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The Legendary Man Chapter 101

Chapter 101 Not Worthy Enough

Harrison Seymour? Why would he show up here all of a sudden?

Everyone in the venue shared the same thought.

Hugo, especially, could not hide his confusion at the announcement. The Smith family had no connections with Harrison. Besides, he did not extend an invitation to the man.

“Hurry, welcome him!” Despite being taken aback by Harrison’s sudden arrival, he quickly barked an urgent order.

Even if Harrison had arrived without an invitation, he was not to be trifled with. After all, his reputation in Jadeborough was on the crest of a wave.

Since taking over the Blackwood family’s business, which used to be one of the four most prominent families, Harrison had emerged to be the most influential person in both the official and underground circles of Jadeborough.

Even those from the other three prominent families had to back down at the sight of him.

Harrison showed up in a black outfit, striding into the venue with at least a dozen subordinates dressed in black suits with gifts in their hands.

“Mr. Seymour!” Hugo went up to greet him humbly, addressing him by his title instead of his name despite being his elder.

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“Ah, no need for the formalities, Old Mr. Smith.” Harrison nearly jumped in fright at his greeting.

After all, Hugo was Josephine’s grandfather, and Josephine was Jonathan’s wife!

Technically, Hugo would also be considered as Jonathan’s grandfather. Therefore, there was no way Harrison would allow Hugo to address him politely.

“Oh, it’s all right, Mr. Seymour.” Hugo was stunned for a second, taken aback by Harrison’s politeness. “Come on in!” he quickly offered after coming back to his senses.

“I prepared some gifts after finding out it’s the Smith family’s annual party today. I hope you like them!” Harrison said in a courteous manner. When everyone else saw how humble he was before Hugo, their eyes widened in shock.

Is this Harrison Seymour, the most barbarous man in Jadeborough? Are our eyes tricking us?

“Oh, you shouldn’t have come bearing gifts,” said Hugo with a grin. He gestured for the help to take the gifts before ushering Harrison to a seat right beside Randall.

Upon seeing Randall, Harrison approached him. “You’re here too, Mr. Swindell!”

“Mm!” Randall grunted and inclined his head in acknowledgment.

His attitude was impassive.

As the mayor of Jadeborough, he did not bother being amicable to Harrison, who was part of the underground circles.

Harrison had expected his reaction. Instead of feeling indignant, he swept his gaze around the venue. As soon as he spotted Jonathan, he strode over to give the latter a polite greeting. “Mr. Goldstein!”

“Mm,” Jonathan answered with a nod. “Go back to your seat!”

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“Yes, Mr. Goldstein!” Harrison answered obediently, as though he was a student who feared his strict disciplinary teacher.

Everyone present gasped in disbelief at the astonishing sight.

Even Harrison is submissive before Jonathan!

At that moment, they could not help but wonder about Jonathan’s identity.

The Smiths’ faces fell at that sight.

Another person came because of Jonathan. No wonder Harrison showed up at our annual party, even though we weren’t connected to him in any way. There was only one reason—he came here for Jonathan’s sake!

“Jonathan, do you want to join them?” Hugo swallowed his pride and extended an invitation to Jonathan.

He had no choice, for even a fool would have realized by then that Jonathan was a big shot.

Just take a look at how Randall and Harrison were reduced to mere students before him!

“No need for that,” Jonathan answered with a dismissive wave.

Another voice sounded at the entrance before Hugo could say anything else to persuade him to change his mind. “Old Mr. Smith, the Holler family, the Leeroy family, and the Wallace family are here!”

What is going on?

The guests could not believe their ears.

The Hollers, the Leeroys, and the Wallaces are here?

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Besides the Blackwood family, which had been banished from Jadeborough, the head of the other three prominent families had come to the party.

“Old Mr. Smith, we’re not late, are we?” James stepped forward to greet Hugo.

The heads of the two other families were visibly anxious, afraid their late arrival would upset Hugo.

“Of course not. Don’t worry!” Hugo went up to them hastily. Even if he wanted to meet the heads of the three prominent families before that day, they would not have given him a chance. Yet, they had taken the initiative to attend the Smith family’s annual party.

