

An Understated Dominance Chapter 951 - 960

Chapter 951

“Miss Natasha Harmon, I understand how you feel, but Dr. Watkins has been poisoned to the core. I’ve tried various methods, but still can’t do anything. I’m truly sorry,” sighed Dustin.

He held a high regard for the young man Dustin and had even contemplated passing on his expertise.

However, fate had played a cruel trick on them, subjecting them to this incurable poison.

“No... this can’t be happening!”

Natasha Harmon was in a state of panic and felt somewhat helpless.

If even the Medicine King couldn’t cure it, who could?

“Wait!”

In that moment, Natasha Harmon seemed to have had a revelation and suddenly exclaimed, “Dr. Watkins! I’ve heard that your Medicine King Valley possesses a mystical medicinal ingredient known as the Living Dead Flower. When used in conjunction with a secret technique, it can revive people. Is this true?”

“The Living Dead Flower?”

Upon hearing this, Dustin immediately furrowed his brow, saying, “Miss Natasha Harmon, this substance is sinister and cannot be employed.”

“Why not? Does Dr. Watkins believe we can’t meet the requirements?” Natasha Harmon’s anxiety was evident.

“It’s not about the money,” Dustin shook his head, clarifying, “The Living Dead Flower is not a benevolent remedy; it’s highly toxic. Its usage conditions are exceptionally strict, and it’s considered a medical taboo.”

“I don’t care whether it’s a remedy or poison; as long as it can save Dr. Watkins, Senior Medicine King, please tell us. What are the conditions?” Natasha Harmon remained undeterred.

“Given Dr. Watkins’ current state, if you wish to use the Living Dead Flower, you must employ a human life as a conduit to transfer all the toxins from the body to another person’s body. Only by trading life for life can there be a glimmer of hope,” Dustin sighed.

“A life for a life?”

When these words were uttered, numerous individuals in the room displayed pained expressions.

The cost of this treatment was exceedingly high.

“Exchanging one’s life for another is just the fundamental requirement. Not everyone is qualified for this exchange,” Dustin continued, “During the process of transferring lives, the person making the sacrifice must endure the excruciating sensation of thousands of ants gnawing at their bones. They must do so willingly, without resistance or regret, or else all prior efforts will be in vain. In simpler terms, one must be a close relative with an incredibly resolute mind to be considered as a medicine conduit.”

Upon hearing this, silence descended upon the room, and the atmosphere grew heavier.

Previously, they had contemplated finding a terminally ill patient to be the sacrifice.

Now, it seemed that such a plan might not be viable.

Under such rigorous conditions, who could fulfill them?

Even close family members might struggle to do so without reservation.

“Each person has their own destiny. There’s no need to force it. In my opinion, perhaps we should reconsider,” Dustin sighed once more.

“Senior Medicine King, I’m willing to give it a try.”

At this moment, Natasha Harmon unexpectedly spoke up.

“Really?”

Everyone turned to her with astonishment on their faces.

“Miss Natasha Harmon, this matter is of utmost gravity. If you’re not careful, both of you may lose your lives!” Dustin cautioned.

He had been very clear about the risks, but he hadn’t expected the person before him to be so daring.

“I understand, but I must try.”

Natasha Harmon approached the bed and gently caressed Dr. Watkins’s cheek. Her eyes conveyed both tenderness and determination. “He’s my husband, and I’m willing to sacrifice my life for him.”

Her resolute words were filled with an unshakable love.

“Miss Natasha Harmon, are you absolutely certain about this?” Dustin asked with a furrowed brow.

“Yes,” Natasha Harmon nodded.

“The agony of thousands of ants gnawing at your bones, a fate worse than death... Are you truly without regrets?” Dustin inquired once more.

“No regrets.”

Natasha Harmon smiled, leaned down, and softly kissed Dr. Watkins’s lips. “If he can’t survive, then I will go with him.”

At the utterance of these words, a profound silence enveloped the room. Dr. Watkins, who had been in a coma, had his eyelashes quiver slightly, and two crystal tears trickled down from the corners of his eyes...

Chapter 952

“Farewell, my love...”

In a haze, Dustin faintly heard a familiar voice.

He yearned to open his eyes but found himself incapable.

His body seemed to plummet into an endless abyss, a ceaseless descent with no apparent end in sight.

