

The Protector Chapter 1151

Iris chuckled upon hearing that. “That’s not your daddy, Evie! It’d be great if he were, though!”

Zoey sighed. “Let’s not joke about the God of War, Iris. He’s no ordinary human. He’s a god.”

“Oh, wasn’t Evie’s first word ‘daddy’? You really worked hard on that.”

Iris remembered how Zoey had taught the child to say ‘daddy’ first instead of ‘mommy’.

That was why Forlevia’s very first word was ‘daddy’.

Iris gazed at Zoey sternly. “Zoey, I know you still love Levi, but you have to accept how things are now. Even if he’s still alive, he probably won’t come back. Who knows, he might have even followed his dad’s footsteps and found himself another wife. It’s not impossible.”

Thump.

Zoey’s heart sank.

There was certainly a possibility.

This was what Tyrone did, after all.

It wasn’t unusual if his son did the same.

“You’ve been shouldering everything on your own. The burden’s just too heavy! You’re still young, so I suggest you find another man to walk the path with you for the rest of your life. Evie needs a father too,” Iris said earnestly.

Zoey disagreed. “Let’s not talk about this anymore, Iris. Besides, I have a child now. Who would ever want me?”

Iris was amused. “Oh, please, Zoey. Don’t you have lots of men chasing after you? They don’t care if you have Evie! Who would say no to you anyway, considering who you are right now? You’re not lacking in any aspect!”

Suddenly, Zoey recalled how her godfather, Dale, wanted to get her married.

The man treated her and Forlevia so well that Zoey didn’t know how to turn this matter down.

“Mr. Lehman likes you a lot, Zoey, so he’ll definitely find you a good husband. Don’t worry. I’m sure you’ll be happy. The guy he’s picked out will be here in North Hampton tomorrow. Why don’t you give it a thought after meeting him?” Iris smiled.

Zoey let out a sigh. “I guess I’ll do that.”

However, she had no other intention on this.

All she wanted was to fulfill her godfather’s wishes.

“Yeah, I know you’ll be pleased with him. Do it for Evie! Besides, Ms. Jones has agreed to it too, hasn’t she?”

Emma knew about this too, and she had given her consent.

The next day, Percy Convington suddenly led his subordinates to one of North Hampton’s remote entrances. There was no traffic here; instead, it was an area with steep terrains that were difficult to maneuver. Tourists were usually prohibited from coming here.

As the men stood in two straight lines, Percy paced back and forth as though waiting for someone.

Finally, the sound of engine rumbling began to surface half an hour later.

Soon, war vehicles began to make their way over.

The first few bore flags that danced in the wind.

Apart from the flag of Erudia, there were also flags with the words 'God of War' on them.

A mighty presence emerged.

Percy and his subordinates immediately saluted.

"The Iron Brigade has returned! The God of War has returned!" Percy shouted.

The soldiers standing in rows began to shout too.

Levi and his team were back.

They were Erudia's invincible troop!

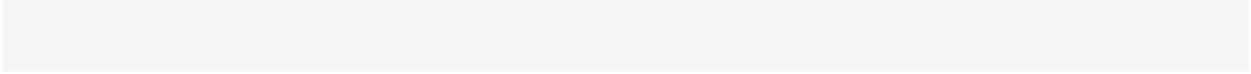
The pride of the country!

The very souls of Erudia's army!

Not only had they defeated Blood King Palace for the second time, but they had miraculously done so in just half the estimated time needed.

The vehicles stopped.

A window rolled down, revealing Levi's face.



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The god-like man was back.

Percy and his men had nothing but respect and admiration for him.

This man had done what no one else in the world could do—twice.

Moreover, Blood King Palace had become even more powerful the second time round.

Yet, Levi and his forces had created an absolute miracle.

But instead of heading to Oakland City to receive his accolade, Levi had chosen to return to North Hampton discreetly.

The true hero doesn't seek adulation, he fights for what is right simply because it's his nature.
Percy couldn't help but think to himself.

On the same day, the man Dale had arranged to be Zoey's suitor arrived in North Hampton.