Undoubtedly, it was an honor for the Smiths since they were a nobody compared to the three prominent families.

“Take a seat, please.”

Hugo brought them to the seats right next to Randall and Harrison. As there were more guests than expected, the guests who were initially seated at that table had to be moved elsewhere.

There was no other choice since there was only one VIP table in the Smith mansion.

The initial guests who occupied the seats there had to make way for the new guests who were way more distinguished.

“Thank you, Old Mr. Smith!” the heads of the three prominent families thanked him humbly. One could not have imagined that the trio had monopolized the entire Jadeborough based on how amiable they were.

In other words, a single stomp of those at this table would send ripples through Jadeborough.

“Where is Mr. Goldstein?” After taking their seats, they started searching around for Jonathan.

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“Well, Mr. Goldstein...” Hugo was stumped for words. As a bitter expression crept up his face, he glanced at Jonathan, who was seated in the corner.

If Hugo had not seen it with his own eyes, nothing would have compelled him to believe the ongoing situation. This deadbeat live-in son-in-law of our family had brought Randall, Harrison, and the heads of the three prominent families together just to catch a glimpse of him!

“No worries, Old Mr. Smith. We just want to say hello to Mr. Goldstein!” Before Hugo could summon Jonathan, they instantly stopped him. “We are not worthy enough to ask Mr. Goldstein to come to us!”

Seriously? Are my ears tricking me?

Hugo’s eyes nearly popped out of their sockets at their astonishing words.

Why would the heads of the three prominent families be that courteous to Jonathan? What do they mean by not being worthy enough to summon Jonathan to come to them?

“Of course!” Harrison chimed in icily. “If it wasn’t for this annual party, you won’t even get to meet Mr. Goldstein!”

“Yes, you’re right!”

Though Harrison’s remark was a harsh one, it was the truth.

Hence, none of them dared to argue with him.

Mere moments after the trio sat down, Josephine, who sat with Jonathan at the corner, shot the man a curious look. She could not stop herself from asking, “Did you invite those people to the annual party?”

“Of course not,” came Jonathan’s denial. He shook his head and added, “Why would I invite them? I didn’t even want to come here myself in the first place.”

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“Then why did they—”

Before Josephine could finish her sentence, a voice boomed from the entrance again. “Old Mr. Smith, the chairman of Graham Group, Graham Cabot, is here!”

The Legendary Man Chapter 102

Chapter 102 The True Revered Figure

Graham Cabot? The chairman of Graham Group?

The moment the crowd heard those words, they were instantly stunned.

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Even Hugo himself doubted whether he had misheard.

As the top real estate firm in Jadeborough, Graham Group's market value had long since exceeded several billion. Besides, Graham himself invested a lot in other industries.

After totaling everything, his net worth went beyond a whopping ten billion.

Of course, the Smith family wanted to have an acquaintance with a billionaire like him, but they were not in the same league.

Don't tell me he's also here because of Jonathan?

At that thought, Hugo instinctively shot his gaze at Jonathan, who was sitting in the obscure corner. Alas, the man was talking with Josephine in hushed voices and did not even lift his head to spare others a single glance.

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Indeed, that was the unvarnished truth—both Graham and the three prominent families of Jadeborough were nothing in Jonathan’s eyes compared to Josephine.

“Why are you here, Mr. Cabot?” Hugo hastily went out to greet Graham. Ever since Randall’s arrival, he had been busy greeting all the big shots, hardly having a chance to take a seat.

Unbelievably, the least of them all were the three prominent families of Jadeborough.

Thus, he had to welcome and greet every single one of them himself.

“I heard that it’s the Smith family’s annual party today, so I came specially to offer my felicitations. Old Mr. Smith, surely you wouldn’t mind inviting me in, yes?” Smiling, Graham waved a hand, and his subordinate immediately stepped forward with a gift.

“Of course not! It’s my honor to have you here today!” Hugo promptly led him to the table where Randall and the others were seated.

