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The Maxwell family was renowned in Arlington and they were influential here. A group of foreigners would be no match for them.

Meanwhile, Leah was put in a tight spot. She grumbled, "You're too rash. My brother is ill-tempered and he will definitely get his revenge now that you've injured him."

Nathan smiled. "Don't worry. I've dealt with clowns like this more times than I can count. I can handle this situation."

The rest of them sighed. Nathan is too naïve. We're no match for them, even in Channing. To make matters worse, we're in Arlington. It won't be easy getting out of Arlington safely.

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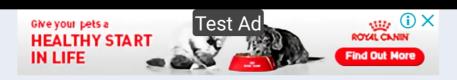
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Sasha and whined, "Mum, Dad, someone broke my wrist."

When Sasha saw her son's wrist in such a state, she screamed, "Who did it? I'll kill him!"

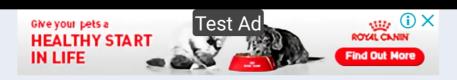
Jericho complained, "Mum, it's Leah's sonin-law, Nathan!"

As Leah's stepmother, Sasha did not treat Leah too kindly and wanted to watch out for her coming back to vie for the inheritance.

Now that she heard that her son was injured by Leah's son-in-law, she was fuming with rage. "That wench! She hasn't returned in decades, and the moment she came back, she caused my son to end up in this state! I'll rip her into shreds!"

She then called a few bodyguards and male housekeepers to teach Nathan a lesson.

However, Butch stopped her angrily. "Shut up! It's my seventieth birthday, and there



are so many guests present! It's embarrassing enough as it is! Settle whatever you want after the celebrations."

Sasha and Jericho could only suppress their rage and wait for the celebrations to end before settling the score with Nathan.

Shortly after, the birthday celebrations began.

All fifty tables were served at the same time.

Nathan and Penny felt that since they were not welcome here, they should leave now. However, Leah pleaded for them to at least stay until after dinner.

Nathan, Benson, Penny and Queenie could not bear to see Leah heartbroken and decided to stay until the end of the celebrations.

No one waited on Nathan's family, so Leah found them a random table.

They chose a small one, but there was a



seat missing for Leah.

Nathan wanted to offer his seat, but Leah refused. "No need, I'll just bring a chair over. You guys stay put."

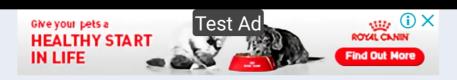
Leah brought a chair over and was about to sit when a housekeeper came over. She berated Leah, "The kitchen is so busy, yet here you are shifting chairs. Read the room! Go help out in the kitchen."

When Nathan saw his mother-in-law being treated like a servant, he frowned and wanted to lash out at the other party.

Leah hurriedly replied, "It's fine. Since the kitchen is so busy, it's only right that I should help out."

She did not allow Nathan and Penny to stop her and whispered, "Just eat. Today is my father's seventieth birthday, and it's my first time returning in decades. I'll help out in the kitchen, and that's that."

They could only watch her go.



Leah then headed to the kitchen to help out.

Nathan sighed. My mother-in-law is getting bullied here!

At the same time, Penny tugged at Nathan's sleeves and whispered, "Nathan, look."

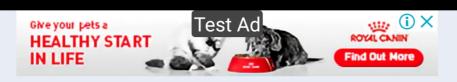
Nathan followed Penny's gaze and saw the housekeeper from earlier pointing at Leah to a woman at the host's table.

That woman was Jericho's mother and Leah's stepmother, Sasha!

Nathan was furious. So this wasn't a misunderstanding! Sasha did this on purpose and treated Leah as a servant!

When Penny saw Nathan in such a state, she was worried that he would turn the celebrations upside down.

She grabbed his hand and whispered, "It's an important occasion for grandpa. Mum told us not to stir up any trouble, so just



tolerate it!"



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Nathan nodded.

Next, the servants continued to serve food to the tables. Everyone started to dine.

But Nathan's family was in no mood to eat. They cast their gazes toward Leah, who was carefully serving the host's table a bowl of soup.

Butch, Sasha, Jericho and other important members of the Maxwell family were seated there, along with a few esteemed guests.

Leah was Butch's daughter, yet she was not allowed to sit at that table and even had to serve them food.

Nathan shook his head. The Maxwell family is a major household in Arlington, but Butch is being too much.

When Leah brought the soup over, Sasha suddenly shoved her.

