

Chapter 331 Here To Apologize

Carl collapsed in his chair. His two sworn brothers were his right-hand men, and the Eighteen Hounds were the pillars of the Russo family, but they all died in Channing!

He was so shocked by the ordeal and seemed to have aged several years at once.

However, that wasn't the end.

It was obvious Nathan was here to settle the score with him.

He looked at Nathan with conflicting emotions. "Young man, I've underestimated you. What do you want?"

Nathan told him coolly, "I've warned your family previously. However, you insisted on testing my patience. Last night, you even caused a bloodbath in Channing. My friends, Howard and Zachary, ended up in the hospital."

"I wanted to kill you so that you'll meet your sworn brothers in hell."

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“However, if I kill you now, that would be doing you a favor as it won’t make up for the losses you caused last night.”

Nathan paused before he added, “If you’re willing to compensate for the losses you caused and apologize to the people you hurt last night, I can forgive you and let you return to Alberesque.”

No one was willing to die, including Carl.

He asked in frustration, “How should I compensate you?”

“That depends on how much you think your life is worth,” Nathan told him calmly.

“I’ll give you one chance. If I’m satisfied with your compensation, you can live and return to Alberesque. If not, you’ll remain in Channing forever.”

Carl’s face darkened. Nathan was giving him a chance to trade his life back. With cold-hard cash.

However, he only had one chance. If

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Nathan were satisfied with the price he offered, he would get to live.

In the end, he blurted out, "One billion. I'll pay one billion for my life. That should be enough, right?"

Nathan's lips curled up in a smirk. "That's too little. Why don't you compensate Zachary and Howard one billion each and another billion for the rest? You'll pay three billion in total. Plus, you'll have to go to the hospital to apologize to Zachary and Howard. How does that sound?"

Carl was reluctant to pay that much. However, he had no choice but to agree since he was defeated by Nathan. "Okay!" he bit his lips and said.

Since Carl agreed to pay the compensation and apologize, a smile appeared on Nathan's face. He turned to order Colin and Thomas, "After he transfers the money, bring him to the hospital so he can apologize to Mr. Schulz and Mr. Ortiz. Make sure he does everything before he leaves Channing."

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Colin and Thomas answered, “Yes!”

Meanwhile, in the hospital’s VIP ward, both Zachary and Howard were lying on the hospital beds.

Both of them ended up there because they supported Nathan publicly. Hence, Carl took revenge on them and assaulted them.



Right now, both their families were with them, and they were blaming both of them for supporting Nathan.

“Just look at you! You’re lying here because you offended Mr. Russo!”

However, both Zachary and Howard snorted, “We’ll support Mr. Cross no matter what. Besides, we believe he’ll seek justice for us.”

Their family members shook their heads. “Nathan Cross can barely take care of himself. How will he seek justice for you?”

Just then, the door to the ward was pushed open, then Colin and Thomas

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brought a disheveled man into the ward.

When everyone in the ward realized who it was, they gasped in shock. “It’s Carl! Carl Russo!”

“Carl, why are you here? Look what you did to them!”

“Yes, stop your despicable act. Are you trying to kill them?”

Both families did not hold back as they flung accusations at Carl.

Meanwhile, Colin smiled and cut them off, “Everyone, you’ve gotten it wrong. Carl is here to apologize to Schulz and Ortiz as ordered by our Master.”



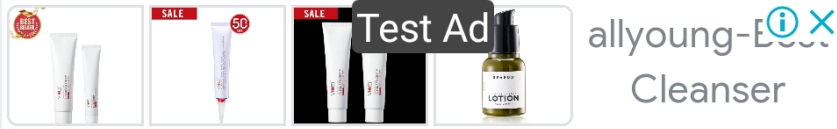
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## Chapter 332 Play Hard To Get

Both Zachary and Howard were shocked by the news.

Carl lowered his head and mumbled in shame, “Mr. Schulz, Mr. Ortiz, I’m here to apologize to both of you. I’ll also compensate one billion to each of your families. Please forgive me!”

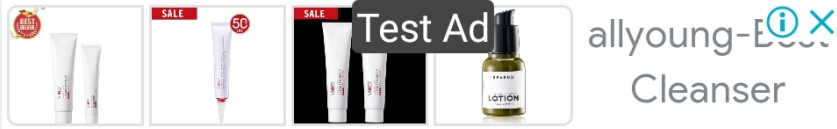
Both families were dumbfounded.

Carl Russo, the head of the Russo family and one of the Southern Four, was apologizing to them and even compensating them!

Zachary flushed with delight. “Haha! I told you, Mr. Cross is a capable man! Look, he even asked Carl to apologize to us!”

Finally snapping back to reality, their family members were full of praises for Nathan. “Yeah, he’s awesome!”

Not only did Carl Russon apologized to them, but he also even compensated Zachary and Howard one billion each!



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Zachary and Howard were pleased by that fact.

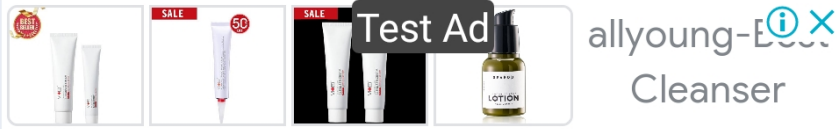
However, they didn't accept the compensation. Instead, they decided to hand the money to Nathan.

Smiling, Colin told them, "Mr. Cross gave instructions that if you refused to accept Carl's compensation, you can donate it to Channing city council so the city officials can improve the surroundings and amenities in the city."

Zachary and Howard's eyes lit up at that suggestion and agreed at once. "That's a great idea. We'll donate the money to the city council so they can use the money to improve the old folks' home, give scholarships to poor students, and improve the transportation facilities."

In the meantime, Carl seemed upset as his enemies were discussing how to spend his money in front of him. He was in a foul mood.

Thomas noticed his foul expression and



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chuckled. “Well, Channing city couldn’t have done it without you, Mr. Russo. It’s all thanks to you!”

Colin sneered, “Mr. Russo, you can go back to Alberesque now!”

After that, Carl said nothing and turned to leave.

He could hear Thomas talking behind him. “Colin, are we going to let him leave just like that? What if he comes back...”

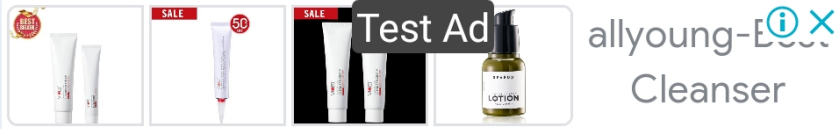
Colin scoffed, “Master said if he dares to come to Channing again, he’ll need to pay for his life. If that happens, three billion won’t be enough. He’ll need to prepare at least ten billion!”

Thomas grinned, “Is he worth that much? Why do I think he’s worth nothing at all? Haha!”

Carl nearly choked in anger when he heard Colin and Thomas talking behind his back.

However, he had no choice but to bear with





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it. Suppressing the anger in his heart, he escaped from Channing at once.

Later, Carl rushed to the airport and left on a plane.

