

UNRIVALLED 181

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Penny was perplexed at his request, "Why does my husband have to wait outside?"

Richard merely grinned, "Because I don't like having a third person when I'm discussing matters with someone. Another opinion will only complicate matters and in the end, the discussion will not be productive."

"If Ms. Smith is not comfortable with my working style, then I don't see the point of us even having the discussion. Please find someone better qualified for the job."

For the sake of the three workers in critical condition, Penny could only speak to Nathan in a hushed tone, "Nathan, why don't you wait for me outside?"

Nathan peered at Richard Steele, "Sure."

Only Richard and Penny were left in the room after Nathan had left.

Penny took the initiative and spoke, "Dr. Steele, what's the price I have to pay for you to operate on the three workers?"

Richard Steele then raised two fingers. Penny replied, "Two million? This is quite standard with your normal charges for the rich. I can do with two million."

He grinned wickedly, "Whoever said two million? I'm talking about two billion per surgery. Ms. Smith. Your surgery will cost six billion in total!"

Penny widened her eyes in disbelief as her voice croaked, "Six billion? Aren't you being too unreasonable?"

Richard retorted, "Six billion is fair. You're basically under the scrutiny of media for the construction site accident. Everyone in Channing is having their eyes on this, wondering whether the three severely-injured workers will survive."

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Nathan paamad at Richard Staala, "Sura."

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"I'm risking my reputation to perform the surgeries for you. Six billion is a fair price considering the risk I'm bearing."

Penny was astounded at his justification.

Richard peered at the porcelain skin showing through her collar and grinned wickedly, "Of course, if you don't want to pay the six billion. There's another option for you."

"That is if you lie down on top of the desk and have sex with me. I'll save all three of them with no charges then."

Penny's face turned crimson red and gritted through her teeth, "Shameless!"

She turned around to leave afterward.

However, Richard stopped her and stared at her lustfully, "Ms. Smith, don't rush to leave. You should keep in mind that in all of Channing, no, even in all of North, I'm the only one who can help you out."

"If you refuse me and your three workers die from the accident, then it would be a serious construction site accident. Your company will suffer the repercussions while you as the project manager will be locked up as well."

He added, "So my advice is, you'd better spread your legs and please me."

Penny was about to slap him with a blatant rejection when she suddenly heard a loud thud. The reception room's door was kicked open, and Nathan came in with a darkened expression.

Richard regarded the murderous Nathan and subconsciously retracted himself with fear. "What- What are you trying to do?"

Nathan Cross lifted his hand and slapped Samuel Steele across the face, hard.

The sheer force from the slap knocked a few of Steele's teeth out and made him spurt blood. The momentum of the slap had even sent him flying across the room and the desk was toppled over by his weight.

Nathan stared impassively at him, "How does a perverted person like you become Dr. Rothschild's student? I'm giving you a chance for retribution. Go to Channing Hospital later in the afternoon and apologize to me, kneeling. Or else, you're screwed for life."

Nathan held Penny's hand and they left right after.

A few staff came rushing in after Nathan and Penny left. They hurriedly steadied him and asked, "Dr. Steele, are you alright?"

Half of Richard Steele's face turned swollen from the impact, and even a few of his teeth had fallen out. It was his first time getting beaten up like this.

However, he was incensed at Nathan Cross's remark. How dare he ask me to apologize to him while kneeling? Who does he think he is?

Steele grimaced and his face turned hideous, "I'm the only one who is able to save the three patients in all of Channing. How dare this bastard threaten me?"

"Okay, I'll play along and go to the hospital in the afternoon. These two bitches better be prostrating themselves to me later. I will not operate on the three patients otherwise!"

Steele had harbored a more evil thought in his mind. Even if Nathan Cross and Penny Smith begged at me, I will still let the patients die.

He vowed to let Penny Smith suffer the repercussions of the construction site accident.

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Nathan and Penny walked out of Adventist Private Hospital, and Penny heaved a long sigh, "Now that you've hit him, I don't think it's possible for him to operate on the three workers even if we promise to him six billion."

However, Nathan reassured her, "It's okay. Dr. Rothschild will handle the patients. I will make sure this pervert suffers a fate worse than death if he does not apologize to me, kneeling later."

Penny could only shake her head, thinking that her husband had his head up in the clouds again.

