After Penny said that, she held Nathan's hands and left with Colin, leaving Gladius and his men gaping in shock.

Centaur could not help but ask softly, "Master, should we do something to make them stay?"

Minotaur, who had been standing motionless like a mountain, opened his eyes slightly and stared at Gladius.

Gladius stared at them as they left and shook his head in the end. "There's no need to rush. She's sparked my desire to conquer her, so I want to try again! I don't believe that Nathan can get any woman that I can't!"

Meanwhile, Penny, Colin, and Nathan left the hotel.

Colin drove while Penny and Nathan sat at the backseat.

Nathan giggled and stared at Penny, and she was a little uncomfortable from that, so she asked out of frustration, "Nathan,



why are you staring at me and laughing?"

Nathan grinned and replied, "I just feel very happy right now."

Penny snorted, "I, on the other hand, am devastated. I had the perfect opportunity to enter Northania's market, but I gave it up for you. I suffered major losses, so you need to compensate me!"

Nathan tittered and asked, "And how am I supposed to do that?"

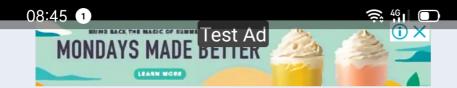
Penny immediately replied, "You're cooking tonight. I want to taste your cooking!"

Penny recently realized that her husband was a jack of all trades, and he was even exceptionally skilled in cooking.

She tasted his cooking a few times and fell in love with it.

Unfortunately, Nathan rarely cooked!

She had a rare opportunity to ask Nathan to cook today, so she definitely would not



give up on that chance!

Nathan's eyes were filled with tenderness as he agreed, "Sure!"

Colin took a furtive glance at the rear-view mirror and took a peek at Nathan and Penny.

He started to realize why Nathan loved his wife so much!

Over the next few days, Nathan and Penny thought that Gladius would stir up trouble because he got the shorthand of the stick, but to their surprise, nothing extraordinary happened.



Four days after the incident, Nathan and Penny suddenly received an invitation to a banquet on a cruise ship, and the invitation was made by the wealthiest person in the South, Cory Wagner!

He planned a business banquet on a cruise ship and invited all the famous businessmen and businesswomen in the South, including Nathan and Penny.

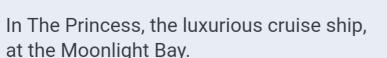


He was a legendary character in the South's business world, so Penny revered him greatly.

Now that she received an invitation from him, she was overjoyed because it was as if he had recognized her abilities.

When Nathan saw how ecstatic Penny was, he could not bear to tell her the truth.

According to Colin's investigations, the banquet was a trap set by Gladius using Cory Wagner as bait, and he wanted to use to the banquet as an opportunity to deal with Nathan and Penny.



Nathan, Penny, Kylie, Colin, and the rest boarded the ship, and it was already filled with all the invited guests.

The cruise ship blared its horns and slowly set sail towards the ocean.

A lot of people were drinking and



conversing with each other on the deck and in the lavishly decorated hall of the ship.

The men were dressed smartly in tuxedos, while the women were dressed in long, fancy dresses.

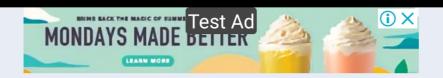
At that moment, Nathan and his companions arrived at the aforementioned hall.

The hall was already prepared and decorated as the venue of the banquet, and a lot of delicious food were displayed on the tables.

Besides that, numerous waiters and waitresses serving wine and champagne were buzzing around the crowd, ready to fill anyone's glasses.

Furthermore, there was a live band playing some calming music.

Penny and a lot of other businessmen and businesswomen waited for the arrival of the wealthiest person in the South, Cory



Wagner.

However, to their disappointment, he never arrived. Instead, a handsome, yet slylooking man, appeared with a huge posse.

Penny couldn't but gape in surprise when she saw the familiar-looking man. "It's him!"



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The devious-looking man was no other than Gladius.

Gladius wore a black tuxedo while Centaur and Minotaur stood by his sides.

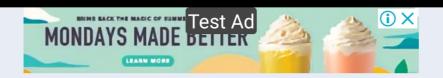
He stepped on the stage, took a microphone, and coughed into it once. The ambient music immediately stopped, and everyone's attention was directed towards him.

Gladius grinned and announced, "I'm sorry to inform you that Mr. Cory Wagner can't host this banquet this time because he had to handle something else. He asked me to apologize to you on his behalf."

Most of the guests arrived because they wanted to see Cory, so it caused an uproar among the guests.

Gladius grinned. "Mr. Wagner couldn't show up today, but he did ask me to host this banquet on his behalf..."

A lot of guests immediately started to direct their ire to Gladius. "F***. We came



here just because of Mr. Wagner."

"Who do you think you are to host this banquet?"

"Just turn back the ship. Don't waste my damn time."

Gladius stared at the people who were making the most noise and smiled meekly. "Haha. It seems like you don't really want me here and you can't wait to get off the ship. Fine by me! Throw them all off the ship."

Whoosh...

The people who ranted the loudest were immediately seized by menacing bodyguards and thrown off the ship.

That shocked every single person in the hall!

A murderous expression appeared on Nathan's face when he saw what had happened.



On the other hand, Colin took a few lifebuoys from the wall and threw them towards the few unlucky people who were bobbing around in the sea.

They immediately held onto the lifebuoys as they floated around miserably, wailing for help.

Unfortunately for them, the cruise ship was sailing quickly, so they were left paddling in the ocean in no time.

Gladius' ruthless actions shocked all the guests, and they did not dare to express their disapproval anymore out of horror.

Despite that, Penny stepped out and scolded Gladius loudly, "Do you know what you've just done? You've just committed murder! If those people died, you would reap the consequences of your crimes and face the wrath of justice!"

Gladius chuckled gleefully when he heard that. "Ms. Smith, I had originally planned to compete with Nathan because I'd wanted to win you over, but now I've realized that



you really are different from most ladies. I really like ladies like you who garner admiration and respect without even asking for it."

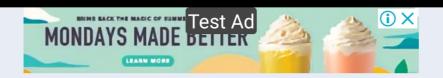
Penny replied coldly, "Compete with my husband? Haha, my husband is a veteran, and he's defended our country before, so how can you even be compared to him? You callous scoundrel! You're not even worth a single second of our time!"

Everyone could not help but cheer silently when they heard Penny's righteous words.

Even though they did not dare to make a sound because they were scared of Gladius, their admiration towards Penny was apparent in the way they looked at her.

On the other hand, Nathan stared at Penny in admiration as well!

Even though Penny seems very docile and reserved, she is actually very kind and righteous.



That same kindness and righteousness saved Nathan from the effects of the aphrodisiac a few years ago and made them tie the knot.

The reason why Nathan fell in love with Penny was because of, again, how righteous and kind-hearted she was.

Nathan stared at Penny lovingly while on the other hand, Gladius' expression turned thunderous, and he cast Penny a menacing gaze.

He uttered slowly, "Haha. I thought you were special, so I'd wanted to court you, but how dare you be so insolent and humiliate me in public! Since that's the case, don't blame me for doing things the hard way."



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The moment Gladius said this, a horde of vicious-looking thugs entered from the deck.

There were hundreds of them, and they had everyone surrounded.

The guests started to panic, "Gladius, what are you doing?"

Gladius replied coldly, "Don't worry about it. Today is the day where I settle my score with the Cross couple, so you can just step aside and enjoy the show. If anyone dares to interfere, you will end up just like the men thrown overboard just now."

The terrified guests immediately silenced themselves, when they heard that.

Gladius then glared at Nathan and his companions and chided in a mocking tone, "Nathan Cross, Penny Smith, I'd wanted to have some fun with you, but I never thought that you wanted to do things the hard way. Don't you regret angering me now?"



Penny's expression contorted in rage, yet her eyes were filled with worry.

On the other hand, Nathan still seemed unfazed as he glared at Gladius and smiled. "Haha, who are you to challenge us? Besides that, so what if we've angered you? The only thing you can do is to rage on helplessly, right?"

Rage on helplessly!

Gladius almost lost his temper when he heard that!

His lips twisted into an evil smile as he exclaimed, "You really are a stubborn one, huh? Minotaur, snap all of his limbs! I want today to be the darkest day in his life and I want him to watch as I toy with his wife!"

Minotaur, who had been closing his eyes and meditating while he stood motionless suddenly opened his eyes!

A menacing glint sparkled in his eyes while a petrifying murderous aura emanated from him and permeated the entire hall.



Everyone could feel his bloodlust and they suddenly felt that it was hard to breathe because his aura was oppressing.

Minotaur strode towards Nathan in a deceivingly slow pace.

He then prepared to grab Nathan's left arm with his right hand to break it before Nathan could even react,

However, Nathan raised his hands and gripped Minotaur's wrists instead with the speed of lightning.

Minotaur's eyes widened in shock and horror as he thought, He's so fast!

At the same time, a foreboding feeling welled from within him and he was about to roar and break free from his grasp.

However, before he could that, Nathan moved first.

A clean crack signified the breaking of bones, and that meant that Minotaur's powerful wrist was fractured by Nathan.



At that split second, before Minotaur could scream in pain, Nathan kicked his leg up high.

Bang!

Nathan's kick lifted Minotaur, who weighed more than four hundred pounds, yet oddly, Minotaur was not sent flying. Instead, he was stuck on Nathan's leather shoes.

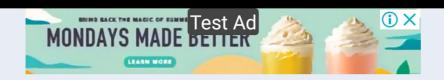
The crowd was stunned when they saw this!

Nathan's kick was infused with a tremendous amount of raw power and the strength was released within a split second.

