

## Chapter 2565

Upon hearing Darryl's voice, Natalie was completely overwhelmed with joy. "Thank god, I thought..."

Before she could finish, Darryl shook his head secretively to stop her. In truth, Darryl felt that it was not time yet for him to reveal his true identity. "It's been three years, have you been well?" he asked in a calm tone.

Natalie nodded before replying respectfully. "Yes, ever since we signed the peace treaty with the Nine Continents, I've settled here with my people. The past three years have been peaceful and our relationship with the Nine Continents is rather harmonious," she paused for a split second before finally adding, "thank you."

Natalie used to be the fearless martial goddess of the Raksasa Tribe. But having gone through the war three years ago, she had matured into a woman of reason. Darryl once had her captured which was one of the most humiliating moments in her entire life. Even so, Natalie harbored no hatred towards the man. Instead, she was nothing but grateful, knowing that the Nine Continents wouldn't have been able to make peace with the Raksasa Tribe, had it not been for what Darryl did. It was hardly an exaggeration to say that the years of peacefulness and prosperity the Raksasa Tribe had been because of him.

Her words were overheard by Jack, who couldn't help but stepped closer in curiosity. 'What? The queen, is she thanking this brat? Just...who is he, really?' Jack thought, as he widened his eyes in awe and looked at Darryl with conflicts raging within him.

For a woman like Natalie to become queen despite countless formidable competitors in the Raksasa Tribe was unheard of in history, but she had somehow managed to gain the respect of every single member of their community with her incomparable talent that was proven through three years of leadership. To the Raksasa Tribe, Natalie was a god-like existence that not only represented the queen, but also the spiritual pillar that supported the entire tribe. Who could believe that the all-mighty queen would be so deferential to an insignificant bodyguard from the Nine Continents, if they hadn't witnessed it with their own eyes? And for her to go as far as to thank him?

'I must be hallucinating.' Jack stood frozen in place, desperately trying to convince himself over

and over again that what he was seeing was not real.

The Raksasa soldiers around them, on the other hand, were in an uproar.

"Did...did the queen just thank him?"

"You have got to be kidding me, who is that kid?"

"What the...am I dreaming?"

The merchants from all across the Nine Continents, too, were in awe. They stared at Darryl with eyes so wide that it looked as though they would pop out any minute. Before them was a scene where the prideful Raksasa queen with beauty that rivaled that of an angel stood respectfully in front of Darryl, like a daughter would before her father.

Deafening noises from the discussion that erupted around them didn't seem to bother Darryl. He kept his eyes steady on Natalie and nodded with a gentle smile. "Good, I'm glad to know that the Raksasa Tribe have found the way to let go of the hatred that had accumulated for over thousands of years, and co-exist with people of the Nine Continents."

Natalie beamed at Darryl's approval, her heart leaped with joy knowing that she did not disappoint him. She then glanced over to Jack, who was standing still behind her, and asked, "May I know what happened earlier?"

"Your subordinate was bending the rules to his advantage. You're going to have to check with him for details," Darryl replied before walking over to a chair next to him and sitting down on it leisurely. Now that Natalie was there, there was no need for him to get involved any longer.

Instantly, embarrassment filled her delicate face. She slowly turned around to face Jack with a piercing glare, "What happened, Jack?" Though her tone remained calm without revealing any emotion, the aura she emitted was undeniably overpowering.

Noticing the danger hidden behind her eyes, Jack couldn't help but feel anxious and uneasy. He took a deep breath in an attempt to calm himself before explaining with caution, "This kid from the Nine Continents was causing trouble here on purpose by trying to break the newest rule I've implemented, and so I was just about to teach him a lesson for it." Jack was no fool, he realized that the queen and Darryl were close acquaintances, but regardless of their relationship, he was still her most trusted subordinate. Besides, he did what he did for the benefit of the Raksasa Tribe, so he shouldn't concern himself with the consequences.

"What did you just say...?" Displeased, Natalie asked, "You, were about to teach him a lesson?"

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"Ye-Yes." Jack nodded, hesitant at first but soon determination returned to his eyes. The Raksasa Tribe had always been united. He believed from the bottom of his heart that even if Natalie and Darryl had known one another, she would still be supportive of what Jack did once she understood the situation. Every single person in the hall held their breath in anticipation with one question in their mind: what would the queen choose to prioritize? She was the queen of the Raksasa Tribe at the end of the day and hence, was likely to prioritize the benefit of her people before anything. After all, this was Rock City, the territory of the Raksasa Tribe!

Upon hearing the details, Natalie frowned thoughtfully. She had to agree that Jack was out of line this time. Jack, on the other hand, mistakened her expression as a silent approval and beamed triumphantly. He immediately barked orders at the Raksasa soldiers around him, "Take that brat and throw him into one of the cells."

'Bloody brat, so what if you knew the queen in person? Causing trouble in the Rock City will still mean death for you. How dare he sit there like he is looking down on us?' Jack thought.

The Raksasa soldiers surrounded Darryl once again as soon as the words were spoken. Darryl chuckled at the scene and remained composed.

"Stop!" Natalie roared. Her expression turned ice-cold as a wave of powerful aura exploded from within her. Sensing their queen's fury, all of the Raksasa felt their stomach sink in response and immediately returned to their previous positions, not daring to even breathe too loud in fear of provoking her further.

"You Majesty..." Jack looked at Natalie in confusion and before he could react, Natalie strode over towards him. Without any warning, her hand connected with Jack's face in full force. Following the loud "Slap!". Jack was sent spinning before landing on the ground with his rear, blood came pouring out from the corner of his mouth as two of his teeth were gone. The crowd exclaimed in shock at the sight.

