As they realized that the sizeable compensation they were on the verge of receiving was slipping away, the burly men grew bolder and disregarded their prior fear of the bodyguards. Their voices rose to maximum volume as they yelled defiantly.

"An eye for an eye! If you won't give us money, then give us your life as compensation!"

"You evil woman! You're taking human lives just because you have power and money. God won't let you get away with it! You'll pay for it soon enough!"

"You wretched woman! You're dead!"

Desperate and enraged, the muscle-bound men charged at Janet, intending to attack her.

Brandon's bodyguards, however, who were all well -trained in combat, swiftly subdued them before they could even take a step forward.

As the belligerent, brawny men had been completely overpowered by the bodyguards, they resolved not to attempt any more aggression. Instead, they continued to hurl insults at Janet, using derogatory terms such as "murderer" and

however, she displayed unwavering resolve and stood her ground, backed by strong, formidable bodyguards who made it impossible for them to extort her.

It was surprising that the media reporters outside the room didn't react to the commotion inside. Their absence thwarted the burly men's plans, as they had been relying on them to provide some leverage in successfully putting pressure on Janet.

The unruly behavior of these men infuriated Janet, and her face became flush with anger. Since they had made it clear that civil conversation was not an option, she decided to adopt a more assertive stance and not show any mercy in dealing with them.

Without any hesitation, Janet motioned to the bodyguards and ordered them to pin the men down to the table and gag them with pieces of cloth.

Despite their attempts to resist, the burly men found that they were no match for the highly-skilled bodyguards. Their feeble efforts were quickly subdued, leaving them immobilized with nothing to do but whimper. Their eyes kept darting towards Suzanne, as though they were quietly pleading to her to come to their aid.

Upon tracing their gaze, Janet shifted her attention to Suzanne and enquired, "Miss Duncan, do you happen to know these gentlemen?"

A startled expression immediately appeared on Suzanne's face as she maintained her innocence and shook her head. "Besides bringing them from their hometown to Barnes, I haven't had much contact with them."

With a composed demeanor, Janet turned her attention away from her. Despite the suspicions she had about Suzanne, she had no solid evidence to implicate her, and therefore couldn't take any immediate action against her.

The elderly couple, who had never been in such a situation before, trembled with fear. Their old, weathered faces, which had seen their fair share of hardship, were now filled with terror, appearing as though they would faint at any moment due to their intense fear.

Right at the moment that Janet was about to say something to calm them down, one of the men struggled and managed to spit out the cloth, yelling frantically, "Murder! Janet White is going to kill us too! Help!"

Brandon's piercing black gaze narrowed, with his sharp eyes fixed squarely on the screaming man.

In a very threatening tone, he asked, "Do you want to die?"

Initially, the man had planned on continuing to yell to attract the attention of the reporters outside. However, at the sight of Brandon's menacing glare, he became so frightened that he quickly shut his mouth, choosing to remain silent.

Right at that moment, Sean entered the room from outside and informed Brandon, "All the reporters outside have been sent away, Mr. Larson."

Brandon nodded in acknowledgement and turned his gaze back to the burly men, who had now grown frustrated. A cold, mocking smile appeared on his lips as he taunted them, "Keep yelling if you want. There are no reporters outside. Let's see who'll come to your rescue."

The men finally stopped struggling and hung their heads low in a state of fear and anxiety.

The reason they had been so bold and arrogant was that they had been relying on the presence of the reporters outside to prevent Janet and Brandon from doing anything to them.

Now that the reporters had left, they had lost their supposed safety net, leaving them to confront the chilling reality of facing Brandon alone. It was then that they finally understood what true fear was.

