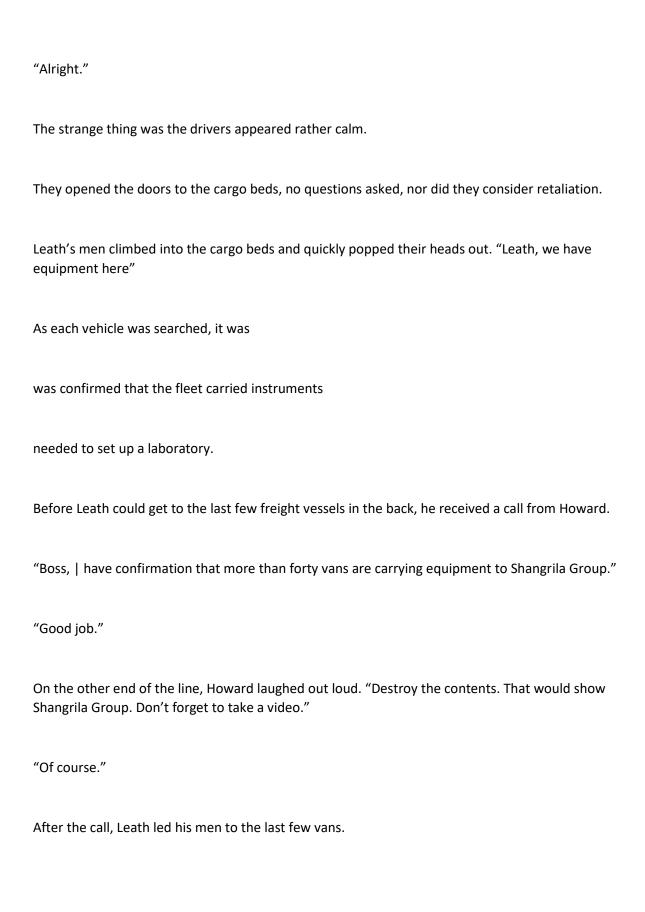
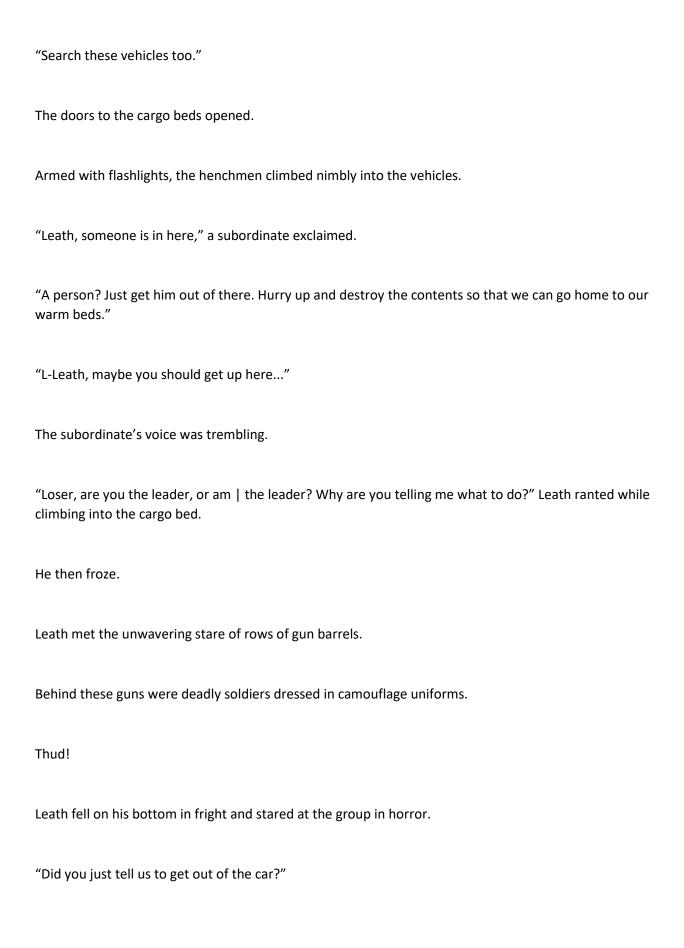
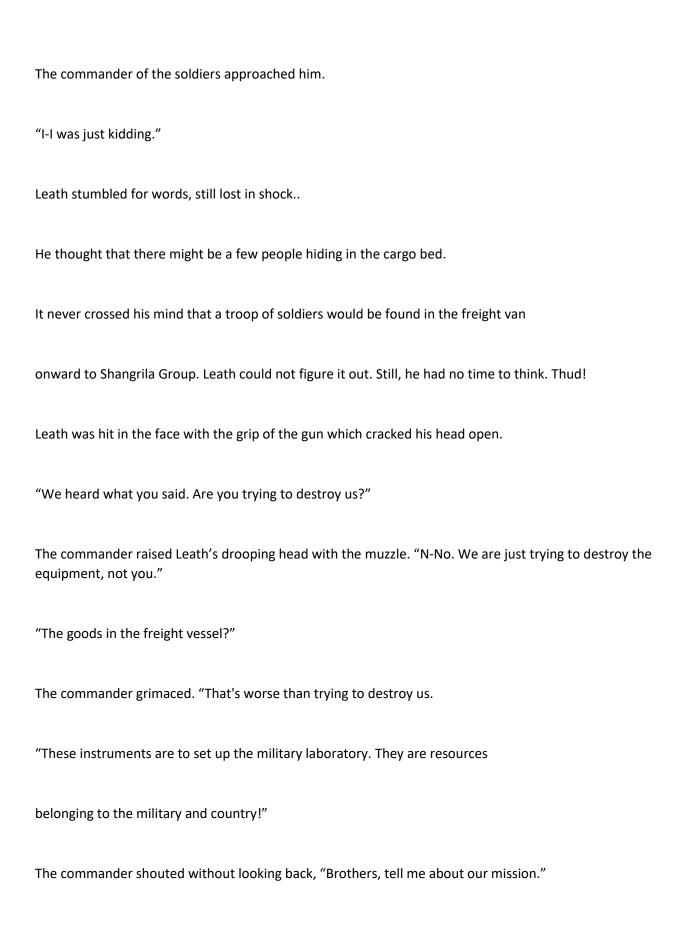
## **Guardian 571**

