

They promptly flocked to the police station to corroborate the truth.

This deluge of media presence besieged the police station entrance.

Meanwhile, Ferdinand had assembled his team, hiding themselves in a building outside the police station.

Under mounting pressure, he refrained from hasty actions. He was mindful that a visit to the police station to get Disguiser meant exposure to the media lens and could lead to dire consequences. He might be summoned to the military court the next day.

Compelled by the overwhelming situation, the police chief personally offered a clarification at the gate, as a multitude of onlookers demanded answers.

The answer was clear. The drug case bore no connection to Kingland Group or Liam. Relevant people had been apprehended and were undergoing questioning.

With this official announcement, Kingland Group's innocence was conclusively established.

Fuming with anger, two figures skulked in the shadows, watching the unfolding scene. They were Ferdinand and Fuller.

Their meticulously crafted plan had unexpectedly crumbled due to Liam's actions.

Their animosity toward Liam grew even stronger.

After receiving the news, the reporters gradually retreated, and the crowd of onlookers dispersed as well.

With a seething expression, Ferdinand wasted no time and proceeded directly to the police chief's office.

As he had been here before, the police officers who recognized Ferdinand's authority did not dare to stop him.

Facing the police chief, Ferdinand adopted a no-nonsense tone. "Let's skip the formalities. The army wants the detainee sent here by Liam. I trust you can cooperate with us."

Despite his outward politeness, Ferdinand's demeanor exuded unwavering determination. He didn't intend to leave room for negotiation with the police chief.

If met with a negative response, his team was prepared to employ force and extricate Disguiser.

But the police chief was still his timid self. "Of course, if the military wants him, I will certainly facilitate that."

Having navigated the political landscape for years, the police chief was very smart. He was well aware of the unfolding truth.

He was just a mere police chief. He maintained a careful distance from the power struggle among influential figures to keep his job.

Aware of his own vulnerability, he resolved to comply with the directives of both sides if they should come to him.

He aimed to avoid provoking either side, allowing the influential figures to clash between themselves without his interference.

In short order, the detainee was brought out.

Upon sighting Disguiser, Ferdinand noted his visibly deteriorated state. He looked more dead than alive.

With gratitude, Disguiser addressed Ferdinand, "Mr. Hernandez, I'm deeply indebted to you. If there's anything I can do in the future, please don't hesitate to ask."

Ferdinand's tension eased at the sight of Disguiser. He offered a cursory response and hastened to escort Disguiser out.

As they exited the police station, Disguiser's sad gaze turned toward the direction of the Kingland Group's building. Under his breath, he muttered, "Liam, wait and see. I vow that if I fail to take revenge on you, I should meet a terrible death."

They swiftly boarded the military pickup truck, and the driver aggressively pressed down the gas pedal, propelling the truck forward with a resounding roar.

However, unbeknownst to them, as they departed, a fleet of cars stealthily emerged from various alleys, and discreetly fell in line behind the pickup truck.

Chapter 546 The Exchange Of Gunfire

On a deserted viaduct, a high-speed military pickup truck came to an abrupt halt due to an unexpected appearance of a Toyota Prado.

Without warning, several other Toyota Prado vehicles emerged, forming a blockade around the military truck and the jeep carrying soldiers trailing behind it.

The sudden stop incited Ferdinand into a fit of rage. He swiftly brought out a pistol from his waist, loaded it, and exited the truck. He then pointed the weapon at one of the Toyota Prado vehicles that made him stop.

Amidst the tension, Ferdinand unleashed a barrage of anger. "Who do you think you are? Blocking military vehicles? I could end you with a single shot!"

The Prado's rear door swung open and Riel stepped out. The people who came out of the other Prado vehicles subsequently were Riel's team members who he had brought to Salem!

In the face of the gun's menacing barrel, Riel said with a touch of arrogance, "Surrender Disguiser to me, and the rest of you can go."

Disguiser, sitting in the back seat of the car, couldn't make out the person clearly, but the voice struck a chord of familiarity.

The events he had experienced in Salem had humbled Disguiser. Fear gnawed at him and the thought of someone coming after him

again made his heart race.

Ferdinand stood in stark contrast. He had no scruples due to his identity as a soldier.

Ferdinand shouted coldly, "Whoever you are, do you grasp the repercussions of obstructing a military operation?"

Riel nonchalantly shook his head, retorting, "I don't. I have no interest in your affairs. What concerns me is that Disguiser killed members of our Dark Night Organization. Leaving Salem won't be so easy for him."

Realization finally dawned upon Ferdinand. The people before him were all under Liam's command.

Ferdinand mocked, "Ah, now I see. Liam's lackeys, I presume. Where's Liam? Playing the coward?"

Before he could continue, Liam emerged from the car with a scornful grin on his face. "No need to wonder. I'm right here. What do you want to do?"

Ferdinand blinked. He was taken aback momentarily, then he burst into manic laughter. "Ha ha! I was worried I'd have to hunt you down. But lo and behold, you show up willingly. Excellent!"

With a triumphant clap, Ferdinand signaled his troops, who promptly exited the jeep and aimed their rifles at Liam.

In response, Dark Night Organization members accompanying Liam brought out their own firearms and a tense standoff ensued.

A derisive grin curved Ferdinand's lips. "I have no grand intentions. Just a desire to turn you into a canvas of bullet piercings."

Facing this unit of seasoned soldiers, Liam remained unfazed.

He was well aware of Ferdinand's discreet mobilization of troops before he came. He dared to come because he was totally confident that he could defeat them.

Although soldiers were scary, Liam have had encounters with dangers far more treacherous than mere soldiers when he went on missions, before he became King.

Moreover, he was meticulously prepared for today's encounter.

With a scoff, Liam retorted, "Do you genuinely believe that two squads of feeble soldiers can threaten me?"

As the words left his mouth, Liam gave a swift glance to the Dark Night Organization's team, sparking an immediate attack from his team.

The clash erupted into a fierce exchange of gunfire. The viaduct offered limited cover, forcing fighters on both parties to seek shelter behind cars. In the ensuing chaos, a symphony of bullets whizzed through the air, and resounding echoes of numerous gunshots could be heard.

Ferdinand's soldiers gripped their assault rifles, but hesitated to shoot from such a close range. The impending car explosions posed a threat to them as well!

Bam!

Bam! Bam!

Sounds of gunfire echoed in quick succession, as the Dark Night Organization's team took charge and skillfully shot several soldiers dead.

Amidst the onslaught, Ferdinand's composure wavered, and he sought refuge inside the bulletproof pickup truck.

He had not anticipated Liam's audacity to confront soldiers head-on.

Even more surprising was the unexpected strength of Liam's men, rivaling his own well-trained troops.

And with Riel's help, Liam had established absolute supremacy over Ferdinand.

Riel seized each opportunity with precision. Each of his trigger pull resulted in a fallen soldier.

In a matter of minutes, every soldier Ferdinand had summoned was killed in the exchange of gunfire.

Within the pickup truck, Ferdinand's widened eyes betrayed a mixture of fear and fury. He yelled, "Such a brazen massacre of soldiers! Do you not fear the army's pursuit?"

Chapter 547 The Death Of Disguiser

Liam's lips curled into a disdainful smirk as he pulled a piece of folded paper from his pocket and unfolded it. "You lot are nothing but a bunch of riffraff. Do you honestly believe you're worthy of being called soldiers?"

Ferdinand's expression turned gloomy. His eyes squinted as he absorbed the contents of the paper. A tremor ran through his body, stirred by what he had just read.

The paper was an official military warrant, and its target were Ferdinand and the team he had brought out without authorization.

