Guardian 481

Chapter 481 Seek Penance Now Leo could not kill Kaze with his hands. That would give the police a
reason to cuff him. Nevertheless, the police would have nothing on him if Kaze committed suicide.

"If you don't want your wife's family to live in hell, you better do as | tell you, Kaze," Leo said with a smirk. He would not take no for an

answer. He believed Kaze had no other choice than to end himself.

Kaze glanced at the knife by his feet. He bent over to pick it up,

rubbing his thumb along the sharp edge of the knife.

"Alright, I'll let you redeem yourself with the knife."

Leo was shocked.

His gaze turned menacing as he scowled. Leo did not think Kaze would remain stubborn.

"You don't want to do this the hard way, Kaze."

Gritting his teeth, Leo added, "Fine. So you're not going to kneel, huh? I'll make you then!"

He called out to his men, "Do it!"

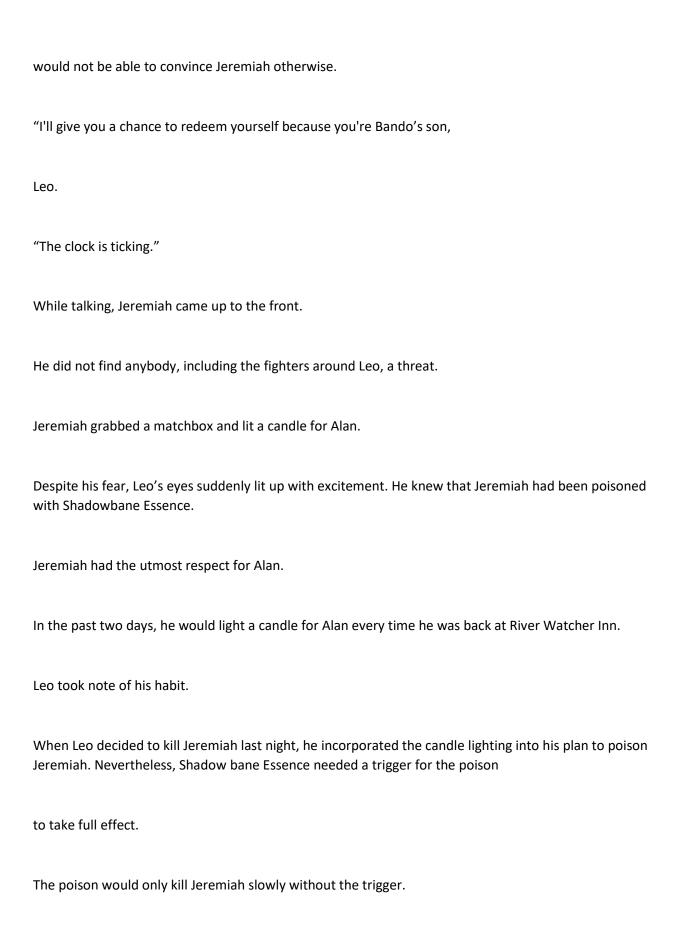
Lefteria Gang's best fighters approached with aggression. They were about to lay their hands on Kaze. "These men aren't like the group's useless security team, Kaze," Leo uttered.

He knew that Kaze could do more than defend himself, and Leo did

not stand a chance against him in a fight.
Kaze had once defeated dozens of the company's security officers.
Nevertheless, Leo hired elite combatants for this very occasion. These pros were at River Watcher Ihn to deal with Kaze specifically.
Leo sneered. "If you know better, you will get out now and crawl your back in on your knees. Take the knife and make amends with your blood."
"You have some nerve to say that when you are the ungrateful animal who killed Godfather, Leo." Awoman's angry voice thundered across the hall.
Everybody in the hall looked over and was shocked.
Leo carried the same expression too.
After a brief surprise, he grimaced and uttered curtly, "I can't believe you aren't dead yet, Miru." He was filled with glum.
Jeremiah had taken Miru away yesterday. Yet, he did not kill the
woman.
Jeremiah was not the type to hesitate on a kill.
Miru took large strides over, and the crowd gave way to her.
They had no idea about what was going on. The woman killed Alan, but Jeremiah did not finish her off. "You must really want me to die, Leo.



