

## An Understated Dominance Chapter 981 - 990

### Chapter 981

With how Walter tried to pick a fight with him, Dustin started running out of patience.

It was his choice to choose a mentor and whether or not to learn from him. How could it be forced on someone?

Besides, Walter was just halfway to becoming a grandmaster. How could he be qualified to be Dustin's mentor?

"Master Chasey, your skills are exceptional. Dustin would never look down on you. Maybe he just needs some time to consider things.

"Once he sees just how amazing you are, he'll come to appreciate the offer." Emily quickly tried to smooth things over when she saw things getting ugly.

"That's right, Dad! The matter of importance now is not getting yourself a disciple.

"Let's not get distracted from the treasure," Vanessa tried to change the subject.

Though it was a pity, she did not wish to force Dustin into things. It would not be worth it to go overboard and ruin their relationship.

"I'll give you three days to consider the offer, boy. If you change your mind within three days, you can come to me any time.

"But once the three days are over, the offer no longer stands. No matter how much you beg, you won't get the opportunity anymore. Think about it!"

Then, with both hands behind his back, Walter entered the tomb.

Iris Meskill's tomb was his priority today. He refused to be affected by a brat.

"Hmph! The most foolish thing you've ever done is to turn down Master Chasey's offer! You'll regret it!"

Nathan spat before leading the rest of the Azure Mist disciples into the tomb.

In his eyes, this was Dustin's one chance at success. But he did not appreciate it. It was foolish of him.

"Dustin, Master Chasey's just a very straightforward person. Don't take it to heart."

Emily felt awkward now that there was tension over something as trivial as getting Dustin to be Walter's disciple.

1/3

"That's alright. It's just a small matter." Dustin shook his head, unaffected by what had happened.

"Alright, let bygones be bygones. Let's go on and check out what treasures lay in wait in the tomb."

Vanessa was excited but nervous.

"After you, Dustin!" Emily smiled.

They quickly caught up with the rest of the group.

Once they entered the tomb, it was pitch black all around them. They could not even see their fingers in front of them.

But they came prepared. Taking out their torches, they saw that the tomb was huge. They

could not even see the end of it.

The tomb had a damp, moldy stench. They could occasionally hear the dripping sound of water droplets dropping to the ground.

“Look, there are footprints here. Someone must have been here before us. We need to make haste!”

Walter, who was at the front, urged the rest of them. They had no choice but to hurry.

After walking for about 10 minutes, they noticed a spacious stone chamber before them.

Upon entering the stone chamber, they saw many crates scattered around it. The crates had all been pried open.

Someone had been there and taken everything.

Glancing at the place, they noted three other stone doors in the chamber. They were all shut.

“Darn it! We were one step too late!” Walter exclaimed, looking down and frustrated.

They had gone through much trouble locating the tomb but still ended up empty-handed.

It was infuriating!

“Master Chasey, there’s something over there!” Nathan pointed at something in the center of the chamber.

Everyone looked over to find a mystical formation in the middle of the chamber. It was

Right in the middle of the mystical formation, a pitch-black sword stuck straight up from the ground.

The entire blade of the sword was buried in the ground, leaving only the hilt exposed.

Though it was in a sheath, it radiated a sharp glow.

Anyone could tell at a glance that it wasn't an ordinary object.

Right in front of the sword, there was a message. "The Celestial Blade appears to slay all evil; only by the Fated One to wield."

"It's a treasure!" Walter's eyes lit up at the sight of the black sword. He immediately rushed up to it.

But when he got near to the mystical formation, he paused.

Iris was a top-notch grandmaster. With her cultivation level, she could easily set up a trap that could kill a grandmaster on the spot.

He had to be very careful.

"Ben! Go and pull the sword out!"

Walter took a glance backward and pointed at one of his disciples, who was very well-built.

"Me?" Ben swallowed dryly. He couldn't help but feel nervous about it.

He wasn't a fool either. He knew that that was no ordinary sword. It would already have been taken by others if it were.

"Don't worry. I'll be here to protect you. Nothing's going to happen. Go on."

Walter pretended like he was going to protect Ben.

“Alright.” Ben had no choice but to step into the mystical formation.