Liam declared with a taunting grin, "I made sure to inform the military that you took it upon yourself to put soldiers to work for your personal issues. Now, if I kill you as a wanted criminal that you are, I won't need to face any military tribunal. Instead, I can present your body to the army and collect the handsome bounty they've placed on you."

Despair engulfed Ferdinand. Alone and without support, he felt powerless and had no hope of survival.

Driven to the edge, Ferdinand resolved to make a final, desperate attempt.

His fingers curled around the handle of the hidden pistol in his pocket.

Bang!

Suddenly, a gunshot rang out. Ferdinand had aimed his pistol at the space between Liam's eyes and fired.

However, Liam had anticipated this move.

Swiftly shifting his body, Liam evaded the bullet effortlessly. In the same motion, he raised his own firearm and returned fire calmly.

A bullet hole appeared between Ferdinand's eyebrows, and blood trickled from the wound.

With his eyes filled with unyielding defiance and resentment, Ferdinand's body slumped backwards.

He died while his eyes remained wide open!

Meanwhile, Disguiser and Fuller had leaped into a Toyota Prado.

The engine roared to life, propelling them away at great speed.

Liam's brow furrowed slightly. He took a sniper rifle from his subordinate's hands and, with a deep breath, aimed at the rear window of the departing Toyota Prado.

Bang!

A gunshot cracked through the air, and the bullet cut through space. The rear window of the Toyota Prado shattered upon impact. The bullet's force carried it onward and it buried itself into Disguiser's head.

The impact unleashed a torrent of energy, causing Disguiser's head to explode like a ripe watermelon. Blood and brains splattered over Fuller who was sitting on the driver seat beside him.

Disguiser was eventually killed!

Setting aside the sniper rifle, Liam exhaled deeply, knowing that Disguiser had almost escaped.

The vehicle was speeding away and the distance was too limited for two shots. Liam had made a decisive choice to target Disguiser, who posed a greater threat than Fuller.

Fuller couldn't stir up much trouble, so he would spare his life for now.

Having resolved everything, Liam left the aftermath for Riel to handle. He then swiftly returned to Kingland Group.

In that moment, Julie was in the CEO's office.

Laying eyes on her, Liam was momentarily lost, as he noticed her expressions and movements were the exact same as Disguiser.

He found himself developing a certain admiration for Disguiser's remarkable mimicry skills.

Detecting something amiss in Liam's demeanor, Julie inquired with concern, "Hasn't the crisis of Kingland Group been resolved? Why do I sense lingering worries in you?"

With a relieved smile, Liam disclosed that Disguiser had impersonated her to get close to him.

Startled by the revelation, Julie exclaimed, "Did he even mimic my voice? That's so terrifying."

After a pause, Julie regained her composure and playfully teased Liam, "Since he mimicked me so convincingly, did you only realize he was a man when things got intimate between you two?"

Sporting a wry smile, Liam responded, "What wild ideas do you entertain usually?"

After a bout of laughter and friendly chatter, Liam gazed at Julie tenderly and said softly, "I know you deeply, not just your appearance. No one can replicate the love you make me feel."

His sudden confession of love caught Julie off guard, and her cheeks flushed.

In a heartfelt embrace, the two shared a moment of joyous intimacy.



Rate the book using the stars!

Chapter 548 The Establishment Of The Brand

Certainly, Julie came here today with more than just the intention of flirting with Liam.

She had an important message for him.

Speaking slowly, Julie informed Liam, "Oh, and I've got some exciting news to share with you. My brand has officially launched today, and it's called Pearl."

With a sense of excitement, Julie brought out her tablet PC, eager to reveal the brand logo she had designed herself.

Julie planned to unveil and sell the brand's new clothing line on Funbuy. Plans included a presale event accompanied by a live broadcast to showcase the clothes, which was expected to yield positive results.

Liam nodded. Julie had now become an online sensation. After her remarkable intervention in the previous live stream, numerous internet users were curious about her identity.

Smart as Julie was, she immediately seized the opportunity and established a social media account.

Recently, she had teased on her account about her venture into creating an independent clothing brand. The announcement resonated well with people, and many people were looking forward to it.

Given this momentum, it seemed likely that Julie's first clothing release would succeed.

Seeing her career accelerating, Liam sincerely felt delighted for her.

However, both of them were not at ease with the current situation.

Numerous challenges still beset Julie's brand like financial constraints, limited scale, and a shortage of staff.

These were hurdles Julie had to surmount in the days ahead.

Meanwhile, Fuller, who had eluded Liam's grasp like a nimble mouse, had found refuge in a villa of the Evans family.

Despite his temporary reprieve, the fate of his son remained uncertain. Moreover, he was powerless against his formidable adversary, Liam.

Hovering on the brink of madness, Fuller entertained a series of wild schemes, which he immediately discarded.

What was his course of action?

Just as he grappled with his predicament, his phone startled him as it began to ring suddenly.

Without giving Fuller a chance to speak, the voice on the other end cursed, "What a golden opportunity wasted on a good-for-nothing like you!"

Fuller's face reddened, and he stammered, "Are... Are you fully aware of everything?"

The voice on the line grew even more irritated. "Listen carefully, don't make any rash moves in the next few days. I'll head to Salem with my people. We'll discuss things once I arrive."

Then the man ended the call with no hesitation.

This left Fuller fuming and brimming with resentment.

In his frustration, a bold idea popped up his mind.

"If I can't harm Liam directly, then I'll target those close to him,"

Fuller muttered to himself, and he wore a vicious expression.

In this moment, Fuller was holed up in the secret villa alongside Kevin.

Ever since he saw Fuller coming back in a rush, Kevin knew his plan had failed, and both Disguiser and the major had been killed by Liam.

After a period of reflection, Kevin arrived at a realization. He shouldn't genuinely love a woman like Vivian.

As the heir of the Evans family, he could view her as a mere amusement without the need for sincere affection.

Having given it so much thought, Kevin couldn't help but rue his decision to give Vivian to Disguiser. With Disguiser dead, pondering how to handle Liam was no longer a pressing concern.

The priority was reclaiming Vivian.

He was aware that Vivian had been locked up in Disguiser's room.

However, upon opening the room's door, he was met with chaos.
Vivian was nowhere to be found.



Rate the book using the stars!



Chapter 549 Leaving Salem

Two weeks later, Annie and Jaxtyn were getting ready to leave Central Hospital. They were packing their things when Julie and Liam arrived.

At this time, Annie and Jaxtyn's relationship finally became formal.

Liam and Julie were genuinely thrilled for them.

Also, both Annie and Jaxtyn made a crucial decision to leave Salem together.

After the recent life-and-death ordeal, they were exhausted.

They desired to distance themselves from these troubles and live a peaceful life.

Liam supported their choice.

Currently, there were hidden plots unfolding in Salem, and Annie and Jaxtyn were recovering from serious injuries. It wouldn't put Liam at ease to have them remain here.

Moreover, he now had Riel's assistance. It was indeed the right moment for Annie and Jaxtyn to take a break.

Today marked their hospital discharge and their departure from Salem.

When Liam went to complete the discharge procedures, Annie held Julie's hand and muttered, "Julie, I've learned of everything that happened. I apologize for making you feel bad. But now, I'm with Jaxtyn, and the feeling I had for Liam has faded. I'm uncertain when we'll cross paths again after I leave. Take good care!"

Hearing this, Julie felt a pang of sadness.

However, she immediately mustered a smile and embraced Annie tenderly. "Don't worry. Our misunderstandings were resolved a long time ago. Now, my sole focus is on establishing a brand to show my abilities."

While they were talking, the discharge formalities were completed.

Annie and Jaxtyn were firm in not allowing Liam and Julie to escort them to the airport. They opted to say their farewells at the hospital gate.

