

The video conference soon ended, and Penny instructed the executives to return to their respective departments.

After they had left, she pulled out her phone and called Nathan, skepticism written plainly on her face as she asked, "Nathan, where are you now?"

Nathan's chuckle travelled through the receiver. "I'm at a friend's house. Why do you ask?"

"Oh, I sent my car for repair, so I was hoping you could pick me up after work," Penny said to purposely test him.

"Sure!" Nathan agreed breezily.

Penny hung up the phone and plopped unceremoniously in her office chair. As she ruminated on the meeting earlier, the nagging suspicion that Nathan was the chairman grew more prominent.

Not only did his hand resemble Nathan's, even the back of his head and the cigarette he smoked reminded Penny of



her husband.

Furthermore, when she recalled the air of secrecy that cloaked the chairman, his reluctance to show his face, and his husky voice, she was even more convinced that Nathan was indeed Cross Group's chairman.

Just as she was immersed in her thoughts, a knock on the door snapped her back to reality. The door creaked open to reveal Kylie, who was there to update Penny on the work progress.

Kylie noticed that something was off about Penny's expression and asked, "Is something wrong, Penny?"

At the sight of Kylie, Penny immediately exclaimed, "Kylie! Your timing is impeccable. You were at the video conference earlier. Do you think the chairman looks like your brother-in-law?"

In fact, Kylie shared Penny's sentiment. She had also noticed the uncanny resemblance between the new chairman



and Nathan.

However, she chose to help Nathan bury this secret and shook her head to deny the claim. "I don't think so. Brother-in-law's voice is a lot more pleasant than the chairman's hoarse voice. I would think the chairman is a middle-aged guy."

Penny's confidence wavered as she listened to Kylie's deductions.

After giving Penny a report of the current work progress, Kylie promptly left the room.



She had just exited Penny's CEO office when she ran into Nathan, who had just returned from his errands.

Kylie approached Nathan and muttered a few words under her breath.

Nathan was stunned for a split second before smiling ruefully. He caught sight of a male employee walking towards the smoking area and followed him, the smile still dancing on his lips.



In the CEO office, Penny was once again overwhelmed by confusion and perplexity. She was almost positive the new chairman was Nathan, but Kylie's words just now had planted seeds of doubts in her mind.

Gnawing on her lip, she fumed, "Nathan Cross, you'll suffer my wrath if I find out you've been keeping secrets from me!"

Speaking of the devil, the door swung open just as Penny finished lashing out. Nathan sauntered into the room and beamed at her. "Honey, are you done with work? Shall we grab dinner together?"



Penny beckoned Nathan over with a finger. "Nathan, come here for a second."

Nathan found the situation ridiculous but obeyed anyway. A laugh bubbled up as he approached his wife. "What's wrong?"

Penny extended a hand and squinted her almond-shaped eyes as she demanded, "Let me see your cigarettes."

"What's wrong? Honey, you don't even

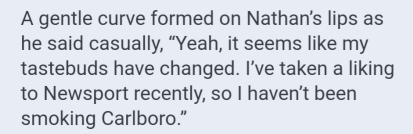


smoke. Why do you want to look at my cigarettes?"

"Enough with the dilly-dallying. Show it to me right now."

Nathan feigned indifference as he pulled out a pack of Newsport cigarettes from his pocket and handed it to Penny. "Here you go!"

Penny stared at the pack of cigarettes in her hand, appearing dumbfounded. Stumbling over her words, she asked, "N-Newsport? Don't you only smoke Carlboro cigarettes?"



The mysterious chairman was smoking a Carlboro cigarette in the video conference, whereas Nathan carried Newsport cigarettes with him. Putting two and two together, Nathan Cross was not the



chairman.

Penny felt a blush creep up her neck and color her cheeks. She internally admonished herself for harboring absurd thoughts because of her cynical personality.

Nathan's eyes gleamed with amusement as he teased his wife, "Honey, why are you suddenly interested in the brand of cigarettes I smoke?"

Penny passed the cigarettes back to Nathan and said loftily, "I don't like it when you smoke cigarettes that have a strong scent. Besides, cigarettes contain tar and can lead to lung diseases because, so it'd be best if you could guit smoking."

The couple exited the building and headed to a Southern-style barbecue restaurant to have dinner instead of going back home. They got themselves a private room and dug into their meal.

Penny ordered a jug of sour plum juice to go with the greasy barbecue they had



ordered.

The two of them sipped on their drinks as they added meat to the grill.

Nathan picked up his glass and was about to take a sip when a strange smell wafted up to his nose. He frowned reflexively.

"Nathan, I'm heading to the restroom."

A wave of dizziness slammed into Penny the instant she stood up. Her world seemed to spin, and she collapsed on the floor before passing out.

Nathan rushed to her side and examined her condition. His nerves settled substantially when he realized she had fainted because their drinks had been spiked.

Nathan smirked at the thought of a person who had the guts to commit such an atrocious act.

Ten minutes later, the door to the private room swung open without warning.

Open

Chapter 721 Let Me Handle This Woman

Jonathan barged into the room, flanked by his subordinates.

He glanced contemptuously at Nathan, who had slumped on the table. A malicious grin spread across his face when he caught sight of Penny's miserable figure on the floor. "Bring the guy out through the back door of the kitchen. Slit his throat and shove him down the sewers," he commanded his men.

"As for the woman, I'll take care of her..."
He leered at the unconscious woman and cackled lecherously.





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Jonathan's subordinates moved to drag Nathan away.

However, just as they neared his unmoving body, Nathan's eyes flew open and startled the men.

"F***, Young Master Lane! This dude isn't sedated!"

Nathan straightened his back and glowered at the group of intruders. In a glacial tone, he said, "Judging from your accents, you're not from Southania. You came from Northania, didn't you? I bet Helen sent you; that vixen!"

Jonathan gaped at Nathan, utterly stupefied. Never had he expected Nathan to be alert and vigilant, let alone accurately guess their motives.

Even so, he quickly regained his composure as a sneer replaced his alarmed expression.

He evaded Nathan's question with a menacing laugh, "I originally planned a



painless death for you. Oh well, since you tried to outwit us by faking unconsciousness, you'll have to face the consequences!"

With that, Jonathan signaled his subordinates. "Dragon, Tiger, and Leopard, finish him!"

The trio were brothers by blood, with Dragon being the eldest and Panther being the youngest.

They were notorious criminals from Northania who had no qualms about staining their hands with blood. They could kill without batting an eyelid and were the epitome of cold-blooded murderers.

In their mission to eliminate Nathan, Jonathan had hired them as his hitmen.

The brothers swiftly followed Jonathan's orders and unsheathed their daggers. They approached Nathan from all sides to corner him, their sharp blades glinting ominously.



However, before they could get any closer, the door busted open from the force of a firm kick.

A man with unruly hair appeared at the doorway. Standing next to him was an emotionless man with short, white hair.

The newcomers were Thunderstorm and Waves.

Thunderstorm flashed them a wicked smile and scoffed, "How dare you offend Mr. Cross? You're digging your own grave!"



"Why are you wasting your breath on scum? Just kill them!" Waves cut his partner off impatiently.

The latter jumped into action the moment he had said his piece, his movements so fast that he became a blur.

Before the trio could react, Waves was already standing before them.

Thump!



Waves landed a solid punch in Dragon's face.

The force from the hit left a huge indent in Dragon's face. His features had been severely mutilated, and his head resembled a bloody, deflated beach ball. He toppled backwards due to the momentum and dropped dead before he could even cry out.

Roaring in anger, Panther and Tiger brandished their daggers.

Unperturbed, Waves reached out and grasped both of their wrists. He twisted both of their hands and mercilessly jabbed the daggers toward their chests.

As expected of a skilled fighter, Waves' aim was true. The blades found their mark and sunk into the brothers' flesh.

They crumpled to the floor as life left their bodies.

Jonathan's face turned ghastly pale when he witnessed this scene.



At that moment, Thunderstorm materialized in front of Jonathan. "Kneel before Mr. Cross!" He ordered.

Just as he finished speaking, Thunderstorm swiftly threw two kicks at Jonathan's legs.

The sound of bones cracking filled the room, accompanied by an agonized wail as Jonathan fell to his knees before Nathan.

Nathan was helping a drowsy Penny to the table so that she could sleep more comfortably. When he heard Jonathan's cries, his brows furrowed. "Keep it down. Don't wake my wife up."

Thunderstorm glared at Jonathan. "Shut up! If I hear even a peep from you, I'll cut off your tongue!"

Jonathan's face was drained of all color. Perspiration beaded his forehead, and his features were twisted into a grimace.

Despite the crippling pain, he gritted his



teeth to prevent even a whimper from escaping his deathly white lips.

Nathan loomed over Jonathan and asked unemphatically, "Now, are you ready to honestly reveal the person you're working for?"

"It's Madam Helen," Jonathan answered truthfully, his voice quivering from the immense pain. "She said Sir Zayn is in a vegetative state, so all of the Cross family's assets are hers to manipulate."

"But she's worried you would return to the Cross family and fight for the inheritance, so she sent me to murder you," Jonathan blabbered with no restraint to preserve his life.

Nathan nodded in understanding after he heard Jonathan's explanation. "This woman is playing with fire!"

Jonathan groveled at Nathan's feet and pleaded, "I've told you all I know. Please let me live."



Nathan replied coldly, "Answering my question will only lessen your torment. I never agreed to let you off."

At this, fury and trepidation surged through Jonathan. "You jerk!" He shrieked, "You dare kill me? Don't you know who I am? I'm from the Lane Family of Northania!"