Luckily for him, nothing happened.

He grabbed the sword’s hilt and gave it one hard tug. It did not budge. “Hmm?” Ben found it strange.

## Chapter 982

Looking at the black sword in Dustin’s hand, everyone was astonished. It was simply unbelievable.

They had tried hard to pull the sword out, but none succeeded. And now, it came out by itself and flew straight into Dustin’s hand.

The most shocking thing was that Dustin hadn’t touched it the entire time!

He had simply pointed two fingers at it and made a lifting motion through the air. The sword seemed to have sensed him beckoning it, so it launched out of the ground and landed straight in his hand.

But why?

They had put in so much effort and thoroughly tried to get it out, all to no avail.

Why did the sword come to Dustin just because he had motioned to it?

Was the sword discriminating against them? Or had it simply ignored them?

“No! No way! How could it have been so simple for him?” Nathan’s eyes widened in

disbelief.

Even Master Chasey had not been able to pull the sword out! Why had it gone to Dustin of its own will? What was going on?

“Oh my goodness! Am I seeing things? Did the sword just fly out by itself?” Vanessa gulped, unable to come to terms with what she just saw.

“Does the sword have a mind of its own? Is that why it decided for itself who should be its owner?” Emily wondered, shaken.

“The Celestial Blade appears to slay all evil; only by the Fated One to wield.”

Looking at the message on the ground, that was the only conclusion she managed to draw from it.

“You—How did you do it?” Walter’s brows furrowed. He lost his composure.

He could not understand why Dustin was able to pull the sword out when he could not.

Did the sword regard Dustin, the young man, better than Walter?

“I don’t know. All I did was beckon it, and it came on its own accord.”

Dustin looked at the black sword in admiration.

He was adept with swords, but he rarely used them. Because of his power, no regular sword seemed good enough for him.

But this one was different. It felt like it was tailor-made for him.

The blade was made of meteoric iron. It was so sharp that it could slice through almost any material. Dustin could feel an immense power within it that could destroy the world.

“Celestial Blade? Impressive.” Dustin smiled. He slowly caressed the sword, growing fond

of it.

“Dustin! Congratulations on getting a sword of your own! Seems like it belongs to you now.

“Emily smiled.

“Hang on!” Walter suddenly piped up.

“Young man, there’s something unusual about this sword.

“If I’m not mistaken, this should be a dangerous object. It might put you in danger if you keep it around you. Why don’t I safe-keep it for you?”

Dustin raised a brow. “Sir Chasey, I think it’s fate that the sword chose me. It’s not dangerous.”

“I’m doing this in consideration for your safety, young man. You wouldn’t be able to handle such a dangerous object. Let me guard it.”

Walter reached out to take the sword from Dustin.

It was rare to come across a sword with a mind of its own. He wasn’t about to let it slip through his fingers.

If he were to own the sword, it would greatly enhance his powers. He might even be able to put up against a grandmaster if he had it!

“Sir Chasey, I’ll keep it safe myself. Don’t worry about it.”

The smile on Dustin’s face started to fade. He was beginning to see what kind of a person Walter was.

Chapter 983

This old geezer was abandoning his morals for his gain. He was greedy to make the sword

his.

“Young man, let me make this clear. I’m not asking for your opinion,” Walter said coldly.

“Like they say, an innocent man will become a target if he possesses a prized possession.

This sword isn’t suitable for you.

“Give it to me, and you can uphold your honor.

“Sir Chasey, it sounds like you’re threatening me.” Dustin narrowed his eyes.

“I’m just giving you advice—a wise man understands his circumstances. You’re still young, and you’ll have many more opportunities.

“You don’t have to destroy your future over a sword, don’t you think?” Walter continued.

He was determined to get the sword at all costs. He would have done this long ago if he didn’t care about his reputation.

“Master Chasey, the sword chose its wielder. Dustin is fated to have this sword. What you’re doing isn’t right, don’t you think?” Emily frowned.

She never thought her righteous master would completely turn his back on someone over a sword.

He was even making threats.

“Shut up!” Walter glared at her.

“What do you know? This sword has no owner, so finder’s keepers!”

