

UNTOUCHABLE

Chapter 421

Seeing that it was Hilary Stone who was calling, Finn Taylor picked up the call.

"Finn Taylor, you're finally picking up my call. I guess you should already know what's going on. I have Linda James. What are you going to do?"

"Hilary Stone, are you stupid? What does that have to do with me? Do I even have a relationship with Linda James?"

"What do you mean? Isn't Linda James your mother-in-law? Are you going to sit back and watch while I kill her?"

"Mother-in-law? I'm single; I don't have a girlfriend or a wife. What mother-in-law are you talking about?"

"Right, right. I won't argue with you over this. Even if she's no longer your mother-in-law, she was once your mother-in-law. Are you really going to do nothing about this?"

"Do you have Yvette Larson's phone number? I can give you her number if you don't. If you don't want to contact her, I could give you Francis Larson's number too. I think it's better that you look for them instead of me. After all, I bear a grudge against Linda James. You should know about how Linda James told Melanie Taylor about my secret. Do you think I'd want her alive? Oh right, didn't you say that you have Linda James? Why don't I give you a sum of money, and you can kill her for me."

"What? You want me to kill Linda James?"

"What's the big deal? You've already kidnapped her. Are you afraid of killing her? Weren't you just threatening me about it?"

"No, get this clear. I'm the kidnapper; you're supposed to save her. Why are you trying to kill her?"

"You're the confused one. If you want your hostage to be saved, you should be calling her family. Why did you call me?"

"Finn Taylor, I'm asking you one last time, so don't try to play tricks on me. Are you going to pay me or not? I'll let her go if you do. Otherwise, I'm going to hold her hostage."

The man on the other end of the call simply ended it without saying a word.

Hilary Stone was about to say something when she heard the beeps from her phone. *'He hung up too! Francis Larson hung up on me, and now, Finn Taylor hung up too! And it's because they both don't want to save her. They want Linda James dead!'*

In fact, Hilary Stone had done the second call on speaker mode. Hence, Linda James had heard the entire conversation.

The former ripped the duct tape off Linda James's mouth. "Linda, did you hear that? I called your husband and asked him to save you, but he hung up on me. You refused to believe me, but look, you're familiar with Finn Taylor, right? He hung up on me too, and he even told me that he'd pay me to kill you."

"Finn Taylor, you b*stard! I was really blind! How could I have married my daughter to you?" Linda James was fuming because of what she had heard. *'I was really blind. Why did I agree to let Yvette marry such a b*stard? I'm still his mother-in-law. Even if they're divorced, I'm still his ex-wife's mother! All he has to do is pay to get me out of here. Why did he refuse? I'd understand if he's poor and unemployed, but he's the eldest son of the Taylor family! He's loaded, yet he doesn't want to save me! No! If I ever get out of here, I'm definitely going to beat him to death. Not just Finn, but Francis as well. How could he choose not to save me? I'm his wife!'*

Hilary Stone turned to Gremlin. "What are we supposed to do now? Kill her? They both don't want anything to do with her. I can't possibly call her daughter."

"Are you stupid? Do you really think her daughter wasn't beside them just now?"

"What do we do then? Do we really kill her?"

"Kill her? I wish! I'll be in deep trouble if I kill her. They're really scheming. They know that I wouldn't dare to do that."

"Why? Do they have a secret of yours?"

Gremlin was definitely not going to let Hilary Stone in on his secret that Finn Taylor would be angered if he were to kill this woman. Then, the latter would spare no effort in hunting him down. Eventually, he would even have to face off with Maximus Brugel.

"No, but you don't have to know anything. However, I have a good idea now. I want to see what Linda James will do to those two men if I were to let her out."

Hilary Stone burst into laughter. *'Given Linda James's personality, she'll surely kick up a huge fuss over how the two men refused to save her.'*

"Linda James, why don't we release you now?"

"Yes, hurry up! I want to kill them both!"

"Alright then. If you manage to kill Finn Taylor, I'll give you 150,000 dollars. Of course, you won't get anything if you fail."

The sky-high offer caused Linda James's eyes to light up. Although she was leading a comfortable life in Number One Pacific Heights, she didn't have any money of her own. Her daughter was the one who controlled the family's finances.

She could ask her daughter for money, but the latter would always ask for a reason and ask how the money was going to be spent.

Her daughter would be alright giving her a few hundred dollars for her to go out with her friends but definitely not thousands. As such, 150,000 dollars was almost unheard of to Linda James.

"How will you give me the money if I really kill him?"

"Don't worry. We know each other, so I'll record it down for you." Hilary Stone acted as the middleman.

"Alright.. I'll trust you for the last time, Hilary. Just you wait—I'll kill Finn Taylor!"

Chapter 422

By the time Finn Taylor arrived home with his wife and father-in-law, Linda James had already arrived.

"You're back? Are you feeling alright?" Concerned, Francis Larson rushed up.

"Francis Larson, you b*stard! How dare you ask me if I'm doing fine? What if I'm not?"

"Oh, your voice is still as loud as usual. I guess you're perfectly fine."

"Fine? I was kidnapped. They asked you to pay a ransom, but you hung up! Do you think I'm doing fine?"

"So you're not? What's wrong? Are you feeling unwell? Let's go to the hospital now."

"Hospital? Yes, but not for me. You need to see a doctor. Do you know why? Because I'm going to smash your bones and paralyze you so that you'll be bedridden for the rest of your life!"

"Linda James, I only said that because I knew that Hilary Stone would release you if I said so. Otherwise, she'd ask for more and more, and I wouldn't be able to afford it."

"What sound logic. If you ever get kidnapped, I'll do the same. I'll tell them I have no money and hang up on them. What about that?"

