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Although he is seen as arespectDe mason, and possibly even feared, Fortunate rather great need for my touch and my Tate notion was ultimately his weakness. I turned and said to him: My Dear Fortunate, is there something that troubles you? ' " You," he said. 'What precisely are we doing?! " " We are merely relishing each other's company. Wish to not impose of this sill once that fell upon us, tester 2 " My Friend; l mean, what is this relationship, this immoral act we have been pr acting for the last few years?

Fortunate questioned forcefully with a longing desire of need on his beet red face and tense shoulders. I gathered my wits and gingerly walked over to Fortunate s eat. Grabbed his rather clammy hands and grazed my lips across his knuckles while staring pro foundry into his mound wondering eyes that reflected the wild dark roots thrusting against the summer's forest. I could see the large vein on his petite forehead throb as the thoughts of our re allocation flourished in his mind.

He was not mentally prepared to overcome such a scandal, and n either was l, but it was he who held the guilt of betraying the marriage he built with Lady Fortune tat close to heart. " Fortunate, there is no need to cause yourself any agony. There is no need to I k for meaning in this amour. This affair doesn't reduce your StatUS as a respected a ND honorable mason now, gather yourself up and make your journey to yourself. This involve moment between us is ours alone Carr Fortunate broke his gaze and looked down at his settled hands.

He sat there, unmoving. For a moment it seemed as though he was in war with his conflicting thought s, unsure of what there was to come. He finally rose his head and looked at me with somewhat Of contentment in his eyes. " l see where we stand, Mentors. Will now leave. My dear Mary will be cusps socio if I were to delay much longer. Until next time, MIM Carr As Fortunate left the chamber, I let the seductive facade fall from my face. Oh r amatory expressed from one side. Oh how despised that man!

How my blood boiled at the thought of 3 him returning to his " beloved" Mary! She should be mine! She was mine. For loved her still do and always will till I am long dead and rotten and the worms have consume De my flesh. Reminisce on the time I met the radiant Mary Perpetrators. We were mere chill drew at the time, not even 16 years of age, and her face was filled with youthful, elegant b tatty. When she was near, there was no one but us, my Mary Bella and l, as though we were al one in a kingdom by IL Mar Mediterranean.

She was my queen, and I was her king, and we had 10 Veda with a love hat was the envy of all the seraphim of Deaden, a love that was abstruse. Unfortunately, I didn't possess the financial level that Fortunate had the privy age to sustain. Fortunate was part of the wealthiest bankingfamilyin Italy, and l, well l, I was part of the strongest mercenary contracting family. As much as the Mentors family pro ducted manors and provinces from regional princes throughout the Italian countryside, the Fort NATO family was far more distinguished than the Mentors due to their financial assistance.

I fell t queasy that such a wealthy and blessed family held the low standards of committing fraud where ere their petty foot stepped. For this reason, my Mary was sold to that accursed trollop Fortunate Although no one could rightfully and obviously accuse the Fortunate Family of such treachery, it was common knowledge across manors and villages that the Fort mutton paid and received monetary favors to secure funds for princes and their regional warrior Eng, as well as bishops and their divine propaganda; all for security and communion.

I peers anally was never involved in these schemes, but time and time again, I subtly chuckled at the m softness of others when attending the cathedral, dining hall, or local winery. Specially cackled when Princes Achilles defrauded Princes Bonaventure, of course with the help of the Fortune tats. Prince Bonaventure was a gentleman to a certain degree, but then again he was juju nee. In truth, any man 4 with a sliver of cunning would have taken advantage of Bonaventurefinanceal impediment.

Oh the insignificance, the ignorance, and the idolatry of princes! The shame cast on our class! For it is the humble peasant that outclasses the local prince in character, but who y is character necessary when wealth, warring, and wills craft the only noticeable characters as suddenly startled, and almost spit my Amaretto in disgust once realizing Prince De Boring ostentatiously slithered in the winery. Of course, the rest of the gentle men and mercenaries jolted with great delight to see a prominent prince, a skilled war ROR, and charismatic countryman.

De Boring owned numerous estates, and every wine made in HTH s vulnerably was technically his. He would fence and go horseback riding two hours everyday, t here lavish parties every other week, and always found Ways to make financial transactions even as his mistresses purloined amounts of wealth in coinage or capital. As not in the least afraid of him, but any sign of dissent or digressiveness of De Barrio's attention would ignite a brawl between the dandies at the winery and Prince De Boring and l. As much as my combat ski ASS were polished, would be outnumbered thirty to one. Loud die as a martyr to my waning f Emily, but not to those princes I have served and honored and neither to those mercenaries t hat I contracted and compensated. As I was reminiscing those thoughts, Prince De Boring slammed his flask of A amaretto on my table, nearly shattering the flask itself. " l see! You are the pitiful Mentors, lull ? " De Boring chuckled. " l see! You are the parasitic De Boring, time quietly retorted as I sipped my flask of Amaretto. 5 " He he, you have remotely sharpened your diplomacy. I just came by to invite et you to the Mason's festivity tonight.

