Nathan looked at Yancy disapprovingly. "As for you, you should reflect on your actions! You shouldn't go crazy the moment you meet a woman! Penny is my wife and I will protect her, so there's no need for you."

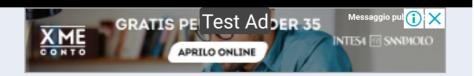
Nathan's words came as a shock to the Tonkins.

Hank looked at him indignantly and growled, "I'm not talking to you! I'm talking to Penn and her family!"

Prudence chimed in as well. "That's right! You need to keep quiet! Leah, you should just throw him out! Our Yancy is a hundred times better than him! He's a much better match for Penn!"

Benson and Leah were not going to give in so easily. They tried their best to pacify the Tonkins while standing their ground firmly.

However, the Tonkins were relentless. "Leah, don't you remember how much you suffered after you married that good-fornothing Benson! Your daughter deserves



someone like Yancy. He's so much better than Nathan Cross!"

With that, the Smiths and Tonkins got into a heated argument.

Yancy sneered at Nathan and preened, "You don't even have a marriage certificate with Ms. Smith, do you? I have the right to court her, and if you're insistent, then maybe we can compete as equals."

A hint of anger flashed across Nathan's eyes. *Is this guy dumb?*

Suddenly, the door to the room was kicked open roughly.

A group of men in suits rushed in without warning.

They parted to form an aisle upon entering, and soon after, a stout man with bulging muscles walked in.

That man had tiger-like eyes, stubble and a dominating aura that could make anyone fear for their lives.



He was no other than one of Carl's sworn brothers, Fabian.

Hank flew into a rage. "Who are you? Who gave you permission to barge in here? I know the boss here personally! Aren't you scared of getting thrown out?"

Fabian's face darkened. "How dare you? Beat him up!"

His subordinates rushed forward and yanked Hank from his chair by his collar before he raised his palm and brought it down hard on Hank's cheeks.

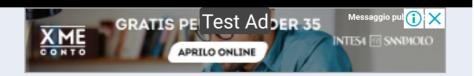
A few slaps later, Hank's face was a bloody mess.

What an unsolicited beating!

Everyone at the table was shocked.

Fabian's gaze swept across the crowd and said, "I'm here for two things."

"Firstly, I need Ms. Penny Smith to sign this transfer of manufacturing rights contract



for the vaccine so that the patent could be transferred to the Russo family. Secondly, I need Nathan Cross to come with me."

Penny could tell that Fabian was here to snatch her vaccine patent away and take revenge on Nathan.

She turned pale in a second. "Stop right there or I'm calling the police!"

Fabian burst into laughter. "Calling the police? They wouldn't dare to interfere with my matters! Haha!"

Yancy saw this as an opportunity to prove himself.

He took a step forward and raised his voice. "I'll deal with you then!"

Fabian glanced at him. "Who areyou?"

"I'm the captain of the Channing military base, Yancy Tonkins! Major General Franklin Wilson himself has commented that I'm an all-rounded fighter! You'd better kneel down before my uncle and Ms.



Smith and apologize to them, or else!"



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The Tonkins were immensely proud of their nephew.

However, Fabian simply smirked and said, "Maybe I'll do it if it's the Major General, but you? Who areyou to order me around?"

"You're asking for it!" Yancy yelled.

Without warning, he threw himself across the room to ram his fist into Fabian's chest.

The men in suits stood on high alert, ready to tackle him.

However, Fabian himself seemed unfazed. "Let him be."

Within seconds, Yancy's fist had connected with Fabian's chest.

But Fabian simply stood still and unmoving.

Bam!

Yancy felt as though he had just punched a



tree trunk.

Fabian did not even flinch.

Unfortunately for Yancy, a sharp pain shot up his arm from his fist, almost immobilizing it.

He looked up fearfully.

His punches could knock out anyone stupid enough to challenge him.

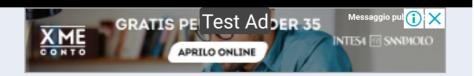
How did Fabian take it without batting an eye?

"That's all you have?" Fabian sneered.

Suddenly, he reached out and grabbed Yancy's wrist, snapping it with a quick twist of his arms.

Before Yancy could scream, Fabian had already sent him flying across the room with a mighty kick.

Blood spewed out of Yancy's lips as he crashed into the table, smashing it into



pieces. He was knocked out cold.

Everybody began to scream in horror.

"Shut up!"

Fabian's loud growl shook the room, and everyone covered their mouths fearfully.

Satisfied, Fabian turned to Penny. "Ms. Smith, I'm giving you one last chance to sign the contract."

