

Nathan was having a barbecue and drink on the roadside with Colin, Thomas, Thunderstorm, Waves, and Elite Eight.

Suddenly, he received a call from Zed, who said in a panic, "Bad news, Mr. Cross."

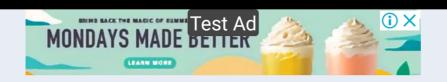
"What happened again?" Nathan frowned.

"Mickey Barton from the Barton family came to the hospital with a group of men and took Jerry away. He also injured the officers and family members of the wounded there. After that, they went to the police station and injured the officers there before they left with Tom," reported Zed.

Nathan's face clouded over. "How dare the Barton family be so lawless. Have you reported to your superior?"

"Yes, I have. The fact that the Barton family is behind this gives him a headache. He simply told me to handle it in a low-key manner..." replied Zed.

Nathan snorted coldly. "Hah, seems like everyone is afraid of the Barton family. It's



no wonder those from the Barton family are so presumptuous. It's all the result of condonation."

"Mr. Cross, as Mickey Barton has saved Jerry and Tom, I believe they won't let the matter rest. They may come after you next..." Zed said.

Meanwhile, dozens of black cars were roaring past on the late-night street.

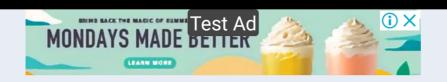
They then stopped around the barbeque stall at which Nathan and his party were eating. A large group of men in dark robes got off the cars with each having a sword.



Seeing these Robed Guards, Nathan raised the corners of his mouth slightly, and said to Zed on the phone, "Not 'may'. They're already here."

Then, Nathan hung up.

At this time, Mickey had already appeared with Yaakov, Kahn, two hundred Robed Guards, as well as Jerry and Tom who were in wheelchairs.



Mickey shot Nathan a cold look. "Are you the Nathan Cross who keeps messing with the Barton family?"

"I was about to find you. Unexpectedly, you come by yourself," said Nathan calmly.

Staring at Nathan, Mickey sneered and said, "Very well. From now on, it's time for you to pay a hefty price for your stupid behavior."

Then, he looked at the diners around the food stalls, the stall owners, and workers, before he said coldly, "Those of you who are irrelevant, you have one minute to get lost. After that, everyone who stays here will die."

#### Swoosh!

The stall owners, waiters, and diners immediately took to their heels.

Soon, apart from Mickey and his men, only Nathan and his party were left at the scene.



Pointing at Nathan, Jerry said to Mickey, "Uncle, kill the others directly, but keep this guy for me. I'm gonna take my time to torture him."

Mickey nodded his head, and gave the order, "Listen up, guys, kill all of them, except Nathan Cross."

"Yes, Sir!" Yaakov, Kahn, and two hundred Robed Guards responded in unison.

Yaakov and Kahn both began to loosen their joints with a vicious grin on their faces, while staring at the men next to Nathan, ready to go on a killing spree.

The two hundred Robed Guards also drew their swords together, exuding a murderous presence.

The corners of Nathans's mouth rose slightly upward at this time. Looking at Colin, Thomas, Thunderstorm, Waves, and Elite Eight, he said calmly, "There have been records of military victories against the odds in history. I'd to see tonight if the 12 of you can defeat the Barton family of



around 200 men."

Colin and the others looked at each other and then burst into laughter.

Then, Colin said gallantly, "We don't even care about the riffraff, Master!"

At this, Mickey and his men widened their eyes in anger. How dare Nathan Cross's man be so arrogant that he actually calls us riffraff?

Infuriated, Mickey shouted, "Do it! Kill them all!"





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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Each of the two hundred Robed Guards was holding a sword, as they charged up at them like the tidal wave.

As Colin and the Elite Eight drew out military sabers together, Colin said to Thomas, Thunderstorm, and Waves, "You have not fully recovered from your old wounds. So you should just watch the show on the side tonight."

The Robed Guards were large in number and thought highly of themselves.

They didn't expect that Colin and the Elite Eight would really take them so lightly that they even asked Thomas, Thunderstorm, and Waves to watch from the side.

Do the nine of them think that they can ward us off? Two hundred Robed Guards?

The Robed Guards were furious!

They were determined to chop Colin and the Elite Eight into pieces!

With his saber in hand, Colin growled,



"Charge." After which, he took the lead to charge ahead.

Similarly, the Elite Eight charged forward as well, each of them armed with a saber.

Soon, the two sides clashed and got into a fierce fight.

### Clank!

Colin's saber collided with the sword of a team leader of Robed Guards.

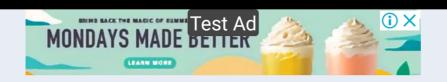
The team leader of Robed Guards was shocked, as his arms were numb from the collision.

But it was exactly at that moment when he was shocked that Colin slid his blade down his sword, and cut off his wrist.

## "Ahh!"

The team leader of Robed Guards let out a painful cry.

Colin then raised his leg and kicked him,



sending him flying into the air.

Three other Robed Guards immediately raised their swords at the same time and wielded them down on Colin.

Colin directly swung his saber sideways!

Clank! Clank! Clank!

The swords of the three Robed Guards were broken into half at once!

