

N Destiny 2251

Chapter 2251

Once Willow was clean, they came out of the shower. She didn't need to do anything else as Jasper had changed into a robe, and he was blow-drying her hair. She closed her eyes as she enjoyed the moment. It was late by the time everything was done. So, she snuggled under the covers as he cleaned up the lounge. He only got into bed the moment everything was all tidied up.

He hugged her through the blanket before raising her chin. He peppered kisses all over her face, causing an electrifying feeling to break through her wooziness. It was to be a hot and heavy night once more.

Dawn had just broken through the horizon, but Shirley was already training outside. It was her first day reporting for duty. She set off at 7.00AM to report for duty at the security guards' area. When she was there, she immediately got her uniform, work ID, and all kinds of equipment in short order. Then, she was assigned a dorm. The dorm was about two thousand yards away from Zacharias' place. Her internship would involve protecting Zacharias while he was at home. She would only be allowed to follow him out if she received any orders from her employer.

Shirley was more than happy with that arrangement. Once she was done with the internship, she could leave. The reason she insisted on helping Imogen was because their friendship ran deep. She was hurt during their training once, and Imogen abandoned her task just to help her. Imogen was severely criticized and had her points deducted because of that.

She had always felt guilty because of that. So, when Imogen asked her for help, she agreed without even a second thought. She had a favor to return, after all.

"Roll call, Imogen!" someone called Shirley. Shirley didn't realize they were calling her. It wasn't until she was stared at that she took a deep breath. "Right away."

Once the person was gone, she heaved a sigh. / have to get used to the fact that I'm Imogen now. I can't space out all the time. Shirley went down for the roll call. She was subjected to nearly two hours of a lecture regarding rules and regulations before it was time for task delegation.

Suddenly, she realized that there were only two female bodyguards this time. After everyone was assigned to their posts, the ladies still had no tasks to speak of. Shirley wondered why. The captain dismissed everyone, but he asked the ladies to stay behind.

“Imogen, Corinne, your task is a bit different. You’ll not be standing sentry. Instead, you’ll be assigned as secret service agents who serve the vice president in his abode. Since things are complicated at the moment, we cannot trust any outside hires. We’ll need you to act as the vice president’s maid. Your job involves everything about housekeeping.”

Shirley’s eyes went wide. What? That’s the thing I’m most worried about. She just wanted to coast through her internship and stay away from that guy as far as possible. But now I have to work near him?!

“Of course, captain. We will not let you down. We’ll take care of the vice president.”

She had to voice her assent as well. “We’ll do our job.”

“Good. It’s a trying time. Stay on guard and make sure the vice president is well-protected. He will be leaving after 10.00AM. You can then make your way there and get used to the place. I’ll text you the contents of your work and the vice president’s schedule later.

“Yes, sir.” Corinne and Shirley stood up straighter. Once the captain was gone, Shirley turned around. “Hi, I’m Imogen Young.”

Corinne smiled. “I’m Corinne Cleaver. Unlike you, my family got me this spot. I’m not hired.”

Shirley paused for a moment. She could see the obvious look of superiority on Corinne’s face. Nonetheless, she kept a smile on her face. “I see. Let’s get along, then.”

“I’ll have to make something clear, Imogen. You might have to work a little harder. I’m not that good at housekeeping, so you’ll have to bear with me.”

Chapter 2252

Shirley kept smiling. “Then, you should’ve told the captain and have him switch someone else in.”

“No can do. Do you have any idea how important this chance is for me? Don’t do anything stupid, either. Otherwise, I can’t promise if you can pass your internship.” Corinne flung her hair back haughtily and left.

Shirley heaved a sigh. Why am I even here? So that b*tch can order me around? She didn’t mind Zacharias ordering her around because he was the vice president. However, she drew the line at Corinne. There was no way she was going to take this lying down. She was beyond annoyed because that b*tch not only dared to order her around, but the woman also threatened Imogen’s job.

If this was just Shirley’s mission, she could ask to be assigned away. Unfortunately, she was representing Imogen at the moment. Hence, she couldn’t afford to leave. She had to finish her internship carefully. She could already see how nightmarish her life would be because of this gig. Alas, she had no choice but to deal with it.