"Sure, why not? As long as I get home safe and sound, I don't care what you do. You should be more rational. It doesn't matter what kind of method we use as long as we eventually get to where we should be. See—we succeeded, and you're home safe and sound."

"Safe and sound? Well, let me tell you that they only let me out because I promised to kill you. Otherwise, they'll kidnap me again."

"Alright, alright. Kill me then. I'm willing to die as long as you can live."

"Francis Larson, don't try to fool me with your words. Do you think I'd be moved? Don't you already understand me by now? I won't be moved by your words."

"No, I'm not trying to move you. I really do want to die. Come on; kill me. But before that, you better think about something."

"What is it?"

"It's simple. If I die, do you really think that they won't come for you again? Don't you know why they're after you? Is it really because of me? If it's not, it's obvious that they'll still come after you. Without me, there would be nobody to protect you. Then, do you think they'll still let you out, or will they simply kill you? Think about it."

"Are you threatening me?"

"No, I'm just analyzing the situation for you. You can do as you please."

"No, you're obviously threatening me. You're telling me that I'll die if I kill you."

"Yvette, bring a knife over for your mom. I'll let her kill me since she so desperately wants to."

Yvette Larson didn't do so, but Finn Taylor strolled over and slammed the knife down in front of his mother-in-law. "If I'm not wrong, they didn't just ask you to kill Dad. They probably asked you to kill me as well. Come on; we can both die. It's true that we hung up and chose not to save you. We feel extremely guilty for not being able to protect you. Since you're still so angry over that, you can just kill us."

Finn Taylor's words threw the woman into an even greater rage. *'I can't possibly kill him. How can I kill him when he's so strong and powerful? I'll only be able to kill him if I catch him off-guard. From what he's saying, he already expected me to kill him. There's no way I'll succeed then.'*

"Fine, you guys are really vicious. I won't kill you two."

"You mean you can't kill us?"

"What? I really hate that I can't kill you. If I was capable enough, I would've killed you both."

"It's more important for our family to live together in harmony. Why do you keep talking about killing each other? Hurry up and tell me whether there was a man named Gremlin beside Hilary Stone."

"How am I supposed to know if I heard that name?"

"I guess it must be so then. We were right—Gremlin is taking action now. Finn, what shall we do? Shall we ask your master for help? I think this is out of our league."

"Don't worry. My master will definitely know about this; he'll contact us if he wants to help us. However, I'm sure someone is already in San Francisco by now since Gremlin has appeared."

"Are you talking about Sprite?"

"That's right. The Taylor family was split into several factions, but they all eventually supported either my brother or me. Gremlin is helping my brother, so it's only natural that Sprite is on my side. I believe that he's already here."

Just as Finn Taylor was saying so, they heard a knock on the door.

The group turned to see an old man in a white robe standing there. "Long time no see, Finn Taylor."

"Sprite?" Although Finn Taylor knew of the man's existence, he had never met the latter.

Because he had been abandoned by the Taylor family, Sprite had never once appeared before him.

"Yes, I'm Sprite. I'm the one the Taylor family had trained to support you. Nice to meet you."

"Are you here to go against Gremlin?"

"Yes, he's scum! We should really deal with him."

"Scum? I'm sure he's done much worse than this. Why didn't you show up before then? Are you only acting now because I'm useful to you now? Have you also been waiting in the dark to see if I'd succeed or fail?"

That was indeed what Sprite had intended on doing.. Although he had been assigned to help Finn Taylor, he had never thought well of the young man.

Chapter 423

'Although Finn Taylor might be the eldest son of the Taylor family, he can't match up to his younger brother. Why? Because he has been abandoned by his own family—nobody in the family even supports him. Besides, they've always treated him as a jinx. That might be a tall tale that someone made up, but it can't be helped that so many in the family believe that Finn Taylor will bring the family down.'

Sprite had been assigned to support Finn Taylor, but he had never wanted to do so because he thought that he would face a horrible death once the young man lost to his younger brother. However, things would be different if he didn't step forward to help Finn Taylor at all. That way, he would easily be able to absolve himself of all responsibility.

As such, Sprite made the decision to simply do nothing, even though he supported Finn Taylor on the surface. In reality, however, he had never even met the latter.

But things were different now. Finn Taylor had unexpectedly succeeded and took over control of Chicago's Taylor family.

Naturally, Sprite wanted to make use of the younger man's fight against Gremlin to get on his good side.

But of course, Finn Taylor was no fool. It took him no time at all to realize that Sprite wasn't loyal to him.

Finn Taylor had one principle: to never doubt someone he used and to never use someone he doubted. *'Sprite didn't want to help me in the past, but he's trying to suck up to me now that I've won. Who knows if he'll kick me to the curb again if I were to fall from grace? I might not trust Sprite, but he'll go against Gremlin. I hope they both die—that will be the best-case scenario for me.'*

"There's no need to get so anxious; I'm just joking. Come on in. Since you're from Chicago's Taylor family and you're supposed to protect and support me, I'll trust you."

Finn Taylor's words naturally didn't convince Sprite, who knew that the younger man didn't trust him. Yet, there was nothing else he could do. He could only take things one step at a time and hope to gain the former's trust. If that didn't happen, it would be good enough to stay alive.

"Mr. Taylor, your house is so big and beautiful." Sprite wasted no time in trying to curry favor with Finn Taylor. Unfortunately, he was completely ignored.

To Finn Taylor, he had already gifted the house to his wife, and her name was on the property deed too. Even if the other man praised the house, it had nothing to do with him.

To Yvette Larson, it didn't matter to her how much the man praised the house since this was her husband's house.

