this point, Yann was already starting to regret working with Tye to get here. Had he known that one of Tye’s men would bring them so much trouble, there was no way in hell he would’ve even considered Tye’s assistance!

“Well, since no other paths exist, let’s take some time to think about the mechanism that caused the stone to seal the mouth of the cave in the first place! After all, there’s no way the cave could’ve ended up this perfectly sealed by natural means!” replied Gerald in a calm tone.

“Agreed. After all, don’t you find it strange that nobody’s discovered this cave before despite the abundance of jades and jadeites in here? Honestly, the strangest part about all this is the fact that nobody’s excavated this place yet!” said Ray with a slight frown.

Had this been any other cave, several people would’ve already flocked here ages ago after finding out about all the precious stones in here. If that had happened, then this place would have surely been left barren by now!

Chuckling in response, Gerald then replied, “The fact that the precious stones in here have largely remained untouched makes it obvious that there’s something odd about this place.”

The second his sentence ended, the corner of Gerald’s eye suddenly noticed something disturbing.

Raising a brow, he began walking toward a spot where multiple jades and jadeites were growing... and upon closer inspection, it appeared that his eyes hadn’t been playing tricks on him.

There were hints of human bones inside the jades and jadeites!

Walking closer to see what Gerald was so interested in, Rey's eyes instantly widened when he paid closer attention to the 'precious stones' Gerald was currently staring at.

"M-Mr. Crawford... Those... are human bones, right...?! Why are they enveloped by the jades and jadeites?!" exclaimed the rightfully shocked Rey.

"My guess is that after being trapped here like us, this person eventually died. Once he was nothing but bones, all it took was a few years for the jades and jadeites to start growing on them!" replied Gerald, proposing his theory.

However, if Gerald's theory was correct... then that definitely meant that they weren't the first group to get trapped in here. After all, that was the only plausible explanation for these bones being here!

Still, to think that the jades and jadeites here grew with the help of human bones...

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter 1898

Regardless, after hearing what Gerald had to say, both Rey and Yann instantly drew in cold breaths.

"...A-are you saying that we'll end up like them, Mr. Crawford...? Are we going to die here...?" muttered Rey, looking incredibly anxious now.



“Hey now, don’t go jinxing us again! Have a bit more faith in Gerald! I’m sure he’ll think of a way to get us out of here!” retorted Yann.

“I wonder about that... Based on what we’ve gathered after looking around, it pains me to say that there’s a pretty high chance that we really will die trapped here!” replied Gerald.

Hearing that, Rey and Yann’s eyes instantly widened. While it was expected for Rey to say things like that, when Gerald said it, it was simply depressing...

Regardless, after saying that, Gerald then continued walking deeper into the cave. After all, with how massive the cave was, there was still a chance that there existed another exit at the end...

Naturally, Rey and Yann followed him, and it wasn’t too long after when the trio began hearing the crisp and pleasant sounds of water dripping deeper inside the cave...

There was just something extremely calming about those beautiful dripping sounds... They certainly weren’t sounds one could hear in the city.

“You hear that, Mr. Crawford? What beautiful sounds!” said Rey in an almost dreamy tone.

“I know, right? The dripping sounds alone makes me feel like I’m drunk in the middle of an enchanted forest!” added Yann, a lethargic grin on his face.

Upon hearing that, Gerald couldn’t help but raise a brow as he turned around to look at his two intoxicated-looking allies...

While Gerald personally felt that the dripping sounded normal, he could instantly tell that the sounds were affecting the other two, almost hypnotically...

With that in mind, he quickly began shaking the duo by their shoulders while yelling, “Hey, snap out of it! There’s something wrong with the dripping sounds! Rey, Yann! Wake up!”

However, it was useless. Both of them were completely unresponsive...

Sighing in resignation, Gerald decided to return to where Tye and his men were. At the very least, they could help him carry Rey and Yann to a safer spot...

To Gerald’s dismay, Tye and his men had apparently already fallen under the same hypnotic spell as Rey and Yann! Simply standing in place with goofy expressions on their faces, none of them seemed capable of even registering whatever Gerald said or did to them...

From the looks of it, as long as the dripping sounds persisted, none of them would ever snap out of it. With that in mind, Gerald knew that the only way to bring them back to their senses was by looking for the source of the sounds and eliminating it.

Still, to think that everyone else—who had previously been trapped in here—had fallen victim to the dripping sounds as well...

With how sheepishly everyone was grinning, Gerald could guess that the hypnotic effects were somewhat euphoric. To be filled with bliss till the second one died... What a cruel murder tactic...

Shaking his head, Gerald then quickly began heading toward the deepest part of the cave where the

dripping sounds seemed to emanate from...

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

## Chapter 1899

It was about ten minutes later when Gerald came across a pond in the deepest part of the cave...

There appeared to be a stone pier of sorts in the middle of the body of water, and on that pier, lay a jade board made of jadeite...

Raising a slight brow, Gerald then watched as a drop of water fell from a stalactite... and right onto the jade board, producing a sound that felt oddly euphoric... Then another... and another....

With how echoey the cave's walls were, it was no wonder why they were able to hear the sound from so far away...

Squinting his eyes at the jade board, Gerald had a feeling that destroying it would only trigger another trap. With that in mind, after some thought, he eventually settled on taking out a shirt from his backpack.

Following that, he carefully aimed at the jade board... and with a toss, Gerald's shirt completely draped over it!

While he couldn't safely destroy it, it didn't mean that he couldn't stop the dripping sounds... or at least, that was what he hoped.

Staring anxiously as the next drop of water fell from the stalactite and rapidly descended toward the now covered jade board... Gerald eventually found himself heaving a sigh of relief when no sound was made.

Now that that was done, Gerald quickly rushed back to where Rey and Yann were to check in on them...

Upon realizing that the two were still in a daze, Gerald quickly began shaking them by their shoulders while yelling, "Hey, snap out of it!"

Thankfully, that seemed to work. Recovering shortly after, Rey shook his head before asking in a slightly sluggish tone, "...Huh...? Mr. Crawford...? I... What happened...?"

"Indeed, Gerald... What on earth happened back there...? The last thing I remember is hearing a pleasant dripping sound... Everything after that is foggy at best..." added Yann, groaning as he slowly regained his bearings.

"Well, essentially, both of you became unresponsive after hearing the sounds of dripping water! From what I can tell, the sounds themselves had hypnotic effects!" replied Gerald.

Now getting the gist of what was happening, Rey was prompted to ask, "Then, the sound..."

"Don't worry, you won't be hearing any more of that dripping for a long while! Regardless, I have a feeling that all those people who previously died here passed on euphorically... At least, that's what I'd assume since all of you had goofy grins while you were entranced earlier..." explained Gerald.

"...C-come again? Euphorically...? To think that we could've died like that as well!" exclaimed Rey in an

incredulous tone.

“Indeed. Whatever the case is, we should resume focus on finding the exit!” replied Gerald, not wanting to stay in this place for any longer for fear that more dangers awaited them.

Hearing that, the two men nodded before continuing to scout the cave together with Gerald...  
Thankfully, Gerald was able to find an exit this time!

“Rey, Yann! Over here!” yelled Gerald as the duo immediately ran over to see what was up.

Upon seeing the light coming from the exit, Rey and Yann were rightfully excited.

“Thank god! Looks like there really is another exit, Mr. Crawford!” exclaimed Rey, now feeling like he could trust Gerald with just about everything.

After all, both Rey and Yann had pretty much lost hope of finding an exit earlier. Thanks to Gerald, they were able to see the light of day again...!

Yann himself couldn't help but praise, “Amazing! I have to say, nothing is impossible with you around, Gerald! Regardless, let's get out of here while we can!”

“Hold it!” said Gerald the second Yann suggested that.

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

## Chapter 1900

Turning to look at Gerald in surprise, Yann couldn't help but ask, "Is... something wrong, Gerald?"

"Yeah, Mr. Crawford! Shouldn't we hurry and leave already?" added Rey in a confused tone.

"Hush. Hand me a small knife, Rey!" ordered Gerald.

Obedying Gerald's words, Rey retrieved a small knife from his belt before handing it to Gerald...

The small knife now in his hand, Gerald then walked toward a crystal-clear, emerald-green jade—the size of a chicken egg—that was embedded into the wall...

