

Chapter 26 Tear Down The Building And You Are My Next...

Most of the residents moved out of Asiatic Village in the next two days.

Cross Corporation was also set to begin the demolition process around this time.

However, something was off as soon as the demolition team arrived.

More than thirty vicious-looking men popped out and surrounded the team with weapons.

Their intention was crystal clear. Without any warning, they destroyed the excavators, trucks and even injured many workers.

When they were done, those gangsters declared, "As the residents of Asiatic Village, we refuse to move until we're happy with our compensation. Whoever dares tearing down the buildings will be our next victim."

Penny was apprehensive when she heard the news.

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She knew for a fact that almost all of the residents had signed their agreements.

The few who did not manage to make it back in town had also given their verbal consent and agreed to the terms of compensation.

So why are these people showing up out of the blue?

Nathan appeared unflustered, "Sounds to me someone is purposely making a scene. Let's go check it out."

Penny had never encountered a tension this difficult. She figured that Nathan could come in handy in a violent conflict. Furthermore, having him by her side helped with her peace of mind.

They came to Asiatic Village's entrance to see eight excavators and more than ten trucks torn into pieces. Broken parts covered the ground, leaving the vehicles nothing but their frames.

Smoking and chatting away, the gangsters

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lounge around casually in the scatters of automotive parts.

Their leader was a yellow-haired man named Dogbreath. He was Novem Dragon's right-hand man.

The way those workers hid in a corner gave Dogbreath an ego-boost, not to mention the crowd they have attracted and the awe on everyone's faces.

Intoxicated by the self-assured hubris, he ordered, "Keep an eye on them. Break their legs if they try again."

Suddenly, an M760Li xDrive sped over fast and furious before coming to an abrupt halt.

An attractive pair came down.

They were Penny and Nathan.

The leader of the construction crew, Bob Hoffman, walked over with his men, "Ms. Smith. Thank god you're here."

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Penny scanned the surroundings quickly and furrowed her eyebrows, “Bob. Any update?”

“Those are the people who’ve caused the trouble. A few injured men were sent to the hospital.”

“Did you call the cops?”

Bob whispered, “I did. They said they’d be here, but it’s been forever.”

“Let me do the talking.” Before Penny finished her sentence, Dogbreath and his gang had already advanced toward them.

Dogbreath looked Penny up and down smugly, “You’re the president of Cross?”

“I am, indeed. I’m open to negotiation. I’m happy to fulfill your terms as long as you keep them sensible.”

Dogbreath grinned, “We’re long-time residents here and we refuse to be rid of with some chicken feed. Our demand is simple, ten million more for each of us!”

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Penny's brows were pulled lower now, "The Demolition Office had already made terms with each and every one of you. Our company is only responsible for the construction of the shopping mall. If you're unsatisfied with the compensation, you're welcome to talk to the office again. There's no need for this much damage."

Dogbreath scoffed, "Quit the buck-passing. I don't care whose responsibility it is. I just want the money. Before that, there's no telling what we'll do to stop this. You might even lose a life or two!"



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Chapter 27 You Are Nothing

Penny was highly strung. She paused to form a proper argument.

Nathan helped her out, “You claim to be the residents, yet most of them have already signed the contracts. Do you really live here?”

Penny was just as suspicious, “Right! Let me register your I.D.’s. I can negotiate with the Demolition Office on your behalf. How about that?”

Dogbreath’s eyes darted before he let out a sneer, “There’s no way we’d let you have our personal information. Who knows what you’ll do with it?”

He then turned to Bob menacingly “Let me make myself extremely clear here. Do you see our weapons? They are not just for looks. So, don’t even think about going forward with this. Or else-”

Penny was so infuriated that she was speechless for a moment.

So, Nathan proceeded, “I suggest that you

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use that thug threat on someone else.”

Dogbreath inspected Nathan then let out a disrespectful huff, “Who are you to tell me that? I see that you’re eager to be your boss’ hero. But you know, we rule Channing’s West City.” He waved his hand, “You, break his legs! Someone can use a good lesson!”

A beefy man, Osborn came to the foreground with an iron bar in his hand. He darted towards Nathan like a lion preying its victim.

Penny warned, “Watch out!”

Nathan reacted the same time Penny yelled. He kicked his leg high, and a loud smack followed.

Osborn’s head was spun to the side, as a broken tooth flew out along with some blood.

His chunky body collapsed.

It was a knockout blow.

Chapter 27 You Are Nothing

Everyone was staggered to see Nathan crushed the hundred and fifty kilogram Osborn with ease.

