

The Ace at the Apex

Chapter 351 Going Overboard

Since someone would naturally arrive there to take care of the woman's corpse, there was no need for Javier or Mei to be worried about that.

After that, they left the florist and drove back to Mei's home.

Mei lived in an independent manor with beautiful surroundings. On top of that, there was a refreshing wood style about it that made the house seem a little antique.

It was already evening at the time. A cute little girl suddenly ran toward Mei the moment she arrived home.

The girl was probably 3 years old and she did not seem to be able to run properly yet. However, she kept on running as she sweetly called out to her mother.

Mei gave her a smile that was very unlike the way she had smiled at the florist's, which had been out of politeness.

However, the way she smiled at that moment was different because it was genuine and heartfelt. Her eyes were also filled with love.

In fact, when the little girl accidentally tripped and fell, her eyes were filled with worry.

Mei hurriedly picked the girl up, set her back on her feet, and reprimanded her for not being able to behave herself in a more reserved manner. Then, the little girl was told not to run around anymore. However, how could a 3-year-old girl possibly understand what it meant to behave in a reserved manner? She agreed obediently anyway. The pain of bumping against the ground a moment ago had completely disappeared by the time the little girl was in Mei's warm embrace. Javier had originally intended on taking the girl with him, but he gave up when he saw this scene.

"Let her stay by your side. I don't want to end up having to deal with her crying because she wants her mother every day. I can't even bear to imagine how annoying that would be."

Initially, Mei had agreed to give her daughter away as a hostage because she'd had no other choice, but despite how willing she was to do so, she still could not bear to leave her daughter. In fact, she would feel especially heartbroken whenever she thought that her daughter might cry and want to see her sometimes.

Mei knew that Javier had not given up on taking her daughter away because of her crying but because of something else.

Javier was willing to take on such a huge risk only because he could see how much the mother and daughter loved one another...

"You're a nice person, Mr. Kersey. Thank you."

Holding her daughter's hand, Mei told her, "Sara, say thank you to Uncle Javier."

Of course, Sara was the name of Mei's daughter. The little girl did not even know why she had to thank Javier, but since this came from her mother, who was the person she trusted the most, Sara did what she was asked.

Thus, both Mei and Sara bowed before Javier. "Thank you. Thank you very much." Javier did not say anything for a bit. After saying a few more words to Mei, just as he was about to leave, Sara's childish voice suddenly rang out. "Are you not staying for dinner, Uncle Javier?"

Javier was stunned. He did not know whether Sara was really asking him or she had been asked by Mei to say that.

However, Mei herself knew very well that she had not said such a thing at all, so it was all Sara.

Seeing both Javier and her mother looking at her, Sara said with an absolutely serious expression, "Mommy, you've always told me to treat our guests politely so that they can feel how warm our family is. Since it's dinner time now, shouldn't we have Uncle Javier fill his belly? A warm family wouldn't allow any guests to leave hungry."

Mei was completely speechless at that point.

She had taught her all that indeed, but Javier was, strictly speaking, a stranger. On top of that, only she and the nanny were around now.

Thus, it would be rather difficult for her to offer to have an unfamiliar man stay back for dinner late at night.

This was no longer a matter of politeness but of safety.

However, now that Sara had already asked him to stay, since Javier was a man of prestigious status, Mei could naturally not ignore this.

Thus, she said in embarrassment, "Sara's right. It's my fault for not being a better host. Please do stay for dinner, Mr. Kersey."

Javier liked Sara very much because of how clever and polite she was. On top of that, she was as cute as a doll.

However, Javier knew he should not overstay his welcome.

He took a step forward and bent over to thank Sara for her invitation, but he refused her kind offer.

"Mommy, can you ask Uncle Javier to stay? There's this family game show that's going to be on television tonight, and I've never played it before..." Sara's voice grew softer and softer, as she was obviously feeling a little aggrieved. This caused Mei to feel very guilty. Thus, she looked at Javier in embarrassment. "Mr. Kersey

Mei did not know what she could say at that moment. She was actually about to invite the son of the great Kersey Family to stay and play a family game, which left Mei feeling very embarrassed. Especially since such a game would usually be designed for an entire family, which also meant that it would involve a child and her parents.

Mei was now about to ask Javier to stay back and play the role of Sara's father for the sake of the game. Thus, Mei was feeling so embarrassed that she did not know how she could even mouth the words after calling out Javier's name. Meanwhile, Javier had heard Sara's request, which was why he ended up nodding his head. 'I can't refuse to fulfill a child's wish, especially when it's such a harmless little wish.' Sara was overjoyed when Javier agreed to stay, and Mei felt very grateful as well. She understood why Javier had chosen to leave initially, as well as why he chose to stay now.

After Sara hopped away, Mei said, "You really are a very nice person, Mr. Kersey. Thank you for thinking of both me and Sara. Truly, thank you very much."

Javier smiled and said that it was nothing. After saying that, he went forward and picked Sara up, allowing her to ride on his shoulders as though he was a huge horse.

Sara felt very excited and happily yelled out as she flailed her arms to dance around. If it was not for the fact that Javier's strong arms were holding onto Sara's back, Mei would actually have ended up feeling worried about her daughter's safety. When she saw how happy Sara was and that Javier genuinely did like her, a warm smile appeared on Mei's face. 'How wonderful it would be if we were an actual family...' Mei was not hoping to make Javier Sara's father. Instead, she was just imagining how wonderful it would be for Sara to have the perfect family since her biological father had unfortunately...

Not wanting to think about it any further, Mei left her daughter with Javier and entered the kitchen.

Then, both she and the nanny prepared dinner.

Mei personally cooked up a whole feast that night, which was focused on Chinese cuisine, probably because she wanted it to suit Javier's taste.

After all, Mei's mother was Chinese, which was why Javier did not find it surprising that Mei was capable of cooking this food. However, Mei was very surprised to see how much Sara actually liked Javier. She even wanted to stay close to him during dinner.

Meanwhile, Javier did not seem to be irked by the little girl at all. In fact, he seemed like a male kindergarten teacher doing his best to fulfill his duties. Regardless of whether he had to keep the little girl happy or coerce her into eating her food, Javier performed outstandingly.

Most importantly, Sara was very cooperative. No matter what he asked her to do or whether he pointed out any mistakes she made, Sara would do exactly what she was told.

The two of them did indeed seem like an actual father and daughter with a harmonious, warm relationship, which ended up flooding Mei's heart with warmth.

This was the first time she actually felt as though the large house she lived in was the home of a warm family.

After dinner, Sara hurriedly turned on the television and waited for the family game show to begin.

While waiting, Sara kept saying how great the show was and how many times she would hear her friends say that they had played the games shown on the program with their parents. Javier chuckled and listened on, occasionally smiling kindly when he would exchange a glance with Mei.

Mei was having a very hard time imagining how a kind person like Javier would actually be in the midst of preparing to stir up a huge storm within the Hachison Family!

Chapter 352 He Wouldn't Dare Do Such a Thing

After he kept Sara company for a while longer, the family game show finally began. Undoubtedly, this game show was indeed able to improve the harmony within a family and deepen a child's relationship with their parents.

However...

'Doesn't this seem a little awkward?

'The guy's supposed to lie on the floor with his legs together, while the woman and child sit on top of the man.

'Although what happens next between the woman and her child is rather normal, what's up with the interaction between the man and the woman? Isn't that a little...intimate? 'She's actually sitting beneath the man's abdomen. Um... "There would indeed be no problem if this was done by a married couple. In fact, they would be able to improve their relationship and the harmony in their family. 'But I'm not Mei's wife. Plus, Mei's very beautiful and has a really hot body. 1 'If she were to sit on me, I'm sure some sparks would end up flying, making it awkward for both of us!

