

## Chapter 670 Parents

With a knowing smile, Theo seemed to pierce the veil of Liam's thoughts. "You've noticed the unique quality of these rare metals. Right now, the Hoffman family only taps into their basic capabilities. Delving deeper could unveil other applications."

Liam gave a nod and inquired, "How feasible is it to forge armor from these ores?"

Unfazed, Theo responded, "To fashion armor from these rare-earth ores, malleability is key. The Hoffman family hasn't cracked that code yet. It'll require extensive research."

Liam nodded, not surprised by the revelation.

If they succeeded in turning these rare metals into armor, the might of the Hoffman family would skyrocket.

The notion of the four great clans would vanish, overthrown solely by the Hoffman family.

Such a prospect highlighted the critical role of

these rare metals.

Reading Liam's thoughts once more, Theo smiled. "Mr. Hoffman, many rare-earth ores have been discovered over the years, but only a small part of them could produce rare metals. Your family controls most of what's available. This leads to fierce competition and numerous conflicts whenever a new deposit is found. As for the recent war..."

Suddenly, Theo's smile froze. He hesitated, his words trailing off.

Impatient, Liam pressed, "Continue. What about the recent war?"

After a prolonged pause, Theo finally murmured, "Mr. Hoffman, your parents vanished in that recent conflict."

The news shocked Liam.

So it was the quest for these rare-earth ores that caused his parents' disappearance. It was a secret his grandfather had kept for years.

Regaining his composure, Theo went on, "Your grandfather believes you're now capable of completing any tasks. That's why he sent me to

tell you this. He initially objected to your visit to the delta region because that's where your parents disappeared. But now, he thinks you're ready to search for them."

Still reeling, Liam nodded. His understanding of the intricate dynamics among the great clans sharpened.

The delta region expedition grew increasingly convoluted, now entangled with the mystery of his parents' disappearance. Liam felt a sense of unease he couldn't shake off.

In his family, mentions of his parents had always been scarce.

Liam was aware that everyone had been shielding him, avoiding his questions about his parents.

Years had gone by, and only his grandfather remained by his side. Though he never pried into the subject of his parents, it wasn't because he was indifferent.

Actually, during his time in Salem, he'd initiated several covert investigations into the matter, all of which had turned up empty.

Yet, he never imagined it would connect to the

rare-earth mines.

Noticing Liam's silence, Theo swiftly shifted the conversation. "Mr. Hoffman, your grandfather has tasked me to bring you another assignment. We've located a massive new rare-earth mine. He wants you to lead your team and vie for its control."

Still engrossed in the newfound information about his parents, Liam merely nodded, not wishing to speak.

Theo then went on, "Besides forging a dagger, we've blended a minor portion of rare metals into a unique alloy, considerably stronger than any existing metal. We've employed it in crafting armors for your squad stationed at Dark Night Organization's headquarters. Expect them to brief you shortly. You have two weeks before the mine officially goes public. Use this time to prepare."

With that, Theo retreated a few steps and lapsed into silence.

For a long time, Liam stood motionless, lost in thought.

However, as the seconds ticked by, his turbulent emotions ebbed away, replaced by a resolute

gleam in his eyes.

His father and mother.

For Liam, these terms felt impossibly remote and unfamiliar.

But securing that rare-earth mine became his unspoken vow. He also sent up a silent prayer.

He prayed that his parents were still out there, alive.

Because if they were, he would stop at nothing to find them.