Following that, Rey and Yann widened their eyes as they watched Gerald skillfully used the knife to pry the jade off the wall!

"...H-huh? Didn't you say that we shouldn't touch any of the jades in here, Mr. Crawford?!" exclaimed the surprised Rey.

After plopping the jade into his pocket, Gerald simply replied, "True, but bear in mind that there usually aren't any traps near an exit!"

With that, Gerald continued walking out of the cave, causing the two stunned men to quickly snap out of it before running after him.

The second all three of them were out, Rey immediately looked at the sky before taking in a deep breath of fresh air.

“Thank god we’re finally out of that place! The air smells so much better out here!” exclaimed the jovial Rey.

While Yann was feeling just as pleased, he couldn’t help but face Gerald as he asked, “Speaking of which... What about Tye and the others, Gerald...?”

Raising a slight brow, Gerald simply replied, “What? Do you still expect to obtain all that money from him?”

Upon hearing that, Yann fell silent for a moment before saying, “...That’s not what I meant... Essentially, I’m just worried and Tye and his men won’t let us off that easily once they realize that we’re gone!”

“Hah! What makes you so sure that they’ll find the exit anytime soon? I assure you that by the time they finally get out, we’ll be miles away from them! They’ll never be able to catch up to us!” replied Gerald with a chuckle.

Realizing that Gerald had a point, Yann simply nodded.

“Now then... If there’s nothing else, let’s get moving already!” added Gerald.

“But which direction should we head to, Mr. Crawford...? After all, we don’t exactly have the map!” asked Rey.

Smiling smugly in response, Gerald then replied, “And who was it who told you we don’t have the map?”

Understandably stunned to hear that, Rey and Yann could only stare incredulously at Gerald as the youth fished out the map from his pocket!

“...Wait, didn’t Tye have the map? How did you get your hands on it, Gerald?” asked the bewildered Yann.

“Hah! I got it while they were still entranced!” replied Gerald with a smile, prompting Yann to momentarily freeze before giving Gerald two thumbs up!

Visit chapter list for next chapter

Chapter 1901

“My god! You truly are something else, Gerald!” exclaimed Yann in awe. To think that Gerald had been able to remember to steal Tye’s map earlier despite being in such a stressful situation!

Regardless, how splendid! Now that Tye and the others didn’t have the map, they’d surely be unable to continue their search!

“Whatever the case is, Tye and his men may have come here for the treasure, but we’re different. What we find valuable is different from them. With that in mind, I want both of you to listen carefully to me. Once we get to our destination, you can’t touch or take anything without first asking for my permission! Do I have myself clear?” said Gerald.

“Got it, Mr. Crawford!” replied Rey.



“But... if we don’t take anything back, then this trip will be a bit of a waste, don’t you think, Mr. Crawford...?” muttered Yann in a slightly reluctant tone.

“While I won’t repeat myself, I hope you understand that greed only leads to ruin, Yann,” replied Gerald, prompting Yann to fall silent.

Yann, for one, wasn’t about to disobey Gerald’s words. After all, he was well aware of how capable and strong Gerald was.

Even so, greed was different for everyone. While some may not have it at all, others simply had endless greed...

Either way, with that said, the trio then resumed their journey...

It was quite a while later before Tye and his men would finally snap out from their dazes.

Soon realizing that Gerald and his party weren’t around, Tye rubbed his groggy forehead before asking, “Hey, have any of you seen Gerald and his party...?”

Watching as his subordinates shook their heads, a realization suddenly came across Tye, prompting the man to feel his pocket... and it was at that moment when he noticed that his map had been stolen!

“That b\*stard...!” scowled Tye, causing all of his men to immediately begin exchanging glances, not even sure what had happened to make Tye this angry.

Hailey—Tye’s secretary—herself quickly walked up to the angry man before asking in a concerned tone, “What’s wrong, Chairman Lamano...?”

“Everything! To think that those three b\*stards would actually dare to steal my map!” roared Tye, his entire face now reddened in fury.

Though she was momentarily stunned, Hailey quickly snapped out of it before replying, “Could... they perhaps have taken the map to ease their search for the exit...? After all, the last I saw them, they were heading deeper into the cave... Maybe they’ve already found the exit!”

Upon hearing that, Tye realized that she made sense. With that, he immediately ordered his men to begin going deeper into the cave...

Shortly after, the group got to the deepest part of the cave and were promptly greeted by the sight of a board of sorts that was covered by a drenched shirt...

Before Tye could even begin wondering what the shirt was doing there for, one of his scouting subordinates came rushing back as he reported, “C-chairman Lamano! We’ve found an exit on the other side!”

“So they really did steal my map and flee! Those mother f\*ckers...! Pursue them immediately!” roared the furious Tye as the group quickly left the cave...

Unfortunately for Tye, Gerald and his party were nowhere remotely close to the cave anymore, just as Gerald had predicted...

Regardless, the trio had just come across a stream when Rey suggested, "Say, why don't we take a short rest here, Mr. Crawford...? After all, with the distance we've covered, it's pretty much impossible for them to catch up to us!"

Visit chapter list for next chapter

## Chapter 1902

Hearing that, Yann then chimed in, "Indeed! We've already walked for two hours anyway. Let's take a short rest!"

Understanding that the duo didn't have his stamina and endurance, Gerald could only agree with them. After all, exhaustion during a journey was best avoided...

Nodding, Gerald replied, "Sure, why not. Let's take a short break!"

With that, the trio sat by the stream to enjoy a well-deserved rest...

While Gerald didn't do anything in particular, Rey and Yann began washing their faces with the stream's water and even began drinking it.

However, shortly after the duo quenched their thirst, Rey happened to see something stuck at the bottom of the crystal-clear stream... Squinting at the object, his eyes immediately widened when he realized what it was.

Startled to hear Rey screaming out of the blue, Gerald was immediately prompted to ask, "What is it?!"

“M-Mr. Crawford...! Look there...! It... It’s a human bone...!” replied the quivering Rey as he immediately backed away from the stream.

Upon hearing that, Yann quickly ran over to have a look... and once he saw that Rey wasn’t fibbing, Yann and Rey immediately began vomiting. After all, they had drunk the same water where the bone had been in!

Gerald himself calmly walked toward the stream before pulling the bone out...

Inspecting it, Gerald couldn’t help but say, “How odd... A random human bone in the water...? Could someone have died here...?”

After looking at it for a while longer, Gerald realized something unsettling.

“...Hey, come look at this! The way the bone snapped couldn’t have been done by another person... After all, it looks like it was damaged by something feral on the hunt...” muttered Gerald, prompting Rey to quickly begin looking around.

“...A-are you suggesting that there’s a fierce beast lurking around, Mr. Crawford...?” stuttered Rey.

“Most likely!” replied Gerald with a nod as he got up from his squatting position before tossing the bone away. Naturally, this quickly made Rey and Yann nervous.

“T-then let’s hurry and leave this place, Mr. Crawford...!” said Rey, not wanting the fierce beast to suddenly ambush them.

Nodding in response, Gerald was just about to begin leaving the area with his party... when all of a sudden, the trio froze.

After all, all three of them had noticed that a fanged monster was glaring straight at them not too far away...!

While neither of them made a sound in the first few seconds, eventually, Rey wasn't able to hold back from whispering, "M-Mr. Crawford... What now-"

"Hush!" whispered Gerald in return as he placed his palm over Rey's mouth.

Following that, Gerald gestured for the duo to slowly inch their way to the side, not wanting to alarm the beast. While making their move, all three of them kept an eye on the monster, not wanting it to get a free chance to ambush them...

However, they had only taken a few steps when the monster suddenly let out an ear-piercing roar!

"God d\*mnit! It sounds angry too! Run!"

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter 1903

Hearing Gerald's order, Rey and Yann immediately began bolting away from the scene.

Unfortunately for them, their sudden movement only served to make the monster even more excited!

Realizing that the monster had its eyes on him, Rey began running even faster as he yelled, “P-please stop chasing after me...!”

As expected, all that shouting simply caused the beast to increase its speed as it continued bolting toward Rey!

Realizing that the monster was now inches away from Rey, Gerald quickly summoned the Astrabyss Sword before tossing it toward the beast!