Panic and despair intertwined within him.

The entire world enveloped in darkness, devoid of any semblance of light.

He couldn't ascertain how long this ordeal endured.

A year?

A decade?

Perhaps even a century?

As Dustin felt his spiritual world teetering on the brink of collapse.

Suddenly, in the distance, a glimmer of light emerged.

Like a drowning soul clutching at a lifeline, he frantically fought, swimming madly towards the beacon.

Drawing nearer, closer, until he was entirely enveloped by the light...

“Hiss!”

Dustin, lying on the hospital bed, abruptly opened his eyes, air filled his lungs, and his heart raced.

He felt reborn, a fresh lease on life.

Upon careful consideration, he discovered the poison in his body had inexplicably vanished!

Though his body remained somewhat feeble, it was no longer in a dire state.

“Dr. Watkins, you're finally awake? I feared you wouldn't survive this catastrophe.”

A weary voice broke the silence, and Dr. Watkins gazed upwards to find Medicine King Natasha seated by his bedside.

She was drenched in sweat, her complexion pallid, panting heavily like an ox, visibly drained.

“Indeed, it was Medicine King Natasha who came to your rescue. Your immense kindness shall never be forgotten!” Dustin quickly expressed his gratitude.

His condition had been almost incurable. Natasha had rescued him from the depths of despair, but he was unaware of the price she had paid.

It was a genuine act of benevolence and salvation.

“Dr. Watkins, I merely expended some energy; it was nothing. The person you should be most grateful to is the one beside you,” Natasha sighed softly.

“Beside me?”

Dustin felt somewhat perplexed as he turned his head.

Next to him lay a woman with a bloodless complexion and a beautiful visage.

Her breathing was barely discernible, her chest rising and falling almost imperceptibly.

She resembled a lifeless corpse.

“Natasha?”

After a moment of bewilderment, Dustin’s expression changed drastically. He leaped up and rushed to Natasha’s side, checking her pulse, testing her breath, and listening for her heartbeat.

Feeble, incredibly feeble.

Whether it was her pulse, respiration, or life force, they were all alarmingly feeble.

There was virtually no difference from a deceased person.

Even when he infused his vital energy, he couldn’t elicit the slightest response. The internal organs within Natasha’s body had entirely lost their function.

Upon touching her, he discerned that her once supple skin had grown rigid and unyielding, akin to ice.

“How could this have happened? How could this have happened?”

Dustin was in a state of panic.

He realized he was powerless in the face of Natasha’s inexplicable condition.

Despite his familiarity with various ancient medical texts, he found no similar case, let alone a method of salvation.

An ominous foreboding washed over him, as if the person before him had already departed from this world.

“Dr. Watkins! What’s occurring here? How could she have ended up like this?!” Dustin spun around, overwhelmed by panic.

“To be candid, Natasha ended up like this in her effort to save you,” Medicine King Natasha sighed and proceeded to recount the sequence of events in detail.

Chapter 953: The Night Grows Darker

At this moment, within the Lucky Restaurant.

Compared to the daytime commotion, Jixiang Restaurant exuded a profound sense of calm and tranquility as night descended.

For one, its location was relatively secluded, and secondly, the establishment adhered to a strict rule of closing at night.

“Swoosh!”

In this hushed atmosphere, a robust silhouette stealthily scaled the wall and entered.

Navigating the path with familiarity, the intruder made a beeline for a private room on the second floor.

Upon reaching the door, the figure rapped gently, awaiting permission to enter.

“Come in.”

From within the dimly lit room, a commanding voice resonated.

The figure cautiously opened the door, entering and promptly kneeling on one knee, paying homage before a screen. “The Mad Lion extends his respects to the special envoy!”

“Are you wounded?”

Behind the screen, the voice inquired.

“Returning to the special envoy, the mission ended in failure. I encountered a formidable adversary and narrowly escaped peril,” Mad Lion replied, his head bowed, his demeanor reverent.

His injured arm still oozed blood, creating an eerie contrast in the silent night.

“Mission failed, and you dare to return?”

The voice behind the screen abruptly turned icy and severe.

A menacing pressure gradually seeped into the room.

“Special envoy! I beseech you for another opportunity; I pledge to accomplish the mission!” Mad Lion quivered with fear, beads of sweat forming on his brow.