If Zoey were childless, Dale would have definitely chosen for her to marry someone within his own family.

However, the Lehmans were the third most prominent ancient family in Erudia. They still had to watch their reputation.

Still, the man Dale had chosen was an exceptional one.

He was Jerry Gott, the successor of an imperial family in Oakland City.

He ranked third on the Heir Leaderboard.

This man was no wastrel, and he certainly wasn't a philanderer.

There was not a single negative rumor about him.

Oakland City referred to him as a true gentleman.

That was why he was also known as Saint Jerry.

Jerry didn't top the Heir Leaderboard, but he was an all-rounder.

Dale had spent a great deal of time deciding on this man.

Furthermore, Jerry was willing to marry Zoey, and he accepted the fact that she had a child.

Marrying a woman who already had a child was a disgrace to imperial families.

But still, Zoey was Dale's goddaughter.

Hence, the imperial Gott family had no choice but to accept this.

Accompanying Jerry was Dale's eldest son, Edwin Lehman.

Edwin had a ferociousness akin to a warlord.

He was hot-tempered and extremely capable.

Many in Oakland City feared him.

However, he treasured his god sister dearly.

Many young heirs had coveted Zoey, only to have their limbs broken by Edwin.

That was why no one had dared cross Zoey for the past year.

All her other suitors fled with terror upon hearing that Edwin's presence.

Jerry was the only man he seemed to approve of.

"You'd better treat my god sister well, Jerry. You'll be sorry if you don't!" Edwin threatened.

"I understand, Edwin," Jerry replied with a nod. "I'm very fond of Ms. Lopez's talents and abilities."

Despite saying this, a peculiar glint flashed in his eyes.

The two parties met at the Golden Hotel.

After talking to each other, Jerry seemed extremely pleased with Zoey.

He readily accepted the fact that the woman was once married and already had a child.

"So, what do you think?" asked Edwin.

Jerry nodded. "I'm very impressed. I'd be more than willing to marry you, Ms. Lopez. I'll take care of you and Evie for life. Everything may seem too sudden right now, but we can always take our time."

Both Zoey and Iris were taken aback.

He's that straightforward?

They had thought the man would at least take some time to consider this.

Edwin nodded in satisfaction. "Alright. I'll take it from here, then. Dad will be thrilled to hear this."

The Lehman family was in charge of handling everything regarding this matter.

There was no need to listen to any of Zoey's suggestions.

"Wait! I do have one condition, however," Jerry suddenly called out.

Even Zoey froze.

She was just about to express her disagreement, but Jerry had beat her to it.

“What is it?” asked Edwin.

“I’d gladly marry Ms. Lopez and care for Evie, but I have just one request, which has something to do with the Gott family’s reputation. Can Evie’s last name be Gott instead? This is all I ask for,” Jerry answered earnestly.

After all, the Gott family was an imperial family. Taking a once-married woman as a wife and having to raise her child was shameful enough for them. What more, the child didn’t even take Gott as her last name.

“Why should *my* child bear your last name?”

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Just as Jerry made his request, a loud voice boomed across the room like thunder.

Everyone was shocked.

Zoey and Iris were immediately stupefied upon hearing that familiar voice.

Could it be...

No. It can't be him...

The women trembled involuntarily as they exchanged glances.

With her big, innocent eyes, Forlevia gazed in the direction of the entrance.

At the very moment, a tall, mighty figure emerged.

It was Levi!

At present, the man looked rather worn-out. There was soot on his face, and his clothes were tattered as though he had just escaped the jaws of death.

Still, none of that diminished the murderous energy he now emitted. Everyone's scalp began to tingle as goosebumps formed on their skin.

Levi had just returned from the battlefield, so he had no time to tidy himself.

He had come over hastily right after enduring the hardships of a long journey.

Edwin and Jerry were stunned upon seeing Levi.

Who is he?

Is he some refugee?

"I'm back, Zoey," Levi announced.

"Huh?"

Zoey was utterly dumbfounded.

She had imagined Levi's return countless times, even dreaming about it in her sleep.

