

Chapter 1445

Florian then scanned the surroundings before he smiled and said, "Only those with good literary skills can pass to the next round!"

The contestants then frowned and were deep in thought.

'F*ck, this was a little similar to the ancient times' imperial examination.'

Darryl muttered secretly at that moment. He did not know whether to laugh or cry! He was still alright with writing but was unfamiliar with the ancient writing style.

'Yes!'

Darryl suddenly thought of something amidst his conflict as his eyes brightened. He spoke to Pang Tong in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda, "Pang Tong, can you write such essays?"

"Haha..." Pang Tong laughed relaxedly. "Master, don't worry. This is a piece of cake to me."

A simple essay piece was but a simple matter to him as a famous strategist par with Zhuge Liang during the Three Kingdoms.

Pang Tong pondered for a while before saying, "Let's write a piece on...Ranking Formations then."

"Hmm!" Darryl nodded before immediately instructed, "By the way, just write something ordinary so we could just pass the preliminary. It doesn't need to be too great!"

'F*ck!'

The New World Emperor was watching from above and he could not show off too much. Darryl's true identity might be exposed if he wrote too well and was noticed by the Emperor.

"Yes, Master!"

Pang Tong responded and thought for a while before starting to dictate the essay. Darryl wrote as Pang Tong spoke one sentence at a time.

"Wow..."

He was halfway through when the audience screamed again.

"Kilenc has handed in his paper!"

"So fast! No wonder he's a genius!"

The surrounding fangirls looked at Kilenc in adoration and showered him with praises.

Darryl looked up and saw Kilenc standing up and handing in his essay while the other contestants were still writing furiously deep in thought.

"Excellent writing! Wonderful!" The adjudicator was impressed with Kilenc's essay.

He then immediately handed it to Florian who dared not slack and quickly presented it to the New World Emperor.

"Excellent!" The New World Emperor was delighted and sang praises after taking a look. "It's a good essay."

Florian beside him quickly yelled, "Kilenc Dokko, the first to submit his essay. Pass!"

"Thank you, Your Majesty."

Kilenc respectfully greeted the New World Emperor with a fist-palm greeting before stylishly leaving the competition square.

The surrounding women instantly could not help but chatter among themselves, singing praises.

"The first to hand in and was even praised by the Emperor..."

"I'm sure he'll stand out among the rest..."

"Only such a talented genius will be a match for the beautiful Princess..."

'Hehe!' Darryl sneered in detest upon hearing their discussions.

Even if Kilenc was talented, it was still uncertain whether he would be the literary competition's champion.

Darryl had the help of the Fledgling Phoenix, Pang Tong after all.

Many contestants started handing in their essays soon after. Darryl followed suit and handed in his.

Of course!

Even though Pang Tong wrote the essay casually, he still easily passed through the preliminary as Darryl expected.

Chapter 1446

"Haha..."

Darryl was elated as he had passed through both the literary and martial arts preliminaries. The next day would be the actual competition.

He looked back at Yvette sitting on the high platform as he left the competition square and suddenly felt a little urgency in his heart.

'Yvette, wait three days for me. I'll enter the finals three days later.'

Darryl then returned to the inn to meet up with the Four Dragons and Four Phoenixes. Someone hurriedly rushed out of the competition square and directly bumped into Darryl right at this moment.

Thud!

'F*ck, why are you still bumping into me when the entrance is so wide? Where are you rushing off to?'

Darryl was depressed and confused at the same time.

'It's soft, what did I just bump into?'

The next second, Darryl glanced at the person in front of him and he was suddenly stunned.

This person in a pastel yellow shirt had a fair and clean face with a studious look. It was clear this person was a literary competition contestant. However, Darryl instantly

understood the reason when they bumped into each other. This person was a lady dressing up as a man! Yes, Darryl was sure of it!

Darryl was confused at that moment. Why would a lady dress up as a man to attend the literary competition? Was she going to marry Yvette if she won the competition?

"Look at where you're going!" said the other person unhappily before Darryl even spoke a word.

'What? You bumped into me, yet you're the one talking?'

Darryl frowned and did not know whether to laugh or cry.

This lady was Parker Yohan from the Yellow Sea Continent—the heiress of Famed Sword Manor!

The Famed Sword Manor had been around for over a thousand years and was famous for making weapons. They were extremely famous among the Yellow Sea Continent's world of cultivators.

Parker was the Master of the Famed Sword Manor's daughter and naturally gifted. She was not only highly talented in cultivation, but also a famous genius.

Parker had long wanted to head out and experience the world. She immediately came to partake when she heard the New World Emperor was holding a martial arts marriage tournament as she wanted to be acquainted with the world's greatest heroes. At the same time, she also wanted to take this opportunity and showcase her talents.

She joined the martial arts marriage tournament purely just

to prove that she was more talented than a man.

She just handed in her essay and found that she passed to the next round. She was overjoyed and about to head back to the inn before bumping into Darryl.