Leah stumbled and the soup spilled. Some scalding hot soup splashed onto her



hands.

Leah's hands turned red from the scalding. She was in tears, but she refused to let go of the bowl.

The people nearby gasped, but Sasha smirked triumphantly.

At this moment, Nathan rushed over and shouted, "Mother-in-law, are you alright?"

Nathan took the bowl from Leah and smashed it onto the floor.

Leah's hands had turned red and even started to blister.

She stared at the shattered bowl anxiously and said, "Nathan, I'm fine, but the soup..."

When Sasha saw that Nathan had smashed the bowl, she got up and screamed at Nathan and Leah, "Wench, you can't even hold a bowl properly!"

"And you, how dare you smash my bowl of soup! Do you know how expensive this



soup is?"

The moment Sasha finished speaking, Nathan slapped her hard across the face.

Slap!

Sasha's face started to swell, and her hairstyle started to come apart.

Everyone was taken aback!

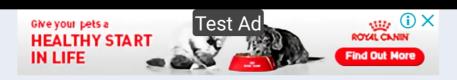
Sasha held her face and stared at Nathan angrily. "You dare to hit me?"

Nathan spat indifferently, "You're despicable and foul-mouthed. I have every right to hit you."

Nathan no longer held back. His entire presence seemed to change, and he now seemed like an authoritative general.

It was as though Nathan did not care about anyone else in the room.

Sasha was shocked by Nathan's aura and turned to Butch. "Sir, this wench's son-in-



law is brazen! He hit our child, and now he hit me! You have to do something about it!"

Butch Maxwell was livid as well. He slammed the table and yelled, "Again! First you hit my son, now you hit my wife! Leah, this is the first time you've returned in decades, and you bring this son-in-law of yours to anger me?"

Leah replied shakily, "Dad, that's not what Nathan and I mean by that."

Butch demanded, "I want your entire family to kneel before Sasha and Jericho and apologize!"

Leah knelt down immediately but was stopped by Nathan. He declared, "Mother-in-law, if you're kneeling to your father to wish him a happy birthday, I won't stop you. But now, you're kneeling to apologize to Sasha and Jericho. They don't deserve it!"

Benson, Penny, and Queenie had come up as well.



Benson held Leah's injured hand tenderly. Penny grabbed her mother as well and persuaded, "Mum, let's take care of your injury first. Leave this to Nathan."

Benson agreed. "That's right. These people have never welcomed us here, so let's not stay any further. We'll leave after this."

Butch's family and the other guests stared at Nathan's family.

Butch roared, "You dare to defy me?"

He then scoffed, "Since they're unwilling to kneel, I'll get the guards to help them."

After that, he ordered the bodyguards, "Guards, get them to kneel!"



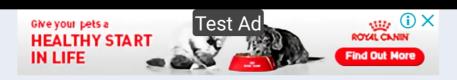
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The moment they heard this, the guards approached Nathan's family.

However, at this moment, a servant rushed in and reported excitedly, "Sir, an esteemed quest! An esteemed quest has arrived!"

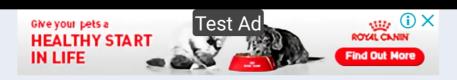
Butch and the others were taken aback. He inquired, "Who is it?"

The servant quipped excitedly, "The general who led the live military exercise on television last night, Major-General Franklin Wilson!"

The moment he finished saying this, the entire hall of guests started to chatter among themselves.

Even Butch was shaking with excitement. He asked, "Really? Is that really Major-General Wilson, the one on television last night?"

The servant nodded. "Yep, there are even a huge number of military personnel and vehicles outside. Major-General Wilson's men are preparing the gifts for you! He is



not only attending your birthday celebration, but he also even brought you a lot of gifts! Sir, you're impressive!"

Butch was unbelievably excited. The Maxwell family is a major household in Arlington, but we're nowhere near Major-General Wilson's level. Why is he attending my birthday celebration? Well, whatever. Now that he's here, the Maxwell family's reputation will gain a huge boost.

"Major-General Franklin Wilson wishes Mr. Butch Maxwell a very happy birthday!" A loud voice announced. Two troops of soldiers brought all sorts of gifts and entered the hall.

The gifts included famous paintings and antiques.

There were even two crates of militaryexclusive cigarettes and wine.

Twenty soldiers marched in with gifts and a middle-aged man wearing a military uniform walked in with a few soldiers by his side. It was none other than Franklin



Wilson.

