Harvey spoke calmly, the faint smile on his face ever present.

Noah froze momentarily before exploding with amused laughter.

"Impressive! Very impressive!"

"I forgot! Even I suffered quite a big loss in your hands!"

"If Vince thinks he can take you down just by getting someone stronger on his side..."

"Then he must be underestimating you quite a bit."

"With you around, it'll be easy for Queenie to climb the ranks."

"He's daydreaming if he wants you out of this place so easily."

Noah then poured Harvey some tea, lost in awe and admiration.

Harvey smiled.

"You're too kind. Since Vince has Grandma York to support him..."

"I'll have to pay my respects as well."

"That said, I'll have to think of a way to deal with her."

"Hahaha! I'm sure you're more than capable of that."

Noah narrowed his eyes meaningfully.

"Just deal with them the way you did to me last time."

"I'm looking forward to your victory. I'll be supporting you from

behind the scenes!"

Harvey stared at Noah.

"There's something you don't know, Third Lord York."

"I'm not here to antagonize anyone."

"But right now, someone's coming straight for me."

"I'm only forced to fight back."

"I understand!"

Noah laughed again. Then, he pulled out a stack of documents under the table.

"I know Jacknife won't be able to do anything to you, Sir York."

"But I do have some information for you to look into in case you get into unnecessary trouble."

Harvey cocked his head, interested, and looked at Noah without bothering to pick up the documents.

"Are you really that scared of Jacknife and Grandma York, Third Lord York?" he asked with a smile.

"Are you that excited to see me go against her?"

Noah froze after hearing Harvey's words. Immediately after, he forced out a smile.

"Of course not!"

"Grandma York is a well-respected figure of the family. Her status is much too high, and her words have enormous weight within the family. Who wouldn't be scared of her?" "Jacknife has been with Grandma York ever since he was young. He's accomplished quite a lot as well. His strength is basically unparalleled!"

"Of course everyone within the family would fear an expert like him."

"It's fair enough to say I'm afraid of them as well."

"Please don't tell this to anyone else, though. After all, an old man like me still has an image to protect."

Harvey smiled calmly before browsing the documents.

"Your fear is different compared to the others, Third Lord York."

"The others respect and fear them..."

"But you simply want them dead."

"You're different. You desperately want Julian to climb the ranks of the family."

"You want to be the father of a king."

"This is why you're afraid of Grandma York."

"You want me here to see if I'm confident in going up against Grandma York and Jacknife."

"If I am, you'll gladly work together with me."

"Otherwise, you'd get your men to chop me into pieces by now, wouldn't you?"

At Harvey's words, Noah's face darkened instantly.

"You must be joking, Sir York," he replied after a forced laugh.

"A man like me won't even think that far ahead!"

"I already told Julian to stop entertaining such thoughts after finding out that Fourth Brother is supporting Queenie."

"I didn't have any other intentions when I called you here today."

"I'm only here to wish for your smooth sailing in both Hong Kong and Las Vegas."

"After all, the third house is siding with Fourth Brother at this point."

"Am I wrong?"

Harvey stood up and flicked the tea cup in his hand.

A loud clang resonated, and a well-hidden gun barrel on the roof of the other building appeared instantly after.

Someone was controlling the gun remotely using high-tech equipment.

Noah's expression changed frantically when he realized what had just happened.

There was no hiding from Harvey at all!

Harvey smiled softly at Noah before going up to pat the latter on the shoulder.

"No one here is stupid, Third Lord York," he began.

"It's fine if you want to use me."

"But you better be ready to pay the price."

"You don't have the right to reap the rewards if you just sit in the back and do nothing while everything goes on."

Harvey turned around and left soon after.

•••

Julian finally let out a breath of air, only daring to breathe after Harvey turned away. He stared numbly after Harvey's disappearing back.

Noah had only talked to Harvey for a brief moment, but Harvey's dominance was already quite apparent in that short span of time.

When Noah sat back down, Julian said quietly, "I don't understand, Father."

"Judging from the current situation, we could've just sat back regardless if we're trying to climb the ranks or otherwise."

"Why would you ask Harvey to come here all of a sudden?"

"Grandma York demanded that Harvey leave the place within twenty-four hours."

"If she knows that you asked to see Harvey at such a crucial time..."

"Your relationship with Grandma York will surely worsen!"

"After all, anyone could tell that he's Marcel's weapon right now. Harvey's cutting down anyone who disobeys Marcel!"

"I can get close to Harvey, since Fourth Uncle ordered me to do so."

"But if you get involved..."

Julian frowned. He couldn't wrap his mind as to why his father would look up to Harvey.

Not only did his father invite Harvey here, but the man was also desperately trying to bury the hatchet.

Did Noah really think that Harvey could go against Grandma York and Jacknife?

"You fool!"

Noah sat down, annoyed, and took a sip of his tea.

"Do you still not get it?"

"Everyone's intentions are already revealed in this fight."

"We don't have as much strength as the second house. We can't just remain neutral when a big fight's about to happen!"

"Sometimes, the people in the most danger are the ones that don't make a decision rather than the ones who are already fighting."

"What if both sides decide to join forces and deal with us first?"

"If we remain neutral, we'll be a threat to everyone!"

"At this point, we have to pick a side even if we don't want to..."

"Our stance is already quite apparent, especially because of you running all the way to the Island Nations."

"Now that things have turned out this way, it's only natural to get closer to Harvey."

Noah took another sip of his tea before continuing to speak."

