

The Invisible Rich Man – Chapter 2291

After taking a deep breath, Gerald slowly began flipping through the pages, making sure to be particularly gentle for fear that the thousand year old book would accidentally turn to dust.

To his dismay, however, he couldn't understand what was written in it at all! At most, he was able to gather based on the crude sketches on a few of the pages that the book was detailing some sort of sacrificial ritual, not unlike what he had seen on the sea map back then.

Carefully and slightly excitedly carrying the book over to the old man, Gerald was prompted to ask, "Can you read this, senior?"

Raising a slight brow, he then gave the book a look before eventually shaking his head as he said, "Unfortunately, I can't. However, based on the sketch, I'm assuming they're attempting to summon rain."

"What? Isn't this a sacrificial ritual?" replied Gerald.

"Whatever it is, it doesn't matter. After all, though you've finally managed to find the book, you can't make heads or tails of it! It's no different from a brick!" said the old man before laughing aloud. To think that after all that effort, it was ultimately just a waste of time.

Chuckling in response, Gerald then replied, "While I can't read it, there's someone who may just be able to..."

"Oh? Who?"

"A good friend of mine... Regardless, I'm saying this since after getting to know the descendants of the Seadom tribe, we were given access to a secret room that contained several books in an unknown language. However, this friend of mine seemed to be able to read them just fine," replied Gerald as he thought about Master Ghost.

"I see... Perhaps he'll be the key to cracking this code," said the old man with a nod.

"Indeed... Either way, I'll be taking my leave. I'll definitely come back to visit when I have the time, senior!" replied Gerald as he carefully slipped the ancient book into his coat pocket. After placing his hands together and bowing in respect, Gerald then turned to leave.

"Hmm? You're leaving already?" asked the old man, looking slightly surprised.

"Yeah! Don't worry, I'll definitely return to visit once I'm free!" declared Gerald rather enthusiastically.

“Aren’t you at least going to change back into your original clothes? They’re completely dry now!” replied the old man.

“Just leave them there for now! I’ll switch clothes again the next time I return!” yelled Gerald who was now so far away that even all his shouting sounded faint.

“How impatient can that boy get...?” muttered the old man to himself as Gerald disappeared in the distance.

Shaking his head with a chuckle, he then turned to look at the piles of books scattered all over the place before walking toward them to start tidying up.

The truth was, he had read nearly every book in here throughout his stay, which meant that he had no actual issues with understanding the language of the Seadom tribe. With that said, he had only lied to Gerald about not understanding since he wanted the boy to stay for another day or two.

Still, to think that Gerald would actually know someone capable of reading the Seadom tribe’s language! The boy was also lucky that he had managed to find the exact book he needed in a single day.

Clapping the dust off his hands once he was done rearranging all the books back on the bookshelf, the old man then muttered, “Return when you’re free? I’ll be lucky if you still remember me after ten years! Then again, I’ll probably be dead by then...”

Shaking his head, he then waved his hand causing a large shale to cover the cave's entrance before sitting cross legged on his bed. Closing his eyes, the old man then entered a cultivating state.

While it was still raining outside, it was much lighter than before. Understanding that, Gerald made a mad dash till he got to his car. Ignoring how drenched he was and how muddy his shoes were, Gerald immediately took his coat off the second he got into the car to check on the book. Thank heavens it had remained dry.

Leaning against his seat, Gerald couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief as he said, "Alright... I've finally found it..."

Once he had caught his breath, Gerald began driving out of the forest to return to the Grubb manor. On his way there, he made sure to send a text message to Master Ghost, telling him to bring Jobson and Fujiko to the Grubb manor as well. There was something important that he needed to attend to.

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Though he had accelerated the entire way, it still took Gerald four whole hours to get from the forest to the Grubb manor. Regardless, upon Gerald's arrival at the manor at about nine that night, his return was quickly notified to Lucian who upon learning that instantly urged Aiden to head to the reception room. Lucian himself then jogged out the manor together with his butler to greet the youth.

Upon seeing them, Gerald nodded before asking, "Good evening, Mr. Grubb. Have my friends arrived?"

"... Friends?" replied Lucian in a confused tone as he led Gerald to the reception room.

"I guess they haven't. Either way, do prepare three guestrooms for them since they may need to stay for quite a while. Don't worry, we'll all leave once we've rescued Miss Lawrence," said Gerald as he estimated how long it would take for Master Ghost and the others to come over.

