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Since he threatened to kill Nathan's family and friends, he dared not beg for his life anymore.

He would have no regrets left if Nathan spared the Barton family.

Schubert was terrified that Nathan would wipe out his entire family for revenge. In that case, the Bartons would be finished forever.

Nathan said coldly, "I will spare the innocent members of your family, but whoever else that is guilty must pay their price for it."

Sprawling on the floor and trembling with fear, Schubert and his men waited for Nathan's verdict

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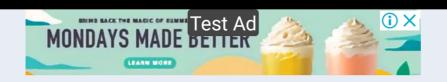
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"I want the 300 billion that you swindled



from the Cross family back immediately," Nathan demanded coldly.

Schubert quivered, "No problem. I will do that at once."

He called the treasurer of the Barton family to transfer 300 billion to the Cross family in half an hour.

Seeing this, Nathan added, "Hand both of your sons, Tom and Jerry Barton, to the court. They shall be convicted for fraud and felony assault, respectively."

Given that Tom scammed 300 billion from the Cross family, he would be sentenced to life imprisonment.

Meanwhile, Jerry instigated his men to assault a few police officers and members of the SWAT team. That would land him with a twenty-year imprisonment at least.

However, that was much better than losing their lives

Schubert turned a shade of deadly pale,



"No problem, General."

Nathan said coldly, "Last but not least, I'm going to charge you and your men here for attempted murder and military personnel assault. Are you going to admit to it?"

The conviction of attempted murder was acceptable for Schubert. However, the charges of military personnel assault and plotting against the general of the army would definitely send him and his men to jail for the rest of their lives.

At the thought of that, Schubert's eyes were filled with despair. He stammered, "We'll admit to the charges... So does that mean that the rest of the Barton family..."

Nathan interrupted indifferently, "I will not drag innocent people into this. As long as the rest of your family members don't cause me any trouble in the future, I will do the same."

When Schubert heard Nathan's assurance, he sighed in relief and fainted on the spot.



Nathan frowned slightly and ordered Franklin, "Send him to the hospital. After that, you know what to do with him."

"As for these guys, banish them to the military prison in the North. Forget about the verdict."

Franklin replied, "Yes, General!"

Soon, all subordinates of the Barton family were arrested.

After sending Schubert to the hospital's emergency department, the attending physician told Nathan that the patient had a cerebral ischemic stroke due to an Intracerebral hemorrhage and his hypertension, high blood sugar, and high cholesterol condition.

It meant that Schubert was now in a persistent vegetative state, and it would be impossible for him to recover.

For such circumstances, the patient only had two choices left.



He would either give up treatment and die on his own or continue living in his current state forever with the expensive cost of medical fees.

However, no miracle would happen even if they kept him breathing.

Knowing Schubert's condition, Nathan sighed, "He reaps what he sows Send him back to his family. As for the rest of the Bartons, my decision remains. Send the men to the North."

"Yes, sir!" Franklin and the others chorused.



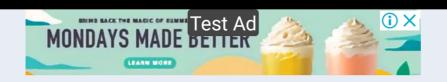
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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The Bartons resided in a mansion at Forthmore City, Northania.

As the gates opened slowly, a Knight XV, a luxurious armored SUV that cost 20 million and was known as the moving tank, sped into the mansion with ten more black SUVs following its lead.

A crowd of a thousand men in suits was gathered at the mansion. They bowed in unison, "Welcome home, Young Master!"

As soon as the Knight XV came to a stop in front of the majestic palace-like mansion, a butler rushed forward to open the car door.

Then, a handsome and muscular man in a fitting suit got down from the car.

The more prominent members of the Barton family greeted the man simultaneously. "Greetings, Young Master!"

It turned out that the exceptionally handsome and well-built man in front of



them was none other than the young master of the Barton family and the eldest son of Schubert Barton, Zizan Barton.

Zizan Barton led his black-clad men into the mansion and asked his butler coldly, "What's the situation right now, Mr. Sanders?"

Tony Sanders was the remaining butler alive out of the three butlers of the Barton household. He kept up with his young master's pace and replied in a low voice, "Master led his men to Channing to save Sir Tom and Sir Jerry, but he underestimated Nathan."

"None of them made it back. The men were arrested, and Master had cerebral infarction. He was sent back to us by Nathan."

"Before it happened, Master called me personally and asked me to transfer 30 billion to the Cross family. However, Nathan did not let Master off after receiving the money!"



The expression on Zizan Barton's grim face darkened further when he heard the news.

