

William's eyes widened in disbelief.

He couldn't believe the two women from the East would reject his invitation despite his handsome look. These women usually took the initiation to flirt with him first.

William was puzzled why the two women weren't moved by his charm and soon came up with an answer.

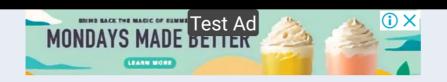
They must be putting on airs! That's what those people always do! They usually pretend as if they weren't interested at first.



William quickly grinned. "Ladies, if you aren't interested in having a drink with me, why don't we go for a ride in my car over there then?"

He pointed at an Aston Martin in front of the hotel.

That was how William usually hunted his prey. He would show them all the luxurious things he owned to open the door to their hearts.



Instead, Nathan replied coldly, "They aren't interested. Can you leave us alone?"

William shifted his attention to Nathan and scoffed, "I'm not asking you. I'm asking them."

"I know, but they aren't interested. Leave."

"Who the heck are you to make their decisions for them?"

"This is my wife, and the other is my friend Satisfied?"

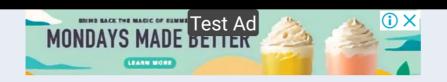


William looked at Penny, finally learning that the gorgeous eastern lady was Nathan's wife.

Instead of backing away, William let out a wide grin. "Babe, if you go out with me now, I'll give you the Ferrari over there that's worth billions."

William's invitation showed how arrogant a rich person could be.

They would try to seduce a married



woman in front of their husband for pure excitement.

Nathan stared at William and sighed. "Thunderstorm. Waves."

The two bodyguards instantly appeared in front of Nathan. "Sir!"

Nathan pointed at the Ferrari and ordered, "That car is a pain to watch. Destroy it."

"Sir!"

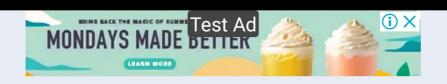
The two bodyguards reacted right away and walked toward the sports car that was parked in the parking lot.

Thunderstorm raised his leg and launched two successful kicks on the Ferrari's headlights.

"My God!"

The hotel staffs, customers, and even the passersby, gasped in awe.

William couldn't believe his own eyes and



roared, "How dare you trash my ride!"

Bang!

The loud bang made William turned back to look at his car. Waves just landed a heavy punch on the car's bonnet, causing it to cave in.

Thunderstorm and Waves continued to punch and kick the Ferrari that was worth billions until it became junk.

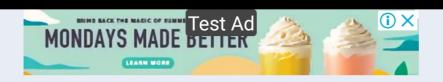
The two bodyguards then returned to Nathan's side. "Master, it's done."

"Good," Nathan smiled.

William finally recovered from his shock and quickly ordered his bodyguards. "F***! Take them down!"

Yet, not one of his bodyguards moved. Some of them even took a few steps back.

William's bodyguards' reaction was expected since Thunderstorm and Waves turned a Ferrari into a scrap with just their



fists and legs. There was no way they would still have the courage to fight even one of Nathan's bodyguards after witnessing such a feat. William should be happy that his bodyguards stayed around.

Instead, William could only tremble with anger as his bodyguards were useless.

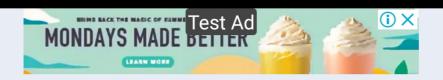
He turned to point at Nathan and barked, "You f**ker! That car costs a billion! I'll sue you so much that you'll go bankrupt!"

Nathan only gazed at William and slapped the latter on his cheek.

The slap was so hard that it knocked a few teeth out of William's mouth as he fell to the floor.

"Unluckily for you, I have the money to pay for that piece of crap," Nathan mocked and gave Waves a black card. "Transfer 1.01 billion to this man. One billion for the car and a hundred thousand for his teeth."

William's eyes widened as he stared at the black card, dumbfounded.



He was joined by the staffs and customers as well.

All the commotion just proved that Nathan was the richer person.

Penny couldn't hide her laughter as she looked at her husband.

As for Grace, she stared at Nathan in awe. Damn! Mr. Cross is insane!



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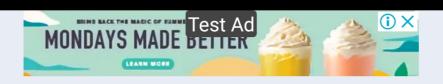




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"You better watch your back!" William threatened and quickly left with his bodyquards.

"Nathan, we're in Volk right now. You shouldn't act so rashly," Penny reminded.

"I actually held myself back just now." Nathan smiled.

Penny and Grace looked at each other with no idea how to reply to him.

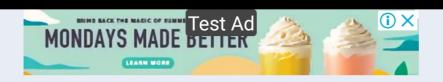
What they didn't know was he really meant what he said.

If they were in their own country, William would've been crippled by now.

After that, William went to the best hospital in the city to fix his teeth.

Just as he finished, a tall, slender person in a wheelchair visited him in the hospital with a group of bodyguards.

The person was none other than Barton Group's newest president, Zizan Barton.



He was the biggest pharmaceutical supplier, having one of the nation's most important positions in the industry.

It was why he was also invited to the Medical Academic Ceremony.

Technically, Zizan did not have to participate in the ceremony personally.