Judging from the current situation, the Yorks of Hong Kong are
basically fighting against each other at this point."

"One side represents Fourth Brother's forces. Out of the entire family, they have the most resources. They also wield the most authority right now."

"They're only using the incident ten years ago as a pretense to take down Vince."

"Only then will Queenie be able to climb the ranks."

"Fourth Brother will stay as the lord of the family for a few more years."

"Meanwhile, the other side represents those under Grandma York."

"Do you really think she admires and cares for Vince without restraint?"

"This isn't true."

"Grandma York loves your eldest uncle the most, but why did she let your fourth uncle take position as the lord of the family instead?"

"And even though Grandma York loves Vince, his values and abilities don't seem all too impressive to me."

"It's all because he's the eldest grandson of the Yorks of Hong

Kong!"

"To begin with, Fourth Brother has no heir."

"Grandma York wants authority to remain within the family, and not in the hands of outsiders."

"After all, Queenie is just an outsider to the family!"

"Harvey represents the outside forces of Hong Kong and Las Vegas, and also the one who supports Queenie's rise the most."

"Grandma York wants Harvey out of the borders because she wants to remove Queenie's best support. With this, it'll be easier for Vince to rise."

Julian nodded, but he soon frowned.

"Are you sure Harvey's really that impressive, Father?"

"Didn't you already have an answer after last night's mission?" Noah asked him coldly.

"In reality, last night's mission was also Fourth Brother's test for him. If he can't even deal with something so simple..."

"Then what right does he have to be Marcel's weapon?"

"Since he's proved himself worthy to Marcel..."

"We, the third house, should make a stance as quickly as possible."

"If we don't, we won't have anything to gain when everything's all set and done."

"That's why I wanted to meet Harvey as soon as I could."

"Even if I've provoked Grandma York's wrath by doing this, there are some things that just can't be delayed."

Julian sighed.

"Still, things just seem a little unexpected to me."

"Why don't we just stand with Vince instead?"

"Judging from the current situation, they seem more likely to win."

Noah let out an icy laugh.

"You're too naive."

"Firstly, they're not as likely to win as you think. Have you counted the amount of Vince's subordinates Harvey has cut down after he arrived in Hong Kong and Las Vegas to this very day?"

"Secondly, even if Vince is more likely to win, what do you have to gain out of him?"

"You're a proper descendant of the Yorks of Hong Kong, standing on Queenie's side."

"If a proper descendant of the family is needed in the future, you'll be first in line to take the position!"

Noah stepped forward and patted Julian on the shoulder.

"You need to look a little further, son. Don't be blinded by the short-term interests dangling in front of you."

"I can endure a slap in the face if it means that we'll have a

brighter future."

"So what if I offend Grandma York for you to have a chance to rise to power?"

"Alright! Enough talk."

Noah let out a sigh. After lecturing Julian, he changed the subject.

"Even though your fourth uncle was the one who gave the order to raid the Island Nations..."

"You and the Sentries of York were the ones fighting on the front lines."

"It'll be greatly beneficial to you if you're the one taking credit for this mission."

"I'm afraid you'll have to talk to Harvey about this."

"If he's willing to let you take credit for this, you'll have a great achievement under your belt."

"Of course, if he doesn't want to, don't try to force him."

"Since we chose to side with your fourth uncle for now, we shouldn't get on Harvey's bad side either. Do you understand?"

"I got it, Father. Don't worry," Julian said, smiling.

"Actually, we've talked about this before."

"Sir York said he was just a supervisor, and that I was the one doing most of the work."

"He doesn't care about any of it. The credit's all mine."

Julian was grinning from ear to ear, pleased with himself.

Even when he had always been in charge of the Sentries of York, he had never made any notable achievements.

If he took credit for the mission's success, he would still be able to keep his position as the person in charge of the Sentires of York regardless of who would rise to power in the future.

Simply put, Harvey had given him the chance to solidify his position.

"What a mysterious man..."

"He didn't ask for anything in return?"

Noah was genuinely shocked.

He knew that Harvey was no simple man, but he didn't expect Harvey to be so generous and open-minded.

Normally speaking, any youngster would flaunt their achievements to the entire world if given the chance.

Yet Harvey acted so discreetly, as if he wanted everyone to just forget about everything he had done.

Noah no longer dwelled on this. He was very impressed with Harvey, and turned to look back at Julian.

"Since things have come to this point..." he muttered, narrowing his eyes.

"You should just tell everything to your fourth uncle."

"Remember to thank Harvey properly after taking all that credit."

"Without him, you wouldn't even be here."

"Returning the favor is the third house's specialty, after all."

Julian nodded his head repeatedly.

"I got it, Father! I know what to do."

"I'll send Sir York a hefty gift soon."

"I'll get a few houses for him to choose as well. He'll definitely see the third house's sincerity!"

Noah appeared to be quite satisfied with his son.

Noah wasn't the strongest out of the higher ups in the family, nor was he the one with the most opportunities to work for.

Despite that, he worked slowly and steadily to pave a road for his son.

He figured that Julian wouldn't be able to find a chance to rise for the time being.

But as long as Noah continued with the current plan, an opportunity to rise would probably show itself.

Harvey said Noah had no right to sit back and reap the goods without doing anything.

But who knows what could happen? Things would probably change.

"Third Lord York! Young Master Julian!"

A member of the third house ran inside the room, holding a laptop.

"This is bad!"

"Really bad!"

Noah and Julian simultaneously turned to look.