Therefore, Minotaur's body had absorbed the impact completely, and it was pulverized, as it was stuck on Nathan's shoe like mud.

Nathan retracted his legs and Thump!

Minotaur's lifeless body landed heavily on the ground!



Everyone was completely shocked by Nathan's kick, even Gladius, who gaped so wide that his mouth was big enough to fit three eggs inside.

He glared at Nathan in disbelief because he had never expected the killing machine, Minotaur, from the Five Beasts of the Cross Family, to be killed with just a single kick from Nathan!



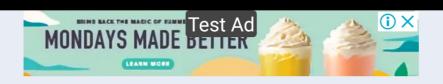
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Chapter 684 | Suggest You Not To Try

Gladius' subordinates immediately snapped out of their shock as Centaur exclaimed in agitation, "Protect Mr. Cross!"

A few dozen nimble guards instantly gathered around Gladius and formed a protective shell around him.

At the same time, the few hundred men on the deck outside rushed in as well.

Some of them were armed with batons while some of them were holding onto katanas. Some even wielded pistols in their hands.

Their leader, a man with a stubble, shouted viciously, "Kneel down! We'll kill those we don't follow our orders!"

The guests immediately kneeled down in horror, and in no time Nathan, Penny, Kylie, Colin, and the rest were the only ones standing.

Blood drained from Penny's face out of fear, and even Kylie started to panic.



Chapter 684 | Suggest You Not To Try

While all this transpired, Nathan still seemed calm and poised!

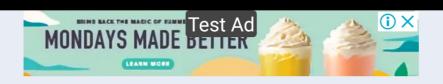
On the other hand, Colin secretly started to tense up because he saw that some of the ruffians were armed with guns.

Two pistols were stuck in his back pocket and they were each loaded with thirty bullets because he was the Master Sharpshooter in the South's military for three years in a row.

He stood motionless and he seemed calm, but actually, his body was already as tense as a wound-up spring.

His eyes were like two radars scanning through the crowd and identifying the most dangerous people. Besides that, he was also calculating the best way to eliminate all those threats in as short of a time as possible.

Gladius hid behind a few dozen of his guards and stared at Nathan, before saying in shock, "Who would've thought that you'd be so skilled in fighting? You'd



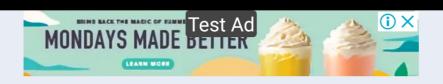
Chapter 684 I Suggest You Not To Try

even managed to kill one of the Five Beasts, Minotaur, from the Cross Family. No wonder you were so pompous earlier! Haha. Unfortunately for you, we're on a cruise ship in the middle of the sea, and this cruise ship is filled with several hundred of my men. They are armed with guns and batons, and there are also ten guns in the mix. Regardless of how powerful you are, you surely can't fight against several hundred men and ten pistols at once! Kneel down and beg me for forgiveness, and maybe I'll grant you a painless death. Who knows? I might even spare your wife's and her cousin's life!"

Penny's face turned deathly pale as she clenched her teeth and proclaimed, "Nathan, don't beg him for mercy. If we die, we'll die together!"

Nathan grinned. "Honey, that piece of trash and the useless worms swarming this place have not even earned the right to kill us!"

Gladius glared in anger. Nathan, you insolent punk. How dare you act so



Chapter 684 I Suggest You Not To Try

haughtily even when you're about to die!

He seethed with rage as he shouted in a low voice, "Mustache!"

The leader of the several hundred men immediately raised his pistol and pointed it at Nathan as he received his command.

He was about to fire twice into Nathan's legs to break them, making him kneel down first.

Penny shouted in horror, "No..;"

Without a care, she rushed in front of Nathan to block the bullets with her own flesh.

However, almost simultaneously, Colin drew out two guns in the speed of light and fired instantly. Bang! Bang!

Mustache and the other nine people armed with guns, fell backward with a look of horror on their faces as a bloody pit appeared between their eyebrows.



Chapter 684 | Suggest You Not To Try

They all died before they knew what hit them!

Meanwhile, Gladius and his men inhaled sharply in terror. He'd killed ten opponents in a flash! It's as if he's a sharpshooter cowboy from the movies!

Where did such a scary guy come from?

Some of Gladius' remaining several hundred men took a furtive glance at the guns lying beside the corpses. They wondered if they should swiftly pick them up and fire back at Colin.



However, Colin denied that opportunity. "I urge you not to try. Otherwise, you'll be a corpse the moment you bend down."



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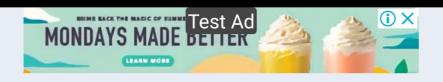
Those who originally planned to fire back at Colin gave up on their seemingly suicidal mission when they heard Colin's warning and recalled his exquisite marksmanship.

At the same time, Gladius retreated completely, behind his guards, reluctant to even sneak a peek.

Despite that, his voice still could be heard. "Nathan. Your gunman really is skilled, but I have a few hundred men, so do you think that you have enough bullets to kill us all?"

Colin threatened coldly. "I don't have a lot of bullets, but there's enough for a few dozen people. Those who want to die can feel free to do so."

Gladius was no angel as well, so he commanded his men callously, "Charge all at once! Let's see how much of us can he kill? If you chicken out of this, I'll go back and slaughter your whole family! On the other hand, I'll reward those who march on fearlessly with ten million. Those who kill Nathan Cross or his gunman will be



rewarded an extra one billion!"

The hefty rewards sparked up the courage of the thugs!

There's a one billion reward for killing either Nathan Cross or Colin Dunne, and even if we die trying, we still get ten million.

The several hundred men's eyes were bloodshot in an instant.

They all wanted to charge forwards to earn themselves a fortune, even at the expense of their own lives.

Meanwhile, Centaur shouted too, "What are you doing just standing there? Two billion is just before your eyes! Charge!"

The thugs from the Cross Family were about to rush them down when they heard a loud, rumbling noise of machinery from above.

After that, someone exclaimed in surprise, "Oh my God, there are so many helicopters



above the cruise ship!"

"Look at that! What's that thing on the sea?"

"It's a warship. Oh my God, it's a submarine chaser!"

"There's one here too!"

"Oh my God, it's a naval fleet from the South, and they're surrounding us right now."

The businessmen and businesswomen all had expressions of surprise and joy, while Gladius and his men were dumbfounded.

It was obvious that they did not understand how they managed to attract the naval fleet.

One of the flagships on the sea blared out their warning with their communication devices, "To the bandits on The Princess, we're the South's navy. We're now ordering you to put down your weapons, wrap your hands around your hand, kneel down, and



surrender. We won't hesitate to kill those who don't comply with our orders."

As the naval fleet issued their warning, the Dragonfury Special Forces started to descend quickly from the ropes dangling from the helicopters hovering overhead.

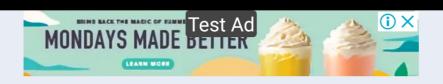
They landed on the deck, before assembling themselves efficiently and securing the premises.

The commander-in-chief of Channing's army, Franklin Wilson, descended from a helicopter, dressed in military uniform as well. He then strode towards the hall as he brought a group of special forces members with him.

A lot of guests recognized Franklin, so they exclaimed in surprise, "Major-General Wilson is here!"

Franklin commanded coldly, "Remove all the innocent hostages and apprehend all the bandits."

"Yes sir!"



In a flash, all of the guests, including Penny and Kylie, were brought away by the special forces.

They then waited on the deck for the naval fleet to arrive to pick them up.

On the other hand, Nathan, Colin, Gladius, and his men all stayed in the hall.

Gladius recovered from his shock as he waved both of his hands frantically and approached Franklin. "General, I'm the son of the Cross Family from Northania, and my father is Zayn Cross. We're on the same side…"

Gladius had just approached Franklin before a soldier beside Franklin retorted, "We're not on the same side. Who'd allowed you to come close to our general?"

The soldier then raised the submachine gun in his hands and smashed it furiously on Gladius' face.

The smack caused Gladius to bleed as he shrieked in pain, tumbling backward.

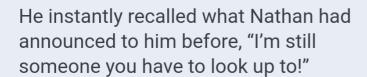


As Gladius fell on the ground, he covered his injured face and witnessed an increasingly shocking scene.

Franklin briskly walked towards Nathan and saluted him, before greeting loudly, "Good evening, General!"

General!

Gladius had a sudden, devastating realization when he saw the muscular man with twinkling eyes.





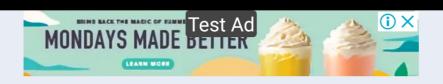
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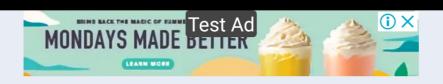
Gladius stared at Nathan Cross in disbelief. He seemed to have forgotten the pain on his face. He murmured, "There's no way that you are the Chief, no way, no way..."

Who would believe that Nathan Cross was the Chief? He looked so young. Nonetheless, Major-General Wilson had saluted Nathan Cross!

Major-General Wilson gave his salute to Nathan Cross with full respect, addressing him as the Chief, which could only mean that Nathan Cross was someone of high authority.

At that moment, it became clear to Gladius why Nathan Cross had remained fully calm, even after he had gotten ridiculed by Gladius a few days ago. Instead, Nathan Cross had said these words, "For as long as I live, you will never be able to outmatch me."

Soon, Gladius finally understood why Nathan Cross appeared to be so confident, even as he was being confronted by



Gladius' subordinates.

Everything seemed clear to him now, which also explained why Colin Dunne, the bodyguard of Nathan Cross, was such a sharpshooter.

It had all boiled down to one reason... Nathan Cross was a big shot in the military!

In a calm tone, Nathan Cross spoke to Gladius who had gloominess written all over his face, "Whether you were born out of wedlock a long time ago, or whether you are the master of the Cross Family now, it hadn't mattered to me at all."