Right after he left, a luxurious private jet landed at Channing International Airport.

Once the jet landed, dozens of men in suits hurried over to it.

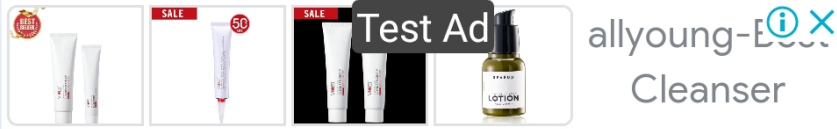
They laid down an expensive red carpet in front of the plane.

Soon after that, a tall young man clad in a black Brioni suit strode down the stairs in his shiny leather shoes.

The man had handsome features, but his gaze was vicious and arrogant. It was as though he was too good for the rest.

He was Shane Ortiz of the Ortiz family, one of the Southern Four.

Shane went on a holiday in Northania a few years ago and bumped into Kylie, who



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was still in college. He was instantly attracted to the innocent Kylie and started pursuing her ever since.

Kylie's family was delighted by that fact and had always wanted to bring them together.

However, Kylie knew Shane was a playboy, so she refused to accept him.

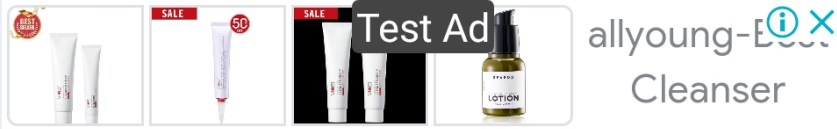
Her playing hard to get taunted him into putting in more effort.

Shane was born into a wealthy family and had plenty of ex-girlfriends.

However, he had a strong desire to conquer Kylie, who just had no interest in him whatsoever.

Yet, he wouldn't give up until the day he slept with Kylie.

Yesterday, Kylie's parents called him and informed him that she was currently in Channing city, so he came over today.



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As he walked down from the jet's gangway slowly, a strong middle-aged man, built like a tank, followed behind him.

The man's name was Larry Farrell, and he was Shane's bodyguard.

"Welcome to Channing, Mr. Ortiz!"


The dozens of men in black suits greeted Shane at once.

Shane didn't spare them a glance. Instead, he inquired Larry icily, "Did you follow my orders?"

Larry bellowed loudly, "Mr. Ortiz, I've reserved the entire Indigo restaurant today so you can enjoy your meal with Ms. Tonkins' family. If you head there now, you'll be there on time."

Shane let out a satisfied chuckle, "Haha! Good job! I am sure I'll get Kylie this time."



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## Chapter 332 Play Hard To Get



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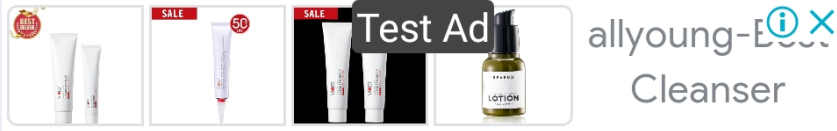


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## Chapter 333 Do Not Be Rude To Mr Ortiz

Indigo was the most expensive restaurant in Channing.

Its owner was a chef, Steve Lewis, who once took part in state banquets.

At the state banquet, he was in charge of preparing the Beef Wellington, and Potato and Roe. He was also one of the few Michelin-starred chefs in the world.

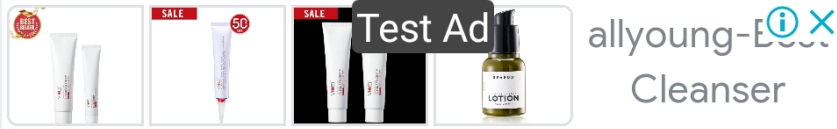
However, since he was no longer young, Indigo was now run by his apprentices.

Nevertheless, they were still famous for their delicious cuisine, so the rich and prestigious liked to dine there.

In fact, only they had the right to dine at the restaurant.

And today, Shane had reserved the entire restaurant to show off in front of Kylie's family.

Right now, in Indigo's main hall, aside from the manager and the servers, Kylie and her parents, Penny, Queenie, Benson, and Leah



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were all there.

Kylie was curious. “Dad, Mom, who invited us here and even reserved the entire restaurant? That’s awesome!”

Hank and Prudence exchanged looks before pretending to sound mysterious. “An outstanding man. You’ll know who he is later.”

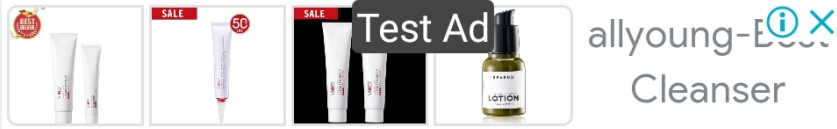
Kylie widened her eyes in surprise. “An outstanding man? Is that my brother-in-law?”

Hank immediately frowned, while Prudence scoffed, “Ha! Your brother-in-law is a kept-man, who only knows how to fight. He knows nothing, and he’s far from being outstanding!”

Penny’s family furrowed their brows at once.

Even Kylie was about to defend Nathan when Shane walked in with his men.

When he saw Kylie, his eyes lit up as he



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exclaimed in surprise, “Kylie!”

Kylie was stunned. “Shane Ortiz? So you’re the

‘outstanding man’ who’s buying us a meal?”

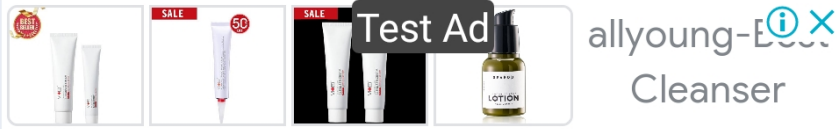
Hank reprimanded her, “Kylie, don’t be rude to Mr. Ortiz!”

Prudence, on the other hand, grinned and said, “Mr. Ortiz, you’re here. Take a seat beside Kylie. We’ve saved that seat for you.”

Shane sat down beside Kylie happily. He greeted Penny and the others with a grin. “You must be Kylie’s cousin and her family. Thank you for taking care of her.”

“I’ve asked the chef’s most trusted apprentice, Jake Lewis, to prepare our lunch. Today, lunch will be prepared according to a state banquet’s menu, so you’ll have to try it.”

Hank and his wife smiled and buttered him



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up, “Haha! This is the first time we’ll be enjoying a state banquet menu. Thank you, Mr. Ortiz.”

Shane was smiling smugly to himself, while Kylie seemed furious. She hated it when Shane acted like her boyfriend when he wasn’t.

Clapping his hands, Shane summoned the manager. “Tell Chef Jake Lewis to serve the dishes now.”

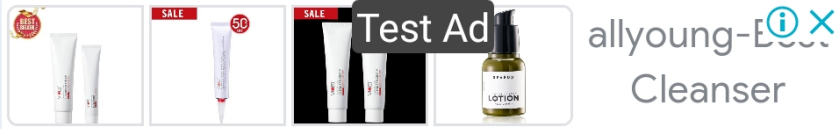
The manager respectfully replied, “Yes, Mr. Ortiz.”