“Dad! Dustin already got the sword. Don’t tell me you’re going to snatch it from him?”



Vanessa said with furrowed eyebrows. She looked angry.

“Stupid girl, you’re my daughter! Why are you siding with the outsider?!” Walter felt embarrassed.

“I’m just pointing out the facts!” Vanessa said indignantly.

“Dustin saved our lives before. We haven’t even had the chance to repay him yet, but you’re already threatening him. You’re such a bully!”

“Hmph, if we hadn’t brought him here, he might never have found this treasure!”  
retorted fiercely.

“Not to mention, I just want that one sword. What’s the big deal? If we find another treasure in the future, we’ll let him have it!”

“But...”

“That’s enough!”

Vanessa wanted to say something, but Walter interrupted her angrily, “I like this sword. I have to have it no matter what!”

“What if I don’t give it to you?” Dustin said with a cold look.

“You won’t give it to me? Don’t blame me when I stop playing the nice guy!” Walter shouted.

As he spoke, his body exuded an overwhelming aura. He looked like a ferocious beast baring his teeth.

“Stop!” Vanessa stood in front of Dustin and defended him.

“Dad, Dustin saved my life before. If you’re going to do something reckless, then you’d have to kill me first!”

“Move out of the way, stupid girl!” Walter flew into his rage.

He thought that the daughter that he’d raised would support him.

“Dad, we can’t be ungrateful! You taught me this!”

Vanessa bit her lip, spreading her arms wide to protect Dustin. She looked like she was ready to face death.

“Forget it, Master Chasey. You’ll find a better treasure next time. There’s no need to fight.”

Emily advised.

“Shut up!” Walter was furious.

He slapped Emily across the face and screamed, “You ungrateful brats, I taught you to respect your teachers, not rebel against them!”

Emily cupped her cheek with a frown. She looked at Walter in shock, like she didn’t recognize him anymore.

2/3

She never thought that her master would become so uncompromising.

“Sir Chasey, you need to know where to draw the line. Don’t make mountains out of molehills,” Dustin said coolly.

This old geezer was blinded by greed.

It was a shame because he had such a great disciple and an awesome daughter.

“Enough talking! Give me the sword, or don’t think about leaving this place!” Walter threatened.

“You want the sword? Fine, I’ll give it to you.” Dustin nodded and flung the sword.

It spun in the air a few times before lodging itself back in the mystical formation, just like how it was before.

“Go on, pull it out if you can.”

Chapter 984

“Go on, pull it out if you can.

Dustin didn’t want to waste his breath any longer. He tossed the sword back to its original spot and walked out the stone doors.

There were three stone doors in the stone room. Dustin simply chose one and entered.

He didn’t prolong the situation for Emily’s and Vanessa’s sake. Instead, he chose to go his separate way.

After all, it wasn’t like Walter could retrieve the sword. There was no harm in leaving the sword here.

The most important thing was the Shadowbloom.

Once he found the Shadowbloom, he could still return and get the sword.

“Stop right there, punk!”

As Walter watched Dustin walk away, his anger flared. He raised his hand and was about to

deliver a lethal blow.

“Stop!” At that moment, Vanessa suddenly jumped between them.

Walter jumped in fright. Afraid that he would accidentally injure his daughter, he stopped himself.

Ultimately, he watched Dustin and the two others slowly walk into the darkness.

“Stupid girl, how dare you go against me over an outsider? You’re incredibly foolish!”

Walter stamped his foot in disappointment.

How did he raise such an ungrateful child?

“Dad, the treasure is important, but you can’t give up your conscience!” Vanessa said righteously.

“You-”

Walter raised his hand to hit her, but in the end, he stopped himself.

He only had one precious daughter. He couldn’t hurt her.

1/3

“Master Chasey, he is gone, but the sword is here. Why don’t we try again?” Emily said tentatively.

“Hmph! I refuse to believe that only that punk can pull it out!”

Walter gritted his teeth and approached the sword again. Then, he grabbed the hilt with both hands and tried to lift it.

However, the sword didn't budge. It reacted differently than it did in Dustin's presence.

"Useless! Trash! I'll destroy you!"

Walter tried a few more times, and his embarrassment turned into anger.