Parker was angry at this ordinary-looking man before her, yet his eyes were impolite as he kept sizing her up. How rude!

"Hey!"

Parker was unhappy and curtly said, "Don't you have something to say for bumping into others? Don't you have any manners?"

'Hmm?'

Darryl was stunned upon hearing that before he chuckled and looked at her. "Interesting. You are the one who bumped into me, why do I have to apologize to you?"

'She's bold enough to be disguised as a man and compete in the literary competition. She must be some heiress from some big shot family to speak so unreasonably.'

Parker was furious as she said with an arrogant face, "You! You're not apologizing? Fine! You better be careful next time and don't touch me!"

How despicable! She was the famous Famed Sword Manor's heiress. Everyone should be polite to her.

Parker wanted to teach this rude person a lesson were it not for wanting to expose her identity.

Darryl standing before her looked ordinary in her eyes with

an average power at best, so she need not mind him.

'Haha! Threatening me?'

Darryl smiled secretly in his heart upon seeing Parker's furious face before playfully said, "So what if I see you again next time? What can you do to me? You're clearly a young lady after all, why do you pretend to be a studious scholar? Do you want to marry the Princess?"

Chapter 1447

In truth, Darryl did not want to argue with her. However, he had nothing to do at that moment after just passing the preliminaries and thought of teasing her.

Darryl was curious as to who this young lady was and how she was so bold to disguise herself as a man and attended the martial arts marriage tournament. Was she not afraid she might be killed if her identity was exposed?

“You...”

Parker trembled and looked at Darryl in disbelief. How did he know she was a woman?

No one could tell since registration until that moment.

Darryl smiled ambiguously in the next moment and sized her up. Parker instantly realized something as she blushed.

‘Right, just now he bumped into me. H-he must have felt something...’ Parker was extremely embarrassed, with that thought in mind and her face turned red as an apple before she started panicking a little.

“Well?” Darryl smiled upon seeing her expression change and said, “Are you still going to argue with me? This martial arts marriage tournament is mainly for Princess Yvette to pick a Prince Consort. What will happen if the New World Royals know that some woman has disguised as a man and is partaking in this event?”

“I...” Parker’s face flushed. She was so awkward she did not know what to say.

She pulled Darryl to a quiet corner without anyone’s presence in the next second before biting her lip and gently said, “Fine, I’m in the wrong just now and will let it go. Please don’t tell anyone. Can you help me keep a secret?”

Parker’s eyes were full of hope when she said that.

In truth, she was very reluctant to plead Darryl as she was the Famed Sword Manor’s heiress. When had she needed to bow down to anyone?

However, she had no other choice.

She had indeed broken the rules by disguising herself as a man to compete in the tournament. It would be troublesome if the New World Royals found out.

‘Isn’t it much better if she had been so polite from the start?’ Darryl smiled and slowly said, “We don’t know each other, why should I help you keep the secret?”

‘I’m sure you’re regretting it right now for trying to be sassy with me.’

Parker was anxious as she tugged on Darryl's sleeve. "Please treat it as though I'm begging you? Please don't tell anyone."

It would be such a pity if she had to give up as she had just passed through the preliminaries. She had what it takes to enter the finals with her talents after all.

Darryl smiled but said nothing.

Parker was totally in panic and bit her lip. "Why don't I bring you along to a banquet at the Governor General's residence since I have an invitation?"

Parker then looked at Darryl and continued, "The Governor General is a pretty famous person next to the New World Emperor, so those attending the banquet tonight are the more influential figures among those contestants. What do you think?"

Parker bit her lip hard. This was her bottom line and she could only fight back if Darryl still did not want to let it go.

Darryl in front of her looked like an ordinary person that had no background whatsoever. He should consider himself being blessed by his ancestors for the fact that he could attend the banquet at the Governor General's residence.

'The banquet at the Governor General's residence?'

Darryl thought for a while upon hearing this and nodded before saying, "I'll give in and attend the banquet with you tonight seeing how sincere you are."

He need not be so upset with her since she only bumped into him.

More importantly, the Governor General was a person close to the New World Emperor and he could perhaps check up on Yvette's situation.

Darryl did not know that the Governor General was Florian Darby then!

Chapter 1448

“Woo!”

Parker let out a sigh of relief upon seeing Darryl's agreement.

Darryl could not help but ask curiously at that moment, “I still don't know your name. Why did you disguise yourself as a man to join the tournament?”

Parker laughed and proudly answered, “Me? I'm Parker Yohan from the Famed Swords Manor of the Yellow Sea Continent. I'm mainly here to prove that my talents are as good if not better than any man.”

‘What? The Famed Swords Manor?’ Darryl was stunned and secretly in shock.

Although he had never been to the Yellow Sea Continent, he had long heard of the Yellow Sea Continent's Famed Swords Manor weapons foraging family with communications between Nine Mainlands having been opened up for a long time.

