

The Almighty Dragon General Chapter 1261

Chapter 1261

Thomas arrived at the Cadens' mansion with Thea.

When Maxine saw them, her face went as white as a sheet.

The two of them approached the mansion at a steady pace.

Soon, they appeared at the mansion's gates.

Maxine was slightly nervous but still walked forward and greeted them with a forced smile, "Granduncle. Thea. What brings you here?"

Thomas glanced at Maxine.

Maxine's heartbeat hastened as soon as she met his eyes.

She pretended to be ignorant and asked with a smile, "Granduncle, Thea, why are you two back in the Capital as well? Also, what happened at Mount Thunder Sect, Thea? Why were you emitting such awful energy?"

Thea lowered her head and parted her lips to speak but could not bring herself to say anything.

Thomas did not question Maxine about how she led him astray and asked bluntly, "Is James in the Cadens' mansion right now?"

Maxine nodded and replied, "Ah, yeah. James undergoing treatment in the backyard."

Thomas raised his head and looked at the plaque hung on the gate.

Two words were engraved on the plaque—Cadens' mansion.

He had not stepped foot into this place for a long time.

Thomas took a big step inside, and Thea followed after him.

Maxine glanced at Thea suspiciously. She could tell that something was wrong from the way Thea was acting and that something must have happened to her.

She quickly pulled Thea aside and whispered, "What's wrong, Thea?"

"N—Nothing."

Thea did not say much and quickly returned to Thomas' side.

Thomas grew up in the Cadens' mansion and was quite familiar with the place, so he managed to find his way to the backyard with ease.

Thomas found the wooden house in the backyard and pushed open the door.

He walked in and saw several Caden family members healing James' wounds. Beside him was a wrinkled old man with white hair.

"T-Thomas..."

When they saw Thomas walking inside, the Cadens healing James all bore terrified expressions.

"Get out." Thomas looked at the people in the room and ordered coldly.

The several family members inside the room scrambled up in fright and quickly left.

Meanwhile, James remained to lie on the bed.

Callan looked at Thomas but ignored him and continued to sit in a lotus position on the floor.

Thomas also noticed Callan and frowned, saying, "Didn't you hear me? I told you to get out."

"You sure are arrogant, Thomas." Callan finally spoke.

"You're...?"

Thomas' brows furrowed.

The voice sounded familiar to him.

He carefully scanned Callan's appearance but never recalled seeing this person before.

"Who are you?"

Thomas was puzzled by the old man.

Callan stood up, looked at the almost lifeless James in bed, and pointed at him. "Since you're back, you

should take a look at him."

Thomas did not ask any more questions and quickly walked toward James.

He picked up James' hand to assess him closely.

Immediately, his frown grew deeper.

Inside the room, Thea and Maxine looked at Thomas expectantly.

Thea stood by the bed and looked at James' pallid face. His lips were chapped, and his breathing was weak.

Her heart sank when she saw his condition. Thomas did not speak for a long time, and she eventually broke the silence to ask, “Sir Caden, how is James?”

Thomas put James’ hand down and said grimly, “His injuries are quite serious. All his internal organs are damaged, and his meridians are broken. It’s a miracle that he’s still alive.”

“Oh my god...”

Thea’s expression became distressed after hearing this.

The blood in her body began to bubble and roil once more as she experienced the intense emotion. A powerful energy burst out from her like before and it immediately shattered the wooden house.

Maxine was blown away by the sudden shock wave and was tossed to the ground like a rag doll.

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Callan was also startled by the sudden occurrence. He quickly raised his hands, shielding his frightened face as he was continuously pushed backward by the force.

“This is bad.”

Thomas was caught off-guard and frantically mobilized his True Energy to suppress the rioting Blood Energy within Thea’s body.

Soon, Thea calmed down.

Looking at the devastation she caused, a look of embarrassment crept up on her face.

“Sir Caden, this...”

Thomas gently waved his hand and said, “It’s fine.”

Thea asked, “C—Can James still be saved?”

Thomas’ expression became serious again.

Maxine got up from the ground and walked over to them. She looked at Thea with shock in her eyes.

Callan’s eyes were also locked on Thea.

Thomas thought for a while and replied, “His injuries are terrible, and almost all his life forces were severed. I’m unsure whether I can save him, but I’ll have to try.”

He was not confident he'd be able to save James this time.

Thomas looked at James, raised his hand, and powerful True Energy coalesced in his palm. He pressed his palm into James' chest, allowing the energy to seep into James' body and repair his wounds.

The process lasted about 20 minutes.

Thomas' face gradually turned pale.

Finally, he stopped.

Thea asked eagerly, "How is it, Sir Caden?"

Thomas replied, "I've used my True Energy to repair the injuries in his body and restore his severed meridians."