Kylie stopped him anxiously. “Hey, wait. I’ve informed my brother-in-law to come to lunch. He isn’t here yet, so we can’t start without him!”

Hank snorted, “Why can’t we? He’s a mere freeloader. We don’t have to wait for him.”

Prudence was upset, too. “Seeing that loser makes me unhappy. We don’t have to wait for him.”





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As Penny and her family's expressions darkened, Kylie hurriedly said, "Dad, Mom, he isn't a loser. I think he's almost here. Perhaps he was denied entry because this entire restaurant was reserved. Should I go and look?"

Jealousy stirred in Shane's heart when he saw how Kylie ignored him but was instead worried about her brother-in-law.

He uttered coolly, "Kylie, since your brother-in-law isn't a loser, he'll find a way in even if the security refused to let him in. If he can't find a way in, then he's a loser for sure."

Hank and his wife immediately agreed. "Yes, yes. If Nathan isn't such a loser, he'll find a way in."

An imperceptible icy grin played on Shane's lips. When he entered earlier, he told his bodyguard Larry, who was built like a tank, to guard outside the entrance so no one could enter and disturb them.

No matter how capable Nathan was, he



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wouldn't be able to get past Larry.



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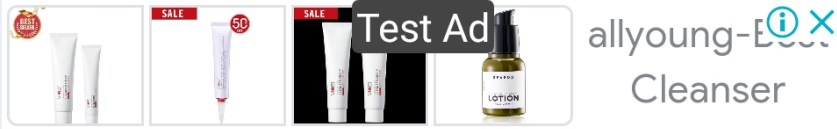


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## Chapter 334 Papa Have You Ever Been To A State Banquet

Meanwhile, at Indigo's entrance, Larry, who was built like a tank, was blocking Nathan's way.

"I don't care who invited you here. Mr. Ortiz left orders that no one is to enter."

"Leave right now, and don't embarrass yourself here."

Nathan was here to have lunch with his family, and he didn't expect to be denied entry.

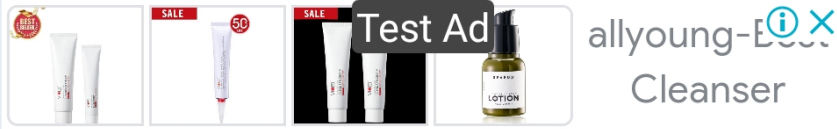
He replied calmly, "I've never been denied entry before. Today, I'll enter Indigo no matter what."

As he said that, he took a step forward.

"Do you wanna die?" Larry sneered and planted a brutal shoulder strike.

He wanted to knock Nathan over with his strong shoulders.

But Nathan didn't avoid him and strode forward.



## Chapter 334 Papa Have You Ever Been To A State Banquet

*Thud!*

Larry's right shoulder hit Nathan's left shoulder at once.

*Crack!*

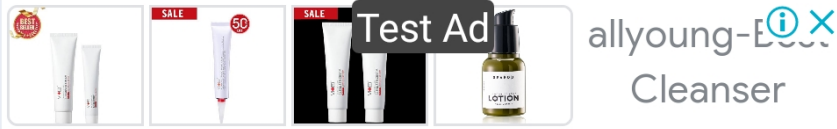
A sickening sound of bones breaking tore through the air.

Larry's right shoulder bone was fractured at once. He let out a deafening scream and stumbled aside in pain.

Meanwhile, Nathan remained calm as he strolled in casually.

In Indigo's hall, Hank made a decision. "Mr. Ortiz is right. Don't bother about Nathan. If he isn't a loser, he'll find a way to enter. If he fails to do so, then he's a loser."

Kylie was terribly upset upon hearing his words, while Penny's family seemed embarrassed and unsettled. As this entire restaurant was reserved today, they were worried that Nathan would be refused at the entrance.



## Chapter 334 Papa Have You Ever Been To A State Banquet

Shane had a smirk on his face.  
Unbeknownst to the rest, he had actually  
told Larry not to let anyone in.

*If Nathan insists on entering, he would be  
punched in the face, right?*

As that thought occurred to him, his smile  
widened.

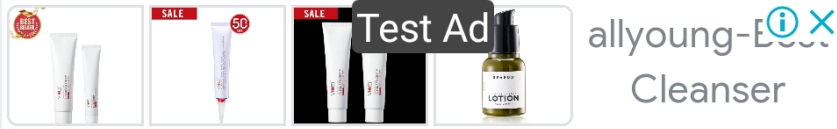
However, a tall and strong man with  
twinkling eyes appeared in front of  
everyone as he walked in from the  
entrance.

*That's Nathan!*

"Nathan!" Kylie yelled out his name in  
excitement.

Penny was delighted too. "Nathan! You're  
here."

Both Benson and Leah heaved a sigh of  
relief. They were afraid Nathan would be  
denied entry at the entrance, and their  
sister-in-law's family would mock him as a  
loser.



## Chapter 334 Papa Have You Ever Been To A State Banquet

Meanwhile, Shane stared at him in shock. He snapped, “Are you Nathan Cross? How did you enter?”

Nathan smiled coolly. “I walked in, of course.”

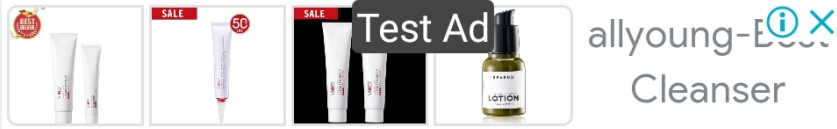
Shane demanded angrily, “Impossible. I told Larry to not let anyone in. Where is he?”

As soon as he finished speaking, Larry came in, holding his right shoulder with his face grimacing in pain.

With sweat beading on his forehead, Larry said. “Mr. Ortiz, this man barged in. I wanted to stop him, but he fractured my right shoulder, so I couldn’t.”

Shane’s eyes widened, and his jaw dropped open in surprise. It was apparent he didn’t believe what had happened.

His bodyguard was built like a tank and was strong enough to break through a wall.*How in the world did Nathan break his shoulder?*



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*That's impossible!*

Larry glared at Nathan in utter infuriation. He inquired, "Mr. Ortiz, should I order our men to chase him out?"

Shane wanted to be a gentleman in front of Kylie, so he waved it off. "No need. You can leave now."

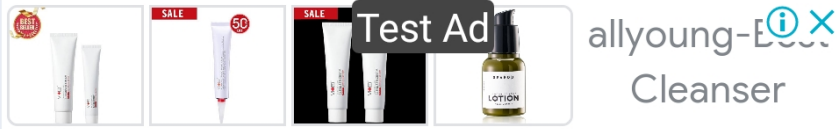
Larry replied, "Yes, sir!"

Nathan walked to Shane and stood beside him. Leaning closer, he whispered in Shane's ear, "You were the one who told Daniel from Diamond Dynasty to cause me trouble and break my legs?"

Shane's eyes widened once again. He heard news that Daniel had messed it up.

Nevertheless, he never knew Nathan would find out he was the one who gave the orders to Daniel.