He had not expected to meet someone from there.

Parker could not help but ask at that moment, “How about you? What's your name?”

Darryl smiled and said, “I'm Luca Moonlight!”

Parker could not help but secretly mutter to herself, ‘Luca Moonlight? Such a strange name. It sounds like a woman's name.’

She did bother to say any more with that thought in mind as she waved her hand. “It's a deal then. We'll meet at the entrance of the Governor General's residence this evening. See you there!”

Parker then turned and left.

Darryl smiled and quickly returned to the inn upon seeing her figure getting further away.

...

Nightfall! The entire New World Royal City was well lit.

The Royal City's streets were lively with the bustling of people. After the preliminaries during the daytime, the contestants—be it the literary competition or the martial arts competition—came out to relax.

It was even livelier within a mansion in the Royal City! The entrance had a huge sign that wrote 'Darby's Residence' and 'Governor General' next to it.

It was Florian Darby's residence!

He had been in the New World for almost 10 years. He started as a small official and slowly climbed up until that moment he became the Minister of Rites and also the Governor General—positions holding great powers.

However, Florian was ambitious—still unsatisfied with the fame and fortunes he had accumulated.

The martial arts marriage tournament attracted many heroes and gifted talents from all of the Nine Mainlands, so Florian took this opportunity to hold a banquet and invite those with high status to expand his network.

The Darby residence was decorated in a lively atmosphere at that moment with many high-status contestants invited!

Florian stood smiling at the main hall's entrance with a dignified and regal look in his elegant satin shirt while welcoming guests at that moment.

Yumi stood beside him in a red long dress which showed off her perfect figure. Many years had passed yet she was still seductive and attractive as ever.

Florian was unspeakably excited at that moment!

After tonight's banquet, his social network would expand from the New World to the other mainlands as well as long as he played his cards right. In the future, he would have friends all over the Nine Mainlands and that would make it much easier for him to get matters done next time!

Florian pulled Yumi's hand and said confidently at that moment, "Honey, wait until I've built a good relationship with the other mainlands and we'll find a chance to gloriously return to Donghai City."

Florian could never forget how he aggravated everyone and was chased away by the sects of the World Universe.

He was a high-ranking official with the New World Emperor's support at that moment. He wanted to see what those sects could do to him when he returned to the World Universe.

"Hmm!" Yumi nodded with her pretty face full of happiness.

She and Florian were like refugees previously whereas presently they enjoyed untold glory and wealth.

A servant excitedly ran over and said to Florian just as they were talking, "Master, the Deputy Sect Master of the Incandescent Sect—Matteo Hanson—has arrived!"

The servant's tone was trembling with a face full of admiration as he said that. Even the Incandescent Sect's Deputy Sect Master attended the banquet. Master Darby must have garnered a lot of respect from others!

"Quick..."

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Florian was spirited and delighted before he immediately headed to the main entrance. "Quickly, welcome him!"

Yumi followed suit.

Florian and Yumi were extremely elated at that moment.

'Haha...' Matteo Hanson was a famous figure among the New World's world of cultivators and for Matteo to accept his invitation meant he had shown Florian great respect!

They noticed Matteo slowly approaching them while being accompanied by Ambrose Darby when they were at the main entrance.

Florian was overjoyed and quickly welcomed him before saying in his utmost respectful and excited tone, "My! Master Hanson, welcome to my humble abode. Your presence will be a huge blessing to my Darby Residence..."

"You're too polite, Master Darby!" Matteo smiled and greeted Florian with a fist-palm greeting. "Master Florian is highly favored by His Majesty and in a high position, yet you humbly invited us scholars and cultivators like me. It's my honor to attend."

Matteo had an arrogant personality and would not even look at Florian if it were the past.

However, Matteo was less prideful after going through so much throughout all these years. He would smile and welcome whoever he saw at that moment. More importantly, Matteo was there to join the martial arts marriage tournament. He naturally had to build good relationships with the people whom the New World Emperor favors.

"Haha... Great, great. Come in quickly! The banquet is about to start." Matteo's words made Florian float into cloud nine as he smiled widely.

Matteo smiled and walked into the main hall!

Gasp!

The guests in the main hall instantly were in an uproar.

"Master Darby must be an impressive figure for even Master Hanson is here."

"Yes..."

"Master Darby is favored by His Majesty so even Master Hanson of course has to give face..."

Florian was full of smiles upon hearing their comments which greatly satisfied his inner sense of superiority. No one would dare look down on him in the future as even Matteo Hanson was his friend from that moment onward.

Outside of the Darby Residence at that very moment.

Darryl asked around and finally found the place.

He noticed Parker from afar standing there.

“I’m so sorry to make you wait!” Darryl smiled as he approached her and embarrassingly said.

‘F*ck. This Darby Residence is so hard to locate.’

Darryl could not help but sized Parker up when he said that!