Yet, the woman was bewildered now that Levi was actually standing right in front of her.

She couldn't tell if this was reality or just a dream.

Right now, she could only stare at him...

But Levi's eyes were on the child.

Forlevia stared right back at him.

They looked so similar to each other!

The little girl had his eyes and demeanor.

Everything else about her closely resembled Zoey.

At this moment, an intense feeling of familial love began to surface within Levi.

It was something he had never felt before.

This child was his!

Levi strode over and took the child from the nanny's arms.

Forlevia was extremely timid and would usually cry if a stranger picked her up.

Yet, when Levi carried her, not only did she not cry, but she even gazed at him with curiosity.

“Daddy... you’re Daddy!” the child suddenly cried out.

Boom!

Upon hearing the sweet child’s voice, Levi instantly froze and his mind went blank.

He had never experienced being a father.

This little girl in his arms was like the most precious gem he had ever owned—the most important piece of himself.

“Daddy’s back! Daddy’s back!”

Forlevia was a bright child. She had long remembered Levi’s face after frequently seeing Zoey looking at his photos.

Zoey had never mentioned who the man in the photo was, but the child knew that he was her father.

“My little girl!”

Levi held the child in his arms tightly.

Then, he suddenly began to cry.

To think there was such a gentle side to the man who stood on the top of the mountain...

“Hey! What are you up to? Why did you take the child? Give her back!” the nanny frantically yelled at Levi.

Levi responded politely, “Hello, ma’am. I’m the child’s father.”

“Oh, please! The child’s father is long dead! Everyone knows that.”

The nanny clearly wasn't buying it.

"But I really am her father!" Levi insisted.

"Then do you know her name?" A cold voice suddenly rang out.

Jerry and Edwin walked toward Levi.

"I..."

Indeed, Levi had no idea.

Phoenix had found out the child's name long ago, but she never told him.

The little girl didn't bear his last name anyway.

"Are you here just to cause a scene? I won't let that happen!"

While speaking, Jerry gave Levi a shove.

Pfft!

Staggering, Levi spewed a mouthful of blood.

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No one had expected this from Levi.

Not even Levi himself.

The man gave his mouth a wipe as a look of disbelief formed on his face.

He could feel something different within his body.

He felt especially frail and was even beginning to have double vision.

Am I... injured?

That can't be.

We may have fought Blood King Palace for over a year, but no one has managed to hurt me.

Could it be...

Levi began to recall.

During the final battle with Blood King Palace, Levi had faced Bloodking and the Four Bloodmasters on his own.

Ultimately, he had the last laugh and all of them died in his hands.

But before Bloodking drew his last breath, he told Levi, "I'll be waiting for you down below."

Back then, Levi merely thought the man was just spewing nonsense and paid no attention to it.

But now that this was happening...

Realization quickly dawned on Levi.

I've been poisoned!

Blood King Palace was the most terrifying force in the Western Dark World. They were ruthless in everything they did.

Thus, the act of poisoning someone was nothing out of the ordinary for them.

But how could I not have known about this? I'm only feeling it now.

"Cough, cough..."

Levi coughed two more times, only to expel more blood.

This poison is insane.

Those who were aware of Levi's true abilities knew how powerful he was.

Most toxins had no effect on his body at all.

In fact, for the past six years, he had been poisoned multiple times.

Yet, this was the first time his body was having a reaction.

Bloodking must have done it right before he died, just so I'd join him eventually.

Or maybe... his true purpose was simply to kill me!

This poison really is something else.

"Are... Are you okay?" asked Zoey and Iris after returning to their senses.

Even Jerry jumped in fright.

He had only given Levi a light shove, yet the latter had suddenly sprayed blood out of his mouth.

“What have you done? How did you turn out this way?” Zoey choked.

Levi looked so miserable right now.

His face was white as a sheet, and blood trickled from his mouth. The man looked like he had just narrowly escaped death.

Where did he run off to in the past year?

Did I jump to conclusions about him?

Could he have been dealing with something really important?

Levi smiled. “I’m fine.”

