Among the four generals, the strong and muscular one called Mad Bull, strode forward and said in a deep voice, "The head of the Griffins from the East has arrived. All of the Smiths, come forward to kneel and beg for mercy. For those who resist, your fates will be similar to these two stone statues."

To demonstrate, Mad Bull raised his right fist and slammed it against the head of one of the stone statues among the ruins before the gates leading to the Smiths' residence.

## Boom!

The stone head that was as big as a millstone was smashed into pieces by a single punch from Mad Bull.

Mad Bull didn't stop there. He swept out his leg in a sharp kick, destroying another stone statue in the head.

#### Boom!

The head of the other stone statue



crumbled into pieces as well.

Everyone in the Smith family blanched in horror. Their eyes widened, utterly shocked that this man had used his bare hands and feet to smash the stone statues' heads into little pieces.

Is he even human? This is just too terrifying!

When Damon saw the Smiths' horrified looks and trembling bodies, a contemptuous look appeared on his face.

Denise had previously been humiliated in front of Nathan and Penny. Now, seeing the Smiths shaking in fear made her exceptionally smug.

Holding onto Damon's arm, she sneered at Penny and her family, saying, "Hah! Do you finally know fear and despair? Well, you should've known it sooner. Weren't you Smiths always full of yourselves? Where's all that arrogance now, huh?"

Sean fearfully guided his family forward to



greet them. He put down his ego and walked towards Damon and Denise. "Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, we Smiths own up to our mistakes." He cautiously apologized.

"We know that we're at fault. Please spare us and give us a chance. We are willing to compensate you for the loss the Griffins suffered, in any way possible."

Denise raised her hand and slapped Sean across his face.

## Smack!

Her slap was so hard that Sean couldn't keep his balance, staggering back a little from the force. Fortunately, his family supported him in time, otherwise, he would have fallen to the ground.

Sean was an elder who had seen much of the world, but he had been given a tight slap by Denise, a woman who was two generations younger than him.

His weathered face was flushed a crimson red. With a voice thick with grief and anger,



he said, "You... You hit me?"

Denise curled her lips into a sneer. "Hah! That's right. I hit you. So what?"

She lifted her chin and continued, "A slap is nothing. I could kill you, and even your entire family. Do you believe that?"

Sean's whole body shook with the magnitude of his rage. "You!"

He wanted to say that he didn't believe it, but one look at Damon's sinister smile, and the murderous air circulating the Griffins' four generals, not to mention the army behind them, made him swallow his rebellious words.

He was afraid that by saying this, he would incur the wrath of Damon and trigger him to go on a killing spree.

Although Penny had a slight falling-out with her grandfather recently, he was still family.

When she saw Denise slap her



grandfather, and even continued speaking down to him, she couldn't remain quiet anymore.

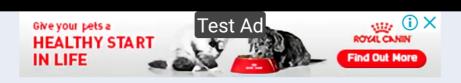
Stepping between Denise and her grandfather, she angrily reprimanded, "Denise, how dare you slap an eighty-year-old man? How shameless!"

Upon hearing this, Denise's expression darkened and her sneer turned impossibly uglier. "Alright then. I won't hit this old man. I'll hit you instead. If I don't slap your hateful face until it becomes unrecognizable by the end of today, I'll willingly be your slave for the rest of my life!"

Denise raised her hand and was about to bring it down onto Penny's face.

Just at that moment, a frosty voice sounded among them, "A vicious woman like you isn't fit to be our dog, let alone our slave."

Denise jolted in shock and turned towards the source of the voice along with



everyone else at the scene.

A tall and well-built man with eyes that shone like stars in the darkest nights walked over with an expression that could freeze hell itself.

It was Nathan Cross!



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"Hubby!" Penny's voice cracked when she saw Nathan.

When Kylie saw Nathan, she immediately clapped in exuberance. "Yes! My brother-in-law is here! You Griffins are going down now!"

Nathan's timely appearance resembled a lifeline to Sean and his family, and their dejection morphed into joy.

However, their joy was short lived.

They realized that Nathan had come alone.

Their hearts instantly dropped to their stomachs as they thought to themselves: This is it. This is the end of us. Everyone knows how powerful the Griffins are. Nathan didn't even bring reinforcements, and Thomas Dunn is nowhere in sight. We'll surely meet our end today.

Penny, Kylie, Benson, and Leah who was carrying Queenie, all had surprise sprawled across their faces the moment Nathan



arrived.

Sean turned towards him with worry and a hint of accusation in his eyes, then asked in a hushed tone, "Nathan, didn't you go to get help to fight against the Griffins? Where's the help?"

Sean's voice wasn't loud, but Damon, Denise, and the rest had heard it as clear as day.

The corner of Damon's lips lifted into a mocking smile.

Denise threw her head back laughing. "Hahaha! Get help to fight against us Griffins? Joke of the year."

She calmed down a little before saying, "In the whole of South, how many dare to challenge the Griffins? So, in a small city like Channing, who would be bold or stupid enough to go up against us?"

She cast a derisive glance towards all the Smiths and snarked, "You Smiths paid a lump sum of money to hire two



underground overlords, Gus Jenkins and Cooper Fink were it? But they were finished off by the Griffins anyway. So, do you think anyone would dare to help you now?"

The Smiths turned ashen when they heard this.

Although Denise's words were arrogant, they couldn't deny the fact that she was speaking the truth.

In the whole of Channing, no one could help them.

They were really done this time around.

Damon's eyes strayed towards Nathan. He knew that his younger brother was killed by Nathan.

He craved to see regret, fear, and despair on Nathan's face.

However, he was surprised to see that not only was Nathan not scared or anxious like the Smiths, but looked as if he wasn't



bothered in the least. Only certainty and confidence gleamed in his eyes.

This discovery gnawed at Damon's chest, making him feel very uneasy.

His face visibly darkened. He narrowed his eyes at Nathan and said coldly, "So, you're Nathan Cross?"

Nathan hadn't even spoken yet when Denise haughtily pointed at him and demanded, "Nathan, my husband is speaking to you. Come here this instant. Kneel before him and answer his question!"

Standing with his hands crossed behind his back, Nathan didn't spare Denise a glance. He kept his gaze fixed on Damon and calmly said, "The Griffins are a powerful family in the East. So, developing in the East would've no doubt ensured a promising future for the Griffins."

He paused, as if for dramatic effect, before continuing, "It's too bad that you made a foolish decision to come to Channing to



provoke me. I'll give you one last chance to retreat and run for your lives before my reinforcements arrive."

As soon as Nathan finished speaking, Damon's eyes widened along with the rest of the Griffins.

Even Penny showed a doubtful expression.

The Smiths were thrown into a frenzy.

Sean knew how crazy Nathan was on a daily basis, but he never expected him to be completely out of his damned mind.

Look at the state we're in now!

Everyone's lives are hanging by a thread, but here he is, talking like he has the upper hand.

He even said that he's giving the Griffins one last chance to retreat and run for their lives?

Sean couldn't tolerate Nathan's ignorance any longer. "Nathan, you dare to come



unprepared and brag as if there are no consequences. Don't you know when to quit? Insolent fool! If you want to die, die on your own! How dare you anger Mr. Griffin at the expense of our lives!"

Damon and Denise threw scornful looks at Nathan.

Nathan only smiled faintly. "Don't worry. I meant it when I said that I'd keep you and your family safe. As for the Griffins, I've given them their chance. So it's up to them to decide if they want to take it or leave it."





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Denise looked at Nathan like he was a halfwit, then turned and said to Damon in a honey-laced voice, "Darling, it looks like someone is still living in a dream. Do you think we should wake him up and let him know how cruel reality can get?"

Damon gave a sly grin and shouted, "Doc!"

Among the four generals behind him, one of them was wearing a gown similar to a doctor's with a pair of gold-rimmed glasses resting on the bridge of his nose. This doctor that seemed gentle and harmless walked out with a smile. "Sir, what can I do for you?"

Damon played with Denise's fingers and casually said, "Cut a pound of flesh from his body!"

Doc looked at Nathan and said, "Yes, sir!"

"Make sure that you only cut one pound of flesh, and you have to cut it in strips. Ten strips to be exact." Damon added.

"Also, make sure that he stays alive even



after you're done. Don't let him pass out either. I want to see how he begs for his life on the brink of his death."

What Damon said made everyone in the Smith family pale in fear.

Meanwhile, a scalpel had magically appeared in Doc's hand, its thin and sharp blade glinting maliciously under the light.

He grinned wickedly and said, "I will do exactly as you say, sir. I'll make sure he doesn't die or pass out because what I love the most is listening to people scream as my knife cuts into them. Their screams are the most beautiful melody in the world."

Nathan's eyes flashed with a dangerous glint.

Psychotic demons like him shouldn't be allowed to live.

Doc noticed the change in Nathan's expression and mistook it as fear. He cracked into a triumphant smile and said,



"He's scared. Look at his face. Haha. Be consumed by your fear and scream for your life! Your worst nightmare is just about to begin, boy!"

With that, Doc moved towards him.

His speed was terrifying, his movements so quick that the naked eye couldn't see.

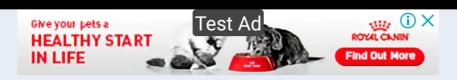
He was but a blur of motion as he lunged towards Nathan.

Light was reflected off the scalpel in Doc's hand as it swiped straight for Nathan's right arm.

After a series of calculations, Doc was certain that he would be able to slice a few strips of flesh from Nathan's arm with just this move.

However, he never expected that right before his scalpel was about to make contact with Nathan's arm, Nathan would be able to swiftly dodge his attack.

In the end, his outstretched scalpel sliced



into the trunk of a Firmiana simplex tree.

He grunted and put more strength into his arm, cutting through the narrow trunk of the Firmiana simplex tree as if it was a pile of cotton.

The Firmiana simplex collapsed sideways to the ground.

The Smiths were horror-stricken that such a small scalpel could cut through the trunk of a Firmiana simplex tree from end to end.

This so-called doctor was too terrifying.

After Doc cut through a Firmiana simplex, he realized with a start that Nathan had moved behind him with lightning speed.

Without turning, he slashed at Nathan's chest with a backhand movement.

This was his signature move. He called it the 'Lethal Backhand'.

This move always caught his opponents



off guard and had never once failed him.