Meanwhile, this was also Mei's first time watching the show, as she would usually be in her study, pondering other things. After all, she was the only descendant of Bryan, so she needed to bear the heavy burden of seeking vengeance. Thus, even though she would glance at the show once or twice, she did not pay any more attention to it when she realized that it was a family game show.

In the end, the show was not just about the interaction between a child and their parents, but also about the married couple themselves.

Err...'

Sara, who was sitting aside, urged him, "Hurry up and lie down, Uncle Javier. Please do what is shown on television. Please?"

Speechless, Javier turned to look at Mei.

A 3-year-old child could not understand what was about to happen, but the two of them were adults, so of course they knew!

Thus, feeling embarrassed all the same, Mei gazed at Sara. "Sara, Mommy's a little tired now. Can we rest for a while?"

Sara was not going to allow that to happen. "But Mommy, I've never played this game before. I can only look at my friends and feel jealous of how happily they play these games when we meet up. Please, Mommy...Please?"

Upon seeing her daughter's pitiful large eyes and pouty red lips, Mei felt slightly sour inside. Especially when she saw tears beginning to well up in Sara's eyes, Mei had no choice but to agree in order to please her daughter. Besides, she believed that Javier was a kind person who would not do anything to her when given the opportunity. Thus, Mei bowed before Javier with slightly flushed cheeks and said, "Sorry to trouble you, Mr. Javier."

Javier was left completely speechless, but he could only lie down on the floor exactly the way it was shown on television with his legs placed together.

Sara then sat on his chest, her face filled with glee. However, Mei obviously seemed to be in a much more awkward situation.

Still, since she had already promised to do this with her daughter, she had no choice but to approach him with a red face and...

After the game show was over, Mei's face was completely red, and she was obviously embarrassed to the extreme.

"Sara, Mommy's going to go to the washroom, so you stay here and keep Uncle Javier company for a while."

Mei hurriedly covered her red face and rushed off to the washroom...

Javier had accompanied Sara and had a great time with her that night. Mei was obviously in a very good mood as well, if one excluded the family game show, which had left her feeling overly embarrassed.

When it was 9 p.m, it was time for Sara to sleep, so she called out and told her that it was bedtime.

Even though Sara did not want to sleep, Mei had already scheduled her bedtime long ago, so the little girl had no choice but to obey.

After Sara returned to her room, Javier turned to look at Mei. Mei could see the fiery passion in his eyes and felt embarrassed. After all, she was not a naive young woman. Since she was already a mother with a daughter, it was only natural that she knew what Javier's gaze represented. Thus, she felt so embarrassed that she did not know what she should do.

Since Javier was her only hope of getting revenge, she was in no position to refuse him if he wanted her. However, Javier immediately stood up. "Now that Sara's asleep, I should get going too. I'll have the people you need arranged for you as soon as possible." After saying that and putting on his shoes, Javier headed to the exit and walked out. Mei followed him hurriedly.

After all, Javier was her guest, so she should still behave like a good host despite her embarrassment.

On the way, Mei kept on thanking Javier for helping her get revenge and accompanying Sara that night. While she was thanking him as they walked through a small path in the gardens, her dress got entangled in a tree branch.

Drowned in embarrassment, Mei had no idea what had just happened and kept on walking.

Then, with a ripping sound, Mei's long legs were exposed before Javier's eyes... "I'm sorry, Mei."

were

It was a very sincere apology, but it was very quickly replaced by extremely rough movements. Mei, who had suddenly been pressed against the stone steps on the side, was now panicking for real. She genuinely did not know what else she could do at that moment. Meanwhile, Javier seemed consumed by his beastly instincts, as he went on ferociously!

Chapter 353 A Bad Man

“I’m really sorry about that, Mei.” This was the second time Javier had apologized to her that night over an interval of more than an hour.

Mei’s face was still flushed, but not out of embarrassment. More like because she seemed drunk

She tidied up her messy clothes and stood up, although it seemed like a chore. After having Javier apologize to her for the second time, Mei said in an embarrassed voice, “It’s alright. It’s part of my duty.” Javier instantly felt slightly stunned upon hearing her reply. ‘It’s part of her job to be forcefully taken? Are all Yuzuian women so mild-tempered?’ However, Javier then understood that this was not the duty of a normal woman, just Mei’s. This was because, in Mei’s eyes, Javier was helping her seek vengeance, so this was something she should offer in return.

With that theory in mind, Mei’s “it’s part of my duty” suddenly made sense. Thus, Javier was too embarrassed to dwell on this topic and changed the subject, asking about Sara’s father instead.

“Her father has passed away. He was originally sent by the Hachisons to keep tabs on me, but he later fell in love with me and sympathized with my situation, which is why he wanted to take me away.

“But Yoel ultimately found out about this and had him killed.

“I was originally going to be punished as well, but because I was pregnant, some of the elders in the family willingly spoke on my behalf, which is how I managed to remain alive. So did Sara.”

In other words, Mei’s parents, eldest brother, and husband had all been killed by the Hachisons.

Although Mei had killed her second brother herself, she had also blamed his death on the Hachisons.

‘No wonder she’s so adamant about getting revenge that she will do absolutely anything to achieve this, even going so far as to offer up her daughter as a hostage. If I were in her shoes, I’m quite sure I would’ve done the same ‘Mei’s situation is unique...She’s a pitiful daughter with her own equally pitiful daughter...? Feeling pity for the woman, Javier subconsciously pulled Mei into his embrace. At that moment, he did not have any flirtatious thoughts. All he wanted to do was provide Mei with some warmth.

In fact, Mei did indeed feel this kind warmth.

Thus, she rested her head against Javier’s shoulder. “Thank you.”

When Mei left, Javier sat by the manor’s entrance and gave Yuri a call.

After giving him the address, Javier instructed Yuri to have some men sent over to that address to protect Mei and Sara.

Now that he had already come into contact with them both, someone was bound to guess what had happened. Thus, Javier needed to ensure their safety. Regardless of whether he had done it because of his own personal feelings or to solve the problem with the car brand, he could not allow any mishaps to happen.

Meanwhile, Mei was standing before her window on the second floor when she accidentally saw Javier sitting at the entrance.

She was slightly stunned for a moment, but then understood and guessed that Javier was waiting for his men to arrive to protect both her and Sara.

In fact, Mei knew how to protect herself to a certain degree, or she would have ended up dead long ago.

Even so, now that she realized that Javier was protecting her, Mei still felt a lot safer and carefree.

This was not just because Javier was even more powerful than her, but because this man was genuinely trying to protect both her and her daughter. All of this caused Mei to feel a warmth in her heart that she had never felt ever since she had lost her husband,

Mei turned around and looked at Sara, who was sound asleep. She then softly muttered, "If only he was actually your father. I wonder how wonderful that would be..."

Mei had not said that for the sake of giving Sara a warm, perfect family, but because of the warmth she felt in her heart...

Javier only returned to his hotel that night after Yuri arranged for the men to come over.

During his journey back, he saw a man's shadow sneaking around by the roadside and dashing behind trees. Undoubtedly, this man had been sent by the Hachisons to keep an eye on Mei. However, Javier did not mind at all. There was no need for him to hide around, as the Hachisons were going to find out sooner or later anyway.

In fact, that night, Yoel, who was in charge of this matter, did indeed receive that report from his subordinate.

"Mr. Hachison, we spotted Javier entering Mei's manor. He was there for three hours before he left. Plus, he even arranged for his men to stand close and keep watch." Yoel was pondering how he would be able to better serve Renly when he suddenly received this news.

He was instantly shocked, subconsciously thinking that Javier was planning on helping Mei become the family leader.

"This isn't completely impossible. Mei's got a vendetta against our family. Plus, Javier did indeed mention that there should be a change of family leaders.' Yoel felt very worried that this might happen, but at the same time, he was even more worried that he might end up being killed by Javier.

After all, although Javier did seem to admire Yoel, the latter had abandoned him without hesitation and run off to become Renly's dog.