"Her Majesty...hit our mayor..."

"What the..."

"What is going on!"

Covering his face with his hand in panic, Jack felt aggrieved and said, "Why, Your Majesty? I did nothing wrong..." How embarrassing it was to be slapped across the face by the queen in front of all these people!

The Raksasa soldiers around them stood, not daring to move even the slightest. Natalie paid no mind to the reaction of the people around them and strode towards Jack with a cold expression. She looked down at him with superiority and said, "Jack, how dare you mistreat my honored guest. Consider it mercy that I'm not sentencing you to death right here and now."

What? Honored guest? Once again, everyone in the hall was dumbfounded at her words.

Cheyenne's jaw dropped as she struggled to find her voice and looked over to Darryl dazedly. She had thought that this man was just one of the sworn brothers of her master with nothing special about him. Never would she imagine that he was in fact, a honored guest of the queen herself. It's no wonder that she was speaking to him in such a respectful tone.

Jack was frozen in place, feeling as though there was static in his head. He had thought that this brat was merely an acquaintance of the queen, who would have thought that he was special?

"Your Majesty, I..." Jack paused and searched for the right words before yelling, "I did it for the sake of us, for the benefit of the Raksasa Tribe. The extra commission charged was only going to our people in the Rock City, I am not doing it for myself. Even if this kid is the honored guest of Your Majesty, he couldn't possibly be more important than the wellbeing of our people!"

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The words seemed to have pushed Natalie further to explode from anger. "Shut your mouth! Do you know that the Raksasa Tribe wouldn't have been able to enjoy the peaceful lives for the past few years, had it not been for what this honored guest did?" She waved her hand furiously and ordered, "Drag Jack out to receive punishment of a hundred strikes of whipping."

"Yes!" The Raksasa around them didn't dare to disobey and immediately moved to drag Jack out upon receiving the order.

Snap! Snap! Snap! Soon, the crackling sound of the whip hitting on flesh echoed through the hall, followed by Jack's tortured cries. Instantly, every person in the hall was frightened to death at the horrific sight of Jack being beaten until his skin and flesh teared and blood gushed out like a fountain from his wounds. No one dared to object to the punishment in fear of the Raksasa Queen's wrath.

The pained screams eventually caught the attention of the other generals of the Raksasa Tribe and they rushed over only to find Jack in his miserable state. They couldn't bear to see one of their people suffer, and walked over to the queen before stuttering, "Your...Your Majesty! Please have mercy, Jack has contributed all these years..."

"That's enough!" Natalie roared, her voice amplified in authority by her aura. Sensing her rage, the generals simultaneously felt chills down their spines and retreated to the side wordlessly. Finally, Natalie gestured for the punishment to stop just as Jack was close to being beaten to death. She then took a deep breath before striding over to Darryl with an enticing smile. "Jack offended you, how would you like to have him punished?" she asked.

Instantaneously, all eyes gathered on Darryl in awe. Every single one of them had thought that this kid would face severe consequences for offending the mayor of Rock City. Who would have thought that the tables would turn so quickly, that this insignificant man from the Nine Continent was in complete control over Jack's fate? He was no ordinary nobody, but the true dictator of the situation!

The hall had fallen into complete silence, so much so that one could distinctly hear a sound as faint as a pin dropping on the floor. Darryl smiled and replied in a calm tone, "I mean, I do understand that after thousands of years of banishment, the Raksasa Tribe would want to make up for the lost time now that you have finally returned to the Nine Continents. However, that

doesn't change the fact that business requires fairness and integrity. Since you've already taught him a lesson, there is nothing more I would add to this. But I hope that incidents like this will not happen again in the future."

"Yes...I understand!" Natalie nodded modestly in response like a child that had done something wrong. The next moment, she turned around to stare down at Jack and said, "Jack, you are to renew the trading system and legislations effect from today onwards. Any trade with the Nine Continents from now on must remain absolutely just, or be prepared to lose your position as the Rock City mayor."

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Jack nodded frantically, before ordering his men, "Hurry, get the trading paperwork done immediately for Miss Yach ."

Right about now, Jack desperately wished that he could turn back time. He had thought that he could increase the commission for his city and instead, ended up digging his own grave. Soon, Jack's assistant paced in and respectfully assisted Cheyenne with the formalities. Reality had finally hit Cheyenne as she struggled to contain how shakened she felt. She looked over at Darryl in awe, thinking, 'This sworn brother of my master, who is he really? Even the queen of the Raksasa Tribe has such respect for him."

"Do..?" Natalie slowly turned back around and bit her lip hesitantly before suggesting, "Do you have time after this? If it's alright with you, I would love to host a feast in your name."

A feast? Darryl seemed to be shocked for a moment at the idea but recovered soon enough. He shook his head with a smile and said, "There is no need for that. I will come again to visit you when I have the time." The situation with the Carter Family and Jewel remained uncertain at the moment, it was hardly the time for a feast. Besides, Zhang Jue had eyes all across the Nine Continents, it was best to play it safe.

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Disappointed, Natalie forced a smile and said, "Alright then.", before leaving with the rest of her subordinates. The crowd in the trading hall simultaneously sighed a breath of relief as soon as she was gone, relieving them of the pressure they felt from the queen's powerful presence. That was about the time Cheyenne had completed all procedures needed for the trade. Just as promised by the queen, they were not charged any commission and instead managed to exchange a handsome amount of leather armors that were made and perfected by the Raksasa Tribe. Needless to say, the Yach Family could make a fortune out of this trade.