Regardless, she didn’t let this spoil her mood as she was then reminded of Cole. Soon enough, courage welled within her. During the three months of training, Cole was like a ball of strength that kept pushing her onward, motivating her growth. Whenever she ran into any hardship, she would be reminded of Cole’s words.

After Shirley came back to the dorm, the captain texted her everything she had to do. As expected, they were all housekeeping tasks. She could feel the pressure and dismay piling on her shoulders. She didn’t know how to housekeep at all.

Then, she promptly received Zacharias’ a week’s worth of schedule and itinerary. She was surprised to find out he had a set schedule for himself even at home after skimming through it. He takes care of a lot of stuff every day. His hours at home were either spent working or going through files in the study. Even his rest hours were compressed to six hours every day.

He’s a super pro. Shirley was impressed by his dedication. Corinne then came to her. The ridiculous woman had divided all the chores between them. Everything related to serving Zacharias was taken up by her, while everything unrelated to Zacharias was unceremoniously tossed to Shirley.

For example, Corinne would be making tea and drinks for Zacharias as well as cleaning his room and the study. Shirley would be cleaning everywhere else but the places Corinne took up. She would also have to do the dishes and laundry.

"I have taken up courses regarding cooking and nutrition. So, I will be cooking for him as well. Only cooking. You'll be cleaning up after me," said Corinne.

Shirley was miffed. Nevertheless, she feigned a placid smile as she replied, "Fine by me."

"And one more thing. Just because you're working in the vice president's house and seeing him all the time doesn't mean he'll like you. Give it up. That will not happen," said Corinne sternly.

That's something you should say to yourself, Shirley thought. I don't have any ideas about him. "Don't worry. I have someone I like. I won't get any ideas about the vice president," said Shirley coolly.

Corinne chortled. "You'd better be. Also, don't you poke your nose into my business."

Shirley nodded. "I can do that."

Before Corinne took her leave, she gazed at Shirley for a while. Then, she turned around and departed.

Shirley felt a little nervous after getting stared at. Did she find me out? She picked up her laptop and looked into Corinne's background. Once she was done checking her background, Shirley understood why Corinne was such a diva.

Powerful. Her family's powerful enough for her to put on this diva act even in a place like this. Shirley put the laptop down and let out a weary sigh. I'll be walking on thin ice after this, then. I have to do my best and finish my internship.

The moment the clock struck 10.00AM, Shirley and Corinne went into Zacharias' abode. It was an old house that was refurbished. The place looked like a fusion of modernity and the old times. The retro walls and murals glittered like stars under the illumination of the crystal lights.

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"We should clean the place before he comes back. I'll do his bedroom and the study while you do everywhere else," Corinne said imperiously. Shirley nodded. "Sure. Let's begin, then."

Corinne went upstairs. Shirley found the tool shed in the backyard and took the cleaning tools out. Then, she came to the lounge and looked at the house around her. There was resignation in her heart. Still, her captain was right. Zacharias' taking over as vice president was controversial, and it exposed danger to him. Protection and security were imperative for him.

Every single person assigned to him had to be on full alert. No one could bear the consequences should anything happen to him.

So, she forcefully cheered herself up and started cleaning. Since she had enough stamina, cleaning wasn't hard work for her. She started from the top floor and worked her way down. When she went past the master bedroom, she could hear Corinne cleaning up inside.

Shirley cleaned meticulously for an hour. Soon, she was already on the second floor. She sat before the banister and cleaned a wooden sculpture. Unfortunately for her, it was small and smooth. So, when she wiped it just a little bit harder, the sculpture flew out of her hand. It was then that the front door swung open, and in came a tall, regal figure. The sculpture promptly hit his head.

Shirley was shocked, and her heart sank. She ran down the stairs and quickly approached the man. She blurted in worry, "Are you alright, Mr. Flintstone?"

Zacharias had a flinty look on his face. His eyes were as cold as ice, and he was staring at Shirley in frustration. "Who are you?" Zacharias frowned. The look in his eyes was imposing.

Shirley hung her head low. "I'm sorry. I'm your new servant."

She'd only been so submissive to one person all her life. Not even her great-uncle, the president himself, could make her bow.

"I think you're more like an assassin." Zacharias harrumphed in displeasure.