The second the sword successfully cut through the monster’s flesh, it let out a mighty roar of pain!

Following that, it turned to glare at Gerald before charging for him next!

Despite how intimidating it was, Gerald kept his cool and resummoned the blade into his hand.

Once the monster was only a few steps away from him, Gerald—who had positioned himself to strike by now—bolted toward it as well!

Ducking exactly in front of the monster, Gerald managed to get right underneath it... and seeing the perfect chance, Gerald then raised his sword, causing the monster to literally gut itself as its sliced open belly ran through the blade!

With blood gushing all over the place, the monster released one final roar before flopping heavily into a puddle of its own blood...

Seeing that Gerald had managed to take it down, Rey and Yann immediately breathed sighs of relief.

Quickly returning to Gerald's side, Rey instantly asked in a concerned tone, "A-are you alright, Mr. Crawford...?"

Putting away the sword, Gerald then turned to face Rey before replying, "I'm fine!"

Though neither of them said it, they were both relieved that they had Gerald with them. Otherwise, they would've surely ended up as monster food! Thinking back, their bones would probably end up in the river as well...

Shaking the terrifying thought off, Rey then stared at its carcass before muttering, "...What the hell even is that beast...? While I want to call it a tiger, it isn't exactly one either!"

After giving the monster a better look, the trio saw that the hideous beast had two long and thin fangs in its mouth. While it did slightly resemble a tiger, everyone knew that that wasn't the case.

"...You know, it sort of looks like Taotie... don't you think? That mythological monster? But that's just nonsense... There's no way it could exist, right...?" said Yann after observing it for a little longer.

Upon hearing that, Rey looked like he wanted to say something. However, Gerald beat him to it and replied, "And why couldn't it? After all, if ghosts can exist, why not Taoties?"

Hearing Gerald's statement, Rey couldn't help but nod. After all, since ghosts existed, pretty much everything else could exist.

At that moment, a group of plainly dressed people suddenly rushed out from the forest and surrounded the trio!

While they initially kept firm gazes on Gerald and his party, upon seeing the dead Taotie on the ground, they instantly appeared shocked before looking back at the three men with fearful eyes... It was almost as though they were looking at strange animals...

Regardless, the group of people weren't the only ones shocked.

The trio found themselves surprised as well when they realized that all the people were wearing traditional garments. In fact, 'ancient' was probably a better word...

Though there was a brief silence, an old man—holding onto a walking stick—soon walked out from the crowd...

Momentarily looking at the fresh carcass, the old man then asked, "...If I may, where did you come from, gentlemen...?"

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter 1904

Snapping out of it when he heard the confused elderly man's question, Gerald then replied, "...Well... we came from the other side of the mountain... Before anything else, could you please tell us where we are



and what this monster is...?”

“...Ah, I... see... Well, that monster there is called a Taotie... Before you killed it, it lived deep in the mountains and was known for being extremely ferocious!” replied the old man.

Upon hearing that, Gerald and his party exchanged glances with each other. As Yann had earlier guessed, the creature turned out to really be a Taotie...

“Maybe I misheard, but you said the three of you come from the other side of the mountain...?” added the old man, his tone hinting at his disbelief.

As all three of them nodded in response, Gerald replied, “You heard right!”

Seeing that those from the crowd immediately began discussing that fact, Rey couldn't help but raise a slight brow as he asked, “...Is... there a reason why you all sound so shocked...?”

Hearing that question, the old man quickly explained, “Well... you see, nobody's ever been able to come over to this side of the mountain... After all, there's a trap there that hypnotically ensnares anyone who tries to come over! With that said, how on earth did all of you even manage to make it across in one piece...?”

It was clear that the old man was referring to the jade board in the hypnotic cave from earlier...

Whatever the case was, Gerald simply smiled subtly before replying, “Let's just say we aren't too sure about that either right now, sir.”

“Well, if you managed to achieve such a magnificent feat without even paying attention to it, it wouldn't

be a stretch to call all three of you wise men! Since you're already here anyway, come along to our village! Allow us to indulge you for managing to get to this side of the mountain!" declared the old man in a jovial tone.

Seeing no harm in that, Gerald and his party then followed the old man—and the crowd of people—back to their village...

Upon arriving, the trio saw that the village looked exactly like ones that could be found in history books. They also came to learn that the people here led lives where they woke early to work and turned in as soon as sunset came. From those two facts alone, it became evident that the people here had lived completely separate from the outside world for many, many years...

"...Say... do... you think we could've time-traveled, Mr. Crawford...?" whispered Rey along the way, finding everything here to be too bizarre to belong to the present.

"Negative. I'm sure that this place is just a utopia that came to be since it was cut off from the rest of the world quite early on..." replied Gerald.

After all, if they truly had time-traveled, then their phones wouldn't still have signals! That was honestly the main reason why Gerald was sure that Rey's hypothesis was wrong.

Regardless, after hearing what Gerald had to say, Rey couldn't help but agree...

By the time they got to the old man's house, the entire village was already abuzz with news about outsiders' arrival. After all, none of them had ever met people from the other side of the mountain before!

Once they were inside, Gerald immediately asked, "Speaking of which... How should we address you,

sir...?”

“Ah, well, I go by Stanton Lingard, and I’m the chief of this village! In case you were wondering, this place is called Moonbeam Village!” replied Stanton as Gerald, Rey, and Yann nodded understandingly.

“A pleasure to meet you, Chief Lingard! Though... why Moonbeam...?”

Visit chapter list for next chapter

Chapter 1905

Upon hearing Rey’s question, Stanton immediately chuckled before replying, “You’ll find out once night comes!”

Hearing that, Rey could only shrug in response.

Regardless, it wasn’t long before the villagers brought all kinds of food and drinks over to Stanton’s home.

After they placed all the goodies in front of Gerald and his party, Stanton smiled before declaring, “Come, have some food! All of you must be famished and exhausted after traveling such a long way!”

Before Gerald could even say a word, Rey immediately replied, “Well yeah, I’m starving! Thank you for

having us, chief!”

By the time Gerald turned to stare helplessly at Rey, Rey was already busy stuffing his mouth with food. After all, the trio hadn't eaten anything for most of the day, and being a young man, Rey's appetite was nothing short of voracious. Still, with how quickly he was eating, Gerald felt that it honestly wasn't a stretch that his hunger could rival that of a hungry ghost who hadn't eaten for a century... What was he going to do with this boy...

Shaking his head, Gerald then began eating as well, followed by Yann shortly after.

Stanton himself was smiling at how quickly Rey was munching down on the food...

After eating for a while, Gerald cleared his throat before asking, “Speaking of which, chief... Do you know of any other caves on this mountain...?”

Surprised by the odd question, Stanton replied, “A... cave? Why would you be looking for a cave of all things...?”

“Well, the three of us have actually been trying to look for something important... From what we've gathered, that thing can most probably be found in a cave on this mountain!” replied Gerald, making sure not to give too much information away.

“Oh? I see! Well, rather than 'a' cave, we have quite a few of them here! Unfortunately, that also means that I don't know which one you're referring to!” replied Stanton in an apologetic tone.

“I see... then... among them, are there any that are particularly special...?” asked Gerald.

“Special you say... Well... one cave comes to mind... If I recall correctly, the cave had a large wall of stone covering its massive entrance... However, I didn’t really pry into it since night was soon to come at the time...” replied Stanton after thinking for a while.

“Hmm... Do you still remember where that cave is located?” said Gerald, his interest clearly piqued.

“Give me a moment to think...” replied Stanton as he began racking his memory...

Quite a while later, Stanton suddenly raised his head before declaring, “While I can’t remember where its exact location is, I do recall that two massive pillars stand before the cave’s entrance! You can’t miss them!”

While that statement only described what the cave’s entrance looked like, Gerald was just pleased that he received a clue in the first place.

“Got it! Thank you, chief! We’ll start looking for it first thing in the morning!” replied Gerald in a gratuitous tone.

Chuckling in reply, Stanton then said, “You’re most welcome!”

Following that conversation, it wasn’t long before night fell and a bright crescent moon enveloped Moonbeam Village in a calming glow...

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

## Chapter 1906

Contrary to the hustle and bustle of a typical city's nightlife, the second darkness fell, the entire village went dead silent. Everyone simply remained in their homes and turned their light sources out, not even bothering to go against the norm. They truly were living like people from ancient times...