Parker had especially changed her clothes. Although it still had a scholarly look, it was indescribably suave and stylish.

Meanwhile, Darryl was still in the clothes he wore to the competition. The type of extremely ordinary clothes allowed him to blend in with the crowd.

Parker smiled. “I just arrived too!”

Parker then looked at Darryl’s clothes and secretly frowned. ‘This man is dressed too casually to attend the Governor General’s banquet. Can’t he dress up a little bit?’

Right at this moment, the guards checked Parker’s invitation and allowed them in.

“Famed Sword Manor’s Master Yohan has arrived.”

Florian and Yumi quickly approached them upon the announcement.

Florian smiled at Parker and said, “Haha, Master Yohan. It’s my honor to have you here. Come in, come in...”

In truth, Florian was unfamiliar with Parker. However, the Famed Swords Manor was famous and Florian also did not realize that Parker was a lady as no one would have expected a lady in disguise since the Famed Swords Manor family had many sons and daughters.

At the same time, Florian did not even glance over at Darryl once.

Darryl truly was dressed too casually and Florian thought that Darryl was Parker’s disciples.

Parker smiled and greeted Florian.

Darryl stood there stunned.

‘F*ck! Turns out it’s both of them!’ Darryl swept at glance at Florian before sizing Yumi up who was still as sexy after not seeing her for so many years.

Chapter 1450

However, Darryl could never forget Yumi's evil heart under that beautiful appearance. He would never forget how Florian and Yumi slandered him.

It was due to them that he was being blamed as the monster who defiled his own sibling, yelled at by the Donghai people, and kicked out of the Darby family. He was even targeted by the entire World Universe's world of cultivators.

Although those incidents have passed and he also managed to regain his reputation, he could never forget about this.

Especially the previous time when Darryl was suddenly attacked by Florian at the most crucial moment during the palace chaos he caused in the course of seeking revenge for his master—Ford South. He might have died in Florian's hands were it not for Yvette who rescued him in a timing manner.

Darryl never forgot to seek revenge, yet he had not expected that he would meet them here.

Darryl was more surprised that the banquet was held by Florian who Parker forth mentioned was the Governor General.

'F*ck! You two had done so much harm to me previously, yet you haven't even gotten what you deserved. On the contrary, both of you are living so well!'

Darryl secretly clenched his fists with that thought in mind.

In truth, Darryl wanted to immediately take action were it not for needing to continue competing in the martial arts marriage tournament.

Yumi was displeased upon seeing Darryl's eyes wandering on her.

How impolite for some nobody but just a disciple so rudely ogling at her!

Florian was frowning beside her as well. However, he could do nothing due to Parker being there as well.

Florian and Yumi did not recognize at that moment the man in front of them was Darryl—the person they wanted to get rid of even in their dreams.

The atmosphere instantly turned a little strange.

Parker could not help noticing Darryl's strangeness and gently asked, "What's going on? You know the Governor General?"

"Nope!" Darryl secretly let out a sigh and forced a smile in reply.

Darryl immediately retracted his gaze and pretended to be a humble person when he said that.

Eldest Dragon had mentioned that the mask was quite basic and that he should not be too agitated, or he could be easily recognized by Florian.

Parker did not say anything else and just led Darryl into the main hall.

'F*ck. There are many people here.'

Darryl was immediately stunned when he just entered as he noticed many familiar figures.

Wudang's Wyatt Yenus, Middle Terra's Kilenc Dokko, and other familiar figures—all were famous people from their respective mainlands.

Swoosh!

Darryl's eyes fell on Matteo Hanson in the next second.

'F*ck, even he's here.' Darryl sighed. Thank goodness he held back from fighting Florian. Otherwise, he would not be able to retreat safely with so many powerful cultivators there.

Darryl was in a bad mood at that moment and only wanted to immediately leave, but he realized it would attract unnecessary attention if he were to leave immediately.

Darryl could only suppress his emotions and followed Parker into the banquet after contemplating.

Most of the guests had arrived at that moment. Matteo was a powerful and famous figure, so he was arranged to sit at the master table by Florian.

Parker was from the Famed Sword Manor, so her seat was quite in front as well.

Darryl was about to sit next to Parker at their seats when a displeased voice said, "Hey..."

A young man walked over and sized Darryl up before looking at him condescendingly. "This is my seat. What right do you have to sit on it?"

This person was Geoff Jefferson—a young master from a South Cloud World's cultivation family who was used to being arrogant. He was extremely unhappy upon seeing Darryl taking his seat.

Geoff also thought that Darryl was Parker's disciple.

Swoosh!

all the guests glanced at Darryl at that instant upon hearing the commotion.

Darryl was awkward and smiled bitterly before looking at Parker in her seat.

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Parker flatly said, "Just simply find another seat later."

she did not look at Darryl at all as she said that. Her gaze was on the person sitting opposite her all relaxed and comfortable—Kilenc Dokko.