As the taxi rolled along, Annie gazed out the window at the familiar surroundings, a touch of nostalgia settling in.

"Are you feeling reluctant about leaving Salem or parting from someone?" Jaxtyn who was by her side playfully inquired.

Playfully, Annie gave him a light pinch. A smirk tugged at her lips as she looked away and admitted, "I've already moved on."

The two of them shared laughter and chatted throughout the journey. Time seemed to slip away, and in the blink of an eye, the taxi pulled up at the airport's entrance.

However, a group led by Fuller and Kevin had been lurking in the shadows at the airport for quite a while.

The series of setbacks had driven Fuller to the brink of madness. Frustration had led him to assemble elites for this encounter.

The Norris family had an affiliation with the Dragon-slayer Club in Invone, the capital city, a significant force within the city's underworld.

While Preston remained in charge of the Norris family, Fuller had managed to assemble an impressively formidable team.

Moreover, the representatives of the clan backing him which was worth trillions of dollars were coming today.

Since Liam remained beyond his reach for the moment, Fuller had decided to kill Annie and Jaxtyn first.

"They're here!"

As the taxi pulled up, the news quickly reached Fuller, who was hiding in the dark.

He abruptly rose to his feet, his eyes burning with a murderous intensity.

Chapter 550 Encountering An Ambush

Fuller's booming voice echoed, "Let's do this!"

Hidden throughout the airport, numerous people cautiously emerged.

Annie and Jaxtyn strolled blissfully towards the airport entrance. They engaged in a lighthearted conversation, obviously oblivious to the impending peril.

In a heartbeat, a group of people encircled them.

Jaxtyn's expression suddenly shifted, as he instinctively positioned himself in front of Annie to shield her. His muscles tensed, ready for action.

"Who are you?" Jaxtyn asked coldly.

With a chuckle, Fuller advanced, declaring, "Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Fuller Norris, Clarence's father!"

When Jaxtyn heard the name 'Clarence,' his face immediately turned dark.

"Where is my son?" he demanded.

Annie and Jaxtyn exchanged glances without saying a word. They quietly braced themselves for the confrontation.

Clearly, they didn't intend to answer him.

Fuller's patience waned. "Very well. Seems you're asking for trouble. Don't blame me for taking a harsh stance!"

As he finished, a battalion of formidable thugs surged forward from all directions.

The adversaries closed in on Annie and Jaxtyn, who, having only recently recovered from serious injuries, were ill-equipped for such an attack. Though they fought back and retreated, they soon found themselves cornered against a wall, with little or no chance to escape.

While Jaxtyn remained in relatively better shape, Annie, being a woman, still grappled with her recent recovery from her injuries. This rendered her woefully deficient in physical strength. A momentary lapse led to her vulnerability being inadvertently exposed.

This minor misstep proved costly, as several of Fuller's men promptly seized the opportunity to assail her.

They caught Annie alive when Jaxtyn was distracted, trying to fight off others.

With tears welling up in his eyes, Jaxtyn yelled, "Annie!"

Before he could rush up to free Annie from Fuller's grasp, Fuller acted swiftly and clasped Annie's throat.

"Make a move, and her windpipe shatters in an instant," Fuller said with a sneer.

Frozen by his words, Jaxtyn locked eyes with Fuller with a blaze of determination in his glare.

"Can you enlighten me about my son's whereabouts now?" Fuller asked, smiling.

Amidst her struggles, Annie implored Jaxtyn, "Jaxtyn, leave me alone and try to save yourself. Don't divulge the truth to him!"

Jaxtyn's eyes reddened and he gritted his teeth, but his options were severely limited.

Seeing this, Fuller inadvertently tightened his grip and asked in a menacing tone, "Will you tell me or not?!"

Amidst desperation, Jaxtyn found himself with no alternative but to say the truth. "You can't find Clarence anymore because he is dead!"

When Fuller heard of his son's demise, his eyes constricted and a shiver ran through him.

In the following moment, his remaining shreds of sanity were utterly consumed by the blaze of his towering fury.

Fuller's eyes turned a fiery red as he bellowed, "Kill them both! They must pay for my son's life!"

Jaxtyn and Annie exchanged a glance, acknowledging the grim possibility that escaping the airport might prove impossible.

A barrage of sticks rained down before they could utter those final

affectionate words and express their love.

In an instant, both their heads were battered and blood was streaming.

Summoning his last ounce of strength, Jaxtyn shielded Annie's body with his own, enduring the pummeling hits.

"Until we meet again, Annie," Jaxtyn whispered to her.

In the next heartbeat, his eyes closed, as he succumbed to unconsciousness.

Kevin showed no mercy. His fervor only intensified and the force behind his stick grew.

Meanwhile, a look of disdain was etched across Fuller's face. Regardless of Jaxtyn's efforts to protect Annie, Fuller was resolved to kill them both. The order of their deaths, whether one followed the other, didn't matter.

In that crucial moment, the sound of approaching footsteps resonated.

Fuller turned around hastily. The footsteps struck a chord of familiarity.

The representative of the wealthy clan backing him had arrived!

Chapter 551 Timothy Hewitt

Upon the big shot's arrival, all people halted what they were doing immediately. Fuller who appeared apprehensive, hurried over and opened the door of the Bugatti Veyron for him.

The figure that emerged from the car was none other than Timothy Hewitt, from the renowned Hewitt family.

He wore a snow-white suit, and a menacing smile that sent shivers down the spines of people.

Vicious! Cruel!

This was the initial impression that Timothy left on everyone.

He exited the vehicle with an air of haughtiness, not even sparing a glance at Fuller. Instead, he strode directly toward Jaxtyn and Annie.

Timothy's brow furrowed and he asked, "What happened?"

Fuller lowered his head and responded softly, "They work for Liam. I desire their death to avenge my son's death."

Timothy snorted coldly and rudely scolded, "These two are mere pawns. Killing them holds little purpose. Succumbing to emotions will only render you foolish."

Although the curse was harsh, Fuller dared not retort.

After scolding for a while, Timothy said coldly, "Very well. That will suffice for today. Leave these two here. Someone will undoubtedly discover them in due course."

With those words, Timothy turned away and got back into the car with a cold countenance.

Fuller didn't dare to disregard him. He immediately instructed his men to leave with Timothy.

Shortly after, the airport personnel discovered Annie and Jaxtyn and they were immediately rushed to the hospital for urgent care.

The news soon reached Liam. For a moment, he was so overwhelmed that his head spun, and dizziness swayed him and even clouded his vision.

Disregarding the affairs of Kingland Group, Liam hurried to the hospital. Upon his arrival, Annie and Jaxtyn had already been rushed into the emergency room.

Given who he was, Liam was able to enter the emergency room directly to assess their condition.

Annie's injuries were grave, and she had already slipped into a deep coma. Jaxtyn's central nervous system had suffered severe harm, raising the likelihood of paralysis.

Liam's fury was uncontainable.

Exiting the emergency room, he bumped into Riel, who had also rushed to the hospital.

Liam placed his hand on Riel's shoulder and said in a cold and murderous tone, "I don't care about the methods you have to employ, but you must locate Fuller."

Even Riel, known for his ruthlessness, was taken aback by Liam's demeanor.

This was the first time he had witnessed such intense anger from King of the Dark Night Organization.

Immediately he got the order, all members of his team came together and were ready to take action!

Meanwhile, Timothy's intervention had thwarted Fuller's attempt to eliminate Annie and Jaxtyn. While Fuller refrained from vocalizing his discontent, he was extremely upset.

After pondering, he approached Timothy and stated, "Mr. Hewitt, based on my understanding of Liam, he will undoubtedly come after us for retribution. We must remain vigilant."

Fuller's words failed to wipe the disdain from Timothy's expression.