Even more so, Linda James had nothing to do with the house. The house wasn't hers, nor did she know Sprite. In fact, she was still confused about the man's relationship with her son-in-law.

However, Francis Larson knew. He rushed up and slapped the old man in the back of the head, throwing him to the ground. "Sprite, have you been doing alright? I'm just putting you in your place and letting you know that this is the Larson family's house. I'm the one in charge. Don't you dare kick up a fuss here."

Although Francis Larson and Sprite didn't know each other well, they had met several times.

"You're Finn Taylor's father-in-law?"

"That's right. I'm his father-in-law."

"You weren't even worthy of carrying my shoes for me at that time. You were a nobody. Why are you doing so well now? Why don't I have such a beautiful daughter too? If I did, Finn Taylor would've been my son-in-law, not yours."

"Sprite, have you already forgotten what I said? This is my turf, so you better think through everything before you speak. Otherwise, I'll let you die a miserable death. You better understand clearly that I'm no longer a nobody in Peregrine Hall. I'm Finn Taylor's father-in-law."

He emphasized the last words because he was proud of the fact. *'Ha! Finn is the eldest son of Chicago's Taylor family—the head of the Taylor family—and I'm his father-in-law!'*

"Fine, I admit that you're good. I'll follow you from now on. I'll call you Brother Francis in the future."

"Are you stupid? I'm Finn Taylor's father-in-law. If you call me your brother, won't Finn have to address you as his uncle?"

"What? I feel like I'm the one at a loss having Finn Taylor address me as an uncle at my age."

"Right, you feel like you're at a loss. But that's just how you feel. Does that matter? Who do you think you are?"

"What should I call you then?"

"Call me Mr. Larson. You can call him Mr. Taylor. There's no need to be more affectionate than that."

"I know Finn Taylor's wife is named Yvette Larson; I'll call her Ms. Larson then. However, I don't know your wife's name."

"Hello, I'm Linda James. Who are you?" The older woman glanced at the man in front of her. *'He looks like an important man. Why would Francis know him? Besides, Francis is acting so strangely today. He seems like a completely different person today.'*

"Oh, Ms. James. Hello."

"How awful that sounds. It's been years since people have addressed me as 'Miss.' Don't you think I'm a little too old for that?"

"How should I address you then?" Sprite was utterly miserable. *'Are they nuts? They've scolded me for so long just because of how I address them.'*

"Forget it. You can call me whatever you want since I don't know you guys. Do whatever you want. Just don't bother me.." Linda James waved the old man off.

Chapter 424

Sprite was no fool. In fact, he was highly intelligent.

He had come here to admit to his mistake and get on good terms with Finn Taylor. That was why he had tried to remain as friendly as possible—not just to the latter, but his family as well.

'But from what I've just seen, the whole family is so strange. They're a family, but they don't seem to be united. Everyone seems to have their own ideas and plans. Finn Taylor's mother-in-law is the strangest. She acts like she holds a huge grudge against him—as though she's holding a gun against his back when talking to him. It makes sense if I offended Finn Taylor, but I've never even met Linda James. How could I have offended her? What's going on? I guess I'll still have to observe the situation for a while longer.'

"Finn, I heard that Gremlin has been in San Francisco for quite a few months and has even started dealing with your family. It's my fault that I overlooked it. I should've nipped the problem in the bud, but it isn't too late now. Finn, tell me how you want me to deal with Gremlin. I'll do as you say." Sprite naturally made it seem as though the whole incident had nothing to do with him and that he had just found out about the matter.

However, Finn Taylor didn't believe a single thing he said. *'It's simple. You didn't trust me before I succeeded and only changed to my side once I defeated my uncle back in Chicago. You're only here because you have no way out.'*

"Alright. Go kill him." Since Sprite was so adamant, Finn Taylor cut straight to the chase too. *'Since you want to kill him, go ahead. However, I don't think you would really dare to kill him.'*

"I don't think we should do that. Killing Gremlin might seem like nothing, but there's a lot more to it. He's on your grandma's side, and they haven't been completely eradicated. If I do anything to him, the Taylor family will probably break out into a mess."

Finn Taylor had already expected the older man to offer all sorts of excuses.

It would be stranger if Sprite chose to kill the other.

"That's fine. Just kill him; I'll take care of the rest. Don't worry."

Sprite felt miserable. *'Don't worry? How can I not worry? You'll definitely be fine since you're Master Peregrine. You're not a lowly worker like me! I'm the one who will get into trouble!'*

"Mr. Taylor, I really can't. It's not because I don't want to or that I can't win against him but because there's a lot more to this than what meets the eye. We better think through this. We can't blindly kill him just because we want to."

"I'm giving you two choices now: Kill him because my family's lives are in danger now or scram!"

Finn Taylor had never trusted Sprite, yet the latter was trying to act as a good Samaritan that was simply trying to help him out. However, the former was clear that the older man was only serving his own self-interests. What was the point of keeping someone like that by his side?

It was best if he left right now.

"Forget it then. I'll sacrifice my life to help you kill this traitor, but there are some things I have to warn you about. If I don't manage to succeed, I hope that you'll spare my life. If I really try to attack him and he really dies, I'm sure someone on his side will try to save him."

Finn Taylor sneered, evident for the other to see. *'Do you think I'd believe you? You're clearly telling me that you're not going to kill Gremlin. You're just going to put on a show. I can't force him to do what he doesn't want to do.'*

"Alright, do your best then. There's nothing more you can do if you try your best but fail."

There was nothing else he could do. He couldn't possibly have a fallout with Sprite.

