

## **After Prison 521**

### Chapter 521

[It'd be difficult. I'm afraid we won't have that chance!] Beryl said. (I wonder if we can sneak over there to see him without him knowing. Will that be feasible?)

Calum said: [That's a bad idea. He'll get angry if he finds out, and besides, how are you supposed to drink with him if he doesn't know that you're there?]

[Guess all we can do is envy Warren!] Horace said again.

Warren, however, said to them: [Hehe, the opportunity will come! He told me that he'll organize a wedding to make it up to his wife for his absence, and he told me that we're all invited! He mainly wants us to give his wife and her family a big surprise!]

[Really? That's awesome! We can finally have a drink with him!] Horace was visibly excited after reading the message from Warren.

[Perfect! We'll have to raise a glass to him at his wedding!] Calum could not wait for the big day to come. [We won't be where we are today without his guidance. Once we go, I'm going to enjoy myself with them for a couple before I leave, and I'm bringing his wife shopping too!] Beryl was beyond elated.

Back at Brookbourn, Severin sat in his yard and recalled the moment when he sucked the poison out from Abigail's thigh. His heart was thumping a little faster than usual, which was to be expected given that he was a 20-something young man brimming with youthful vigor. Such circumstances would make even a professional doctor feel flustered.

At that moment, Kiera came out from the house and said to Severin, "Sir, that man from earlier said that they're Cherridom's Slasher Gang, and I'm curious how you managed to offend them."

Severin smiled and said, "It's a long story, but it all started from my ex. I didn't expect her current boyfriend Cain to be so stubborn! I destroyed his attainment and beat him up senseless, but he still has the guts to try and stir up trouble!"

Kiera thought about it for a while and said, "It doesn't matter, though. It'd be in the best interests of that Slasher Gang if he sent any of their men there. Hehe, they'll probably be pissed as hell if we kill each and every person they send to our door!"

Severin smiled and said, "I'm afraid I have to leave in a couple of days. During my absence, the safety of my wife, my daughter, and my family will be left in your capable hands!"

Kiera immediately said, "Don't worry, sir! We'll be fine, and we'll protect them until our last breath!"

Severin nodded. "I'm well-acquainted with the attainment of all you girls, and even though I don't know the exact situation within the Slasher Gang. I'm sure they have a couple of warrior kings in their ranks. They won't send such people here that soon though. I'll rush back as soon as possible once I'm done!"

Diane happened to return home at that moment, and Wendy immediately went up to Severin after getting out of the car. "Sir, we beat up a b\*stard who wanted to assault ma'am earlier today!"

Lillie added, "Yeah, that b\*stard even threatened us! He's utterly despicable!"

"What happened, Diane? Weren't you supposed to be signing a contract?" Severin frowned and immediately asked Diane worriedly.

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Diane could not help but smile bitterly as she began explaining to him. "The thing is..."

After hearing everything from Diane, Severin clenched his fists and had a murderous look in his eyes. "Novaks, you say? It was Quintus, wasn't it? I spared his life the other day, thinking he'll learn his lesson, but I guess I was wrong! He's got some guts threatening you like that!"

Diane frowned and said, "Honey, I'm worried that the Novaks will cause trouble for the Shanahans now that Wendy and Lillie beat him up to a pulp."

Severin grinned icily and said, "Hehe, they should know better than to do that. If they try to bully you again. or trouble the Shanahans, I'll make sure the Novaks are wiped out in Riverson!"

After Lillie looked at the situation at the villa, she could not help but ask, "Was there a fight here?"

Kiera then said, "Yeah. A group of guys from Cherridom came to kill sir, but Abigail and I killed them all. Abigail got poisoned, though."

Wendy and Lillie were shocked to hear that.

"Why did that happen?" Diane asked. "Is she all right?"

That was when Kiera said, "Don't worry, sir has already helped her deal with it and applied some medicinal powder on the needle wound. She'll be fine by tomorrow."

Lillie then said, "But you two are warrior kings. Does that mean they're very strong? We met a couple of people from Cherridom too, but Wendy and I made light work of them and killed them all!"