"If not, I'm killing your family members one by one, starting with your daughter!"

Penny hugged her daughter close in shock.

Meanwhile, Nathan, who had been sitting by the table and sipping his wine quietly the whole time, glared at Fabian with his cold, unforgiving gaze. "Well, I wanted to let you off alive considering my family is here, but looks like you've given up that chance."

He picked up his wine glass and strode



towards Fabian.

"You're Nathan Cross? Get ready to die then!" Fabian threatened.

With a loud roar, he charged toward Nathan like a feral tiger.

His gigantic fist flew toward Nathan as though he was going to flatten him into a fleshy biscuit.

"Nathan, look out!" Penny yelled.

Bam!

Fabian's fist rammed into Nathan's chest.

However, Nathan did not even flinch.

He stood rooted to the ground like a sturdy rock.

Even Fabian's powerful punch did nothing against Nathan's rock-hard body.

He did not even spill a drop of his wine.



Fabian's eyes widened as he stared at Nathan in astonishment.

It greatly resembled Yancy's expression from just a few moments ago.

"Y-You..." he stammered.

"That's it?" Nathan asked, smiling lightly.

Fabian's face turned pale as he pulled back to deliver another punch.

However, Nathan's reflexes were faster, and his leg went flying as he kicked at Fabian's body.

His movements were as fast as lightning.

Bam!

Fabian's massive body was sent flying as Nathan's foot connected with his chest.



Crash!

Fabian's body crashed into the wall outside of the room, the momentum of the collision creating spiderweb-like cracks in the wall.

After that, he slid onto the floor slowly, his skin making horrendous screeching noises along the walls.

There was a giant crater in his chest and blood frothing from his mouth. When his backside touched the ground, his head fell to the side limply.



He's dead!

Nathan had gotten rid of a man who gravely injured the all-rounded fighter Yancy!

Everyone's eyes were trained on Nathan, some in shock, some in awe, and some in fear.

However, Nathan himself seemed to brush aside the matter as though nothing had



happened.

He raised his glass and emptied it into his throat, before turning to the suited men standing and trembling by the door. "Get out. Take that dead dog along with you."

The men in suits obeyed his orders immediately.

Everyone watched as the men in suits scampered off with Fabian's corpse in tow, before heaving a huge sigh of relief.

They continued to stare at Nathan, though there was an array of emotions coursing through their veins: bewilderment, jealousy, worry, pride, reverence...

Penny was the worried one. She feared retribution.

The proud one was Kylie.Nathan's amazing! He got rid of someone that even Yancy couldn't deal with!

The shocked and jealous one was none other than Yancy.



He glared at Nathan in disbelief. He's so scrawny! How did he even kick that guy to death?

No... Something is wrong! This isn't real!

He recalled how he had punched Fabian in the chest before.

Was Nathan Cross just finishing the job for me?

The more he thought about it, the more he believed it. After all, he was the top fighter in the Channing military, favored by Major General Wilson.

He could kill anyone weaker than him with one punch.

So, he figured that Fabian was just barely hanging on to life after taking a punch from him.

Nathan must have taken advantage of that!

His face slowly contorted into an ugly



scowl the more he thought about it.

The limelight belongs to me!

The Smiths were gathered around Nathan, checking his body for injuries.

Nathan simply shook his head and smiled. "I was a soldier. That thug didn't stand a chance against me."

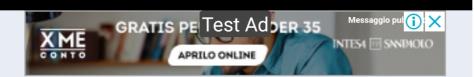
He had said those words without much thought, but it sounded like a jarring screech to the Tonkins.

They had been making fun of Nathan just moments ago, even speculating that he was nothing compared to Yancy.

However, the tables were turned in just seconds. Captain Yancy was knocked out within minutes, while Nathan had emerged victorious.

"Oh my! Yancy's hurt. We should call an ambulance," Leah exclaimed.

Soon, Yancy was sent to the hospital for



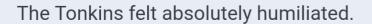
treatment.

The Tonkins had aimed to tear Nathan and Penny apart so that their nephew could take Nathan's place.

They had gone all out to denounce Nathan and make him look bad.

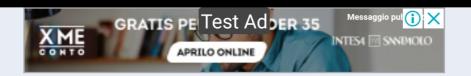
However, Fabian's sudden appearance made their plan backfire on them.

Not only did Penny refuse to leave Nathan, but she also did not seem even slightly interested in Yancy.



Afterwards, they checked in to a five-star hotel near the hospital, saying that they would never step foot in the Smiths' family home ever again.

Leah had tried to persuade them to stay to no avail, so the Smiths had no choice but to return to their house without the Tonkins.



After the Smiths left, the Tonkins paid a visit to Yancy in his hospital room.