Since he couldn't get it, he wanted to destroy it. He slammed his palm on the hilt of the sword.

"Boom!" There was an explosion.

The sword didn't move. Instead, an invisible force forced Walter to stagger backward.

Suddenly, blood rushed through him, and his arm went numb.

He couldn't pull it out nor destroy it. He was about to die from frustration.

After composing himself, he left two disciples there to guard it. Then, he led the rest of the group through the other stone door.

There was no point in trying. Perhaps there were better treasures inside.

Inside the dim tunnel, Abigail was still upset. "Sir, that old bastard crossed the line. Why didn't you teach him a lesson?"

"There's no need to create additional problems for ourselves. Let's find the Shadowbloom first," Dustin said indifferently.

The sword had already bonded with him. He could summon it anytime, so he wasn't worried it'd get stolen.

As they were walking, Azalea stopped in her tracks. "Doctor, there's another crossroad

ahead.”

At some point, a crossroad had appeared.

2/3

Looking into it, they saw that each cave was unfathomably deep. It was pitch black, so they had no idea where it led.

“Why is this place just like a maze? There are all sorts of crossroads.” Abigail frowned, looking nervous.

If they took the wrong road, would they be in danger?

“Keep walking forward.”

Dustin swept his gaze over his surroundings and quickly found his bearings.

They continued trudging ahead, following the twists and turns of the tunnel. After half an hour of walking, they saw a bright light.

They picked up the pace. They realized it was a brightly lit burial chamber when they got closer.

The burial chamber was huge. All sorts of lifelike humanoid statues surrounded it.

In the very middle of the statues was a giant bronze coffin.

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There were all sorts of strange symbols covering the coffin. It looked like it was filled with dark energy.

“Sir, don’t you feel like this place is eerie?” Abigail shrunk backward. For some reason, she felt nervous.

Those lifelike stone statues next to the coffin creeped her out the most. Their cold, beady eyes seemed to be staring straight at her.

Goosebumps broke out on her skin.

“They’re just statues. What are you afraid of?”

Dustin looked around, but he didn’t sense any living creatures.

“Doctor, there are some writings here.” Azalea stepped forward to find a stone tablet in front of the coffin.

On the stone tablet were the words, “Disciple of the Jade Maiden Sisterhood; Kowtow thrice before the tomb.”

## Chapter 985

“Sir, we’re not disciples of the Jade Maiden Sisterhood. Should we pray?” Abigail asked.

“We should respect the dead,” Dustin said, nodding.

Iris was a great legend. Although she already passed, she deserved to be respected.

“Okay.” Abigail agreed. She kneeled in front of the stone tablet and kowtowed.

Suddenly, the stone tablet began rumbling. It sunk into the earth and disappeared.

Then, an exquisite box emerged from the stone tablet’s original spot.

“Sir, there’s something here!” Abigail’s eyes lit up, and she immediately opened the box.

A golden pearl was Inside the wooden box. It was dazzling and sparkling.

The golden liquid inside was spinning like a whirlpool. It was absorbing the spiritual energy from its surroundings.

“Oh my gosh, is this the Celestial Pearl?!” Azalea’s eyes grew wide with shock.

Even the ever-composed Dustin was surprised.

He never thought the box would contain a legendary sacred relic of the martial world—the Celestial Pearl!

“What’s a Celestial Pearl?” Abigail cocked her head in confusion.

Wasn’t it just a pretty jewel? Why were they freaking out?

“Abigail, you struck gold this time!” Azalea was jumping out and down in excitement.

“The Celestial Pearl is one of the three major sacred relics. It’s the best, something that numerous martial artists could only dream of!

“Its biggest use is in increasing the speed of cultivation by 10 to 100 times! With the Celestial Pearl, a loser could become a genius overnight!

“Of course, if a genius got their hands on this treasure, their power would be unimaginable!

“It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that once the Celestial Pearl appears, there will be a bloodbath in the martial world!”

By the end of her explanation, her face was flushed.



This prized treasure in front of them could make someone a whole new person and achieve great heights!

Who wouldn't be envious?

"Huh, it's that powerful?" Abigail was shocked and found it hard to comprehend the situation.