Shirley quickly picked up the item. "Mr. Flintstone, do you think this thing can kill you? I don't mind apologizing, but I won't accept slander." It was just a little sculpture, and she only lost grip because it was too small. And he says I'm trying to assassinate him? I have to prove I am not.

Zacharias didn't expect a little servant to be so bold as to argue with him. They might not be the feudal era anymore, but he was still surprised by her retort.

Corinne, who heard the commotion, quickly came down and approached Zacharias. "Welcome home, Mr. Flintstone. You're probably tired. I'll make you tea."

Zacharias looked at Corinne coolly, then stared at Shirley. "You make the tea."

"Sir, we have divided our work. I'm the one taking up the job of making tea," argued Corinne. Zacharias shot her a look. "I'm the one dividing the work in my abode."

Corinne winced and nodded in acceptance. "Of course, sir."

Shirley hung her head low, but she felt a sharp stare piercing her for a few seconds. He shook his coat off and tossed it at Shirley. She deftly took it, and he rolled his sleeves up. Then, he said, "Take the tea to my study."

Once he had gone upstairs, Corinne glared at Shirley. She whispered hotly, "I've warned you not to take my job."

Shirley really wanted to swear that she was not guilty right then and there. She didn't want to do any extra work either! Instead, she smoothed out his coat and hung it on the hanger. Finally, she reluctantly went to the kitchen to make Zacharias tea.

Chapter 2254

Zacharias' preferences were included in the file their captain sent them. The kind of tea he liked, how many times the leaves had to be washed, and how heavy or light he wanted his tea. Shirley finished making tea and took it upstairs. She saw Corinne standing downstairs, staring at her enviously.

Shirley wondered what was there to be envied. It's just serving him tea. There's nothing to envy. Just a few moments ago, her guess that he was hard to get along with was confirmed. It felt like she was in the company of a beast.

She went into the study and saw Zacharias seated on the settee before the floor-to-roof window. He was scrolling through an iPad. She quietly approached him and placed the tea on the desk. Then, she asked, "Mr. Flintstone, does it hurt? Should I put some oil on it?"

Zacharias didn't look up. His eyelashes were shining under the sun, covering his eyes. His features were handsome. He would always come out looking dashing, thanks to his good looks, no matter how the reporters took his pictures.

"No," he said coolly. She nodded and was about to leave. "Who came into my study just now?" he demanded. That shocked her. Wait, why? Did he lose a file or something? I can't sell Corinne out. First, I have to settle the matter. "Did you lose anything, sir?"

He finally raised his head, but his eyes were like two little abysses, hiding his thoughts behind a black hole. "Do not touch anything in this room. Just dust things off," he said in frustration. He obviously did not like anyone touching his stuff.

"Yes, sir." She nodded quickly.

"What is your name?" He narrowed his eyes.

"Imogen... Imogen Young, sir," she answered.

"And the other one?"

"Corinne Cleaver. We will be in charge of housekeeping," she replied.

He nodded. "Leave."

She came out of the study. Corinne was downstairs, waiting for her. Then, as calmly as she could, she said, "Corinne, Mr. Flintstone told me that next time you clean his study, just dust the things off. Do not touch anything."

Corinne frowned. "You ratted me out?"

"No. I solved the problem," she answered.

Corinne didn't believe her at all as she huffed in disdain. "Not bad, wench. Left a deep first impression on the vice president. Unfortunately, with your family's power, you'll be nothing more than an intern."

"We're both interns here. We're equals. Don't give me that show of superiority." Shirley frowned. Corinne checked the time. "I'll have to make lunch for the vice president. Off you go."

Shirley went back to her cleaning job. She cleaned the vicinity, including the courtyard. She was serious when it came to work.

Zacharias stood before the French window on the second floor. He was holding his cup of tea as he watched Shirley sweep the courtyard. Then, he noticed she was getting ready to sprint, and he frowned. He wondered what she was going to do.

Honestly, she wasn't going to do anything. She just saw a plastic bag hanging from a tree's branch, and it was sticking out like a sore thumb. However, she had no tools to take it down, so she decided to take it down herself. Since it was hanging from the end of the branch, it would take skills to take it down.

She did a perfect sprint, leaped onto the trunk, and then she used the momentum to leap higher until she could catch the plastic bag. One moment later, she jumped back down and rolled around.

