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Hence, they were highly skilled warriors.

However, in the face of true warriors like Thunderstorm and Waves, they were still put to shame.

Both Thunderstorm and Waves were like two lions, slipping in and out of enemy lines, killing whoever stood in their way.

Among the elite warriors of the Cross Family, cries of agony could be heard everywhere.

Meanwhile, Colin and the Elite Eight stayed by Nathan's side as they held the line against the charging enemy.

Their fighting style was typical of the army which was straight to the vital points. Their well-honed chemistry only served to enhance their deadliness.



"Die!"

A few hundred of the Cross Family's elite killers brandished their weapons and charged at Nathan, swarming at him like a pack of wolves.

Colin's gaze turned cold as he demanded, "Elite Eight, where are you?"

Meanwhile, the Elite Eight stepped forward in unison and roared, "Here!"

Colin ordered, "Protect Nathan!"

As the Elite Eight formed a defense line in front of Nathan, they screamed in unison, "Die!"

Like two ferocious lions, Thunderstorm and Waves didn't say a word as they charged at the Cross Family's elites.

The battle began as both sides clashed.

When Sean and his family saw what was going on, they scrambled away in fear.



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As the Cross Family's elites charged at them, they were like moths to a flame.
Anyone who got close enough was simply cut down by the Elite Eight.

Zayn watched on as hundreds of his subordinates were slaughtered right in front of him.

Nathan had only more than ten men with him, but they were more than enough to deal with Zayn's hundreds.

Zayn was impressed but devastated at the same time.

Looking at Nathan's ridiculously fearsome subordinates, a sense of despair flooded his head. Nathan's men are too powerful, there's no way I can win!

Finally, all of Zayn's men were lying on the ground in their own blood.

Colin, the Elite Eight, Thunderstorm, and Waves only suffered minor injuries. But they were all still standing tall.



They looked like eleven demons who were standing in the blood-filled courtyard. It was a magnificent sight.

Hiding somewhere far away, Sean's family watched the scene in horror and despair.

Meanwhile, Nathan stared at Zayn frostily without saying a single word.

Collapsing into his throne, Zayn's eyes were filled with defiance and shock.

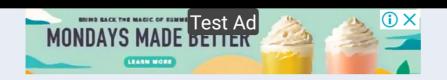
He said spitefully, "Nathan, it seems that you have climbed over my head. Now, kill me if you dare!"

Nathan replied calmly, "It appears that you refuse to accept defeat."

Clenching his fist, Zayn exclaimed, "This time, I lost due to my carelessness."

"You better kill me now, or else once I return to Northania, I will gather my forces and take your life."

Nathan replied indifferently, "Leave!"



Zayn widened his eyes in surprise, "What did you say?"

Turning around, Nathan looked at the sunset and said in a mundane tone, "Before mom died, I promised her that I would give you time to repent."

"Now, you still have seven days left before the deadline."

"After seven days, I'll wait for you at mom's grave."

"If you are remorseful, come to her grave to repent."

"If you still want to kill me, then gather all your forces and face me in front of her grave."

After he finished, he looked towards Zayn with a gaze as sharp as a blade. In a frosty voice, he barked, "Meet me there in seven days."

"If I don't see you, I will wipe out the Cross Family from the face of the earth."



Zayn stared at Nathan in shock. A long time ago, he had kicked Nathan and his mother out of their home and severed ties with them.

After that, Nathan's mother died of depression while Nathan was devastated for years.

He knew how deep Nathan's hatred for him was.

But he did not expect Nathan to free him when he had the opportunity to kill him.

As he stared at Nathan who was visibly lonely despite his calm demeanor, he couldn't help but sneer, "Haha, I must say I am impressed with how much you have grown all these years."

"But I didn't expect you to let me go. Don't regret the fact that you are releasing the tiger back into the woods."

Nathan replied indifferently, "One can only release a tiger after one has captured it. If I can capture the tiger, there's no need for



me to be afraid of it."

Such arrogance!

What an insolent fool he is!

Zayn couldn't help but feel infuriated.

Nathan's tone and attitude showed that he had no respect at all for the Cross Family, as if he could really destroy them with a snap of his fingers.

Zayn angrily replied, "Fine, seven days later, we will meet at Tiverton Mountain. I hope you can still be just as arrogant as you are now!"

Nathan calmly replied, "Compensate the Smiths' with one billion and you are free to go."

One billion!

It was a drop in the ocean for the Cross Family who had trillions of assets.

Within ten minutes, one billion was



credited into Sean Smith's account.

After that, Zayn, including all his wounded subordinates, Thug, Arhat, and Slayer helped each other up. Utterly defeated, they were crestfallen as they left Channing.

Sean's family suffered significantly today.

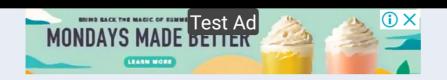
The bodyguards they hired were all killed by Zayn and this brought immense fear into their hearts.

The entire family was also forced to kneel down. After kneeling in the courtyard for more than one hour, they were both physically and mentally traumatized.

Before this, Sean and his family had hated Nathan.

But he didn't expect Nathan to defeat Zayn and his men. Furthermore, Nathan even forced Zayn to pay the Smiths one billion in compensation!

Recently, the Smith family business was in



the doldrums and their livelihoods were deteriorating.

With the sudden gift of one billion, the grievance, anger and hatred that Sean's family had felt, now all dissipated to the extent that they could hardly hide their glee.

Now, they saw Nathan in a different light; it was no longer one of hostility.

In fact, they felt he was a generous person despite all his flaws.

Money changes people.

Nathan had expected Sean's family to react that way.

He instructed Sean, "Grandpa, remember to allocate some money to the families of the bodyguards who died in the line of duty, so that their families are compensated for their loss."

Flashing Nathan a rare smile, Sean replied, "Will do. We will double the compensation



amount agreed in their contracts."

Nathan nodded in response before he said, "I would like to apologize to all of you for the trouble I have caused. The Cross Family of Northania came here because of me."

"Also, I hope all of you can keep today's incident a secret from Penny and the others."

"I don't want them to worry."

Money does talk!

Sean, who was still smiling ear to ear from receiving the money, reassured Nathan, "Haha, I understand you don't want Penny to be concerned. Don't worry, we will keep this a secret."

After thanking them, Nathan left with all his men.



On the way back, Nathan sent Thomas to the hospital. After treating Thomas' wounds, the doctor confirmed that Thomas' life wasn't in any danger.

With that, Nathan left some men to watch over Thomas before heading home.

When he got back, Penny and the rest of the family were watching TV.

When Penny saw Nathan, she stood up immediately and questioned, "Nathan, where did you go? You didn't even finish your food."

Nathan replied with a smile, "I just out to tie up some loose ends."

Penny continued, "You should still be hungry since you didn't eat much earlier. Let me heat up the leftovers for you."

Feeling the warmth in his heart, Nathan agreed, "Alright!"

After Penny brought out the dishes, Nathan sat at the dining table to eat.



Despite not eating, Penny joined him.

Cupping her cheeks in her hands, she smiled as she watched him eat.

When a woman loved a man, simply watching him eat was enough to bring joy.

Nathan raised his head and returned her glance. "Why are you staring at me?"

Smiling, Penny ignored his question. Instead, she said, "Nathan, there's something I want to talk to you about."

Nathan replied, "Go ahead."

Penny explained, "It's my Grandma's birthday in two days. My parents plan to visit her in the East to celebrate it with her."

"I am thinking of bringing Queenie along too. Do you want to join us?"

Nathan was surprised. "Grandma? Since when did you have a grandmother in the East? I have never heard you mention her before."



She explained, "My Grandma and Grandpa were divorced a long time ago."

"Her name is Sandra Jagger. She is the only daughter of the prominent Jagger family based in Horton City in the East."

"After their divorce, Grandma returned to the East to take over the family business. Now, she has become the matriarch of the Jagger family."

Nathan was puzzled. "Although your Grandma separated from Grandpa, she doesn't seem to keep much contact with your uncles who are her sons."

Penny smiled wryly. "After the divorce, she returned to the Jagger family and remarried. Because of her new family, both sides seldom keep in touch."

"To be honest, my Grandma looks down on the Smiths. However, my dad would diligently send gifts to her every time there was an occasion. He has been doing so for many years to demonstrate his devotion as a son."



"Grandma has ignored us all this while. But, for her birthday this year, she sent a messenger to invite us over for the celebration. She said that she appreciated the fact that my dad was still filial to her."

Nathan didn't expect Penny's Grandma to have such a complex relationship with the Smiths.

Meanwhile, Nathan remembered that he had to travel to the East in seven days to face off with his father once and for all.

Therefore, he replied with a smile. "There's nothing much I can do about your Grandma's enmity with the Smiths. But, since your dad wants to go pay his respects, we should accompany him there."

Penny was delighted to hear Nathan's answer. "Alright, I'll inform my parents. In two days, we will visit Grandma in the East to celebrate her birthday with her."

Amidst all the problems different families had, Nathan's family was happy.