"Even when you'd arrived in Channing a couple of days ago to disrupt my life, I still kept my cool."

"Unfortunately, your actions today have crossed the line. Go ahead and say your last words, I will convey them to the Cross Family."

Fear clouded Gladius' eyes as he trembled



in terror. "You want to kill me? You can't do that..." he pleaded with a quavering voice.

Upon hearing that, Nathan Cross reached out for a glass of champagne on the table, took a sip, smiled, and asked, "Why can't I?"

Gladius was tempted to threaten Nathan Cross, saying that the Cross Family would not go easy on Nathan if Nathan had killed him.

However, on second thought, he felt that this could not be used against Nathan Cross due to his current status.

Hence, he changed his mind and blurted out, "Aren't you the Chief now? You are a military man, so aren't you supposed to protect the country and ordinary people such as myself?"

"How can you kill me? If you kill me, it will go against your duties to protect innocent people!"

Nathan Cross smiled and turned around to



look at Franklin Wilson. "What do you think?" asked Nathan.

Franklin Wilson held a serious expression as he replied in a sturdy voice, "Yes Chief, it is true that our duty is to protect the country, and we are not allowed to harm innocent people, but this person here is no ordinary person... He is a perpetrator of heinous crimes!"

"He has no fear for the law and threw five businessmen into the sea. His brutal way of dealing with people shows his cruel disregard for human life."

"Furthermore, he had gathered more than a hundred people, armed with guns and weapons with the attempt to attack you, Chief. According to the law, this person is a ruthless criminal, and therefore, no trial is needed. He is liable to be executed right on the spot."

With Nathan Cross being a high-ranking military officer now, Gladius knew that he was no match for Nathan, so he thought that the only way to prevent Nathan Cross



from killing him was to distract him by bringing up ethical concerns.

He thought that as long as his life was spared on that day, he could get his parents to bail him out of trouble, through family ties.

Nonetheless, hearing what Franklin Wilson had said had sent shivers down his spine. His body froze and he started trembling in fear.

With a smile on his face, Nathan Cross looked at Gladius and uttered mockingly, "Looks like Major-General Wilson knows the law better than you do."

Then he turned to Franklin Wilson and announced, "Major-General Wilson, you are in charge of the operation today, so I will leave it to you to decide on his fate."

Without much hesitation, Franklin Wilson pointed at Gladius Cross and ordered his men to single him out for execution. Then, he told his men to arrest the rest of the gang.



"No, no, don't kill me, I don't want to die!" Gladius Cross screamed in despair, his body shaking violently.

The men wasted no time and dragged Gladius out. Not long after that, a gunshot was fired.

Gladius Cross was dead!



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Chapter 687 Crime Does Not Pay

Penny Smith and Kylie Tonkins, together with over two hundred businessmen who attended the cocktail party on the cruise, were standing on the deck waiting to be rescued by the warships.

Much to their surprise, they saw Gladius being brought out to the deck by the military to be gunned down.

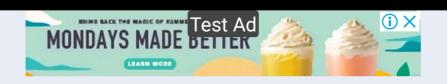
It caused a commotion at the scene, sending the crowd into a frenzy. Some cheered in rejoice while others hurled curses at him.

Penny Smith knew that Gladius Cross would be captured by the military and given a hefty punishment, but it had never crossed her mind that he would be executed instantaneously on the spot.

It went to show that the military meant business.

She felt slightly anxious and started looking around for Nathan Cross.

Nathan Cross and Colin Dunne were asked



Chapter 687 Crime Does Not Pay

to stay back for some questioning with Major-General Wilson.

Feeling worried, Penny Smith wondered if Major-General Wilson would make things difficult for Nathan Cross.

Then, she saw Nathan Cross, Franklin Wilson, Colin Dunne, and the rest of the people walking up to her slowly.

"Darling!" Penny Smith let out a happy squeal.

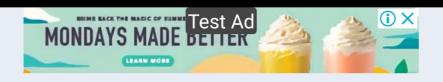


She dashed towards Nathan Cross and threw her arms around him.

"Nathan!" Kylie Tonkins called out to him as well.

Nathan Cross hugged Penny Smith and stroke her hair gently as he comforted her, "It's all right, don't worry, the ringleader has been executed. As for the rest of the gang, they have been arrested and they will be given a harsher sentence."

Not long after that, Nathan Cross, Penny



Chapter 687 Crime Does Not Pay

Smith, Kylie Tonkins, and the rest of the businessmen were sent back to Channing.

Penny Smith felt much better after reaching home. When she had finally calmed down, she began wondering how Franklin Wilson came to know about what was happening on the cruise, showing up on time. Was it because of Nathan Cross?

She had thought so because, whenever Nathan Cross was in danger, Franklin Wilson would always show up!

The more Penny Smith thought about it, the more she was certain that it had something to do with Nathan Cross. She looked at him and asked, "Nathan, are you hiding something from me? Why does Major-General Wilson always show up whenever you are in danger?"

"Don't tell me it was a coincidence because it doesn't make any sense to me that Major-General Wilson would appear from nowhere in the middle of the sea to rescue us."



Chapter 687 Crime Does Not Pay

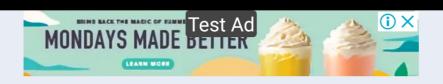
Well, Nathan Cross knew from the very beginning that the business cocktail party was a set-up by Gladius, hence he instructed Franklin Wilson to deploy the military force to be on standby for support, which was also the reason why Franklin Wilson had appeared just on time.

However, Nathan Cross simply smiled and explained, "It was really a coincidence, and it was Gladius' own wrongdoings that had gotten him into trouble!"

Penny Smith was stunned momentarily and queried, "You mean to say that it had nothing to do with you? What'd happened actually?"

Nathan Cross smiled and asked, "Do you still remember that Gladius Cross had thrown those businessmen into the sea, while Colin Dunne later threw in the lifebuoys to save them?"

Penny Smith nodded her head and affirmed, "Yes, of course. I'd even shouted at Gladius for being so inhumane."



Chapter 687 Crime Does Not Pay

Nathan Cross chuckled and explained, "Well, it just so happened that Major-General Wilson and his team were undergoing their daily training nearby, meaning that they'd discovered those businessmen in the waters. Thus, they pulled them out."

Looking startled, Penny Smith asked, "So when Major-General Wilson came to know about Gladius' evil doings and found out that the people on the cruise were in danger, he brought his men to the ship to rescue us?"

Nathan nodded and chirped, "Yes, that's right!"

Penny Smith let out a sigh and proclaimed, "Well, it looks like Gladius has finally reaped what he had sowed. Crime truly does not pay!"



Chapter 687 Crime Does Not Pay



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Inside the home of the Cross family in Cledondale, Northania.

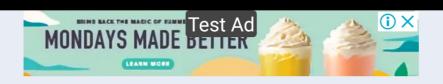
Zayn Cross had just celebrated his sixtieth birthday not long ago. He sat in his wheelchair, his face was livid with anger. Seated beside him was Helen Brown, who could not stop her crying.

Over hundreds of relatives and workers of the Cross Family stood around Zayn Cross and Helen Brown looking extremely solemn. All they could hear in the hall was Helen Brown's inconsolable cries.

This was because one hour ago, they received news about Gladius Cross' death. According to their sources, Gladius had died because he was plotting to kill Nathan Cross on the cruise. Unfortunately, he was caught red-handed by the maritime force that was undergoing a drill on the waters.

Hence, the maritime force shot him on the spot, thinking that he was a criminal.

Zayn Cross took a look at Helen Brown



who was bawling her eyes out and murmured to her with a somber voice, "Please stop crying, your crying is stressing me out."

Helen Brown wept and accused, "Your son has been killed and all you can say is that you are stressed out? Well, my heart is shattered into pieces!"

Upon hearing that, he softened his tone and pronounced, "You know what? You hold partial blame in this matter. You shouldn't have spoiled him so much, turning him into a brat, thinking that he was above the law and that he was able to do anything he'd wanted. Look at what'd happened to him?"

Helen Brown cried out, "You heartless man! Your son is dead! Instead of wanting justice for him, all you're doing is criticizing him!"

Zayn Cross replied, "Justice? What justice? He was shot by the military!"

Helen Brown looked at him with teary eyes



and wailed, "I was not referring to the military, I wouldn't have had the guts to take them down. All I know is that Nathan Cross was the cause of all this!"

"If Nathan Cross hadn't given you the Map of Hell for your birthday, and if he had not invited a group of people to mourn at your birthday, turning your it into a funeral-like event, our son would not have gotten angry and he would not have gone to seek revenge on Nathan Cross!"

"Our son died because of you! He'd wanted Nathan Cross to pay for what he'd done at your birthday! Nathan Cross was the cause of his death!"

Zayn Cross was baffled by her words. He had assumed that Gladius wanted to kill Nathan Cross because he was afraid that Nathan would return, taking over the Cross family.

It did not cross his mind that Gladius had died because he was furious with what Nathan Cross had done on his birthday!



Zayn Cross wrapped his arms around Helen Brown and comforted her, "I'm so sorry, it was all my fault. An eye for an eye. I will personally take that rascal's life. Nathan must pay for what he'd done to Gladius!"

She wept and replied, "Honey, Nathan Cross has always blamed us for his mother's death. He had always wanted us dead!"

"Look at what he's done to us. He'd demanded us to kneel down before his mother's grave, to repent for three days and three nights. Then, he'd deliberately ruined your birthday. Furthermore, now, he's even killed our son. What will he do next? Kill our entire family? You need to do something about him."

Initially, Zayn Cross was still hesitant about getting rid of Nathan Cross for good. They might have cut ties but Zayn could not bring himself to take Nathan's life.