Hank began to berate Yancy almost immediately. "Yancy, what's wrong with you? You mean you can't even beat some random thug?"

"I know right? How are you going to win Penny over now?" Prudence added.

Yancy's face was flushed as he growled, "Nathan Cross cheated!"

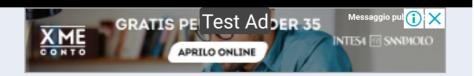
Everyone was shocked by this sudden statement. "Why?" they asked in unison.

"Fabian took a punch from me, so he must have been gravely injured then," Yancy huffed

"If I hadn't punched him first, Nathan Cross wouldn't have been able to strike him down!"

Kylie was skeptical of her cousin's claim.

Even after taking a hit, Fabian could still



snap her cousin's wrist and throw him across the room. There was no way he could have done that if he had been seriously injured.

However, the Tonkins couple believed Yancy's tale wholeheartedly.

Their eyes widened in surprise. "I knew it! That scumbag got lucky!"

"You're the one who injured him! Nathan Cross was just finishing your job!"

"He stole your limelight!"

The Tonkins' words made the angry flame in Yancy's heart burn even brighter. "I won't let him go so easily! I'll expose the clown within him and win Penny over!"

Kylie decided to intervene then. "Nathan is more powerful than you think! It was definitely not a coincidence. I know you're an excellent fighter too, Yancy, but you're nothing compared to Nathan."

"Are you betraying your own family?" The



Tonkins and Yancy asked in unison.

Kylie did not know how to answer that, so she ended up giving them a bitter smile.

Soon, she left the hospital, leaving the Tonkins couple to take care of Yancy.

The moment she left, a tall man wearing the uniform of a lieutenant walked into the room.

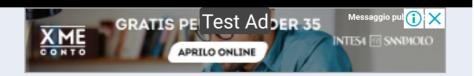
His name was Phil Jones, and he had gone to the competition in Northania with Yancy, where they had won the same title of 'allrounded fighter'.

He was Yancy's best friend, and he had known about Yancy's blind date that night.

As such, he was shocked to hear that Yancy had gotten himself injured.

He hopped into his military Jeep and rushed to the hospital, breaking about a million traffic rules along the way.

After hearing about Yancy's predicament



in detail, he scowled angrily. "How dare that Nathan Cross take advantage of you! I'm going to beat him up now! If he can't defeat me, I'll punish him severely for stealing your limelight!"

After that, he called up a few of his friends and took Yancy out from the hospital. They got into a car and headed straight for Riverside Garden.

Meanwhile, Riverside Garden's plaza was quiet and peaceful, with groups of people taking their peaceful evening stroll.

Suddenly, two military Jeeps pulled up beside the entrance, attracting much attention from the people strolling about.

Nathan had been sitting on his couch watching TV when someone slammed their fist against his door and yelled, "Come out and face the music, Nathan Cross!"

Penny turned pale immediately, thinking that someone from Alberesque had come to reap Nathan's soul.



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Chapter 315 What If I Say No

Nathan seemed unfazed as he walked out of the door, coming face to face with Yancy, Phil and a group of bloodthirsty men.

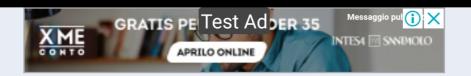
He froze for a moment before smiling lightly. "Are you here to thank me for saving you? There's no need for that."

"Hmph! The only reason why you could defeat him was that I punched him first! I must prove myself to Ms. Smith!" Yancy snarled.

Phil walked to the front of the crowd and squinted at Nathan. "My name is Phil Jones, and I'm a good friend of Yancy's. I'm an 'all-rounded fighter' just like him. We're here to take back the glory that belongs to him!"

"Huh?" Nathan asked, frowning.

Phil Jones puffed out his chest and said, "I'm just as powerful as Yancy, so I'll fight you on his behalf. If I defeat you, you must apologize to Yancy for injuring him and stealing his limelight."



Leah and the others emerged from their rooms at that moment. "Nathan, just close the door," Leah warned, her anxiety mounting.

Nathan nodded and turned to face the crowd. "I'm sorry. My mom-in-law says no!"

After that, he turned around and slammed the door in their faces.

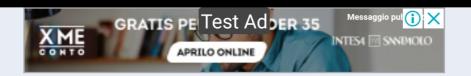
The group could only stand and stare in shock.

Yancy's face was ashen from anger. "He's unreasonable!"

Phil was furious as well, as he had never seen anyone who dared to disrespect him like that. "I'm not leaving until justice is served tonight!"

After that, he gestured at his friends with his eyes.