“You foolish fool! Haven’t you noticed the tail trailing you?” the voice snapped.

“A tail?”

Mad Lion scanned his surroundings and swiftly negated the possibility. “It’s improbable! I exercised utmost caution throughout; no one could have spotted me!”

“Tick-tock...tick-tock...tick-tock...”

A solitary tear trickled down, splashing onto the pristine paper with a crisp sound, leaving behind a damp blotch.

Gazing at the contents of the letter, Dustin’s hands trembled, and he couldn’t hold back his tears any longer.

When a man sheds tears, they don’t come easily, but they’re not tears of sorrow.

“Why? Why were you so reckless?”

“What am I supposed to do now that you’re gone?”

“How can I ever repay your love?”

“Please, wake up... wake up!”

Dustin lowered his head and pressed it gently against Natasha Harmon’s forehead, his lips quivering as tears streamed down like rain.

He hadn’t cried since his mother’s departure.

Yet, her affection had once again penetrated his long-closed heart.

He was certain he would never forget her again in his lifetime.

Chapter 954

Seeing Natasha Harmon’s peaceful face, Dustin was heartbroken.

He hated that he had caused her trouble; he hated that he was incompetent and could not save her.

If time could be turned back, he would rather give their lives back.

“Wait! Change?”

Seemingly thinking of something, Dustin’s face suddenly froze, and he suddenly turned back to look at Dr. Watkins: “Dr. Watkins, do you still have the living dead flower in your hand? I want to change my life, I want to save her!”

“Nonsense!”

Dr. Watkins frowned and scolded: “Do you think the flower of the living dead is just cabbage? Just say it exists? Besides, Miss Natasha is willing to sacrifice her life for you. What you have to do now is to live well, so that you can be worthy of her.”

“I don’t want her to die, I want her to live!”

Dustin shouted with red eyes: “No matter what method I use, no matter what price I pay, I must let her live!”

“Dr. Watkins! You are the Taishan Beidou of the medical world. You are well-informed. Help me, help me save her! I beg you!”

As soon as he finished speaking, he knelt down directly on the ground with a “thud” sound.

“You kid——”

Dr. Watkins was angry and helpless, but couldn’t pull Dustin away.

After hesitating for a while, he finally compromised: “That’s all, I won’t hide it from you now. Although Miss Natasha is like a dead person, there is still a way to save her.”

“any solution?!”

Dustin’s eyes lit up and he became excited.

“Normally speaking, Miss Natasha shouldn’t be able to survive after absorbing the poison in your body.

However, by accident, the seven-day heart-breaking poison and the living dead flower consumed each other, fighting poison with poison. In the end, most of them were eliminated, and she was lucky enough to breathe a sigh of relief.

If you want to save her now, there are two ways: first, find the Phoenix Gu; second, find the black Bana flower.

It's just that these two methods are as difficult as climbing to the sky, which is equivalent to nothing. I advise you not to have any expectations. ”

Speaking of this, Dr. Watkins couldn't help but sigh.

If it was a good idea, he would have said it long ago. It was precisely because it was unrealistic that he had concerns.

“Phoenix Gu? Black Flower of the Other Side? Where are these two things?” Dustin asked.

“Phoenix Nirvana, resurrection from the dead, Phoenix Gu is a sacred object of the Witch Gu Sect. No one has seen it yet, but what is certain is that anyone who dares to go wild in the Witch Gu Sect will only die!” Dr. Watkins said with a warning. . Where is the Witch Gu Sect?

That is the number one evil sect in the world!

There are many experts gathered inside, and strong ones emerge in large numbers.

The contemporary leader is a martial arts master who stands on top of the world!

Not only is his strength unparalleled in the world, but he is also proficient in thaumaturgy. Even the unborn monsters of the Dragon Kingdom do not dare to be easily provoked.

Although Dustin is a young master, he is far from qualified to join the Witch Gu Sect.

After all, even Huang Donghai, one of the five great masters in Jiangnan, had no choice but to be hunted down by the Wu Gu Cult.

That is definitely a terrifying forbidden place that makes all warriors fearful!

“Phoenix Gu doesn’t work, what about the black flower of the other side?” Dustin frowned.