"Uncle!" Cheyenne walked over grinning from ear to ear while saying in excitement, "You were amazing! Who knew you would be friends with the Raksasa Queen! Seriously, who are you?"

Darryl grinned at Cheyenne's curious expression and said, "I'm just an ordinary man who happens to know the queen."

"Fine, don't tell me," Cheyenne pouted, her enticing features were made to look even more alive by the frustration. She was no fool, it was obvious that Darryl was lying. But she decided that it would be best to let him keep his secret if he really was reluctant to share it.

Half an hour later, the two arrived at the Yach family's mansion.

"Sir!" A servant that worked for the Yach family immediately came up to Darryl as soon as they stepped in through the doors and with a respectful tone, said, "A lady came and asked to see you, she is now waiting at the side hall." Considering the fact that Darryl was the sworn brother of Zhu Bajie and that Zhu Bajie was the master of their eldest daughter, all the employees of the Yach family addressed him respectfully as "sir". The servant's eyes were glittering with confusion and admiration at the same time as he spoke. That lady was far too beautiful to be human.

"A visitor?" Darryl scrawled, feeling his stomach sank as he thought to himself, 'Sh\*t, can it be one of Zhang Jue's men?' He gestured to the servant to lead the way and went directly into the side hall. As soon as he arrived, Darryl was stunned by the sight before him and gasped in surprise. A slim curvy figure sat on one of the chairs in the side hall, her features were hypnotizingly delicate and her hourglass-shaped body. She looked like one of the most beautiful women in heaven and earth that was known to history. Her demeanour resembled that of an angel, as if what happens on earth was far beneath her. The woman before him was Diaochan.



Darryl was instantly dazed, unable to find his composure for the time being. Diaochan was simply far too beautiful and despite the fact that it had been a long time since he last saw her, her beauty was unwavering.

"Darryl!" Diaochan stood abruptly once she caught sight of Darryl and went over with excitement. "It really is you!" Indeed, ever since she took Jewel away with her, Diaochan had merged Jewel's soul and the power of the dragon ball into the dragon egg with a special technique. She had been looking for Darryl everywhere and that was when she managed to catch the news of the Raksasa Queen's appearance at the trade city. Rumours had it that the queen was acting exceptionally respectful to a man from the Nine Continents. Diaochan immediately knew that that man from the Nine Continents was likely to be Darryl and proceeded to gather more information. Eventually, she found out that the man in the rumor was an honored guest at the Yach family. She did not hesitate for another moment before rushing over to the Yach family for a visit. Though she had been prepared, she was still overwhelmed with joy once Darryl truly appeared before her.

"Your...Your Ladyship!" Darryl sobered and responded with unconceivable excitement. "What brings you here?" It simply had been too long since he last saw Diaochan.

Diaochan smiled gently and got straight to the point. "I came looking for you to give you this. You must guard it with your life." She reached into her enchanted beast pouch and retrieved an item. The moment he saw it, Darryl's jaw dropped.

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It was an egg with a diameter of approximately half a meter with beautiful engravement carved into the surface. The shell shone in splendid colors reflecting the lights on it as it was turned. From the looks of it, anyone could tell that this was no ordinary item. It took almost half a minute before Darryl was finally capable of sobering. "This...this is..." he stuttered.

Before he could finish, Diaochan explained with a smile. "This is the dragon egg, a treasure that was left behind by the Yellow Emperor. The Yellow Emperor had two items put away in separate treasure chests as his heritage, one being the dragon ball, and the other being the dragon egg."

"What? Wasn't the dragon egg protected by the Sea Mackie Clan?" Darryl felt shaken as he tried to gather his thoughts. "How did you get your hands on this?" He looked to Diaochan in awe and confusion, clueless as to what had happened.

"Actually..." Diaochan bit her lip hesitantly as she tried to search for the right words. Her heart was heavy with the memory of how Jewel's soul was merged into the dragon egg, but before she could continue, she was interrupted by a voice.

"Brother, brother!" The voice shouted relentlessly, followed by the entrance of a handsome man. The man strode towards Darryl hurriently and asked, "Brother, I've got some updates." The man was indeed, Zhu Bajie. Just as he was shouting, he suddenly caught sight of Diaochan and his attention was immediately drawn towards her.

"Diaochan darling, it has been a so long." It took Zhu Bajie half a minute to come to his senses before he started grinning ear to ear at Diaochan. "My, my, years went by and Diaochan darling is still as sexy as ever. You wouldn't have forgotten about me, have you? I was the man that resurrected you. If you want to thank me, let's start by being friends, hehe..." Zhu Bajie's eyes scanned Diaochan up and down as he spoke. Born a player, Zhu Bajie was immediately hypnotized by Diaochan's beauty, so much so that he looked as though he was drunk.

Darryl smiled bitterly at the scene while thinking to himself, 'Zhu Bajie never changes, I guess. Still as lewd as ever.'

Feeling uneasy at the way Zhu Bajie was staring at her, Diaochan blushed in embarrassment and rage. She said, "You-" She calmed herself down before retorting coldly, "I am not interested in

being friends with you."

"Oh, come on, I am being one hundred percent sincere here," said Zhu Bajie with a playful smile. He stepped closer to Diaochan to admire her beauty in close proximity. "Beautiful, so so beautiful, Diaochan darling. Your beauty is comparable to that of Lady Chang Er in different ways."