They leapt forward immediately and started to ram on the door with their palms.



Phil stood by the door and started to yell, "Nathan Cross! Aren't you supposed to be really powerful? Why are you acting like a scaredy-cat? Do you think you can hide from me? I'm going to count to three, and if you refuse to come out, I'm trashing your house!"

He started counting. "One... Two... Three!"

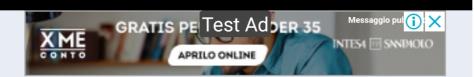
The door did not budge even after he counted to three. Phil turned to one of his stronger friends and said, "Kick the door open!"

The well-built, muscular man nodded. "Alright!"

After that, he lifted his foot and made a move to kick the door.

However, before he could do that, the door opened on its own, with Nathan standing behind it.

The big guy was about to land a kick on Nathan's body.



"Nice!" Phil and Yancy shouted in unison.

However, they had underestimated Nathan's reflexes. Before they knew it, Nathan had dodged the man's kick and raised his foot in a counterattack.

Bam¹

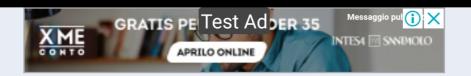
The big guy's gigantic body was sent flying, and he landed with a loud thud by Phil and Yancy's feet.

The two of them began to regret shouting praises before the big guy actually landed the kick.

Nathan put his hands behind his back and walked out slowly. "Well, I didn't want to do this, but I guess I have no choice."

Phil and his friends pulled the big guy up from the ground.

Phil glared at Nathan and sneered. "If you want us to let you go, sure. Just apologize to Yancy. He was the one who beat Fabian! Also, you have to leave Ms. Smith alone!



You're not worthy of her and she belongs to Yancy!"

"What if I say no?" Nathan asked coldly.



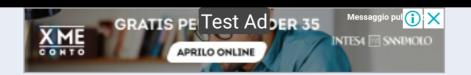
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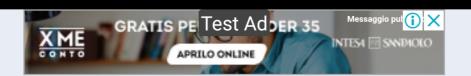
Phil threatened, "If you refuse, I'll let you know that I have my ways of dealing with you."

With that being said, he glanced at Penny and the others who had just walked out of the house. Sneering, he continued, "For example, I can viciously beat you up, right in front of your wife. I'll allow her to see just how pitiful you are when you're crawling on the floor like a dog."

"In addition to that, the fact that you've killed Fabian Howard still remains.
Although it was out of self-defense, you did not have to actually kill him. I know people in the military and the police. One phone call from me and you'll be arrested. That's at least twenty years in prison for you."

Nathan's eyes narrowed at the other man's words. "So, you hail from an influential family? It's no surprise that you're full of arrogance."

Phil smirked smugly, announcing, "The police captain of the Investigation Unit is



Zed Walker, my uncle. My father, Xander Jones, is the new colonel of Channing's Military Unit. Now, I'm giving you two options. One, you fight with me, and if you lose, you leave Ms. Smith's side. The other option is me calling the authority on you for your crimes."

Nathan's tone was indifferent as he responded, "I'll do the calling around here."

He pulled out his phone and dialed Colin's number. "I want Zed Walker, Xander Jones, and Franklin Wilson at my house in ten minutes."

Phil and the rest of his group were surprised at first. Then, they burst into laughter.

Yancy was laughing so hard that there were tears in his eyes. He spoke to Phil, "Phil, he's pretty good at acting, isn't he? He's even pretended to call someone, ordering your Uncle, Colonel Jones and Major-General Wilson to arrive here in ten minutes!"



Phil had a mocking look on his face as he replied, "What a braggart and a liar! He may have killed someone at the Dragon Palace Hotel, but I'm sure that he'd be so scared that he'd wet his pants if my uncle were to come, to arrest him."

Once more, the men laughed uproariously.

Ignoring them, Nathan turned to Penny and the rest of the family. "Penn, Kylie, why don't you two bring Mum, Dad, and Queenie back into the house? I can handle things here."

Penny's beautiful face was creased with worry and she was clearly hesitant to leave. "But..."

Nathan chuckled, "What, don't you trust me?"

She hurriedly answered, "Of course I trust you! But they..."

"It's fine. I'll deal with this bunch of clowns," he reassured, with a smile upon his face.



Nathan's words had Phil and the men gritting their teeth in anger, as they itched to get their hands on him.

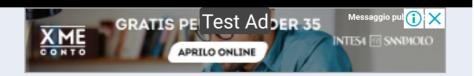
Kylie, who knew Nathan's true identity, was confident in his ability to handle them. She advised Penny, "Penny, come on. Let Nathan deal with them. We should take Queenie back inside. You don't want her to see them fight, right?"

