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## Chapter 36 Nathan Cross Is My Husband

The Jade Chamber, Juno Hotel.

A fifty-year-old plump man by the name of Joseph Myers was enjoying some wine with Miles and May Smith as a couple of uniform-clad bodyguards stood guard with their hands by their sides.

May Smith stood up to pour wine for Joseph Myers. "We're your juniors, Mr. Myers, so it would be great if you could help us out in the future as a senior."

Joseph Myers studied May Smith's body-hugging gown as he took the glass of wine from her. He stroked her hand and laughed flirtatiously, "There's nothing like being around young people that makes me happy. I'm particularly fond of pretty ones like you, Mrs. Smith."

"You jerk!" May Smith spat.

Miles Smith offered out a silly grin from where he sat.

Suddenly, someone knocked on the door.



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It opened to reveal a gorgeous couple, led by a waiter.

“Ms. Smith is here, Mr. Myers,” announced the waiter, bowing his head low.

It had turned out that the pair that had just arrived were Nathan Cross and Penny Smith.

Penny Smith only realized that Mr. Myers had company after she entered the room.

She lost all respect for the Smith family after getting kicked out of it.

When she saw Miles and May Smith, she froze for a moment before saying, “So, you guys are here too. I guess there’s no need for me to be here anymore.”

She turned around to take her leave.

Before she could do so though, Miles Smith stood up and questioned, “What are you doing, Penny Smith?”

May Smith walked over as well. “You’re



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here to discuss sponsorship with Mr. Myers tonight, am I right? It isn't right to get your personal grudges involved when you're talking about business."

Joseph Myers smiled, "Ms. Smith, let's not get distracted by our emotions when we're talking about business. I hope that you're not going to embarrass me by walking out when I've already offered you a huge sum of money for sponsorship."

Penny Smith considered their words for a second. It would indeed be pretty foolish of her to walk out when her company was already desperately short on funds.

After all, the Myers were amongst the richest of Channing, and Joseph Myers himself often dabbled in both legal and underground businesses.

If she got herself into his bad books, she could forget about doing business in Channing ever again.

She forced herself to stay calm and plastered a smile onto her face. "You're



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right, Mr. Myers. I shouldn't let my emotions get in the way. Well then, shall we start the discussions?"

Joseph Myers smiled, "That's the way to go. Come, let's sit down."

He reached out for Penny Smith's waist to guide her to his lap.

However, before his hand could reach her, Nathan Cross stuck out his hand and grabbed it in a handshake.

Nathan Cross looked at Joseph Myers with a faked smile. "Nice to meet you, Mr. Myers."

Joseph Myers shot him a glare. "Who are you?"

Penny Smith had already noticed Joseph Myers' hand moving towards her waist and was about to sidestep it, so she was not expecting Nathan Cross to stop the molestation attempt before that.

She looked at Joseph Myers



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apprehensively and announced, "This is Nathan Cross, my husband."



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## Chapter 37 The Best Wine In The World

Joseph Myers stared at Nathan Cross and forced a smile onto his face. "So you're Ms. Smith's husband. What do you do for a living?"

"I protect the country." Nathan Cross said lightly.

Joseph Myers' eyes widened. "What?"

"Don't listen to him, Mr. Myers. He used to be a poor soldier who quit not long ago. He's unemployed now," chided Miles Smith with a grin.

Joseph Myers scoffed after he heard that. "Huh. I've never seen a poor soldier talk so highly about themselves."

He yanked his hand out from Nathan Cross's grasp after that, since he did not want to shake hands with some unemployed thug.

Miles and May Smith gave Nathan Cross and Penny Smith mocking glances.

Penny Smith looked at Nathan Cross



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## Chapter 37 The Best Wine In The World

anxiously, expecting him to fly into a rage and start beating people up for hurting his ego. He was not the type to let even the smallest insult slide.

Penny Smith grabbed Nathan Cross and spoke up for him, “No soldiers means no peace. Their duty is to protect the country for all of us. I don’t see anything wrong with what Nathan Cross just said, and besides, being a soldier is a huge honor itself!”

Joseph Myers was too distracted by Penny Smith’s curvy figure to continue the argument. “That’s right, that’s right. I’m convinced. Let’s sit down, shall we?”

The five of them took their seats at the table.

Joseph Myers told his assistant to bring them a bottle of wine, and it turned out to be a top-tier La Romanee-Conti that could cost well over a million for a bottle.

La Romanee-Conti was regarded as the best wine in the world, and even the famed





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## Chapter 37 The Best Wine In The World

Lafite would pale in comparison to it.

Joseph Myers clearly wanted to prove his wealthiness to Penny Smith.

He figured that no woman would be able to resist such an extravagant display of wealth, let alone someone like Penny Smith whose company was in desperate need of money.

Both Miles and May Smith were shocked when they were presented with the bottle of La Romanee-Conti. There was no shortage of people in the world who owned expensive cars, but it was rare to find someone who could spare the money for a bottle of wine that costs millions.

May Smith took it upon herself to open the bottle and pour the wine into a decanter, before serving the wine to everyone at the table.

Joseph Myers picked up his glass of wine and smiled. "Let's have a toast for Ms. Smith, Miles, May and uh...who's that again?"



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## Chapter 37 The Best Wine In The World

“Nathan Cross!” Penny Smith exclaimed.

Joseph Myers smiled apologetically.

“Right, for Nathan Cross. Well would you look at that! My memory’s failing me.”

Everyone could tell that Joseph Myers was just poking fun at Nathan Cross for being a minor figure that was too insignificant for him to take note of.

Nathan Cross smiled. “It’s alright. You won’t forget me after this.”

Joseph Myers sensed some kind of fierceness in Nathan Cross’ words, and he scoffed, “I probably will. After all, I’ve met countless prominent figures and gotten many deals, so I probably won’t remember an ordinary person after one meeting.”

Penny Smith could feel the tension in the air and decided to intervene, “Let’s drink!”

She raised her glass and emptied it in one shot.

Joseph Myers smiled and picked up his



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## Chapter 37 The Best Wine In The World

wine glass together with Miles and May Smith.

However, he suddenly turned to Nathan Cross after only a light sip and asked, "Let me guess. You've never had such fine wine before, am I right?"

Miles and May Smith sneered at Nathan Cross upon hearing that.

They could tell that Joseph Myers said it on purpose.

Showing off his wealth in front of Penny Smith and degrading Nathan Cross at the same time...

It would definitely impact Penny Smith's view on both Nathan Cross and Joseph Myers.

Joseph Myers would be able to topple Nathan Cross from his place in her heart and win her over for sure.

He's truly a master of this game!



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## Chapter 37 The Best Wine In The World

Everyone's gaze turned to Nathan Cross, expecting to see him seething with anger and desperation.

Penny Smith began to worry for her husband's ego, and she considered walking out to save her husband some face.

Even if she loses the deal, she will not allow her husband be trampled over.

However, Nathan Cross was strangely calm.

With everyone's eyes trained on him, he picked up his glass of wine and took a sip, before spitting it out unceremoniously and thumping the glass back down. "It's fake."



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## Chapter 38 The Chief Sommelier Noah Boros

Everyone stared at Joseph Myers in shock and disbelief.

Joseph Myers' face darkened as he growled, "Now, boy, you can eat crap, but don't you dare talk crap."

"I took out my best wine for this gathering, and you're calling it fake? If you can't prove it today, I'll make sure to stuff the bottle down your throat!"

It was never a good idea to anger Mr. Myers.

The Smith couple looked at Nathan Cross smugly. *How dare he accuse Mr. Myers of such atrocious deeds?*

If Nathan Cross fails to back up his allegations, the bodyguards standing around would definitely be forcing the whole bottle down his throat.

Penny Smith began to panic when she saw Joseph Myers flying into a rage.

Protecting her husband from Joseph



## Chapter 38 The Chief Sommelier Noah Boros

Myers' revenge schemes mattered more to her than the sponsorship deal itself.

She immediately stood up and pulled Nathan Cross by the arm. "I'm sorry, Mr. Myers. My husband doesn't drink much wine, so he probably isn't that knowledgeable about it. Can I apologize on his behalf?"

"Honey, you don't have to. I do prefer domestic wine over foreign ones, though I must say that it's pretty obvious that this La Romanee-Conti is fake," assured Nathan Cross calmly.

He turned to look at Joseph Myers with his cold gaze. "If you want to invest in this project, I'm more than happy to accept your offer, even if you have ulterior motives. What I can't accept is how you tried to bluff everyone with this counterfeit wine, Don't even get me started on how rude you've been to me since the beginning."

"Fine then! If you keep insisting that the wine here is fake, why don't you prove it?"



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## Chapter 38 The Chief Sommelier Noah Boros

Joseph Myers snarled.

“If you can prove that it’s real, I’ll let you do whatever you want with me,” relented Nathan Cross.