Soon, they arrived at Schubert's room.

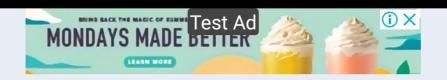
The old man was lying in the bed. He was surrounded by medical equipment as a doctor and a few nurses were giving him nutrition IV drip.

The doctor in charge, Dean Ludden, was one of the most prominent neurologists in the country.

After observing his paralyzed father, Zizan Barton turned and asked, "Doctor Ludden, can you save him?"

Dean Ludden had an awkward expression on his face as he muttered, "It's not entirely impossible medically and technically..."

Zizan interrupted coldly, "I don't want to know about your medical theories. I'm asking you one more time; what are the chances of my father getting better again?



Can you revive him?"

Dean had no choice but to admit, "Mr. Barton is already brain dead. Even if his internal organs are still working well, he can only maintain this paralyzed state at best if we continue giving him nutrition drips. I'm afraid that I can't revive him. He'll never wake up again."

"I understand," Zizan nodded.

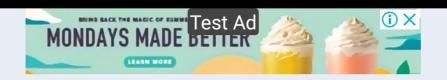
There was a brief silence before Zizan suddenly grabbed a pair of scissors on the bedside table and stabbed it into Dr. Ludden's chest.

Pfft!

The doctor lowered his head and stared incredulously at the pair of scissors protruding from his chest. "You..." He moaned in pain.

Pfft!

Pfft, pfft...



Not uttering a single word, Zizan Barton stabbed repetitively at the poor doctor until the latter fell to the ground in the pool of his own blood.

The female nurses covered their mouths in shock.

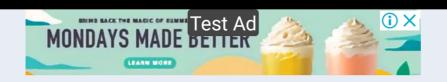
The Bartons were frightened as well. Hearts thumping fast, they lowered their heads and kept as quiet as they could.

After that, Zizan tossed the pair of scissors in his hand away. Wiping off the blood on his hands using a white handkerchief, he glanced at the fearful nurses beside him.

He waved his hand casually and ordered his subordinates, "Get the corpse and the nurses out of here and bury them together."

Upon hearing that, the nurses screamed in horror as they were dragged away by the black-clad men.

Then, Zizan stared at his father on the bed.



Without hesitation, he raised a pillow and smothered the old man with it.

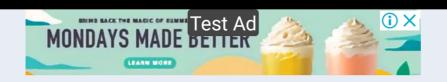
It didn't take much time for Schubert to gulp down his last breath.

Everyone remaining in the room became more terrified when they witnessed the whole scene. They lowered their heads fearfully and dared not breathe loudly.

Zizan tossed the pillow aside and swept his icy gaze across the room. "I don't know how to describe what I feel right now. The word 'angry' is not even half as close."

"I am in charge of Barton Group from now onwards. Arrange my father's funeral at once and summon everyone in Barton Group after that. I am going to make sure that Channing is flooded with blood for what they did to my father."

Everyone replied together, "Yes, Master!"



That weekend, Nathan, Penny, and Kylie brought Queenie to Westhill Turf Club in Channing.

All this while, Nathan valued cultural education. Although he did not require his daughter to excel in arts, music, literature, or sports, he still hoped that she had more exposure to the activities to cultivate her interests.

It was the weekend, so Nathan brought his daughter to the most famous turf club in Channing to learn how to ride horses.

Knowing that Nathan would be visiting his club, Tobias Dunn, the owner of Westhill Turf Club and Thomas Dunn's cousin, welcomed him personally with his subordinates.

He greeted Nathan warmly, "Mr. Cross, we have the best horse breeds in the country. Shall we choose a few horses of your liking at the stable over there?"

Tobias bred a lot of horses indeed!



There were fast horses trained specially for races and gentle horses for beginners to ride.

However, Nathan answered with a smile on his face, "There's no need. I've brought a horse with me."

Colin Dunne appeared with an exceptionally magnificent steed with a stunning white coat.

The horse named Marquis was owned by Jack Hughes - the leader of the Eighteen Riders of the North.

It was not uncommon for prominent members of the upper society to bring their own horses to the turf club; hence, Tobias praised, "What a magnificent horse you have, Mr. Cross!"

Standing beside Penny, Queenie was thrilled. "Papa, your white horse is so beautiful!"

Penny and Kylie were stunned by the horse that Colin Dunne brought as well.



In their opinion, white horses symbolized sacredness and romance. Every woman had once fancied the imagination of their princes riding grand white steeds to their rescue.