Meanwhile, Zayn had just returned to Cledondale by flight after fleeing the battle. The moment he arrived home, he threw a tantrum.

Helen and the other family members came to comfort him.

Helen was shocked that Zayn had returned in utter defeat despite having the Cross Family's captains and hundreds of elite men at his disposal.

In an anxious tone, Helen asked, "Zayn, did Nathan challenge you to a face-off at his mother's grave in seven days?"

Zayn replied angrily, "That's right. That brat wants me to either admit my mistake or battle to death in front of his mother's grave."

Helen frowned. "Despite leading the elites of the Cross Family, you were no match for him. Now that he has the upper hand, what are you going to do?"

Zayn snorted. "He only has a few followers



but he arrogantly thinks that they can defeat anyone."

"However, in the face of bullets, it doesn't matter how well they can fight in hand-tohand combats."

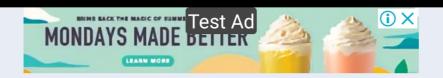
Staring at Zayn, Helen inquired, "So... You do have a plan?"

Narrowing his eyes, Zayn slowly explained. "He has challenged me to meet him at his mother's grave at Tiverton Mountain. Through my network, I have contacted one of the top ten mercenary armies from overseas- the Pallbearers."

"I plan to bring the Pallbearers into the country by paying them a huge sum of money to settle off Nathan."

Having heard his plan, Helen replied excitedly, "Rumor has it that the Pallbearers are extremely terrifying. If you pit them against Nathan, it seems a bit too much."

Zayn nodded. "I admit I am overdoing it,



but that's the only way to guarantee the brat's death."



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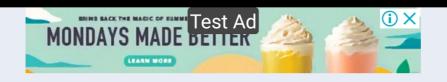


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The next day, Nathan and his family flew to the East.

They arrived in Horton at noon.

Leah would always experience motion sickness every time she travelled by air, and this time was no different. She felt miserable.

Hence, once Nathan and his family got off the plane, they did not head to the Jagger residence straightaway. Instead, they chose to rest a while at the airport lobby.

As Penny and the rest of the family sat down on the couches, Queenie said softly, "Daddy, I'm a little thirsty."

Nathan smiled. "Wait here, I'll go get us some drinks."

With that, Nathan walked away.

At that moment, an old man approached them with a painful expression on his face.

When Queenie saw the old man grimacing,



she thought that he was looking for a seat.

When she realized that the seat on her left was empty, she invited him in a sweet voice, "Grandpa, are you the same as my grandmother? She also feels uncomfortable after taking a flight. Here's an empty seat. Please sit down and rest."

As Queenie spoke, she stood up and wanted to help the old man sit down.

In kindergarten, the teachers often taught them to respect the elderly and to always vacate their seats for them in public.

Therefore, Queenie naturally did what she learned in school

Meanwhile, Penny, Benson and Leah looked on in amusement. They were happy to see that Queenie was growing up to be a considerate child.

However, what happened next shocked all of them

The old man let out an agonizing cry and



gripped his left arm before collapsing onto the ground.

After he hit the ground, he continued to hold his left arm and muttered, "She pushed me and caused me to fall..."

"This little girl pushed me!"

"Ouch! My hand hurts. I think my arm is broken..."

Meanwhile, Queenie was still standing at the same spot with her hand stretched halfway out. She was visibly stunned.

And so were Penny, Benson and Leah.

A crowd started to gather as they chattered curiously.

After regaining her senses, Penny hugged her daughter and glared angrily at the old man. "What are you doing? My daughter wanted to help you to your seat when she saw that you were feeling uncomfortable."

"But you collapsed without her even



touching you."

"You are obviously trying to take advantage of us given that we are not locals!"

"Do you even have a conscience? Scamming a young child who wanted to help you?"

The old man on the floor ignored Penny as he shouted at the top of his lungs, "This little girl pushed me. Now that my arm is broken, you have to be responsible..."

As the old man yelled, he reached out his hand to grip Penny's leg.

Frightened, Penny and her family retreated backwards.

At that moment, a man in a black leather jacket appeared with a group of fearsome followers behind.

He growled, "How dare you push my grandfather and break his arm? And now you're trying to flee?"



Penny was infuriated, "We didn't touch him. He lay down on the floor himself and faked a broken arm. Are you trying to scam us?"

After helping the old man up, the man in the black jacket rolled up the old man's sleeve. They could see that the old man's arm was contorted and swollen all over. It was obvious that his arm was truly broken.

The man then glared angrily at Penny, "Can't you see that my Grandfather's arm is broken?"

"Pay up! If you don't compensate for his medical bills, I will break the arms of your whole family!"

As the crowd chattered amongst themselves, one of them recognized the man in the black jacket and muttered softly, "Ah! That's Leonard the Bully! Leonard Lowe!"

At the mention of his name, the crowd understood at once what was going on. They all dispersed in a blink, not wanting



to get involved.

The ones left were foreign tourists who stood there puzzled.

Leonard was the son of Horton's underworld kingpin, Gerald Lowe.

Despite Gerald's status, Leonard loved to gamble and would often visit the casinos in the neighboring regions. Every time, he would lose a lot of money and return home in debt.

Over the years, Gerald had helped Leonard pay off his debts of billions.

Until one day, he finally reached his limits and cut his son off. At the same time, he declared that he would not help his son settle any of his gambling debts anymore and also warned others against lending Leonard money.

Not too long ago, Leonard lost ten million again.

Given that his father had cut him off, he



found an old man in Horton and broke his arm. After that, he forced him to masquerade as his grandfather to scam foreign tourists.

Because his father was the underworld kingpin of Horton, no one dared to touch him. Hence, he was always successful in his scams.

This time, since he noticed that Penny and her family were well dressed and weren't local, he decided to pick on them.

When Penny saw how aggressive Leonard and his men were, she was sure that they were con-artists.

Hence, she took out her phone and warned, "We didn't push your grandfather. If you insist on cheating us, I will call the police."

Leonard was infuriated when he heard what Penny said. Snatching her phone away, he growled, "The police? Do you know who my father is? Even the Horton police chief needs to respect my father, let



alone the officers in the airport police station."

"If you want to call the police, go ahead!" Leonard challenged. At the same time, he held up her phone and prepared to smash it onto the floor.

Before he could do anything, a figure appeared in front of him. It was Nathan.



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Grabbing Leonard's hand by the wrist, Nathan sneered, "How dare you bully my girls?"

Staring at Nathan in shock, Leonard tried to struggle his hand free. However, he couldn't even budge. He then scowled, "Who the f*** are you?"

Holding Leonard's wrist tightly, Nathan easily pried Penny's phone out of his fingers. After passing it back to her, he pushed Leonard aside and declared, "I am her husband and also the girl's father. If there are any problems, you speak to me."

Leonard's men exchanged glances when they heard Nathan.

Smirking, Leonard scrutinized Nathan from head to toe. He scoffed, "Since you're the head of the household, this will make things easier."

"Your daughter pushed my grandfather and caused him to break his left arm. If you don't pay us two million, you will be in a whole lot of trouble."



As Leonard spoke, his subordinates surrounded Nathan in an aggressive stance and prepared to attack.

Nathan replied with a slight smile, "If my daughter did break his arm, I will definitely compensate you."

Happy to hear Nathan's answer, Leonard responded immediately, "There was no one around my grandfather other than your daughter. I saw it with my own eyes so you cannot deny it."

Without promising anything, Nathan requested, "Can I see your grandfather's arm?"

Leonard motioned to the old man. "Grandfather, let him see your injury."

When the old man showed Nathan and the crowd his injury, it looked gruesome.

After taking a closer look, Nathan smiled smugly. "My friend, I used to be a soldier and have seen many injuries such as this. I have also treated many of them."



"Your grandfather's injury is a fracture that's more than three days old. It's obvious to anyone with some basic medical knowledge that this is not a fresh wound."

"I am not in the mood to hold this against you. Why don't you run along and stop scamming people?"

The crowd was stunned when they heard what Nathan said.

One of them who was a doctor nodded in agreement. "That's right. What this man said is true. One can tell at first sight that it's an old wound that's at least a couple of days old."

When Penny and her family heard the man, their faces lit up in delight as they looked at Nathan proudly. Finally, Nathan managed to prove Queenie's innocence!

Meanwhile, Leonard shot an angry glare at the intervening doctor who then shut up in fear.



Turning his attention back to Nathan, he barked, "Do you think it's an old injury just because you say so?"

"If you don't pay up, I'll break the arms of all your family members!"

Nathan chuckled. "Since you cannot tell an old injury from a new one, let me show you how it's done."

Leonard was stunned, "How are you going to teach me?"

"Like this!"

Just as he spoke, Nathan's hand reached out in a flash. Crack! Leonard's right arm was snapped off!

"Argh!"

Leonard screamed in agony.

Meanwhile, Nathan smiled smugly. "Now you can roll up your sleeves and compare a new fracture with the old one."



As tears of pain rolled down Leonard's cheeks, his companions were shocked at how cruel Nathan's response was.