We will have copious amounts of wine and liquor r, appetizer, entrees, and desserts, and fine courtesans. Promise with what little heart I h eve that it will not be a snare to bring your demise, or worse, publicize your 'fencing affair, even if I consider you such scum under the trampling of the snake of your pathetic family crest. " " You wouldn't dare. And you know your insignificant crest is simply a fusillade mouse hyena pretending to be in a lion's skin. My pathetic snake as you should call him, would deliver the final blow, even if you were to believe that you would have the last laugh. Slowly felt the tension in the room increase as myriad conversations ceased, flasks ceased to be lifted up to sip, and blades slowly began to whisk away from thee r sheaths. " Oh, I almost forgot. Fortunate treating us. You should entrust Fortunate wit h some contracts, or should I say en thrust With that final mockery I instantaneously, with the flick of my wrist, withdrew y sword from my sheath faster than Poseidon would've waved his trident to whish a TTS unman to strand Ulysses. I held De Boring by his chin with the sharp edge of my sword. I whish e red, " l strongly suggest you leave.

NO one here, especially l, requires your service. Not even your family crest belongs on your property, if it still belongs to you. " " You surely jest. Such alliterated fascia you AR" might have lost consciousness for a second as a dark red fluid, dripped on m y blade and squirted on my attire. I then realized that sliced the neck of Prince De Borg a. Immediately, everyone in the winery from the dandies to the princes to the mercenaries t o the peasants drew their blades, and some even drew their firearms. I had no chance to speak as a barrage Of lead, 6 clouds of gunpowder, and shrieks of agony pierced throughout the winery.

I r vapidly dropped to the floorboards of the winery under my table, with my bloodied blade in one hand and my halfpenny flask of Amaretto in another, directly staring at the disillusioned eye sees of Prince De Boring as a pool of blood engulfed his rotten being. After a few minutes of vicious brawling, the winery was returned to a placid SST et by my mercenaries present there. Fortunately, I survived the bloody turmoil in the w inner. No one dared to accuse me, Mentors, of my felony, for they knew they would be lunged b y my mercenaries into a bog.

Of course, Fortunate had to bribe a few dandies and princes, but then again, that was his specialty. I was to see Fortunate tonight at the Mason's festivity at Prince De Barrio's manor, or shall I say former manor. For an abstruse reason, I was bloodstream as I began to ruminate a possible course of events at the festivity. Then again, no one would d know what fencing . NET between Fortunate and I, for I killed Prince De Boring, and was proud of such an act as my honor was preserved. De Boring never took my crest seriously, but Oh what delight! What classical irony! What classical ignorance!

Memo me immune laciest Memo... Me... immune... laciest... I delivered the final blow, and De Boring, such insignificant, insipid, idolatrous, ignominious, imbecile, did not even attempt t o cough a last laugh, or shall I say as a toast to De Boring, cough, a last inning laugh. I cleaned my blade upon his cloak with relish and kicked his head as I left to go to Fortunate Mason party The night of debauchery had drawn on for what seemed like eons. Quickly gar ewe tired of Fortunate and his Mason brethren. Their drunken antics became more and m ore glutinous and disgusting, their voices becoming more clamorous and derisive.

I feigned into caution to keep 7 the reality of my torture muted. Within a few hours, the air of the hall had beck mom thick with the vices of the Masons. Joined Fortunate, continuing my charade of drunkenness s in order to not arouse suspicion of my sobriety. Fortunate was speaking loudly, his voice slur ring and bubbling out of his wine soaked mouth. He could hardly speak for himself, rather the eel as think like a gentlemen around others. The conversation was turned towards the " conquests" of the men. Fortunate spoke of many women who he had affair with in his youth.

I felt my sizzling blood rush through my head and into my palms as I thought of Mary being one of those unfortunate women Not being able to stand it anymore, I grabbed his arm and said, " Think of Mar y, my friend. " " Mary is not here, you Old chum. " Fortunate raised his glass and chuckled, " Eel tutus reminisce upon the great times I had before chew assaulting came along, yes? Hoped my bothered presence would position his mind straight, I hoped that he would shut his bloody awful mouth and reflect upon the fact that he had the only HTH Eng that gave me air as I drowned in this judgmental society.

Mary was the only thing that kept m e together, she held me like cement and allowed me to become something more than just the son Of two hardworking servants. How could Fortunate resemble her to the ordinary women of our to wan, it was uncanny to hear such brainless words. He continued to baffle about his great conquest, and gloated with pride in his eyes as he named a few ladies who mistakenly took his mingled words for affection. Co old not stand in that room full of men who felt as if the only significant thing in that moment was to speak of the 8 women who had the misfortune of meeting them. Shed myself out of the basement arranging my hands along the mature wooden rail that kept me from falling. Looked above to the clear sky, searched for something to gain my attention a ND possess my body from going back to the smoky room and committing a terrible mists eke. In the mere distance I heard someone delicately recite my name from their lips. " Metronomes? Fortunate placed the almost empty glass of wine on the FL or and strolled towards my direction. " Did something go wrong, chum?