Sometime during the night, Rey couldn't help but whisper, "...Say... Mr. Crawford...? Do you really think we'll be able to find the cave...?"

"Well, based on the chief's description, it shouldn't be too hard to find!" replied Gerald.

"I guess... I wonder if Tye and his men have left the cave by this point..." muttered Rey, a hint of worry in his voice.

"They probably have. After all, even we were able to locate the exit rather easily!" said Gerald in a calm tone.

Gerald, for one, wasn't worried about Tye at all. So what if they managed to get out? Gerald and his party were pretty much always going to be a step ahead of them anyway. With that in mind, them catching up to the trio was improbable at best.

Then again, even if they did manage to catch up to them, it wasn't as though Gerald couldn't take on them.

Whatever the case was, after chatting a bit longer, the two finally decided to hit the hay...

Not long after the sun began to rise, knocking could be heard on the trio's door as the chief's familiar voice called out, "Morning, gentlemen! Are you all up?"

Upon hearing that, Gerald instantly got out of bed before walking over to the door.

Opening it, Gerald then smiled subtly as he replied, "Well you're early, chief!"

Chuckling in response, Stanton then said, "All of us here are just early risers! Regardless, I'm here to tell you that we're entering the mountain later. With that in mind, I wonder if you'd like to come along with us!"

"Oh? But of course! Please give us a moment, chief! We'll be packed up and ready in no time!" replied Gerald, now looking much more pumped up. After all, they'd surely have a much easier time finding that cave with Stanton's help.

"There's no rush! Also, I've already had someone prepare breakfast for you, so we'll only be setting off once you've all had your meals!" said Stanton.

"I see! If I haven't said it already, we really appreciate being in your care!" replied Gerald in a gratuitous tone. After all, not only had Stanton personally come over to wake them, but he had even got others to prepare breakfast for them! It would be rude if he didn't show appreciation toward Stanton's thoughtfulness!

Regardless, with that said, Gerald quickly woke the others up...

Once they were done packing, they headed over to the village chief's house and had a lavish breakfast...

This didn't take long, and soon enough, the party of three set off for the mountains with Stanton and his men...

Being about three thousand feet above sea level, the mountain was considerably high and was rather difficult to hike. Had Stanton not been there to lead the way, Gerald and his party would've surely had a much rougher time navigating the mountain...

Even so, that didn't mean that the hike was easy. Rey himself—who wasn't used to hiking—couldn't help but complain, “T-this hike is a bit too rough, isn't it, Mr. Crawford...?”

“It could've been much rougher if we didn't have the chief's guidance!” replied Gerald, causing Rey to instantly shut up...

## Chapter 1907

“Hah! Just so you know, there didn't even use to be a road on this mountain! This footpath here is the product of us mapping out the mountain for years! This path is considerably easy, you know? Some of the more difficult terrains require us to climb!” scowled Stanton—who was taking the lead—in a joking tone.

While the trio appreciated the old man's light-heartedness, it didn't change the fact that all this hiking was a challenge for them. Even so, they were well aware that this was the only way they were going to be able to locate that cave... As they said, ‘No pain, no gain...’

Regardless, after about an hour of trekking, the group finally arrived at an area with relatively flat land. Judging from how high up the mountain they were, they were possibly halfway up the mountain as well. With that in mind, looking down at the deep valley—that was now hundreds of feet below them—would make anyone feel giddy...



Just as all three of them were trying hard not to think about how high they were, they quickly snapped out of it when Stanton called out, “Gentlemen! That’s the cave right there!”

Turning to look at where Stanton was pointing, the three men could immediately see the two stone pillars standing before the blocked cave entrance... It was exactly like how Stanton had described the night before...

Seeing that this was their stop, Gerald then nodded before saying, “So it would seem! Thank you for guiding us up till this point, chief! We’ll be heading there on our own now!”

“Got it! Speaking of which, do be careful in there... Once you’ve located whatever it is you’re looking for, do return to the village!” replied Stanton in a kind voice.

“Loud and clear! We appreciate all the hospitality, chief!” declared Gerald and his party in unison before bidding goodbye and heading toward the cave...

Stanton—and the other villagers—themselves continued on their own journey further up the mountain...

Regardless, upon standing before the mouth of the sealed-up cave, Rey couldn’t help but say, “That’s one massive stone wall blocking the entrance... Still... Do you think there’s some kind of mechanism to get it to open, Mr. Crawford...?”

“I do, and I’m pretty sure it’s around here somewhere,” replied Gerald.

“Then what are we waiting for? Let’s hurry and find it!” declared Yann in an enthusiastic tone.

All nodding in agreement, the three then began searching the area... and soon enough, they found the mechanism they were looking for...

“...Say... doesn’t the mechanism resemble The Eight Diagrams...? The one from Feng Shui...? Have you heard about it, Mr. Crawford...?” asked Rey as he looked at Gerald.

Nodding slightly in response, Gerald then replied, “I have. While I’m not particularly knowledgeable in the art of Feng Shui, I do know that The Eight Diagrams are also known as the eight doors, and each door bears different meanings!”

From the looks of it, the only way they were going to get the cave to open was by solving this Feng Shui-based puzzle...

“I see... but... if even you don’t know much about Feng Shui, then doesn’t that mean that we’ve hit a dead-end...?” muttered Yann in a slightly defeated tone.

“It’s still too early to give up! While it’s true that I don’t know much about Feng Shui, I believe that whoever made this contraption wouldn’t have made entry into the cave all that difficult. After all, the hard part is usually getting out of such areas. With that in mind, I’m sure we can at least make it inside if we just use our heads!” replied Gerald as he looked at the two.

[Visit chapter list for next chapter](#)

With that said, Gerald then began giving The Eight Diagrams a closer look...

After thinking for a while, he eventually exclaimed, "I think I get it now! The Eight Diagrams isn't the mechanism at all! From what I've gathered, it's a clue that will lead us to the mechanism instead!"

Before the other two could even reply, Gerald was already looking for the mechanism according to the positions of the elements on The Eight Diagrams...

"The left and right sides symbolize water, whereas the front and back symbolize fire..." muttered Gerald as he continued keeping an eye out on the mechanism... and eventually, he found it.

Thankfully, Gerald had minor knowledge about Feng Shui. Otherwise, they would've never been able to find it! Still, Gerald knew he was also considerably lucky that the puzzle to opening the entrance was this simple...

Regardless, now that the mechanism was in sight, Gerald quickly twisted it... and moments after he did, the large stone wall began shaking vigorously...!

Shortly after, the wall parted in the middle, and it swung open like two massive doors...

Staring wide-eyed at the dark passageway before them, for a brief moment, all the trio could do was exchange glances with each other...

Yann was the first to break the silence as he excitedly exclaimed, "Y-you did it, Gerald...!"

While this was certainly something to celebrate, the three knew that their journey was far from over. With that, they immediately began making their way into the cave...

The second they entered, however, the large doors of the cave instantly began closing again... As Gerald had expected, leaving was definitely going to be much harder than entering...

Still, they knew they had to take the rough with the smooth, so the trio simply gritted their teeth as they continued further into the cave...

With how dark it was getting, Rey took some torchlights out from his backpack before handing them to Gerald and Yann.

Quite honestly, this place was practically a nightmare for anyone who was afraid of being alone in the dark... Thankfully, the trio was together and with three beams of light lighting their way, they were able to proceed forward with more comfort and security...

About three hundred feet later, the trio finally arrived at the end of the passageway... only to find it blocked by yet another stone wall!

In a way, this was the perfect embodiment of the saying, 'Out of the frying pan and into the fire...'

"D\*mn it, another wall...?" muttered Rey as he turned to look at Gerald.

Gerald himself simply stared at the wall for a while before gently placing his hand on it... and the second he did, the entire wall began to shake!

Soon enough, the stone wall slowly slid to the side... revealing jaw-dropping amounts of treasure! Glittering gold coins were seemingly everywhere, with some even piled up so high they resembled mountains...! As if the sight wasn't grand enough already, the candles inside even began lighting up on

their own!

“H-holy cr\*p!” exclaimed both Rey and Yann simultaneously, utterly amazed by all they were seeing.