This was the horse that Nathan and Penny rode for their wedding photoshoot.

Penny blushed and blinked emotionally at the sight of the horse. She sighed, "It really is a magnificent horse. How romantic!"

Suddenly, someone sneered. "Lady, this horse is attractive but quite useless."

Nathan, Penny, Kylie, and the others looked in the direction of the voice and saw a man in a black Armani suit a few steps away from them. He was leading a black steed and was followed by a group of men.

The man stared at Penny lustfully and grinned wickedly, "However, my black horse is different. It's strong, brave, and powerful. Would you like to try it?"

Upon hearing his words, Nathan's jaw



hardened.

Knowing that the man was being frivolous with her, Penny rejected him coldly, "Sorry, but I don't know you. Please stay away from us."

Despite noticing the angry look on Nathan's face and the iciness in Penny's tone, the man in Armani said nonchalantly, "It's fine. We can get to know each other starting with an introduction."

"I'm Will Dylan from Northania, president of River Pharmaceuticals."

Colin Dunne whispered in Nathan's ear, "The Dylans have been serving the Bartons all this time. Furthermore, Will Dylan is Schubert's apprentice."

"The Dylans have absolutely no business here unless they are plotting for the liver cancer vaccine and Liver Cancer Special Meds Project, or they are planning to avenge Schubert."



Nathan was taken aback slightly, but soon he understood everything.

Since his identity as General of the North was only known by the paralyzed Schubert and a few of his men, who were already arrested and locked up, the rest of the members and apprentices of the Barton family came to Channing to revenge without even knowing his true identity.

Nathan glared coldly at Will, "I don't care who the hell you are. My wife asks you to leave."

Will smiled, "Oh, she's your wife!"

"I hope you won't mind if I invite your wife to ride on my horse? I'd love to show her what a purebred horse can do."

Nathan scowled, "Do you think this is funny?"

Will grinned playfully, "Am I behaving inappropriately?"

"Or are you suggesting that I should be



clearer? How about I ask it in another way? I fancy your wife, so can I borrow her for a while?"

The bodyguards standing behind Will cackled simultaneously as they looked at Penny wickedly.

The look in Nathan's eyes turned cold. "Slap him, Colin."

Slap him!

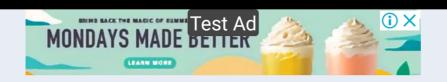
Will did not have the time to react at all. All he saw was a shadow flashing across his eyes, and he was already slapped twice by Colin.

Slap! Slap!

The slaps had Will's face swollen. At that moment, blood trickled from the corner of his mouth.

"How dare you hurt Mr. Dylan!"

"Are you tired of living?"



"Let's beat the crap out of them!"

Soon enough, Will's bodyguards recovered from the shock and prepared to charge at Nathan and the rest.

However, Tobias brought a team of security guards to the scene.

"Stop at once! Don't you dare cause a scene or be disrespectful to Mr. Cross. Don't blame me for doing things the hard way if you don't obey my rules."

Venturing into Tobias's territory with only a few men, Will Dylan and his gang were outnumbered by three to one.

Will glowered angrily at Tobias, "Don't you know who I am?"

"I am the president of River Pharmaceuticals! The new chief of armed forces in Channing, Jaime Dylan, is my uncle!"

"Stay out of this, or I will make sure your turf club burns down."



Will and his men were unaware of Nathan's identity, but as Thomas's cousin, Tobias surely knew who Nathan was.

Hence, he squinted at Will Dylan, "I don't give a f*** about you or your uncle. You are not entitled to cause a ruckus or be rude to Mr. Cross in my territory."

"You have two options now. Either you obey my rules and stop making a scene, or get out of here."

That came as a shock to Will, and it made him furious. He didn't expect Tobias to be so indifferent when he told him his uncle's position in the armed forces.

He glared hatefully at Nathan, "You rascal! Count yourself lucky that you have the protection of the boss of this turf club. You won't be so lucky the next time."

"Get lost, and stop wasting our time. We are here to ride horses." Nathan replied in a frosty tone.

As Nathan finished, Will looked at the



magnificent Marquis beside Nathan.

An idea popped into Will's mind as he taunted, "Rascal, since we're at a turf club, I challenge you to a horse race to solve this feud between us."

Nathan scoffed, "Ha! I'm not interested."

Will jeered at him, "Excuses! What a bunch of cowards! Good for nothing - just like your white horse."

Penny was furious upon hearing that.