By now, they had already realized that they were messing with someone ruthless.

Holding his broken arm, Leonard grimaced in pain as he scowled, "Damn you! This isn't over yet. I'll be back for revenge!"

With that, he fled with his companions.

Nathan grinned as he shouted, "Remember not to scam anyone anymore!"

When the bystanders regained their senses, the broke into applause excitedly.



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At the Jagger residence in Horton.

The Jaggers were a prominent family that had been around for centuries, but their influence gradually waned in recent decades. Nevertheless, they still wielded significant power.

The dated look of their luxurious manor was a reflection of their past glory.

Nevertheless, to be able to own such a large manor in Horton was an achievement by itself.

Driving into the Jagger manor, Nathan and family noticed that there were many luxury cars parked inside.

It seemed that many guests had come to celebrate Grandma's birthday.

After parking their car, they entered the Jagger manor.

Inside, the great hall was decorated with lanterns and festoons while many guests paraded in and out. An old lady with grey



hair was sitting on a platform overlooking the hall. Surrounded by servants, she was busy receiving the guests who came to pay their respects.

The old lady, who was elegantly dressed, was Benson's mother, Sandra Jagger.

"Mom, I brought my whole family here to celebrate your birthday with you."

"All of us would like to wish you a very happy birthday and many happy returns!"

One by one, Benson led his family members to pay their respects to Sandra. At the same time, they presented her with a gift.

Penny was the one who had prepared the gift. It was a diamond pendant that cost a hundred thousand.

For any ordinary person, it was considered an extravagant gift.

But, when compared to the gifts that Sandra had received, it was seen as cheap.



Sandra didn't have many feelings for her children from the Smith family. It was just that she appreciated Benson's devotion to her, therefore she invited him to the birthday banquet.

At that moment, she looked at Benson's family in a condescending manner and waved them aside. "Thanks for coming. Please find a seat. You can leave after you finish dinner. As there are a lot of guests here today, I have no time to entertain you all personally."

Benson replied instantly, "It's fine, mom. You don't have to entertain us, we can..."

Before he could finish, someone suddenly rushed in to report, "Madam Jagger, Xavier Yates, son of Horton property magnate Zack Yates, has arrived."

When Sandra heard that Xavier was here, the previously aloof old dame quickly stood up with the support of her cane. She cried out in excitement, "Xavier is here? He's an extremely important guest!"







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"Quick, come with me to welcome him, we cannot allow such an important guest to wait."

With that, Sandra, together with a group of other people, scrambled away to welcome Xavier.

After being left hanging, Penny and her family felt awkward standing where they were.

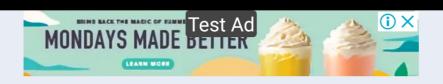
It was the same everywhere- money came first.

Meanwhile, feeling embarrassed, Benson suggested, "Nathan, let's find a place ourselves to sit."

Nathan replied with a smile, "Sure!"

Shortly, Nathan and his family found a table at an unassuming corner.

When Benson saw a few familiar faces, he brought his wife and granddaughter along to exchange pleasantries and chat.



Chapter 706 Here Comes Xavier Yates

Meanwhile, Nathan and Penny sat at the table, chatting.

After a while, Sandra and her followers entered while ingratiating themselves to a young man in an Armani suit.

The young man was dressed sharply with his hair neatly combed back. He was decked out in luxury brands from head to toe while wearing a Patek Philippe watch that was worth millions.

The man was Xavier Yates!

Although Xavier was well dressed and handsome, he had dark rings around his eyes and a pale expression on his face. His steps were unsteady and his gaze was shifty. He looked like a typical playboy who had spent all his time partying.

After wishing Sandra a happy birthday and presenting her with his gift, Xavier smiled and said, "Now that I have done what my father instructed, I will take my leave."

Trying to get him to stay, Sandra



Chapter 706 Here Comes Xavier Yates

persuaded, "Xavier, why are you in such a hurry? You should stay for dinner and have a few drinks first."

Xavier pursed his lips in response as he planned to leave for a friend's party which was a lot more fun.

Just when he was about to mock how boring Sandra's birthday party was, he noticed Penny sitting in the corner. When he saw her, his face lit up in delight.

Deciding against making the snide remark, he replied, "Sure, I'll stay for a while. Madam. Jagger, you don't have to entertain me, I'm fine by myself."



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When Sandra heard that Xavier was willing to stay for the banquet, she beamed with pride.

The Jagger family's influence had declined so much over the years that they were no longer considered one of Horton's elite families.

Now that someone of Xavier's stature was willing to attend her birthday banquet, Sandra felt so proud as if she had rejoined the ranks of Horton's elites.

While Nathan and Penny were chatting about life in general, they heard a interrupting voice from behind. "Hello, you're really pretty, can I get to know you?"

Nathan knotted his eyebrows slightly.

While Penny looked up in surprise, she saw Xavier smiling at her.

Behind him stood two burly men with bulging muscles.

Even though a frown had formed on her



face, Penny was aware that he was an important guest of her Grandma.

Wanting to avoid causing a scene, she casually replied, "Hello, I am Madam.

Jagger's granddaughter, Penny Smith."

Xavier replied with a smile, "Oh, so you are the daughter of the Smiths of Channing."

"You are from the South while I am from the East. It must be fate that brought us here today!"

As he spoke, Xavier noticed Nathan standing beside her. Frowning slightly, he shot a glance at his goons.

Instantly, both his bodyguards glared at Nathan. One of them threatened him, "Young man, can't you see Mr. Yates is talking to Ms. Smith? Why don't you buzz off?"

Penny's expression changed immediately. She was worried that Nathan would be infuriated and break the two men's legs.



Hence, she added, "Mr. Yates, I forgot to introduce you to my husband, Nathan Cross."

What?

Husband?

Ms. Smith is already married?

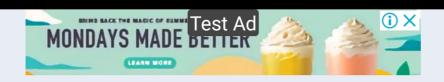
Xavier felt frustrated and was filled with despair. To him, it was a case of beauty and the beast!

Despite being aware that she was married, it wasn't reason enough for him to back off and neither did he ever give up easily.

Besides, he wasn't planning on marrying Penny anyway. All he wanted was to have some fun. Whether Penny was married or not mattered little to him.

Hence, Xavier sat down and gave Nathan a challenging look. "So Mr. Cross, what do you do for a living?"

Nathan replied indifferently, "Me? I'm



staying in my wife's house while running a small business."

Pursing his lips, Xavier gave Nathan a condescending look and muttered, "F***, so you're just a useless bum who relies on his wife for a living. What an insult to pretty Ms. Smith."

Ignoring Nathan, Xavier looked at Penny with a smile, "Ms. Smith, do you run a business too?"

"My dad is a property magnate in Horton. Our family has powerful connections throughout the East."

"If you need new business leads or solve a commercial problem, I can help you with them."

Penny felt a little awkward. "I'm aware of how influential you are, but there's nothing that I need help with."

Pursing his lips, Xavier was upset. "Do you really not get it or are you just pretending?"



Puzzled, Penny responded, "What?"

Squinting his eyes, Xavier stared at the beautiful Penny and declared, "I'll be direct. I like you. So, leave Nathan the useless bum and come with me!"

"As long as you are willing to be mine, I guarantee that your business will flourish with full access to my resources!"

Meanwhile, Nathan's face turned black while Penny was stunned.

Right at that moment, a servant scrambled into the great hall and yelled, "We are in trouble! There's a group of fearsome men who claim that Nathan and Penny broke their master's arm!"

"They are threatening to thrash the Jagger residence unless we hand them Nathan and Penny."

When the Jaggers heard that someone was here to cause trouble, they began to panic.



A brawny bald man barged in with more than ten followers behind him.

The guests were all terrified to see the intimidating group of men.

Sandra scowled, "Who are you? How dare you trespass upon the Jagger residence?"

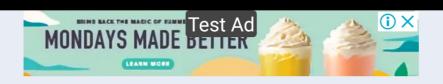
The bald man sneered, "Haha, not only do I dare to intrude, but I also dare to destroy the Jagger family. So don't test my patience!"

Sandra was so outraged that she was trembling. "You..."

Ignoring Sandra, the bald man scanned around and threatened, "I'll cut to the chase. I'm here for Nathan Cross and Penny Smith. So, surrender yourselves!"

At that moment, whoever knew who Nathan and Penny were turned towards them by reflex.

When the bald man followed their gazes and saw the two wanted persons, he



barked, "Men, take both of them away for breaking Leonard's arm."

Once he gave the orders, Benson and Leah became anxious.

Before Nathan could say anything, Xavier stood out first.

He arrogantly declared, "I don't care who you are, but just take Nathan away. Penny is mine so you can't have her."

The bald man's gaze turned cold. "Who are you?"

Xavier stated proudly, "I am Xavier Yates. Zack Yates is my father!"

"Ms. Smith is under my protection. Leave if you know what's good for you, or else I'm going to make you regret it."