At the sight of Randall, Graham greeted him with a grin, “Mr. Swindell!”

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“Mr. Cabot!”

In response, Randall nodded his head.

Someone like Graham, who had a net worth of over ten billion, was actually no longer under the purview of Jadeborough. Nonetheless, his industries were still in the city, so courtesy dictated that he greeted the mayor upon meeting.

Since Graham was here, another person naturally had to give up his seat.

By then, almost all the guests who were initially seated at the main table had been reseated by Hugo.

“Are you also here today because of Jonathan, Mr. Cabot?” Hugo could not resist asking.

It was no wonder he had such a query since all the bigwigs of that day came because of Jonathan. The Smith family itself did not hold that much sway.

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“Of course, it’s because of Mr. Goldstein!” Chuckling, Graham remarked, “Although he didn’t invite me, how could I not come when he’s going to be here?”

Even Graham was addressing Jonathan respectfully as Mr. Goldstein.

In fact, none among them seated at that table dared to address him by his name.

“W-What exactly is Mr. Goldstein’s identity that all you revered figures personally came to see him?” After a long hesitation, Hugo gave voice to the question that had been bugging him endlessly.

Upon hearing that, the initially boisterous crowd quietened considerably.

Hugo was not the only person who wanted to know the answer to that question. Every single person there harbored a similar interest.

Three years ago, he was still a worthless live-in son-in-law. How did he become someone so venerated after three years, a mere blink of an eye, that tons of prominent figures seek him out?

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When Graham heard that, he answered with a smile, "Compared to Mr. Goldstein, we're not even worthy of note. Mr. Goldstein is the true revered figure! As for his identity... We naturally don't dare speak of it if he didn't say anything about it."

He divulged nothing in his reply.

Among everyone here, I'm the only person who's aware of his true identity besides Harrison. But since he didn't reveal it, how could I dare let the cat out of the bag?

At his reply, utter disappointment deluged everyone there.

Realizing that he did not want to answer his question, Hugo dared not pursue it further. Just when he was about to pick up a glass of wine and toast the notable figures seated at the table, the servant outside the door rushed in again and exclaimed, "Old Mr. Smith, the Hansley family from Jazona is here!"

Hugo wondered to himself, The Hansley family from Jazona, one of the four prominent families in Jazona? Why are they here?

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Compared to the big shots seated at that table, the Hansley family was the true affluent family. Though Harrison and the rest possessed significant influence and power, it was only limited to Jadeborough.

However, things were different for the Hansley family. After all, they were one of the four prominent families in Jazona.

The Hansleys had taken root in Jazona for decades, so their power and connections had long since grown to terrifying proportions.

Notably, the Smith family had never crossed paths with the Hansley family.

Compared to them, the Smiths were no more than an ant whereby they would cease to exist with a flick of the Hansleys' finger.

As a result, Hugo simply could not fathom the Hansley family's attendance at his family's annual party.

"Quick, let's go and greet them!"

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That time around, it was not just him, but everyone from the Smith family followed along and headed to the door to welcome the Hansley family.

While they were on their way there, Luna sauntered in, dressed in a long, black dress.

“Ms. Hansley!” When Hugo caught sight of her, he immediately radiated servility. “May I know why you’ve come over here, Ms. Hansley?”

“I heard that it’s the Smith family’s annual party today, so I purposely came to join in the fun. You don’t mind, do you, Old Mr. Smith?” Luna flashed him a smile. With a wave of her hand, someone instantly stepped forward with a gift.

“Of course not! This way, please, Ms. Hansley!” Hugo swiftly gushed.

While speaking, he led her to the table where Randall and the others were seated.

“Mr. Swindell, Mr. Cabot, Mr. Seymour!”

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As soon as Luna arrived, she recognized the people sitting at the table right away. Jadeborough was just a city, so it would be strange indeed if she did not know them, considering the Hansley family's influence.

"Ms. Hansley!" they all greeted in return, inclining their heads.

"It seems that I'm late. You all didn't notify me when you came, or else we could've come together." Luna was not that much of a stranger with them, but an imperceptible glimmer of surprise flashed across her eyes when she spotted them.