However, there was a first time for everything. With Nathan as his opponent, this move failed him.

When the scalpel was a few centimeters away from his chest, Nathan raised his hand and grabbed Doc's wrist.

Color drained from Doc's face. "You!"

Before he could get any more words out, Nathan's fingers had tightened around his wrist.

*Crack!* The sound of bones fracturing reverberated through the place.

Nathan had snapped Doc's right wrist with his bare hand.

"Ahhh——" Doc screamed in agony.

Nathan didn't stop there, taking advantage of his pain to continuously strike him.

Crack! Crack! The sickening sound of bones shattering c



ontinued to fill everyone's ear.

Doc's limbs were crushed by Nathan, even his spine was broken with a single powerful kick from Nathan.

Doc had shrieked loudly in the beginning, but his screams gradually weakened.

Almost all the bones in his whole body were shattered, including his spine. Hence, he collapsed to the ground like a sack of potatoes and wailed in torment and anguish.

Nathan looked at the way Doc was pleading for life as death stood upon him, all the while wearing a look of indifference. Then, he said, "You like to torture others and listen to their screams, don't you? Now, you can have a taste of your own medicine while appreciating your own screams!"

Everyone present stared at Nathan in shock.

Clearly, no one had expected that Doc, one



of the four generals under the Griffins, would be utterly mangled by Nathan.

Damon scrutinized Nathan from head to toe as if he wanted to figure out this man.

He narrowed his eyes and said, "No wonder you dared to speak so arrogantly. It turns out that you have some tricks up your sleeves. I guess I've underestimated you."

Then, he turned to the remaining three generals and asked, "Which one of you will take his life?"



Hook, Mad Bull, and Ghost were silent.

"Stop wasting my time. I'll fight all of you at once." Nathan said nonchalantly, with a hint of impatience lacing his tone.



"Crazy son of a b\*\*ch!" Damon grounded out. "Hook, Mad Bull, Ghost! Attack together! Make him regret ever being born."

"Charge!"

Hook and Mad Bull were first to pounce on Nathan.

Ghost, on the other hand, was slower to react.

It wasn't because Ghost was less competent than Hook and Mad Bull; it was the exact opposite.

Ghost was the strongest among the Griffins' four generals. He could single-handedly defeat the other three if he wanted to.

He didn't want to join forces with Hook and Mad Bull in fighting Nathan, so he had deliberately fallen back slightly.

"I'll make you bleed!" The razor-sharp sickle on Hook's right arm swiped for



## Nathan's neck.

Mad Bull had also raised his burly right arm to swing a heavy punch at Nathan, the force and speed of his clenched fist barreling towards Nathan like a sledgehammer.

The Smiths panicked as they watched from the sidelines, especially Penny, who couldn't help but scream, "Nathan, watch out!"

Nathan lifted his left hand and grabbed Hook's deadly sickle.

At the same time, he threw out his right fist to meet Mad Bull's incoming one.

#### Boom!

Nathan and Mad Bull's fists collided.

The bones in Mad Bull's hand instantly shattered, and his entire hand swelled like an inflated balloon. With a mournful wail, he pulled his hand back and retreated in pain.



Hook was shocked and forcefully yanked back his sickle.

He struggled with everything he had, but couldn't move an inch, much less break free.

Nathan tugged slightly with his left hand, pulling Hook towards him at a high speed. Then, he launched a flying kick, which landed squarely on Hook's chest.

## Thwack!

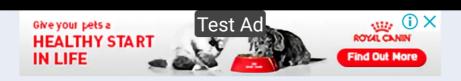
Hook was sent flying outwards like a broken kite, spurting a trail of blood in his wake.

By the time he landed on the ground, he was already a corpse.

Everyone appeared shell-shocked.

Especially Damon, who had a dumbstruck look on his face.

In a blink of an eye, three of his generals had fallen, either dead or severely maimed.



Nathan Cross isn't someone to be trifled with!

Swoosh!

A dark shadow swept towards Nathan. It was the strongest out of the four generals, Ghost, who had finally launched his attack.

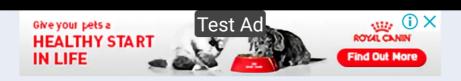
Ghost moved with the speed of light. One moment he was there, and the next he wasn't. He was indeed worthy of the name 'Ghost'.

The naked eye wasn't able to catch his movements, nor his shadow. All people could detect was a shift in the wind as he rushed towards Nathan.

Ghost was a black cloak and a white mask. In his hand was a dull but unusually sharp dagger.

The dagger resembled a snake spitting venom as it swiftly struck out at a tricky and fatal angle towards Nathan's artery.

Nathan took a small step back, narrowly



avoiding Ghost's dagger.

Ghost followed him relentlessly like a phantom shadow, swiping the dagger again and again.

Nathan only took small steps backward and kept his neck a centimeter away from Ghost's dagger.

And it was exactly because of that centimeter which caused Ghost's dagger to miss its mark again and again.

Ghost's movements were extremely quick, and he had launched seven attacks in a blink of an eye, causing everyone else to turn cross-eyed as they tried to keep up.

Nathan had taken seven small steps backward, rendering Ghost's viper-quick attacks completely futile.

Then, Nathan began to counterattack by snapping his leg out in a powerful kick.

Thwack!



The white mask concealing Ghost's face was shattered into pieces by Nathan's kick, with traces of red splattering everywhere together with the broken white pieces.

Ghost didn't even get the chance to scream before he was kicked to death by Nathan.

## What?

Damon's jaw went slack, and his eyes were almost bulging out of their sockets as he scanned the scene before him and wondered: Is this real? Did that just happen?

Ghost was a top assassin who had been trained in a western assassin base since he was a child!

Back then, he had assassinated countless people. The Griffins had shown Ghost kindness, that was why he gave up being an assassin and returned to the nation, then pledged his loyalty to the Griffins.

The Griffins had encountered many



formidable opponents before, but they never had to worry about losing because they had Ghost.

Never in a million years did they expect that Ghost would be finished off by a single kick from Nathan Cross.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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When the Smiths saw Nathan's victory, all of their faces instantly brightened.

Before they could rejoice, Damon's embarrassment had turned into rage.

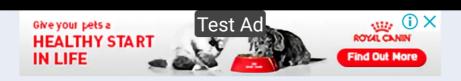
Damon looked at Nathan with bitter resentment, sarcastically applauding as he snarled, "It's no wonder you don't take the Griffins seriously. It's because you're so skilled."

Then, he stopped clapping. "But so what, if you're a skilled fighter?"

"You're alone, but I have a whole army at my disposal. Don't tell me that you can defeat a whole eight hundred men on your own!"

When the Smiths heard what Damon said, their features contorted with fear and terror as they realized what he was insinuating.

"Damon Griffin, don't use your large numbers to intimidate us! If you have what it takes, why don't you have a go at Nathan



then!" Sean blurted out.

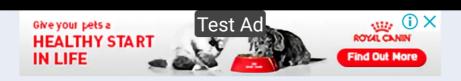
Damon sneered and said, "Hah! I have so many Griffin fighters backing me, but you only have one Nathan Cross to rely on. You don't have any reinforcements, and you expect me to fight him alone when I have such a great advantage? Do you take me for an idiot?"

After Damon said his piece, his eyes fell upon Nathan and a cynical smile played on his lips. "Haha! Boy, there's always a limit to one's abilities, so remember not to provoke me in your next life."

With that, he straightened and commanded, "All Griffins fighters, attack at once! Chop him up into pieces!"

As soon as Damon's words settled, the eight hundred elite fighters behind him drew out their weapons which mostly were machetes.

In an instant, their blades shone under the sun and the scent of death filled the air.



The Smiths became as white as paper and trembled all over.

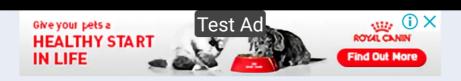
If they weren't completely surrounded, they would have already made a run for it.

On the contrary, Nathan remained unfazed. He looked at Damon, Denise, and all the bloodthirsty Griffin fighters with indifference. One corner of his mouth rose slightly as he said, "Using your large numbers to bully us won't work. I gave you a chance to flee before my reinforcements arrive, but you paid it no heed."

Damon scoffed derisively. "Your backup? Hah! You're just trying to bluff your way out! Do you think you can trick us into retreating? Both Gus Jenkins and Cooper Fink were already slaughtered by me, who else would dare to help you?"

The Smiths resembled drowning men grabbing at straws as they looked towards Nathan with desperation written on their faces.

Sean was going out of his mind and



anxiously asked, "Nathan, you promised that you'd keep all of us safe. You kept saying that help is on the way. So, where is the help?"

Samuel, Paul, and the others glared angrily at Nathan as they bombarded him the same question.

Nathan faintly heard the roar of approaching vehicles just a little ways off.

The corners of his mouth raised slightly. "If I'm not wrong, they've just arrived."

They have arrived?

Everyone in the Smith family was overwhelmed with joy and surprise, but they were also skeptical as they wondered whether Nathan was speaking the truth.

Damon, Denise, and others began to have subtle changes in expressions.

He wasn't lying! There were really people arriving.



It was a large convoy!

Rows of black cars appeared at the scene with their tires screeching and engines revving.

Then, a muscular man followed by two hundred men in black suits alighted the cars.

This muscular man was Thomas Dunn.

Thomas strode towards Nathan and spoke with respect, "Mr. Cross, forgive me for being late."

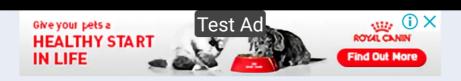


Nathan smiled and said, "No, you came right on time."

When Damon saw only Thomas and two hundred men, he laughed coldly.

"I thought that you had impressive numbers, Nathan, but that's it? Do you think these pathetic numbers can protect you?"

Nathan maintained the small smile on his



face. "I didn't say that all of them have arrived!"

As if on cue, another fleet of vehicles belonging to the special police forces came into view.

"Go! Go! Go!"

Men wearing black uniforms with the SWAT emblem jumped down from the special force's vehicles one after another, all armed with submachine guns, wearing tactical military sunglasses as well as black masks.

Soon, two thousand warriors sealed off the area.

Russell Crow, the mayor of Channing, and Jerry Mcgrady, the commander-in-chief of the SWAT team, had arrived.