Nathan then followed Penny home. She was dead beat because she did not sleep a wink last night.

Meanwhile, Benson Smith and Leah Smith made lunch and the family got together for a meal.

The Smiths were in low spirits, forming a stark comparison to Nathan.

Meanwhile, the TV was broadcasting news on Channing. A reporter was denouncing the construction site accident at Asiatic Mall.

The reporter deplored, "The construction site accident has caused the injury of 32 people. Three workers are currently in critical condition. It is said that the person in charge, Penny Smith, is only a young woman in her twenties. Besides, it has been found out that she does not have any experience in capital construction. This accident is most likely caused by her negligence. After a thorough investigation is done on the root cause of the accident, she will be remanded and charged for her oversight."

Benson and Leah's expressions changed drastically after hearing the news. They hurriedly switch off the TV.

Penny could only smile bitterly. Defamation and fame are just two sides of the same coin.

A number of people had turned green with envy when she had gotten the tender for the Asiatic Mall project.

Nathan and Panny walkad out of Advantist Privata Hospital, and Panny haavad a long sigh, "Now that you'va hit him, I don't think it's possibla for him to oparata on tha thraa workars avan if wa promisa to him six billion."

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A number of people had turned green with envy when she had gotten the tender for the Asiatic Mall project.

However, after the incident at the construction site, they turned their backs against her, and could not wait to see her behind bars.

Besides, she knew that an investigation was ongoing.

If it was indeed due to negligence on her part, and the workers had become casualties of the accident, then she might really have to face jail time.

With these thoughts in mind, she lost her appetite. Penny had a few bites and went into her room to take a nap.

Before taking her nap, she reminded Nathan, "Wake me up after half an hour. Even if we couldn't get Richard Steele to operate for the three workers, we have to try our best to get the second-best alternative."

Nathan replied calmly, "Don't worry, I have my plans."

Penny dragged her knackered body back to the room.

Benson and Leah could not hold it in any longer after Penny had left and hurriedly asked Nathan, "Nathan, is it true that Penny might go to jail for that serious construction site accident? It's all over the news."

Nathan reassured the two, "Don't worry, mom and dad. A few workers were hurt but there were no casualties. The accident isn't considered serious. Penny is going to be alright."

Benson and Leah visibly relaxed at Nathan's explanation. However, they were still worried since the news reporter had mentioned that there were three workers who were still in critical condition.

Queenie then pulled at the corner of Nathan's shirt and looked at him nervously, "Daddy, you cannot let mommy go to jail. I'm scared that I won't get to see mommy again."

Nathan picked up his daughter and pinched at her nose lightly and teased her, "Don't talk nonsense. Daddy will not let mommy go to jail."

Queenie's eyes gleamed with delight, "Really?"

Nathan smiled, "When has daddy ever lied to you?"

Queenie then chuckled and replied excitedly, "Yes! Daddy always does what he says. Daddy is the best!"

Penny had wanted to sleep for half an hour. However, she woke up and realized it was already four in the afternoon.

I've slept for four hours straight!

Nathan did not wake me up as I asked him to!

Penny was enraged and hurriedly got off the bed. She headed out of the room and saw Nathan in the living room.

She had wanted to question Nathan on why he did not wake her up when Nathan interrupted her with a grin on his face, "Honey, you're awake just in time. We have to get to the hospital. The doctor who's going to operate on the three workers will arrive at Channing Hospital soon."

Penny was stumped. Did Nathan look for another famous surgeon while I was asleep?

Her anger dissipated into thin air at the thought, and she was quite touched as she gazed at Nathan.

Nathan's so considerate this time. He secretly arranged for everything when I was asleep, seeing as I had lost sleep the night before.

Penny could not help but gaze tenderly at him. Silly, you didn't sleep a wink last night too. You wanted me to rest when you did not even rest yourself.

She followed Nathan out of the house and asked him gently, "Nathan, which surgeon did you engage? Is he trustworthy?"

Nathan merely grinned, "I trust him with my life. You'll know who it is when you get to the hospital."

They arrived at Channing Hospital in no time.

The ICU was in a chaos.

One of the workers' condition had worsened and he was in need of surgery immediately.

The head of the surgical department, Bennett Xander was explaining to the family members that the operation only had a survival rate of about 10%, and convinced them to sign the surgery consent form for the hospital to be able to operate on him immediately.