Finally running out of patience, Diaochan could take no more of his teasing and shouted at Darryl, "Darryl, I can't go into details about the egg right now. Just make sure that you protect the dragon egg and nourish it from the bottom of your heart." As soon as the last word was spoken, Diaochan tapped her feet on the ground and dashed out of the side hall, leaping towards the sky before anyone could react. Diaochan had every single intention of explaining everything to Darryl in detail, to inform him that the soul resting within the dragon egg was his confidante Jewel, but she simply couldn't find it in her to put up with Zhu Bajie's interference.

"Eh? Diaochan darling, don't go!" Zhu Bajie shouted eagerly and ran after her.

What the...

Darryl didn't know what to think about the situation and decided to focus on the dragon egg. As he studied the egg carefully, his heart filled with unexplainable feelings. Three years ago, he had gone through so much in order to find the treasures that were left behind by the Yellow Emperor and still, the dragon ball was lost at the Valley of Death with not even a clue to its whereabouts. After he had left the Valley of Death, he finally managed to find the dragon ball. But before he could even celebrate it, the dragon ball had been taken by Zhang Jue. Who would have thought that after everything, this piece of treasure would end up in his hands and most shockingly, in the form of the dragon egg?! What amazed Darryl most was that somehow, he felt something familiar radiating from the dragon egg, as if he had known it for a very long time.

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"Oh yes, I need to imprint on it." Darryl remembered and hastily cut his finger, dripping his blood onto the dragon egg. Little did he realize that the soul within the dragon egg belonged to Jewel and she would have followed him for life even without imprinting.

Instantly, a blinding light was emitted from the dragon egg that lit up the entire side hall, signalling the success of imprinting. A relieved smile appeared on Darryl's face but deep down, he was not overly thrilled as he was reminded of the scene where he imprinted Rocky ten years ago in an underground private room at the Incandescent Sect. He had thought at the time that Rocky would be by his side for the rest of his life, it was least expected for Rocky to end up getting killed in cold blood by Laura Hanson just as it was close to breakthrough to its peak strength. He had shared so much with Rocky that it was no longer an enchanted beast, but his family. That was why despite the familiar feeling he felt from the dragon egg before him, he still couldn't help but miss Rocky.

"Snap!"

Just as Darryl was drowning in his own thoughts, a crisp sound of eggshell cracking was heard. Cracks began to appear on the surface and soon a hole was opened up, followed by an adorable little head that squeezed through the hole. It was a charming baby dragon. It had pale green skin and because it was still in its birth state, its scales had yet to develop. Its blue eyes reflected the lights that came into the room as it looked around. It was indescribably enduring.

Both surprised and excited, Darryl took the baby dragon into his hand so delicately as though he was scared he would drop it. The baby dragon looked intently at Darryl like it's known him for a very long time. It squeaked and leaned into Darryl with its tiny head. Indeed, the baby dragon's soul once belonged to Jewel. Diaochan had merged her soul into the dragon egg with a special technique and hence, Jewel's soul still existed within the realm and was overwhelmed with joy at the sight of Darryl. However, dragons were the most powerful enchanted beast in the world with long lifespan and formidable powers. Their growth could be extremely slow in the eyes of a mortal and so it was normal that it couldn't speak at the moment.

"Hahaha!" Darryl might not know that the soul of the baby dragon belonged to Jewel, but he felt like he could melt at just how adorable the tiny creature was. He reached a hand to pet it gently on the head and said, "What a cute little thing you are! Be nice and listen to me from now on, okay?"

The baby dragon nodded obediently in response.

"Brother!" Just as Darryl was playing with the baby dragon, he heard Zhu Bajie shouting from outside of the hall. Zhu Bajie had gone after Diaochan just now but with her reluctance to talk to him, he wasn't given any chance to catch up with her and ended up heading back.

"Brother, why did Diaochan come to visit? What the—" Zhu Bajie walked in complaining but was soon interrupted by the sight of Darryl holding a baby dragon. Instantly, he froze in shock with his eyes widening in awe. "Dragon, is this...a dragon? Holy sh\*t, we haven't seen dragons for over thousands of years here in the Nine Continents now, where did this one come from?" Zhu Bajie couldn't help but to move closer as he spoke. He could sense distinctly that though the baby dragon was still young, a strong powerful aura was radiating off of it. It was an aura that was incomparable to that of ordinary enchanted beasts, it was the aura of a king!

Darryl smiled gently in response and explained, "This little thing was brought to me by Diaochan and she asked me to take good care of it."

"Huh? By Diaochan?" Zhu Bajie jumped in shock as he tried to process that piece of information. 'Dragons are the most powerful legendary creature known to human history. What is Diaochan doing, giving it away to Darryl instead of imprinting on it herself?' he thought.

Sensing Zhu Bajie's disbelief, Darryl chuckled before changing the subject and asked, "By the way, Brother Zhu, you said earlier that you've gotten updates, how was it? Are the Carter Family and Jewel alright?"

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The baby dragon seemed excited at the mention of Jewel's name by Darryl. It twisted and turned trying to tell them that it was Jewel, but words simply didn't come up as it wished because it was too young. Darryl, on the other hand, didn't seem to notice the abnormal behaviour of the baby dragon.

Zhu Bajie took a deep breath and his expression became thoughtful. He hesitated for a split second before explaining, "Um...Brother, I need you to be prepared for this. What I heard was far from good news. The Carter Family are indeed captured by Zhang Jue and are now held as prisoners. As for your sworn brothers Chester and Jewel, something bad has happened."

Darryl felt his blood run cold at the words and asked hurriedly, "What happened to Brother Chester and Jewel?" Brother Chester and Jewel were two of the most important people to me, one being his sworn brother that had always had his back, the other being his confidante. It would tear Darryl apart if anything was to happen to them!