"Then, why hasn't he woken up yet?" Thea's replied anxiously.

Thomas shook his head sadly, "I can relieve the symptoms but not the root cause of the issue. It's only a temporary fix since I'm unable to cure him completely."

Maxine was slightly puzzled and asked, "What do you mean by temporary fix?"

Thomas explained, "He'll wake up soon. However, he's too badly injured. His internal organs are still weak and his meridians took heavy damage too. Even if he forcefully repairs them, he'll be unable to use his True Energy ever again. If he tries to, his meridians won't be able to bear the force and will be severed instantly."

Maxine's forehead creased. "Do you mean to say that James will only be an ordinary person in the future?" "Theoretically speaking, yes. However, that might not necessarily be the case. He has mastered the medical books and possesses Crucifier. Plus, he mastered Heavenly Breath, and one of

its functions is to strengthen his meridians. It might be possible for him to be able to utilize his True Energy again."

"Then, when will he wake up?" asked Thea.

"I don't have an answer for that." Thomas shook his head.

Thomas had already healed James' injuries but did not know when he would regain consciousness.

He glanced at Thea and reminded her, "James is fine for the time being. Control your emotions properly."

"Okay. I'll try my best to restrain myself." Thea nodded nervously.

Thea understood her mood swings would stir up the Spirit Turtle blood in her body, causing her to go berserk with blood lust.

She had to restrain herself.

“What’s wrong with you, Thea?” asked Maxine.

Thea remained silent, not looking at Maxine.

She sat by the bed and took James’ hand into her own.

They were almost ice cold.

Looking at James’ feeble, her heart ached, and tears rolled down her cheeks uncontrollably.

“Come out with me for a while, Maxine.” Thomas glanced at Maxine.

Maxine started panicking internally.

She was worried about facing repercussions for deceiving him.

Despite being terrified, she still followed Thomas until they were some distance away.

“Granduncle,” she called out respectfully.

“Why did you lie to me?” Thomas glowered at her.

Maxine replied and tried to play ignorant, “What’re you talking about? When have I deceived you?”

“Do you still insist on playing dumb? When I was in Mount Thunder Sect, Thea clearly left in the direction. of the city, but you pointed me in the opposite direction,” Thomas pointed out.

“H—How would I know? Maybe she turned around to the city after leaving my sight.”

Maxine lowered her head and murmured quietly, “Or maybe I was mistaken.”

Thomas looked at Maxine and rolled his eyes. “You brat. I know what you were trying to do.”

Knowing that Thomas had seen through her, Maxine’s face flushed red, and she felt mortified. At that moment, she desperately wanted the earth to open up beneath her and swallow her whole.

“By the way, where’s Bennett? Why haven’t I seen him around?”

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“Our Grand Patriarch?”

According to her conjecture, Bennett had been attacked by Tobias.

However, she too was uncertain of his whereabouts.

She only had uncertain postulations that she was unable to verify, so she did not dare to tell him.

“I—I don’t know. I didn’t see him after returning home.”

Thomas did not ask any more questions and returned to the shattered wooden house.

He walked over and said, “Thea, bring James back to Cansington to recuperate.”

Thea was taken aback and wondered aloud. “Huh? Do you mean right now, Sir Caden? James hasn’t woken up yet. Is it okay for him to be traveling around in this condition?”

“Cough, cough.”

Suddenly, James, who had been lying motionlessly, weakly coughed a few times.

He slowly opened his eyes, and a beautiful face filled his vision.

“Thea...”

He called out feebly.

Seeing James wake up, Thea almost shed tears of joy.

“Honey, you’re awake! Thank god, you’re alive. You’re finally awake.”

Thea wept joyfully.

James attempted to get up but his body was jolted with agonizing pain all over as soon as he made the slightest movement. His face was distorted from the pain, and blood spilled from his lips.

Thea promptly got him a tissue and wiped the blood off his lips, saying worriedly, “Honey, you’re seriously injured. Don’t move around.”

James lay down in bed and looked at Thea in a daze.

Surprisingly, he was still alive.

“Grandpa...”

When he saw Thomas, he called out for him.

“James.” Maxine also came closer to him.

Thomas picked up James’ hand to check his pulse and assessed injuries again. His lips were drawn taut as he said, “James, you’re lucky to have survived such horrible injuries

this time. However, you can't utilize True Energy or move around for now because your meridians are incredibly fragile. They can't withstand True Energy running through them. Once you catalyze your True Energy, it'll immediately shatter your meridians again."

James was a martial artist and he was also a doctor. Thus, he understood the severity and extent of his injuries.

He thought his end had come when he felt the force of Yaakov's blow.

Now that he was awake, he understood how barely he scraped by.

"Grandpa, I need your help with some acupuncture."

With no small amount of effort, James parted his lips and weakly requested help from Thomas.