Joseph Myers gave him a cruel grin. “Alright. If I can prove that this wine is real, then you’ll have to swallow the bottle. If you resist, I’ll get my bodyguards to force it down.”

“And if I manage to prove that it’s fake?” Nathan Cross asked with a smile.

A hint of fear flashed across Joseph Myers’ eyes, though it faded as quickly as it appeared. “I’ll let you do whatever you want with me,” He declared.

Nathan Cross smiled. “Sure. If I can prove that this wine is fake, I’ll just smash your big fat head in with this bottle then.”

The Smith couple sat by the sidelines as witnesses and watched the drama unfold with huge smiles on their faces.



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## Chapter 38 The Chief Sommelier Noah Boros

Penny Smith had not expected Nathan Cross to start challenging Joseph Myers, nor did she see this bet coming.

It was too late for her to stop him.

She grabbed Nathan Cross's hands anxiously. "How could Mr. Myers' wine be fake? Why are you getting into a conflict with him over this? We're dead meat if you lose."

"Whether or not he has the money to sponsor you has nothing to do with the authenticity of this bottle of wine. By the way, we won't lose. This is definitely a counterfeit," announced Nathan Cross with confidence..

"Such an arrogant thug! I'll make you regret your life choices tonight," sneered Joseph Myers.

He turned to one of his assistants. "You! Go and find the chief sommelier of this hotel. I want him to prove that this wine is the real deal!"





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## Chapter 38 The Chief Sommelier Noah Boros

“Yes, Sir!” The assistant said, before exiting the room.

Within minutes, the assistant returned with the chief sommelier of Juno Hotel, Noah Boros.

Juno Hotel was one of the most well-known five-star hotels in Channing, while Noah Boros was its chief sommelier who specialized in red wine appraising.

Joseph Myers waved his hand the moment he saw Noah Boros approaching him. “Mr. Boros, thank you so much for coming. This person here is accusing me of bringing fake La Romanee-Conti to the table. Why don’t you try it and tell us if it’s fake or not?”



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Chapter 39 Richest Man Of Channing Zachary Schulz

Noah Boros walked over quickly and shook hands with Joseph Myers. “La Romanee-Conti, the best red wine in the world. I’ll take this very seriously.”

May Smith had already prepared a small glass of wine using the decanter. She handed the glass over to Noah Boros.

“I’ve seen Mr. Boros’ wine tasting workshops on TV. I’m very impressed by your expertise in this field, and we would be very honored to see you in action.” She announced with a smile.

Noah Boros took the wine and smiled. “You’re being too nice.”

Joseph Myers began to get impatient. “Mr. Boros, please taste it. I want these ignorant thugs to know that they messed with the wrong crowd today!”

Noah Boros nodded as he swirled the wine around for a few moments.

After that, he closed his eyes and put the glass under his nose to get a whiff of its



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Chapter 39 Richest Man Of Channing Zachary Schulz

scent. A satisfied expression appeared on his face immediately.

He took a light sip from the glass and immediately looked enchanted by its taste.

He opened his eyes. "It's the unmistakable taste of La Romanee-Conti from 1990!" He exclaimed excitedly.

The moment Noah Boros said that Penny Smith's anxious expression turned to one of horror.

Miles Smith picked up the bottle, and printed on the bottle was a line in French proving that it was produced in 1990. "Wow! Mr. Boros is such a professional. This is indeed top-tier 1990 La Romanee-Conti."

May Smith grinned. "Well then, it seems that you have lost the bet, Nathan Cross."

Joseph Myers and company collectively turned their gazes towards Nathan Cross. "You've lost. Now eat the bottle, before I get my bodyguards to help you," sneered



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Chapter 39 Richest Man Of Channing Zachary Schulz

Joseph Myers.

Penny Smith panicked and was about to plead for mercy, but Nathan Cross spoke up before she could say a word, “Did I really?” He asked, grinning.

Joseph Myers’s face grew darker. “I’ve already gotten a professional to taste this wine, and you’re backing out of the deal now?”

Nathan Cross glanced at Noah Boros jeeringly. “Your so-called ‘professional’ took a sip, looked at you like he just cleared his bowels after days of constipation and said that it’s real. You’re going to believe him?”



Noah Boros flew into a rage. “You ignorant brat! How dare you insinuate that I don’t know my wine!”

Joseph Myers scoffed, “Looks like you’re not going to concede defeat. Can someone get here and stuff this bottle down his throat?”



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## Chapter 39 Richest Man Of Channing Zachary Schulz

Right after he uttered those words, the door to the room flew open.

A group of people, led by a plump, red-faced old man in ancient-style robes, swarmed into the room. The old man was holding on to a bottle of wine, and he started to look around the moment he entered the room. "Mr. Cross? Is Mr. Cross here?"

"Oh my, look who's here! It's the billionaire of Channing, Mr. Zachary Schulz!" Joseph Myers exclaimed out of shock.



"Oh, you're here too, Myers!" Zachary Schulz announced.

Joseph Myers may be a prominent figure in Channing, but he was nothing compared to Zachary Schulz.

"That's right. Why are you here, Mr. Schulz?" Joseph Myers asked with a forced smile.

Before Zachary Schulz could open his mouth, a square-faced man beside him



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Chapter 39 Richest Man Of Channing Zachary Schulz

spoke up in a loud and clear voice. "I've been ordered to send this bottle of wine to Mr. Nathan Cross along with Mr. Schulz."

Joseph Myers froze when he saw the square-faced man.

He was no other than Henry Jacobson, the head of the Channing City Agri-Food and Pharmaceutical Inspection Authority.



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Joseph Myers stared at Schulz and Jacobson incredulously. “Y-you came to deliver wine to Nathan Cross?” He stammered.

Everyone else in the room were shocked as well.

The richest man in Channing, together with the leader of the inspection authority for food and medicine, had taken it upon themselves to deliver wine to Nathan Cross.

*How powerful was Nathan Cross, really?*

“That’s right. We’re here to deliver this wine to Mr. Cross. Where is he?” Schulz asked.

“That would be me,” answered Nathan Cross, smiling.

The crowd immediately closed in on him, and Schulz carefully handed over the wine in his hands like they were some kind of treasure. “Mr. Cross, I heard that you’d wanted some top-quality La Romanee-Conti, so allow me to present this bottle to



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## Chapter 40 | Am Nathan Cross

you. It's from 1990, and I've kept it for a long time."

Zachary Schulz and Henry Jacobson had received a call from an officer named Colin Dunne who had asked them to bring a bottle of La Romanee-Conti to Mr. Cross.

When they heard that this Mr. Cross had served as the Captain under the General of the National Guards and was well-loved by the General, they immediately set off with the bottle of wine in tow.

Nathan Cross took the wine that Zachary Schulz handed over and studied it for a couple of seconds. "Mr. Schulz, Mr. Jacobson, you came just in time. Joseph Myers was boasting about his bottle of La Romanee-Conti just now, so I would really appreciate it if you could help me determine if it's a counterfeit or not."

Joseph Myers' face paled the moment Nathan Cross said that.

Zachary Schulz frowned. "There were only seven thousand, four hundred and forty





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## Chapter 40 | Am Nathan Cross

bottles of La Romanee-Conti produced in 1990. I highly doubt that many of them still exist now, since it's been three decades. I collect top-tier wine for a hobby, so if there really is another bottle of 1990 La Romanee-Conti, then it would definitely be in my wine cellar.”

“I don't even need to look at that bottle to know that it's fake.”

Nathan Cross smiled. “No, I insist. We have a bet here, so please inspect it thoroughly.”

The two men inspected Joseph Myers' bottle of wine carefully.

Zachary Schulz had an extensive collection of the finest red wine in Channing stowed away in his wine cellars, so his wine-tasting skills were pretty much indisputable.

As for Henry Jacobson, he worked his way up from the bottom in the inspection authority and had been put in charge of sniffing out fake wine and medicine sold in



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## Chapter 40 | Am Nathan Cross

the market for decades. He was highly capable of determining the authenticity of Joseph Myers' wine.

They came to a conclusion very soon. Zachary Schulz glared at Joseph Myers and Noah Boros. "You're saying that this crap is the real deal?"

Noah Boros shook with fear and he stammered, "M-Mr. Schulz, I was told to lie about it when Mr. Myers' assistant came to find me..."

"He gave me thirty thousand to do it. I'm sorry!"

Joseph Myers' dignity was in shreds. His face turned increasingly ashen.

He glanced at Nathan Cross fearfully. "Fine, you win this time. Who knew that you could get the help of Schulz and Jacobson? I'll get you next time."

After that, he made a move to leave with his assistant.



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## Chapter 40 | Am Nathan Cross

However, Nathan Cross stopped him in his tracks. “Hold up. You’re just going to leave after the big reveal?”

Joseph Myers opened his mouth to protest, but before he could say anything, Nathan Cross had already picked up the bottle from the table and brought it down on his head in a flash.