When Sandra saw how Xavier had courageously come to their defense, she couldn't help but feel delighted as she cheered him on in her heart.



Meanwhile, the bald man replied in surprise, "So, you're Mr. Yates' son!"

As Xavier thrust his chin forward, he gloated, "Since you know who I am, why don't you apologize to Ms. Smith and then run along?"

Slap!

The bald man raised his hand and swung it at Xavier with all his might, landing a devastating slap on his face.

The impact was so great that blood oozed from Xavier's lips, stunning him.

The bald man's fury hadn't subsided as he pointed at Xavier's nose angrily. "Who do you think you are to be so cocky in front of us?"

"Even if your dad is here, he would have to kneel to our boss. Let alone his son."

Pressing onto his face, Xavier was filled with shock. Both his face and eyes were becoming increasingly red.





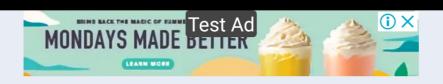


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He retorted angrily, "Who is your boss? How dare he not show the Yates any respect!"

At that moment, a plump middle-aged man with slick back hair entered with a few men. Chomping on his Cuban cigar, he exuded an intimidating presence.

In an commanding tone, he declared, "I am their boss!"

When many of the guests saw the man with slick back hair, they gasped in shock.

"Good God! It's the kingpin of Horton's underworld, Gerald Lowe!"

"Oh, it's Gerald. No wonder they dare to destroy the Jaggers and disrespect the Yates."

"Madam. Jagger's granddaughter and grandson-in-law are finished for offending Mr. Lowe."

At that moment, Benson, Leah and Penny all turned pale when they heard the



crowd's chatter. Even Sandra was terrified.

As for Xavier, he almost peed his pants when he saw Gerald. Trembling he stammered, "Mr. Lo... Lowe... Sir, it's you!"

Gerald scanned Xavier from head to toe. "Who the f*** are you?"

Xavier forced a laugh and replied, "I'm Zack Xavier's son. My father treated you to dinner before while I even poured wine for you."

Gerald nodded, "I do remember something like that. So, you're Zack's son."

Xavier's nervous heart was put at ease when he saw that Gerald remembered him and seemed to acknowledge his father as a friend.

Meanwhile, the Jagger family and their guests quietly heaved a sigh of relief at the sign of peace.

As Xavier's eyes darted around, he smiled awkwardly. "Mr. Lowe, my dad talks about



you often and our whole family respects you greatly."

"If you don't mind me asking, may I know what Nathan and Penny did to offend you?"

"I don't care what you do with Nathan. But, as for Penny, can you let her go on my account?"

Ignoring Xavier's question, Gerald pointed to the ashtray on the table and ordered, "Bring me that ashtray."

Xavier was stunned. But when he saw the Cuban cigar Gerald was smoking, he figured that Gerald wanted to tap his cigar on it.

Smiling, he replied at once, "Sure!"

With that, Xavier retrieved the glass ashtray from the table and presented it to Gerald with both hands.

Picking up the ashtray, Gerald then smashed it into Xavier's face.



Crack!

The ashtray shattered into pieces.

Meanwhile, Xavier's face was covered with blood as he collapsed with an agonizing scream.

"Who the f*** do you think you are to dare instruct me. Even your dad wouldn't even dare fart in my presence."



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Gerald was so furious that he spat on Xavier who was still sprawled on the ground.

Everyone watched in horror.

With his fury yet to subside, he barked, "Where is the family that broke my son's arm?"

While Sandra was flabbergasted, Benson, Leah and Penny were all in panic. The rest of the guests looked at them with a pitiful gaze.

Only Nathan remained calmly seated at the table.

Pointing at Nathan and Penny, the bald man related, "Boss, I recognize these two from the airport security footage my friend showed me just now. They are the ones who broke Leonard's arm."

When the bald man saw Nathan still sitting down as if nothing had happened, he was infuriated. Rolling up his sleeves, he threatened, "How dare you not stand at my



boss' presence?"

With that, he prepared to attack Nathan.

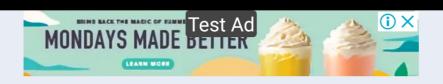
At that moment, Gerald caught sight of Nathan and felt a sudden jolt through his body. He began to tremble as if he was struck by lightning.

Isn't that the Mr. Cross who destroyed Quetzalcoatl of the East?

Very few people knew how Tyson Brown died. But Gerald knew a leader of the Eastern Military Reserves who had coincidentally told him about it.

Not only did Gerald know that Nathan killed Quetzalcoatl, but he also knew that Nathan was the General of the North.

When he saw his bald subordinate about to attack Nathan, he scrambled to hold the bald man back. The next moment, he approached Nathan and dropped to his knees with a thump. Crawling on the floor, he greeted with a trembling voice, "Mr. Cross!"



The bald man along with all of Gerald's followers were stupefied.

Sandra and the rest of the Jaggers were wide-eyed in amazement.

All the other guests including Penny and her parents were dumbfounded.

Hiding in a corner with his face covered in blood, Xavier's eyes almost popped out in surprise.

Meanwhile, Nathan was still sitting in his chair, smoking. Looking at Gerald on his knees, he casually asked, "Do you know me?"

Both Gerald's body and voice were shivering. "Yes, I do!"

Shifting his gaze to the bald men and his subordinates, Nathan coldly remarked, "Did you bring all these men here to take me on so that you can avenge your son?"

"No, I wouldn't dare." Gerald quickly turned to his men and barked at them, "What are



all of you standing there for? Get down on your knees with me!"

Thump! Thump! Thump!

In front of all the stunned guests, the bald man and his followers knelt down one by one.

Meanwhile, Nathan calmly remarked, "Actually, Horton is my hometown. But every time I'm back here, something unpleasant would always happen."

"Today is my wife's Grandma's birthday. So I won't hold it against you. Everyone single one of you should have your arm broken and then wish Grandma a happy birthday. After that, you can leave."

"Yes, Mr. Cross!"

Feeling relieved, Gerald took a steel pipe from his subordinate and smashed it his left arm, breaking it with a loud crack.

Enduring the excruciating pain, he walked towards Sandra, drenched in a cold sweat.



With a smile that looked more like a grimace, he greeted, "Madam. Jagger, I'm sorry to have caused you trouble and I beg for your forgiveness. On top of that, I would like to wish you a happy birthday and many happy returns."

Sandra gaped in disbelief.

With that, the cracks of broken arms and cries of agony began to echo through the hall.

With their arms broken, the bald man and all of his followers made a beeline to pay their respects to Sandra.

Finally, Gerald looked at Nathan meekly and pleaded, "Mr. Cross, can we go now?"

At the wave of Nathan's hand, Gerald fled with his followers as if he had escaped death.



Today was Sandra's birthday. As the Jagger family fortune had dwindled over the last few decades, not many of Horton's social elite were within the guests who attended.

It was a reflection of the Jagger family's sad decline.

And yet, Sandra was still someone who loved vanity.

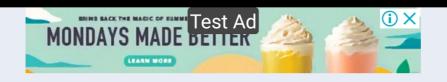
Just a while ago, Gerald Lowe had barged into the Jagger residence with his subordinates, causing a ruckus on her birthday.

They even threatened to destroy the Jagger residence.

This infuriated her but she was helpless to do anything about it.

It was because the Jagger family was nobody to Gerald.

She thought that her birthday was going to become a joke among the elite social



circle, and the Jaggers would never be able to hold their heads high again.

What she didn't expect was how powerful her grandson-in-law, Nathan, was. He even managed to get Gerald to kneel before him.

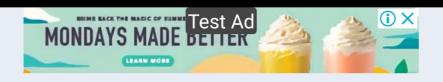
Furthermore, he and his gang had to break their own arms before paying respects to her. Finally, they were only allowed to flee with Nathan's permission.

It wasn't Sandra alone who was stupefied.

All the other guests and members of the Jagger family were equally dumbfounded.

If news of the incident spread across Horton, the Jagger family's reputation would definitely be uplifted.

Once the elite circle of Horton were aware of how powerful the Jaggers were, they would return to ingratiate themselves with the Jaggers and ask for business cooperation.



Therefore, the Jaggers would have a chance to rebuild their influence and be considered again as one of Horton's prominent families.

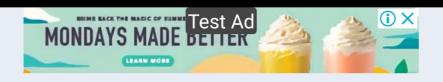
Filled with delight, Sandra held onto Leah's hands and said to both Benson and Leah, "Benson, Leah, your daughter has married a great man. I'm impressed!"

Both of them were shocked at her sudden change of attitude. In an awkward manner, Benson replied, "Mom, you're flattering us."

Leah didn't say a word, but she was visibly proud of her son-in-law.

Beaming, Sandra praised happily, "You don't have to be humble. Everyone knows how powerful Gerald is in Horton. He is someone who is feared throughout the city!"

"But, to drop onto his knees at the sight of Nathan, and then break his own arm as admission of guilt, is a sign of how powerful my grandson-in-law is."



"Nathan has brought honor to me and the Jagger family today. I am just so delighted!"