It was only a few seconds, but it showcased her superb skills. He was surprised. He didn't expect a regular lady like her to possess this level of skill.

Chapter 2255

Shirley chucked the plastic bag into the bin she lugged around with her. Then, she continued sweeping the ground. She felt her headband getting loose, so she took it off. A gust of breeze blew across the courtyard, and her hair fluttered in the wind. The sun shone upon her face, lending her even more beauty and life than she already had.

Zacharias narrowed his eyes and commented inwardly, Not just a regular girl, I see. He then realized he had wasted time commenting on a girl and heaved a frustrated sigh. So, he turned around and picked up the new file to go through it.

Afternoon came. Corinne made a five-course meal that looked delicious. When Shirley came back from work, she gulped. "Smells nice," she said.

"It's not for you," Corinne answered snidely. Shirley said nothing more. Corinne said, "I'll tell the vice president it's time for lunch.

Not long after Corinne went upstairs, Zacharias came down. He was wearing a shirt, a vest, and a pair of pants. The attire made him look taller than he already was, and the man was already six-foot-three. Even though Shirley was five-foot-six, she looked short before him. "Lunch is ready, sir. Enjoy. We'll be back in a moment," said Corinne. She hoped her cooking would be praised.

Zacharias looked at the food, but he said nothing. Corinne waited for a while but didn't get the compliment she wanted to hear. In the end, she felt dejected by his lack of response. Zacharias said, 'I only need one of you around. I prefer a quiet place.'

Corinne thought Zacharias wanted her to stay since she was pretty, capable, and a good cook.

He turned around and swept his gaze across the ladies. When he laid his eyes on Shirley, she got nervous. She really didn't want to stay. When he looked at Corinne, there was anticipation in her eyes. Corinne wanted to stay. In the end, he turned back to Shirley and pointed at her. "You're staying."

Shirley waved her hands quickly. "No, Mr. Flintstone. I can't cook. Let Corinne stay."

"This is an order, and it's final," he said sternly. Even though Shirley recommended her, Corinne still harbored resentment for her. She thought Shirley was only acting. I know you want to stay with him. Corinne didn't want to leave either. "Let me stay, Mr. Flintstone. I promise I won't be a bother." It wasn't every day she could stay close to a man like him.

"No. You may return to your dorm now," he said with a tone of finality.

Corinne really wanted to stay, but she couldn't defy Zacharias. So, she glared at Shirley furtively before she left. Shirley felt resigned as well. She wanted to leave but was forced to stay. Her emotions were the total opposite of Corinne's.

After Corinne left, Zacharias said, "Imogen, have lunch with me."

Shirley waved her hands. "No. Our captain has already prepared food for us. Give me half an hour. I'll be back after I'm done eating."

"There's a lot of food here. I can't finish them by myself," said Zacharias.

She couldn't help but think that he had a point. It was true that he couldn't finish a whole feast by himself. Besides, she couldn't exactly refuse since he was the one extending the invite. "Of course." Thus, she went into the kitchen to get her plate and cutlery.

He was already digging into his meal by the time she returned. So, she took some food and piled it on her plate as well. He looked at her, slightly surprised. He thought she would restrain herself. So, he was rather astonished that she didn't even bother. In fact, she showed no hint of fear either.

Corinne was about to leave but abruptly remembered she left her phone in the house. This was her important tool of communication. She had to go back and retrieve it. Yet, when she came back to the lounge's doorway, she was met with a scene that angered her. That scheming harpy is sitting with the vice president and eating the food I made for him?!

Chapter 2256

Corinne had her own opinions, but at this moment, she couldn't say anything. She observed for a moment and saw that Imogen was eating so naturally. She was completely unrestrained in front of Zacharias. Corinne couldn't help but wonder where Imogen got the courage. Even she couldn't stay this calm. Just standing next to someone like Zacharias was already intimidating, let alone having a meal with him.

Corinne still didn't dare to go back for her phone as she was afraid of disrupting Zacharias' meal. She decided she would go back home to get her other phone.

Shirley ate quietly. When Zacharias looked at her, she calmly took a bite of her food. She even reminded him, "This dish is a bit spicy. Mr. Flintstone, can you handle spicy food?"

He replied, "I can."

