

The Sun 241

Chapter 241 – New People

Time passed, and Dark Dream became bigger.

With the amount of money Dark Dream was producing, they could afford to hire more people who had been scouted by Ghosty's Lab.

In the past, Nick had been surprised that Ghosty's Lab was selling so many new recruits, but now, they found themselves buying these recruits.

Even more, Dark Dream also purchased three special recruits from Gemini.

The ability of the Distortion was just too valuable.

An ability that could isolate Zephyx and even suppress Force Specters.

Even more, the strength of the ability increased when there were more people with the same ability.

However, that wasn't everything.

Nick also hired another three people but decided to give them the abilities of some of their Specters.

First, Nick wanted to see what kind of ability the Money Sink could grant people, and from what he could see, the Money Sink could give people the ability to absorb Zephyx.

Of course, this kind of absorption was different from the normal one that everyone had.

When someone used the ability, they could pull all the Zephyx from an area towards them at a steady stream.

Nick decided to try it out on the Screaming Coffin.

As soon as the new person used their ability, the Screaming Coffin started to stand up and run away.

Or, at least, it tried to run away.

This meant that the Screaming Coffin saw this as an attack.

A couple seconds later, the Screaming Coffin lost its power and became much slower.

Nick stopped the experiment at that point and left with the new hire.

Next, Nick tried the ability on one of the new recruits.

And that ended up in the new person almost dying!

The new hire was an Initial Newbie, just like the one that had used the ability.

This meant that they barely had any Zephyx inside their body.

In barely a second or two, all the Zephyx of the other person had been absorbed...

And then, the ability started to attack the body.

At that point, Nick had to intervene immediately.

Luckily, the other person had only lost quite some skin, but that would regrow with time.

The ability was obviously extremely strong.

Some days later, Nick tried the ability out on an Early Newbie that he had bought from Gemini.

This time, things were manageable.

It took the Newbie almost ten seconds to get through all the Zephyx of the Early Newbie.

That calmed Nick down.

When Nick had seen how the ability could drain someone on the same level dry within two seconds, he had been shocked.

That ability was too strong!

That ability would be even stronger than his own!

However, after more experimentation, Nick found out that it was special for Initial Newbies.

After all, Initial Newbies had just started to gather Zephyx.

This meant that an Initial Newbie had barely any Zephyx inside their body, while an Early Newbie already had quite a bit.

When he was done with all the experimentations for the new ability, Nick summarized that the ability could probably drain someone of the same level of all Zephyx within five to eight seconds.

That was still extremely strong and fast, but it allowed the enemy to counterattack.

In order to use the ability, one had to remain motionless.

While it had a range of over five meters, six seconds was still more than enough to close the distance and attack the user of the ability.

However, the ability was still extremely strong.

It was so strong that Nick gave the same ability to a second person.

The third person got the ability of the Fog.

Nick thought that the guy could probably help him during a fight.

After hiring these nine people, Nick decided to stop hiring new personnel for now.

Dark Dream now had 20 Zephyx Extractors, including Nick.

20 Extractors.

When Nick thought about it, it almost seemed unreal.

He felt like they had left the warehouse just last week.

As time passed, Dark Dream also gained five more Johns.

Jonathan, Kiara, Constanze, Marvila, and Larry managed to become Johns.

Together with Trevor, Jenny and Nick, Dark Dream now had eight Johns.

It had barely been six months since the meeting, and Dark Dream had already fulfilled the goal that the governor had for them.

Another two months later, the Lover became an Adolescent.

The Lover was working with Kiara, who had already become a John.

Apparently, it was benefiting quite a bit from working with her.

But the Lover wasn't the only Specter that became an Adolescent.

The Bleeding Lady also became one.

This was proving to be troublesome.

Sure, it was great that these two Specters produced more Zephyx now, but it was much more difficult for Newbies to work with them now.

The Lover's effect on the mentality of a Newbie had increased significantly. Sending a Newbie to work with it could result in the Newbie's sex life getting ruined permanently.

Luckily, Kiara was taking care of it.

Sadly, the Bleeding Lady was also now inaccessible to Newbies.

One small cut of hers had already nearly cut someone's arm off, and the sight of so much blood and bone seemed to distress the Bleeding Lady.

When Nick had brought one of the Peak Newbies to work with the Bleeding Lady, he ended up fighting her just two minutes later.

Fortunately, Nick was already a Mid John, and he was extremely skilled at fighting.

The Bleeding Lady shot several powerful cuts at Nick, but he just sidestepped and bisected her horizontally.

This weakened the Bleeding Lady significantly, and Nick could bring the new agent out of the Containment Unit.

The Bleeding Lady would need a couple of days to recover, during which nobody could work with her.

Dark Dream now had seven Adolescents and only two Hatchlings, and one of the Hatchlings couldn't even be properly worked with since it was a Possession Specter.

That made it difficult to increase the power of the recruits.

'Is that why so many Manufacturers have so few Newbies? Is it because their Specters turn that quickly into Adolescents?' Nick thought with furrowed brows.

In the end, Nick decided to focus on finding a Hatchling instead of an Adolescent.

Chapter 242 – Empath

Two months later, Nick managed to find and capture a Mid Hatchling.

As always, Nick found the Specter in the Dregs.

Funnily enough, the Specter was revealed by accident.

There was this guy in the Dregs who was considered to be one of the sickest people in existence.

Back when the entire thing with Envy happened, this guy had been just an honorary member of the Riker Strikers.

After the Riker Strikers collapsed, the guy started to find his victims on his own.

From what people had been saying, the guy was apparently capturing entire families and then forcing the members of the family to severely injure each other.

Nobody died during the process, but many people got crippled and traumatized.

While this could be considered strange, it wasn't unheard of in the Dregs.

Sick and twisted people were everywhere in the Dregs.

But then, the guy had the worst luck imaginable.

He kidnapped the family of a friend of one of Dark Dream's new Extractors.

Naturally, the Extractor asked their team leader, Trevor, for help.

Trevor quickly told Nick, and Nick told the Investigator department.

It didn't even take half a day to find the guy.

By now, Dark Dream had over 50 Investigators, and all of them knew the Dregs very well.

When they found the guy, they told Nick, who told Trevor, who told the new employee.

Naturally, the new employee ran to beat the shit out of the guy.

And then, things turned chaotic.

The guy was extremely strong and overwhelmed the Extractor.

Sadly, the Extractor was only an Initial Newbie, and the guy, who was a Specter, was already a Mid Hatchling.