Guardian 571
Chapter 571 Are You Trying to Destroy Us?
Greed was visible on Leath's face.
He had thoughts about hijacking the freight and logistics domain in Melrose.
Leath had attempted to dip his fingers there before, but he suffered a massive loss instead.
Now that he had a chance for a do-over, he was not going to let the opportunity slip through his fingers
All he needed to do was destroy dozens of cargo vans.
The destruction would cost a heavy loss to the logistics company in Melrose. Even if the company did not go bankrupt, the loss would be hard to recover from.
"Stop!" "Stop and pull over to the side!"
Leath's men had set up a roadblock.
As the men clamored, the fleet of cargo vans pulled over.
"Where are the goods heading?"
Leath's subordinate aggressively pulled the driver from his seat.
"Shangrila Group."
"Open the door now."



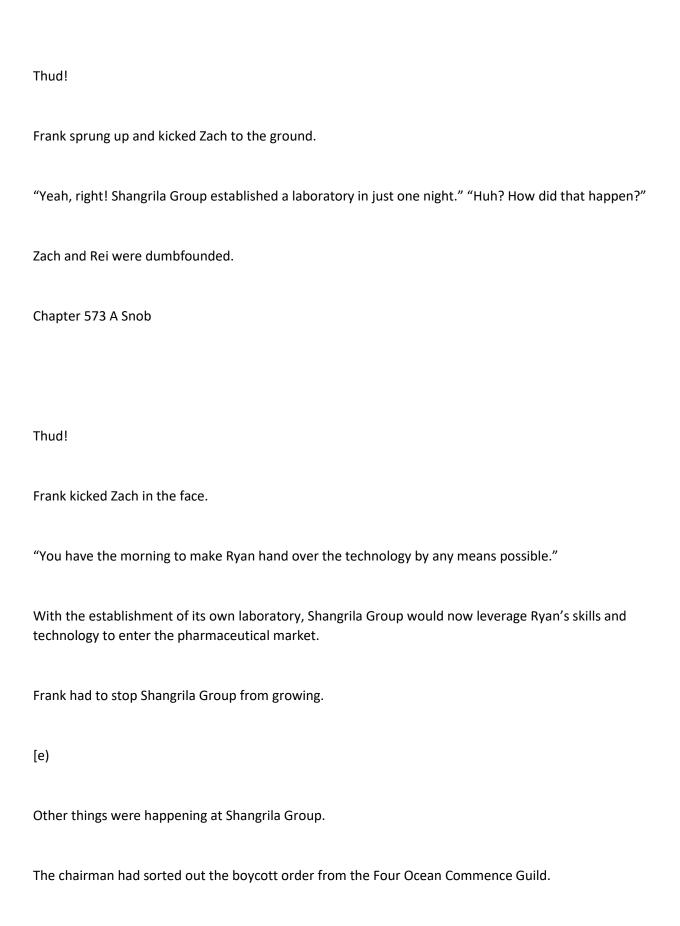




"You can destroy national property over our dead body!"
The soldiers clenched their rifles and responded with resounding voices. They did not hide their intent to kill.
Leath, who was a familiar face in the criminal world, wet his pants. "Catch them!"  Chapter 572 Logistics Shakeout
Under the command of the commander, Leath and his men were arrested.
Soldiers were not only found in one cargo van. The remaining last vehicle in the fleet contained military personnel too. Heeding the order of their superior, they jumped out of the cargo beds.
Leath's other dozens of men were caught before they knew it.
Lilyrose Strategic Department's defense technology laboratory assigned a team of soldiers to escort the equipment to its destination.
The commander gave Kaze a call.
"The gang who tried to hijack the military resources at the toll booth has been arrested, Sir." "Got it. Leave them to the police for conviction."
"Yes, Sir!"
Soon, Leath and his gang were handed over to Don, who rushed over with his team. While on the way to the police station, Leath, shaken by fear, spilled the beans and called Howard out.

Half an hour later, Howard, the notorious general manager of Lilyrose Logistics, had been apprehended too.