At the same time, the blade of Colin's saber also slashed across the necks of the three of them, instantly slitting their throats open.

With hands on their necks, the trio collapsed to the ground.

Meanwhile, the Elite Eight were similarly savage. Wherever they went, the enemy was shattered, as blood splattered everywhere together with broken heads and arms.

Colin and the Elite Eight tore through the



crowd of opponents like a tiger running loose on a farm of sheep.

One after another, the Robed Guards fell to the ground wailing in pain.

Mickey, Jerry, Tom, Yaakov, and Kahn all widened their eyes in shock.

Nathan Cross's men are so strong!

These Robed Guards had been trained since they were young, and were proficient in various types of combat, with ability comparable to that of special forces.

However, the two hundred robed Guards were actually put at a disadvantage by a group of nine.

Moreover, at this rate, it wouldn't take long for the Robed Guards to be directly crushed by Colin and the others.

Seeing that more than half of his men had been killed and injured, Mickey could no longer sit still, and immediately urged two of his strong aides, "Don't wait any longer,



Yaakov, Kahn, go get them!"

Both Yaakov and Kahn were once demons.

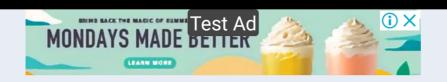
They were feeling superior earlier, and disdained to besiege the opponents with the Robed Guards, thinking that doing so was simply dragging down their status.

When the two of them saw that the Robed Guards couldn't even lay a finger on Colin and the others, they knew that it was time for them to take action.

Yaakov squinted his eyes and shouted, "Hey, losers, stand down!"

The remaining hundred or so Robed Guards had been struggling to hold on. If they weren't the daredevil warriors trained by the Barton family since they were young, and were extremely loyal to the Barton family, they would have long collapsed.

At this time, Yaakov's words were like an amnesty to them, so they quickly retreated.



Kahn looked at Colin and the Elite Eight with a wicked smile. "You guys are really something. It's our turn to take on you."

"Why waste your time talking to them? Just kill them all!" Yaakov snorted coldly.

As soon as he finished speaking, he squatted down slightly. Next, there was a loud noise coming from the ground under his feet, and the ground collapsed, while he pounced on Colin.

Not to be outdone, Kahn moved with a blinding speed, as he charged at the Elite Eight like an afterimage.

Meanwhile, Colin swung his saber and fought with Yaakov.

Yaakov was indeed very powerful. Not long after they fought, he actually grabbed the blade of the saber in Colin's hand, and then forcibly broke it into half.

Taken aback, Colin continued to fight Yaakov with the broken saber. Having the weaker hand, he was now in a precarious



situation.

At the same time, the Elite Eight were attacking Kahn, who was well built and strong as an ox with a steel-like body.

When the blades of the Elite Eight landed on Kahn's body, only the sound of metal clanking was heard, as they didn't actually cut through his skin.

Nathan frowned slightly at the sight. He knew he had met real masters this time.

The nation had vast land and abundant resources, with talented individuals in hiding everywhere. Hence, it was not surprising that there were such powerful people like Yaakov and Kahn.

Seeing that the situation had become dangerous for Colin and Elite Eight, Nathan said, "Guys, they're highly skilled fighters, and aren't easy to deal with. Retreat now. Just leave them to me."



Colin Dunne and the Elite Eight were all soldiers. Hence, obeying their orders was their foremost responsibility.

As such, they immediately set off when they received orders from Nathan Cross.

Nathan stared at Yaakov Zelli and Kahn Kendrick with apathy in his eyes, "I am coming down to get you!"

Mickey Barton, two of the Barton brothers, and the rest witnessed Yaakov and Kahn tore through Colin Dunne and his teammates with ease and were jumping around with glee. Meanwhile, Colin and his teammates were having a difficult time parrying the never-ending strikes from their opponents.

When the enemies saw Nathan getting on his feet and readying himself for a fight with Yaakov and Kahn, they burst into laughter.

Mickey was grinning as he snickered, "His lackeys are already very impressive, but they are still no match for Kahn and



Yaakov. How much more help can he render them even if he joins the battle?"

Jerry Barton chortled, "Maybe he knew he was going to die anyway, so he'd rather die on the battlefield as the proud soldier he is. What a joke!"

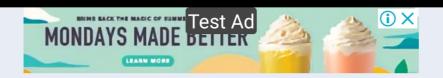
Tom Barton sat on the wheelchair and held Nathan in his eyes grudgingly. He sneered, "Nathan, you have my words. I won't put your whole family down after you have passed."

"I'll take really good care of all the women in your household. Hahaha!"

Kahn Kendrick and Yaakov Zelli gave each other an evil grin and sprang into action. They leaped at Nathan, one from the left and the other from the right. Both of them shouted, "Go to hell!"

Nathan raised his left hand and caught Kahn's fist firmly, making Kahn's eyes peeling in bewilderment.

I put all of my strength into that punch, but



Nathan caught it just with a simple wave of his hand?

At the same time, Nathan's right hand was curled into a fist, which he then sent towards Yaakov's fist.

#### Boom!

Two of their fists collided with each other, and it thundered.