She'd assumed that it was some kind of decorative jewelry. She didn't think it was such a big deal.

"Abigail, remember, you can't tell anyone about the Celestial Pearl. Or else, there'll be consequences!" Dustin warned her sternly.

Even he couldn't help but feel a desire for this treasure.

"Sir, this is too precious. I can't take care of it. You should take it."

Abigail was a little scared, so she handed the Celestial Pearl to Dustin without a second thought.

"Abigail, you-!" Azalea's eyes widened in disbelief.

Was that girl stupid? Did she give away this treasure that could change one's fate that others desperately search for?

Even a fool wouldn't do this!

"You silly girl, you're the one who followed the writings, so the Celestial Pearl naturally belongs to you. You keep it." Dustin smiled and pushed her hand back.

"What?" Azalea was once again dumbfounded.

She thought Dustin would be overjoyed, but he unexpectedly turned it down.

Was he also stupid?

“Sir, you’re more talented than me. You would use it better.” Abigail shoved it to him again.

“If I use it now, I won’t improve much. A beginner like you needs it to increase your cultivation speed.” Dustin pushed it back.

“I don’t want it, you take it!”

“Don’t be silly, keep it!”

“I don’t even want it!”

“You need it!”

The both of them pushed it back and forth. In the end, they got so worked up that they almost fought.

At the side, Azalea’s lips twitched. She looked at the scene before her, not knowing how *to* feel about it.

Did they think this was a game?

This was a fucking sacred relic of the martial world!

This treasure made countless martial artists crazy with desire!

Could the two of them at least show it some respect?!

Chapter 986

Seeing the two of them fight non-stop, Azalea couldn't stand it anymore. "If neither of you wants it, why don't you give it to me?"

If she was shameless enough, they might give it to her.

"Don't be stupid!" Dustin glared at her.

He forced the Celestial Pearl back into Abigail's pocket and said, "Take care of it. This treasure chose you. If you push it back, I'll be mad!"

"Oh okay, then. I'll use it for a while, then give it to you." After hesitating, Abigail still decided to keep it close to her.

She thought that once she grew stronger, she could help Dustin more.

When she touched the Celestial Pearl, she could feel a cooling energy flow into her body and her core. It empowered her internal energy and strengthened her circulatory pathways.

If this continued, she would have another breakthrough within three to five days.

Her cultivation speed was advancing fast!

"Alright, let's look around. Do you see any Shadowblooms here?"

Without wasting time, Dustin began searching all over.

The tomb contained many treasures. There were powerful weapons, ancient martial arts texts, and priceless artifacts.

Each item's worth could give a person a comfortable lifestyle for a lifetime.

However, Dustin wasn't interested in these. On the other hand, Azalea took everything

that she could find.

After searching the entire tomb, Dustin didn't find any Shadowblooms.

The only place he hadn't searched yet was the bronze coffin.

"Sorry!" Dustin faced the coffin and bowed deeply. Then, he pressed his palm to the coffin's lid and pushed.

Metallic creaking sounded as the coffin slowly opened. Dust rained down below.

1/3

When Dustin looked inside, his eyes widened.

He found the remains of a man wearing a beautiful suit.

On his chest was an exquisite flower.

The entire flower was black, and it emitted a dim glow.

It gave off a mysterious, sad, gloomy, yet beautiful feeling.

It was eerie and enchanting but also fierce. It looked like it came from another world.

With just one glance, he was captivated. This flower was none other than the Shadowbloom.

"As I thought, it's here!" Dustin was overjoyed.

With this Shadowbloom, Natasha could be saved.

"Please forgive me for offending you."

Dustin bowed another time, then reached for the Shadowbloom.

“Sir, behind you!” Abigail suddenly exclaimed.

“What?”

Dustin turned his head. One of the stone statues behind him was suddenly moving.

There was a crackle as the statue’s outer layer began to crack and fall off piece by piece.

Then, the statue’s eyes snapped open!

The stone layer on its body exploded when it opened his eyes.

At the same time, a white figure burst through the rock and slammed Dustin in the chest.

Frowning, Dustin raised his arm in response.

“Boom!”

