

The Invisible Rich Man – Chapter 2261

“Fine, I came to Yanam to look for something, but I’m not interested in causing any unnecessary trouble,” replied Gerald before turning to face the door again.

“T-then I’ll-” However, before Carter could even finish his sentence, Gerald had already walked out.

Still, since Gerald had clarified that he wasn’t here to cause trouble, Carter couldn’t help but feel slightly relieved. As long as he didn’t go out on his way to offend him, then Gerald wouldn’t be an issue for Yanam. Regardless, Gerald soon made it to the guest rooms that wasn’t too far from Carter’s office where the others already were. Though the term ‘guest room’ had been used, the truth was, Carter had booked one of the more luxurious hotels in Yanam for them. Since the place was usually reserved for important people from overseas, if one didn’t have the right connections, then they wouldn’t be able to stay there, even if they had the money.

Either way, the others were eating at the moment Gerald entered the room.

Seeing him, Aiden immediately put his food down before asking, “Gerald! What did Carter want from you?”

“He’s just worried that I’ll cause unnecessary chaos here. After all, he just got promoted to being the military leader,” replied Gerald as he shook his head with a smile.

Watching as Gerald then sat beside him, Aiden couldn't help but sneer, "Hah! It all depends on whether they pick a bone with us first!"

"Indeed. Either way, all of you should rest up for the night. For tomorrow, I'll have Master Ghost come along with me. Aiden, Fujiko, and Senior Jobson, you three can continue resting here," replied Gerald, not taking Carter who was nowhere near as big a threat as Godwin was seriously at all. As long as Carter made one wrong move, Gerald could easily get rid of him.

"I'll be coming along," said the old man.

"Alright," replied Gerald, knowing how knowledgeable and experienced Jobson was. Hell, though the probability was low, there was always a chance that Jobson would notice something that Gerald missed while they were in the ancient ruins. Either way, once dinner was over, everyone returned to their respective rooms to rest.

Lying on his bed that was right next to the window, Gerald took a peek outside and saw that several Yanam soldiers were guarding the hotel's entrance. Not even bothering about them, Gerald then turned to face the vast, silent ocean before looking at the cloudy and moonless night sky.

"We're going to have heavy rain tomorrow..." muttered Gerald as he lit a cigarette.

Just seconds after he began puffing on it, a few raindrops fell against the windowpane. Soon enough, torrential rain began crashing down. Despite the heavy rain, the Yanam soldiers seemed completely unfazed as they continued patrolling the area.

Staring at the falling rain, Gerald was reminded of the night his family was kidnapped. Drenched in rain upon returning home, Gerald had no idea what had happened to his family till he eventually rescued Master Ghost and found out.

Putting his hands together, Gerald then closed his eyes while facing the sky before wishing, “May things go smoothly this time... The sooner I get to save them, the better...”

The second his sentence ended, thunder rang in the sky, followed by a bolt of lightning that momentarily lit the dark sky up.

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Daryl appeared in his dreams that night, and the old man kept on talking about Gerald's childhood till the moment Gerald finally awoke from his nightmare. Even as he panted vigorously upon waking up, Gerald couldn't help but check his surroundings. It had all felt so real. Once he calmed down a little, Gerald saw that it was only four in the morning.

Looking out the window, Gerald realized that it was still raining heavily. Knowing that he wasn't going to get any further rest that night, Gerald then rolled out of bed and stood by the window, silently gazing out.

All of a sudden, knocking could be heard from his door. Raising a slight brow, Gerald then looked through the door's peephole and saw that it was Aiden. Opening the door, Gerald couldn't help but smile as he said, "Well someone's early..."

"Yes, about that... You see, I just received an urgent message from my superior, but before that, do you still remember Miss Lawrence?" asked Aiden in a nervous tone.

"That unruly young lady? Of course, I do. You escorted her back, right?" replied Gerald who needed a moment to even remember her.