"You met them too?" Severin was taken aback when he heard that. "They're probably the same group of people then. I didn't think they'd know where to look for Diane and sent someone there too!" Following a brief pause, he said somewhat fearfully, "I'm glad Wendy and Lillie were with you, otherwise I can't even

Wendy begin to imagine how bad things would turn out!"

"The people from Cherridom were probably not hired by Quintus, since they came as soon as Quintus left: Do you know who they are and why they came to trouble us?" Diane looked at Severin and asked.

Severin then said, "You remember Lucy, don't you? After the Loughs fell from grace, she went and found herself another man to rely on. He's a former college classmate of mine named Cain, and he became rich. after going abroad some years ago. The country he went to was the Cherridom, where he joined an organization called the Slasher Gang."

When Diane heard that, she clenched her fists angrily and said, "Lucy's too cruel! You never treated her badly in the past, but she continues to target you for no good reason! Now, she even told Cain to send men over to kill you! She's the worst!"

Severin smiled bitterly and said, "She didn't instigate this though. I met her and Cain when I was at a restaurant, and they both had a swell time mocking me. Cain then sent his men to kill me, so I destroyed Cain's attainment and broke one of his legs too. I'm quite certain that he was the one who sent those men. to the company earlier."

"I see! I kept wondering to myself what I did to provoke Cherridom's people!" Diane said suddenly.

Lillie then turned to Kiera. "The guys that we met weren't very strong. Why was Abigail so careless to get herself poisoned?"

Kiera then explained, "Their leader has a fairly high attainment level. He's a level nine profound master, but we managed to injure him severely. He kowtowed on the ground and begged us for mercy, and just as Abigail walked over to end his life, he suddenly launched a set of hidden needles. We were standing too

close to him, and there were a lot of needles, so Abigail wasn't able to dodge one of them. It was only later that we found out that the needles were laced with poison!"

After Lillie heard that, she could not help but say, "So that's what happened. These people are despicable, and the Slasher Gang must be a tricky organization to deal with if they have members who are level nine profound masters!"

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A sudden thought then occurred to Diane and she could not help but gasp and ask Severin, "Where's Selene? She followed Mom and Dad to go fishing, right? Are they back? Do you think the Slasher Gang might have also sent people over to cause trouble for them?"

Severin was taken aback and immediately said, "There's nothing to worry about, honey. Bailey and Naomi are there to protect them, so I'm sure everyone will be fine!"

Diane was still very worried. "What if they sent over some elite fighters who know how to use hidden weapons such as flying needles? Wouldn't it be difficult to dodge such attacks, especially if everyone is caught unprepared?"

Severin immediately took out his cell phone. "Don't make yourself too worried. I'll give them a call to check!"

He was just about to dial the number when Kiera saw a familiar Chevrolet on the road just outside, "They're back, sir! Look! It's their car!"

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There was only one Chevrolet in the entire Dragon Lake Vista, and they did not even need to look at the license plate to know that Maurice and Judith had returned. After some thought, Severin said everyone, "Let's not tell them that Cherridom's people came to try and kill us. I wouldn't want them worrying about us again. It's possible that they didn't encounter anyone from Cherridom, since they went out much earlier than Diane."

Diane realized that he had a point and could not help but nod. "Let's see what they have to say before we mention anything."

The car soon drove past the villa gates, and when Maurice got out, he held up a bucket and said with a smile, "Haha, I managed to get a good catch today, Severin! I caught a couple of big ones, so we'll feast on fish tonight!"

Judith added, "Yeah! How about we have some poached fish? Naomi, Bailey, and the rest of the girls should eat with us too since the five of us won't be able to finish all that fish your father caught!"

Severin exchanged glances with Diane and nodded subtly at each other. The people from Cherridom did not seem to have followed Judith and Maurice.

Bailey and Naomi walked over with a smile too.

Not long later, Selene ran over happily to her parents. "Dad, Mom!" She then turned to Severin and said, "We're going to eat fish tonight! Grandpa's so awesome! He caught plenty of big fish!"

Severin patted the little girl's head and said with a smile, "Now it's time for you to learn how to clean and gut a fish from Grandma!"

Selene obediently ran in after hearing that.

Bailey and Naomi glanced across the yard and saw traces of a fight left behind on a tree. The former immediately asked, "Did a fight happen here? Did someone come and stir trouble?"