Both of them led a few of their subordinates and hurried towards Nathan, showing him utmost respect as they spoke to him. "Mr. Cross, we heard that someone was causing you trouble, so we



# immediately mobilized the SWAT team."



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Chapter 566 Regained His Status As The Cross Family Heir

Damon and Denise stared wide-eyed at the scene before them. When they came to Channing, they had used their connections to butter up the Channing authorities.

So, why are Russell Crow and Jerry Mcgrady openly leading the special forces against them to support Nathan Cross?

Damon began to realize that he had a tricky situation on his hands.

Just then, a few more jeeps with military troop carriers made a dramatic appearance.

A large number of heavily armed elite fighters assembled within a matter of seconds.

A brawny colonel, whose features were indiscernible due to the layer of camouflage paint covering his face, emerged from the vehicle. With his army boots crunching on the ground, he made his way towards Nathan and saluted. "Here to report. Dragonfury Special Forces. Arrived at designated combat position."



Chapter 566 Regained His Status As The Cross Family Heir

The Smiths were flabbergasted.

And so were Damon and Denise!

What the heck is going on? Not just the police special forces are here, but even the military special forces!

Before everyone could recover from their shock, there was another rumbling noise coming from a distance.

Four heavy tanks with large machine guns rumbled along the street in an imposing manner.

Dozens of armored trunks trailed behind, followed by a never-ending convoy of military vehicles.

The leading tank had its turret open, and a burly commander was visible from the waist up. The man who stood as straight as a rod was none other than the Major General.

It was the commander-in-chief of Channing's military base, Franklin Wilson,



Chapter 566 Regained His Status As The Cross Family Heir

who had come in person.

Suddenly, there was a whirring sound coming from above.

Five helicopters were hovering in the sky, with their machine guns aimed at Damon and his people stationed on the ground.

Franklin Wilson saluted Nathan from his position on the tank, then loudly stated, "I heard that someone was bullying the Smiths, so I brought along thirty thousand soldiers to provide assistance!"

Nathan looked at Damon and Denise, then said with a smile, "Okay, that's all of them. We can begin now. Bring it."

Only then did Damon regain his senses. His face was pale and clammy with sweat.

Bring it?

How?

I have seen reinforcements, but not those that comprised of the SWAT team, military



Chapter 566 Regained His Status As The Cross Family Heir

special forces, and regular military troops!

This is just too f\*\*king terrifying!

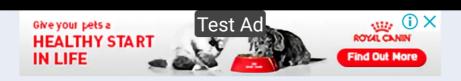
Damon's arrogance had long since flown out the windows. In a shaky voice, he said, "This is a misunderstanding. It's all just a misunderstanding..."

Nathan's expression froze over. "A misunderstanding?"

His features were lined with anger. "Your brother killed a security guard and a member of the Smith family. You killed both Gus Jenkins and Cooper Fink. And you just threatened to slaughter our whole family. But now, you're telling me that it was all a misunderstanding?"

He didn't wait for a response before saying, "Attention, all troops! Ready your weapons!"

The moment he gave the order, be it the SWAT team, the military special forces, or Franklin Wilson's thirty thousand regular soldiers, all of them obeyed.



Chapter 566 Regained His Status As The Cross Family Heir

The orderly sounds of bullets loading and guns cocking scared the daylights out of Damon, Denise, and their party.

The men on Damon's side released defeated cries and threw down their weapons, raising their hands in surrender.

Quite a number of them even soiled themselves. filling the air with the strong stench of urine.

However, no one felt ashamed. Faced with this kind of situation, anyone would be scared to the point of peeing themselves.

Damon fell to his knees at Nathan's feet, crying as he begged for mercy. "Mr. Cross, I know my mistake now. I was foolish and ignorant. I should never have offended you. Please, spare me..."

Denise, on the other hand, did not kneel.

Amidst the shock in her eyes were traces of doubt. She began to suspect that Nathan had been re-accepted into the Cross family and consequently regained



Chapter 566 Regained His Status As The Cross Family Heir

his status as the Cross family's heir.

Otherwise, he couldn't possibly have gained help and support from Channing's important military and political leaders such as Franklin Wilson, Russell Crow, and Jerry Mcgrady.

As she suspected that perhaps Nathan's title had been restored, she couldn't help but think about the glorious status of the Cross family in the Northania.

Regret clutched at her heart. If only she had known this earlier, she would never have gotten engaged to Damon.



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Nathan looked down his nose at Damon who was on his knees, begging for his life, and looking nothing like his usual prestigious self. In a merciless voice, he said, "Apologize to my wife and her family first. Let's see if they choose to forgive you."

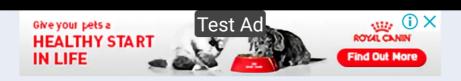
Upon hearing this, Damon crawled towards Sean and his family as if they were his only chance at living.

He kowtowed before them over and over. "Mr. Smith, I was an ignorant fool. I didn't know how powerful the Smiths were. Just take me as a naïve child and spare my life."

Sean and his entire family had been living in fear these past few days because of the Griffins

When Nick Griffin brought the Dual-Bladed Killers from the East, he had killed the Smiths' security guard and Sean's grandson and even publicly humiliated Ferlyn Smith.

Damon Griffin's arrival this time was even



more frightening. He had outright threatened to wipe out the entire Smith family.

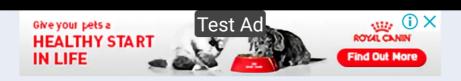
The Smiths had literally been suffering from anxiety and humiliation over the past few days.

Now, the indestructible Damon Griffin had actually dropped to his knees and begged for their forgiveness.

Sean and his family felt invincible as if they were seated on a pedestal that no one could touch!

Paul was the first to step forward, knocking Damon over with a kick and cursing viciously, "You Griffins murdered my youngest son. Now, you know to beg for mercy? Where has all that arrogance gone to?"

Samuel came forward to join his brother, launching a harsh kick at Damon as he spat, "Your brother humiliated my daughter, and you were going to murder our family. Have you finally realized your



mistake?"

Damon was now the victim of humiliation!

He was the head of the Griffins, a respected and wealthy family in the East. Under usual circumstances, people like Samuel and Paul Smith weren't even worthy of tying his shoelaces.

But now, he was being punched and kicked by the two brothers. Humiliation was an understatement.

However, in order to survive, Damon could only endure it and let the Smith brothers beat him in any way they saw fit.

After a brief moment, Sean finally spoke, "Samuel, Paul!"

Samuel and Paul felt that they had earned their dignities back after giving Damon a good beating. Hence, they couldn't wait to brag about this in the future. Upon hearing their father call them, they stopped beating Damon and returned to their father's side.



Sean looked at Damon and said, "Are you dead? Look at me if you're not!"

Damon's face was beaten black and blue, and he slowly raised his head in shame.

Sean slapped Damon hard and cursed at him, "This slap is payback for the one I received! I will spare you this time around, on the condition that you compensate for my family's losses!"

With his life at stake, Damon could only agree to anything and everything the Smiths proposed. "Yes! I'll compensate you! Just name your price! I'll give you however much you want!" He repeated his words like a broken record.

Sean wasn't having any more of it. "Pay us a billion!"

"Okay!" Damon instantly agreed.

Everyone in the Smith family couldn't decide between feeling delighted or feeling regretful.



If only they knew the Griffins would agree right off the bat, they would have stated a larger sum of money. It was such a waste.

Damon was well aware that the person who held the real power and could decide if he lived or died, was Nathan Cross.

His life would be his to keep only if Nathan permitted it.

At this moment, he glanced weakly at Nathan and frightfully asked, "Mr. Cross, the Smiths have agreed to spare me..."

Nathan replied in a callous tone, "I'd rather you live to suffer the consequences of your actions. I'll have the general arrange for you lot to serve three years in the military prison located in the North! Also, your presence has negatively impacted Channing, and the city has suffered too much a loss."

Nathan powered on without a pause, "In addition to compensating the Smiths with one billion, you will also donate nine billion to Channing, which will go into helping the



city build a new and civilized society. Any objections?"

The Griffins were rich and powerful, but ten billion wasn't a small amount, especially to be given in cash.

If the Griffins were to fork out ten billion in cash, it would no doubt further weaken their influence.

Even so, Damon knew that he had no choice but to obey.



After he had wreaked so much havoc today, Nathan would never let him off that easily. It was inevitable that his pockets be wrung dry for his wrongdoings. It was a small price to pay for such grave mistakes.

He bowed his head. "No!"

Nathan turned to look at Franklin Wilson, Russell Crow, and Jerry Mcgrady, to give them instructions. "Major-General Wilson, after the Griffins have compensated us and donated to the city, arrange for him and his people to go to the military prison



in the north. This is a top priority and must be done at all costs."

"Yes, sir!" Franklin Wilson and the others charused.

In no time, the Griffins had paid the compensation and donation money.

Damon, Denise and their party were all arrested.

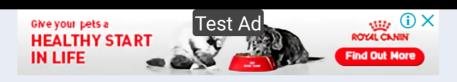
Thomas Dunn and the rest of Nathan's reinforcements left one after another.

Only Nathan and the Smiths were left at the Smith residence.

Sean and the rest gazed at Nathan with conflicting emotions.

Kylie wore an expression of admiration and respect as she said, "Nathan, you were so cool today! It's all thanks to you that we emerged unscathed and victorious!"

Penny peered at Nathan with eyes that were brimming with suspicion, then posed



a serious question, "Nathan, tell me the truth. How did you manage to get the SWAT, the military special forces, and also the regular army to come to our aid?"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The moment Penny questioned Nathan, everyone turned to him as one, looking at him with equally suspicious eyes as they waited for his answer.

To be able to summon the mayor of Channing and Major-General Wilson as reinforcements was really too awesome!

Everyone was curious as to how Nathan had pulled it off.

Nathan cracked a small smile and answered, "Since things have already gotten to this point, I guess I can only confess. I'm actually the General of the North. Mobilizing the SWAT team, military special forces, and the regular army is a piece of cake to me."

What?

General of the North!

The Smiths were stunned, to say the least!

Penny was dazed in the beginning, but it quickly morphed into anger. She raised her



hand to gently smack Nathan on his shoulder and nagged at him, "Nathan, can you be serious for just a second? How can you even joke at a time like this?"

Her entire family was shocked when they heard Nathan's answer.