"Bingo. While I did send her back, she apparently returned to Yanam alone. Since then, nobody's been able to contact her. With that in mind, my superior has urgently ordered me to locate her. Following that, I'm to safely escort her back." muttered Aiden as he double checked if anyone was nearby before closing the door behind him.

"Now why on earth would she come here?" asked Gerald with a frown as he recalled the time he and Aiden had escorted her to the Grubb family. Had they not stepped in back then, she would've surely gotten deflowered.

Either way, Gerald also remembered telling Lindsay time and again not to contact that family, and he was pretty sure that she had promised not to back then.

"How should I know? My superior has even asked the Lawrence family regarding this, though they refused to explain why she had returned. Personally, I assume she's here because of that mysterious keepsake that she sent. The Grubbs may have some

contact with the Lawrences as well, so the Lawrences probably had no say in Lindsay's return, which ultimately resulted in the current situation," replied Aiden with a helpless shrug.

"Well isn't this interesting..." said Gerald with a chuckle.

"Easy for you to say... What should I do...?" muttered the anxious Aiden.

"You like Lindsay, don't you?" replied Gerald with a slightly raised brow.

"...H-huh? Where did that come from..." muttered Aiden, failing to stop himself from blushing.

"Be honest with me."

"That... I'm... not too sure about that, to be honest..." replied Aiden as he lowered his head. Since he had been in the military for so many years, he had never truly considered starting a love life.

"Alright, listen up. You, of all people, should know that my goal is to uncover the secrets of the Seadom tribe at the ancient ruins so that I'll potentially be able to locate Yearning

Island and save my family. I trust you understand how much this matters to me, correct?" asked Gerald after taking a deep breath.

"I do," replied Aiden with a slight nod.

"Good. Now... If you truly like Lindsay, I'll definitely help you save her. After all, what are friends for? However, if you dislike her, then this is a matter between you and your superior. In other words, you'll be saving her on your own. With that said, what's it going to be?" asked Gerald in a solemn tone.

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"I... Don't know..." muttered Aiden, clearly conflicted about the whole matter. While he wasn't sure if he really liked her, he did feel great unease the second his superior told him that Lindsay had gone missing. After all, his first reaction was to update Gerald about this despite the ungodly hour!

"If that's the case, remind your superiors that you're currently on vacation and tell them to send someone else to save her. If you're not serious about her, then stay with me. I'll need all the help I can get," replied Gerald as he looked out the window.

"But... Miss Lawrence could be in danger..." said Aiden.

While he would normally prioritize Gerald, the thought that Lindsay was locked up by the Grubbs was making him hesitate. However, Aiden was also worried that if he rushed over, he could potentially ruin things.

“Hmm? Didn’t you say you disliked her?” replied Gerald with a laugh. Gerald, for one, knew Aiden well enough to know that if he didn’t care about Lindsay, he wouldn’t have come running over to tell him about this in the first place. Hell, if that really was the case, he would’ve probably rejected his superior’s orders the second he got them!

Upon hearing that, Aiden went silent for a moment before eventually saying, “... Alright, I’ve made up my mind. Let’s save her.”

“Well said. We’ll focus on rescuing Miss Lawrence first, then,” replied Gerald with a nod.

While saving his family was important, Gerald knew that Lindsay’s rescue had to be prioritized. After all, he was well aware of what kinds of people were in the Grubb family. With that said, if she truly had been captured by them, then any delays would surely result in her either getting hurt or defiled.

Should that come to be, then Aiden would definitely be brimming with self reproach, and Gerald really didn’t want to see his good friend drowning in such grief.

“Thank you, Gerald...” said Aiden, pleased that Gerald was willing to help.

Shaking his head, Gerald simply replied, "There's no need for that. Either way, did your superior provide any hint as to where she could be?"