Zhu Bajie scratched his head as he struggled to find the right words, before looking back at Darryl in distress and said, "Chester has submitted to Zhang Jue...and Jewel...she is dead!"

Not over half a day ago, Zhu Bajie had managed to capture a Hall Master of the Endless Sky Organization and was told that Zhang Jue's men had found Jewel's corpse. As for Chester switching sides to follow Zhang Jue, that was no longer new information.

What? Darryl's body jerked forward in shock before he stumbled backward, feeling as though all strength had been drained from him. His eyes were red and tears streamed down his cheeks uncontrollably. 'Jewel...is dead? No...this can't be. She is such a kind-hearted girl with her entire life ahead of her, how could she die? This isn't real,' he thought.

"Zhang Jue, I'm going to tear you to shreds if that's the last thing I do!" Darryl roared with his fists clenched, his rage burning like wildfire within him. Sensing Darryl's despair, the baby dragon was touched beyond words and tried its best to lean into Darryl as an attempt to express its gratitude.

It wasn't until half a minute later before Darryl eventually calmed down. He stared at Zhu Bajie and asked, "You said that Brother Chester went under the wings of Zhang Jue. Are you certain about that?" Brother Chester was the most righteous man he knew, hell could freeze over before

he would turn his back on what was right and work for Zhang Jue.

"I heard it from a Hall Master of the Endless Sky Organization." Zhu Bajie smiled bitterly before continuing with a more serious tone, "Besides, I saw with my own eyes that when Chester appeared at the hall of the Endless Sky Organization, all those disciples that belong to the Endless Sky Organization were very respectful to him. It doesn't seem to be fake news."

Darryl collapsed into one of the chairs nearby at the confirmation, lost in thoughts and unable to utter a word.

Meanwhile, over at the altar of the Endless Sky Organization.

Zhang Jue sat expressionlessly in the hall. Only his eyes revealed the viciousness that stirred within. It had been days and there was no news of Darryl's whereabouts and Zhang Jue simply could not be more frustrated. Standing quietly by his sides were a young man and a young woman with their heads bowed respectfully. These two were both around the age of twenty, and were rather presentable in terms of outlook. The man was called Vito Chapman and the woman Karen Spencer, they were two of the latest batch of disciples Zhang Jue took in in the past two years. Vito and Karen were both quick learners and ambitious. They were efficient when it came to carrying Zhang Jue and therefore had gained his trust. Below him were the high-ranking members of the Endless Sky Organization including Chester. They lined up on both sides of the hall wordlessly, not daring to say anything that might provoke Zhang Jue in his current mood.

"Fu\*k!" Chester cursed inwardly. He might look composed at the moment, but in truth he was close to having a mental breakdown. He had planned to pretend like he had switched sides to follow Zhang Jue in order to gain first-hand information on what would be their next move against Darryl. However, two days had gone by and there was no news of Darryl. It was as if he had vanished into thin air. Chester and Darryl were as close as brothers, how could he not worry?

## Chapter 2572

Paul, who was standing by the entrance, seemed insouciant.. Darryl Darby, Chester and Dax had been famous for far too long and their era would soon come to an end. Naturally, he didn't wish for Chester to find Darryl. The best outcome would be if Darryl's death and without him, Chester wouldn't stand a chance against Zhang Jue regardless of how powerful he might be. Should that happen, Paul would no longer have to remain scrupulous about Chester and focus on contributing to Zhang Jue's work.

"Master!" In the midst of absolute silence, a disciple strode in. "Sect Master of the Saint Fire Palace Sect Laura Hanson is asking for permission to enter."

Saint Fire Palace Sect? Every single person in the hall was shocked at the mention of the name, and Chester more so than the others. 'F\*ck, I thought that Laura Hanson had been living in seclusion ever since the downfall of the Incandescent Sect. Since when did she create the Saint Fire Palace Sect?' Chester thought to himself.

Zhang Jue was the first to react and waved his hand. "Let her in." Laura Hanson was known to be the goddess of the New World community in the previous generation. Zhang Jue had heard about her before but never had the chance to see her in person. It seemed sensible to take the opportunity to see for himself now that she had taken the initiative to come to him.

The disciple rushed out and came back a few seconds later with a slim figure behind him. Laura strolled into the hall gracefully in a long red dress, her curves moved along with each step she took, giving her an appearance of burning flame. Instantly, all eyes gathered on her and many of the male disciples could not take their eyes off her. How beautiful!

Chester scowled and looked intently at Laura, his eyes alert and thoughtful. It had been years since he last saw her and it seemed like she had become more powerful than before.

"Sect Master Hanson." Zhang Jue sobered and looked at Laura with a welcoming smile. "To what do I owe the pleasure of this visit, if I may ask?" His eyes wandered on Laura's body as he spoke and thought, 'I see how she was said to be the goddess of New World back in the days, her beauty is truly worthy of the title.'

Laura paid no mind to Zhang Jue's stare, her enticing face remained calm as she went straight to the point. "You must be the Sect Master of Endless Sky Organization, I caught news that you are



plotting to have Darryl Darby killed?" Anger and humiliation rose in her heart at the mere mention of his name. "Darryl Darby, that bast\*rd was locked in the Purgatory Secret Tunnel and left to die. To her surprise, he managed to survive and offended her honor after he had escaped. The man could die a million times and that would have still been too kind of a punishment if it was up to her.