Before Dogbreath knew it, Nathan had come to him, striking his face.

Smack!

Disoriented, Dogbreath stumbled as he made a whirl. His cheek swelled up, and he eventually hit the dirt.

Nathan took a step further and placed his foot on Dogbreath's chest.

Dogbreath was a solidly built man. However, he was unable to resist Nathan's strong pressure. His rib cage sounded like it was cracking.

Dogbreath looked like a helpless fish at the shore. He opened his mouth widely, but he could not bring himself to make a sound. The look on his face made it apparent that he was in agony.

Nathan looked down indifferently, "So you

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rule West City, huh? I'm sorry to break the news, but you're nothing to me."

Dogbreath was terrified that his rib cage could break at any moment.

With all his might, he squeezed out an order, "Guys... move it... kill him!"

The thugs finally snapped back from their state of shock.

"How dare he hit our boss? Let's go!"

They all came after Nathan frantically to circle him.

Nathan let out a cold snort as if it was child's play. After telling Penny and Bob to back up, he walked up to meet them.

Bang!

Nathan initiated his attack by thumping on a thug's chest.

The thug appeared as if he was hit by a train. His body shot back, but the blood

Chapter 27 You Are Nothing

from his mouth traveled in the opposite direction.

Whoosh!

An iron bar aimed for Nathan's head.

Yet, Nathan was moving like lightning. He gripped the bar with his left hand and punched the man's chin with his right.

It sounded like bones were fractured. The man wailed and dropped to the ground.

Nathan then took the iron bar from him and used it to block three machetes. In a swift moment, he threw a flying kick towards their heads. The impact lifted them off the ground.

No matter how big Dogbreath's gang was, Nathan was not intimidated. None of the men could manage to come close to Nathan.

Nathan took them down swimmingly with grace and sophistication.

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This was his dance and the opponents' shrieks were his music.

No one was on a par with him.

In less than two minutes, thirty-something injured bodies were on the floor. Whines and groans filled the air.

The construction workers, pedestrians, and Penny were filled with amazement and disbelief.

Dogbreath wiggled his body in an attempt to stand up, but Nathan approached him.

Dogbreath's gaze traveled from the iron bar to Nathan's apathetic face.

A deep sense of fear arose when his eyes met Nathan's. In a trembling voice, he bluffed, "Hey... what do you think you're doing? I'm Big Brother Draco's man. If anything happens to me, he will make you pay for it!"

Chapter 28 Nine Tattoo Dragon Dan Hugh

Nine Tattoo Dragon, Dan Hugh!

When everyone heard the title, their faces paled immediately.

Dan Hugh was a terrifying force to be reckoned with in Channing City. He had once cut nine enemies to pieces using only a knife, which happened to be the battle that had earned him the title.

That was also how he rose to power as the war god of the Western District.

Everyone in Channing knew exactly how ruthless he was.

When they heard that Dogbreath was another goon of Dan Hugh's, their expressions turned to one of fear. There were few who would dare to anger Dan Hugh.

Dogbreath tossed out Dan Hugh's name to scare Nathan Cross, yet he had remained strangely calm. "So the Nine Tattoo Dragon has instructed you to come and stir up trouble?" He asked.

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Dogbreath stared at Nathan Cross incredulously. *Looks like this guy doesn't fear him at all!* ,he thought.

Was he just ignorant of Big Brother Draco's tyranny, or did he just have a lot of guts?

Dogbreath would never confess that the Dragon himself had sent him to make such a scene. "Dude, can't you ask around a bit and find out what kind of presence Big Brother Draco has here in Channing?"

"You'd better kowtow to me right now, or else I'll make you suffer in the worst way possible!"

Nathan Cross scoffed, "You're not going to say it? Fine, I'll settle it my way."

Dogbreath had a bad feeling when he heard Nathan Cross' words.

"You were going to break my leg, am I right?" Nathan Cross asked.

Dogbreath looked nervously at Osborn, who was sprawled on the ground,

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unconscious. He swallowed.

He had indeed ordered Osborn to break Nathan Cross' leg, and the last thing he had expected was for him to knock Osborn out cold with one kick.

Nathan Cross simply drawled, "I can tell that you are all gangsters."

"Isn't 'an eye for an eye' your motto?"

"If you want to break my leg, then it would make sense for me to break yours as well, no?"

When Dogbreath heard that, he immediately broke out into a cold sweat. "I-if you evendare to touch me, I'll make sure that Big Brother Draco comes after you!"