The Investigators had still kept an eye on the place, and when they saw the brutal fight, they immediately realized that this was a Specter or some kind of rogue Extractor.

The Investigators all got their weapons out and ran at the Specter.

Naturally, after seeing so many people with weapons, the Specter realized that it had to flee.

Sure, it was far more powerful than a normal human, but it couldn't fight ten humans at once who all held guns in their hands.

A chase ensued.

Chaos broke out in the Dregs.

BANG!

And then, the guy's lower body was turned into dust as the sound of a gunshot thundered throughout the Dregs.

The child that Nick, Jonathan, and Kiara had found about two years ago was visiting one of her friends in the Dregs, and to make sure that nothing happened to her, Kiara had accompanied her.

Naturally, Kiara noticed the commotion, and when she saw Dark Dream's Investigators chasing after a guy who was jumping suspiciously far and high, she knew what was going on.

As an Initial John, it wasn't very difficult for her to stop the Specter.

She just shot once, and the guy was done.

After that, she just grabbed the Specter and carried it to Dark Dream under the protection of over 20 Investigators.

The guy was dumped into a Containment Unit, and Nick quickly went to experiment with him.

Turns out, even though the new Specter was a human Specter, talking to him was about as effective as talking to the Bleeding Lady.

The guy constantly acted like an unstable drug addict who kept screaming random, violent things at everyone who was present.

Even more, after a while of not getting what he wanted, the guy became so aggressive that he attacked everyone he saw.

Nevertheless, Nick found out what the guy needed to grow stronger.

Apparently, he gained power by forcing people to hurt their loved ones.

The stronger the love for that person and the greater the damage, the more Zephyx was produced.

Working with it would be very difficult.

On top of that, Nick was already not the biggest fan of this Specter.

After all, the Extractor that had initially fought the guy didn't come out unscathed.

He lost one of his arms.

Sadly, the body of a normal person wasn't strong enough to resist the side effects of regrowing a limb.

It was possible to regrow a limb with some advanced medicine, but the stress of regrowing the limb would kill the person.

One had to become an Initial Veteran first.

While Nick felt horrible for their new Extractor, he couldn't push a new employee like that towards becoming a Veteran.

Additionally, many Specters could perceive weakness.

For example, the Bleeding Lady would probably go crazy if she saw a one-armed person.

So, in the end, Nick moved the guy to the Investigator department with good pay.

All of this considered, Nick really wasn't the biggest fan of their newest Specter.

Nevertheless, Nick wanted to, at least, find out what kind of ability it could hand out.

He decided that he would hire two new Extractors, a husband and a wife, both from the Outer City.

The two of them would work with the new Specter, which Nick had dubbed the Empath, once.

The work was stressful and difficult, but the two new Extractors managed to gain the Empath's ability.

The ability was very interesting.

People with the ability could transfer injuries and damage to other people with the ability.

For example, if someone were to stab the wife, she could will it so that her wound disappeared while an identical one appeared on her husband's body.

With only two people, this ability was nice but nothing special.

However, Nick could see the great potential for this ability.

What if there were a hundred people?

If a huge explosion appeared in the middle of them, would everyone just receive a couple of burns instead of being blown to smithereens?

In the end, Nick handed the Empath to Wyntor, who would sell it.

The Empath was the first Specter that Dark Dream would sell or exchange, depending on the offer.

Working with it was just too difficult.

The only thing it was good for was the creation of many new recruits with the same ability, and Dark Dream didn't have the luxury of producing Newbies and selling them or growing them themselves.

Luckily, the ability was very good, which meant that they could exchange the Empath for a good Specter.

At least, that was what they had thought.

In the end, the city showed great interest in the Empath due to its power and offered something.

A pair of Specters.

Both of them were very similar, and they solved Dark Dream's problems of not having enough Specters for their Newbies.

Chapter 243 – Blood Hawk

Nick stood in front of a Containment Unit with narrowed eyes.

The two new Specters had been delivered today, and the Empath had also already been handed over to the city.

The two Specters that Dark Dream had received in return were very similar to each other, and the way a Zephyx Extractor had to work with them was identical.

Nick was a bit nervous as he stood in front of the Containment Unit on the fourth floor.

He knew that the Specters couldn't possibly endanger him, but he was still a bit nervous.

Nick pressed a couple of buttons on the console and took some steps back.

The Containment Units they had bought for these two Specters were quite cheap, but they still had some unique features.

These were Containment Units that supported rapid opening and rapid closing of the employee entrance.

For these kinds of Specters, such a function was a must.

A moment later, Nick narrowed his eyes.

BANG!

And exploded forward, running towards the closed entrance.

BANG!

The door opened with an explosive sound in less than half a second.

Nick ran through the opened door.

BANG!

And the door closed with incredible speed!

As soon as he entered, Nick immediately noticed the Specter.

It was almost completely red.

It was a hawk that was over a meter tall, but instead of skin and feathers, it was fully made of flesh.

Even its wings were only made of long flesh membranes.

Its beak and talons were made of some kind of flesh that had hardened.

On top of that, it also didn't have any eyes.

Its entire head was encased in flesh.

This was the Blood Hawk, one of the several Blood Specters.

Nick took note of all of these characteristics in less than a second since the Blood Hawk was already starting to attack.

Blood Specters were all extremely aggressive and very stupid.

They attacked any human they found, no matter how powerful.

They attacked babies, children, adults, elders, Newbies, Johns, Veterans, Experts, and so on.

As long as they found any human, they immediately attacked.

The Blood Hawk readied its claws and shot towards Nick.

BANG!

The Blood Hawk hit the wall of the Containment Unit since Nick had easily sidestepped the attack.

By now, Nick was a Mid John.

It had been nearly a full year since the great meeting, and Nick managed to advance two levels.

That was quite fast.

One had to remember that most Extractors never managed to become Veterans.

Most of them were stuck in the second level.

Usually, advancing one level took at least a year, and becoming a Veteran took even longer.

There were people who had been working with Specters for over 30 years who still hadn't managed to become Veterans.

There were a couple of reasons for that, but those weren't important right now.

The important thing was that Nick advanced so quickly in levels since he had two distinct advantages over other Johns.

First, Nick was a Chief Zephyx Extractor, and he was working with an incredible Specter, the Money Sink.

Nick was no longer working with the Bleeding Lady since he also had to leave some Zephyx for his employees.

Nick had also handed his tasks of feeding the Dung Heap and the Screaming Coffin to his team leaders.