Kylie retorted at once, "I don't see anything good about your horse! It looks like a lame donkey with pointy ears to me."

Nathan, Colin, and Tobias snickered at her sarcastic remark.

Will's face was flushed with anger. Furious, he demanded, "We can settle the debate on whose horse is stronger with a race. Nathan, I dare you to a racehorse challenge, that is, if you have the guts!"



Nathan would never have bothered himself with someone as disdainful as Will Dylan if not for the urge to teach the arrogant man a lesson.

An unfathomable smile appeared on Nathan's face as he caressed Marquis. "How do you want the race to be?"

Will Dylan was delighted to see Nathan taking his bait. He grinned hideously, "You'll be riding your horse, and I, mine, ten laps around the club. Whoever finishes first wins."

Nathan narrowed his eyes, "And?"

Will added, "Since this is a race, there has to be a bet."

Nathan asked calmly, "What would you like to bet on?"

Will snorted, "If I lose, I will give you this purebred horse of mine that is worth 12 million. If you lose, I want your..."

I want your wife to sleep with me tonight!



Noticing the murderous aura of Nathan and Colin, Will changed his unfinished sentence halfway. "If you lose, I want you to kneel as I whip you ten times. I think it's rather fair for you to bet ten whips whereas I bet 12 million, isn't it?"

Nathan curled his lips up into a smile, "Alright! If I lose, you can whip me ten times; but if you lose, I don't want your horse either. I shall whip you just once."

Will was exhilarated. You're so dead!

His purebred horse was bought at a staggering amount of 12 million from England. Since he was from a prominent family, he learned riding at a young age and was brilliant at it.

Feeling confident, Will was already envisioning the scene where he would whip Nathan to his death with a wicked smirk on his face.

It never occurred to Tobias that Nathan would agree to a race with Will Dylan, not to mention making such a risky bet.



Tobias whispered nervously to Nathan, "Mr. Cross, his horse is a rare purebred which always wins in races! It will be best if you do not agree to the challenge."

Barely knowing about horses, Penny and Kylie became anxious too when they saw the boss of the turf club advising Nathan against the race and realized Nathan would probably lose.

Penny whispered gently, "Hubby, we're here for fun. There's no need to compete with him, so please don't take the bet."

Nathan smiled, "Honey, don't you believe me?"

She was startled for a second before answering, "Of course I trust you! But racing..."

"Just trust me!" Nathan grinned as he mounted the horse.

Smiling at his wife and daughter, he said "Give me your hands. I'll take you for a few laps!"



Penny and the others were stunned.

Will stared in disbelief at Nathan. "Nathan, I thought we are having a race! Why are you inviting your wife and your kid on?"

Nathan grinned mockingly, "Well, I can still race with you, can't I?"

Will's eyes widened, and his jaws fell agape in disbelief.

He wants to compete with his wife and child on the horse too?!

Everyone knew that horses would slow down if the load on them was heavier.

Moreover, riding with two more persons would surely affect Nathan's skill.

How dare he look down on me by taking his wife and child on the horse!

Fuming with anger, Will glared at Nathan, "Fine! You're the one asking for it. I will whip you to death once you lose!"

Nathan pulled Penny and Queenie onto the horse. He held Penny in front of him while Penny held their daughter.

Nathan smiled confidently, "How do you know you are going to win? How do you know that I'm not the one whipping you instead?"

Soon enough, Nathan, Penny, and Queenie rode the white horse as Will rode the black horse to the turf.

Everyone gathered around the turf and watched nervously.

Click!

The gates were opened.

As Will raised his whip, the black horse under him raced forward swiftly.

The smirk on his face widened. Ha! You are asking for your own death! My rare purebred is definitely going to win!

Just as Will was feeling triumphant, he

gasped when he heard a loud neigh beside him and caught a glimpse of a white shadow flashing across him.

It took a moment for him to realize that the white shadow belonged to Nathan's horse.

Heavens! How on earth can such a fast horse exist!

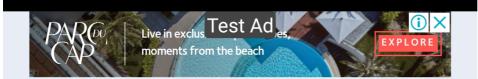
The onlookers were cheering excitedly at Nathan's horse, which had the speed of lightning.

Nervous, Penny curled up in Nathan's embrace while Queenie curled up in hers.

Queenie was flushed with excitement and delight.

Leaning backward on Nathan's firm chest, Penny felt a sense of relief and closed her eyes comfortably. She felt like she was flying in the air with Nathan, and a blissful smile crept across her face.