Nathan Cross' lips curved upwards. Suddenly, he raised the metal bar he had been holding high up, bringing it down on Dogbreath's right leg.

Dogbreath squeezed his eyes shut and

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screamed.

However, Nathan Cross simply tapped Dogbreath's right foot lightly with the metal bar.

When the pain he had been expecting never came, Dogbreath slowly opened his eyes and stared at Nathan Cross with a look of confusion.

Nathan Cross smiled, "I haven't even hit you yet, why are you screaming already?"

"I'm keeping my promise though. If I said that I'm going to break your leg, *I am* going to break your leg."

Dogbreath was going to break down, and he opened his mouth to plead for mercy.

Before he could do so though, a Land Rover and two Chevrolets rushed into the scene, tires screeching.

A well-built man with hawkish eyes alighted first, followed by a dozen of his men.

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When Dogbreath saw them heading his way, relief flooded him.

The hawk-eyed man was no other than Dan Hugh's brother, Leo Hugh, also known as the Prowling Leopard.

As it turned out, someone had run off to report to him, while Dogbreath got into a fight with Nathan Cross.

Leo Hugh immediately rushed to the scene with several of his men.

"Big Brother Leo! Help me!" Dogbreath shouted at the top of his lungs.

However, the only thing Leo Hugh saw was how Dogbreath and his men were sprawled across the floor, utterly defeated.

Nathan Cross was still holding onto his metal bar, preparing to bring it down on Dogbreath's leg. Leo Hugh's eyes widened as he bellowed, "Stop! I'm the Prowling Leopard of the Western District. How dare you disrespect my men in my territory?"

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Nathan Cross glanced at Leo Hugh before lifting the metal bar and letting it fall with a loud *whoosh*.

Dogbreath's leg was smashed into pieces immediately.

"AHHH—"

Dogbreath let out a piercing scream.

Leo Hugh's eyes twitched in both surprise and anger.

If not for Nathan Cross' blatant show of his terrifying power, he would already have ordered his subordinates to deal with the situation.

He looked from Dogbreath, who was writhing around on the ground in pain, to Nathan Cross. "Not bad. Looks like none of my subordinates would have a chance against you. Why don't you tell me who you are?"

Nathan Cross tossed the metal bar away and wiped his hands on his handkerchief.

Chapter 28 Nine Tattoo Dragon Dan Hugh

“I don’t care about you. Call the Nine Tattoo Dragon now and tell him to ask for my mercy. I want compensation from him as well.”



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Chapter 29 Kill You A Million Times

Leo Hugh scoffed and took out his phone to give his brother Dan Hugh a call.

Soon, Dan Hugh picked up, and his intimidating voice boomed from the other end of the line, "Are you done?"

Leo Hugh lowered his voice and professed, "Not yet, bro."

Dan Hugh was unhappy. "You can't even settle such a small matter?"

Leo Hugh glanced at Nathan Cross before whispering, "Bro, there's a guy from Cross Corporation who's beating everyone up."

"He knocked out thirty of my men and broke Dogbreath's leg right in front of me despite my warnings. He even wants you to come and kowtow to him."

Dan Hugh was angered. "He's looking for trouble!"

It had been ages since anyone in Channing dared to cross paths with Dan Hugh, much less ask him to kowtow.

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Nathan Cross was the first ever person who had dared to even try.

Leo Hugh glanced at the crowd from Cross Corporation and smirked, “My bro’s personally coming after you, since you’re so eager to die!”

Penny Smith and Bob Hoffman, as locals, knew exactly how the Nine Tattoo Dragon went about doing things.

When they heard that Dan Hugh was going to beat Nathan Cross up in person, genuine fear crept onto their faces.

Penny Smith whispered to Nathan Cross, “Dan Hugh is well-known in the Western District and the underground answers to his orders only. If he wants someone to disappear, they will evaporate from the face of the earth. If we anger him, we’re dead for sure!”

Nathan Cross was unfazed. “The Cross Corporation is in charge of the Asiatic Shopping Mall project. They’re the ones messing things up before the construction



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Chapter 29 Kill You A Million Times

has even started.”

“If we don’t teach them a lesson now, they’re going to be a nuisance to us forever.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll settle this.”

Penny Smith was still worried, but she knew that Nathan Cross was on good terms with the underground boss of the Eastern District, Thomas Dunn.

However, Nathan Cross had bothered Thomas Dunn one too many times already.