These days, Nick only worked with the Money Sink, and that was all he needed.

The terrifying thing about the Money Sink was that it produced an insane amount of Zephyx in barely a couple of minutes.

So, in just a couple of minutes, Nick essentially got the benefit of having a Specter produce around 90 grams of Zephyx.

That was far more than normal Johns got after working with a Specter for 24 hours.

Even more, Nick didn't need to take any days off.

The second reason why Nick was advancing so quickly was the method that Manela had taught Nick back then.

By pushing himself with intense exercise, Nick could advance a level while only having around 85% to 90% of the required Zephyx.

That saved him a couple of months as well.

Because of these two things, Nick managed to become a Mid John after only a year, while his two team leaders had only recently advanced to become Early Johns.

So, Nick was a Mid John now.

What about the Blood Hawk?

It was an Early Hatchling.

Even without his ability, Nick's body was around ten times stronger than the Blood Hawk's body.

If Nick didn't resist and let the Blood Hawk attack him, it would only manage to make him bleed a little with a couple of surface-level cuts.

But that was basically it.

If it wanted to kill Nick, it would need minutes.

BANG!

Nick stepped to the side again as the hawk kept attacking.

Nick just watched the hawk and took note of its attacking pattern.

After watching it for over a minute, Nick realized that it basically had no strategy while attacking.

Most of the time, it was just charging forward while extending its talons towards Nick.

A couple of times, it was trying to peck him.

When Nick was in a fitting position, the Blood Hawk even tried to swat him with its wings.

But that was basically it.

"Alright," Nick said.

BANG!

Nick punched the hawk in the chest, and its back hit the wall of the Containment Unit.

Since Nick knew that he was much more powerful than the Blood Hawk, he hadn't taken his weapons with him.

After all, if he used his weapons, he might accidentally kill the Blood Hawk.

When the Blood Hawk hit the walls, Nick only heard the squelching sound of some wet meat hitting the wall.

Surprisingly, the wall didn't get discolored by any kind of blood.

It seemed like the Blood Hawk had some kind of film over its body that kept its blood inside, even though it looked very bloody all of the time.

Additionally, based on the sound, Nick guessed that the Blood Hawk didn't even have any bones.

'Interesting,' Nick thought.

Chapter 244 – Hyper Regeneration

The Blood Hawk fell to the ground, but it didn't immediately stand up.

Obviously, the hit had dealt quite some damage to it.

That was when Nick noticed that the surface of the Blood Hawk seemed to vibrate and move like it was wavy water.

Nick just watched.

About ten seconds later, the hawk stood up and charged at Nick again.

During this entire time, it hadn't made a single sound.

The Blood Hawk was completely quiet all the time unless it hit one of the walls by accident.

Nick easily grabbed both its talons and forced them into his left hand.

He was essentially holding the Blood Hawk like a chicken.

The hawk tried to attack him, but Nick just waved it around so that it couldn't.

A moment later, Nick grabbed one of the wings.

RIIIIIP!

Nick tore the wing off and threw it to the side.

The Specter didn't even react.

It was almost like nothing had happened, even though it had lost a wing.

RIIIIIP!

Nick also tore the other wing off.

BANG!

And then threw the hawk against the wall again.

The Blood Hawk slumped to the ground, and the surface of its body started to move again.

Nick watched as tendrils slowly came out of the spots where the hawk's wings used to be.

Within 20 seconds, the hawk jumped up again and attacked Nick, fully recovered, including its wings.

This was the unique ability of Blood Specters.

Hyper Regeneration.

Blood Specters could transform Prephyx into Zephyx at insane rates.

BANG!

Nick kicked the hawk against the wall again while watching the two wings he had torn off earlier.

The wings were already turning black and vanishing.

According to research, the appendages of Blood Specters were similar to blood vessels.

They were not storing much Zephyx inside of them, but they had a lot of Zephyx traveling through them.

So, when they were cut off, most of the Zephyx entered the Blood Specter's body again, leaving barely any Zephyx inside the appendage.

Because of that, the appendage decayed rapidly.

After all, Specters were not really made of flesh and bone.

They just looked like they were.

Within a minute, the two wings had vanished.

Nick kept injuring the Blood Hawk for about five minutes.

At that point, Nick noticed that the regeneration speed of the Blood Hawk had taken a massive hit.

The last time, it needed almost 40 seconds to recover after being thrown against the wall again.

But that was to be expected.

The Hyper Regeneration also had its limits.

Every Blood Specter had a Blood Core somewhere inside their body.

In essence, the Blood Core was the actual Specter, and all the Zephyx was stored there.

After getting injured a lot in a short timeframe, the Blood Core experienced some kind of Zephyx saturation, which made it difficult to produce Zephyx.

Essentially, the Blood Core was overheating and needed about a day of rest to recover.

The good thing, or bad thing, depending on the viewpoint, was that Blood Specters were probably the hardest Specters to kill since one needed to either destroy the Blood Core or incinerate around 90% of their body.

This meant that it was very difficult to accidentally kill a Blood Specter unless one was vastly more powerful.

After throwing the Blood Hawk against the wall one last time, Nick walked out of the Containment Unit.

He had been inside the Containment Unit for a collective ten minutes and had thoroughly exhausted the Blood Hawk.

After exiting the Containment Unit, Nick checked how much Zephyx had been produced.

"Eight grams," Nick said with furrowed brows. "I guess that's to be expected from an Early Hatchling."

The Blood Hawk was delivering less than a tenth of the Zephyx that the Money Sink produced.

Back when Dark Dream was still just a warehouse with two Specters, Nick would have looked at eight grams with elation.

Now, it was barely anything.

'But that's a good thing, actually,' Nick thought. 'After all, we're not increasing their power.'

This was another special thing about Blood Specters.

They also produced a lot of Zephyx when they were recovering.

Obviously, getting injured and recovering from said injury was not how a Blood Specter became more powerful.

The actual way they became more powerful was via straight-up just killing people.

If Nick wanted to increase the power of the Blood Hawk, he would need to send people in to get slaughtered.

Obviously, producing Zephyx in such a way was not only horrible but would also cost more money than it made.

Luckily, Blood Specters also made Zephyx by recovering from injuries, and they also didn't become more powerful that way.

This meant that Dark Dream could produce Zephyx with the Blood Hawk without turning it into an Adolescent.

Usually, Manufacturers wanted their Specters to become more powerful since they produced more Zephyx that way.

However, Nick didn't get these two new Specters for their Zephyx.