With a loud pop, the wine bottle shattered into smithereens, and blood gushed down Joseph Myers’ face.

Nathan Cross threw the broken bottle aside and scoffed, “I just wanted to teach you a little lesson. If you dare to mess with my wife ever again, you’ll die a horrible death.”



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## Chapter 40 | Am Nathan Cross

The doctors had just finished patching up Joseph Myers' head wound at the hospital.

The Smith couple and a few of Joseph Myers' assistants stood at the side, cowering in fear.

Joseph Myers had never been so humiliated in his life.

If the public heard of him getting a bottle smashed on his head by some jobless guy, his reputation would be ruined forever.

Suddenly, a man in an Armani's suit burst into the room along with a few of his subordinates. It was John Miller, the young master of the Juno Hotel.

Turns out, John Miller had panicked when he heard that Joseph Myers had been beaten up within the walls of Juno Hotel, so he rushed over to visit him. The last thing he wanted was for Joseph Myers to start blaming the hotel.

Unfortunately, Joseph Myers was still fuming when John Miller entered. "Mr.



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## Chapter 41 The Confidence That Nathan Cross Had

Miller, how are you going to compensate me for this?"

"Mr. Myers, please calm down. I've already gotten hold of Nathan Cross's background." John Miller said hurriedly.

"He was indeed a poor soldier, but he also happened to be the savior of Thomas Dunn. Thomas Dunn calls him Young Master, and provides him with any assistance he needs."

"I think that it was Thomas Dunn who asked Schulz and Johnson to help Nathan Cross out."

Joseph Myers frowned upon hearing John Miller's words. "Thomas Dunn?"

The Smiths piped up as well, "That's right, Nathan Cross is nothing by himself. He just happened to be on good terms with Thomas Dunn of the Eastern District, so it must have been Dunn who sent those two people to help Nathan Cross out."

An angry flame flickered in Joseph Myers'



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## Chapter 41 The Confidence That Nathan Cross Had

eyes. “Looks like he’s just riding off Thomas Dunn’s coattails.”

“Mr. Myers, Thomas Dunn may be a newbie in the Channing underground, but he’s really scary!” Miles Smith exclaimed,

“That’s right. One of our uncles even got beaten up by his subordinates in the Cloud Palace. It’s too risky to get involved in their business, so let’s just give up, Mr. Myers,” suggested May Smith.

Joseph Myers scoffed, “What makes Thomas Dunn think he can be such a show-off in front of me?”

“I’ll get rid of Nathan Cross no matter what it takes! Thomas Dunn had better stay out of this. If he dares to mess with my plans, I won’t hesitate to drag him down as well.”

“I take full responsibility for this incident, Mr. Myers,” apologized John Miller.

“I can help you dispose of Nathan Cross if you can stop Thomas Dunn from sending him help.”



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## Chapter 41 The Confidence That Nathan Cross Had

Joseph Myers nodded in approval. “Very good. I’ll find someone respectable enough in the underground to warn Thomas Dunn against interfering.”

“As for Nathan Cross, I’ll leave him to you. I hope that you won’t disappoint me.”

John Miller smiled. “I will teach Nathan Cross a lesson for you, Mr. Myers. I promise that I will put an end to this as per your request.”

“That would be great. I’ll consider expanding the business partnership with your family if you succeed,” agreed Joseph Myers, visibly happy.

“Oh! Thank you in advance, Mr. Myers.”  
John Miller thanked excitedly.

...

Meanwhile...

Nathan Cross and Penny Smith were sitting in their car and heading home.



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## Chapter 41 The Confidence That Nathan Cross Had

“Nathan, what’s up with Jacobson and Schulz?” Penny Smith asked all of a sudden.

Nathan Cross smiled. “Myers was getting out of control, so I sent for someone to bring a bottle of genuine La Romanee-Conti to shut him up.”

Penny Smith figured that it was Thomas Dunn who helped them out. She gave him a strained smile and sighed, “I know you taught him a lesson this time, but now that we’ve completely angered him, we’re only going to suffer from now on.”

“So what? I don’t think he’s worthy of my attention,” confessed Nathan Cross.

Penny Smith sighed, “His net worth is in the billions, and he works with both the conventional and underground markets. He’s amassed a vast network of connections too.”

“Every rich person in Channing takes his words very seriously, so if he refuses to invest in Cross Corporation, then we’re





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Chapter 41 The Confidence That Nathan Cross Had

done for.”

Nathan Cross smiled lightly. “No worries. He isn’t the one in command of Channing’s aristocrats.”

“Just trust me. Our company will be flooded by investors begging to sponsor us in just three days’ time.”

Penny Smith could not help but wonder if Nathan Cross had been underestimating Joseph Myers’ wrath.

She felt the urge to tell him to snap out of it, but she could not bring herself to scold her husband. Sighing, she began considering taking out a loan from the bank.

If she could not get a loan, then she would be left with no choice but to swallow her pride and ask the Smiths for help.

Even though the Smiths had chased her out of the family, they would probably still agree to invest in her company for the profits.



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## Chapter 41 The Confidence That Nathan Cross Had

However, knowing her grandfather and uncle's way of doing things, they would definitely come up with a strict set of terms and conditions for her if she were to ever go back to them for help.



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## Chapter 42 David Nelson

Early next morning, Nathan Cross and Penny Smith drove their daughter to her kindergarten as usual.

They parked their car near the entrance of the kindergarten and took their daughter to the gates personally, taking a moment to talk with her teacher about their daughter's behavior in school.

When they returned to their car afterwards, they were horrified to find that their beloved BMW M760Li xDrive had been smashed to pieces.

The rearview mirror, front lights and windows have all been reduced to glass shards that were strewn across the ground.

A crowd had formed around the broken car, their quiet chatters filling the air.

Nathan Cross' face darkened at the sight of that.

"What happened? Who did this to our car?" Penny Smith yelled desperately.



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## Chapter 42 David Nelson

At that moment, Penny Smith's phone rang. It was an unknown number.

She frowned and answered the call, "Hello?"

"This is Ms. Smith, am I right? I'm sure you've noticed that your car's been destroyed, yes?" A male voice boomed from the other end of the line.

"You did it, didn't you?" Penny Smith screamed.

"I didn't say that," replied the man, scoffing.

Nathan Cross took her phone and pressed it against his ear. "Who are you?"

"Are you Nathan Cross? Well, it's not like you can do anything to me, so I'll just tell you who I am." The man sneered upon hearing Nathan Cross's voice. "I am John Miller, president of Juno Hotel."

"Smashing your car is just an appetizer. If you don't go to Mr. Myers' place and ask for mercy within twenty-four hours, get



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## Chapter 42 David Nelson

ready to receive the full course,” he threatened.

“No need for that. You’ll be pleading for my mercy in half a day, or you’ll be losing your business,” warned Nathan Cross coldly.

“Haha! Losing my business in half a day? What a joke...”

Before John Miller could finish his sentence, Nathan Cross had already hung up.

After that, he called Mia, the manager of the BMW showroom, and told her to send an identical car over to replace his smashed one.

Mia would help him deal with the paperwork and the wreckage in front of him as well.

Mia had been overjoyed when Nathan Cross had gifted her with a BMW 5 series the last time, hence she was jittery with excitement when Nathan Cross told her



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## Chapter 42 David Nelson

that he would give her what was left of his destroyed BMW M760Li xDrive.

She thanked him profusely.

Nathan Cross and Penny Smith left the scene with the new car that Mia had sent over.

Soon, they arrived at the entrance to a bank.

As it seemed, Penny Smith had contacted David Nelson, the director of the Channing Bank, after she had failed to secure sponsorship from other prominent companies.

They had agreed to meet and discuss the details of a potential loan from the bank.

The two of them walked into Channing Bank and were immediately greeted by Linda Brown, the lobby manager of the bank. "How can I help?" She asked, smiling.

"Hello, I am Penny Smith. I have an



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## Chapter 42 David Nelson

appointment with Director Nelson today regarding a loan from the bank,” Penny Smith responded immediately.

“Oh, you’re Ms. Smith? Director Nelson had told us to bring you to him once you arrive. Right this way,” ushered Linda Brown.

“Thanks!” Penny Smith exclaimed, smiling.

Soon, they arrived at the private office of David Nelson.

David Nelson was about fifty years old, and his beer belly wobbled under his shirt. He had been watering the money plant near the window of his office when they came in.

When he saw Penny Smith, he immediately broke into a grin. “Why hello, Ms. Smith.”

“Director Nelson, we’re here to talk about the loan I am considering for my company,” explained Penny Smith, smiling.

David Nelson peered at Penny Smith’s curvy figure and smiled. “Sure thing. Linda,

Chapter 42 David Nelson

you may take your leave. Also, can you tell your bodyguard here to wait outside as well?”

“Oh, I forgot to introduce him to you. Director Nelson, this is my husband Nathan Cross. He’s not my bodyguard,” explained Penny Smith hurriedly.