Besides, the person whom they were dealing with this time was Dan Hugh, the underground boss of the Western District. He might have been stronger than Thomas Dunn in all ways possible, as he had been around for a longer time.

Penny Smith felt that Thomas Dunn would not be able to help them even if he were to appear at the scene.

After Leo Hugh made his call, the



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gangsters of the city came from all directions, be it in vans or on motorbikes. They crowded around the entrance of Asiatic City.

Within a couple of minutes, hundreds of gangsters had gathered at the scene, sporting rainbow-colored hair, intimidating tattoos and about a million types of weapons in their hands.

All of them were Dan Hugh's men. Crowding around Leo Hugh, the men had all cried out, stirring up a ruckus.

Penny Smith's face paled by the minute. She had called the police several times over the past few minutes, yet they were nowhere in sight.

Bob Hoffman and his army of construction workers were increasingly desperate. If not for the human barrier around them, they would have dispersed immediately.

The only person who was calm happened to be Nathan Cross.



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Chapter 29 Kill You A Million Times

Leo Hugh glared at Nathan Cross. "Why don't you kowtow to me, before my brother arrives? Maybe I'll spare your life, just maybe. Haha!"

Nathan Cross glanced around at the army of rowdy gangsters around Leo Hugh, while scoffing, "You think you can force me to bow before you with *these* good-for-nothings?"

Leo Hugh laughed, "Well, my good-for-nothings can kill you a million times over today."



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Chapter 30 Big Brother Draco Is Here

Suddenly, someone yelled, “Big Brother Draco is here!”

The crowd of gangsters gave a collective roar.

They stepped aside to form an aisle in the middle.

A black Mercedes Benz S600L appeared before the crowd. The car plate number had nothing else but the number ‘6’ repeatedly, which was how one would identify the ride of the Nine Tattoo Dragon.

Leo Hugh immediately rushed up to open the car door, greeting his brother, “Welcome, Big Brother.”

A tall man in a red dress shirt and a black suit alighted from the Mercedes. He had his hair trimmed short and a scar was adorned on his left eyelid.

Two buttons at the top of his dress shirt were unbuttoned, leaving on display the unmistakable tattoo of nine dragons on his body. This had confirmed his identity as the Nine Tattoo Dragon Dan Hugh, leader of the underground in the Western District.

Chapter 30 Big Brother Draco Is Here

Dan Hugh glared at Leo Hugh and his army. "If I hadn't come, my reputation would have been ruined by all of you."

Leo Hugh lowered his head in silence.

Dan Hugh glanced around at his five-hundred-men-strong army.

Nathan Cross, Penny Smith and the others from the Cross Corporation were trapped in the middle.

On the floor were several casualties who looked absolutely miserable.

At that moment, Dogbreath dragged himself to Dan Hugh's side. Despite the excruciating pain in his right leg, he managed to utter, "Big Brother Draco, you're finally here! That guy there beat up thirty of our men singlehandedly and even broke my right leg!"

Dan Hugh looked down upon Dogbreath, who was struggling to sit up, on the ground. "Your right leg's broken?" He asked, emotionless.

"Yes!" Dogbreath answered.

“What about your left leg?”

Dogbreath froze for a moment before answering, “My left leg’s fine!”

Upon hearing that, Dan Hugh immediately raised his foot and brought it down upon Dogbreath’s left leg, with a crisp sound of bones snapping.

AHHH!

Dogbreath’s chilling scream pierced through the air yet again, and everyone was startled.

Dan Hugh merely turned to his assistants and instructed, “Take this useless piece of trash away!”

Within a second, Dogbreath was dragged away from the scene by a few of Dan Hugh’s aggressive-looking assistants.

When Penny Smith and company witnessed this, they could not help but feel sorry for Dogbreath.

Dan Hugh turned around and looked at Nathan Cross’ party. “Who beat up my men and told me to compensate for your

losses? Show yourself!"

Everyone's eyes turned to Nathan Cross. Dan Hugh looked at him as well.

Nathan Cross merely stared at Dan Hugh with an unreadable expression, as he stepped up, "It's me."

Nathan Cross' body was lean and slim, which was the kind that one would slowly fall in love with after some time.

Dan Hugh could sense Nathan Cross' undying resolve, and he figured that he had a history in the military. He would not have been able to injure thirty people at one go otherwise.

Dan Hugh scoffed, "That's so brave of you, though it's also really *stupid* of you."

After that, Dan Hugh turned to his five hundred men and hollered proudly, "Brothers! What should we do with this man who'd beat up our men?"