Not wanting her daughter to witness the oncoming violence, Penny had no choice but to follow her family back inside.

Hence, only Nathan, Phil, Yancy, and the rest of his men were left in the front yard.

Feeling impatient, Phil growled, "Cross, stop trying to waste my time. Either fight me now or kneel down to apologize to Yancy, leaving Ms. Smith of your own volition. You choose."

Nathan snorted, "You're merely a measly king amongst soldiers, yet you're already so arrogant. How bad would you be if you were to ever become promoted? Bring it



on then! I'll teach you a lesson on behalf of Franklin today!"

A grin split Phil's lips as he answered, "All bark and no bite. Let's see if you can live up to your word!"

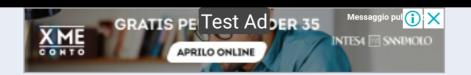
He had barely finished speaking, when he had started to dash towards Nathan, his body tightly coiled like a spring, while his fist was raised. He aimed a punch at the other man's chest.

Nathan took a step back and easily avoided the fist.

Like a bolt of lightning, Phil's leg lashed out at his head. Luckily, Nathan had managed to duck, meaning that the kick had swung by harmlessly.

Swinging his arm around, Phil then tried to elbow Nathan's ribs. Again, the latter swiftly dodged the attack.

From these few moves, Nathan could tell that Phil had a very solid grasp on combat basics. His skill level would be on par with



Yancy's. Hence, it was unsurprising that he was known as the Soldier King, an ace warrior.

Nonetheless, what was a Solider King before Ares, the God of War?

While Phil was relentless in his attacks, never staying still for more than a fraction of a second, Nathan's movements were relaxed and leisurely, as though he was taking a stroll through the park.

He was even commenting as he avoided each move, "Not bad, but not particularly amazing either. Your speed is still too slow and the explosive force behind each attack is slightly lacking. I'm not sure what there is, to be proud of."

Up until the present, Phil had not been able to touch Nathan's clothes, let alone the man himself.

Beginning to get angry and frustrated, he snarled, "I dare you to stop dodging and to actually fight back!"



"Fine!"

In the next instance, Nathan became a blur as he raced toward Phil.

At the sidelines, Yancy and the rest could only stare with their eyes wide in disbelief. They all had one thought in common, what terrifying speed!

For Phil, all it took was the blink of an eye before Nathan had appeared before him.

Before he could defend himself, the other man had already lifted up his hand, bringing it down, hard.



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SMACK!

The force of the slap had blood spurting from Phil's mouth, along with several teeth. He spun around in two full circles before collapsing to the ground.

"Phil!" Yancy and his friends cried out in shock.

Two of them hurried forward to help Phil to his feet. Nearly half of his teeth were gone and the left side of his face was swollen badly.

He was still reeling from the slap, his ears ringing while his vision swamped. He mumbled angrily, "B*****! How dare you hit me? You're dead!"

Just then, there was a commotion as a convoy of cars screeched to a halt nearby. There were several police cars scattered amongst the dozen military jeeps.

Franklin Wilson, Xander Jones and Zed Walker had arrived.



Noting the presence of his father and uncle, Phil staggered forward to welcome them. Like a child who had been bullied, he complained piteously, "Major-General Wilson, Dad, Uncle, this b*****, Nathan Cross, killed someone. He's also injured Captain Tonkins and me. You have to stand up for us!"

Right as Phil finished speaking, Xander Jones lifted his left hand and gave his son a heavy slap across his right cheek.

Smack!

Instantly, Phil's right cheek swelled to match his left. The remaining teeth in his mouth flew out as well.

Caught unaware, the youngsters could only stare in dumbfounded shock.

What's going on?

Phil raised a trembling hand to touch his swollen face as he stared in disbelief at his father. His voice wavered when he asked, "Dad, why did you hit me?"



Xander roared, "You fool! Do you have any idea who he is? He's the senior officer who's personally promoted me and the mentor of Major-General Wilson! He's the General of the North Army, the Ares of the North... Nathan Cross! You are but a lowly Soldier King, yet you act so haughtily! I'll kill you!"

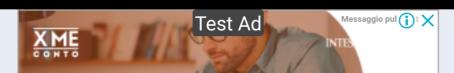
Unable to contain his fury, Xander took off his belt and started to whip his errant son.

He did not hold back, each lash breaking the skin and causing Phil to wail in pain.

Terrified, Yancy and the rest snuck a glance at Nathan with despair written across their faces.

We're so dead. Of all the people we had to p*** off, it just had to the General of the North. We're f*****.