As he adjusted his body and forced himself to suppress the toxins, his complexion quickly returned to normal.

“Daddy’s okay!” Forlevia yelped with excitement.

“Who the hell are you? Give me back my daughter!”

With a frosty look on his face, Jerry tried to take the child away from Levi.

But the latter easily evaded him.

“Your child? Bullsh*t! This is *my* child!” Levi raged.

Jerry turned red with fury.

His marriage with Zoey had been arranged by Dale Lehman himself.

Everyone in Oakland City was already aware of this. Even many in the whole country knew that Zoey belonged to him.

Yet, someone had decided to show up all of a sudden and snatch his child?

How could he ever allow that?

Jerry glared daggers at Levi.

The former had also studied martial arts since young and was second to Martin Preston on the Heir Leaderboard in this regard.

“Do you have a death wish? Hand the child over right now!”

Edwin was beginning to lose his patience too.

A hostile atmosphere instantly surrounded the entire place.

Zoey and Iris hastily stepped in. “Edwin! Mr. Gott! Don’t do anything rash! We know this man.”

“Who is he?” asked Edwin.

“He’s Levi Garrison!”

Hearing that, Edwin immediately flew into a fit of rage. “So he’s the b*stard who abandoned you and Evie?”

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They hadn't heard him when he mentioned who he was, but now that they knew, even Jerry stared at him in bewilderment.

So he's that scumbag?

The guy everyone in the country calls a cowardly disgrace?

Zoey immediately jumped to Levi's defense. "No, he never abandoned us. Isn't he here right now?"

"Hah! Where was he when you gave birth to Evie? Where was he when went to face the Garrisons head-on? Where was he when you and Emma Jones were ready to die for him, and what about the time you raise the child on your own?"

Zoey fell silent at Edwin's string of questions.

She couldn't deny the truth.

"The Garrisons have forgotten about him, the child has grown up, and you're now the Queen of the Corporate World. And now, he's finally shown up! This spineless man is here only because the danger's gone. Isn't it obvious? Are you really still going to believe him?" Edwin remarked.

"I..."

Zoey was tongue-tied.

Even Iris gazed at Levi in disappointment.

No matter how urgent his matters may have been, he shouldn't have left Zoey when she needed him most.

Even if he really had to, he should've at least told her what was going on.

He disappeared for over a year and finally shows up now. What's the point then?

What more, he shows up at this time so it was very suspicious!

"Don't protect him, Zoey!" Edwin demanded. "You should be treating him like a stranger or even a dead man! He's gone. This isn't him! A guy like him isn't worthy of your sacrifices"

The others chimed in too. "That's right, Zoey. He doesn't deserve you!"

Levi gazed at Zoey apologetically. "I'm sorry, Zoey. I've disappointed you for the second time. No amount of words can describe how sorry I feel. I promise there won't be a third time."

"If apologies could fix everything, I'd have just apologized for every mistake I've made. So, can I kill someone and say I'm sorry?" Edwin roared.

Even Iris was infuriated.

Zoey didn't do all this just to hear you tell her that you're sorry.

You're heartless, Levi.

"I promise never to leave you and the baby again. I—"

Iris cut him off. "That's enough. You've said that once in the past. All that talk about spending the rest of your life with Zoey and giving her the world—none of that means anything when you weren't even there for her while she was giving birth."

Levi had no idea how distanced he and Zoey had become in his absence of one-and-a-half-year, nor was he aware of how much he had hurt her.

Hence, it was futile trying to explain himself.

“I really didn’t mean to abandon you, Zoey. Why do you think I’ve come back?”

Jerry glared at him haughtily. “Aren’t you going to give Ms. Lopez an explanation behind your year-long absence? Do you think she’d accept you just like that?”

Zoey turned to Levi too.

She had been waiting for an explanation all this while, and finally, that day had come.

“Well, what are you waiting for?” Iris demanded. “Where have you been the past year? What did you do? Tell us everything. You owe Zoey and Evie an explanation no matter what!”

Zoey nodded. “Yeah. Iris has said exactly what’s been on my mind. I demand an explanation.”