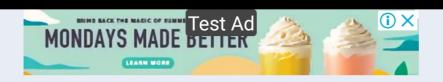
Yet, he caught wind that Nathan and Penny had RSVP'd to the event and that Mist Sword was on his way to Volk to assassinate Nathan.

That was why Zizan changed his mind and headed to Volk. Besides participating in the ceremony, he wanted to witness Nathan's death by Mist Sword's hands.

As soon as he landed in Volk, he was informed that his best friend, William, was hospitalized because of Nathan.

He immediately headed to the hospital to visit William.

The latter explained the whole situation to



Zizan before cursing, "I'm going to f***ing kill that f***er and destroy his woman!"

"Don't you worry." Zizan smiled. "He'll be dead in less than two days."

"How?" William's eyes widened.

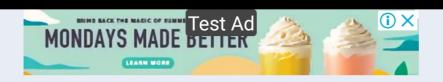
"To tell you the truth, Nathan Cross is an enemy to Barton Group. I've already hired one of the best swordsmen in the world to kill him. He'll meet his end soon enough."

"Well done!" William laughed excitedly. "I have a request. I want to be there when Nathan draws his last breath! When will you make your move?"

"Tonight."

"Good! Good! I'll stick with you then! I want to see the regret in Nathan's eyes as he dies!"

Nathan, Penny, and Grace enjoyed their lunch at the Hilton Hotel restaurant while Colin stood guard next to them.



"The ceremony is tomorrow. Are there any sights worth our time here in Riverdale?" Nathan asked Colin.

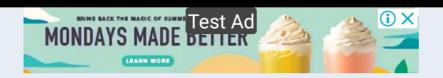
"There are a lot of places to go since Riverdale is Volk's capital city," Colin replied with a smile. "Also, from what I know, an underground black market is hosting an auction tonight. I think you might be interested."

"Why would you think that? I rarely visit any auctions," Nathan asked curiously.

"They are going to auction one of our nation's long-lost treasures. It's a sword that belonged to the Marquis of Champions centuries ago. I believe you'll try to reclaim our artifact if you learn of it."

The sword of the Marquis of Champions, a long-lost artifact that was worth treasuring.

Just as Colin expected, Nathan agreed right away. "Let's head to the auction tonight! If it really is the Marquis' sword, then I'll have help our country reclaim it so



that it could shine in our museum!"



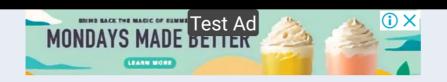
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Night soon arrived as the street lamps lit up altogether.

Nathan, Penny, and Grace arrived at the chaotic market with Colin, Thunderstorm, Waves, and all Elite Eight accompanying them.

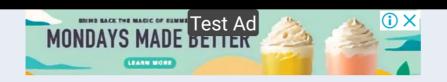
Colin whispered to an unimposing elderly man and handed a bundle of cash.

The elderly then led Nathan and his companions to the black market auction.

The market was poorly maintained, but the people in it were some of the richest from all over the world.

Some of them wore suits, and a few looked like they came from Middle Eastern countries, while a handful had Southeast Asian characteristics. No matter what they wore or how they looked, each of them came from a distinguished family.

Nathan and his companions also ran into some "acquaintances".



They were none other than Zizan Barton and William.

When the duo spotted Nathan, they glared at him as if they wanted to feast on his flesh and drink his blood.

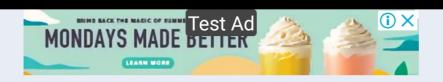
Zizan quickly forced a smile and greeted Nathan as if he'd forgotten that the latter broke his legs.

Nathan was also surprised to see Zizan and William as well. After silently greeting them, Nathan led Penny and Grace to a table, and they waited for the auction to begin.

Penny peeked at Zizan and William, who were sitting close to them.

Knowing that those two men detested Nathan the most, she expected something bad might happen.

"Hubby, do you think they're here to take their revenge on us?" Penny asked worriedly.



"If that's what they want. Leave them be. If they make a move, then I won't let them off the hook this time."

The auction soon started.

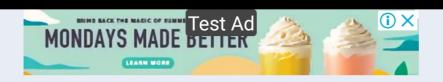
Many rare and illegal products, ranging from ivory to tiger bone and antiquities from all over the world, were being auctioned at the market.

Halfway into the auction, the auctioneer brought out a sword that belonged to the Marquis of Champions. The sword's starting price was a hundred thousand, and the minimum bid was a ten thousand increment.

"Sir, I've sent a picture of the sword back to our specialist, and he confirmed the sword is indeed authentic," Colin whispered.

Nathan nodded and raised his arm. "A hundred thousand!"

"Two hundred thousand!" William quickly bade.



Since William was a crown prince in a western country, collecting many ancient weapons was one of his favorite pastimes.

After hearing Nathan's bid, William quickly followed up with his own to show that he was richer.

Nathan raised his arm once again. "One million!"

The crowd immediately gasped.

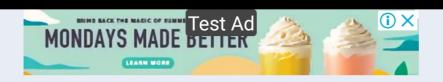
"1.1 million!" William roared.

Nathan and William continued to bid against each other until the price reached three million.

William began to sweat as the price was a little too much for him.

Yet, he still wanted to bid an even higher price.