David Nelson’s expression suddenly grew cold. “It doesn’t matter if he’s your husband or your bodyguard. He can’t stay here.”

“I don’t like it when other people are around during business negotiations.”

“Ms. Smith, if you’re not here to talk about the loan, then please leave.”



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## Chapter 42 David Nelson

Penny Smith frowned when she heard that. "Hubby, why don't you wait for me outside?" She asked Nathan Cross softly.

Nathan Cross glanced at Nathan Cross. "Alright," he agreed.

Linda Brown and Nathan Cross exited David Nelson's office. Linda Brown closed the door behind her and told Nathan Cross not to intrude no matter what would ensue. "Director Nelson hates it when his business meetings are interrupted," explained Linda Brown.

She left afterwards, leaving Nathan Cross alone in the corridor.

Back in the office, David Nelson told Penny Smith to sit down.

He stared at her flirtatiously and professed, "I did my homework on your project, Ms. Smith. Asiatic Shopping Mall is crucial to the development of the city, so local banks like us should give it our utmost support."



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## Chapter 43 I Am Not One Of Those Women

Penny Smith smiled and asked, "May I ask how much I can loan from the bank for this project? We are rather short of money."

David Nelson gave her a nasty grin. "That's up to me. As for the specifics, well...that will depend on how passionate you are."

Penny Smith froze. "How passionate I am?"

David Nelson gazed at her collar longingly and chuckled. "To be honest, when I first met you, I'd thought that you were the sexiest of them all."

"As for the loan, it would be ten million per piece of clothing you strip in front of me. By the time you strip everything, it would probably add up to about a hundred million."

He stared at her tall figure as he continued, "If you sleep with me for one night, I'll give you three hundred million at one go. How about that?"

Penny Smith flushed red in the face upon



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## Chapter 43 I Am Not One Of Those Women

hearing that and stood up immediately.  
“I’m sorry, Director Nelson. I’m not the type of woman you’re looking for. Goodbye.”

After that, she turned around to leave the office.

David Nelson knew that all he wanted was Penny Smith from the moment he had set eyes on her.

Seeing that she was about to disappear from his life, he ran up to her and grabbed at her hand. “Wait!”

He had barely reached her before the office door was kicked open with a loud bang.

David Nelson froze on the spot, startled by the sudden sound.

Nathan Cross stood at the doorway with a stormy expression.

It took a while, but David Nelson finally recovered from his shock and flew into a rage. “Who let you barge in like that? Are



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Chapter 43 | Am Not One Of Those Women

you tired of living? Security! Security-”

David Nelson’s cries were cut off abruptly by a solid slap that Nathan Cross gave him across the face.

The sound of Nathan Cross’ hand coming into contact with David Nelson’s face was loud and crisp.

Blood flowed out from David Nelson’s mouth, carrying bits of broken teeth. His bloated body spun around a couple of times before collapsing onto the floor.

“You’re...you’re looking for trouble, boy! I have thirty years of martial arts training under my belt...”

David Nelson peeled himself off the floor and rolled up his sleeves, getting ready to pick a fight with Nathan Cross.

However, before he could even get into position, Nathan Cross had already sent a flying kick into his chest.

His overweight body went flying through



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## Chapter 43 I Am Not One Of Those Women

the air like a bombshell, landing with a loud thump on the table that sent it toppling over. He struggled to stand up again.

The employees and security guards of the bank came running to check out the commotion.

Liam Harrison, the president of the bank, was shocked to David Nelson sprawled onto the ground. He turned to the security guards and ordered, "Quick! Restrain those two!"

The security guards at the scene took out their electric batons and closed in on Nathan Cross.

However, Nathan Cross simply waved his phone in their faces. "You have a lot of guts! Mr. President, come here and answer the call."



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#### Chapter 44 It Will Be Dealt With Severely

“What call? Are you going to lure our president over and take him hostage?” Linda Brown retorted immediately.

However, Liam Harrison’s expression turned grim when he saw the number on Nathan Cross’ phone screen.

He knew exactly who that phone number had belonged to.

Liam Harrison turned to Linda Brown and hollered, “Shut up!”

After that, he strode over to Nathan Cross’ side, much to the disbelief of the other employees at the scene.

He took Nathan Cross’ phone and gave a soft “Hello?”.

Everyone watched in stunned silence as Liam Harrison nodded profusely during the whole conversation. “Yes, yes sir, of course. I will apologize to Mr. Cross. Yes, I will deal with it.”

Liam Harrison returned the phone to



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#### Chapter 44 It Will Be Dealt With Severely

Nathan Cross after the call had ended, his head hung low from fear. “Mr. Cross, the superiors just told me that we need to protect your interests. May I know what happened? I will resolve the issues personally.”

Nathan Cross pointed to David Nelson, who was still unconscious and on the floor. “This old goat wants to bully my wife. What are you going to do with him?”

“Rest assured, Mr. Cross. He will be dealt with severely as per your wishes,” assured Liam Harrison hurriedly.

...

As Liam Harrison and the other higher-ups of the Channing Bank apologized profusely to Nathan Cross, things were going south at John Miller’s Juno Hotel as well.

It started off with a team from the emergency department that showed up unexpectedly to check the fire-fighting equipment in Juno Hotel. They came to the conclusion that the quality of their



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#### Chapter 44 It Will Be Dealt With Severely

equipment were not up to standard, which was a safety hazard.

After that, another group of inspectors from the health ministry popped in to conduct an investigation on Juno Hotel's food safety, which only yielded increasingly grim results.

Finally, the two departments came together to issue a cease and desist order to Juno Hotel.

John Miller was shocked when he had heard about all that.

Before he could come to his senses, his father George Miller stormed into the house and yelled, "You little b\*\*\*\*\*! Look at what you've done!"

John Miller tried to explain himself, "Dad, this has got nothing to do with me, it's the law..."

*Piak!*

Before John Miller could finish his





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## Chapter 44 It Will Be Dealt With Severely

sentence, George Miller had already slapped him across his face.

George Miller stuck a finger at his son's nose and bellowed, "You dare talk back to me? I've already gotten in contact with the authorities in secret, and they've told me that you've messed with the wrong person. If you don't go and apologize now, we'll lose the Juno Hotel forever."

"Now who in the *world* did you anger?"

John Miller's mind immediately went to Nathan Cross and his threat that morning.

He had not taken it seriously then, and he regretted it intensely.

John Miller's face went pale as he said with trembling lips, "Dad, I angered some guy called Nathan Cross, and he told me to apologize to him before he closes down Juno Hotel."

George Miller was shocked. "You imbecile! Why are you getting into trouble everywhere you go? Now go and apologize



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Chapter 44 It Will Be Dealt With Severely

to Nathan Cross before our lives get ruined forever!"



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## Chapter 45 Pleading For Mercy At Their Feet

Nathan Cross and Penny Smith left Channing Bank and returned to the Cross Corporation office after receiving warm farewells from the staff there.

Once they stepped into Penny Smith's office, the question that had been bothering her the whole trip there finally found its way out of her mouth, "Who did you even call? Why did President Harrison look so scared after answering it?"

Nathan Cross had straight-up called the city administrator, so it would only be right if Liam Harrison panicked upon hearing his voice.

Besides, the city administrator was exceptionally stern this time round with the warnings and orders to protect Nathan Cross' interests. If Liam Harrison resisted, he would have lost his job in a second.

Nathan Cross smiled and explained, "I called my old chief to settle things for me."

Penny Smith had a moment of realization. However, she still gave him a piece of her



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## Chapter 45 Pleading For Mercy At Their Feet

mind. "Nathan, your old chief is going to leave Channing after the operation ends. You can't be relying on him to solve your issues, neither should you throw a fit whenever something happens."

Nathan Cross grinned. "Yes. I'll try my best."

Penny Smith rolled her eyes. It would take a lot of effort for him to learn to control his temper.

Suddenly, Penny Smith's assistant Mandy Lewis knocked on the door. "President Smith, someone's here to apologize to you. He said that he's the director of the Channing Bank."

Turns out, David Nelson got an earful from his superior Liam Harrison the moment he came to wake.

It did not take long for him to realize that he had messed with the wrong person.

If he could not manage to get Nathan Cross and Penny Smith to forgive him, he



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## Chapter 45 Pleading For Mercy At Their Feet

would lose his job and drag Liam Harrison down with him.

He panicked the moment he realized how much trouble he had gotten himself into. He had rushed to Cross Corporation after patching himself up to look for Nathan Cross and Penny Smith.

Penny Smith was slightly shocked to hear that. She gave Nathan Cross a look before turning to her secretary and saying, "Let him in."

Soon, David Nelson trudged into the room. His cheek had swollen to twice its size, and a couple of his teeth were missing, making it difficult for him to talk. He had a look of pure terror on his face when he walked into Penny Smith's office.