Now that the big fish was caught, there was no escaping for the small fry too.
The local authorities who covered for them and pulled the surveillance video of the highway were take into custody as well.
Lilyrose Logistics, a parasite to the freight and shipping industry, was eliminated overnight.
Howard was arrested in his lover's home, and the top three families, confident with their success in the operation, slept easy that night.
The next morning, Flint asked about the seizure of goods last night during breakfast, and when he coul not contact Howard, he knew something was not right.
Flint immediately dispatched his men to investigate the situation at Lilyrose Logistics and Shangrila Group.
Those who had gone to Lilyrose Logistics came back empty.
There was one latest discovery with Shangrila Group.
"Shangrila Group's laboratory has been set up overnight.
"Our people looked into the surveillance and found over forty cargo vessels transporting goods at around 4:00 AM.

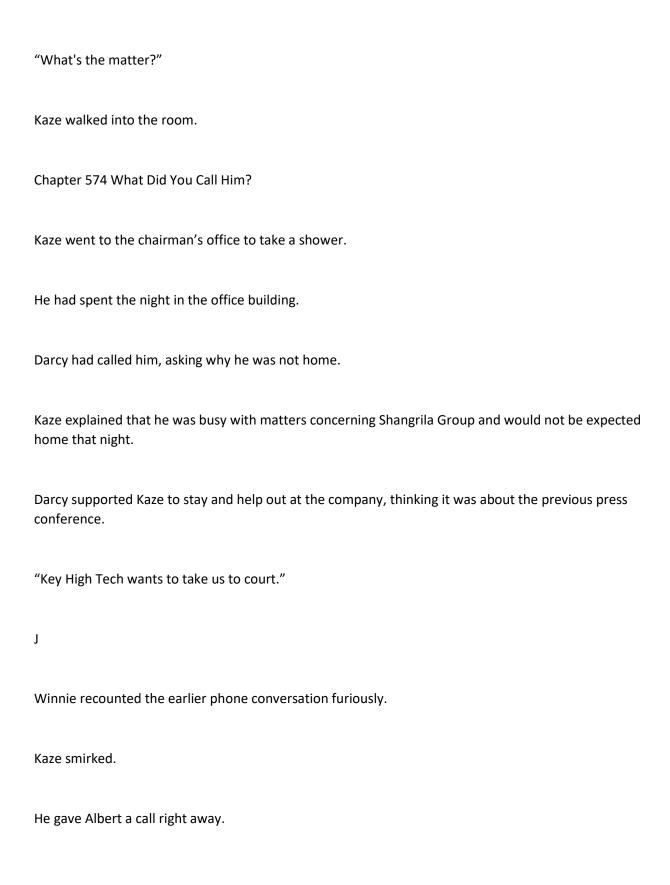
"The equipment has not been offloaded completely from the vehicles." The three family heads were stunned. They had told Howard to close all the main roads into the city. How did the forty- odd cargo vessels get to Shangrila Group? The three family heads were no idiots. They realized that Howard's act had likely caught up to him. Even worse, they had no idea what happened to Howard overnight. The loss of control was something the top three families never experienced before. They claimed to run the city. They had a vast network of contacts and resources. There was nothing they did not know happening in Lilyrose. Yet now, they were oblivious to everything. The three family heads freaked out. They issued an order to get to the bottom of the matter by every means. Meanwhile, Frank called Zach and Rei over. Zach thought that Frank was going to reward him for the tip last night. He sucked up to Frank the moment he stepped through the door. 20 "Mr. Golding, the equipment for Shangrila Group must be destroyed by now. Heh. Winnie and Ryan must be furious." Frank was frustrated over the matter. However, Zach rubbed Frank the wrong way instead.