However, after listening to Helen Brown's



words, he had his heart set to end Nathan's life once and for all.

He squinted his eyes and spoke coldly, "Don't worry, only the weak will never succeed. I will not have mercy on him this time."

"I came from a small town forty years ago, and I'd worked really hard in Northania to achieve what I have today. There was no such thing as 'mercifulness' in whatever I'd done!"

Then, he called out to his subordinates, "Listen now, Four Beasts!"

In just mere seconds, Bloodhand, Slayer, Thug, and Arhat, appeared from the crowd. Appearing burly and fearsome, they walked up to Zayn Cross and responded, "Yes, master!"

Zayn Cross spoke in a deep voice, "Gather all of our best men and follow me. I will rub out that scoundrel with my own hands."



"Yes, master!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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A gas station in Channing.

Nathan Cross was driving in his red car, waiting for his turn to fuel up some gas.

It was a weekend and there were many cars at the station. Nathan Cross had been waiting for over ten minutes.

Sitting in the car were also Penny Smith, Benson Smith, Leah Smith, and Queenie Smith.

Queenie Smith was feeling slightly anxious and asked, "Papa, is it our turn yet? We have been waiting for so long."

"My teacher had told us that all parents must arrive at the school by nine in the morning to attend the Parents Teacher Meeting. I hope that we won't be late."

Queenie Smith had been doing well in her kindergarten, getting praises and tokens from her teacher.

She was never late to class and had never once left the class early. She had set a



good example to the other kids in her class.

Her teacher had been reminding all the parents to be punctual for the meeting, and Queenie Smith was worried that Nathan Cross was going to be late for such an important event.

Nathan Cross looked at his watch and looked at the car ahead of him. The car was already filling up its gas. So, Nathan Cross looked at her and gave her a loving smile, "Don't worry my dear, it will be our turn next. I promise you that we will not be late for the meeting, ok?"

Queenie Smith felt relieved and let out a chuckle, "Ok, papa!"

After the car in front had left, it was Nathan's turn to drive up to the fuel pumps.

However, before he could do so, a lavish Maserati worth millions appeared out of the blue, speeding like a bullet towards the gas station. It overtook all the cars that



were waiting in line and cut right ahead of Nathan's car before he could even move forward.

Nathan Cross was annoyed and Penny Smith could not help but frown too. She commented, "Who is this person? How could she cut into our lane without queueing up?"

The gas attendant who was working at the station was also taken aback by the driver's action. Feeling rather awkward, she knocked on the window with a bitter smile on her face and chided, "Ma'am, it's the weekend today and everyone is queueing up, waiting for their turn to get some gas. Would you mind moving to the back, lining up just like everyone else?"

The window was wound down and inside the Maserati sat a woman, adorned in jewelry with her sunglasses on.

It was Susan Ocean, the wife of the South's renowned billionaire, Jared Ocean!

She took a look at the gas attendant with



much despise, then rummaged through her handbag, taking out one thousand. She then threw the money out of the window and spoke coldly, "Queue up? You must be kidding me. Fill up my tank now, and more money will be rewarded to you soon."

"Moreover, please do not knock on my window again. Open your eyes wide and look carefully... This is an imported Maserati, you won't be able to pay for the window if it were to be damaged."

The gas attendant frowned at the notes scattered across the floor, before glancing at the pompous woman again helplessly. She wanted to ask Susan Ocean to drive out from the station and queue up, once more.

Nathan Cross had lost his patience and alighted his car. He approached her car, looked at Susan Ocean coldly and questioned, "Everyone is queueing up, why can't you do the same?"

Susan Ocean cast a disdainful glance at Nathan Cross, before taking a look at his



red car from her rear-view mirror. Pouting with sheer sarcasm, she pronounced, "Don't talk to me if you're driving a cheap car. Change your car to a better one before you come and talk to me!"

Nathan Cross did not open his mouth and walked back to his car.

Susan Ocean and the gas attendant, together with the rest of the cars around them thought that Nathan Cross had given up on talking to Susan Ocean.

When he got into his car, he told everyone to buckle up and hold on to Queenie tight. Then, he started the engine and floored the accelerator.

Sitting in her Maserati, feeling all superior to the other drivers out there, Susan Ocean thought to herself, 'What can you lowlife people do to me?'

All of a sudden, the gas attendant let out a shriek

Before Susan Ocean could react, Nathan



Cross came right from the back, ramming into her Maserati.

Nathan's car may have looked like it was only worth two hundred thousand, but in actual fact, his car was a tanker in disguise, worth over twenty million. The impact was so large that the Maserati had suffered heavy damage.

Susan Ocean also lost control of the Maserati and plunged into the drain by the roadside.

Loud screams and continuous swearing could be heard from the Maserati.

Everyone at the gas station was in utter shock.

Nathan Cross wound down the window and smiled at the gas attendant, "Hello, good day to you, can you help fill up my gas tank please, I'm in a hurry."

Recovering from the shock, the gas attendant hurriedly filled up the gas for Nathan Cross. She looked at Nathan



Cross' red BMW and noticed that it was not damaged at all. When she had turned back, to look at the Maserati, the rear bumper was badly wrecked, with the front part of the car stuck inside the drain.

An inexpressible joy crept up on her instantly and she thought to herself, 'My gosh, this man is unbelievable!'



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As promised, Nathan Cross arrived at Golden Apple Kindergarten around nine o'clock. They made it in time for the Parents Teacher Meeting.

The field was already filled, by many parents and students.

The principal and teachers each took turns to speak with the parents, coming to a discussion about their children's results and performances in class. They had also discussed the children's future and what they could do to plan for their children's education, moving forward.

Concurrently, the kindergarten also invited children who had demonstrated outstanding performance in every aspect to go on stage to receive their awards.

Amongst those who were chose, was Queenie Smith!

Hence, Nathan Cross and his family walked Queenie Smith up the stage to receive her award.



The entire area was filled with loud applause and cheers!

Just when everything appeared to be going smoothly, an ear-piercing car engine sound could be heard from afar.

A Mercedes-Maybach and five Audi cars drove right into the kindergarten compound, almost knocking down two security guards at the entrance.

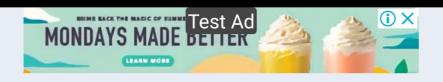
Everyone at the scene was startled by what they saw.

Several cars forced their way into the kindergarten and stopped at the field.

Jared Ocean, who was dressed in an expensive bespoke suit, got down from the Maybach with his wife, Susan Ocean.

Meanwhile, over twenty murderous-looking bodyguards got out from the five Audi cars as well.

Jared Ocean looked at everyone and spoke in a cold voice, "Who is the owner of



the red BMW parked outside? Come out now, you coward! How dare you knock my wife's car into the drain!"

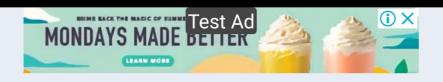
Everyone was looking at each other in disbelief. Someone in the crowd recognized Jared Ocean and exclaimed, "Hey, isn't that Jared Ocean, the tenthmost wealthiest man in the South?"

When everyone heard that, they were stunned and wondered who had offended this man, pitying whoever that person was.

Susan Ocean saw Nathan Cross and his family on stage and recognized them instantly.

Glaring at Nathan with immense hatred in her eyes, she pointed at Nathan Cross and shouted, "Darling, he was the one who'd driven that shoddy-looking car! He was the scumbag who wrecked the Maserati, knocking me into the filthy drain!"

Jared Ocean turned and saw Nathan Cross and Penny Smith on stage!



When he saw them, his expression hardened and his heart started throbbing with apprehension.

Previously, all of his chain stores were forced to shut down within ten minutes after Nathan Cross had made a phone call.

He also knew that Gladius had died because of Nathan Cross.

Nathan Cross was somewhat mysterious to him and he never quite knew who he was, which explained why his face had turned pale, upon catching sight of Nathan Cross.

Yet, Susan Ocean did not notice the change on her husband's face. She looked at Nathan Cross and the rest of his family and spoke haughtily, "You jerk, don't even think about running away this time. Get down now, all of you! My shoes were drenched in the nasty drain water and they stink now! Get down this instance and lick my shoes clean!"

Her words sparked an uproar amongst the



parents, and some children grew terrified and whispered, "These two grown-ups are so scary!"

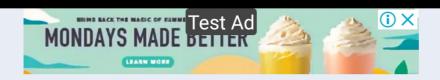
Looking down at Jared and Susan Ocean from the stage, Nathan Cross smirked and announced, "Ah, you two again. I didn't know that you two were husband and wife. No wonder people say 'birds of a feather flock together'... Both of you are truly made for each other!"

"Jared Ocean, are you sure you want me to come down now and lick your wife's shoes?" Nathan Cross asked.



As much as Jared Ocean knew that
Nathan Cross was no ordinary person, his
pride would not allow him to retreat,
especially before his wife and his
subordinates, so he reluctantly
pronounced before everyone, "Nathan
Cross and Penny Smith, what you'd done
to my wife was unacceptable, what are you
going to do about it?"

Susan Ocean shouted, "Did you know that I was wearing a pair of limited edition LV



shoes and they are filthy now? I will not let this go until you get down on your knees before me, licking them clean!"

Without batting an eyelid at her words, Nathan Cross had his eyes fixed upon Jared Ocean, as he suggested calmly, "If you leave now with your vicious wife, I will pretend that nothing had happened."

Jared Ocean grew agitated by Nathan Cross' words and retaliated, "Who do you think you are Nathan Cross? I'm going to make you pay for what you'd done today! Don't think about leaving this place today, without being taught a lesson!"



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Nathan let out a slight smile and said, "Since you want me to give you an explanation, alright, I'll explain."

