

Logan and four soldiers came down from the first van.

And from the second van, Adam, Jeremy, Lily, and Emily.

Daniel and his family were baffled by the strange parade.

“What are you guys doing here?” Lacey stated in confusion.

“Where's Williams?” Logan asked emotionlessly.

“He went out. Why are you looking for him?” Lacey asked.

“He went out? Hmph, more like absconding from his crime,” Logan sneered.

“What do you mean, absconding from his crime? Don't falsely accuse him,” Lacey said, clearly flustered.

“Haha! We have enough evidence to prove that it was he who murdered Darren Collins and the Fearsome Foursome,” Logan smirked.

“You guys better hand over Williams and cooperate with our investigation.”

Lacey became anxious.

Five lives... It's definitely not a small matter.

“That's impossible,” she defended. “You guys are spouting nonsense. How could Zeke have killed them?”

“Stop sticking up for him, Lacey,” Emily interrupted. “Someone has testified that they saw Zeke kill them with their own eyes.”

“Who?” Lacey asked.

Emily eyed Jeremy.

Jeremy coughed, clearing his throat. “Lacey, we all saw it with our own eyes that Zeke killed Collins, so stop hiding the truth.”

“Hand him over now and you'll be seen as innocents. Otherwise, you'll be guilty of harbouring a criminal.”

What?

Lacey and her parents turned into a complete state of panic.

Grandpa and Uncle Jeremy were at the steel mill when Darren Collins' car had crashed into Winrood River. How could they have possibly witnessed it?

They are framing Zeke!

Daniel was losing his mind. He pointed at Jeremy's nose, letting loose a torrent of abuse. “Look, Jeremy, I know you have beef with Zeke, but

you can't just put his life at risk!"

"He's your niece's husband. How can you do this to him? How can you be so cruel?"

Jeremy felt guilty, as he knew he was going a little too far.

But the thought of rolling in a vast amount of wealth firmed his mind up again.

"You'd better watch your mouth, Daniel. I'm only doing this for the sake of righteousness!"

"If you're going to keep screwing around with me, I'll sue you for libel."

Daniel ground his jaw. "Fine, go ahead and sue me. By all means."

"There are laws in this world. You can't just simply accuse a good Samaritan as a murderer."

"Laws?" Logan snickered. "I am the Law!"

"With the three of them as my witnesses, plus the evidence I have in my hands, it's easy to punish Williams with a death penalty."

Daniel and his family broke down.

Logan is telling the truth. He can really screw with Zeke's life.

“But I think Williams has rare medical talents,” Logan changed the subject abruptly. “I can actually give him a chance.”

“What chance?” Lacey asked hastily.

“Hand over all the companies under your name for this matter to be dropped,” Logan replied.

“No way!” Hannah refused with finality. “Those companies are Lacey's blood, sweat, and tears. They are more important than her own life. In no way can they be handed to you shameless people!”

“So you don't agree? Alright then, I'll issue an arrest warrant right now.”

“Wait, hold on.” Lacey drew in a deep breath, forcing herself to calm down. “Let me give Zeke a call first.”

Hannah's eyes lit up. “Yeah, give Zeke a call first. He can surely settle this.”

Meanwhile, Zeke was at the Provincial Military District in search of evidence of Logan's act of treason.

Upon picking up Lacey's call and learning what just happened, Zeke slapped the table and stood up in a fury.

“Bastard, he came too soon!”

“Fine. Since he asked for it, don't blame me for being rude.”

“Just ignore him, Lacey. Don't hand over the business. I'll be back soon.”

“Zeke, don't come back for now,” Lacey said nervously.

“Logan came with soldiers. They may restrain if you come back.”

“I'll deal with them first. Then you can show up once we come up with a perfect plan!”

Lacey quickly hung up after saying that, afraid Zeke would reject her suggestion.

With great force, Zeke crushed the pen in his hand into powder. “Lone Wolf, dispatch a team!”

“Great Marshal,” Lone Wolf saluted. “Please advise how many men I should bring with me!”

“Deploy all soldiers from the Provincial Military District!” Zeke ordered.

Lone Wolf's eyes brightened.

There are over fifty thousand men from the Provincial Military District. The Great Marshal is finally up to something big!

Is he finally going to reveal his identity?

Lone Wolf suddenly remembered the phrase the Great Marshal often said.

Someday the dragon will rise, and the river will flow backwards.

Someday the tiger will return to the mountain, and half of the sky will be stained with blood.



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After hanging up the call, Lacey said, "I need some time to reconsider the condition that you put forward. I will give you an answer tomorrow."

She tried to wrestle with them, stalling for time.

"Hmph," Logan sniggered. "Don't play tricks with me. We ain't got time for you."

"It's either you hand over all the companies under your name to me now, or I'll issue an arrest warrant."

"Even if he flees to the ends of the earth, we'll be able to catch him with the arrest warrant."

"And once he's arrested, we'll execute him on the spot!"

Execute him on the spot?

Lacey fell into a pool of despair.

Forget it. Zeke's life is more important.

She could still start from scratch, but without Zeke, her life would be a living hell.

She was just about to agree when Daniel broke out laughing maniacally. "Nice one, you guys! Way to go!"

"Fine. I'll admit I killed Darren Collins and the Fearsome Foursome. This has nothing to do with

other people. It is all on me.”

Lacey and Hannah were dumbstruck.

Daniel, who had always been a wimp, is now standing up to the pressure of death and taking the blame for Zeke?

This was the Daniel Hinton they knew!

However, now wasn't the time for him to show his verve.

“Dad, don't be impulsive,” Lacey quickly advised. “This matter can definitely be resolved.”

“If worse comes to worst, we'll just give up on the business. They can have it. We can always start over again.”

Daniel smiled miserably. “Lacey, don't be silly. A dog will never be satisfied with just a bone.”

“What's going to happen next if you give them the factory this time? They will hold you down for the rest of your life!”

“I don't wish for my daughter to become other people's puppet!”

Thereafter, he looked at Adam with red eyes.

“Listen, dad, it was you who forced your son to death!”

“I hope you send me off on the day I go to the execution ground, so you can watch your own son bleed to death!”

Instead of feeling guilty, Adam ripped at him. “Daniel Hinton, giving birth to you was the worst decision I've ever made in this life.”

“What kind of ecstasy did that bastard feed you that you're willing to die for him?”

“Speak another word on behalf of Williams and I will disown you as my son.”

“Disown me?” Daniel sneered. “Dad, have you forgotten how many times you've said this to me?”

“Weren't you always worried I'll fight for the inheritance, brother? Well, I guess no one will fight with you now after I've died.”

“Also, which of dad's things are not mine and Lacey's homage to him? What have you ever given dad?”

“Bullshit,” Jeremy cursed. “Who cares about dad's inheritance?”

“No?” Daniel said. “Then why did you stop the doctors from saving dad the last time he collapsed? Weren't you hoping for dad to die soon?”

Adam's face scrunched up. “Jeremy stopped the

doctors from saving me? Jeremy, didn't you say that it was Daniel who deterred them from saving me?"

Jeremy's expression turned unnatural. He quickly changed the subject. "Dad, don't listen to him. He's sowing discord."

"Officer Hugh, aren't you guys going to arrest him?"

Logan waved his hand, and the four soldiers he had brought with him immediately apprehended Daniel.

"Since you're courting death, I'll give you what you want!"

"Of course, this is just the beginning. The Hinton family shall soon be buried with you!"

As it was rush hour, many neighbours in the neighbourhood were getting ready to go to work.

Consequently, the neighbours were attracted by the commotion here.

