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It was Claude's first time dealing with Zachariah, and he was caught a little off guard when Zachariah saw through his intentions. There was clearly more than meets the eye to Zachariah's rise to power.

Claude smiled. "Haha, you're right! We're afraid, but I believe that you're just as afraid as we are. I'll just get to the point then. I hope that Brookbourn Mansion will lend us a helping hand if Draco Hall somehow decides to attack us, and we'll help as well if they target Brookbourn Mansion. How does that sound?"

Zachariah pondered over that proposal and said, "I trust that they won't act recklessly. After all, I know that Draco Hall only took over the Cedar Gang because they had no choice. Furthermore, we from Brookbourn Mansion would rather not make any deals with underground forces."

"Haha, are you sure about that? If my Emerald Cloud Gang disappears suddenly one day, Brookbourn Mansion will become the next target. Though councils similar to Brookbourn Mansion in other cities might be the sole strongest force there, yours isn't the sole force here in Brookbourn. The gap between Draco Hall and Brookbourn Mansion isn't that big, after all!"

Claude laughed, stood up, then took out a business card and placed it on the table. "Here's my business card. My phone number is on there, so feel free to call me if the need arises. We can put everything else aside for now if you like, and you can treat this as making a new friend!" Claude ended his sentence and turned around to leave with his men..

After walking out, one of the old men who was behind Claude asked, "What's the deal with Zachariah. Isn't he afraid of Draco Hall's rise? He doesn't seem interested to make a deal with us!"

Claude smiled. "Oh, he's afraid all right. He just doesn't want to show it. He didn't refuse my business card or instruct me to take it back when I placed it on the table, which means we might still have the opportunity to work together with him. Maybe he'll even consider making a preemptive strike toward Draco Hall!"

The old man listened to Claude's views and thought for a moment before nodding. "You're right. My guess is that he wants to observe Draco Hall's movements first. If Draco Hall gets ambitious and decides to target them, they might be the ones who will take the initiative to go against us. However, if Draco Hall doesn't try to rock the boat, then there might not be any movement at Brookbourn Mansion either!"

Claude sighed heavily. "I hope Draco Hall doesn't come after us. I've already given out the order to everyone within the gang to avoid offending Draco Hall so they won't have any reason to come for us!*

"Yes. And the lower-level guys have been behaving themselves quite well recently!"

The old man nodded, looked at Hugo to one side, and could not help but say, "I heard that your sworn brother, Hugh, was beaten up and had his manhood destroyed. How is he now? Did you help him take revenge?"

Hugo smiled bitterly and said, "Not yet. That kid is very strong, and I'm no match for him on my own. I'm planning to bring a few more people with me, so I can teach him a good lesson!"

Claude frowned, and then said, "Does that person have a strong background? Where did he get the balls to do go up against someone from our gang? Find out who he is, and make sure he doesn't have any sort of association with Draco Hall!"

"Hehe, that kid's a nobody. He just came out of prison not too long ago, and he's just the cousin of one of our former debtors, Queenie. Don't worry, sir. I can handle this. Our other protector, Brad Leyland, has also said that he'll come with me when it's time," Hugo said with a smile.

"Brad is stronger than you. Everything will be fine if he goes with you." Claude nodded, and they all drove

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As soon as Claude and the others left, Zachariah and several of the Ballards' elders fell silent in the room.

After some time had passed, a middle-aged woman said to Zachariah, "Sir, I think Claude has a point. We need to be wary of Draco Hall!"

Zachariah nodded. "Indeed, we do, but I'm afraid that we shouldn't mess with Draco Hall. If Brookbourn Mansion joins hands with underground forces like the Emerald Cloud Gang in dealing with Draco Hall, our reputation and image would be tarnished if word gets out! Moreover, Draco Hall did not commence any further action after absorbing the Cedar Gang."

The middle-aged woman thought over Zachariah's words and said, "Sir, the upper-class families hand over ten percent of their income to us every year, don't they? How about we raise that by double? The councils in other cities mostly request a twenty percent contribution from the upper-class families, and this makes us seem a little too merciful."