It looks like I didn't make this trip in vain! Other than Jonathan, no one else in Jadeborough has that much influence to make Randall and Graham personally attend an event!

"We, too, only bumped into each other when we arrived." Chortling, Graham queried, "Are you also here to meet Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Hansley?"

"Isn't it the same with you all?" Luna smiled and explained, "I met him at the auction last night, and we hit it off right away. I heard that it's the Smith family's annual party today, so I came to join in the fun. I just don't know whether he'll mind me coming..."

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As she spoke, she made it sound as though her relationship with Jonathan was exceedingly close. Harrison, however, reflexively curled his lips when he heard that.

“Hit it off right away”? What a lie! Mr. Goldstein ignored you entirely last night, okay?

The Legendary Man Chapter 103

Chapter 103 Representatives From The King Of War Division

Despite his thoughts, Harrison naturally would not contradict Luna.

After taking their seats, they had just exchanged a few words when people kept coming over to toast them. Their eagerness was understandable as they usually would not have the opportunity to meet bigwigs like Graham and the rest.

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Thus, they were all seizing the opportunity to leave an impression.

Even Hugo did not allow the opportunity to slip. After everyone had toasted them, he went over to them with his wine glass. "It's truly the honor of our family to have all of you gracing our annual party with your presence today! Let me toast all of you here!"

Upon finishing his speech, he lifted his wine glass and downed its content in one go.

In my sixty-plus years of life, this is my first time seeing such an imposing scene—not only did the three prominent families of Jadeborough come to offer their felicitations, but Randall and the Hansley family from Jazona also came personally! Even the Blackwood family back then might not have had such a grand reception, much less our family!

"You're being too courteous, Old Mr. Smith. It's the Smith family's annual party today, so it should be us toasting you!" With a chuckle, Graham lifted his wine glass and urged, "Come on, let's toast Old Mr. Smith together!"

"Sure!"

Subsequently, they all got to their feet and toasted Hugo together.

At that turn of events, Hugo was very much flattered. He hurriedly waved his hand. "I'm unworthy of such honor!"

"No, it's nothing!"

After quaffing the wine in their glasses, they exchanged a look and suggested, "Why don't we go and toast Mr. Goldstein?"

"Let's go!"

While saying that, they refilled their glasses and headed toward the most obscure corner near the door.

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Considering their identities, it went without saying that their every movement would not escape the crowd's attention.

At the sight of them taking the first move and going over to Jonathan with their wine glasses in hand to toast him, the eyes of everyone there almost popped out of their sockets.

What is happening here? The chairman of Graham Group, the mayor, the most ruthless man in Jadeborough, the three prominent families of Jadeborough, and even the Hansley family from Jazona are actually going over to toast a worthless live-in son-in-law?

While they were still stunned, the few of them had already arrived before Jonathan.

Despite their usual imperious self in front of outsiders, they were all as docile as a lamb before the man.

"M-Mr. Goldstein, we're here to toast you!"

Even when they were proposing a toast to him, they acted exceedingly trepidatious.

"This kind of glass is too small. Go and get something bigger!" Jonathan's brows furrowed slightly.

Ew! They're all holding tiny glasses whereby the contents can be finished in a mouthful, not at all manly! Back when I was in the military, we all drank from bowls! When had we ever drank from glasses?

"Sure, Mr. Goldstein! I'll go and get some bowls instead!" Harrison was the first person who came around.

That was how he drank when he was in the military back then, so he naturally understood the man's meaning.

"A bowl?"

Luna was wholly taken aback when she heard that.

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I'm a lady, yet I'm to drink with a bowl? Isn't that rather unseemly?

"You're fine." Jonathan waved a hand, deciding not to put her on the spot.

"Thank you, Mr. Goldstein!"

Luna breathed a sigh of relief.

"I'm back!" Coming back with a few bowls, Harrison gave them one each. Then, he snagged a bottle of hard liquor and filled each of the bowls to the brim.

