"You talk too much. Experts wouldn't run their mouths."

Harvey took a step forward and swung his sword in an instant.

His swing was lightning fast, giving Akio no time at all to even react.

Harvey's swordsmanship was a lot different compared to Akio. His attacks were swift and deadly.

The next moment, Akio could feel the slash.

Akio, who was extremely confident before, grew panicked. He could tell just how much power was contained within Harvey's attacks.

Cold sweat dripped down Akio's body and he let out a furious howl, and forced himself to pull his blade and block Harvey's attack.

Clang!

Harvey's sword pierced right through like a bright light.

A huge blast surged toward Akio; he had no chance protecting himself against a seemingly predictable attack.

He never thought that Harvey's simple slash would be so spectacularly deadly.

Akio was shocked. He quickly realized Harvey's show of strength back in Hong Kong was just the tip of the iceberg.

Harvey was so close to uniting man and nature with his incredible craft.

"Impossible!"

"Even if you started training in your mother's womb, there's no way you'd be able to reach this kind of power!"

"Even since ancient times, Sword Saints of the Island Nations have secluded themselves and trained for many years just for this moment!"

Akio was hollering in fury. He could feel an unspeakable pressure, followed by the smell of Death itself.

He instinctively waved his sword before pouncing forward once again.

Clang!

A bright light could be seen before Akio's sword was snapped in half.

"No!"

Akio was trembling uncontrollably. The legendary Sword Saint was stumbling around the place with a face filled with utter fear.

"Y-You can't kill me!"

"You cannot!" Akio exclaimed, his face awful. He quickly rolled to the side.

"You'll regret it if you kill me now!"

"Oh? Is that so?"

Harvey took a step forward and pointed his sword at Akio's forehead.

"You have one last chance. Tell me why I shouldn't kill you right now."

"I hope you don't disappoint."

"I'm useful to you alive!"

Akio let out a cough before flashing Harvey a bitter smile.

"You're looking for Rin, the leader of Misfortune from ten years ago, right?"

"You must be here because of Marcel's son!"

Harvey was poker-faced, but Julian's expression changed in an instant after hearing Akio's words.

He didn't think that Akio would even talk about such a thing.

This was their family's biggest secret, after all.

"You should know it's not good to know too many things. You'll only lose your life that way..." Harvey calmly said.

"If you can't give me a fair explanation..."

"There's no need!"

Akio sighed.

"I am Rin!"

"What?! You're Rin?"

Julian froze. A wretched look appeared on his face.

"You're the sovereign of the Shindan Way and one of the Island Nations' greatest Sword Saints!"

"How are you the leader of Misfortune?!"

Akio chuckled bitterly.

"If I wasn't Rin, why would I even know why you're here?"

Harvey frowned. He had predicted it somewhat, but he still found it a little unbelievable even after Akio revealed his identity.

"Fine. If you're really Rin, I'll have you answer a few of my questions."

With a cold expression, Julian then asked, "Were you the one who killed Lord York's son?"

Akio's eyes twitched frantically.

"Julian York, correct?"

"What would you like to hear? Yes or no?"

Bang!

Julian pulled the trigger on Akio's hand without any hesitation.

Blood splattered all over the ground. Akio only grunted, but not a scream could be heard from him.

He could naturally dodge the bullet, but there would be no point.

Harvey didn't take action, but he had his eyes locked on Akio.

If Akio moved a single inch, he would've died a horrible death.

From the moment Akio revealed his identity, Harvey knew that the former didn't want to die that easily.

Since there was a sliver of hope left, he would surely put all his might to fight for it.

That was why he didn't resist.

Harvey didn't try to stop Julian. He wanted to see what the Sword Saint would say to save his own skin at this very moment.

Julian raised his firearm, furious, and then took a few steps forward.

"Why are you still playing around at this point?! You f*cker!" he exclaimed, putting his firearm on Akio's forehead.

"Answer me!"

Akio smiled faintly and moved his injured hand.

"To be honest with you, my answer doesn't matter at all."

"The important thing is how you want me to answer it."

"If you think I should be the one taking the blame, I'd have to take it even if I said I wasn't the murderer."

"But if you think otherwise, then you'd think that I'm lying even when I'm not..."

"That's why..."

Bang!

Julian pulled the trigger on Akio's other hand.

"Stop f*cking around!"

"Answer the question!"

"If not, I'll pop your head next!"

"We don't have time to play games with you!"

Akio shrugged. Even in such a desperate situation, he was still trying to prove his worth.

"Julian. You only showed up here because you're trying to prove your house's innocence."

"You want Lord York to know that your house had nothing to do with what happened ten years ago!"

"Your house wasn't involved."

"That's why you desperately want my confession."

"I can tell you one thing: I was asked to stage an accident ten years ago to kill Lord York's son."

"But what if I told you that I don't know who hired me in the first place? Would you believe me?"

Julian froze at Akio's words.

"You b*stard! How can you not know who your employer is?!" he hollered.