However, when they heard what Penny said, they gradually came back to their senses.

They had previously done a background check on Nathan. The information they gathered had stated that he was a war veteran, but there was no sign of the word 'general' in there whatsoever!

Besides, Nathan had come looking for Penny the moment he was discharged from the army, and he had been staying at Penny's house ever since then, refusing to leave.

To say that he was a live-in son-in-law was putting it mildly. He was practically a useless man that depended on his wife's family!



Who would believe that he was the General of the North?

Suddenly, sneers of mockery shrouded Nathan as the Smiths ridiculed him, saying that he was pretentious and taking advantage of this situation to elevate his status.

A wry smile danced on Nathan's lips when he saw that no one believed him when he was in fact telling the truth.

All of them didn't believe his explanation and continued peppering him with the same question, asking how he had asked the mayor and Major General to offer help.

No one believed him, so he was struggling to formulate a response.

Just then, two jeeps that had the logo of East Bay roared close by.

After the engines were cut off, five men in navy uniforms hopped down. The one leading at the forefront was the captain.



And the navy captain was none other than Ferlyn's current boyfriend, Chris Perry.

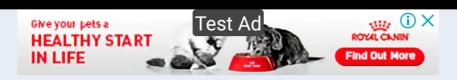
Chris had heard from Ferlyn that the Smiths were in trouble.

Hence, he had dropped everything, gathered a few of his comrade-in-arms and driven hundreds of miles to the Smith residence.

He heard that the Smiths had offended the Griffins from the East. With only a handful of men with him, he had no idea if he would be able to rescue the Smiths. Worry had gnawed at his chest throughout his journey here.

He never expected to find out that Damon Griffin and his party had already been taken away by the army when he arrived at Channing.

When he learned of this news, he was surprised and elated at the same time. He had rushed here immediately to see his girlfriend, Ferlyn.



He was leading his comrade-in-arms over to meet Ferlyn's family, but suddenly spotted Nathan Cross!

Chris was the navy captain of a submarine chaser in the South. Nathan had previously visited his warship to give a speech, so he was able to recognize him as the General of the North at first glance.

As soon as he saw Nathan, his eyes had widened and his face showed a drastic change in expression. He subconsciously squared his shoulders and lifted his hand in a salute.

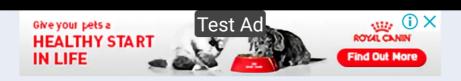
He had just wanted to call him 'general', but Nathan had beaten him to it.

Nathan saluted and called out, "Sir!"

S... Sir!

Chris was slightly dazed. He was only but a measly captain, while Nathan was the General of the North

The Northern General had saluted him first



and addressed him as 'sir'.

What's going on?

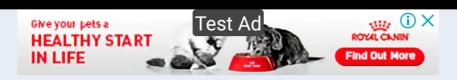
Chris was no fool, otherwise, he wouldn't have been promoted to become a captain.

He looked at Nathan and instantly understood. The general didn't want to reveal his identity, but wanted to keep it a secret instead!

Even though he felt awkward, he forced himself to say, "Hm, at ease. It's good to see you."

Everyone else had eyes that were bulging out of their sockets. "Chris, do you know Nathan?" Ferlyn was the first to speak.

Before Chris could answer, Nathan chuckled and said, "Captain Perry and I are well acquainted. In fact, he was the one who had put in a request to his superiors to ask for help. As a result, the police and military joined forces to help us. The leaders of Channing and the military were furious when they learned that Captain



Perry's girlfriend was being bullied. That's why the police and military forces were mobilized. It was to teach those Griffins a lesson."



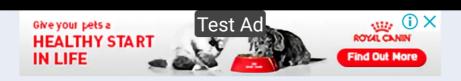
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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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When the Smiths heard this, looks of realization appeared on their faces as they thought that all of the credit belonged to Chris!

Everyone surrounded Chris and showered him with compliments. They were all gushing over him, even saying that Ferlyn was blessed to be able to find such a cool boyfriend.

Ferlyn had never thought very highly of Chris, but right now, she was seeing him in a new light.

She gazed admiringly at Chris and said excitedly, "Chris, you're amazing. You managed to get the mayor and police commander-in-chief of Channing, as well as Major-General Wilson to help us. You're my idol!"

Chris' cheeks were flushed, and he felt unbearably embarrassed.

It was because he knew that Nathan was the one who brought forth a large number of troops to defeat Damon Griffin, and all



the credit belonged to him.

He was only a lowly navy captain and didn't have such power.

A broad smile had also taken residence on Sean's face. "Haha! Chris, you're indeed a son-in-law worthy of the Smiths!"

Samuel echoed his father's words, "Yes. We can finally have a decent son-in-law. Unlike someone who pretended to be capable and tried taking credit for something he played no part in."

Samuel was obviously targeting Nathan with this remark.

When the Smiths saw Nathan authoritatively order the men around earlier, they thought that he was the one who called over Major-General Franklin and the rest.

When they found out that Chris was the one who gathered the reinforcements, they instantly jeered at Nathan.



They said that Nathan was incompetent, but acted the opposite by taking all the credit for himself when it belonged to Chris.

Their derogatory remarks made Penny, Benson, and Leah feel embarrassed.

Kylie refused to take this lying down and mustered up the courage to yell, "It's all thanks to my brother-in-law that the crisis has been resolved and we're safe! He deserves the most credit!"

Ferlyn's lips curled in disdain as she scoffed, "Credit? Credit for doing what? Bragging?"

Penny couldn't help but step forward to defend her husband as she solemnly said, "Ferlyn, how can you say that? Forget about everything else, I'm sure you remember how scary the Griffins were, right? If it wasn't for Nathan stepping forward to defeat the Griffins' four generals, perhaps we would've been dead or severely injured before reinforcements arrived. Nathan had risked his life trying to



protect us, but now that you're all safe and sound, you forget his efforts and take a dig at him. Do any of you have a conscience?"

What Penny said knocked the Smiths' arrogance down a notch.

Sean awkwardly cleared his throat and said, "Alright, alright. Nathan deserves some credit too, but most of the credit goes to Chris."

Then, he cast a look around before saying, "The house is in a mess. Let's go to the Grand Hyatt Hotel to have a celebratory meal, and to also express our gratitude to Chris.

Paul, Samuel, and the others enthusiastically agreed with Sean's suggestion.

However, Penny was dissatisfied with them for treating Nathan like this. On top of that, she was exhausted after a whole day of being plagued by fear and panic.

Hence, she said, "Since all is well now, we



won't be joining the celebration. We're all tired, so we'll be going home to rest."

That was all she said before grabbing Nathan and leaving with her family to go back home.

When Sean saw his granddaughter leave, his brows furrowed slightly. "You all shouldn't have laughed at Nathan just now."

Ferlyn leaned against Chris and scoffed with disdain. "He has been a useless crap all along. You know it, I know it. Everyone knows it. We owe it to Chris this time."

Once again, everyone's attention fell onto Chris. They excitedly surrounded him, then went to the hotel to celebrate their victory.

Nathan and Penny had reached home just then. Leah took care of Queenie, while Penny personally cooked dinner for all of them.

With a gentle smile, Nathan went into the kitchen to help. "Honey, all of you had a



great scare today. We could've joined them for dinner at the hotel. That way, you wouldn't need to trouble yourself with cooking."

Penny's anger surged when she heard what he said. "They're an ungrateful bunch! My hubby risked his life to protect them, but they laughed and ridiculed him the second they were out of danger! I wouldn't join them for dinner even if I have to starve to death! And I definitely won't give them the chance to look down on my hubby!"

In truth, Nathan wasn't offended by the Smiths' ridicule and insults at all, because their views and opinions never mattered to him.

Seeing an aggrieved Penny, whose eyes were reddened by anger, standing up for him, a warm and fuzzy feeling swelled in Nathan's chest.

He was touched by her concern, and his eyes filled with tender love as he watched her side profile.



Penny didn't notice the change in him and continued complaining under her breath while washing the vegetables, "My heart aches for my hubby. Why the heck would I join them for dinner at a hotel? To let them badmouth you even more? Isn't it better for me to cook dinner at home so that I can enjoy a nice and homey meal with my hubby and family?"

Penny ranted to herself, but before she could finish, Nathan abruptly hugged her from behind.

Penny was taken aback for a moment, then her pretty face blushed a deep shade of pink. Her voice came out shy when she spoke, "Nathan, what are you doing? Let go of me! What if Mom and Dad come here and see us like this?"

Nathan didn't listen, but instead leaned close to her ear and whispered sweetly, "Honey?"

"Hmm?"

"I love you."



Penny's body trembled slightly when she heard those three words come from his lips. Her face dazzled like blossoming flowers under the sunlight; she resembled a spring in its full bloom.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Penny felt her heart warm as happiness filled her, but she was shy at the same time.

She was about to answer him with a 'what' to feign ignorance when suddenly Leah entered the kitchen.

"Nathan, leave the cooking to us!" Leah said.

The moment she entered the kitchen, she saw her daughter and son-in-law locked in an intimate position.

Penny flushed an even deeper scarlet red and hastily pushed Nathan away, saying with absolute embarrassment, "Nathan, just go out for now. Mom and I can handle it."

Nathan was also slightly embarrassed, so he fled from the kitchen in a hurry.

Leah had to stifle her smile. She didn't see anything wrong with her daughter being intimate with her son-in-law.



On the contrary, she yearned for Nathan and her daughter to quickly bear her another grandchild!

It didn't take long before the table was full of scrumptious dishes.

The family of five sat down for a hearty dinner.

The East, Horton City.

In the president's office in the East.

Todd Lund, the president in the East, had a slicked-back hairstyle and was clad in a black suit that could hardly accommodate his obese body. A cigar dangled from his lips as he lounged lazily in his chair, listening to the cries of the Griffins and Jacksons!

Stephen Griffin, Damon's father, said with anger lacing his tone, "Mr. Lund, you're the head of the Eastern Chamber of Commerce. Nathan Cross and Penny Smith went too far by locking my son and daughter-in-law in prison! You must help



us stand up against them!"