Jeremiah raised his sword and pointed it at him. "I said that you killed Alan.
"You should seek penance."
Chapter 482 Jeremiah's Death Jeremiah's words triggered an even bigger commotion.
He was intimidating for slaughtering Gabriel and scaring Cronus to skip town. Hence, his words carried greater weight than Miru's.
"Don't be fooled by Miru, Uncle Jeremiah."
Leo said menacingly, "My father is Bando Lionel. You and my father helped establish Lefteria Gang with my godfather. can say that all of you raised me.
"But this woman"
He pointed at Miru and said, "She's only been with the group for a few years, and we don't know much about her history. "Whose story is legit? believe you can be the judge."
The key members of Lefteria Gang nodded incessantly. They tr Leo more than Miru. "Are you doubting me?"
Jeremiah snapped a chilling look at Leo.
The icy gaze sent chills d
Leo's spine.
Leo knew Jeremiah's mind was made up about the true killer. He



The lit candle dissolved, releasing the aroma of essential oil.
Leo's eyes beamed with thrill.
The trigger of Shadow bane Essence was in the aromatic smell. Jeremiah was unaware of that fact as he breathed in the scent. Once the candle was lit, he grabbed his sword and turned around.
"It seems that you are set in your ways."
Holding the sword, Jeremiah approached Leo.
As everybody watched on, Jeremiah suddenly fell back. His towering build slammed on the ground with a thud. "Oh, shit!"
"What happened? Why did Jeremiah pass out?"
"Don't tell me he's dead."
There was a public outcry.
It was an unbelievable sight. Some even thought that a higher power was involved.
Standing amid the crowd, Kaze raised his brow but did nothing. He
was lost in his thoughts as his eyes shifted around the things Jeremiah had touched.
"Jeremiah!"

Miru and Lefteria-Gang's key members rushed over. They were horrified to find that Jeremiah had breathed his last.
"The Grim Reaper seems to experience the same symptoms as Alan. They have been killed the same way," a founding member said in
shivers.
It was scary that even a strong man like Jeremiah succumbed poison.
Miru was consumed by shock and anger.
She turned around. "How dare you kill Jeremiah in front of everybody Leo! You're a bastard!"
Chapter 483 Rock the Blade Enthusiast
Miru's words drew the attention of many to Leo.
Leo pulled himself together from the excitement by then.
He sneered. "What's your motive for pinning this accusation on me, Miru?
"We all saw that you were the first to rush over to Jeremiah. Here's a question for you. Why were you in a hurry to get to him? Were you trying to cover something up?"
Gazes bearing doubt fell on Miru.
The crowd was filled with confusion. They felt like they were playing a game of Mafia, except the murder was real. There was no telling who was telling the truth or lies.

Amid the mayhem, Leo's trusted chauffeur approached him and whispered in his ear, "We have eyes on Angel and his people, Leg They are here in the lobby."
"Perfect timing. Miru and Angel will die today." Leo smirked coldly and shouted, "Quiet!" His yelling silenced the room.
Leo suddenly pointed at Angel who was among the crowd, but his eyes fixed on Miru. "Miru, can't believe you would sneak Cronus' men to the funeral to kill Jeremiah. What do you have to say for yourself?"
Everybody, Miru included, turned in the direction of his pointed finger.
"Heh. That's a clever move, Leo. I'm sure it won't be long before you have the South River State underworld in the palm of your hand if you
clever
rule Lefteria Gang."
Angel removed his cap with a chuckle.
He made no mention of Leo's accusations that he was in cahoots with Miru. Perhaps it felt it was beneath him to explain. "To think you'd sneak into Master Cummingham's funeral, Angel." " wouldn't take things too far if were you."
The founding members of Lefteria Gang yelled out.
"Do it!"
Getting right to it, Leo scoffed and made the fatal call.