Severin nodded and said to Kiera, "Get the both of them up to speed on what happened, but don't breathe a word of it to my parents. I will have to leave in another two days, so if the Slasher Gang's people show up again, you just have to kill them all! Don't spare any of them."

"Understood!" Kiera nodded immediately. She brought Bailey and Naomi to one side and secretly told them about the situation.

At that moment, Quintus was lying on a bed in a hotel while waiting for Jada's arrival. He answered the door once Jada came, and she was so shocked to see his bruised nose and swollen face that she covered her mouth in fright. "Quintus! What happened to you?! Who beat you up like this? Who would dare to lay their hands on them?"

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Quintus smiled wryly and walked in to lie back down on the bed. "Who else could it be? It's that damn Diane!"

"Diane was strong enough to beat you up? Didn't you say that you've undergone combat training before? Even if you're not that good at that, you should at least be able to win against Diane, right?" Jada frowned as soon as she heard that.

Quintus said, "It was her bodyguards who beat me up. She went completely overboard! I wanted to cooperate with the Shanahans on a project, but she told her bodyguards to beat me up!"

"Why would you be seeking them to collaborate on a project?" Jada had a cold expression as she put her hands on his chest and said angrily, "What's going on, Quintus? Diane is Severin's wife. Didn't you

want to kill Severin because of the grudge you have against him? Why would you want to cooperate with the Shanahans on a project? Don't tell me you've taken a fancy to her because she looks good?"

Quintus was taken aback. Jada was a rather astute woman, and she had already hit the nail on the head with her first guess. Fortunately for him, he had already thought up an excuse and immediately said, "Why would I be interested in a woman who already has a child? My fiancee is pretty enough already, so there's no reason for me to like her!"

Having said that, he paused and sat up before gritting his teeth, "It's because of my grudge against Severin and the fact that he had killed all my useless bodyguards that I came up with that idea. I wanted to enter into a contract with her and have the documents doctored so their company will lose money. ! didn't think Diane would see through the word game that I was playing! She then told her bodyguards to beat me up!"

"She's so evil!" Jada immediately gritted her teeth and said, "Diane must have some guts to do that. Doesn't she know that you're the Novaks' son? How bold of her bodyguards to beat you up!"

Quintus answered, "I'll have to get revenge on her for this. It's already late today, but once my injuries heal a bit more tomorrow, I'll bring my elite bodyguards to their house and have that dan couple killed!"

Jada thought for a while and asked, "Are you sure you want to kill them? They seem to have a good relationship with the Longhorns, and the Ballards from Brookbourn Mansion! The Ballards are especially tricky to deal with. Your family won't be a match for the Ballards!"

"Will the Ballards go against us?" Quintus frowned. He was not afraid of the Longhorns, but he knew that the Ballards were much stronger than that of the Riverson's second-tier families. He was therefore quite afraid when Jada mentioned that the Ballards might come for the Novaks. He pondered over it again and said with a smile, "In that case, I'll visit the Ballards first thing tomorrow morning. I'm curious to know if they would dare to go against us, though I'm pretty sure they won't if I go there and ask them about it!"

"Why not?" Jada asked with a frown.

Quintus could not help but smile wickedly as he said, "You might not know this, but I have a distant cousin who just came back from the battlefield some time ago. I heard that he's a junior general, and our family will be hosting him when he returns in a couple of days. Do you think the Ballards would dare to do anything to us if our family has such relatives?"

"A junior general? Is that true?" Jada's eyes lit up instantly when she heard that, as she knew what it meant to have a junior general as a relative. More important, she heard that junior generals were very strong, and they were far beyond that of ordinary people. Therefore, it was all but certain that the Ballards' guardians could never be a match for such individuals.

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"Of course! I have a very good relationship with my distant cousin since a young age. He told me that he has certain matters to handle right now, but he would come to visit us once he settles everything!" Quintus smiled and said again, "Then again, it'd be great if the Novaks can solve everything without his help. After all, I wouldn't want to owe him any favors."

Jada felt elated as she never expected that the Novaks would have such a relationship with such a person. Her future would be even brighter if she could marry into their family in the future. After some thought, she said again, "You're right, it's best not to trouble them if we can help it. But he is your cousin anyway, so if you go to the Ballards and tell them that you're related to a junior general, I'm sure they wouldn't dare to help Severin!"