“T-there’s so many gold coins...! We’re rich! We’re filthy rich!” yelled Yann excitedly as he bolted into the room!

While Gerald wanted to stop him, his attention was suddenly caught by something else...

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter 1909

Atop one of the many piles of treasure, lay a treasure chest... and upon seeing it, Gerald immediately knew that what he was looking for was in there.

As he had predicted, it truly was here! Now that it was so close to him, there was no way he was going to be able to hold himself back from obtaining it!

With that, Gerald paid little attention to what Rey and Yann were doing and simply walked toward the treasure chest...

Watching as seemingly endless amounts of gold coins slid down from the mountain of treasures that Gerald was slowly climbing, Yann couldn’t help but get even more excited.

Taking his backpack off, he immediately began filling it with piles upon piles of treasures! After all, he had never seen this many gold coins in a single place before, so he simply couldn't help himself...

While Rey—who had been standing at the side—was equally as excited to see all that gold, he knew better than to do what Yann was doing.

After all, Gerald had told him not to touch things at random, and he wasn't about to disobey him.

Regardless, Gerald finally made it to the top of the mountain of coins at that moment...

Upon opening the treasure chest, he was greeted by the sight of a crystal clear, emerald-green jade pendant that was shaped like a butterfly...

This was it... he had finally found it!

Gerald was the only one who knew what the pendant was used for, so he wasn't too worried about Yann wanting to take it. Still, it was better to be safe than sorry, so Gerald quickly hid it in his clothes. Nobody could ever learn that he had obtained the item...

Whatever the case was, now that he had obtained the pendant, he slid down the mountain of gold coins, fully prepared to leave as he called out, "Alright, we've found what we were looking for, now let's head back!"

"What? Are you seriously telling me that you wish to leave just like that?" retorted Yann.

Stopping in his tracks, Gerald raised a slight brow as he turned to look at Yann before saying, "If I recall correctly, I specifically remember telling you not to touch any of the treasures here!"

"I know, I know, but... all this treasure, Gerald...! If we get all this out of here, we'll be able to live the rest of our lives without worry!" replied Yann in an enthusiastic tone.

Sensing the glint of avarice in Yann's eyes, Gerald could already tell that Yann was dangerously close to completely losing himself to greed.

"I'll only say it one more time. We're leaving now, and we're not taking anything else back with us!" declared Gerald in a solemn tone.

"I refuse! After all, I saw you take something for yourself! If you can do it, why can't I?" scowled Yann.

Realizing that Yann had noticed him taking the jade, Gerald was slightly tongue-tied. How was he even going to explain that the pendant had a much greater value than all those treasures...?

Seeing that Gerald was having trouble, Rey then yelled, "Brother Yann, please just listen to Mr. Crawford! I'm sure he has his reasons for disallowing you to take any of them back!"

Unfortunately, Yann was already completely consumed by greed by this point.

"Over my dead body! Since you don't want them so much, fine! They all belong to me now! Mark my words, I'm definitely getting all of them out today if it's the last thing I do!" howled Yann as though he had gone insane.

“You...!” growled Rey as he turned to look at Gerald, understanding that Yann would no longer take advice from anyone...

Visit chapter list for next chapterChapter 1910

“...What should we do now, Mr. Crawford...?” asked Rey.

Staring straight at Yann, Gerald simply narrowed his eyes before shaking his head. He knew for a fact that Yann was already a lost cause... Greed truly was a frightening thing...

Even so, he wanted to try one last time. Glaring at Yann, Gerald’s tone sounded much angrier as he growled, “...One final time. Are you leaving with us, or aren’t you?”

“I’m not leaving yet!” roared Yann, instantly causing Gerald’s anger to peak.

That was the last straw. Not wanting anything to do with Yann anymore, Gerald then began walking out of the treasure room...

However, the second Gerald stepped out, all the candles in the room immediately went out. Following that, the room began glowing in an eerie green light!

‘This isn’t good!’ Gerald thought to himself as he quickly got out of the room—along with Rey—before yelling, “Yann! Get over here! Quick!”

Of course, Yann’s fate had been sealed the second he chose to disobey Gerald...



Unable to react in time, Yann's eyes could only widen as he watched all the gold around him transform into green goo that quickly enveloped him! He didn't even have the time to scream before the goo completely melted him down to the bone...

Gerald and Rey were understandably stunned to witness all this. To think that such a punishment had been set up for those who had been overtaken by greed...

Regardless, Yann was now dead and there was nothing Gerald could do about it.

With that in mind—and the fact that the goo was slowly coming their way—, Gerald quickly grabbed onto Rey's arm before yelling, "Come on, let's leave this place!"

Rey wasn't about to say no to that, and the duo bolted back into the passageway from before...

Shortly after, they heard the familiar scraping of stone on dirt coming from behind them, and it was pretty obvious that the door had closed itself again... Thank god they had left the room quickly...

Taking a momentary rest by sitting in the passageway, Rey couldn't help but look at Gerald with grief-filled eyes as he said, "...Mr. Crawford... Brother Yann, he..."

While he knew that Rey was frightened since this was probably the first time he had seen someone die in such a terrible way, Gerald simply opted to reply in a calm tone, "He's dead..."

Naturally, even Gerald was sad about Yann's death, but had the man not been consumed by avarice, he wouldn't have had to die so horribly... With that in mind, Yann's end was honestly deserved...

After calming down a bit more, Rey couldn't help but ask, "What even was that green goo..."

“I’m not sure, but it probably resembles sulphuric acid since it could corrode so well...” replied Gerald who couldn’t help but sigh, still slightly bummed out that Yann had to die.

After all, he saw the man as a good friend. Still, Gerald did find solace in the fact that Rey wasn’t like Yann.

With that in mind, Gerald then patted Rey on the shoulder before praising, “...Regardless, I’m glad you weren’t consumed by greed as well, Rey. I’m proud of you!”

Despite the compliment, Rey was simply too sad to even feel pleased about it. After all, they had just lost a teammate...

[Visit chapter list for next chapter](#)

## Chapter 1911

Understanding that staying here for any longer would only spell more trouble, after resting for a bit, Gerald got to his feet before saying, “Alright, let’s leave this place while we can!”

With that, the duo made their way back to the sealed main entrance...

Once they were there, they quickly realized that there wasn’t a mechanism to open the doors at all, at least not one they could easily see... The pitch darkness of the place certainly didn’t help...

Understanding the fact that they didn’t even know where to start looking for the mechanism, Rey

couldn't help but stare at the massive stone wall—blocking the cave's entrance—before looking at Gerald and asking, "...How... should we leave, Mr. Crawford...?"

"...Well, since there was a mechanism outside that allowed us to enter, I'm sure there's another one in here that will allow us to leave! Since the Yin and Yang sides—based on the layout of The Eight Diagrams—was the key to opening the door from the outside, I'm assuming that the mechanism in here can be found opposite of that!" replied Gerald after thinking for a bit.

Following that, Gerald began searching the opposite areas... and after feeling around the stone wall, he managed to find a mechanism!

Immediately twisting it, Gerald and Rey's eyes quickly widened as the floor beneath them began to crumble! To think that the mechanism would cause this!

Regardless, unable to react in time, both of them soon found themselves sliding down an inclined path!

While Rey screamed all the way down, Gerald himself could only think about how badly he had messed up this time. As it turned out, things weren't as easy as he had expected...

Whatever the case was, it was quite a while before the slope suddenly ended, sending both of them shooting out and landing on a soft pile of dirt.

Groaning as they got up, the two quickly realized that they seemed to have entered another cave... Aside from the fact that there was a pond in the cave—that had water so clear that one could easily see its bottom—there was not much else to note at first glance...

“Holy cr\*p... Where even are we, Mr. Crawford...?” asked Rey as he dusted the dirt off his clothes.

Naturally, Gerald had no clue of where they were either. Even so, to think that there would actually be another cave under that cave... What a special place...

Simply shaking his head in response, Gerald and Rey then began investigating the surrounding area, hoping to find an exit. Unfortunately for them, no matter how hard they searched, there didn't seem to be one. They were trapped once again...

“Well that's just great! I guess we're stuck here!” said Rey as he sat down while heaving a heavy sigh.

Frowning slightly, Gerald then took Tye's map out before giving it a good look. Something had to be wrong here... Thankfully, Gerald was right.