After figuring out what exactly happened, the neighbours were abustle and astir.



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“Oh, my God. The Hinton family's son-in-law is a murderer. He killed five people!”

“What's so strange about this? After all, he'd been in jail for five years; he has a criminal record. A leopard can't change its spots!”

“Here I was wondering how the Hinton family's son-in-law could be so rich. It turns out that he's accumulated his wealth by killing people.”

Lacey's, and her family's heads drooped, feeling ashamed.

At this moment, Zeke was leading fifty thousand men, rushing toward the neighbourhood.

As there were too many people, the government directly closed the roads, only allowing Zeke's troops to pass.

Oakheart City was whipped into a frenzy. Countless citizens were looking at the army of fifty thousand men through their windows with fear and trepidation.

Oakheart City is about to change!

Upon arrival at the neighborhood, the soldiers immediately blockaded the area.

However, as there was a tall barrier within the neighborhood, the residents were not aware of the situation outside.

Zeke glanced at Lone Wolf. "Wait here for my orders."

"Yes, sir!" Lone Wolf saluted.

Zeke started the engine of his car and drove further inside.

Sitting in the passenger seat of the car was a mysterious person; that was the most solemn of ceremonies Zeke had prepared for Logan.

From a distance, Zeke could see Daniel's hand tied up behind his back while Hannah and Lacey were choked with sobs.

That scene broke Zeke's heart.

"He's courting death!"

He stepped on the accelerator, racing toward Logan. He immediately got down from the car when he reached the scene.

Upon seeing Zeke, Lacey and her parents went crazy. "Zeke, go! They're here to catch you!"

Zeke took a deep breath, suppressing the anger in his heart. "Don't worry, Lacey. I'll clean up this mess."

Logan laughed heartily. "You'll clean this mess up? How are you intending to do that?"

“Well, you've come just in time. I shall wipe out the entire Hinton family today!”

“Zeke Williams, you are under the suspicion of murdering Darren Collins and the Fearsome Foursome. Please cooperate with our investigation now!”

“I didn't kill Collins,” Zeke said. “But I'm going to kill you today!”

“You didn't kill him? Speak with evidence!” Logan retaliated.

“Evidence? Fine. I'll give you evidence!” Zeke said, grabbing Logan's head and smashing it against the windshield.

He was so strong that Logan's head shattered the car's glass window.

Logan's body was outside, but his head was stuck inside the car.

Ouch!

Silence engulfed the entire neighbourhood. Even the air seemed frozen.

How dare an ex-convict attack Logan Hugh?

Doesn't he know who he is? He's the second-in-command of the Provincial Military District. Even the mayor bows down to him!

Zeke Williams is so dead!

Emily was stoked.

Even if he's not convicted of murder, this action alone is enough to take his life!

She rejoiced in her heart; glad she had dumped him back then. Otherwise, she would be implicated in this matter as well.

“Zeke, go now! Take Lacey and run!” Daniel's voice quavered, his face pale.

“Leave Eurasia and never come back.”

Lacey burst into tears, pinching Zeke angrily. “Zeke Williams, you lunatic. What are you doing?”

“Run, quickly!”

Zeke gently wiped away Lacey's tears. “No one else can bully my wife, except for me.”

“I'll make whoever makes you cry bleed!”

Meanwhile, Logan was sprawled across the bonnet, unmoving.

He didn't faint, but was dumbfounded.

Because the person sitting on the passenger seat was someone he had not expected.



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It wasn't any other person, but today's hero.

He was Darren Collins, whom Zeke had 'killed'.

Outrageous! Isn't he dead? How is he sitting here alive in front of me?

In fact, Zeke didn't intend to take Darren's life. He simply intimidated him in the name of death.

After Darren fell into the river, he was rescued by Lone Wolf and dispatched to the frontier.

As Darren was needed this time around, Lone Wolf had sent a military helicopter to pick him up.

Darren smiled at Logan.

He thought he was unlucky enough to offend the Great Marshal, but he didn't expect Logan to be even unluckier than him.

After all, he was an active soldier who had deliberately violated the law. His crime was greater by leaps and bounds.

Logan struggled to get out of the car. His eyes dull as he muttered to himself, "No way. How is this possible..."

Everyone was stunned, not understanding what Logan meant.

But soon, they came to a realization as Darren

opened the car door and got down.

The crowd flew into an uproar.

Darren Collins is actually alive. The 'dead' has returned!

If he's still alive, then the crime of murder is naturally not established.

The sudden dawn of victory made Lacey's family cry with joy.

Emily and Lily were aghast at the scene that unfolded before them.

Now, instead of having Zeke take the blame, they had to face the charge of false accusations.

It was a huge blow in their faces.

“Officer Hugh, is this evidence enough to prove my innocence?” Zeke stated without inflection.

Logan was dissatisfied. “Even if Collins is still alive, what about the Fearsome Foursome? I still suspect you killed them.”

Zeke shot a glance at Darren.

“It was Donkey Kong who drove the car when the accident happened. He was intoxicated, and that's how the car crashed under the bridge of Winrood River,” Darren explained.

“I was lucky enough to crawl my way up, but the Fearsome Foursome didn't survive the disaster.”

“The Fearsome Foursome reaped what they sowed. This has nothing to do with Mr. Williams.”

Lacey and her parents could finally exhale the breath they had been holding in.

With Darren as the witness, Logan couldn't frame Zeke in any way.

“Good. Very good.” Logan's lips tugged into a grim sneer.

“Do you think I can't do anything to you because of this, Williams?”

“Let me tell you. I can still put you behind bars for assaulting me just now.”

Zeke shrugged. “I'm afraid you won't have that chance now.”

He shifted his gaze toward the gate of the neighbourhood.

Lone Wolf, who was waiting at the gate, acted immediately upon noticing Zeke's signal.

He lifted his hand and fired a shot at the sky.

Bang!

The violent gunfire attracted everyone's attention as they looked toward the gate, and what they saw the next second had them freaking out.

A troop of soldiers with loaded guns were charging toward them like tidal water.

It was endless, overwhelming and formidable!

Hundred, thousand, ten thousand...

Very soon after, the soldiers had occupied the entire neighbourhood.

But even so, there was a dark crowd at the gates that didn't enter.

Oh, my God. How many soldiers were deployed?

Terrorised, everyone fled back to their homes frantically.

Lacey's family was also frightened, their legs wobbly with fear.

“Zeke, quick...” Lacey grasped Zeke's hand. “Go home...”

“Why should I go home? Is the play that bad?”
Zeke chuckled.

Lacey looked helpless. “Now isn't the time for you to be frivolous.”

“Zeke, tell me the truth,” Daniel said abruptly. “Did you call them?”

Those words snapped Lacey and Hannah out of their daze as they looked at Zeke with blazing eyes.

Zeke came without fear and even had the nerve to beat up Logan. Does that mean... he's back with this troop?

Zeke smiled slyly. “You'll find out in a bit.”

Lacey pinched Zeke on the arm again. “Stop holding us in suspense.”

Logan was confused.

What's going on?

It seems that every soldier from the Provincial Military District had been deployed.

Why didn't I hear anything about such a big operation? Am I not the staff officer of the Provincial Military District?

Who are they coming after?



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Not giving him too much time to think, Lone Wolf came forward, rebuking, “Logan Hugh, a thousand deaths will not atone for your crime.”

Shit!

Logan felt a chill in his heart. *They're actually here for me.*

Logan gave a military salute. “Colonel, have... have I done something wrong?”

“The Hamilton Group was a property that belonged to the military. The military trusted you enough to entrust you with the auction.”