Quintus smiled and said, "Yeah. I'll just mention it in passing and give them some hints. That way, my cousin wouldn't have to come forward. Besides, everything's already planned out! When he visits us, our family will throw a big feast to welcome him. When the time comes, all those other upper-class families and wealthy businessmen would certainly be more willing to cooperate with us in the future if they know that we have a relative like that!"

Before Quintus could continue, Jada could not resist interrupting. "And once that happens, your Novaks might become a first-tier family in Riverson within the next two years! Riverson is much bigger than Brookbourn, and if your family becomes a first-class family in Riverson, you'll be able to earn a lot of money! All you need to do then is hire some more elite fighters! Even the Ballards won't be scared of you then!" After finishing her words, Jada smiled again and said tenderly to Quintus, "You have to protect my family when the Novaks get stronger, okay? I'm an only daughter, after all"

"Haha, don't worry! Your parents are my parents too!" Quintus hugged Jada as he said that and wanted to let his hands roam all over her body.

However, Jada pushed him away and rolled her eyes at him. "Whoa there, tiger. What are you trying to do, huh?"

Quintus had a lewd smirk as he said, "Come on, we're getting married soon, anyway. Why won't you let me touch you?"

Jada immediately pouted and said, "Didn't we agree that I'll give it to you on the first night? It's not time yet!" She then looked at him and could not help but say, "Look at you. Your face is blue and your nose is swollen. You won't be able to kiss me even if I let you! It's going to hurt really badly if you do."

Quintus still did not give up and continued to ask, "We don't have to kiss. Why can't we just go down to business?"

Jada pinched his thigh and said, "Go down to business? You're probably going to have a hard time eating tonight! I'm going downstairs to buy some soup for you, and then I'll go with you to the Ballards tomorrow morning!"

When Quintus heard this, he smiled again and said, "Well, since you're planning to come with me to the Ballards tomorrow morning, why don't you sleep here tonight? I've already booked a room for you anyway.

Jada, who had just walked to the door, turned around and smiled at Quintus. "Sure, but you're not allowed to touch me or else I'll punch your nose!" Jada opened the door and walked out immediately.

"Pinch my nose..." Quintus shuddered instinctively. He stretched out his hand to touch his swollen nose and immediately winced in pain.

y alter applying the medication, but though the

swelling had already subsided, it was rather obvious from his appearance that he was beaten up.

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Quintus then went to the Ballards with Jada to look for Zachariah.

“Miss Jada! What brings you to me today?” Zachariah asked the two of them after taking his seat. Beside him were Zenoah, Sheila, and a few others.

Jada smiled and then said again, “Mister Zachariah, this is my fiance, Quintus Novak. He’s the scion of the Novaks-a second-tier family in Riverson!”

“Hello, Mister Quintus!” Zachariah’s eyes lit up when he heard that. After all, second-tier families from Riverson were incredibly influential, and they were much stronger than first-tier families in Brookbourn. Though they were still some ways from being on the same level as Brookbourn Mansion, the forces from Riverson should never be taken lightly..

His initial guess as to why Jada brought Quintus over was that they were seeking to cooperate with the Ballards. After all, Valerian had dinner at their house only two days ago, and everyone was optimistic about the Brookbourn Mansion’s prospects.

He feared not the Shanahans’ rise because he knew that Severin was an extraordinary individual whose strength surpassed that of profound masters. Aside from having a deep relationship with Valerian, Severin was also the true leader of Draco Hall. Not even he could stop Severin’s rise if that was what Severin intended.

All he could do was get on Severin’s good books and ensure that his daughter had a good relationship with him. If the Shanahans’ could be in-laws with the Ballards, then there was nothing for the latter to fear

anymore.

Therefore, Zachariah was not afraid of Draco Hall because he knew that Draco Hall would not do anything to them for no reason. Instead, the good relationship both sides had with Severin meant that Draco Hall might even help Brookbourn Mansion in their time of need, which one could consider as having secured a strong backer.

Quintus smiled faintly and said, “I came today because I have something to tell you, sir. You can see the wound on my face, right?”

Sheila immediately smiled and said, “I was wondering how a scion from one of Riverson’s second-tier families would get beaten up so badly. Did you forget to bring your bodyguards with you when you went out?”