Now that he had managed to find something significant, Gerald quickly called out, “Rey!”

Hurriedly getting to his feet, Rey then raised a slight brow as he looked at the map while asking, “...Yes, Mr. Crawford? Did you find something?”

“Indeed! See the Officer Viewing Deck where we started from? While we've changed course several times, I retraced our steps... and here! See that other cave on the map? I have a feeling that we're currently here! And that cave clearly shows an entrance!” exclaimed Gerald, pointing at the map the entire time.

While Rey definitely felt that Gerald's words made sense, he couldn't help but say, “That's fine and all... But we've already made a thorough search of this place! Forget an exit, we haven't even managed to

locate anything resembling a door opening mechanism!”

Though Gerald saw where Rey was coming from, he was sure that there definitely had to be a way out. After all, there was a high chance that they simply hadn't looked in the right direction.

With that in mind, Gerald simply replied, “I'm sure the exit will appear soon! Keep calm, we'll definitely find a way to leave!”

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

## Chapter 1912

Following that, Gerald got up and began feeling around the walls again...

Since the stone walls were quite uneven, it made finding mechanisms—to potentially lead to a way out—even harder than usual...

Regardless, after hearing what Gerald had to say, Rey was motivated to give it another shot. With that, he began doing the same as Gerald, hoping to finally find a way to get out of this place...

While continuing to feel the walls, Gerald's ears perked when a crisp 'click' was heard. Eyes quickly widening, Gerald could only stare as the stone slab—that his foot was currently on—began sinking in...

Lifting his foot, he watched as the slab continued sinking deeper and deeper... And by the time it stopped, a part of the stone wall had shifted open!

Both surprised and delighted, Rey couldn't help but turn to look at Gerald while calling out, "M-Mr. Crawford...!"

Though Gerald himself was surprised by all this, he quickly snapped out of it and walked through the newly formed entrance...

To the duo's dismay, they quickly realized that all the entrance led to was a flight of descending stairs that appeared almost bottomless! The fact that it was pitch dark down there certainly didn't help...

"...Where do you think this leads to, Mr. Crawford...?" muttered Rey as he turned to look at Gerald.

"Only one way to find out!" replied Gerald, prompting the duo to begin descending the stairs...

As they walked on, a sort of mist began appearing and the lower they went, the denser it became...

It was about half an hour later when Rey couldn't help but cry out, "...There's just no end to these stairs, Mr. Crawford! We've been walking for almost thirty minutes now yet the end is nowhere in sight!"

Gerald himself was starting to find all this weird. This place really was too mystifying...

After thinking for a while, Gerald eventually sighed before saying, "...Alright, since we don't seem to be getting anywhere, let's just return to where we came from!"

With that, the duo began ascending the stairs... However, another half-hour later, the two youths finally realized how serious their current dilemma was. After all, no matter how long they walked, the area where they started from was simply nowhere to be found!

“Seriously?! We should have reached the entry point by now! Where the hell is it?!” cried out the increasingly distressed Rey.

To think that even their return route would end up changing!

“It’s important to stay calm during such situations! With that said, let’s think about it first!” replied Gerald as he began racking his brain...

Looking closer at the stairs, Gerald noticed that the steps appeared to be numbered... Were the numbers there for a reason...?

After thinking about it for a while, Gerald’s eyes suddenly widened as he exclaimed, “I got it!”

Surprised by Gerald’s sudden shouting, Rey quickly shook his head before asking, “G-got it? You’ve figured out how we can get out of this place, Mr. Crawford?”

“Indeed! Essentially, we’ve been trapped by an Eight Diagrams puzzle ever since we set foot into this place! If my guess is correct, in order to get out of this loop, we’ll need to solve The Eight Diagrams puzzle of the stairs! If you look closer, you can see numbers on the steps, right? I’m assuming that by utilizing The Eight Diagrams chart on them, we’ll be able to finally escape!” explained Gerald.

Despite the explanation, Rey wasn’t too familiar with The Eight Diagrams, so very little of what Gerald had just said made sense to him...

Seeing that his point wasn’t getting across, Gerald decided to just try his theory out instead...

Visit chapter list for next chapter

## Chapter 1913

“It’s fine if you don’t get it. Whatever the case is, I’m going to be having an out-of-body experience now to check if my theory is correct! With that said, be sure to guard my body well in the meantime!” said Gerald.

“Got it, Mr. Crawford! Do be careful!” replied Rey as Gerald nodded before lying down...

Shortly after, his ghost form shot out from his body before diving downward!

Continuing to dive deeper and deeper, Gerald eventually came across the source of the duo’s plight... True to Gerald’s guess, there really was a giant mechanism underneath them this entire time!

With that mystery solved, Gerald knew that in order for them to escape this hellish loop, they would need to take a literal leap of faith after finding a specific number on the stairs... If they didn’t, they could very well end up living the rest of their lives on these stairs...

Regardless, now that he had learned all this, Gerald bolted back to his physical body... and upon re-entering it, he instantly yelled, “Bingo!”

Since Gerald had made such an abrupt return, it scared the living daylights out of Rey!

Once the youth finally calmed down, he could only look helplessly at Gerald as he muttered between pants, “D-d\*mn it, Mr. Crawford...! You almost gave me a heart attack...! Don’t go shouting so abruptly...!”



To be fair, being all alone in such darkness would make anyone feel utterly terrified...

While even Gerald was momentarily stunned by Rey's reaction, he quickly snapped out of it before saying, "...Got it! Anyway, listen, I think I've found a way to get out of this place!"

"...H-huh? Really? Then what are we waiting for, Mr. Crawford? Lead the way!" replied Rey, instantly forgetting about being scared half to death just seconds earlier. After all, Rey's priority was to leave this place as soon as possible since he felt that he would go mad from anxiety if he had to stay in this place any longer...

Nodding in agreement, Gerald then began leading Rey down the stairs again... and eventually, he found the exact spot they needed to be at.

Seeing that they had stopped, the confused Rey couldn't help but ask, "...Um... Mr. Crawford...? Didn't you say we were leaving...? We've been descending the stairs for quite a while now..."

Hearing that, Gerald turned to face Rey before saying, "This is it. We're jumping down from here!"

"...H-huh?!" replied Rey as his jaw instantly dropped, unsure of whether he had heard right.

Upon seeing how determined Gerald's following nod was, the worried Rey immediately replied in a fearful tone, "P-please don't joke about this, Mr. Crawford... We can't even see the bottom from here! We'll surely die!"

After saying that, Rey couldn't help but gulp as he stared down... The longer he stared at the abyss, the more terrified he got...

Gerald himself simply raised a brow as he said, "...Rey, do you honestly think I'd joke about something like this?"

While Rey was sure that Gerald wouldn't, his master's order to leap into the abyss was simply mind boggling...

Seeing how hesitant Rey was being, Gerald couldn't help but sigh as he added, "...Fine, I'll be jumping first then. However, if I do end up dying, good luck thinking of other ways to leave!"

Momentarily left stupefied by Gerald's absurd suggestion, Rey could only stare wide-eyed as Gerald leaped off the stairs without even waiting for his reply!

While Rey was left panicking, Gerald himself had made a safe landing atop another set of stairs...

Just as he had thought, the trick to escaping that loop was by hopping off the step with that specific number!

However, Rey wasn't aware that Gerald was still alive. With that in mind, it wasn't a surprise that he soon began calling out, "M-Mr. Crawford...!"

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

Chapter 1914

Hearing how worried the boy was for his safety, Gerald couldn't help but smile subtly as he looked up

while shouting, “What are you waiting for, Rey? Jump already!”

Upon hearing Gerald’s response, Rey was instantly overjoyed. After all, not only was Gerald still alive, but he had apparently successfully found a way to escape this hellish loop!

Now that he knew this, Rey mustered up his courage... before leaping and plunging straight into the abyss!

Immediately screaming as he plummeted, his utter terror soon turned into confusion when he realized that his feet were already on the ground. The fall had barely even taken a second!

“...Was there really a need to scream that loudly...” grumbled Gerald whose ears were now throbbing due to how loud Rey had been.

While Gerald was left annoyed, Rey himself was so overjoyed—that he was still alive—that he immediately exclaimed, “I-I’m alive! And to think that the jump wasn’t even all that long! W-we’re finally free from those stairs, Mr. Crawford...!”