Luckily, Zizan stopped him. "Let's stop there. If you really want that sword, we can wait until Nathan's dead."



"That's right!" William exclaimed.

With no one to bid against Nathan, the sword now belonged to him.

Since he wasn't interested in the rest of the auction, he left early.

Zizan and William looked at each other and followed him.

As Nathan walked out of the market, he realized it was drizzling.

A man in a raincoat stood in the parking lot under the dim road lamp. The man had a sword on his waist and stood still as if he was a scarecrow.

Colin and the rest of the bodyguards observed the sudden visitor uncertainly as they could feel chills down their spines.

The swordsman was Mist Sword. He suddenly opened his eyes and glared at Nathan. "I've been waiting for you."

Nathan frowned at the swordsman. "Why are you here?"

"By Mr. Barton's order," Mist Sword replied calmly.

Nathan instantly understood what Mist Sword meant. "So, Barton has hired you to kill me."

Penny and Grace quickly turned pale.

Colin and the rest of the bodyguards braced themselves as they could feel the intense aura coming from Mist Sword.

"I have a sword that hasn't tasted any blood for the last five years. It's telling me it wants your blood," Mist Sword said as he rested his hand on the hilt of his sword.

Nathan frowned again. But, before Nathan could speak, Thunderstorm roared at Mist Sword, "How dare you disrespect our master!"

Thunderstorm and Waves kicked the floor and leaped toward Mist Sword.

The two bodyguards were known as some of the best martial artists in the country. Yet Mist Sword did not even flinch as they charged forward.

He stood still until the two bodyguards were just inches away from him and unsheathed his sword.

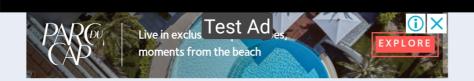
Thunderstorm and Waves suddenly felt as if they were in an icy cave as they struggled to breathe.

Their bodies were warning them of the danger, and they quickly jumped back.

They evaded most of the slash, but the tip of the sword still brushed past them, leaving a wound across their chests.

Thunderstorm and Waves gaped their eyes in awe at Mist Sword, clearly underestimating their opponent.

Thunderstorm glared at the swordsman and suddenly yelled, "Wait! I know you! You are the best swordsman in our country! Mist Sword!"



"Mist Sword? The one who massacred countless top-tier martial artists across the country in the past?" Waves exclaimed.

Zizan and William were hiding close to the parking lot so that they could witness the event unfold.

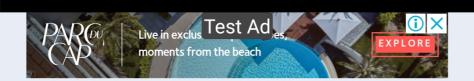
When Zizan saw Mist Sword injured two of Nathan's bodyguards with just a swing, he laughed hysterically. "He really is the best swordsman!"

"This is what I've been waiting for!" William joined the laugh.

After recognizing the swordsman as Mist Sword, they took a defensive stance. Since they did not want to embarrass themselves in front of Nathan, they were ready to launch another attack.

Nathan suddenly stopped them. "Stop. You two can't win against him. Leave him to me."

"Master!" Thunderstorm and Waves immediately stopped and made way for



Nathan.

When Penny heard her husband was going to face the scary swordsman himself, she got worried. "Nathan..."

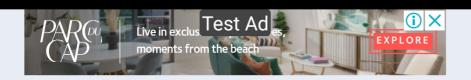
"Don't worry. I'll be fine. Do you trust me?" Nathan smiled.

Penny noticed the determination in his eyes and finally nodded.

She turned to one of the Elite Eight and retrieved the sword that Nathan had just bought. "Take this. At least you'll have something to clash against his sword. Be careful, okay?"

Nathan smile and accepted the sword before pacing toward Mist Sword.

He stopped just five meters short of the swordsman and said, "Come!"



"Very well!" Mist Sword smiled and thrust his sword at Nathan with lightning speed.

Nathan leaned back slightly and avoided the strike easily.

Mist Sword then twisted his wrist, and the sword arched toward Nathan's neck.

The latter simply slid his foot and evaded the deadly slash once again, like a fish swimming freely in the water.

Mist Sword startled at Nathan's reaction as the latter evaded his sword not once but twice.

The swordsman decided to not hold back any longer and use all of his strength to defeat Nathan.

Mist Sword shot out a dozen thrusts immediately.

Nathan moved in small steps and evaded all the thrusts, leaving afterimages of himself behind because he was moving almost at the speed of sound. All dozen



thrusts missed their target.

As soon as Mist Sword's attack ended, Nathan was already in a striking motion.

He sped past Mist Sword with his sword still sheathed and gently touched Mist Sword's back.

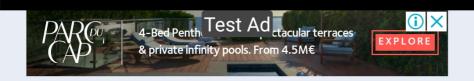
Mist Sword trembled as a wound appeared on his back.

Nathan turned around and stared at him. "You lost."

Mist Sword endured the pain on his back as he gaped at Nathan. As a master swordsman who had trained for the past forty years, Mist Sword was crowned as the best swordsman. This was the first time that swordsman lost so desperately.

Nathan never unsheathed his sword and still managed to injure Mist Sword's back with a single move.

Mixed emotions could be seen in Mist Sword's eyes, from confusion to



embarrassment.

The swordsman gripped his long sword tightly. "Again!"