"Furthermore, Madam Helen and I are in a relationship. If you end my life, the Lane Family and Madam Helen will come for you..."

Nathan's gaze grew cold when he heard Jonathan's threats. He picked Penny up in his arms and tossed an order over his shoulder as he left, "Thunderstorm, Waves, destroy these lowlifes."

He had just stepped out the door when a sharp click sounded behind him. Jonathan Lane had been abruptly silenced, and this time, for eternity.



Penny woke up to find herself surrounded by the white walls of a hospital ward.

The doctor and nurses were talking to Nathan at the side. Noticing that Penny had come to, the doctor gestured in her direction. "Your wife is awake. There's nothing you need to worry about. She can be discharged soon."

With that said, the medical team left.

Feeling disoriented, Penny hurriedly asked Nathan about her current situation.

Nathan gave her a gentle smile to soothe her. "Nothing's wrong. You fainted while we were having dinner, and I was so shocked that I rushed you to the hospital. The doctor said it is likely because you've been overworking yourself, so you'll just need to take a rest and recuperate."

Penny was rather bewildered upon hearing this. Gullible as she was, she bought Nathan's story and murmured somewhat frightfully, "Seems like I really have to rest more or else my body wouldn't be able to



take it!"

In spite of her resolve to pay more attention to her health, this issue was put on the backburner after two mere days.

Penny buried herself in work for the next few days.

As per her promise to the chairman, she planned to personally visit Northania to survey the market and find a herbal medicine company that would make a suitable business partner.

On the third day, Penny boarded the flight to Cledondale with Nathan, Kylie, and a few Cross Group executives in tow.

The group had booked the entire business class compartment.

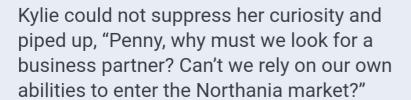
Penny made use of every second and discussed work with Jenny throughout the flight.

"Jenny, have you arranged our schedules for this business trip?" Penny inquired.



Her secretary passed her a schedule and chirped, "President Smith, I've prepared it ages ago! Our first stop is Cledondale, a city in Northania. I've also set up a meeting with the Lane Family so that you can establish a business relationship."

Penny nodded with satisfaction. "The Lane Family has a high status in Northania, so there's no doubt that they have wide connections. Besides, the Lane Family has always dabbled in the production and sales of pharmaceuticals. If we manage to get a partnership with the Lane Family, our company's liver cancer vaccine will be a shoo-in to monopolize the market."



Penny smiled wryly. "You're being too naïve."

"The business world is like a battlefield -Each market is dominated by a person or group of influence. If we, as people from

Southania, wish to set up a business in the North, we would be sidelined by the existing tycoons, or worse, oppressed."

"Hence, finding a capable local mogul and forming a partnership would be our best bet. Once we find our place in the Northern market, it'll be a crack in the dam, and it'll only be a matter of time before we start to bring in a generous amount of income."

Kylie shook her head in resignation after hearing Penny's lengthy explanation. "Business is too complicated for me. I still prefer research and development or quality control. These fields are much easier," She said cheekily.

Penny had mixed feelings about Kylie's comment, but she heaved a deep sigh instead of responding. "I hope the meeting with the Lane Family will go smoothly."

Nathan eavesdropped on their conversation from the side but remained silent as he did not want to be the bearer of bad news. He was certain that Cross Group would run into trouble during this

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Chapter 723 Nathan And Penny Visit Northania

meeting with the Lane Family. After all, he had offed Jonathan Lane, a Lane Family member, just two days ago.

In Cledondale, at the Cross family home.

Madam Helen stared at Francis, wide-eyed and flabbergasted. "Nathan and Penny are in Northania? And in Cledondale, at that?"

Francis nodded in affirmation. "Yes, that's right!"

Anxiety roiled within Madam Helen. "Do you think they're trying to return to the Cross family name and fight for the inheritance?"

Francis shook his head. "It does not seem that way. According to my sources, Penny is trying to establish a market in Northania for Cross Group's liver cancer vaccine. As far as I know, they came to Cledondale this time to form a partnership with the Lane Family."

Madam Helen instantly smirked. "Francis, didn't we lose track of Jonathan Lane ever

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Chapter 723 Nathan And Penny Visit Northania

since he went to Channing?"

"Spread the word that Jonathan is dead and that Nathan Cross was the one who murdered him."

Francis's eyes lit up at the sound of this plan. "Madam, this tactic is marvelous! The Lane Family is known for getting even with their enemies. If they truly believe Nathan is the murderer, there's no way he and Penny will leave Cledondale alive."



X

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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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In the living room of the Lane family home.

The patriarch of the Lane family, Liam Lane, was discussing matters with his family and trusted subordinates.

His tactician, Wayne Croaker, spoke up in a gentle tone, "Sir, Penny Smith and Nathan Cross of Cross Group have arrived in Cledondale. They want to meet with you tomorrow morning at Springfield to talk about the business cooperation contract."

Liam had been looking forward to this cooperation with Cross Group.

If everything went smoothly and the Lane family was put in charge of the sales of the liver cancer vaccine in Northania, then the immense profit that came from that would be theirs.

Before Liam could get too worked up about the arrival of Nathan and Penny, his other right-hand man, Phillip Lane, snorted.

"Cooperation? More like they're coming here to die!"

×

Chapter 724 Hidden Motives

Wayne was the brains while Phillip was the brawns. Together, they were Liam's most trusted men.

Phillip's words stunned everyone.

Furrowing his brows, Liam asked, "Phillip, what do you mean by that? The Crosses are here on behalf of Cross Group to discuss a business deal with us. It's a winwin situation for both sides if this deal goes through. Why would you say they're coming here to die?"

There was a solemn look on Phillip's face when he replied, "Sir, I just received news that Jonathan is dead. Nathan Cross killed him."

Jonathan Lane was one of Liam's many sons. He was a notorious playboy and was always stirring up trouble, something that Liam was deeply unsatisfied with.

Despite that, he was still Liam's son. The younger man had been missing for several days now and he had sent men out to look for news.

Chapter 724 Hidden Motives

He had not expected to hear that his son was dead, and at the hands of Nathan.

Everyone was startled at this piece of news. Liam leaped to his feet as fury flashed in his eyes. "Phillip, are you sure? My son has no grievances with them; why would Cross kill him?"

"Rumors have it that he took an interest in Penny Smith and tried to sleep with her. That pissed off Cross and so he killed him. I stumbled upon this information accidentally, but I'm sure that it's true."

Liam's expression hardened and he growled, "Nathan Cross, Penny Smith, you killed my son yet you still dare to come to Cledondale? I'll ensure that you never leave this place alive!"

The next day.

At Springfield, the most famous restaurant in Cledondale.

Nathan, Penny, Kylie and a few other executives of Cross Group arrived at the

Chapter 724 Hidden Motives

restaurant right on time.

To their surprise, the restaurant was completely empty. When asked why, the restaurant manager told them the Lane family had booked the entire restaurant for today so they were not receiving any customers.

A delighted look crossed Penny's face. "Although it seems like such a waste, the Lane family booking the entire restaurant just so we could talk business shows their sincerity in this matter. I'm sure that we'll be able to come to an agreement easily!"



Everyone seemed to be of the same mindset as they nodded their heads in agreement.

Nathan's lips twitched upwards but he did not say anything.

He swept a glance at the seemingly quiet area, noting the men hidden all over the place. From this alone, he knew the Lane family had discovered that Jonathan had died by his hands.

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Chapter 724 Hidden Motives

They had set up a trap here and was just waiting for Nathan and the others to walk right into it.

At that moment, a middle-aged man in a white dress shirt and black pants walked out with several men behind him. With a pair of gold-rimmed glasses perched on his nose, he exuded a gentleman-like aura. There was a courteous smile on his face as he greeted them, "Mr. Cross, Ms. Smith. I'm Wayne Croaker, one of Mr. Lane's subordinates. He's already waiting for you inside. Please come in."



"Please lead the way," Penny responded politely.



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Chapter 724 Hidden Motives

The interior of the private room was decorated lavishly. In the middle of the room was an ornately carved long table.

Sitting at the head of the table was Liam Lane.

At 1.9m tall and with a strongly-built body, Phillip Lane cut an imposing figure from where he stood beside Liam. His eyes were sharp and piercing as he stared at Nathan and the others.

Stationed around the room were twenty other men who were standing stiffly with their hands behind their backs and blank looks on their faces.

It was obvious from the way they held themselves that they were not your average men.

Wayne brought their guests inside before heading to Liam's side. In a low tone, he informed, "Sir, they're here."

Dressed smartly in professional clothing, Penny smiled as she introduced herself,



Chapter 725 Greedy

"Good day, Mr. Lane. I'm the president of Cross Group, Penny Smith. We're here today to - "

"Sit down!" Liam cut her off.

Penny was taken aback at the unfriendly tone in his voice. Although he was inviting her to sit, the way he interrupted her was just plain rude.

For a moment, she did not know what to make of his attitude.

Whatever the case, she was still the president of a hundred billion company. Remaining calm and thinking on her feet were two traits she most certainly had.

She exchanged glances with the rest of her entourage before pulling out a chair to sit down. The rest were quick to follow her actions.

Liam picked up the teapot in front of him and busied himself with pouring several cups of tea. X

Chapter 725 Greedy

His expression was as chilly as his tone when he spoke up, "I know why you're here. You wish to become business partners with the Lane family so we can help you reach the Northania market."

Penny nodded. "That's right. To be frank, Cross Group is a Southern company. If we were to force our way into the Northania market to sell the liver cancer vaccine, we would most definitely run into some opposition from the local companies. That's why we're hoping to find a well-known and influential business partner that we can delegate the sales to. The Lane family was our best option."