Alaboratory had been set up overnight.
The employees of the group were filled with motivation and drive.
Winnie could finally rest after working through the night.
Then came the call from Key High Tech.
"Ms. Souffle, we are ready to dispatch the shipment your company has acquired. When will you be making the final payment?" once the call was connected, the
representative said merrily.
His attitude was a complete 180 from the day before
Winnie replied curtly, "Sorry, but we have set up the laboratory. We no longer need
the apparatus from you."
"Huh? How did you manage to build a laboratory in one night?"
The representative was dumbfounded.
Key High Tech caught wind that Shangrila Group had acquired laboratory—grade
instruments elsewhere.

The company had no leverage on Shangrila Group anymore. Hence, the representative called Winnie to keep the deal going. The order was worth several hundred million dollars, so Key High Tech would not
give up on the sizable profit.
They could work around the boycott order from the Four Ocean Commerce Guild by
giving a cut of the profit.
Yet, Shangrila Group had now established a laboratory.
That was impossible.
"You gotta be kidding me, Ms. Souffle. You can't build a laboratory in one night," the representative uttered jokingly. "Believe what you want."
Winnie scoffed.
Seeing that Winnie was firm on that note, the representative finally believed her.
He groveled. "Don't hang up just yet, Ms. Souffle. We have signed a contract, and you paid the 20-million deposit. Both parties are obligated to see through the deal.
"Just pay the balance, and we'll dispatch the shipment, alright, Ms. Souffle?"
He spoke in an ingratiating tone.
The large order worth hundreds of millions came once in a blue moon for Key High Tech.
Alas, his pleas fell on deaf ears.

Winnie responded coldly, "I said that we don't need the equipment anymore. Please deposit the 20 million dollars back into our corporate account.
"We can forget about the 100-million—dollar penalty that you
breaching the contract."
should pay pay for
The contract stipulated a maximum of 20% damages based on the contract's value for any breach of terms.
It was only 100 million dollars. Nevertheless, Winnie did not demand Key High Tech to compensate for the violation.
She believed in the importance of being kind and respectful when doing business. However, her remark got on the representative's nerves.
As if Key High Tech could stand by losing a large order and coughing the deposit back out.
"Even if there's a breach of contract, Shangrila Group should be compensating us, Ms. Souffle. I'm warning you. Either wire the remaining 80 million dollars to our corporate account to make it 100 million dollars with the deposit or get ready to be sued."
The representative hung up without giving Winnie the chance to say anything. "  can't believe the utter audacity!"
Winnie shook in rage.



In less than half an hour, the representative of Key High Tech called back.
"I'm sorry, Ms. Souffle.   will pay back the deposit. We are all businesses trying to survive in this climate. Why must you take things so far?"
Winnie was shocked to hear the wails on the other end of the line.
"What happened?   didn't do anything."
Baffled, Winnie had no idea what was going on.
"Don't be silly, Ms. Souffle.   just talked about suing you, and the next thing   know, the local authorities are on Key High Tech's case. You must be punishing me." The representative pleaded. "Please, Ms. Souffle. Please see it in your heart to let us off the hook."
Winnie glanced at Kaze.
The call Kaze made must have something to do with it.
Tell him that we can spare him if he returns the deposit and pays the damages," sitting there, Kaze said indifferently.
He did not feel sorry for dishonest companies.
It did not take long for Key High Tech to wire 120 million dollars to Shangrila Group's account.
That was the end of the matter.
Ryan came into Winnie's office.