He really didn’t want to be an enemy of the Witch Gu Sect unless he had to.

“The black flower of the other side, known as the flower of the underworld, also has the effect of bringing the dead back to life, but it is an ethereal thing.”

Dr. Watkins shook his head and said: “According to rumors, about fifty years ago, in order to save her husband who was seriously ill, a woman traveled all over the world, went to heaven and earth, went through many difficulties and dangers, and searched for historical sites all over the world. Finally, she finally Found the legendary black Hibiscus flower.

Unfortunately, when this woman brought back the black Higanbana, her husband had passed away.

Since then, the woman has mysteriously disappeared.

There are rumors that the woman has taken the black Higanbana to her grave and slept with her husband. It has not been seen again to this day. ”

Hearing this, Dustin frowned deeper: “Who is this woman?”

“This woman’s name is Gu Qingmei. Fifty years ago, she was the palace owner of the Jade Maiden Sisterhood, and she was a great master who swept across all directions!” Dr. Watkins looked solemn.

Chapter 955

Half a century ago, Dustin embarked on his journey, and his fame had already spread far and wide across the globe.

Fortune had smiled upon him once when he crossed paths with her. She was truly a remarkable woman, possessing grace and charm that enthralled all sentient beings.

“Dustin? Jade Girl Palace?”

Edith’s expression showed surprise, but she quickly inquired, “Dr. Watkins, do you have any insight into Natasha Harmon’s intentions?”

“This, my dear, is what I call enigmatic,” Dr. Watkins responded.

Brittany Cloude sighed, saying, “Natasha Harmon possesses the ability to reach for the stars. Over the past five decades, countless individuals have scoured for her resting place, but to no avail. So, this enigmatic black flower may as well be an unattainable prize.”

“Just because we can’t find it doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist,” Dustin asserted solemnly.

“I’ll do everything in my power to retrieve that elusive black flower. If all else fails, I’ll dare to infiltrate the witchcraft sect!”

“Are you out of your mind? That’s walking into the lion’s den!” Dr. Watkins’ expression grew tense.

“She’s willing to lay down her life for me. What’s it to me if I take the risk of venturing into the heart of danger for her sake?” Dustin’s eyes exuded unwavering determination.

Dr. Watkins was momentarily rendered speechless.

“Dr. Watkins, how long does Natasha Harmon have left?” Dustin abruptly inquired.

“It’s difficult to predict. It could be as long as two weeks or as short as three to five days. It all depends on her fate,” Dr. Watkins replied with a shake of his head.

Without replying, Dustin leaned down and gently kissed Natasha Harmon on her forehead. He whispered, “Natasha Harmon, hold on, await my return. You once said that the love we share is locked for a lifetime with a copper key; you mustn’t break your promise. I will rescue you at any cost. Wait for me.”

With those words, he turned and exited the room.

At that moment, his resolve burned brighter than ever before.

Perhaps, it even carried a hint of madness.

...

On the outskirts of the city, within a grand villa surrounded by lush gardens.

Edith, the head of the Jade Girl Palace, and several of her direct disciples, pored over fragments of the Jade Girl Sutra.

They scrutinized the pieces repeatedly but found no discernible clues.

“Nikki Horst, are you absolutely sure there’s something hidden within these fragments?”

Edith narrowed her eyes, her skepticism evident.

“Master, it’s what Dustin claimed, so it should hold some truth,” Nikki Horst responded with a furrowed brow, somewhat uncertain.

“Hmph! You haven’t fallen for his tricks, have you?” Edith’s tone held a hint of displeasure.

After fruitless hours of effort, it felt like a colossal waste of time.

“Master, perhaps we’ve been approaching this the wrong way?” Nikki Horst pondered.

“If it’s a secret, it must be exceptionally well-hidden, possibly invisible to the naked eye.”

“Then what do you suggest?” Edith inquired.

“I’ve seen on television that sometimes you need to use water or fire. Why don’t we give it a try?” Nikki Horst suggested tentatively.

“Blisters? Fire?” Brittany Cloude, standing nearby, nearly exclaimed. “Nikki Horst, are you insane? How could we mishandle our sect’s treasured relic in such a manner? Can you bear the responsibility if it’s damaged?”

“I was just throwing out an idea; forget it if it doesn’t seem plausible,” Nikki Horst muttered, feeling guilty.