Penny Smith gave him a cold look the moment he entered the office. "What are you doing here, Director Nelson?"

David Nelson glanced from the fuming Penny Smith to Nathan Cross, who was flipping through some newspapers calmly.



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## Chapter 45 Pleading For Mercy At Their Feet

He forced a smile onto his face and said, “Mr. Cross, Ms. Smith, I’m here to...”

Before he could finish his sentence, Mandy Lewis knocked on the door again.

“President Song, there’s another man outside who wants to see you urgently. He says that he’s John Miller of Juno Hotel. Do you want to see him?”

Penny Smith was startled for a moment. *Why is he here?*

Nathan Cross put down his newspapers and scoffed, “He chose the right time to come. Let him in.”

“Yes, Sir!” Mandy Lewis acknowledged.

Soon, she returned with John Miller behind her, wearing a white Armani suit, with unnecessarily thick makeup.

Mandy Lewis exited the room quietly after bringing John Miller into the room.

As expected, John Miller was there to apologize as well.



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### Chapter 45 Pleading For Mercy At Their Feet

He did not know that he was going to have company. *What's this crumpled old man doing here? I'm going to embarrass myself in front of him,* he thought, after shooting David Nelson an awkward glance.

David Nelson gave him a puzzled look as well. *Does this little jerk not know that I have business with Mr. Cross and Ms. Smith right now? How am I going to ask them for mercy now?*



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## Chapter 46 Know Your Wrongs

Eyeing the two men standing before him, fury blazed through Nathan. He slammed his hand down on the table as he roared, “Kneel!”

*Thud! Thud!*

Utterly shocked at Nathan’s yelling, John and David fell to their knees immediately.

Penny’s jaw dropped open as she stared at the scene before her in surprise.

One was the young master of Juno Hotels, while the other was the manager of Channing Bank.

As far as she knew, these two men were both influential people in Channing. Yet, with one word from Nathan, they had kneeled before him.

The two men were both embarrassed at their automatic response to his command. There was a put-out expression on their faces as they sneaked glances at one another from the corners of their eyes.





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## Chapter 46 Know Your Wrongs

When John fell to his knees, he thought that he would die of shame. To his surprise, the beaten up old man beside him had got down on his knees as well.

Blinking, he thought to himself. *Huh? Mr. Cross wanted me to kneel. Why are you kneeling as well?*

David shared the same thoughts. *Heh, little brat, you're pretty loyal.*

Although they were each taken aback by why the other was kneeling, they were also comforted by the act.

After all, since this was a shameful moment for *both* of them, none of them would let news of this leak out.

Nathan's voice was cold as he asked, "Do you know your wrongs now?"

"Yes." The men chorused in reply before glaring at one another.

Like two students who were fighting to answer the teacher's question, there was a



## Chapter 46 Know Your Wrongs

slight hint of hostility in their eyes.

Nathan demanded, “What did you do wrong?”

The moment the words left his lips, John’s hand shot into the air as he sought to be the first to answer.

David had wanted to raise his hand as well, but he was just a beat too slow.

Pointing a finger at John, Nathan growled, “You first!”

Shooting a smug look at David, John allowed a polite smile to cross his lips as he answered, “Mr. Cross, I was a fool to interfere in your business, as well as Joseph Myers’. I also shouldn’t have trashed your car and threatened you.”

David stared at the other man with wide eyes. *I was badly beaten for simply teasing Mrs. Cross a little. You’d actually dared to trash his car and threaten him? You have some serious guts! Either that or a death wish.*



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## Chapter 46 Know Your Wrongs

John began to beg pitifully, “Mr. Cross, I know I was wrong. Please, have mercy on me! I promise I won’t do something like this ever again!”

“What are you going to do about my car?”

“I’ll make it up to you! I’ve already ordered a Rolls-Royce. When it arrives, I’ll personally deliver it to you.”

Destroying a BMW but compensating with a Rolls-Royce was more than enough to show his sincerity.

Realizing this, David spoke up quickly, “Mr. Cross, Ms. Smith, I know I was wrong too. I should not have made such rude comments to Ms. Smith, nor tried to go after someone above my station like her. I was wrong! Please, Mr. Cross, have mercy on this old dog!”

As he spoke, he started to slap himself harshly as punishment.

John could only stare at the older man with a shocked look that turned into one of



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## Chapter 46 Know Your Wrongs

grudging respect.

David - whose face was already swollen from his earlier beating - was slapping himself so hard that blood was trickling from the corner of his lips.

However, he dared not stop without Nathan's permission.

Penny was a kind woman at heart and was not the unreasonable type.

Seeing how David and John were already kneeling as they begged for mercy, she turned her head and whispered to Nathan, "How about we let them go?"



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## Chapter 46 Know Your Wrongs

Nathan gave her a small smile as he replied, "As you wish, dear."

Penny blushed as a warm feeling rose within her.

Although Nathan was impulsive and easy to anger, he was still quite willing to listen to her.

Turning to the kneeling men, Nathan spoke in a hard tone, "This time, I'll let you off the hook. There better not be a next time, for your sakes."

Immensely relieved, they instantly babbled their thanks before fleeing the place with their tails tucked between their legs.

After they left, a troubled look appeared on Penny's face, as thoughts swirled through her mind. She still did not know what to do about the financial problems that Cross Corporation was facing.

Nathan's smile was comforting as he spoke gently, "Trust me, things will work out. You shouldn't worry so much about it.



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## Chapter 47 What Are You Doing Here

Someone will come to invest in us sooner or later.”

Rolling her eyes at him, she professed bitterly, “At least one of us is being positive. We’ve offended Joseph Myers. A lot of companies will not invest in us with respect to him.”

“The request for a loan from the bank was rejected too.”

“Ugh, if we don’t get any funds soon, the company’s going to be in deep trouble.”

At that moment, the office landline rang and Penny answered the phone. “Hello?”

The voice of the front desk receptionist sounded from the other side of the phone, “President Smith, there’s a Samuel here asking to see you.”

Initially surprised at her Uncle Samuel’s sudden visit, her face soon fell as she remembered her family being exiled from the Smith family. Her voice was cold as she replied, “I don’t want to see him.”



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## Chapter 47 What Are You Doing Here

With that said, she prepared to hang up when the receptionist called out urgently, “He wants me to tell you that he’s here to invest in the company. He asks if you’re interested now?”

*Uncle’s here to invest?*

Penny found herself in a dilemma. From an emotional standpoint, she had no positive feelings left for the Smith family. In fact, it was probably more accurate to say that she had resented them.

But as the leader of a company, she could not allow her personal feelings to get in the way of the company’s interest.

Hesitating for a moment, she finally relented, “Fine, bring them up to my office!”

A short while later, the receptionist entered with Samuel, Miles, May and several other men.

Before Samuel came, he had already heard about Penny and Nathan offending Joseph Myers. He had known that they were



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## Chapter 47 What Are You Doing Here

having trouble getting investors and their loan request had been rejected. Not only that, he even knew that they had had an altercation with Director Nelson, getting thrown out of the bank.

Hearing all these rumors, he had not bothered finding out the truth behind them. Instead, he had already concluded that Penny was most definitely running out of resources right now. This was why he had come here to discuss his investment in her company. He was certain that she would have no choice other than to accept all his conditions.

Dressed in a black suit, the well-built figure of Samuel strode into Penny's office, with a group of people following along behind him.

Glancing around the office, he finally rested his gaze on Nathan and Penny. There was a slightly mocking tone to his voice as he complimented, "Penny, your new office is pretty nice!"

Penny's face was hard as she asked icily,





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## Chapter 47 What Are You Doing Here

“What are you doing here?”

Pulling out a chair, Samuel plonked himself down imperiously while Miles, May and his bodyguards stood behind him with their hands clasped behind their backs.

A sly smile curved onto his lips as he answered, “Why, to discuss business with you of course! To my knowledge, Cross Corporation is in dire need of funds. You’re looking for some investors, right?”



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## Chapter 47 What Are You Doing Here

Penny frowned as she asked, “You’re really here to invest in our company?”

Samuel chuckled as he replied, “Of course! What else could we possibly be here for?”

Still suspicious, her tone was wary as she questioned, “How much are you planning on investing and what are the conditions?”

A booming laugh escaped the man’s lips. “I’ve always liked doing business with people as straightforward as you. Not a moment is wasted.”

“I’ve done my research on your company. You want to complete the shopping mall project at Asiatic. Taking into account the advance payment and other expenditures, you will need at least five hundred million. You should know that five hundred million is not exactly a small number, but neither is it an amount that the Smith family can’t afford.”

Penny was visibly taken aback at his words. “You want to invest five hundred million in us?”



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## Chapter 48 Ninety Percent Of The Profits

Samuel grinned. “Yup.”

Five hundred million was exactly the amount that Cross Corporation had needed for the project. If Samuel really was serious about investing in them now, it would be some much-needed funds.