Saul Jackson, Denise's father also pleaded, "Yes, Mr. Lund. Your power can reach even the skies! Since the Jacksons and Griffins are members of the Eastern Chamber of Commerce, please help us get my daughter and son-in-law out." "

Todd smiled and offered them words of comfort. "I know that your son and your daughter have run into trouble and that you're both very anxious. Since both, your families are a part of the Eastern Chamber of Commerce, I will inquire about the situation there. So, you two should go home and await my news."

Then, he turned to the side. "Joey, show the two men out."

A handsome young man standing by the side smiled and said, "Gentlemen, please follow me."

Soon, Stephen and Saul were sent off.

Joey Lund, who had been tasked with



sending them off, returned to the office.

Todd's mouth arched into a smirk as he asked, "Are those two old men gone?"

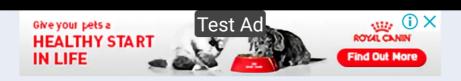
"Yes, Dad. They're gone." Joey respectfully answered.

Todd began to speak in a lazy manner, "When the Griffins and Jacksons found out that Dip Turner, the King of the South, had fled, leading to the Schulz family's retirement, they began vying for the vacant throne in the South, and wanted to claim it for themselves."

He took a puff of his cigar before continuing, "However, upon entering the South, they never expected to be defeated in Channing itself."

Joey sneered in response. "The Griffins and Jacksons should've known better. Even though the South is lacking a King now, ruling it isn't something those two families can handle."

Then, a frown appeared between Joey's



brows. "Dad, you didn't really plan on helping them, right?"

A chuckle escaped Todd's lips. "In a way, helping them is helping myself too since I've set my sights on the South as well."

Joey's eyes lit up when he heard this, and surprise filled his voice, "Dad, are you looking to take over the South?"

Todd was ambitious and spoke with vigor, "Why not? I can take advantage of the Schulz family's retirement to conquer the South. Then, I'll be King of both lands."

Joey's expression was full of excitement. "Haha! If we can conquer the South and rule two lands, then we Lunds will have enough resources to challenge the powerful families in Northania."

Todd's eyes shone with greed.

His gaze fell on his son as he grinned, "Joey, I have a task for you to handle now."

"Just give me the order, Dad." Joey replied



# with spirit.

"Take someone to the South, then see if you can use some of our connections to get Damon Griffin and his wife out," Todd ordered. "You will be the pioneer of the Lunds by paving the way for us to enter the South, and to pulverize anyone who stands in our way. Understand?"

"Understood!" Joey answered loudly.



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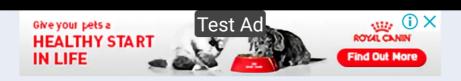




Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The next day, Joey went to Channing with his close friend, Hector Leonard, and a group of men.

The reason Joey decided to bring Hector along was because the Hectors were quite well acquainted with Channing's military commander-in-chief, Franklin Wilson.

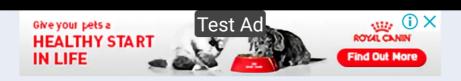
Joey wanted Hector to negotiate with Major-General Wilson to let Damon and Denise out.

After arriving in Channing, Joey checked into a hotel.

Meanwhile, Hector had gone to the Channing military base to meet Franklin, carrying along a gift with him.

Franklin was in the living room talking to Nathan at that time.

When one of the national guards entered to report that Hector Leonard had requested to see him, he frowned and said, "Can't you see that I'm talking with the General? Request denied! Tell him to come



back another day."

Nathan smiled and said, "It's fine. We're almost done anyway. Since whoever it is anxious to see you, just let him in."

Only then did Franklin permit the guards to let Hector in.

Soon, Hector came in bearing a gift.

The moment he saw Franklin, he addressed him respectfully as 'Mr. Wilson'.

He had noticed Nathan's presence, and although he didn't know who Nathan was, he still offered him a smile as a greeting.

Nathan nodded in return too.

"Hector, why have you come looking for me?" Franklin spoke to him without much emotion.

Hector was about to divulge his purpose of visiting, but his eyes darted towards Nathan and he refrained from speaking.



"You're free to speak your mind. There are no outsiders here." Franklin indifferently assured him,

Upon hearing this, Hector mistakenly assumed that Nathan was Franklin's confident.

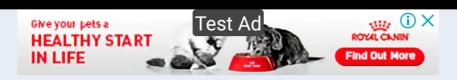
Hence, he relaxed and immediately announced his intentions.

He angrily spat, "Mr. Wilson, Damon Griffin from the Eastern Chamber of Commerce was bullied by some guy called Nathan Cross in Channing. I'm here to ask for your help. Please release him, and punish that diabolical man, Nathan Cross."

When Nathan heard what he said, the corners of his mouth lifted into an inconspicuous playful smile.

Franklin's had a bewildered expression on his face. "That diabolical man, Nathan Cross?"

Hector didn't notice anything amiss and said, "Yeah! That Nathan Cross is pure evil.



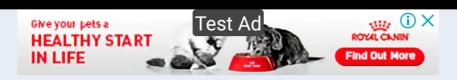
He relied on his wife to become the president of the Cross Group, then gained the support of the local leaders through his powerful position as the president of a large enterprise on local grounds.

He does whatever he likes in Channing, bullying men and women alike. That's what we call a tyrant!"

A never-ending stream of words tumbled out of Hector's mouth as he accused Nathan of countless evil deeds. Finally, he said, "Damon Griffin and his wife, who are both members of the Eastern Chamber of Commerce, had come all the way from the East to invest in the South, but were instead bullied by Nathan Cross, and sent to prison."

He inhaled deeply before powering on, "Mr. Wilson, I came to you to request for the release of Damon Griffin and his wife, and to bring that tyrant to justice."

Franklin looked slightly dazed after listening to Hector's whole speech, and his face showed an odd expression.



### Chapter 571 Tyrant

Nathan looked at Hector and asked, "Is Nathan Cross really that evil?"

Hector answered in a righteous and justified tone, "Of course. He's rotten inside and out. A whole day wouldn't even be enough to recount all of his evil deeds."

Nathan chuckled lightly. "I had no idea."

Suspicion began to fill Hector. His brows snapped together as he looked Nathan up and down. Then, in a dubious tone, he asked, "Who are you really?"

Nathan smiled and replied, "I'm the one you were talking about this whole time. You know, the evil and rotten tyrant, Nathan Cross!"

### What?

Hector was utterly shocked when he heard this, jolting out of his seat as if someone had stepped on his toes.

He gaped at Nathan in shock and stammered, "You... You... You're Nathan



### Chapter 571 Tyrant

### Cross?"

"That's right. I'm Nathan Cross. How can you spread rumors about me and slander me when you don't even know me?" Nathan replied coolly.

Hector became flustered.

He had come to seek Franklin's help in getting Damon out, and also to teach Nathan Cross a lesson.

He never thought that Franklin's guest would be the devil himself.

Shock, embarrassment, and guilt, plundered him all at once.

It took him great difficulty to force the next string of words through his mouth. "Mr. Wilson, why... why is he here with you? What is your relationship with him?"

Before Franklin could speak, the Captain of National Guards knocked on the door and entered.



# Chapter 571 Tyrant

The Captain of National Guards reported, "Reporting to the commander-in-chief and the General of the North. Your lunches are ready in the cafeteria. May I ask if both generals would like to have their meals now?"

### General!

A chill ran down Hector's spine, and his face was drained of all color. He looked at Nathan in horror, and his voice began to tremble, "You... You're..."

Franklin coldly cut him off, saying, "Yes. He's the General of the North, and also my master."

#### Boom!

Hector felt as if a thunderbolt had struck him.

Then, blackness filled his vision right before he lost consciousness due to shock

Beneath the blistering sun, at the entrance of the cafeteria.

Hector was kneeling on the boiling hot concrete ground, trembling and sweating profusely.

He had been kneeling at the entrance of the cafeteria for a full hour ever since he regained consciousness.

His legs were already numb from kneeling, and his knees were bleeding, the blood staining his pants a crimson red.

However, despite the extreme torture, he didn't dare to get up.

He had spread rumors and slandered the general. This offense alone was enough for Major-General Wilson to put ten bullets into him.

Thus, he could only kneel at the entrance of the cafeteria to wait for Nathan and Franklin to come out after eating, then beg Nathan to spare his life.



Just when Hector felt like he couldn't take it any longer and was going to faint, Nathan and Franklin finally came out of the cafeteria with a few national guards trailing behind.

When Franklin saw Hector, he gave a cold snort. "It seems like you've finally learned your lesson, huh? Where did all that righteousness and confidence go?"

The sight of the two generals instantly revitalized Hector as he saw this as a chance to escape death.

He repeatedly kowtowed before Nathan, and spoke in a croaky voice, "General, I was blind and foolish for challenging your authority. Please, forgive me just this once!"

"Was it the Griffins and the Jacksons who sent you here?" Nathan asked indifferently.

Hector shook his head and truthfully said, "No. The Griffins and Jacksons are quite influential in the East, but not so much that we're willing to do them favors. It was the



Lunds who asked me to come."

Nathan was quick to understand the situation.

It turned out that it was the president of the Eastern Chamber of Commerce, Todd Lund, who wanted to get Damon and Denise out, and he was planning to take control of the South.

Franklin snorted. "What's so great about the Lunds that they dare to come and cause trouble in the South? And you've even become their accomplice in this?"

"Mr. Wilson, what I did was wrong. If I knew that the South was where the General had settled down with the Smiths, I would never have dared to meddle." Hector cried out with desperation.

Franklin turned toward Nathan and said, "Sir, how should I deal with this punk? Should I throw him to the military prison in the North?"

Nathan knew that Franklin was on friendly



terms with the Hectors, and he really didn't feel like making a big deal out of it. So, he casually said, "For your sake, I'll spare him this one time, but he mustn't reveal my identity."

Franklin met Hector's eyes and shouted, "Aren't you going to thank the General?"

Hector felt as though he had been pardoned from a death sentence. He put his head to the ground again and again as he repeated, "Thank you, General! Thank you, General!"

Franklin's tone was ice-cold when he said, "You better listen closely to what I say. If you dare to expose the General's identity, it'll be the end for you."

"I won't say a thing! Never!" Hector exclaimed with terror gripping him.

"Get lost!" Franklin grunted.

Hector scrambled away as fast as his feet could carry him. He left Channing that afternoon itself and returned to the East in



shame.

White Swan hotel.