Nathan ignored a shocked Shane and sat down beside Penny. He picked Queenie up and pressed a kiss on her chubby cheeks.



## Chapter 334 Papa Have You Ever Been To A State Banquet

Smiling, he asked, “My darling, what did you order for lunch?”

Queenie giggled and said, “Papa, that man said he’ll prepare a state banquet for us, but I don’t know what that is. Have you ever attended one?”

Nathan chuckled and told her, “Last year, after the National Day Parade, I attended the state banquet. The food is okay.”

Shane, Kylie’s family, and Penny’s family gasped loudly at once.

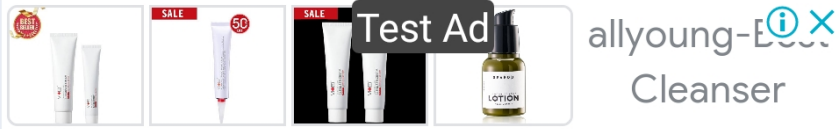
It was not because they were shocked, instead, they merely thought that Nathan had taken his boasting too far.

*How dare he say he attended a state banquet?*

A state banquet wasn’t an event that ordinary people could attend.

Many wealthy and arrogant CEOs, who were worth billions, couldn’t even get to attend state banquets in their lifetime!





## Chapter 334 Papa Have You Ever Been To A State Banquet

Even the Ortiz family, who was one of the Southern Four, hadn't attended the state banquet in decades.

*How dare this unemployed man boasted he had attended a state banquet before?*



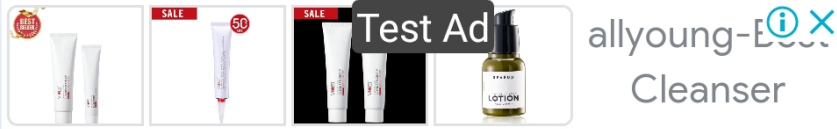
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## Chapter 335 You Are Nothing

Shane immediately sneered, “What a load of hogwash! How dare you claim you’ve attended a state banquet?”

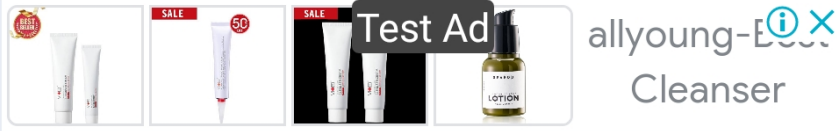
“Believe it or not, I have,” Nathan replied calmly.

Hank wanted to set his daughter and Shane up today, so he wasn’t in the mood to hear Nathan’s boast. He was impatient as he said, “Enough, we are not here to listen to your nonsense. Ask Chef Jake to serve the dishes now.”

Shane grinned. “Yes, serve the food now. We’ll show the braggart what a real state banquet is.”

Soon, successive delectable and mouth-watering gourmet dishes such as Baked French Onion Soup, Maryland Crab Cakes, and Braised Partridge were served.

Hank and Prudence whipped out their phones to take photos to upload to their social media before enjoying the meal. Everyone at the table was full of praises for the dishes.



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Even Kylie had to admit the dishes were delicious.

Hank was evidently elated. “Thanks to you, Mr. Ortiz, we get to enjoy the state banquet menu.”

Prudence had an unctuous smile on her face too. “I heard Indigo would only serve their most distinguished guests the state banquet menu. Not everyone can order it.”

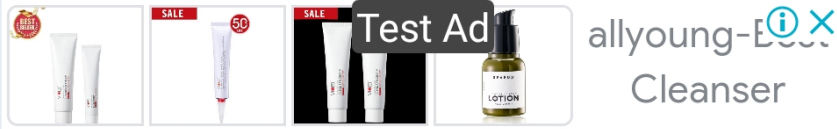
Shane was pleased. He glanced at Nathan casually and taunted, “Haha! It’s fine. After this meal, that braggart can confidently claim he had eaten at a state banquet.”

The braggart that he meant was Nathan.

Everyone’s eyes fell on Nathan, who remained calm as he fed his daughter.

Queenie inquired, “Papa, you’ve been to a state banquet, right? How is it different from this one?”

Penny felt awkward when she heard her daughter’s words. Her husband was



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merely boasting, but her daughter was the only one who believed he had attended one.

*Of all the questions she could ask, did she have to ask that?*

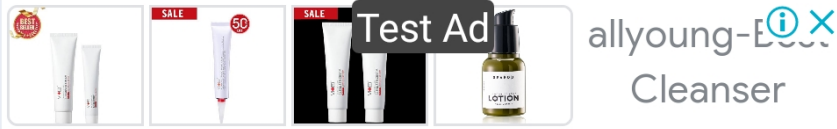
Shane, Hank, and Prudence burst into laughter. “Yes, Nathan. You said you’ve attended the state banquet. Tell us, how is it different from the dishes served today?”

Penny and her family gazed at Nathan worriedly as they were afraid he might embarrass himself.

However, Nathan was unperturbed. He replied, “The taste is almost the same. But there’s one dish missing—the Beef Wellington.”

Shane scoffed, “The Beef Wellington is the most famous dish in the state banquet. Everyone knows that. It wasn’t served today as it has to be prepared in advance.”

“Besides, the dish that Steve Lewis is highly famed for is the Beef Wellington.



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Jake might be his top apprentice and had learned most of Steve's skills, but he thought he wasn't skilled enough to prepare the Beef Wellington yet. Thus, he had decided not to prepare this dish to avoid ruining Steve's reputation."

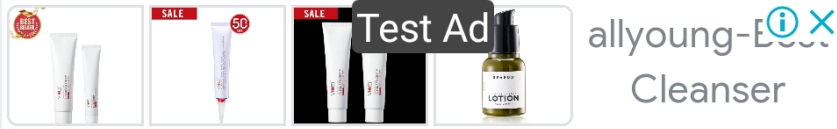
"In Indigo, only the Michelin-starred chef, Steve Lewis, could prepare a perfect Beef Wellington."

"However, he hadn't been to the kitchen for some time. I called him to ask him to prepare this dish, but he rejected me."

Kylie snorted, "That means you failed to ask him to prepare the Beef Wellington, right?"

Shane replied defiantly, "It's not only me. No one can ask him to cook."

"As he was a Michelin-starred chef, he was commissioned to prepare dishes for top diplomatic leaders in state banquets. Besides, no one in the entire nation could change the mind of a person as stubborn as him."



## Chapter 335 You Are Nothing

After listening to his explanation, Queenie was certain that the Beef Wellington must be a delicious dish.

She gazed at Nathan eagerly and inquired in a tiny voice, "Papa, I wanna eat the Beef Wellington. Can I?"

Nathan patted her head. "Okay. If you want to eat that, I'll ask the Michelin-starred chef to prepare it for you."

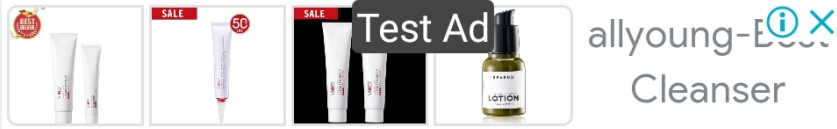
His words shocked everyone at the table.