The snapping sound of bones crushing came from Yaakov's right arm. The bones were completely crushed into fine dust as his arm became deformed.

Nathan then swung his legs with all his might and speed.

#### Bam!

Nathan's kick had struck Yaakov in his head.

With that, Yaakov's body fell like a tree. It went down in an instant, and he died on the spot.



Seeing how Nathan had defeated Yaakov, Kahn was terrified yet enraged. He wriggled his hands out of Nathan's restraint and fought with Nathan with all the combat moves he had ever learned.

However, it didn't take long for Nathan to land a hit on Kahn's chest. Bam, bam, bam! There went the three lightning punches that Nathan had unleashed at Kahn's sternum.

The first punch made its way into Kahn's chest. Kahn, who was very much impenetrable, had an expression of agony on his face

Then, the second punch landed. With that hit, some of Kahn's ribs were broken.

When the third punch came, it went straight through Kahn's chest and cut across his heart in one neat line.

All of Kahn's orifices were bleeding. Slowly, he looked to the sky before he continued to fall backward onto the ground. Thud! His lifeless body landed on



the ground and sent dirt flying everywhere.

#### What?

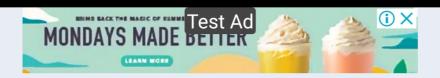
Kahn Kendrick and Yaakov Zelli, the duo of notorious assassins who had taken countless lives in the South with their bare hands and were greatly feared upon, had been taken down by Nathan Cross!

Mickey's eyes opened as wide as they could. It was as if he had wanted to extend his eyes out of its sockets to take a closer look at the unbelievable scene that had just happened ahead of him.

The glee had drained out of Jerry and Tom Barton's faces and was replaced by an utter shock

The two of them who had been beaten up by Nathan before were now defenseless against him. By this time, half of their Robed Guards, as well as Kahn and Yaakov, were gone.

The two of them looked at Nathan and started to tremble as they recalled the



painful torture they had suffered under his hands.

An intense and curdling sense of remorse arose deep in their guts.

They should run away as far as they could after they were rescued, much less coming to Nathan for revenge.

But too bad, it was all too late now.



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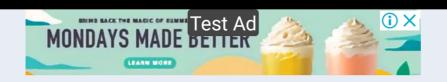




Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Nathan stared at Mickey Barton and the rest coldly and spat, "Does the lot of you still want to annihilate all of us?"

Mickey swallowed his saliva with difficulty and began to stutter.

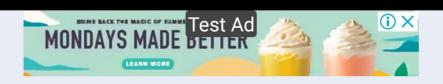
Meanwhile, Nathan's face darkened, "Answer me!"

Then, Mickey summoned up courage and muttered, "I think we have had a bit of a misunderstanding..."

Nathan snickered, "Then why didn't you say so earlier when you were trying to taking us down?"

"A man should fight for their own beliefs till they drop off on the ground. You guys are just making me look down on you more!" Nathan scorned.

Mickey's face was full of shame and anger. He was the second master of the Barton family, and no matter where he went, he was treated as a guest of honor. Even the mayors of all cities had to pay him their



respects.

He had always had things his way until he was shamed by Nathan tonight.

Nathan then said indifferently, "Now it is time for payback."

His eyes first landed on Tom Barton and spat, "Didn't you want to do something to my wife and my daughter?"

Tom Barton's face was as pale as a sheet of paper. He started to shake involuntarily and trembled as he spoke, "I-I..."

Nathan mumbled coldly, "A rat like you cannot get off without a lecture."

"Colin, castrate him!"

As soon as Nathan had finished his orders, Colin Dunne made his move.

All of the remaining Robed Guards had yet to react to Nathan's words when Colin had appeared in front of Tom and plunged his sword into Tom's pants.



#### Swish!

In just a blink of an eye, the sword swung, and Tom's pants were already covered in blood.

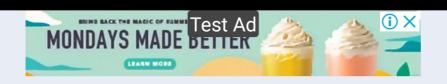
What came after was Tom's excruciating shriek, "Aaargh..."

Nathan then turned to Jerry Barton and said impassively, "I asked you to personally apologize to the injured at the hospital. Yet, who knew you would make things worse by injuring all the family members of the victims and attacked the police for a second time."

Upon hearing that, Jerry was in complete terror, "I..."

Nathan barked, "Colin, smash up all of his limbs!"

Standing at one side, Mickey and the rest of the Barton family's lackeys were all covered in rage and horror. Should we all rally up against Nathan right now?



But as they looked at the corpses of their comrades around them, as well as the dead bodies of Kahn Kendrick and Yaakov Zelli, they eventually canceled their thought. It would have just sent them to their deaths.

Colin was quick as lightning on his hands. In just a matter of a few seconds, he had completely pulverized all four of Jerry's limbs in front of everyone.

Now even if Jerry had completely recovered from his debilitating injury, there was no way his limbs could be of any use to him anymore. He was basically crippled.

Nathan's eyes then fleeted to Mickey Barton and the rest.

He was indignant, "All of you Barton people have no regard for the rules. Do you really think you can kill anyone as you want? Who had given you the right to act above the law?"