Nathan frowned. "You can't defeat me. You'll die."

"Being hit on the back is an insult to a swordsman. I would rather die than being humiliated. Please, unsheathe your sword." Mist Sword bit his lip.

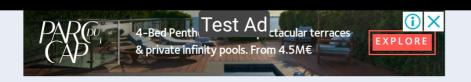
Nathan was stunned for a second before changing his expression into a serious one. "Very well. You truly deserve my respect. I'll fight you once more."

Nathan then thrust his sword toward the floor.

After a loud bang, the sheath was now inches deep into the cracked ground.

"Come," Nathan faintly said.

Mist Sword let out a roar. "I'm Mist Sword from the South! Here I come!"



He kicked the floor and charged at Nathan with his sword in front of him.

The swordsman was so swift that others could only see his after-image.

Nathan unsheathed his sword and slashed forward.

Clang!

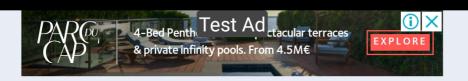
With just a swing, Nathan broke Mist Sword's long blade in half.

Simultaneously, the tip of Nathan's sword scratched his chest and left a deep cut.

After defeating Mist Sword with a slash, Nathan took a step back to where he was standing at the beginning and sheathed his sword.

"Thank you for the fight!" Nathan expressed his gratitude.

Both Penny and Grace grinned when they witnessed Nathan winning the fight.



Both Thunderstorm and Waves' faces were filled with admiration while Colin and the Elite Eight were proud of their General.

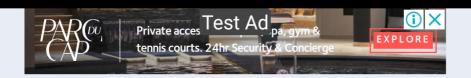
As for Zizan and William who were hiding, they had their mouths wide opened from witnessing Nathan defeating the best swordsman in one hit.

Oh my God! Is he a monster?

Mist Sword stared at his broken sword before lowering his head to look at his wounded chest.

He couldn't believe that he, the best swordsman in the nation, would be defeated in a single strike. It seemed as if God was playing a joke with him.

The swordsman then raised his head. "Who are you? There aren't many people in our nation who can defeat me. There's no way you're a measly nobody! Who the heck are you?"



Nathan smiled, but he did not reply to Mist Sword's question. Instead, he removed his sword from the ground and threw it toward Colin. "Let's go."

Penny, Grace, and the bodyguards quickly chased after Nathan as he left.

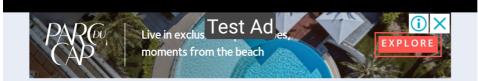
Colin was at the end of the line. When he walked past Mist Sword, he whispered, "Chest up, old man. A lot has fallen under the hands of the General of the North. You aren't the first, and you won't be the last."

General of the North? The God of War?

Mist Sword widened his eyes in disbelief as he watched Nathan left.

He finally recovered his senses after the general was gone and laughed like a maniac. "It's really him! That's why I lost! There's no way I could win against him! This defeat is not even humiliating!"

Zizan and William came out of hiding after that.



Zizan was confused as to why Mist Sword was laughing when he had suffered a complete defeat. "Sir, why are you laughing? Who is Nathan?"

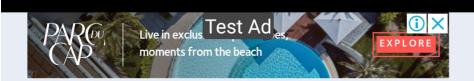
Mist Sword turned to look at Zizan and shook his head. "He's not someone you should mess with, and definitely not someone that I could kill. Now that I've already helped you once, our debt is settled. Please don't bother me anymore in the future."

Zizan was both shocked and furious by Mist Sword's remark.

Before Mist Sword left, he warned Zizan once again. "If you value your own life, stay as far away from him as possible."

With that, the swordsman disappeared into the night.

Zizan never expected that even Mist Sword would fail to defeat Nathan. To him, Mist Sword's words sounded more like an excuse for his defeat.



William frowned as he watched the swordsman leave. "Mr. Barton, is that the master swordsman you mentioned? Not only did he fail to kill Nathan, but he even warned you not to mess with him. What the heck was that?"

"Looks like I've overestimated Mist Sword's strength. His title must be fake!" Zizan scolded.

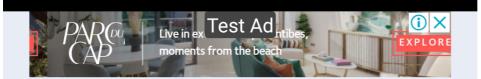
"Why don't you leave Nathan to me? I'll make sure that he would never leave Volk alive!" William smiled.

"Oh? Do you have something in mind?" Zizan raised an eyebrow.

"Did you forget that I'm the Crown Prince of Eagleland? I have ties with a few powers in the military. I'm sure they would help me take Nathan out if I ask them nicely."

"Excellent! I'll wait for you good news then!"

The next day.



Nathan attended the Medical Academic Ceremony held in Riverdale with Penny and Grace.

The liver cancer vaccine and special meds researched by Cross Group was undoubtedly the biggest medical achievement that year.

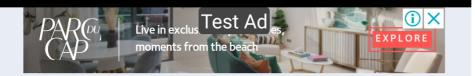
Penny and Grace took turns to give their speeches and garnered applause from thousands of elites sitting below the stage.

The ceremony was being broadcasted live in countless countries, spreading words of the liver cancer vaccine and special meds from Cross Group to every corner of the world.