He'd even scorned Javier because he had originally thought that Javier would not dare do anything, not when Yoel had Renly's protection.

However, now that Yoel had found out that Javier was colluding with Mei, he could not help feeling slightly afraid.

'If Javier really does go insane and tries coming after our family, why would he have any reason to leave me alive? I'm sure he's going to end my life!'

At that thought, Yoel, who was being haunted by endless fears, instantly gave an order. "Send our men to keep a close eye on what Yuri and his people are doing!" 'If Javier is planning on coming after our family, he's definitely going to make use of Yuri's strengths. 'I need to keep a close watch on that man.' However, Yoel could not rest easy just yet. Waiting for Javier to show up at his doorstep was far more painful to endure in comparison to the man not daring to raise his hand against Yoel. Thus, completely ignoring the fact that it was past 9 p.m, Yoel gave Renly a phone call. "Master, Javier and Mei Hachison have banded up. It seems like they're about to come after my family."

Renly laughed. "Would he dare do such a thing? I might actually believe it was possible if William was involved. After all, he's a fool. But Javier... Surely not. It's a grave taboo to slaughter or even try to topple over another family's forces. "Plus, I've only been to the Hachisons as a representative of the Whites, so if he does come after you, he wouldn't just be offending the Hachisons, but the Whites as well.

"Use that brain of yours to think a little harder, Yoel. Don't call me to report on such matters anymore. I do not have as much free time as you think. You only need to tell Javier that you're one of my people in the future. "You're a dog, so you should fully understand just how powerful and capable your master is." Renly seemed very arrogant, but that very arrogance allowed Yoel to feel pumped with bravery. "I understand, Master. I'm really sorry. I won't do anything like this ever again." Renly did not give a verbal reply because him hanging up the phone call was the best reply there was to give.

However, after he hung up the phone, he was not as arrogant as he had just seemed a moment ago. He was now pondering why Javier would collude with Mei, a woman who did not have any value whatsoever.

'Is he really trying to topple the Hachisons?' a

Chapter 354 A Tiger With No Fangs

After sending out men to get Mei's information, Renly took a look at the photo of her and thought that she was very beautiful. 'Looks like this might be the problem. According to my investigation, Javier is a very lustful person who has been involved in relationships with multiple women, each one of them very beautiful. Judging by Mei's looks, she's definitely the type of woman Javier might have set his sights on. However, there's another issue... Mei's half-Chinean.

"Judging by how biased Javier is when it comes to Chineans, he might be thinking of helping Mei because of her half-Chinean nationality. After all, Chineans love helping other Chineans who seem to be down in the dumps.

'Even if there isn't anything for them to gain in return, they will still do such a thing out of love and kindness.'

Renly, who was a man who only thought about his own profit no matter what he did, despised Javier for many things he had done in the past.

Thus, because of these factors, Renly thought that there was a high chance Javier was trying to woo Mei. However, he was willing to believe that there was a greater possibility that Javier was trying to help Mei

obtain power by toppling the Hachisons. The only problem with this was that Renly had just visited the Hachisons two days ago. Plus, he had even given them some instructions so they would help him with something. Therefore, Javier trying to topple the Hachisons at that point obviously meant that Javier was aiming a direct blow at the Whites.

‘Would Javier actually do something that would obviously cause him to start a vendetta between two families?’

Renly did not think Javier would do such a thing because, based on how Javier had behaved in the past, he was not the kind of person who would do something so careless. However, Renly just could not figure out for the life of him why Javier would be so confident that he would be able to topple the Hachisons.

‘Is he planning on using the 3,000 mercenaries he has in Hyliveskia? Honestly, he wouldn’t need that many people to deal with the Hachisons. Instead, he could just aim to take the leader’s head.

‘The problem is that these mercenaries of his wouldn’t be enough for him to be so courageous that he would challenge the Whites... Unless he’s an absolute fool.’ Renly looked up at the starry sky, his heart filled with endless suspicion. ‘What are you trying to do, Mr. Kersey? Are you really doing all this just to woo a woman?’

As ridiculous as that answer was, was Javier genuinely a man who would do all sorts of nonsense just to woo a woman? Renly could not figure him out.

On top of that, the truth was getting closer and closer to this assumption.

The next day, Renly received a report from his subordinate. “Sir, Mr. Kersey drove Mei Hachison and her daughter out to have fun at Disneyland.”

Renly was dumbfounded for a long moment before he said in a surprised tone, “Is he nuts? Is he actually trying to get close to Mei just to woo her?!”

The person in charge of tracking Javier remained silent for a moment before he mumbled, “It does seem like that. We’ve done what you asked and placed men around Mackenzie and the others to keep tabs on them, but none of them has done anything out of the ordinary.

“Also, Mei’s daughter seems to love Mr. Kersey very much, and so does he. When they got out of the car, Mr. Kersey carried the girl on his shoulders and seemed very happy when he played with her.”

Renly placed his palm over his forehead, feeling as though he had been tricked by Javier’s unorthodox methods countless times.

As the next person in line to take over the Whites, Renly had conducted research on the families that could threaten the Whites. Obviously, the Kerseys were one of them. Most importantly, he would investigate deeper to find out who was next in line to take over those families’ businesses.

Out of the Kersey Family, Renly thought that Javier was the man with the highest chance of taking over, which was why he had been keeping close tabs on Javier for a long time.

This had also allowed him to realize that Javier would always do something that seemed foolish but had a deeper meaning. But as time went by, he would then realize that Javier’s objective was always really simple...He wanted to either woo a woman or win a prize for filming a movie. Nothing else.

In fact, Renly’s first assumption when he realized that Javier was developing the hydrogen propulsion system was that he was doing it because he wanted to get involved with the military. In the end, Javier had only built a car with it and nothing else. He was purely focused on developing the vehicle and did not seem to have any other motives. Because of this, Renly tried to challenge Javier by trying to get a piece of the pie. To his surprise, he actually succeeded... “Are you seriously telling me that this playboy has zero regard for his family’s affairs?” Renly was rather stumped when it came to Javier, as he realized that he might have overestimated this rival of his.

However, he still did not lower his guard. Instead, he ordered his men to carry on keeping close tabs on Yuri and Mackenzie.

‘At least I’ll be well-prepared if Javier does end up trying to come after the Whites someday.’
Meanwhile, Javier, whom Renly was having a very hard time trying to figure out, was genuinely accompanying Mei and Sara at Disneyland.

Javier deliberately slowed down because he wanted to gain Renly’s attention.

‘He’s been trying to cause me trouble over and over again, hasn’t he? Fine! I’ll be the first to wage war this time.

‘I’m going to lay everything out on the ground for you so that you can be well-prepared before I actually attack!’

Realizing that he was rather free over the next two days, Javier contacted Mei early that morning. Mei actually couldn’t believe it when Javier offered to accompany them to Disneyland. Even though she thought that she was being ridiculous, she still thought that Javier might be trying to woo her.

Otherwise, she could not explain why Javier would do such a thing. ‘Why would he want to accompany me and Sara and play around if he’s not interested in me?’ On the other hand, Sara had not read that much into it. The moment she realized that Javier was going to accompany her and her mother to Disneyland, she was so overjoyed that she began dancing around. “Mommy! I’ve got a Daddy too now!” Mei was left absolutely speechless by how childishly naive her daughter was, but she could not help but feel hopeful deep inside as well. During the journey, Javier, who was in the back seat, was having a very fun time with Sara and he kept putting a smile on her face. Mei was also in a much better mood when she saw how happy her daughter was.

In fact, she even thought that Javier was indeed a pretty decent man and would be willing to accept him if their relationship carried on developing like that.