Nathan Cross was Xander's idol, a man whom he had respected deeply. He had been unable to sleep for several nights straight after the award ceremony, where the general had personally given him his



medal. It was the biggest honor of his life.

Yet now, his idiotic son had actually gotten into trouble with the General. There were no words to describe his anger.

No matter how tough Phil was, there was still no way that he could withstand such a harsh beating for long. Soon, he was curled up on the floor, his cries growing increasingly weak.

Even so, Xander did not look like he had any intentions of stopping.

At that moment, Nathan spoke up, "Alright, that's enough. At this rate, you'll really kill your son. It's not easy for the country to cultivate a soldier like him. Give him a chance to turn over a new leaf."

Franklin reached out to grab Xander's wrist, adding in a low tone, "Jones, the General has already said to let him go."

Zed piped up as well, "Xander, aren't you going to thank the General for being so lenient?"



Yanking his nearly dead son to his feet, Xander bellowed, "Give your apologies to the General, now! I'll kill you myself if he doesn't forgive you!"

Phil was severely cowed by the beating he had just received. He knew now what a monumental mistake he had made. Worst case scenario, his father and even his superior, Franklin, would be punished for his transgressions.

He fell to his knees before Nathan, pleading, "General, I was a fool to not have recognized you. Please forgive me!"



Nathan's reply was cold, "I'll give you one chance to change yourself, only because it's not easy to cultivate soldiers. Plus, you didn't actually make too much trouble. I hope that you will learn your lesson from this. If you ever make the same mistake again, I will punish you, for both crimes at the same time."

Phil appeared greatly relieved and he thanked the other man profusely, "Thank you, sir. I'll definitely change my ways and



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Chapter 317 Punish You For Both Crimes

strive to be the best soldier I can be."

At this point, Franklin and the rest had already moved to Nathan's side, their gazes focused on Yancy. "General, this man is the culprit behind this matter. How would you like to deal with him?"



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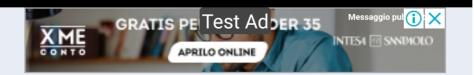
A cold sweat drenched Yancy's back and he was trembling slightly. Despair and terror fought for dominance in his eyes.

His accomplice, Phil, had already been punished so harshly. He shuddered to imagine what would happen to him, the mastermind behind this incident. At this point, he was even considering death to be the better option.

His arm was in a sling from having been broken by Fabian, while there were bandages wrapped around his chest for his broken ribs. Pairing them up with the terrified look on his face. Nathan found himself staring at a rather pitiful-looking man.

Ultimately, Yancy was still a relative of Leah's, so he decided that he would let the man off easy this time. He uttered in a harsh tone, "I gave Phil a chance earlier, so I'll offer the same to you. Next time, I won't be so lenient!"

Delighted, Yancy exclaimed, "Thank you, Sir! Thank you! I'll be sure to warn my



uncle and aunt not to be disrespectful to you from now on."

Nathan was quick to correct him, "No, don't do that. I don't want my peaceful life with my family disturbed by anyone or anything. None of you are to reveal my identity, or you'll be tried for leaking a state secret."

The color drained from Yancy, Phil, and the other young men's faces. "Yes, si... I mean, Mr. Cross. We know what to do now."

"Begone," Nathan dismissed with a wave of his hand.

"Yes, sir!"

Everyone present straightened their posture and bowed towards Nathan before swiftly departing.

He had barely taken a few steps into the house when his family surrounded him.

Penny bombarded him with questions, her face concerned, "Nathan, we saw you



hitting Phil through the windows. What did the military and police want with you? What did they say? Did they give you a hard time?"

"Those were the leaders of the police and the military. They were righteous and stern, as they should be. They criticized Yancy and Phil for their actions and they've also apologized to me. After that, they left without much ado."

Relieved, she smiled at him. "That's good. I was afraid that they would gang up on you."



Benson and Leah were equally as happy. "Thank God those leaders were good men and knew right from wrong."

Standing slightly behind them, Kylie rolled her eyes.

As if anyone would dare to pick on Nathan!

At the presidential suite of Juno Hotel.

Hank and Prudence Tonkins were still



discussing how to split both Penny and Nathan so that Yancy could be with her.

Just then, Hank's phone rang with a call from Yancy.

Answering the call, Hank queried, "Yancy, you guys have managed to beat up Cross, right? So he's agreed to leave Penny?"

Embarrassed, Yancy hemmed and hawed for a good while, before he stammered out, "Uncle, there's no way that Penny and I can work. Nathan is the best man for her and they were a match made in heaven. Please don't bring this up again. Also, the next time you see Nathan Cross, do remember to be more polite to him."