All eyes were now on the release of Q.Than.

CEOs of various pharmaceutical companies were already inquiring Penny about pre-ordering Q.Than.

Penny replied to all the CEOs with the



same answer. "I apologize. We'll only accept orders for Q.Than after it's launched in our nation."



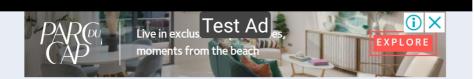
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Nathan couldn't help but smile as people with different medical professions surrounded Penny and Grace. After notifying Colin, he headed outside to smoke.

Nathan wasn't really fond of academic conferences such as the ceremony and decided to find a quiet place to pass his time instead.

Before he could finish his first cigarette, he got a call from Colin.

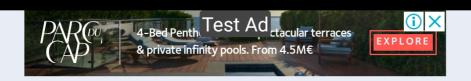
"Sir! Something bad has happened!" Colin reported anxiously. "A troop of Volk's army came, and they are arresting Ms. Penny and Professor Hampton!"

"What?" Nathan exclaimed.

"We are also confused by it. Since they're Volk's military, we can't fight back. What should we do?"

"I'll be there right away!"

Nathan quickly returned to the hall that



was already in chaos.

Nathan's bodyguards were running around trying to understand the situation.

Unable to find Penny and Grace, Nathan got furious. "What's happening? Where are they?"

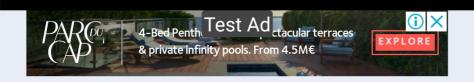
"They just took Ms. Penny and Professor Hampton away! They must've came prepared because there was no hesitation in their movements!" Colin replied. "We didn't stop them because we might harm Ms. Penny in the process. We still don't understand how serious the situation is yet. If we fight the military, things might go out of our hands."

"What were they accused of?"

"Espionage!"

"How dare they frame my wife!" There was a murderous look on Nathan's face.

"Sir, should we get the embassy to help us?" Colin suggested. "We also need to



contact our government to release them."

"No. It's obvious they were after my wife and Professor Hampton," Nathan shook his head. "We'll be too late if we do that."

"Then, what should we do?"

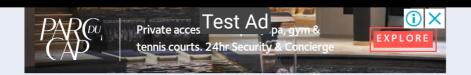
"Take them down!" Nathan snarled. "How dare a small country like Volk frame my wife! Get ready! We are going to break into Volk's military base!"

"Sir!" all of Nathan's bodyguards replied.

Nathan headed to the embassy in Volk to get Hector Packwood to assist them.

After changing into a suit with a pin that proved he was a diplomat, Nathan and his bodyguards headed to the military prison where Penny was held at.

Nathan showed his diplomat badge to the guard at Volk's military prison and said, "My name is Nathan Cross. I've contacted your higher-ups beforehand to visit the two women who are being held captive here."



The prison gate opened. A tall and muscular middle-aged man walked out with hundreds of armed guards behind him.



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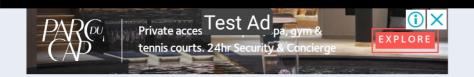


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Chapter 988 You Are Nothing To Me

"I am Jackie Wales, the Head Warden of this prison."

Nathan extended his hand in greeting. "I'm China's ambassador to Volk, Nathan Cross."

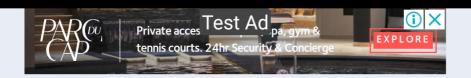
Jackie ignored the proffered hand, only saying coldly, "Your guards will have to remain here. Only you alone can come with me to see the two Chinese girls inside. Furthermore, you can only see them for ten minutes. Now, if that is clear, follow me inside."

Nathan nodded in agreement. "Lead the way!"

Jackie curtly ordered the surrounding prison guards to watch Nathan's own guards.

Bringing another ten of the prison guards with him, Jackie proceeded to lead Nathan into the depths of the prison.

Even as they entered the dark depths of the prison, Nathan maintained his calm



Chapter 988 You Are Nothing To Me

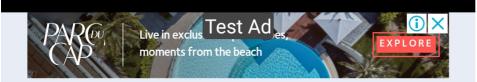
image outwardly, appearing unruffled as ever. But internally, he had been soundlessly memorizing each turn of the path they had taken, as well as the defensive capabilities of each prison guard post they had passed, both seen and unseen. His eyes flicked across his surroundings, committing every single detail to memory.

This place was Volk's military prison, known for imprisoning the most notorious and dangerous criminals in the country.

The prison's formidable defense system was top-of-the-line. Coupled with the thousands of prison guards stationed here, the prison could be said to be nigh inescapable.

All too soon, Jackie had lead Nathan into the literal belly of the beast. They stood in front of a dark, dank cell.

Even now, in the cell, Penny was comforting Grace and trying to encourage her, saying that Nathan was definitely coming to rescue them.



But the truth was, beneath her resolutely determined demeanor, Penny was almost as desperate and panicky as Grace.

She wondered if Nathan could really get them both out of here. It was a hopeless question she could not answer. Everything seemed so far-fetched.

Which was why it seemed like a dream too good to be true when Nathan actually did show up outside of their cell.

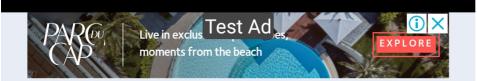
"Nathan!"