Although the others wore terrified expressions on their faces as they stared at their bowls that were brimming with hard liquor, they still gritted their teeth and steeled themselves. Lifting their bowls, they looked at Jonathan and proclaimed, "Here's to you, Mr. Goldstein!"

"Bottoms up!"

Without saying anything superfluous, Jonathan picked the bowl up and downed it in one go.

That was his drinking style in the military.

There were no glasses, only bowls.

And after drinking, he would ride out to battle.

"Take it easy, Jonathan..." Josephine could not help urging when she saw him guzzling down the bowl of liquor all at once.

"Okay, I'll do as you say."

Flashing her a smile, Jonathan put down the bowl in his hand.

Truth be told, this scanty amount of liquor is nothing to me. Back when I was in the military, all the soldiers under my command could drink a couple of bottles at one go. This amount of liquor is no different from plain water!

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“Mr. Goldstein—”

Luna was just about to say something after she had finished her glass of wine, but a flurry of urgent footsteps rang out from outside the door out of the blue. The servants of the Smith family then dashed in and cried out, “Old Mr. Smith, there’s a lot of military personnel outside!”

“Military personnel?”

When Hugo heard that sentence, his facial expression changed drastically.

Why is the military here? Nothing seems to have happened in our family recently, and we didn’t stir up any trouble either. Why would the military come knocking at our door?

“What happened?” He strode toward the door with a frown. However, just as he was moments away from the door, several military officers clad in dress uniforms marched in.

The man in the lead was Andrew.

At that moment, he was no longer wearing military fatigues but had changed into a dress uniform instead. A red cloak was draped over his back and fluttered with the wind, rendering him extremely authoritative.

“What’s the matter, officers?” Hugo rushed forward at lightning speed, his demeanor meek and submissive.

It’s our family’s annual party today, so if anything happens and news of it gets out, we’ll be a laughing stock!

“We’re here today under orders to offer our felicitations to the Smith family!” Andrew announced loud and clear as he stalked forward.

“Under orders to offer your felicitations? Whose orders?”

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Hugo even wondered whether he was having a problem with his hearing when he heard Andrew's words.

I've never known a single person from the military in my lifetime. Why would they come and offer their felicitations to our family?

"The King of War!" Andrew then clarified in a booming voice, "Today, we're representing the King of War Division to offer felicitations to the Smith family!"

When he was done speaking, he waved a hand, at which the few military officers behind him promptly stepped forward and presented a gift.

"This gift is prepared by the King of War for the Smith family!"

T-The King of War?

The second Hugo heard that title, his legs went weak, and he almost fell to the ground on his knees.

There's only one King of War in Jazona, and that's Zachary Lint! He actually sent someone over to convey his felicitations to our family?

Right then, he even wondered whether he was dreaming.

If I'm not dreaming, why would the King of War offer his blessings to our family? In the whole of Jazona, we are nothing at all! We're not at all worthy of his attention, nor are we worthy of having him personally send his men over to convey his felicitations!

"A-Am I dreaming?" He pinched his arm hard.

Ouch! It hurts, so I'm not dreaming! It's true!

"Of course, you're not dreaming." Casting him a dispassionate glance, Andrew prompted, "Hurry up and accept the gift the King of War prepared for the Smith family!"

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The Legendary Man Chapter 104

Chapter 104 Who Is Kissing You

“Sure, sure!”

Shuddering in fear, Hugo hastily took the gift with both hands.

He acted so reverently that it was as though he was meeting the king himself. In reality, Zachary was indeed the supreme ruler in Jazona.

Even the governor of Jazona, Kingstone, had to show him respect upon meeting him.

“Why don’t you all sit down and have some refreshments after such a long journey, officers?” Hugo took the initiative to invite Andrew and the others to dine with them after taking the gift.

After all, they were acting on orders from the King of War.

In other words, they represented Zachary himself.

Thus, he dared not slight them.

Shaking his head, Andrew replied, “No, thanks. We’ve still got some work to be done when we get back.”

He then thundered, “Everyone, return to the base!”

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“Understood!”