He got them for his Newbies.

First of all, the Newbies would absorb some of the Zephyx that the Blood Hawk used to recover, which increased their power.

Second, they got some great training.

Fighting a Specter was always terrifying, and the first time was the most dangerous time.

By letting the Newbies fight a Specter inside a Containment Unit without wasting any Zephyx, the strength of the Newbies would increase.

While Nick was thinking about these things, he could only sigh.

'The new guys have it so good,' he thought. 'Back then, I had to swim through a literal sea of shit and fight a Mid Hatchling while also running from the Nightmare.'

'Meanwhile, they get to fight a dumb hawk inside an enclosed space with people watching.'

'But that's a good thing, I suppose. Just because I went through shit doesn't mean that others also have to go through it.'

'Humans are supposed to make the lives of the next generation better than the lives of their generation, right?'

'There's no reason to force them to go through the same shit I had to go through.'

Nick shook his head.

'Anyway, I should check on the other one.'

Chapter 245 – Blood Horse and Blood Ancestor

Nick walked over to the Containment Unit that was across from the Blood Hawk's Containment Unit.

After fiddling with the console for a bit, Nick jumped through the entrance again.

Nick immediately saw a big figure in the middle of the Containment Unit.

Just like the Blood Hawk, this one was also made of blood and flesh.

Except that this one was a horse without a head.

Nick had never seen or heard of horses before, but the city had dubbed this Specter the Blood Horse, which probably meant that horses existed.

The Blood Horse's tail was made of strings of meat, and its hooves were also made of some kind of hardened meat.

At the place where its neck should be was just nothing.

Its front looked just like its back, minus the fleshy tail.

Nick immediately had to evade to the right as soon as he entered.

BANG!

One of the horse's hooves hit the closed employee entrance with an explosive sound.

The Blood Horse was quite a bit faster than the Blood Hawk, but that was to be expected.

After all, this one was a Late Hatchling.

Just like with the Blood Hawk, Nick watched the Blood Horse attack for a couple of minutes.

Its attack pattern was about as complex as the Blood Hawk's attack pattern.

Most of the time, it just tried to kick Nick with its hooves.

Sometimes, it charged at Nick with its front, trying to barrel through him.

Whenever it did that, though, it hit the wall with quite a lot of force and fell to the ground.

It even got injured a bit during the process.

However, there was one time when Nick nearly got hit.

Sometimes, the Blood Horse straightened its weird fleshy tail and tried to cut Nick with it by swinging its ass towards him.

But that was the only surprise.

For several minutes, the Blood Horse showed no other attacks.

Although its size and power were already very dangerous.

After all, the Blood Horse, even without a head, was already as tall as Nick, and since the base level of a body was also relevant to one's power, the Blood Horse was definitely not weak.

The Blood Hawk would probably need to become a Peak Hatchling if it wanted to rival the Blood Horse's physical power.

But in exchange, the Blood Hawk was nimbler and more flexible.

BANG!

Nick kicked the horse against the wall, and the entire Containment Unit shook.

The Blood Horse was HEAVY!

Within two seconds, it had already stood up again, and its surface barely moved, which meant that it didn't need to recover a lot.

The defense of the Blood Horse was quite strong.

BANG!

Nick kicked himself off the wall of the Containment Unit and kicked the Blood Horse with his other foot.

BOOOOOM!

The Containment Unit shook quite a bit as the horse was thrown against the wall with an insane amount of power.

This time, the horse needed around 20 seconds to recover, which meant that it had been severely injured by that impact.

However, that was to be expected.

Nick had used around 50% of his power with that kick.

The fact that the Blood Horse could survive such a hit from Nick showed how strong its defense was.

Most likely, not a single Newbie in Dark Dream could force the horse to move in a direction it didn't want to.

Its body was massive and strong.

However, one had to remember that humans fought with weapons.

While the Blood Horse's defenses were very strong, a strong hit with a sword would still cause severe injuries.

Due to its mass, the Blood Horse was very resilient to blunt force, but its defense against cutting and piercing weapons was just average.

If the Newbies just kept stabbing and cutting it, its Blood Core would become overheated at some point.

Even more, the horse was also sometimes injuring itself by running against the wall.

After punching and kicking the horse for a couple of minutes, two things happened.

First, the horse's recovery slowed down tremendously.

Second, Nick felt quite energetic.

Kicking this Specter was fun!

Eventually, Nick left the Containment Unit and looked at the Zephyx that had been produced.

'15 grams,' Nick thought. 'Not bad.'

'I get why so many Manufacturers are buying these Blood Specters. I bet Ghosty's Lab is probably raking in loads of credits with the Blood Ancestors.'

Specters were all unique, and yet, the Blood Specters were so very similar.

Why?

The reason was that they were not Specters that had been created by "nature".

In fact, Blood Specters were Specters that had been created by another Specter, namely the Blood Ancestor.

The Blood Ancestor was the most powerful Specter that Ghosty's Lab owned.

It was a Fanatic, a level five Specter, and the only level five Specter that Ghosty's Lab owned.

The Blood Ancestor was a huge blob of blood, and it could create Blood Specters.

First, the Blood Ancestor gathered Zephyx by killing people.

When it had enough Zephyx, it spat out a Blood Core, which would then turn into a Blood Specter.

Whenever it produced a Blood Core, a huge amount of Prephyx would be absorbed by it, and it would advance a level.

So, for every Blood Specter that was produced, the Blood Ancestor became more powerful.

Even more, the Blood Specters that the Blood Ancestor produced also became more powerful with time.

The Blood Hawk and the Blood Horse had been one of the earliest, which was why they were so weak.

But by now, the Blood Ancestor was already producing Adult Specters.

Naturally, Ghosty's Lab got a shitload of money whenever the Blood Ancestor advanced a level, but they also got another shitload of money by selling the Blood Specters to other Manufacturers.

The Blood Specters were great training dummies, and Manufacturers wanted them.

The Blood Ancestor was probably the most profitable Fanatic in all of Crimson Fungus City.

Luckily, it was already contained.

If it were free...

Things could become very troublesome.

Chapter 246 – Office Problems

With the Blood Hawk and the Blood Horse, Dark Dream now officially had ten Specters.

Within three years, Dark Dream had grown from one Specter to ten!

Even more, they also had 21 Zephyx Extractors, which was nothing to scoff at.

Back then, Cycle had seemed dangerous with their six Newbies and two Johns.

But now, Dark Dream had eight Johns and 13 Newbies.