"Fight!"

"Fight!"

Chapter 30 Big Brother Draco Is Here

“Fight!”

As the war god of the Western District, Dan Hugh had no shortage of bloodthirsty warriors at his command. At the moment, all of them were gathered at the entrance of the area, shouting war cries and waving their weapons in the air.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 31 Where Nathan Cross Came From

Dan Hugh raised his right hand to get his subordinates to quieten down.

Then, he turned around to face Nathan Cross and his pale-faced companions. "You want to fight?" He asked, lips curved upwards into a nasty grin.

Nathan Cross returned his smile. "You sure?"

Dan Hugh was about to say something snarky but was cut off by the sound of sirens in the distance.

Soon, several anti-hijacking vehicles carrying the elite members of the police force arrived at the scene, sirens blaring.

As Dan Hugh and his subordinates watched with widened eyes, the police surrounded them with their vehicles, leaving no room to escape.

An army of black-clad paramilitary personnel swiftly emerged from their vehicles, each of them carrying submachine guns.

Within seconds, Dan Hugh and his forces were completely engulfed by the

paramilitary personnel.

As everyone watched in awe, a colonel strode to Nathan Cross and saluted smartly, "Senior Officer Colin Dunne of the Dragonfury Special Forces reporting for duty, Sir. We have a thousand elite fighters ready for operation."

Nathan Cross looked at Dan Hugh and company, who were completely frozen in fear. "Let's fight!" He yelled.

One thousand elite fighters faced the gangsters and hollered in unison, "Let's fight!"

Clank!

The metal bar in a gangster's hand fell onto the floor with a loud clatter. He raised his hand and admitted in a trembling voice, "I surrender..."

Clank, clank, clank...

The gangsters began to toss their weapons away like they were burning hot, before raising their hands in a collective show of defeat.

Clank!!

The machete in the Nine Tattoo Dragon's hand fell to the floor as well. With fear in his eyes, he raised his hands as well, admitting defeat together with his subordinates.

He had a terrifying presence in the underground of Channing.

He could make someone evaporate off the face of the earth if he had wanted to.

Yet, when faced with a fully equipped elite force, he was helpless.

He might have just wet his pants from being held at gunpoint, let alone from fighting.

The latter would mean certain death.

Not only were Dan Hugh and his gangsters in a state of shock, Penny Smith and the others from Cross Corporation could not help but stare with their mouths agape.

Bob Hoffman and his workers looked at Nathan Cross as they tried to guess his backstory.

How did he get the senior officers of the elite forces to answer to his command?

Penny Smith had gotten mentally stronger after taking part in the operation to save her daughter, and she figured that Nathan Cross must have gotten the help of the old chief.

She felt that Nathan Cross was really lucky to retain the fondness of the old chief even after leaving the armed forces.

Seeing that Dan Hugh had surrendered, Nathan Cross glared at him. "What do you mean by this? Weren't you asking for a fight just now?"

Dan Hugh forced himself to speak, "I'm sorry, I underestimated you. Just let me go, I'm begging you! I'll compensate you in full, Sir."

Piak!

Nathan Cross slapped Dan Hugh across the face just as he finished his sentence. It was such a robust slap that two teeth fell out of his mouth, his cheeks swelling like dough left to rise.

Chapter 31 Where Nathan Cross Came From

Nathan Cross scoffed and said, “How about those lives of ordinary people that you’ve ruined? I can’t believe you’re actually asking *me* for mercy now.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 32 I Do Not Need To Blackmail You

Dan Hugh was terrified by Nathan Cross and his forces, yet it did not change the fact that he had mercilessly ended countless lives.

Even so, he almost went berserk when Nathan Cross slapped him, though the malicious glint in his eyes disappeared as quickly as it came.

He covered his face with his hands and lowered his head in silence. *Fine, I'll let you have your way this time. I'm probably only going to get three years in jail for disrupting public order anyway,* he thought.

I'll come back to haunt you in three years' time.

Nathan Cross's lips curved upwards as he looked at Dan Hugh. "Let me guess, you're thinking about how you're going to come back and murder my family after a couple of years of jail for disrupting public order?"

Dan Hugh looked up in shock, yet he refused to admit it. "I wouldn't dare..."

Chapter 32 I Do Not Need To Blackmail You

Nathan Cross glared at Dan Hugh and scoffed, “It doesn’t matter if you admit it or not. Just forget about ever getting a chance to do that.”