That was right, Kilenc was adored by many young girls including Parker as the talented genius of Middle Terra.

Parker was initially unwilling to attend the banquet as she was afraid her crossdressing disguise would be exposed. However, she came the moment she knew Kilenc would be there.

Parker only treated Darryl like any other ordinary contestant where he should be grateful he could at least attend the banquet.

'F*ck! Is she planning to just leave me alone once she brought me in?'

Darryl did not know whether to laugh or cry upon feeling Parker's indifference.

"What are you still standing here for?" Geoff at that moment impatiently said, "Leave my seat."

Many surrounding people laughed when he said that as they gave Darryl a ridiculing look.

'This dude is pretty interesting. He's so simple-minded, yet thinks he's a guest despite being only a disciple?'

Darby Residence's old butler then said to Darryl, "You must be Master Yohan's disciple. Please follow me to your seat in the side room!"

'F*ck, he really treats me as a servant.'

Darryl was suddenly furious upon hearing those words. He wanted to turn and leave but still held back.

The banquet started by the time he reached the side room and sat down.

Although the side room and main hall were only divided by a curtain, the treatment they received was vastly different.

However, Darryl picked up his utensils and started eating without bothering with the situation. In the course of his meal, he noticed the young kid in the main hall next to Matteo seemed to be in a bad mood also as though he were suppressing his anger.

That kid was none other than Ambrose.

Ambrose was glaring at Yumi and Florian at that moment while secretly clenching his fist.

"Ambrose, what's the matter?" Matteo could not help but ask.

Matteo understood his character and temper as Ambrose had followed him for many years. He clearly noticed something was off with Ambrose at that moment.

Ambrose softly and slowly said, "Master! This Governor General Darby's wife isn't a good person."

Ambrose could not help but look at Yumi with hostility as he said that.

Yumi visited them seven years ago when Ambrose's biological mother—Monica Vaughn—was staying at Guang Ping Palace and indirectly called him a b*stard.

Although at that time Ambrose was only two or three years old, he still clearly remembered.

Matteo chuckled and advised Ambrose meaningfully upon hearing his complaints, "Hehe... Ambrose, it's all in the past even if you had an unhappy experience with them. In addition, we came to the banquet today just to put on a show as I'm not really here to befriend Florian, so don't get worked up over this. Do you understand?" Matteo said so softly that only he and Ambrose could hear.

"Hmm!" Ambrose nodded and said nothing more.

The banquet had already started at that moment.

Florian was good at talking and creating a lively atmosphere as the guests and host soon started mingling with each other in a lively and cheerful manner.

Darryl who was sitting in the side room was not interested in the mingling at all. He instead secretly paid attention to Florian and Matteo upon seeing them chatting and laughing with each other. He used more effort to listen to what they were chatting about.

"Haha...Master Hanson, you have good alcohol tolerance."

"Master Darby, you too..."

"Master Hanson, there's something I feel we can work together on. Darryl Darby is your enemy and I want to get rid of him too. I'm sure we would be able to achieve this as long as we work together..."

"Haha, I'll consider it..."

Florian and Matteo's voices were extremely soft when they said that.

However, Darryl could clearly hear them as he was already at the Martial Emperor level.

Chapter 1452

'Surely no good things will come when they are both together. Are they planning to unite against me?'

Darryl sneered at that moment, 'If not for the tournament and that I don't want extra troubles, I would've caused a bloodbath here.'

Darryl drank some wine as he looked at Matteo and Florian discussing how to deal with him. It was too tortuous if he did not do anything to them. 'No, I have to do something.'

Darryl scanned his surroundings with that thought in mind as his eyes suddenly brightened.

He noticed a maidservant outside the main hall carrying wine jars in and preparing to serve the guests.

Darryl did not bother to think and immediately stood up before walking out from the side door.

"Aiya!" Darryl pretended to accidentally bump into the maidservant as he passed by which caused the maidservant to let out a low cry before almost spilling the wine.

"I'm so sorry!" Darryl apologized and did not stay further as he immediately left the Darby Residence.

The guards thought Darryl was just a small disciple, so they did not block him nor did the main hall's guests pay him any attention.

Darryl did not leave after exiting the residence. He stood on the road opposite and quietly observed the situation.

In the main hall at that moment!

Florian and Matteo were chatting happily with each other and kept lifting their glasses.

Matteo suddenly frowned after three rounds of wine as his expressions darkened!

'Strange, I was alright just now. Why do I suddenly feel sore? I'm being poisoned!'

Florian immediately asked upon sensing something was off with Matteo's expression, "Master Hanson, what's going on?"

Florian looked on in concern while saying that.

"Master Darby, we have no grudge against each other, right!?" Matteo said coldly while looking at Florian.

'What?' Florian was baffled and looked confusedly at Matteo. "Master Hanson, why are you saying such things?"

Matteo sneered and immediately stood up, "An honest person never does anything underhanded. I would like to ask, why did you get your servants to poison the food and wine?"