Butch Maxwell was in high spirits and brought his wife and son to welcome him.

Butch greeted, "I didn't know Major-General Wilson is coming. I apologize for not welcoming you in advance."

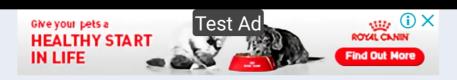
Franklin smiled. "It's fine. I got to know that today is Mr. Maxwell's seventieth birthday, so I brought a few presents over. Sorry for coming without an invitation, everyone."

Butch beamed. "It's fine, it's fine. Major-General Wilson, please take a seat!"

Butch then offered the best seat at the host's table to Major-General Wilson.

He saw Nathan's family by the side and his face fell. "Get out, street rats. I won't pursue this matter with you now that Major-General Wilson is here. Scram!" he ordered in a hushed tone.

Leah's face was drained of all color. She called out with a quivering voice, "Dad!"



Butch scoffed. "I have no daughter. Now get lost!"

Nathan helped Leah up and said calmly, "Mum, we're not wanted here. There's no point in staying, so let's go."

Leah did not expect things to turn out this way after she had not returned in decades.

She nodded tearfully. "Fine, let's go!"

Benson held Leah's other hand and said sternly, "Honey, let's go back. Back to our own home!"

When Leah saw the support of her husband, daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter, she regained her strength.

She nodded. "Alright. Let's go back, back to our own home."

After that, Nathan left with his family.

He met Franklin along the way. Franklin wanted to offer him a bow, but Nathan dismissed him with a nod.



Franklin watched as Nathan's family left and was lost in thought.

Butch smiled. "Sorry you had to see that Major-General Wilson. Please take a seat. Jericho, get the kitchen to prepare food for Major-General Wilson's men as well."

Franklin dismissed it. "No need. What happened to them?"

'Them' obviously referred to Nathan's family.



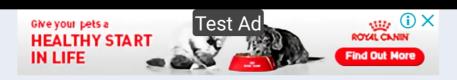
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Butch was taken aback and smiled. "That's my daughter's family. They're all just poor commoners. We haven't met in decades, and they came to my birthday celebrations for free food and even tried to cause trouble, especially their son-in-law. He injured my son and even hit my wife. I was furious, so I drove all of them out."

Franklin nodded. "I see. In that case, you should chase me out as well."

Butch and the others were stunned. Butch quickly smiled and said, "Haha, you jest, Major-General Wilson. You're an esteemed guest. I'd never dream of chasing you out."

Franklin replied coldly, "I'm not joking. Do you know the reason why I came?"

Butch's eyes widened in shock. "I have no idea. Please enlighten me."

Franklin explained, "Because you have a good daughter and your daughter has a respectable son-in-law!"

The entire Maxwell family and all the



guests were taken aback.

Butch had a bad feeling about this and asked in a trembling voice, "Major-General Wilson, what do you mean by that?"

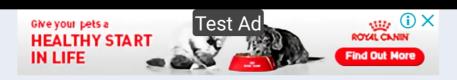
Franklin responded coldly, "Your grandsonin-law, Mr. Cross, is the man I respect the most. I came here because I heard that he was here wishing you a happy birthday."

When Butch's family heard this, it was like a bolt from the blue.

Franklin stared at the Maxwell family emotionlessly and snorted, "Since you chased the man I respect the most out, what's the point of keeping me here? That is why I said you can chase me out as well!"

Butch replied nervously, "I would never dare!"

Franklin scoffed, "How would you dare? But I won't waste my time on you, on account of your relationship with Mr. Cross."



Franklin then turned to leave and his soldiers followed suit.

Sasha, Jericho, and the others had a worried expression. They all turned towards Butch and commented, "I didn't expect Major-General Wilson to have come because of Nathan Cross. Now that we've chased them out and Major-General Wilson has left in a fit of rage, what now?"

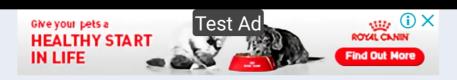
Butch did not expect his grandson-in-law to be such a powerful figure, so much so that even Major-General Wilson looked up to him.

He regretted it thoroughly and snapped, "This all happened because of the two of you! My precious daughter rarely returns home, and all you do is bully her family. Now it's all too late. Go get them back!"

...

Leah was sobbing as she exited the gates of the Maxwell mansion with her family.