"  need to take the day off, Ms. Souffle."
He knew that Kaze took a back seat in administration and did not concern himself with the nitty-gritty of the organization. Hence, Ryan applied for his leave with. Winnie.
Seeing that he was sad and angry, Winnie asked, "What happened?"
"The cheating couple is here. They called me to come down to the café downstairs, saying that they would head straight to my workplace if   didn't meet them.   guess it
must be about the divorce."
Ryan had completely given up on Rei last night.
Yet, Rei openly took Zach along to meet him.
As aman, Ryan felt insulted
Kaze frowned. He felt that given the recent events, their pair was probably not just asking for a divorce.
"Come on. I'll go with you to meet them."
Kaze patted his shoulder, and they went to the lobby together.
At the café, Zach sat close to Rei, locking arms without a care in the world. Rei even applied a cold compress on Zach's cheek.
Hi)

When Zach gasped sharply in pain, Rei felt bad and blew on his bruise, Ryan was humiliated and furious to see them.
"My, there you are, slowpoke. We were about to go to your office and tell your sob story to your colleagues."
Keeping his eyes on Ryan's expression, Zach reached his hand to Rei's lap, which her mini skirt barely covered, and smacked it.
Zach was wary and exasperated to see Kaze coming up from behind Ryan.
Still, Zach knew he was not alone this time and smirked.
Ryan narrowed his eyes at Rei. "What do you want?"
"You tell him, babe," Rei wrapped her arms around Zach's neck and said sweetly. Ryan saw red.
They had not divorced, and yet the woman had the nerve to address another man intimately right before his eyes.
"Hang on.   need to interrupt here."
Kaze pointed at Zach and asked Rei, "What did you call him?"
Chapter 575 The Audacity
"Are you deaf?   called him babe."
Rei glared at Kaze before turning to Ryan.

She lashed out, "You're a loser, Ryan. Why do you need your figurehead chairman to speak on your behalf?
"  should let you know that he's my babe, and we get along like a married couple. "Am   right, babe?"
She turned around and looked at Zach coyly.
"You're right, my wife."
Zach chuckled. "Oh, boy, do we get along in bed. Rei and   were in the hotel last night, doing things you couldn't and hadn't done with her. Tsk, imagine the pleasure."
Ryan clenched his fists, tempted to take Zach's eyeballs out. Still, he kept it together. He knew that Zach was manipulative. For all he knew, Zach could be trying to get a rise out of him.
Ryan could only be giving Zach something against him if he turned to violence. "Did you spend the night at a hotel together?"
Kaze said curtly, "Rei, you are still married to Ryan."
"What? Are you trying to stick up for your good-for—nothing employee, Mr. Chairman?"
Rei scoffed in disdain. "We enjoyed a steamy night at Wonder Square Hotel last night. "So what if we are still married? Are you going to charge me for cheating or illegal cohabitation?
"Ryan, sue me if you want the whole world to know that you were cheated on.
"As if I'm afraid of you."
Rei was unapologetic.

She did not care about her reputation or dignity.
Ryan would be the one humiliated for making a big deal out of things.
"Enough. Don't waste your breath on him. Let's get down to business."
Zach waved his arm and said solemnly, "I'll ask you one more time, Ryan. Are you handing over the patents?"
Are you
"No," Ryan responded without hesitation.
The patented technology was either his or Shangrila Group's. Ryan would not hand over the patents to Zach.
"Think wisely, Ryan. I'll file for divorce if you don't surrender the patents.   reserve the fight to keep half the technology."
Rei's loud voice caught the attention of customers in the café.
"Dummy, intellectual property rights don't fall in assets shared between married. couples. What's mine is mine. You have no claim whatsoever."
Ryan looked at the woman disappointingly. He could not believe that he married such a stupid woman.
Zach scoffed. "Intellectual property rights do not become joint property, but the profits from the patents are shared between husband and wife.



Zach sneered. "You should have known better and given up the patents to the top three families two years ago. Mr. Golding has been so kind to let you live to this day. Either way, you're going to hand over the technology today."
Frank walked into the café.
SURPERISE GIFT: 3000 bonus free for you activity time is limited IT
Chapter 576 Screw Him up Too
A few burly men tagged along behind Frank. They looked scary and savage.
They were the Goldings' security detail.
"Just give it to him, Mr. Golding. Ryan will never learn until you get rough with him." Frank's presence gave Zach confidence.
Zach pointed at Kaze and uttered resentfully, "That Jesse White, the chairman of Shangrila Group. He can fight. Aster and   can't beat him even though we are trained
in boxing."
He was wary of Kaze. Hence, Zach requested Frank to bring along his family bodyguards.
Otherwise, Zach could have just hired a few thugs to rattle Ryan.
"So, he's Jesse?"