"I agree, sir! We might have a wealth of funds right now, but Draco Hall will surpass us if they take over the Emerald Cloud Gang. Even if that doesn't happen, we are now barely on par with each other. The way I see it, we should adopt the suggestion that esteemed elder, Edith, has just proposed and increase the contribution amount to twenty percent! Only with money can we hire elite fighters, and that would most certainly stabilize Brookbourn Mansion's position!

After hearing their opinions, another old man sighed. "Our main stumbling block is the difficulty with which those upper-class families earn money. There's been a recession in the economy the past two years, and it's not ideal for us to make such sudden demands of them!"

Zachariah took into consideration the views that had been put forth and said again, "The Longhorns gave us three prearranged spots in Liberty City, and the locations that were given are quite good too. I believe it'll bring us a lot of profits, so we'll leave it at that for now. I think we should invite the people from Draco Hall to come over for a drink sometime soon. We can further this discussion once we get a feel of their attitude toward us!"

"Meeting Larry and his men just to see their reactions seems like a step in the right direction." Edith, the middle-aged woman, nodded her head in approval.

At that moment, Sheila had just returned from some shopping.

“What’s up, Dad? What are you discussing so late at night?” Sheila felt elated after she got Severin’s number, and since she knew where Severin lived, she could always hang out with him if she had nothing to do. Just thinking about it made her feel excited already.

Zachariah smiled and motioned for the others to leave.

After several of the elders went down, Zachariah said to Sheila, “It’s nothing serious. We’re just worried that Draco Hall might threaten our status, so we’re planning to recruit a few more elite fighters to stabilize our strength and status as Brookbourn Mansion!”

“Elite fighters? Severin counts as one, right?” Sheila smiled, and then said again, “It’s a shame that we left too early today and didn’t get to see an exciting encounter. I heard that three very strong assassins wanted to kill Severin, but he turned the tables on them and killed them instead. The three assassins were reportedly very strong, so much so that even the Longhorns’ bodyguards had a lot of praise for them. In the end, however, Severin faced all three of them alone and killed them! Isn’t he amazing?”

After hearing that, Zachariah could not help but laugh. “Hehe, it would be great if you can get him to help our family out. My gut tells me that he has the aptitude, otherwise the Longhorns wouldn’t have sided with him at the project launch today!”

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“Yeah, Dad! He’s a talented guy! Leave this to me. I’ll find a way to make him the head of our bodyguards or something like that. We can offer him a high salary!” Sheila said with an innocent grin.

Zachariah responded with a chuckle. “Hehe, you have a crush on him, don’t you?”

Sheila’s cheeks turned red right away, but she still said coyly, “Nonsense, Dad! I just feel like making friends with him after he saved me. I think he’s a really interesting person too, since he refused to accept my money after I saved him!”

After saying that, Sheila frowned, turned around, and put her hands behind her back before saying confidently, “More importantly, he doesn’t ogle me at all even though I’m a beautiful woman! It’s the first

I’ve ever met a man like that!”

Zachariah was well aware that the precursor to falling in love with someone was showing an interest in them.

He frowned, looked earnestly at Sheila, and said, “I’ll admit that he looks like a very decent guy, but if you don’t have a crush on him now, then I hope it stays that way and you never develop any feelings for him!”

When Sheila heard that, she immediately turned around and looked at Zachariah to ask, “Why, Dad? Why can’t I like him if he’s that a decent person in your eyes?”

“Because he’s already much older than you, and you’re not cut from the same cloth either. Secondly, Severin is the Shanahans’ son-in-law, meaning he already has a wife. You, on the other hand, are my daughter, and I’ll only accept it if you find a better man!”

Zachariah explained.

After hearing that, Sheila said unhappily, “Maybe he’s better than you give him credit for, Dad?”

Zachariah smiled wryly. “All he has going for him is some medical skills and a bit of fighting ability. Those two factors alone are not enough to reach the standard of being my daughter’s partner. He must also be knowledgeable in many things, preferably those who are talented in business such as the heirs of a first-tier family. Only those men are worthy of you! In addition, I don’t want my daughter to become a second wife!” Having said that, Zachariah paused before continuing, “It be such an embarrassment to me

otherwise.”

Sheila felt upset all of a sudden. “Why do we even need so much money? If we spend what we have prudently, it’ll probably last us ten generations! Are you saying that I can’t find be with someone I like even when our family has nothing to worry about?”