Funnily enough, Dark Dream had even more Newbies than Kugelblitz.

Nick's workload had also changed.

Back then, he had been working with all of their Specters, and he hadn't needed to talk to his employees a lot since there hadn't been many.

But now, Nick was having a meeting with his team leaders daily about the teams and the issues.

Naturally, the bigger the company became, the more interpersonal issues cropped up.

One Extractor didn't like how another Extractor talked to them.

An Extractor came a bit late, which made the other Extractor mad.

An Extractor complained about another Extractor constantly criticizing them and telling them what to do even though they were not their superior.

On top of that, the issue of equipment and money also appeared more often.

Yes, the Extractors were earning insanely well in Dark Dream compared to other Manufacturers, but the fact that they had to buy their equipment completely on their own still left a bad taste in their mouths.

Some of the Extractors also complained about the Specters they were assigned to.

Of course, these complaints mostly came from the weaker Extractors.

There were three Late Newbies that Trevor had assigned to work with the Blood Horse, and these three were not happy in the slightest.

They had to fight for their lives every single day!

One mistake, and they could die!

Yes, there was always a stronger Extractor watching them from outside the Containment Unit, but they could still die!

These three all came from Ghosty's Lab, and they believed that they were being treated unfairly.

Naturally, they also started talking to other Extractors, and they found some like-minded individuals.

The three Early Newbies from Gemini, who were dealing with the Blood Hawk, felt the same way.

They knew that being an Extractor was dangerous, but they were not supposed to risk their lives every single day!

The complaints were piling up, and it was even possible that Dark Dream would get their first protest.

In the end, Nick decided to give them what they wanted.

The three Late Newbies got sent to work with the Fog.

The Fog was definitely one of the easier ones to work with.

It just took a lot of time and was very boring.

When the three of them heard that, they felt elated.

Finally, they didn't have to risk their lives anymore!

Every one of them worked for 24 hours on the Fog, got two days off, and worked with it again.

In the beginning, they preferred this to fighting for their lives.

But after about two weeks, they became very annoyed.

They barely had any free time!

When they had been fighting the Blood Horse, they had been busy for one hour at most.

But now, they didn't have time for anything anymore!

So, they complained again.

They wanted another Specter.

Nick didn't argue and gave them the Dung Heap.

The Dung Heap didn't need to get worked with, but it still produced Zephyx.

This meant that being near it still increased an Extractor's power.

Since Dark Dream had so many people, they could spare three of them for the Dung Heap.

It didn't even take a single day before the three of them complained again.

The Dung Heap's odor was terrifyingly bad!

Also, walking on it felt insanely dangerous.

At that point, Nick became annoyed.

He didn't want to force the new employees to go through the same shit he did, but it was genuinely getting annoying.

After a talk with Wyntor, Nick decided to listen to them once more.

They don't want to fight?

They don't want to waste 24 hours every three days?

They didn't want to get bored with nothing to do?

Fine!

Nick assigned them to the Dreamer.

By now, the Dreamer had become an Early Adolescent.

For three years, it hadn't caused a single issue.

Ever since the incident with Horua, nothing bad had happened.

However, before he let them work with the Dreamer, Nick wanted them to sign new contracts.

In these contracts, they agreed to work with the Dreamer, even though Dark Dream did not think that it was a good idea to work with it.

Of course, before signing, they asked why they weren't getting the Puppy. According to what they had heard, working with the Puppy was the easiest.

Nick told them that they would be working with the Puppy anyway as soon as they became Peak Newbies and that everyone wanted to work with the Puppy.

He had to be fair in this regard.

In the end, they signed.

When Nick saw their signatures, he released a sigh.

He really didn't like doing this.

When Nick had talked with Wyntor, Wyntor had said that he had expected something like this to happen.

They were treating their employees too well, which spoiled them.

Because of that, Wyntor decided on the quickest way to solve the issue.

Yes, the Dreamer hadn't made issues in three years.

However, Dark Dream also hadn't sent anyone weaker than it to work with it in three years.

Until now.

The most vocal of the three Extractors was sent to work with the Dreamer first.

Everything seemed to work normally.

And then he started to have a seizure.

Naturally, Trevor had been keeping an eye on them, and he immediately ran in and brought the guy to a hospital.

As Trevor rushed the guy out, the Dreamer only looked after him with expressionless eyes.

Some hours later, the news came in.

He was dead.

His mind had shut down.

The two other Extractors felt a cold shiver run down their backs, and they refused to work with the Dreamer.

Naturally, lots of complaints followed, which prompted an appearance from Wyntor.

Wyntor only waved the contract they had signed.

And then, he told them to work with the Blood Horse or leave.

Surprisingly, the two of them still kept complaining, which was not what Wyntor had expected.

He had expected that they would falter and work with the Blood Horse.

Wyntor did not like that one bit!

Chapter 247 – Troublemakers

"Nick," Wyntor said with an annoyed expression as he entered Nick's office, "I need you."

When Nick saw Wyntor's expression, he furrowed his brows. "What's up?"

"The two of them still complain and refuse to back down," Wyntor said.

Nick's eyebrows shot up in surprise. "Still?!" he shouted.

Wyntor nodded. "I'm not sure if I'm overthinking or not, but this seems suspicious."

"Imagine one of your closest colleagues or friends died at work. It would probably take a couple of days or hours to come to terms with it. I don't think you would immediately start complaining about not wanting to work and wanting to see a new Specter."

"If I were in their shoes, I would shut up and work with the Blood Horse for at least a couple of days. If I still had issues by then, I would slowly find a way to deal with it."

"Yet, they don't want to work with the Blood Horse even once!" Wyntor shouted with annoyance.

"Even I have worked with it!" Wyntor added.

Yes, Wyntor had worked with the Blood Horse.

While Wyntor wasn't working as an Extractor, he still was a Mid Newbie, and if Dark Dream could afford it, it would definitely help to improve the power of their CEO.

A more powerful CEO was smarter, harder to kill, and could live for longer.

The CEOs were never amongst the most powerful Extractors of the Manufacturer, but they were at least of average power.

Because of that, Wyntor worked with the Blood Horse from time to time.

"Do you really think so?" Nick asked with furrowed brows. "Maybe they are just insanely unreasonable."

Surprisingly, Wyntor didn't immediately answer.

Instead, he rubbed his chin in thought.

"Maybe," he said. "We bought the three of them from Ghosty's Lab. Maybe they just gave us a bad batch?"