"Certainly."
A dozen men emerged and charged toward Angel and his men.
"Angel, do you think we wouldn't notice you sneaking in? You have been on my radar for a long time. hired these pros just for you."
Leo narrowed his eyes dangerously at Angel, feeling like he w top of the situation.
However, Angel did not panic or get angry as Leo imagined. Instea Angel let out a contemptuous smile. "This is child's play."
Soon after, a figure sprung up from behind Angel.
Atall, athletic middle-aged man with a badminton racket bag slung over his shoulder stepped forward. He took the bag off his shoulder and flung it, stumbled back from the blow.
The fighter, who was sprinting at high velocity, fell back from the hit. The impact would have broken his ribs and caused him internal injuries.
The remaining ten-odd combatants stopped and hesitated to move any closer.
"Oof."
Sharp gasps filled the room.
The crowd wondered what was in the badminton racket bag to cause a human being to ricochet back.
"Like he said, it's child's play to me," without looking at the crowd, the middle-aged man uttered.

When the man put down his hand, one end of the badminton racket bag in his grasp hit the ground.
Then came the noise of metal smashing on the ground.
Aspiderweb of cracks erupted from the point where the bag hit, spreading across the ground before startled eyes. Cracks marred the floor.
"The only person with such strength in the South River State underworld is"
A founding member of Lefteria Group looked up in horror at the middle-aged man.
"He can't be Rock the Blade Enthusiastcan he? He's as deadly as the Grim Reaper." Chapter 484 The Blade Enthusiast and Sword Fanatic
Rock was the Blade Enthusiast.
Jeremiah was the Sword Fanatic.
Together, they were a dynamic duo, famed for the skill of their crafts.
Twenty years ago, Rock and Jeremiah were the two biggest menaces of the South River State underworld. Jeremiah was the No. 1 killer.
Rock was the No. 1 gladiator.
The pair had withdrawn from the public eye in the last twenty years. However, their glory and legend lived on in the criminal world.
When a founding member of Lefteria Group recognized Rock, a commotion erupted.

All eyes fell on the man with a blank face.
The man stood tall like a gladiator with his burly build and face o beard.
It was clear now that the badminton racket bag did not carry badminton rackets. Instead, a broad and heavy blade was in it. Jeremiah owned a sword with a broken tip.
Rock's choice of weapon was a heavy blade. He was never seen without his trusty companion.
Not just anybody could carry a blade weighing dozens of pounds everywhere.
It was said that the blade was blunt. The blade had no sharp edge or
tip.
It was more like a piece of metal.
Nevertheless, Rock managed to send a fighting pro flying with a fling of his arm. No one would argue the blade was less than deadly.
"Jeremiah's dead, Leo.
"My king has gotten the Blade Enthusiast on our side. Who do you have on your corner now?" Amid the pin-drop silence, Angel's arrogant voice echoed across the
room.
The people of Lefteria Group and Miru scowled.
Leo's blood ran cold.



They were unaware that Angel held all the cards now. If Leo chose to retaliate, Angel could just spill the beans on Leo's sinister plot, and Lefteria Group would tear him apart. By giving in to Angel, Leo might have a chance to live. "Good boy." Angel reached out to smack his cheek. Leo put up with the humiliation, not shying away from Angel's hand. Angel lifted his head and looked around the room menacingly. Most kept their heads down, not having the guts to meet his eye. In the end, Angel's gaze fell on Kaze, and he felt his cheek. Angel was brought back to the time Kaze slapped him at Taur Automobiles. He lost his tooth and bled in the mouth at the tin Today, Angel vowed to get his vengeance. "Bow to me, Kaze!" Angel shouted. Kaze received sympathetic looks around. Even Leo was on his knees. Kaze, a lowly son-in-law of the Quints, would have no choice but to yield. One thing was for sure, Kaze was about to get humiliated. Seeing that Kaze stayed still, Leo glared at him. "Did you hear Mr. White? Kneel!" e had to kneel. Leo could not allow Kaze to stand when he had to kneel. Ignoring Leo, Kaze turned and faced the coffin.