Zachariah’s face became even gloomier. “You just said that you don’t like him, but your reaction reveals but I otherwise! I have no issues if you made friends with him and bring him into our family to help us out, will put my foot down when it comes to letting you marry him.”

Sheila rolled her eyes and said, “I didn’t say I like him. I’m just pissed off when I see your condescending attitude. Do you expect me to marry a rich kid from an upper-class family just because they come from a good background, is business-savvy and knows how to make money, and is someone you deem worthy of inheriting your assets? Well, that may be what you think, but I don’t share the same views as you at all. To me, what’s important is how I feel for that person. If I like him, then nothing can change my mind, not even if he’s a poor guy!”

“That is unacceptable! You’re my daughter! How could you fall for a poor person?” Zachariah was completely speechless. After thinking for a moment, he said again, “There are only two other first-tier families in Brookbourn aside from us, but none of their sons are good candidates because they lack

you young men from families at Riverson, and

we have some assets there too. If I happen to chance upon some suitable candidates there in the future, you may consider getting to know them before marrying them!”

“I don’t want to marry someone who’s in another city!” Sheila was even angrier to hear her father’s proposal because he had always doted on her in the past. Though he had three wives, she was his only child.

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It was due to Zachariah’s old age-leading to his weak physical condition and waning fertility-that he doted on Sheila even more. It therefore came as a huge surprise to Sheila that her father would even consider marrying her off to a family in Riverson.

Zachariah said, "Riverson is a big place, with an area that is more than twice as large as Brookbourn. The grass there is greener, and their first-tier families are even stronger than Brookbourn Mansion. Your life will forever be free of worry if you could get married to a family there." After a brief pause, he added, "And that's not considered far by most standards. Riverson is only an hour or two away from here by car, and we also have lots of properties and villas there. If you move there, you can come back to visit me any time. More importantly, our assets will be better utilized and developed if you marry there!"

Sheila smiled coldly. "What do you mean by that, Dad? Are you using my marriage as a means to bring you more benefits? I will not let my marriage become a transaction!"

As soon as Zachariah saw Sheila's intense reaction, he softened his tone slightly and said to her, "Don't be silly. I'm not saying that your marriage will be a transaction. I'm just hoping that you'd choose the best out of the best because my daughter deserves only the best!"

"Okay, okay. I'm going to bed now. I'm still young, and I haven't thought about marriage yet. Let's save this conversation for the future!" Sheila said bluntly and went upstairs.

Elsewhere, at Riverson, Tharran gathered several of the Blood-Drinker Gang's elders and protectors. He took his seat at the foremost position and had a most dignified expression on his face.

"Is something wrong, sir? I can't think of any other explanation for why you called us here so late at night." A woman could not help but frown. Judging from the look on Tharran's face, she could already sense that something was gravely wrong.

Riverson was a big place, after all, and the Blood-Drinker Gang was only able to become one of the strongest underground forces there due to the number of strong individuals in their ranks. As a result, many of Riverson's populace have heard about them and dared not provoke them.

As a result, few things could give Tharran a headache.

Tharran looked at everyone and said, "Fifth Elder, Frankie, and his two apprentices have just been killed this afternoon."

"What?" Everyone gasped when they heard that. Frankie's attainment level was that of a level four grandmaster, which was undoubtedly very high. Hearing that he had been killed led everyone to gasp in shock.

The Blood-Drinker Gang lost three of their strongest members at once, which explained why Tharran had such an unhappy expression. His expression darkened even more and he clenched his fists as he said, "I didn't expect Severin to be this powerful. We've underestimated him, that's for sure. I now understand why the seven elite fighters we sent to help the Cedar Gang were killed so quickly." Following a brief pause, he continued, "Judging from the current situation, I would say that it would be very difficult for us to gain access to Brookbourn's underground forces and obtain their assets if we don't kill Severin!"

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The middle-aged woman nodded. "Indeed. He ruined our plan, and killing him is the right thing to do. I didn't expect Fifth Elder to fail in doing so!"

“Let me go this time,” said a bald man. Standing at a height of six feet, his arms looked like dragons because of his bulging arm muscles and he had a rather gruff voice as he spoke.