Even if Crucifier could not cure him completely, it would surely strengthen his body.

"Alright." Thomas nodded.

He had read James' medical book and knew about the existence of the Crucifier.

The Medical Book Volume Two was mainly focused on its applications.

Since Thomas did not possess the Crucifier, he did not bother reading about it.

Soon, a wire from James' sleeve slipped out onto his palm and disintegrated into silver needles.

"Let's get started, Grandpa."

"Alright." Thomas nodded.

He picked up a silver needle.

James began instructing him, "Activate your True Energy and channel it into the needle, then start from my scalp acupoint."

Thomas gathered his True Energy.

As soon as he concentrated his True Energy into the needle, it rapidly absorbed it like a sponge and grew

brighter.

"Amazing," Thomas exclaimed in astonishment.

He had experienced a lot in his travels and had seen all manner of treasures but was in awe of the

Crucifier.

Thomas inserted the silver needle into James' acupoint.

James' body trembled reflexively.

The absorbed energy diffused out of the needle and seeped into James' whole body, causing a comfortable sensation to take over his body.

Callan also approached and stared at the Crucifier's needles in between Thomas' fingertips.

With James' guidance, Thomas continued to insert the needles.

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Thomas was an eighth-ranked grandmaster. Naturally, his True Energy was still potent even after he had infused a lot of it into the Crucifier's needles. In no time, he completed the treatment with Crucifier for James.

Soon, James' entire body was filled with silver needles.

These silver needles continuously transferred powerful energy into James, quickly repairing his cells and stabilizing his injuries.

A few minutes passed...

James said, "That's enough."

Thomas began to remove the silver needles from James' acupoints.

James put away Crucifier and got out of bed.

He stretched his body and said, "I feel much better now."

Thomas and Callan were both shocked by Crucifier's almost miraculous effect on James.

They were both fully aware of the extent of James' injuries. They were severe enough to cast doubt on the fact that James would be able to pull through this time.

A couple of silver needles were all it took to heal him to this point.

Thomas looked at James, who was stretching his limbs, and asked, "How do you feel?"

James smiled and said, "I still feel slightly weak, but I'm out of the woods for the time being. I'll have to recuperate for a while."

"Good." Thomas sighed in relief.

Now that James' injuries were healed, the other problem left to solve was Thea's.

He looked at Thea with serious eyes and then turned to James. “James, I must tell you about Thea’s situation.”

“Huh?” James was shocked and turned to Thea.

Thea lowered her gaze despondently.

James asked in bewilderment, “What’s wrong with Thea?”

“Her body has absorbed the Spirit Turtle’s blood. That is Beast Blood and can affect one’s reason. It’ll also cause those it affects to undergo Energy Deviation,” replied Thomas.

He explained the events to James—starting from the Malevolent Sword to Thea barging into the Johnstons’ courtyard house to kill Kennedy to avenge James.

James had a serious look when he heard the whole story.

“Honey, I...I was worried about you, so I secretly went back to Mt. Thunder Sect.” Thea was afraid that James would blame her.

James asked, “Is there a way we can deal with this, Grandpa?”

Thomas shook his head and said, “There’s nothing I can do for now. We can only rely on modern technology to see if there’s a way to extract the Beast Blood from her body and purify her blood. I’ll have to take blood samples from her to the hospital for testing first.”

“I see.” James nodded.

That would be the only thing they could do for now.

“James...C—Can you use your silver needles to restore my strength?” Callan parted his lips and asked sheepishly.

James looked at Callan and replied, “It shouldn’t be difficult, but I’m unable to use my True Energy right now, and you’ll have to wait until I recover my strength before I can attempt to help.”

“By the way, who is he?” asked Thomas as he raised an eyebrow.

He had been curious about Callan’s identity, but the latter refused to introduce himself.

James replied casually, “He’s Callan.”

Thomas, Thea, and Maxine were startled by his reply and backed away slightly. Their eyes all stared at Callan warily.

Hiding his hands behind his back Thomas concentrated his True Energy into his fists and planned to kill Callan with a decisive blow.

“Are you truly Callan?” Thomas stared at the wisened and withered Callan with apprehension.

From what he knew, Callan was at the peak of the eighth rank and had reached the third step of the Skyward Stairway.

According to the information from ancient books, one would break into the ninth rank after ascending all nine steps of the Skyward Stairway.

Rumor has it that stepping into the ninth rank would give one immortal life.

Callan was the person closest to reaching the ninth rank in the past few hundred years.

Meanwhile, Thomas was only at the first step and was still inferior to Callan in his heyday.

“Yes.”

Callan did not deny it. He nodded and said, “I’m indeed Callan, but my True Energy has dissipated, and I’m effectively powerless as I am currently. It doesn’t look like I have much longer to live and might die any day now.”