“But you practised fraud for personal gains and cheated at the auction, causing great losses to the military. You have committed the most heinous crime.”

Logan trembled from head to toe.

He didn't expect his misdeed to come to light so soon.

It's customary to give an internal warning for such a trivial matter. That's why I was audacious enough to pull strings from behind the scenes.

But why did they deploy the entire troop? They're not playing by the rules!

“Wait!” Logan shouted. “This isn't my fault...”

“You can confess that to the military court,” Lone Wolf snorted. “Seize him!”

Immediately, some of his men rushed forward and restrained Logan.

The cold handcuffs made Logan's face ashen.

Lone Wolf glared at Lily and Emily. “You two won the bid for the Hamilton group, no? You guys are suspects in this case as well.”

“We will get to the bottom of this. If we find out that you two were involved in this matter, we will show no mercy.”

Lily and Emily were scared out of their minds.

They knew there was no way out, once targeted by the military.

Lone Wolf came in a haste and left in a hurry after staying on-site for less than ten minutes.

Lacey grabbed Zeke's hand in one swoop. “Come with me.”

This has to be cleared up today, by hook or by crook.

Hannah and Daniel hurriedly followed them.

Adam shouted for Daniel, but the latter ignored him, making him feel uncomfortable.

He sighed and said in a low voice, "Do you guys think Williams summoned this troop?"

"Dad, what are you even thinking?" Jeremy quickly denied.

"Lone Wolf clarified it was because of the auction of the Hamilton Group that he came to arrest Hugh."

"What happened today was pure coincidence."

Lily and Emily nodded convincingly.

"Well, what did I say? If he has such great powers, why would he be in prison for five years?" Adam said.

Lily rolled her eyes at Emily furiously. "It's all your fault, Emily."

"If you didn't drag me to this auction, we wouldn't have gotten into this much trouble. Look at us. We're all being targeted by the military now."

"How dare you point fingers at me? Didn't all this happen because of your greed?" Emily refuted.

"Alright, let's just put this aside. Our top priority now is to clear our suspicion of manipulation at the auction!"

"It's easy to say, but do you think it's easy to get away from the military?" Lily snapped.

“My brother is a sergeant and has a certain say in the army. We can only get his help now,” Emily said.

“Besides, there's another big shot behind Officer Hugh. He won't be defeated so easily.”

Adam swatted his head. “Yeah, yeah. Quickly contact Sam. I'm sure he can help us.”

Meanwhile, the neighbours were also discussing whether the Hinton family's son-in-law had summoned those troops.

How awesome is this son-in-law, if that's the case?

There're unnoticed talents in this low-grade neighbourhood.

In the security room, Mr. Zachary's hand that was holding a cigarette shook slightly.

He had long speculated that the Hinton family's son-in-law had relations in Eurasia, and what happened today simply confirmed his theory.

He was glad he didn't reach deadlock with the Hinton family back then over a parking space.



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In Lacey's home, the family of three surrounded Zeke, as if interrogating a criminal.

"Is there something you would like to ask me?" Zeke started, feeling uncomfortable under their stares.

"Feel free to ask me anything. I'll tell you the truth."

"Did you call that troop or not?" Lacey asked.

Zeke nodded.

The Hinton family became even more nervous.

"Who exactly are you?" Lacey asked again.

"I'm the famous and renowned Great Marshal," Zeke said.

He could only confess; he couldn't hide it anymore.

Lacey looked irritated. "You little... I want the truth."

"That is the truth," Zeke enunciated his words, looking bewildered.

"You mean to say the Great Marshal had been imprisoned for five years?" Lacey couldn't keep a straight face.

"And he had stayed beside an ordinary girl for five

years and never fought back, no matter the humiliation?”

“And he couldn't afford a dowry of three hundred thousand and could only ask the bridesmaid for help during the wedding?”

“Yeah, what's wrong with that?” Zeke asked, puzzled. “The God of War is also a human. He also has his own circumstances.”

Lacey was at her wit's end. “I'm so done with you. How are you still so composed and self-conceited?”

“From what I saw, Lone Wolf came to arrest Logan Hugh because of the auction of the Hamilton Group. It's just your pure dumb luck.”

Zeke found the situation ironic.

I've already confessed. You can't blame me if you still don't believe me.

It just so happened that he refused to reveal his identity as God of War just yet, lest Lacey creates a distance or even breaks up with him.

Thus, he took advantage of the opportunity to get out of the predicament, smiling affably. “I didn't think you'd hit the nail on the head.”

“What happened today was indeed my luck.”

Hannah and Daniel's strained nerves relaxed.

If Zeke really admitted that he was some big shot, the old couple would have surely considered getting Lacey to break up with him.

After all, Lacey was just an ordinary girl. She was unworthy of a big shot who could summon fifty thousand soldiers with just a wave of his hand.

Even if she married him, she would probably have to live like a coward for the rest of her life.

“You could have just told us the truth from the beginning. I won't look down on you just because you're an ordinary civilian,” Lacey said.

“Okay, enough with the nonsense. I'm going to go to work. Are you coming, Zeke?”

“Nah, I have to visit an old friend later,” Zeke replied.

“An old friend again? Why do you have so many old friends?” Lacey muttered as she walked away.

Daniel and Hannah also made their way to the clinic.

Now, Zeke was left alone at home.

He took out his phone and dialled Lone Wolf's number.

“Great Marshal, what are you going to do with Hugh?” Lone Wolf asked.

“Get him to compensate the damages caused by the Hamilton Group and release him,” Zeke said.

Lone Wolf was a little disgruntled. “Great Marshal, you're just going to let him off?”

“What do you know? It's called playing the long game,” Zeke stated.

“I highly suspect there are people behind Hugh, and there are even more vestiges below him.”

“He definitely won't give up if we release him, and until he uses his backup and the remnants of his men, I'll take them all out at once.”

“We must destroy all evil and leave no chance for its revival.”

“Roger that!” Lone Wolf replied.

After hanging up the phone, Zeke went downstairs.

Darren was still standing there, shivering.

His coming and going, life and death, were all Zeke's call.

Upon seeing Zeke, he went up in a blue funk. “Mr. Williams, I...”

Zeke shot him a sideways glance, asking coldly, "Have you been riding with the gangs before this?"

Darren nodded. "I have quite the power in the underworld."

"Alright. Gather your old friends and wait for your assignment," Zeke ordered.

Darren could barely conceal his delight.

Instead of killing me, Mr. Williams might actually put me in an important position!

He instantly agreed and hurried off.

Zeke took a deep breath. "Such lackeys can achieve great things sometimes."



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At the Provincial Military District, Logan wasn't sent to the military court. He was released after paying the penalty.

He thought the old leader backing him had spoken up to bail him out.

But little did he know that Zeke was deliberately breeding calamity for the future.

As soon as he came out, he brook no delay and looked for his apprentice, Sam Clemons, Emily's younger brother.

Sam had long been clear about the hows and whys of this matter.

As soon as he met Logan, he expressed his loyalty and said, "Master, how dare that bastard hit you? It's a crime for which even death cannot atone!"

"Should I send someone to teach him a lesson?"

Logan shook his head. "Teaching him a lesson is too easy a punishment for him."

"I want to make him lose his wealth and show him that beating me will cost him a bloody fortune!"

"Master, could it be that you already have a retaliation plan in mind?" Sam asked.

Logan nodded. "That's right."

“But since I've just been released, it's inconvenient for me to show myself right now. You will have to take full responsibility for this revenge plan.”

Sam nodded. “No problem. Just leave it to me, master. I'll definitely seek justice for you this time.”