As for Will Dylan, his heart was filled with endless despair!



When he just finished his fifth lap, Nathan had already completed his last lap.

Kylie, Colin, and the others cheered loudly, "Nathan wins!"

Nathan held the reins and stopped the horse. Looking at Will Dylan halting beside him, he sneered, "It's time for you to fulfill your bet."

Horrified, Will asked, "What do you want?"

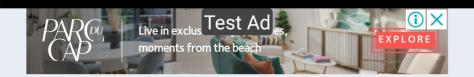
Nathan asked indifferently, "You said you were going to whip me ten times, no, whip me to death, didn't you?"

Will trembled with fear, "I was just joking!"

"It didn't sound like a joke to me." Nathan retorted coldly as he raised his whip at Will.

Whack!

Will's cheek bled instantly. His torn skin and gaping flesh were such a horrible sight.



Soon after, he spat out a mouthful of blood and broken teeth, then fell from his horse screaming.

Looking down at the sprawling Will Dylan, Nathan spoke coldly, "You have a day to get your ass out of Channing. Don't show up in front of me ever again."

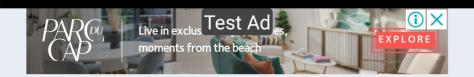
After that, Will's bodyguards scrambled to help him up and escort him away.

As for Will, he was on the brink of death after the whip. "Nathan, just wait and see... I'm not done with you yet." He warned weakly.

Nevertheless, Nathan didn't care about Will's warning. He, Penny, Kylie, and Queenie continued their practice at Westhill Turf Club.

Tobias, on the other hand, found a few gentle horses that were perfect for beginners like them.

Penny and the girls had so much fun that afternoon.



Night fell when the last ray of the sun disappeared from the horizon.

Then, Nathan, Colin, Penny, and the others drove back to the city after spending the whole afternoon at Westhill Turf Club.

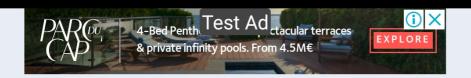
Due to the tiring horse-riding session, Penny, Kylie, and Queenie fell asleep in the car directly on the way home.

Colin Dunne was driving a Hongqi along a deserted road towards the city when he suddenly saw two black cars stopping in the middle of the road.

Both cars had their emergency flashers turned on. Besides that, seven or eight men wearing different attires were pointing at each other beside respective cars in what looked like a heated argument.

Seeing that Colin pulled over, Nathan asked vaguely, "What's the matter?"

Staring in front at the blocked road, Colin frowned, "It seems like the two cars in



front of us had a minor crash. The guys blocking the road seem to be arguing."



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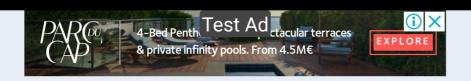


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Nathan glanced at the asleep Penny, Kylie, and Queenie before returning his gaze to the guys blocking the road.

Just then, he noticed that the cars didn't bump into each other even though they appeared to be very near.

Furthermore, the seemingly arguing guys kept looking in their direction.

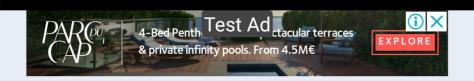
Nathan even noticed a slight bulge under one of the men's shirts around his waist. It was certainly the shape of a pistol handle.

"I don't think that's an accident. They have been waiting for us here purposely." Nathan scoffed.

Colin noticed something wrong with the guys too. He turned to Nathan, "What shall we do, Master?"

Nathan smiled and reached for the car door, "Let's go down. Don't wake them up."

With that, Colin nodded and followed him out of the car.



Nathan then led Colin towards the men and asked smilingly, "What's the matter?"

"Excuse us, please. We are discussing the minor accident we have here!" A middleaged man with a scarred face replied and cast a glance at the men around him.

Instantly, the man standing beside Nathan took out a pistol and aimed it at his head.

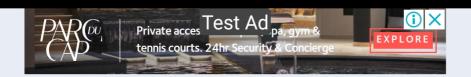
But Nathan was quick to react and punched the man immediately.

Watching the man fell onto the ground with his face full of blood, Nathan grabbed the man's pistol.

The men surrounding them charged toward Nathan and Colin at once.

A thin man holding a sharp knife crept silently behind Nathan. As he brought his knife down on Nathan's back, he yelled "Go to hell!"

Before the man managed to drive his knife into Nathan's heart, he found his mouth



stuffed with Nathan's gun as he turned around quickly.

Freezing in fear, the man pleaded groggily, "Please..."