But a moment later, Mei clearly understood that this was not about whether she wanted to accept him or not but whether he was willing to accept her or not. This was because Mei did not have the luxury of making a choice at all... When they arrived at Disneyland, Javier took Sara around and they tried everything that a child could, including the Mystic Manor, Toy Story Playland, Toy Soldier Parachute Drop, etc. After doing that, they visited some other attractions and kept having a lot of fun, as though they were an actual family. However, after they were done with the Seven Dwarfs Mine Train, they came across someone whose face they’d hoped they would never have to see again... Yoel Hachison. ‘Looks like Sara’s rather frightened of Yoel, probably because he frightened her in the past.’ Sara’s face, which had been smiling wide a moment ago, was now filled with anxiousness.

She even hid behind Mei and grabbed Javier’s shirt. “Let’s leave quickly, Uncle Javier. He’s a bad man.” Javier smiled and swiped Sara’s face with his finger. “Don’t worry. Uncle Javier’s the baddest man here.”

Chapter 355 I Know That You’re Willing

“What a coincidence that we ran into each other here, Mr. Kersey.”

Yoel chuckled as he approached with a smiley face.

He was no longer the same Yoel Hachison he used to be. Instead, he was now someone who had Renly supporting him from behind. In fact, he was the man who had a chance of becoming the next family leader. Thus, Yoel no longer had to seem as fearful as he was in the past. He even dropped the respectful tone he would’ve used to speak to Javier before.

Javier squinted his eyes into tiny smiles and looked at Yoel. “What a coincidence indeed. Do you like coming to Disneyland because you’re as childlike as Sara?” Yoel had obviously gone there to meet Javier,

yet Javier ended up criticizing him for being a child, which left a sour taste in Yoel's mouth. However, as unhappy as he was, he still had to endure this, as he was still weaker than Javier at the end of the day. "Surely you jest, Mr. Kersey. I'm only here to meet Mei and Sara. I didn't expect to see you here as well." Javier seemed surprised, but Yoel suddenly turned to Mei with a grim expression before Javier could say anything.

"Mei, I hope you can give me an explanation about the corpse at the florist's." Unlike Sara, Mei was not afraid of Yoel. Instead, she only felt hatred for him.

Plus, now that she had Javier supporting her, it was only natural that she would not be worried that Yoel might come after Sara so he could have his way with her.

Thus, she readily gave her own explanation. "She fell on a rose bush and died. That's my explanation."

Yoel felt like she was playing with him and gave a perfunctory answer. 'Would someone end up dead after falling on a mere rose bush?'

Just as he was about to retaliate, Javier said, "I can vouch for her. The woman did indeed die after falling on a rose bush." Yoel was fuming at the sight of both Javier and Mei lying through their teeth, and he felt very unhappy about it.

But because of Javier's identity, he could only say, "Fine, since Mr. Javier is willing to vouch for you, this matter can be put behind us.

"But there's one more thing. Why did you leave the area you've been limited to and begin moving around?"

Yoel once again pursued the matter and seemed very fierce about it, causing Sara to grab onto Mei's clothes even tighter.

This time, before Mei could give an explanation, Javier stepped forward and said, "I was the one who brought them here. Do the Hachisons perhaps intend on restricting me based on their rules?"

Yoel was left completely speechless by that retort. Because of his own theism, he felt even more frustrated.

'I've already been trying my best to avoid having an even bigger conflict with him, yet he keeps pushing my buttons!' Thus, after recalling that he now had Renly to support him, Yoel finally showed some gusto. "Mr. Kersey, I do hope that you understand that this is an internal affair of the Hachison Family, so please do not interfere!"

"Tsk, tsk!" Javier tutted and pulled Mei to his side, even kissing her on the lips. Then, he told Yoel, "She's my woman. Is that considered to be an internal affair of the Hachison Family?"

That was not all, though. Javier even picked Sara up in his arms like a father would pick up his daughter. His actions sent Mei's heart into turmoil, her face becoming even redder.

She knew that Javier would protect her, but not in such a way.

In fact, when he mentioned that she was his woman, her heart started racing, and she began wondering if those words were true. "Of course it would be nice for both me and Sara if his declaration was true, but if it isn't..."

Mei quietly scorned herself. She knew that this was indeed a bluff and Javier had only said this to keep Yoel away from her.

At that moment, Yoel was getting angrier and angrier, as he had not expected Javier to make such a declaration.

Would the Hachisons dare to interfere with the affair of a direct descendant of the Kersey Family? Obviously not! There was no question about it!

Forget about Renly. Even if the Hachisons had the current family leader of the Whites to support them, they still would not dare do such a thing. However, Yoel still felt very angry and could not let this humiliation go without punishing someone.

He then questioned Mei. "You shameless woman! Don't you know that any women bearing the Hachison name aren't allowed to have two husbands?!"

As soon as he said that, Yoel was smacked really loudly. He was dumbfounded, as he didn't understand why Javier would hit him. A moment later, Javier gave him the explanation he needed. "I already told you that she's my woman. Didn't you hear me? Are you deaf? Since she's my woman, how dare you question her in such a way? Who gave you the balls to behave like this? Renly?"

There were many onlookers on the scene, including Yoel's subordinates, who were watching from afar. Therefore, he felt extremely embarrassed, and his rage kept burning even brighter. When he heard Javier mention Renly's name, Yoel decided to go all out and brandish Renly's great name and power.

"Mr. Kersey, it is a rule of the Hachison Family that women are not to have two husbands. You might be a direct descendant of the Kerseys, but it is still not your place to meddle in our family affairs!

"If you insist on oppressing me with your family name, I'll just have to invite Mr. White to deal with you!"

Finally, Yoel had brought up Renly's name. This is probably the real reason he's here today!

'He's trying to tell me that he's now under Renly's protection and I should tread carefully around him.

'However...My condolences, but literally nobody can stop me when I go on a rampage!'

Thus, Yoel was dealt another fierce slap.

"You dare try and scare me by mentioning Renly's name? You're such an interesting fellow, Yoel Hachison. Come on, come on...Give him a phone call and have him appear before me right now. I'm itching to see if he's going to stop me when I slap you in front of him."

Even though Javier had asked Yoel to call Renly, the latter did not dare do such a thing.

He knew that he would not be able to ask for Renly's help, nor would Renly go all the way there for him specifically. In fact, there was no way Renly would stop Javier from hitting him.

When Yoel had brought up Renly's name during his confrontation with Javier, he had only done so to prove that he now had someone powerful protecting him.

In the end, not only was Javier not frightened, but he'd even smacked Yoel even harder.

At that moment, Javier was still holding Sara in his arms. "Are you afraid of him, Sara?" Sara shot a glance at Yoel and felt so frightened that she buried herself in Javier's arms as she nodded.

'Looks like he's been threatening both her and Mei regularly in the past, which is why Sara seems so afraid of him.'

Javier then told her, "Sara, listen to me. You should bravely face the things you're afraid of, especially if you're terrified of something. The only way you'll no longer be afraid is when you grow used to facing your fears." Sara was indeed an obedient girl, as other children might not even have been willing to listen to this kind of logic.

In fact, not only did Sara take in what Javier had just said, but she even mustered the courage to look straight at Yoel.

At that moment, when Yoel saw Sara, who would usually be filled with fear, staring directly at him, he felt as though he was being challenged. Because of this, he put on an even fiercer expression, as though he was about to rip Sara's head off.

Javier noticed this as well, so he told Sara, whose eyes were filled with fear, "You don't need to be

afraid. Go ahead and smack him like I did just now. He won't dare hit you back. He's just a tiger with no fangs."

Sara did not dare do it at first, but as Javier kept on encouraging her, she finally made her counterattack and...spit on Yoel's cheek!

Chapter 356 If We're Giving a Gift,

It Should Be Something Big Yoel was extremely p*ssed! 'How dare this little b*tch spit on me?! This is an even greater humiliation than being slapped!

"You little sh*t!"