Penny and her family fell into an awkward silence. *Nathan is getting too far!*

Meanwhile, Hank and Prudence were snickering.

Shane was terribly upset. He admitted he couldn't invite Steve, but Nathan claimed he could! That was a huge slap to his face.

His face fell as he said icily, "Ha! Who do you think you are? Why would a Michelin-starred chef accept your invitation to cook for us?"



## Chapter 336 The Chef Is Not Here Yet

Kylie's eyes darted around as she went against him deliberately. "It might happen. My brother-in-law might be able to invite him. Shane, why don't we have a bet?"

Shane was confused. "Please enlighten me."

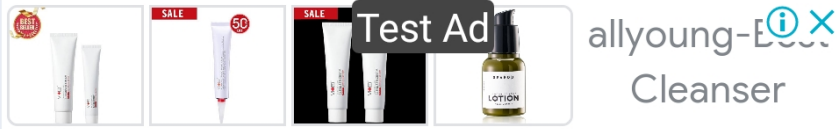
"If Nathan fails to invite the Michelin-starred chef, I'll lose and agree to be your girlfriend."

"But if he successfully invites the Michelin-starred chef to prepare Beef Wellington, you'll lose, and you need to promise to never bother me again."

Shane was taken aback when he heard her but jumped up with joy at once. "Okay, it's a deal."

"Deal!"

After that, Kylie turned to Penny and Nathan. "Penny, Nathan, I really hate this guy. You have to help me this time! You must invite the Michelin-starred chef to prepare Beef Wellington for us so he'll



## Chapter 336 The Chef Is Not Here Yet

admit defeat!”

Penny hurriedly waved her hand. “Kylie, I can’t help you. Your brother-in-law was merely boasting. Never mind if young Queenie believed him. Why did you believe his words too?”

“Hurry up and cancel the bet with Mr. Ortiz. Don’t mess around with your love life.

Even Benson and Leah spoke up to convince her to cancel the bet.

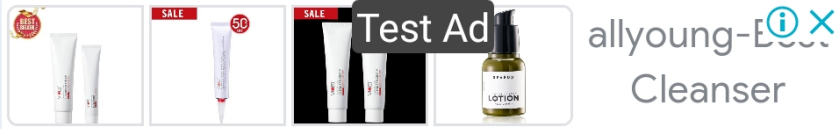
However, Hank and Prudence hurriedly cut them off. “Kylie, you were the one who suggested the bet, so you can’t go back on your word. The bet will go on as usual.”

Kylie ignored the others and stared at Nathan pitifully, waiting for his reply.

Nathan glanced at Benson and his wife, who were advising her to cancel the bet before turning to Hank and his wife, who obviously wanted to sell their daughter off.

Those who were clueless would’ve thought





## Chapter 336 The Chef Is Not Here Yet

Benson and his wife were Kylie's parents!

With his daughter in his arms, he said coolly, "I don't care about your bet. My daughter said she wanted to eat Beef Wellington, and I agreed to invite the Michelin-starred chef to come and cook for us. And that's that."

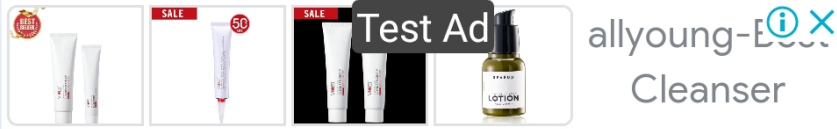
Kylie was delighted upon hearing his words. She giggled happily. "Good!"

Shane thought Nathan was shirking responsibility in advance. He was afraid Kylie would go back on her word, so he added, "Okay. Kylie, our bet is on. Let's see how this braggart invites the Michelin-starred chef to prepare Beef Wellington."

*What does he mean 'how'?*

*I'll just give him a call, of course!*

Nathan took out his phone and called Colin. "My daughter wants to eat Beef Wellington. Invite the Michelin-starred chef to prepare it for her."



## Chapter 336 The Chef Is Not Here Yet

He hung up right after that order.

His words stunned everyone there, including the manager and the servers.

*Did Nathan give a simple order through the phone? Does he really think that the Michelin-starred chef will heed his requests that easily?*

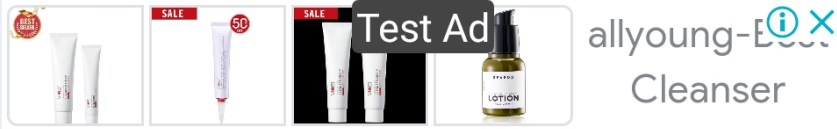
*Hah! Dream on!*

Everyone knew that the Michelin-starred chef was a hot-tempered and stubborn person.

Shane sneered at once, “Haha! This morning when I called him and implored him to cook for us, he told me he wasn’t interested. Who are you to summon him here with just an order?”

Even Hank and Prudence started mocking Nathan for biting off more than he could chew.

Meanwhile, Penny and her parents seemed anxious. *Nathan had made that promise, so how should we clear things up?*



## Chapter 336 The Chef Is Not Here Yet

Before they realized it, ten minutes had passed. Shane glanced at his watch and sneered, “Nathan, you claimed that you’ve invited the Michelin-starred chef to cook for you. Ten minutes have passed, but I don’t see him. Where is he?”

“If you can’t do it, don’t waste our time!”

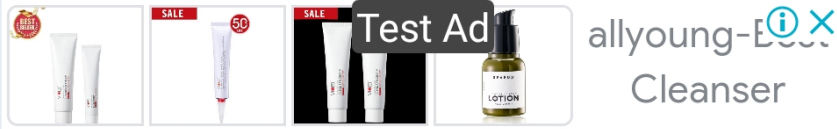
Hank glared at Nathan. “Nathan, why isn’t the chef here yet?”

Prudence’s hands were on her waist as she demanded, “Yes, where is he?”

“I am here!”

Right when Shane and the rest were demanding answers from Nathan, a loud voice boomed through the entrance.

An old man in a chef’s uniform, with the words ‘Michelin-starred Chef’ embroidered on his toque, strode in with his assistants. He had a kitchen knife in his hand.



## Chapter 337 State Banquet Chef Steve Lewis

The old man was chubby, and his cheeks were flushed red. He seemed incredibly energetic.

Penny couldn't help but exclaim, "Are you the state banquet chef and the Michelin-starred chef, Mr. Lewis?"

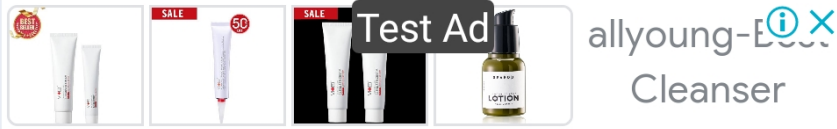
The chef let out a bellow of laughter. "Yes, I am Steve Lewis. There might be impersonators but look. My knife can prove who I am!"

As he said that, everyone looked at his knife. There were some words engraved on it: *State Banquet Chef, Michelin-starred Chef. A gift from the Grand Council.*

Penny giggled. "Mr. Chef, are you here to prepare Beef Wellington for us?"