Hearing that, Mickey Barton toughened up and said, "Nathan, we are one of the



nation's eight most revered families. I'd advise you to hold back and let us off the hook."

Nathan heard Mickey's words and snickered, "Heh, did you guys hold back when you hurt the police, the SWAT team, and all the innocent people?"

"Did you plan to hold back just now when you said you wanted to kill all of us?"

"Now that you have fallen into my hands, you want me to hold back?"

"All of you are not even worthy to speak to me on your feet. I want all of you on your knees! NOW!"

Nathan's words had just come out of his mouth when Colin Dunne and the Elite Eight, as well as Thomas Dunn and the Thunderstorm, had made their moves.

Mickey Barton and his followers couldn't resist at all. Everyone knew that whoever dared to fight back would be slaughtered right on the spot.



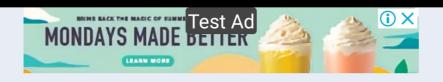
It didn't take long for Mickey and his subordinates to be stripped of their weapons and be kneeling in front of Nathan.

To them, it was an utter disgrace for the second master of the Barton family to be kneeling in front of Nathan - a nobody.

That was the most humiliating moment in Mickey Barton's life.

He raised his head and looked at Nathan with total resentment, then spat out, "Nathan, you are in trouble now. Your name will forever be on the Barton family's hit list!"

"You have offended the almighty Barton family, and now, you will have one more enemy who wants your head off. You will be so scared that you regret the day you were born into this world!"



Nathan Cross, however, chuckled in disdain, "Hahahaha, I am a man of the world. So what if I have amassed thousands of enemies?"

"Anyway, the Barton family is nothing to me."

"So what if you become my new enemy?"

Indeed, Nathan had many people chasing over his head. The addition of the Barton family to his long list of nemesis did not matter to him at all.

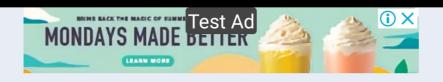
Mickey Barton was dumbfounded after he heard what Nathan said.

This guy is a madman!

Nathan Cross is a freaking madman!

At the same time, Mickey had realized threatening Nathan with the name of his family was not going to work.

Nathan stared at Mickey with apathy and spat, "If I were to do things my usual way, I



would have slaughtered all of you."

"But now I have a new idea!"

"I will give you a chance to redeem yourselves. You can shell out ten billion to compensate all of the people you have injured, and I will spare your life."

Mickey stammered, "Ten billion for compensation?"

Nathan then muttered coldly, "It's okay if you don't want to accept my offer. I will just send you on your way to hell now."

"l... promise!"

Mickey Barton's throat was dry. He was just forced to pay ten billion as compensation to the people he had hurt.

Even though he was the second master of the Barton family, ten billion was not a small figure. Nevertheless, he had to save himself, so he had no choice but to agree.

In that short amount of time, he witnessed



the cruel consequences that Jerry and Tom Barton had endured.

Not to mention the cold corpses of Kahn Kendrick and Yaakov Zelli that were still lying on the ground.

If he didn't agree to Nathan's conditions, Nathan would for sure end his life.

Very soon, a sum of money that amounted to ten billion was banked in to Nathan's account.

Mickey's face twisted in aggrievement, "Can we go now?"

"The ten billion is only for the lives of you and your lackeys. I want the two of them to stay behind." Nathan sneered.

He was referring to Jerry and Tom Barton.

"Why?" Mickey Barton's face convulsed in anger.

"Hah! Why?"



"It's because you Barton family are still holding on to the three hundred billion that you guys have swindled out of the Cross family!"

"The instant I receive the money the Barton family owes me and an apology from the head of Barton family Schubert Barton himself, I will consider letting the two of them go," Nathan replied.

Did he just order the Barton family to pay him three hundred billion and requested the head of the Barton family, Schubert Barton, to apologize to him personally?

He really is quite mad! In fact, he might even be insane!

Mickey bemoaned, "The two requests you made are too much. I am in no position to accept it."

Nathan then said coldly, "Then I think you should screw back to your den and tell Schubert Barton what I want. Let him take his time to decide."



"However, could you please help me pass on a word? Both of his sons are fatally injured."

"If he doesn't want to accept my offer, or if he makes me wait for too long, I can't guarantee that both of his sons will live."

Mickey Barton was flabbergasted, "You son of a-"

After that, Nathan Cross muttered dismissively, "You can now leave with your all of your lackeys, including those whose body are not whole."

Mickey clenched his teeth and retreated with all of his followers in a scurry like pariahs.

After they left, Nathan glanced at the disabled Tom and Jerry Barton and said to Colin, "Take the two of them to Channing's private military prison and have the military keep an eye on them."

Colin replied, "Yes, sir!"



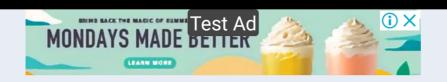
Nathan then ordered, "Distribute the ten billion that Mickey Barton had given us to all of the injured officers, as well as the family members of those who were injured. They must have been restless since they were attacked."

"Yes sir! I'll do it right away." Colin responded.

...

The next day, the sky had just broken dawn when Mickey Barton barged into the Barton household and went straight to his brother, Schubert Barton.