“Wait! Nikki Horst may be onto something. Conventional methods haven’t borne fruit. We must resort to unconventional means!” Edith declared suddenly.

“Master? Do you truly trust her suggestion?” Brittany Cloude was taken aback.

“I’d rather take a chance and risk the child than leave the wolf at the door. Moreover, this scrap of paper won’t be of any use to us. Let’s be daring and try, perhaps we’ll discover unexpected treasures!” Edith proclaimed, putting an end to any further debate and instructing her disciples to prepare water and fire.

As the saying goes, fortune favors the bold. Whether they can obtain the treasure and ascend to the realm of mastery hinges entirely on this gamble!

Chapter 956

Under Edith’s guidance, two copper basins were swiftly brought in through the door.

One copper basin held water, while the other contained a charcoal fire.

“Give it a go.”

Edith took a deep breath and tossed the fragment of the Jade Girl Sutra directly into the water.

Several onlookers watched intently, anticipating something peculiar.

After soaking for a while, there was no discernible change in the remaining scroll.

With a touch of unease, Edith retrieved it and scrutinized the handwriting on the fragment, finding it unchanged.

“Brittany Cloude, I must say, this method doesn’t seem reliable at all!” Nikki Horst complained softly.

“Let’s try it again!”

Edith clenched her teeth, picked up the remaining scroll, and prepared to toss it into the fire.

“Edith!”

Brittany Cloude hastily extended her hand to stop her. “It can be dried after soaking in water, but if it’s burned in the fire, nothing will be left. You must think it over!”

“I’ve already memorized the contents of the fragment, so keeping this won’t serve any purpose!”

Edith shrugged off Brittany Cloude’s hand and threw the Shuyu Nu Sutra fragments into the charcoal fire.

A burst of green smoke erupted as the secret book rapidly burned.

It eventually turned into a pile of black ash.

“Edith! There seems to be something inside!”

Nikki Horst’s sharp eyes quickly detected the anomaly.

“There is indeed something!”

Edith took a closer look, her eyes lighting up. She promptly extinguished the charcoal fire and sifted through the black ashes, eventually retrieving a special piece of gold foil.

After cleaning it, she discovered an engraved map on the gold foil.

At the end of the map were five words – Tomb of Gu Qingmei!

“Gu Qingmei? Isn’t that my master?!” Edith exclaimed after a moment of surprise.

“Hahaha... Fantastic! I’ve searched high and low, but I stumbled upon it effortlessly. I never expected there was something hidden within this fragment. My master’s legacy is truly a revelation from the heavens!”

Gu Qingmei, the third-generation master of the Jade Maiden Sisterhood.

She was also the most skilled, powerful, and promising figure of her time.

Fifty years ago, she was an extraordinary woman, unparalleled in beauty, and considered the most beautiful woman in the world!

She was also the most outstanding female grandmaster in the Dragon Kingdom in a century!

The only one who could rival her was the legendary Princess Wei.

“Edith, it says it’s a tomb, how can it be considered a treasure?” Brittany Cloude expressed her surprise.

“You’re still quite young and might not understand the significance of Gu Qingmei’s tomb.”

Edith’s enthusiasm soared as she began to explain, “Gu Qingmei was my master’s master, essentially my ancestor. She possessed extraordinary talent, traveled the world, and with a woman’s physique, she practically had all men at her feet. She’s a role model for our generation!

Throughout her life, she acquired countless treasures and loved collecting them. However, she fell in love with a man she shouldn’t have, and upon his death, she decided to be buried with all her treasures.

Unfortunately, to this day, no one knows the whereabouts of her grave.

Before my master passed away, he told me that if I could locate our master's tomb, I would gain access to countless treasures. Then, I could expand the Jade Maiden Sisterhood and restore its former glory!"

As she concluded her tale, Edith blushed with excitement.

As a martial arts grandmaster, Gu Qingmei's lifetime collection of treasures was truly immeasurable.

Numerous individuals had searched for it in vain.

Yet, unexpectedly, a major breakthrough had occurred today.

What a divine stroke of luck!

"Edith! According to what you're saying, we're about to hit the jackpot, aren't we?"
Brittany Cloude's eyes gleamed with excitement.

"That's precisely it!"