When both of them touched, Dustin staggered backward from the momentum, wobbling on his feet.

Every step backward that he took left a deep footprint on the ground.

On the other hand, the white figure landed gently on the ground. White mist swirled around it, giving it a holy yet evil aura.

## Chapter 987

Abigail was shocked. She hid behind Azalea, trembling.

She was fearless in most aspects, but supernatural stuff scared her.

“Who are you?” Dustin frowned, his face hardened.

He was caught off guard. But the fact that the person could push him back with a single palm strike proved their strength.

The person before him was definitely an ultimate grandmaster!

“This is my tomb. Who do you think I am?”

The mist surrounding the figure dissipated.

Soon, they saw the face of a white-haired woman with a youthful appearance appear

before them. She possessed a beauty that could captivate nations.

Even with white hair, her face looked like she didn't age. Her deep eyes seemed to have witnessed and seen all of life's experiences through everything.

“Your tomb?” Dustin was stunned.

His expression then shifted. “Are you Iris Meskill?”

“Iris Meskill?” Even Abigail and Azalea were stunned, their face full of disbelief.

Didn't Iris die 50 years ago? Why was she alive? What was happening?

“You know my name, yet you dare steal from my tomb? Are you asking for death?”

Iris's tone was calm, yet it conveyed chilling pressure.

“Madam Iris, we didn't come here to steal from you. We're here to obtain the Shadowbloom to save a life,” Dustin explained.

“Do you know how precious the Shadowbloom is? Why should I give it to you?” she replied impassively.

“Please state your conditions, and I'll fulfill them as best as possible.” Dustin bowed respectfully.

“Conditions?” Iris snorted.

“If you can revive my husband, I’ll give it to you.”

“Madam Iris, this is a difficult request.”

Dustin frowned slightly. “How can a dead man be brought back to life?”

There was nothing but bones left of the person in the coffin. Not even God could bring him back to life.

“Since you know that the dead can’t be brought back to life, don’t covet the Shadowbloom anymore.

“Since you were polite earlier, I won’t kill you. Leave.” Iris waved her hand dismissively.

“Madam Iris, I must take this flower back with me!” Dustin was determined.

“Take? What makes you think you can?” Iris’ gaze grew colder.

“I’d like to try.” Dustin was solemn.

“Aren’t you afraid of death?” She narrowed her eyes.

“Even if I die, I must take this flower back!” Dustin was resolute.

“Very well, I’ll grant your wish!”

Iris’ anger flared, and she leaped into the air. Her palm strike was aimed at Dustin.

Although it seemed like a harmless strike, it carried explosive power that could disintegrate a person.

Dustin felt his scalp tingle before it hit him, and every hair on his body stood on its end. A sense of danger surged within him.

Fifty years ago, Iris was already a top ultimate grandmaster. After 50 years, her cultivation had reached an unimaginable level, surpassing all others.

“I’m giving it all I got!”

Dustin gritted his teeth. He jabbed a silver needle into the back of his head.

This was the Rhys family's secret technique. By sacrificing a portion of their life force, they could bring out their untapped potential and gain a temporary boost in strength.

Dustin's eyes turned bloodshot as the needle entered his body, and his veins bulged against his skin.

2/3

Energy surged within him like an erupting volcano. He was unstoppable.

Breaking through the constraints of a grandmaster, he took a huge leap forward and stepped into the realm of an ultimate grandmaster!

Chapter 988

At the same time Dustin broke through a new realm, Iris' killing palm strike was about to land on him.

Dustin couldn't evade in time and had to face her head-on. Similarly, he extended a palm strike.

The moment their palms met, an explosion rang out.

Dustin flew back like a cannonball. He crashed into the wall behind him, leaving a human-shaped dent in.

The entire chamber shook, causing stones to fall.

Dustin felt a sharp pain in his throat and spat a mouthful of blood. His complexion turned pale.

"Sir!" Abigail's expression shifted.



She was about to rush up to help but was grabbed by Azalea. Azalea knew they had no place in a fight of that magnitude.

Iris was already a revered figure 50 years ago. After years of seclusion, she was now invincible, a true immortal of earth!