Though he hadn't said it, Gerald had been keeping tabs with all the times Aiden had remained by his side to help him. With that in mind, now that Aiden needed his help, Gerald was definitely going to lend his aid. Regardless, Aiden then shook his head before saying, "Unfortunately, no. He just told me that Miss Lawrence went missing in Yanam, and that the Lawrences provided no useful information about all this..."

"I see... Well, either she was captured by the Grubbs, or she may not be in Yanam at all," replied Gerald as he narrowed his eyes.

"That's what I'm thinking as well," muttered Aiden with a sigh.

"Then let's start the investigation at the Grubb family's manor," replied Gerald in a helpless tone. Since he had killed Frey back then, nobody else in the Grubb family should have ulterior motives against Lindsay. Though that was the case, they really didn't have any other leads at the moment, so they may as well inquire the Grubbs about this first.

"And the ancient ruins...?" asked Aiden, feeling slightly embarrassed for causing Gerald's goals to be delayed.

"Let's save Miss Lawrence first," replied Gerald with a slight wave of his hand.

With their minds made up, the duo then immediately left the hotel. On their way out, Gerald made sure to send a text message to Master Ghost, explaining the gist of where he and Aiden were off to. Aside from telling him to relay the message to Fujiko and Jobson, Gerald also stated that they would return immediately if they managed to save Lindsay.

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Though it had already been raining for ages, the rain only seemed to get heavier as the duo got into their car. Since Yanam soldiers were still patrolling the area, the second they saw Gerald and Aiden leaving, one of them immediately reported the situation to their superior.

Meanwhile, Carter was sleeping soundly within the leader's lounge. After learning that Gerald wasn't here to cause chaos, Carter had been so relieved that he had invited several executives to drink with him the night before, which explained why he was in such a comfortable slumber.

However, the snoring man was abruptly awoken when his butler burst through the door, gently shaking Carter's sleeping body as he exclaimed, "B-bad news, Captain...!"

Annoyed that he was suddenly awoken, Carter then yelled, "Get lost!"

"Captain! Gerald and that special forces soldier from Weston have just left the hotel! Should we send our men over to keep an eye on them?" replied the butler who wasn't intimidated in the least.

Under normal circumstances, the butler would've surely sent people after the duo without even needing to ask for Carter's permission. However, since Carter apparently had his own ways of dealing with Gerald, the butler refrained since he was worried that sending their men to tail Gerald would eventually ruin everything.

"Let's just talk about it once I'm up...! With that said, if you don't get lost now, you're in for a world of trouble ...!" growled Carter. Since he wasn't fully sober yet, he hadn't really heard what his butler had said. To him, everything was simply gibberish.

"With all due respect, captain! Gerald and his ally have left the hotel...!" replied the butler who had no choice but to raise his voice a little.

"Are you courting death?!" roared Carter as he fished for his pistol that was by his bed before aiming it at the butler!

"I-I'll leave immediately...!" cried out the butler before rushing out of the room. While he knew that the half awake Carter hadn't gotten the message, the butler wasn't about to risk his life just to get his point across.

Knowing that he had successfully gotten rid of the loud butler, Carter then tossed his pistol onto the floor before lying in bed again. It wasn't long before his snoring resumed.

Back on Gerald's side, he and Aiden continued speeding toward the Grubb family's manor. Though the wipers were doing their best to clear the windscreen, the rain was

absolutely horrendous. Not wanting to risk crashing the vehicle since he could barely see the road by this point, Gerald had no choice but to slow the car down.

Staring at the onslaught of rain outside his window, Aiden was prompted to ask, “Do you think Miss Lawrence is in danger, Gerald...?”

“You know I can’t answer that,” replied Gerald as he focused on the road. Honestly, had it not been a mission to save his friend’s love interest, Gerald wouldn’t even have considered driving in this weather.

“I see... Still, since we’ve gotten rid of Prey, she should be fine if she’s currently with the Grubbs. After all, aside from being her father’s good friend, Lucian is also Miss Lawrence’s godfather. With that in mind, I really hope that she’s there and that her phone is just broken or she just hasn’t been looking at it...” muttered Aiden.