"How can you not know if you're Rin?!"

"You..."

Slap!

Before Julian could lash out, Harvey immediately swung his palm across Akio's head, knocking Akio unconscious.

Harvey then wiped his hand with some tissues.

"Now's not the time to question him."

"We'll have lots of time when we get back to Hong Kong."

"He's just trying to stall us."

"Come on!"

Julian regained his calm upon hearing Harvey's words.

When the elites of the Shindan Way had the place completely surrounded, Harvey and Julian were already retreating toward the back of the mountain together with the Sentries of York.

At the same time, the traps Yoana and her men placed beforehand were about to be put to good use.

The moment Harvey and the others got away, the explosives

were detonated instantly.

When the Shindan Way gathered around the cliff, Harvey and the others were already gone.

Seven o'clock in the morning.

At Victoria Harbor's fisherman wharf.

Not a lot of people could be seen here on such an early morning.

When the black yachts came to shore, nobody was around to notice it.

The Sentries of York left in an instant, as if they had never come here in the first place.

Only Harvey, Julian, and Yoana were left inside the cabin.

Julian felt like he was dreaming when he saw Akio thrown in the corner of the room, his hands completely tied.

When he accepted the mission the night before, he didn't think that he could actually capture the culprit of what happened ten years ago all the way from the Island Nations.

Safe to say, the third house finally had something to show Marcel.

At least their innocence was proven.

Julian finally felt like he was able to give himself closure.

Since he wanted to rise to power, he would have to earn his place earnestly.

Capturing Akio alive was considered to be an unbelievable achievement toward his goal.

After taking a deep breath, Julian handed Harvey a bottle of water.

"I know there's a grudge between us two, Sir York."

"But I never hated you."

"On the contrary, I really admire you!"

"If you really have no interest in climbing the ranks of the family

"I think we'll be great friends."

Naturally, Julian still felt a little confused.

He really wanted to be friends with Harvey, but he knew how terrifying Harvey actually was.

If Harvey was actually interested in taking over the Yorks of Hong Kong, Julian would have no chance to rise at all."

Harvey leaned on the couch and calmly replied, "I have no interest in the family whatsoever..."

"But I do want to see Queenie succeed."

"For me, if Queenie takes position, she can ensure that her authority gets passed down properly."

"Hong Kong and Las Vegas will have peace for another ten years. Perhaps, even twenty."

"This alone is more than enough for me."

Julian's eyes lit up. Then, he raised his head.

"Sir York, what if I told you that I can ensure Hong Kong and Las Vegas's stability if I become the lord?"

"I'll guarantee nobody will be able to touch this place! The Empire and the Island Nations are no exception!"

"Do I have a chance to rise if that's the case?"

Harvey was quite curious after seeing Julian's enthusiastic look.

"What gave you the courage to say that? What makes you think you have what it takes?"

"Even Vince might not be able to do such a thing."

Julian frowned.

"I'm different!"

"Vince likes to plan ahead."

"He wants everything to be under his total control. That's why he needs help from outside forces!"

"Anybody who raises their voice against him will be easily silenced through those forces."

"His rise will cause the Yorks of Hong Kong to fall together with both Hong Kong and Las Vegas!"

"Borrowed goods will always have to be returned someday."

"But I'm not like that"

"If I were to take his position, I wouldn't ask for a quick way to take power. I'll take it slow and steady. It won't be quick, but I'll have a strong foundation..."

Harvey smiled.

"You're in the right direction, but you're not that lucky."

"Queenie's way faster than you. She's also a lot further than you at this point."

"With Marcel's support, you'll be no match for her."

Julian coughed.

"Not quite, Sir York."

"Queenie's really impressive, but she's just a woman at the end of the day!"

"Even if she takes position as the lord for the time being, she's just a temporary solution for Fourth Uncle!"

"Unless Fourth Uncle can get himself a child to succeed him..."

"There will surely be more problems when Fourth Uncle hands his authority to her. It'll be delayed, that's all!"

"But if you get me up there, or even convince Fourth Uncle that I should be the one to take over, maybe it'll solve everything!"

Harvey shot Julian a curious look.

"You got this confident because of one victory? Do you really think you're up to the task?"

"Are you sure?"

"How about this?"

"If Vince shows up in front of you, can you tell him that you're going to take his position in his face?"

Julian's eyes twitched frantically, as if he was trying to weigh his interests. Then, he gulped his entire glass of wine.

After a long while, he stood up straight and exclaimed, "If Vince showed up right now, I'd tell him."

"I'll tell him that he's unfit to be the lord of the family, too!"

"I'm the only suitable candidate!"

"Of course, only if you're willing to support me!"

"If you do, I'll probably have a fighting chance!"

Julian was clearly trying to instigate Harvey to support him so he would be the one going against Vince.

"You're overestimating yourself quite a bit here..."

Harvey smiled faintly before narrowing his eyes to something behind him.

"Since you're this confident, why don't you tell it straight to Vince's face?" 2