It was impressive that Dustin wasn't killed on the spot before such a terrifying figure.

"You are skilled. Unfortunately, you are too young.

"Leave. I don't wish to kill you," Iris said indifferently, her hands behind her back.

He could become the chosen one since he achieved such strength in his twenties. Even she might have been weaker than him in those years.

Dustin coughed and struggled as he crawled. He felt as if his body was about to fall apart.

Defeated by a single strike, Dustin was completely outmatched!

Even when he used his secret technique to break through a new realm, he was still

incomparable to Iris. He couldn't even defend against her.

"I must bring home the Shadowbloom today."

Dustin wiped the blood off the corner of his mouth and staggered forward resolutely.

1/2

"You're asking for death!" Iris' gaze grew even colder.

"I don't have any other choice."

Dustin continued on fearlessly. His determined gaze was fixed on the coffin.

"You're incredibly stubborn!" Iris raised her hand again, striking a palm from a distance.

The golden aura shaped like a palm shot out, carrying an explosive force. It struck Dustin.

Dustin flew back again as another explosion rang out. He crashed heavily into the wall, leaving another dent.

He spat out another mouthful of blood. It added to his injuries.

It looked as if he would collapse at any time.

Dustin gritted his teeth and forced himself to stand upright. One unsteady step after the other, Dustin moved forward slowly.

Every step he took left a bloody footprint on the ground.

“What?” Iris frowned.

She didn’t expect Dustin to be that stubborn. He was severely injured, finding it hard to stand. Yet, he was still walking toward death.

How could there be such a foolish person in the world?”

“I’m giving you another chance. Leave immediately, or die!” Iris warned sternly.

“No matter what it takes, I’m returning with the Shadowbloom.”

Dustin took a deep breath, his burning gaze unwavering.

“Let’s see how long you can hold on!” Iris’ expression darkened.

She shot out another palm strike from a distance. It landed on Dustin’s chest.

## Chapter 989

Dustin felt his chest collapse. He was thrown high into the air before crashing heavily onto the ground.

He spat out a third mouthful of blood that landed in a splat far from him. It was a horrifying sight

“Sir!” Abigail screamed. Her eyes reddened, her face full of grief and anger

She wanted to rush forward, but Azalea held her tight So, she could only watch as Dustin suffered

“One more step just one more step... Natasha is still waiting for me. I can’t fall now!” After collecting himself, Dustin clenched his teeth.

Swaying unsteadily, he forced his battered body to stand upright. He was trembling and weak

He was like a flickering candle that would go out at any moment.

“Sir, just give up! Let’s give up the Shadowbloom. If you continue like this, you will die!” Abigail was anxious as tears started flowing.

She could tell that Dustin was already at his limit. Another strike, and he would be dead.

Drip, drip, drip .....

Dustin remained determined. He straightened his body and staggered forward.

Blood continued to drip from his mouth and nose, falling to the ground.

“Dustin! Don’t push it anymore! Is it worth it for a woman?

“She won’t live either if you die!” Azalea screamed. Even she couldn’t bear to continue watching.

She couldn’t understand Dustin. Was there someone in this world more important than their own life?

Looking at his unwavering gaze, she was moved. She even felt jealous of Natasha for

having a man willing to sacrifice his life for her.

“Why? Why are you so desperate?” Iris frowned. She looked at Dustin, conflicted.

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Even she admired Dustin’s strong willpower His tearless efforts especially reminded her of her younger self.

“The Shadowbloom I must get the Shadowbloom I must save her!” Dustin mumbled to himself

He took difficult steps forward, but he was determined. As long as he lived, he would not give up

Right then, Iris fell into a daze. She realized something when faced with Dustin’s tenacity.

She was reminded of herself from many years ago.

Back then, she traveled to the corners of the world. She faced a difficult journey and risked her life, all for the love of her life.

But what came of it?

She finally found the Shadowbloom after suffering through all the hardships, only to return and find her lover dead.

She was hysterical, feeling pain and desperation. And yet, there was nothing that could bring him back.

She owed him an apology, but he would never get to hear it. He could only lay in this icy cold coffin, deep in slumber for eternity.