“That would be for the best,” replied Gerald with a shrug.

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While the journey to the Grubb manor should’ve taken three hours at most, it ended up extending to five hours due to the torrential rain. With that said, it was near noon by the time they got to the manor.

After parking the car, Gerald checked his phone and saw that Master Ghost had seen his message. Pleased that Master Ghost had also said that he would relay the message to the others, Gerald was about to leave the car when he suddenly noticed a servant running toward him with an umbrella.

Outstretching his hand that was holding onto a folded umbrella, the servant then asked, "Good day, sir. May I know why you're here?"

"I'm looking for Mr. Grubb to discuss something," replied Gerald as he took the umbrella and opened it.

Once Aiden was under Gerald's umbrella as well, the servant smiled before asking, "Pardon me, but which Mr. Grubb could you be referring to?"

Aside from the live in son-in-law and the daughter-in-law, most of the people living there were Grubbs.

"Lucian," replied Gerald in a calm tone.

"Oh? You're here to meet the master?" replied the stunned servant who quickly straightened his back to appear more respectful.

“Is he in? If he isn’t, there’s no need to ring him up. We’ll just wait here for a bit,” said Gerald as he and Aiden began walking into the manor.

“He’s in. With how heavy the rain is today, he doesn’t have any other guests visiting either,” explained the butler as he lowered his gaze, not even daring to look Gerald in the eye. After all, not only had the youth dared to come over, but he had even called his master by name! All that could only mean that Gerald either possessed a high status or he was someone his master took extremely seriously.

“Lead us to him,” replied Gerald.

With that, the servant instantly led the two to the reception room, where they were promptly served some hot tea.

A short while later, Aiden who had ants in his pants couldn’t help but say, “... I’m taking a look around.”

If Lindsay really was locked up in here, he was going to take every chance he could to search for her.

Frowning slightly, Gerald replied, “Just remain seated here. I’m sure he’ll come soon.”

“But I’m worried about Miss Lawrence’s safety...!” grumbled Aiden as he stared out the window. Not showing signs of letting up at all, the rain was so heavy that he could barely see a thing.

“Even if she’s here, haven’t we already alerted the enemy by showing ourselves? If you start searching now, aren’t you just making it even more obvious that we’re looking for her?” replied Gerald as he sipped his tea.

“I... didn’t think of that...” muttered Aiden as he quickly calmed down.

“I’m glad you’ve realized. Now get back here and have your tea while it’s hot,” replied Gerald as he held Aiden’s cup out for him.

The second Gerald’s sentence ended, Lucian under the guide of his servant could be seen entering the reception room. Though his pants were drenched in rainwater, he didn’t seem to care at all, especially when he saw Gerald.

Instantly breaking into a smile, Lucian then walked up to Gerald his hand extended while saying, “And here I thought my servant was kidding when he said you were here!”

“It’s been a while, Mr. Grubb, ” replied Gerald as he began walking toward the enthusiastic man as well.

“Indeed! Still, why are you back so soon? Do you have some affairs to attend to? Or could it be that... You’ve managed to grasp the meaning behind the Devotion Mirror and you’re here to return it?” asked Lucian as he shook Gerald’s hand.

“You’re thinking too highly of me, Mr. Grubb. There’s no way I’d be able to see through the mirror this quickly! Truth be told, I’ve yet to even scratch the surface of the mirror’s secrets!” replied Gerald as he shook his head with a laugh.

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The truth was, Gerald hadn’t even looked at the Devotion Mirror from the second he got it. He had simply been too busy to unravel its mysteries. What more, the mirror wasn’t exactly as important as Lucian would’ve liked to believe, though Gerald knew better than to tell him that. After all, an enraged Lucian would only spell more trouble for him.