That was something Finn Taylor wasn't willing to do. He didn't trust the old man, but nor was he going to publicly denounce the latter.

As for the older man, he left soon after receiving his order.

"He's really shameless. How could he say something like that?" Francis Larson lamented after the man left. He hated cowards like Sprite.

"Well, there are too many shameless people like that in the world. They'll only try to get into your good books after you succeed. If you fail, they'll surely follow someone else. Even if he's on my side today, he'll definitely take the side of someone else if I were to fail."

"I'm sure of that; I've seen that happening in Peregrine Hall before. Speaking of which, Peregrine Hall is such an interesting place. It's just an organization, but you can find the most vicious and ugly side of society there."

"That's why it's no wonder that you didn't manage to last there. It's because you still have a conscience. Only shameless people will be able to survive there."

"That's true even in society. You must either be talented or shameless enough."

"That's why I've always told Yvette that there are some things better kept to ourselves. There's no need to let others in on our secrets because nobody is truly ever on our side."

Yvette Larson smiled awkwardly, not knowing what to say.. She was like a coward in front of her husband and father.

Chapter 425

"Dad, you're not giving me any face. You're making me feel like an idiot who doesn't know anything about societal rules."

"Do you really know them? If you did, you wouldn't have told your mom what Finn told you, and your mom never would've had the chance to tell Melanie Taylor anything."

"Why are you dragging me into this too? What does this have to do with me? Besides, you seem different today, Francis. Are you hiding something from me? I can't help but feel like you've suddenly gotten smarter overnight. Do you mean you've been putting on an act for decades?" Linda James was annoyed that her husband had picked her out. *'Francis seems to have smartened up today. Wasn't he a fool who listened to whatever I said in the past? Why does he feel like a stranger today?'*

"Mom, Dad is actually..."

Before Yvette Larson could finish her sentence, her father cut in. "What could I be keeping from you? I've been living with you for more than 20 years, and I've never left you. You've always been by my side no matter where I go."

Francis Larson was absolutely right. Where Linda James, he was too. There was nothing he could possibly hide from her.

However, Linda James didn't understand why her husband would do that. *'Every man has their own secrets. Which man would choose to stay by his wife's side all day long? Shouldn't men try to make their marks? Even though everyone called Finn Taylor a piece of trash, he always headed out. He never spent his whole day with Yvette, but Francis was different. For 20 whole years, he's always followed me around.'*

The reason was simple: Francis Larson was simply worried for his wife's safety.

After all, he had been chased out of Peregrine Hall. He had offended countless powerful men in the organization, and these men were capable of killing without blinking an eye.

Linda James would surely die as long as they wanted her dead, and that was why Francis Larson had chosen to stay close to her at all times so as to protect her.

"You're right. You've always been by my side for the past 20 years. I wouldn't believe you if you say that you have an affair, nor will I believe that you're hiding something from me. Francis Larson, do you know how many people have called you a good-for-nothing? People have always said that I was blind to have married you, and they even persuaded me to divorce you. I'm sure you know that I hate Finn Taylor because he's a piece of trash and that I've been convincing Yvette to get a divorce. However, I've never mentioned that word to you. Do you know why? It's because you've always stuck by my side, so I have absolutely no doubts about you. That's the only thing you've ever done for me. You've never given me anything else, but I'm willing to remain married to a piece of trash like you because you don't worry me."

Finn Taylor and Yvette Larson glanced at each other, goosebumps all over their bodies. Just moments earlier, their mom had been insisting on killing her husband because the latter had refused to save her from her captors.

It had only been a few minutes since, yet the couple was already so loving toward each other!

'Sigh, nobody will ever be able to understand Mom.'

...

The next day, Finn Taylor was about to head out when he received a call from Hunter Sullivan.

The latter informed him that Gremlin was dead.

"What? Repeat yourself. Who's dead?"

"Gremlin—the one who kidnapped your mother-in-law. He's dead."

"Who killed him? Sprite?" Finn Taylor was confused. *'Although Sprite agreed to kill Gremlin yesterday, I could obviously tell that he wasn't actually planning on doing it. Gremlin couldn't have died in Sprite's hands, but the former is dead! Did Sprite's conscience really gnaw at him? Was that why he went to kill Gremlin? That's not possible.'*

"I don't think so. From what I've seen, Sprite hasn't done anything up until now. Gremlin passed away so suddenly. I'm rushing over now. I heard rumors that he was poisoned."

'Poisoned? What did he eat or do? Why would he suddenly be poisoned to death? Someone who takes their life seriously would never be poisoned so easily, unless it's done by someone they trust.'

After hanging up the call, Finn Taylor made a call to Logan Yeats, instructing the latter to take Hilary Stone captive.

The only thing Finn Taylor knew was that Gremlin had contacted Hilary Stone just a day before he'd died. If he wanted to find any clues, Hilary Stone was his best bet.

Logan Yeats set out to work immediately after receiving his boss's order.

At that moment, Francis Larson walked over. "What's going on? Did something happen?"

Seeing his son-in-law's expression, Francis Larson could tell that something was brewing.

"Gremlin died all of a sudden. They say he was poisoned." Finn Taylor didn't hide anything from his father-in-law.

The former was a very cautious and prudent man who never trusted anyone fully—not even the four guardians. He had never told the four men about his grandpa, yet he had told Francis Larson about it. This was because the latter was his father-in-law.

"Gremlin is dead? How interesting.. Did Sprite do it? I doubt so. How could he possibly have killed Gremlin?"

Chapter 426

While Finn Taylor indeed wished for Gremlin's death, he didn't want the latter to die without even knowing why. After all, Gremlin represented much more.

Although Finn Taylor was now the head of Chicago's Taylor family, he had always been viewed as an abandoned child by the family.