Frank was stunned when his eyes met Kaze's.

He grinned with intrigue and laughed out loud. In the end, he was in stitches. "Haha! That's the dimwit son-in-law of the Quints."

Once Frank enjoyed a hearty chuckle, he fixated on Kaze and sneered. "So, you're. Jesse White who never shows his face?"

"What? He's the dimwit man who took the Quint family name?"

Zach's and Rei's jaws dropped, and soon they broke out in laughter.

"| knew it. | never heard about James having a brother. He turns out to be an imposter."

"Even a beggar has no respect for the loser guy who married into the Quints. He impersonated the God of War, and now Jesse. He's only good at scamming others."

The pair guffawed away.

They had reservations before because Kaze seemed to come from high places. Since learning that Kaze was no more than a guy who married into wealth, they had no more qualms about finishing him off.

They felt superior to Kaze, and it showed in their demeanor.

"So this is the new chairman you pledge your allegiance to? Do you think he has you covered? There's no escape for you." Ryan's heart dropped as Frank did not see Kaze as a threat.

Still, Ryan stuck his neck out and said, "I know you want my patents, but as | said, | will never hand them over."





Not forgetting the slap yesterday, Zach looked at Kaze and mocked. "Kneel before me and slap yourself a hundred times.   might just plead with Mr. Golding to make it
less miserable for you."
Kaze gave him a sympathetic look. Without a peep, he pulled out his phone and dialed a number.
"You can make the arrest now."
Kaze then ended the call.
"Why are you still keeping up with the act, loser?   hope you don't think someone will come to save you." Zach sneered.
The hired guns had approached Kaze and Ryan by now.
"Kneel!"
Two bodyguards struck Ryan and Kaze in the face.
Ryan cried out in pain and dropped to the ground.
Kaze gripped the arm of the offender before the attack could be realized.
"Crack!"
Even though Kaze did not apply much strength, the bodyguard's arm snapped. Kaze lifted his leg and kicked the bodyguard away.

Zach and Rei froze in horror.
"If you can't deal with a loser, you're worse than one. Don't just stand there. Kill him!" Blowing a fuse, Frank yelled at the stunned bodyguards.
"Gol"
The hired guns pounced on Kaze.
"Bang!"
A loud noise came in the back.
The glass door to the café was knocked down, and a group of military in different uniforms barged into the place.
"Stop!"
Don, who was ahead of the group, shouted and pulled out a gun.
The police officers behind him followed suit.
Adozen muzzles were aimed at the bodyguards.
The air thickened with the weight of unspoken tension.
The bodyguards did not move an inch.
Horrified, Zach and Rei looked at Kaze in shock.

"Did you call the cops?"
They saw Kaze make a phone call and said to make an arrest. Don and his team arrived in less than 30 seconds.
The pair realized that they probably had walked right into a trap.
The only one who kept their cool was Frank.
He looked aloofly at Don. "Are you planning to intervene in the top three families'
business, Don?" The defiance in his tone reflected his disrespect toward Don. The top three families believed Lilyrose was their turf.
Johnson was only a figurehead mayor. He had to go through the top families to get.
anything done.
Don worked for Johnson, so the former was merely the latter's lapdog. However, Don narrowed his eyes at Frank and ignored his questioning.
A few in military uniform approached Zach and Rei before serving them papers.
"Zach and Rei, you are being arrested under suspicion of wrecking the marriage of a
serviceman."
Chapter 578 Wrecking the Marriage of a Serviceman "Charged for wrecking the marriage of a serviceman? Who?" Zach and Rei were dumbfounded.

They could accept fault for having an extramarital affair and illegal cohabitation. They would not be charged for such behavior anyway.

However, breaking the sacred vow of marriage with an active-duty military personnel was a crime.

Zach soon realized what was going on. He cocked his head and gave Ryan an angry look. "Bastard, you created a fake identity to pin a crime on us!

"| bet Kaze, the imposter, taught you that."

The first thing that came to mind was that Kaze guided Ryan to fabricate a military identity.