“Oh please, your talent’s exceptional, mister! After all, you’re the first person who’s been able to retrieve the mirror from the cave! Since you’ve even obtained recognition from my ancestors, I have reason to believe that it’s only a matter of time before you uncover its mysteries,” declared Lucian as he shook his head, making it clear that he trusted the Devotion Mirror’s choice.

“Don’t worry, I’ll definitely share what lies within the mirror if I manage to crack the code,” replied Gerald with a hearty laugh.

“If you manage to do so, you’ll truly be a great benefactor to my family!” declared Lucian, his eyes glimmering with hope.

According to his family's ancestral records, anyone who managed to grasp the meaning of the mirror would gain supreme skills and cultivation that would then grant them easier access in becoming a top cultivator. With that said, if Gerald succeeded in decoding the mirror, then the Grubbs would easily become the largest and strongest family in the entirety of Yanam! Actually, since all the cultivators in their family would be able to max out their cultivation by then, forget Yanam, they'd become the strongest cultivating family in the cultivation realm!

Regardless, Gerald then replied, "It's already an honor to be given the chance to inspect this mirror..."

Throughout their conversation, Gerald had kept tabs on Lucian's expressions. Aside from excitement, however, Gerald couldn't discern any other vague expressions, which meant that Lucian hadn't kidnapped Lindsay. Though that was the case, that didn't mean that the other Grubbs hadn't done the deed.

Whatever the case was, upon hearing that, Lucian couldn't help but exclaim, "You truly are my family's lucky star, mister!"

"You flatter me. Speaking of which, have any weird incidents happened within your family recently?" asked Gerald.

"Hmm? Everything's been normal as far as I'm concerned... Honestly, have you returned to deal with my family's affairs, mister? Does it concern the cave or the mirror...?" replied Lucian after thinking for a bit.

“Let’s just say that I’ve returned to look for something, though it doesn’t concern your family. Don’t overthink my earlier question,” replied Gerald with a wave of his hand, not wanting to accidentally mention that he was here to investigate Lindsay’s disappearance.

“I see... You scared me for a moment there... However, there is one other thing I’d like to talk to you about...” muttered Lucian after heaving a relieved sigh. It was something that he had realized right after Gerald left back then.

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“Go on,” replied Gerald as he momentarily looked at the heavy rain outside.

“Well... I’m sure you know of my adopted son, Frey, right? You see, it’s been ages since I’ve last seen him... He seems to have just vanished into thin air! It doesn’t help that as far as I know, he didn’t have any disputes with my other family members. With that said, I was wondering if you had bumped into him...” muttered Lucian with a slight frown.

In his search for Frey, not only had Lucian searched every nook and cranny of his manor, but he had even gone to all the places Frey usually went to. Hell, aside from meeting up with Frey’s friends, he had also used all his connections to locate his son to no avail even after two entire months.

“Frey?” asked Gerald in a calm tone, though honestly, he couldn’t help but feel sad for Lucian. After all, he had killed Frey back in that cave, and Gerald was pretty sure that

not even Frey's ashes remained. Still, to think that Lucian the mighty master of the Grubb family would end up adopting such an evil son... How truly pitiful.

"Yes... While I had initially doubted that he had met with an accident or was kidnapped, after so long, I just want news about him already... Any news..." muttered Lucian, his eyes now slightly red and teary.

Unable to bear telling Lucian the truth, Gerald simply replied, "...I'll keep an eye out for him. If I hear anything about Frey, I'll definitely notify you."

"I appreciate it. Still, I have a feeling that he's probably been killed by an accident somewhere... Even if that's the case, I still have to find his corpse in order to give him a proper burial..." said Lucian before sighing heavily. It was clear that he no longer had any hope that his son was alive, and that he was only saying all this to get it out of his system.

"I agree. As Weston customs go, all dead individuals need to be buried," replied Gerald.