What did that mean? It meant that the whole family looked down on him and treated him as a nobody.

This was a rule set by his grandma. Although she had already passed away, her men were still around.

Finn Taylor hadn't killed off these men who still held great power within Peregrine Hall. *'Why would Gremlin suddenly come to San Francisco to challenge me? He can't possibly be that fearless and daring. It's obvious that someone is backing him up. Who else would do this? It's obvious that the men behind him are my grandma's men. It won't be easy dealing with them. They've all toiled for the Taylor family for decades and have made great achievements. How am I supposed to answer to everyone else if I were to kill them? What would the rest of them think of me? Won't they rebel against me instead?'*

But Finn Taylor was now most concerned about why Gremlin had suddenly passed on. There was only one possibility: his grandma's men had killed him.

This complicated things since there was only one reason they would do so—to accuse Finn Taylor of killing Gremlin.

If they succeeded, they would then be able to steal away everything that Finn Taylor had from him. After all, there weren't many Taylors left in the family.

'Apart from me, there are only my mother and younger brother. We can forget about Donovan since he's such an idiot. Let's talk about my mother then. She's such an interesting character. She's so power-hungry that she's willing to even fight against her own son for power! Since that's the case, I guess they've never treated her as someone on my side. All things considered, this will mean that there will be nobody from Chicago's Taylor family once they defeat me. Then, Peregrine Hall will belong to an outsider.'

Gremlin seemed like nothing more than a playing piece, yet he was hiding such a massive secret—he was being used at such a critical moment to bring the entire Taylor family down!

'No, that won't do. I can't just sit back and watch all of this happen. I have to go all out. There's no need to hold back anymore.' With that thought in mind, Finn Taylor immediately made a call to Zachary Kennedy.

The latter was the best at technology amongst his men, and he was adept at using his skills to monitor others. As such, Finn Taylor put him in charge of surveilling those men from Peregrine Hall.

What the former needed to do was resolve the matter before those men even had the chance to step foot in San Francisco. This meant that he had to make Gremlin completely disappear from the face of the earth, as though he had never existed in the first place.

The reason was simple.

Didn't those men want to frame him for killing Gremlin? If he had indeed killed Gremlin, they had better show him proof by bringing Gremlin's corpse forward. Otherwise, they had better shut up.

This was Finn Taylor's only choice; he had been forced into a corner.

"Have you thought about how you're going to deal with this?" Francis Larson asked his son-in-law.

"Pretty much. I'm going to destroy his corpse and prevent news from getting out. I'm sure that news has already spread, but we can't let them know about it because they were the ones who killed him."

"What do you mean?"

"To put it simply, those men from Peregrine Hall sent Gremlin to my side to kill me, but they killed him after he failed at his mission and tried to frame me for it. They'll then strike while I'm down and say that I'm not fit to be Master Peregrine since I killed someone from Peregrine Hall."

"That's true. They should be the ones then."

"Elliot Jensen." Finn Taylor mentioned a name. There were two men who held special positions in Peregrine Hall. One was his master—Maximus Brugel—and the other was Elliot Jensen.

His grandpa was the one who had brought Maximus Brugel into Peregrine Hall, and the latter was one of the most powerful men within the organization. On the other hand, his grandma was the one who had brought Elliot Jensen in when she first married into the family.

Before Frida Cameron had married into the family, Elliot Jensen had held a high position in her family—almost similar to the family head. Even so, he had always been suppressed in Peregrine Hall and had never enjoyed true power because of Maximus Brugel.

That naturally pissed him off, yet he hadn't been able to do anything about it over the past few decades because Maximus Brugel was too powerful. The latter was probably a hundred—or even a thousand times—more powerful than he was.

However, there was no turning back now. Since he had already made the first move, Finn Taylor had to fight back by destroying all evidence.

"Since you're so determined, you should just do it!"

Francis Larson had no intention of stopping his son-in-law. He understood that they were now in the same boat—if anything happened to either of them, both of them would fall.

Since the latter thought long and hard before coming up with his plan, what Francis Larson had to do was support him.

"I'll leave our family to you. Don't leave the house and protect the two of them well."

Chapter 427

"Don't worry. Leave this to me and do what you have to." Francis Larson was different after all. He had been part of Peregrine Hall too, even though he had been forced to leave after a series of failures. However, he was still familiar with fights like this as compared to an average person.

As such, he readily agreed to his son-in-law's request.

"Oh right. Don't tell Yvette about this since it's so complicated."

"Don't worry. Leave the family to me. You can do whatever you need to; I'll take care of them."

Having been reassured by Francis Larson, Finn Taylor left for the abandoned warehouse where Gremlin had been killed. *'Why did Gremlin get killed here? Shouldn't he have met the person at a hotel or restaurant? Why would he meet that person here? Besides, there isn't anything to eat here. What could he have eaten to be poisoned?'*

By the time Finn Taylor arrived, Hunter Sullivan had already been there for a while. After inspecting the place meticulously, the latter realized that this was merely an ordinary abandoned warehouse.

It had been abandoned for nearly five to six years, and based on the footsteps made in the dust, two people must've visited the warehouse. This meant that Gremlin probably died in the hands of that person.

"Look at the footprints; they're from high heels. Do you think it was a woman or a man pretending to be a woman?"

It was obvious that Gremlin would be found, and so would the footprints since it had been years since anyone else had been there. This could only mean that the culprit had deliberately left those footprints.

'Could this be a trick? Was it really a woman, or could a man have killed Gremlin and put on high heels to fool us into thinking that he's a woman?'