"You sure have it comfortable in the coffin, Alan. Are you seriously waiting for me to clean up your mess?"
Chapter 485 Alan Isn't Dead
"What is the idiot son-in-law of the Quints doing?"
"The moron must be delusional again. He probably thinks Master Cummingham will come back to life to save him."
Kaze's behavior was unexpected and drew mockery instead. They thought Kaze had gone mad to pin his hope on a dead man.
It was old news that the son-in-law of the Quints got out of a mental institution. Everybody was not surprised by his psychotic behavior.
"What has gotten into you, Kaze?"
Miru scowled at Kaze's disrespect toward Alan.
"Save your breath, Kaze. Alan is dead." Angel ridiculed.
There was no way Alan could survive Cronus' Shadowbane Ess
Kaze paid them no heed and simply grabbed one of Lefteria G fighters who surrounded him. "What are you doing?"
The furious fighter soon realized he could not overpower Kaze.

Kaze grabbed the knife out of the fighter's belt and threw it.
Swoosh.
The knife scythed through the air, narrowly missing the crowd.
Finally, the knife's tip wedged in the hairline crack between the cover and the coffin, where Alan's body was laid to rest. Thud!
The heavy cover of the coffin slid open and smashed onto the ground.
The blade bounced off the floor with a clang. The impact had reduced the knife to a heap of scrap. Standing behind Angel, Rock kept a stoic face throughout.
Yet now, he turned to Kaze in shock.
Despite the 40-foot distance, Kaze managed to crack open the bolted- down coffin with a knife. He displayed strength and control at their pinnacle.
Still, only Rock could discern the powerful man Kaze was.
The others perceived Kaze's behavior at the funeral as disrespectful toward the deceased. Even in the afterlife, Alan could not rest in peace. His coffin was destroyed.
Emotions started running high at the funeral service.
"Moron, do you know what you did? I'm going to kill you!"
"You're nothing more than a nobody who took your wife's family name. How dare you destroy Master Cummingham's coffin. That's the last straw. No one can save you now."

Those from Lefteria Group were not the only ones seeing red.
Miru stared at Kaze with resentment. She was dying to end Kaze with her own hands.
Kaze immediately rose as public enemy number one, outranking Angel who made an appearance at the funeral. "Oh, Alan. You poor man. You can't even rest in peace because your coffin is destroyed."
"He must be rolling in his grave now.
Angel and his men burst out laughing.
"Speak for yourself, Angel."
A hoarse voice echoed across the room.
Many turned to the source of the familiar voice in shock.
Angel's laughter came to an abrupt end.
Everybody watched in horror as a person emerged from the coffin and sat up straight.
Did Alan rise from the dead?
That was the first thing that popped into everybody's mind, but the assumption did not sound plausible. Alan had no problem as well.
He could not possibly have risen from the dead.