Just as he figured that they'd be here by the hour, Lucian who finally realized how drenched Gerald was hurriedly replied, "No problem, but before that, do get a change of clothes! You're soaked from head to toe!"

Simply nodding in response, Gerald then followed the butler to another room to get himself changed. Taking the opportunity to get a cold shower as well, Gerald returned about ten minutes later, looking fully refreshed.

Seeing Gerald, Lucian was prompted to ask, "So... Did things go smoothly, whatever you were doing?"

"They did, indeed," replied Gerald with a nod.

“Glad to hear. Regardless, while you were gone, we think we’ve managed to find the person responsible for kidnapping Lindsay!” declared Lucian with a smile.

“Go on...”

After exchanging glances with his butler, Lucian then said, “We believe that Maddox Chabert is the culprit!”

“Never heard of him before,” replied Gerald after thinking for a while.

“While you may not know him, he definitely knows you,” said Lucian.

“... Hmm? Havel offended him before?” replied Gerald, understanding just how many enemies he must have accidentally made throughout the years.

“You could put it that way. You see, Maddox is from the Yanam military, and he’s the one in charge of Yanam’s seas. From what I’ve been told, Maddox’s first reaction upon hearing that you had returned to Yanam was to propose to Carter to have your life ended while you were still out at sea. Since that didn’t happen, it’s fair to assume that Carter denied that,” replied the butler.

“So you’re saying that he’s captured Lindsay to threaten me?” asked Gerald as he thought about it.

“I believe so. I know a few people from the military, and after asking around, it appears that Maddox has rarely appeared at work in the past few days. For those who managed to catch glimpses of him, they stated that aside from him looking immensely vigilant, Maddox had apparently gotten ten replacement soldiers to follow him at all times as well. What more, some also said that he had taken a few items from the military’s equipment department!” explained Lucian.

“... It doesn’t add up,” replied Gerald after thinking about all that he had just heard.

“What do you mean?” asked Aiden who had been silent the entire time.

“Well, if Maddox kidnapped her to threaten me after Carter rejected his proposal, I find the timing for that to be a bit off. How long has Lindsay gone missing again, Aiden?” replied Gerald as he turned to look at Aiden.

“About a week ago. While we immediately took action after I got the mission, my superiors had actually received the request from the Lawrences a few days prior,” said Aiden.

“Bingo. But we’ve only been here for three days,” replied Gerald.

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“... Are you saying that Maddox’s actions simply coincided with your return? As in, he kidnapped Lindsay to lure you back and finally deal with you, not knowing that you were planning to return anyway...?” said Lucian as he tapped on his desk

“It’s certainly a possibility,” replied Gerald.

“Indeed... Regardless, I’ve already told my friend to keep an eye out on Maddox. With that said, he’ll definitely notify me the second Maddox does anything weird. With any luck, we’ll soon get the opportunity to tail Maddox and hopefully be able to save Lindsay. So, what do you think, Gerald? Any better suggestions?” asked Lucian.

“Not at all. I’m fine with that plan,” replied Gerald with a nod, knowing that going with Lucian’s plan was probably their best bet of saving Lindsay, at least for the moment

The second his sentence ended, one of Lucian’s servants entered the room with a dripping umbrella in hand before saying, “There are a few people claiming to be Gerald’s friends at the door, master.”

“How many are there?” asked Gerald.

Upon hearing that, the servant went silent for a moment before eventually replying, "Three, I presume. Unfortunately, it was a bit too dark for me to say for certain..."

Nodding in response, Gerald then said, "Invite them in."

Though Lucian knew that Gerald wouldn't just invite anyone random to his house, he couldn't help but ask, "... Care sharing who those individuals are...?"

"Of course. One of them is a good friend, and the other is the young lady of Japan's Futaba family. As for the third person, he's an elder from another Japanese family. In case you're worried about their trustworthiness, I know all of them well, Mr. Grubb,"

explained Gerald.

"Glad to hear," replied Lucian as he noted down everything that Gerald had just told him.

Shortly after, Jobson's voice could be heard saying, "I've heard that the Grubbs are quite influential in Yanam. To think that you were acquainted with such a great family!"

Upon realizing that Jobson, Fujiko, and Master Ghost who were being led into the reception room by the servant from before were here, Gerald immediately got to his feet before greeting, "Senior Jobson!"