"That's hard to say. From the footprints alone, it was probably a woman, but they might also be trying to fool us. However, there's something I haven't been able to wrap my head around. I'm sure you've already guessed that it's someone on my grandma's side in Peregrine Hall who did this. I'm sure they would want to frame me for killing Gremlin, so why would they leave behind a woman's footprints? I'm not a woman."

"Could there be more to this? Maybe they're trying to frame someone else."

"Someone else? It must be someone around me then. Do you mean those men are actually after Yvette?"

"We can't rule out that possibility."

Just then, Logan Yeats arrived with Hilary Stone.

When the latter spotted the corpse on the ground, she let out a surprised yelp.

Finn Taylor had been observing the woman from the moment she walked in. Her expression came as no surprise to the former since he could tell that she was indeed shocked by the man's death.

"Don't kill me, Finn Taylor. Gremlin was the one who instigated me. I don't want to die with him. We're family, right? I won't go against your family anymore. Please don't kill me." Up until now, Hilary Stone still had no idea who had killed Gremlin and instinctively thought that Finn Taylor was the culprit.

After all, Gremlin had kidnapped the latter's mother-in-law.

Hilary Stone had been an accomplice too. *'Is he going to kill me too?'*

"Remove your shoes."

Although Hilary Stone was confused by that order, she dared not disobey the man.

Hunter Sullivan strode over and snatched her shoes away to compare them with the footprints on the ground. Eventually, he shook his head.

Finn Taylor had asked the woman to remove her shoes because he wanted to know if they matched those on the ground. But now that they weren't similar, it could only mean that Hilary Stone hadn't been to the warehouse before this.

"Don't worry. We won't kill you. We didn't kill Gremlin either; we just found out about his death. Do you see the footprints on the ground? They're from a pair of high heels. That means it was a woman who killed him."

Hilary Stone was terrified, and she nodded frantically. "It wasn't me. I didn't kill him. Don't try to frame me for this. Someone is setting me up."

"Setting you up? Who would do that?"

Hilary Stone wanted to reply that they were the ones who held a grudge against her, yet there was no way she'd say so unless she had a death wish. "I don't know, but I definitely didn't kill him. Think about it—he's Gremlin! Do you know how powerful he is? There's no way I could've taken him down."

"Don't worry. He wasn't beaten to death but poisoned. He ate something and died, so you're not out of my suspect list. You were the last one he saw, and he died in the hands of a woman. You two must've eaten together, right? It's entirely possible that you killed him."

"No, no. That's impossible. Why would I want to poison him? There's no conflict between us."

"Everyone knows that you guys have met and schemed to do something together. Maybe he deviated from your plan and you wanted to get back at him for that, so you poisoned him. Who knows?"

"No, no. There was nothing of that sort. Besides, I didn't kill him."

"Do you want to live or die?" Finn Taylor suddenly asked a strange question.

"Of course, I want to live. Please don't kill me."

"Alright then. Do as I say from now on, or else I'll take it that you killed Gremlin."

"Fine, I promise that I'll listen to you from now on."

Chapter 428

For the sake of her life, Hilary Stone agreed to Finn Taylor's request. She would do as the latter said.

The man chuckled and pretended to believe her on the surface, but he was clear that someone like Hilary Stone would never pledge loyalty to anyone.

She was a traitor through and through.

Everyone knew how her own husband had died.

Speaking of which, Finn Taylor couldn't hold in his curiosity. "Hilary Stone, since you've said that you'll do as I say, you better answer me truthfully. Otherwise, I won't trust you. Remember that I'm only giving you one chance."

"Alright, ask me whatever you want to know. I'll tell you as much as I know."

"It's simple. Why do you hold a grudge against the Larson family?"

"The Larson family?"

"You can pretend to be stupid if you really want to die. I already know what you've done. I just want to see if you'll tell me the truth. If you dare to lie to me, you can wait to die."

"Fine, fine. I'll tell you everything. It's nothing much, really. We were all starving at that time and had to beg on the streets for food. Our family still had some rations that would tide us over for some time. Even though it wouldn't have saved us all, it was better than nothing. The Larson family that everyone thinks so highly of is nothing more than scum! They took advantage of the fact that they had more people than us and stole from us!"

"Eventually, my family was killed, and I was one of only two or three survivors. Of course, even those two others eventually starved to death. I was the only one from my family who survived. Do you know how much I hate the Larson family? It was from then that I swore to myself that I would definitely take revenge against the Larson family and kill all of them."

"So? What was your plan? Why don't you tell me what you've done thus far?"

"Don't you already know what I've done? Do you really need me to explicitly say it?"

"I don't know. I want you to tell me about it; I chose to trust you. I'll feel like you're hiding something from me if you refuse to tell me about it."

"Nonsense! I've nothing to hide. Actually, I didn't do much. You know that I married the youngest son of the Larson family too. Then, I deliberately seduced my husband's second and third brothers and let my husband realize that I was having affairs with them. That turned the brothers against each other, and my husband's two brothers eventually killed him."

"Are you saying that your husband was killed by his brothers and that you have nothing to do with it?"

"I know I have no evidence, but you can choose to believe me if you want. It's true that I wasn't involved in his death. Of course, you don't have any evidence even if you don't believe me."

"Fine, I believe you. Go on."

"I initially wanted to kill Francis Larson's family too, but I realized that he was an intelligent man. I don't know if you've realized, but he's way scarier than one would imagine. He's really the most impressive amongst the four sons of the family."

Finn Taylor's curiosity was piqued. *'I used to look down on Hilary Stone, but there's much more than what meets the eye. To be honest, I only recently realized that Francis Larson is so impressive. He's kept it hidden from me for the past three years, but Hilary Stone knew this from the start?'*

"How did you know that from the very beginning? Go on—I want to know more."