Yoel yelled angrily and raised his palm, ready to hit Sara. The little girl was so frightened that she hurriedly grabbed Javier's neck.

But before Yoel could even land a hand on her, Javier directly sent him rolling over on the ground with a single kick.

"How dare you raise your hand in front of me? Who the hell do you think you are?" Frustrated, Yoel got up with a hand against his abdomen. A second later, Javier said angrily, "On your knees! If you dare get up, I'll have you killed right here right now! Go on, try me!" Javier's temperament exploded like a tiger roaring in the forest, seeming very threatening. Not even Yoel's subordinates, who were not too far away, dared to take another step closer. After all, how could they possibly dare to approach when not even their boss could utter a single word? They did not have a death wish. Javier then handed Sara over to Mei before walking toward Yoel, who was lying on the ground. Despite how furious he was, he was helpless and incapable of doing anything. He wanted to get up, but he knew that Javier was not kidding about killing him. However, he still did not want to get down on his knees, as that would only humiliate him further. Thus, he remained lying on the floor.

He was now at an impasse, and both lying on the floor and getting down on his knees were difficult decisions to make.

However, Javier did not intend on troubling Yoel too much. Instead, he bent over and choked Yoel.

"Are you not going to kneel? Have you chosen death? Allow me to oblige then!"

In front of all of Yoel's subordinates, Javier immediately seemed as though he was about to kill him, but none of the subordinates dared to take a step forward even now. In fact, it was not just them. Even Yoel did not dare move because his life was now being threatened.

Javier clenched his hand tighter and tighter, while Yoel felt his life flashing before his eyes. Thus, while Yoel seemed not to be in control of his own movements, his legs slowly folded and he got down on his knees.

He looked exactly like a dog at that moment!

Javier laughed mockingly and loosened his grip on Yoel's neck. He then patted his face. "Looks like you do know how to kneel. And here I thought you were a tough cookie. I thought Renly gave you so much courage that you'd forgotten what kneeling was like, but it looks like you can do it pretty smoothly!"

Yoel panted heavily, enjoying large amounts of air after regaining his freedom. At that moment, he no longer cared about his ego or how humiliated he was. He was just glad to be alive.

Javier could not be bothered to deal with that piece of trash anymore, so he got up and returned to Mei's side, taking Sara into his arms once more. With his left arm holding Sara and his right arm around Mei's waist, Javier carried on having fun at Disneyland, completely unaffected by what had just happened.

"Don't worry, Sara. Nobody will ever dare bully you or your mother again. Nobody."

Sara happily wrapped her arms around Javier's neck, while Mei's face was slightly flushed. She did not know what she should say at that moment. Thus, she could only utter two words with the utmost sincerity.

"Thank you."

It was not until the trio was far away and out of sight that Yoel stood up.

When his subordinates rushed over, Yoel flailed his arms around angrily and smacked them all. "You f*cking pieces of sh*t! You're useless! All of you!"

His subordinates were rather frustrated as well, and they were thinking that their boss was a useless man who had ended up being beaten until he was on his knees despite intending on causing Javier trouble. In fact, he had almost died.

Yoel himself had realized this as well, which was why he felt extremely frustrated. Once more, he wanted to have someone kill Javier.

Yet, in the end, that could only remain an urge rather than becoming an action.

Yoel did not have the courage to do such a thing. In fact, it was not just him. Even Renly, his master, would not dare do such a thing anyway.

At that point, he would no longer be taking another person's life but digging his own grave. While Yoel pondered this, he thought that he needed to come up with an idea to get closer to Renly. 'If I become a loyal dog that he cannot live without, I'm sure my status will truly reach new heights...!

After having fun at Disneyland for an entire day, the trio finally returned to Mei's manor at night. They had already had dinner outside, but Sara still wanted to stay close to Javier even after returning home.

At that moment, she genuinely thought of Javier as a man close to her. This was the man who had taught the bad man a lesson, protected her Mommy, and even accompanied her on such a fun day. This was why she did not wish to see Javier leave and she grabbed his hand tightly, not willing to let go.

"Uncle Javier, could you sleep with me, please? Just this once, please?"

Mei felt very embarrassed and hurriedly coerced Sara. "Sara, Uncle Javier needs to go home and rest now. He's already been playing with you for an entire day, so he must be tired."

As soon as she said that, Sara seemed to come up with a logical argument. "But Uncle Javier can stay with us. My room might be for children, but yours is for adults. Plus, you've got a big bed. Can't he sleep with you?"

Mei was absolutely embarrassed, as she knew what would happen if that were to actually occur, despite Sara's naive way of thinking. At that moment, Javier suddenly shamelessly complimented Sara. "You're absolutely right, Sara. Let's do that."

Mei literally wanted to dig a hole and hide in there at that moment. If it were not because of Javier's identity, she would have genuinely kicked him over how infuriating he was being.

However, Javier did not leave in the end and kept Sara company in her room, telling her some stories about China.

Sara had a fun time listening to his stories, as they were much more interesting than the ones she had heard previously.

The little girl got happier and even more excited as she listened to Javier's stories. This went on until it was close to 11 p.m. Then, the little girl finally dozed off and slept deeply. After pulling a blanket over Sara, Javier tip-toed out of her room.

By then, Mei had already gotten changed and was sitting in the living room. When she saw Javier, she hurriedly said, "I'm really sorry for causing you so much trouble today, Mr. Kersey." Javier walked

behind her and wrapped his arms around her slender body, his hands moving around dangerously.

“Have you thought about Sara’s earlier suggestion, Mei?”

“Huh?!”

Mei was slightly startled before she recalled Sara’s prior suggestion. She had asked Javier to sleep on her bed.

She was so embarrassed that her face turned red as she said softly, “If you’d like to stay, I’d be ... willing to let you do so.”

Would Mei’s permission still be important if Javier had already decided to stay? Of course not.

What Javier wanted to ask even more was...

“Are you willing to let me stay?”

That was a question Mei just did not know how to answer.

Her shyness was compelling her to say no. But after three years of being lonely, and given how genuinely nice Javier was to her and Sara, she could not help feeling an urge to accept. 1

Thus, she carried on struggling with her shyness and this urge for the longest time, not knowing how she should answer.

But Javier had already made that decision for her at the right moment instead.

“I know you want to let me stay, Mei, so I’m going to satisfy you.”

As soon as he said that, Javier picked Mei up in his arms and headed to the large bed in Mei’s bedroom.

Chapter 357 Brave Brothers

When Sara woke up the next morning, she went around the house to look for Javier, but he was not there.

After remembering that she had suggested that he stay in her mother’s bedroom, Sara headed upstairs and pushed Mei’s bedroom door open.

Mei was lying on her bed, sleeping especially soundly and happily.

There were piles of tissue paper crumpled up by the bed. Sara had no idea why her mother, who supposedly loved for things to be clean and tidy, would simply litter the floor with used tissues. She also found it very strange when she realized that her mother was smiling sweetly in her sleep.

But Sara did not care about any of these things anymore. She shook her mother violently before Mei, who had only fallen asleep not too long ago, woke up. “Mommy, where’s Uncle Javier? I want to see him.”

Usually, a person would be in a very bad mood when they were woken up right after they fell asleep. However, as a mother, there was of course no way she would react in such a way to her daughter waking her up. She rubbed her slightly aching forehead and replied, “Uncle Javier left because he’s got something to do. He’ll come back and play with you some other time, okay?”

Sara, who was very unhappy, pouted her lips. Even her eyebrows were slanted.

However, although she did not cry out loud, there were tears streaming down from her eyes. She then sobbed and said, “I want Uncle Javier...I want Uncle Javier...”

Mei felt very helpless and thought that it was not a good thing that Javier was so close to Sara.