Soon, gruntles were heard from Schubert's quarters, "That rascal Nathan! How dare he humiliated our family? I want to kill everyone in his family as well as his wife's family! It's the only way to end my hatred towards him."



Nathan had thought that the Barton family would soon be making their comeback.

But what he had not foreseen was the complete lack of action from the Barton family in the next two days.

Not only had the Barton family not come for revenge, but they had also not responded to his offer of the payment of three hundred billion for his sons' release. Aside from that, Schubert Barton didn't show up to make an apology.

One day, three uninvited guests showed up at Nathan's house.

These uninvited guests were wearing camouflage uniforms from the military.
Anyone would have thought that they were soldiers if they didn't know who they were.

The truth was, the three of them came from a terrifying background.

The three of them were the three commanders of the North Army - Fang, Destroyer, and Heptakill were under the



direct command of the General of the North.

Fang had a giant yet dignified stature.

Meanwhile, Destroyer was humungous and looked like he was made out of steel.

As for Heptakill, he was tall and slender but deadly.

When Nathan Cross entered the living room after coming back from outside, he was shocked to see the three of them being tended to by his in-laws.

Leah Smith was beaming, "Nathan, three of your comrades from the army are here to visit you."

The trio saw Nathan and stood up in a hurry. They were in sync with each other when they greeted him, "Good day, sir!"

Nathan grumbled, "Why are the three of you here? Colin didn't even tell me anything about it."



Fang said with a grin, "Sir, today is your twenty-eighth birthday. I had intentionally ask Colin not to say a word to you so we could give you a surprise."

Nathan Cross was shocked for another time when he heard Fang's words.

The reality was, he had also forgotten about his own birthday.

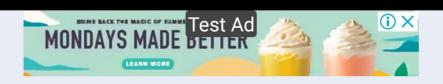
Ever since his mother passed away, he had never celebrated his birthday anymore.

The three of my fiercest knights had come so far just to celebrate my birthday? At that moment, many emotions started to well up at the bottom of Nathan's heart.

However, he still had his poker face on. He chided, "Don't call me sir anymore! We are not in the army. Just call me by my name or Mr. Cross!"

The trio replied, "Yes, Mr. Cross!"

It was only at that moment Benson and Leah Smith had learned that it was



# Nathan's birthday.

Initially, they wanted to prepare a sumptuous dinner to celebrate Nathan's birthday and treat Nathan's comrades from the army.

However, Fang grinned and said, "Mr. and Mrs. Smith, actually we are not the only ones who are coming to celebrate Sir Nathan's birthday. Many more of our comrades also wish him well for his birthday. The three of us are mere representatives."

Destroyer also laughed, "Yeah. Since we have way too many people in the army, we have already discussed among ourselves how to celebrate Sir Nathan's birthday. We decided to organize a birthday meeting on our own to celebrate Sir's birthday. Also, it will be an opportunity for all of our comrades to get together too."

Benson and Leah recalled vaguely that Nathan had mentioned that he was once a platoon leader.



A platoon leader should have dozens of followers right?

Their humble abode couldn't really house the dozens of Nathan's subordinates from his platoon leader days if the lot of them were to come to celebrate his birthday at their place.

Additionally, Benson and Leah could also see that these soldiers wanted to celebrate Nathan's birthday the way they did in the army.

Therefore, Benson smiled and told them, "Okay. Nathan, just go and enjoy your gathering with your old comrades!"

His wife, Leah, added, "Yeah, they have come so far just for your birthday. You better not let everyone down."

"Alright, then I won't be having dinner at home tonight. Don't wait for me for lunch later too!" Nathan grinned.

At that moment, several black jeeps were already awaiting Nathan when he and the



trio walked out of the house.

Very soon, the four of them arrived at a secret military base in Channing.

Nathan Cross had nothing to say when he learned that the place they were at was exactly where Tom and Jerry Barton were held captive.

Franklin Wilson had already ordered his subordinates to set up a hundred banquet tables for Nathan's birthday. He and a bunch of soldiers from Channing's army base were already waiting for Nathan's arrival for quite a period of time.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Franklin Wilson welcomed Nathan Cross and the trio with a bunch of his soldiers.

When he saw the four of them, Franklin exclaimed, "General, Commanders, hurry on and come on in!"

Nathan nodded lightly, "After you!"

All of them came to the canteen located on the internal grounds of the secret military base. A hundred banquet tables were already set up.

All of the dishes were homemade delicacies; there were some salad appetizers, roasted ham with potatoes, and many more. Whereas, the wine was from the army's provision.

Nathan, the trio, as well as Colin, Thomas, and the Elite Eight all sat down at their tables. After that, Franklin Wilson and the rest of the soldiers were also seated.

Fang grinned, "General, we are supposed to look for the best hotel in town to celebrate your birthday."



"But I have considered the fact that all of us are active soldiers. If we were to show up at a five-star hotel and drink and party all night, it might not be good for our reputation."

"Thus, after discussing with Sir Franklin Wilson, we have decided to set up a banquet here."

"We will celebrate your birthday in a lowkey manner in our own military ways."

Nathan smiled, "Nah I don't think you guys wanted to celebrate my birthday! All of you boors just wanted an excuse to drink together!"