"Alright, I'll continue. Ever since I realized that Francis Larson was actually talented, I came up with a plan to form an alliance with his two younger brothers to fight against him. I thought that we would definitely be able to win since it was three families against one, but reality proved me wrong."

"Francis Larson was much more impressive than I had ever imagined, and we weren't his match at all. Even after so many years, we've only been able to level the playing field; we haven't been able to win. It seemed like my plan for revenge wasn't going to succeed with the second generation, so I turned my target to the third generation—you, Yvette Larson, and Quince Larson."

"What do you mean? What did you do to make the Old Master give up on the second generation and choose his successor from the third?"

The Larson family weren't fools. They couldn't have just done as Hilary Stone said.

Even if Hilary Stone wanted the Larson family's heir to be chosen from the third generation, the Old Master wouldn't have agreed to her suggestion. He was a resolute and stubborn man who would never listen to others.

"Well, that was simple. I just had to make the Old Master find out about my affairs with his sons. That way, the entire second generation was ruined."

"I don't understand. It should've only been his second, third, and youngest sons who were excluded, so why was my dad excluded as well?"

"That's because the Old Master wasn't the only one who caught us in the act—your father did too. That meant that he couldn't become the family head."

"I don't understand. Hurry up and explain it to us."

"Finn Taylor, I never thought you'd be so stupid. Alright then, I'll explain it to you. The answer is simple: Since the two brothers knew that their elder brother knew of their secret, they would definitely be afraid of him. If he were to become the family head, his brothers would surely find a way to kill him to carry their secret to their graves.. As such, the Old Master could only make a decision to choose his successor from the next generation so as to protect his sons."

Chapter 429

Hilary Stone was much more scheming than Finn Taylor had ever imagined. *'I thought that it was simply the Larson family's fate that they ended up in this mess. Yvette is a girl after all, so she never would've*

been in line to inherit the family. Although Quince Larson is a male, he's useless and also wouldn't be chosen, much less Eleanor Larson. As for Quinn Larson, he's still so young. If he were to take over the family's reins, we'd all go down. That's why I thought that everything was a matter of fate. Who would've guessed that Hilary Stone was the one behind all of this?'

"Hilary Stone, I'm starting to fear you. In fact, I think it'd be better to kill you right now. You'll surely bring more trouble to me in the future."

"Sure, come and kill me if you want to. I don't mind."

"Kill you? I'd be letting you off too easily. Besides, I still have another question to ask you. Since you had affairs with both Franklin and Frederick, who's the father of your son?"

"Finn Taylor, your imagination is so limited. Would you believe me if I told you that he isn't a Larson?"

"Of course, I would. Why wouldn't I? You're capable of so much. You've never been normal anyway, so I wouldn't expect any less from you."

"That's right—I'm not normal. In the eyes of your family, I'm just a demon. But have you ever wondered why I became one? It's all because of you! If your family didn't steal our rations, my family wouldn't have died, and I wouldn't have been left an orphan."

"That's a feud between the previous generations. I don't really want to comment too much about it, but what I do want to say is that you're just finding a scapegoat. To be honest, those rations couldn't have saved your family either. It would've been up to fate no matter what."

"Well said, but have you personally experienced it? There's no way you would say the same if this happened to you. You need to experience first-hand to understand what I truly feel."

Although Hilary Stone was wicked and downright unreasonable at times, Finn Taylor had to admit that she made sense.

Nobody could truly put themselves in others' shoes. Everyone's feelings were subjective after all.

"Finn Taylor, what else do you want to know? I'll tell you everything."

"Oh, since we're here, let me ask you another question. How did Frederick's wife die? Everyone says that she died in labor, but I doubt so. You should know about it, right?"

"Of course. Died in labor? Nonsense! But even if she did die in labor, she'd deserve it!"

"Stop beating around the bush. Tell me exactly how she died!"

"Maybe it's because I let Frederick have a taste of other women, and he decided that his wife wasn't good enough for him. Did you know that his wife got into an affair? Frederick was away on a business trip for some time—three months, I think. It was during that time that his wife hooked up with another man. Eventually, she got so daring that she even brought the man home."

"Then, Frederick suddenly returned home and happened to catch his wife red-handed with some other man at home. I'm sure you can imagine how infuriated he would've been at that time. He didn't think it through and charged over with a knife, wanting to kill that man. Of course, he never expected that man to hide behind his wife, and so, he couldn't catch the man."

"I'm sure you can guess what happened after that: Frederick accidentally killed his own wife. Well, he said that it was an accident, but who knows if he did it on purpose. I don't have any proof against it, so it's up to you whether you believe it or not."

"Where's that man? Is he still alive? Have you met him? Has he ever visited the Larson family after that woman died?"

"No, he's a piece of trash. Frederick's wife must've been blind to have fallen for him. After she died, he never once asked about her."

"Do you think Eleanor is a result of her mother's affairs then?"

"That's impossible. I'm sure you can see how much she resembles her father."

'That's true. Besides, given Frederick Larson's personality, he definitely would've done a paternity test. This can only mean that they're truly biologically related.'

"How many people know about Frederick Larson murdering his own wife?"

"I'm not certain, but I do know that his daughter knows nothing about it. Other than me, the Old Master and your dad know about it too. Finn Taylor, don't always think so highly about your family. You guys aren't all that righteous either."

"What do you mean? Why don't you tell me?"

"Did you know that your mother-in-law has tried to find men outside too? It's just that she's too ugly and that nobody fell for her.. If she was as pretty as me, she would've gotten herself a man a long time ago."