"They definitely have what it takes to be an Extractor. After all, they worked with several Specters already without any major incidents."

"But it's also possible that they might be spies."

"Spies?" Nick asked.

Wyntor nodded.

"What if they just want to see as many Specters as possible so that they can create a profile? Learning all about how to work with our Specters might save lives when another Manufacturer takes them."

Wyntor sighed.

"Or they are just THAT unreasonable. Nevertheless, we have to deal with the issue."

Nick furrowed his brows. "What do you want me to do?"

Wyntor looked into Nick's eyes. "If I had the power, I would do it myself."

Nick could already tell what Wyntor was about to say.

"I need you to knock them out."

Nick's eyebrows rose.

"I thought you wanted me to kill them," Nick said.

"The Dreamer is going to do that," Wyntor said.

"Oh," Nick uttered before looking at the table with an uncomfortable expression.

Silence.

"Can't we just fire them?" Nick asked.

"That's what they want," Wyntor said. "At least, that's what I assume they want. I can't see any other reason for acting this obnoxious and problematic after one of them died."

"Now that they know so much about our Specters, they probably want to get fired and then join another Manufacturer with the information they gathered."

"They know that they have to give up all their equipment if they quit while also going into debt, which is why they want to use this information to get a good offer from another Manufacturer."

"At least, that's what I'm assuming."

"Nick, if we don't want to get trampled by our own people, we need to set an example."

"They agreed to work with the Dreamer. I have that in writing."

"If anyone asks, I can simply show the contract, and their cause of death will also check out."

Nick took a deep breath.

He was reminded of Pator.

"Fine," Nick said.

Luckily, this was different from when Nick had to kill Pator.

First of all, these were adults.

Second of all, they were Extractors.

Third, they were assholes.

Fourth, Nick was older and more mature.

And lastly, Nick wasn't the one killing them.

He was only killing them indirectly.

'I guess I have to get used to this,' Nick thought with a sigh.

Wyntor nodded. "Thank you, Nick. I'm sorry that I have to ask you to do this."

"It's fine," Nick said as he slowly stood up. "It's part of the job, I suppose."

A moment later, Wyntor and Nick left Nick's office and entered Wyntor's office.

As soon as they entered, they saw two young men sitting on two chairs in front of Wyntor's desk.

One of them looked at Wyntor with furrowed brows. "Sir, we don't feel comfortable with being left alone in your office like this."

Wyntor walked to his desk and sat down.

Meanwhile, Nick closed the door to the office behind him and waited in front of it.

"Why?" Wyntor asked.

"Because we don't want to needlessly be suspected of going through confidential documents," the same guy said. "We're not accusing of anything, but what if you misremember how a piece of paper has been placed and wrongfully assume that we snooped around in this office?"

Wyntor just chuckled.

"This entire room is under constant surveillance. I was going to check the footage after our meeting anyway. If you had gone through my stuff, you would be working with the Screaming Coffin for the next couple of days," Wyntor said casually.

"Oh, never mind, then," the same guy said.

Meanwhile, Nick narrowed his eyes.

He knew exactly that Wyntor's office wasn't under surveillance, which meant that Wyntor was bluffing.

And sure enough, it had worked.

As a Mid John, Nick's senses were superior to the average human's, and even though the two of them did their best, Nick definitely noticed a couple of signs of fear and panic in them.

"Nevertheless, we think that leaving us alone is disrespectful and humiliating!" the same guy said again, complaining even though he had just said never mind.

'Are they trying to get fired before Wyntor checks his so-called surveillance footage?' Nick thought.

Chapter 248 – Unconscious

After seeing their reactions to Wyntor's bluff, Nick was convinced that these two wanted to get fired.

He wasn't certain whether or not they were spies, though.

Although, that didn't exactly matter since they would become "spies" anyway.

After all, they would tell the other Manufacturers about Dark Dream's Specters.

Nick looked at the two of them from behind with narrowed eyes.

"And why do you think it is disrespectful and humiliating?" Wyntor asked with a polite smile.

"Be-because this is your office, and we feel uncomfortable in a stranger's office," the same guy said again.

The other one hadn't said anything yet.

"Is that so?" Wyntor asked, looking at them.

Nick could tell that the two of them were becoming more agitated, and they even started glancing at Nick more times.

"I'm sorry for complaining so much," the same guy said again, completely changing his tune.

They were obviously panicked and grasping for straws.

The guy was saying anything that could get him out of the building.

"I-I-I think, w-we can work with the B-Blood Horse, right?" the second guy said nervously as he glanced between Wyntor and his friend.

"We were just a bit stressed, you see?" he said as he looked at Nick with a nervous chuckle. "Our friend died, and w-we lashed out, okay?"

The first guy glanced rapidly between Wyntor and his friend.

"Yes, we are fine with working with the Blood Horse," the first guy said again. "Now, since that issue has been solved, I think we should get back to work."

Then, he stood up and pulled his friend upwards with him.

He walked up to Nick and nervously looked at him.

The guy had seen Nick a couple of times, but he had never viewed Nick as intimidating.

After all, Nick had this friendly and innocent Aura to him.

But now, Nick's huge body made the guy feel small and insignificant.

"E-excuse me," the guy said with a smile as he slowly moved his hand to the door behind Nick. "Can we pass?"

Nick just looked into the guy's eyes without moving.

Suddenly, the two guys heard some chuckling from behind them and turned to Wyntor.

Wyntor just chuckled a bit.

"Can we pass," Wyntor repeated.

"What a fitting choice of words."

The two guys felt their hearts fall into an abyss of ice.

Wyntor looked at Nick and moved his head slightly to his right, gesturing towards the direction of one of them.

The guy's eyes widened.

CRK!

Nick's hand clamped around the guy's throat and squeezed.

In an instant, the guy's mouth opened wide in terror as his throat was compressed to a scary degree.

The guy lost his footing as Nick lifted him by his neck, his limbs flailing in panic.

The other guy froze in terror.

BANG!

Nick kicked the other guy, and his body hit the wall with insane power.

Several of his bones broke.

While the other guy was busy recovering physically and mentally from having his back smashed against the wall, the first guy was busy going unconscious as the circulation of blood to his brain was cut off.

Nick looked at the guy he was lifting with narrowed eyes.

Then, he thought about something.

'How long do I have to cut off his circulation to make him stay unconscious for a while without killing him?'

Nick let go, and the guy dropped to the ground.

Then, he started coughing, and a couple of seconds later, he started to regain consciousness.