Three days ago, Laura escaped with the help of the hidden mechanism of the room and learnt that Darryl had been to the Valley of Death to observe the strange phenomena. She did not waste a moment to send out her most capable men in order to track him. It wasn't long until the men from the Saint Fire Palace Sect found out that Darryl had made appearances in the Rock City and was seen with the eldest daughter of the Yach family.

Laura desperately wanted to lead the elites of the Saint Fire Palace Sect and launch an attack against Darryl, but was forced to give up upon learning that Zhu Bajie was there with him. After all, Zhu Bajie was one of the heros known across thousands of years of human history like Zhurong and Gonggong. Even with every last person from the Saint Fire Palace Sect, they still might not stand a chance in defeating him. That was precisely the reason why Laura did not hesitate to visit the Endless Sky Organization, once she caught news that the Endless Sky Organization that was led by the infamous Zhang Jue was after Darryl as well.

"Oh?" A mysterious smile appeared on Zhang Jue's face and he proceeded to ask, "May I know why you are asking?" Zhang Jue was a smart man who knew better than to admit anything before he clarified on Laura's intention.

Laura took a deep breath to steady herself from the frustration that was already beginning to show on her enticing face, and said, "Darryl Darby and I shared a history of enmity. I came here in hopes to cooperate with the Endless Sky Organization in taking him down."

Zhang Jue smiled in content and nodded. "I see, that is wonderful. I believe that Sect Master Hanson came bearing information of Darryl Darby's whereabouts?"

## Chapter 2573

"That's right!" Laura nodded without hesitation and replied, "I have found out where Darryl Darby is hiding right now. If only we could..." Just as she was about to finish, she caught sight of Chester standing not too far away and jumped in shock. "What...what is he doing here?" Her eyes shone in hatred at the sight of Chester. It was this man that worked together with Darryl in causing the downfall of the Incandescent Sect, and two foes would never tolerate the existence of the other. Simultaneously, Laura had her internal energy fired up and was ready to pounce. Chester, too, was staring at Laura on guard and alert.

"Haha!" Zhang Jue stood and smiled in response to the scene and explained, "Sect Master Hanson, you may relax. Master Wilson has abandoned Darryl Darby and is now working for me, he is an ally."

What? Laura paused in shock and looked at Chester in disbelief. "He...he betrayed Darryl Darby and went over to Zhang Jue's side?" She doubted for a moment, but seeing that Zhang Jue seemed to be serious about it, she slowly began to let her guard down.

"Sect Master Hanson, let's get on with the clue you have on Darryl Darby's hideout," Zhang Jue asked keenly.

Laura bit her lip and slowly started to explain, "He is now recovering at the Yach family's mansion in the Mistloren...", followed by a few minutes of her going through all the leads she had gathered by far.

The hall erupted into an uproar of excitement. Zhang Jue himself could barely contain the eagerness in his eyes as he thought to himself, 'Ha! Who would have thought that Darryl was hiding in some cultivator family?'

"Don't get too excited just yet." Just as everyone was riled up, Laura added, "Darryl Darby isn't the only one there, Zhu Bajie was with him. My disciples from the Saint Fire Palace Sect have found out that Zhu Bajie was the master of Yach family's eldest daughter." Slightly unnerved by Zhu Bajie's presence, she scowled and continued, "Zhu Bajie is far too powerful to be underestimated."

Zhu Bajie? Zhang Jue's brows tangled together as his expression darkened at the mention of the name. Zhang Jue might be resourceful with formidable power, but he still had to watch out for

heros that had been known to the world for over thousands of years, such as Ghost Valley Sage, Yang Jian, and of course, Zhu Bajie. All the members around him had a similar reaction to Zhu Bajie's name as well.

"In order to take Darryl Darby down, we need to get past Zhu Bajie," Laura said firmly. "So we need to figure out a way to deal with Zhu Bajie first. Once he is out of the way, killing Darby would be a piece of cake."

Zhang Jue nodded in agreement and said, "Sect Master Hanson is right." He then turned to look around and continued, "What ideas do all of you have?" The others found themselves looking at one another without a clue. Zhu Bajie was one of the men that had reached the peak of martial art, finding a way to deal with him was way harder than to simply capture Darryl.

Sh\*t! Chester felt his stomach sink in panic as he tried his best to remain calm.

Laura came here to seek alliance with Zhang Jue and brought news about Darryl's whereabouts. What now?

"Master, I know a way." That was when a charming figure stepped out with a confident smile. It was Karen.

"What way?" Overjoyed, Zhang Jue asked hurriedly.

Karen smiled gently and looked around her before explaining, "It is known to all that Zhu Bajie is a man of pruriency, so much as that he would snatch Donoghue Dixon's wife away just to satisfy his own lust for beauty. Rumor has it that among all the beauties in the world, he is most fond of Lady Chang Er."

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Assured by the compliment, Karen's smile widened as she continued, "Isn't Lady Chang Er now learning the ways of Taoism in the Holy Saint Sect under Grandmaster Chun Yang? I propose that we send a few men pretending to be disciples of the Holy Saint Sect to Zhu Bajie and tell him that Lady Chang Er is asking to see him. Judging from his personality, it is certain that Zhu Bajie wouldn't say anything to Darryl Darby, or anyone else for that matter, so we wouldn't have to worry about him having backup." She looked up to Zhang Jue as she spoke, grinning proudly.

"Haha!" Zhang Jue was extremely pleased at the idea. Approval filled his expression as he complimented, "Excellent idea. Good, very good." He had been right about Karen, the girl was smart and vigilant, one of his best disciples for being able to provide such a brilliant idea. He immediately leaped into action by sending two elite disciples to head towards the Yach family and lure Zhu Bajie out. Once the ceremony had ended a few minutes later, the members started to leave the hall.