Everyone heard what the General had said and burst into laughter.

Right then, Franklin Wilson raised his wine glass and dedicate a toast to Nathan Cross, "The General is right. We are all boors, so let's just forget about giving a beautiful birthday speech to the General and just wish him an amazing happy birthday! This glass of wine is for you,



### General!"

Fang, Heptakill, Destroyer, and a few of the others didn't want to play second fiddle to Franklin Wilson. Thus, all of them quickly stood up on their feet to toast to Nathan.

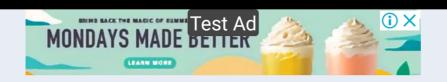
After they finished, Nathan raised his glass and called out, "Cheers to everyone here, and to our brothers who sacrificed themselves when they fight along our sides!"

Nathan had just done speaking when he splashed half of the contents in his glass onto the ground before finishing the rest. This one's for you, my lost comrades.

Franklin Wilson and the rest of the soldiers saw Nathan's act and imitated his actions too. All of them said in one voice, "Cheers to the General, and also to all of our lost comrades!"

Then, the banquet had finally commenced.

Everyone was having a great feast. There was a lot of clinking between the glasses



of the soldiers as they drank to each other. The atmosphere was warm and lively.

Nathan was really good at drinking; no matter who had come to give him a toast, he had finished everything in his glass.

Several military officers of a lower rank were all overwhelmed with joy as it was a rare opportunity for them to be drinking with the General of the North, who was also the God of War.

Just as Nathan Cross was still in the midst of celebrating his birthday with his fellow soldiers in the interior of the secret military base, the military canines at the entrance started barking ferociously.

Just at the moment, the leader of the soldiers on duty scuttled into the canteen. He reported to Nathan Cross and Franklin Wilson in his loud voice, "Urgent report to General Cross and Major-General Wilson!"

"Numerous cars have shown up in front of our entrance. There are almost two hundred vehicles, and as of now, a crowd



of roughly a thousand men is gathered at our doorsteps."

Franklin Wilson heard his words and asked in a tone of curiosity, "Hmm, I don't recall spreading any words about this party. Why are there so many people here for the General's birthday?"

The leader of the soldiers on duty replied, "Sir, those people don't look like they are here to celebrate General's birthday."

"All of them are armed, and their faces had the intent to kill."

"The person leading them called himself the head of the Barton family, Schubert Barton. He asked to let General Cross come out and meet his ill fate. Not only that, but he even declared that he will kill every single one of us here!"

Nathan Cross chuckled, "Oh, it's Berty, my boy!"

However, Franklin Wilson was furious, "The Bartons sure got tired of living. I have to



teach them a hard lesson this time round!"

After learning of the whole incident, Fang, Destroyer, and Heptakill were also infuriated.

Fang growled, "General, the Barton family sure is insolent! How dare they come all the way to you and act so brazenly!"

Following that, Destroyer and Heptakill also chimed in, "General, we will be of your company when you meet him outside. Let's see how will the Barton family fare!"



With a smile, Nathan said, "Alright! Let's head outside!"



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Schubert Barton brought along thousands of the Barton family's subordinates and besieged the surreptitious 'factory' in front of them.

He asked one of his subordinates, "But isn't this just an ordinary abandoned factory?"

"Are y'all sure that my sons are detained inside this building, and Nathan is currently inside this place too?"

That person immediately answered, "Yes, sir. We have already looked into it. I am sure your sons are held captive here."

"Nathan Cross is inside too!"

Schubert Barton gazed at the tall fence and the locked gates ahead. It looked like nothing but an old factory. Then he said coldly, "Prepare yourselves to break in, people. Kill anyone you see and rescue my sons."

A few of Barton's family's most capable servants, as well as a thousand Robed



Guards, who were armed with sabers, shouted in unison, "Charge!"

They were all geared up to intrude the place by force.

Whoosh!

The 'old factory' had its gates rolling open slowly.

Next, Nathan Cross appeared from the gates along with Franklin Wilson and the deadly trio - Fang, Heptakill, and Destroyer. Besides that, Colin Dunne and the Elite Eight were with them too. Soon, they were joined by even more people.

Today, Nathan Cross was only wearing something casual.

In fact, the trio, as well as Colin Dunne and the Elite Eight, were not in their usual camouflage uniforms that had badges pinned on.

Everyone was in their casual wear.



Franklin Wilson, the commander-in-chief of the army in Channing, also didn't put on anything flashy.

Therefore, he was only in his most basic uniform at the General's birthday celebration.

Firstly, he didn't want to steal the limelight away from the General; secondly, it was easier for him to hang around everyone with his simplest uniform on.

Schubert Barton had not expected that Nathan Cross to come out and meet him himself. He noticed that some of the people in the crowd behind him were clad in military uniform and were a bit startled.

However, he was not concerned by any of that.

Schubert Barton had connections within both the legal and illegal trading bureaus. Hence, Nathan didn't weigh on his mind at all, because he had figured Nathan would at most know a few generals within the bureaus, but that would be it.



In Schubert Barton's opinion, unless Nathan had someone at least of a general rank to back him up, especially someone who had actual power, then he would be wary of him.