"Ciao," Nathan pulled the trigger calmly.

Bang!

It took just a gunshot for the man's brains to spurt out as he fell to the ground dead.

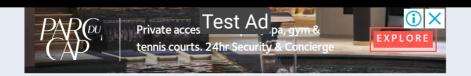
At the same time, Colin was tangled in a fight with a few assassins.

He moved with explosive speed and agility.

In the blink of an eye, the assassins were all killed by him except for the middle-aged man with a scarred face.

The man paled that instant and started trembling. "I am one of the Dylans in Forthmore City, Northania, if you touch me, you…"

Aiming his gun at the man, Nathan did not



wait for him to finish his sentence.

Bang!

The man fell backward with a bloody hole in his chest and an expression of disbelief on his face.

He must have never expected that Nathan would disregard the name of the Dylan family and killing him right away.

Nathan tossed the pistol to Colin and instructed calmly, "Deal with this mess. I'll go home first."



Colin answered, "Yes, Master!"



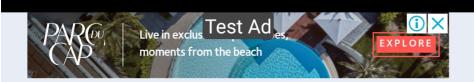
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Chapter 958 Who Do You Think You Are To Reign Above All

When Nathan returned to the car, Penny, Kylie, and Queenie were still asleep.

Specially made for the chief, the 20 million Hongqi car was not only bulletproof and explosion-proof but also soundproof.

They were not aroused from their sleep despite the commotion outside just now.

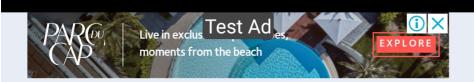
At the same time in the district, Will sat in the office of the Armed Forces Chief in the Armed Forces Building. He was calling his subordinate to know how their assassination went.

The call was picked up, but a frosty voice came from the phone. "Will Dylan, all of your men are dead! And you're up next!"

Will could tell that it was Colin Dunne over the phone. Stunned and furious, he was about to say something when Colin hung up on him.

Will's face convulsed with anger, "F***!"

Sitting at a couch nearby was the newly



Chapter 958 Who Do You Think You Are To Reign Above All

appointed chief of the Channing Armed Forces, Jaime Dylan. He was smoking when he asked slowly, "What's wrong?"

Will smiled bitterly, "Uncle, my subordinates are dead. Nathan and his men threaten to kill me!"

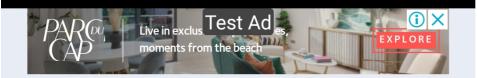
Jaime Dylan scoffed, "Does this Nathan think that he can do whatever he wants at Channing because he is a rich entrepreneur and has the backing of Thomas, King of the Underground?"

"Ha! He is and will forever be a sneaky thief who will never be a match for soldiers like us!"

"Don't worry, Will. I will send a group of reserve soldiers to teach him a lesson."

Will was delighted and happy at his uncle's offer, "Wow! Thank you, uncle!"

Jaime Dylan snorted, "I can find any reason to put him under arrest. Since it concerns the army, even the police cannot interfere with it."



Chapter 958 Who Do You Think You Are To Reign Above All

"Then we shall torment him as much as we want when he is caught. His wife will definitely come to us to plead for him."

"Ha! In the end, the both of them will be under our control, and we can do whatever we want with them!"

Will was thrilled, "This plan is awesome!"

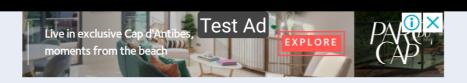
"Not only can we incarcerate Nathan for revenge, but I can also get my hands on Penny. If us, Dylans, ask for the shares of the Cross Group, Penny won't be able to reject us too!"

"Haha! We are going to gain so much from this!"

Jaime Dylan was grinning from ear to ear as he summoned his assistant, "Summon a group of reserve soldiers and equip each of them with the most basic rifles. We have someone to catch!"

"Yes, sir!"

Immediately, Jaime and Will led a group of



Chapter 958 Who Do You Think You Are To Reign Above All

five hundred aggressive soldiers in jeeps and military troop carriers to Nathan's home, Riverside Garden.

"Faster!"

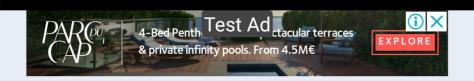
"Quick!"

"Hurry up!"

Soon enough, several jeeps and a dozen military troop carriers made a dramatic appearance in front of Nathan's mansion in Riverside Garden.

At the sound of order, the soldiers with rifles slung across their shoulders jumped off the truck and assembled swiftly.