Seeing that, Lucian quickly got up as well, understanding that Jobson was no ordinary person since even Gerald respected him.

As the butler immediately began serving the three new faces some hot tea, Jobson walked over to Lucian before placing his hands together and saying, "Ah, you must be Mr. Grubb! I've heard quite a bit about you!"

Before Lucian could reply, Gerald could be seen gesturing toward the seat beside him as he said, "Whatever the case is, do take a seat first, sir. After all, I'm sure the journey here was long and tiring."

Hearing that, Jobson then nodded as he, Master Ghost, and Fujiko took their seats. Once seated, Jobson was prompted to ask, "So... I'm assuming you've found a way to save that missing girl?"

"We have, though it'll probably be a while before we manage to get any results," replied Gerald as he poured more tea for Jobson.

Having a feeling that Gerald still wanted to talk about other things with them, Lucian then cleared his throat as he said, "Regardless, it's getting rather late so I'll be excusing

myself first. Also, your rooms have already been prepared, so once you're all ready to turn in, just tell the servant who led you in to bring you there."

Following that, Lucian gave his butler a brief glance, and the two then began leaving the room with umbrellas in hand.

"Thanks for having us, Mr. Grubb!" called out Jobson just seconds before Gerald closed the reception room's door behind them.

Once the two were gone, Jobson's smile instantly vanished as he whispered, "So... Since you called all of us here, I'm assuming you've made progress in our main mission?"

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"I have indeed," replied Gerald with a nod as he placed the ancient book that he had guarded carefully up till this point onto the table.

Frowning slightly, Jobson then asked, "... And this is?"

As the others got closer to the book as well, Gerald carefully opened it before pointing at the squiggly, worm like words as he said, "I found this in the ancient ruins, and I believe that it contains the Seadom tribe's knowledge on how to get to Yearning Island."

“This belongs to my family...?” muttered Fujiko as she curiously looked at it.

“It should be. Though I can’t read the language, the words look similar enough to the ones in the books in your family’s secret room back in the Futaba manor,” replied Gerald with a nod.

“Well, your assumption was right on the mark!” said Master Ghost after getting a good look at the book.

Chuckling in response, Gerald then playfully jabbed at Master Ghost’s arm before replying, “I knew you could read it! Hurry and see if there’s any information regarding how to get to Yearning Island!”

Immediately feeling pressured by Gerald’s words, Master Ghost immediately said, “Just to clarify, I only learned a little about the Seadom tribe from my master. With that said, I’m no expert in the language, so don’t expect my translation to be perfect...”

Patting his back, Gerald simply replied, “Just do your best!”

Nodding in response, Master Ghost then took a deep breath before picking the book up and attempting to translate it. Upon seeing that, everyone instantly went quiet, not wanting to affect his concentration.

Fast forward to half an hour later, Master Ghost made it past the fifth page before rubbing his slightly sore eyes as he said, “So... From what I was able to gather, the very start of the book details how to conduct one of the Seadom tribe’s sacrificial rituals... With that said, I believe the parts about getting to Yearning Island should come much later on...”

Watching as Master Ghost then took a sip of his tea that had already gone cold, Gerald replied, “That’s great progress! Don’t worry, you’re doing good. Take your time...”

Following that, Master Ghost resumed reading. However, once he got to the later parts of the book, his frown started getting deeper and deeper. As he had said, he was no expert in the language, and it certainly didn’t help that most of the words were near indistinguishable since the book had been in that damp cave for so long.

Eventually, however, Master Ghost finally said, “... Alright, so apparently, the Seadom tribe had to leave Yearning Island about a thousand and two hundred years ago due to the arrival of a group of people who suddenly took over their home... Since the invaders had mastered the elements of water and fire, the Seadom tribe had no choice but to leave...”

“The invaders are most likely cultivators of old...” replied Gerald as he thought about Jobson and the old man’s ability to bend natural forces to their wills.

Regardless, upon hearing Master Ghost’s groan after he resumed reading for a while, Gerald who had a bad feeling about that was prompted to ask, “... Is something the matter?”

“Well... According to the book, Yearning Island is a magical place that was formed by the essence of heaven and earth. With that in mind, to prevent others from easily locating it, the Seadom tribe had placed the sole method to get to Yearning Island on the island that they moved to after being kicked out of their home. In other words, you’ll have to find the island that the Seadom tribe moved to in order to even remotely get a chance to get to Yearning Island...” muttered Master Ghost as he looked at Gerald.