Schubert then narrowed his eyes at Nathan and said coldly, "So you're the one who hurt and detain both of my sons?"

Nathan simpered, "You're right. And if I'm not wrong, you're Schubert Barton."

"Like father, like son. Are you here to pay me what you've owed me and apologize to me on your knees?"

Once Nathan's words had poured out of his mouth, Schubert and all of his subordinates were stunned.

Schubert Barton had brought so many of his servants and his Robed Guards for revenge, yet Nathan thought that Schubert was there to return him his money and apologize.

At that moment, Schubert was so full of



rage that he guffawed, "Hah! Isn't that great!"

He then turned around and directed a question at all of his followers, "All of you have heard what that brat has said. He has just admitted to hurting and detaining two of my sons. Now, he wants me to kneel down and apologize to him."

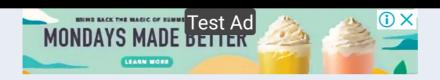
"What do y'all say? Should I do as he says?"

A few of the Barton family's most capable servants and the thousands of Robed Guards all roared in unison, "No!"

Schubert Barton chuckled in satisfaction and yelled, "Then what do y'all think I should do?"

Everyone from the Barton family roared again, "Kill them!"

The angry growls of a thousand men rumbled through the sky and made the earth tremble. Their intent to kill was tangible in the atmosphere.



However, Nathan Cross still remained as calm as ever.

He folded his hands behind his back and said blandly, "Schubert Barton, I have told you earlier, I will only spare you all, if and only if, the Barton family returns what the money they owe the Cross family and you apologize to me on your knees."

"But have you decided to reject my offer and declare war on my people?"



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Schubert Barton gawked at Nathan upon hearing his words.

Even at this time, Nathan Cross is delusional enough to ask me for money and an apology?

At that point, Schubert could not endure the boiling rage within him anymore. He had not seen such a brazen young man for a long time.

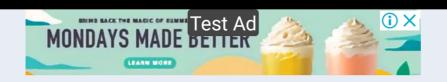
Hence, he smiled devilishly, "You little brat! I just adore teaching stubborn mules like you a lesson!"



"I won't just simply kill a fool like you and call it a day."

"I will let my people break every single bone and tendon in you. Then, I will kill all of your friends right in front of your eyes."

"Then, I would murder everyone from the Cross family as well as the Smith family and harass your wife and your daughter. All with you watching."



"I will be going too easy on you if I just end your life like that. I want you to live in a bottomless pit of agony and regret."

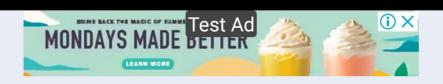
"I want you to watch with your own eyes as everyone you care about dies off one by one. Imagine how helpless you'd be when you witness us trampling on your beloved wife. Hahaha!"

Instantly, Nathan's face darkened, "So you want to murder all of my relatives and friends, huh?"

Nathan glanced at the rank of soldiers that surround him and sneered at Schubert, "I must admit, you are indeed very cruel. But too bad for you! Your plans are not coming true today, as I don't think you are good enough to lay a single finger on my people. "

Schubert chuckled in delight, "Hah, mark my words! I will end all of you today! Even the King can't save your souls!"

"If you dare, report to me the backgrounds of everyone you have there. I want to see



which one of you are platoon leaders, or perhaps even a chief of an army unit? Enlighten me, would you? I would like to see which one of you I need to be careful of."

Everyone from the Barton family roared in laughter.

Nathan smiled and replied, "My soldiers, show them who we are! We have been keeping it lowkey, but that doesn't mean we have to allow ourselves to be shamed by others!"

Franklin Wilson was the first to stand out when Nathan had finished talking He said with his bright voice, "I am Franklin Wilson, the commander-in-chief of Channing's army. I hold the rank of Major General!"

Fang immediately followed on, "I am Fang, commander-in-chief of the North Army. I hold the rank of Major General too!"

The Destroyer's loud voice thundered, "I am Destroyer, also commander-in-chief of the North Army! A Major General!"



Heptakill hissed, "I am Heptakill, the other commander-in-chief of the North Army. Also a Major General."

Following that, Colin yelled, "I am Colin Dunne, the Captain of the National Guards, a colonel."

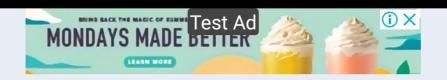
Everyone from Nathan's side had all reported their ranks and none of them were as powerless as Schubert Barton had thought. On the contrary, everyone from the Barton family felt like their heads were just struck by lightning.

All of them started to show terror on their faces. Their lips turned pale as they felt the thunder of fury rumbling ahead.

Some of the timid ones couldn't even hold themselves together anymore and were starting to tremor out of fear.

Oh God! Where did all of these big shots come from?

All of them were at least of the rank of a general, and they looked like they were not



holding onto their positions just for show.

Especially Fang, Destroyer, and Heptakill. These three warriors were from the North army, and each of them could command up to a hundred thousand soldiers.

Even Colin Dunne, who was of the lowest rank amongst them, was the Captain of National Guards.