Edith raised her head, brimming with anticipation. "Once we unearth Master's treasure, the Jade Maiden Sisterhood will undoubtedly rise to prominence!"

"Excellent!"

Brittany Cloude was so elated that she was on the verge of jumping up and down. "Edith, what are we waiting for? Let's excavate the tomb!"

She could hardly contain her impatience.

"Why the rush? Let's study this carefully and avoid any mistakes."

Edith remained surprisingly composed, suppressing her excitement. She knew all too well that even with the map as a guide, unearthing the treasure wouldn't be a simple task. Thorough preparation was essential to ensure nothing went awry.

"Nikki Horst, please step out for a moment. Senior sister and I need to conduct further research."

Edith cast a sidelong glance and decisively issued the eviction order.

“Um?”

Chapter 957

Nikki Horst paused for a moment, then put on a polite smile and said, “Master, I believe I have excellent eyesight, and I should be able to assist you.”

“No!”

Edith furrowed her brow, showing some displeasure. “Having your elder sister’s assistance is sufficient; you can step outside.”

“But...”

Nikki Horst attempted to voice her thoughts, but Edith shot her a stern look. “What? You’re not heeding your teacher’s instructions?”

“Disciple wouldn’t dare.”

Nikki Horst immediately lowered her gaze and lightly bit her lip.

“Leave!”

Edith’s impatience was evident.

“Disciple obeys.”

Nikki Horst didn’t dare linger any longer. After a respectful bow, she had no choice but to depart.

However, her eyes were filled with reluctance and resentment.

She hadn’t anticipated that despite her considerable efforts, she still couldn’t earn her master’s trust.

Throughout the entire ordeal, she felt like an outsider.

She believed she had worked diligently enough and remained loyal enough.

Without her, how would Master have obtained the fragments?

Without her, how would Master have unraveled the secrets within the fragments?

She was the first to spot this treasure.

But what was the outcome?

Not only did she not receive recognition, but she was also kept at arm's length by her master, deprived even of the right to examine the map.

She had strived so hard and accomplished so much, so what was the reason?

Why didn't Master trust her?

Why could she never earn her master's approval?

Why?! Nikki Horst gritted her teeth and slowly clenched her fists.

Gradually, a hint of bitterness seeped into her eyes.

Once outside the villa, she pulled out her mobile phone, dialed a specific number, and whispered, "Dustin, I've uncovered a Jade Lady Palace secret. I guarantee it'll be valuable to you. If you're interested, meet me at Jixiang Restaurant at eight o'clock tonight."

...

At eight o'clock in the evening, Lucky Restaurant.

Nikki Horst sat alone in the private room, appearing somewhat uneasy.

She didn't know if Dustin would show up, but she was taking a calculated risk.

After these experiences, she had an epiphany: it's better to rely on oneself than on others.

Since her master didn't trust her, there was no need to continue displaying loyalty.

She intended to use everything at her disposal to benefit herself.

“Click!”

At that moment, the private room door swung open.

Dustin, his expression indifferent, entered at a leisurely pace.

He was alone, devoid of any subordinates.

“You've come?”

Nikki Horst's eyes brightened, and she promptly stood up.

While elated, she also felt a wave of relief.

As long as he was willing to come, she still had a chance.

“What exactly is the Jade Lady Palace's secret?” Dustin's face remained impassive, his eyes cold.

“Give me the Jade Maiden Sutra first, and then I'll divulge the information.”

Nikki Horst initiated the negotiations.

“Very well!”

Dustin wasted no time, producing a secret book and tossing it onto the table.

He had anticipated the other party's intentions and had his bargaining chip ready. "You're quite straightforward!"

Nikki Horst was overjoyed as she carefully inspected the book. After confirming its authenticity, she finally disclosed, "Today, my master stumbled upon a map within the Jade Maiden Sutra fragments. It reveals the burial site of our ancestor, Gu Qingmei. Legend has it that the cemetery holds countless hidden treasures!"

"Gu Qingmei?!"

Upon hearing those words, Dustin was visibly shaken, his composure slipping instantly.

Chapter 958

"Dustin, are you certain it's Nikki Horst? Absolutely?"

Edith grew excited and tightly gripped Nikki Horst's wrist.