Her sorrow was on the same level as when



she was disowned by her family because she married Benson Smith.

Nathan consoled her, "Mother-in-law, don't be sad. Now that they've chased us out, we're not returning even if they beg us to go back."

Leah dried her tears and shook her head bitterly. "Child, he has already chased us out. Why would he beg us to return? You're too naïve."

The moment she said this, there was a ruckus behind them.

Franklin left with his men and Butch and the others were following behind him.

Butch called out anxiously, "Major-General Wilson, please stay. My precious daughter, you and your family should stay as well."

Leah and the others were taken aback. They stared at Butch in confusion.

Leah was perplexed. "Dad, what now? Do you still want to punish Nathan? Please



don't take things too far."

Butch was sweating and had an embarrassed expression. He waved it off. "No, my daughter, you misunderstand. I'm here to invite you back for dinner!"



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Huh?

Leah, Penny, and Benson stared at Nathan in shock.

Meanwhile, Queenie, who was in Penny's arms, clapped in joy. "Daddy was right. Great-grandpa really invited us back!"

Leah was confused by her father's attitude and hesitated to reply.

Meanwhile, Nathan scoffed, "First you chased us out, then now you invite us back. What exactly do you want?"

Butch was in an awkward position. He smiled and said, "Hehe, my dear grandson-in-law, I was in the wrong earlier. Now, I'm sincerely inviting your family back to attend the celebrations."

Nathan replied indifferently, "No need, we weren't welcomed anyway. We sat in a corner, and mother-in-law even had to serve you. What's more, your family made life difficult for us."



Butch declared embarrassedly, "That won't happen again, I swear! Please come back, Major-General Wilson too. Please enjoy my birthday celebrations."

At this point in time, the place was suddenly surrounded by cars.

All of them were luxury cars like Maybach, Rolls-Royce, and Lincoln Town Cars.

To everyone's shock, a group of middleaged and elderly men wearing suits got off their respective cars.

There were ten to twenty of them in total and all of them were influential people in Arlington.

"Oh my gosh, the richest man in Arlington, Cilan Hunt is here."

"The biggest property tycoon in Arlington, Fynn Scott!"

"The CEO of Wyvern Military Industry Corporation, Josiah Cole!"

. . .

Butch and the others were about to go mad. The people present were the most influential men in Arlington, men that the Maxwell family would not normally be able to come in to contact with.

Why are these influential men here?

Just as Butch's family was confused, Cilan Hunt had already rushed toward Nathan.

Cilan smiled. "Hi, I'm the richest man in Arlington, Cilan Hunt. When I heard that you would be here, I prepared a feast for you and would like to invite you to my humble abode for a meal."

Fynn Scott brought his men and said, "Mr. Cross, I've already booked the entire Imperial Hotel for you and your family."

Josiah Cole did not want to lose out and said, "Mr. Cross, I've already gotten the top chefs at Otherworldly Restaurant to prepare a meal. Please grace us with your presence."

The rest of them pestered Nathan to invite him for a meal.

Not only were Butch and his guests were stunned, but even Penny and the others were also surprised.

Nathan smiled at Butch. "Well, looks like we have a lot of people inviting us to dinner. You'll have to wait in line!"

This one line made Butch feel ashamed and want to bury his head in the ground.

Butch was filled with regret. If he knew that Nathan was such a powerful figure, he would never have thrown his family out from the birthday celebrations.

Yet, it was too late to plead with Nathan himself.

He turned to his daughter, Leah, and smiled. "My precious daughter, we were in the wrong earlier. Please forgive us and join us for dinner."

Sasha and Jericho were indignant, but they

did not utter a word.

Leah came to the Maxwell mansion with high hopes, but her hopes were all shattered.

She didn't care if she was bullied, but Butch shamed her husband, her daughter, and her son-in-law. He even went as far as embarrassing her in front of her husband.

Her heart was broken.

She shook her head. "Dad, you were right. I shouldn't have returned at all. When I was unable to see you, I missed you dearly, but when I finally met you, it made things awkward for us. I wish you the best of health. We will be returning to Channing now."

Butch hurriedly said, "Don't go. I know you don't want to forgive us. How about this? I'll get them to apologize to you."

Butch turned to Sasha and Jericho and demanded sternly, "You two, apologize to my precious daughter now."

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Chapter 416 All Because Of Her Son In Law

Sasha's eyes widened. "What? Although I'm around her age, I'm still her stepmother after all. How can I apologize to her?"