What had terrorized Schubert Barton the most was the fact that all three of the commanders-in-chief of the North army-Fang, Destroyer, and Heptakill, were present.

Not only that, even the Captain of National Guards, Colin Dunne was present.

And what does that mean?

It means that there's a high possibility that the General of the North himself is present right here, right now.

When that thought crossed Schubert Barton's mind, he couldn't stop himself



from taking a look at Nathan Cross. A terrifying theory had just manifested in his head. The person in front of me wouldn't happen to be the General of the North who leads all of the three hundred thousand troops in Northania, right?

At this thought, Schubert Barton felt like he had been trapped inside a collapsed cage made of nothing but ice. He was losing warmth by the second.

He felt his scalp getting numb as his blood pressure rose. He almost vomited blood at the scene.



Schubert's followers were not dumb; they had started to make assertions that Nathan Cross was the General of the North, just as their master did.

The thought of it changed the look on everyone's face. All of their beady eyes widened in terror.

Just then, a stench of urine was also present in the air. Someone had even peed at the thought of Nathan Cross possibly



# being the General of the North.



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At that time, Schubert had his face filled with horror. He started to stammer as he struggled to vocalize, "Y-you, y-you are..."

Colin Dunne bellowed, "In case you have not realized, the person here is the commander-in-chief of the entire North army, the General of the North, the God of War, Nathan Cross!"

#### **BOOM!**

Schubert Barton was still completely stupefied at the announcement Colin had just made, even though he already had an inkling earlier that Nathan was the General of the North.

He felt all of his blood rushing to his head, and the world around him was starting to spin.

### Thud!

Schubert lost his stance and fell on his knees in front of Nathan Cross.

## Cling! Clang!



The sound of all sorts of weapons dropping on the ground was loud and clear.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

In succession to one another, all of Schubert's followers dropped their weapons and fell on their knees.

The nauseating smell of ammonia rippled across the air. It was obvious that many at the scene had lost control of their bladder and wet themselves out of fear.

The General of the North. The God of War.

The man standing ahead was the young General who led hundred thousands of soldiers and had emerged victorious from seas of dead bodies and fresh blood.

The Barton family was just a mere speck of dust when compared to the General.

As Schubert Barton and the rest fell on their knees out of fear, the sirens at the secret military base started to wail.



### Weeeeewwwwwww...

Batches of armed soldiers with rifles on their hands all rushed out from the base and surrounded Schubert Barton and his men in the blink of an eye.

This had destroyed all intentions the Barton family's men had to escape.

Schubert kneeled on the ground and stared at Nathan in despair.

He had started to grasp the reason why the police of Johnstone City or the leaders of the Channing had all protected Nathan with all they had, even it was at the cost of offending the Barton family.

Furthermore, he had also started to understand why Nathan Cross had the guts to disable and even detain both of his sons.

Alas, he had also finally understood why Nathan had dared to order the Barton family to return three hundred billion to them and requested him to apologize to



him personally on his knees.

Nathan Cross was the General after all!

Sure, the Barton family had power and money, as well as connections within the army ranks of both the legal and illegal trading bureaus.

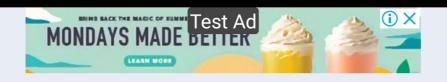
But still, the Barton family could not afford to offend anyone that had already reached the rank that Nathan was holding.

Not to mention, the Barton family had built its empire on businesses.

They were the leading dealer in the nation-wide pharmaceutical industry and held monopolies over many expensive drugs. They were one of the richer clans in the eight of the nation's most renowned families.

However, in terms of power and influence, the Barton family was the weakest among the eight.

To be more accurate, the Barton family



was not a clan of power but rather a clan of fortune.

The Barton family could afford to bully the usual wealthy families and corporations, but they were completely powerless against military big shots like Nathan Cross.

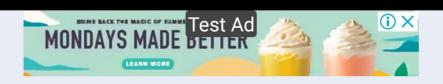
At this time, Franklin Wilson stepped ahead and gave an order to all of the soldiers at the scene, "Capture everyone here! They had all had malicious intentions to harm the General and had all openly trespassed the army grounds. Whoever tried to resist or run away, put them down!"

### Cackle!

The sound of bullets being loaded echoed throughout the place.

Following that, up to ten thousand armed soldiers had aligned the nozzles of their rifles towards the bunch of people from the Barton family.

The lot had lost all hope, and perhaps even



the will to live anymore.

Meanwhile, Schubert Barton was filled with hatred, which was all directed at two of his stupid sons, both of whom had provoked one hell of a character.

If only they had stuck to their usual prey and not overstepped their limits.

Schubert was so resentful that he wanted to strangle the two of them alive.

The Barton family had to pick their next steps in full caution; any missteps could send them to their demises.

He had nothing to lose any more at that point. Immediately, he kowtowed to Nathan and stammered, "Mr. Barton at your disposal, General!"

All of the Barton family's people followed in his lead and bleated with terror deep in their souls, "We are at your disposal, General!"

Nathan laughed in disdain as he set his



gaze upon Schubert Barton and his men, "Wait, what have I just heard? Did the lot of you say you want to kill off all of my friends and relatives then trample on my wife? Why are you guys kneeling suddenly?"



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