Following his order, the military officers started moving out in uniform steps. While they were on their way out, Andrew inadvertently caught sight of Jonathan sitting in the obscure corner near the door.

The moment he spotted the man, he abruptly halted in his tracks.

“Attention!”

As his order rang out, the uniform steps stopped at once.

Under the gazes of everyone present, he strode over to Jonathan. Straightening his back, he saluted the man in the perfect military posture. “Commander!”

Commander?

When the crowd heard that form of address, they were all instantly floored.

What’s happening here? Why would someone from the King of War Division address him as “Commander”?

In a flash, everyone gaped at Jonathan, their eyes filled with incredulity.

Just as they all thought Jonathan would salute Andrew in the same manner in return, he merely glanced at the latter nonchalantly and remarked, “Zachary told you to come?”

“Yes, Commander!” Nodding, Andrew added in slight embarrassment, “He actually wanted to come in person...”

But he didn’t dare do so! He was afraid that you’d toss him into Northern Crimson Prison and confine him there for a few months!

While he did not dare utter the rest of it, Jonathan naturally understood Zachary’s thoughts after hearing that short sentence. “Well, at least he’s tactful! All right, you may all go back.”

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He waved a dismissive hand.

“Yes, Commander!”

Without further ado, Andrew spun on his heels and left.

That was how things worked in the military—an order was to be obeyed to the letter as compliance superseded all else.

Everyone present remained deeply entrenched in shock, still gawking at the scene unfolding before them. Meanwhile, Luna could not help biting hard on her rosy lip.

If I hadn’t seen it with my own eyes, I would never believe that the King of War, Zachary, actually sent his men over to offer his felicitations to Jonathan! That aside, he even planned to come in person!

“M-Mr. Goldstein, were those few officers just now really from the King of War Division?” Hugo still could not quite believe everything that had transpired right before his eyes earlier.

It all felt like a dream to him.

“Do you think there’s anyone who dares impersonate a member of the King of War Division?” Jonathan swept a placid gaze over him, but that mere look put Hugo on pins and needles.

If the young man had dared speak to him in such a manner in the past, he would have long since given the order to have him thrown out.

At present, however, he dared not utter a single retort.

“Of course not!” He quickly shook his head.

Before they knew it, the annual party was drawing to an end.

That day, Hugo imbibed the most in his sixty-plus years of life.

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He had no choice since the crowd dared not toast Jonathan after those people from the King of War Division left, thus setting their sights on him.

That being said, he undoubtedly relished such a feeling as well.

After all, he had never experienced the feeling of being fawned all over in his entire life.

“Let me tell you something... Back then, Jonathan was merely a live-in son-in-law. If it weren't for us taking him in... he would've long since starved to death on the streets!” Hiccupping, Hugo rambled about Jonathan's past.

Miguel, who stood beside him, was struck by stark fear when he heard the man's words. He hastily stopped him, urging, “Dad, stop talking!”

“Why can't I talk?” With glassy eyes, Hugo countered, “I haven't finished talking. Back then—”

“Quick, help Dad back to his room!” Miguel turned to Lula beside him and threw her a look. Immediately understanding his meaning, she pulled Hugo up and started walking further into the house.

“My father is inebriated, so please don't take his words seriously!” Miguel explained anxiously.

If Jonathan were to hear those words, our family might not be able to survive in Jadeborough anymore! After all, he's no longer the worthless live-in son-in-law he once was in the past.

He cautiously stole a peek at Jonathan, only to find that the man was not even looking at them.

“Darling, it's about time. Shall we go home?” Dipping his head, Jonathan glanced at his watch.

By then, it was almost eight o'clock, and the sky was getting dark.

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Yet, Randall and the others dared not leave since he was still present.

“Okay.”

Josephine nodded before she walked out of the Smith mansion with Jonathan.

Having drunk some red wine, she was a tad tipsy. Her alluring face was slightly flushed, sparking off one’s desire to be intimate with her.

Right then, her slightly messy hair was draped casually over her shoulders. When the wind blew past, it made her hair appear all more unruly.