Logan smiled in relief, signalling Sam to come closer as he mumbled in his ears.

After a while, a hideous supercilious smile appeared on Sam's face. “What a brilliant idea, master. You're throwing a spat to catch a mackerel!”

“Let's see if you survive this time, Zeke Williams!”

On that same day, Sam left the army on the ground of 'going home to visit his relatives'.

But instead of going straight home, he headed directly to 'the Hill village' and looked for a villager named Jayden Hill.

Jayden was a soldier who served under Logan but had later violated discipline and was discharged early.

After he was demobilized, he had returned to his hometown, the Hill village, and became a village bully.

All these years, he had kept in touch with Logan and had helped him with some shady business.

When he learned that Sam was sent by Logan, he warmly invited Sam to his house.

“Mr. Clemons, I wonder what instructions you have brought with you from Officer Hugh this time,” Jayden asked respectfully after serving tea.

“I heard the Hill village will be demolished soon?” Sam asked.

Jayden nodded. “Yes. The Love in a Fallen City project has caused a sensation in the entire province. As the developer wants to occupy the land of our village.”

“Officer Hugh wants you to obstruct the demolition,” Sam stated.

Jayden looked stunned. “Officer Hugh is also interested in this land?”

Sam shook his head. “Officer Hugh doesn't give a damn about this piece of broken land.”

“You should have heard of the enmity between Officer Hugh and the person-in-charge of the Love in a Fallen City project, right? Officer Hugh wants to make a move on the project.”

“This piece of land is the most important land for the project. Without this land, the Love in a Fallen City project will have to be aborted.”

“By then, the person-in-charge will have violated

the contract with the Schneider family. They will have to rot in jail or even go bankrupt!"

Jayden's teeth clenched. "This bastard must surely die for offending Officer Hugh!"

"Don't worry, Mr. Clemons. The villagers have always resented the demolition. Coupled with my deterrent power, they will certainly not be able to take this place down."

Sam patted Jayden's shoulders. "Do your best. Officer Hugh said you'll be rewarded handsomely if you complete this task."

Jayden flushed with excitement. "Thank you very much, Officer Hugh."

Sam gave him a few more instructions and left in a flurry.

He had to rush to his next destination and map out the next plan.

...

Meanwhile, Zeke was reviewing a document at home.

It was the information Lone Wolf had sent regarding Logan's network in the army.

Zeke wanted to analyze who in his network of contacts was as treacherous as he was.

Just as he was busy, Lacey called.

“Zeke, hurry over to the Hill village. Dawnie may be in danger.”



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Zeke suddenly turned nervous. “What happened to Dawnie?”

Zeke liked his strange sister-in-law very much. He was anxious because he had long treated her as part of the family.

“I put Dawnie in charge of the pre-demolition work for the Love in a Fallen City project. She has encountered a violent protest about the demolition at the Hill village and both parties came to blows.”

“Dawnie must not get hurt.”

“Don't worry. I'm on my way,” Zeke stated.

After hanging up, he hurried over to the Hill village.

The Hill village's geographical location was remote, with many undeveloped lands nearby and relatively poor traffic conditions.

When he was about five kilometres away from the Hill village, there was no highway, only a meandering footpath which cars couldn't pass.

Zeke had no choice but to park his car and continue his journey on foot.

The spring breeze was strong while he was surrounded by green.

However, he had no time to appreciate the scenery. He kept his head down and pushed on.

Just after he took a few steps forward, a plant on the ridge next to him caught his attention.

He immediately stopped in his tracks, carefully picking up the plant, and observed it on his palm.

With flaming eyes, he plucked a blade of grass and tasted it.

“Rhodiola Rosea!” Zeke beamed. “It's the seventh of the ten rare and exotic herbs!”

“But Rhodiola Rosea is extremely rare and only grows in a small amount in the four major herb plantations in Eurasia. Why is it here?”

“Unless...”

Suddenly realizing something, he looked around and discovered an expanse of Rhodiola Rosea.

Zeke's spirits flew high. “Sure enough, this place is a herb plantation, and the scale is pretty big.”

“There are only four herb plantations in Eurasia. The rare herbs planted on them have saved the lives of many soldiers and warriors. But this is a far cry from satisfying the needs of the army!”

“If there's more to this herb plantation, it will surely save the lives of many more soldiers!”

“Money can no longer measure its value!”

Even when he had led thousands of troops to force the nine countries into signing the Nine Nations Treaty of Alliance, he had never been so excited.

The significance of discovering a herb plantation was too great.

Right then, a group of people came over his way.

They were Dawn and the demolition workers.

Upon seeing that Dawn was all right, Zeke was finally relieved.

When Dawn saw Zeke, she jogged toward him, a smile unconsciously appearing on her face. “Zeke, what are you doing here?”

“I heard that you guys encountered a violent protest. I was worried about you, so I came over,” Zeke replied.

“I’m fine. All thanks to our workers for protecting me,” Dawn said.

“But they were unlucky.”

Zeke's eyes ran over the demolition workers.

The demolition workers were big and strong but were covered in black and blue now.

Zeke scowled. “Dawn, were there that many

villagers? How could they be beaten so badly?”

Dawn shook her head. “There weren't many of them, but there were very strong. Clearly, they looked as skinny as monkeys, but they can fight better than our brawny men.”

Zeke was absorbed in his thoughts.

It's obvious that those villagers had taken Rhodiola Rosea.

Rhodiola Rosea can cure all kinds of diseases and strengthen the healthy ones!

The reputation of a top ten rare herb is no joke.

Zeke wanted to monitor the villagers closely.

“Dawn, do you know why the villagers protesting are against the demolition?” he asked.



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Dawn shook her head and answered, "I don't know. I was going to try to communicate with them, but they started beating up the boys at the slightest disagreement."

"Okay, you guys go back first. I'll go and see what's going on," Zeke said.

"Zeke, I'm coming with you," Dawn said.

She wasn't worried about danger.

How could it be dangerous when the Great Marshal was by her side?

Zeke shook his head. "No, take the workers to the hospital first. We will reimburse all medical expenses."

Dawn looked disappointed. But as she didn't dare to refute the Great Marshal, and could only leave in disappointment.

Zeke trotted toward the Hill village.

The villagers who had gathered at the entrance of the village were dispersing, but a few people stayed behind to guard the entrance.

The leader of the group was Jayden Hill.

Upon noticing Zeke, Jayden became vigilant. "Who are you and what are you doing here?"

He was worried that Zeke was from the demolition team.

Before Zeke had the chance to speak, a thin figure suddenly jumped out from the crowd.

“Williams, is that you? Damn, I didn't expect to see you here.”

Zeke's forehead creased, scrutinizing the thin figure.

After a while, he finally recognized the other party as his former cellmate, Douglas Hill.

Douglas used to make a living by stealing electric car batteries.

During their time in prison, he would always steal some small gadgets from the prison guards and share them with Zeke.

Their relationship was pretty good.

It didn't occur to Zeke that Douglas had been released. He never thought they would meet each other again at such a place.

“Hill, what a coincidence!” Zeke smiled at Douglas. “What are you doing here?”

“This is my hometown. But you, why are you here?” Douglas asked.

“Douglas, who is he?” Jayden asked impatiently.

“Oh, he's my former cellmate, Williams,” Douglas replied.

Pfft!

Jayden's subordinates couldn't help laughing. “So he's an ex-con, just like you.”

“A camaraderie formed in prison is legit. You guys should sit down and have a drink later.”

Zeke shot a glance at Jayden, his eyes filled with murderous intent.

Death shall befall those who insult the Great Marshal!