Chapter 430

Finn Taylor looked up toward the sky, seemingly able to see his grandpa.

After enduring 20 long years of humiliation and contempt, it was finally time for Timothy Taylor to take revenge personally.

He had already taken his revenge against his grandma, father, and mother. Now, the only one left was his younger twin brother—Donovan Taylor.

For over 20 years, the family had treated Donovan Taylor as a saint, saying that he was a blessing to them. Yet, even though they were born just minutes apart, Finn Taylor was treated as a jinx who would bring down the family.

'Why? Why should I be treated in this way? We are both from the Taylor family, and we are even twins. Why is there such a huge difference between our statuses?' As Finn Taylor glanced at the men beside him, he chuckled all of a sudden. "Do you know Gremlin's true identity?"

Francis Larson and the others turned to him in confusion. *'What does he mean by this? Do you mean that Gremlin was just a cover for someone else?'*

"Actually, the man you saw wasn't Gremlin. Sprite was just a cover too."

'What does he mean by this?' It wasn't just Francis Larson who was confused; even his daughter and the other men were as well. *'What is Finn Taylor trying to say?'*

"Actually, my brother—Donovan Taylor—is Gremlin, while I'm Sprite."

"That's impossible!" Francis Larson had met Gremlin, as well as Sprite, so he had no idea what his son-in-law was going on about.

"The Taylor family gave us fake identities to protect us. The men you saw were just our body doubles. Now that both Gremlin and Sprite have appeared, Donovan Taylor will show up too."

Francis Larson was dumbfounded. "Do you mean..."

The older man didn't dare to complete his sentence.

It was obvious what the other meant: It was time for the final battle within the Taylor family.

"Take care of Yvette. I'll go meet him alone."

There was much more to these words than what met the eye, and Francis Larson understood that even his son-in-law didn't dare to promise that he'd come back alive. He could very well perish in this battle.

"Finn, what do you mean? What are you going to do?" Yvette Larson tugged on her husband's arm. She had a premonition that the latter was headed off to do something very dangerous, and she was terrified.

Finn Taylor took her into his arms. "Don't worry. Trust me; I'll be back."

Yvette Larson burst out into tears, not knowing what to say.

Perhaps it was better not to say anything.

Eventually, Finn Taylor left and arrived at a lakeside outside the city. He was dressed in white, and he spotted a kayak along the banks of the lake.

On it was a young man in black.

They seemed like polar opposites, yet they were actually twins—Timothy Taylor and Donovan Taylor.

As the kayak floated up to the shore, the man in black got out and strolled up to the man in white.

The two men looked identical. If not for their different attires, people probably would've confused the two.

"You're here?"

"How did you know that I would come?"

"I just knew."

"Are you ready to die?"

"The only one who will die is you."

The man in black suddenly let out a sinister laugh. "Timothy Taylor, you'll never be able to guess who's the one who has been supporting me."

Just then, Finn Taylor's phone rang.

The caller ID displayed the name: Triton.

Finn Taylor was overwhelmed with emotions when he spotted the name because he had sent Triton and Phoenix to Mars in order to bring his grandpa back. *'Could it be that they've found Grandpa?'*

The man in black said blandly, "You can answer that. It's about time you know the truth."

'The truth? What is Donovan talking about?'

"Triton, have you found Grandpa?" Finn Taylor excitedly picked up the call and asked.

"It's me."

What surprised Finn Taylor was that it wasn't Triton or Phoenix on the other end of the call, nor was it his grandpa—Brian Taylor. It was someone completely unexpected—his master, Maximus Brugel!

"M-Master?"

"I think you must be curious why I'm on the line, but you probably have some idea."

A thought indeed ran through Finn Taylor's mind, but he hoped that it wasn't true. *'I've been discriminated against in the Taylor family for more than 20 years, my grandpa went missing, and I've always been fighting against my brother and father. Someone has been behind this whole mess in the Taylor family.'*

Finn Taylor hated to think that the person behind all this was his master. After all, the latter was the only person he respected the most save for his grandpa. Yet, he had gotten an answer through the call.

"You're absolutely right."

"Why?" Finn Taylor wanted an explanation. Given Maximus Brugel's position in the Taylor family, he never should've betrayed the family.

"Because your grandpa let me down. He had to die. The whole Taylor family has to die."

"What did my grandpa do?"

"Years ago, I was deeply in love with Jessica Daimler, but your grandpa forced me to stay in the Taylor family to protect all of you. I wasn't allowed out of the house for ten whole years! He was the one who ruined my life! Although the Taylor family grew in strength, my life was already ruined. He was the one who ruined it! Naturally, he had to pay for that. Finn, I'll be honest with you. I'm having a duel with your grandpa today while you have yours with Donovan Taylor. Who survives will be entirely up to fate."

With that, the call ended.

However, Finn Taylor was still in a daze.

His brother piped up, "What, are you shocked? Are you still confused?"

Finn Taylor was indeed stumped. 'Why would he do this? What's going on?'

But before he could give it any further thought, Donovan Taylor charged over.

...

San Francisco, the peak of Pacific Heights, Number One Pacific Heights.

Yvette Larson gazed out at the city, having already exhausted all her tears. *'It's been three days, but Finn isn't back. Is he really dead? What a b*stard! He promised me to return safely. He can't die! Why is he so vicious to leave me here alone?'*

"Don't cry. You'll look ugly if you cry any more." A familiar voice suddenly sounded.

Yvette Larson was stunned for a moment before she raised her head, only to see her husband rushing toward her.

Yvette Larson leaped up and hurled herself at her husband, who did the same.

The couple drew each other into their embraces, where they remained for an eternity.