"Mr. Cross!"

Flinging themselves at the iron bars of their prison cell, Penny and Grace could not contain their surprise at seeing Nathan. They shouted at him in excited voices through the barrier of the iron bars

Seeing that they were both still unharmed, Nathan breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

He gave them a small smile. "You're safe now. I'm getting you both out of this



horrible place immediately."

Standing beside Nathan, Jackie finally chuckled coldly. "Are you sure about that, you naive Chinese pig?"

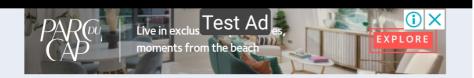
"Do you really think that my prison is some market where you can come and go as you please? Do you think I will allow you to take away any of the prisoners under my charge?"

"Ah, who do you think I am?"

Nathan matched Jackie's frigid tone. "Well, in my eyes, you're nothing at all."

Struck speechless, Jackie could only glare at him. Suddenly seeing Nathan's casual disregard of him as a show of his yet unseen abilities, Jackie belatedly realized that he was in trouble. The situation had turned against him.

He turned, bellowing at the ten prison guards accompanying him to take down Nathan immediately.



But it was far too late. Nathan was already leaping into action.

There was a sickening crack.

Nathan's fist connected solidly with Jackie's face. Bright, red blood flowed freely even as Jackie found himself flying backward from the force of the blow.

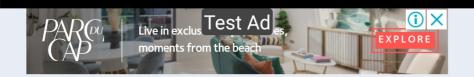
Just quickly as Jackie was thrown backward, Nathan had already closed a hand around his neck with equally blinding speed.

Jackie stopped moving, becoming very, very still as Nathan held him in the air with just one hand.

Upon seeing the current situation, the prison guards' expressions changed. Their hands inched towards their guns.

Not even breathing hard from the effort of holding Jackie up, Nathan's voice was icy. "Move, and I'll break his neck."

Hearing Nathan's threat, the prison guards'



expressions shifted yet again. Shortly after that, the sounds of heavy metal clattering onto the ground could be heard as the guards dropped their guns to prevent accidentally harming Jackie.

Instead, they produced crackling electric batons and rushed over as one towards Nathan.

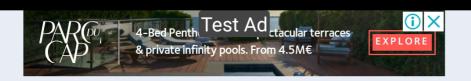
Confidence drove them forwards. The guards were grimly determined that they could bring down or electrocute Nathan before he could kill Jackie.

Faced with the situation, Nathan just made a sound of scorn.

Gripping Jackie's neck tightly with his left hand, Nathan whirled and swung his right fist forwards.

Bang!

The first guard who had charged at him toppled face-first onto the ground without so much as a pained grunt. He was bleeding copiously as he fell—Nathan had



punched him in the face.

Seizing the fallen guard's electric baton in one swift motion, Nathan sent another guard flying with a single sweep.

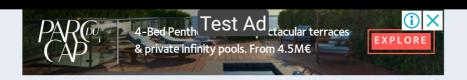
Still suspended in the air by Nathan's left hand, Jackie gurgled.

He struggled furiously, hoping to break free. But Nathan's deceptively slim fingers were tiger claws, vice-like in their unbreakable grip around his neck. He was well and truly trapped.

Jackie could feel his face burning, although he could not tell whether it was because of Nathan's strangling grip on his neck or the sheer shame of being humiliated like this.

At this point, his only hope was that his guards could defeat Nathan quickly and put an end to his humiliation.

Unfortunately for him, Nathan was still holding him up with one hand and deftly wielding the electric baton with the other.



He showed no signs of tiring.

With dawning horror, Jackie realized his prison guards were no match for Nathan. The other man was plowing through their ranks with impunity, flipping them onto the ground and electrocuting them all whilst holding him aloft one-handedly.

The fight ended as soon as it began. All ten of Jackie's prison guards were lying unconscious on the ground.



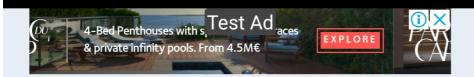
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Jackie gasped for air feebly, eyes bulging from their sockets. His feet struggled impotently as Nathan's hand retained its vice-like grip around his neck. He knew he would die soon.

Nathan released his grip on Jackie's neck, tossing him aside casually. Jackie landed with a hard thud in front of the prison cell.

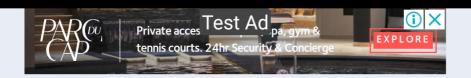
Nathan's voice was cool. "Now, take out the keys and unlock the door."

Massaging his throat, Jackie gulped down lungful of air greedily. His voice was a feeble whisper of what it had been. "I-I... did not bring the keys."

That was a lie. The keys were actually with him, but he was stalling for time.

There were thousands of other guards in his prison. It would not take too long for an alert to be raised, and he was banking on the arrival of more reinforcements.

Nathan saw through the ploy almost immediately and felt disgusted by the



sight of the pathetic warden. He knew he had to act quickly. Gripping the iron bars of the cell door tightly, he inhaled and started to exert pressure slowly.

In the dead silence of the deepest parts of the prison, the screeching of metal being forced out of shape was unbearably loud.