He was not a reckless and dull person. He was very calculated and astute.

Timothy was well-acquainted with the accounts of Liam's clashes against the Black Spider members.

He recognized Liam as an opponent not to be underestimated, yet he still dismissed him with an air of nonchalance.

While sending texts, Timothy had a carefree smile on his face. He then remarked, "I relish the prospect of his arrival. It presents an opportunity to gauge his strength."



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Chapter 552 Falling Into The Trap

Riel's people were efficient.

The airport's surveillance footage clearly captured Fuller and Kevin.

For the time being, they couldn't pinpoint Fuller's hiding spot, but they had a precise knowledge of the location of the Evans family's villa.

Riel and Liam teamed up, swiftly enclosing the Evans family's villa.

Approaching the villa was surprisingly uncomplicated. Along the way, there was no trace of enemies.

It was quite strange.

Storming and seizing the Evans family's villa didn't demand much effort from Liam and Riel.

Yet, after scouring the entire villa, they found no traces of Kevin or Fuller. Only a handful of people were scattered around the premises.

These people showed no inclination to resist. They surrendered without a fight and their eyes reflected hopelessness.

Riel inquired coldly, "Where are Fuller and Kevin? Spare me the

theatrics. If you don't cooperate, I assure you, I'll make your existence a living nightmare!"

However, these words failed to instill panic in the few people in the villa. They maintained their silence, accompanied by an oddly unsettling grin.

Liam's brow furrowed as he detected a faint scent of gunpowder, which had been previously masked by the villa's fragrance.

Liam's expression changed. "Damn it! We've walked into an ambush. Fall back!"

Everyone's countenance changed dramatically and they dashed out of the villa, but it was too late.

Boom!!

With a deafening explosion, flames immediately consumed the villa!

Liam and Riel had a narrow escape.

However, all of Riel's comrades suffered injuries, and many who lagged behind were severely hurt.

The tables had turned, as they fell right into their enemies' trap. Those loyal to Fuller for years became bait, sacrificing their lives to catch Liam off guard.

But the ordeal wasn't over yet. As the echoes of the explosion faded, an array of snipers emerged from the shadows and rained a hail of bullets down upon Liam and his men.

Chapter 502: Final Battle to the Way

Already wounded, they found themselves in an increasingly disadvantageous position, forced into defensive maneuvers.

One of them, badly hurt from the earlier explosion, was running beside Liam and his body was immediately riddled with bullet holes.

Liam's irritation mounted. This impulsive assault had inflicted significant losses. He was beginning to realize that Fuller was far more ruthless than he had initially thought.

Reflection could wait. With his team's survival at stake, he knew he needed to act fast.

Liam grabbed his rifle and weaved through covers.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The triggers were pulled repeatedly. With Liam's and Riel's expert marksmanship, they were able to quickly take down many snipers on the rooftop.

Liam's remarkable performance bolstered the team's morale. The snipers who had suffered some casualties, showed signs of faltering. And the Dark Night Organization's members retaliated quickly.

Liam's voice boomed. "Bring the combat to an end. People behind should provide cover for those in front. We're retreating."

Spurred on by his voice, the Dark Night Organization members demonstrated their exceptional strength. They battled while

withdrawing. Even though they were severely injured, they eventually retreated to a safe area.

At that moment, Riel sprinted forward and declared, "King, all our men have pulled back. No one lags behind or remains lost in the villa."

Liam nodded and swiftly ordered everyone to get on the waiting vehicles.

Today's ambush rendered them unable to fight back. Evading enemy fire became their priority.

The convoy of cars then sped toward the Central Hospital.



Rate the book using the stars!

Chapter 553 The Tragic Lovebirds

In a secret hiding spot, Timothy grinned as he looked at the screen, pleased with what he saw. Seeing the miserable state Liam's team was in, he remarked playfully, "Looks like I gave Liam too much credit. He's not as strong as you claimed, is he?"

Timothy felt even more confident in his victory this time. If Liam's abilities were this limited, taking control of the Kingland Group was just a matter of time.

Seizing Kingland Group would mean almost total control over the Hewitt family.

Fuller, who stood beside Timothy watching the scene, was equally surprised.

How could Liam, who always thwarted his efforts, be defeated so easily now? Was it actually due to his incapability?

Regardless, this outcome was a positive turn for Fuller.

As Fuller glanced at Timothy beside him, admiration filled his eyes.

It was clear that Timothy who was born into privilege, was not just relying on his family name.

In the Central Hospital, Annie remained in a coma. Her mind kept replaying the scene of Jaxtyn shielding her from punches and

kicks.

This had a direct impact on her physical state, as she continued to tremble in fear. This was visible to those around her.

Julie was by her bedside, attentively caring for her.

Upon receiving the news from Liam, Julie hurried to the hospital without delay.

She had taken on the responsibility of looking after Annie, leaving the task of communicating with the doctor to her newly hired secretary, Nalani Hammond.

Nalani acted fast. She immediately relayed the necessary information to the doctor and then returned promptly to the ward. "Miss Fiber, I've informed him about everything. If there's nothing else, I'll head back to the company."

Julie nodded and she watched as the secretary took her leave, her heart filled with mixed emotions.

She couldn't help but acknowledge Nalani's remarkable speed and efficiency with work, just like Vivian.

Julie had chosen Nalani because she sensed that she was similar to the inexperienced Vivian from years ago.

Despite the distance between her and Vivian, Julie still held a special place for her in her heart. In an attempt to fill that void, Julie hired Nalani, even though as a recent graduate, Nalani lacked the qualifications to be her secretary.

It turned out Julie's judgment about Nalani was right. She was indeed adept at her job.

After a considerable stretch of time, while Julie was peeling an apple, Annie finally roused from her coma.

With a joyful smile, Julie exclaimed, "You're awake!"

Annie didn't respond right away. Her first action upon waking was to survey the hospital room.

When she spotted Jaxtyn connected to various tubes and a monitor, her body quivered in fear, and she quickly inquired, "How is him?"

Momentarily stunned, Julie grappled with how to answer that.

Their journey to be together had been a difficult one, yet circumstances had taken an unexpected turn. Julie was uncertain whether to reveal the harsh truth.

As Julie said nothing, Annie grew more agitated. "Julie, tell me!"

Seeing Annie's growing distress at her silence, Julie finally said, "His central nervous system is damaged. It's likely he'll be in a vegetative state."

Annie felt as if a lightning bolt struck her heart.

After a brief pause, Annie shook as she struggled to get up. However, the pain from her wounds hindered her efforts.

Annie's eyes were unfocused and she kept repeating the words, "A

vegetative state..."

Suddenly, Annie lost consciousness and collapsed back onto the bed.

Panicked, Julie called out, "Doctor!"

Immediately, a team of medical professionals rushed into the room.

Thankfully, after a thorough examination, they determined Annie wasn't critically injured, but her mental state had suffered, leading to a second bout of unconsciousness.

Once they'd advised ensuring the patient remains calm, the doctor departed, leaving Julie to gaze sadly at Annie.

Annie and Jaxtyn had just left the hospital, and they came back immediately. They had been through so much.

Julie couldn't help but shed tears.

Meanwhile, Liam and Riel returned to the hospital with the rest of their team.

Their situation wasn't looking promising either. Immediate preparations for emergency treatment were needed.

Chapter 554 Determination

The Dark Night Organization members fell into an unexpected ambush, but thankfully, their injuries were only minor.

Liam took the lead in tending to their wounds, and carefully removed shrapnel embedded in their skin.

Unnoticed by Liam, Riel had also been hurt, particularly in his right leg. While serious, the wounds could heal with time as long as infection was avoided.

The whole team received treatment in an organized manner. News reached Julie, who hurried to the scene.