“Since you’re a level seven grandmaster, I believe that you won’t face too big of a problem if you went, Fourth Elder!” Tharran looked at the bald man and felt that he was a good candidate indeed. After some more thought, he said to the bald man, “However, I think it’s better for you to bring a few grandmaster-level protectors with you as well!”

The bald man nodded. “Sure. There’s strength in numbers, and our opponent will have to divide his attention when fighting. This will be a big advantage for us! I’ll choose five of our guardians to join me, and I, Janvar Runge, will be the one to decapitate Severin’s head!”

“It’s settled then. The expenses you incur on your trip there will be reimbursed, and you’ll also be rewarded handsomely when you return!” Tharran finally stood up and said to Janvar, “We shall await your good news, Janvar!”

By then, Severin and Diane had finished their meal and returned to their villa in the Dragon Lake Vista. After Severin finished his bath, he decided to go to Diane’s room. When she opened the door and saw Severin standing there, she became a little nervous all of a sudden.

“Is there something I can help you with? It’s getting really late!” Diane blushed as she moved to one side to allow Severin into the room.

As soon as he entered, he sat on the bed and said to Diane, “Honey, you’re not jealous about Sheila, right?” His question brought a surge of warmth to Diane’s heart as she closed the door and walked over to him. Do you honestly think your wife gets jealous that easy? I’m more than happy that you turned out to be a proper father. I was always worried about whether you or not you’d be a good-for-nothing man after you were released.” Diane then became slightly emotional as she continued, “I hated you a little when I got pregnant, but it was also my fault for taking the initiative after we drank too much last night. I only let myself loose with you that night because my family was forcing me to marry Edward, but I still hated you because you went to jail right after you took my first time!”

Severin remained silent. Like Diane said, they had either been too wasted to think at the time, or they gave in to their desires under the influence of alcohol. In hindsight, however, Severin felt lucky that everything happened the way it did, because Diane was a good woman, and she was thousands of times better than Lucy.

Diane continued, “But after I found out about your family and the circumstances that they had to go through, I sympathized with them and decided that I would try to help them. I could sense that your parents were good, honest people, which meant that you were probably not a bad person too. It’s just... still feel resentful because you’re the cause of all the disdain and ridicule that I had to suffer!”

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“I’m sorry, honey. A big chunk of the responsibility falls on me for what happened that night, because I slept with you knowing that I might be apprehended the next day after smashing the bottle over Easton’s head. I didn’t think you’d be pregnant after that, and I never thought that it’d bring you so much pain and suffering!” Severin held Diane’s hand, and said sincerely, “Don’t worry. I’ll try my best to make

it up to you!” Diane smiled and said, “I still hated you when you were released, but everything that happened in the past. few days has shown me that you’re a good person, while Lucy and Easton are anything but. Perhaps this is what they call fate.”

Severin digested her words and asked again, “Do you still blame me now?”

Diane shook her head. “I don’t blame you anymore, because you’ve proven yourself as a good father and a good husband. I can see that you’re a capable and responsible man instead of a useless good-for-nothing. I’m very satisfied with that!” After saying that, Diane paused and asked again, “I still have something to ask you, though. Are you treating me well just because you want to make up for your past mistakes? I guess what I’m asking is, do you love me? I don’t want you to be nice to me just because you feel sorry for me and want to make it up to me.”

As soon as Severin heard her question, he could not help but flick Diane’s dainty little nose. “Of course I love you, silly! You’re beautiful, kind-hearted, gentle, and generous...how is that not attractive? I’ve fallen in love with you ever since I knew that you’re the mother of my child and you’ve been helping my parents all these years!”

“That’s not what I mean! What I’m asking is, do you feel your heart pound whenever you see me?” Diane frowned, then nudged her body against Severin as she asked coyly.

Severin held her hand and answered, “Of course I do. My heart is beating like crazy now, and I know it’ll beat even faster if I get the chance to sleep beside a beautiful woman like you!”

“You and your charming tongue!” The feeling Diane had when she heard Severin’s words was as if she had eaten a bowl of honey.