Taking a step backward, Nathan regarded the results of his handiwork. The durable iron bars of the prison cell pried wider from his sheer force.

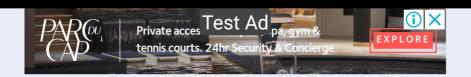
Jackie just stared and gaped in soundless surprise. Terror overtook him, and he inhaled sharply.

This crazy man had pried the iron bars of the cell open with his bare hands!

Was he even human? Or was he some ancient beast that had raw strength beyond imagination?

Jackie was not alone in his shock.

Penny and Grace were staring with wide



eyes at the impossible feat that had just been performed before them, identical looks of disbelief on both of their faces.

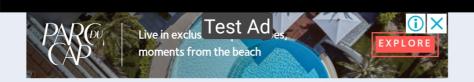
Grace—or as she was otherwise known, Professor Quin—was even seized by the sudden urge to abduct Nathan and run scientific tests on such a never-beforeseen specimen.

She was more than keen to get to the bottom of Nathan's biology—whether he was human or not.

An unfazed Nathan just looked at Penny and Grace, who were still frozen in shock. His voice was mild. "Stop staring, and let's get going."

Penny snapped out of her shock and quickly scrambled out of the cell.

Grace followed suit, although her expression still held a few shades of worry. "Mr. Cross, I understand you are impossibly strong and skilled, but I do have to ask: What hope do we actually have of escaping this place? We're in Volk,



and inside one of their most notorious military prisons, no less. With all the formidable defenses set around this prison, it seems impossible."

Grace's worry seemed to have bled over to Penny. Looking at Nathan, she said, "Grace is right. Even if we escape the prison, the whole city will be hunting for us. Can we really get out of this situation?"

Nathan's lip quirked into that familiar smile. "Relax. I promised that I would bring the both of you back to China safely, and that's what I intend to do."

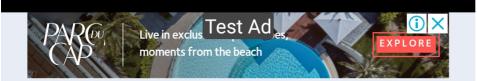


Left without alternate choices, Penny and Grace could only trust Nathan's words.

Just as Nathan was about to lead them out of the prison cell, the sounds of footsteps could be heard in the corridor up ahead.

It was William, flanked by two prison guards.

The corridor was still a fair distance away



from the cell, but William's impatient voice could still be heard clearly. He was ranting loudly, "I need to know where you're keeping Penny and Grace! Take me to see those two lovely ladies—right now!"

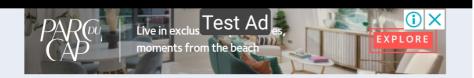
He laughed, an ugly sound that raised the hairs on Nathan's neck. "I'll bet those two whores never even dreamed they would end up in my hands. And I'm going to have my way with them until they scream for mercy."

William and the two guards drew closer to the cell.

It was only at this moment that they noticed the prison guards lying haphazardly on the ground. They lifted their gaze to see Nathan and his party.

William's eyes went wide, and his voice was about three pitches higher when he asked, "Nathan—but how are you here?"

His two guards, while both as surprised and angry as their master, had enough presence of mind to draw their guns.



In a heartbeat, Nathan appeared in front of them. He grabbed the two guards by their heads, and before they could even pull the trigger, bashed their heads together.

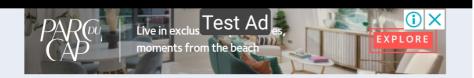
Crack!

The crushing impact was enough to make the guards' eyes vibrate in their sockets. Their eyes rolled simultaneously as they crumpled to the ground, unconscious. Their guns clattered out of their hands unceremoniously.

Heart hammering furiously at the terrifying sight, Jackie considered his current options. Nathan had ignored him since William appeared. He could possibly get up and lunge at Penny and Grace, taking them hostage.

But before he could even move a hair, Nathan's voice sounded by his ear. "Kindly stay where you are, Mr. Warden. I'd hate for you to throw away your life because of your own stupidity."

Jackie was terrified when he heard the



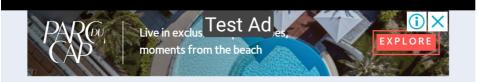
faint amusement in Nathan's voice.

But the fact that Nathan could deduce exactly what he had been thinking about was almost driving him to the end of his rope.

His eyes darted towards Nathan's back, across all of his unconscious guards lying on the floor, then finally landed on the iron bars of the prison cell that Nathan had bent with his bare hands.

He swallowed thickly and chose to stay put. The risk was too high. For all he knew, Nathan was capable of killing him with a single strike.

At this point, William was stumbling backward gracelessly as Nathan stalked slowly in his direction. His face was contorted in a mask of terror that all the bluster in his loud voice could not conceal. "Y-you—what are you going to do to me? Do you know who I am? I'm the heir apparent of Eagleland! If you even touch a single hair on my head, my people will hunt you to the ends of the world!"



"Are you done prattling?" Nathan asked mildly.

William's speeding thoughts screeched to a sputtering stop.

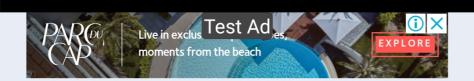
Dumbfounded would be a generous term for what William was feeling currently. He was flabbergasted.