In truth, the Lane family was not the most powerful family in Northania but they were the best suited to work with Cross Group.

She was sure that the Lane family would be more than willing to cooperate with them.

She watched Liam with a smile on her face as she waited for his reply.





Chapter 725 Greedy

Liam's lips twitched before he stated, "Alright. The Lane family agrees to work with you. Now, what about the profits?"

"We produce the vaccine while you sell them. Taking away the production costs, how about we split the net income by fiftyfifty?"

Splitting the profits fifty-fifty was a very generous offer on Cross Group's part. They were willing to sacrifice a substantial amount of profit just so they could get into the Northania market.

Liam raised an eyebrow and said in a neutral tone, "That's too little."

Penny was puzzled. "Mr. Lane?"

Picking up a teacup, he took a sip before explaining, "I don't think fifty-fifty is good enough."

She frowned. Splitting the income fifty-fifty was a decision made after careful deliberation with the company executives. This was the most they were willing to

Chapter 725 Greedy

sacrifice.

Yet, the Lane family was still not satisfied!

She pondered over her choices before finally saying, "Then what do you propose, Mr. Lane? If it's within reason, I'll see if I can accept your suggestion."

He narrowed his eyes. "I want the full distribution rights to the vaccine in Northania. As for the profits, I want ninety percent."

His words caused the eyes of the Cross Group executives to widen. This was practically highway robbery!

Enraged, Penny stood up and uttered coldly, "Since the Lane family has no interest in working together at all, there's nothing left for us to discuss. Let's go."

Her executives got to their feet, intending to leave with her.

Just then, Phillip bellowed, "Without Mr. Lane's permission, how dare any of you



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Chapter 725 Greedy

leave? Our business is not done yet!"

With that, he placed his hands on two male executives' shoulders and pressed them down gently.

Thud! Thud!

The relatively well-built men slammed back into their seats under his force. Their shoulders throbbed badly and pained grimaces twisted their faces as they cried out. "Ahhh!"

The color drained from Penny, Kylie and the other two female executives' faces.

Next, Phillip turned his attention on Nathan and Penny. Smirking viciously, he threatened, "If any one of you dares to take a step out of here before business is done, I'll break all your bones!"

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Chapter 726 The Lane Family Is Nothing To Me

"Mr. Lane, what is the meaning of this?" Penny demanded as she glared at him in fear and anger.

Liam's voice was casual as he replied, "Nothing, really. By the way, would you happen to know my son, Jonathan Lane, by any chance?"

Honestly not knowing who this Jonathan was and infuriated at what was going on, she snapped, "No, I don't. Please don't change the subject, Mr. Lane. Just what are you trying to pull?"

A murderous glint flashed through Liam's eyes when he heard how Penny denied knowing his son. "I'm not trying to do anything. I just want the distribution rights to the liver cancer vaccine in Northania and ninety percent of the profits, that's all."

"I'm sorry but there's no way we can accept that. Your demands are just too ridiculous!" she outright refused.

Arching his eyebrow, he sneered, "Is that so? Then don't expect to leave this place."



Chapter 726 The Lane Family Is Nothing To Me

Nathan, who had been silent up to now, stood up and said placidly, "And if we insist on going?"

Liam stared at him but did not speak; he merely chuckled slyly.

Immediately understanding his meaning, Phillip neared Nathan with two big strides. He reached out his right hand and placed it on the latter's shoulder. "Sit the f*** down, boy!"

He abruptly increased the strength in his hand, wanting to push Nathan back into his seat.

With his thick muscled arms, he could have easily wrestled an ox to the floor with one hand.

Yet Nathan did not move an inch.

Huh?

Surprise appeared on Phillip's face as his eyes widened.

X

Chapter 726 The Lane Family Is Nothing To Me

"I said, sit down!" he roared.

The muscles in his arm bulged as he pushed all his strength into his hand to force the other man to comply.

Despite that, Nathan still stood there unmoving and unruffled.

Phillip's strength was like a kitten compared to the tiger that was Nathan.

Lips curling into a grin, Nathan asked, "Are you done yet?"

What?

In response, Phillip gaped at him in shock.

Swatting aside Phillip's arm like it was nothing, Nathan put his own hand on the other man's shoulder. He pushed down lightly while ordering in a cold tone, "Kneel!"

Phillip felt like the weight of a mountain had landed on his shoulder. His knees buckled and he crashed to the floor, hard.

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Chapter 726 The Lane Family Is Nothing To Me

Crack!

The sound of breaking bones rang out sickeningly as both his kneecaps shattered.

"AHHHHH!" he howled in agony.

Nathan lifted his leg and kicked at the screaming man.

THUD!

Phillip flew backwards and smashed into the wall. Instantly, a huge dent appeared in the wall as cracks spiderwebbed out from the center.

He slowly slid to the floor while blood trailed behind his limp body.

Everybody present was absolutely dumbfounded at the sight.

How ruthless!

Before Liam could come back to his senses, Nathan appeared in front of him



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Chapter 726 The Lane Family Is Nothing To Me

within the blink of an eye.

His speed was so fast that Liam and his men could not even react in time.

Lifting his hand, Nathan gave Liam several ringing slaps.

Within moments, Liam's face swelled up and blood trickled down from the corner of his lips. Terror shone in his eyes.

"The Lane family is nothing to me! This time, I won't hold your actions against you. If there's a next time, you can kiss your lives goodbye!"

Liam could only seethe impotently.

How can this be? How can there be someone so strong that he crippled Phillip within two moves? He slapped me like some disobedient child, yet he says he's not going to hold my actions against me? How unbelievable!

The ease at which Nathan defeated the Lane family's best fighter had truly shaken



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Chapter 726 The Lane Family Is Nothing To Me

Liam and his men to the core.

They stared fearfully at the man, furious yet not daring to move a muscle for fear of attracting unwanted attention.

Completely ignoring them, Nathan turned to Penny and the executives. "Let's go!"

His words snapped Penny, Kylie and the rest.

Afraid that something else might happen if they lingered, they hurriedly followed Nathan out of there.





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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 727 Not Letting The Cross Couple Go

Stepping out of Springfield, the group drove back to their hotel.

On the way there, Penny sighed and complained, "Who would have thought the Lane family would be so unreasonable and demanding? Not only did they not have any intention of working with us, but they also even tried to ask for more! How outrageous!"

"There are plenty of other prominent families and companies in Northania. Don't worry," Nathan comforted with a smile.

"Yeah. Looks like this trip is not going to be easy, is it?"

"All good things take time. I'm supremely confident in our liver cancer vaccine. There's bound to be someone out there who knows a treasure when they see it and would be willing to cooperate with us."

Penny nodded, murmuring, "You're right."

. . .

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Chapter 727 Not Letting The Cross Couple Go

At the hospital, a doctor was talking to Liam. "Mr. Lane, Phillip has suffered several major injuries. His kneecaps are broken, his jawbone is shattered and he has a severe concussion."

Liam snarled, "Don't tell me what injuries he has, just tell me if he can be cured!"

"Even if he does recover, he will be a drooling mess for the rest of his life."

Liam and the rest of his men were stunned at the news.

The doctor was obviously saying that Phillip would end up a cripple - if he even recovered in the first place.

A stony expression appeared on Liam's face as hatred gleamed in his eyes.

Wayne queried, "Sir, what do we do now?"

Liam spat out furiously, "We can't let the Cross couple go just like that. Let's go to the Lane ancestral home. I need to speak with our patriarch, Xander. He will decide Chapter 727 Not Letting The Cross Couple Go

what to do."

X

At the backyard garden of the Lane ancestral home.

Dressed in comfortable linen clothing, a man in his sixties was sitting in the pavilion as he plucked away at a lute.

Outside the pavilion, two men were staring each other down as they measured their opponent.

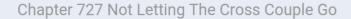
Dressed in light blue clothing, the one on the left was called Luan while the one on the right, dressed in pale yellow, was called Solis.

Together, they were called Deus Aster and were Xander's best fighters. In fact, they were well-known for being the two best fighters in Northania, bar none.

At that moment, both men thrust a hand at each other.

Smack!

X



Their hands clapped together and a sound like the loud rumble of thunder rang out.

After that, the two men pressed their palms against each other as they pushed. Their eyes were wide and glaring while the veins on their necks popped with the force they were applying to their hands.

The air around them started to shimmer slightly.

A flock of sparrows that had been flying overhead suddenly dropped like rain from the sky, their bodies twisting and spasming as they died horribly.



Just then, Liam entered the garden with a few of his men in tow.

He took in the two men fighting each other and the dead sparrows littering the ground.

His eyes rounded as an awed look appeared on his face.

No wonder Xander is the patriarch of the

Chapter 727 Not Letting The Cross Couple Go

family; even his two right-hand men are so powerful!

Upon noticing Liam, Xander stopped playing his instrument.

Instantly, Solis and Luan stopped their battle.

Xander's voice was indifferent as he called out, "Liam."

In response, Liam hurried forward and kneeled in front of the pavilion. In a respectful tone, he pleaded, "My lord, my son died horribly and my family was bullied and humiliated badly. Please offer me your advice!"

Knitting his brows, Xander asked, "Someone actually dared to pick on the Lane family? What happened?"

Liam swiftly told him everything that had happened.

Xander narrowed his eyes as he stated, "Their arrogance has no place



OPEN

Chapter 727 Not Letting The Cross Couple Go

in our territory. Liam, take Deus Aster with you and meet with the Cross couple. Tell them you're buying over Cross Group at a low price. If they refuse, kill them all."