Nodding in response, Lucian then wiped his tears away before looking at Gerald and saying, "... Either way, do stay here till the rain goes away... It's dangerous to drive in such horrid weather... Speaking of which, you said you were here to look for something, right? Tell me what it is. I get my men to obtain it for you."

"I can get it easily, so don't worry about it. Whatever the case is, let's talk about it once the rain stops in a few days," replied Gerald as he looked outside.

“A few days indeed... Well, it doesn't seem like the rain will be letting up anytime soon, why not stay here in the meantime? I'll get my butler to clean up a few of our guest rooms later. Also, you've probably driven for quite a while to get here, correct? You must be starving! I'll get my chefs to prepare something for us right this instant! We can just eat in the reception room,” said Lucian with a subtle smile. Gerald's arrival had honestly been the best thing that had happened to him in the past few days.

“I'll be troubling you then, Mr. Grubb,” replied Gerald as he placed his hands together before Lucian.

“Oh please, you're no trouble at all! Truth be told, I'm glad you're staying here!” replied Lucian with a wave of his hand. As it turned out, Lucian's temperament had undergone quite the change ever since Frey disappeared.

...

“Well, looks like we'll be staying here for the next few days, Aiden,” said Gerald as he turned to face the dazed boy.

Quickly snapping out of it, Aiden simply replied with a nod.

It wasn't long after before servants began appearing with several dishes in hand. To celebrate Gerald's arrival, Lucian even got his special wine out, and the trio found themselves enjoying their meal in the reception room as rain continued pouring outside.

Once they were done with their meals, Gerald and Aiden headed to their guest rooms that had thoroughly been tidied up. The second Aiden closed the door behind him, he immediately inched closer to Gerald before whispering, “Do you think Lucian’s aware of Lindsay’s disappearance...?”

Narrowing his eyes, Gerald then thought for a moment before replying, “...I don’t think so, no...”

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“I see... Still, let’s start investigating tonight. After all, even if Lucian’s not aware of it, his other family members are still highly suspicious. The longer we don’t make a move, the higher the chances of Miss Lawrence being in danger... !” declared Aiden who didn’t even bother whispering anymore. Though the heavy rain masked his voice well, it didn’t change the fact that his tone suggested that he wanted to flip through the entire manor to see if Lindsay was present.

Frowning slightly, Gerald then replied, “Calm yourself.”

“Like hell I can! If Miss Lawrence ends up bumping into someone like Frey again, she’ll definitely be ruined!” grumbled Aiden with a sigh.

“And that’s exactly why you should remain calm. How are you going to save her with an unclear mind?” replied Gerald who knew how Aiden felt.

After all, he had been much more anxious than Aiden back when Mila first got captured. As Gerald would come to learn, until he calmed himself, he wouldn't ever be able to resolve his problems. Thankfully, he managed to slowly calm himself over time.

Whatever the case was, knowing that Gerald's words made sense, Aiden then lowered his head with a sigh before saying in a resigned tone, "Fine, I'll try to remain calm..."

"Atta boy. Now... let's think this through. If it really was a Grubb who kidnapped Lindsay, who would be our prime suspect?" asked Gerald slightly loudly due to the crashing rain as he sat at the side of the bed.

"Frey's men," replied Aiden almost instantaneously. He had already considered that possibility while they were still in the car earlier.

"While they do sound like the most plausible suspects, why would they want to capture her in the first place?" said Gerald with a nod.

"That... I... can't say for sure..." muttered Aiden as he shook his head. It was clear that he hadn't thought that far ahead.

"First off, Frey's men only went after her in the first place because of Frey's orders. Now that he's dead and the members of the Grubb family have no idea where he's gone to, why would his subordinates suddenly want to kidnap her?" replied Gerald.

“I mean... when Frey was about to deflower her that night, plenty of his men were with him... I’m sure at least some of them yearned for her... To me, that alone is reason enough for them to kidnap her!” said Aiden as he recalled the events of that night.