Quintus’s lips twitched a few times as he finally said, “My injuries are due to Severin and Diane.”

“What? My handsome Severin did that?” Sheila frowned instantly after hearing that and she said to him, He usually keeps a very low profile and hates causing trouble. Did you offend him first, Quintus? Wait, you mentioned that Diane has something to do with it, right? Did you fall in love with her and get beaten up as

a result?"

"Ahem!" Zachariah cleared his throat twice and glared at Sheila. "You have no proof of anything, so please do not make wild guesses!"

Zachariah then turned to Quintus and asked him, "You're better off looking for Severin and the Shanahans since they were the ones who offended you. Why come to us?"

Quintus smiled faintly and said, "I came to tell you that I'm going to send my men to Severin's house and have them cripple him with a severe beating. I want him to regret everything he did to me, and even his woman and his family will have to pay the price!" He paused briefly to catch his breath and continued, "I hope the Ballards won't interfere when the time comes!"

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"What?!" Sheila was startled when she heard that and immediately said to Quintus, "I want to know if you were beaten up because you took a liking to Miss Diane. Where did you get the nerve to do target them like that when you can't even give a sound reason for your actions?"

Quintus immediately retorted, "Do I need to tell you why I got beat up? Hehe. I'm not afraid of the Ballards. I came here just to inform you!"

Sheila gritted her teeth. "Are you implying that Brookbourn Mansion isn't on the level of a second-tier family like yours? Well, congratulations, you've just pissed me off! I won't let the two of you leave this place today!"

"Sheila!" Zachariah immediately lashed out at her. "Why are you getting so worked up? I'm still alive, you know. You are not yet in a position to decide for the Ballards!" Zachariah also did not expect his daughter to be so riled up because of Severin.

"But, Dad! They want to beat my handsome Severin up!" Sheila stomped her feet in anger and was incredibly worried about Severin.

Zenoah spoke up for Severin and said, "We're indebted to Mister Severin, and Mister Valerian came to Brookbourn in large part due to Mister Severin. I hope you'll reconsider your decision, or else you might not be able to handle the consequences when the time comes!"

Keagan added, "If you so much as lay a hand on Mister Severin, it's very likely that Mister Valerian won't spare you for that. When we were on our way back, I heard Mister Valerian chatting with Mister Severin, which only goes shows to show that they have a very good relationship with each other. Do you honestly think it's a good idea to offend a war chief?"

"Haha!" Jada laughed when she heard that. "You're quite good at cooking up lies! Did you think we'd believe a statement that has so many loose ends? Severin was imprisoned for several years, and Valerian was out on the battlefield. When and where could these two people meet each other?"

Quintus sneered and said, "What do you take us for? Three-year-olds? I'm aware that your family has a good relationship with Severin, and Miss Sheila likes Severin a lot too, but you're underestimating us if you think

you can threaten us with that!" He then said pointedly to Zachariah, "I only have one question for you, Mister Zachariah. Will you help Severin if I decide to attack him? Nothing good will come out of it if you do!"

Zachariah did not expect that the Novaks' scion would dare to threaten him, so he stood up angrily and said, "If you put it that way, then I will definitely lend Severin a helping hand. I originally did not want to interfere because I know that you're no match for Mister Severin. Those so-called elite fighters are nothing but insignificant little specks in the face of someone like him!"

"Is he that strong?" Sheila frowned upon hearing her father's words. After all, she had only seen Severin defeat their family's guardian, and that person was merely a level two profound master who was considered mediocre even among their family.

On the other hand, the Novaks might have more than just a few profound masters, and there might even be a few who were much stronger than that.

Zachariah paused for a moment before saying, "Seeing as you were looking down on us so much, I'll go out on record to say that we will help Mister Severin if you plan on doing anything to them!"

"Hear that? Mess around, and we'll have to bring out our big guns!" When Sheila saw that her father had stood his ground, she immediately raised her head slightly and looked smugly at the other party.

Quintus's lips twitched a few times when he heard that, and he finally said, "I'll have you know that you're the one who will have a headache on your hands if you do anything to stop us. I have a distant cousin who's a junior general, and he'll be visiting my family in a few days. Are you sure you're not afraid of offending a junior general?"