Shaking his head in resignation at how childish his disciple was being, Gerald simply patted him on the back before starting to walk toward the light before them...

Now realizing that the exit had been this close this entire time, Rey’s eyes widened as he called out, “W-wait for me, Mr. Crawford!”

Quickly catching up to Gerald, the duo soon went past the shining exit... However, what awaited them was nothing short of surprising.

Beyond the exit, lay a worn-down place that looked utterly ravaged...

Staring at the near-endless towering pillars around them, Rey couldn't help but exclaim in awe, "H-holy cr\*p! To think that such a place existed down here...! Everything here looks ancient!"

Though Gerald said nothing, he shared the same sentiments. After all, who wouldn't be amazed and shocked to find ancient ruins out of the blue...

Regardless, Gerald was first to break the silence by saying, "...Come on, let's have a look around!"

Nodding in agreement, Rey then began exploring the wondrous place with Gerald...

However, they had only taken a few steps forward when both of them stopped dead in their tracks.

Strange skittering sounds seemed to be quickly approaching them, and they could immediately tell that something was amiss. Was it danger...?

"...What... is that, Mr. Crawford...?" whispered Rey as he leaned in closer to Gerald.

Instead of replying with a guess, Gerald simply chose to slowly turn around, prompting Rey to do the same... and the second they saw what was coming for them, Rey's eyes immediately widened.

As it turned out, the sounds were coming from a hoard of giant scorpions!

“H-holy cr\*p! Why the hell are those scorpions so massive?!” stuttered the quivering Rey.

“Shut it! And stop moving around so much!” ordered Gerald in a calm tone.

While it was his first time seeing such massive scorpions as well, he wasn’t afraid of them at all. After all, he had already seen all kinds of horrifying ghosts, so how scary could scorpions be for him?

Though Gerald wasn’t intimidated by the giant scorpions, that wasn’t the case for Rey. He was completely frozen in fear as he watched the scorpions quickly encircle them, swaying their pointy stingers from time to time, seemingly prepared to attack them at any moment...

Small scorpion stings were already quite venomous, so Rey didn’t even want to begin imagining how potent these large scorpions’ stingers were... In fact, from how large and sharp those stingers looked, one would probably die from the stab alone...

[Visit chapter list for next chapter](#)

## Chapter 1915

“W-what should we do now, Mr. Crawford...?” whispered Rey, gulping as he stared at all the giant scorpions around them. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn’t see an opening for them to escape at all!

“Stay calm! I’m thinking!” replied Gerald as he continued looking around, hoping that it would help him devise an escape plan.

Thankfully, it wasn’t long after before Gerald spotted a large door leading out of this area.

With their escape route in his sight, Gerald quickly whispered, “Rey, do you see that large door at your twelve o’clock?”

Turning to look in that direction, Rey then nodded before replying, “I do!”

“Good, now listen up. The plan is simple. You rush over to open that door while I distract the scorpions! Got it?” explained Gerald.

“L-loud and clear!” replied Rey, knowing that that was their best bet of surviving this encounter.

Hearing that, Gerald then drew his Astrabyss Sword before pushing Rey with his other hand while yelling, “Good! Now go!”

As Rey nodded before bolting toward the large door, Gerald himself began channeling his energy into the Astrabyss Sword, allowing it to emit its spiritblade.

Watching as the scorpions backed off a bit—after they saw the spiritblade—, Gerald took that chance to get a bit closer to Rey. He made sure to stick close enough to Rey to ensure that Rey wouldn’t get sneak attacked by any hiding scorpions...

Thanks to the duo’s teamwork, they were able to get Rey to the large door...

To Rey’s dismay, however, no matter how hard he pushed, the door wouldn’t budge! Then again, it wasn’t really all that surprising. After all, the door was made of stone and it stood over thirty feet tall. There was no way Rey was ever going to be able to open it!

Understanding that, Rey yelled, “Um...! The door’s too heavy for me to open...!”

“Again, stay calm. I’m sure there’s a mechanism to open it!” replied Gerald who currently had his eyes on the giant scorpions that were now charging toward him!

Seeing that, Rey knew that it was all up to him now. If he failed to find the mechanism, then this would be their end... Because of that, failure wasn’t an option!

With that in mind, Rey quickly calmed himself before starting to search for the mechanism... and not long after, he found it!

The mechanism itself resembled a circular door handle, and after Rey pulled it, the large door instantly began shaking!

Taking a few steps back, Rey could only stare wide-eyed as the door finally swung open a few seconds later.

Delighted, Rey then yelled, “M-Mr. Crawford, come quick! The door’s open!”

Hearing that, Gerald instantly turned to charge for the exit... and moments later, both of them found themselves staring at the large scorpions—that had now stopped in their tracks—from the other side of the giant door...

Shortly after, the scorpions began retreating, prompting the confused Rey to ask, “...Huh? They’re... not chasing after us...?”

Staring as they scuttled off, Gerald simply replied, "Indeed... I'm assuming that they're afraid of something in here!"

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

## Chapter 1916

After saying that, Gerald turned around and began exploring this new place with Rey...

Shortly after, they came across a spring of sorts that had crystal clear water that splashed all over the place...

Naturally, this surprised the duo. To think that there would be a spring here of all places...

"How odd to find a spring out of the blue!" exclaimed Rey as he walked over to the body of flowing water before scooping some up to drink...

Eyes-widening the second he gulped down, Rey couldn't help but turn to face Gerald as he added, "Holy! The water's sweet!"

Rey had never tasted such sweet and refreshing spring water in his entire life!

Hearing that, Gerald walked over as well to taste the water... and true to Rey's words, the water truly was rather sweet.



The fact that a spring with such sweet water was down here in this horrible place truly was mystifying...

Before Rey could take another scoop, the water suddenly began bubbling, causing the youth to freeze in surprise.

It wasn't long after before the entire spring was filled with bubbles, and within seconds, all the water suddenly evaporated!

"...H-huh? The hell? How did all the water suddenly disappear!" exclaimed Rey in an incredulous tone.

Before Gerald could even theorize, however, a crisp 'crack' could be heard from the middle of the dried-out spring...

Fixing their gazes on the source of the sound, the duo simply watched as a slab of stone suddenly began rising from the center of the dried-out spring...

Exchanging glances with each other, Gerald and Rey slowly walked over as the stone slab shifted to the side... revealing what appeared to be a darkened entrance that led downward!

While Rey's first reaction was to stare at Gerald in disbelief, Gerald himself was already shining his flashlight to illuminate the bottom of the hole...

A while later, Gerald wordlessly began descending the hole... Of course, upon seeing that, Rey had no choice but to follow him down...

The hole itself led to a flat path, and the duo walked on until they eventually came across a huge chamber...

Seeing that there was a golden casket in the middle of the chamber, Rey couldn't help but exclaim, "...I- is that what I think it is...? My god! This chamber... it's a tomb!"

As Rey wondered how the hell their expedition ended up becoming a tomb exploration, Gerald himself began walking deeper into the tomb...

It was only a few steps later when the candles in the chamber suddenly lit up, instantly brightening the entire tomb...

Now that everything was well lit, Gerald noticed that there was a tombstone within the chamber.

Walking over and seeing that ancient script had been carved onto the tombstone, Gerald turned to look at Rey before asking, "Say, can you read this?"

Gerald knew that Rey was a top student, which was why he felt that Rey had a chance of deciphering the text.

Regardless, Rey quickly jogged over before having a look at the tombstone...

It took him a while, but eventually, Rey replied, "Well... It contains information about this tomb's owner, Mr. Crawford! From what I've gathered, the owner of the tomb goes by Talias Yah, and he was a general in an ancient country called Zanekh... To think that the tomb of such a great general could be found within Mount Dakriont... How stupefying!"

Upon hearing that, Gerald immediately knew that they couldn't touch anything in here. After all, triggering a trap in such a high-profile tomb would surely spell their doom...

As he was thinking of that, the corner of Gerald's eyes suddenly caught a glimpse of a familiar symbol on the golden casket... Where had he seen that before...

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter

## Chapter 1917

Looking at Gerald's raised eyebrow, Rey couldn't help but ask, "Is... something wrong, Mr. Crawford...? Did you find something...?"