Nathan's voice turned cold. "So what if you're the crown prince of Eagleland? Even if you were the King of Eagleland, I'd still make you kneel before me."

Nathan was not one for empty threats. Lightning-quick, his foot snapped forwards in a blindingly fast kick aimed directly at William's groin.

The impact was not loud, but it was bruising and fatal, especially to the precious royal jewels. William whimpered over his cracked eggs.

His eyes bulged and his mouth fell open. Even as he covered his groin, William's face twisted in pain and he howled loudly.



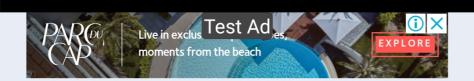
The agonized shout had barely left his lips when Nathan's palm landed with unerring accuracy on the crook of his neck.

William abruptly fell silent as he lost consciousness.

Nathan did not feel any remorse for his actions. He already hated William enough just for how he lusted after Penny, but what truly made his blood boil was how William had struck a deal with the Volk military forces to capture Penny and Grace. He had caused more than enough grief for all of them.

And that was why Nathan struck without mercy or second thought. Castrating William would ensure that he could never abuse a woman ever again.

Nathan crouched over the unconscious body of one of the Volk prison guards, taking a gun from him and concealing it in his suit jacket. Hauling Jackie to his feet roughly, Nathan held the warden hostage as he led Penny and Grace out of the prison cell.



His voice was as cool as ever as he addressed Jackie, "If you don't want to die, no tricks."

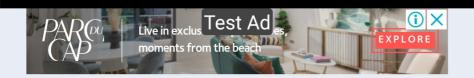
Looking vaguely incensed, Jackie agreed hurriedly, "Of course, of course."

Nathan reverted his voice to a deceptively mild tone. "Good. Now put on a more natural expression and get going."

Soon, Jackie had led Nathan, along with Penny and Grace, out of the dark depths of the prison.

Jackie was the undisputed king of this prison, so to say, and his underlings were well aware of the fact. His absolute authority was unquestioned. Even as they passed numerous patrolling Volk prison guards on the way out, none of them dared to approach Jackie to question him on why he was bringing Penny and Grace out of the prison despite their suspicions.

Soon enough, Jackie had led Nathan, Penny, and Grace to the very entrance of the prison.



Obviously enough, the bulk of the prison's formidable defenses were concentrated here. The prison guards patrolling the entrance alone numbered in the hundreds!

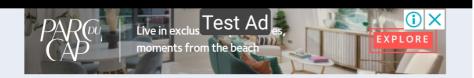
But it also happened to be the place where Colin Dunne and his allies had been waiting anxiously for Nathan.

At this moment, one of the captains of the guard stationed at the entrance finally approached Jackie, flanked by a couple of other guards. The captain had a frown on his face. "Sir, with all due respect, why are you releasing these two Chinese women?"

Jackie remained silent, but his eyes conveyed enough to the captain.
Meaningfully, their eyes flicked briefly towards Nathan, who was standing beside him.

The captain understood almost instantly. There was a problem afoot.

As one, the captain and the other Volk soldiers accompanying him leveled suspicious gazes at Nathan.



Their hands were slowly reaching for the guns holstered at their belts. Some even discreetly tried to unlatch the safety switch of the submachine gun.

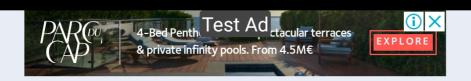
An ineffable smile crept across Nathan's face yet again. He suddenly shouted, "Now, Colin!"

Gunfire exploded across the entrance as Colin and the Elite Eight opened fire from their hidden positions. Chaos descended upon the scene.

Not to be outdone, Thunderstorm and Waves drew and fired their weapons at the same time as well.

Colin was known as a legend even amongst other legends, renowned for his shooting skills and his deadly accuracy while the Elite Eight had long since proved each of their worth to be known as the king of Warriors. Their skills with a gun were unmatched throughout the entire world

In fact, they were the aces of China's North



Army, the pride and joy of the nation. Their battle experience exceeded that of the Volk prison guards to the point where it was laughable.

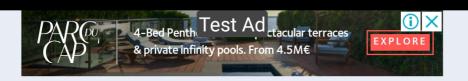
The gunshots stopped. Silence soon descended across the battlefield. When the smoke finally cleared, the metallic tang of blood permeated the air.

All of Jackie's hundreds of prison guards, including the ones manning the machine guns on the wall, had fallen.

Even as the fallen soldiers lay groaning in pools of their own blood, it was evident that almost all of them had suffered the same injury—their right arm had been shot to a bloody mess by Colin and his allies.

Hands clammy, Jackie surveyed the aftermath of the battle with a terrified look on his face. His voice was trembling. "You dare... you dare..."

"I warned you, no tricks," Nathan said coldly. "Maybe if you had listened, not all of your underlings would have to be injured



like this."

Jackie opened his mouth in outrage, but Colin cut him off with the simple means of stepping forwards and slamming the butt of his gun into his temple.

Blood splattered everywhere. Jackie toppled backward. He was out cold before he even hit the ground.

In the distance, the prison's alarms began to blare loudly, signaling an emergency.

"We're done here," Nathan said calmly. "Get in the car and retreat!"



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