"Master!" It was then when Paul strode over to Chester with faked concern and asked, "What should we do? If Zhu Bajie gets captured, Sect Master Darby will be in danger." He made a point to look around cautiously as he spoke in order to look secretive.

Sigh! Chester sighed with a troubled expression, feeling like he was about to lose his mind in panic. "Of course, I am aware of that, which is why we need to do something. We can't just wait around any longer." Every instinct in Chester was telling him to head towards the Yach family immediately but he knew that as soon as he was gone, Zhang Jue would realize that he had been lying and that could easily put Dax and the others that were still locked in the cell, in danger. What he didn't know at the time was that Zhang Jue had learnt of his fake surrender long before this from Paul.

"So what's the plan, Master?" Paul came closer and asked.

Chester was thoughtful for a moment before saying decisively, "How about this, go to Zhang Jue later and tell him in person that you want to volunteer to lure Chang Er out from the Holy Saint Sect. Once you are at Lady Chang Er's presence, you need to inform her on the situation and ask for some spiritual pills that can facilitate power recovery."

Chester could tell that Zhang Jue was an extremely ambitious man, who wouldn't stop at simply having Zhu Bajie captured, but would also turn his target to Chang Er once he was done with the

prior. Therefore, Paul must take the initiative and head towards the Holy Saint Sect, pretending like his intention was to lure her out when actually, he was there to seek help from Chang Er for elixir. Dax and the rest were weakened to the point where they needed elixir in order to recover. Unfortunately, Chester couldn't refine elixir even if his life depended on it. On the other hand, the Holy Saint Sect where Chang Er resided was the holy ground of Taoism, obtaining elixir from them should be an easy task. Chester wanted to send someone to the Yach family without anyone noticing to have Darryl himself refine the elixir, but he had always been a cautious man and he was well aware that if Zhang Jue was to find out about it, all hell would break loose. This would put everyone, including himself, in danger.

Paul's eyes glittered with schemes at Chester's plan, he replied unctuously, "What a well thought-out plan you made, Master." He smiled reassuringly before continuing, "rest assured, I will carry out your plan as told." Despite the respectful expression, Paul's mind was cold with viciousness as he thought to himself, 'Oh, Chester, you are digging your own grave here. Don't blame me for what's about to happen.'

"Go!" Chester replied calmly.

Paul made a sound to acknowledge the order and immediately turned to stride towards where Zhang Jue was resting. As soon as he reached the door, he paused at the sight of Zhang Jue meditating.

"Master!" Paul whispered cautiously.

Zhang Jue opened his eyes at the sound and asked, "What is it?" If Zhang Jue had to be completely honest, even after his claim of loyalty, he never quite liked unstable men like Paul, who could never pick a side.

Paul forced a smile and paced in before reporting respectfully, "Master, Chester is on the move and has come up with a plan earlier." Paul kept his expression modest as he spoke.

"Oh?" Instantly, Zhang Jue's interest piqued and asked hurriedly, "What plan?"

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Paul began to explain what Chester had told him earlier in explicit detail without hesitation.

F\*ck! Zhang Jue's expression turned cold instantly upon hearing his plan and sneered. "As expected of the Master of Eternal Life Palace Sect, he is quite quick on his feet for plotting out a play like that." He paused for a split moment considering the next move before ordering, "Now that Master Wilson has it all figured out, why don't you go ahead and do as he said? Lure Chang Er out and come back to me for the elixir, understood?"

"Chester, those people from the Carter Family that you are trying so hard to save will all be beyond saving soon. I will make sure of it..." Zhang Jue thought viciously.

Meanwhile, at the Yach family's mansion. Darryl had locked himself up in his room, cultivating in hope to recover as soon as possible. Knowing that his sworn brother Chester was now on Zhang Jue's side and that Jewel was dead, this had pushed Darryl to the brink of a mental breakdown. For the rest of the day, he had been cultivating like his life depended on it so that he could regain his power and find Zhang Jue to seek revenge.

In the side hall on the first floor, Zhu Bajie sat alone, bored out of his mind. He had wanted to drink with Darryl until they dropped, but Darryl couldn't spare a second to spend time with him now that he had his mind full of recovery and revenge. Without company, drinking simply didn't seem as fun for Zhu Bajie. Next to him, Cheyenne was serving him tea attentively, not daring to say a word, knowing that her master was in a bad mood.

"Sir, my lady!" A servant walked in and bowed respectfully before saying, "There are visitors out there asking for permission to enter, they said they are from the Holy Saint Sect."

Holy Saint Sect? Zhu Bajie stood abruptly in excitement at the mention of the name as he thought, 'Chang Er is practicing Taoism in the Holy Saint Sect. Did she send someone over?' The thought of Chang Er had Zhu Bajie overwhelmed in enthusiasm. He couldn't help but shout, "Quick, send them in now."

Zhu Bajie turned to Cheyenne smiling from ear to ear and said, "My wonderful apprentice, be a good girl and go to your room. There are things I need to discuss with our guests." What happened between Chang Er and him was hardly something to take pride in at the end of the day. He thought it was best to keep his disciple out of the room to spare her from the awkwardness.

"Yes, master," Cheyenne replied reluctantly. Everyone knew that the Holy Saint Sect was a hidden sect of scale beyond imagination; there had been countless legends about them that were known across all of the Nine Continents. She had been dying to look behind the curtains and witness the greatness of these hidden sects with her own eyes. But seeing that Zhu Bajie wasn't up for negotiation, she dared not to disobey and went upstairs.