Dan Hugh shivered when he heard those words, as though he had come to a kind of realization. “I know you’re rich and powerful and all, but you can’t punish me for private matters in front of everyone here!” He yelled desperately.

He suddenly turned to the workers from Cross Corporation and the passers-by and yelled, “He’s punishing me for private grudges! Hurry up and record this! I need someone to be my witness!”

“He wants me to die for disrupting public order! If something happens to me, someone has to seek justice for me!”

Nathan Cross glanced at Dan Hugh, who was still shouting like a clown. “Are you done?”

Dan Hugh froze, before giving a frightened look to Nathan Cross.

Chapter 32 I Do Not Need To Blackmail You

“I don’t even want to try counting the number of crimes you’ve committed over the years. It’s probably enough to get you the death penalty ten times over anyway. Too bad you ended up in my hands.” Nathan Cross explained calmly.

Dan Hugh went pale at the sound of that. His eyes were filled with fear, yet he continued to struggle against reality. “I don’t know what you’re talking about. Are you trying to blackmail me?”

“Blackmail?”

Nathan Cross scoffed, “Do I need to? I can dig out all your crimes with just one phone call,” he announced, before calling Colin Dunne to his side.

Understanding what he had meant, Colin Dunne immediately pulled out his phone to make a call.

Within five minutes, Colin Dunne’s phone rang.

He answered the call and pressed the

Chapter 32 I Do Not Need To Blackmail You

speaker button. A loud and clear voice came through, cutting through the still air like a knife.

“In ‘03, Dan Hugh went to gamble in Alberesque City, but he’d lost. He suspected that the investor Bennett Xander had cheated during the game, so he sent a hitman after Xander to get him killed.”

“In the same year, Dan Hugh escaped to Channing and gathered a gang of locals to stir up trouble all over the city. He killed nine people with a knife singlehandedly once.”

“In ‘05, he was bribed by a local merchant to kill the family of Caleb Lance, who was a foreign businessman...”

Dan Hugh’s face was ashen as he stared at them with widened eyes.

His past crimes had all been swept under the carpet long ago, and yet someone had managed to unearth them for the world to see.

Chapter 32 I Do Not Need To Blackmail You

The person speaking read each one of his wrongdoings aloud, and his desperation grew with each passing minute.

He stared at Nathan Cross with genuine fear in his eyes.

A simple order from Nathan Cross was enough to uncover all the unsolved crimes he had committed over the years, which had only proved how powerful Nathan Cross was.

Everyone standing around them glared at Dan Hugh. Most of them knew that he was not a good citizen, but they had underestimated how much of a monster he truly was.

The voice continued to expose his heinous crimes.

Suddenly, Nathan Cross interrupted the person on the phone, "Alright, stop. All this is enough to send him to hell."

Dan Hugh went boneless and collapsed onto the ground with a loud thump. He

Chapter 32 I Do Not Need To Blackmail You

turned to Nathan Cross and pleaded for mercy like a dying animal, “Please, let me go...”

Nathan Cross merely scoffed and pronounced, “Why don’t you tell that to Hades himself?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chapter 33 Punishment For Your Crimes

“Send these people and evidence of their crimes to the police, and make sure no one escapes. They will be dealt with severely,” Nathan Cross told Colin Dunne.

“Yes, Sir!”

Colin Dunne gave Nathan Cross a resounding salute, before commanding his forces to take Dan Hugh and his goons away.

Bob Hoffman and his workers had only recovered from their shock after the special forces left the scene.

Penny Smith whispered to Nathan Cross, “Can you explain this? Why do you need so many elite fighters to arrest Dan Hugh?”

Nathan Cross blinked and smiled. “Didn’t I tell you? I used to be in the military. My former chief just happened to be in Channing with his troops for an anti-terrorism operation, so Dan Hugh was just really unlucky.”

“Then...why did that officer just now

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address you as his senior?" Bob Hoffman asked curiously.

Penny Smith looked at Nathan Cross as well, waiting for an answer.

Nathan Cross's smile was unwavering. "They were probably just being nice to me for the chief's sake."

That managed to convince the others that Nathan Cross was merely an ordinary retired soldier.

Dan Hugh and his gang had been really unlucky to run headfirst into an anti-terrorism operation, which had resulted in their arrest.

That was the punishment for all their crimes.

However, Penny Smith continued to stare at Nathan Cross with a doubtful expression.

Nathan Cross' story seemed reasonable enough, yet she could not help but wonder

Chapter 33 Punishment For Your Crimes

if there was more to it.