Douglas went up, pulling Zeke's hand and walking into the village. “Come on, Williams. Let's have a few drinks together today.”

Zeke clearly noticed that Douglas' strength was much greater than usual.

He supposed it was because of the consumption of Rhodiola Rosea.

“Hill, do you know what this is?” He took out the Rhodiola Rosea in his pocket and showed it to Douglas.

“Of course, I do. It's Rhodiola Rosea. It's

everywhere in this village,” Douglas said.

“Have you eaten it before?” Zeke asked.

“I have. But the taste is just so-so. I don't really like it,” Douglas replied.

“I always feed them to the pigs.”

Feed them to the pigs...

Zeke felt a sharp pang in his heart.

Rhodiola Rosea is worth tens of millions in the black market... He feeds tens of millions, even hundreds of millions to the pigs...

Serves you right for being poor!

“Remember when we were in jail, Williams? I said I'll introduce you to my little sister when you come out,” Douglas said.

“You've come at just the right time. Let me fix you up with her.”

Zeke chuckled to himself.

Having seen Lacey's kindness and beauty, how could I fall in love with someone else?

While chatting, the two arrived at Douglas' home.

It was an extremely ordinary rural courtyard.

Upon entry, a refreshing fragrance of food tantalized their olfactory senses.

“Mom, lil sis,” Douglas shouted. “A friend of mine is here today.”

“Make us some appetizers, will you? We're going to have a few drinks.”

An old woman and a young girl came out from the kitchenette.

They were Douglas' mother and sister, Sandra Hill.



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Mrs. Hill shot Zeke an unpleasant look. “Douglas, who is he?”

“He's the one I've always told you guys about, Williams,” Douglas replied.

Mrs. Hill looked even more upset. “I won't nag you for messing around all day long outside. But why did you bring such a person to our home?”

“Douglas, he's the one you were going to introduce to me?” Sandra mocked.

“Jeez, what motives do you have for asking me to marry an ex-con?”

“Shut up, Sandra,” Douglas scolded. “What nonsense are you spouting?”

“I'm just telling the truth,” Sandra spat out, unyielding.

“Just ignore him, Sandra,” Mrs. Hill scolded crossly. “The dishes are ready. Come help me in the kitchen.”

The two went back to the kitchenette.

Douglas was embarrassed to the extreme. “Sorry about that, Williams. Don't take offence at them.”

“They're sharp-tongued but soft at heart.”

Zeke put on a wry smile.

Looks like Douglas' status at home isn't so good. His mother and sister didn't spare him from any embarrassment.

Forget it. Since you've helped me when I was at my lowest, I'll help you elevate your status at home today.

Douglas led Zeke into the house.

The dining table was set with wine and a few dishes.

Just as he was about to pick up his chopstick and dig in, Sandra walked in and took away all the dishes.

Douglas was flustered. "Sandra, what are you doing?"

"These are not for you!" Sandra said.

"Jayden is coming over to talk about the demolition and our marriage. You can drink with him when he comes later."

"Seriously, how did I end up with a useless brother like you? If it weren't because we have no other men in the family, I wouldn't have let you sit on this table and disgrace me."

Douglas quivered with anger. "Don't you think you're a little too much, Sandra? My friend is here..."

Zeke quickly patted Douglas' shoulder, handing him a cigarette. "Chill."

Douglas slouched over, looking embarrassed. "I'm sorry you had to see that."

Zeke smiled and said nothing.

Just then, a burst of hearty laughter sounded from the courtyard. "Aunt, Sandra, what are you guys cooking? It smells so good."

Jayden had arrived.

Mrs. Hill and Sandra rushed out to greet him.

"Jayden, you're here. Come on in. I've specially made you your favourite braised pork."

"Jayden, why do you look more and more handsome every day?"

Zeke could clearly see the stark contrast between their enthusiasm for Jayden and their indifference to Douglas.

"What the hell?" Douglas' complexion turned for the worst.

With Sandra leading the way, Jayden came in.

His eyes brightened up immediately when he saw Zeke. "Yo, you're here too? What a coincidence. "

“You guys know each other?” Sandra asked in surprise.

“I met him at the village entrance just now. Isn't he one of Douglas' former cellmates?” Jayden said.

“Well, I'm kind of curious about life in prison. Maybe you can tell me about it later.”

“Yeah, yeah.” Sandra smiled. “He's been in prison for five years. He should know everything about life behind a cage at the back of his hand.”

“That's it!” Douglas couldn't stand it anymore as the other party kept talking about their 'prison life'.

“Williams, come on. Let's go out and eat.”

Sandra was displeased. “Go out and eat? Are you that rich? Jayden is willing to sit with you cause he didn't want to embarrass you, don't be insensitive.”

Zeke patted Douglas' shoulder, comforting, “Let's just make do with it.”

“But...” Douglas was dissatisfied.

“Sit down.” Zeke pressed Douglas to the seat.

Jayden laughed cheerfully. “You really need to learn from Williams, Douglas.”

“You can only survive in this society with thick skin.”



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Douglas looked disappointed, seeing Zeke remaining indifferent.

Williams is such a let-down. What happened to his moral integrity? How can he eat food that's served in contempt?

Mrs. Hill and Sandra quickly brought all the dishes and a bottle of fine wine to the table.

Thereafter, the two carried a camp stool and sat next to it.

In the countryside, women were not allowed to sit at the drinking table.

The atmosphere in the room was a little dull. Zeke and Douglas sat in rapt silence, but Jayden and Mrs. Hill chatted away.

"Aunt," Jayden started. "I suppose you've called me here for something?"

"I'm just curious, Jayden. What's our stand on the demolition?" Mrs. Hill asked.

Although Jayden wasn't the village party secretary, he was in name and in fact a village bully. Even the village party secretary had no say against him sometimes.

"It cannot be demolished. It mustn't be," Jayden said.

“As you know, most of the villagers work at the chemical plant. That chemical plant is part of our village.”

“How are we going to survive if the chemical plant is demolished? Can the little demolition compensation feed us for a lifetime?”

Mrs. Hill nodded. “You're right. We all think so too.”

It dawned on Zeke that the villagers were worried about their livelihood in the future. That was why they refused to move out.

To Zeke, this was not a problem at all.

That herb plantation was to be developed. There would be a shortage of labour when the time comes.

He could use the villagers of this village to work at the plantation.

“If I help you solve your work problems, are you willing to move out for tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands a month?”

Silence fell for a moment, followed by a burst of laughter.

A group of old farmers earning tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of wages a month? Is this a dream?

“Haha! You really know how to brag, don't you? You barely have a job and here you are talking about introducing jobs to others?”

“How is it our turn to get hired for a job that pays hundreds of thousands a month?”

Jayden laughed so much that tears came out of his eyes. “I really admire your bravado, brother.”

“If you can really arrange this job that pays hundreds of thousands for the villagers in our village, we'll cooperate a hundred percent with the demolition.”

“It's a deal,” Zeke said.

“Haha, deal!” Jayden replied.

Douglas wished the ground could swallow him whole.

Since when did this guy learn how to brag? It's hard to find a job with a monthly income of five thousand in today's society. But hundreds of thousands a month? Who is he kidding?

Jayden chatted with Mrs. Hill and Sandra for a little longer before getting up to leave.

“Jayden!” Sandra suddenly shouted. “There's actually one more thing.”

“It's about our marriage. We're not getting any

younger. Aren't you going to set the dates already?"

In fact, that was the purpose of Sandra calling Jayden over this time; forcing him into a marriage.

Asking about the demolition was just a cover.