With that, she gestured for Nathan and Penny to approach her so that she could take a closer look.

Both of them stepped forward and greeted, "Grandma!"

Sandra was so happy that she couldn't contain her smile. The more she looked at the Nathan, the more intrigued she was.

Nathan was the kind of man who was unassuming at first glance. But the longer one looked at him, the more handsome he became.

Sandra finally exclaimed, "Both of you are a match made in Heaven!"

"Bring me my favorite diamond brooch. I would like to present it to my dearest granddaughter."

The rest of the Jagger family were

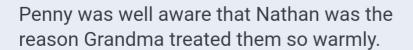


shocked that she was giving it to Penny. The diamond brooch was worth tens of millions. It was also Sandra's favorite jewelry.

Meanwhile, Penny declined it immediately.

However, after Sandra insisted repeatedly, Penny eventually relented and allowed Sandra to put it on for her.

Meanwhile, the Jagger family members and all the other guests gathered around to congratulate Benson and his family.



She was under no illusion that Grandma cared about them if it wasn't for Nathan.



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Penny felt like she's the wife of a wealthy man now.

She held on to Nathan's hand tightly.

Everyone soon forgot about Xavier, whom they were sucking up to just a moment ago.

As for Xavier, he had yet to recover from the shock of seeing someone as haughty as Mr. Lowe grovel at Nathan's feet. This showed how powerful Nathan must be.

He felt ridiculous for trying to pursue Penny as he watched her holding on to Nathan's hand happily at the moment. He must had had a death wish!

Cold sweat broke out on his forehead at that thought.

He quietly slipped away with his two lackeys when no one was paying attention.

Not long after, Madam Jagger instructed the butler to serve dinner.



She looked around for Xavier during the preparation for dinner and asked in surprise, "Has Xavier left?"

Her butler replied, "I'm afraid he has slipped away due to his injury and the embarrassment of making a fool of himself in front of Mr. Cross and Ms. Smith."

Madam Jagger nodded, "It's better that way. He did make a fool of himself in front of my granddaughter and my grandson-in-law"

Her voice dripped with disappointment since Xavier was the only one from Horton's elite society to attend her birthday banquet.

She felt humiliated that not one person from Horton's upper society attended her birthday banquet now that Xavier had left.

However, just as the banquet was about to begin, a servant rushed into the room and said nervously, "Madam, a lot of big shots came."



Madam Jagger croaked, "Ah, could it be Gerald returning with his lackeys because of his refusal to admit defeat?"

Everyone felt shocked and scared upon hearing that.

Before the servant could elaborate, an elegant-looking middle-aged man dressed in a gray jacket paired with spectacles barged in with a group of men.

Madam Jagger shrieked as she laid eyes on the elegant man, "Mayor!"

This elegant man was no other than Horton's mayor, Michael Payne, and the people behind him were all of Horton's big shots.

These people, who usually only appear on Horton's news, were standing right in front of Madam Jagger.

Michael laughed heartily and said, "We specially came all the way to celebrate Mr. Cross's grandmother's birthday. I hope Mr. Cross and Madam Jagger don't mind us



showing up without an invitation."

Madam Jagger stammered in excitement, "I don't mind it at all. Thank you for visiting my humble abode. Please, take a seat."

Michael and the rest of the leaders of Horton dared not sit down as they looked at Nathan eagerly.

They were here to please Nathan, but at the same time they were worried that they were rubbing it the wrong way. They felt extremely nervous since Nathan had yet to express his stance.

It's true that he didn't like the fact that these leaders were sucking up to him.

However, he didn't want to make a fuss since today was Penny's grandmother's birthday. Hence, he said faintly, "Since all of you are here, have a drink before you leave then."

Michael and the rest accompanied Nathan and Madam Jagger to their seats with a fawning smile as they toasted to the both



of them respectfully.

Madam Jagger might be old, but she wasn't senile.

She was aware that these big shots were here because of Nathan.

From then onwards, her attitude towards Nathan and his family changed for the better, so much that Penny and her family felt overwhelmed with happiness.



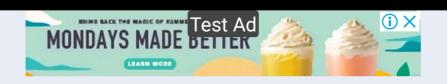
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After the banquet, Madam Jagger enthusiastically invited Benson and his family to stay.

Benson found it hard to turn her down and eventually agreed to stay at the Jagger's residence for a few days.

Nathan and his family stayed at the Jagger's residence for the next few days.

A lot of Horton's elites came to curry favor during their stay, so much that it's starting to look like the Jaggers would have a chance to rebuild their influence.

All these were made possible because of Nathan. Hence, Madam Jagger and her family treated Nathan and his family like VIPs during their stay.

Meanwhile, Zayn from Northania also made his move during these few days.

He used all of his connections to get his hands on one of the top ten armies in the world, the Pallbearers.



He spent 50 billion to get the Captain of the Pallbearers, Hades, to lead an army that consisted of a thousand pallbearers into the country to help him defeat Nathan.

Hades and his soldiers secretly arrived in China in several batches.

Zayn then used his connections there to get his hands on weapons from arms dealers for Hades and his soldiers.

Time went by quickly, and it was soon the day before the meeting between Nathan and Zayn.

It was a majestic sight to see a convoy of black Hummers and black heavy trucks in Horton early in the morning.

The convoy of black vehicles were headed in the direction of Sunnydale and they finally stopped at the foot of Tiverton Mountain.

Zayn, who was dressed in a black coat, stepped out of the first black Hummer with a sharp gaze on his face.



He was accompanied by a tall, burly and black man.

The black man sported an icy gaze and radiated a cold aura. He was the infamous Hades himself- the Captain of the Pallbearers.

Hades was dressed in a black battle suit, equipped with two heavy pistols strapped around his waist, and a tactical dagger strapped to his leg. He exuded an air of confidence about him.

The off-road vehicles and heavy trucks behind him were loaded with his officers and soldiers. They were all dressed in black battle suits and equipped with submachine guns. These soldiers dismounted from the trucks with much agility and assembled themselves in an organized formation.

Zayn grinned with satisfaction as he observed Hades's troop.

Hiring the Pallbearers to defeat Nathan was like using a sledgehammer to crack a



nut- it was too much.

However, this was exactly the ending he wanted to witness!

Very soon, Zayn, his lackeys and the Pallbearers had scaled to the top of Tiverton Mountain and they stopped in front of Zayn's ex-wife's grave.

His ex-wife's newly renovated grave was very luxurious.

The gravestone's inscription read: In loving memory of Angela White.

Zayn stood in front of the grave, narrowed his eyes and spoke in a casual manner, "Angela, all rich and powerful men desire more than one wife! Why couldn't you have turned a blind eye all those years ago? Why did you have to anger me and make me kick you and your son out of my house? Look at you now, dying of illness not long after getting kicked out of the Cross Family. And your son freaking hates me!"



Zayn sneered and continued, "Your son wants everyone from the Cross Family to kneel by your grave for three days and three nights to repent for our sins. He even threatened to kill Nathan if we refuse. I came to your grave today to clear the air with your son. Very soon, you will be reunited with this unfilial son of yours in hell."

The Cross Family's subordinates looked at one another upon hearing that.

Hades had also ordered his soldiers to stand by and get ready to go into battle mode at any time.



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Chapter 713 Nathan Is Here

He turned towards Zayn and said in broken English, "Mr. Cross, are you sure your enemy, Nathan Cross, will come today and fight us to death?"

Zayn surveyed the soldiers around him and replied faintly, "We've reached an agreement to meet here today to clear the air. I'm pretty sure he will come."

"Pretty sure?" Hades frowned and said in a low voice, "Mr. Cross, China is forbidden territory for us. Under normal circumstances, we wouldn't even step foot into this country. I only accepted this mission because of your highly attractive offer. We usually try to resolve the matter quickly and make a swift retreat whenever we carry out a mission in this country. Therefore, if your enemy comes today, we will eliminate him in your place. However, if he doesn't come, we will retreat and keep the money. I need to make this clear with you!"

Zayn frowned and nodded, "Ok!"

Two hours soon passed and it was almost



noon.

However, Nathan didn't show up.

Hades and his troops were getting restless.

Even Zayn's subordinates wailed, "Sir, we're done for. Nathan must have heard about this and decided not to come anymore."

Zayn's frown deepened.

At the moment, a black officer suddenly ran towards them and reported, "Someone's here!"

Zayn was overjoyed as he said in a loud voice, "It must be Nathan. He is just as stubborn as his mother. I knew he would come to get himself killed."

Hades grew stern and he asked, "How many enemies?"

Hades had received 50 billion from Zayn for leading his army here.



Hence, he felt that there was more to his enemy than what met the eye. He was even prepared to lose some of his men in battle.

However, the black officer replied with a bewildered look on his face, "Only two young men came. One is tall with sparkly eyes, and the other is well-built."

What?

Only two of them?

Nathan only brought one subordinate?

What is he thinking?

Hades widened his eyes, "Are you sure there are only two of them?"

The officer nodded, "Yes, please instruct us on what to do next, sir. Should we shoot, or let them come?"