Hank's eyes widened to the size of saucers. "Yancy, what's happened? Didn't you say you'd fallen in love with Penny the moment you'd first set eyes on her? That she was the one? Why are you giving up now?"

"I've already told you not to mention this again. Just remember not to mess with



Nathan Cross. That's all," Yancy replied impatiently. Then, he hung up.

Bewildered, Hank and Prudence shared a glance.

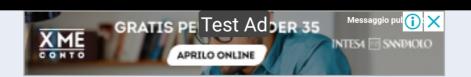
She suggested, "Maybe he was beaten up by Cross again?"

"That must be it! Cross used to be in the military as well. Look at how he'd killed Fabian Howard with one kick; that alone can tell you how powerful he is. Yancy and his men must have been beaten into submission again!" Hank shouted.

"Well, all of them do have to keep their statuses in mind. They must have thought it wiser to stop fighting with a madman like Cross, than to do something unbefitting of their positions," she surmised.

"We can't just let things slide like this! We have to do something about Cross!" he demanded

His wife laughed bitterly, replying, "But this



is Channing, not our own territory. Even if we'd wanted to teach him a lesson, we don't have any men to order around!"

Chuckling, he reminded her, "Have you forgotten about the young man that has been trying to court our Kylie? Mr. Shane?"

Her eyes brightened. "Mr. Shane, as in Shane Ortiz? The heir to the Ortiz family of the Southern Four?"

"That's him. He's always liked our Kylie and has been nothing but respectful towards us. If we ask him for help with Cross, I'm sure he'll be willing to do it."





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Hank and Prudence decided that there was no better time than the present, to call Shane Ortiz.

Although Shane felt that the name 'Nathan Cross' was rather familiar, he was unable to remember who it was.

Pushing the niggling feeling aside, he answered, "Uncle, Aunt, I have a really simple idea. I'm currently in Alberesque and not Channing. However, what you can do, is pretend to invite Cross to the Diamond Dynasty to sing karaoke. I can instruct the boss, Daniel, to find an excuse to break both his legs right before you. How does that sound?"

Matching grins of delight split the couple's faces and they hurriedly replied, "That's a great idea! We can personally witness his legs being broken. He wouldn't even know that it was us! Brilliant!"

That night at nine o'clock, Leah received a phone call from Prudence. The latter had suddenly announced that she had felt like singing and she had booked a private



room at Diamond Dynasty. She was inviting her younger sister and her family over to join them.

Leah agreed without a second thought. After all, she had always cared very much about her own blood relatives. Furthermore, this was her actual sister.

Turning to the younger adults, she explained, "Your aunt and uncle are singing karaoke at the Diamond Dynasty now. They want all of us to join them. Nathan, are you guys willing to come with us?"

In all honesty, Nathan was rather reluctant to go.

However, upon seeing the hopeful look in his mother-in-law's eyes, he relented with a smile, "They've come all the way over here, so the least we could do is play our part as hosts. Since they've already booked a room, we might as well go to meet them."

Leah heaved a sigh of relief. She had been worried that Nathan and Penny would not want to go. If only she and Benson went,



her sister would have probably said that her family was snubbing them.

Thus, Nathan, Penny, Queenie, Kylie, Benson, and Leah piled into two cars and headed straight for Diamond Dynasty.

Diamond Dynasty, one of the most luxurious karaoke lounges in Channing, was decorated richly, like a palace.

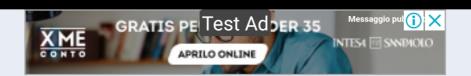
When Nathan and the others arrived, they went straight towards the Jade Room.

Inside, there was only Hank and Prudence. They had already ordered some wine and snacks and were currently happily singing.

Nathan and the rest of the family entered the room just as they finished their song.

Leah clapped her hands, praising, "That was great!"

Hank and Prudence exchanged a gleeful look when they saw that Nathan had come too.



Completely opposite to her previously mean demeanor, Prudence allowed a warm smile to grace her lips as she welcomed them, "You guys are all here! Oh, even Kylie has come!"

Pasting an equally fake smile on his face, Hank added, "I know that dinner didn't end on a happy note. After some thought, Prudence and I have agreed that as relatives, we shouldn't let these negative feelings fester between us. That's why we've booked this private room and invited everyone here. Let's all be merry and forget about what'd happened earlier, okay?"

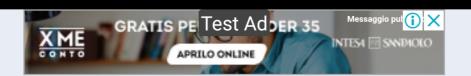


Everyone believed their words and agreed with them wholeheartedly about letting bygones be bygones.

All except Nathan, who smiled, remaining silent.

The two families sat down to eat, drink, and sing together. In fact, the atmosphere could almost be described as amiable.