Thomas scowled at him and looked at James, asking snappily, “What’s going on? Why did you get involved with him?”

“He seemed like a pitiful and unfortunate person, so I saved his life,” replied James simply.

Thomas took a deep breath and dissipated the True Energy he gathered in his fist.

With a low growl, he warned Callan, “Callan, you better not be up to no good. Otherwise, I will not hesitate to erase you where you stand.”

Callan smiled tightly and said, “Thomas, have you ever seen me play dirty tricks or involve myself in grand schemes over the years? You, on the other hand, are an incredibly shrewd person that involved the entire martial art world in your plans. I’m sure you must’ve benefitted greatly after killing the Spirit Turtle, right?”

“Everyone else split the benefits. I didn’t get a single thing.”

Thomas did not say anything much. He looked at Thea and said, “Come with me, Thea, I’ll need to collect some of your blood for testing.”

“Okay.” Thea followed Thomas and left quietly.

Meanwhile, James got up and left the barely-held-together wooden house.

Maxine followed behind him.

She opened and closed her mouth like a fish out of water as she hesitated to call out to James. She was contemplating whether to tell James about the incident in the underground basement.

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Maxine's thoughts occupied her brain.

After giving it some consideration, she felt it was necessary to inform James about what had taken place.

After all, Bennett could have been ambushed and gone into hiding. What's more, Thomas could not care less about the Cadens' affairs.

In contrast, James was the only one in the Cadens that could make accurate judgements about the situation.

"James."

"Hmm?"

James turned around and looked at Maxine. Seeing that she was hesitant to speak, he asked, "What's the matter? Did something happen?"

Maxine chose her words carefully. "There's something I must tell you."

"Go ahead."

Maxine explained, "Before you regained consciousness, Grandpa summoned me to the underground basement. Down there, there was a pool of blood on the floor. Grandpa panicked when he saw it and suddenly ran away. I suspect..."

She told him everything, what she saw, and her speculations.

"What?"

James furrowed his brows. "Are you suggesting that Tobias attacked Bennett?"

Maxine nodded tentatively. "I'm not certain, but this is a very likely possibility."

Callan was beside them and overheard the conversation. He asked with a serious look, "Did you personally see Bennett go into the basement?"

Maxine shook her head. "No, I didn't see him."

Callan said spikily, "Don't go about spreading nonsense if you didn't see it with your own eyes. You're simply speculating. Bennett said he was going to recuperate and restore his True Energy. He must still be somewhere inside the Cadens' mansion. You should look around before coming to any conclusions."

"I agree. Maxine, get the Cadens to look around the mansion for him." James nodded in agreement.

Maxine left the group and headed to the front yard.

Soon, Thea returned and noticed James' worried expression. She tried asking him about it, "Honey, what's the matter? Did something happen?"

James replied, "Something bad might have happened. However, we're not certain yet as we've yet to confirm it."

"What might that be?"

"We suspect Tobias attacked Bennett."

"Huh? Are you sure?" Thea was startled and asked in shock.

James replied, "No, we can't confirm whether it's true yet. Maxine has already gone to the front yard to tell the Cadens to search for Bennett."

"Then let's go check on her," said Thea.

James nodded and asked, "Did Grandpa take your blood samples to the hospital yet?"

Thea nodded. "Yeah."

She looked away and continued. "Honey, I...I turned back because I was worried about you. Also, I..."

"I understand." James did not fault her for her actions.

After all, it was no use crying over spilled milk.

James walked to the front yard.

Thea and Callan were walking behind him.

Many people gathered and murmured among themselves in the front yard.

Maxine explained the situation to the family members.

Someone immediately retorted, saying, "That's ridiculous. How is this possible? Why would the family head attack our Grand Patriarch?"

"I agree. Maxine, you've already been expelled from the family and are no longer one of us. Stop trying to pit us against each other."

Not a single one of them believed Maxine.

James walked over, and the Cadens immediately shut their mouths when they saw him.

He calmly swept his gaze over everyone. "This is still pure speculation at the moment, but what we do know is that Tobias fled from the mansion in an unnerved manner. Now that the family head has run off,

who's in charge?"

The Cadens all exchanged confused looks.

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These years, Tobias had overseen everything that had to do with the Cadens.

No one had thought about who was next in line as family head after Tobias was gone.

“Why? Are none of you competent enough to take charge?” James frowned at the Cadens’ silence and inaction.

“I can.” A voice chimed in from a distance.

Shortly afterward, a beautiful young woman walked over, pushing a wheelchair. An old man wearing a golden robe was sitting in the wheelchair. His face bore the wrinkles of old age, and he had very long hair. He seemed rather elderly and was dressed like an ancient historical figure.

“Sir Lorenzo.”

Many people called out and greeted the old man respectfully.