Shirley smiled, turned around to get a bowl, and served a bowl of soup for the man next to her. "Don't forget to drink soup after the meal!"

He was speechless..

Was this her home or his home? After drinking two spoonfuls of soup, Zacharias said, "I'm done. You can clean up."

Upon seeing that the man hadn't eaten much, Shirley immediately sensed something-his stomach was not easy to please. "Bring a cup of coffee up in ten minutes," the man said as he got up from the table.

"Okay, Mr. Flintstone," Shirley replied immediately. Zacharias went upstairs, and she quickly cleared the table of food and dishes. She first took them to the sink and then went to the coffee machine to make coffee for him.

Shirley was experienced in this regard because she liked making coffee for her mother. She made a cup for the man according to her mother's preferences out of habit. Three parts sugar and three parts milk.

Shirley carried the tray with the coffee upstairs. She tried to slow down her steps as she reached the study door. She knocked, and just as she pushed the door open, she heard a loud voice. "If you cause trouble for me again, I'll make sure you undergo a proper reform."

She was startled. Her hand trembled, and it almost tipped the tray. Luckily, she reacted quickly. She stood somewhat awkwardly at the door while looking at the man by the floor-to-ceiling window scolding someone.

"Don't talk about our relationship to the outside world, and don't use my identity." The low voice carried authority and annoyance.

“Just you wait.” The man, who was still very irritated, hung up the phone. After turning around, he saw the girl behind him with the coffee. He said in a deep voice, “Put the coffee down and do something for me.”

Shirley immediately placed the coffee on the table, held the tray with both hands, and was ready to take orders. “Mr. Flintstone, please go on.

“Go to the downtown police station and bail someone out for me. His name is Tony Flintstone, Zacharias said before adding, “Bring him back to me.”

Shirley nodded. “Okay. Understood.”

She closed the door and left while thinking to herself that since they shared the same family name, Tony was probably his younger relative, and he must have caused some trouble.

It seemed there was a pile of family matters to deal with, even in the vice president’s home!

Shirley called the captain and mentioned this matter to him separately. The captain arranged for a car to be sent for her use. Shirley then drove toward the city center.

Half an hour later, after signing the bail contract and paying the bail at the police station, a handsome young man was led out. However, he already had a bruised and swollen face at this point.

Tony looked at the person who bailed him out, and his not-so-disciplined eyes lit up with surprise. He didn’t expect that his uncle would send a beautiful young girl to pick him up this time.

Chapter 2257

Tony sat in the passenger seat while looking carefree and leaning on his side as he stared straight at Shirley. She allowed him to scrutinize her; having received training, she had to remain composed even in the face of a major disaster.

“You’re really beautiful, and you’re the type I like. Can I pursue you?” he asked straightforwardly. “I’m not interested in you, Shirley replied before glancing at him. Suddenly, she kind of understood why Zacharias exploded in anger just now. Tony was a troublemaker.

Tony snorted. “So, you’re interested in my uncle, huh? Do you like older men?”

Shirley didn’t want to engage in this conversation, so she remained silent. However, he was quite interested in continuing the chat. “I know my uncle is popular with women, but unfortunately, he doesn’t like women.”

She couldn’t help but ask, “So, does he like men?”

He burst into laughter. “Haha! I really wish my uncle could hear you say that. I want to see how furious he’d become.”

Shirley turned her head and gave him a stern look without saying a word. Tony raised an eyebrow. “It’s not my uncle’s problem for not liking women. He’s just immune to women. As far as I can remember, he has never liked any woman. Of course, he doesn’t like men either. He’s just a cold and ruthless political machine.”

Shirley was slightly speechless. Who would talk about their uncle like that? She stopped talking to Tony because she wasn’t interested in the affairs of the Flintstone Family. The car entered the Flintstone Residence, proceeded into the garden, and parked outside the hall.

Tony got out of the car and followed Shirley. “Hey, Miss. Can I get your contact information? Let’s grab a coffee sometime when you’re free.”

Shirley had just entered the hall when she saw the man sitting on the couch. She immediately came to stand behind him while maintaining a straight posture.

Feeling slightly guilty, Tony sat on the couch and greeted Zacharias reluctantly while covering his swollen face, “Uncle Zacharias.”