Steve bowed deeply to Nathan before smiling at Penny at Queenie. "Haha! If I'm not mistaken, this must be Mrs. Cross and Little Ms. Cross."

"Yes. I heard that Mr. Cross wished to eat my Beef Wellington, so I hurried over to



## Chapter 337 State Banquet Chef Steve Lewis

prepare it for you. Look, I even brought my knife along. Haha!”

Penny and her family were shocked, yet ecstatically happy at this moment.

On the other hand, Hank and Prudence were dumbfounded by the turn of events.

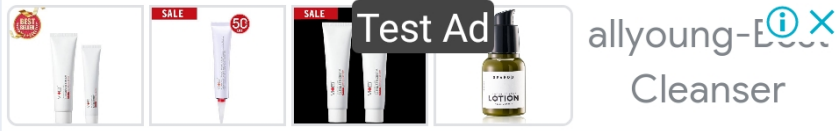
Shane was no better. The moment the Michelin-starred chef arrived, his eyes widened as his jaw dropped open in shock.

Right now, he wanted to slap himself twice to see if he was daydreaming. *This is too ridiculous to be true!*

He forced himself to calm down and went to greet Steve. “Hello, sir. I’m Shane Ortiz from the Ortiz family in Alberesque.”

“I’ve reserved your restaurant today. This morning, I made a call to invite you to cook for us, but you rejected me. But why did you come when Nathan asked you to?”

Steve frowned and glanced at Shane before he asked Nathan, “Mr. Cross, is he



Chapter 337 State Banquet Chef Steve Lewis

your friend?”

“Nope,” Nathan replied calmly.

*Ah,so they're not friends.*

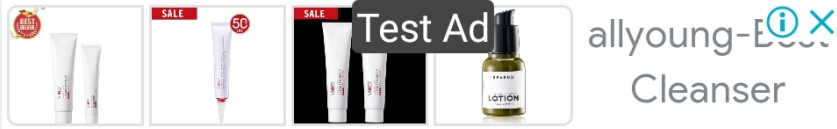
He replied Shane icily, “Who are you to compare yourself with Mr. Cross?”

Shane flushed a bright red and nearly exploded with anger.

However, Nathan smiled. “Mr. Lewis, my daughter wants to eat Beef Wellington now. But I heard you have to prepare it in advance. Can you prepare something similar to it as soon as possible?”

Steve laughed. “Beef Wellington has to be prepared in advance because the beef has to be chilled overnight. However, Indigo here is the best restaurant in the area, so we have all the ingredients that I need. Other restaurants will have to prepare it at least one day in advance, but I can prepare it in just a few hours.”

Nathan grinned. “Thank you, Mr. Lewis.”



## Chapter 337 State Banquet Chef Steve Lewis

Steve chuckled. “It’s my honor to cook for you, Mr. Cross.”

The manager, servers, and other chefs flanked the Michelin-starred chef as he headed back to the kitchen to cook.

Kylie burst out laughing. “Nathan, you’re awesome! You really invited the Michelin-starred chef to cook for us! Shane, you’ve lost. From today onwards, stop bothering me.”

Shane’s face darkened. Instead of blaming Kylie, he turned to Nathan angrily. “How the hell did you do this?”

Nathan smiled. “Steve treats soldiers with respect. I was discharged from the military a while back, and he respects me for contributing to our country, so he came to cook for me.”

*Seriously?*

Shane was about to explode in fury. He glowered at Nathan viciously and threatened, “I’d be careful if I were you.



allyoung-Eye-Cleanser

Chapter 337 State Banquet Chef Steve Lewis

This isn't over."



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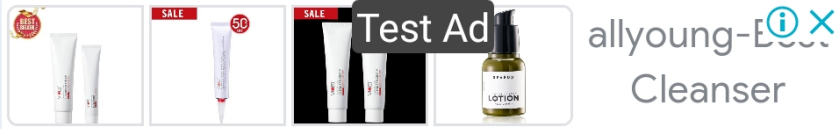
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## Chapter 338 Delighted Like A Child

After saying that, Shane stormed out with his men.

Hank and Prudence, however, were shocked and furious. They didn't expect Nathan would ruin things between their daughter and Shane.

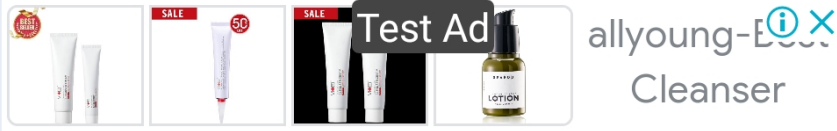
As for Penny and her family, they were awkwardly stunned, and Kylie was the only person at the table who was elated.

It was as if she didn't see her parents' vicious looks. She shot a pleased grin at Nathan. "Nathan, good job! Finally, that annoying fly has left."

Nathan replied nonchalantly, "I invited the Michelin-starred chef to prepare Beef Wellington for Queenie. Your bet has nothing to do with me."

Hank and Prudence were about to reprimand Nathan, but his words shut them up effectively.

Indeed, Nathan didn't meddle in Shane and Kylie's affairs.



## Chapter 338 Delighted Like A Child

Instead, it was Shane who mocked Nathan continuously after hearing he could invite the Michelin-starred chef to cook for him.

Kylie was the one who suggested the bet, and Shane had agreed to it willingly.

Nathan was right; he had nothing to do with it!

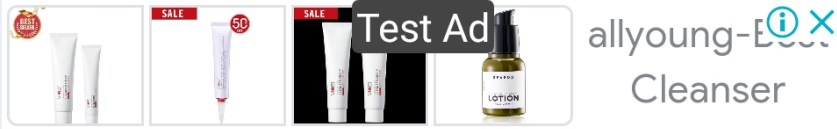
Now, Shane had lost the bet and escaped at once. It wouldn't be right to put the blame on Nathan.

Benson and Leah consoled Hank and Prudence. "As parents, we shouldn't meddle in our children's relationship. Let nature take its course."

Hank and Prudence were upset, but they had no choice but to accept the reality.

Two hours later, Steve's Beef Wellington was served on the table.

The fragrance of the dish wafted around the room, and everyone couldn't help but salivate.



## Chapter 338 Delighted Like A Child

After Nathan and his family tried the dish that Steve had prepared, their eyes widened in surprise and immediately praised him for his exceptional skills.

Steve's eyes crinkled as he smiled happily like a child upon getting Nathan's praise.

After they finished eating, it was already six in the evening.

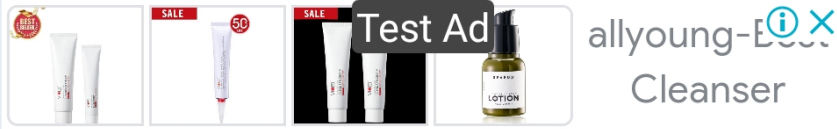
Everyone left Indigo together.

Their BMWs had just left the car park when ten black Audi A4s sped over to them suddenly.

The Audis surrounded the two BMWs, and thirty over men in black strode over to them in an aggressive manner.