'What?' Florian's expressions changed when he heard that. He was frightened and in shock. "I-I...would never..."

Florian then frowned and subconsciously touched his stomach. He felt numb and that something was off with him too at that moment.

Gasp!

The main hall was instantly in an uproar as they looked at Florian in shock.

'Master Darby poisoned Matteo Hanson? Why did he do so?'

Many guests' expressions changed too as they were discussing and started trembling.

"Damn, I feel sore too!"

"What's going on?"

"Master Darby, you..."

Almost every guest slumped to the ground following cries of surprise ringing out from being unable to use any force. They then glared at Florian in shock and fury!

"Everyone..." Florian panicked upon seeing this scene as he bore through his discomfort and anxiously explained to Matteo, "This must've been done by someone! Don't worry, Master Hanson and everyone! I'll investigate this matter!"

Florian was extremely furious when he said that!

'F*ck! Who could be so bold as to spoil his banquet?!'

"Woo!" Matteo took a deep breath with his extremely dark and ugly expression. "Only you will know if it's a mistake or otherwise. I don't need to stay here any longer looking at this situation, Farewell!"

Matteo then signaled Ambrose before walking out of the main hall!

Matteo could feel that the poison was not fatal. However, it was humiliating as he failed to notice when the wine was poisoned despite being the Deputy Sect Master of the Incandescent Sect.

Chapter 1453

Ambrose glared fiercely at Florian before guarding Matteo and left.

“Master Darby, I’m leaving too!”

“Farewell!”

Once Matteo left, the other guests all bade their farewell to Florian and left under their disciples’ protection.

The once-lively banquet instantly became cold and quiet.

“F*ck, find out what happened at once!” Florian’s expression was ugly as he called the guards and angrily yelled.

He originally had the banquet to expand his social network. At that moment, he not only failed to achieve it but was also misunderstood by them.

...

On the streets outside the Darby Residence at that moment.

Darryl was unspeakably delighted upon seeing how the guests left in a hurry.

Just moments ago, Darryl had indeed intentionally bumped into the maidservant before secretly using his Shadow Techniques to slide the Numbing Poison into the wine jar.

The Numbing Poison was a moderate anesthetic drug that he had obtained in the past while extracting the elixir for Stella Scope.

Darryl was furious upon hearing how Florian and Matteo conspiring against him. He knew he could not take action and caused a fight in the residence, yet it was too torturing if he did nothing.

Therefore, Darryl used Shadow Skills and put some Numbing Poison into the wine jar.

The Numbing Poison would make a person’s entire body sore and numb but was not fatal.

Matteo and the other guests would have a bad impression of Florian the moment he did that.

Darryl sneered at that moment upon seeing all the guests leave and how the main hall inside was in a huge mess.

'You still want to fight me? I have many little tricks to make you unsettled...' muttered Darryl to himself before turning around and happily strode toward the inn.

He noticed the Four Dragons and Four Phoenixes waiting for him upon reaching the inn.

Darryl's mask was starting to lose its effects as 12 hours had almost passed.

Eldest Dragon immediately helped Darryl take the mask off the moment they entered the room and asked about that afternoon's preliminaries.

The Four Dragons and Four Phoenixes were excited immediately after finding out that Darryl had passed to the next round.

"You're the boss! You passed both the literary and martial arts competition..."

"Needless to say, our boss will win both competitions in the end!"

Darryl shook his head upon listening to their praises and chuckled. "Alright, all of you should get some rest too."

Darryl's expression was flat without any reactions when he said that.

The preliminaries were just the start as there was more to come.

"Yes, Boss!"

The Four Dragons and Four Phoenixes did not dare defy him upon hearing his words before they quickly left the room.

Darryl only managed to sleep late into the night as his mind was filled with Yvette's depressive expression during the daytime. It was heartbreaking.

Darryl left for the Nine Suns Altar early the next morning.

The competition rules were clear as the martial arts competition was held in the morning while the literary competition in the afternoon.

Darryl noticed many contestants were already there when he reached the martial arts competition venue.

He noticed Matteo Hanson was standing in an obvious position at first glance with a light confident smile on his face.

It looked like Matteo was confident he would win the martial arts competition.

'Well, let's wait and see then,' thought Darryl before shifting his gaze on the adjudicator's platform where Florian was sitting right in the middle with two dark rings around his eyes looking depressed.

'Haha... you did not sleep well last night because of your banquet issues, right?' Darryl was secretly amused and relieved upon seeing that.

Chapter 1454

Darryl was laughing to himself when he noticed the New World Emperor entered the competition venue with a group of officials as the competition was about to start.

Florian stood upon receiving the New World Emperor's signals and loudly said, "Everyone! Today's competition rules are simple. It will be by elimination.

"There'll be a box holding guard passing by you later where each of you will draw a number. Those with the same number will go against each other with the loser eliminated and the winner proceeding to the next round..."