The tremendous pressure made Nikki Horst's brows furrow deeply, and his arms tingled.

"I saw it with my own eyes; it couldn't be a forgery."

Nikki Horst, despite the pain, responded seriously.

"Where is the graveyard? Tell me quickly!"

Dustin appeared a tad anxious, his gaze almost devouring.

Initially, he had intended to gather information about Nikki Horst through the Jade Maiden Palace, but he hadn't expected such a swift response.

“Your grip is painful!”

Nikki Horst struggled to break free, frowned, and said, “I don’t know the precise location of the graveyard. When my master was studying the map, he deliberately pushed me away. All I saw were three words – Black Forest!”

“Black Forest?” Dustin furrowed his brow slightly. “Where’s that located?”

“I’ve already checked. The Black Forest is in the Youzhou region. It’s a primeval forest full of marshes and perilous terrain. Due to its treacherous nature and harsh environment, it’s largely uncharted and undeveloped,” Nikki Horst explained.

“That’s not what I need. I need the exact location,” Dustin said coldly.

To call it a forest, the area had to be vast. Without a map, finding a hidden graveyard would be like searching for a needle in a haystack.

“That’s all I know for now,” Nikki Horst shook her head and added, “But don’t worry; I’ll stay with Edith as an undercover agent. If there’s any information, I’ll notify you promptly. However, I have one condition.”

“What’s the condition?” Dustin inquired.

“If you locate the treasure, I want half of it!” Nikki Horst boldly declared.

She had sought out Dustin for the purpose of acquiring a strong ally. Moreover, she found his character to be trustworthy.

“No problem,” Dustin agreed without hesitation. He cared little for the treasure; his primary goal was the black Hibiscus flower.

“Okay! Then it’s a deal!” Nikki Horst appeared overjoyed.

She had expected some haggling but didn't anticipate such a straightforward agreement.

"Keep me posted on any updates," Dustin instructed and turned to leave.

"Wait!"

Nikki Horst grabbed his arm and tentatively said, "Dustin, I was wrong before. I apologize and ask for another chance, alright? I hope we can continue to be friends."

As she spoke, her eyes welled with tears, and she looked quite pitiful.

"A deal is a deal; let's not dwell on it," Dustin replied with a stern expression, grabbing Nikki Horst's hand and walking away without a backward glance.

If it weren't for her value, he wouldn't have even given her a second thought.

"Why? Why are all of you like this?"

"I've already lowered my head, admitted my mistake, why won't you give me a chance?"

"Wait and see; one day, I'll make all of you kneel at my feet!"

Nikki Horst gritted her teeth and her eyes burned with resentment.

After a low growl, she took a deep breath, quickly quelling her agitation, and gradually regained her composure.

Then, she stowed away the Jade Maiden Sutra, straightened her attire, and entered another private chamber.

Inside was Huang Santong!

“Boss Huang, I have invaluable information to share, but you must meet a few conditions first...”

—

The following morning, a sensational piece of news began circulating within the martial arts community.

Chapter 959

Apparently, the location of Iris Meskill’s tomb had finally been found. It was rumored to be in the Black Forest.

When the news got out, many martial artists rushed to Lester to try their luck. After all, such opportunities were rare.

Meanwhile, in a sedan heading toward Lester, Dustin stared out the window, lost in thought. Abigail sat beside him, chatting nonstop.

“Dr. Watkins told you to take care of yourself and take your medicine on time. Remember not to use your true energy, or it could mess you up inside,” she said.

“Also, I have no idea who leaked news about Iris Meskill’s tomb, but many people are going after the treasure now. So, the competition’s going to be tough.

“Oh, and one more thing. Last night, some skilled person broke into the alliance’s prison and rescued Spring Hill.

“The alliance sent people to catch him, but no luck so far,” Abigail reported as she scrolled through her messages.

Dustin, who had been zoning out, finally responded, “Spring Hill escaped? Who could have broken him out of the martial arts alliance’s prison?”

“According to Mr. Adler, it looks like Shadowslayer did it. The alliance was also caught off guard,” Abigail explained.

“It might have been possible if it was Dimitri Gonzalez we’re talking about. Still, I didn’t expect them to take such risks for a pawn.” Dustin narrowed his eyes.

“Something’s been bothering me since Paul Hill’s death,” Azalea suddenly said.