Right after he finished speaking, Nathan took out his phone and called Patrick Ward, Governor of the South. "Ward, do you know anyone named Jared Ocean?" he asked coldly.

"I heard his dirty business is growing rapidly. Please look into him!" he added.

Patrick was stressed out as soon as he heard Jared's name.

Jared, you idiot! You can offend any Tom, Dick and Harry, but not a big shot like him. You're looking for trouble!

Whatever it was, Jared was still one of the top ten tycoons in the South, and every year, he generated a huge amount of tax revenue for the South.

Hence, Patrick persuaded Nathan to keep his cool and indicated that he wanted to have a word with Jared first.



Nathan passed the phone to Jared and said, "Ward wants to speak with you!"

Ward?

Who?

Jared took the call with suspicion, but he trembled with fear as soon as he heard the voice on the other end of the line. "Governor Ward!" he said shakily.

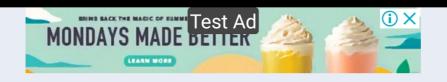
Susan's expression changed drastically when she heard her husband's exclamation, and she looked at Nathan in horror.

What?

Nathan actually knows the governor!

Moreover, the way Nathan speaks to the governor is like how a boss speaks to his subordinates.

Susan's body shook at the realization that they might be in deep trouble.



Sure enough, Jared kept bowing and nodding as he spoke on the phone.

He looked horrified as he stuttered, "Yes, yes, yes... I know, I know... I will apologize and ask for his forgiveness..."

By the time Jared ended the conversation, his lips were pale white and his forehead was covered in cold sweat. His hands trembled slightly as he handed the phone back to Nathan, and he said with a quiver in his voice, "Mr. Cross, the governor would like to have a word with you."

Nathan grabbed the phone and said indifferently, "Hello!"

Patrick said, "General, I've put some sense into that bastard Jared. He will most certainly apologize to you. If he shows a good attitude, you can consider sparing him this time. If not, we'll have to teach him a lesson."

Without any further comments, Nathan hung up.



Jared and his wife toned down their arrogance as they were now abnormally terrified. The two of them trembled with fear as they apologized to Nathan.

Jared muttered out his words with great difficulty. "Mr. Cross, I was wrong. Please spare me this time, I'm begging you."

Susan followed suit and pled shakily, "Mr. Cross, I'm also terribly sorry for what I've done. I won't drive recklessly again, and I promise to make amends for my mistake."

Nathan pointed at the flagpole in the stadium and said coldly, "Kindergarten kids who make mistakes usually have to stand at that spot as punishment."

"Now, go and stand by the flagpole and set an example for the kindergarten kids. Keep standing there until the parent-teacher conference ends," he instructed them.

The kindergarten principal and teachers, as well as the parents and students, stared at Nathan when they heard what he said.



Nathan is punishing Jared, one of the top ten tycoons in the South?!

Is this for real?

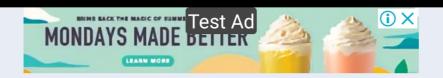
What stunned everyone even more was how Jared and Susan bowed their heads and obeyed Nathan. They stood by the flagpole and didn't dare go against his order.

Nathan smiled at the kids and said, "You will be punished if you do bad things. Remember, you must obey the rules. Don't follow in their footsteps."

The teachers, students and parents started applauding.

Nathan had presented a fascinating moral lesson to the kids.

Jared and Susan continued to lower their heads down in embarrassment.





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This would probably be Jared and Susan's most embarrassing day in their lives for many years to come.

They stood awkwardly by the flagpole for more than an hour until the parent-teacher conference ended.

When they received Nathan's permission to leave, they fled as though they had been granted amnesty for their crimes.

One phone call from Nathan forced dozens of his chain stores to shut down, and even Gladius was crippled.



Jared suspected that there was something unusual about Nathan's status.

He was fairly certain that there was more to Nathan than what met the eye. If not, the governor wouldn't have treated him with so much respect.

Jared and Susan had come to Channing not only to visit relatives, but also to attend to the seizure of the Noblewoman Beauty stores.



However, after uncovering Nathan's identity, the couple dared not linger in Channing any longer.

They went back to Alberesque on the same day and decided to get their act together.

Just as Jared arrived in Alberesque, he was alerted of a new development.

The patriarch of the prestigious Cross Family, Zayn, had checked into his villa in the South and had called for a meeting with him.

Mr. Cross is here!

Jared knew how vicious and merciless Northania's tycoon families could be, so he rushed to Zayn's villa to pay him a visit.

When Zayn met Jared, he asked about the incident that happened to Gladius.

Jared explained everything to Zayn in full detail, but he deliberately concealed his doubts about Nathan's identity.



He simply couldn't figure out Nathan's true identity, and he despised Nathan to death.

Hence, he was hoping that Zayn would help him kill Nathan.

After listening to what Jared said, Zayn frowned slightly and responded, "It seems like a fateful mistake for my son Zayn to be killed here in the South. It was unfortunate that he stumbled into a military exercise and was killed as a trespasser."

"That rascal Nathan is not that great!" he exclaimed.

Jared then suggested, "Mr. Cross, tomorrow is the Zach Hill's father's 70th birthday. Mr. Hill is the commander-inchief of the South. Perhaps you could pay him and his father a visit to find out whether Nathan has any connections in the army."

Zayn's eyes lit up when he heard this. "Zach Hill and I have been acquainted before in the past. I'll go to his father's



birthday celebration and butter Zach up a bit, so I can do some digging on Jared," he said.

Meanwhile, in Channing, Colin was on the phone talking with Nathan.

"Master, those few guys from the Cross Family have been sent to military prison in the North," reported Colin.

Nathan answered indifferently, "Okay!"

Colin then added, "Also, tomorrow is Zach Hill's father's 70th birthday. Since you have a decent relationship with Mr. Hill, you might want to send his father a birthday gift?"

Nathan smiled and said, "Haha, I've troubled Zach quite a lot this time. We go way back as comrades, and we are almost like brothers. Since it's his father's 70th birthday, I'll visit him personally to send my wishes! Colin, please make the necessary arrangements."

"Alright!" Colin answered.



"Is there anything else you'd like to report?" Nathan asked.

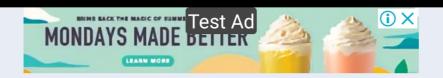
Colin replied cautiously, "Yes! Zayn has found out about Gladius's death. He is bringing the Four Tigers and several other men to the South to avenge his son's death."

Nathan smirked, "Is he thinking of killing me? Where is he now?"

Colin answered, "They are in Alberesque, staying in Zayn's villa at the moment. Zayn is somewhat afraid of you. I heard that he will be attending Mr. Hill's birthday celebration tomorrow to butter up to Zach, and he will use the opportunity to dig information on you."

Colin then whispered, "I have to remind you that if you attend Mr. Hill's party tomorrow, you will very likely bump into Zayn."

Nathan's gaze deepened as he said calmly, "It's alright. I would have to meet him sooner or later since I've told the Cross



Family to beg for forgiveness at my mother's grave within a month. Our meeting will have to take place earlier than planned then."



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Chapter 693 Father And Son

The next morning, Nathan took a flight to Alberesque.

Colin, Kylie and the Elite Eight tagged along with him.

Nathan had initially planned to bring Penny and Queenie to Mr. Hill's party. But after finding out that Zayn was going to be present, he dismissed this idea.

He didn't want to involve his wife and daughter in the fiasco with his father.

Besides that, Penny was also too busy to accompany him to Alberesque.

On the contrary, Kylie, who had actually taken two days away from work, insisted to follow when she found out Nathan was going to Alberesque.

Nathan had no choice but to let her tag along.

The group arrived at a farmhouse in the suburbs of Alberesque.



Chapter 693 Father And Son

This humble-looking farmhouse with a large compound was Zach Hill's family home.

Zach's father, Michael, used to be a high school principal but had long retired.

Michael lived a reclusive life in this family home, spending most of his time gardening, rearing fishes, drawing and so on.

However, today was a big change for his otherwise usually quiet life.

The courtyard was lit up with lanterns and colorful decorations, and the front porch was filled with cars of people who had come to join his birthday celebration.

Dressed in casual wear, Zach, along with the rest of his family, accompanied Michael as he greeted his friends and relatives.

Neither Zach's superiors nor subordinates were at the scene.



Zach had specifically left orders that those working with him were not to attend his father's celebration.

He only extended the invitation to family friends and relatives, not colleagues.

Therefore, the people who showed up today were mostly close friends and relatives of the Hill family.

Suddenly, someone shouted from the front door, "Zayn Cross from Jixton, Northania is here to send his wishes to Mr. Hill."

Zayn and his entourage walked in, then he turned to Zach and Michael with a smile on his face, and said, "Good day to you, General Hill. Mr. Hill, I hope you are well."

"David sends his regards and well wishes to you too, Mr. Hill," he added.

Michael smiled as he answered, "Thank you!"

"How thoughtful of your father!" said Zach.



Zayn then said, "I hope you don't mind that I show up empty-handed without an invitation card."

"I happen to be the honorary chairman of Northania's Calligraphy Association, and my penmanship is rather good. Why don't I write something for you as a birthday present?" he added.

Michael always had an appreciation for paintings and calligraphy, and he enjoyed collecting art pieces.

He didn't bother if the artwork were done by famous artists. He would appreciate any art pieces as long as he felt that they were of high quality.

When he heard how the Chairman of the Calligraphy Association wanted to write him something, he was hyped up immediately.

"Wow okay, quickly get someone to prepare the ink and paper," he said excitedly.



The guests at the scene were also excited as they were curious to see how the chairman's penmanship looked like.

However, before the servant could bring over the ink and paper, a group of new guests had arrived.