Each of the men had an iron rod in their hand as they rushed over to Nathan while snarling viciously.

In the BMW, Hank and Prudence were gloating over Nathan's misfortune to Kylie, who was driving the car. "Ha! Look, Mr.



## Chapter 338 Delighted Like A Child

Ortiz has sent his men to teach Nathan a lesson. They are here for Nathan, so this is none of our business. We can sit back and watch the show.”

In the other BMW, Penny urged Nathan anxiously, “Oh no! These men seemed dangerous. Did Shane send them to mess around with us?”

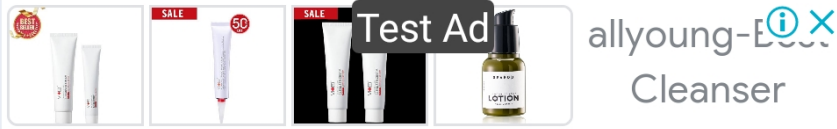
Yet, Nathan had a smile on his face. “Don’t worry. This is nothing.”

Just as he said that two black Jeeps suddenly arrived at the scene.

The Jeeps swerved and parked in front of the BMWs, and eight strongly built men rushed out of the Jeeps swiftly.

They were the Elite Eight, who were tasked to protect Nathan and his family in secret.

The Elite Eight were dressed in black suits. However, due to their sturdy figures, the black suits they were wearing even gave off the impression that they had donned in black armor.



## Chapter 338 Delighted Like A Child

After the Elite Eight got off their cars, they immediately charged towards the black men with iron rods in their hands.

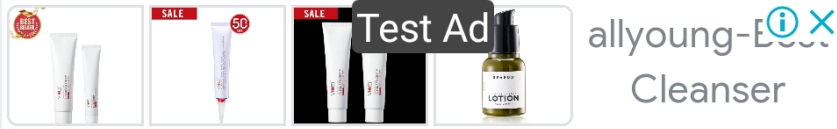
It was just as Penny said - those men were sent by Shane to teach Nathan a lesson.

They didn't expect Nathan would have bodyguards with him. Nevertheless, they weren't afraid as they outnumbered his bodyguards. Hence, they grabbed their iron rods viciously to prepare for battle.

A confrontation was about to happen any moment.

The Elite Eight took action at once, and instantly, eight men in black were knocked down at once.

The other men gasped in disbelief. *How could the eight suited men be this capable?*



## Chapter 339 Not To Set Foot Inside Channing Ever Again

The Elite Eight never hesitated. Every move they made was swift as lightning and strong as a mountain.

They bulldozed their way through the men in black, knocking them down easily.

In a blink of an eye, all of them ended up on the floor, groaning and whimpering in pain as their limbs were broken.

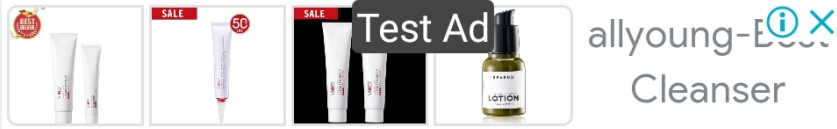
Penny, Kylie, and the others were stunned upon witnessing this scene.

“Looks like there are two gangs fighting. It has nothing to do with us. Let’s go,” Nathan said with a smirk.

Upon saying that, he drove off, and Kylie hurriedly followed closely behind him.

Meanwhile, Shane was sitting in a Starbucks across the road. He was rendered speechless by what he had seen.

He had chosen a seat near the window because he wanted to see how his men would assault Nathan.



## Chapter 339 Not To Set Foot Inside Channing Ever Again

Never in his wildest dream did he expect a few men in suits would appear suddenly and defeated his dozens of men.

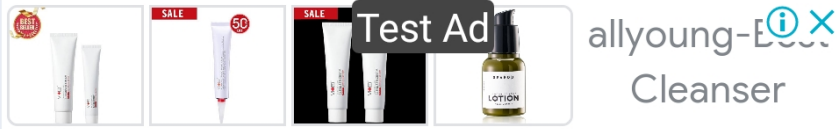
He was still in shock when the door of the cafe was flung open abruptly.

Thomas and his men strode in grimly.

He looked around the cafe before his gaze settled on Shane and the others. A wintry smile played on his lips. "Mr. Ortiz, Mr. Cross told me to offer you a warm welcome."

Fear flashed across Shane's eyes when he heard the words. He instantly rebuked Thomas to hide his nervousness, "Nonsense! I'm Shane Ortiz from the Ortiz family, one of the Southern Four. If you dare to touch me, I'll kill your whole family!"

Thomas snorted, "Ha! The last person who spoke this way to Mr. Cross was Jerry Zabinski, the eldest son of the Zabinski family, also one of the Southern Four. He's lying in his grave now!"



### Chapter 339 Not To Set Foot Inside Channing Ever Again

Shane was stupefied. He heard something had happened to the Zabinski family a while ago, but he didn't know the details.

It was only now that he realized that Nathan was the one who had destroyed the Zabinski family single-handedly.

Since Shane was shocked into silence, Thomas let out an icy laugh and waved to his men. "Break his leg to teach him a lesson."

The men behind Thomas rushed over to Shane like a pack of hungry wolves, and Shane's bodyguards were knocked down at once.

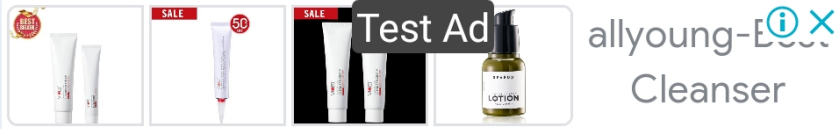
Shane himself was kicked to the ground as his left leg cracked after being hit by a rod.

"Aarrghhhh!"

Shane's deafening wail rang across the cafe.

Thomas narrowed his eyes and ordered calmly, "Return to Alberesque immediately."





## Chapter 339 Not To Set Foot Inside Channing Ever Again

Mr. Cross said no one from the Ortiz family in Alberesque is allowed to enter Channing from now on. Otherwise, there will be hell to pay.”

That very night, Shane left Channing Central Hospital and rushed back to a hospital in Alberesque with his broken leg.

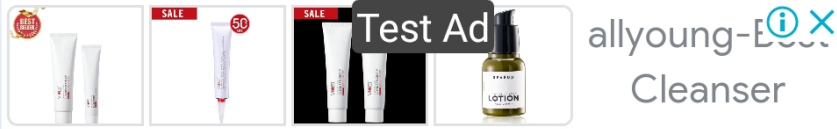
Two breaking news took Alberesque by storm in one single day.

The first news was that Carl Russo got defeated in Channing. His men were all dead, and he was forced to pay three billion before he was released back to Alberesque.

The other news was about Shane Ortiz of the Ortiz family. His left leg was broken by Nathan Cross before he was chased out from Channing.

The high-society families in Alberesque were terribly shocked to hear the news.