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“C-come again...? Are you sure you didn’t mistranslate...?” replied Gerald as his expression stiffened.

“Unfortunately, while I may mistranslate a word or two, I doubt that I’d get an entire section wrong...” muttered Master Ghost with a sigh, knowing that his translation was probably right on the mark.

Upon hearing that, Gerald flopped onto his chair, feeling immensely drained.

“G-Gerald?!” called out Aiden as he rushed to Gerald’s side.

“I’m fine, I just... need a moment...” muttered Gerald as he closed his eyes while waving his hand. This was simply too much, even for him.

After all, every clue he got only seemed to lead him further down the rabbit hole. While he had initially thought that he'd be able to get to the island by locating the Seadom tribe, that only ended up leading him to the ancient ruins of Yanam in search of his answer. Despite all his efforts to obtain this book, however, he now apparently had to search for yet another island.

It certainly didn't help that he'd probably need to scour through that entire island to even remotely stand a chance of finding a way to get to Yearning Island. All these repeated let downs were starting to take a serious toll on his morale.

Truth be told, he was now most worried that he'd fail to get to Yearning Island even after finding the island that the Seadom tribe had relocated to. How much longer did he need to wait in order to reunite with his family...?

Looking at the disheartened boy, Jobson cleared his throat as he got to his feet before saying, "Well, I'm feeling rather sleepy, so I'll leave you young people to talk among yourselves."

Realizing that Jobson was leaving, Fujiko gave Aiden a look before whispering, "You said you were sleepy earlier, right? Let's head back to our rooms together. It's dark outside, so I'm a little unsettled to go out there alone..."

"I'm not sleepy... I'm staying here with Gerald," replied Aiden who failed to get her hint.

“Oh, for heaven’s sake...! Just come along... !” grumbled Fujiko as she glanced at the exhausted looking Gerald.

“Fine...” muttered Aiden. Though he still didn’t get the message, he still obediently followed her out and with that, the only people left in the room were Gerald and Master Ghost.

A short while later, Master Ghost took a cigarette out before handing it to Gerald and saying, “Care to have one?”

Taking in a deep breath now feeling much calmer than before, Gerald then frowned slightly before asking, “Are you sure you translated it correctly?”

“Most of it, yes. So, what’s our next step? From what I can gather, the island mentioned by the book should be the one we had previously seen in the corner of the sea map. The one where we saw the Seadom tribe performing the sacrificial ritual,” replied Master Ghost who was just relieved that Gerald was talking again.

“What else can I do? All we can do is try locating that island next...” muttered Gerald with a tired smile.

“It won’t be easy to locate that island,” replied Master Ghost as he began smoking.

“I know... I plan to head to the ancient ruins again to see if that old man will be able to help. After all, he was the one who had located this book for me in the first place,” said Gerald as he thought about the old man.

“Are you heading out already?” asked Master Ghost.

“No, I’ll do that after we save Lindsay. After all, I can’t just postpone things now that we finally have more clues on her case,” replied Gerald as he shook his head.

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“Got it,” replied Master Ghost with a nod.

“Either way, let’s put this incident aside for the moment. I’ll need some time to consider how to resolve the issue,” said Gerald as he puffed on his cigarette as well, now completely calm.

Truth be told, he simply couldn’t figure out how Daryl had led the entire Crawford family to Yearning Island. After all, it was extremely difficult to even locate and get to the place!

He already had everything needed to get to that island, right? Could the past Daryl have taken the same approach as him to locate Yearning Island...? But if that was the case, then Takuya would’ve surely told him about it. What more, the Futaba’s would’ve surely

recorded such a major incident, but since Takuya had been so bewildered when Gerald first mentioned the topic, Gerald was sure that the record didn't exist.

Regardless, after giving a nod, Master Ghost pointed at the ancient book before replying, "Can I keep that for a while?"

"What do you intend to do?" asked Gerald.

"I'd like to look through it whenever I have the time. While the possibility is low, there's always a chance that I missed something out," replied Master Ghost.

"I see... Feel free to take it, then, but keep it safe. I still need to return it to the ancient ruins," said Gerald with a nod. While the book was useless in his hands, the same didn't apply when Master Ghost had it.

Watching as Master Ghost then carefully kept the book, Gerald was prompted to stub out his cigarette before getting to his feet with a stretch and saying, "Well, do get some rest for now. We'll be saving Lindsay first before resuming our main mission..."