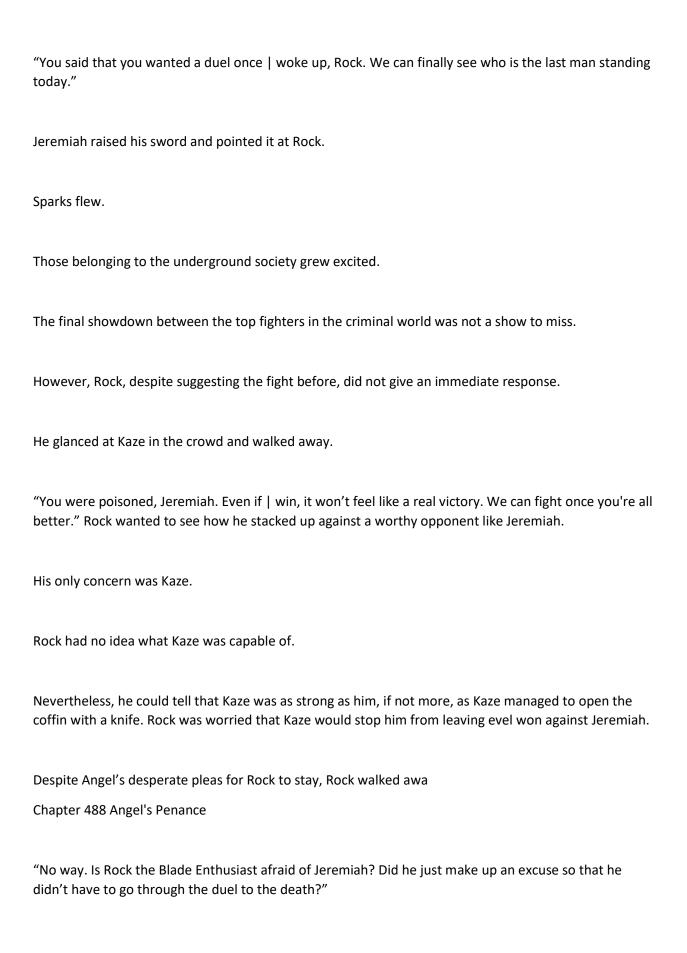


"He's the No. 1 doctor of the South River State, Dr. Charles Anemo." An uproar stirred in the lobby. Many recognized the old man. Alan pointed at Jeremiah, who lay dead on the floor and asked respectfully, "I hope you could also treat a buddy of mine here. Thanks." "Just as well." Charles made a beeline to Jeremiah and observed him for a moment before uttering, "Like you, Mr. Sword Fanatic is poisoned with Shadowbane Essence. "| need to figure out how he was poisoned before | can save him." He witnessed Jeremiah poisoned to death. However, he had not noticed how Jeremiah was poisoned. Kaze said indifferently, "The matchbox is coated with poison, and the essential oil in the candle serves as a trigger." "How do you know?" Charles looked at Kaze suspiciously Alan explained, "Mr. Lee alerted me about the poison, Mr. Anem "Oh? So it was you." Charles was surprised. He went to check the matchbox and the candle. Moments later, he said with confidence, "Master Cummingham, since Mr. Sword Fanatic was just poisoned, the toxin hasn't spread across his body yet. Give me a moment while | revive him."



"At the time, Cronus and his men were eyeing Lefteria Group."
Chapter 487 Resurrection " took Mr. Anemo's suggestion and rolled the dice."
Alan glanced at Leo, who was pale-faced, and said coldly, "I played along and let the traitor activate the
poison in me. was dead fora
moment.
"Mr. Anemo is worthy of his title as the No. 1 doctor in the South
River State because he formulated a cure after figuring out the source
of the trigger.
"In the two days lay in the coffin, my body expelled the toxin. only regained consciousness this
morning." Alan's brief narrative sparked conversation in the room.
Charles lived up to his reputation
Charles lived up to his reputation.
Mile Alex reservated the sweet Charles was by systematical large
While Alan recounted the event, Charles was busy treating Jere
Jeremiah, who lay unconscious seconds ago, jolted up. His chest rose and fell in ragged gasps, his throat raw as he groaned. "Blegh!"
He spat out black blood which splashed on the tiles. Wisps of smoke rose from the pool of blood.
The blood was the toxin of Shadowbane Essence.
Charles used needle insertion therapy to force the toxin out of Jeremiah.

Though still looking sickly, Jeremiah regained some pink in his cheeks. When he came to life, he knew that he had a narrow miss with death.
He got up and nodded at Charles with respect. "Thank you for saving my life, Mr. Anemo."
"Mr. Sword Fanatic, you should thank this young man."
Charles was a man of integrity. He pointed at Kaze. "If he hadn't
pointed out how you were poisoned wouldn't have cleared the toxin that quickly."
Everybody looked at Kaze in surprise.
The dummy son-in-law of the Quints earned the praise of the No. 1 doctor in the South River State. They wondered if the idiot was a skilled doctor. Still, most were skeptical.
The dummy must have made a lucky guess. The crowd refused to believe that the lowly son-in-law of the Quints was medically gifted like Charles.
Jeremiah did not seem surprised. He nodded at Kaze gratefully. He then stared at Rock aloofly.
Twenty years ago, Jeremiah equaled Rock in both blade skills an fame, and the underworld dubbed them the Blade Enthusiast and Sword Fanatic.
However, they never once fought each other.
They met for the first time today.