Florian was already at a Martial Emperor level at that moment, hence his not loud voice was thick and clear as it resonated through the entire competition venue.

Florian then waved his hands and a few royal guards suddenly walked toward the contestants with a wooden box.

Darryl casually drew a number with care as it was still early in the competition. He would have won regardless of his opponents with his strength, so he could not be bothered.

The competition soon started when everyone received their numbers.

Gasp!

Cheers erupted from the surrounding crowd the moment the competition started. Everyone was excited with their blood boiling.

On the other hand, Darryl was emotionless as he did not join in watching the fight. His eyes kept gazing toward Yvette as he could only see her during the competition. He would naturally not miss a single moment to look at her.

Yvette was dispirited, distracted, and looking depressed just like the day before. She had clearly not slept well.

Darryl was heartbroken and clenched his fist tightly upon looking at Yvette. 'Yvette... Yvette...just holds on for another two days. I'll take you away once the tournament ends.'

"Next, Luca Moonlight versus Tad Leo!"

The referee yelled out loud just when Darryl was engrossed in looking at Yvette.

'It's me!' Darryl was spirited as he hurriedly stood up and strode into the battle stage.

'F*ck! This dude is pretty buff!' Darryl was stunned the moment he saw his opponent.

He noticed his huge and burly opponent, Tad Leo.

A Level Three Martial Saint!

Tad Leo came from South Cloud World's Balsam Hall Sect and was one of the more outstanding younger generations among the Balsam Hall Sect.

Tad Leo sized Darryl up and looked at him condescendingly when the two had taken their positions in the middle of the battle stage. "Dude, I think you should just immediately give up as I don't want to cause a bloodbath."

Tad laughed as he said that. Although Darryl before him had similar power levels, he was much smaller in size compared to him.

Tad did not know that Darryl had suppressed his powers at that moment with his true powers at Level Five Martial Emperor.

Darryl smiled and flatly said, "Just attack, you don't have to let me win!"

'Haha, this Tad Leo is pretty interesting. He thinks he has the advantage just because he's larger in size.'

Tad Leo's expressions immediately changed. "I think you're seeking death! I'll fulfill your wish since you want to die."

The martial arts competition had a rule that life and death were in the hands of God. He gave this dude a chance, yet he did not appreciate it at all.

'Don't blame me for being too ruthless later on!'

"Die!" Tad yelled out angrily at that moment as he engaged his internal energy and directly attacked Darryl!

Buzz!

The punch had eight internal energy layers! It was swift as lightning and extremely terrifying!

Darryl smiled, did not panic at all, and faced the attack head-on with a punch.

"Wow!"

The surrounding crowd was instantly in a heated discussion.

"This Luca Moonlight dare face Tad Leo head-on?"

"He's clearly seeking death."

"Although they have the same powers, Tad Leo clearly has a strong defense technique with his size..."

Those familiar with Tad Leo among the crowd shouted.

"Tad, give it to him!"

"Yes! Knock him down with one punch!"

Darryl was just a nobody in the crowd's eyes with no way he could win against Tad Leo.

Tad sneered upon hearing the crowd's screams as his confidence increased multiple folds.

Chapter 1455

Bang!

Both punches fiercely collided in the next second and a muffled grunt could be heard before Darryl and Tad were concurrently forced back a few steps.

“Hmm? This dude could block Tad’s punch?”

The crowd was baffled upon seeing this scene.

Tad was surprised too. ‘This can’t be possible. No one in the same power level can take my punch!’

Tad then changed his thoughts before sneered at Darryl, “I’m sure you have used up all your strength for that punch, right? You can still give up now.”

Tad could see Darryl’s flushed face showing that he was injured.

However, he did not know that Darryl was only pretending.

“Stop with your nonsense. Let’s continue.” Darryl moved his limbs and signaled Tad with his finger.

Darryl would not even have bothered to deal with opponents like Tad were it not to disguise his identity and powers. He could long have finished him off in one move and not dwell too much on him.

“You’re seeking death!” Tad was livid as he roared angrily and ran over with his body like a small hill.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Both of them were fighting intensely in the blink of an eye.

Tad was initially very confident but slowly started to fear. Although this person in front of him looked weak and skinny, he could feel he had immense internal energy which kept him going on non-stop.

Tad was even more stunned that Darryl would follow suit each time his internal energy erupted.

Tad never had the chance to fully conquer Darryl from the start.

‘How is this possible?’ Tad soon started sweating profusely and became even more frightened at heart.

The surrounding crowd kept cheering Tad on as the intense battle continued.

They could see Tad initially had the upper hand over Luca Moonlight who could not even fight back. However, they soon realized Tad still could not win against Luca.

“Tad, what’s going on?”

“This doesn’t feel like Tad’s powers at all. How could he not win against such a small person?”

“Is he not in his best condition today?”

Tad got more and more anxious upon listening to the surrounding crowd’s discussion!