However, she knew that the Smiths would never be so kind as to help her in her hours of need.

Staring at him, she spoke her next words carefully, “How very generous of you, Mr. Smith. But maybe we should discuss your terms first; I’m worried that I might not be able to accept them.”

“Smart girl. My terms are simple. I want ninety percent of the profits and all of your staff in the Finance Department to be replaced with mine.”

Glaring at him furiously, she spat, “That’s just ridiculous!”

The man’s reply was calm, “I’m leaving you ten percent of the profits, aren’t I?”



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## Chapter 48 Ninety Percent Of The Profits

Miles chose that moment to speak up, with a sneer on his face, “Penny, you really should take a look at the situation you’re in right now. Without our investment, completing this project would be a moot point, as your company will probably go bankrupt before then.”

May chimed in as well, “Exactly! We’re trying to help you; don’t be so ungrateful!”

Their words had rendered Penny speechless.

Unfortunately, they were not wrong. She had to admit the cold, hard truth to herself - her company was in dire straits.

Without their money, she really could not continue with this project as the expenses were just too high. There was also the fact that this project was one of the most important development projects in the city. If there was a delay or if they had messed up the construction, the consequences would be terrible.

Be that as it may, the terms the Smiths



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## Chapter 48 Ninety Percent Of The Profits

were asking for were just too demanding. Ninety percent of the profits was a lot. If she were to agree, the Cross Corporation would have done all that work for barely anything in return. They would practically have conducted free labor.

Taking in a deep breath, she sighed, "Mr. Smith, your terms are too harsh. I can't accept you taking ninety percent of the profits."

"If you were to invest five hundred million in us, the most that I could give you is sixty percent of the profits."

Samuel crooked a finger at one of the men behind him, not bothering to turn his head. The underling quickly pulled out a contract from the briefcase he had carried, before handing it over to his boss.

Like he was throwing money at a beggar, Samuel flung the contract on the floor before Nathan and Penny's feet. His voice was calm as he uttered, "If you sign the contract now, I can still leave you ten percent. However, if you insist on being



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## Chapter 48 Ninety Percent Of The Profits

stubborn, without signing it today, I'll only give you five percent tomorrow.”

“I know that you’ve already failed to find anyone willing to invest in you and your loan request was rejected. In the entire city of Channing, only/am willing to save you now.”

“The choice is yours.”



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## Chapter 49 Do Not Need Your Pitiful Investment

Staring at the contract on the floor, Penny chewed on her lip as she warred with herself.

If she did not sign the contract, the project would stall because of lack of funds and Cross Corporation might go bankrupt.

If she signed it, Cross Corporation would survive and be able to finish the project at Asiatic. On the other hand, they would technically be slaving away for the Smith family, allowing those greedy people to grow fatter on their hard work.

Noting how she was struggling to make a decision, Nathan drawled lazily, "Heh, you people truly are like a pack of dogs, turning on the weak in their times of need. Dear, don't agree to their terms."

She turned to look at him, whispering, "But if we don't, our financial crisis..."

Smiling, he answered in a normal volume so everyone could hear, "Have you already forgotten what I've told you? This project has good prospects, and you're also a



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## Chapter 49 Do Not Need Your Pitiful Investment

competent person. A lot of bosses will come to invest in us. You'll see."

The Smiths' faces contorted in rage at his words. They had seen how Penny had been close to caving in, to their demands, yet he was now advising her against accepting their terms.

Putting on a tough front, Samuel threatened, "Penny, you'd better think this through carefully. If you reject my terms now, you'll definitely come crawling back to me when you realize that you don't have any other option. If, no, *when* that happens, you won't be getting even a speck of profit!"

As he finished, a man's voice rang out from the office door, "You don't need to threaten Ms. Smith like that. She doesn't need your pitiful investment."

Under the astonished gazes of everyone except for Nathan, a group of men trudged into the office.

The man who had spoken was the Director





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## Chapter 49 Do Not Need Your Pitiful Investment

of Channing Bank, Liam Harrison.

Following behind him were several middle-aged men, each dressed smartly in expensive clothing. There was no doubt that they were all billionaires.

Amongst them were three other notable figures. There was the owner of Juno Hotel, George Miller; the boss of Watson Holdings Corporation, Wyatt Kent; and the Chairman of Avery Real Estate, Calvin Grant.

As they entered the office, they immediately hurried forward to greet Nathan and Penny respectfully.

Taken aback by having such important people greet her, Penny was almost automatic in her responses.

Nathan, on the other hand, had a placid look on his face as these older men addressed him, merely humming his acknowledgement.

Not deterred by his arrogance, they were



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## Chapter 49 Do Not Need Your Pitiful Investment

almost fawning over him.

Samuel and his entourage had dumbfounded looks on their faces. They had not expected for so many bigshots to suddenly appear.

Finally unable to contain himself any longer, he spoke up haltingly, “Director Harrison, what did you mean by your earlier words?”

Liam eyed the man coldly, before replying, “I said, you don’t need to threaten Ms. Smith. Channing Bank will loan her that five hundred million, free of interest.”

*What?*

Penny, Samuel, and his family were all shocked into silence.

By contrast, his words had the other men who had come with him deeply unhappy, as they started calling out loudly.

George Miller huffed in displeasure as he announced, “Director Harrison, what do



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## Chapter 49 Do Not Need Your Pitiful Investment

you mean by that? The Miller family is willing to invest two hundred million in Ms. Smith, no terms attached.”

Wyatt Kent’s voice was anxious when he shouted, “Watson Holdings Corporation invests three hundred million in Ms. Smith. We don’t need any repayment.”

Even seventy-year-old Calvin Grant cried out, “Avery Real Estate is also investing five hundred million. We won’t take any repayment either.”



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## Chapter 50 Investments

Everyone else in the office was astounded at these men trying to one-up each other. They had seen people fighting over items on sale, but never had they seen people fighting over the chance to invest in someone. Free of interest and without taking a percentage of the profits too.

Realizing that Penny seemed to be a little lost at the enthusiasm of the various presidents, Nathan coughed lightly to get their attention. "There's no need to fight. All of you can only invest one hundred million, nothing more. Also, this can't be a free investment. All of you need to take the profit that's rightfully yours."

Liam nodded his head vigorously, "Yes, yes. You're right, Mr. Cross, we shall do as you say."

Staring at the men lined up before her waiting to invest, Penny wondered if she was dreaming.

Samuel, on the other hand, was close to fainting in anger as his blood pressure skyrocketed.



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## Chapter 50 Investments

Regaining her composure, she moved forward to handle the contracts for the investments.

In the blink of an eye, she had seven hundred million. Cross Corporation's financial crisis was solved.

Watching all this from the sideline, Samuel had a dark look upon his face.

Originally, he had planned to swoop in when Penny was at her most desperate so he could demand ridiculous terms. He would then use this opportunity to snatch the wealth that would arise from this project for himself.

In a surprising twist of events, all these corporate presidents were now clamoring to invest in her. His harsh conditions earlier had become a mere joke.

Ashamed to stay any longer, he left feeling deeply disappointed.

Once Liam and the other men finished signing their contracts, they politely



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## Chapter 50 Investments

refused Penny's offer of lunch. Before they left, they even specifically bid their goodbyes to Nathan.

Several seconds after the men trooped out of the office, the Head of Finances, Jacob Fowler, rushed into their office.

There was a gleeful look on his face as he told Penny, "President Smith, those presidents really work fast! They had only just signed the contracts and the funds have already been transferred into our account. We don't need to worry about money anymore!"

Once again, Penny wondered if she was going to wake up from this dream. She could not believe that the problem that she had been agonizing over for so long was so easily resolved.

She smiled at Jacob. "Now that we have the funds, we have to work hard to ensure that this project is done well. We can't let our investors down!"

The man gave an excited 'Yes, ma'am'



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## Chapter 50 Investments

before he exited the office.

Now that there was only her and Nathan left, she turned to look at him appraisingly.

Feeling uncomfortable at her scrutiny, he asked, "What?"

She huffed, "Nathan Cross! Are you going to explain yourself or what?"

His lips twitched slightly as he questioned, "You mean what happened just now with the sudden influx of investors?"

Rolling her eyes, she gave him a 'duh' look. "You think?"

Shrugging, he explained, "It's simple really. I personally visited several of them a couple of days ago and told them about the prospects of our project. Once they had finished hearing what I had to say, they were pretty interested. After some careful thought, they'd decided to come to invest. Although, I must say I had not expected Director Harrison and George Miller to come."



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## Chapter 50 Investments

Still not entirely convinced, she eyed him suspiciously. “You actually managed to convince them? That’s impossible! The last time I visited them, they did not seem to have any interest in investing at all!”

Nathan chuckled as he replied, “That’s because you went at it the wrong way.”



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## Chapter 51 Joy And Sorrow

Seeing the doubt on Penny's face, Nathan spoke again, "Don't you think that this project of ours has a lot of potentials, being a good investment?"