Severin then asked her the same. “What about you, then? I’m also curious to know whether you love me now that you don’t hate me anymore. Do you have that sort of feelings toward me? I’m worried that you’re only together with me just so Selene has a father. If that’s true, there’s nothing I can do about it!”

Diane blushed even more when she saw Severin’s reaction. She lowered her head and said, “When I first saw you in the beginning, I forced myself to be with you because I felt that I shouldn’t let my daughter be without a father. But I’m not starting to realize that I like you more and more, and, sometimes, I can’t stop. thinking about you when I’m at work!”

“Really?” Severin felt an uncontrollable joy when he heard that. “Do you really think of me when you go to work, honey?”

“Look at you, acting all happy like a child!” Diane could not help but laugh when she saw how he reacted. “By the way, how long are you going to hold my hand?”

Only then did Severin realize that he was still holding each other’s hand tightly all the time, he could not help but smile and say, “Hehe, it’d be best if I could hold it forever.”

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“Alright, it’s getting late. We should go to sleep!” Diane lowered her head shyly and added as an

afterthought, "I'm beginning to like you more and more now, and you have no idea how scared I was when I saw those assassins attacking you today. I was afraid something would happen to you, and that I'd lose you!"

Severin felt even happier to hear that and could not help but take the opportunity to say to Diane, "How about I stay by your side tonight, then?"

Diane immediately rolled her eyes at Severin. "What's on your mind, huh? Do you want to get it on with me after knowing that I like you?"

"No, it's not like that at all! Why would I have such lewd ideas? I'm not a pervert!" Severin said embarrassingly.

"Hmph, all men are liars. How am I to know if you're a pervert or not?" Diane snorted coldly and withdrew her hand.

Seeing as there was no chance for him that night, Severin stood up in disappointment and walked toward the door. "It looks like I'll have to sleep alone in an empty room again tonight. What a tragedy that I can't hold my beautiful wife in my arm to sleep!"

Diane felt smug when she saw Severin's disappointed expression. "You need to be a good husband, okay? Maybe someday I'll be so happy that I'll let you spend the night with me!"

Severin turned around and said, "What else do I have to do, honey? I've helped the Shanahans secure two spots in the project, and we have a house and a car too! I think it's pretty good already!"

Diane then deliberately said, "You promised me you'll give me a wedding that will shock the whole city and make everyone in Brookbourn envious. I don't remember you doing that yet."

Severin's heart skipped a beat. Even though Diane did not seem to care much when he mentioned that to her in the past, it seemed that she did care about it after all, and with good reason too, since she had been the target of much criticism after he got her pregnant without marrying her.

He thought for a while, and then said to her, "Don't worry, honey. I'll make it come true for sure, but there might be a couple of things I have to deal with in the next half month, so I might have to delay the wedding a little later. But once that's out of the way, I promise I'll make it up to you with a grand wedding! It will be the epitome of extravagant, and it'll be a huge sensation not only throughout Brookbourn, but the entire south county too!"

When Diane heard that, she said, "Yeah, yeah, keep bragging! You haven't sobered up from all that wine you had tonight, I assume? The entire south county has more than a hundred cities, and your promise is a little over the top if you ask me!"

"Haha, that's just the tip of the iceberg. When the time comes, even the entire country's women will envy you!" Severin laughed out loud. He was confident of that because the country's war gods were all his apprentices. Moreover, they had only learned a small whisker of Severin's true volume of knowledge.

“You really are drunk!” Diane shook her head. “I was thinking about letting you sleep here for the night, but seeing you drunk made me change my mind. I wouldn’t want you getting all touchy with me halfway in the middle of my sleep!”

“What!” When Severin heard that, he immediately said, “Is that true, honey? Did you really have that plan? Look, I’m not drunk! I swear!”

“You say that, but would you brag like nobody’s business if you weren’t?” Diane said, rolling her eyes.

“Okay. I shouldn’t have bragged like that. Will you believe that I’m not drunk if I stop bragging? Well, in that case, I’ll keep a low profile!” Severin replied bitterly.

Diane clasped her hands in front of her chest and said, “Fine, I’ll let you sleep here tonight. But just one night! And you’re not allowed to do anything sneaky, okay? If you lay your hands on me and bully me, I swear I won’t let you in my room again!”