'Okay, longer,' Nick thought as he grabbed his throat again.

While Nick was busy choking the guy again, Wyntor turned to the other person.

"Now, how about we talk some more?" he asked with a polite smile.

The other guy was on the ground, curled up like a shrimp.

He didn't answer.

Wyntor turned to look at Nick again, and Nick looked back.

Wyntor gestured to the guy on the ground.

Nick thought for a bit and nodded.

Then, he grabbed the other guy and choked him as well.

"No!" Wyntor shouted. "That's not what I meant!"

BANG!

The other guy fell to the ground as Nick let go.

"What?" Nick asked.

"I wanted you to put him in the chair again since I want to talk to him. I can't talk to an unconscious person," Wyntor said.

"Well, why didn't you just say so?" Nick asked. "Can't you just talk like a normal person?"

Wyntor took a deep breath as the other guy started coughing and retching on the ground.

"Forget it," Wyntor said with a sigh. "Just put him in the chair, please."

"Sure," Nick said as he grabbed the guy and unceremoniously dumped him onto the chair.

"Also, I think the other guy is about done," Wyntor said.

Nick looked at the guy he was still choking and let go.

The guy fell to the ground.

BANG!

And hit his head on the floor.

Then, quite a bit of blood came out of his head as Nick blinked in surprise.

"Is he still alive?" Nick asked, kneeling down to look at the guy more closely.

"Does he have a heartbeat?" Wyntor asked.

Nick put his head on the guy's chest.

"Yeah," he said.

"Then, he should still be alive. He also didn't start seizing, which means his brain hasn't been scrambled beyond repair. He probably just has a very strong concussion."

Nick nodded without answering and looked at the guy.

He wanted to know how long the guy would remain unconscious.

"Now, onto you," Wyntor said as he turned to the guy who was sitting in front of him.

The guy breathed heavily and was slumped over, his face a mask of terror and disbelief.

Wyntor just looked at the guy with a friendly smile.

"Hey, Wyntor. How long do I have to choke someone so that they remain unconscious for a long while?" Nick suddenly asked.

Wyntor's friendly smile vanished and was replaced with annoyance.

"You can't do that," Wyntor said. "As soon as you let go of your hold, their brain gets oxygen again, which makes them wake up in a couple of seconds."

"Wait, I can't do that?" Nick asked in surprise.

"No, you can't," Wyntor said. "If you want to knock someone out, I would suggest something like 30 seconds of choking and a severe concussion."

Then, Wyntor pointed at the unconscious guy. "Like with him."

"Oh, okay," Nick said as he kept looking at the unconscious guy.

"Now, where were we?" Wyntor asked as he looked back at the guy in the chair with a smile.

Chapter 249 – Shady Business

It took a while for the guy to regain his bearings, but as soon as he did, he immediately started talking with no end in sight.

He and the guy who was already dead had been friends for a long time.

They had met each other as kids in the Dregs, and they pulled many scams to get ahead in the Dregs.

But then, they managed to become Extractors and decided to stop being crooks. After all, Manufacturers were scary.

They had intended to be normal employees when they had come to Dark Dream.

However, when they met Nick, they thought he was a pushover.

Nick was so young, and he acted so nicely.

It was like he was a naïve child.

Additionally, the fact that one of the two team leaders was a woman also didn't fill them with a lot of confidence.

On top of that, Wyntor looked just as young as Nick.

The only scary person was Trevor, in their opinion.

Dark Dream looked like an easy target for a scam.

So, they started on their plan.

Learn as much about Specters as possible before convincing another Manufacturer to buy them off of Dark Dream for the information.

The one who had come up with the plan was the dead guy, and when he died, the two of them felt like headless chickens.

What were they supposed to do?!

So, they decided to get fired as quickly as possible.

At that point, the guy turned around as he heard the loud sound of a crash.

The first guy had woken up, and Nick tried to put him unconscious again by ramming his head against the floor.

Nick rammed the guy's head down, lifted it, looked at the guy's face, realized that he was still conscious, and rammed him against the floor again.

The other guy had never been so scared before!

This was supposed to be a pushover?!

In the guy's eyes, Nick looked like some kind of colossal ogre that just "played" with a weak child.

Wyntor beckoned him to continue, and the guy reluctantly continued talking.

After recounting everything that had happened, he started to give one apology after the other while trying to get to his knees, which wasn't easy since several of his bones were broken.

He kept begging and begging.

He would work for free!

He was willing to follow them forever!

He would tell them anything they wanted to hear!

He had a wife!

He had children!

Wyntor just looked at the guy wordlessly with a cold expression for a while.

Then, Wyntor straightened his posture.

BANG!

"Nick!" Wyntor shouted with annoyance.

"What? The guy keeps regaining consciousness," Nick answered with annoyance.

"Then, let him regain consciousness. He can't escape anyway," Wyntor said.

Nick looked at the unconscious guy for a while.

"No need. I think I finally got him. He's not moving at all," Nick said.

Wyntor took a deep breath before standing up.

"Follow me," he ordered as he walked past the groveling guy.

The groveling guy stood up as quickly as he could and followed Wyntor out of the office.

Nick grabbed the unconscious guy by the hair and followed Wyntor as well.

The injured guy kept breathing heavily and looking behind him at Nick, who was pulling the unconscious guy behind him by the hair like a sack of garbage.

Then, they saw Trevor walking out of the staircase.

When Trevor saw the four of them, his eyebrows rose in surprise.

Wyntor wordlessly nodded towards him in greeting, and Trevor answered in kind.

Trevor walked past Wyntor as he took a deep breath.

The guy in the middle shot a terrified and begging glance at Trevor.

Trevor just ignored him.

"Oh hey, I need to talk to you later," Nick said casually to Trevor.

"Of course," Trevor answered. "I'll be in my office for the next two hours."

"Sure," Nick said, and Trevor walked past him.

A moment later, Trevor sighed.

'I told them that they shouldn't try to pull any shady business with Boss or Mr. Melfion,' Trevor thought.

'Now, Cryon, Kerry, and Taren have to pull double duty and also work with the Blood Horse.'

'Or maybe Mr. Melfion will just take care of it from now on.'

While Trevor planned the new schedule for his team, the other four walked down the staircase.

The body of the unconscious person kept bumping on the stairs as they descended the staircase.

When the guy in the middle saw Wyntor entering the fifth floor, he felt like he was going to die.

There were only two Specters on the fifth floor.

The Dreamer and an unknown Specter that had been assigned to the same Extractor for years.

