

An Understated Dominance By Marina Vittori

Chapter 1910

"Alright, it's getting late. You should head back to your room and get some rest," Rufus Rhys advised, weariness etched across his face.

He had selected his eldest son to carry on the mantle of leadership. It was partly due to the lad's aptitude, and partly out of a desire to make amends for past wrongs.

Regrettably, his son lacked ambition and harboured no aspirations to hold dominion over thousands. Hence, Rufus refrained from pressing too hard. He was nearing the end of his days, and all he wished was for his sons to find safety and happiness. He let go of any other expectations.

Dustin started to speak but eventually rose and left without a word. At least for now, he lacked the conviction to be a king.

To many, the title of King of West Lucozia signified boundless power, unending prestige, wealth beyond measure, and the grandeur of ruling the realm. In Dustin's eyes, however, it was a burden too weighty to bear. The throne carried with it a multitude of responsibilities, far beyond personal considerations. It meant shouldering the welfare of West Lucozia and perhaps even the entire world. Dustin saw himself as an ordinary soul, unable to carry such a monumental weight.

For once, he decided to be selfish. Let this time be for himself.

Dustin spent the following days within the palace, attending to the aftermath of the rebellion, including the dismantling of the Dragon Guard Pavilion. With Rufus Rhys ailing, Dustin shouldered his father's duties, a testament to his filial piety.

The first order of business was Dustin Kate's disposition. Dustin offered him two choices: remain in West Lucozia, relinquish military command, and live the life of a leisurely nobleman, or depart with a generous sum, venturing forth

on his own, bearing full responsibility for his fate, with no interference from the palace.

The options were clear-cut: a life of ease or one of adventure.

Considering Dustin Kate's contributions and familial ties, Dustin extended this opportunity. After due consideration, Dustin Kate chose the path of adventure, deeming it better than a stagnant existence. He held hope of making a triumphant return and establishing his own legacy. His ambition drove him, unwilling to remain in the shadow of others.

Dustin respected Dustin Kate's choice, providing him with financial support and personally escorting him out of West Lucozia. From then on, their paths diverged.

Once Dustin settled matters with Dustin Kate, he descended into the dungeons to meet Nangong Po and the four northern princes. Rufus Rhys, ever merciful, pledged not to take their lives, a promise Dustin upheld.

However, crimes of rebellion and open insurrection could not be absolved lightly. Both Nangong Po and the four princes were guilty. To set a precedent, they faced severe penalties.

The five were stripped of their titles, and all wealth accumulated over the years was seized. No one connected to them could evade the consequences, with all properties confiscated. In a bid to pacify the populace, the confiscated funds were allocated for local development and returned to the people.

Furthermore, each of the four northern princes received a twenty-year imprisonment, in addition to losing their homes. As for Nangong Po, he received a life sentence, confined to the prison for the remainder of his days.