"Yes, my lord!" Liam answered excitedly.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Noting how Penny and the rest seemed rather glum after coming back from Springfield, Nathan advised them to cheer up. To take their minds off of the earlier events, he brought them to Indigo Palace for dinner.

Founded several hundreds of years ago, Indigo Palace was one of Cledondale's most famous restaurants. One of the reasons for their fame was their roasted duck.

Under normal circumstances, someone who made a booking a few days beforehand might not even be able to get a table. Thus, it could be said that anyone who managed to eat there was someone rich or powerful.

With Nathan's capabilities, it was easy to reserve the restaurant's best private room for them.

They arrived at the restaurant just as it was peak dinner time so the place was filled to the brim with customers. Near the doors, a long queue had formed as people waited on the spot for empty tables.

The moment Nathan and the rest stepped

inside, the manager, Minnie, bustled forward to greet them politely, "Welcome. Do you have a reservation, sir?"

"I have a reservation for the Celestial Room," Nathan replied with a smile.

Minnie's eyes nearly popped out of their sockets. The Celestial Room was the best private room they had. Normally, they left the room empty just in case any powerful figures suddenly came.

Half an hour ago, the owner of Indigo Palace had called her telling her to prepare the Celestial Room as a venerable guest would be coming for dinner.

She had not expected his guest to be such a young man.

Extending her hand to gesture ahead, she hastily led the way to the room. "Mr. Cross, I assume? Our boss has already told us about your coming. Please follow me."

Nathan, Penny and the rest of the group followed the manager to the room.

Walking inside, they saw it was tastefully decorated, lavish but not overly so.

Having grown up here in Cledondale, Nathan clearly knew what the best local dishes were. Within moments, he had ordered a tableful of dishes and two bottles of their finest wine.

Being in a VIP room, it was no surprise the service was top-notch.

They had just only opened the wine and made a toast when their food was already being delivered to the table.

Not knowing this was a special consideration given only to the most esteemed VIPs, Penny praised their speedy service.

Everyone picked up their cutlery, eager to get a taste of authentic Northania delicacies.

Unfortunately, their good mood was dampened when they heard loud arguing coming from outside the room.

Frowning slightly, Nathan stood up. "I'll take a look."

Outside the Celestial Room, a young man in bright clothing had his arm wrapped

around a curvaceous beauty while a few other men stood around him. He was currently angrily shouting at the manager Minnie, "Don't try that with me! Your restaurant always leaves the Celestial Room empty. Others might not know but I sure as hell do!"

Pasting an ingratiating smile on her face, she tried to explain, "Mr. Wates, I'm really not lying to you. There is already a table of guests in the Celestial Room. Our boss personally called ahead to let us seat them there."

Shawn Wates narrowed his eyes. "Fine. Then tell me who it is. My father is the mayor of Cledondale and I'm more than familiar with all of the leaders in this city."

Minnie was taken aback at his words. She stammered out, "I-I'm not sure."

Shawn laughed disdainfully. "You've probably seen more than your fair share of the various important figures in this city. If even you don't know who he is, he must not be all that powerful then. If I'm not wrong, he must be some businessman that knows your boss, that's all. Tell you what, you set up some tables outside and

tell them to move out. My friends and I shall eat inside."

Dismayed, Minnie protested, "Mr. Wates, you're making this difficult for me!"

Immediately, Shawn's expression turned chill. "If it's so difficult, how about you don't work at all? Shall I call your boss to have you fired?"

A cold sweat broke out all over Minnie.

Shawn was the mayor's son. If he really did call her boss, chances were high that her boss really would fire her.

Her face was pale as she pleaded, "Please, Mr. Wates. How about I call my boss and ask him what to do?"

"You're the manager here! If you can't even make the decision for such a simple matter, then what the hell are you here for? Your boss might as well dismiss you!" Shawn yelled.

Just as Minnie was floundering for what to do, Nathan stepped out of the private room. His face was unhappy as he demanded, "Manager, why is there a dog

barking here? We're trying to enjoy our dinner inside!"

Shawn's eyes were murderous as he glared at Nathan.

Everyone present was stunned at how Nathan had the audacity to call the mayor's son a dog.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Before Shawn could explode in anger, the woman by his side said in surprise, "Nathan Cross, is that you?"

Shawn, his friends and Minnie were all puzzled.

He asked his girlfriend, "Ivy, you know this guy? Who is he?"

She cuddled closer to him, her eyes never leaving Nathan as she answered in a derisive tone, "Shawn, this used to be the heir of the Cross family. However, he was exiled years ago. To think I used to like him! Back then, he was such an arrogant ass who didn't think I was worth his time."

Ivy was Nathan's junior high classmate. At the time, he was still the young master of the Cross family. Needless to say, a lot of girls were attracted to him since he came from such a wealthy background.

She had actively tried to pursue him but he had not been interested in her at all. For that, she had developed a grudge against him.

She had not expected to see him again after all these years.

Oh, how the circumstances have changed! She was now the girlfriend of the mayor of Cledondale's only son, while Nathan was no longer the esteemed young master of the Cross family.

She deliberately wrapped her arms around Shawn's bicep, taunting Nathan, "Hah! Last time, you treated me as if I were nothing. Well, now you'll only be able to reach me in your dreams! I'm sure you're one of the tens of millions of men single in this country, am I right? Teehee, to think you gave up on a beauty like me when you had the chance. You're probably not even worthy of having a wife! Do you regret not agreeing to be with me all those years ago?"

She had barely finished speaking when a gorgeous woman in professional clothing came out of the private room.

It was Penny.

Not only did Penny have stunningly beautiful features, but her figure was also to die for. The way she carried herself was almost like nobility - graceful and elegant.

If Penny were a lovely swan then Ivy was

the ugly duckling that could only aspire to be like her.

The men present could not take their eyes off of Penny as they all wondered who this beauty was.

She came to Nathan's side and queried in a sweet and gentle voice, "Hubby, who are these people? Are they your friends?"

Hubby!

Ivy was staring with wide eyes at the other woman, her mouth hanging open slightly. There was a strange expression on her face.

To think she had just been mocking Nathan for not deserving a wife. Here was proof of how wrong she had been. Not only did he have a wife, but his wife was also prettier than her by a hundred times!

This realization had a bitter feeling rising in her as grimace twisted her features.

Smiling, Nathan responded to Penny's question, "I don't know these hooligans." Turning to Minnie, he continued, "Manager, please tell them to get lost and stop

disrupting us from having dinner."

That infuriated Shawn and he scoffed loudly. "The ones who should be getting lost are you! My girlfriend and I want to eat in this private room. You have ten minutes to scram or else you'll have to face the consequences."

Nathan's expression hardened.

Realizing the situation was spiraling out of control, Minnie inched closer to Nathan and whispered, "Mr. Cross, Mr. Wates is the only son of our mayor. Please don't take offense at his actions..."

She hoped that by telling him Shawn's identity, he would back down from escalating this matter. Then, she would arrange for them to sit outside while the Celestial Room was cleared out for Shawn.

She had not expected Nathan to already be nodding his head even before she finished speaking.

"True, why am I arguing with him? As a kid, his parents should be the ones taking responsibility for his mistakes."

With that, he pulled out his phone and called the mayor of Cledondale. "Kenny Wates, come meet me at the Indigo Palace. You have ten minutes."

Everyone gasped, not in shock but because they all thought he was taking boastfulness to another level entirely.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 730 Kneel And Bark Like A Dog

Shawn was the first to burst into laughter. "Hahaha! Who do you think you are? Actually boasting about how you're going to have my father here in ten minutes. What a joke!"

By his side, Ivy mocked, "How much alcohol have you drunk to be this daring? Let's not talk about how you've already been thrown out of the Cross family. Even if you were still the young master, you would still have to be courteous to the mayor. You dare demand him to come here immediately? You?"

Shawn's friends were also chortling and jeering at Nathan.

By contrast, Minnie was feeling awkward and embarrassed on his behalf. She thought the way he was trying to act tough in front of Shawn was incredibly foolish. His boast about the mayor coming in ten minutes was even more so.

Not only would it not scare Shawn and his friends at all, but Nathan would also end up bearing the brunt of their jokes.

Even Penny was starting to get anxious and worried.

Chapter 730 Kneel And Bark Like A Dog

She knew Nathan was familiar with some authority figures back in the South and they would help out if anything happened.

But this was not the South. This was Northania.

His connections would not help him out here.

Afraid that things would escalate further, she advised softly, "Nathan, we can't go against a local like him, especially since he's the mayor's son. Let's not argue with him anymore and just give him the room, okay? We can eat outside."

In Ivy's mind, with Nathan's current status, there was no way he could come here to eat if it were not for Penny. Based on the other woman's clothing, she guessed the latter was the president of some company.

Seeing how even Penny was backing off, Ivy sneered, "Nathan said that my boyfriend was a dog and tried to use his father to scare him. I don't think letting us have the room is enough anymore."

Shawn narrowed his eyes as he agreed, "Yeah. I'm not letting you off the hook so

easily!"

Coquettishly coiling her hands around his arm, Ivy uttered haughtily, "Let's see... You said we were as noisy as dogs earlier, so now you should kneel down and bark like one too! After that, if you crawl out of here on all fours, we might consider letting you go. What do you think?"

Penny's face grew dark at the other woman's suggestion.

Kylie and the executives of Cross Group, who had come out as well, were equally dumbfounded at her words.

Shawn wrapped his arm around Ivy's slender waist as an arrogant smirk appeared on his lips. "You heard my girl. Do as she says if you don't want to die!"