The guy looked back and saw Nick's uninterested eyes looking at him, waiting for him to continue walking.

Yet, the guy just couldn't continue walking.

He was too afraid.

He didn't want to die!

Nick lifted the unconscious guy by the hair and showed him to the other one.

The message was clear.

Walk or join him.

Eventually, the guy continued walking, but he walked very slowly.

Every single second that passed felt so precious to him.

He only had seconds left to live.

He didn't want to die!

He didn't want to die!

He didn't want to die!

Then, he started to cry quietly as he walked behind Wyntor.

Wyntor walked into the locker room of the Dreamer, and the others followed after him.

A moment later, the door to the Containment Unit opened.

The guy just looked with cold terror at the Dreamer.

He had never seen the Dreamer before.

When he saw the emotionless eyes of the owl, he felt like he was encased in ice.

Bang.

Nick threw the unconscious guy to the ground and took a vial of green liquid out of his pocket.

After putting a small drop of green liquid on the unconscious guy, the guy's body started to recover rapidly.

Then, Nick grabbed the other guy and put a drop on him as well.

All the bones in the guy's body recovered, and hope returned.

Were they going to let them go?

"You can kill them, but don't injure them."

Yet, when Wyntor said these words, all the hope died.

A moment later, Wyntor walked out of the Containment Unit, and Nick followed after him.

Then, they locked the Containment Unit from the outside.

Meanwhile, on the inside, the unconscious guy opened his eyes.

The other guy was just frozen in the middle of the Containment Unit.

And on the other end, the Dreamer just looked at them.

Chapter 250 – The End of the Incident

The next day, Nick entered the Dreamer's Containment Unit to retrieve the two "sleeping" bodies.

Sure enough, they were not injured.

They just looked like they were sleeping peacefully, except for the fact that they weren't breathing.

Nick nodded at the Dreamer. "Long time no see."

The Dreamer just looked at Nick without saying anything.

"Don't kill the next ones. These ones were a treat," Nick said as he pulled the two out of the Containment Unit.

The Dreamer just looked at the employee entrance for a long time with neutral eyes.

Nick pulled the two of them to the sixth floor and entered his office.

Surprisingly, a middle-aged woman was waiting in his office.

Nick just dumped the two corpses in front of her.

"Here you go," he said.

Then, he went to his desk and looked through a couple of documents.

The woman furrowed her brows and started to examine the two of them.

She was a doctor.

Some minutes later, she put her tools away.

"Just like the other one," she said.

Nick nodded. "They all died to the same Specter."

Naturally, the doctor noticed that Nick didn't give even the smallest shit about his three dead employees.

The picture was all too clear for the doctor.

These three employees were considered problematic by Dark Dream, and Dark Dream had gotten rid of them.

However, the doctor's opinion wasn't important in this matter.

Her only job was to determine the cause of death and create a death certificate.

Obviously, killing random people was against the law, but the city decided who was guilty or not.

Sadly, it took a huge incident for the city to start investigating the death of an Extractor.

Unofficially, the Extractors' lives were in the hands of the Manufacturers.

And even when the city started an investigation, they would just look at the Specter and the death certificate while also asking why the Extractors had been working with that Specter.

Naturally, Wyntor had an answer for all of these questions, and the city wouldn't ask any further questions.

One had to remember that the Manufacturers held all the power.

Even the governor wouldn't be able to become more powerful without Kugelblitz.

Becoming an Extractor represented becoming something far superior to a normal human, and the Manufacturers were the ones that allowed normal people to become Extractors.

They could create Extractors...

And they could also destroy them.

Whether or not that was moral and ethical didn't matter.

Morals and ethics had no relevance with such a power difference between two parties.

The doctor created the certificates of death and left Dark Dream.

After she left, Nick grabbed the two corpses and pulled them out of his office.

Then, he pulled them toward the second floor and walked into the Screaming Coffin's Containment Unit.

When the door opened, Nick was greeted by an unmoving coffin and a young woman with a shocked expression.

The young woman was one of the three people Dark Dream had purchased from Gemini.

The three from Gemini had joined the three from Ghosty's Lab in complaining.

Naturally, since the three from Ghosty's Lab got what they wanted, the three from Gemini also got what they wanted.

Nick had simply assigned them to sit beside the Screaming Coffin for eight hours a day each.

They didn't need to be there, but there was no other Specter they could "work with" as Early Newbies.

When the girl saw the two corpses Nick was pulling in, she took a deep breath and put her hand in front of her mouth.

Naturally, she recognized the two corpses.

Nick wordlessly walked towards one of the corners and dumped the two corpses there.

"If the Screaming Coffin gets hungry, throw one of these two towards it," Nick said as he turned towards the exit again.

The woman didn't dare to answer as she just looked at the corpses in shock.

"You get tomorrow off," Nick said, prompting the woman to look at him again in shock. "The day after, it's back to work with the Blood Hawk."

"Tell your two friends to contact Jenny or Trevor for further information."

"Am I understood?" Nick asked coldly with narrowed eyes.

A cold shiver ran down the woman's back.

"Y-y-yes, of course, B-Boss!" she shouted.

Nick nodded.

"Have fun!" he said as he left the Containment Unit.

The woman just turned to the two corpses again in horror.

For the remainder of her shift, she would need to stay in the same room as the corpses of two of her colleagues.

Naturally, her two friends from Gemini didn't have it any better.

Trevor told them that they would get one shift with the Screaming Coffin before it was time to work with the Blood Hawk again.

The two of them also had to stay eight hours in the same room as the two corpses.

Naturally, the three of them didn't dare to complain anymore and quietly started to work with the Blood Hawk again.

With that, the incident was over.

The complaints Nick and his team leaders received dropped drastically, and everyone seemed to be much "happier" to work for Dark Dream.

Dark Dream had lost a couple million credits with the execution of three of their employees, but it was a necessary expenditure.

The things that had happened here these couple of days were turned into stories, which every employee in Dark Dream heard.

Even years later, new employees would hear these stories.

While the complaints eventually returned, the complaints that did return were all somewhat rational.

The newer employees knew that Dark Dream was a great working place compared to other Manufacturers, but they also understood that Dark Dream was not a pushover.

They had killed three of their employees, and if it was necessary, they would kill three more.

Obviously, things like this also happened in the other Manufacturers.

Manufacturers regularly killed employees who were too troublesome.

Dark Dream wasn't any different from them.

Except that they paid better, which made them better than most Manufacturers in the eyes of new employees.