Jamie Dylan got down from the first jeep, and the bandaged Will Dylan followed him.



Jaime Dylan was a formidable man, but his ego was inflated beyond belief.

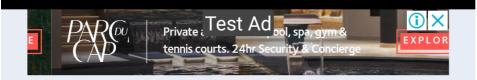
Wade Dylan, too, had arrogance written plainly on his face. He stood tall, shoulders back, constantly carrying himself with an air of conceit.

Jaime squinted at the villa that loomed before him. "Surround this place! Make sure not even a rodent slips through the cracks," he ordered sharply.

"Yes, sir!"

The last of Jaime's words were still lingering in the air as more than five hundred reservists surged forward. The sergeants, lieutenants, and majors barked orders at their respective subordinate officers, and the soldiers moved in tight formation to enclose Nathan's private villa.

Jaime and Wade watched as the reservists infiltrated the compound. They were certain that the Cross family could not escape this time around.



Jaime strode towards the entrance, flanked by Wade and a group of soldiers, ready to bust down the door and barge in.

Much to their surprise, they had only made it past the front gates when the main door of the house swung open.

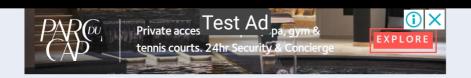
Nathan stepped out of the house with Benson, Leah, and Kylie in tow.

Benson and Leah were civilians, so that was their first time witnessing such a scene. The sight of their house surrounded by hundreds of soldiers shook them to their core, and their faces paled in terror.

A horrifying thought surfaced in their minds. Did we commit an atrocious crime?

If not, why's there an entire battalion of soldiers surrounding our house?

Nathan's face darkened as he glowered at Jaime and Wade. He asked in a glacial tone, "What do you think you're doing? My wife and daughter are sleeping! Get out of here! If any of you disrupts my family's



rest, you'll have to suffer tragic consequences."

Jaime, Wade, and the reservists burst into laughter when they heard Nathan's threat.

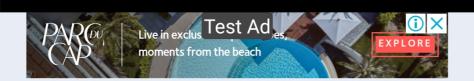
Wade sneered, "You really know how to put up a strong front, Nathan. Just look at your current situation! Why do you even bother feigning courage?"

Jaime's expression remained frigid. "Why are you wasting your breath on him? Seize him and bring him back to the Armed Forces to be dealt with!" He commanded with the authority of a firm leader.

Instantly, more than ten reservists with rifles slung across their shoulders snapped into action. They rushed forward to capture Nathan.

Kylie was privy to Nathan's true identity; she was able to stay calm amidst the chaos.

Benson and Leah, on the other hand, began to panic when they heard that the



soldiers were going to take away their sonin-law.

They stood in front of Nathan like two stubborn mules, shielding him with their bodies. His voice quivering with agitation, Benson asked, "Why are you arresting my son-in-law? What did he do? You should at least give us a reason if you plan to take him away."

Leah joined in and yelled at the men, "That's right! What right do you have to capture my son-in-law? I have faith in him! He's definitely not a criminal!"

Nathan's gaze softened as his in-law's warm gestures sent ripples of gratitude through his heart.

He held both of his elders and reassured them with a gentle smile, "Mum, Dad, don't worry. I'm sure this is all a misunderstanding."

He then instructed, "Kylie, bring them back into the house. I'll settle the matters here."

Kylie quickly followed his instructions and coaxed them back into the house. "Aunt, uncle, let's head back in. Brother-in-law will be able to handle this on his own, so let's leave him to his devices instead of making matters worse."

After Kylie had ushered Benson and Leah back into the house, Nathan levelled a stare at Jaime and berated him, "You're just the Lieutenant Colonel of the Armed Forces. How dare you lead the militia on a mission to seize people on your own accord instead of fulfilling your duty and training these soldiers! Who gave you the authority to do so?"





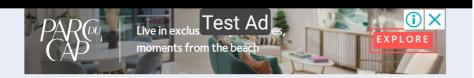
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The present reservists were befuddled when they heard Nathan reproach their leader. Their expressions shifted perceptibly as they turned to look at Jaime.

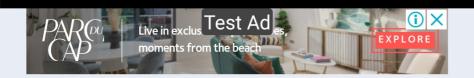
Nathan is right! They internally agreed.

The Armed Forces were only responsible for militia formation and management. The department had no liberty to make its own decisions, let alone deploy an entire battalion on an arrest mission.