Standing aside, Maxine whispered, “James, that’s Bennett’s son and the father of Thomas and Tobias, Lorenzo Caden.”

James was shocked.

He had been to the Cadens’ mansion a few times in the past but had never once seen this old man before.

Not to mention, he was unaware that his great-grandfather was still alive.

Lorenzo was considered the most senior of all the elders in the family.

Maxine explained in a hushed tone, “Sir Lorenzo is a cripple, so he rarely stays in the Cadens’ mansion. He recuperates in a different location. I don’t know why he visited the Cadens’ mansion today. By the way, his disability is because your grandfather injured him, and he had to amputate his limb to stay alive.”

James’ mouth hung agape.

A woman in her early twenties pushed Lorenzo closer to them.

He looked at everyone and asked lightly, “What’s going on?”

Bobby stepped forward and explained, “Sir Lorenzo, Maxine said that grandpa attacked and injured Bennett. Afterward, he absconded from the mansion. If this really happened, then grandpa would be a traitor to our family. Our family cannot go a day without a strong leader at its helm. I think it’s time to choose a new family head to preside over the family.”

“Ahem!..”

Bobby straightened his body and cleared his throat. Then, he declared in a clear voice, “I think our family can’t stay in seclusion forever and we need to eventually show ourselves to the world. I happen to have a good understanding of the outside world and bear the qualifications necessary for the position of the new family head. I believe that under my leadership and the assistance of the family elders, the Cadens will ascend to even greater heights.”

“Bobby, do you really think you’re capable of leading us?” Karson looked over at Maxine.

Karson was Tobias and Thomas’ younger brother.

He was the youngest of the three and also the weakest,

Karson candidly remarked, “If what Maxine said is true, then according to seniority, a youngster like you isn’t in line to be the family head.”

“I agree. Granduncle has been working hard for the family all these years. He is the most qualified to be the next family head.”

“I agree too.”

Many people spoke out and supported Karson.

James was troubled by the situation.

There were countless uncertainties and problems to settle, but here the Cadens were, arguing over the position of the family head.

He stood up and said, “Nothing has been set in stone at the moment. Let’s search the mansion and find the Grand Patriarch first.”

Lorenzo glared at the crowd and ordered, “What are you guys still standing here for? Hurry and go search the place.”

“Understood!”

The family members quickly dispersed and began looking for Bennett.

Lorenzo’s eyes lingered on James. He smiled in satisfaction as he addressed the younger man, “Very good. You’re very young and talented. I’ve also heard about your accomplishments at Mount Thunder Conference and how you defeated Yaakov. The news reported that Yaakov snuck an attack on you, and you immediately killed him in return.”

James smiled lightly and did not reply to his compliments.

Lorenzo continued. “I showed up because I was worried that the other families would use this as an opportunity to attack our family since all the powerful Cadens were injured during the Mount Thunder Conference. I did not expect it to be such an eventful day.

Honestly, I'm not confident the others will succeed as the family head. Don't worry. I'll be rooting for you to succeed as the head of the family."

Maxine was overjoyed and hurriedly tugged James' sleeve, saying, "James, why're you not saying anything? You should thank Sir Lorenzo."

James smiled faintly and said, "I'm not interested in the position of the family head."

Callan, who was standing behind him, had a satisfied look.

The Caden family was the head of the Ancient Four, and being the Cadens' family head meant having authority over the Ancient Four.

Now that something has happened to the Cadens, the family members have begun fighting over the position of the family head. James, in contrast, held no interest in the position at all, and it was rare to see such an unambitious man.

Lorenzo frowned at his casual response.

The woman pushing the wheelchair behind him frowned and said, "James, don't think too highly of yourself."

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James looked at the woman pushing the wheelchair but did not pay much attention to her remarks.

He truly had no interest in being the family head and would normally not involve himself in the Cadens' family affairs. He was only here out of respect for Bennett who had personally taught him in the past and even brought him back to heal his injuries.

James remained silent and waited patiently for the disciples and other family members to look for Bennett.

Lorenzo's eyes lingered on James with a solemn expression on his old face.

Soon, the disciples and family members gradually returned.

"I couldn't find the Grand Patriarch."

"I've also searched the entire backyard, but he was nowhere to be seen."

"I tried checking all the surveillance footage in our mansion but wasn't able to find anything unusual."

James' lips curved into a deep frown as he listened to the search reports.

Everyone else unanimously agreed with Maxine's speculation on what had happened to Bennett.

They believed that Tobias attacked Bennett over the Spirit Turtle's core and escaped after realizing that Bennett survived his ambush.

Standing behind them, Callan said, "Bennett is an eighth-ranked grandmaster. Even if he was injured or had exhausted his True Energy, he isn't so weak that an ambush would be enough to take him out. He must've escaped to a safe spot by now, so you don't have to worry too much about him."