She gently brushed her long hair away from her forehead and hooked it behind her ear. Even at the mere sight of that seemingly inadvertent move, Jonathan’s heart inexorably raced.

“Be careful, or you might trip!” Jonathan casually wrapped an arm around Josephine’s slender waist upon noticing that she was staggering slightly.

“I just drank a wee bit, so I’m perfectly fine!”

Stiffening, Josephine instinctively wanted to break free from his hold. Alas, his grip remained firm on her no matter how much she struggled.

“Nope. What if you trip?” Hugging her around the waist, Jonathan pulled her into his embrace.

At the sudden proximity, Josephine’s heartbeat unwittingly sped up.

The blush on her face spread to the tips of her ears.

“L-Let go of me, Jonathan!” She tried her utmost best to break free from him. Despite having been married to him for four years, she had never had such intimate contact with her husband.

“P-People are watching us!”

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Josephine was so nervous that her voice was quivering.

“Just let them watch!” With insouciance written all over his face, Jonathan drawled, “Have they never seen someone hugging and kissing his own wife?”

“Bah! Who’s kissing you?” Josephine muttered, turning her head to the side.

Although she was spurning him verbally, her body was no longer as averse to him as before.

“You, of course!”

Pulling her close by the waist, Jonathan lowered his head and was just about to kiss her when the clearing of a throat suddenly sounded from behind them at that precise moment.

The Legendary Man Chapter 105

Chapter 105 The General Manager

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Ahem!

Miguel stood there with embarrassment etched on his face, torn between staying and leaving.

He felt that he had come at a highly inopportune time.

“Is something the matter?” Jonathan’s expression went as black as thunder upon seeing Miguel, who had interrupted him out of the blue.

It had been four years since he and Josephine were married to each other, yet they had never even kissed.

Having gotten an opportunity to be intimate with her finally, he could not possibly show Miguel any courtesy for spoiling the mood.

“Mr. Goldstein, Dad would like to see you...” Miguel hung his head, not daring to look him in the eye.

Recalling his attitude toward the man in the past, he even found his palms a touch sweaty.

What if he’s a vindictive person? How am I going to survive in Jadeborough in the future then?

“I’m not free!” Jonathan declined right away.

If Hugo weren’t Josephine’s grandfather, I wouldn’t even bother saying anything to him! The Smith family and Hugo Smith are just ants!

“Mr. Goldstein...” When Jonathan turned him down without the slightest hesitation, Miguel instantly panicked.

Having no other recourse, he could only throw Josephine a pleading glance in hopes that she would lend him a hand.

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Oh, well...

Josephine sighed when she saw the man's beseeching look. She then turned to Jonathan and coaxed, "Maybe you should go and see Grandpa in case he has something urgent to say to you."

"All right, then."

Jonathan naturally would not refuse her since he owed her too much in the past three years.

Hearing his acquiescence, Miguel breathed a sigh of relief.

He was most afraid that the man would repudiate him and hold a grudge against the Smith family. Considering the influence he presently wielded, the Smith family would never be able to make a comeback anymore if that were to happen.

Shortly after, they arrived at the living room in the Smith mansion.

Hugo sat in the middle of the room with a glass of ginger tea in his hand.

Compared to his intoxicated state earlier, he seemed much soberer right then.

Beside him stood every single member of the Smith family with apprehension written all over their faces. When Jonathan came in, they lowered their heads to avoid his gaze.

"Mr. Goldstein!"

The moment Hugo glimpsed Jonathan's approach, he hastily stood up to greet him.

"Why do you want to see me?" Jonathan went straight to the point, not in the mood to yak with them.

"Please have a seat, Mr. Goldstein!" Hugo waved a hand, signaling Seraphina to serve the man some tea.

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After taking a seat, Jonathan sipped at his cup of tea before shifting his gaze to Hugo, demanding, "Whatever it is, just cut to the chase. I don't like people beating around the bush with me."