Jericho whined, "Dad, I'll never apologize to her."

Slap!

Butch slapped his son across the face and berated, "Useless scum! If you don't listen to me, I'll disown the two of you!"

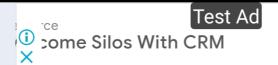
In major families, the head of the family had the final say in everything. The wives and children would be left with nothing if they were disowned.

Sasha and Jericho saw that Butch was serious and panicked.

They did not dare to disobey him. Jericho gritted his teeth and said to Leah, "Sorry!"

Butch spat, "Call her your sister!"

Jericho apologized unhappily, "Sorry, sister."



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Sasha apologized quietly as well. "Leah, I was in the wrong earlier. I'm sorry."

Leah was a soft-hearted person. Since her stepmother and stepbrother both apologized, she hurriedly said, "It's alright, I didn't take it to heart."

Butch laughed. "Alright then, let's go back to the Maxwell Mansion!"

When Leah heard this, she hesitated. "About that..."

She turned to Nathan.

Although she wanted to forgive her father and sit down for dinner together, she did not know if Nathan would agree.

Everyone turned to observe Nathan's expression. Butch's family was praying especially hard for him to agree.

If he stayed, Franklin Wilson would definitely stay as well.

If they were able to invite Franklin Wilson

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as a guest, the Maxwell family's reputation in Arlington would skyrocket.

Leah asked for Nathan's opinion quietly, "Nathan..."

Nathan smiled. "Mother-in-law, I'll leave it all to you to decide. If you want to go back, we'll go back with you. If you want to eat elsewhere, we have a lot of people inviting us to dinner."

Cilan Hunt and the others stared intently at Leah, hoping that she would choose one of them.



Leah finally decided. "Nathan, Penn, today is my father's birthday. Let's stay for a meal!"

Nathan, Penny, Benson, and Queenie nodded their agreement.

Butch was especially excited and turned to Franklin. He queried cautiously, "Major-General Wilson, will you be staying for a drink or two?"

Chapter 416 All Because Of Her Son In Law

Franklin smiled. "If Mr. Cross is attending, I'll naturally attend as well."

Butch agreed happily.

Nathan noticed that Cilan and the others were crestfallen and smiled. "I appreciate your sentiment in inviting me. So many of you have invited me over, but I can't possibly go everywhere at once. How about this? Since it's Mr. Maxwell's birthday, let's join in his celebrations, shall we?"

Cilan and the others agreed excitedly.

Butch did not expect to be able to invite so many influential people that he would normally find it difficult to even meet.

He was so excited that his face turned red.

As he welcomed the guests in, he instructed his son, "Bring me my best wine for the guests!"

Everyone present treated Nathan's family like VIPs and reentered the hall.

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This time, Butch arranged for Nathan's family, Cilan Hunt, Franklin Wilson, and the other influential people to sit at the host's table.

Sasha and Jericho had to sit at a neighboring table because there were not enough seats.

During the meal, everyone praised Butch for raising such a splendid daughter.

Butch was happy and remorseful at the same time. After all, he had not taken care of his daughter all this time, even though he knew that she was poor.



Leah was happy, but she was not a fool.

She knew that she only received this treatment because of her son-in-law, Nathan.

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Leah glanced at Nathan and started to admire her son-in-law even more.

She had a proud expression that said, My son-in-law is great!

Meanwhile, Penny stared at Nathan in shock.

Nathan turned around and asked with a smile, "Why are you staring at me?"

Penny whispered, "Tell me the truth. Why is Major-General Wilson so in awe of you? Also, why are people like Cilan Hunt inviting you to dinner?"



All of them perked their ears up and awaited Nathan's explanation.

Nathan lied naturally as he breathed, "It's simple. When I was in the North Army, I was under Major-General Wilson's charge. I risked my life to save him once, so he

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treats me especially well. As for Mr. Hunt and the others, they treat me with respect on Major-General Wilson's account."

As he said this, he turned to Franklin. "Isn't that right, Major-General Wilson?"

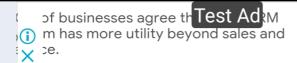
Franklin and the others knew Nathan's identity, but they also knew that he liked to remain low-key.

Naturally, they understood what he meant and nodded.

Penny's family finally understood the situation.