She did not need to even think about it. "Of course! This project is one of the most important projects in the city. As long as we do it well, the returns would definitely be immense."

The man's eyes crinkled in a smile as he exclaimed, "Exactly! Those men did not get to be so wealthy by being fools. Who doesn't love money?"

Even though she felt that things were not as simple as he was making it out to be, his words did make a lot of sense.

Whatever the case, she decided not to pry further. This was a good thing anyway.

...

Meanwhile, the Smith family was not in as good a mood as Penny was.



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## Chapter 51 Joy And Sorrow

In the study of the Smith Family Mansion.

Sean was sitting on his chair, his face as black as thunder as he glared in front of him. Standing before him were Samuel, Paul, Miles and May.

His tone was furious as he chastised, "Samuel, did you just say that the little b\*\*\*\*, Penny, managed to get a bunch of investors?"

Samuel answered bitterly, "I have no idea what'd happened either. Those men were practically falling over themselves to invest in her company."

From beside him, May burst out, "Yeah! They were like old women at a market fighting over the items on sale. This one said that he would invest three hundred million; that one said five hundred million. I've never seen such a shocking thing happen before in all my life..."

"That's enough! Stop talking!" Sean roared as his face darkened.



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## Chapter 51 Joy And Sorrow

The woman's jaw snapped shut with a *click*. Everyone looked upset as they thought over the matter before them.

Paul spat hatefully, "Just what exactly happened? We were so close to getting the Asiatic shopping mall project! Why would these bosses suddenly want to invest in her?"

A silence descended upon them as everyone pondered on the question.

Finally, Samuel spoke up slowly, "Actually, it's not that hard to understand. This project is a huge project. Investing in it would bring considerable returns once it has finished. If even we know this, those businessmen most definitely do. It makes sense that they would want a cut of the profit."

At his words, everyone present nodded their heads in agreement. Paul sighed wistfully, "If only we had met with Penny earlier to discuss investing in her company. What a pity."



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## Chapter 51 Joy And Sorrow

Sean growled, “No use crying over spilt milk. Now that she doesn’t need any more funds, how are we supposed to nab that project?”

At this, a wicked smile crossed Samuel’s face. “Dad, you don’t need to worry about that. Penny might have the necessary funds now, but Cross Corporation is still relatively small and weak. Plus, she and Nathan angered Joseph Myers when Nathan smashed a beer bottle over his head. You know that he won’t let that slide. He’ll definitely find a way to ruin them.”

“All we need to do now is wait. Once Mr. Myers forces them into a corner, we’ll jump out at the last moment to be the good guys. We’ll beg Mr. Myers to let Penny go, but in return, she would have to hand the project over to us.”

Smiles split everyone’s lips when they heard Samuel’s suggestion. It was no wonder why, as he was the eldest.

Nodding in satisfaction, Sean reminded his eldest son, “Take the time to get closer to



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## Chapter 51 Joy And Sorrow

Mr. Myers. Once we get the Asiatic project, I can finally force Penny to divorce that useless Nathan Cross. After that, I'll marry her off to Mr. Myers."

Samuel grinned as he replied, "Yes, sir!"



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## Chapter 51 Joy And Sorrow

That night, Samuel, Miles and May visited Joseph Myers, while bearing a lot of expensive gifts.

Dressed in a tunic, the man was currently in his living room with Harry Leigh, plotting his revenge on Nathan Cross and Penny Smith.

When he saw Samuel and his family, his eyes narrowed as he said indifferently, "Smith."

Samuel gestured for Miles and May to present their gifts. Plastering a smile on his face, he said, "Mr. Myers, I've heard that the crazy man had injured you. Hence, I've brought you some supplements. I hope that you'll get well soon."

At the mention of his assault, Joseph's face darkened. Never had someone dared to smash a beer bottle over *his* head.

"I'll never forgive that b\*\*\*\*\*!"

Harry Leigh shifted slightly, his floral shirt moving aside briefly to reveal the tattoos



## Chapter 52 Who Backs Nathan Cross

covering his chest. His lips split into a wide grin as he assured Joseph, “Mr. Myers, leave this matter to me! I promise you that I’ll make sure that they regret the day they’d dared to offend you!”

Samuel stared at the well-built man before him in shock. His voice was weak as he asked, “You’re the underground overlord of Channing, Harry Leigh?”

Harry replied smugly, “That’s me.”

Turning to Joseph, Samuel said, “Mr. Myers, Nathan Cross is a dead man if you have Mr. Leigh helping you.”

Ignoring the man who was speaking, Joseph looked at Harry Leigh. “Mr. Leigh, I want Nathan Cross to regret the day he was born. I want his company destroyed and his life to be ruined. I also want you to bring me his wife. Can you do that?”

Harry smiled savagely as he answered, “That’s easy.”

As if to prove his statement, he





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## Chapter 52 Who Backs Nathan Cross

immediately called Channing Bank's director, Liam Harrison, so that he could get a feel of this Nathan Cross. Then, he would plan his next move.

Occasionally, there were debts that were unable to be collected by the bank. When this happened, the bank would usually hire men like Harry Leigh to collect those debts. Thus, as the director of Channing Bank, Liam Harrison had to have connections with the underground. That was how they had known each other.

When Liam heard that Harry was trying to teach Nathan a lesson, his expression fell.

His voice was stern as he warned, "Harry, I advise you against taking this course of action. Mr. Cross is not someone whom you'd want to cross."

Since Harry had left his phone on loudspeaker, everyone present heard his words.

Harry snorted, "Director Harrison, are you saying that I shouldn't cross Nathan



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## Chapter 52 Who Backs Nathan Cross

Cross? Me, the king of the underground?”

Liam replied seriously, “Yes. I suggest that you leave him well enough alone. Otherwise, you might just be defeated at his hands.”

Taking into consideration Harry’s pride, he had tried to warn him off in the best way that he could.

In truth, if Nathan Cross wanted, one order from him and Harry Leigh would be made to disappear from the city.

No matter how well-intentioned Liam’s words were, they still sounded particularly offensive to Harry.

*He could not afford to anger a nobody like Nathan Cross? What a joke!*

Sneering, he replied, “I get it now. I’ve heard you and a bunch of old farts recently invested in Cross Corporation. You don’t want me to mess with Nathan Cross because you’re worried that it might affect your profits, am I right?”



## Chapter 52 Who Backs Nathan Cross

Liam laughed bitterly. “As a friend, I’m telling you that you’ll lose your life if you insist on doing this. If you don’t want to believe me, that’s your call.”

Narrowing his eyes, Harry questioned, “Then tell me this. Other than Thomas Dunn, does Nathan Cross have anybody else backing him up?”

“No,” Liam answered honestly. Technically, he was speaking the truth. Nathan Cross was the Ares of The North, a general in his own right. Why should he need anyone to back him up?

Unfortunately, Nathan’s identity as a general was top secret and Liam had dared not leak it. He did not want to be arrested for unauthorized disclosure of state secrets.

Liam’s reply had Harry feeling relieved. At this point, he was assured that the other man was simply trying to scare him off, no doubt because he was worried about his investment.

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## Chapter 52 Who Backs Nathan Cross

“I know what to do now, you don’t need to worry about me.”

Realizing that the other man was determined to get revenge for Joseph Myers, Liam shook his head and sighed, “Don’t say I didn’t warn you. It’s your grave you’re digging!”



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## Chapter 52 Who Backs Nathan Cross

Hanging up, Harry turned to Joseph and said smugly, “Director Harrison told me that Nathan Cross has no other backer other than Thomas Dunn. Luckily, I know for a fact that Dunn’s father has recently passed away. This means that he’s gone back home to handle the funeral. He won’t be coming back anytime soon.”

Joseph’s eyes narrowed as he smirked widely. “That means that Nathan Cross will be alone and unprotected. Perfect! Mr. Leigh, looks like you can go all out when you teach those two wretches a lesson.”

Laughing boisterously, Harry replied, “Don’t worry, Mr. Myers. I’ll definitely make them regret ever crossing you.”

“Make sure to let them know that *I’m* the one behind their suffering. I want Penny Smith to come crawling as she begs me for mercy.”

“Got it!”

With that, Joseph promised Harry that he would reward him thirty million upon



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## Chapter 53 Incident At The Construction Site

getting the job done.

Incentivized, Harry called his right-hand man, Carl, over the next day.

Listening closely as his boss instructed him Carl nodded. "Okay, boss, I understand. I'll get it done."

Today was a weekend, so the Cross family had decided to take a hike up Mount Blanc. Other than Nathan, Penny, and Queenie, his in-laws were coming along as well.

The family was having fun in the park near Mount Blanc when Penny received a call from Bob Hoffman, the head of the construction team.

The man's voice was panicked as he cried out, "President Smith, something's happened!"

"Bob, calm down! Tell me, what's happened?"