Staring at Nathan with an ugly sneer on her face, Ivy urged, "Well? Get to it! Or do you need some help from Shawn's friends?"

Shawn's friends perked up and wicked grins curled their lips. They swiftly surrounded Nathan, obviously intending on forcing him to kneel.

Chapter 730 Kneel And Bark Like A Dog

Right then, the wailing of police sirens sounded from outside.

Soon after, two traffic police on motorcycles escorted a black Audi A6 to a stop right before the Indigo Palace's entrance.

The car had barely come to a stop when the backseat door swung open and a middle-aged man in a black jacket scrambled out.

The two policemen and several other underlings followed the middle-aged man as he strode into the restaurant quickly.

Upon noticing the man, a shocked expression crossed the faces of everyone in the restaurant.

Someone even cried out, "Oh my god! It's the mayor of Cledondale, Kenny Wates!"

A few of the influential figures in the city stood up to greet the mayor, holding their hands out to shake his. "Mr. Mayor, are you here to have dinner as well?"

Kenny shoved their hands aside, ignoring them as he made a beeline for the

Chapter 730 Kneel And Bark Like A Dog

Celestial Room.

The spurned men exchanged bewildered looks. The mayor was normally quite willing to greet them and chat a bit. Yet today he seemed very preoccupied with other things.

They glanced in the direction of the VIP room, wondering which leader was in there that the mayor was in such a hurry to greet.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Back on Nathan's side of things, the large group of people had moved into the Celestial Room. Shawn, Ivy and the rest of his friends were still pushing for Nathan to kneel and bark like a dog.

Suddenly, Kenny burst into the room with his underlings.

Shawn's eyes bulged in shock. His voice was faint when he asked, "Dad, why are you here?"

The other people in the room were equally astonished to see the mayor.

Ivy, in particular, was absolutely stunned. She had not expected one phone call from Nathan would be enough for her boyfriend's father, the most powerful man in Cledondale, to come running over like an obedient puppy.

Fear shone in her eyes as she stared at Nathan.

To her, he had suddenly become quite the enigma.

Kenny pushed his son aside and headed for Nathan. Coming to a stop before him,

Chapter 731 Your Son Wanted Me To Kneel

he bowed low in an uncharacteristic gesture of respect. "Mr. Cross, I'm not late, am I? Might I ask why you asked me to come here in such a hurry? What are your instructions?"

Instructions?

Once more, everyone was flabbergasted.

Just who was Nathan Cross if even the mayor had to be so deferential to him?

Noticing how Kenny was drenched with sweat, Nathan smiled and said, "Wipe your sweat away first and then let's talk."

"Yes, okay!"

Kenny hastily took out his handkerchief and haphazardly mopped the sweat off his forehead.

When he was done, Nathan spoke up, "I called you here because your son insisted I give up the Celestial Room to him. He also ordered me to kneel and bark like a dog before he would let me leave. What are you going to do about this?"

Kenny's face paled drastically when he

heard that and he gulped.

He could have wept at his stupid son's actions. How dare you order the General of the North to do such a humiliating thing! Do you have a death wish, you fool?!

Fury welled in him and he spun around to glare daggers at his son.

Being the mayor's only son, Shawn had always been spoiled and pampered ever since young. This was the first time he had seen his father so angry. He stuttered out uncertainly, "D-dad..."

Smack!

Kenny slapped his son so hard that Shawn's head snapped to the side. He continued in a harsh tone, "Don't call me dad! I don't have a son like you! Always going around stirring up trouble; I'm going to kill you myself! Consider it mercy from getting dragged off to be shot to death."

The other people present were astounded at the family drama happening before them. At the same time, they thought maybe the mayor was being a little harsh on his son.

All he did was offend Nathan; as if that would be a severe enough crime to warrant getting shot to death!

The normally mild-tempered man was way beyond furious this time. Slapping his son had not cooled his temper anyhow. He pulled off his belt and started to whip Shawn with it.

Within several lashes, Shawn's skin split open and he began to bleed sluggishly.

Like a man possessed, Kenny brought his belt down again and again, all the while cursing, "I'm going to kill you, you useless brat! Troublemaking little bastard..."

At last, his subordinates could not bear seeing this any longer. They were afraid he would really beat his son to death if this continued.

A few men stepped forward to restrain him while one of them uttered, "Mr. Mayor, stop! You'll really kill him if you don't stop!"

Kenny took in the piece of belt that had broken off with the force of his lashes. His breathing was heavy as he shouted at Shawn, "Are you dead yet? If you're not then kneel before Mr. Cross and apologize! You better hope he forgives you or I'll kill you myself!"

The bleeding form of Shawn struggled to crawl toward Nathan. Through his sniffles, he begged in a pained voice, "Mr. Cross, I was wrong. Please forgive me. I won't repeat my mistakes again..."

Kenny, too, looked at Nathan hopefully.

Turning his gaze on Kenny, Nathan answered in an indifferent tone, "I'll let things slide this time. Mr. Mayor, remember to keep an eye on your son in the future so something like this doesn't happen again."

Immensely relieved, Kenny babbled, "Yes yes, of course! Don't you worry, Mr. Cross, I promise to discipline him better!"

Nobody could understand why the mayor was so terrified yet respectful of Nathan.

A complex series of emotions flashed in Ivy's eyes, which were locked on Nathan.

It was only then she realized that he was the unreachable one, no matter if it was

Chapter 731 Your Son Wanted Me To Kneel

last time or now. Not her.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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After that, Kenny wanted to have a few drinks with Nathan as compensation for the actions of his son.

However, Nathan waved his hand and refused, saying he wanted to eat with his family undisturbed.

Knowing a dismissal when he saw one, Kenny left with his son and subordinates.

Nathan, Penny, Kylie and the executives of Cross Group returned to their dinner.

Unable to contain herself anymore, Penny questioned Nathan about why the mayor was so polite to him.

The rest of the employees also looked at him curiously as they waited for his answer.

Smiling, Nathan explained, "Have you forgotten I used to be one of the Cross family? At the time, Kenny was still an ordinary official of the city. The Cross family helped him a lot then, and so he's always been very courteous to me. I know the Wates have always been very strict when it came to discipline, so when I knew Shawn was his son, I called him to come

deal with his wayward son."

Understanding dawned on Penny's face and she complimented, "Even being a mayor did not stop him from being strict with his child. How commendable!"

The employees nodded their heads fervently in agreement.

Kylie discreetly pursed her lips. As if the mayor would discipline his own son like that if it weren't for Nathan's identity as General of the North. Besides, if Kenny were truly so strict normally, his son would not have been so arrogant and impetuous in the first place!

After dinner, they were preparing to drive back to their hotel when Penny's phone rang.

When she saw that it was an unknown number, her brows furrowed slightly.

Despite that, she accepted the call. For the next few seconds, she listened to the other person talk before her face fell.

Noticing her odd expression, Nathan frowned. "What's wrong?"

Her face was upset as she shook her head. "That was Liam Lane. He said he wants to buy off Cross Group at a low price and insisted I head over tonight to sign the contract. Otherwise, none of us shall be leaving Cledondale alive."

A dangerous glint appeared in Nathan's eyes but it was gone in the next second.

He reassured her, "I'll handle this matter. You, Kylie and the rest can head back to the hotel while I go have a chat with the Lane family."

A horrified expression crossed her face and she exclaimed, "No! You injured Phillip earlier today and the Lane family must already hate you. You going there alone is basically walking right into the lion's den. I can't let you do that!"

"Things aren't that serious yet. Plus, I know the mayor. If he acts as the peacekeeper for our negotiations, there's no way the Lane family would dare do anything to me with him there," Nathan said, grinning.

"Then I'll go with you!"

"No. Certain things might be a little

inconvenient with a woman there," Nathan refused with a shake of his head.

Penny knitted her brows. Why would it be inconvenient for her to be there? Unless he was planning on bribing the mayor for help?

The thought had her nodding reluctantly. "Fine. I'll be waiting for you at the hotel. Be careful!"

"Yeah!"

In no time at all, the cars vanished from sight as Penny, Kylie and the rest went back to the hotel.

The next instant, three black SUVs appeared by Nathan's side.

Colin stepped out of the first SUV to open the backseat door for him.

Settling down in his seat, Nathan calmly ordered, "To the Lane family home. I want to see Liam Lane."

In the opulent living room of the Lane family home.

Liam was deep in conversation with Wayne and Deus Aster about how to deal with the Cross couple.

His eyes were narrowed with a bloodthirsty look in them as he said, "According to my sources, Nathan Cross has 60% of the Cross Group shares while Penny Smith has 20%. If they're willing to sell off the company at a low price to us, I can consider letting them live. However, if they don't come here tonight to sign the contract then they won't get to live to see another day."

He had barely finished speaking when there was a loud clanging and banging sound. It almost sounded like the gates to the courtyard had been rammed aside and sent flying.

Next, several servants of the family came running in from the courtyard with panicked looks on their faces. They were shouting about how someone had come looking for trouble.

Hands clasped behind his back, Nathan strolled inside with Colin and the Elite Eight in tow.

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Chapter 733 He Deserves Death

Surprise had Liam's eyes widening before he rumbled angrily, "Good man! We were just planning on going after you when you delivered yourself right to my doorstep!"

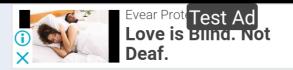
Scores of men swiftly surrounded Nathan and his group.

Despite that, Nathan completely ignored them and pulled out a chair to sit down. Only then did he look at Liam. "Let's talk!"

Luan was sipping from a cup of tea while Solis had his eyes closed in meditation.