‘He’s not going to ever be able to leave at this rate because Sara’s going to cry so much whenever he does...’ This caused Mei to feel heartbroken. After spending a long time and making a lot of effort, Mei was finally able to calm Sara down... Meanwhile, Javier had already arrived at the international airport. He had bought a ticket back to his country, and this was his boarding gate. Everything pointed to Javier going home. Herschel was by his side, while Yuri was able to accompany them and see Javier off thanks

to his connections.

After the boarding gate opened, Javier had a chat with Yuri, instructing him to pay extra attention and keep Mei and Sara safe before he and Herschel boarded.

Because the plane that Javier and Herschel were going to be on was a large one that could not get too close to the airport, the duo needed to get on a shuttle bus to get to the plane.

Yuri helplessly shook his head as he watched Javier and Herschel disappear from the airport.

'How in the world am I supposed to protect Mei and her daughter after he leaves? Am I supposed to confront the Hachisons directly?'

After thinking about it for a moment, he decided that was the only way he could think of. Actually, he would be able to go up against the Hachisons temporarily, but surely not for long!

Yuri felt depressed and sighed as he left the airport. Right at that moment, two people, one east of the airport and the other west, were watching Yuri from afar.

After Yuri left with a sigh, they immediately reported this to their superiors via phone call.

Their report was mostly the same... "Yuri personally saw Javier off before he boarded a plane. Javier bought a ticket back to China. I witnessed him enter the boarding gate with my own eyes." When Yoel received this phone call, he heaved a long sigh of relief, as the bane of his existence was finally gone.

Although he was very unhappy and he really wanted to kill Javier, he was not capable of doing such a thing in the end. Thus, he could only hope the day Javier left would arrive sooner. Meanwhile, the other person to receive such a phone call was Renly, who had already left Yuzuia.

"Javier's returning to China? Are you sure you saw this with your own eyes?" After obtaining accurate info from his subordinate, Renly rubbed his forehead. 'Looks like I overthought this once again... Seems like Javier was only thinking of playing with Mei. Nothing else.' Renly was aware that Javier had beaten Yoel up and spent the night at Mei's manor.

Perhaps Javier's going to help Mei get revenge for her father's death, but that's something that will only happen in the future, and it's none of my concern at the moment.

'Speaking of that, Javier's probably gotten back some of his dignity after beating up my little dog. He even boldly said that I wouldn't save him even if I showed up. He's gotten back quite a lot of his dignity now, so he should probably feel satisfied with how everything has progressed. "Javier's right about one thing, though. I wouldn't stop him from beating up my dog indeed.

After all, if I were to do so, I'd be openly waging war against the Kerseys. Seriously now, why would I bother taking such a risk for a mere mutt? Yoel's far from worthy of me saving him from a beating!

"Okay, cut off all our attacks against China. There's no need for us to concern ourselves with the profits of this section."

With his legs crossed, Renly sat in his luxurious Lincoln, which had been especially customized to be longer than usual. He was leisurely smoking a cigar in the meantime. He believed that his grandfather was definitely going to praise him heavily when he returned home.

First of all, he had forced the old fox, who had never once smoked a cigarette in his life, to smoke one. Then, he had caused a huge stir within the Chinese market. Thanks to the chaos caused, the Whites would be able to reap huge amounts of profit after they entered the automobile industry a year later... Thus, every single person thought that Javier had returned to China after a crushing defeat, including Yuri. However, the truth was that the moment Javier and Herschel passed through the boarding gates, they got onto another shuttle bus and assumed another identity completely. Aside from the flight to China, there was another flight bound for Garman at the same time, which was Javier's true

destination. 'If I'm going to give Renly a gift, it's going to have to be a huge gift worthy of being called a surprise! When the plane landed at 3p.m, Javier and Herschel got onto a military-grade Hummer that had been waiting for them long before they arrived. The car was extremely uncomfortable to sit in, but that was not the reason Javier was there. After they got in the car, the driver revealed himself to be Gusman, whom Javier had met last year in Hyliveskia while purchasing firearms. Gusman was also Angelina's top subordinate. "Have you been here before, Mr. Kersey?" Gusman was especially surprised when he realized that this was Javier, but he knew that Angelina was going to be especially pleased to see Javier. This was because Angelina would frequently order Gusman to find out the most recent news on Javier. "Miss Angelina is definitely going to be pleasantly surprised when she sees you. I'm sure of it!"

Chapter 358 A Bloody Memory

When Javier met Angelina, she was discussing business with a major client from the Middle East. The business meeting seemed to be progressing very smoothly. They had already signed the contracts and were shaking each other's hands with smiles on their faces.

After seeing this major client out, Angelina sat back on her chair and closed the document.

Just as she was about to hand the document to her assistant, she raised her head and saw a familiar figure. One that belonged to a man she had been missing day and night. Angelina instantly stood up, her face filled with glee and excitement. "My king! What are you doing here? This is the best news I've received today! I love you so much!"

Without feeling bothered by the fact that her subordinates were around, Angelina directly leaped into Javier's arms, kissing him ferociously with her full red lips. Undoubtedly, because of her race, Angelina had an extremely fair complexion that exuded her country's unique beauty.

Whenever Javier was with Angelina, he would be hit by a crazy urge that included some form of destruction.

However, since Angelina's subordinates were around, Javier could not actually bring himself to do anything. Obviously, Angelina noticed this, so after she kissed Javier, she gestured for everyone to leave them.

As soon as they left, Angelina went back to kissing Javier like crazy, as though Javier's lips were covered in honey. After three whole minutes of fervent kissing, Angelina looked at Javier passionately, "I thought you never wanted to see me again, my king." After Renly had targeted Javier's hydrogen propulsion system and launched a siege, the Soroy's had gotten involved as well. Most importantly, this was an order that Angelina herself had given.

She wanted to fight alongside Javier, but she could not allow her family to lose out while trying to grab this technology. She definitely could not allow her family to become an enemy of most other families, especially the Whites.

Thus, no matter how much she loved Javier, she had no choice but to suppress those feelings and do what was right for her family.

However, this was exactly why she felt guilty when it came to Javier. After all, Javier had once saved her life before, and the scar from the ricochet that had slashed Javier's back would serve as a reminder for as long as she lived.

Seeing Angelina's face, which was filled with embarrassment, Javier gently caressed her jade like cheek. "Of course not. I couldn't possibly bear to abandon my beautiful woman. I still want to hear you shouting 'I'm going to die, my king' some more!" Javier had imitated Angelina's tone, which caused her to feel coquettishly embarrassed. After all, Javier had done a pretty good job. However, the

embarrassment revealed on her face made her seem even more alluring and seductive.

Javier gently kissed Angelina's fair back and said, "I've come here today because there's something I need your help with."

Angelina acknowledged this, her voice still seemingly drowning in this mood. "I'd already guessed that you must have something you need my help with. Otherwise, you wouldn't have come here of your own accord. Go on, my king. What would you have me do?"

After saying that, Angelina reminded herself that she was definitely not going to do anything that would harm her family's interests. Even though she loved Javier very much, she still needed to think on behalf of the Soroyes.

Thus, she had already set an ultimatum for herself: She would never do anything that would severely hurt her family's interests.

However, Javier's next statement surprised her. "Aside from Mackenzie's side, I've recruited a new batch of people and I'd like to train them. But I'm sure you know that Herschel's people have already been forcefully taken over by Mackenzie, so I can only equip and train them through you.

"Which is why I'd like to ask if you can arrange for a team of 100 men to be sent to a battlefield. I'll use my connections to send mine over there. I want your men to train them so that they can grow within the shortest time possible and become decent mercenaries."

Angelina asked in surprise, "Is that all you need my help with?" Stunned, Javier asked, "What else should I ask you to help me with?"

Angelina had been very sure that Javier was going to ask her to help him with something related to the hydrogen propulsion system, but it had ended up being something very trivial. "There was no need for you to come all the way here for such a trivial matter. Couldn't you just have told me on the phone?" Javier impatiently retorted. "That's just nonsense. Would I have been able to see you if I had told you on the phone?"