"...See that symbol there? I feel like I've seen it somewhere before..." muttered Gerald as he continued flipping through his memories...

Sometime later, he suddenly yelled, "I remember now!"

Following that, Gerald fished the map out before quickly scanning through it.

Raising a slight brow, Rey then inched closer to look at the map as well... and when he finally realized that the exact symbol—on the casket—could be found on the map, Rey immediately exclaimed, "...Holy, is that... Then... Instead of going after the treasure, Tye was trying to locate this tomb this entire time...?!"

"I'm guessing so!" replied Gerald with a nod, finally a hundred percent sure that Tye was up to no good.

But what was he scheming...?

As Gerald was wondering about that, Tye and his men finally made it to Moonbeam Village...

Despite Gerald taking pity on them and allowing them to live, Tye wasn't about to give up on his goals that easily. Still, without the map, Tye and his men had remained lost in the mountain's forests for ages...

Regardless, upon attempting to step foot into the village, Stanton—who just so happened to see them—immediately rushed over before asking, “And who might all of you be?”

As more of the villagers ran over to stand behind Stanton, they knew why he was being so vigilant. After all, Tye and his men looked incredibly suspicious...

Raising a slight brow, Tye then glared at the old man before replying in an annoyed tone, “That isn't important. Regardless, have you recently come across three individuals dressed like us?”

Stanton was no idiot. From Tye's expression alone, he could already tell that the man wasn't a good person. With that, he simply shook his head as he replied, “...I'm afraid not! It's been ages since anyone from the outside world came to our village! Speaking of the outside world, how did all of you get here?”

Upon hearing that, Tye squinted his eyes at the chief, wondering if the old man was telling the truth...

Unfortunately, at that very moment, a young woman came jogging toward Stanton while yelling, “The meal's ready, chief! Have the three wise men returned yet?”

While Stanton was surprised to hear that statement, Tye and his men immediately frowned.

Now fully aware that Stanton had lied to them, Tye then yelled, "How dare you lie to me, old man!"

Stanton himself was at a loss for words. That young woman truly had arrived at the worst possible time...

Seeing that Stanton wasn't keen on replying, Tye then grabbed the old man by his collar before roaring, "Enough games! Where the hell are those three!"

It was clear by now that Tye's hatred for Gerald was beyond words... Tye himself had even sworn to show Gerald no mercy the next time they bumped into him.

Whatever the case was, Stanton hardly even flinched at Tye's attempt at intimidating him. Instead, the old man simply replied, "How should I know? They simply left without telling us where they were headed to!"

"Are you honestly still lying to me? Don't blame me for being ruthless then!" scowled Tye with a snort, his gut telling him that Gerald and his party were well acquainted with Stanton. After all, why else would the old man lie about something like this?

Following that, Tye ordered his men to gather all the villagers. Once that was done, Tye also instructed them to tie Stanton to the pillar at the village's entrance...

"I'm going to ask one final time... Tell me where they went!" shouted Tye, believing that the old man would finally spill the beans now.

"I've already told you, I don't know!"

Visit chapter list for next chapter

## Chapter 1918

Despite how serious Stanton looked as he scowled back, Tye wasn't buying it.

Now fully enraged, Tye glared at his men before ordering, "Men! Beat this old b\*stard up till he talks!"

Hearing that, two of Tye's men then stepped forward with whips in hand... and without the slightest mercy, they began whipping the poor old man!

Naturally, the other villagers instantly became enraged, and some of the bolder ones even rushed forward to rescue their poor chief!

Seeing that, Tye simply shook his head, glaring at those who dared oppose him as his hand quickly reached out for his pistol...

And with a deafening 'bang', one of the courageous villagers flopped to the ground, dead...

Upon witnessing that horrifying scene, none of the other villagers dared to take another step forward...

Tye himself simply sneered, "Listen, every time you refuse to tell me where they are, I'll just kill another villager! With that in mind, you'd better start fessing up already! Still, I'm glad nobody even knows about your village! Because of that, I can do whatever I want with you!"

“Chief, just give them the information!” called out one of the villagers, not wanting the entire village to get massacred just for the sake of protecting those three wise men.

“Yeah, chief! Our entire village is at stake here!”

“Please, just tell them, chief...!”

One after another, the villagers continued pleading Stanton to share Gerald’s location with them... and eventually, the chief knew he didn’t really have any other choice. After all, he needed to prioritize his village’s safety.

With that, Stanton sighed before declaring, “...Fine. I’ll tell you on one condition! You have to leave us once you get the information! Deal?”

“Deal!” replied Tye without the slightest hesitation.

“They’ve gone deeper into the mountain! To be more specific, they entered a cave with two stone pillars before it!” said Stanton.

Hearing that, Tye’s expression instantly soured. To think that Gerald was able to locate the exact cave Tye himself was trying to look for!

“Hah! Not bad...” replied Tye with a nod, a sinister smile on his face as he slowly aimed his gun at Stanton’s chest... and with the pull of a trigger, a bullet shot through the old man’s chest.

“C-chief...!” cried out the villagers as Stanton spat out a mouthful of blood... before his head drooped and his limbs went completely limp...

After staring for a while at their chief’s fresh corpse, several of the villagers turned to glare at Tye while roaring, “How... How inhumane...! You utter b\*stard...!”

“You promised you’d leave us be! Why did you have to kill our chief?! You demon!”

Upon hearing all those curses, Tye’s frown only worsened as he aimed his pistol at the villagers... and just like that, several more villagers fell to the ground, dead.

Each bullet had hit its mark, and as Tye reloaded his gun, he yelled out, “Kill them all! Make sure you don’t miss anyone!”

Nodding in response, Tye’s men then retrieved their knives... and the massacre soon began.

By the time Tye and his men were done, the entire village population had been wiped out. Moonbeam village was no more...

How absolutely vile...

[Visit chapter list for next chapter](#)

Chapter 1919



Moving back to Gerald and Rey, they had no way of knowing about the massacre that had taken place at Moonbeam Village. Even so, it was pretty much guaranteed that Gerald wouldn't let Tye and his men off the second he found out about what they had done...

Regardless, since they were both standing before the casket now, Rey was prompted to ask, "Should... we open the casket and have a look inside, Mr. Crawford...?"

"Negative. I truly believe that something terrible will happen if we do," replied Gerald, instantly causing Rey to give up on his idea.

Even so, he couldn't help but remain curious about the contents of the golden casket. After all, Tye had been trying so hard to search for it. What kind of treasures lay within...?

"...Say, Mr. Crawford? What kinds of treasures do you think are in this tomb for Tye to travel so far just to obtain them...?" asked Rey.

Shaking his head in response, Gerald then said, "I have no idea, though I believe the things he's after lies within that casket!"

Though Gerald knew that the casket was bad news, he also had a pretty good idea that it contained something extremely valuable. After all, Tye was trying so hard to get it.

Whatever the case was, Gerald then began searching high and low around the chamber. After all, he was sick of remaining trapped in here.

Rey started doing the same, and with their combined efforts, the duo eventually managed to find a way out!

Quickly making their way out, the two soon found themselves stepping into a forest of sorts...

Still, Gerald and Rey were much too glad to finally be able to see the sky again to be bothered by that. With how stale the air in the cave had been, the two men couldn't help but feel extremely relaxed now that they could finally take whiffs of fresh air...

Exhaling loudly, Rey then sat on the ground before exclaiming, "Thank god we're finally out of that place, Mr. Crawford...!"

"Indeed! Let's head back now!" replied Gerald.

At that very moment, both of their ears perked as several rustling sounds could be heard in the distance!

Immediately getting vigilant, the duo then hid themselves well before peeking out to see who was making all that noise... and the second they saw the culprits, Gerald and Rey were rightfully surprised.

"Mr. Crawford...! It's Tye and his men!" whispered Rey.

Gerald himself was much too busy wondering how they had found their way here so quickly without the map.

Whatever the case was, Tye and his men appeared to be fully focused on getting to the cave. With that in mind, they were unable to detect Gerald and Rey...

Remembering that the cave wasn't too far off from here, Gerald had a hunch that the group would soon

come across it...

Even so, Gerald couldn't help but wonder if they would be able to get into the cave in the first place.

Visit [chapter list](#) for next chapter