Zacharias' gaze turned toward him, and a frustrated expression crossed his face. "Didn't you promise me not to get into fights anymore?"

"I didn't start it! They bullied the girl first, so I had to fight back."

Zacharias snorted. "You were clearly the one at fault, yet you still try to justify yourself." Tony shrugged. "I just went on a date! Is it my fault that girls like me?"

"Tony." Zacharias' gaze was stern. Tony immediately shrank back in fear while assuming an apologetic stance. "All right. All right. I promise I won't ask someone else's girlfriend out to a bar again. I assure you I won't cause you trouble."

"You're twenty years old already, and you're not a child anymore. Can't you have a bit of decency?" Zacharias lectured.

Tony lowered his head and muttered, "I got it. I'll bring honor to you, Uncle Zacharias."

"Write a thousand-word self-critique. If it's not good enough, keep writing until it is." Zacharias imposed it as a punishment.

"What! Another self-critique? Can't we have a different form of punishment? I don't want that. I'd rather go out and sweep the streets than write a self-critique." Tony refused with a determined expression.

"If you don't write it, I'll cancel your bail right now and send you in for a year to sober up properly," Zacharias threatened. Tony immediately hung his head while looking like a wilted plant. "Fine. I'll write it."

After speaking, his gaze shifted to Shirley. He said to Zacharias, "Uncle Zacharias, can I stay here for a few days? I want to focus on writing."

Upon seeing Tony's apologetic attitude, Shirley found it quite problematic. She couldn't believe that this young man, whom she saw as a younger brother, dared to make advances toward her.

“Sure,” Zacharias agreed. At that moment, Zacharias’ phone rang, and he walked toward the side hall to answer it. Tony took the opportunity to throw a flirtatious glance at her. Shirley ignored it and was completely unfazed.

After Zacharias finished the call, he asked Tony to return to his room. Shirley didn’t know what to do now, as Zacharias hadn’t given her any instructions. So, she stood guard at the door.

Chapter 2258

The day quickly turned into an evening. Corinne arrived as she came to prepare dinner, and when she walked over, Shirley could see that her sharp gaze was filled with resentment.

“I’ll stay and attend to Mr. Flintstone tonight. You can leave,” Corinne said to her. Shirley frowned. “The captain didn’t tell me to leave.”

Zacharias also didn’t instruct her to leave. She couldn’t leave her post without authorization. “Hah! You think you’re so important, huh?”

Corinne mocked before heading toward the kitchen. “Mr. Flintstone’s nephew is also here. You need to cook for two people.” Shirley reminded her.

Corinne didn’t say anything, but she would follow Shirley’s reminder. Tonight, she hoped to be the one Zacharias chose to stay in the mansion.

While Shirley was standing guard at the door, someone suddenly tapped her shoulder. She reached back almost instinctively and grabbed the person’s hand before twisting his arm behind his back.

“Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!” Tony’s startled cry came through. Upon seeing that it was him, she immediately released him and warned him, “Don’t do this ever again.”

After experiencing Shirley’s prowess, he chuckled. “Pretty, you’ve got some skills. Can you teach me? If you do, next time I get into a fight, I won’t get beaten so badly.”

Shirley disliked his glib tongue and said sternly, “Mr. Flintstone, please mind your words.”

“You didn’t tell me your name, so I had to address you as ‘Pretty,’” Tony reasoned. Shirley continued standing straight while ignoring his teasing.

“Ah! I’m exhausted. Writing a thousand words of self-critique is no joke. My uncle is so old- fashioned. He still makes me write self-critique in this day and age,” Tony complained as he stretched lazily.

“Oh! Someone’s cooking?” Tony dashed to the kitchen. In no time, he returned to Shirley before saying, “Are you two my uncle’s 24/7 personal bodyguards?”

“Yes,” Shirley replied.

“Am I also under your protection too?”

“No,” Shirley replied coldly. “You can’t treat me poorly. You must protect me along with my uncle.” Tony snorted. Then, his gaze wandered mischievously over Shirley. “If I encounter danger tonight, can you protect me up close?”

After saying that, he saw her fair hands clasped together. He reached out and intended to touch them. Shirley’s eyes flashed with anger. She grabbed his arm, pressed him toward the ground, and pinned him down as if he were a criminal, with his hands still in a humiliating position behind his back.