The doorman at the entrance shouted in a high-pitched tone, "Mr. Nathan Cross of the Cross Group has come to send his wishes to Mr. Hill."

Nathan, Colin, Kylie and the others strode into the house.

"Good day, I'm Nathan Cross. On behalf of the Cross Group, I wish you a very happy birthday. May you be blessed with good health and longevity," said Nathan.

Michael didn't know who Nathan was, but he still responded courteously, "Thank you. All of you are my guests. Please, have a seat."

Zayn had spotted Nathan earlier on with his sharp eyes, and his expression was



particularly scary at this moment.

His expression was like that of a strict father who had just seen his prodigal son.

Maintaining his composure, Nathan acted like he didn't know Zayn and sat down calmly.



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That very moment, the servant brought out some ink and paper.

Michael said to Zayn with a smile on his face, "Mr. Cross, come, let me see how good your skills are."

Zayn glanced at Nathan casually, then smiled at Michael and said, "Sure."

After that, he grabbed a brush, dipped it in ink, and started writing.

With the crowd in front of him, he wrote an excerpt from the Iliad. 'Let me not die ingloriously and without a struggle, but let me first do something great that shall be told among men hereafter.'

The crowd applauded his penmanship after he finished writing and one of them shouted, "Beautiful!"

Michael's eyes lit up when he read the bold line of words written by Zayn.

Although the quote wasn't quite suitable for birthdays, Michael thought that Zayn



was complimenting his son.

After all, his son was Zach Hill, commander-in-chief of the South.

Michael was almost certain that Zayn showed up at his birthday out of respect for Zach.

So he wasn't alarmed when he saw what Zayn had written.

However, when Nathan read the quote, he let out a slight grin.

He knew deep inside that the quote was meant for him.

Zayn was basically telling him through his calligraphy: I've killed so many people that the blood on my sword is still dripping. Killing you is nothing!

Sure enough, Zayn looked straight at Nathan with a murderous look in his eyes after he finished writing.

With a slight grin, Nathan stood up and



said calmly, "Before I came, I heard that General Hill instructed everyone not to bring any presents. Therefore, I did not prepare any gifts. Since there are ink and paper here, I've decided to showcase my calligraphy skills too and give it to Michael as his birthday present."

Upon hearing these words, Michael answered Nathan in curiosity, "Young fellow, since you know calligraphy as well, if you're up for it, please show us your skills!"

Without any hesitation, Nathan picked up the calligraphy brush and started writing.

Stroke after stroke, he wrote finely and delicately.

His font was elegant yet sharp as he wrote down two lines of words.

"Brilliant!" the crowd exclaimed as they applauded.

Michael said excitedly, "Your penmanship is superb. It's way better than most



calligraphy pieces I've seen before. You deserve recognition."

Even Zach, Kylie and the others were amazed by Nathan's skills.

Zach thought that Nathan's writing even looked like what the General of the North would say.

Kylie didn't know how to appreciate calligraphy, but she felt that Nathan's writing was absolutely poignant. At the same time, she looked at Nathan proudly and thought to herself, my brother-in-law has an unparalleled talent. He's good at everything from chess to music, and now, even calligraphy.

Nathan's writing evoked different feelings in different people who were at the scene.

While Nathan's penmanship skills stood out to Michael, Zach perceived how determined Nathan's character was through his writing. Meanwhile, Kylie picked up on how delicate his emotions were.



Zayn, on the other hand, had a completely different understanding of Nathan's writing.

He felt that Nathan was writing from his mother's point of view. It was as though she was lamenting her ill fate.

Looking at Nathan's writing, Zayn could almost see his dead ex-wife in front of him, blaming him for abandoning them and condemning him for her unjust fate.

Zayn's face turned pale as he glared at Nathan in shock and anger.

Nathan then added a tiny line of characters on his calligraphy piece to denote that day's date.

Right after he finished writing the date, Michael exclaimed, "Oops, it seems like you have written the wrong date. Today is the 1st, not the 10th!"

Nathan intentionally answered with a hint of surprise in his voice, "The date is wrong? Oh dear, I actually wrote 10th. No



worries, the date will be right when it is actually the 10th."

Upon hearing what Nathan said, Michael and the rest of the crowd laughed as they found his remark humorous.

Nevertheless, Zayn remained quiet.

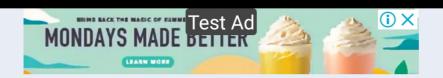
He knew very well that Nathan's 'mistake' wasn't actually a mistake.

Nathan had intentionally written the 10th for him.

The reason was simple. The deadline that Nathan had set for the Cross Family to kneel before his mother's grave and beg for forgiveness was on the 10th of this month.

Nathan was indirectly reminding Zayn that if the Cross Family didn't kneel before his mother's grave by the 10th, he would destroy the whole family.

The corner of Zayn's eyes twitched as his blood pressure spiked, and he glared at



Nathan with a deathly stare.

If looks could kill, Zayn would have murdered Nathan several times over by now.



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A short while later, Michael's birthday celebration began.

After only two glasses of wine, Nathan and his entourage bid farewell and left the banquet.

Zayn, on the other hand, was in no rush to leave. He could hold his drinks well, so he stayed on and continued drinking with Zach and the rest.

Meanwhile, Michael went back to his room early to rest given his advanced age.

By then, most of the guests had left. The only ones remaining were Zach and a few other drinkers. Many of them drank until they passed out on the table.

The only ones who weren't drunk at the main table were Zayn and Zach.

Zach laughed and said, "I don't ever drink when I'm in the army, but today is a holiday and it's also my father's birthday. Moreover, we have friends and relatives from afar who have come specially to



celebrate with my family. I feel exceptionally happy today, and it's been a long time since I've drunk this much."

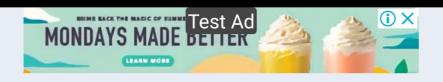
Zayn was also rather tipsy but still selfaware at this point. "Haha, it's an honor to be able to drink with you, General Hill. I won't ever forget this moment," he said while laughing.

Zach smiled and replied, "Haha, what's so great about drinking with me? Your family is way more prominent in society!"

Speaking of prominence, Zach was actually referring to Nathan, whom he deemed to be the glory of the Cross Family.

However, Zayn didn't get the reference as he thought Zach was simply being polite.

Without giving it much thought, Zayn casually changed the topic and said, "Oh right, General Hill, I wanted to ask you something. Are you close with that young fellow Nathan who came to wish your father earlier?"



Zach laughed and said in a casual tone, "Well, we're just friends!"

Zayn was secretly happy when he heard this, thinking that Nathan and Zach weren't that close.

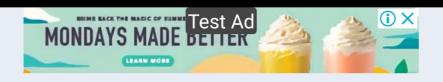
It seemed to him that Nathan had only showed up to butter up to Zach.

What he didn't know was that Zach only addressed people as friends if they shared a genuine relationship.

Zayn's curiosity was triggered further, and he wanted to ask if Nathan had any support or connections from the army.

Zach pretended to be tipsy as he narrowed his eyes and asked, "Mr. Cross, why are you asking me this? Could it be that you have a bad history with him, and you intentionally came here to dig up information on him?"

Zayn's face turned red when he heard this, then he said awkwardly, "To tell you the truth, we do have a long-standing feud, and



there is a deep resentment between the two of us!

Looking apathetic, Zach waved his hand and said, "He has no backing from the army, and I am not interested to know about the feud going on between you two."

Right after he finished his sentence, he instructed the Captain of the National Guards to see all the guests out, then he stood up and prepared to leave.

Zayn bowed and bid farewell to his host, "Thank you for your hospitality, General Hill. I will make a move now."

Zayn's subordinates were already waiting for him in his car when he walked out from the Hill family home.

He got into the Rolls-Royce and instructed the driver, "Drive back to my villa so I can have a good rest tonight, and tomorrow I will seek revenge on that bastard. I thought he has connections in the army, but luckily it turned out to be a false alarm."



Back in the study of the Hill family home, Zach was completely sober.

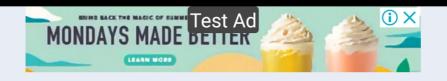
He wiped his face with a hot towel while asking the Captain of the National Guards, "Has Zayn left?"

The captain answered respectfully, "Yes, he has left. Sir, Zayn is obviously here to seek revenge on Nathan. Should we help?"

Zach laughed and said, "It's just a small matter. Nathan wouldn't need our help."

"Besides, this is his own family affairs. Let him work things out with his father by himself. As outsiders, we shouldn't interfere. Please inform the leaders of the South that no matter how messy things get for Zayn and Nathan, no one should get involved," he added.

The captain answered in a mellow voice, "Yes, sir!"



The next day, Zayn arrived at Channing in an intimidating manner with his four right hand men—Bloodhand, Slayer, Thug and Arhat—in addition to a group of the Cross family's elite fighters.

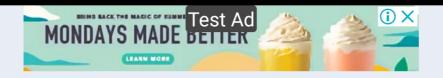
On his way to Channing, Zayn had already informed the leaders of the South the purpose of his visit.

Surprisingly, the leaders of the South had all graciously agreed to turn a blind eye to the feud between the Cross family and Nathan.

After getting implicit consent from the political and military big guns in the South, Zayn felt like he had nothing more to fear.

Before Zayn set off for Channing, his men, who were sent by him to gather information, had reported back to him that Nathan had married a Smith and was currently living with the Smith family.

As such, he led the Cross family's Four Beasts and the few hundred elite fighters straight towards the Smith family's home



in Channing.

Clang!

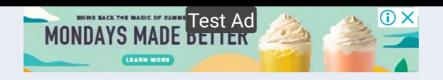
The vermilion gate of the Smith family's mansion was kicked open and the two wooden planks which made up the door flew forward and crashed onto the ground in the front yard, creating a great commotion.