Angelina was rendered speechless, but she felt a huge load get lifted off her heart at the same time.

"You're worried that your grandfather will confiscate your men again if he finds out about this, aren't you? If that were to happen, you wouldn't have any leverage to defend yourself against William and Arthur, isn't that right?"

Javier gave her a thumbs-up. "As expected of the beautiful and intelligent Angelina, there's nothing I can hide from you. What do you think then? Are you going to help your king become the true king of the Kerseys?"

Enjoying Javier's compliment, Angelina held up Javier's palm and kissed it. "Of course I am. You're my king, so who else would I help if not you?" After saying that, Angelina got off Javier's body and tidied up her clothes a little before calling Gusman. "Gusman, get together 100 of our strongest men. Have them put on all their gear and lead them personally..." Angelina very readily arranged everything. On the other hand, Gusman did not dare waste even a single moment. It only took him a little more than 10 minutes before he showed up at the room's entrance.

"Miss Angelina, Mr. Kersey, it's all been prepared."

Angelina nodded her head and looked at Javier. Her intentions were very clear: They were all to do what Javier told them to.

Not standing on ceremony, Javier directly ordered Herschel, who had arrived with Gusman. "Go on, Herschel. Take these brave brothers of ours and move out!"

Chapter 359 Save Me, Master!

Herschel knew exactly what his job was. He was not disillusioned by any means. What's more, he was more than stoked to say yes.

With Herschel and Gusman taking the lead, a troop of a hundred suited-up soldiers left with their own respective method.

Javier took his eyes off Herschel, Gusman, and the others and observed Angelina from the door, his eyes cast far into the horizon, where the troop vanished. He wondered if she could smell something fishy. Quickly, he asked, "Anything else on today's agenda?" Angelina had been wondering if she should tell Gusman to hold onto any reservations and not obey every single one of Herschel's orders, but Javier's question broke her out of her reverie." No, there's nothing else," she replied intuitively. "Nothing planned for today or tomorrow. What's the matter?" Javier's lips formed an implicative smirk. He leaned forward, pushing Angelina against the wall before breathing out. "Well, I personally have an agenda, and I would like to have you participate..."

One night later, at 8 p.m.

Mei Hachison, who was in a total-black getup, looked like a solemn figure as she strode into a basement under the estate.

There was no modern lighting. Only flickering flames from oil lamps illuminated the room. The entire basement looked quaint and rustic, as did the faded-out photos on top of the altar that depicted Bryan Hachison, his wife, Mei's brothers, and her husband.

She unsheathed a dagger, and her knees fell forward. She then closed her eyes.

Bryan Hachison, her father. When he had been named family leader of the Hachinsons by her grandfather in front of all their family members, she had only been six or seven years of age. The proclamation had been met with rousing applause, and everyone had looked so happy. She had been happy.

She had not known any better at that age. If everyone was happy about something, then so was she.

She did not know that smiles and joy belied what they truly felt.

Her father had been the strongest man in the world. He was mighty and towering as a perennial tree. He was a genius according to everybody. She did not know what her father had done, but she remembered hearing about an incident of him helping the Hachison Family survive what could have been an existential cataclysm.

Then, when she was fifteen, they had taken her out of her boarding school and brought her home. Something big had gone down in the family. It was only after she had gotten home that she had realized her father had taken up the role of the new family leader properly.

It was the day she had become a princess many people raced to coddle. The night when her father had been crowned family head, she had seen everyone smiling and laughing. This time, though, she thought their smiles did not quite reach their cold eyes. Xion's, in particular, seemed to represent that faction the most.

It had not mattered back then. She had been a princess in all ways but officially, and her status had been even more eminent than the royal family's counterpart. Once, while out shopping for shoes, she and the royal princess had wanted the same limited-edition pair. It was the only pair left, and the princess had slapped her for it. In response, the princess had been promptly walloped with the sole of a shoe, and nobody who had witnessed it had dared interfere... not when the one meting out such a mind-boggling punishment was the leader of the royal family himself.

Those were the times when she had been at the very top of all social classes in the entire Yuzu. Then,

things had changed when she was 17.

Once again, she had been taken home from her boarding school. She had thought it was for yet another joyous occasion, but no sooner had she returned home than she had realized she was wrong. Her big brothers, her mother, and now Mei herself, had all been locked up.

They squirmed in fear. They had no inkling of what might have happened until Xion approached them, his right hand soaked in the blood dripping down his sword and his left hand lifting a man's severed head.

It was her father's.

Her mother lost her mind. She lurched, as though she was possessed, and Xion greeted her with his sword, its wicked blade dicing through her mother's abdomen and leaving a long, gaping gash across her. She died, but only two minutes after languishing in the limbo of agony. Her eldest brother pushed his captor away and lunged toward his mother. He took her into his arms, hugging her tightly, his face tear-stricken. He hardly had the chance to scream or fight when they heard the hush of a sword being swung.

His head rolled and rolled and rolled until it stopped next to her father's. They died with their eyes wide open, their lifeless yet undead gazes boring into her middle brother. The young man, whom everyone had always called Bryan Jr, could not stop his own legs from trembling. He peed his own pants.

Xion wanted to continue, but one of his underlings came rushing to him, telling him he had a phone call to take. Had it not been for that, her middle brother would have died right then and there too.

They were locked in the house afterward, and her brother began to cry every day. He could not seem to speak even as Mei, frightened and witless, shrank next to him in shock and asked him what to do. Her brother did not answer her with reassuring words or a defiant pledge for hope, All he could offer was a pale face stricken with tears.

When he finally spoke, the words he said were nothing like what she had wanted to hear. His rambling sentences were worse than his silence.

"I just want to live! I don't want to die, I don't want to die. I want to live. I don't want to die..."

Those were the only things he could say. The more he repeated them, the more unhinged he became.

He threw himself at the door, shouting, "I'm nothing like them, Uncle! I'm not one of them! I didn't do anything! They deserved to be killed! They deserved to die! But I'm innocent, please! Don't kill me!"

"They deserved to die..!"

His words triggered Mei. Her brother had inherited her father's intellect but not his mettle. It was she, at the height of her rage, who displayed the strength that her brother lacked. She smashed the glass window into pieces. She then forgot the sting of the shard cutting across her hand and lunged, slashing her own brother's throat. Xion, who opened the door at the right time, watched it happen by mere happenstance. Mei cast away the shard on the floor, her face white with shock as she fell on the floor with misty eyes.

She begged and begged the entire night. "He wanted to kill me, Uncle. He wanted to kill me to gain your trust...He wanted to exact revenge on you, but I just wanna live. I don't care about anything else. I don't even want your trust. I just wanna live..."

Her heart was fraught with fear. The nightmare of having her head severed, just as her father and eldest brother had by her own uncle, haunted her.

It did not come true—though not because Xion was merciful. It was those who joined him who suggested that he leave Mei alive. They said it would be too obvious to have the entire family murdered. Xion could stand to let a useless girl, a girl no more threatening than a beautiful bouquet of flowers

trapped in a vase, live. Many people in the family then voiced their agreement, and the consensus was persuasive enough that Mei lived.

It was only after a while that she discovered that these people had been forced to ally themselves with Xion after her father's murder. And from the moment her life was spared, the same benefactors started working to keep her safe from severe harm.

As her mind trod in the past, the family elders-the people who had saved her-approached her with their underlings. Herschel and his militia arrived shortly-a troop of one hundred who listened to her orders. Mei cut open the healed gash on her left hand, where the shard that had killed her sniveling brother had left a mark. Her blood rolled down the frames of the photographs.

"I swear, I'll present Xion and all thirteen members of his family-young and old-to all of you," she proclaimed. "Or I'll die by my own hand before you to atone for my failure."