"Soon," Jayden said curtly. "We'll get engaged once I'm done with my work."

With that, he scuttled away, leaving a dejected Sandra behind.

"Can't you see that Jayden doesn't seem to want to marry you, Sandra?" Douglas couldn't help saying.

"You probably won't be happy even if you marry him..."

"Shut up!" Sandra shot daggers at Douglas. "You think I don't know what's in your mind? You want me to marry your ex-con friend, don't you?"

"Listen, you jerk. This ex-con friend of yours is not worthy of even carrying Jayden's sandals."

"You little..." Douglas flushed. "Mind your manners."

"What? Did I say something wrong?" Sandra retorted.

“Look, Jayden isn't who you think he is. He may be living in a village, but he has connections with a big shot in the military.”

“Jayden will make it big sooner or later.”

Zeke, who had been silent, suddenly looked up.

Jayden has connections with people from the military?

At the thought of Jayden's efforts in obstructing the demolition, a bold theory came into his mind.



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Is this Logan's doing?

I knew he would never give up.

The more reckless Logan was, the better it was for Zeke.

That way, he could quickly find out what was left of him and eliminate the roots of all evil.

“Let's get some rest, Sandra.” Mrs. Hill pulled Sandra away. “Why bother talking to them?”

“Douglas, don't forget to wash the dishes.”

Douglas' lips tugged into a wretched smile.
“Williams, let's continue drinking in my room.”

“Just stay for the night. I have so much to tell you.”

Zeke nodded before he followed Douglas into the latter's room.

After taking out his precious collection; Sorghum liquor, and shelled peanuts, Douglas started drinking with Zeke again.

Although there were ready-made dishes in the living room, Douglas refused to touch them as he resented Jayden for being dirty.

Jayden was probably feeling under the weather. He drank too much without realizing it and fell into a deep slumber soon after.

Zeke fished for his phone and quickly sent a message to the director of Reinz Pharmaceutical. *I discovered a herb plantation. Meet me tomorrow with one hundred million.*

Reinz Pharmaceutical was a juggernaut of the pharmaceutical industry in Eurasia.

The president was Xavier Brown, Zeke's apprentice.

In fact, Reinz Pharmaceutical was also one of Zeke's many properties. He had simply given it to his apprentice as he was too lazy to take care of it.

Meanwhile, in the president's office of Reinz Pharmaceutical, Xavier burst into tears upon receiving the message.

Herb plantation! We've discovered another herb plantation!

Altogether, there are five herb plantations in Eurasia.

There are seven herb plantations worldwide, and five of them are in Eurasia.

God bless Eurasia!

“Alex!” Xavier shouted for his secretary. “Get the chopper ready. We're flying straight to Oakheart City.”

...

The next morning, a rumble awakened the Hill village from its deep sleep with two helicopters landing slowly at the end of the village.

The Hill village erupted into a frenzy.

These peasants who had been toiling in the field for all their lives had never once seen a helicopter with their own eyes.

Everyone gathered at end of the village to watch the excitement unfold, including Douglas and his family.

Along the way, many people took the initiative to greet Douglas.

“Hill, I never thought you would have an ex-con friend who still remembers you.”

“Did he come to you for shelter because he finds it hard making a living outside?”

“Haha! He got the wrong guy then. He'll die of starvation asking you for help.”

It was indisputable that it was Jayden who had spread the word about this 'ex-con friend' last night.

Now that the entire village knew Douglas' family had a friend who was an ex-convict, they were held up to ridicule.

Douglas' anger spiked, but he couldn't stop the villagers' taunts.

Sandra and Mrs. Hill's faces turned deadly pale. "You're a disgrace to our family!"

Soon, they arrived at the end of the village.

The villagers had completely surrounded the helicopters, and their cries of admiration were endless.

Many children cried, wanting to touch the helicopters, but were instantly reprimanded by the adults.

The helicopters were worth a fortune and they couldn't afford to pay for any damages if they were to occur.

Douglas' family had the devil of a job trying to squeeze their way in.

Sandra's eyes lit up when she saw the helicopters. "This helicopter is too lavish. I'll die with no regrets if I can take a ride in it."

There was a ghost of a smile on Zeke's face.

If you were a little courteous to me last night, I might have given you a chance.

But now... Hah!

The helicopter door opened and a row of men in black suits came down.

The person leading the group was none other than the president of Reinz Pharmaceutical, Xavier Brown.



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Those people each carried a suitcase in their hands.

When one of them alighted, he accidentally fell down, and the suitcase broke open, scattering a pile of money from the lockbox.

The villagers' eyes widened.

Money. It's money in that box!

If there's already so much money in one lockbox...how much money is in the ten lockboxes?

The villagers couldn't do the math.

Zeke walked toward Xavier.

"Where are you going?" Douglas pulled him back.

"They're my employees who came to see me," Zeke said.

Douglas tittered. "I don't remember you being such a show-off in prison."

"You've changed."

Sandra rolled her eyes at Zeke with unflagging patience. "Cut the crap. Do you think you can afford to mess with them?"

"If you drag us into this, I will not spare your life."

The commotion attracted Xavier's attention.

Upon noticing Zeke, Xavier's eyes brightened as he trotted toward him, the row of men in black suits following closely behind.

The atmosphere crackled with tension.

Why is he walking toward them in such a flurry?

The villagers dared not make a sound at the other party's imposing aura.

The most nervous party was Sandra's family, as the other party seem to be coming at them.

Damn it. Did they come for trouble after hearing what Zeke said just now?

Xavier and his men stopped about one meter before Zeke, bowing with their bodies bent over.

“Greetings, sir.”

An uproar erupted in the crowd.

Douglas' ex-convict friend is the boss of these big bosses!

My God! His employees came in helicopters with suitcases of money. Just how rich is this ex-convict?

Who knew Douglas had such a powerful friend!

Douglas and his family stood, transfixed.

Zeke Williams is just an ex-convict who served in prison with Douglas for five years!

How... How is he so rich?

He's too damn low key about his status!

Sandra was filled with regret when she recalled what had happened last night.

Damn it. Why didn't I treat him a little better last night? Why didn't I agree with Douglas to marry him?

Jayden is the one who's unworthy to carry his sandals!

I blew my chance. There's probably one hundred million there... No, tens of billions!

Zeke grunted in reply. He shoved Douglas' hand away and walked toward the centre of the crowd.

He scanned around, radiating an awe-inspiring dignity and elegance.

Sandra stared at him with starry, infatuated eyes. It was then that she realized how handsome and charismatic he was.

Zeke took out the blade of *Rhodiola Rosea* from his pocket and showed it to the villagers.

“You guys should know what this is.”

“Yes, yes. We do,” the crowd chorused.

“That's *Rhodiola Rosea*. It's all over the field.”

“We feed it to the pigs.”

What?

Xavier's mind turned abuzz with chaos.

A blade of Rhodiola Rosea can save the lives of dozens of soldiers once it's turned into medicine.

It's so precious; you can't buy it with a thousand pieces of gold!

They actually feed it to the pigs?

What a reckless waste of God's wonderful gifts. Xavier was tempted to strangle all these ignorant villagers.

Although a tempestuous storm had set off in his heart, Zeke remained calm on the surface.

“I need people to plant these grasses now. The minimum wage per person per month will be thirty thousand in the beginning. It will be fifty thousand or even a hundred thousand per month once you've mastered it. Who's interested?”



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What the!

There was another uproar in the crowd.

A minimum wage of thirty thousand just to plant Rhodiola Rosea?

And a raise of fifty thousand or even a hundred thousand after mastering it?

That's even more profitable than becoming a boss.