At one point, Penny stepped outside to go



to the washroom.

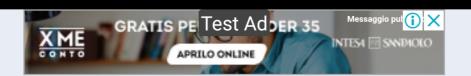
Unfortunately, she was halted by a drunken man in the corridor. He mistook her for one of the women working here and insisted that she accompany him to his private room.

His hands reached out with the intent to grope her while he slurred loudly, "You're basically a high-end prostitute. How much is it going to cost for the entire night?"

Furious, Penny gave him a ringing slap across the cheeks. "You hooligan! Have more respect for women!"

Her action had stirred the hornet's nest and a middle-aged man in a floral shirt came barreling toward her aggressively. Following along behind him were more than a dozen men.

He helped the intoxicated man to his feet, glaring at Penny all the while. He shouted, "You b****, how dare you hit my cousin?!"



Attracted by the commotion, Nathan and the rest exited the private room.

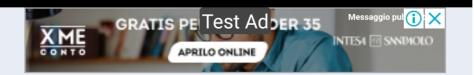
He instantly moved to stand in front of Penny. Taking in the scene with a quick sweep of his eyes, he questioned coldly, "What's going on here?"

The man in the floral shirt pointed at the inebriated man beside him, accusing, "I'm the boss here, Daniel. Your woman has hit my cousin!"

"He tried to molest me and was acting very offensive!" Penny retorted.

Daniel scowled heavily and insisted, "I didn't see that; all I saw was you slapping him. You'd better apologize to him right now and reimburse us one hundred thousand for the medical fees. If you don't, I'll strip you naked right here and show you what offensive really is."

Nathan narrowed his eyes dangerously. "A group of men ganging up on one woman. How capable of you."



A cold glint flashed through Daniel's eyes and he gave Nathan a menacing smirk, "You're her man, aren't you? Then you can pay for her actions. You have two options now. Either you get on your knees to apologize to my cousin, or I can break both of your legs. You decide!"

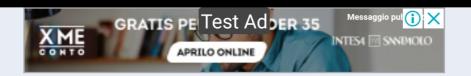
His words caused anxiety to rise in the Smith family. Never in a million years would they have imagined that they would run into this kind of trouble when out singing karaoke.

By contrast, Hank and Prudence Tonkins were delighted at the turn of events.

They knew that Daniel was on orders from Shane, to teach Nathan a lesson. They were eagerly anticipating what would happen next. Would Nathan choose to beg for mercy on his knees or would he allow Daniel to break his legs?

Penny whispered in a worried tone, "Maybe we should call the police."

"There's no point in wasting police



resources on these pathetic thugs."

Nathan had not bothered to lower his voice when he said that.

Angered by the other man's flippant words, Daniel bellowed, "Get him, boys! Break the little s***'s legs!"

With that being said, he led his men in a charge toward Nathan.

"Die!"

He threw a vicious hook at Nathan's face.

Lifting his left hand, Nathan easily grabbed hold of Daniel's fist and stopped it in its tracks.

Daniel's eyes popped out of their sockets while everyone present also had looks of disbelief painted across their faces.

Built like a bull, there was a considerable amount of force behind Daniel's punch. Yet, Nathan did not seem to be using much force at all to hold it back.



Nathan clenched his fingers lightly. Instantly, there were several loud cracks as the bones in Daniel's hand broke.

Face twisting into a grimace, the latter howled in pain.

By then, the rest of the thugs had already neared Nathan. They raised their weapons, intending on attacking the lone man and overwhelming him with numbers.

Nathan released Daniel's hand and rushed over towards the men. He weaved amongst them like a snake, his movements quick as lightning and as powerful as thunder.

One by one, the thugs dropped to the floor like flies, letting out cries of pain. None were his match.

Daniel was staring in horrified shock at his right fist. His incredibly swollen right fist. All the bones in his hand were completely fractured.

All of his men were groaning on the floor,



defeated.

Quailing in fear but still trying to act tough, he shouted at Nathan, "I have to give it to you; you're a tough man! But this is the Eastern District of Channing, the territory of Mr. Green. You're dead now that you've caused trouble here!"

Nathan snorted, "I don't care if it's Mr. Blue or Mr. Red. Even if he appears before me now, if I want him to kneel, he won't dare stand."

The words had barely left his lips when a group of nasty-looking men came running up the stairs.

The leader's voice drifted over even before he even came into sight, "Who dares to be so impudent as to order me to kneel?"

An ecstatic smile appeared on Daniel's face when he saw a man in a leather jacket at the head of the group. He hurried forward to greet him, "Boss, you're finally here! This is the guy! Not only did he cause a ruckus at my business, but he'd also



even injured me and my men!"



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