"Of course!" An awkward expression crept up Hugo's features. Nonetheless, someone like him had long since trained himself into putting on a facade. For him, concealing one's emotions was the most fundamental skill, so he merely gave a strained chuckle despite his burning dissatisfaction toward the man's attitude. "You left for three years back then, so I just want to have a talk with you, having not seen you for years on end."

"There's nothing to talk about between us." Not interested in wasting time with him there, Jonathan stated, "I'm only giving you ten minutes. Whatever it is, you've got to finish within ten minutes!"

Hugo's face flamed in mortification, yet he dared not unleash his anger.

If he had dared to speak to me in such a manner back then, I would've long since slapped him across the face!

"I'll be frank, then." After studying him intently for a moment, Hugo finally gave voice to his ultimate purpose. "I sought you out today because I've got something to ask you."

"Spit it out."

"You're acquainted with the King of War, Mr. Goldstein?" That was the real question Hugo wanted to ask. In fact, it was not just him. Every single member of the Smith family there wanted to know the answer too.

How could the worthless live-in son-in-law back then possess the capability to have someone from the King of War Division personally come over to send his blessings?

They simply could not make any sense of it.

"Yes," Jonathan answered placidly.

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“How did you make his acquaintance?”

“By coincidence.” Glancing at him blithely, Jonathan questioned, “Is that all you wanted to ask me?”

“Of course not!” Hugo hurriedly shook his head. “I’m just sort of curious about the experiences you’ve had in the past three years since not only the three prominent families of Jadeborough personally came to seek you out, but even someone from the King of War Division came personally to offer his regards. It seems that the King of War regards you highly, Mr. Goldstein!”

Regards me highly? If Zachary were to stand before me, would he dare say such a thing to me?

Nevertheless, Jonathan was not in the mood to explain anything to them. He merely threw the older man an indifferent glance and warned, “You’ve still got five minutes. If you wanted to see me just to ask me these absurd questions, you’d best not waste my time!”

Explain? What’s to explain to the lot of them? If it weren’t for Josephine, I couldn’t even be bothered to spare them a single glance!

“I might have drunk a little too much alcohol! Please don’t take offense at me, Mr. Goldstein!” Hugo quickly apologized before he went to the heart of the matter. “I sought you out today because I’ve got something to discuss with you, Mr. Goldstein. I heard that the Blackwood family’s ecological park project had been abandoned ever since you banished the Blackwood family from Jadeborough, with no one to clean up the mess. In that case, why don’t you hand the project over to our family?”

Back then, the feud between the Smith family and the Blackwood family began precisely because of the ecological park project.

They initially wanted to take advantage of the Blackwood family. Unfortunately, they failed to do so and almost got crushed instead.

Since the Blackwood family had been booted out of Jadeborough, the Smith family need not be afraid anymore. Therefore, Hugo had his sights set on the ecological park project.

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After all, the informal income would be several hundred million at the very least once the project was completed.

“Harrison has taken over all the businesses of the Blackwood family. If your family wants to handle that project, go and talk to him instead. Talking to me is of no use.”

In other words, Jonathan rejected him outright.

This is what I'd expected. Once the Smith family learns that I was the one who banished the Blackwood family from Jadeborough back then, they would definitely set their sights on that pie of the Blackwood family. Indeed, they did just that! It has only been a few hours, but Hugo has already come looking for me.

“Doesn't he have to obey you as well, Mr. Goldstein?” Hugo insisted, not at all embarrassed despite having been spurned. “Instead of handing a colossal project to an outsider, it's better to hand it to us since we're a family at least. Is that not so?”

A family?

Upon hearing those two words, Jonathan could not help sneering.

When has the Smith family ever considered me, the live-in son-in-law, as a family? If today's events never happened, would they still consider me family? Before Randall arrived, they almost threw me out of the mansion!

“As I said, it's of no use to come to me.” Too unbothered to entertain him further, Jonathan got up to leave.

However, just when he was about to walk out of the door, Hugo suddenly remarked, “Mr. Goldstein, even if you don't consider our family, you should consider Josephine, no? She's now the general manager of Smith Group. You wouldn't rather benefit an outsider with the profit of a few hundred million instead of her, would you?”

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