However, Tad was still being led by Darryl as time passed. The crowd noticed Tad had forced Darryl to the battle stage’s edge a few times, but Darryl was playing with him.

How could a Level Three Martial Saint be a match for Darryl?

The fight lasted almost five minutes when Darryl realized it was almost time. He waited while Tad was distracted before kicking Tad in the butt.

Thud!

Tad could barely react and directly flew out in a curve before finally landed badly below the fighting ring.

“You let me win!” Darryl smiled and pretended to wipe the sweat off his forehead as he greeted Tad with a fist-palm greeting.

“What? This dude won?”

The crowd was baffled.

“How did this small person win against Tad? It must be Tad not in his best condition today, so this dude has an advantage!”

Many of them secretly shook their heads instead.

Tad was extremely furious and depressed at that moment!

‘F*ck, I was too cocky as this dude used his agility to his advantage.’ Tad left the competition venue depressingly with that thought in mind.

“Luca Moonlight wins this round!”

Darryl quickly walked off the battle stage nervously as he felt the crowd’s gaze.

‘F*ck! I’ve been extremely careful so far and shouldn’t be recognized by anyone.’

Chapter 1456

Wow!

Darryl heard the surrounding crowd yell out in cheers just as he was deep in thoughts.

“My God! One move!”

“No wonder he’s the Deputy Sect Master of the Incandescent Sect! One move is all it takes!”

Darryl turned around to see Matteo standing proudly on the battle stage with a contestant lying on the floor in pain before him.

The two of them just went on the battle stage when Matteo defeated his opponent in one move, wowing the entire crowd!

Everyone’s eyes instantly were attracted to Matteo as they kept cheering.

“Woo!” Darryl let out a deep sigh of relief upon noticing the crowd’s attention was not on him anymore.

‘Thank goodness that Matteo got hold of their attention,’ muttered Darryl to himself before quickly leaving the competition venue.

In the afternoon!

Darryl arrived at the literary competition venue when he noticed many people were crowding at the entrance and looking at the competition rules.

‘F*ck!’

Darryl squeezed into the crowd, looked at the competition rules, and was instantly stunned.

The competition rules stated clearly that the literary competition later would be divided into music, chess, calligraphy, and art. Contestants need to pass all four categories to proceed into the next round!

“I’m done for. I only know calligraphy and art, but I don’t know music and chess.”

“Yes, me too. I only know music. What should I do?”

Darryl was secretly amused upon seeing this scene where many of the contestants sighed.

‘Haha! How dare they join the competition when they aren’t good at all of those.’

Darryl was indeed not skilled in all of them, but he had Pang Tong’s assistance. Therefore, he was not anxious at all.

Darryl smiled and walked into the competition venue with that thought in mind.

Darryl asked Pang Tong in the Seven Treasures Exquisite Pagoda at the same time, “Pang Tong, I roughly know about art, calligraphy, and music among these four. I’m only not good at chess, I’m sure you’d have no problems?”

“Master, don’t worry. I’ve never lost to anyone on music, chess, calligraphy, and art. Even if Zhuge Liang was here, I’d be on par with him,” replied Pang Tong proudly.

“Great!” Darryl was delighted upon hearing that.

The competition soon started and Darryl’s performance was mediocre just like the day before, but he managed to pass the calligraphy, art, and music category.

The last category was chess!

Darryl was not nervous at all with Pang Tong’s assistance.

“My, isn’t that Master Yohan of the Famed Sword Manor’s disciple?”

Darryl just arrived at the chess competition venue and took his seat when jeers started ringing. He noticed a well-dressed man approaching him with a mocking face.

Darryl lifted his head to look with a frown and was instantly stunned.

It was Geoff Jefferson—the person he met at Florian Darby’s residence the night before.

Darryl wanted to sit next to Parker the night before when they were at Darby’s residence but was chased off by Geoff.

Darryl sneered. ‘So, I’m going up against him in the chess competition?’

Darryl smiled lightly but did not reply while deep in thoughts. Darryl had lots of experience with these sorts of self-righteous people, so he did not bother to say anything to him.

However, Geoff got bolder upon noticing Darryl’s silence as he sized Darryl up and could not hide the detest in his eyes. “Just a mere disciple, yet wants to join in the competition? You even thought of marrying the Princess and becoming her Prince Consort? Haha, do you think you’re up for it?”

‘F*ck! This dude really thinks I’m Parker’s disciple?’

Darryl smiled lightly upon hearing this and slowly said, “Mister Jefferson, I may be a disciple, but does that mean I can’t join in the literary competition? The Royals did not state such a rule.”

“Oh wow?” Geoff mocked him even more with his provocative eyes upon seeing Darryl talking back. “Tsk, tsk, you do have some confidence despite being a mere disciple, but do you even know music, chess, calligraphy, and art? Do you even know how to play chess?”

Geoff then pointed to the chessboard and sneered, “Let me show you what true chess skills are!”