"When our demolition team was



## Chapter 53 Incident At The Construction Site

transporting the waste materials from the construction site, we were stopped by a group of people. Not only that, but the rest of our trucks were also forcefully detained by them. When the drivers tried to reason with them, they got beaten up for their troubles.”

Penny frowned. “Who are these people and why are they blocking our trucks? Who gave them the right to detain our trucks and hit our people?”

“They say that they’re residents on that street and they’ve accused us of destroying their road with our heavy trucks. They also blamed us for dropping a lot of trash and other waste materials as we’ve gone past. That’s why they’re forbidding us from using it. They say that if we dare to use their road again, they’ll damage our trucks and beat up our men.”

Bewildered, she asked, “Were our trucks going against regulations? Did they overload or not put a tarp on?”

“Most definitely not! I’m very strict about



## Chapter 53 Incident At The Construction Site

enforcing these workplace regulations. Besides, I don't think these men look like residents of the street. They actually look more like thugs looking to cause some trouble. Boss, what do we do?"

"Is there any way that we can avoid that road in the future? As for the injured drivers and the detained trucks, maybe I could go negotiate with these people?"

Bob sighed as he replied, "Nope. We definitely have to go past that area if we want to reach our construction site; there's no way to avoid it."

Penny furrowed her delicate eyebrows. "Have you called the police?"

"We did, but they don't seem to be coming anytime soon. This is some tricky business, boss. If we don't settle this soon, we'll not be able to continue with the demolition and the trucks won't be able to transport them away."

"Alright, I'll head over there immediately."





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## Chapter 53 Incident At The Construction Site

Noting the troubled look on Penny's face as she hung up, Nathan asked gently, "Did something happen at the construction site?"

She answered with a bitter tone in her voice, "Yeah. Some thugs are causing trouble. They've detained several of our trucks and have beaten up some of the drivers. They're also refusing our trucks future passage. If we don't resolve this quickly, the project will have to be put on hold."

A calm expression on his face, he offered, "I'll go with you!"

She nodded.

Leaving their daughter in the care of her grandparents, the two of them hurried to their car.

As they neared the road leading to the construction site, they saw a convoy of trucks parked at the intersection. Around thirty thugs were standing nearby with arrogant smirks on their faces. Bob was



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### Chapter 53 Incident At The Construction Site

currently trying to reason with their leader, a man with curly hair.

Carl gave Bob a hard slap across the face, shouting, "Who the hell do you think you are? I've already said that none of your trucks are allowed to go past here in the future; otherwise, I'll trash every truck and beat up every man I see."



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## Chapter 53 Incident At The Construction Site

Bob's cheek was swelling as blood trickled from the corner of his lips. Unfortunately, he could only fume silently in impotent rage.

Watching all this happen from their car, Nathan urged to Penny, "Stay here. I'll be right back."

In truth, the moment their BMW came to a stop nearby, the thugs had already taken notice of them. After all, any random commoner would not have been able to afford such a luxurious car.

They knew that the president of Cross Corporation had arrived.

At that moment, Nathan Cross stepped out from the car.

Carl exchanged glances with his men before they turned as a unit to look at Nathan, hostility written across their faces.

Bob rushed forward to greet him, respect in his tone, "Mr. Cross, you're here! These men are being unreasonable..."



## Chapter 54 Who Sent You Here

Eyeing the injured man, Nathan spoke, “I know. You should wipe the blood from your lips first.”

Bob grimaced as he used the sleeve of his shirt to wipe away the blood.

Turning to look at the fierce-looking thugs, Nathan’s voice was hard as he asked, “Who sent you here to cause trouble?”

The group of men sneered at him in reply.

Carl sized him up before letting out a villainous chuckle, “You trying to act the hero in front of your pretty boss? Let’s see what you’re capable of then!”

With that, he lifted his hand before bringing it down in a smack across Nathan’s face.

He had never failed to land a hit before.

Yet before his hand had even touched Nathan’s face, the man’s hand snapped out to grab his wrist tightly.



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## Chapter 54 Who Sent You Here

“You!”

Carl felt like his wrist was being held in a vicelike grip. No matter how hard he tried to move it, he found that he could not even budge a single inch. He glared at Nathan, equal parts shocked and furious.

Before he could do anything though, Nathan gave him a heavy backhand.

*Smack!*

The force behind that hit was immense. For a brief instant, Carl wondered if *anyone* could withstand this terrible power. In the next instant, his face seemed to explode with agony as blood spurted everywhere.

His thickly-built body flew backwards like a sack of potatoes, slamming into two of his men, causing them all to fall to the ground in a heap.

Everyone present gasped at the scene.

Although the hit had been aimed at Carl,



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## Chapter 54 Who Sent You Here

the absolutely terrifying strength behind it could be seen by all. Fear trailed icy fingers down the rest of the thugs' spines at how easily their leader had fallen in one blow.

One of the thugs finally snapped out of his shock and screamed angrily, "How dare you attack Carl? Get him, boys!"

Immediately, the thugs pulled out their weapons. Metal pipes and knives glinted in the sunlight as they charged towards Nathan, vicious snarls on their faces.

Penny, Bob, and the crowd that had slowly formed could only watch on anxiously, wondering how he would get out of this. He was severely outnumbered.

Nathan snorted as he stepped forward to greet the first person with a hard punch to the face.

With a loud *crack*, the man collapsed to the ground soundlessly.

Like a ferocious tiger, Nathan charged through the crowd of men, his punches



## Chapter 54 Who Sent You Here

brutal and precise. With every hit, there would be an agonized cry before one of the thugs would crumple to the ground. None was his equal.

In less than two minutes, all thirty of the thugs were on the floor, groaning and whimpering in pain.



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## Chapter 54 Who Sent You Here

Although this was not the first time Penny and Bob had seen Nathan in action, they still found themselves surprised at his prowess.

Approaching her husband, Penny asked in concern, "Nathan, are you alright?"

Nathan smiled as he replied, "Little upstarts like them can't possibly hurt me."

Bob spoke up, "Boss, Mr. Cross, what do we do now?"

Nathan was quick to answer, "Call the police again and have them come to deal with these troublemakers. Also, contact the drivers at the construction site and ask them to drive these trucks away. Everything will proceed like normal."

"Yes, sir!"

After that, Penny and Nathan got back in their car and headed towards the park at Mount Blanc to pick up the rest of their family.





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## Chapter 55 Death Wish

As they arrived back home, Benson and Leah volunteered to cook a delicious feast for everyone.

At that moment, the doorbell rang.

Penny went to open the door, only to find several stern-looking men dressed in police uniforms standing on the doorstep.

The middle-aged man in the lead had a serious look on his face as he asked, "Are you Ms. Penny Smith?"

Shocked, Penny subconsciously answered, "Yes, I am. What's happening?"

"I'm the vice-captain of the police, Harold Lee. Is your husband in? He's being suspected of intentionally causing harm to others, so we need to bring him back for questioning."

Just then, Nathan appeared by her side. Narrowing his eyes at the men at their door, he asked, "I'm Nathan Cross. Are you sure that you're here to arrest me?"



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## Chapter 55 Death Wish

Harold eyed him contemptuously. “We’re not here to arrest you, we’re here to merely ask you to come with us to help with the investigation.”

Lips twitching into a small smile, Nathan answered, “Okay, I’ll go with you. I would like to see how you’re investigating this.”

Panicking as her husband was taken away by the police, Penny hurriedly explained to her parents what was happening. Leaving her daughter in their care again, she rushed outside to go to the police station with Nathan.

When they arrived at the police station, Carl and his men were boldly sitting right there. The curly-haired man was kicking up a fuss as he shouted arrogantly, “Hey, somebody get me some medicine for my bruises!”

Angry at how these troublemakers were not behind bars while her husband was being treated like a criminal, Penny turned to Harold, demanding, “What’s going on? These men detained my construction



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## Chapter 55 Death Wish

company's trucks without my permission and even beat up my drivers! Why aren't you locking them up?"

The man scoffed in reply, "Ms. Smith, are you telling us how to do our jobs?"

Flushing at how offensive her words had sounded, she shook her head. "That's not what I meant. They..."

Harold cut her off, "They're innocent. They were only protesting your trucks that were using and destroying their roads. Your husband, on the other hand, deliberately injured them. I'd brought the both of you here to investigate this matter."

Just then, Carl swaggered over, a hand clasped to his badly injured face. His eyes were smug and hateful as he stared at Nathan. "You little shit! How dare you beat us up? Do you have a death wish?"

Turning to Harold, he continued, "Vice-captain Lee, this couple attacked thirty of my men. I'm demanding at least one million for each man they'd injured as



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## Chapter 55 Death Wish

compensation.”

Immediately furious and astounded at the audacity of the man, Penny shouted, “What? You guys purposely stirred up trouble first, but now you’re demanding thirty million from us? Why should we pay you!”



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