As soon as she was out of the room, the servant came back and stepped into the hall with two men that were dressed in sect uniform.

"We represent the Holy Saint Sect, our regards to Mister Zhu." Both of the men greeted respectfully in unison. Indeed, these two were sent by Zhang Jue, not from the Holy Saint Sect.

Grinning, Zhu Bajie waved his hand and said, "There's no need for formalities. To whom do I owe this pleasant surprise? Was it Lu Dongbin who sent you, or was it someone else?"

The two disciples cast one another a look before one of them stepped forward courteously and replied, "We dare not to fool Mister Zhu. It was Lady Chang Er who sent us here."

The other disciple immediately followed and said, "Her Ladyship said that there is something she would like to discuss with you in person, Mister Zhu."

"Haha!" Zhu Bajie's heart leaped with joy as he thought to himself, 'Chang Er really is looking for me! It's only normal for a woman like her to feel lonely, spending all those years alone practicing Taoism in the Holy Saint Sect after Hou Yi 's death. I always knew that it is impossible for a woman to resist my charm.'

"Did Her Ladyship mention what this is about?" Zhu Bajie asked.

"Well..." One of the disciples hesitated for a second before responding. "Her Ladyship did not say."

Instantly, Zhu Bajie was more certain than ever that the reason behind Chang Er looking for him must be something of the romantic nature. Feeling as though he was buzzing with excitement and anticipation, Zhu Bajie couldn't help but to look forward to what could happen.

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Barely able to contain his excitement, Zhu Bajie was soon ready to leave. Just as he was about to step out of the Yach family's mansion, Cheyenne noticed that he was leaving and would not let him go without her. Cheyenne might be a highly-educated girl given her identity as the eldest daughter of the Yach family, she had always been passionate about adventures and now that the opportunity had presented itself, she was not going to let go. No matter what he tried, Zhu Bajie simply couldn't seem to convince her to stay and ended up bringing her along with him. Half an hour later, Zhu Bajie and Cheyenne started heading towards the direction of the North Moana Continent, following the lead of the two disciples from earlier. Back when Yang Jian was still alive, every single person in the North Moana Continent was after Zhu Bajie. Naturally, he no longer had anything to fear now that it had been three years since Yang Jian's death.

Wow! The instant they were out of the suburbs, Cheyenne's heart was overflowing with eagerness and anticipation as she thought to herself, 'I am finally travelling through the community with my master, this feels so good! I once heard that the average strength of cultivators in the North Moana Continent ranks highest among all Nine Continents. I can't wait to see it with my own eyes.'

"Master!" In the midst of excitement, Cheyenne seemed to have remembered something and asked, "Oh, master's sworn brother is still resting at the mansion. Why didn't you ask if he wanted to tag along?"

"Silly girl, his wounds are still recovering. Let's not have him running around." Zhu Bajie grinned and shook his head before continuing, "Besides, it's not like this is something important. The two of us will suffice." What Zhu Bajie did not mention was that he hadn't asked Darryl to join them because he knew the kind of man Darryl was. He would definitely tease him for going to meet with Chang Er.

"By the way, remember to listen to your master once we arrive at the Holy Saint Sect," Zhu Bajie told her in a serious tone. "Lu Dongbin, the sect master of the Holy Saint Sect, is a friend of mine. He is the Grandmaster of Daoism with millions of disciples at his disposal. Behave and don't embarrass your master." Zhu Bajie's expression was earnest at the time, but deep within his eyes hid how proud he felt about himself. Not only was Zhu Bajie a lecher, he had a habit of bragging when he was accompanied by beautiful women. This habit of his would occasionally go out of control, especially in front of his beautiful disciple.



"Of course, master!" Cheyenne nodded with a smile. Her face was filled with admiration as she couldn't help but to praise him. "My master really is the best, even the Grandmaster of Taoism is your friend."

"Haha, duh!" Just as Zhu Bajie replied with a laugh, he was alarmed by something ahead of them. He looked intently at the forest on both sides of the mountain trail where they were standing.

'Sh\*t! Something's off! Why do I sense malice ahead of us?' He thought as a frown slowly formed on his forehead. That was when he heard shouts from the distance.

"Zhu Bajie?"

"Hurry, surround him!"

Simultaneously, hundreds of elite cultivators dashed out from the woods, dressed in the same black suit with swords in their hands, each and every one of them oozing formidable power. It seemed like they had been waiting for a while and at the same time, the two disciples that were previously leading the way ran into the woods and disappeared within a blink of an eye.

"Master..." Cheyenne jumped alarmingly at the sudden assault.

Zhu Bajie, on the other hand, managed to keep his composure even in the midst of rage and turned to console his disciple. "My good apprentice, go find somewhere to hide. Your master is going to take care of them." Zhu Bajie was no fool, he realized that he had been tricked but even so, he was also certain that there was nothing to be scared of. The number of the cultivators before them might seem overwhelming at first sight, but only a few had reached the level of Martial King or above.

Cheyenne did not hesitate to take her master's advice and immediately hid behind one of the trees. The cultivators swarmed up to Zhu Bajie as soon as she was out of the way. Indeed, these cultivators were all elites of the Endless Sky Organization and they had come to execute their master's order and ambush Zhu Bajie.

"A bunch of rabble, get out of way," said Zhu Bajie as he looked around calmly. His voice remained low yet was unquestionably authoritative.

"F\*k!" The leader stared ferociously at Zhu Bajie and yelled, "Zhu Bajie, you have been surrounded, and yet you dare to be this cocky?"