James took a deep breath and said, "I hope so."

"James, are you really unwilling to be the family head?" Lorenzo asked once again.

James replied firmly, "Sir Lorenzo, I'm not fit to be the family head. Moreover, I'm injured, which further impedes my ability to lead the family. You should choose someone else."

"Sir Lorenzo, since James is unwilling to be the family head, you shouldn't force the matter."

"Yeah, we have other more suitable members for the position. Plus, his grandfather was excommunicated from the family a long time ago. That alone should immediately disqualify him."

"Sir Lorenzo, I think it's best to choose a new family head from the younger generation. The seniors in the family should enjoy their retired life instead of being troubled by family affairs. What I'm trying to say is... The elders and seniors to give us youngsters an opportunity."

Many people expressed their opinions.

James simply ignored their discussion and walked out of the Cadens' yard,

At the mansion's gate, Maxine asked, "James, are you sure about this?"

James nodded his head decisively. "Yeah, I don't want to lead the Cadens."

Maxine continued, "Don't you find Sir Lorenzo's sudden appearance a little strange? He has never been to the Cadens' mansion in the past years. Why did he suddenly appear after Bennett was injured? On top of that, how does he know Yaakov attacked you? Not many people knew that you were injured by a sneak attack. Even if people knew about it, they wouldn't be local to the Capital, so how did he find out?"

Hearing this, James' eyes widened. He looked at Maxine and pressed her for more details, "What do you mean to suggest?"

Maxine thought about it and said, "I think it's possible that Bennett escaped and sought out Sir Lorenzo to oversee the situation. Don't think to underestimate him just because he's disabled. I heard from Grandpa that he's rather powerful despite his condition."

"Is that the case?" James frowned.

"It must be. He must be relaying the Grand Patriarch's message of wanting you to be the family head. Do you really have to heart to watch the Cadens slowly decline?"

James had a troubled expression on his face.

He genuinely had no interest in being the family head.

In such a massive family, the internal conflicts were intense and complicated.

He did not get involved in the Cadens' affairs nor the conflicts between the Ancient Four.

"Honey... You're seriously injured right now and need to rest up. You shouldn't get involved in these things. Sir Caden has instructed me to bring you back to Cansington to recover from your injuries. Even if you want to be the family head, it'll have to wait until your injuries are fully healed."

Thea was reluctant to let James take on the role of family head right now.

He was severely injured, so if the Cadens tried to dissent and decided to attack him, how would he fight back?

Callan also suggested, "Thea's right, James. You should prioritize recovering for now. You can make plans after getting better."

James thought for a while and conceded to their decision. "Alright. Let's wait in the Cadens' residence for a while. When Grandpa returns, we'll head back to Cansington."

In his heart, James had countless doubts he wanted Thomas to answer.

However, Thomas left all too soon and there was barely any opportunity to clear the air with him.

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They turned back to the Cadens' mansion to patiently wait for Thomas' return.

Thomas had left in a hurry earlier but he also happened to return just as quickly.

In less than an hour, he was back at the Cadens' mansion.

Many people were gathered in the Cadens' mansion living room.

A few elders like Lorenzo and Karson, as well as some of the younger family members, were gathered together.

They were all in a heated discussion about the person who was most suitable to step up as the family head and oversee their family affairs.

As Thomas returned and walked into the living room, all eyes turned to him.

Thomas immediately noticed Lorenzo in a wheelchair.

Lorenzo also took notice of him.

The two of them exchanged glances.

After staring at each other for a few seconds, Thomas walked straight toward James and Thea and regarded them with a grave look on his face. “James, Thea, the test results are out.”

James asked urgently, “What are the results?”

Thomas shook his head slightly and said, “It’s not optimistic. The Spirit Turtle’s blood has completely amalgamated with Thea’s blood. This resulted in a spontaneous mutation of Thea’s body. Her new

blood is one that has never been seen by the medical world before. The mutated blood will rapidly spread throughout her whole body and assimilate with her organs. The bottom line is, it’ll be hard to purify her blood whether through dialysis or exchange transfusion. If we insist on doing so, Thea’s organs will rapidly deteriorate and be unable to sustain her body.”

“It’s that serious?” James’ eyebrows drew together, forming deep creases on his forehead.

Thomas had a powerless expression as he continued. “An exchange transfusion or dialysis is out of the question. Our only solution, for now, is to keep Thea in a positive state of mind and ensure that her emotions don’t fluctuate wildly. She won’t be able to use her True Energy either. Otherwise, the Beast Blood will affect her brain, control her, and cause her to suffer an Energy Deviation.”

James looked at Thea’s pale face.

He felt deep grief for her.

Thea had already gone through so much in life.