Leah, who did not usually drink, offered Franklin a toast. She said gratefully, "I've heard Nathan tell me that he's saved an officer before. He even told me that the officer cares about him a lot, and has saved us from a lot of trouble. That officer was General Wilson, right? Let me thank you on my family's behalf!"

Franklin hurriedly responded, "It's nothing, really!"



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Chapter 417 What Did He Ask You

I may be a lot older than Nathan, and I may be a major-general, but I'm not his officer! In fact, he's my chief, and I owe my current rank to him!

After the celebrations, Franklin had a quick chat with Nathan regarding Dip Turner.

Franklin reported, "General, when Terrence's and Zucker's corpses were brought back to Alberesque, Dip Turner did not show signs of relenting at all. He even sent his son, Trip Turner, to use his military connections to find out about something from me."



Nathan smirked. "What did he ask you?"

Franklin said, "He said Colin Dunne mobilized a group to kill Terrence and Zucker for you. He wanted to ask if I instructed it, or if Colin acted on his own accord."

He added, "Until now, they still think Colin is an ordinary Colonel!"

Nathan replied calmly, "In that case, tell

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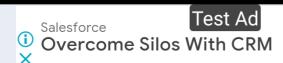
him that you had nothing to do with this."

Franklin frowned. "Then won't the Turners make life difficult for you, General?"

Nathan smiled. "Dip Turner has successfully piqued my interest. His actions have made me decide to take out the cancer of the South once and for all. Therefore, even if he doesn't offend me, I'll get rid of him slowly."

Franklin suggested, "In that case, let's just take him down by force. I'll send a few tens of thousands of soldiers to take him down!"

Nathan shook his head, "Turner used to be the governor of the South. He has a lot of connections there. After working hard for two decades, his sons and men have already taken control of the majority of the South's profitable businesses. If we take him on so suddenly, we'll cause an economic downturn in the South. A few days back, Patrick Ward has already requested to meet me. He is alright with getting rid of Turner, but he thinks we



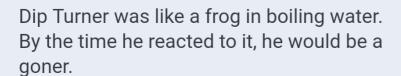
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should do this slowly. This way, we can get rid of Turner without causing a recession."

Franklin understood Nathan's intentions and knew that he had decided to get rid of Turner slowly.

To date, Nathan had not revealed his status as a general or used any extreme methods.

All he did was patiently whittle down Dip Turner's men, killing people like Terrence Ortiz and Zucker Johnson, just like how one chopped off the branches of a large tree before aiming for the trunk.



Franklin replied, "Since you already have a plan, General, I will follow your instructions."

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As the celebrations ended, Cilan Hunt and the other influential men from Arlington took their leave.

Butch, who was already somewhat drunk, invited Nathan's family to stay for a few days.

However, Sasha and Jericho were displeased and Penny had a lot of matters to settle at work.

Leah refused her father's invitation politely and they took a plane back to Channing that night.



When they reached home, it was already one in the morning.

Nathan had just coaxed his daughter to sleep when Penny came into the room wearing a silk nightgown after her shower.

Nathan was stunned by her beauty.

Ever since Nathan and Penny met and lived with the Smiths, Penny had never worn nightgowns before. Every night, she

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wore conservative pajamas.

Now that she gradually got to know Nathan and understood his personality, she slowly got attracted to him and accepted him as her husband.

Her guard was let down even more now.

That night, she decided to wear this nightgown she had not worn for some time.

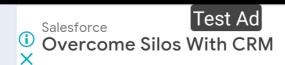
The silk nightgown looked like a sliver of moonlight cloaking Penny. Her curvaceous figure seemed even more mysterious, and her beautiful legs looked exceptionally long.

She looked like a dignified swan!

When Nathan saw Penny dressed so seductively, he was taken in by her.

Penny was embarrassed and said, "What are you looking at?"

Nathan smiled. "Honey, you have a great



Chapter 418 I Love You Nathan

figure."

Penny blushed. She was both shy and overjoyed, but she said, "Is that so?"

Nathan affirmed, "Yes!"

As he said that, he took Penny into his embrace.

Penny tensed up nervously and called out, "Nathan!"

Nathan held Penny's face and kissed her bright red lips.

"Mmm!" Penny protested and hit him.

However, her actions slowly became weak and she started to hold him tightly, kissing him back.

The two of them were intertwined in a deep kiss for a long time.

Soon, Nathan's hands made their way into Penny's nightgown instinctively.