When she saw Liam covered in blood, her emotions overcame her. She burst into tears, believing he was gravely injured.

Unbeknownst to her, Liam had retreated safe and sound in the battle. The blood was from treating his teammates.

"Don't worry. I'm totally fine. I'm not hurt." Liam hastily calmed her fears.

After Julie touched every part of Liam's body to ensure that he was saying the truth, her anxiety began to subside.

Tears formed in Julie's eyes and her voice trembled as she questioned, "Why? Why must there always be those who wish to harm us? Is it all because of Kingland Group? Can't you just resign

and distance yourself from it? We can assume new identities and live in peace elsewhere. What do you think?"

Embracing Julie tenderly, Liam smiled bitterly as he replied, "It's not so simple. With Clarence dead, our feud with the Norris family remains. There's little room for maneuver. Even if the Norris family were out of the picture, there are still people who are after me. The struggle will not end. Rest assured, though, I won't let you or us suffer again,"

Liam had promised her this again and again, despite having made Julie endure pain on several occasions. This fact weighed heavily on his conscience.

However, this time marked a turning point for Liam. His determination solidified. He would no longer show mercy and he meant it.

He would use any means necessary to destroy those who aimed to harm those he held dear.

Observing Julie's silence, Liam continued to console her, "And how are Annie and Jaxtyn doing?"

Julie briefed Liam on the current status of the two. She recounted how Annie had awakened but suffered a mental breakdown and fainted again upon hearing about Jaxtyn's condition.

Fierce determination was etched on Liam's face and anger simmered in his heart. "Julie, I'm good, but Annie and Jaxtyn need care. You should go to them first."

With a nod, Julie left. Her troubled mood was still evident.

Shortly after, Theo hurried to the hospital as well.

Concern was etched on his face at the sight of Liam covered in blood. He inquired anxiously, "Mr. Hoffman, are you alright?"

Liam gestured dismissively, assuring him that he was good. Then, he recounted to Theo the events that unfolded at the Evans family's villa.

After Liam's account, a surge of anger coursed through Theo. Although Liam was still undergoing the test from the Hoffman family, for personal reasons, Theo had been paying close attention to Liam's situation since his previous injury.

If Liam was in danger, Theo would surely come out to help!

Now, when he saw Liam's state, his fury ignited anew.

"Mr. Hoffman, don't worry. Those who dare harm you clearly underestimate the Hoffman family's power. I'll give them a thorough lesson!"

Usually, Liam would decline Theo's offer of help. But this time, he responded slowly, "Very well, thank you, Theo. Let me know once you pinpoint their location. I have to be present there." ①

Chapter 555 The True Descendant Of The Hewitt Family

Timothy had been staying in a manor ever since his arrival in Salem.

It had become their stronghold, where they could strategize their plans. Kevin was also present in the manor.

However, Fuller wasn't in the manor. Due to an unforeseen situation with the Norris family, Preston had urgently summoned him back.

Just as it was dawn, a sudden explosive sound rang out in the quiet manor.

After the gunpowder smoke had cleared, a group of heavily armed men stormed in through the shattered doorway and quickly encircled the manor.

The team's movements were very fast, transforming the manor into a bustling hub in a matter of minutes.

They occupied every corner and vantage point. They emanated an unmistakable aura of danger, though they remained still.

These were the guardians of the Dark Night Organization, a team that preserved the organization's internal order.

They answered only to the Hoffman family's directives. This elite

team consisted of individuals in the third and second ranks of the organization, so they were a formidable assembly of top-tier talents.

With the manor firmly under their control, the leaders entered next, none other than Liam and Theo.

Timothy was initially shocked to see so many people. He then inquired gravely, "Theo, what's the meaning of this?"

Theo responded with a scornful grin, "Isn't it clear enough? I've come to settle the score, on his behalf!"

Timothy's brows furrowed as his gaze shifted toward Liam. He then retorted coldly, "Is seeking retribution against me truly necessary for him, a discarded member of the Hoffman family?"

Theo's demeanor remained firm as he adopted a stern tone. "The Hoffman family's intentions and our actions are not your business."
"

Rage consumed Timothy as he found himself looked down upon by a mere servant.

Timothy sprang to his feet, pointed at Theo, and scolded, "You're nothing but a servant of the Hoffman family! Have you lost all semblance of self-awareness after subduing a few people? I'm a true Hewitt family descendant. I will remain right here, unyielding. You can try to harm me and see if the Hoffman family will protect you!"

But swift as lightning, Liam appeared before Timothy, and he delivered a resounding slap across his cheek.

In an instant, a fiery red mark blazed upon Timothy's face. Liam's frigid voice cut through the air. "Word has it you oppose me for a shot at controlling Funbuy's operation. Your motive is clear, but I hope you're prepared for the consequences."

Timothy was caught off guard by Liam's sudden slap. In a twinkling, Liam threw him to the floor and gave him several punches!

Timothy, who was accustomed to a life of privilege and luxury from a young age, found himself utterly defenseless against Liam's attack. Within mere seconds, his head and face bore the brunt of a relentless assault, leaving him bloodied and battered.

Gone was his customary air of grace and elegance.

With no capacity to fight back, Timothy's cries reverberated as he turned to his subordinates in desperation.

"What in the world are you all doing, standing there like statues? Are you actually waiting for me to be pummeled to death? Act fast, and kill them!"



Rate the book using the stars!

Chapter 556 Driving Them Out Of Salem

Timothy's men found themselves in awe of the formidable presence exuded by the guardians of the Dark Night Organization.

Their courage wavered but as Timothy spoke, they began to fight with fear.

Theo, of course, would not just stand and watch. With a simple wave of his hand, the Dark Night Organization's guardians sprang into action.

Afterwards, Theo turned away with a sullen demeanor and left the manor without a backward glance.

If the guardians of the Dark Night Organization couldn't handle such riffraff, then they might as well get themselves killed.

As expected, the ensuing battle was one-sided.

While Timothy's men possessed great combat skills, they paled in comparison to the skilled guardians of the Dark Night Organization.

Despite the ferocity of the fight, it ended without any fatalities. It was like a scuffle among street hoodlums.

This wasn't due to a lack of strength on the part of the Dark Night Organization's guardians. In truth, they could have easily killed the manor's occupants ten minutes prior if they had chosen to do

so.

However, prior discussions between Theo and Liam had led to a different plan.

Even though the Hewitt family was of minor concern to the Hoffman family, it wasn't enough justification to kill Timothy solely on grounds of him wanting to seize control over Funbuy.

Recent unrest in the capital had numerous families eyeing the Hoffmans. A major move could expose Liam to potential backlash.

After careful consideration, Liam agreed with Theo's approach. They could teach Timothy a lesson, but refrain from killing him. ①

An hour later, at the outskirts of Salem, the battered Timothy and his men were ejected from the cars by the Dark Night Organization's guardians. Their bodies were marked with wounds.

Liam rolled down the window and locked his cold gaze on Timothy, whose head and face had been battered and bruised. "You've lucked out this time. Return to Invone. Should you dare venture into Salem again, each encounter I have with you will result in another beating." Liam's cold words resonated.

In this moment, the intensity in Liam's eyes was scary and his desire to end Timothy's life was palpable.

But he struggled to suppress it for two reasons.

Firstly, while Timothy was detestable, he hadn't instigated the current issue. The true culprits were Fuller and the Evans family.

Secondly, disposing of Timothy in the current situation wasn't a suitable course of action. Liam had strategized to settle his score with the Hewitt family personally once he resolved the issue in Salem.

Liam managed to quell his immediate impulse to kill Timothy and chose to leave alongside the Dark Night Organization team.