She was disfigured and endured ridicule from everyone around her for ten years. Now, her blood was tainted with the Spirit Turtle’s blood and threatened to cause an Energy Deviation at any time.

Thomas turned to Thea and reminded her firmly, “Thea, you must be careful to keep your emotions in check—especially your anger. The power of the Beast Blood is extremely potent. It’d be safe to say that its power is equivalent to that of an eighth-ranked grandmaster.”

Maxine could not help glancing at Thea once again. She was startled by the news and thought, ‘It’s equivalent to the power of an eighth-ranked grandmaster...?’

Thomas continued grimly. “My current strength is insufficient to suppress the aggressive power in Thea’s body completely. I’ll have to leave for some time to meditate in seclusion. It may take eight to

ten years.

at most, or in the best–case scenario, three to five years. However, I’ll definitely come back.”

He really could not do anything about Thea’s condition as he was now.

After the Spirit Turtle was slaughtered, Thomas acquired its bile, which was also considered a precious commodity. Thus, he wanted to find a place for closed–door meditation to reach the ninth rank. In addition, there were several pieces of the Spirit Turtle’s core. He worked so hard to see this plan come to fruition but never got a piece.

How could he stand for that?

He still had a lot of strength remaining as he barely expended any during the battle with the Spirit Turtle. This meant that he could easily snatch the cores away from other martial artists who were likely weakened during the battle. It would be a lot harder for him to do so if they had completely refined the core and obtained the strength it offered.

“I’ll be leaving. You guys, be careful.”

“Stop right there!”

Lorenzo, who was sitting in a wheelchair, shouted at him.

Thomas stopped in his tracks and turned to Lorenzo.

Lorenzo looked him dead in the eyes. “It’s been 30 years, Thomas. You’ve already achieved your goals, so why don’t you stop here?”

Thomas bore Lorenzo’s fiery gaze and calmly replied, “I injured you 30 years ago because of your own actions. I slaughtered members of our own family because they deserved it. They shouldn’t have

threatened me; especially not with Xyla. Xyla was innocent.”

After Thomas finished speaking, he turned and left without looking back.

“Grandpa...” James shouted for him, but Thomas’ figure was already gone.

All eyes were on Lorenzo.

It seemed there was a deeper story to whatever happened 30 years ago in the Caden household.

The Almighty Dragon General Chapter 1269

Chapter 1269

After Thomas exchanged a few words with Thea and James, he immediately left.

James muttered perplexedly, "What happened 30 years ago? Who's Xyla?"

He looked at the wheelchair-bound Lorenzo and asked, "What happened in the Cadens' household 30 years ago?"

There was a solemn look on Lorenzo's old, wrinkled face. He silently looked at the gates with a wistful expression.

Since he was unwilling to explain, James did not further pursue the issue. However, James inferred that Thomas was forced into doing the things he did back then.

James looked at Thea beside him and said, "Thea, we should head back to Cansington too. Tomorrow is New Year's Eve. We should return to celebrate the New Year.

"Okay." Thea nodded her head.

"Are you leaving, James? You're not going to stay with the Cadens to celebrate the New Year?" Maxine stood up and asked with a disappointed pout.

James shook his head gently and said, "No. My grandfather was expelled from the Cadens thirty years ago. Thus, I'm no longer part of this family."

After speaking, he took Thea's hand and walked out of the gate under the watchful eyes of the Cadens.

Maxine took a small step forward.

She wanted to chase after him and make him stay, but she did not have a good reason for it.

Her pretty face was colored with a tinge of powerlessness and sadness.

"Maxine."

A voice called out from behind her.

Maxine turned around and looked at Lorenzo. She replied respectfully, "Yes, Sir Lorenzo?"

Lorenzo looked at the crowd and said, "Now that my father and Tobias are nowhere to be found, the Cadens can't be left without a leader. I, therefore, declare Maxine to temporarily serve as the family head until this matter is resolved."

"What?"

Maxine exclaimed in surprise. She stepped back hastily and waved her hands in refusal, "Sir Lorenzo, I can't agree. I'm not qualified, nor do I possess the capability to be the family head. Plus, I'm not even a Caden by virtue of my blood."

"That's right! Sir Lorenzo, have you gone senile? Maxine does not have a drop of Caden blood in her. Moreover, she's a woman. How can someone like that lead the family?" Bobby was the first to step forward and protest passionately.

“Sir Lorenzo, please rethink this.”

Many people were against the idea, especially the younger members of the family.

All of them were glowering at Maxine with vicious looks. They were ready to tear her apart.

Lorenzo was firm in his decision. “I’ll repeat myself only once more. From now on, Maxine will serve as the temporary family head. Whoever objects can step forward.”

His voice was domineering and authoritative.

For a moment, the Cadens gathered in the living room went silent.

Standing beside Bobby, a middle-aged man gently nudged Bobby.