We worked our asses off at the chemical plant only to earn up to four thousand per month...

The villagers screamed, "Me! Me!"

Sandra's family could feel nothing but blind terror.

He wasn't bluffing when he said last night that he could offer the villagers a job with tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of wages!

We really shouldn't have made fun of him last night.

Zeke nodded. "Good."

"But on one condition."

"Rhodiola Rosea needs to be cultivated with a lot of care, so you have to move into the planting area."

“No problem,” the villagers responded enthusiastically in unison.

“Well then,” Zeke said. “Since there's no need for your village to exist, we'll just tear it down.”

It then sunk in for the villagers that this ten billion Love in a Fallen City project was related to him.

Sure enough, he who has wealth speaks louder than others.

However, they became worried that this was a conspiracy to force them to agree to the demolition.

Zeke saw the concerns of the villagers and assured, “Don't worry, I will not deceive you. We can sign the contract now and I'll pay you one year's salary in advance.”

“If you agree, step forward and sign this labour employment contract and demolition contract.”

Upon hearing that, the villagers' worries vanished. They rushed forward to sign the contracts.

Only a fool would miss the opportunity of becoming a millionaire!

Zeke went through great difficulty to walk out from the crowd.

“Hill,” he said, walking toward Douglas, who stood

rooted to the ground like a waxwork dummy. "Are you frozen?"

"No... No..." Douglas came back to his senses, looking horrified.

He couldn't believe that the cellmate who had spent five years in jail with him was so rich.

He felt lost and didn't know how to get along with him now.

"That's good then." Zeke took the contract that he had long prepared from Xavier's hands and stuffed it into Douglas' arms. "Have a look at this contract and sign it if you're interested."

"What is this?" Douglas asked curiously.

"From now on, you'll supervise the villagers' work with an annual salary of ten million," Zeke said. "Enough to feed yourself, buy a house, and get yourself a wife."

Xavier was dumbfounded.

Did the humourless and solemn Great Marshal just crack a joke?

Douglas was more astonished than Xavier.

An annual salary of ten million!

How am I supposed to spend so much money in my

entire life?

“Alright, thanks for your fine wine last night. I'm off then. I'll see you around,” Zeke said.

“Oh right, I have another task for you. Get the villagers to demolish their houses themselves. I'll subsidize each family with another ten thousand!”

At that, he took the demolition contracts, turned around, and left.

Sandra and Mrs. Hill came up to Douglas cautiously.

“Douglas,” Mrs. Hill whispered. “Why didn't you tell us your friend is so rich earlier?”

“My friend likes to keep a low-profile. He doesn't like to show off,” Douglas stated flatly.

Mrs. Hill giggled in embarrassment. “It's good to keep a low-profile. I like it.”

“Oh yeah, didn't you say you wanted to introduce your sister to him yesterday...”

“Yeah, invite him to our house for a meal next time, brother,” Sandra pleaded. “I'll cook.”

Douglas shook his head. “Forget about it. He's just an ex-convict, he's not worthy of you.”

“Besides, aren't you in love with Jayden? Didn't you

say he's not even worthy to carry Jayden's sandals?"

Mrs. Hill and Sandra felt their cheeks burn.

Sandra sighed, "It should be the other way round. Jayden isn't worthy to carry his sandals."

"Don't even think about it," Douglas said monotonously.

"My brother is a giant among men. After he could endure all this humiliation and hardships, his future will be very promising. We are not from the same world."

Sandra looked disappointed, like a bride deserted at the altar.



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Meanwhile, Jayden ran over, attracted by the excitement.

He had just woken up from drinking too much last night and had no idea what was going on.

“Sandra, what's going on? Why are there helicopters here? What are the villagers fighting over?”

Having seen Zeke's temperament and power, Sandra thought Jayden was an eyesore the more she looked at him. She glared at him and ignored him.

“Those are Reinz Pharmaceutical's choppers. They're here to recruit workers with a monthly salary of thirty thousand,” Douglas answered.

Jayden gasped in surprise. “What the hell? Reinz Pharmaceutical is a giant in the pharmaceutical industry with an annual profit of ten billion.”

“Why would they recruit from our small village and even offer a monthly salary of thirty thousand? You're bluffing, aren't you?”

Douglas shook his head. “No, I'm not. Of course, the condition they put forward to signing the contract is to agree with the demolition.”

What?

Jayden's blood ran cold.

*Agree with the demolition? Logan will f**king kill me!*

He became anxious and wanted to stop it, but it was too late. The villagers had already signed the demolition contract.

Jayden was torn by grief and indignation. "F**king hell! Why would Reinz Pharmaceutical care about the demolition? There must be someone behind this."

"To be honest with you, that ex-convict friend of mine whom you look down on arranged this. He's acquainted with the people from Reinz Pharmaceutical," Douglas said.

What the hell?

Jayden couldn't believe his ears.

That ex-convict and the people from Reinz Pharmaceutical must be close!

Otherwise, why would they help him with such a huge favour?

"Son of a bitch!" His teeth clenched. "Just you wait! You won't get away from this!"

As he didn't dare to hide this matter, he quickly called Sam to inform him.

As expected, Sam hit the roof and gave Jayden an earful.

Jayden didn't dare to say a thing; he knew he was in the wrong.

Only when the other party finished scolding did Jayden speak in a soft voice. "Mr. Clemons, could you please tell Officer Hugh to rest assured?"

"I will get rid of Zeke Williams even if I die doing so."

"Don't mess around without my orders," Sam reprimanded.

"So you're saying that Reinz Pharmaceutical has offered a monthly salary of thirty thousand to the villagers to plant Rhodiola Rosea?"

Jayden nodded. "Exactly."

Sam mused. "Money never sleeps. It's impossible for Reinz Pharmaceutical to cultivate a large number of Rhodiola Rosea for no reason at all."

"That Rhodiola Rosea is probably one of the rare ten herbs with medicinal value."

"I'll go and investigate it in two days. Don't act rashly, listen to my orders."

"Understood," Jayden replied.

After hanging up the phone, Sam immediately contacted his mother, Madeleine. "Mom, come with me to the Hill village."

“I may have discovered some valuable herbs.”

Madeleine's eyes glistened. “No problem.”

As a TCM practitioner, she was well aware of the significance of discovering valuable herbs.

...

Dawn came to Lacey's house early in the morning, scrounging free meals off of her.

But the primary reason was to discuss with Lacey regarding the demolition and how to solve it.

Only after she arrived did she realize that Zeke had yet to return home.

This made Dawn anxious. “You have no conscience, Lacey. Zeke went to the Hill village and didn't return all night. Aren't you worried about his safety?”

“I called him last night. He left the Hill village a long time ago and went to a friend's house for a drink last night. Don't worry about him,” Lacey said.

Dawn heaved a sigh of relief. But deep down, she wondered if this friend of the Great Marshal was a big shot like him.

“Lacey,” she continued. “What are you going to do about the demolition?”

“If worse comes to worst, I can only increase the demolition compensation,” Lacey said.

Dawn shook her head. “It's useless, Lacey. I doubled the compensation yesterday, but they won't budge.”

“What? Getting them to move out is harder than I thought.” Lacey had a splitting headache.

“Gosh, what should we do?”

At that moment, a knock on the door sounded.

Lacey went to open the door. It was Zeke who had come back with a pile of documents in his hands.

“What took you so long?” Lacey told him off.

Zeke smiled. “I went to solve the problems with the demolition last night.”

Lacey sniffed his body and could smell the booze from his breath. “What's with that excuse? Just tell me if you went for a drink.”