After thinking things through, Gerald realized that he wasn't all that devastated. After all, he already knew that it wasn't going to be easy to save his family. This failure only solidified that the journey was going to be a complicated and dangerous one.

He hadn't obtained any new information about the Sun League either, though Gerald was pretty sure that he would only get the slightest chance of learning a thing about them once he got rid of the Crawfords. While achieving that would surely be no piece of cake, Gerald had made up his mind. He wasn't stopping till he got to his goal.

Either way, upon returning to his room and getting a cold shower, Gerald was able to put those thoughts away just in time for him to turn in for the night.

Fast forward to the next morning, Gerald was determined not to talk about the incident again. With that in mind, he immediately went off to look for Lucian and the others to discuss how they were going to get more news from the military.

"Really?!" exclaimed Aiden once they were all gathered with excitement after hearing Lucian's good news.

"Indeed! Remember that friend of mine? He was able to eavesdrop on a conversation between Maddox and his subordinates!" replied Lucian with a nod.

"He must not have wanted to attract unnecessary attention. After all, he did do all this at night, which is rather suspicious, to say the least..." muttered Gerald though he knew better than to slander them without any evidence. Still, after obtaining all this information, it was getting clearer and clearer that those from the Yanam military especially Maddox were involved in this affair.

“Truly so... Regardless, since my friend didn’t follow him not wanting to accidentally expose himself and get into trouble with the military, we don’t exactly know where he went...” said Lucian.

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Upon hearing that, Gerald quickly replied, “No worries there. Aiden and I will just head over to have a look.”

“Agreed!” added Aiden who would’ve requested to do so even if Gerald hadn’t wanted him to come along in the first place.

Hearing that, Fujiko then said, “I’m coming along too!”

“Just stay here. Don’t worry, I’ll definitely ask for your help in the future when I need it,” replied Gerald as he shook his head.

“But... I’m stronger than Aiden! ” muttered Fujiko, feeling slightly puzzled.

“Take into consideration that we’ll be making our move at night. With that said, it’d be slightly inappropriate for you to be with two men in the dark. Besides, we won’t know where Maddox will go, so I’d prefer if only Aiden came along with me,” replied Gerald.

Hearing how resolute he was, Fujiko had no choice but to obey. After all, she remembered promising him that she'd listen to all his orders as long as he allowed her to follow him to Yanam back then. With that said, she'd rather listen than to potentially get sent back to Japan.

Regardless, pleased to hear that Gerald and Aiden were stepping in, Lucian who knew how powerful Gerald was then said, "I'll be notifying my friend about this so that they can cooperate with you once you're there, then!"

If they truly managed to locate Lindsay, then they'd surely be able to bring her back by dawn.

"Unnecessary. Aiden and I will just wait at the entrance of the military base. Speaking of which, I need to know what he looks like," replied Gerald who'd rather not trouble others if he could do it himself.

"Hold on, let me find a picture of him," said Lucian as he fished his phone out. After scrolling through several pictures, he finally managed to find the group photograph that had been taken during an event that had Maddox in it.

Showing it to Gerald, the youth then took a careful look at it before replying, "Alright, I've memorized his face."

"Glad to hear. Either way, though you're heading over at night, do be careful. Remember, since Maddox was trying to lure you over in the first place, he probably has

all sorts of preparations to deal with you should you appear!” muttered Lucian after lowering his phone in a slightly worried tone.

“No worries, dealing with such people is a piece of cake for me,” replied Gerald with a hearty laugh before patting his chest.

“Well, I’m sure the mission will go swimmingly then! Either way, since you’re making a move tonight, we may as well eat early so that you can rest a bit after the meal.”

Seeing that it was two in the afternoon, Lucian turned to face his butler before adding, “Order the chefs to prepare some food.”

“Right away, master,” replied the butler with a nod before hurrying out. About half an hour later, a multitude of dishes were served.

Throughout their meal, Lucian made sure to tell Gerald everything he knew about Maddox and the military in general. Naturally, Gerald made sure to note everything down. Once their meal was over, instead of heading back to their rooms to rest, all of them simply sat around in the reception room. It was when dusk began to fall when Gerald patted Aiden on the shoulder, prompting the duo to leave the reception room.

After they had left for a while, Lucian looked at his butler before saying, “Have some of our men follow them from a distance. While the priority is to keep both of them safe, should danger befall the duo, tell our men not to do anything rash. Instead, they have to report to me.”