Hades turned towards Zayn.

Zayn sneered, "Hehe, this guy must think



he is some powerful historic figure. Isn't he aware that these kind of people always end up dead in the end because of their arrogance?"

"Hades, tell your lackeys to refrain from shooting first. Let Nathan come and meet me."

Very soon, Nathan and Colin appeared in front of Zayn.

Nathan first surveyed the troops surrounding him, then his eyes swept across the vaguely familiar faces of the Cross family's subordinates, and finally his gaze landed on Zayn.

Zayn snickered, "Nathan, I didn't think you would come here to die. You really are even more stubborn than your mother!"

Nathan remained indifferent to the threat and said coldly, "Zayn, I've given you several chances, but it looks like you don't need any now."

Zayn laughed upon hearing that, "You're



giving me chances? Just look at the troops surrounding you, I can kill you any time. How dare you speak down to me when your doom is near? However, since we had once been father and son and we're standing in front of your mother's grave, I will give you one chance. If you agree to apologize to me and your stepmom, and kneel in front of Gladius's grave to repent for your sins, I will let you off. But you must leave and never step foot into this country ever again."

Nathan let out a slight smile, "What if I refuse and continue to insist that the Cross Family kneel in front of my mother's grave to repent for their sins?"

Zayn replied angrily, "Then you must have a death wish!"



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Zayn shouted after he finished speaking, "Someone come and take this scoundrel down!"

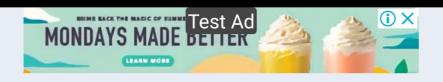
Almost none of the mercenaries at the scene could understand what he said... None except Hades.

Before he could give his men orders, the Cross Family's subordinates had already stepped out and rushed to strike Nathan.

The first person to move was Patrick Sullivan. This man had followed Zayn for twenty years and was a big help in establishing what the Cross Family had become today. He was Zayn's right-hand man.

Though in his forties, Patrick remained strong and had a sharp look in his eyes. But before he managed to get close the target, Nathan spoke in a cold tone, "Patrick, never did I expect you to be the first one trying to end my life.

"Your father had brain tumor fifteen years ago, and the medical bills were immense.



You went everywhere asking for help and begged everyone you saw, but none of your families and friends were willing to lend you a hand. It was my kind-hearted mother who took the initiative to help you settle the expenses and saved your father's life. How dare you take my life in front of my mother's grave now?"

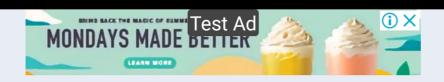
Patrick went into shock upon hearing Nathan's words. His body jolted, and he immediately stopped moving.

The murderous vibe on his face faded, and it was replaced by guilt as he reminisced about the past.

He lowered his head in shame and murmured, "Master, I wouldn't dare."

Zayn widened his eyes after he saw what happened.

Nathan continued to stare at other subordinates surrounding Zayn indifferently and said in an aloof tone, "Simon, you had a gambling addiction back then. You even embezzled a large



sum of Zayn's funds, and lost every single cent. In furious, he wanted to chop your hands off. Who was the one pleaded so hard to make him spare you at that time?"

Simon, who was standing among the Cross Family's retainers, had a ghastly expression on his face. His lips trembled a little before he replied softly, "It was your mother, Mrs. Kemp, Master..."

Nathan nodded and looked at the rest of the people while he recited every single thing his mother did to help them in the past.

All of them who had served in the Cross Family for at least ten or twenty years was humiliated by Nathan and drooped their heads. Every single one of them lost their will to finish him off.

Zayn was utterly dumbstruck by the turn of events.

In the end, Nathan gazed at Patrick and the rest impassively, "Now, if any of you wants to kill me, you may do it now."



All of them looked down at their feet and whispered, "We wouldn't dare..."

Zayn drew a cold breath upon hearing their replies. Meanwhile, his heart was burning in anger, and he bellowed, "Are you his subordinates or mine?! How dare you defy my orders? I want all of you to get rid of him right now!"

However, all of them knelt, bowed their heads, and said while they were in a quandary, "Sir, we really can't do this. Please punish us instead."

God knew how furious Zayn was. The man stepped forward and stomached his men hard while he chided angrily, "What's the use of keeping you alive? Do you think I'll not kill you?"

His followers didn't dare to deny his orders, but they weren't willing to take Nathan's life either.

All of them laid on the ground, mustered all the courage they could find and said, "Sir, we owe Mrs. Kemp a debt of



gratitude. We couldn't summon the will to terminate our Master no matter what. Please end our lives."

Zayn was enraged by their response. Veins began to pop out all over his face, "I'll kill all of you!!"

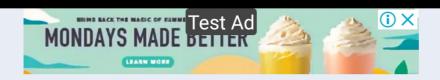
Amid the happenings, Nathan applauded and commended on their standing, "Haha! You managed to be true to yourself even under the reign of this tyrant. For the sake of your standpoint, I'll spare your lives today."

Everyone was stunned by what Nathan's words.

Does he even fathom the situation he's in now? How can he say that when he can't even guarantee his own safety? What a reckless person!

Patrick and the other subordinates looked at each other, and they were rendered speechless by him.

Zayn burst into laughter as he was



overwhelmed by rage, "Haha! Nathan, you just won't give up, huh? Do you think the favors your mother did for them long ago were enough to save you from my wrath? Hades!"

Hades was standing beside him in a black battle suit, equipped with all kinds of pistols and daggers. He grinned while showing his pale teeth, "Mr. Cross, are you ready? You may give your orders anytime now. The lansquenets are at your service."

Thousands of the mercenaries at the scene clasped their weapons and were ready to act at any time.



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Zayn didn't rush to give the mercenaries orders. Instead, he victoriously glared at Nathan and sneered at him in a provocative tone, "Nathan, you've disappointed me big time. I thought you would surprise me this time."

Nathan smiled, "Since you put it that way, I guess I should at least try to live up to your expectations. Colin—"

Colin lifted his right hand after hearing this, and clenched his fingers into a fist.

Zayn and the rest were stunned at this sight. What does that mean? Is that some kind of command? If it is, who is it for?

Just when they were trying to figure out the answer to their question, something like a firework was suddenly shot into the sky, and it exploded with a deafening bang.

Zayn was shocked by the detonation. What was that?

Hades and his subordinates' eyes were widened when they saw that, and their



jaws dropped in stupefaction.

It took Hades a while to regain his composure, and he roared in agitation, "It's a signal flare! A military flare!"

Right that moment, two black dots appeared in the distant sky.

The dots were gradually getting bigger and clearer. They were the latest models of the nation's fighter jets flying at low altitudes, looking extraordinarily domineering. The missiles underneath were visible to their eyes.

"F*ck!" Hades couldn't help but curse.

The jets that flew past from above their heads picked up their acceleration abruptly, creating ear-shattering noises as if two claps of thunder bang in everyone's ears.

Rumble!

Rumble!







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The strong airflow driven by the aircraft created a terrifying sonic boom.

Everyone at the scene cast their weapons aside and squatted down while covering their ears with agonizing expressions.

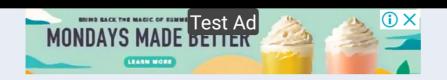
The pain they felt was like a split in their head. Many people became temporarily deaf, while a few fainted because of the effects of the sonic boom.

Zayn also covered his ears with an anguish expression on his face. He was totally terrified.

Hades didn't get to cover his ears just now. He shook his head hard to make himself sober and swear continuously, "F*ck! F*ck!"

He was more horrified than Zayn. Fighter jets?! This is bad! That means their military must be eyeing us. Our hour has struck...

Hades was devastated. He shouldn't have stepped into this forbidden zone.



On the other hand, Nathan and Colin stood straight with their heads held high.

They had been on the battlefield for a long time. The sonic boom was a piece of cake for them. They were totally unaffected, unlike the rest who were in a mess.

Ignoring Nathan, Hades shouted at Zayn, "Mr. Cross, things are looking bad. We can't proceed with the mission anymore. Let's retreat as soon as possible. Otherwise, all of us will not leave this place in one piece."

As soon as he finished speaking, Hades signaled at his subordinates to withdraw from the scene.

But simultaneously, there was a rumbling sound coming from a distance, and it gradually became louder, followed by waves of tremor.

Zayn and the rest were terrified and looked at each other. What again?

After some time, someone yelled,



"Armored tanks! So many of them! They are covering the plains, and troops are marching toward us from a distance! Oh gosh, we've been surrounded by a vast amount of heavily-armed troops!"

This news horrified the crowd.

Shortly, the troops surrounded all of them.

In the distant sky, countless helicopters covered the entire sky.



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Zayn's eyes widened as his jaw dropped in surprise.

Hades was not any better either. He looked petrified, and a disbelief look was evident on his face.

All the mercenaries' faces turned ashen, and they were in utter despair.

Many of them dropped their weapons, held their heads in disbelief while taking a few steps backwards, and mumbled, "No..."