“Anyway, you came back just in time. I was thinking of engaging in a tug of war regarding the demolition at the Hill village. What do you think?”



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Zeke shook his head. "Hmm... I don't think that's a good idea."

"What? Why?" Lacey Hinton asked.

"Because," Zeke paused. "The Hill village has already been demolished."

Lacey frowned. "Are you kidding me? Dawnie negotiated with them the entire day yesterday! It was fruitless."

"And you're telling me that you, a careless man, settled it in one night?"

Zeke handed Lacey the pile of thick demolition contracts. "See for yourself."

"What is this?" Lacey accepted the documents and took a glance. "Oh, my God!"

These are demolition contracts!

And they're all signed!

She hurriedly counted them carefully. There were three hundred and two copies.

In another word, every family from the Hill village had signed the contract. Except for one family, Jayden's.

However, that wasn't a problem anymore.

“You... You're amazing!” Lacey hugged the demolition contracts and was so excited that she almost cried. “How did you do it?”

“Dawnie had dealt with them for a whole day yesterday with no results. But you're saying that you had them all signed after drinking for one night?”

“It's called enlightening with affection and motivating with reason,” Zeke said.

Lacey rolled her eyes. “What a load of nonsense.”

Dawn came to Zeke's rescue. “Lacey, why do you care so much?”

“The most urgent thing right now is to contact the demolition team and get started.”

Dawnie was unfazed.

With the Great Marshal springing into action, nothing is unsolvable in this world.

“Yeah, yeah, yeah!” Lacey swatted her head. “Contact the demolition team. Quick, before they change their mind.”

“Uh...” Zeke suddenly uttered. “I don't think that's necessary.”

“What do you mean?” Lacey asked curiously.

“The villagers have consciously demolished their own houses,” Zeke replied.

What?

“They demolished their own houses?” Lacey echoed in disbelief.

Just then, Lacey's phone rang.

It was a call from Mia, her assistant.

“Something's wrong, Ms. Hinton,” Mia sounded frantic over the phone. “Something's really wrong.”

“The villagers from the Hill village are demolishing their own houses without even removing the furniture.”

“I highly suspect they are planning to frame us for forced demolition.”

“I've already sent someone to record them in action as evidence.”

Dawnie glanced at Zeke in surprise. She then took a deep breath and recollected herself, reigning in her emotions.

“What's with the fuss?”

“It's just a small demolition plan. I can get it done with just a phone call.”

Zeke and Dawn were rendered speechless.

Her ostentatious response had caught them off guard.

Hanging up the phone, Lacey grabbed Dawn's hand and ran out.

“The demolition is complete. The project can finally start.”

“Zeke, stay home and don't go anywhere. I'll make you something delicious tonight.”

Zeke was speechless. *Do I look like a child to you?*

Daniel and Hannah, however, were full of smiles.

They couldn't remember when Lacey had smiled so brightly.

“Dad,” Zeke suddenly called Daniel. “Do recruit more medical staff for the clinic. I'm planning to expand the scale.”

“How many?” Daniel asked.

“The more the merrier,” Zeke said.

Daniel was silent at his words.

It's just a small clinic. Even if the scale is expanded, could it be bigger than a regular hospital?

Having five to six staff is good enough.

Isn't 'the more the merrier' a little exaggerated?

Little did he know that Zeke was preparing to get him started on that herb plantation business.

That herb plantation was an inexhaustible treasure.

Just a little grass at the corner of the plantation was enough to make Daniel prosperous for several generations.

“Zeke,” Hannah said. “It's Lacey's twenty-third birthday tomorrow.”

“According to the rules from our hometown, the twenty-third birthday must be a lavish celebration.”

“Friends and relatives will be here, so remember to contact a hotel.”

Zeke nodded. “Don't worry, mom. I've been thinking about this all the time.”

“I'll call the hotel now.”

“Alright.” Hannah nodded.

Once Zeke left, Daniel tapped his head as something struck his mind. “Ah, I forgot to remind Zeke to prepare a gift for Lacey.”

“Oh, please,” Hannah said impatiently. “Zeke is ten thousand times more thoughtful than you. How can he not think of what you can think of?”

Daniel chuckled foolishly. “Right, I worried too much.”



Rate the Translation to Get 2 Pearls.



Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

After leaving home, Zeke went straight to Grand Millenium Hotel and met up with the current owner of the hotel, Susan Raynor.

Grand Millenium Hotel was the most luxurious hotel in Oakheart City, and he planned to organize Lacey's twenty-third birthday celebration here.

After explaining his intention, Susan nodded. "No problem. Just leave it to me."

"By the way, Mr. Williams, I'm planning to sell this hotel."

Zeke put on a calm expression. "Oh, what are you planning to do next then?"

"I'm a medical researcher. Hotel management isn't my forte," Susan chirped.

"I'm planning to transfer my shares for the hotel and use that money to venture into the medical industry."

"Since George has published an apology on international publications, the Chinese medicine industry has revived."

"If I grasp this opportunity right now, even pigs can fly."

Zeke nodded. He had to admit that he admired Susan's vision.

The medical industry was surely going to prosper.

On one hand, George's apology statement had created a dramatic backlash.

And on the other hand, the herb plantation he had discovered was a catalyst that could help the Chinese medical industry soar into the sky.

“Don't transfer your shares. Let the Schneider family buy them back,” Zeke said.

The Schneider family owned seventy percent of Dry Share for the Grand Millenium hotel chain, while Susan's family owned thirty percent, including the management shares.

If he took back thirty percent of the shares this time, he would be the sole proprietor of Grand Millenium.

Susan was elated. “Okay. I've drawn up the contract. Please sign, Mr. Williams.”

Zeke lifted a pen and was about to sign his name, but after giving it some thought, he eventually signed Lacey's name—Lacey Hinton.

I'm going to give this thirty percent shares to Lacey as a gift for her twenty-third birthday.

Although he really wanted to give her a hundred percent of the shares, he was afraid Lacey wouldn't accept it.

Susan looked at Lacey's name and was instantly overwhelmed with jealousy.

Damn, God is playing games with me. Why are all the good men taken away from me?

“My family still owns one percent of the shares and it's in the hands of the managers of several other branches,” Susan said.

“I'll have them come over to sign now.”

“Mr. Williams, why don't you wait at my office for a while?”

Zeke wanted to agree, but after looking at Susan, he turned and left. “It's okay. I'll wait outside.”

He noticed Susan's gaze on him; it was filled with ambiguity. He thought it to be better for him to not get too close to her.

After all, a man must learn how to protect himself when he's outside.

Looking at Zeke's back, Susan felt a big empty hole in her heart.

She realized she was falling deeper and deeper for Zeke like a whirlpool, and she couldn't get out of it.

Selling her shares this time to enter the pharmaceutical industry was her plan to get closer to Zeke.

After all, Zeke owned a pharmaceutical business as well.

Susan balled his fist. *So what if you're taken? Happiness lies in the eye of the beholder.*

I must try my best to outshine Lacey.

Just you wait, Zeke. I'll make you mine someday.

Zeke exited the hotel and lit a cigarette, looking satisfied.

The pleasure of smoking behind a woman's back was gratifying.

As he was smoking, an Audi A6 suddenly stopped in front of him.

The car door opened, and a fashionable young woman dressed in minimal clothes, wearing sunglasses and high heels came down from the car.

“Park the car for me, will you?” She casually threw the car key to Zeke, regarding him as a parking valet.

Zeke didn't receive the key and left it on the ground.

“Are you deaf?” the young woman snapped.

“I'm not a parking valet,” Zeke said brusquely.