Nathan Cross changed the subject,
“Alright, the troublemakers are gone now,
so let’s get back to work, shall we?”

...

Night fell, and the broadcast of the news
of the day began.

Meanwhile, in the Smith family mansion...

The important members of the Smiths sat
around the dining table for dinner while
watching the news on TV.

“Samuel, if I remember it correctly, Cross
Corporation is demolishing Asiatic village
today, yes? How’s the deal with the Nine
Tattoo Dragon?” Sean Smith asked.

Samuel Smith grinned. “I got some intel
from Big Brother Draco this morning. He
had already sent people to wreck the
machinery that Cross was going to use, as
well as to beat up the workers on the
project. That should be enough to scare

Chapter 33 Punishment For Your Crimes

them off.”

“I didn’t manage to get any more updates after that because of my meeting this afternoon.”

Sean Smith was satisfied with his answer. “Very good. Give him a call now, and tell him to stir up as much trouble as possible. Penny Smith needs to understand that she’s incapable of managing this project on her own.”

Samuel Smith nodded and took out his phone to call Dan Hugh.

However, he froze the moment he started the call.

Everyone at the table looked at Samuel Smith in confusion. “What’s wrong?”

Samuel Smith was just as bewildered as they were. “It’s saying that his phone is off. Did his phone run out of battery or something?”

Suddenly, Miles Smith pointed at their

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huge LCD TV mounted on the wall. “Look! It’s Big Brother Draco!”

Everyone whirled around to look at the screen, only to see troops of paramilitary loading the gangsters into their vehicles.

The camera then cut to one of them, who had happened to be the Nine Tattoo Dragon himself.

The voice of the newscaster resounded, “An anti-crime operation was carried out in the city today, which resulted in the capturing of a group of dangerous criminals. They are headed by Dan Hugh, who has committed a number of serious crimes over the past few years. He will be dealt with severely...”

The Smiths took a while to recover from their shock. “Big Brother Draco...got busted?” Samuel Smith croaked after a long moment.

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The Smiths could only sit in silent shock after seeing the Nine Tattoo Dragon get busted on TV.

Soon, Samuel Smith managed to figure out what had exactly happened to him using his connections.

After he hung up his last call, he gave his family a pained smile. “Apparently, a military chief was in town with his troops for an anti-terrorism operation, and Big Brother Draco just happened to fall into their trap.”

The members of the family exchanged looks amongst themselves upon hearing that.

“No wonder Penny Smith could summon the elite fighters to deal with Big Brother Draco! Looks like they just got lucky!” Paul Smith blurted out suddenly.

Sean Smith scowled, “That little bastard! How did she even get so lucky?”

“Dad, I believe that it’s time to increase pressure on Penny Smith.” Samuel Smith said.

Sean Smith frowned. “With Dan Hugh in prison, how else are you going to force Penny Smith to hand over the project?”

“Joseph Myers from the Central Summit Corporation has expressed his interest in this project,” explained Samuel Smith with a smile.

“I can try persuading him to pressure Penny Smith into handing the project over.”

Sean Smiths’ eyes lit up immediately. “Central Summit is a robust company, so I highly doubt that Cross will stand a chance if they enter the picture.”

“She’ll definitely come back to us once she realizes that she’s in deep trouble.”

“If that happens, the project will come back to us once and for all.”

Samuel Smith nodded before continuing, “That’s right. Once we wrestle back ownership of the project, we can work in tandem with Central Summit to complete it. Perhaps we can even propose marriage between our kids and their kids so that we can join the ranks of the Myers family.”

Sean Smith was slightly taken aback.
“Marriage? What do you mean?”

Samuel Smith gave him a nasty grin.
“Joseph Myers has also expressed interest
in marrying Penny Smith, Dad.”

Everyone was shocked at the sound of
that.

Joseph Myers was a fifty-year-old man
who had gotten married three times, only
for all of his wives to die early.

Even so, he still ranked high amongst the
nobility of Channing, considering his
position as CEO of the Central Summit
Corporation.

Sean Smith frowned. “Penny Smith had a
child outside of wedlock, and I don’t even
know what’s going on between her and
that jerk Nathan Cross. Would Mr. Myers
even agree to this?”

Samuel Smith’s smile was unwavering.
“You don’t have to worry about that, Dad.
Mr. Myers is especially fond of young
women like Penny Smith.”

Samuel Smith heaved a sigh of relief, “Fine

then. If that's true, then I guess that little bastard can thank the Gods."