“Yes, of course! I promise not to do anything sneaky. I’m happy enough that I got the chance to sleep with you for one night!” Severin was elated because he knew that it was the first of many more nights in the future. Furthermore, Diane’s words were a sign that she was slowly beginning to accept him.

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Severin knew that it would be unwise to rush things, especially since he was dealing with a cold and generally reserved woman like Diane.

Before long, the two of them were lying on the bed, and Diane felt so nervous that she deliberately turned to sleep on her side so her back was facing Severin.

When Severin saw her movement, he could not help but say, “Honey, can I hug you from behind while we sleep?”

“Okay,” Diane replied softly, but she became increasingly nervous deep down.

Soon, Severin’s hand stretched out from behind to hug her waist. His firm chest was placed against her back, and her heart beat a lot faster than before. All sorts of wild thoughts began racing through her mind. The two of them spooned each other to sleep and soon drifted into a slumber.

The next morning, Selene went to Diane’s room after freshening up, opened the door, and went in. “Whoa! Dad’s sleeping with Mom too! Ehehe!” She could not help but cover her mouth and giggle when she noticed the way her parents were sleeping. Severin lay flat on his back, while Diane lay face down with one hand on Severin’s chest and one thigh on Severin’s body.

Selene’s voice roused Diane from her sleep and she immediately said in embarrassment, “Selene! You’re already up! Have you brushed your teeth?”

“Yeah! I’ve brushed my teeth and washed my face, so I thought I’d come and wake you up!” Selene smiled.

Severin woke up as well, and he felt a little awkward when he saw that Selene was there. He immediately smiled and said, “You should go downstairs and have breakfast if you’ve brushed your

teeth and washed your face!”

“Hehe, Mom hugged Dad to sleep! Mom hugged Dad to sleep!” Selene turned around and yelled happily as she ran downstairs.

“Don’t yell, Selene!” Diane pulled a long face as she said sternly to her daughter, but Selene had already trotted down the stairs.

“Ugh, I can’t believe I forgot to lock the door last night! I didn’t think she’s come to my room so early in the morning!” Diane sighed as she stretched her waist.

When Severin laid eyes on Diane’s slim figure, he could not help but take a big gulp. Moreover, Diane was wearing a sexy nightdress, which made him feel hot on the inside.

“What are you looking at, you pervert? Hurry up and get out! I need to change my clothes! Don’t forget that you have to go to the Zelankos today to treat Robin’s grandmother!” Diane blushed and rolled her eyes when she saw Severin peeping at her chest.

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By the time Severin changed his clothes and went downstairs, Selene had already eaten and was playing in the yard. Judith and Maurice had heard Selene shouting earlier, so they both exchanged glances and had a knowing smile when they saw Severin come down.

Maurice said to Severin, “I’ve passed my first course of driving class, and I’m starting the second course tomorrow, I heard that automatic transmission is easier, so I enrolled in the automatic transmission class. Once I’ve passed, I can drive the Chevy out and bring your mother out on a road trip!”

“Sure! Good luck, Dad. Road trips are pretty tiring though, but I hope you get to enjoy your time with Mom once you’ve mastered how to drive!” Severin couldn’t help but smile after hearing this.

Judith then said happily, “The medical prescription you gave me works. Look! Can you see my white hair slowly starting to turn black from the roots?”

Severin smiled and said, “That’s great news! I’ll list down the herbs for you again. Just soak them in warm water and use the extract to wash your hair. If you keep at it for a few more days, your hair become black, thick, and smooth! You’ll look twenty years younger too, just like all those young girls!”

Judith rolled her eyes at Severin. “I’m in my forties now, Severin! I can’t be as beautiful as a twenty-year-old girl! I’m already happy enough that my hair is turning black again.”

As soon as Severin walked out of the living room, he was somewhat startled to see that Stanley had already arrived at the courtyard outside,

He glanced at the time and realized that it was only just a little over seven in the morning. Stanley seemed to have arrived far too earlier, probably because he was afraid that Severin might visit the Zelankos without him.