Everyone started talking about Nathan, wondering who he was. *Is he trying to take down the Southern Four one by one?*



## Chapter 339 Not To Set Foot Inside Channing Ever Again

*Didn't he know the Southern Four were vicious dogs raised by the King of South?*

*After offending the King of the South, would he be able to survive in the South?*

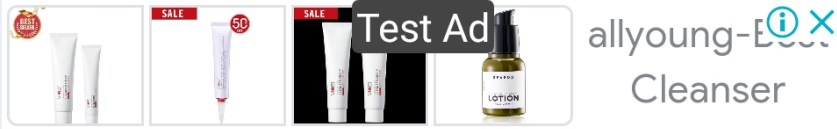
Meanwhile, in Dawn Hotel's VIP room, Joseph Queen, clad in a white suit, was ordering his men to hand over one million in cash in a suitcase to a middle-aged man in grey.

Smiling, Joseph said, "Mr. Phineas Ponzi, let me thank you in advance. After you succeed, I'll pay you handsomely."

The man whose cheeks were flushed red in delight was none other than Phineas Ponzi, the fortune teller. He took the suitcase and replied with a grin, "Mr. Queen, don't worry. I'll deal with Penny."

He left with the suitcase in hand happily.

After Phineas had left, Joseph remained in the VIP room with two of his men.



## Chapter 339 Not To Set Foot Inside Channing Ever Again

One man couldn't help but inquire, "Mr. Queen, this Phineas Ponzi claimed to be a fortune teller, but he is nothing but a charlatan. Is it okay to ask for his help?"

Joseph merely grinned. "Ha! Of course, I know he's a charlatan. However, I can use him to deceive others."

"I want him to deceive Penny so she'd leave Nathan and end up on my bed. Ha!"

Joseph grew increasingly excited as he spoke. "After Penny leaves Nathan and becomes mine, Cross Group will belong to me! This will be drastic destruction!"

His two men exchanged glances before replying respectfully, "Mr. Queen, that's a great plan!"



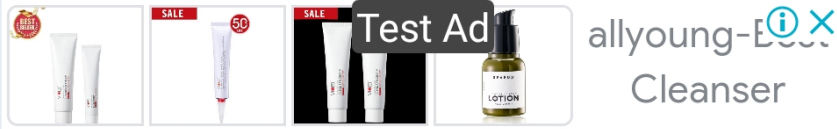
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## Chapter 340 Phineas Ponzi

Meanwhile, Phoenix, the pharmaceutical factory which Cross Group invested in, was still under construction. They were set out to produce a vaccine for liver cancer.

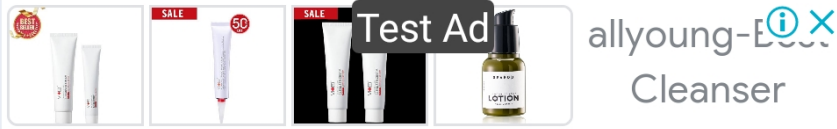
As the bulldozers drove in and out of the construction site, the workers worked hard under the sun.

Penny - the president of Cross Group, Benson - the pharmaceutical factory's manager, and other executives were inspecting the site.

She was listening to the head of the construction team's report while asking her executives to prepare cold drinks for the workers in the hot weather. At the same time, she was also arranging for them to receive an extra allowance.

Benson and the others nodded, agreeing to carry out her orders.

Penny continued inspecting the site with the others. Suddenly, she noticed some men standing not far away who weren't wearing safety helmets, pointing fingers at



## Chapter 340 Phineas Ponzi

the site.

Frowning, she questioned, “Who are those men? Why aren’t they wearing safety helmets? What if an accident happens on-site?”

The executives shook their heads as they didn’t know who those men were. They were not from Cross Group or the construction team.

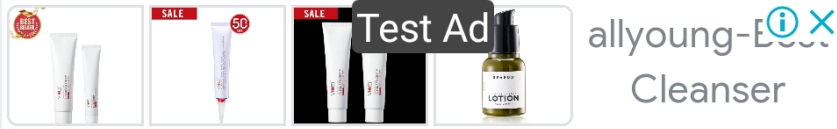
Benson exclaimed, “I think that’s Mr. Ponzi!”

“Mr. Ponzi? Who’s that?” Penny was curious.

Benson couldn’t hide his excitement. “He’s the famous fortune-teller who’s appeared in various TV shows, Phineas Ponzi!”

“I’ve heard many celebrities requested him to tell their fortunes. He’s skilled in astrology and numerology.”

Penny didn’t believe that at all hocus pocus stuff since she was more of a



## Chapter 340 Phineas Ponzi

science person herself. So she furrowed her brows and said, “He’s just a con-man, not a fortune teller.”

She had barely finished her words when Phineas walked over with his two apprentices.

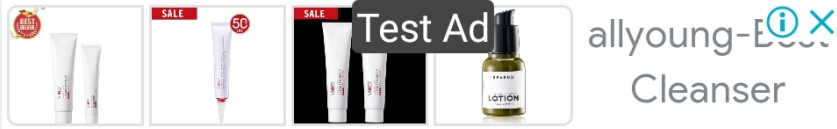
He parted his lips and uttered, “You must be the executives of Cross Group. I’m glad you’re here. I’m Phineas Ponzi, a fortune teller. I specialize in astrology and numerology.”

“I’ve walked past your construction site and saw a faint red light which was a bad omen.”

Benson and the others immediately paled. What they dreaded most were construction accidents. The workers were superstitious in order to prevent something like this from happening too.

Penny was upset. “Nonsense! Security, make them leave now!”

At once, the security guards at the



## Chapter 340 Phineas Ponzi

construction site were about to chase Phineas and his men away, but Phineas raised his hand to stop them from doing so.

Turning to Penny, he said sternly, "Astrology has been dated to at least a few thousand years ago. How dare you refute it? I suggest you stop the construction work now. Otherwise, something bad will happen soon."

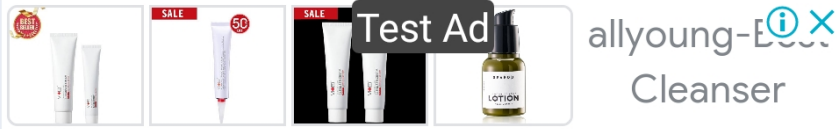
Penny was highly disdainful of Phineas' words.

At this very moment, there was a commotion among the workers right ahead.

It turned out three of them fainted because of heatstroke.

Penny's face fell as she ordered the others to send the workers who had fainted to the hospital.

A flash of delight appeared in Phineas' eyes. He maintained his composure and



## Chapter 340 Phineas Ponzi

told Penny, “Well, I don’t want to say it, but... I told you so.”

Penny was about to retort when Phineas added, “I know you’ll say it’s normal for workers to suffer from heatstroke in summer, but do you think three workers fainting at the same time is a normal occurrence?”

“Besides, this is just the start. If your construction site remains open, something worse than a heatstroke will happen soon.”

Benson and the other executives turned deathly pale at his words. They hurriedly inquired, “Mr. Phineas, what will happen if we don’t stop the construction work?”

Phineas snorted, “I’ve said something bad will happen. That means more than one man will die if you don’t stop soon.”

His words left everyone in shock.