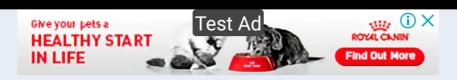
Not only did Joey not receive the good news he had been waiting for, but he had also learned that Hector left without a word and was back in the Fast.

This news was a surprise to him and not the pleasant kind. Rage surged in him and he growled, "Hector, that piece of sh\*t. Didn't I tell him to use his family's connection with Major-General Wilson to help me get Damon and his wife out? Why did he leave without a word?"

"Perhaps Hector was unable to get Major-General Wilson to agree to it? And he couldn't face you out of shame, so he left." One of his men made a guess.

Joey scoffed derisively. "I never expected that he'd be so unreliable. It seems that I have to do it myself."

"Black Dragon, book the entire White Swan hotel."



Use the Lund family's name to invite all the important people in Channing to my dinner banquet; be it from the business industry, the political circles, the army, or even the underworld, leave no one out! Tell them they'd be disrespecting the Lunds if they don't attend."

"Yes, sir!" Black Dragon replied solemnly.



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# Test Ad

Chapter 573 I Only Serve Nathan Cross

Night fell and the city lights blinked to life.

All kinds of official cars, commercial cars, and luxury cars appeared at the parking lot in front of the White Swan hotel.

The mayor of Channing, Russell Crow, as well as Jerry Mcgrady and many other leaders had arrived.

The wealthy figures in Channing, such as Zachary Schulz and Derek Harvey had also made an appearance.

Representatives from Channing's upper socialite families had also made it to the banquet.

The overlord of Channing's underground world, Thomas Dunn, had also brought along Jack Green and a small group of men with him.

Other than the powerful figures from the military, all the other important people in Channing had already arrived.

In the White Swan hotel, hundreds of well-



dressed big shots stood in either groups of two or three, whispering among themselves.

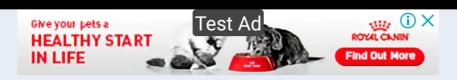
Everyone was very curious as to why the Lunds from the East had sent invitations to them asking them to attend a banquet.

"Mr. Lund is here!" Someone abruptly exclaimed.

Then, a young man in a white suit with a group of men trailing after him appeared in the hotel lobby. It was Joey Lund.

Joey smiled and waved towards the crowd that had gathered while murmuring under his breath to his subordinate, Black Dragon, "Have all the important figures in Channing arrived?"

Black Dragon whispered back his report, "Major-General Wilson was reported to have gone to Brimmopolis for a meeting and most probably can't make it. Nathan Cross and Penny Smith of the Cross Group are not present as well. The rest of them have all arrived."



Joey felt that it wasn't surprising that Major-General Wilson couldn't make it since he had gone to Brimmopolis for a meeting.

However, Nathan Cross and Penny Smith of the Cross Group not attending was a direct insult to him and his family.

Joey snorted indignantly and said, "We'll settle scores with Nathan Cross and Penny Smith after this!"

Joey then went onto the stage. He swept a gaze full of arrogance at the crowd below him before speaking, "Good evening everyone. My name is Joey Lund, and I represent the Lund family from the East, as well as the Eastern Chamber of Commerce."

Everyone listened attentively as he continued, "I called everyone here tonight with only one purpose in mind. Our family will be investing in Channing in the future, so we want to get well acquainted with all of Channing's powerful figures. If all of you are willing to connect with us and offer up



your contributions for further expansion, we can promise you that only benefits will await us in the future."

Everyone present showed skeptical expressions upon hearing Joey's words.

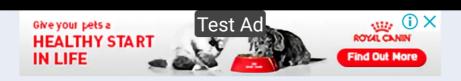
Everyone at the scene was experts at what they did, and they could clearly hear what Joey was implying.

The Lund Family was seeking to take control of Channing, and Joey Lund was indirectly saying that all of those with power and influence still had to bow before them.

Joey could see everyone discussing amongst themselves, but no one dared to express their opinions.

A smirk played on his lips and he began to force everyone to choose a side by forming two rows.

They could either submit to the Lund Family. Or they could stand against them.



He looked to the mayor of Channing, Russell Crow, and the other city officials first, casually saying, "Mr. Crow, what's your choice?"

Russell, Jerry, and their party of people exchanged glances before smiling compliantly. "We always welcome anyone who wants to invest."

Their answer was very ambiguous.

They neither supported, nor opposed. At most, it was a neutral stance.

Even so, Joey deemed Russell Crow and the city officials' answer acceptable.

He immediately moved on to the others.

Many people chose to remain neutral.

There were also many who saw this as a chance to get into the good graces of the Lund Family. Hence, they readily expressed their willingness to submit to them and follow any orders given by them.



"The Lunds from the East are very wellestablished. We Zedds look forward to doing your bidding in the future."

"Yes. The Larsons are also willing to follow the Lunds. We will put our absolute faith and trust in your family from now on."

Most of the leaders in Channing chose to remain neutral, while many of the wealthy families were willing to follow the Lunds from then on, pledging their loyalty to them.

In the end, only the Channing's underground world hadn't made their statement.

Joey looked at Thomas Dunn, squinting his eyes as he asked, "Mr. Dunn, are you willing to surrender to us?"

Thomas went wild with laughter when faced with this question. "Haha! Who do you Lunds think you are? Why should I, Thomas Dunn, surrender to you? I will only ever serve one person in my entire life, and that person is Nathan Cross!"





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When Thomas Dunn said that, everyone was stunned.

A lot of people cast Thomas unfriendly gazes and most of them, except the ones who knew who Nathan Cross was, thought that he really was looking for trouble.

Judging by Thomas's lack of influence in Channing, anyone could murder him with just a snap of their fingers.

Sure enough, Joey Lund's expression turned icy.

Black Dragon, who stood behind him, asked in a low voice, "Master, do you want me to kill him right now?"

When Black Dragon said that, the atmosphere in the restaurant turned frigid and everyone was as taut as a bowstring.

The murderous intent emanating from Black Dragon was horrifying.

Even Thomas seemed shocked. Black Dragon must've killed a lot of his enemies to be able to emanate such a terrifying murde



rous aura.

Blood of thousands must've stained his hands

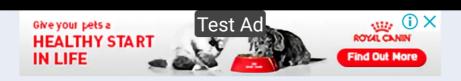
Joey could pick up on the nuances in Thomas Dunn's expression; he clearly saw the fear in Thomas's eyes.

He flashed a smug smile. "Haha, don't be scared. I'm a gentleman, so I won't kill you in public. But I can't guarantee that after you walk out this door."

Joey Lund then asked in amusement, "I'll give you another chance to choose. Are you willing to serve me? If you are, kneel down and kiss my leather shoes."

According to the Lund Family's traditions, if someone from the public wanted to pledge their allegiance to the Lund Family, they would have to kiss their family's head's hand.

On the other hand, if someone from the Underground wanted to do the same thing, they would have to kiss their leather boots



#### instead.

That meant that if someone from aboveboard joined the Lund Family, they would be one of Lund Family's followers.

However, if someone from the Underground did the same, they would be one of the Lund Family's servants.

Joey didn't ask the people who wanted to join the Lund Family to kiss his hand, but instead, he asked Dunn to kiss his leather shoes.

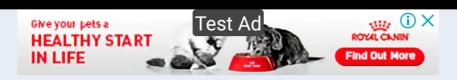
This was an illicit threat to everyone!

Almost everyone in the hotel cast their gaze on Dunn.

Joey made it very clear just now: either he submits to the Lund Family or he dies.

Everyone wanted to see what Dunn's choice was!

However, to the surprise of everyone, even though Dunn was intimidated by Black



Dragon's murderous aura, he still stood tall and declared loudly and proudly, "Haha, I will only serve one man in my entire life, and that man is Mr. Cross. Channing isn't a place where Lund Family can stir up trouble. I suggest that you get lost immediately, if not, you will regret your actions."

Joey squinted and smirked coldly. "Dunn, I admire your courage. Unfortunately, you won't live to see tomorrow's sunrise. Even God can't help you this time."

Thomas shrugged. "So be it!"

He then turned around and left with Jack Green and a few of his men.

Joey stared at Dunn and commanded coldly, "Black Dragon, ask Blood Wolf and Sky Wolf to massacre everyone in the Underground tonight and bring Thomas Dunn's head to me."

Black Dragon smiled menacingly. "Yes, Master!"



Everyone's expression darkened when they heard that.

Most of them sighed because they thought that Dunn would be dead for sure.

The Lund Family has so many good fighters and they can obliterate Dunn in a flash.

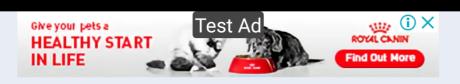
After Dunn had left, Jerry Mcgrady and Russell Crow, who didn't pledge their allegiance to anyone, left as well.

Only the people who promised to pledge their allegiance to the Lund Family stayed. They hovered around Joey and flattered him.

"Haha. Mr. Lund, Channing will be yours soon enough."

"Why limit ourselves to Channing? I think the South will all belong to Mr. Lund someday!"

"Mr. Lund, my younger sister just came back after studying overseas and she's quite pretty. Want me to introduce her to



you?"



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Joey scoffed. "I'm a very picky person, so don't introduce those kinds of ordinary women to me."

No one dared to introduce pretty ladies to Mr. Lund anymore after they heard that.

However, one of them exclaimed, "I don't think those ordinary women can catch Mr. Lund's eye unless that woman is the goddess of Channing, Penny Smith."

When he mentioned Penny, Joey Lund suddenly recalled that Nathan Cross and Penny Smith never joined his dinner today.

He squinted and snorted. "Is Penny Smith really that pretty?"

Someone quickly took out a phone and showed the footage of Penny getting interviewed by the Channing Television Station to Joey.

Joey was a picky person, but he had a shocked expression when he saw Penny.

He felt his heart fluttering and he suddenly



had a strong desire to meet her.

Joey said slowly, "I can't believe that such a pretty lady exists! Someone fetch Ms. Smith for me."

After Joey gave his command, a plump man stepped forward and said loudly, "Mr. Lund, I'm at your service."

The plump man was Griffin Tent, and he used to be part of the Underground in Channing.

However, he was forced to retire ever since Thomas took over the Underground.

Even though he retired, he still had several dozen subordinates, and he had always wanted to overthrow Dunn and take his place.