At first a little stunned at the other man's attitude, it was several moments before a gleeful smile appeared on Liam's lips. "Talk about what? Have you agreed to sell off your company to us to save your lives? Hahaha! Looks like you're still a sensible man, punk!"

Nathan's lips curled up slightly. "Who said I was here to discuss that? I can tell you right now, Cross Group is not for sale. You can get that idea out of your head."



Liam glared at him as he seethed, "You!"

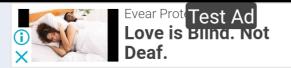
Nathan continued placidly, "I know you're being such a bother because Jonathan Lane died by my hands."

Narrowing his eyes in response, Liam growled, "And here I was wondering if you were going to deny it all the way. Why are you admitting to it now?"

"You never asked me so I never said so. How is that denying it? Besides, what's there to deny? I merely settled off a piece of trash. It's not like he was someone useful or anything," Nathan casually replied.

"You!" Liam was so angry that words had failed him.

Waving his hand around, Nathan added, "Your son's sordid affair with Helen ruins the Cross family's reputation. I'm no longer a member of that family so I could care less about that. However, your son also came to Channing under her orders to create trouble for me. He also had



nefarious intentions towards my wife. Don't you think he deserves death for that?"

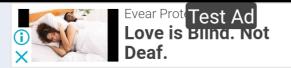
Liam was well-aware of his son's illicit affair with the matriarch of the Cross family.

Nobody would have been able to accept their family's matriarch having an affair with an outsider. It could be said that his son's death had been a long time coming.

What shocked him even more was the news about Madam Helen ordering his son to go after Nathan, which led to his untimely death.

Nathan's face was blank as he stared at the calm and relaxed man. "If it's revenge you're really after, then you should be gunning for Helen. This time, I'll let you go. Don't go causing trouble for me and my wife again in the future or you will suffer the consequences."

Liam seemed to be deep in thought. At last, he sneered, "My debt with Helen shall



be resolved another day. Either way, my son died by your hands so you need to pay the price as well. My conditions are the same. Sell you and your wife's shares of Cross Group to me at half the price and I'll let you live."

"And if I refuse?"

Not deigning that with a reply, Liam glanced at Luan and Solis.

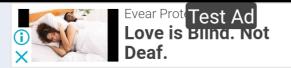
Solis still had his eyes closed and looked like he was asleep.

Chuckling, Luan picked up a teacup and spoke, "Our guest has been here so long yet you still haven't offered him some tea, Mr. Lane. How rude. Have some tea, Mr. Cross!"

With that, Luan flicked his wrist.

Immediately, the cup of boiling hot tea sped out like a cannonball in the direction of Nathan

Amazing!



Liam and his subordinates were in awe at Luan's skills. Their blood started to pump faster as they inwardly cheered.

Right as the cup was about to impact Nathan's face, his hand reached out and easily snagged it.

A shocked expression appeared on Luan's face as his eyes widened.

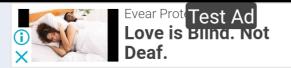
Beside him, Solis' eyes snapped open to reveal a hint of apprehension.

Liam and the rest were horrified at how casually Nathan had stopped the attack.

Nathan twitched his lips in a smile and plucked out a tiny piece of tea leaf floating on the surface. "Thank you for the tea. However, there seems to be a tea leaf in my drink. Looks like you need to be a little more careful."

At that, his pointer finger flicked.

Swish!



A green blur flew out like a bullet towards Luan.

Shocked, Luan hurriedly moved his head aside to dodge the tea leaf.

Too slow!

Like a sharp blade, the tea leaf sliced open his left cheek and blood instantly poured out.

Lifting his hand to his cheek, Luan was surprised to feel something warm.

Solis and him leaped to their feet, glaring at Nathan vengefully.

In response, Nathan placed his teacup back down on the table. There was a relaxed smile on his face.



Luan was infuriated as he glared at Nathan. "Death awaits you!" he shouted.

Suddenly, he made his move. With a whoosh, his body sprung towards Nathan like a flying toad.

Meanwhile, Collin and the Elite Eight stepped up to block his attack.

Still sitting in his chair, Nathan calmly replied, "There's no need to stop him"

With his palm outstretched, Luan aimed it at Nathan's chest and roared, "Die!"

Raising his hand, Nathan intercepted Luan's palm with his own.

Boom!

As their palms clashed, a thunder-like sound rumbled throughout.

Luan's body jolted as if he was electrocuted before being flung back some distance away. After that, he realized he could hardly feel anything in his right arm.



While Nathan remained calm and collected, Luan's eyes were filled with shock.

At the same time, Solis, who was dressed in black, attacked.

Closing in on Nathan at lightning speed, he swung his leg towards Nathan's head as he yelled, "It's my turn!"

Meanwhile, Nathan raised his hand to block him.

Bang!

Solis felt as if he had slammed his leg into a rock as an excruciating pain reverberated through his body, causing him to fall back.

Lowering his gaze, the spot where his kick struck Nathan's hand was badly bruised.

By then, Nathan had stood up. Flicking his sleeves, he calmly remarked, "I am here to inform you about the reason why Jonathan Lane died. I don't wish that the Lane



Family be manipulated by Helen."

"Before you wear out my already thin patience, please stop your nonsense."

Liam scowled, "It's a fact that Helen manipulated my son, but it is also true that he died in your hands."

"Don't think for a second that both of you can leave Cledondale without paying for this."

Meanwhile, Nathan's expression darkened. "Hmph! Since forever, the Lane Family has no place in Cledondale."

Further infuriated, Liam ordered Deus Aster, "Solis, Luan, dispose of this guy before he pisses me off again!"

Exchanging glances, both of them roared in unison, "Die!"

Along with their battle cry, they charged at Nathan like two flashes of lightning.

The moment Solis got close enough to



Nathan, a sharp blade dropped from his sleeve into his hand.

Holding the blade, he stabbed it at the direction of Nathan's head.

This was his ultimate move, known as 'The Dragon in the Sleeve'.

It was an extremely deadly attack despite not being a flashy move.

Raising his right hand, Nathan caught the blade easily between his fingers.



Solis was dumbfounded.

What?

Many formidable warriors were killed by this ultimate move of his.

And yet, Nathan stopped it with just two fingers?

Meanwhile, the burly Luan charged at Nathan like a cannonball.



With his head lowered down, the nine scars on his shiny bald head were exposed as it headed towards Nathan's abdomen.

His headbutt was so powerful that it could split a tree trunk in half.

However, just before impact, Nathan raised his leg and smashed his kneecap straight into Luan's head.

Bang!

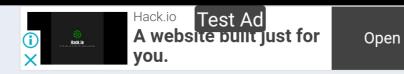
It sounded like an explosion!

Nathan's knee rammed into Luan's head!

In an instant, Luan's head was like a watermelon which had been smashed into bits.

Blood splattered everywhere as Luan's head was split open by Nathan's knee with a single strike.

Liam and his men let out a breathe when they saw the gruesome sight.



Solis and Luan were Xander's favorite disciples. Both of them were like brothers to each other.

When Solis saw that Luan was killed by Nathan, his eyes were filled with murderous intent. He roared, "How dare you kill my friend?! Die now!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!





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Channeling all his strength into the blade, he thrust it at Nathan's body.

However, the blade didn't budge as Nathan was still pinching it with his fingers.

Solis was incensed and shocked at the same time.

With a snort, Nathan put some force into his fingers.

Pak!

A loud crack was heard as the thin blade shattered into pieces.

Solis' pupils constricted instantly.

Holding the shattered pieces of the blade, Nathan gave them a flick and sent them flying outwards like bullets.

With a whoosh, pieces of shattered metal pierced Solis' throat.

The next moment, Solis froze as he held his throat with his hands. However, blood



kept on oozing out from his fingers and mouth uncontrollably.

Finally, he collapsed in disbelief and died.

When Liam and the others saw what had unfolded, their faces went pale in horror.

Nathan is just too powerful!

The Lane family's two most formidable warriors, the Deus Aster, died at Nathan's hands as they were simply no match for him.

Flicking his sleeves, Nathan stared at Liam coldly.

Liam was jolted as if he had seen the God of Death himself.

Meanwhile, his subordinates began to scramble to surround him. They shouted in panic, "Protect Mr. Lane!"

With a wave of his hand, Nathan ordered, "Capture him!"



"Yes, Sir!"

Colin and the Elite Eight sprang into action!

In the blink of an eye, the Lane Family's subordinates began to cry in anguish.

Soon, all of them had their limbs broken and were grimacing on the ground.

Meanwhile, Colin returned with Liam within his hands as if he had just captured a chicken.

Feeling the forceful press upon his shoulders, Liam fell onto his knees.

Nathan asked in an impassive tone, "Liam, I came to warn you not to be manipulated by Helen. Don't you want the chance I am giving you?"

By now, Liam had lost all the arrogance he had a moment ago. Drenched in sweat, he looked like he was just fished out of water.

On his knees, he began to bow at Nathan repeatedly. "I'm sorry, it's my fault. I will no



longer be blinded. Please give me another chance."

Nodding, Nathan replied, "At Springfield, I forgave you once."

"Tonight, I'll forgive you again."

"But there will be no third time. If such a thing happens again, you will not be so lucky!"

Liam continued to bow as he replied with a trembling voice, "Yes, yes. I understand. Thank you for the mercy you have shown me."



With that, Nathan turned to leave with Colin and the Elite Eight following behind him.

Leaving the Lane residence, Colin and the Elite Eight escorted Nathan back to the hotel.

Along the way, Colin couldn't help but say, "Sir, I did some digging into Liam's background. He is a greedy and cunning



man. Also, he is particularly vengeful."