Acommotion ensued at River Watcher Inn. All stared at Jeremiah in reverence.
The Sword Fanatic had retired from the underground scene for twenty years, but he beheaded Cronus' best fighter in an instant upon his
return.
Even Rock the Blade Enthusiast, an equal in fighting prowess to Jeremiah, backed away.
Jeremiah glanced at Kaze.
The expression on Rock's face before he left did not go unnoticed. Rock only left because he had reservations about Kaze. With Rock gone, it put Angel in an awkward spot. He wanted to away while no one was looking.
However, Lefteria Group had eyes on him. He could not find a chance to slip out.
"Hold it right there, Angel."
Aclamor of angry voices erupted the moment Angel turned around.
Angel shuddered and looked at Alan with a nod. He said, "Congratulations, Master Cummingham, for your return to the world of the living. Since the funeral is a misunderstanding, should show myself out."
"The audacity of you. Your organization poisoned Master
Cummingham,

Lefteria Group was not the only one voicing their anger. Attendees who had traveled far and wide started to lash out. The underground society was a world of mischief and scheming. Still, they could not put up with the use of poison. Nobody wanted to die out of the blue, not knowing when the deadly poison ever hit them. "Master Cummingham, you are a highly respected man. You should seek justice from Cronus, not just for yourself, but for us all in the society too." The crowd gave suggestions to Alan. Alan nodded and turned to Angel. It's time to pay for your crimes, Angel. End yourself." The words washed color off Angel's face. Angel stared at the hostile crowd before turning to the stoic-faced Jeremiah with despair. He knew he had nowhere to run. Angel could at least die with dignity if he died by his own hands. "Give me a knife." Moments later, Angel ended himself Without looking at Angel's lifeless body, Alan said in a flat tone, "Leo." Thump! Leo, ashen in the face, fell on his knees. "Angel deceived me, Godfather. He said you were going to support Miru and kick me aside. | made a

bad decision in the heat of the moment..."

Leo spilled the beans of his misdeeds. He knew he could not hide his dirty secrets anymore now that Alan had risen from the dead.
"Woah!"
The crowd burst out in an uproar.
Leo dropped the bomb on himself. The truth about the real mole who colluded with Cronus and killed Alan was out. Acontrast to their attitude before, members of Lefteria Group started condemning Leo.
Alan gripped his fingers behind his back and said with a blank face," It's time for you to make amends-"
Thud! Thud!
Before Alan could finish, Leo bowed down in worship, banging his head on the floor.
While punishing himself, Leo wailed. "I know was wrong, Godfather. My father built the organization with you and died saving you.
"Can you see it in your heart to forgive me for his sake?" The founding members of Lefteria Group were overwhelmed with grief to see Leo crying on his knees.
Chapter 489 Apologize to My Wife's Family
The founding members of Lefteria Group saw Leo as one of their own.
Miru was the outsider of an unknown past. Yet, Alan wanted to hand the reins to Miru.
If they were Leo, they would not be able to accept Alan's decision too.

Leo simply went for a far more drastic extreme.
Several founding members stepped forward to help Leo.
"Leo is right, Alan. We practically raised him. He made a poor judgment because he was fooled by Cronus and Angel."
"That's right, Alan. Cronus' Shadowbane Essence caught you off guard too. Leo was probably drugged or poisoned, so he didn't think clearly."
"We should give him a chance to turn over a new leaf." The founding members gave Alan something to think about, and hesitated.
Leo's father, Bando, died saving Alan's life. That was the very reason why Alan took Leo in as his godson and raised him as his own.
"I'll spare your life because owe your father one."
Alan waved his arm aloofly.
"Thank you, Godfather."
Leo was overjoyed. He would still be punished, but at least he would live through the punishment. All that mattered was that he was alive.
Leo thought he had escaped a big one there.
That was when a knife was tossed near his feet.

Leo was dumbfounded. He recognized the knife. That was the same blade Leo threw to Kaze's feet before he told him to unalive himself.
"Who gave you the right to spare his life, Alan? want him to seek penance today."
Kaze's chilling voice echoed across the hall.
"Kaze, who are you to tell me what to do?"
Leo cocked his head to glare at Kaze and shouted at him angrily.
"You're the son-in-law of a second-tier family. What gave you the confidence to question Master Cummingham?" "Who are you to butt into our group's internal affairs?"
The founding members, who stood up for Leo, lashed out at Kaze
Kaze's intimidating gaze swept past their faces.
"If you hadn't talked, might have just forgotten that you pinned blame on me."
These people hunted him and Darcy's family down after Alan's supposed death. They even assigned assassins to Skylar View District in a bid for vengeance.
It stirred quite a commotion.
All of Lilyrose thought that Kaze was an ungrateful man who killed Alan. The reputation of Darcy's family was tainted as a result. Lefteria Group had him to answer to
" have two requests."