The fact that Nathan could remain unperturbed in the face of an ambush was jarring to Jaime. However, the latter was even more surprised that Nathan was familiar with the Armed Forces' extent of power as it demonstrated his understanding of the hierarchy within the military.

Even so, he was still a Lieutenant Colonel at the end of the day. It would take more than a few words to rattle him

Jaime retorted with a smirk, "I'm not



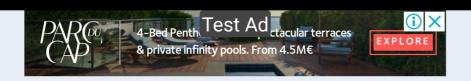
obligated to explain the inner workings of the military to you. Right now, you are being arrested on the grounds of suspected treason due to leaking Top Secret information. You have two choices either you surrender right now, or I'll have the soldiers beat you unconscious and drag you out of here like a dead mutt. Which one do you prefer?"

The corners of Nathan's lips curled up in amusement. "You're not fit to apprehend me!"

Jaime and Wade exchanged glances before guffawing at his remark.

The latter snickered, "Uncle Jaime, this is really the first time I've heard such an absurd remark. You're the Lieutenant Colonel of the Armed Forces, and you're in charge of all the reservists. There's literally a whole battalion of soldiers here awaiting your orders, but he still has the audacity to say that you're not fit to apprehend him!"

With a bone-chilling smile, Jaime mocked Nathan, "You must be completely drunk if



that's what you truly believe. Had you had a few crumbs with your drinks, you wouldn't be so delusional right now!"

"Seize him and take him away!" He ordered.

The present reservists prepared to charge forward once again.

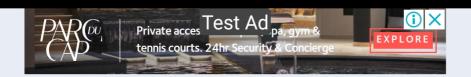
However, before they could move, an orotund voice boomed from behind, "Halt your actions! Mr. Cross is right - none of you have the right to capture him!"

Jaime and his subordinates were surprised and infuriated by the newcomer. Bristling with annoyance, they turned in unison to face the source of that voice.

There stood the Elite Eight, led by Colin Dunne.

"Who are you guys?" Jaime questioned stonily.

Wade recognized Colin as one of Nathan's subordinates. Furning, he screeched,



"Uncle Jaime, this is the guy who killed all my underlings. He's the one who picked up the phone back then. They're Nathan's accomplices in the murder!"

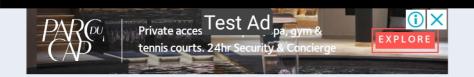
A menacing grin spread across Jaime's face. "Perfect, then we'll arrest them all at once!"

Colin was unruffled by his words and said impassively, "You're far from capable of arresting any of us. Open your eyes wide and take a good look at this."

With that said, Colin flung his hand forward.

Jaime's vision blurred momentarily. An object slapped him across his face with a crisp sound, leaving behind a stinging pain on his cheek.

He instinctively caught the object and glanced down at it. His jaw fell when he realized that it was an identification card, or, to be precise, a military identification card.



What?

Jaime's eyes seemed to bulge out of their sockets as he gaped at the card in his hand.

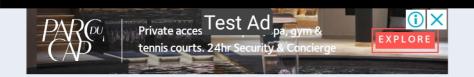
At the sight of Colin publicly humiliating their Lieutenant Colonel, the reservists cocked their rifles and aimed the barrels at Colin. A few soldiers who were more aggressive in nature sprinted ahead, brandishing their firearms as they prepared to knock him out with the rifle butt.

"Wait!" Jaime's shouted hastily.

The reservists screeched to a halt and looked at Jaime with confusion in their eyes.

The Lieutenant Colonel was still reeling back from the shock of this revelation. He appraised Colin and commented, "I can't believe you're a military officer too. You sure don't look like it. I wonder what your rank is and what background you have."

With this, he began to scrutinize the



military identification card.

Name: Colin Dunne

Division: The North Army Headquarters

Position: Captain of National Guards

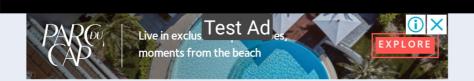
Title: Colonel

Jaime was overwhelmed with trepidation when he saw the word 'Colonel' imprinted on the glossy card. The realization that he had been parading his foolishness in front of a high-ranking military officer hit him like a thunderbolt.

He was well aware that his rank as a battalion commander of the reservists was insignificant in the eyes of a puissant man like Colin.

Although he was a Lieutenant Colonel, his rank was only comparable to the major of regular military affairs as the reservist division had less recognition and power.

If the military identification card was



authentic, Colin was genuinely a Colonel, and he was two ranks above Jaime!

However, when he realized that Colin was the Captain of National Guards, a scornful chuckle escaped his lips.



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