"I feel that even after tonight, he will not learn his lesson. After some time, he will be causing us trouble again once he has recovered."

Nathan replied in a nonchalant tone, "No matter. Even if he doesn't realize his mistake, it won't take much effort to wipe out the Lane Family."

Nodding, Colin then recalled something else. "Sir, there's one more thing to report."



Nathan acknowledged, "Go ahead."

Colin continued, "Shawn Wates, the son of Cledondale mayor Kenny Wates, is getting married to Ivy the day after. Kenny has invited you to the wedding."

When Nathan heard this, he didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Kenny has just whipped his son badly tonight with his leather belt. How is Shawn going to get married the day after with all those injuries on his face?"



Colin laughed in response. "It's likely they have decided on the date a long time ago. And since it's an auspicious one, it would be bad luck to change it. Therefore, the wedding will continue as planned."

Colin then added, "Kenny must be worried after knowing that his son has offended you."

"Therefore, if you attend the wedding, he will take it as a sign that you have forgiven him. Only then, would his mind be put at ease."

Nathan smiled, "Cledondale is the place where I grew up. Given that I need to deal with the Cross Family and Helen here, it's unavoidable for me to maintain a good relationship with the leaders."

"It seems like I do have to take care of Kenny Wates's feelings."

"Tell him that I would be attending his son's wedding."

Colin affirmed, "Yes, sir!"

Chapter 736 A Disruptive Sister In Law

By the time Nathan got back to the hotel, it was already ten at night.

Penny, who was staring blankly at the TV, couldn't help but beam when she saw Nathan.

Running into his embrace, she crowed in delight, "Nathan, you're back!"

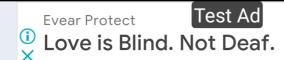
Running his hand through her black hair, he asked in surprise, "What's wrong?"

Blushing, Penny calmed herself down before muttering, "I was worried about you, of course."

"When Liam called earlier, he sounded so intimidating. I was afraid that something bad might happen."

"I almost couldn't control myself just now. I wanted to call you and look for you very badly."

Nathan replied with a slight grin, "You don't have to worry. I can easily handle such a trivial matter."



Chapter 736 A Disruptive Sister In Law

As Nathan hugged Penny tightly in his arms, she felt a little embarrassed.

Subconsciously, she wanted to struggle free but was reluctant to leave his warm embrace.

Finally, she got the better of her bashfulness and buried her head in his chest. She whispered, "Has the matter with the Lane Family been resolved?"

Nathan answered, "It's done. Liam has admitted his mistake and won't cause us any trouble again."



Wide-eyed in surprise, Penny asked, "When Liam called earlier, he threatened to buy over the Cross Group at a low price. Given how aggressive he was, why did he suddenly change his tack?"

Nathan obviously didn't tell Penny about the devastation he wreaked upon the Lane Family. He humored her, "I asked the Mayor to intervene and he managed to persuade the Lane Family to come to their senses." Chapter 736 A Disruptive Sister In Law

Penny replied in delight, "So, it's all thanks to Mr. Wates!"

Seizing the opportunity, Nathan added, "By the way, Kenny's son is getting married the day after. I have accepted his invitation for us to attend the wedding."

Penny nodded, "Despite his important position, Kenny seems to be very considerate."

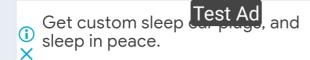
"Given that he has lent us a big hand, we should not only attend his son's wedding but also prepare a proper gift."

Nathan smiled, "Whatever you say, honey!"

Hearing Nathan's response, she beamed while her eyes were filled with bashful delight.

At that moment, Nathan's eyes fell upon Penny. His gaze traced slowly from her face to her soft red lips.

Feeling the moment, Penny couldn't help but close her eyes. Her eyelashes started



Chapter 736 A Disruptive Sister In Law

to flutter rapidly like a butterfly while her cheeks blushed.

Meanwhile, the glint in Nathan's eyes sparkled brighter. Leaning closer, he planted his lips on Penny's. At that moment, he caught a whiff of a wonderful fragrance.

Letting out a moan, Penny's body tensed up as she tightened her hug on Nathan.

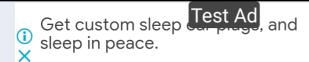
Both of them kissed passionately as desire overwhelmed them.

Right when Nathan was about to move to the next base, they suddenly heard footsteps accompanied by a gentle gasp.

The gasp belonged to Kylie!

While Nathan was completely stunned, Penny quickly pushed him away.

Kyle stared at them while trying her best not to smile. She had just finished bathing and didn't expect Nathan to be back already, let alone kissing Penny.



Chapter 736 A Disruptive Sister In Law

Penny was all red in embarrassment. Her usual calm self was gone as she awkwardly asked, "Kylie, where did you come from?"

Kylie chuckled, "I just finished my bath!"

She then raised her eyebrow and smiled at Nathan, "You're finally back!"

Nathan was upset with Kylie for walking in on them. Snorting, he grumbled, "It's getting late, you should go back to your room to rest."





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The suite that Nathan, Penny and Kylie shared had two bedrooms and a living hall.

The couple would share one room while Kylie would take the other one.

Despite Nathan's attempt at getting her back to her room, she felt reluctant to do so.

When Nathan went to the Lane Residence, she was also worried for him, although not as much as Penny because she knew his true identity.

Now that he was back, all he cared about was feeling up her cousin and even complained that she was in the way.

This made her upset.

Moving her shifty eyes around, she held onto Penny's hands and cunningly said, "Penny, I'll sleep with you tonight."

"Both of us cousins haven't had a girls' night in such a long time. I have lots of secrets waiting to be shared with you."



Meanwhile, Penny was still feeling embarrassed from the fact that Kylie had seen them kissing.

Therefore, she immediately agreed to Kylie's suggestion for them to sleep together.

Nathan watched helplessly as Kylie and Penny went back to their room. Kylie even turned around and cheekily winked at him.

Now, he was even more peeved at his sister-in-law for spoiling his night.

At the Lane residence, Liam and his men brought the bodies of Deus Aster to see the Lane Family patriarch, Xander Lane.

In a lakeside pavilion at the Lane ancestral home, Xander was holding a bamboo rod, quietly fishing in the night.

Nearby, there were a few expressionless men standing guard like statues.

Suddenly, an old servant rushed up to him. Out of breath, he reported hastily, "Sir,



Liam wishes to meet you."

Staring calmly at the fishing float in the middle of the lake, Xander replied, "I'm fishing and don't want to be disturbed. Tell him to come back tomorrow."

However, the old servant hesitated and stood where he was.

Looking up, Xander glared at the servant, "Didn't you hear what I said?"

Hanging his head, the old servant whispered, "Solis and Luan are dead."

Xander's eyes widened in shock.

However, he regained his composure quickly.

Returning his gaze to the fishing float, he replied, "Let Liam come and see me."

The moment Liam entered, he dropped to his knees and lamented, "Sir, it's all Nathan's fault."



"He barged into my home and killed my subordinates, including Solis and Luan!"

"Forcing me to kneel, he threatened to destroy the Lane Family if I troubled him again."

Having heard Liam, Xander's eyes grew cold while the fishing rod he was holding jolted in a sudden.

Boom!

The fishing line suddenly split open the lake just like a sharp knife.

Splash!

The gaping hole in the lake closed up just as quickly as it appeared when the water came crashing back in.

As the lake's waters remained turbulent, dead fish started to float up to the surface.

With a gloomy expression, Xander flung the fishing rod to one of his men. He then turned towards Liam. "Did Nathan really



kill both my favorite disciples?"

Sprawled on the floor, Liam replied aloud, "Yes!"

"I beseech you to personally punish Nathan and avenge the Lane family."

Outside the pavilion, Wayne and the rest of Liam's men dropped to their knees and pleaded in unison, "We implore you to personally kill Nathan!"

Standing up with his hands behind his back, Xander coldly declared, "I have been living the life of a recluse for the last ten years and wanted to avoid bloodshed. But now that someone is seeking death, I shall fulfill his wish!"

When Liam and his men saw that the invincible patriarch of the Lane family had agreed to personally deal with Nathan, they cheered excitedly and figured Nathan would be dead soon.

Chapter 738 The Wedding

Xander had decided to personally deal with Nathan.

Liam asked impatiently, "Sir, when do you plan to make your move?"

Narrowing his eyes, Xander explained, "I just received news that Nathan had an altercation with the mayor's son at the Indigo restaurant tonight."

"It ended with the mayor beating and scolding his son in public instead of siding with him. He even personally apologized to Nathan."



Liam's eyes widened in surprise. "What?"

Xander continued, "Therefore, I still don't know what Nathan's background is!"

"The day after tomorrow happens to be Shawn Wate's wedding day. I plan to attend and see what Kenny can tell me about Nathan. After that, I'll take action."

Liam nodded repeatedly. "That's right, we should investigate his background first

Chapter 738 The Wedding

before deciding our next course of action."

Two days later, Shawn Wate's wedding was held at the Grand Aeredale Manor as scheduled.

All of the rich and powerful big guns of Cledondale were there.

Only the Cross Family was absent because their patriarch, Zayn, had turned into a vegetable and was in a coma. Therefore, the family was currently leaderless.

At the moment, Helen was temporarily put in charge. As she pitted the Lane family against Nathan, she didn't want to appear in public. Her priority was to observe the conflict between Nathan and the Lane family from the shadows.

Furthermore, she was focusing her efforts on solidifying her position within the Cross Family.

Hence, she had no time to participate in such an event.

Chapter 738 The Wedding

Instead, it was the patriarch of the Lane Family, who came out from ten years of reclusion, that attended.