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Zachariah's expression soured when he heard that. Junior generals were a formidable existence to begin with, and the sheer number of connections that they usually had were even more frightening. Even so, his decision remained unwavering when he remembered that Severin could get Valerian to help them with just a single phone call—after all, a mere junior general was two ranks below that of a war chief!

Once he was done pondering over it, he said directly, "Hehe, you must think I'm just bluffing. Under normal circumstances, individuals with the rank of junior generals or war chiefs could not care less about the power struggle between upper-class families. Even if he's your relative, he wouldn't help you without first getting the facts straight from you."

Upon concluding his sentence, he patted his chair and yelled, "Fellas!"

In the blink of an eye, some of the Ballards' elite fighters and guardians show up there.

"What are you going to do, Zachariah? Are you sure you're not afraid of my cousin? You must've grown tired of living!" Quintus gritted his teeth in anger, for he never thought that the mention of his cousin would end up not having the intended effect.

"What should we do, miss?" The bodyguards who followed Quintus and Jada were all terrified. They were the Stones' bodyguards, and the elite fighters that Quintus called from Riverson were still at the Stones.

Jada's expression turned gloomy after Zachariah's surprising decision to go against them, especially after Zachariah called his men in. She had not expected such an outcome, hence why she brought only a few bodyguards with her.

Jada stood up and glared at Zachariah, "Mister Zachariah, we reminded you out of courtesy, so what is it you intend to do with us right now? Are you going to kill us?"

Zachariah smiled coldly and said, "Mister Severin has helped us greatly, but since you've decided to go against him, then so be it. It's about time I repay his kindness. I won't kill you, but I'll hand you over to Mister Severin to let him deal with you as you see fit!" He then ordered his men, "Capture them all, then tie them up and send them to Mister Severin!"

"How dare you!" Quintus glared at Zachariah and said viciously, "Have you gone mad? You should know that you're not just offending the Novaks if you offend me. You'll also be offending my cousin, whom I have a good relationship with! He answers to Dracodom's senior general!"

"Why would I care about that?" Zachariah could not be bothered to talk nonsense with him, so he gave his men another order. "Tie them up!"

Although the bodyguards still attempted to resist, they were ultimately no match for the Ballards' men and were subdued with ease. Zachariah then tied the captives' hands behind their backs and then drove straight to Severin's residence.

"Look, Severin. Why are there so many cars there?" Diane and Severin had just finished breakfast and were chatting in the yard when Diane saw more than 20 cars coming up from the road below.

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"They seem to be coming our way!" Severin glanced over and could not help but frown.

"Are they coming to our home?" Diane was a little worried.

"Don't be afraid, ma'am. With us around, those people will be stepping right into the deaths even if they are from Cherridom!" Lillie reassured with a smile.

"It's the Ballards! That person sitting in front looks like Sheila!" After Severin had a good look, he smiled wryly and asked, "Why is she bringing so many people here?"

"Phew, so it's her!" Diane breathed a sigh of relief when she heard that, though she immediately rolled her eyes at Severin and said, "Looks like she's already missing you loads. She wouldn't have come to look for you so early if that weren't the case!"

Severin practically facepalmed when he heard that. I don't think that's the case. She never brought so many bodyguards even when she came here the previous time!"

The vehicles soon stopped on the side of the road some distance away. Everyone then got out and began walking in their direction.

"What's going on? Both Zachariah and Zenoah are here too." Severin frowned after glancing over.

"There's also Quintus and Jada...who are both tied up. Did the Ballards do that and bring them here?" Diane had a confused expression when she spotted Quintus and Jada.

Severin, Diane, and their bodyguards quickly went up to greet Zachariah.

"Haha, what's with all this, Mister Zachariah? Why'd you bring that pervert and Miss Jada here?" Severin burst out laughing when he approached them and saw Quintus's still-bruised face. It was such an amusing sight to behold. After all, Quintus deserved that beating after trying to force himself on his wife the day before.

Zachariah laughed and said, "Mister Severin, this abominable couple came to my place earlier and threatened us by saying that they'll get their men to cripple you. They even threatened us not to interfere when the time comes!"