...

For the next few days, workers commissioned by the Cross Corporation worked tirelessly to demolish the aged buildings at Asiatic Village.

Every shovel of dirt they threw aside was like the money that was poured into this project.

Since the start of the project, the Cross Corporation's funds were constantly draining out their inventories.

Penny Smith had taken five million from Nathan Cross as start-up funds when she had first set up the Cross Corporation.

He threw another twenty million into the mix soon after they had started on the project.

Even so, Cross Corporation's budget was still rather tight.

Penny Smith began to worry about money, yet she did not bring it up in front of

Nathan Cross.

She figured that Nathan Cross had already spent a lot on cars, houses and Cross Corporation itself, so she did not want to burden him any further.

However, the Asiatic Shopping Mall construction project was still in its early stages, and they would need a ton of money to pay for both current and future expenses.

Penny Smith pondered over it for a long time, and she figured that the only way to get around this issue would be to get sponsorship.

She actively sought out several reputable foundations and presented them with the business plans she had carefully curated beforehand.

To her horror, all of them rejected her proposal.

Most of them were fond of the project but were concerned with how inexperienced Penny Smith was with managing such a young company.

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As a result, Penny Smith could not get a single partnership.



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At night, Penny Smith dragged her tired body back home.

Benson and Leah had just prepared a sumptuous dinner for all of them, while Nathan Cross was playing with his daughter on the sofa.

When the little girl saw her mother, she immediately ran over and giggled, "Welcome home, Mama! Let's play!"

Penny Smith bent down to peck a kiss on her daughter's face. "Mama is really tired from work. Can we play during the weekends?" She whispered.

Queenie Smith nodded. "Alright then. Can you sit down, Mama? I'll ask Papa to give you a massage."

Queenie Smith pulled Penny Smith over to the sofa and started giving her a shoulder massage. "Papa, can you massage Mama's feet? Mama has been really busy earning money for us," requested Queenie Smith.

Penny Smith's face was scarlet, and she tried to wave it off.

However, before she could protest, Nathan Cross had already yanked her high heels off her feet.

He placed her stockings-clad feet onto his lap and gently massaged them. "Queenie is right. Mama has been really busy, so Papa has to be nice to Mama."

Penny Smith's face grew a shade darker, as she tried to wriggle herself out to no avail.

To her relief, Leah Smith emerged from the kitchen and yelled, "What are you up to? It's time for dinner."

Penny Smith swung her legs off Nathan Cross's lap hurriedly and slipped into her high heels again. "Yeah, let's go eat."

Leah Smith smiled warmly and pretended to not see what was going on. She picked her granddaughter up and walked towards the dining room.

Penny Smith felt humiliated, and she whispered to Nathan Cross, "It's all your fault! I bet Mom thinks we're weird now."

Nathan Cross simply chuckled, "You seem

pretty busy these days. Did something go wrong? Why don't you tell me about it?"

Penny Smith shook her head. "Nothing much. It's just that we were having some difficulties finding sponsors for this project since none of them are particularly fond of us."

Nathan Cross hummed, "Don't worry. They'll be begging to secure a deal with you in a couple of days' time."

Penny Smith did not know how she should feel about it. "Yeah, dream on."

Soon after, the family sat down to enjoy their delicious meal.

However, Penny Smith only managed to take a few bites before her phone rang all of a sudden.

She walked to the balcony to answer it, and when she came back, her expression was grim.

"What's wrong?" Nathan Cross asked quietly.

"It's Joseph Myers from the Central

Summit Corporation. He said that he wants to invest in this project, and would like to have a discussion about it at the Juno Hotel.”

“Weren’t you desperate for sponsors? Why the long face?” Nathan Cross asked.

“However, it’s not like I’d asked them for help in the first place, so why are they actively contacting me about it?”

She paused for a second before continuing, “Besides, I’ve heard that Joseph Myers was a rather...shady person. Should I still go and meet him?”

“If that’s the case, then I’ll drive you there. I’ll check if he’s being serious about this,” offered Nathan Cross.

In reality, Penny Smith was going easy on him when she described him as ‘shady’.

He was infamous for being a pervert, so many businesswomen did all they could to steer clear of him.

Penny Smith was relieved to hear Nathan Cross’ offer to drive her to the meeting.

“Sure. Though, I must remind you to keep

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your temper in check. You can't be beating up people as you please.”

Nathan Cross smiled. “Don't worry. I won't go around picking fights, but I won't fight for nothing as well.”



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