He arrived at the wedding with all the important members of the Lane family, each bearing extravagant gifts in their hands.

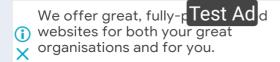
Meanwhile, Kenny led his son, Shawn, and his daughter-in-law, Ivy, around to warmly welcome the guests.

Grinning broadly, Kenny greeted Xander, "Haha, Mr. Lane, I'm glad you can make it. We are so honored to have you grace this occasion!"

Xander replied with a smile, "No, the honor is ours. The Lane family would not miss such a momentous occasion."

With that, he gestured to Liam.

On cue, Liam presented a calligraphy scroll to Kenny and smiled. "Mr. Wates, we spent an obscene amount of money to purchase this calligraphy scroll. It was written by the



Chapter 738 The Wedding

General of the North, and we would like to present it to you as a gift!"

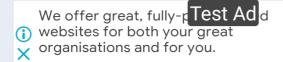
Kenny's eyes lit up. "Is it real?"

Xander replied with a grin, "I bought it through my contacts from some merchants and I believe they won't dare to cheat me. I'm sure it was written by the General of the North."

Taking over the scroll, Kenny unfolded it carefully. On it, there were the words written: No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation.

There was no signature on the scroll but the words were written in an edgy fashion. Judging from the words and style of the writing, one could sense the commanding presence of the General of the North.

Kenny happily commented, "The calligraphy's sharp and edgy style and grandiose words do make it seems like the General's work."



Chapter 738 The Wedding

Xander was delighted to hear that.

Meanwhile, Kenny extended his hand to usher Xander. "I have a private room inside which is only used to entertain the most important guests. Mr. Lane, after you."

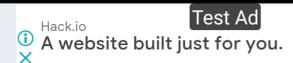
Xander responded, "No, after you, Mr. Wates!"

Kenny then left his son, daughter-in-law, and other members of the family to entertain the general guests.

Followed by a few subordinates, he led Xander into the house.

Soon, they arrived in a luxurious room with opulent decorations.

Inside the room, there were also other important figures such as the political and military leaders of Cledondale. Even the ones at the lowest rung of the social ladder were heads of Cledondale's prominent families and business magnates.



Chapter 738 The Wedding

Xander knew everyone there and they exchanged pleasantries accordingly.

Holding up the calligraphy scroll, Kenny announced, "Xander has presented me this scroll which is believed to have been written by the General of the North himself. Please help me ascertain if this is genuine or not."

"To tell you all the truth, the General of the North himself will grace my son's wedding tonight!"



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Chapter 739 Who Are You

When Xander, Liam, and all the other powerful characters in the room heard that the General of the North would be attending the wedding, they were filled with shock which quickly turned into anticipation.

Everyone was excited to see for themselves who the General of the North was. Even one glance at him would be considered a great honor!

If they managed to drink or eat with him, it would give them the chance to brag and boast for eternity!



Xander clarified excitedly, "Mr. Wates, is it true that the General will be here?"

Ignorant of the feud between Nathan and the Lane Family, Kenny replied gleefully, "That's right, it's a really special honor for me!"

Waving the scroll in his hand, he added, "If this is really written by the General of the North, I would present it back to him."



Chapter 739 Who Are You

"When the General sees the scroll returned to him after it has travelled far and wide, I'm sure he would be astounded by the mysterious beauty of fate."

Xander and the other prominent characters understood now.

The mayor wasn't just elated because he received the valuable calligraphy scroll written by the General, in fact, it was because the general himself would grace the occasion that made him so excited!

Kenny planned to use the scroll to gain favor with the General!

It went without saying that the scroll needed to be genuine for his plan to work, or else it would backfire instead.

Hence, Kenny was anxiously asking for everyone's help to authenticate the scroll.

As all of those present were powerful men, many of them were well versed with either calligraphy or antique collection.



Chapter 739 Who Are You

However, none of them had seen the General's writings before.

Hence, no one was in the position to determine if the scroll was genuine.

Nevertheless, everyone agreed with Xander's stand, which was that the merchants wouldn't dare to sell a fake to him due to his reputation and status.

Also, the calligraphy was written in such a sharp yet inspiring manner that everyone felt it was consistent with the General's demeanor and status.



It was at that same moment when Nathan, Penny and Kylie entered the room.

Nathan saw Xander holding the calligraphy scroll and proudly declaring that it was written by the General of the North.

Smirking, he casually remarked, "It's definitely a fake."

Nathan's words caused everyone's attention to fall upon him.

X

Chapter 739 Who Are You

When Kenny saw Nathan, he was both delighted and shocked.

Delighted because Nathan was here, but shocked to hear him declare that the scroll was fake.

Kenny hadn't even greeted Nathan yet.

Liam was already shooting daggers at Nathan as he discreetly signaled to Xander that this man was Nathan Cross.

Xander's expression darkened when Nathan pointed out that his precious scroll was fake the moment he stepped into the room. His animosity was even more exacerbated when he realized that this was the man who had killed his two disciples.

He sneered, "Young man, your loose tongue might cause you your life!"

When Kenny saw Xander threatening Nathan, he was horrified at Xander's audacity and immediately broke into a cold sweat.

Chapter 739 Who Are You

He tried to de-escalate the situation. "Mr. Lane, don't be impulsive. When Mr. Cross says that this is a fake, he definitely has his reasons. So please calm down."

On the account of the mayor, Xander suppressed his anger.

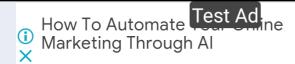
However, he glared angrily at Nathan still and threatened, "Nathan, you killed two of my disciples and I have yet to make you pay."

"Now, how dare you assert that the calligraphy scroll I presented to the mayor is a fake?"

"You better have a really good reason for that, or else, don't blame me for teaching you a lesson."

Kenny's face turned pale when he heard Xander. He had the urge to cover Xander's mouth with his bare hands to silence the old man.

The man before them was the General of the North!



Chapter 739 Who Are You

He was the most qualified person to judge whether the calligraphy scroll was genuine or not.

In the face of Xander's threats, Nathan simply smirked. "The fact that I declare this as a fake is the best evidence there is."

Xander was outraged. "You a**hole, who do you think you are that I have to take your word for it?"

"Do you think you're the General?"



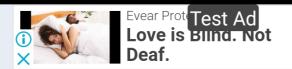
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When the crowd saw Xander threatening Nathan, they looked at each other in bewilderment.

Only Kenny and a few others knew Nathan's identity. Most of the other guests gave Nathan a sympathetic look.

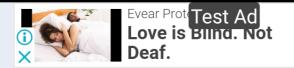
They were puzzled as to who this young man was and how did he dare pick a fight with Xander. Did he have a death wish?

Meanwhile, Penny was shocked at Nathan's audacity to claim someone else's calligraphy scroll as a fake.

If it turned out to be genuine, wouldn't he have offended not only Mr. Lane, but the General of the North himself?

Pulling Nathan aside anxiously, she quietly persuaded him, "Nathan, please don't sprout nonsense anymore. You don't even know the General and have never seen him before. How can you say the scroll is a fake?"

When Xander, Liam, and the others saw



Penny admonish Nathan, they were sure that Nathan was just full of bull.

However, Nathan just chuckled. "I'm not saying it without basis. In fact, I'm serious."

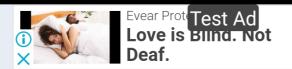
"I am so sure that this scroll is not written by the General of the North that I bet my life on it."

It was easy for him to say because he would definitely be aware if he had written it.

However, his words came off differently to others.

Penny felt that Nathan was just being ridiculous. This was pushing the boundaries even if he wanted to play the fool.

By now, Xander was filled to the brim with anger. In a solemn tone, he warned Kenny, "Mr. Wates, you have seen for yourself how arrogant this young man is."



"I urge you to remain neutral and not intervene in my revenge. Today, I will make him pay."

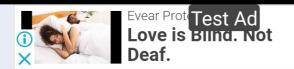
Feeling both stunned and furious, Kenny cursed the old man in his heart. The Lane Family cannot afford to offend this man. You are just signing your own death warrant.

Kenny knew that he had to prevent both of them from fighting. Or else, it would definitely be troublesome if Nathan blamed him later on.

Wanting to calm the situation down, Kenny spoke up in an upset tone, "Xander, today is my son's wedding day. It would be inappropriate for you to cause trouble here!"

Annoyed, Xander apologetically replied, "Mr. Wates, it's not that I want to cause trouble, but I can't guarantee nothing will happen to Nathan once he walks out that door."

By then, Kenny realized that there must be



a bigger issue behind the conflict between Xander Lane and Nathan.

Glancing at Nathan who remained unperturbed and then at the stubborn Xander, Kenny stated, "I don't care about your conflict and neither am I qualified to do so. All I hope for is that you two can peacefully co-exist during my son's wedding."

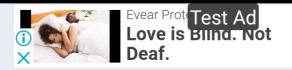
Kenny was also having a headache because of the tight spot he was in. Xander was one of Cledondale's most powerful figures while Nathan was the General of the North.

If both of them were to fight, it would be a fight between the Gods. There was no way he could even stop them.

Hence, he felt it was more prudent if he didn't care.

He decided to just let them be.

When Xander saw Kenny had decided to stay neutral and not intervene in the



conflict, he was visibly delighted.

This is how powerful the Lane Family is in Cledondale!

Xander ordered Liam, "Gather all our elite warriors and wait outside the manor. Once the wedding is over, we will strike the moment Nathan walks out of here."

Liam smiled smugly when he received the instructions. In a low voice, he replied, "Yes, sir. I'll arrange it right away."



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