“When the world is vast and boundless, only the yearning for love knows no bounds.

“Silas, you said you would wait for me. But why can’t I see you again?”

Iris shut her eyes. Two streams of tears rolled down her cheeks.

At that moment, she thought she saw a nobleman walking toward her with a smile. He then wrapped her in a tight embrace.

Everything was beautiful and serene. It was enchanting.

Only when she opened her eyes did the beautiful dream fade away.

“I know how it feels...”

Iris sighed softly. She reached into the coffin, took out the Shadowbloom, and tossed it into Dustin’s hands.

“I’m giving you this flower. Go and save that person.”

“What?” The sudden turn of events left Dustin stunned.

After he came back to his senses, he bowed repeatedly. “Thank you, Madam Iris!”

Even though he didn’t understand what happened, it was a positive development.

“I hope you and your loved one will be together forever,” Iris said wistfully.

Both of them had a similar experience, but they had opposite fates.

Dustin’s lover was still alive, and they had a beautiful future. Her lover had long since passed away...

## Chapter 990

After handing over the Shadowbloom, Iris turned back to stone. With her eyes closed, she stood unmoving.

She seemed to be reminiscing memories She also seemed to be in deep contemplation. “Thank you, Madam Iris, for the flower. I will always remember your generosity. Goodbye.”

Dustin decided not to disturb her further when he saw her in her meditative state. After a deep bow, he staggered away.

Dustin would have been dead if Iris hadn’t held back earlier. Her skills had already surpassed that of an ultimate grandmaster, and she was unmatched in the entire world.

“Sir, are you alright? You lost a lot of blood.”

Abigail helped Dustin walk. The corner of her eyes was still stained with tears.

That was too close.

If it weren’t because Iris took pity on him, Dustin would have died.

“I’m fine. I just broke a few bones. I won’t die.”

Dustin took out a tablet and swallowed it. He then slowly circulated his energy.

It was fortunate that he had a good foundation. Not to mention, Iris had held back.

Otherwise, it would have been difficult for him to walk.

“Sir, you were stubborn earlier. We could have looked for another way without using the Shadowbloom. Why did you have to push yourself?” Abigail complained.

“We were out of time. I had to take a gamble.” Dustin shook his head.

Natasha was in critical condition, and he wasn’t sure how much longer she could hold on.

If he missed this chance, it might be too late.

“You were willing to give up your life for the sake of a woman. I’m unsure if I should.

describe you as foolish or crazy in love,” Azalea said.

If there were a man who would risk his life for her like that, she would never let him go. It was unfortunate that the man before her already belonged to someone else.

“Let’s go. It’s time we head back.”

Dustin circulated his energy to heal his injuries temporarily. Soon, they made their way back through the dark passage.

As they were walking, the ground suddenly started to shake.

Followed by a roar, a large amount of sand fell. The tomb started shaking violently.

Cracks started to form as if the tomb was about to fall apart.

“This is bad! It’s an earthquake! Run!”

The three of them grew worried and quickly ran toward the exit. They dashed as if their lives depended on it.

They were underground. If they ended up being buried alive, the consequences would be unimaginable!

After two minutes, the three of them finally exited the tomb. Their faces were covered in dust.

Not long after they escaped, they heard a thunderous sound. The entire passage had collapsed, burying everything inside.

“That was close! We almost didn’t make it!”

Abigail patted her chest. The lingering fear she was feeling was evident on her face.

“It was probably Madam Iris’ work. She doesn’t wish to be disturbed anymore.” Dustin looked at the collapsed tomb with a frown

Iris Meskill was a legendary figure in Dragonmarsh. She was a heroine among women and a revered figure akin to God.

Yet, in the end, she was bound by love. She willingly chose to be buried underground with her dead husband, never to see the light of day again.

Her love story was tragic yet inspiring. It deserved respect.

“Sir! It looks like a fight is starting over there!” Just then, Abigail pointed ahead.

Dustin looked over and saw the disciples of Azure Mist surrounded by the elite martial artists of major sects.

The tomb’s location had been leaked, and everyone who caught wind of it hurried over, trying to get whatever they can.

Meanwhile, Azure Mist had already managed to collect many treasures from within.