Unfortunately, he never had the chance to do that!

At least, the opportunity never arose until tonight.



When Joey asked who was willing to pledge their allegiance to the Lund Family, he was the first one who raised his hands.

He was the first one to volunteer as well when Joey asked someone to bring Penny to him.

Joey stared at Griffin in satisfaction. "Very well. Bring Ms. Smith to me. if you succeed in your task, you will be the new leader of the Underground after we kill Dunn tonight."

Griffin replied excitedly, "Thank so you much, Mr. Lund. I'll gather some men and invite Penny Smith here."

Joey reminded him, "Don't be too crass when you do it."

Griffin chuckled. "Understood, Mr. Lund."

Franklin Wilson never went to Brimmopolis for a meeting, instead, he played chess with Nathan for a whole afternoon in the Channing Military Camp.



Nathan's phone rang suddenly and Penny was calling him. "Hubby, where are you? My cousin and I just had a meal at Moreish, and our car broke down. Can you come and get us please?"

Penny couldn't start her car because of a malfunction.

It was lunch hour, and Penny and Kylie didn't manage to hail a cab because the cab drivers were changing their shifts. They had no choice but to ask Nathan to come pick them up.

Franklin saw that Nathan was going back soon, so he immediately dispatched ten National Guards to escort him back with seven vans.

The seven vans kept a 'low profile' and escorted Nathan to Moreish.

Nathan opened the door and called out to Penny and Kylie, who had been waiting at the entrance for some time, "I'm here!"

Penny and Kylie were shocked as they



boarded a van in amazement.

Meanwhile, a man from a short distance away made a call furtively. "Mr. Tent, a few vans came here and picked Penny Smith up. They are heading towards Riverside Garden. You can intercept them at Riverside Street."

As the vans were passing through Riverside Street, two sedans obstructed the road and the vans were forced to pull over.

The moment the vans pulled over, Griffin Tent brought several dozen of his men armed with machetes out and surrounded the vans.

He cackled evilly. "Ms. Smith, Mr. Lund requests an audience with you. Are you gonna step out and follow us or do we need to drag you out of there?"

The people in the seven vans remained silent and no one stepped out of the vans.

The lackeys armed with machetes



exchanged a confused glance and looked at Griffin simultaneously. "What now, Mr. Tent?"

Griffin commanded, "Open the doors and search for her. We must bring her to Mr. Lund no matter what."

His men immediately swarmed the vans and forced the doors open.

However, the moment they opened the doors, they were dumbfounded.

Soldiers armed with submachine guns were inside every van.

They pointed their guns at the lackeys and colors drained out of the lackeys' faces. They urgently threw away their machetes, raised their hands up, and surrendered.

Griffin glared at them furiously as he stomped towards them and lambasted, "What the hell are you doing? Who allowed you to surrender..."

Before he could finish his sentence, he



saw the armed soldiers in the vans.

He stopped abruptly, flinched, and immediately raised his hands as well.



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Nathan, Penny, Kylie, the Captain of National Guards, Callan Stone, and a few dozen armed soldiers stepped out from the vans.

Meanwhile, Griffin and his men were scared senseless as they raised their hands.

Nathan asked calmly, "Who sent you here?"

Griffin stuttered, "I-It's a misunderstanding..."

Before he could finish, Stone snatched a gun from a nearby soldier and smashed it against Griffin's face.

Blood spurted out from him from the impact.

Griffin shrieked in pain as he fell backward!

Click!

Callan loaded the gun as he pointed it at Griffin, who lay on the ground.



Griffin's legs trembled and he peed his pants.

Nathan repeated himself calmly, "I'll ask you one more time. Who sent you here?"

Griffin sounded absolutely miserable when he said, "Mr. Lund, Joey Lund, from the Lund Family. He's at the White Swan hotel, and he requests for Ms. Penny Smith's presence. I'm following his orders to fetch Ms. Smith."

Nathan knew that Joey Lund held a banquet at the White Swan hotel and invited all the powerful people in Channing because Penny, Franklin, and he received Joey's invitation this afternoon.

Franklin rejected the invitation by simply making an excuse up.

On the other hand, Nathan didn't even pay Joey any heed.

How dare Joey Lund send someone here to harass my wife. It's outrageous!



Nathan's expression became thunderous!

Callan asked Nathan politely, "Mr. Cross, how should we deal with them?"

Nathan replied coldly, "It's all up to you!"

Callan nodded. "Alright!"

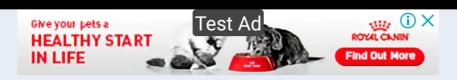
Nathan called Thomas, and in no time Thomas appeared and sent Nathan and the lot back home.

Callan, on the other hand, commanded his subordinates, "Take these rascals back with us!"

Griffin and his men were forced onto the vans and were detained in the military camp.

Meanwhile, in the White Swan hotel, Joey was toasting a few of Channing's prominent figures, and the atmosphere was festive and cheery.

Everyone thought that with the Lund Family's prowess, they would definitely



rule over Channing and even the South.

Everyone wanted to rely on the Lund Family, so they tried their best to flatter Joey.

Joey felt like he was a celebrity surrounded by his fans and unwittingly, he started to get a little drunk.

He suddenly recalled something and asked in displeasure, "Griffin Tent went to invite Ms. Smith over. Why aren't they here yet?"

As he finished his question, someone hurriedly approached him and reported, "Mr. Lund, someone who claims to be working under Nathan Cross is here to present a gift to you."

Tent still hasn't come back yet and instead, Nathan Cross sent someone here to give me something. What's happening here?

Joey squinted and said amusedly, "Bring him here!"



Jack Green carried a gift box and strode forward confidently.

Everyone stared at Jack, while Jack looked at Joey and said calmly, "I'm here on Mr. Cross' orders to send a gift to Mr. Lund."

Joey snorted. "Nathan Cross and Penny Smith received my invitation and still didn't show up. Are they trying to appease me now? Black Dragon, open up the box and see what kind of gift is it!"

Black Dragon heeded his orders, stepped forward and took the gift box from Jack. He then opened it in front of everyone.

When the gift box was opened, they realized that a clock was inside it.

Nathan's gift is a clock!

Everyone gasped in shock. A clock was deemed a curse in their culture as it meant the end of someone's life.

Joey's attractive features started to distort in rage.



How is this a gift?

This is clearly a threat!



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## Chapter 577 Do Not Keep Me Waiting

Joey's hawkish gaze fell on Jack Green.

Jack, on the other hand, looked poised as he raised his chin and declared loudly, "Mr. Cross said that this clock's alarm has been set to go off at 6 p.m. tomorrow. He wants you to get lost from Channing before tomorrow's sunset. Otherwise, the ringing of the clock will mark your end."

Black Dragon bellowed furiously, "How dare you act so insolently in front of our Master! I'll kill you."

He then prepared to strike and kill Jack.

However, Joey stopped Black Dragon in his tracks and said coldly, "We don't kill messengers during a war. He's just a nobody responsible for relaying his master's message, so killing him will tarnish my reputation."

Joey glared at Jack and declared solemnly, "Go back and tell Nathan Cross that he doesn't have to wait until tomorrow's sunset. If by tomorrow morning he doesn't kneel down and beg



for my forgiveness, he won't live to see another day."

Jack didn't say anything and just left.

After Jack left, someone else approached Joey anxiously and said, "Mr. Lund, we can't reach Tent and his men. It's as if they have disappeared into thin air."

Everyone broke into speculation when they heard what happened.

Everyone said that Dunn called the shots in the Underground because he was the King of the Underground, so he must've killed and disposed of Tent and his men's bodies.

Joey felt frustrated because he thought that judging by the Lund Family's prowess and his father's position as the chairman of The East, everyone in Channing would clamber to him.

He never thought that he would encounter ignorant people like Nathan Cross, Penny Smith, and Thomas Dunn!



Joey squinted and said, "They really think that the Lund Family is meek and useless just because I didn't attack them. Sky Wolf, Blood Wolf!"

Two burly men immediately appeared and replied simultaneously, "Yes, sir!"

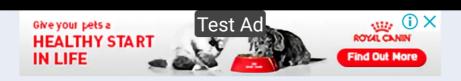
Joey commanded icily, "Set off immediately and massacre everyone in the Channing Underground. Kill all of Dunn's men and bring his head to me."

Sky Wolf, the burly man who had a horrifying burn mark on his left cheek, and Blood Wolf, whose eyes flickered with a manic glint, replied murderously, "Yes sir!"

When everyone saw that Joey had dispatched two of his men to wreak havoc on the Channing Underground, they all thought that Thomas Dunn was doomed.

Joey shouted once again, "Black Dragon!"

The exceptionally well-built Black Dragon who exuded an icy aura of murder replied, "Yes sir!"



Joey said calmly, "That piece of trash Griffin Tent didn't manage to bring Ms. Smith here, so you will do it instead."

Black Dragon replied in a low voice, "Yes, sir!"

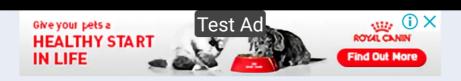
Joey instructed, "Also, don't use force on her. If you forced her here, she would cry and throw a tantrum and spoil my mood. I want her to come here obediently out of her own free will, alright?"

Black Dragon frowned slightly when he heard that. Intimidating Penny Smith to come and meet Mr. Lund willingly is no easy feat.

Black Dragon nodded. "Understood. I will make Ms. Smith come here obediently and have a drink with you within one hour."

Joey smiled in satisfaction. "Haha. I'll be right here. Don't make me wait for too long."

"Yes, sir!"



Nathan and Thomas were drinking and eating together at Supper Street when a car appeared suddenly and approached them.



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They saw that the driver was no other than Dunn's subordinate, Jack Green.

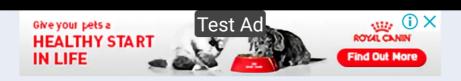
Thomas smiled when he saw that Jack had returned from his mission, "Master, Jack is back from giving Joey Lund a clock."

However, Nathan had his eyes on the black Maybach behind Jack's car. He smiled and replied, "Jack is indeed back, but he brought someone else with him."

Thomas cast his gaze on the car following Jack's car and said anxiously, "It looks like Joey Lund lost it and sent someone to kill us after he received our gift and the warning to leave Channing."