But there were also a few people with violent characteristics who were unwilling to meet their end in the foreign land, lost their mind, and became frenzied.

In shock, they glared at Nathan angrily and chided in Spanish: "This guy must have attracted all these troops. We could use him as a hostage. If they don't let us go, we shall die together."

Finished speaking, this bunch of madmen picked up their submachine guns and



pointed at Nathan, trying to take him as a hostage.

But at this moment, dozens of snipers fired simultaneously from the opposite hillside.

The few fanatic mercenaries who tried to harm Nathan were headshot, and numbers of headless corpses fell to the ground.

The facial expressions of the rest of the mercenaries including Hades changed drastically at the sight.

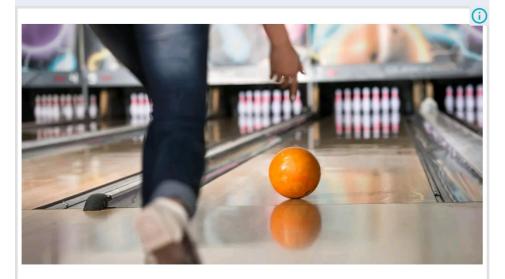
Hades bawled, "Sniper! My god! How many snipers did you deploy that you can headshot dozens of men at once?"

Nathan replied calmly, "Not much, about a thousand of them."

What? Thousand?! Does that mean almost all of us have been aimed by those snipers all this while?

Shockingly, Hades looked around. He couldn't believe what Nathan said was







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true.

But from the latter's determined eyes, and the view before him, he had a strong hunch that Nathan was serious.

With that number of snipers, Nathan could order them to be annihilated since the beginning.

At this point of time, the tanks had surrounded them, and countless helicopters were hovering over their heads; All the machine guns were aimed at Hades and others.



On top of that, a huge number of heavily armed troops had circled the entire Tiverton Mountain.

At this time, General Davis from Eastern Military Reserves stood on an armored command vehicle.

Liam Davis took a loudspeaker and said stately, "Hades, we are from the national military. Now you have been surrounded by 100,000 soldiers of ours. Drop your



weapons and surrender immediately, or all of you will become corpses in three seconds."

It didn't take the group long to decide. Hades lifted his hands to surrender, and his subordinates followed.

From where they came from, it was not a dishonor to surrender since there was a huge military strength disparity between them and the other party.

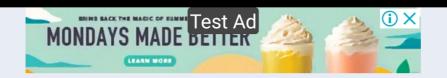
However, Hades felt exasperated this time because he didn't understand how he was defeated.

He turned to look at Nathan and asked in a dejected mood with his broken English, "Who are you?"

Who is Nathan Cross?

This was what Zayn wanted to know as well.

He finally came back to his senses and glared at Nathan as he was eager to get



the answer of his true identity.



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At this moment, a multitude of heavily armed Dragonfury Special Forces had already marched toward them with submachine guns.

The weapons that the mercenaries dropped to the ground were confiscated, and guns were pointed at the back of their heads, followed by a command, "Don't move!"

After the threat was completely neutralized, Liam strode toward them with a robe in his hand, together with a group of generals.

In the shocking gazes of Zayn and others, the group of generals saluted Nathan and shouted in unison, "Greetings, Sir!"

Nathan raised his arm to return a salute and said in a deep voice, "Good day to all of you, generals!"

"General, the wind on the mountain is strong. Please put on the robe." Liam strode over and handed the cloth over to Nathan with both hands.



The latter took it and put it on himself.

The epaulets on the robe's shoulders were the pattern of the national emblem and a platinum sword. Nathan already had a tall stature and a pair of starry-like eyes, and that gold-trimmed robe set him off to advantage.

All the 100,000 soldiers at the scene adored and looked at Nathan fanatically as if they were believers who had seen their god.

Hades kneeled with a thump as his entire body trembled. With a shaky voice, he said, "I know who you are. I finally know who you are... You are the General from the North. The one who crushed the Coalition Army; The one who shocked the entire world and struck fear into the hearts of every nation. You are God of War Ares of this nation."

Indifferently, Nathan looked at Hades who was sprawling on the ground, without denying his claim.



Colin Dunne, the Captain of National Guards standing next to Nathan, held his head high and said with a sneer, "Haha! It seems like you're not completely blind. You could recognize our General."

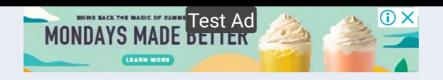
General!

Zayn froze in terror as his limbs gradually turned cold.

It never crossed his mind that worthless son who was expelled from the house by him turned out to be the legend.

Zayn stared at Nathan with a pale face, while the latter gazed at him indifferently in return.

Nathan squinted his eyes and said impassively, "Zayn, didn't you ask me not to disappoint you? I have a million soldiers under my command now. Do you think that the meager capabilities of the Cross family and these useless mercenaries are enough to push both of us mother and son to the corner?"



Those words struck Zayn's heart hard.

Every time Nathan uttered a word, Zayn took a step back while clutching his chest.

Suddenly, he slipped and the back of his head hit the gravestone of Nathan's mother's.

After the impact, blood oozed out profusely from the wound.

Zayn's vision went black and he lost consciousness on the spot.

Patrick and the rest of the Cross family's retainers couldn't help but shriek, "Sir!"

Nathan furrowed his brows as he looked at Zayn, who fell in his own pool of blood in front of his mother's grave with mixed feelings.

What a twist of fate! Did my late mother punish this heartless man?

As Nathan looked at Zayn who was now heavily injured, he hesitated for the first



time in his life, despite his usual murderous and incisive mien.

Liam asked in a low voice, "General, should I save him or finish him off?

An indecipherable emotion filled Nathan's eyes. There were complaints, hatred, mercy, distress, and compassion in his heart.

Finally, he heaved a sigh of relief, waved at Colin, and ordered, "Send him to the hospital."

Colin replied, "Yes, sir!"

Liam looked at the retainers of the Cross Family, Hades, and his subordinates, then followed by asking, "General, how do we deal with them?"

Nathan replied with a lonely expression, "Up to you!"

Finished speaking, he turned around with a somewhat exhausted look and drawled, "Withdraw the troops. I want to spend



some time alone with my mother."

Zayn was rushed to the hospital in no time.

The Cross family's subordinates and the mercenaries of Hades were arrested.

Liam didn't know what to do with these people, so he put them all in a secret military prison.

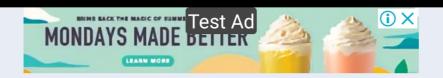
As for the duration of their custody, whether it was a lifetime or a few years, that depended on the General.

Nathan sat alone in front of his mother's grave from noon to nightfall, for six full hours.

In the dusk, Colin came back to Nathan and whispered, "General!"

The legend lifted his head, "Speak!"

Colin whispered, "Zayn's condition is temporarily stable after the operation. But he had a hemorrhage, so the doctor said



the chances of him recovering are slim. It's likely that he will lead a vegetable life for the rest of his life."

Nathan went silent for a while and intoned, "This is his punishment. Wake up or not, it depends on him."



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Colin could tell from the first glance that deep inside Nathan's heart, the affection for his father remained in him.

Otherwise, dealing with the Cross family would be a piece of cake for him.

Nathan had been giving the Cross family and Zayn chances.

Unfortunately, Zayn remained stubborn and ended up like this.

Colin looked at Nathan who seemed a little tired, "General, it's getting late. Let's go back now. Mrs. Cross will be worried."

The mention of Penny finally warmed up Nathan's cold eyes.

He put a faint smile on his face and whispered, "Right. It's time to go home. I shouldn't let my family worry. Let's go."

Penny was worried sick for Nathan because she couldn't reach him when he arrived at Jagger's house in Horton City.



The wife feared that something might happen to Nathan, and she was finally at ease after seeing him back.

She greeted him and whined, "Where did you go? I can't even get through your phone. Do you know how worried we were?"

The husband smiled and said, "I met a friend in Horton City. I forgot about the time as we were chatting, didn't realize that my phone was turned off."

Penny rolled her eyes up and said with a seemingly happy mood, "Like a kid! By the way, have you eaten? Grandma had the servants to keep the food warm."

Nathan felt hungry as soon as he heard her question and said, "Not yet."

Penny muttered, "I'll eat with you."

The young couple ate in the dining room with their hearts' content, which was heartwarming.



The next day, Nathan and his family bid goodbye to the Jagger Family and returned to Channing.

The news of Zayn's fateful encounter was spread to Northania.

Madam Helen was elated when she heard that Zayn became comatose and was unconscious.

To her surprise, the Cross family's subordinates and the mercenary group whom Zayn had spent huge money on couldn't annihilate Nathan.

What more exciting was that Zayn went into a vegetative state. With that, the Cross family was left without a leading figure. Therefore, it was her turn to take over his role as the head of the family.

The Xander Corporation of the Cross family worth over one trillion.

From the very beginning, Madam Helen used all means to seduce Zayn and racked her brain to get married into the Cross



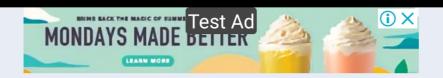
family. It was all to get her hands on the vast family business.