Chapter 418 I Love You Nathan

Penny, who was mesmerized by the kiss, suddenly noticed his hands.

She grabbed Nathan's hands and replied with a shaky voice, "Nathan, no. Not yet..."

Nathan was taken aback and smiled. He kissed her on the cheek and apologized, "Sorry, I took it too far."

Penny turned bright red. She had refused him because she was on her period.

However, Nathan had misunderstood and thought that she was still unable to let go and give it to him.

She hurriedly explained, "Nathan, I actually..."

Nathan replied gently, "It's alright. I know that you're not mentally prepared yet. I'm willing to wait for the day when you can entrust me with yourself fully."

Penny felt moved by this.

She wanted to tell Nathan that she had



Chapter 418 I Love You Nathan

actually fallen in love with him but she was on her period.

However, she was unable to bring herself to say such embarrassing things.

On the other hand, she felt that Nathan was right. The time she had spent together with him was not long.

She could not deny that they had liked each other.

However, it was two different things between liking and loving someone.

One might like another during a point in time, but love was a promise of a lifetime.

Only time would tell if it was true love. As long as both parties gave sincerely, they would surely see a day when their relationship bore fruit.

Penny hugged Nathan to sleep that night.

While he was in a drowsy state, he heard Penny mutter, "I love you, Nathan."





Chapter 419 Ivory Teahouse

The following day, the entire family woke up.

Penny headed for work right after breakfast.

Shortly after reaching the office, there was good news from the CDER. The liver cancer vaccine that they had sent for analysis had cleared all tests perfectly. Now, it was being sent to the higher-ups for the second round of testing.

If the first round of testing was cleared, the second round was almost guaranteed to succeed.

Hence, the Cross Group's liver cancer vaccine would soon gain approval from the FDA for sales.

Penny called Nathan to inform him of the good news. She told him to contact the Vouivre Enterprise to expedite the delivery of machinery the Cross Group had ordered

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Chapter 419 Ivory Teahouse

At the Turner Mansion in Alberesque.

Dip Turner was having a discussion with his sons, Philip and Trip Turner.

Trip reported, "I've asked someone to find out about the murders of Zucker and Terrence. They have nothing to do with Franklin Wilson. A colonel by the name of Dunne had made his own decision to help Nation Cross."

Dip's eyes narrowed. "Since Wilson said he had nothing to do with it, we don't need to hold back. We can go straight for Cross now."



His gaze then turned to Trip and he instructed, "Trip, I'll leave this to you."

Trip smiled. "Don't worry, Dad. Nathan Cross is nothing to me. I'll wipe him out with my eyes closed and give you the manufacturing rights of the liver cancer vaccine as a gift."

Dip burst into laughter upon hearing this.

Chapter 419 Ivory Teahouse

The Cross Group was in charge of the Asiatic project, spearheaded by Bob Hoffman. Everything was going smoothly.

At the pharmaceutical factory, Benson Smith was hiring and training workers on a large scale.

The moment the vaccine got approved by the FDA and the machinery arrived, the factory could start mass production.

Penny was a lot freer now and did not have to work overtime as often as before. She had a lot more time to spend with her family.



As she knew Nathan loved drinking tea, she dragged him off for an afternoon tea session.

They headed to the most famous teahouse in Channing, Ivory Teahouse.

Ivory Teahouse was situated right beside Rose Lake, so it had a scenic view. On a sunny day, one could even watch the fluffy white clouds in the sky. Chapter 419 Ivory Teahouse

It was a luxury to be able to view the clear sky and white clouds in this city.

The Ivory Teahouse was named in reference to how only the rich could afford ivory in the past.

In addition, this teahouse was owned by Mary Sharp, the tea expert in Channing.

Although Sharp was past her thirties, she still had a voluptuous figure. Furthermore, her skills in brewing tea were the best in Channing.

Hence, a lot of rich people loved to drink tea there.

However, the people brewing tea for customers there were usually her disciples.

Mary Sharp would not personally brew tea unless the other party was an important individual and loved tea a lot.

It was rumored that the governor of Channing had come three days in a row Chapter 419 Ivory Teahouse

just to drink tea brewed by Sharp.

To his dismay, Sharp had not entertained him and left her female disciples to serve him instead.

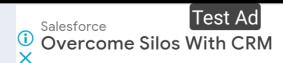
When word got out, everyone felt that tea brewed by Sharp herself was especially precious and it became an honor to be able to drink her tea.