“If you offend me again, I won’t be polite,” Shirley warned him sternly. She wasn’t the type to stay silent when someone took advantage of her. Anyone who dared to touch her would face a grim fate.

Tony was in pain and sweating when he saw a tall figure coming down from the second floor. He called out without dignity, “Uncle Zacharias, save me.”

Upon seeing Zacharias coming down, Shirley immediately let go of Tony and resumed her guarding stance.

“Uncle Zacharias, she bullied me.” Tony immediately played the victim.

“You can’t even beat a girl, and you’re complaining?” Zacharias remarked disapprovingly. Tony became somewhat annoyed. “Uncle Zacharias, can you beat her?”

Zacharias didn’t answer the question. “Behave if you don’t want to be kicked out.”

Tony seized this opportunity and continued to tease Zacharias. “Uncle Zacharias, I bet you can’t beat her either. How about you two have a little match right now?”

Zacharias’ gaze shifted to the girl on guard duty, and there was indeed a glint of interest in his eyes. “Uncle Zacharias, you two can just have a little match in the garden outside. Let me witness your prowess,” Tony taunted. “Set an example for me!”

“Uncle Zacharias, come on! Show me your skills. Use those muscles of yours!” He was quite insistent. Shirley was speechless about Tony. Why did he have to suggest a match between her and Zacharias?

Chapter 2259

Moreover, could someone like Zacharias, who sat in the office year-round, really fight?

It was not that Shirley was overly confident, but under her father’s training, she had indeed reached a certain level of standard.

Zacharias seemed persuaded by his nephew. He stood up and unfastened the buttons of his waistcoat with his long fingers, revealing a white shirt and a pair of black pants underneath. He emanated a refined and gentlemanly aura.

Imogen, would you be willing to spar with me?” Zacharias walked toward the door. Shirley didn’t expect Zacharias to actually want to spar with her. As his bodyguard, she couldn’t refuse his request..

“Don’t be afraid, Pretty. My uncle can’t beat you. Go ahead!” Tony shouted from the side.

"I'm willing." She nodded. Corinne, who was in the kitchen, overheard the conversation outside. It caught her attention, and she felt a bit anxious. She also wanted to participate in this close combat with Zacharias.

Unfortunately, she was in the midst of preparing dinner, so she could only feel frustrated.

The evening sun sank behind the mountains while leaving a faint afterglow that bathed the garden in a soft yellow light. Zacharias stood under a lamp while cracking his knuckles, making a crisp sound.

Only now did Shirley feel the oppressive aura emanating from this man. She thought he was just a high-level politician sitting in an office, but unexpectedly, he exuded a burst of strength. It seemed like he had been disguising himself all along; at this moment, his gaze revealed a beast-like brutality beneath the cultured exterior.

She immediately heightened her alertness. This was not an opponent who was easy to deal with. She had underestimated this man just now, and now she had to focus her energy on handling him.

"Imogen, let's begin!" Zacharias called out to her. Since he invited her to make the first move, she didn't hold back. She clenched her fist and assumed an attacking stance.

As her fist moved toward the man's face without holding back, his brows furrowed, and he skillfully blocked the attack with his arm. The rebounding force made her realize once again that this man wasn't a kitten but a wild beast.

Zacharias swiftly caught Shirley's wrist, and she responded with a swift kick, which made her body perform a stylish and agile 360-degree turn. Tony, on the side, was left in awe.

"Wow! That's so cool! Go for it!" He cheered Shirley on and hoped his uncle would show some impressive moves.

Unfortunately, all of Shirley's kicks were deftly blocked by the man. Shirley's aggressiveness surged as she was stimulated by this. Under the lamplight, Zacharias' lips curved into an amused smile. It seemed like he had angered the kitten. Shirley felt tense, and each move she struck became sharper. Despite the

tension, he skillfully parried each move without losing composure. He even seemed to deliberately go easy on her while maintaining a sense of control.

Shirley sensed the man's strength was still concealed to some extent, although she also didn't unleash her full potential. She knew this was just a friendly match, so it was better to stop at a certain point.

At that moment, due to a problem with the quality of her high heels, the sound of heels breaking echoed when she stepped back.

She immediately stumbled backward and there was a rockery pool with a sharp stone right behind her.