While he was confident in Gerald's strength, Lucian knew that Maddox was no ordinary person. With that in mind, Lucian was sure that the man had set several traps up for Gerald, and he was simply worried that Gerald would end up falling into one of them.

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"Right away!" declared the butler with a nod. Soon enough, eight of the family's stronger men began tailing after Aiden and Gerald.

Throughout the duo's drive toward the Yanam military base, Aiden kept his fists clenched, clearly worried about Lindsay's safety. After all, who knew whether Maddox and his men would do anything inappropriate to her.

Sensing how tense Aiden was, Gerald smiled subtly before saying, "Calm yourself. Remember, our main goal today is to get a firm grasp of the situation. While it's best if we manage to find Lindsay as well, there's no need to be overly anxious if we can't find her yet."

Hearing that, Aiden then took a deep breath as he replied, "Got it."

"Good. Also, even if we do come across Lindsay, I need you to remain calm and listen to my commands. After all, not only are we still dealing with Yanam soldiers, but there's also a good chance that Maddox has already set up traps for us. With that said, if you behave rashly, there's a good chance that we'll quickly be overwhelmed. By that point, even if we do manage to escape, our next attempt to save Lindsay will surely be exponentially difficult to achieve," said Gerald, knowing full well that Aiden was prone to

behaving rashly. It certainly didn't help that there were already a few instances where Aiden had nearly ruined his plans.

"Got it!" replied Aiden with a nod. Pleased to hear that, Gerald then began accelerating to the military base, sending water on the drenched road flying all over the place.

Sometime later, Gerald through his rearview mirror noticed several cars following them. Though it was still raining rather heavily, he was able to make out that those cars belonged to the Grubbs.

Shortly after, Aiden couldn't help but say, "... Have you noticed those cars? They've been following us for a while..."

Though Aiden was generally playful, in the end, he was still a special forces soldier of Weston. With that in mind, it made sense why he was eventually able to notice the same thing as Gerald.

Hearing that, Gerald then looked at the cars one more time before calmly replying, "They're cars owned by the Grubbs."

"... Huh? But why are they tailing us?" muttered Aiden, unable to see the connection.

“Perhaps Lucian sent them over as backup, fearing that we’d get into trouble. Either way, just ignore them. Their presence won’t affect us,” replied Gerald who didn’t take them seriously at all.

After all, it’s not like they were capable of helping. Hell, they could potentially end up burdening him! Still, he didn’t want to tell them to leave since Lucian had probably sent them over out of kindness. Whatever the case was, it was going to take them at least three hours to get to the military base.

It was around then when Maddox could be seen preparing to send a group of soldiers out to continue setting up traps near the area where Lindsay was locked up. If everything went swimmingly, then once everything was set up, he would release the news so that Gerald would learn where Lindsay was. Following that, Gerald would surely come rescue her.

While it was true that Gerald was immensely strong, in the end, he was still only a human. With that in mind, the boy would surely be unable to survive all the traps and snipers Maddox had set up around the area. The second Maddox gave his command, Gerald would be hit by an onslaught of bullets, and Maddox was sure that the youth would finally die by then!

Shortly after, a soldier entered his office before reporting, “The captain has sent a representative to us, asking why you’ve been continuously leading soldiers out in the night. He also wishes to know why you’ve taken quite a few resources from the armory...”

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“Just make up an excuse. That good-for-nothing Carter is nothing but a coward... He’s probably just worried that his position will be negatively influenced if anything happens! How unfortunate for our military to have a person like him as our leader!” sneered Maddox.

“Loud and clear,” replied the soldier with a nod.

Juggling his army dagger that had a crimson blade, Maddox then looked at the soldier before asking, “Speaking of which, have all of you prepared the things I’ve told you to?”

“We have. We’re just waiting for your command before we set off,” replied the soldier.

“Wait till night comes. Remember, if anyone asks, just tell them that I’m leading all of you out for a routine patrol. Don’t answer anything else!” ordered Maddox after thinking about it for a while.

Throughout this period, Maddox had been doing quite a few eye catching activities in preparation for getting rid of Gerald for good. Since it was clear that he was trying to replace Carter to become the new leader, Maddox was well aware that he could make new enemies within the military at any second. With that in mind, the less his men revealed, the lower the chances of his goals getting affected by those under Carter in the end.