Bobby immediately understood and stepped forward, shouting, “I object.”

As soon as Bobby’s words left his mouth, Lorenzo raised his hand and concentrated a powerful energy in his palm, thrusting the force at Bobby.

Bobby was blown away instantly and crashed into the ground. He spewed out blood.

“This?”

The Cadens gasped.

Lorenzo moved his gaze over the crowd and asked again, “Who else objects?”

Everyone lowered their heads and kept silent.

“Since no one objects, then this matter is settled. Karson, you’ll assist Maxine.”

“Understood.” Karson nodded and cast a glance at Maxine.

Maxine was rooted to the ground.

At that moment, she was still confused by what had happened.

Theoretically, she would never be in the running for family head.

How did this decision suddenly come to pass?

What was the old man thinking?

“Maxine.”

“Ah, yes, Sir Lorenzo?” Maxine snapped back to reality and replied respectfully.

Lorenzo looked at Maxine and asked, “Do you have the confidence that you can help the family rise even higher?”

“ . . . ”

Maxine hesitated to answer.

She looked at the other family member present.

Although they remained silent, their expressions were bitter and full of dissatisfaction.

She was unsure why Lorenzo wanted her to be the temporary family head.

Maxine was fully aware that the family would not agree with his decision.

The Almighty Dragon General Chapter 1270

Chapter 1270

“What’s wrong?” Lorenzo furrowed his brows and his lips curved into a frown.

Maxine promptly replied with as much self-assurance as she could muster, “As long as the family is willing to cooperate with me, I have complete confidence we’ll be able to weather whatever storms the world throws at us.”

“That would be best.

Lorenzo looked at the Cadens present and said calmly, “Come to me if there are people unwilling to cooperate with you.”

After speaking, he made a gesture to signal his departure.

The woman behind him pushed him out of the gates under the family’s watchful eyes.

“Huff!”

After Lorenzo left, Maxine took a deep breath.

Family head?

Never in her wildest dreams did she think of becoming the Cadens’ family head and the leader of the Ancient Four one day.

She was adopted by Tobias and always held a low status in the Cadens.

Now, things have finally come to this.

She had complete confidence in governing and managing the Cadens because she had followed Tobias around since she could remember. Furthermore, she acted as an advisor to Tobias.

Maxine looked at the family members present and gave her first directive. “Pass on the order for the core family members to arrive in the meeting room within an hour.”

After Maxine finished speaking, she turned around and left.

The moment she left the room, the room burst into a furious uproar.

“Why?”

“What virtues or abilities does Maxine have to be our family head?”

“She’s a woman that’s unrelated to the Cadens.”

“Sir Lorenzo must have gone senile.

“Granduncle, why didn’t you stand up to say anything?!”

When Lorenzo was present, these people did not dare to object. Now that he had left, everyone began to express their grievances.

With a resigned look, Karson said, “Dad has given the order. How am I supposed to refuse him?”

In the time this happened, Bobby had been helped up from where he fell earlier.

Two servants propped Bobby up and brought him over to Karson’s side.

His face was pale as he shouted, “Granduncle, you can’t let Maxine become our family head. You can’t! Please head to the Southern Ridge and get Sir Luca to return to the family.”

“That’s right. Please hurry and invite Sir Luca over.”

Many people agreed with the suggestion.

The Caden family was the head of the Ancient Four.

They were a big family that had thousands of years of history behind them.

Among them, there were countless branch families.

Luca Caden was Lorenzo’s elder brother.

He was also Bennett’s eldest son.

Back then, he competed with Karson for the position of family head but lost.

After his defeat, he left the Capital and took refuge in the Southern Ridge.

Karson contemplated for a while and replied, “Since the situation’s come to this, Sir Luca is the only person who can dispute my dad’s decision right now. I’ll send someone to the Southern Ridge. For now, everyone should head to the meeting as instructed by Maxine.”

Meanwhile, Maxine made her way to the mansion’s backyard.

She stood in front of the underground basement's entrance. She inspected the mechanism on the artificial hill before her and fell into deep thought.

There was a serious expression on her pretty face.

"What exactly is going on here?"

She was trying to put the pieces of the puzzle together.

Maxine was positive that Thomas had attacked the Grand Patriarch as he seemed distressed earlier, and blood was on the floor.

However, she was confused as to why Lorenzo would suddenly show himself.

Lorenzo was the previous patriarch before Tobias.

30 years ago, he passed the position to Tobias and lived in seclusion elsewhere.

How did he appear with such convenient timing?

What's more, he specifically wanted to appoint James as the family head.

Only after James refused, did the position get passed on to her.

"Could the Grand Patriarch have escaped despite his severe wounds and gotten Sir Lorenzo to intercede on his behalf?" Maxine wondered aloud.