With his hands behind his back, Zayn marched in with the Four Beasts and the rest of his men.

Upon hearing the loud noise outside, Sean and his family, together with their bodyguards and servants, came out to see what was the fuss about.

They saw Zayn and his group of people storming towards them the moment they stepped into the front yard.

Sean and his family had shocked expressions on their faces as they wondered what was going on. Fergus, the leader of the Smith's security team,



stepped forward with his team of bodyguards and shouted, "Who gave you the permission to barge in like that?! Who are you people? How dare you behave so atrociously within the Smith family's territory? You must be sick of living!"

The Smith family had made a name for themselves in Channing recently.

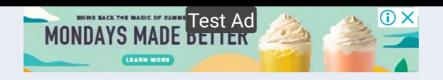
A few powerful forces from The East, which had sought trouble with the Smith family, had all ended up perishing in Channing.

Even the Warlord of Avalon, Bachok Khan, who had gone after Nathan and the Smith Family for revenge, was also defeated in Channing.

With the rise in status of the Smiths, even the family's bodyguards felt that they were unbeatable.

Zayn remained silent and looked at Fergus coldly.

Fergus stared at Zayn and yelled, "Are you



mute? I'm talking to you!"

One of the Four Beasts, Bloodhand, suddenly sprang towards Fergus at the speed of lightning.

Sean and his family gasped in shock upon seeing that.

While Fergus could only feel a shadow flash across his eyes, Bloodhand had already knocked him straight in his chest.

Bang!

Fergus felt as if he was knocked over by a hoard of rhinoceroses. He was flung outward and his body crashed onto the ground. A horrific-looking bloody hole appeared in his chest.

Fergus's head tilted to one side as he breathed his last breath.

Everyone was shocked out of their wits as they stared at the tall and slim-built Bloodhand, who remained expressionless.



Right in the middle of Bloodhand's right palm sat a heart which was dripping blood.

It was Fergus's heart!

It turned out that Bloodhand had not only knocked Fergus over, he had, at the same time, also dug out the man's heart.

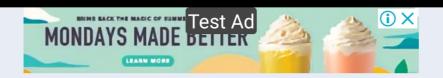
As Bloodhand admired the still-beating heart on his palm, he let out a wicked laugh. Then, he tightened his grip and gave the heart a good squeeze.

Pop! The heart burst from the force of his fingers. Blood and pieces of the heart were splattered all over.

The faces of everyone from the Smith family went deathly pale.

Some of them had wobbly legs while some had even soiled themselves, permeating the air with a foul stench of urine.

Sean wore a horrified expression on his face as he looked at Zayn fearfully. His



voice shook as he asked, "Who exactly are you guys? How has my family offended you? Why did you kill my man over just a squabble?"

Zayn stood with his hands behind his back and ordered arrogantly, "Everyone from the Smith family, kneel down at my feet immediately and get Nathan Cross here to accept his death."



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Sean and his family's expressions froze over when they heard that!

One of the bodyguards shouted impatiently, "You have come to the wrong place! Nathan Cross doesn't live here."

Immediately after he finished speaking, Slayer, who was standing behind Zayn, made his move.

Bam!

Slayer raised his fist and slammed a deadly punch into the bodyguard's head!

Bash! Bam! Bash!

He continued attacking the rest of the bodyguards who were flung all over the front yard from the impactful blows. All of them died on the spot.

After massacring the entire security team of the Smith family, Slayer smiled savagely and said, "Is there anyone else who still thinks that our Mr. Cross has come to the wrong place?"



Every male member of the Smith family turned pale and were now perspiring profusely.

The women had instinctively covered their mouths with their hands to prevent themselves from throwing up. They were also afraid to make any sounds that would potentially incur the wrath of these murderers and get themselves killed as a result.

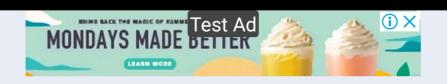
With a murderous glint in his eyes, Slayer looked at Sean and his family chillingly and said, "Since all of you seem to agree that Mr. Cross has arrived at the right place, why are you not obeying his orders to kneel down?"

Thud!

Thud, Thud, Thud...

Sean, Samuel, Paul, Miles, May and the other terror-stricken members of the Smith family knelt down one by one.

Bloodhand personally carried a wooden



armchair over for Zayn to take a seat.

Zayn sat on his throne and overlooked the entire Smith Family, who were on their knees. However, he still did not see Nathan.

He spoke calmly, "Isn't Nathan Cross your granddaughter's husband? Where is he now? Get him here to meet his death!"

Sean, who was sprawled on the ground, replied in a trembling voice, "Mr. Cross, you are really mistaken. Nathan Cross is indeed my granddaughter's husband, but we are not on good terms with their family, so they don't live here."

They are not living here?

Zayn frowned slightly, then smiled, "Hah, I'll just have to trouble you then. Since I'm already here, I won't be looking for him elsewhere. Just get him here to meet his doom!"

Being put in a tight spot, Sean fell on all fours and said, "Mr. Cross, as I've



mentioned, we are not on good terms with Nathan Cross. Even if I ask, it's very unlikely that he'll agree to come! Besides, if he knows that you are after him, he will probably flee at once!"

Zayn pondered over what Sean said and called out, "Thug, Arhat!"

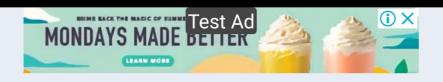
"At your service, Sir!" Thug and Arhat from the Cross Family's Four Beasts answered in unison.

Zayn gave his orders, "The both of you, get two of the Smiths to lead the way. I want you to bring Nathan Cross and every single person who's related to that brat here. I am going to completely uproot his clan."

"Yes, Sir!"

Immediately, Thug and Arhat picked two younger members of the Smith Family to go with them.

They split up into two groups to complete their mission.



Thug led a group of men to the Riverside Garden to capture Nathan and his family, while Arhat led another group to Thomas Dunn's nest to catch him.

In less than half an hour, blood was shed in Thomas's lair. Thomas and his trusted aides were either dead or badly injured.

Even Thomas himself was badly tortured and covered in blood when he was brought to the Smiths' family home.

Thud!

Thomas, who was barely alive, was thrown onto the ground.

Arhat reported to Zayn respectfully, "Mr. Cross, mission accomplished. I've annihilated all of Thomas Dunn's subordinates and have brought the man here."

Zayn smiled and said, "Well done!"

Sean and his family, who were still on their knees, grew even more despondent as



they gazed at the bloodied Thomas in front of them.

Members of the Smith Family were all thinking the same thing. Damn, even Nathan Cross's right hand man, the overlord of Channing's underground world, Thomas Dunn, has been captured and landed himself in such a sorry state!

After complimenting Arhat, Zayn suddenly realized that Thug, who was tasked to seize Nathan Cross, had been gone for quite some time.

Did something crop up?

That's impossible!

Thug was born with superhuman strength and no one can stop him.

Not to mention capturing Nathan Cross, even killing Nathan Cross would have been as easy as pie for him. There wouldn't be any problem at all.

He must be on his way back!



Meanwhile, Nathan was having dinner with his family.

Suddenly, Nathan, who had extraordinary sensitive hearing, heard sounds of fighting that were almost inaudible coming from outside.

He frowned and took a glance at the window.

Then, he stood up quietly and said, "Honey, you guys carry on and enjoy dinner. I suddenly remembered that I have to make a call."

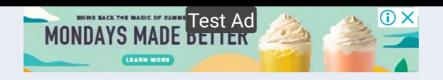


Nathan walked out of the house after that.

Somewhere not far away from Nathan's villa, a fierce battle was going on.

It turned out that Thunderstorm and Waves, who were protecting Nathan's family in the shadows, had discovered Bloodhand's group, which was storming towards the villa.

A fight erupted between both parties



almost right away.

Thunderstorm and Waves were both skillful fighters!

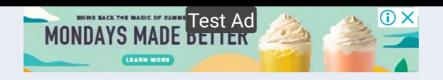
However, Bloodhand was no less formidable. In addition to that, he had with him ten over elite fighters from the Cross Family. It was difficult to tell who had the upper hand.

Thunderstorm and Waves had thought that given their skills, they would be able to take Bloodhand and his men down in no time.

However, for quite a while after the fight started, both parties still seemed to be equally matched.

Just then, Thunderstorm spotted Nathan and reminded him, "Mr. Cross, something happened, these people are tough nuts and they're here to cause trouble, please be careful!"

Mr. Cross?



Nathan Cross!

When Bloodhand noticed Nathan, who was walking towards the group, his expression was that of pure ecstasy. Right away, he abandoned the fight against Thunderstorm and Waves, and swiftly charged towards Nathan.

With movements as fast as lightning, Bloodhand extended his right hand with his claw-like fingers, and reached for Nathan's chest.

This move had never failed him. He could always easily penetrate his opponents' chests and dig their hearts out.

Thunderstorm and Waves panicked when they saw Bloodhand suddenly changing his target to Nathan. "Mr. Cross, watch out!" The both of them shouted simultaneously.

Bloodhand smiled wickedly with a menacing glint in his eyes. His fingertips had already come into contact with Nathan's shirt.



He had even already imagined himself reaching into Nathan's chest and gouging his heart out ruthlessly.

However, in that split moment, Nathan made his move.

He raised his hand and grabbed Bloodhand's wrist, which halted Bloodhand's movements.

Even though Bloodhand's fingertips had already touched Nathan's shirt, he was unable to move any further with Nathan's tight grip on his wrist.

His eyes widened as he lifted his head in disbelief and stared at Nathan with a stunned expression.