“While that’s certainly a possibility, it’s a low one. Besides, that’s mostly just speculation,” replied Gerald with a nod.

“Then... Where do you think Lindsay has disappeared to?” asked the puzzled Aiden.

“For one, I don’t think the Grubbs have anything to do with her going missing. However, I do have a feeling that they have other issues that they didn’t report to your superior...” replied Gerald as he narrowed his eyes.

“Other problems...? Come to think of it, back when my superior contacted me, he told me that the Grubbs had only told him that Lindsay had gone missing on her way back to Yanam and nothing else...” muttered Aiden, now starting to feel enlightened.

“Lindsay isn’t a fool, Aiden. After that incident, I believe that she’d have reported any subsequent journeys she made to her family. What more, there’s a high chance she had made sufficient preparations before even arriving at the Grubb family’s manor. With all that in mind, there’s no way a similar incident could’ve taken place,” replied Gerald with a faint smile, seeing that Aiden was finally starting to see his point.

“That’s right! Lindsay should’ve told her family before coming over!” exclaimed Aiden who now had a new outlook on the case.

“Bingo. While we don’t know whether she’s being locked up in the manor or she’s just having general troubles reporting back, I can say for sure that the Grubbs are definitely hiding something from us,” replied Gerald as he opened the window before lighting a cigarette.

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From the looks of it, the heavy rain wasn’t stopping any time soon.

“Should we ask the members of the Grubb family then?” asked Aiden as he fished his phone out, fully prepared to contact his superior.

“Let’s do a thorough investigation here first. Still, if she isn’t in the manor, then this incident is definitely much more complicated than what we initially imagined... The Grubbs may have either been afraid of the other party which would explain why they’ve remained quiet about it, or there’s just some other reason we’re not seeing yet, ” replied Gerald as he placed his hands against the windowsill while staring outside.

“The Grubbs truly are an interesting bunch... Lindsay’s gone missing yet they still refuse to reveal it! Are they only going to be satisfied once something bad happens?” growled Aiden as he slammed his fist against a table, wondering what Lindsay was experiencing right now. If she ended up getting defiled by someone like Frey, Aiden wasn’t against murdering the culprit...!

“I can’t say for sure,” replied Gerald as he shook his head, making it clear that even he had no idea what the Grubbs were thinking and why they would commit the deed.

“Then... what should we do now...?” asked Aiden as he walked up to Gerald.

“Let’s get some test first. I’ll try getting some information out of Lucian tomorrow. Hopefully that’ll clear our suspicions of the family,” replied Gerald as he tossed his cigarette out into the rain.

Knowing that that was probably the best course of action, Aiden simply nodded in response.

Fast forward to the next day, the rain didn’t seem to be letting up at all. In fact, had Gerald not checked the time and realized that it was already eight, he would’ve surely assumed that it was still in the middle of the night with how dark it was outside. Regardless, after getting himself cleaned up, Gerald immediately headed off to look for Lucian.

Once they met up, Lucian invited Gerald for breakfast. Soon enough, the two were sitting opposite each other as servants served them their meals.

Biting into a loaf of bread, Lucian then turned to look at Gerald before asking, “So, had a good rest?”

“The rain was a bit too loud for my taste, but I mostly slept well,” replied Gerald with a smile, making sure to carefully observe any changes in Lucian’s expression the entire time.

“It’ll unfortunately be raining cats and dogs in the next few days. Still, that means you’ll get to stay longer here. Truth be told, it’s been the longest time since I’ve had a chance to have breakfast with a youth ever since Frey went missing...” muttered Lucian with a sigh.

Though he was aware of Frey’s bad habits, Frey was still Lucian’s adopted child. In a way, this was his fault since he had spoiled Frey too much as a child. Hell, he had even promised to make him the heir of the family! However, that didn’t mean that he didn’t want Frey around. Honestly, Lucian would’ve surely fallen into much deeper depression by now had it not been for the fact that he still needed to take care of his large family.