Meanwhile, Timothy left Salem, supported by his men, his confidence thoroughly shattered.

Liam's assault had left Timothy covered in injuries. His legs were particularly battered, rendering him nearly immobile.

Filled with resentment, Timothy's heart was surprisingly not overrun by anger, as he rationally analyzed his situation.

The strength of the people Theo had brought to this confrontation far exceeded Timothy's expectations. In one fight, all his men were defeated.

He realized that this force would consistently obstruct him unless they got destroyed.

While he thought of this, his eyes turned scarlet red, and a bold idea began to take shape in his mind.

Meanwhile, inside the Norris family's residence, Preston, who was seated in an armchair, reproached Fuller.

Adopting a stern tone, Preston voiced his disapproval. "Regardless of your arguments, I cannot endorse your current approach

towards Liam. I have my guiding principles, and I expect you to abide by them."

Reluctant to agree, Fuller sought to make a case. "But..."

"There are no buts. You must understand that Liam carries the Hoffman name. There are a lot of hidden rules and mixed interests that are beyond your comprehension," Preston retorted sternly.

Ultimately, Fuller yielded to Preston's directive, although his intentions said otherwise.

To Fuller, the pain of losing his son demanded retribution with Liam's life.

He was determined not to let Liam go unscathed.

Prior to his meeting with Preston, he had received a message from Timothy.

Despite his compliance before Preston, Fuller harbored his own plans.

Given some time, he intended to exact revenge upon Liam for the murder of his son, operating in secrecy until the opportune moment presented itself.

Chapter 557 The Return Of Aikin

A month went by unbelievably fast.

In the Central Hospital, members of the Dark Night Organization that were injured had almost recovered.

Liam went to pay them a visit every single day. After what happened, he had become more level-headed.

One day, Liam came to the hospital as usual to visit Jaxtyn and Annie. He entered the ward and found Julie taking care of them.

Julie had kept aside her company's affairs and dedicated time to taking care of them until they got better.

Annie had recovered enough to move around in the ward.

Every day, she stayed by Jaxtyn's bed, holding his hand and crying.

She had cried so much in the past few days that she had probably run out of tears. Jaxtyn's condition was stable now, but his central nervous system was destroyed and couldn't be repaired. He was now in a semi vegetative state and couldn't wake up.

The chances of him recovering from this were very slim. Even with Liam's expertise, there was nothing that could be done to save him. However, Liam still had a little hope thanks to the existence of the latest wonder drug.

He planned to handle everything here, then put in all his energy to find this wonder drug.

"Don't beat yourself up so much, Annie. Jaxtyn isn't gone yet, and we still have some hope. Once I get rid of this problem, I'll devote myself to the search of the wonder drug. I think it's his best and only chance," Liam said, comforting Annie.

Annie nodded as if agreeing with him, but she didn't believe a word of what Liam said. She had no hope that Jaxtyn would come back to her. She felt like she was dead inside.

It was too painful for Liam to watch. The more he stayed there, the more anger surged up within him and almost overwhelmed him.

With clenched fists, he left the hospital quietly and went back to Kingland Group.

Some men stood in the CEO's office, waiting for Liam. Among them were Aikin, Tyson and the others who had been sent to the Dark Night Organization to receive special training for more than a month.

When Liam entered his office and saw them standing there, he nodded with satisfaction.

Upon observing them, he noticed that a lot had changed in more than a month's training. Especially the short spiky hair.

They used to look like hooligans. But looking at them now, he found they were nothing like the men they used to be. Their every move was unequivocal and orderly. They were solid men now.

They heard about what happened back in Salem and took permission to come back here and help Liam.

They had been trained how to fight, but this would be the first actual combat they would engage in since they started receiving training.

Aikin was the first to speak. "Mr. Hoffman, how could Fuller, from the Norris family which is only worth hundreds of billions try to step on us? We're going to run them to the ground."

Before the training, he would have never spoken with such certainty. The training had made him stronger, and also helped expand his horizons. The Norris family which used to seem like such a big deal to him, now seemed like nothing to Aikin and the others.

Tyson echoed, "Aikin is right, Mr. Hoffman. Just give us the order and I'll lead us into this fight."

Liam smiled slightly. He was glad with what he was seeing. They were living up to his expectations. He couldn't help being proud of the men they had become.

He had made the right call by sending them to the Dark Night Organization to receive training.

Liam smiled warmly at the men and said, "You shouldn't be in a haste to launch an attack. And even if you want to attack your enemy, you should know where they are, right?"

They all stood straight and at attention. "You're right, Mr.

Hoffman. Leave it to us and we'll find out where the bastard is."

With that, they got down to it and started working.



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Chapter 558 Aiming At The Evans Family

Aikin and his team scoured the entire city of Salem within half a day.

However, Fuller had seemingly vanished without a trace, leaving them clueless about his whereabouts.

The intensive training they underwent for over a month had boosted their confidence. The absence of any leads in Salem pointed to a single possibility, which was Fuller had left the city.

Aikin's frustration boiled over as he exclaimed, "Damn it! That bastard managed to slip away so quickly. Mr. Hoffman, shouldn't we expand our search to other cities? I refuse to believe we can't track him down!"

Liam's brows furrowed as he replied, "No need for that. If he's no longer in Salem, he must have returned to Invone.

The capital is a complex place with various factions and hidden powerhouses. Acting there right now wouldn't be wise. Let's put it on hold. He'll be back sooner or later."

Although Liam appeared composed, his anger remained unabated.

In fact, the urge to enact vengeance was growing stronger within him due to his inability to release his pent-up frustration.

With Fuller elusive, Liam redirected his fury towards the Evans

family.

Fuller's roots were in Invone. But the Evans family remained rooted in Salem, so there was no escape for them.

Moreover, Kevin had hurt Annie and Jaxtyn. Naturally, Liam wouldn't allow him to evade consequences.

Furthermore, the Dark Night Organization had faced setbacks in the Evans family's villa, making it implausible that the Evans family had no involvement.

"First, we'll settle the score with the Evans family. Gather your men and head to their villa," Liam said coldly.

Meanwhile, in the Evans family's villa.

Serving as the Evans family's stronghold, this villa held considerable significance. It was also the headquarters of the Evans family.

Kevin, once a key player in the battle with Liam, had become insignificant since Timothy's arrival in Salem. Without Timothy's orders, he lacked the authority to initiate actions.

Timothy hadn't contacted him for a quite some time though. This led Kevin to believe they were devising a fresh strategy. Unbeknownst to him, Liam had already expelled Timothy from Salem.

In this moment, Kevin was reveling in their triumph.

In Kevin's perception, Liam was wounded, and the forces under

his command had taken a severe hit, leading them into a depressed state. This downward spiral seemed inescapable, with doom looming if it continued.

Growing even more complacent, Kevin muttered, "The Kingland Group will crumble, and the associated industries will be divided like a pie. While I've abandoned the notion of claiming Funbuy because it is favored by the Hewitt family, we will surely secure the Von Merri Hotel. That move alone will propel the Evans family to the top spot in Salem. A future where our assets surpass a hundred trillion dollars isn't out of reach!"

His father, upon hearing the plan, laughed with approval. "Impressive, Kevin. My trust in you was well-founded. I'm content to entrust the Evans family to your capable hands."

While the father and son were engrossed in their rosy daydreams, Liam arrived at the entrance.

Also, Aikin and his team had blocked off all potential exits.

Upon Liam's command, they launched an attack.

Confronted by Liam, the might of the Evans family appeared as futile as a child's joke.

Before Kevin and his father could react, Liam had already taken down the guards outside and forcefully burst through the door.

Caught off guard, Kevin was surprised to see Liam. However, he wasn't scared. The previous successful ambush against Liam had oddly bolstered Kevin's self-assurance.