Nathan had intercepted his signature move, which had always been deadly, with such ease!

Just when Bloodhand was intending to launch a counterattack, Nathan tightened his grip and with a crack, Bloodhand's wrist was snapped into two.



Before Bloodhand could even cry out in pain, Nathan had swung his arm forward and hacked Bloodhand's face with his elbow, which was as fatal as a knife.

Bam! Bloodhand's features sunk into his face at once and blood spewed all around.

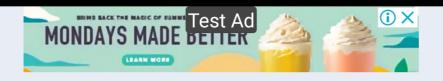
He died on the spot without even having the chance to shriek out in pain, before collapsing onto the ground.

Just then, Colin and the Elite Eight arrived at the scene.

After they combined forces with Thunderstorm and Waves, the skilled fighters from the Cross Family were defeated in a blink of an eye.

Nathan dusted his sleeves and overlooked the bodies of Bloodhand and the rest of the Cross Family's fighters. "Have Zayn and his men already arrived at Channing?" he asked in a frosty tone.

Colin replied, "Yup, they are currently at the Smiths' home."



Nathan was momentarily stunned by the news. He had guessed that Zayn would come after him in Channing, as such, he had tasked Thunderstorm, Waves, Colin and the Elite Eight to take turns to protect his family in secret.

However, it had never occurred to him that Zayn's first stop would be the Smith's family home instead.

Colin said solemnly, "I've just gotten wind that something has happened to Thomas. His lair has been destroyed by people from the Cross Family and his subordinates were either dead or seriously injured! Even Thomas himself was badly beaten up and has been brought to the Smith's family home."

"Clean up the mess and we'll go to the Smith's family home," Nathan said coldly.



Back at the Smith's family home, Sean and the rest of his family members were all kneeling on the ground, trembling in fear.

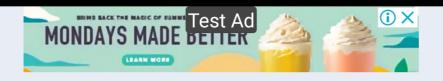
Zayn sat in a commanding position on his throne with three of the Cross Family's Four Beasts—Slayer, Thug and Arhat—standing confidently next to him.

Surrounding them were a few hundred of the Cross Family's elites fighters. All of them stood on high alert, waiting for Bloodhand to return with Nathan Cross and his family.

One hour had passed and there was still no trace of Bloodhand, who was tasked to capture Nathan Cross's family.

Zayn couldn't help but frown. He looked at his watch and mumbled to himself, "What's going on with Bloodhand? His methods are usually resolute and he always completes his tasks swiftly. Why is he taking so long to capture Nathan Cross's family this time?"

Right after Zayn spoke, a group of people



were spotted marching into the Smith's mansion from afar.

Zayn had assumed that it was Bloodhand returning victorious and exclaimed excitedly, "Bloodhand, you're finally back...

Midway through his sentence, Zayn realized something was amiss.

To his shock, he saw that it was Nathan and his underlings who were approaching.

Zayn had a sudden change of expression as he bolted up from his chair. His voice was thick with rage and shock as he yelled, "Why is it you swaggering in? Where's my subordinate, Bloodhand?"

Nathan replied without a trace of emotion, "Just like Minotaur, I'm afraid he is permanently left in Channing."

Zayn's eyes widened in shock, "What? You mean Bloodhand is dead?"

Colin replied sullenly, "Anyone who dares



to offend our Master will have to die. He's no exception."

Zayn, Slayer, Thug, Arhat, as well as the rest of the Cross Family's elites were all stupefied when they heard that.

Out of the original Cross Family's Five Beasts, Minotaur was the first to die a baffling death.

And now, even Bloodhand was dead!

It was widely known that any of the Cross Family's Five Beasts was considered an extraordinarily powerful force in Northania!

Nathan looked at the shocked Zayn and said in a cold tone, "Zayn Cross, although you chased my mom and I out years ago which caused mom to fall into depression, before mom passed away, I promised her that I'll spare your life as long as you are willing to apologize and repent. You have seven days left to repent and admit your mistake in front of mom's grave. This is the last chance I'm giving you. If you have some sense, you should get lost with your



men immediately and kneel at my mom's grave to reflect upon your mistakes."

Zayn flew into a rage when he heard what Nathan said. "You scoundrel! How dare you speak to me like that, do you really think I can't bear to kill you? Slayer, Thug, Arhat, who wants to volunteer to take down this rascal?"

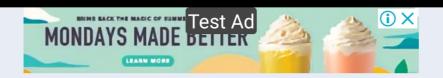
Before the remaining Cross Family's Three Beasts could say anything, Nathan said blandly, "I have no time to waste, these three pieces of garbage can come at me together!"

Slayer, Thug and Arhat were infuriated by Nathan's comment.

Thug, the most hot-tempered of the three, roared in rage, "I'll finish him off!"

At once, Thug stomped his foot. With a loud boom, he launched himself into the air and catapulted at Nathan like a cannonball.

Then, he raised his right fist and swung a



punch towards Nathan's chest.

Swoosh! A sharp gust of air cut through the space with the swift movement of Thug's arm.

It was such a powerful punch that the surrounding air seemed to contort.

Nathan stepped forward and threw a punch at Thug at the same time.

Bam!

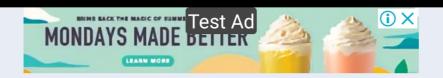
When the two fists collided, a deep thunder-like sound penetrated the air.

Nathan stood firmly on the spot and did not even move an inch!

On the other hand, Thug let out an agonized cry of pain and stumbled more than ten steps back.

In addition, his right arm was twisted out of shape!

The outcome of the clash between the



fists was the crippling of Thug's right arm.

A wide-eyed Zayn dropped his jaw in shock and took in a sharp inhale.



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Slayer and Arhat could also hardly believe their eyes and were both stunned.

They had initially thought that Nathan and his men had killed Bloodhand using underhand methods.

After witnessing the way Nathan broke Thug's arm with just one single blow, Slayer and Arhat were finally convinced that Nathan's powers were indeed terrifying.

They no longer dared to underestimate their opponent's abilities.

Slayer and Arhat exchanged a knowing look and sprang towards Nathan simultaneously.

The both of them moved at breakneck speed. Everyone else could only see two fleeting shadows lunging towards Nathan.

Thunderstorm and Waves furrowed their brows when Slayer and Arhat launched their attack at Nathan.



Just when they intended to give Nathan a hand, Colin spoke calmly, "Master wouldn't have any problems handling those two guys. Let's stay put unless our enemy's side sends in reinforcements."

Slayer's palm turned into a knife as he slashed towards Nathan!

As for Arhat, he attacked with a sweeping kick accompanied by a ferocious roar.

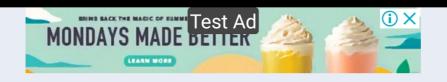
Nathan remained calm and collected as he took two steps backwards, which rendered his opponents' attacks futile.



Slayer's hand landed on the tree behind. Like a sharp blade, he sliced the tree trunk apart and the top half of the tree collapsed on the ground with a loud thud.

Arhat's kick hit the Pixiu stone statue which was placed at the mansion's front yard.

With a loud boom, the statue crumbled into pieces.



Everyone held their breaths nervously and watched on as the two top fighters from the Cross Family attacked Nathan continuously.

Nathan dodged the attacks from the two men effortlessly as if he were simply taking a stroll in the park.

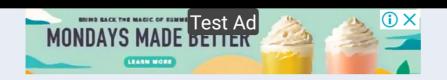
Nathan nimbly ducked the supposedly killer moves from Slayer and Arhat by taking multiple steps backwards.

After that, Nathan began his counterattack

He lunged forward and crashed into Slayer's rib cage. At the same time, he struck Slayer's chest with his arm forcefully.

Bang! Slayer went pale and his body quivered rapidly as if an electric shock was travelling through it.

He stumbled a few steps backwards, leaving a trail of deep-set footprints on the slabbed pathway. The next instant, he



threw up a pool of blood, which contained fragments of his lungs. It was apparent that Slayer was already seriously injured.

Arhat growled in anger and sent a flying kick towards Nathan.

Nathan extended his leg and returned the kick in the same manner, but at a faster pace and with much more force. He struck Arhat right on his calf joint.

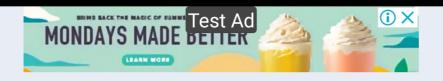
Crack!

The hair-raising sounds of bones breaking tore through the air.

Arhat's right calf joint was snapped into two from the force of Nathan's kick and took on the form of a frightful V-shape!

Everyone's scalps went numb at the sight. It was as if they could feel Arhat's pain just by looking at it.

Zayn's eyes bulged as he wondered if what he just saw was real.



He could hardly believe that Nathan had managed to defeat the three most formidable fighters of the Cross Family all by himself, and within such a short span of time!

Nathan stared at the three badly injured fighters of the Cross Family and said unsympathetically, "So this is what the Cross Family's Five Beasts are made up of? Frankly-speaking, I'm rather disappointed. Zayn Cross, are you going to keep being stubborn?"

Zayn finally snapped out of his shock. Anger flooded his veins as he looked at Nathan, who was exuding a commanding aura.

No father would be able to tolerate being spoken to in such a disrespectful manner by his own son.

Moreover, Nathan was supposed to be a good-for-nothing son whom Zayn despised and had personally chased out of the family years ago.



How could this brat treat me with such disregard?

Zayn was shocked and enraged, almost losing his mind.

Right now, he was just like a gambler blinded from rationality and eager to win his money back after suffering huge losses. At the same time, he was also like a king who couldn't wait to kill his son, after his throne was seized by the prince who had planned a revolt.

Zayn commanded the remaining hundreds of the Cross Family's elite fighters in a harsh tone, "Everyone listen up! I want all of you to attack altogether and kill this scoundrel."



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