Severin was briefly taken aback, but he soon burst out in laughter. "Looks like the Novaks are still afraid of Brookbourn Mansion, to some extent. They knew that you and I have a good relationship, so they came to you and asked you not to do anything when they eventually attack me. I must say though, I'm quite surprised that you'd capture them and have them sent to my door!"

Quintus then interrupted coldly, "Don't be so smug. It's not like you can do anything to me after capturing me. I'll make you suffer if you cross the line!"

Severin walked up to Quintus and slapped the latter with the back of his hand. "Bold of you to threaten me when you're already in such a miserable position."

The slap was crisp, and blood flowed from the corner of Quintus's mouth.

"You..." Jada gritted his teeth and glared at Severin. "You think you're so great just because you have. Mister Zachariah's support? I should warn you that the Novaks are a powerful family, and one of Quintus's distant cousins is a junior general!"

"Oh, a junior general? Feeling proud, are we?" Lillie folded her hands over her chest after hearing that and mocked Jada.

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Abigail also chimed in, "Yeah! Junior generals who help perpetuate evil are not worthy of being bestowed such a title!"

"Who are you to talk? You're just bodyguards!" Quintus shot Abigail and Lillie a vicious glare. He was still adamant on showing his superiority at the time because he believed that Severin and the others would not dare to do anything to him.

"They can say what they want! This is a land of free speech!" Severin smiled faintly.

He then turned to Zachariah and said, "Thanks for your gesture, Mister Zachariah, but these people won't be able to do much, if at all. Your family need not concern yourselves with them. They'll be courting death if they sent their men here!"

Zachariah was well aware that neither the Novaks nor their junior general could do anything to Severin even without the Ballards' help. Be that as it may, the reason he did that was simply to please Severin and demonstrate his sincerity. He smiled and said, "But we can't possibly! The Ballards owe a lot to you, and we can't just sit by without doing anything when these people have made it clear that they want to harm you and your wife!"

Diane knew that Severin was powerful, but she did not know just how powerful he truly was. As a result, she was still somewhat afraid of offending a junior general. She smiled at Zachariah and said, "Thank you very much for your help, Mister Zachariah!"

"Yeah, don't you think you should appreciate our kindness, Severin?" Sheila crossed her arms and said with an angry pout.

Severin smiled and said, "You misunderstand me, Sheila. That's not what I meant. What I'm saying is, you didn't have to go through all that trouble."

"Well," Zachariah remarked. "we've already brought them here, so we'll leave it to you to deal with them as you see fit. Never fret, Mister Severin, we'll be there for you if you ever need us. Our two families will help each other in the future and foster a good relationship!"

Judith and Maurice had come out as soon as they heard the initial commotion, but they stood tactfully to one side and did not have a chance to say anything. After hearing Zachariah's statement, Judith was overjoyed because she felt that there was nothing for them to fear in Brookbourn if Severin could have a good relationship with the Ballards. She could not help but step forward and thank them with a smile, "Thank you so much, Mister Zachariah. You're right. Both our families should keep in touch often and foster a good relationship with each other!"

"Yes, Auntie! That's exactly right!" Sheila felt secretly happy because she knew that it would lead to more opportunities to get closer to Severin. As long as she worked hard, Severin might even fall in love with her, and she could one day become Severin's woman.

Diane, who was standing on one side, did not get angry when she saw Sheila's antics. Instead, she could not help but giggle to herself because Sheila's character was growing on her.

However, Severin did not seem to like her very much, so it was not in Diane's place to say anything either. She believed that emotional matters must be allowed to develop organically, without being forced.

Severin was getting fed up with Jada and Quintus's nonsense. "Just how much of a b\*stard can you be, Quintus? Did I not teach you a proper lesson the last time around? I don't care if you stir up trouble with me, but you even forced yourself on my wife yesterday! Didn't you say you wanted to turn me into a cripple? All right then! I'll give you that chance right now!"

He then said to Abigail, "Untie them!"

"Yes, sir!" Abigail walked over, took out a dagger, and cut the rope that was used to tie them up.

"A ch-chance?" Quintus was so frightened that he took a few steps back as he looked at Severin and asked, "What do you mean by that, Severin? Are you saying you want a one-on-one fight? I...I'm not that strong! My strength is just that of a normal fighter!"