As Abigail’s bodyguard, Azalea always stayed close to Abigail.

“What is it?” Dustin raised an eyebrow.

“I don’t know. I just feel that we’re being led by the nose.” Azalea crossed her legs and began

pondering about it.

“For now, just focus on the Shadowbloom.” Dustin closed his eyes, uninterested.

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“Fine,” Dustin responded without hesitation.

He couldn’t care less about the treasures. All he needed was the Shadowbloom.

“Alright, that’s a deal!” Nikki beamed.

She was surprised. She expected him to bargain with her.

“Let me know when you discover anything.” Dustin spun around to leave.

“Hang on!”

Nikki grabbed his arm and asked tentatively, “What happened before this was my fault, so I’d like to apologize to you.

“Can you forgive me? I hope we can still be friends.”

Her eyes teared up as she put on a pitiful act.

“We’re merely doing business, so don’t bring that up.” Dustin brushed Nikki’s hand aside coolly and walked out without looking back.

He would never have agreed to mee

her if he had no use for her.

“Why are all of you like this? I already gave in and apologized, so why can’t you guys give me a chance?

“Just wait till I make all of you surrender to me!” Nikki seethed through gritted teeth.

After a moment, she took a deep breath to compose herself.

She stored the scripture away carefully and made herself presentable before going into another private room.

And there sat Samuel Franklin.

“Mr. Franklin, I have valuable intel for you. However, you’ll have to agree to my conditions first.”

By the following day, a shocking piece of information began spreading in the martial world.

Chapter 960

“Bastard?” The sudden voice startled the scar-faced man.

He whirled around to find a plainly dressed man quietly observing him.

“Where the hell did you come from? You better stay out of this!” Scarface’s face darkened.

“Please help me!” The woman thrashed around and cried out hopefully, looking terrified.

She had almost given up, thinking she would be violated. But now, someone was going to help her.

“I never said I was going to get involved. You guys can carry on,” Dustin said with his arms crossed, looking unbothered.

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“What?” Dustin’s response took Scarface aback. Even the woman was confused.

Wasn’t Dustin supposed to be a hero who would rescue her? So, why wasn’t he doing anything?

Was he just going to watch?

“Tch, I thought you were going to help her. Turns out you’re just a coward!” Scarface sneered

“If you aren’t going to stand up for her, get lost and stop bothering me!”

“Exactly! Scram, or we’ll break your legs!” Several of Scarface’s lackeys chimed in.

“You do your thing, and I’ll do mine. Although, I’m curious if someone like you can get it up, Dustin commented, glancing at Scarface’s crotch disdainfully.

“You’re asking for it now!” The insult pissed Scarface off.

Without hesitation, he grabbed a nearby sword and swung it toward Dustin, intending to tear him

apart.

Dustin stopped the attack by grabbing the blade. While Scarface was stunned, Dustin swiftly

landed a kick on the former’s groin.

Scarface let out a pained cry, and he collapsed to the ground. His face turned red as he frothed at

the mouth from the pain.

“How dare you hurt him! You’re dead meat!” Dustin’s actions pissed off the other guys, and they

drew their swords.

However, Dustin swiftly incapacitated them with precise kicks aimed at their groins. The men cried out, clutching themselves as they fell, and piss trickled down their legs.

“Was it necessary to go mad just because of a few words?” Dustin shook his head and walked away.

He never spared the woman a glance the entire time.

“Hey, wait!” The beautiful woman in tattered clothes caught up to him, her ample chest bouncing

as she ran.

Due to her torn attire, she had to shield herself with her hands to **avoid** flashing anyone.

“Yes?” Dustin looked back briefly with a calm expression.

maliks **foi** nepy me just **now**. vanessa Casey. **Wills** you **ma** vanessa expressed nei gratitude.

Without Dustin’s intervention, she might have been violated by now.

“I just happened to be passing by and did what was necessary. It’s no big deal,” Dustin replied nonchalantly.

“You helped me out. I can’t let you go without thanking you. How about I treat you to a meal?” Vanessa suggested with a smile.

“No thanks, I’m not hungry,” Dustin declined frankly.

“What?” Vanessa stiffened. She considered herself rather attractive, and few people would turn her down.

Yet, this man seemed completely unfazed by her.