“Can I get your number? I’m the son of the Shanahans, and I can take you out for a walk or hang out with you in the future. I know plenty of fun places we can go! At that moment, Stanley was hitting on

the beautiful bodyguards and wanted to get the contact information of Wendy, Lillie, and the other people. Lillie folded her hands in front of her chest and then glanced at him with disgust. "Sorry, but I'm not interested in giving you my number. Your groveling behavior disgusts me!"

"Yeah," Abigail replied unceremoniously. "You're a million miles behind the man of this house!" She then ignored him completely.

"I..." Stanley nearly spit out blood in anger. After all, he was Shanahans' son, and he felt that it was ludicrous for them to compare him with a guy who had just been released from prison. Just what do they see in Severin?"

"Come one, stop embarrassing yourself here. There's no way they'll ever fancy you!" Severin rubbed salt into Stanley's wound as he walked over with a smile. After all, he had ridiculed and targeted Diane a lot in the past, so Severin was not about to show him any courtesy.

Stanley was even more speechless as a result. He turned around and said to Severin, "Don't be so smug. Severin. I'm the Shanahans' son, and they're just a couple of bodyguards. Their status is far beneath mine, and if they marry me, they'll be able to enjoy all the glory and wealth in the future!"

As soon as said that, Abigail and Wendy could not help but burst out in laughter. This guy thinks too highly of himself!"

Severin said, "Do you know that their wealth is probably much more than that of your entire family combined? Stop making a fool of yourself here. Their salary is five figures a month. What about yours? Do you earn that much?"

That much?" Stanley's face soured at once. When he was the general manager, he would often embezzle the company's money and claim personal expenses from the company on the pretext of 'entertaining clients'. Ever since Diane became the general manager, however, it was very inconvenient for him to spend money like he used to, and the salary he received every month was not even enough for him to show off to other people.

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Severin did not bother answering Stanley's question and said with a faint smile, "I didn't think you'd be up so early just to come here and help me with carrying my medical box."

"I have to. I'm a proactive person, and I prefer to arrive early instead of letting others wait for me," Stanley said while patting his chest.

"Oh, alright then. I'll go in and get the medical box!" Severin smiled, then pretended to walk back.

When he entered the house, he had a sly smile on his lips as he took out a small metal box from his storage ring. Then, he took out another seemingly small black iron piece and placed it in before covering it with some herbs.

The black iron piece was very heavy despite its small size, and when the entire medicine box was lifted, the total weight was about 40 or 50 pounds. Severin grinned because he did not need to use any effort to carry such a huge box. However, it would be far too heavy for someone like Stanley.

He casually walked out with the metal box and handed it to Stanley. "Alright, Stanley, you said you wanted to help me carry my medical box, right? I hope you don't regret it!"

"Hehe, there is nothing to regret. It'll be worth it as long as I can go with you to the Zelankos and meet the beautiful Robin." Stanley chuckled, and added, "I added her on social media through the number you gave me last night, hehe!"

"And then what happened?" Severin asked with a smile as he handed the box over.

"And then...GAH!" As soon as Stanley received the box, it was so heavy that his entire body bent forward as the box fell to the ground.

"What's wrong with you? Can't you lift a box? It contains a lot of precious medicinal materials, and we can't have it break on me!" Severin scolded Stanley harshly.

"I didn't mean it! This box...it's not that big, but why is it so heavy?" Stanley exclaimed in surprise. He tried lifting it again, but the box did not budge at all. It was only when he exerted all his strength that he could finally lift it up, but it was still very difficult and his face was as red as a tomato.

"Is it that heavy? It wasn't heavy when I lifted it!" Severin then took the chance to take another jibe at him. "Hehe, I think it's because you don't exercise all too often. How can you expect to meet Robin if you can't even lift a box? What makes you think she'll like a weakling? You know what, maybe you should just go home. It'll be a waste of time if you tag along!"

"Who said I couldn't lift it? I'm lifting it now, aren't I? It's just...ugh...it's just a little heavy, that's all! It's really weird that such a small box feels like it weighs forty or fifty pounds. What did you put in it?" Stanley frowned, strained to carry the box. "We should...we should get moving! Where's your car? Let's get in the car!"

Severin found it hilarious to see Stanley overexerting himself like that. He took his time to go over and walked slowly as he asked, "By the way, did Robin reply to you after you added her on social media?"