Chortling uncontrollably, Kevin jeered, "Liam, you're so lucky. Who would've thought you'd survive the explosion and get discharged from the hospital so quickly!"

He then surveyed Liam's assembled team with an air of disdainful amusement and stated, "Did you stage this grand spectacle to intimidate me? Do you even have an idea who is backing me?"

With a limited perspective, Kevin truly underestimated Liam's power.

"Whoever is backing you means nothing to me. The fifty-four members of your family are all fated to fall at my hands. The Evans family is bound to crumble under my force!" Liam retorted with a derisive smile on his lips.



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Chapter 559 The Result Of The Special Training

Confronted by Liam's threat, Kevin responded with a scornful smile. "You can't even defend yourself, yet you dare to speak so boldly here. Seems like the lessons from Mr. Hewitt haven't sunk in yet. But wait and see!"

With a derisive grin, Kevin pulled out his phone and dialed Timothy's number right before Liam.

Time stretched on, but the call remained unanswered.

Unknown to Kevin, Timothy was still receiving treatment at the hospital, making it impossible for him to answer.

Unwilling to back down, Kevin persistently dialed Timothy's number multiple times, but each attempt was met with silence.

Liam's lips curled into a teasing smile. "Looks like your reinforcements are a no-show."

As Timothy remained unreachable, anxiety began to creep over Kevin.

Yet, he maintained a facade of composure and said, "So what? Will you dare to attack me? If you harm me today, Mr. Hewitt won't let you off easy. And remember, the Norris family will also come after you."

Responding to Kevin's threat, Liam sneered, "Have you forgotten? I didn't hesitate to take Clarence's life, let alone yours."

Color drained from Kevin's face as he grew increasingly flustered.

Noticing his unease, Kevin's father stepped forward with conviction. "I've spent over four decades in Salem, where no one has dared to break into my territory. Don't underestimate us."

He huffed and waved his hands dismissively.

Suddenly, a contingent of armed people emerged from a nearby door, wearing uniforms adorned with the Evans family's emblem.

These were the elite guards, reserved for the direst of situations. They were the strongest force of the clan.

With this assembly backing him, Kevin's father exuded greater confidence. "If you leave now, we can pretend none of this ever happened. But should we clash, the outcome would obviously not be in your favor."

Liam ignored Kevin and his father. His gaze fixed on Aikin as he inquired, "What's your take? Any issues dealing with this?"

Aikin brimmed with eagerness to prove himself. "Be rest assured, Mr. Hoffman. They're nothing more than an unruly bunch. They won't pose any real threat."

Liam's satisfaction was evident as he nodded. He turned around and instructed, "Alright, let's see the outcomes of your recent training!"

With his words barely out, Aikin and his men surged forward like tigers released from their cages.

Courtesies were tossed aside as they immediately drew their pistols. An intense gunfight broke out in the narrow space.

The air was filled with the echoes of countless gunshots. Aikin maintained control by issuing a calm command. "Keep your cool. Front row, use your shields to provide cover for those shooting from the back!"

This courtyard was rather narrow, so it offered few hiding spots. This could compel both sides to use their people as makeshift shields during the relentless exchange of gunfire.

However, Aikin's leadership shifted the dynamic dramatically.

Riot shields were immediately transformed into a fence, giving a distinct advantage to Aikin's team.

The Evans family's smaller-caliber bullets proved useless against these specialized shields.

With impeccable coordination, the frontline team members protected the rear shooters, who seized every opportune moment to strike at the opposing team.

Each trigger pull sent bullets unerringly into the vital parts of the Evans family's guards.

The entire battle was one-sided.

Within a matter of minutes, every last guard of the Evans family lay defeated, while Aikin's team emerged unscathed and unharmed.

Liam nodded approvingly. The fruits of Aikin's and his team's trainings were on display.

Whether in physical strength, marksmanship, or even the intricacies of battle strategy, their prowess shone brilliantly throughout the fight.



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Chapter 560 Annihilating The Evans Family

After a fierce exchange of gunfire, the ground in front of Liam was now strewn with lifeless bodies. Only Kevin and his father were left standing, trembling with fear.

The ground was smeared with blood, almost flowing to Liam's feet. In that moment, the Evans family's villa resembled a purgatory.

The remaining existing strength of the Evans family had been shattered, leaving the stubborn father and son utterly terrified.

It dawned on them at that moment that there was an insurmountable gap between them and Liam!

Regret gnawed at them, though it was too late.

Kevin's father's voice quivered as he said, "Mr. Hoffman, please be calm. I'm willing to offer the entire Evans family to you if you spare us."

Kevin knelt down and repeatedly kowtowed to Liam. "Mr. Hoffman, I implore you not to make my life difficult. My past actions were coerced by Timothy and Clarence. I too was a victim."

However, their pleas fell on deaf ears.

Liam had already seen clearly the kind of people the Evans family were. Without a word, he signaled Aikin, then turned and left.

Of course, Aikin understood what Liam meant. Before they came, Liam had given him clear instructions.

"Everyone, stick to the original plan. Pour the gasoline here," Aikin coldly instructed his subordinates.

Soon, the pungent scent of gasoline permeated the entire Evans family's house.

With the frightened father and son tied up, Aikin led his team out of the house. Then he struck a match and threw it onto the gasoline-soaked ground.

In an instant, flames erupted from the Evans family's villa, roaring skyward for hundreds of feet. After a while, the entirety of their residence was swallowed by the all-consuming flame.

The piercing cries of the father and son echoed audibly.

It would be very difficult to put out such a massive fire. Only a torrential downpour had the capacity to quell the fierce blaze. However, by the time such would happen, the Evans family's villa would already be consumed by the destructive flames.

And that was how the Evans family was wiped out of Salem!

Following the fiery event, Aikin and his men made their way to their cars to meet Liam.

Upon seeing them, Liam praised, "Impressive. You've lived up to my expectations and worked diligently during this specialized training.

Your performance in this actual combat was close to flawless. I'll communicate your success to the Dark Night Organization, and the drill sergeant will surely score you high in this act!"

Joy brimmed within Aikin and the others.

Liam's words infused them with encouragement. Achieving high marks in their initial real-world combat would immensely benefit their future growth within the Dark Night Organization.

Standing tall and respectfully, they collectively expressed gratitude to Liam.

With a wave of his hand, Liam said, "The forthcoming training will prove more demanding. Prepare yourselves mentally. Once you've mastered all the combat skills, you'll truly become my capable aides."

Aikin thumped his chest confidently and assured, "Don't worry, we won't disappoint you."

Then Aikin drove back to the Dark Night Organization with his men, while Liam embarked on his journey back to the Central Hospital in his Porsche.

Liam drove very slowly as the faces of those who had crossed him replayed in his thoughts, one after another.

The annihilation of the Evans family marked merely the outset, not the end.

Under his breath, Liam muttered, "The game has begun. Watch

out, Norris family, Black Spider, and Hewitt family. None of you can evade the clutches of destruction."



Rate the book using the stars!



Chapter 561 The Quarrel

In the Central Hospital, Liam slowly approached Annie's ward, and he was met with noise from the entrance to the ward.

Liam had a look of concern and irritation on his face.

Who could possibly be disturbing Annie and Jaxtyn?

As he drew closer, the scene outside Annie's room came into focus. Some familiar faces gathered there. They were the Cortez family members.

Julie was at the center of the huddle. Kohen said with a stern edge, "Think it through, Julie. Considering the kind of person Mr. Hewitt is, you're fortunate he is interested in you!"

Liam furrowed his brows slightly. Just as he stepped in, Yesenia noticed his arrival and excitedly pulled him over.