“I see... Could you detail me on the incident...?” asked Gerald who had been waiting for Lucian to bring it up.

“I don’t know much myself, though it seems that he vanished not too long after you guys left back then...” replied Lucian who looked particularly saddened every time he had to talk about Frey.

“How unfortunate...” said Gerald, expertly pretending that he didn’t know anything.

“Indeed... After about a week of attempting to contact him to no avail, I finally lodged a police report to investigate his disappearance. However, as I’ve said, he seems to have vanished into thin air...” replied Lucian with a heavy sigh.

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“Were there no clues left behind at all...?” asked Gerald who was now pretty sure that Lucian had nothing to do with Lindsay’s disappearance. After all, Lucian hadn’t revealed any odd expressions throughout their conversation.

“If there were any, we would’ve found them ages ago. What a tragedy... Not only do I not know whether my son’s dead or alive, but even if he’s passed on, I can’t find his corpse! This is truly as depressing as things can get...” muttered Lucian as he shook his head.

“Have you considered questioning Frey’s subordinates? After all, they were closest to him so they may have an idea of what befell him,” replied Gerald as he scratched his chin.

“I’ve asked them on multiple occasions, but every time I did, their responses remained the same. Essentially, all of them said that after Frey left one afternoon, he ceased to contact any of them. That was probably the day he went missing,” said Lucian who had already considered everything that Gerald had suggested, making it evident that he had gone all out to locate his son.

“I see...” replied Gerald with a sigh.

“Well, I don’t have much hope that he’s alive by this point, so I’m only hoping that I can at least bury him. Still, being buried abroad is quite frowned upon by us Westoners...” said Lucian as he shook his head.

“It’s simply karma...” muttered Gerald to himself.

“Come again?” asked Lucian who genuinely hadn’t caught what Gerald had said.

“Hmm? Oh, I said it’s such a pity. After all, he’s the heir of your family, no?” fibbed Gerald.

“He is. Though he’s my adopted son, his character and behavior are much more outstanding compared to my biological children... He’s been helping me manage my family business a lot in recent years, you know? And as far as I know, he’s never made a mistake. I was about to tell him that he was going to be the heir of the Grubbs too, but alas, he ended up vanishing off the face of the earth!” muttered Lucian in a helpless tone.

“Truly a pity...” repeated Gerald.

“Well... Let’s not talk about him anymore... Speaking of which, there’s going to be a local auction in a few days. I could bring you there if you’d like,” replied Lucian who didn’t want to sound overly sad before his guest.

After all, though his son was most probably dead, the fact that Gerald had returned meant that not everything was all doom and gloom.

As his butler had previously said, it truly was the right choice for him to hand the Devotion Mirror to Gerald. After all, not only did he trust that Gerald wouldn't run off with his family's treasure, but he also believed that the youth would eventually share his findings with him once Gerald cracked the mirror's code.

By that point, everyone in his family would undoubtedly be able to improve their cultivation, and Lucian genuinely hoped that that would help give birth to more outstanding youths like Frey who would try their best to be part of the family.

Either way, upon hearing that, Gerald simply shook his head before saying, "I'm not that interested in auctions."

"Well, this isn't an ordinary auction by any means. It's actually the largest auction of the cultivation realm that's held once every five years! With that said, lots of rare treasures will be there, and if you're lucky, you may be able to get your hands on some!" explained Lucian.

"... Oh? The largest you say..." replied Gerald as he raised a slight eyebrow.

"That's right. Just so you know, Mr. Lawrence is coming along as well. Come to think of it, it's been almost twenty years since I last met him... With that said, meeting Lindsay back then was truly an eye opener. To think that two decades had passed in the blink of an eye..." muttered Lucian with a sigh.

With the mention of the Lawrence family, Gerald took a deep breath before saying, "...If it's alright with you, could you answer a question of mine honestly?"