Chapter 360 You Were Toying with Me?!

with her troops at the ready, Mei led a march toward the Hachison estate.

Gusman made his confusion known on the way. "Aren't these people the ones who should be training you on the battlefield?" he asked, sounding bewildered.

Herschel was aware of Gusman's inability to understand Yuzuean, so he took this chance to make things up on the fly. "We, er, set our base here to avoid being discovered. I mean, have you ever suspected us of setting up our base here before?" Gusman reeled in realization. Well, that made a lot of sense...except for the nagging fact that these people did not seem to care about Herschel at all.

Something was fishy about it, and he could not shake the feeling off.

He tried to call Angelina for confirmation, but no one answered him.

His mind drifted to the relationship between Herschel and Javier, and then Javier and Angelina. His mind relaxed a little-he was his mistress's beau and the second grandson of the Kersey Family! There was little reason for him to be wary, right? Besides, in the opinion of the premier family of the entire Yuzuia, the Hachisons could not by any means be compared to the Soroy's might. Now, with the Kerseys on their side, Gusman was pretty damn sure that they could possibly wipe the Hachisons off the face of the Earth in a day. Which eminent family would feel so bad for them that they would risk going up against the Soroy's and the Kerseys combined?

Pah, not even the Whites could muster that level of audacity!

He did not even think they were heading to the Hachisons to perpetuate a massacre. No eminent families had ever gone through such a thing!

Satisfied with his own rationale, Gusman felt his hesitance dissipate. If Herschel was meant to be Javier's representative, then all he had to do was follow orders. It was as simple as that.

The troop was a dense, impressive parade that flooded the Hachisons' estate with cars and walking soldiers. At the time of their arrival, Yoel—the third heir of the family—was enjoying a famous national songstress performing in his villa. She had a voice to fall in love with, and her song was just as beautiful as she was mellifluous. Yoel even began to wonder how else a voice like that could be used. Maybe her yelps of pleasure would be just as jaunty and fine to his ears? He was a man of action, not just ideas.

Thus, he leaped right into putting his idea into action. He was enjoying himself when he heard gunshots coming from outside. Yoel was no stranger to guns. He could tell the sounds of fired shots and fireworks apart even in his sleep, Kicking away the songstress laboring between his legs, Yoel pulled his pants up, grabbed a handgun, and bolted out of his room.

He went out just in time to see the loft, where the sentries were posted, get blasted open by a bazooka.

The sight stunned him, and his brain failed him. Had an army come to attack the family? Were they batsh*t crazy?

It was later revealed that this was no act or insanity. It was, however, an overture to the Hachisons' demise. The estate proved itself as strong as a house of cards against the invasion of hundreds of suited-up soldiers. They even circumvented the Hachisons' inspection booths by parachuting right out of military choppers supplied by the Soroys.

That was not the only boon the Soroys' had provided. Gusman thought rather fondly of some of the latest weapons used by the Sammius military, so he had made a substantial purchase from Sammius' army base near Yuzuia prior to this operation. The soldiers were already capable, resilient fighters in their own right. When outfitted with such weaponry, they formed a fierce, unstoppable stampede. Mei's people hardly found it necessary to storm the estate after finding out that the perimeter had been breached long ago. They were shocked to hear this.

In truth, the Hachisons' estate was far from enjoying any defense worthy of a fortress. Yuzuia was, after all, a geographically minor country with a military completely filled with the ranks and leadership of the Hachinsons. There was little reason to worry about any attack when the nation's defense was one of their own.

The Hachisons and the nation of Yuzuia were basically equivalent by and large. It was also why they never expected anyone to attack them, let alone a troop with such ferocious firepower. Their enemies were so swift that they had no time to call reinforcements from the national guard before their estate was completely conquered.

Yoel held his handgun to a few people pointing their automatic rifles at him. Knowing he had no chance, he raised his hands and cast his gun aside. Still, Yoel did not plan to go down gently. With his hands still in the air, he shouted, "I'm one of Renly White's people! Mr. Renly White of the White Family is offering me protection, okay? Y'all can't kill me just like that!"

Gusman was within earshot as Yoel shouted in Elizabethan, which he understood. His plea bemused the former, who wondered, 'Why is the White Family somehow involved in this?'

He was about to step forward and ask Yoel about it when Herschel cut into the space between them, commanding, "Call Renly. Now."

Yoel was too disoriented to react. It took Herschel plunging a dagger into his abdomen and him feeling the gritting pain flaring in response to finally snap him out of his bemusement. Now was not the time to ask questions, he realized. Now was the time to call his benefactor and ask for mercy!

Hands trembling, Yoel fished his phone out of his pocket and called Renly, wasting no breath or time before shouting, "M-Master, save me! Save us Hachisons, please!" Renly had just reached his home, which made the phone call a bit of an unpleasantness he had little patience for. The message, though, was something he had not expected. Flummoxed, he replied, "Calm down. Tell me exactly what happened to your family!" He cared very little for Yoel's life, but he needed to know what was happening to his family. The Hachisons were the first of his ventures to pool and collect power of his own. The plan was to form an alliance centered around the White Family and have other prominent families in the world willingly join them as allies. The White Alliance would make the White Family essentially the king, supported by a network of families acting as their vassals. It was an ambitious plan fraught with challenges. It would take more than a decade, or perhaps decades, of dedication to finally carry this plan into fruition. The Hachisons were just the first step of the plan.

He had not expected his first step to be so quickly undone by his foe. Who would dare go up against him? Javier Kersey? But had he not gone back home already?

Yoel recounted his family's crisis with a surfeit of tears— just enough to enlighten Renly on the state of their affair, Finding out who was behind this turn of events—the culprit who had dared ruin the first step of his great plan—became all the more pressing. Renly asked him, and yet the sniveling man could only answer him in pain, “I don't know...” “For god's sake...As if you need more reason to die! If I were there, I'd sink this knife right into your guts until I saw the light in your eyes fade, you useless piece of sh*t. Seriously, you could just pass the f*cking phone to someone who actually knows what's happening! Who the hell commanded you to call me? Pass the phone to them!” Yoel snapped back to reality and handed his phone to Herschel, who accepted it. Between puffs of smoke, he intoned, “Hello. Master Renly, ain't it? Yeah, my boss told me to kindly inform you that he's damn p*ssed about the Hachisons manipulating the Yuzuease car investment, so he decided to install a new family leader. Say hi to Mei Hachison! Oh, he also wanted me to tell you that he's not at home. He's f*cking Angelina as we speak! “That's all regarding his PSA. He thinks this is enough to p*ss you off, so okay. Goodbye, Master Renly. Goodnight and sweet dreams!” Herschel was obviously savoring the chance to infuriate him. Adding those last few words had been him rubbing salt on Renly's wounds. How was he supposed to sleep after hearing all these things? His opponent's eagerness to add insult to his injuries caused Renly to grit his teeth lividly. He smashed his phone onto the ground, destroying it. He had been worried that Javier would mobilize his militia, so he had been paying extra attention and watching Mackenzie and Yuri's forces within Yuzuia. What he had not expected, though, was Angelina's betrayal. She had been planning with him to take Javier down, and yet here she was, backstabbing him by allying herself with that slimy son of a b*tch. She was not even coy about double-crossing him either! He had just started to invest in the Hachisons. He had not predicted that it would backfire right on his face so quickly!

Furious, Renly pulled out a cigar. He was hoping it could calm him down a little, and yet he could not find his lighter amid his rage. That extra bit of frustration was enough to drive him over the edge, and Renly lost control of his broiling temper. “F*ck! F*ck, f*ck, f*ck!” he yelled, stomping and tossing his furniture until it was in shambles. He kicked and clawed and tore it all down, and yet it did not help mollify the inferno in his system.

He had lost something important to him, and it was neither a pawn that was part of his plan nor the Hachison Family. It was something even more precious; something even more vital... Trust.