Upon receiving the news of Zayn's fateful encounter, Madam Helen suppressed her inner joy and asked Frances, the head butler, "Did he really become comatose?"

Francis said with a wry smile, "Yes. The doctor at the First People's Hospital in the East said that Sir was injured in the back of his head. He has gone into a vegetative state and the chance of waking up is almost zero."

"Madam, the Cross family will have to depend on you. You shall be the head of our family from now on!"

A hint of joy flashed across Madam
Helen's eyes, yet she pretended to heave a
sigh and said, "My poor darling. I have no
choice but to stay strong and carry the
responsibility of shouldering this family. By
the way, this time, many of our
subordinates were sent, and we even hired
the mercenary group to back us up. How
did things turn out this way?"



Francis was puzzled, and he replied, "I have no idea. None of those subordinates Sir brought with him come back, and their whereabouts are currently unknown. We have not heard from Hades and other mercenaries too."



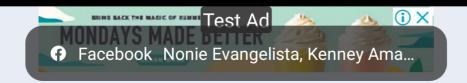
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Madam Helen was aghast. "What's wrong?"

"I can't be sure, but I've heard that the mercenaries are slaves of money - they will do anything as long as they are paid well," Francis replied, his tone uncertain.

"I suspect that the mercenaries, also known as Hades, had a dispute with Sir, so they sabotaged Sir and took flight."

Helen's eyebrows knitted together as she processed this information. "Is that possible?"

Francis chuckled humorlessly. "I'm sure you know Sir's temper well - even the smallest spark can set him off. Besides, Hades is no pushover. If both parties were to have conflicting views, it would be natural for them to turn against each other."

Nodding in agreement, Madam Helen instructed, "For now, continue to have people on this case. We need to find out how Sir got into trouble. At the same time,



get someone to stalk Nathan Cross and report his every action to me. I'll never have a moment of peace as long as that rascal sticks around."

"Yes, Madam!" Francis accepted the orders dutifully and left the room.

Now that Helen was alone, she could no longer suppress the churning emotions within her. She pulled out her phone and called Jonathan Lane, her paramour.

Her voice oozed excitement and elation as she relayed the news, "My dear, the old bum got himself into trouble and is in a vegetative state now! From now on, all of the Cross Family's assets and properties are in my hands!"

Jonathan Lane was a young master of the Lane Family; he was the textbook example of a playboy.

He exploited his noble background by oppressing every soul he came across on the streets of Cledondale.



Moreover, he had a strange obsession for married women, much like the fetish of a past monarch. The purity of virgins and bachelorettes simply did not pique his interest.

He was especially intrigued by alluring women with complicated backgrounds. Their tangled and convoluted backstories were like a siren's song to him, drawing him in as he sank below the waters of his twisted fantasies.

This scoundrel had ensnared multiple young mistresses from respectable families. At times, even the lady of the house would fall for his charms.

As for Madam Helen, they had been under the covers together for a long time now.

Jonathan had been drinking with a group of Underground tyrants from Cledondale when he received Helen's call. His eyes shone with unbridled glee as he stood up to exit the private lounge.

After finding a secluded area, he eagerly



inquired, "Is that true? Are you really in charge of billions worth of assets from the Cross Family?"

"That's right. I'm a billionaire from today onwards!" Madam Helen reaffirmed, her lips curling into a broad grin rivalling that of a Cheshire cat's.

"What do you think of the surprise, my little rascal?"

Jonathan could barely contain his delight as he quipped, "Haha! I guess I'll have to work harder to serve you well, Madam. Starting now, please allow your humble servant to bask in your glory so that I can live a comfortable life as well."

"Since I own billions now, you'll definitely receive your slice of the pie," Helen responded with mirth, her heart blossoming from Jonathan's flattery.

"However, I do have something I need you to do for me now"

Jonathan was wound up and ready to go.



"What is it you need? You wish is my command, Madam."

Madam Helen's tone turned solemn as she explained, "While Zayn may be a vegetable now, the son he had with his ex-wife, Nathan Cross, is still alive and well. Nathan has been wreaking havoc in the Cross Family recently. I'm worried he will pose as a threat if he gets wind of Zayn's situation and fights for his inheritance."

Jonathan narrowed his shrewd eyes after hearing this. "Madam Helen, are you telling me to get rid of this Nathan Cross you speak of?"

Helen confirmed his thoughts. "That's exactly what I want you to do. Each day Nathan is alive means another day of unease for me. As long as that fellow is roaming around, the heir to Cross Family's inheritance will be a variable."

"I want you to exhaust all means and obliterate him!"

The corners of Jonathan's lips lifted as he



promised smugly, "Got it. Leave Nathan to me. I swear I'll make him disappear from the face of this earth!"

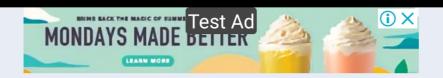
"I'll be waiting for your good news, my dear," Helen said coyly.

Jonathan ended the call and strode back to the private lounge with an air of pomposity.

The moment Jonathan stepped foot in the private lounge, the Underground tyrants swiveled in their seats to look at him. It was apparent to them that his spirits had lifted after the phone call.

They asked inquisitively, "Young Master Lane, did you bag a date with a rich lady? You look downright pumped after that phone call."

Jonathan scanned the crowd through halflidded eyes before remarking sententiously, "None of you see the big picture. Men should not squander all their energy on women. I have some business to deal with in Southania. After I return,



you will address me as Master Lane instead of Young Master Lane!"



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In Channing, Penny and some of Cross Group's executives were in the midst of their first video conference with the chairman.

Come to think of it, shareholders like Penny and the other company executives had never met their new chairman.

Hence, they were sent into a frenzy when they suddenly received news that the chairman would like to have a video conference with them.

Everyone was curious about the enigmatic person who owned 70% of Cross Group's shares. Who was the person that hid behind the 'chairman' title?

Is the chairman a man or a woman?

Are they old or young?

Penny, along with the rest of the executives, gathered in the conference room and faced the camera with professional smiles plastered on their faces. Their gazes riveted on the screen as



they waited for the appearance of the chairman with bated breaths.

Ding!

As soon as the video call connected, a nondescript office room appeared on the screen. In fact, it was so unremarkable that it could pass off as a study room.

A man was sitting in an office chair, his back to the camera.

His identity remained hidden - all the executives could see was the back of the office chair and the back of his head.

The man's hoarse voice rang from the speakers. "President Smith, General Manager Sharlton, and fellow executives, it's nice to meet you."

Penny, Peggy, and the rest of the audience exchanged dubious glances. Is this actually our new chairman?

While they could not see much of him, he gave off an impression of a young man,



which was a stark contrast to his raspy voice. Is he down with a cold?

Furthermore, the chairman's refusal to show them his face sent ripples of confusion among the executives as they tried to reason out his actions.

Is the chairman deliberately putting on a mysterious act? Or could it be that there are defects in his appearance that he wants to conceal?

Although their minds were swimming with a myriad of questions and wild guesses, they dared not heed the rumor mills that involved their chairman.

Penny cleared her throat and greeted in a crisp voice, "Nice to meet you, Chairman."

Peggy and the rest of the executives quickly followed suit, "Nice to meet you, Chairman!"

Never in their wildest dreams would they think that the ever-elusive chairman of Cross Group was actually Nathan Cross.



Meanwhile, Nathan was sitting in Colin's makeshift office with his back to the camera. He intentionally lowered his voice to mask his identity as he spoke impassively, "It's nice to meet everyone. I've called for this meeting for two reasons."

"Firstly, I'd like to commend all of you for the vast improvement in company performance. This executive team, led by President Smith, is doing a stellar job at managing this company."

"I've decided to take out 10% of the company's shares and distribute it as a bonus for all of you! This is a reward for your excellent performance."

The executives were elated upon hearing this and thanked the chairman profusely.

Nathan continued, "Secondly, the liver cancer vaccine produced by our company is doing well in terms of sales in the Southern market, but it has not been widely accepted in Northania. I hope that with President Smith heading this team, all



of you can work harder to infiltrate Northania's market and monopolize it."

"Yes, Chairman," Penny answered hastily before explaining, "In fact, we have been exploring different methods that could help us enter Northania's market. I plan to visit the site personally in the near future to scout out a renowned herbal medicine platform and form a partnership with them. I believe this will be a major stepping stone in our plan to dominate Northania's market."

Nathan mulled over Penny's suggestion and laughed softly. "Very well, I trust your abilities! Keep up the good work!" Cigarette ash floated gently to the ground as his slender fingers tapped on the Carlboro cigarette.

At this moment, Penny noticed the chairman's seemingly insignificant motion and faltered.

A sense of familiarity washed over her as she took in his masculine hand, the long fingers, and the nonchalant taps on the



cigarette.

Even the cigarette that was nestled between his fingers matched the brand of Nathan's go-to cigarette.

Complex emotions flitted across Penny's face as she thought incredulously, Surely the chairman isn't actually Nathan?



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