Rei cried out loud, "Officer, Ryan is not in the military. He must have lied to you." "We have verified that Mr. Waker is one of us," the superior of the military squad uttered indifferently.

"No way. Ryan broke his leg two years ago. The loser couldn't possibly serve in the army. He must have created a fake military persona. Please review your database again," Rei shouted.

"Bitch! Open your eyes and take a good look. Am | the loser you say | am?"

Ryan pulled out an ID and threw it at Rei's face.

Despite the burning pain in her cheek, Rei held the ID in her hand for a look.

Zach drew close too.

"Name: Ryan Waker

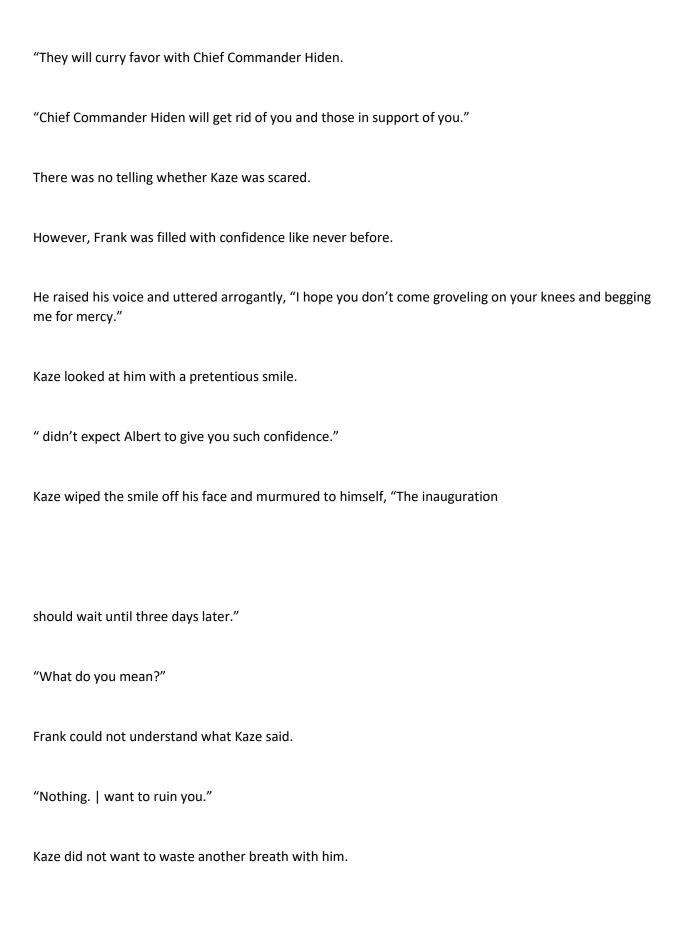
"Unit: Lilyrose Strategic Department Defense Technology

"Position: Senior Researcher (Deputy Director)
"Rank: Technical Lieutenant Colonel"
Ryan had made contributions and published articles in the scientific and academic fields.
Although he was recruited to the defense technology laboratory without going through the hiring formalities, he was promoted straight to a senior researcher.
He was deserving of the rank of Technical Lieutenant Colonel.
Zach and Rei looked at the stamp on the ID, knowing that Ryan could not have faked that.
Their faces turned pale. They could not believe that Ryan had become part of the military in a matter of a night.
"That's impossible. No way"
They had a breakdown.
Rei looked up and wailed. "I was wrong, Ryan. It's all my fault.   want us to be okay, alright?"
"It's too late now, Rei. I'm filing for divorce," Ryan uttered heartlessly.
He was thrilled to turn the tables on her.
Ryan could put up with Rei's abuse and criticism in the past. However, she had hurt him in the worst way possible.

No man could get over the betrayal.
'Just spare me, Ryan. We were husband and wife after all," Rei begged.
Though regret tugged at him, the memory of what had transpired hardened Ryan's heart. He said curtly, "Did you spare before?"
Upon realizing that Ryan would not budge, Rei sank to the ground.
Without giving her any more attention, Ryan turned to Kaze and said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for recovering my dignity as aman."
Zach looked at Kaze in shock.
He caught the subtle message in Ryan's words. Kaze gave everything Ryan owned now. Thump! Zach fell to his knees. "  was wrong, Mr. Lee.   confess that   did Mr. White dirty. He killed himself to save us, but we betrayed him. We don't deserve to be called
humans."
He started slapping himself.
Karma hit Zach back hard.
"Take him away. Tomorrow is my buddy's death anniversary. He can repent his sins
to my buddy's grave." Kaze waved his arm.
Chapter 579 Want to Ruin You