Nathan and Penny headed into the teahouse hand in hand.

There was an additional charge for the second floor, but the first floor was crowded and noisy. The couple chose to take a seat on the second floor instead which was more refined.

The cheapest pot of tea would cost a few hundred. Hence, there were fewer people on the second floor and it was a lot cleaner.

Nathan and Penny chose a seat by the window.



Chapter 419 Ivory Teahouse

It was a good spot with a view of the lake and the sky.

A tea specialist came over to take their order.

Penny was shocked when she saw the menu.

The cheapest brew would nearly cost three hundred!

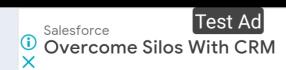
The more expensive teas would cost a few thousand, or even ten thousand!

Penny was used to living frugally. She could not bear to part with thousands just to drink some tea!

Hence, she asked for Nathan's opinion and settled for the cheapest option in the end.

The tea specialist, Yvonne, was dissatisfied when she saw that they had taken up such a good spot but ordered the cheapest pot of tea.

At this point, a jarring voice called out,



Chapter 419 Ivory Teahouse

"Why, if it isn't my sister!"



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Nathan and Penny looked up to see a fashionably dressed woman.

That woman was her cousin, Ferlyn Smith.

Ferlyn dressed well and was adorned with branded jewelry. She was rather beautiful, but she seemed a little arrogant.

Penny exclaimed, "Ferlyn, you're back!"

Ferlyn scoffed, "I came back to take a look. Is this your husband Nathan? The useless wimp grandpa and the others were talking about?"



Penny frowned. "You should call him brother-in-law!"

Ferlyn spat, "He doesn't deserve it! Penny, it's not my place to interfere with your private affairs, but you should've married someone better! Such a useless person can only afford the cheapest tea when dining with you. How embarrassing!"

When Ferlyn was done, she gestured to a man in a suit. "Theodore, come here!"

The man walked over at a normal pace. He had a large build and defined features. As he took steady steps toward them, he exuded a refined aura. Theodore was obviously a professional.

Ferlyn introduced them, "This is my boyfriend, Theodore Lloyd. He's the general manager of Ocean Corporation, a trusted subordinate of the CEO... Theodore, this is my cousin Penny Smith and her husband, Nathan Cross."

Theodore had a wry smile on as he extended a hand towards Penny. "How do you do, Ms. Smith?"

Penny did not take his hand. "I'm sorry, Mr. Lloyd. My husband does not like it when I shake hands with other men."

Theodore smiled and offered Nathan a handshake instead. "How do you do, Mr. Cross?"

Nathan smiled and shook Theodore's hand.



Penny did not know what the Ocean Corporation was, but Nathan did.

The Ocean Corporation was Trip Turner's company which dealt in firearms.

This man was Trip Turner's trusted subordinate.

In that case, this can't be a coincidence. It's likely that Turner sent him.

Indeed, Trip Turner had sent Lloyd to deal with Nathan.

Lloyd heard that Nathan was a powerful individual who killed the Assassin and the Kungfu Maniac.

So, he had come to test the waters.

They shook hands.

Theodore sneered and exerted some force in his hand, attempting to crush Nathan's.

However, Nathan had a smile on his face even when he used only half of his



strength.

Theodore was taken aback and used eighty percent of his strength to attempt to crush Nathan's hand.

He had used enough force to crush a stone, but Nathan still had a smile on his face as though it was a perfectly normal handshake.

Theodore was bewildered.

Seeing that Theodore had run out of ideas, Nathan smiled and was about to crush his bones back.

However, Penny felt something was amiss and hurriedly spoke up, "Why aren't you letting go now? Don't tell me you're turning gay, Nathan."

Nathan smiled and let go. "Haha, Mr. Lloyd was just testing the strength of my wrist!"

Theodore did not know that he had just dodged a bullet.



He glanced at Nathan and stated calmly, "I was once a mercenary overseas. Mr. Cross' hand looked firm and sturdy, so I couldn't help but try to pit my strength."

Ferlyn smiled. "Theodore, you've fought countless battles before! How can a wimp like Nathan compare? Try not to break his hand."

Yvonne, the tea specialist, had gotten impatient. "Hey, you guys! What are you ordering? If you're getting the cheapest brew, please find another seat. This seat requires a minimum order of one thousand. If you're ordering the cheapest, you may sit at the tables closest to the restrooms. I don't care what you want to drink there."



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