“Not to worry! This isn’t my first day working under you, deputy captain!” replied the soldier with a chuckle.

“Glad to hear. Now leave me be. Once all this is over, not only will you get a two month vacation, but you’ll also be given fifteen thousand dollars to enjoy the new year with, ” said Maddox who was looking at his desk calendar as he gestured for the soldier to leave.

“I appreciate it, deputy captain!” declared the soldier with a wide smile before bowing and leaving Maddox’s office.

The second the door was closed, Maddox’s eyes went sinister as he stabbed his dagger into his office desk, causing the desk to crack a little.

“Once I end you, I’ll surely be promoted to military captain...” growled Maddox as he grinned wickedly.

Truth be told, he had already been planning all this ever since Gerald took down the three major families in Yanam. His excitement had only grown with Godwin’s disappearance, thinking that he’d surely become the next captain with how capable he was.

Unfortunately, that d*mned Carter had appeared out of nowhere and snatched the position from him! Naturally, this caused several of the more diehard military captains Maddox included to feel utterly repulsed by him.

Regardless, once he got rid of Gerald, Maddox was going to make sure that everyone in the country would learn about what he did. Following that, they'd surely believe that he was better than Carter at protecting Yanam, thus giving him a chance to replace that coward...!

Fast forward to dusk, Maddox and his secretary who was holding onto their umbrella could be seen walking toward a large gate at the side of their base. Aside from the ten prepared looking people whom Maddox had transferred over, Maddox could also see the equipment that he had taken from the armory being loaded into the back of one of the SUVs.

Upon realizing that Maddox was here, everyone immediately declared, "Vice captain!"

"Everything ready to go?" asked Maddox as he looked at his men.

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"Indeed. We can set off as soon as you command us to," replied the secretary.

"Let's head out then. The sooner we get things done, the sooner we return. I'd rather not attract too much unnecessary attention either," muttered Maddox with a slight frown when he saw all the staff members looking at him. Once Maddox got into the leading car, it didn't take long before they began making their way to a secluded prison.

Meanwhile, Gerald who had parked his own car in a well hidden corner near the entrance simply lit a cigarette when he saw the team of cars leaving.

Glaring at the vehicles, Aiden then muttered, "He should be in one of them, right...?"

"If you're talking about Maddox, yes, I believe so," replied Gerald as he took a puff of his cigarette before narrowing his eyes and starting to tail the cars at an appropriate distance.

Realizing that Gerald had made a move, those from the Grubb family began taking a detour using a smaller path instead of following them from behind. After all, though Gerald and Aiden were out in the open, a single car driving past the military base's entrance wasn't going to appear that suspicious. The same couldn't be said if their cars were included in the equation, and they'd rather not run the risk of getting halted by the military.

Regardless, when they finally got to the main road again, they quickly realized that none of the cars were there!

"They aren't here!" exclaimed the anxious driver of the leading car through his walkie talkie.

"Where have they driven off to?" replied the others at the back, feeling utterly confused.

“I... I don't know! They were clearly driving in this direction! It doesn't make any sense! They were only out of sight for about a minute! ”

“Then what should we do? The master will surely have our heads if we return like this!”

“I suggest we split up! After all, there are three roads here! With any luck, we'll be able to find them again! Remember to notify the others if you do!”

“Sounds good! I'm in on the idea! ”

“Then let's take our alternate paths now! Keep in touch and pray that we manage to find Gerald again! I really don't want to piss the master off! ” declared one of the Grubbs as the men immediately began executing their plan.

Moving back to Gerald, he hadn't disappeared due to a sudden acceleration or anything. The truth was, the military cars had simply turned toward the opposite direction not long after they left the base!

Sitting in the shotgun seat, Aiden who had already seen the military cars make several turns by now couldn't help but ask, “... Do they really have to be this cautious at their own base's entrance...?”

“The Yanam military probably isn’t that peaceful. Regardless, it’s clear that Maddox is doing something shady. After all, he wouldn’t have to be this cautious if he was merely executing a mission issued by the military,” replied Gerald with a subtle smile.

“Indeed... Either way, if this b*stard really did kidnap her, I’ll definitely tear him to shreds!” growled Aiden as he clenched his fists.

“Let’s not do that,” said Gerald as he shook his head with a smile, making sure to always maintain a safe but not easily detectable distance away from the military cars.

As for the Grubb family’s subordinates, even after speeding along all three roads for over ten minutes, none of them even came across a single car.