She then said, "Since you're here, it's only right that I tell you in person. Mr. Hewitt from the Hewitt family, a colossal clan with trillions of dollars in asset, has feelings for Julie. If you genuinely care for her, you should bow out gracefully. Mr. Hewitt wields vast influence, while you're just an employee. The Hewitt family can decide if you live or die with just one word. With your poor situation, you still go against other people every single day! If Julie chooses you, she'll be burdened with hardship or worse."

Liam pieced together the puzzle from Yesenia's words.

It was Timothy, that scheming bastard, causing him trouble again.

A tinge of frustration crept across Liam's face. Timothy had begun his schemes again.

As Liam glanced at Yesenia's disdainful expression, his countenance turned cold.

He had endured the Cortez family's condescending manners for far too long.

He had even lent them a hand before, yet their airs remained unchanged. In their eyes, Julie was a mere pawn. They had no genuine family affection for her.

Suppressing his seething anger, Liam said, "Your behavior now contradicts your pleas for partnership with Kingland Group. Let's put that aside for a moment. Have you considered how Julie feels about this? Your actions show no respect for her emotions. Frankly, none of you deserve to be Julie's family."

Kohen sneered, "Young man, watch your words. Implying we're indifferent to Julie's feelings? We're acting in her best interest, whether you understand it or not!"

"Who do you think you are?" Yesenia retorted, her voice dripping with condescension. "Our family matters are our concern alone. You're an outsider, speaking recklessly about things you don't understand."

Julie's restraint snapped when she heard this. She forcefully pushed aside Yesenia and Kohen and declared, "This is my affair.

Your worry isn't needed. You have no authority to dictate for me!"

Ulises, who had maintained silence until now, lifted his head resolutely and stated, "This time, I stand behind my daughter's choice!"

Yesenia initially seemed taken aback, but soon reverted to her typical manipulative demeanor. "Fine, you two unite against us and take our goodwill as meanness. Julie, I ask you, are you truly forsaking me, your own mother?"

Meeting her mother's gaze without wavering, Julie responded firmly, "You are indeed my mother, an unchangeable bond. However, if you expect me to bend to your selfish desires, I'm sorry, but I can't comply."

The situation had escalated, making the air tense.

Kohen's anger flared, and the commotion drew the attention of the hospital's security guards.

Kohen directed his ire at Yesenia and shouted, "You can't even control your own daughter. Your incompetence reflects poorly on our Cortez family!"

With that, a seething Kohen stormed out of the hospital. Yesenia shot a fierce glare at Ulises, Julie, and Liam and hurried to catch up with Kohen.

After they left, weariness was etched on Julie's expression. Turning to her father Ulises, she said in a soft voice, "Dad, I'm drained. Can you oversee the company matters?"

Ulises nodded. His gaze spoke a thousand words as he locked eyes with Liam. He then took his leave in haste.



Rate the book using the stars!



Chapter 562 The Plot Of The Cortez Family

When there were only the two of them left at the entrance of the ward, Liam walked to Julie and sat down.

He patted her back gently and said, "Just be yourself and ignore them. I will always support you. Always."

Julie forced a smile and nodded. "I know. Don't worry, I'm fine."

Liam smiled back at her and they walked into the ward hand in hand.

Annie was still sitting beside Jaxtyn's bed with a dejected and hopeless look on her face.

"Annie, don't worry. Jaxtyn will get through this. I've wiped out the Evans family, and trust me, I won't let anyone who hurt you off the hook," Liam said comfortingly.

On hearing this, Annie finally showed some sign of life as a blazing fire lit in her eyes.

She recalled how Kevin beat her and Jaxtyn up without any mercy. At the end, the light in her eyes died and she stayed mute.

Meanwhile, Julie was shocked by what Liam said. The Evans family was destroyed?

The Evans family was the most famous family in Salem. Julie

found it a little hard to accept that they really were reduced to nothing.

However, she couldn't show her surprise with Annie, a victim of their crimes, right beside her.

Julie and Liam stared at the lifeless Annie, unsure of how to help her.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door and Julie's assistant, Nalani, walked in.

"Miss Fiber, I'm sorry to bother you, but something important needs your attention in the company."

Julie spent most of her time in the hospital, but she still followed up on her work through the phone.

A few days ago, she officially established the Pearl Company as a clothing company.

If Nalani said her presence was needed, then it had to be urgent. She looked at Annie with a worried expression.

Liam smiled gently at her and said, "It's okay. I'm here. You can go."

Julie nodded gratefully and left with Nalani.

As they left, Liam looked at Nalani's retreating back with a frown.

He didn't know if he was imagining or not, but it seemed that the woman was always looking at him. He didn't know if it was

intentional or not.

He also felt like Nalani seemed familiar. He just couldn't put a finger to what was familiar about her.

At the Cortez family's house.

Kohen came back furious and scolded Yesenia, "Do you know the importance and power that a clan with assets worth trillions of dollars carries? Julie being Mr. Hewitt's mistress alone will guarantee a great future for our family. Think of how much we will achieve if she marries him."

Yesenia was seething in anger as Kohen scolded her. She had never seen him get so angry before, and now, he was lashing out on her. This was all that damn Liam's fault.

After scolding her for a long time, Kohen ran out of breath and stopped for a second. Then, he glared at Yesenia and ordered, "I don't care how you're going to do it, but we can't miss an opportunity like this. Take care of it!"

With an embarrassed look on her face, Yesenia said, "Dad, you saw for yourself what happened today. I want to associate myself with the Hewitt family as much as you. But it seems that Liam has brainwashed Julie. There's nothing I can do."

Kohen stood up angrily and started pacing back and forth in the room.

After a long time, he suddenly stopped and looked up, his eyes glinting with viciousness. "We have to find a way. Since we can't persuade her, I'll do it my way, and it won't be pretty."

Chapter 563 A Gift

After Kohen explained his plan, Yesenia went numb for a moment.

When she came back to her senses, she hesitated. "Dad, I don't think it's a good idea."

Yesenia might have done all sorts of cruel things for wealth, but this was a little too much.

They were talking about her daughter after all. It would surely hurt her bad.

Her hesitation and her tentative question only fueled Kohen's anger. "I'm not debating with you. You're going to do it whether you want to or not!"

Yesenia jumped back, startled, and lowered her head in fear.

Seeing that his attitude wouldn't get him what he wanted, Kohen used a different method. "We are doing this for Julie, Yesenia. She will live a comfortable life for as long as she lives. Don't you want that for her? Don't you want her to be a rich happy woman?"

Kohen's words worked like a charm on Yesenia.

Little did she know that her father cared little about Julie's happiness.

All he wanted was for the Cortex family to grow stronger. To him,

family affection was just a tool that came in handy in times like these.

After another moment of hesitation, Yesenia reluctantly took the rope from Kohen and hung it on the roof beam.

She stared up at the rope, scared for herself and what she was about to do. Then, she looked at Kohen and asked through quivering lips, "Dad, you'll watch it carefully, right? You won't let me die."

"Of course not! Come on, do it!" Kohen urged impatiently with no emotion.

Biting her lip, Yesenia stepped on the chair and put her head into the loop of the rope, then pushed the chair away, hanging herself.

She struggled until her breathing slowed down and almost stopped. Kohen's men took her down at this time.

Kohen grinned evilly and called Julie. As soon as she picked up, he said into the phone, "Julie, you have to come home quickly. After your mother came back today, she hung herself in her room. Fortunately, we found her before it was too late."

On the other end of the line, Julie was shocked by the news. The next second, she narrowed her eyes, getting a suspicious feeling about this.

When Julie didn't say anything for a long time, Kohen insisted, "You have to come, Julie. She kept saying how she wanted to see you. If you don't come, I will consider that your mother never had a daughter."