Kaze turned to Alan and said solemnly, "One, Lefteria Group has to issue a public apology to me and my wife's family for slandering me. want our names cleared.
"Two."
Kaze pointed at the key members who came to Leo's defense. "You lot should plead for forgiveness from my wife's family at Horizon Mirror Mansion for scaring them."
The founding members blew their top before Kaze could finish.
"Who do you think you are, Kaze? How dare you demand Lefteria Group to apologize publicly?" "Do you know who we are? We can put the word out and make your family suffer."
"You're just a loser, a cocky one."
The founding members did not see Kaze as a threat.
In fact, the criminal bosses who came from various places loo Kaze as if he was a moron.
"He should thank his lucky stars he's alive that Master Cummingha regained consciousness and proved his innocence. can't believe he expects Lefteria Group to apologize publicly. That's absurd."
"Lefteria Group's founding members are highly respected in the underground community. To think the dummy told these members to kneel before his family."
"I've never met such an idiot. He's digging his own grave." Chapter 490 I'm Not Important Enough
Waves of criticism crashed down on Kaze.

No one took Kaze seriously, and his requests were dismissed.

These people believed Kaze was not worthy of their attention.

So Lefteria Group pinned the blame on him by mistake. He was fortunate enough to be alive now that his innocence was proven. Kaze should be grateful. He was out of line to demand apologies.

Ignoring the group, Kaze fixated his gaze on Alan.

He then proposed a worse, crazier, and more moronic request. At least that was what everybody believed it to be. "Because you played along, | somehow got tangled in this and became your pawn, Alan."

Kaze's voice was cold as he said, "Don't you owe me an apology

Alan had explained that he had been unconscious for the last two days and only came back to life this morning.

Still, Kaze knew that Alan must have known about Leo's plans before he devised a plan with Charles to fake his death. In other words, Alan knew Kaze would be framed as the killer after his supposed death.

Yet, Alan did nothing to stop it.

Sure, the accusation would only last a short time because Kaze would be free from the charges once Alan regained consciousness.

Alan, however, had manipulated Kaze, whether intentionally or not.

The manipulation had caused him and Darcy's family a lot of problems. It even came to the point of threatening his marriage to Darcy.

"He's gone mad!"
"Does he know what he's doing? can't believe he wants Master Cummingham to apologize to him."
"The moron was probably playing in a sandbox when Master Cummingham became the underground kingpin twenty years ago. The nerve of him."
Everybody believed Kaze was challenging Alan's authority. " can apologize to you, Mr. Lee. Lefteria Group will issue a public apology to you and your family too." However, everybody was not expecting Alan to say that.
Alan knew Kaze was the chairman of Perfect World Group. Jesse White, the chairman of Shangrila Group and the nemesis of three major families, was also his alias.
Armed with this information, Alan would not look down on K
the others.
"But can we negotiate about your other two requests, Mr. Lee?"
Alan pointed at the founding members. "They have been through thick and thin with me. They only did the things they did because they were deceived. Besides, they didn't cause any harm to you or your family in the end.
"They can't stand the thought of groveling in apology.
"Leo's real father, Bando, saved my life. can spare Leo, but he will be punished."
coating with Kaze He even promised to apologize to
2x was ke

Nevertheless they soon deduced that Alan was being decent to Kaze because the latter alerted him to the poison

Besides en bad always presented himself as a gentleman, so he would not look down on Kare for onging to his wife's family name

Alan could apologize to Kaze but he could not let his old buddies do Kaze could not persuade Van to make Leo and his life In other words, Kaze was not important enough

Kaze understood that and said curly. "Out of my four requests, you only agreed to the insignificant ones Alan guess I'm not important enough to you