Kaze could not possibly forgive the things Zach, Aster, and the others had done on James' behalf.
Zach's group, Frank, and the top three families would receive their deserving punishment tomorrow.
Amid Rei's wails, she and Zach were taken away.
"You might win this time, but this is not over, Kaze."
Frank glared at Kaze before walking away. He was frustrated.
Not only did Frank fail to acquire the technology from Ryan, but Kaze managed to get away scot-free too.
There was one more thing Frank was alarmed about.
Kaze was just a scamming loser. How was he able to give Ryan a military rank in the army in a matter of one night?
Frank could not wrap his head around it.
Now that he thought about it, Kaze had demonstrated strong ties to the military during the few times the top three families were in conflict with Jesse White.
Frank was shocked.
"Hold it right there. Did   say you can leave?"
Kaze's icy voice was heard when Frank turned around to leave.
Frank turned back around and said angrily, "What are you going to do about it?"

" was going to set you and the top three families straight on my buddy's death anniversary tomorrow."
Kaze added aloofly, "But since you got on my nerves today,   should give you a reality check. Call it a taste for the top three families."
He had sent Lightning Tiger to convey the message to the top three families.
The Chapmans were supposed to move out of the Jade Estate before the anniversary of James' death.
The top three families, young and old, were to be in attendance at the remembrance service to pay their respects. Judging by their recent behaviors, they did not take Kaze's warning seriously. They stirred up trouble through Taylor and the Four Ocean Commerce Guild.
They intended to escalate their attack on Shangrila Group.
Kaze wanted Frank to serve as a warning to the top three families.
" don't know how you have gotten the support of some riffraff in the military, Kaze, but you are
" don't know how you have gotten the support of some riffraff in the military, Kaze, but you are delusional to think that you can screw with me.'
Kaze wanted Frank to serve as a warning to the top three families.  " don't know how you have gotten the support of some riffraff in the military, Kaze, but you are delusional to think that you can screw with me.'  Frank smirked in rage.  To intimidate Kaze, Frank leaked something confidential. "Do you know that it's the inauguration of the State Strategic Department's chief commander three days later?
" don't know how you have gotten the support of some riffraff in the military, Kaze, but you are delusional to think that you can screw with me.'  Frank smirked in rage.  To intimidate Kaze, Frank leaked something confidential. "Do you know that it's the inauguration of the



He walked up and slapped Frank in the face without warning. "What the hell, Kaze?"
With a hand over his face, Frank hissed through clenched teeth. "Sure, you have some connections to the military, but there's no reason to be cocky. The top three
families will crush you like a bug!"
"Oh, really?"
Kaze raised his brow.
He then lifted his foot and stomped. "Crack!"
"Snap!"
The sound of bone breaking came twice.
Frank's kneecaps were crushed and bent out of shape after Kaze stomped on them.
Chapter 580 Amputation's the Only Option
"Argh!"
Frank screamed in agony.
Moments later. Frank passed out from the pain.
"  break your legs to return the favor of what you did to Ryan. I'll make you pay for James' death tomorrow."

Kaze glanced at the stunned bodyguards. "Send him back to his family and tell the top three families that they have one day left." The hired guns carried Frank away without a word. Don saluted Kaze before leaving with his men. The café became empty with Kaze and Ryan still standing. Ryan turned around and nodded at Kaze sincerely. "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Mr. White can finally rest in peace." He finally believed that Kaze had the ability to punish the top three families and clear James' name. That was not the only thing. Ryan was given the chance to get even with the cheating couple. When they returned upstairs, Winnie broke out in tears of joy upon learning the whole story from Ryan. Winnie was pleased to hear that karma hit Frank, and he was now crippled. It was not something she could ever imagine. "That was nothing. Bring Camry and Teresa along to the Jade Estate tomorrow to watch the top three families repent their sins to James," Kaze said. Kaze had told Lightning Tiger to prepare the works. Tomorrow was James' death anniversary. It would be the biggest ceremony in Lilyrose history.





Howard's arrest. "Shangrila Group teamed up with Lilyrose Strategic Department's defense

technology laboratory to establish a lab. The company got their equipment from the