Jack parked his car at the side of the street and strode towards Nathan and Thomas. "Mr. Cross, Thomas, I sent Joey Lund the gift and warned them to leave Channing by tomorrow. However, Joey Lund didn't seem to heed the warning, and he even..."

Nathan finished his sentence, "Plans to kill



us!"

Jack was dumbstruck. "Mr. Cross, how did you know that?"

Nathan stared at the car and said, "The men Joey Lund sent to kill us already followed you here."

Jack turned back hurriedly and realized that there was another black car parked near his car.

Two tall and burly men stepped out from the car; they were none other than Sky Wolf and Blood Wolf.

Sky Wolf was very muscular and the left side of his face was completely disfigured because of an explosion. However, the horrifying scar on his face made him look even more cold and menacing.

On the other hand, Blood Wolf wasn't as well-built as Sky Wolf, but his eyes were bloodshot, and the beastlike aura he exuded struck fear into everyone's hearts.



They approached Thomas and Nathan while sporting a cold expression.

A few of Dunn's men immediately stepped forward and blocked their path.

One of them, Harry, reached out his hands and intended to shove Sky Wolf, he questioned "What are you two doing?"

Nathan had a very bad feeling, and Thomas shouted urgently, "Be careful! Don't get near them!"

However, Thomas's warning came a little too late.

Before Harry's hand could reach Sky Wolf, Sky Wolf grabbed his wrists and broke them.

"Ah!"

As Harry screamed in pain, Sky Wolf followed up with a kick and sent Harry flying like a baseball. Harry landed on the ground forcefully and was severely injured.



Almost instantly, Blood Wolf moved as well.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

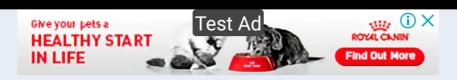
Harry's partners were all struck on the chest as they were sent flying.

Those people were carefully hand-picked by Thomas, and they were his most loyal subordinates.

He never expected his elite subordinates to be felled so easily by Blood Wolf and Sky Wolf; they all collapsed within a flash.

The large scar on Sky Wolf's face seemed even more terrifying under the lights. He said with an emotionless expression, "Thomas Dunn. Our Master commanded us to kill you."

The other pair of bloodshot eyes stared at Nathan instead and said excitedly, "If I'm not mistaken, you're Thomas Dunn's master, Nathan Cross. What a coincidence that you're here. Now, we can take you out as well. Both of you will be sent to hell



together, so you can keep each other company."

Thomas bellowed angrily, "How dare you be so insolent to Mr. Cross! I'll teach you a lesson."

He then pounced at Sky Wolf and Blood Wolf like a tiger released from its cage.

Blood Wolf and Sky Wolf didn't dodge his blow. Instead, they took it head-on.

Thomas Dunn balled both of his fists in a double corkscrew punch.

Bang! Bang!

Thomas's fists collided with the two fists.

Thomas grunted in pain as he stepped backward while blood seeped out of his mouth.

On the other hand, Blood Wolf and Sky Wolf seemed unfazed

It was obvious that Dunn was no match for



them.

Sky Wolf scoffed, "Is this what the King of the Underground is capable of? How disappointing!"

Blood Wolf laughed maniacally. "Weakness is a sin. Crossing Mr. Lund is a sin as well! Prepare to die!"

They prepared to land the fatal blow on Thomas.

However, Nathan stepped in front of Thomas and glared at the two Wolfs coldly. "Do you know what sins you have committed?"

Blood Wolf and Sky Wolf exchanged a glance before smirking. "What?"

Nathan stood with his hands behind his back and said coldly, "You're not honed in your craft but you still dared to be this insolent to me. This is a sin punishable by death."

Blood Wolf and Sky Wolf cackled hysterically when they heard that.

Their laughter stopped abruptly as they strode towards Nathan with murderous intent.

"Kneel!"

Nathan snorted before he kicked Sky Wolf's knee with the speed of lightning.

# Crack!

The shattering of bones could be heard!

Sky Wolf's left kneecap was shattered as he screamed in pain and kneeled down heavily in front of Nathan.

Almost simultaneously, Blood Wolf's fist flew towards Nathan.

Nathan raised his hand and intercepted the punch.

Blood Wolf gaped in horror and before he could react, Nathan broke his wrist.



Blood Wolf didn't manage to scream out in pain when Nathan pressed his palm on his shoulder and commanded, "Kneel!"

The hand on Blood Wolf's shoulder exerted immense pressure and caused him to kneel down. When his kneecaps reached the ground, they shattered from the impact.

Perspiration laced the two Wolfs' foreheads, and they grimaced from the intense pain they felt.

Hopelessness filled their eyes as they felt an overwhelming sense of fear.

They had traded blows with people more powerful than them before, and even if they were losing, they would always fight back.

However, their fighting spirit was crushed completely by Nathan. They didn't even have the courage to fight back anymore.

They kneeled down in front of Nathan in horror and awaited a certain fate to befall



them.

Nathan's rage didn't subside, and he prepared to strike again.

However, at that moment, his phone rang, and Kylie Tonkins was the one calling him.

Nathan picked up the call and asked, "What's up?"

Kylie replied anxiously, "Things are not good here, Nathan. Joey sent someone to invite Penny to the White Swan hotel."

Nathan frowned. "What's happening right now?"

The head of security in the Riverside Garden, Ben Mason, was grateful towards Nathan and his family, so he treated Nathan's family with extra care especially in terms of security.

I sent the Elite Eight there to protect my family too, so why is Joey Lund still a threat to them now?



Kylie replied, "Joey Lund sent someone named Black Dragon to invite Penny to his dinner, and Penny refused. Black Dragon snorted and declared that if she doesn't show up in the White Swan Hotel within one hour, he would send one of the Smiths' heads to her every thirty minutes. Penny and her family are scared out of their wits. I'm really scared that that lunatic will massacre the Smith Family in the mansion! Where are you? Please come back!"

Meanwhile, in the White Swan hotel, Joey was toasting Channing's prominent figures gleefully.

At that moment, Black Dragon walked through the door with a horde of people.

The people Black Dragon brought along varied in age and gender.

Someone blurted out softly, "Wow! Black Dragon brought the entire Smith Family in Channing here."

Black Dragon had brought along Sean



Smith's family with him.

After Black Dragon failed to invite Penny to the banquet, he brought his men to the Smith Family and threatened Sean Smith and his family to come along with him.

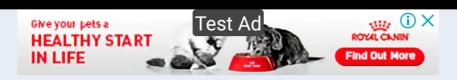
Joey heard that Black Dragon had brought the Smiths here, so he looked at them carefully.

His gaze quickly landed on Ferlyn Smith because she looked somewhat similar to Penny.

He thought that Ferlyn was Penny, so he smiled and said, "You must be Ms. Penny. You don't look as good in person, but you can still be considered gorgeous."

Black Dragon whispered, "Master, this is not Penny Smith. She's her cousin, Ferlyn Smith. Penny Smith is much prettier than her."

Joey was stunned. "Why did you bring them here if she's not Penny Smith?"



Black Dragon grinned. "You asked me not to force Penny Smith here, and you wanted her to come here out of her own volition. After she rejected my invitation, I went to the Smith Family and brought them all here. I told Penny Smith that if she doesn't appear in an hour's time, I will send her the head of one of these people every half an hour."



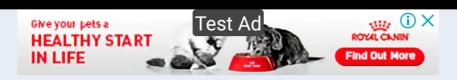
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Black Dragon's statement horrified the guests, and Sean Smith's family was irate.

Joey applauded and chuckled. "Haha. Good job, Black Dragon."

He then stared at Ferlyn and said smugly, "Since Penny hasn't shown up yet, let's make her cousin, Ferlyn have a drink or two with me."

The Smiths were outraged by this statement, and Sean Smith glared at Joey furiously and said, "Joey Lund, don't go overboard."

Samuel Smith shouted loudly, "That's right. Don't mess with the Smiths. Do you know what happened to the Griffins after messing with us?"

Ferlyn cocked her head up and said confidently, "My boyfriend has a bright future ahead of him and he knows a lot of powerful people. Don't regret your actions of messing with us!"

Joey smirked, approached Ferlyn, and



raised her chin. "Haha. I didn't think you were anyone important, but now that I heard how amazing your boyfriend is, I just had to make you drink with me!"

He then wrapped his arms around her and forced himself on her lips.

The Smiths were shocked and infuriated, especially Ferlyn's father, Samuel. He pounced towards Joey as he raised his fists. "Bastard. How dare you treat my daughter this way! I'll beat you up."

But before he touched Joey, Black Dragon raised his legs and kicked Samuel's knees. Samuel's right leg was instantly shattered.

#### "Ahhh!"

Samuel shrieked in pain as he wrapped his arms around his broken leg and wailed.

Black Dragon's actions stunned the entire Smith Family.

Ferlyn couldn't help but cry out in fear, "Dad-"



She wanted to help her father, but Joey clasped onto her and trapped her.

At that moment, a few people suddenly barged in, and their leader shouted furiously, "Release her!"

Ferlyn shrieked out of excitement when she saw them. "Chris, you're here."

Chris Perry, Ferlyn's boyfriend, appeared with a few of his men.

Chris never left Channing. He stayed in a hotel with a few of his men and rushed here immediately when he heard that something bad had happened to his girlfriend and her family.

He never thought that he would witness the scene where his future father-in-law, Samuel's legs were broken. He was absolutely irate when he saw that his girlfriend was being harassed by a playboy.

When the Smiths saw Chris, they started to cheer.



Sean said gleefully, "Haha. My future grandson-in-law is here. The Lund Family is doomed now."

Joey's right hand never let go of Ferlyn when he saw Chris barging in furiously with his men. His arm was wrapped powerfully around Ferlyn's thin waist as he stared at Chris coldly and said, "Are you the amazing boyfriend she's been going on about?"

Chris was a captain, so even though his subordinates weren't allowed to carry guns with them, he was allowed to do so.

He took out his pistol, pointed it at Joey, and warned, "I'm asking you to release her immediately. If not, I'll blow your brains out."

Joey flinched slightly when he saw Chris' gun, but he broke into a smirk. "Do you really think that you can intimidate me with a gun like that?"

Chris declared, "I'll count to three. If you don't release her then, I'll drive a bullet



through your head."

He then started to count in a low voice, "One..."



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