"Ah! Uncle Zacharias! Watch out for the sharp stone, Tony noticed and yelled.

Due to the broken heel, Shirley lost her balance. Even if she could avoid the sharp stone, she couldn't escape the fate of falling into the pool.

She was prepared to accept this outcome, but at that moment, her arm was caught by a large hand and a force pulled her up. Taking advantage of this force, she pulled herself up but could not stop herself from

plunging into the man's chest. Her entire face rebounded off his sturdy chest.

"Phew. That was close." Tony quickly patted his chest in relief and then turned his head. Huh? How did these two folks end up tightly embracing each other?

Chapter 2260

As Shirley breathed heavily, there was a large hand around her waist, and her entire being was pressed against Zacharias' chest like she was a startled bird. She immediately took a step back and said to the man with uneven breathing, I apologize."

"Go back and rest," Zacharias said to her. She had just retrieved her shoes, and now they were ruined. It was clearly a quality issue. She nodded and headed toward the direction of the dormitory.

Tony watched her slender figure while praising her. "She's truly beautiful and cool. I like this type of lady."

Tony turned to the man behind him and said, "Uncle Zacharias, can you introduce her to me? I want her to be my girlfriend."

"You're not worthy of her." Zacharias directly dismissed his idea.

Tony was speechless. He felt indignant and said, "Why am I not worthy of her? I'm your nephew. What's lacking in me? Uncle Zacharias, don't tell me you're interested in her and want to keep her for yourself!"

Zacharias turned around and stared at Tony sharply. "Shut up and stop bringing shame to the family."

Outside the courtyard, Shirley suddenly punched the nearby stone wall.

An unprecedented sense of defeat overwhelmed her, and it was Zacharias who gave her this feeling. Just now, she felt her own powerlessness and the feeling of exerting all her strength but still being unable to defeat the opponent-it was truly disheartening.

Who exactly was Zacharias? When he wore a suit, he was the distinguished Vice President, without the suit, he was a formidable martial artist.

She realized she had underestimated him. If he hadn't pulled her just now, she would have definitely fallen embarrassingly. How infuriating!

This left a significant impact on Shirley's emotions. She returned to her dormitory with a mix of frustration and begrudging acceptance.

After taking off her outer clothing and revealing her vest, she looked at the fresh bruises on her wrist. The man's strength was indeed impressive.

She exhaled deeply and silently adjusted her emotions. At that moment, her phone rang. Her eyes widened as she looked at it-the sender was Cole.

'Shirley, I heard that you're in Averno. I got. transferred here today. Here's my contact information for future convenience.'

Shirley joyfully covered her mouth as she was afraid that she might burst into laughter. She quickly replied, 'Cole, I'm in Averno too. Which department have you been transferred to?'

'The White House.'

Shirley became even happier, it was her great- uncle's residence. It was great news to her as they would have more opportunities to meet.

'Great! Let's have a meal when you're free! Shirley's earlier frustration disappeared in an instant because her heart was filled with anticipation, even though she knew it would be some time before she could meet Cole.

Upon thinking that Cole was in Averno, she felt her heart brimming with vitality.

'Sure! Let's stay in touch, Cole replied. She looked at this message while silently thinking to herself, If only I could meet you every day.

However, she couldn't tell him this, so she wrote

a simple reply. 'Okay. Let's stay in touch.'

After having dinner at the cafeteria, taking a shower, and getting ready to rest, her phone suddenly rang. She picked it up and saw an unknown number.

"Hello! Who's this?" Shirley answered.

“Did I hurt you?” A low and magnetic voice came from the other end. Upon hearing the voice, Shirley recognized who it was and exclaimed, “Mr. Flintstone? You’re not asleep yet?”

“Are you injured?” he asked again. She replied casually, “It’s nothing. It’s common for me. I apologize if I offended you, Mr. Flintstone.”

“Tonight was just a spar. You don’t need to feel burdened. In my eyes, you’re already great.” He comforted her in a deep voice.

Shirley’s mind buzzed for a moment. Then, she said in a calm tone, “Thank you, Mr. Flintstone. You’ve helped me understand that I need to constantly improve myself.”

“Come over early tomorrow morning and accompany me outside,” the man said and then hung up the phone.