The family burst into mournful sobs and refused to sign the consent form.

Dr. Xander and the family members swarmed Nathan Cross and Penny Smith when they saw the two of them approaching.

Dr. Xander took the initiative to talk to Penny. "Ms. Smith, one of the patients' condition has worsened and he is in need of immediate surgery."

One of the family members then chimed in, "Ms. Smith, Dr. Xander told us the survival rate for the surgery is only 10%. How can we bring ourselves to sign the consent form?"

"Ms. Smith, didn't you promise to invite Dr. Steele to operate on them? Where is he?"

Penny stuttered and could not answer their burning questions. She cast a helpless look at Nathan as she was also curious about the famous surgeon he had allegedly invited to perform the surgeries.

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surgery is only 10%. How can we bring ourselves to sign the consent form?"

"Ms. Smith, didn't you promise to invite Dr. Steele to operate on them? What is it?"

Penny stuttered and could not answer their burning questions. She cast a half-lidded look at Nathan as she was also curious about the famous surgeon he had allegedly invited to perform the surgeries.

A voice could be heard coming from the crowd before Nathan could answer her.

Everybody turned their heads to locate the source. A man with a swollen face could be seen. It was no other than the unethical doctor, Richard Steele who had been knocked out a few teeth by Nathan Cross.

Richard Steele walked over to Nathan and Penny's side, eyeing them with contempt.

Dr. Xander's eyes glinted at the sight of Richard Steele, and he was pleasantly surprised, "My goodness, it's Dr. Richard Steele, Dr. Rupert Rothschild's student from Adventist Private Hospital!"

Dr. Xander excitedly chimed in, "If Dr. Steele is operating, I think it's safe to say that we have a survival rate of 50%!"

The family members murmured excitedly when they realized the man was Richard Steele.

It's great that Ms. Smith has invited him to perform the surgery!

However, their enthusiasm was dampened when Richard Steele clarified, "I'm sorry, people. I just happened to pass by here, I'm not here to perform the surgery."

The family members' hopes were shattered into pieces upon hearing his words.

They then cast doubtful glances at Penny, "Ms. Smith, didn't you say you will get Dr. Steele to perform the surgery? What happened?"

Penny was burning with anxiety and hurriedly said to Richard Steele, "Dr. Steele, I promise to pay you six billion for the three workers' surgeries."

The crowd went silent at the mention of six billion.

They knew Richard Steele was the 'Doctor for the Rich'. However, they did not expect him to go over the top.

The family members kept silent. They thought Penny was sincere enough, seeing as she was willing to fork out six billion to save the three workers' lives.

However, they were about to get even more taken aback at what Richard Steele was about to say.

Richard Steele sneered at Penny's remark, "Hah! Six billion is just for my hard work. But you did not agree to the amount, and your husband has me beaten up, even having the audacity to demand that I come apologizing to him, kneeling."

Richard Steele then shamelessly added, "My condition is not just the six billion now."

Penny's face grimaced at his words, "What other conditions?"

Richard Steele then shot a glance at Nathan, "Other than the six billion, I want Nathan Cross to kneel and apologize to me. Not only that, I want him to lick my shoes while he's at it!"

[Chapter 184](#)

The crowd clamored and was silently condemning him for being not only greedy but unethical as well.

Penny Smith's face went as white as paper as she was trapped in a difficult position.

There was no way for her to say yes to Richard Steele's conditions. It was impossible to ask Nathan to apologize to him, kneeling, let alone licking his shoes.

However, no one else could save the three workers who were in critical condition, it would be akin to her letting them die.

Even though she did not kill them with her own hands, they would die because of her decision. I will be forever haunted by guilt.

Penny trembled from the mountainous pressure and all colors drained from her face as she was overwhelmed by the dilemma.

It was at this moment that Nathan grabbed her hand, giving her the strength she needed the most at that instance.

Nathan regarded Richard Steele impassively, and spit out, "How dare a quack like you demand me to beg you?"

Richard Steele's eyes widened at Nathan accusing him to be a quack.

Nathan Cross then turned to face the family members and said in a low voice, "Everybody, Cross Corporation has invited the most competent person to perform the surgeries for the workers. He's the North Army Hospital's director, Rupert Rothschild."

The crowd went mute at his announcement.

Richard Steele was stunned for a moment before bursting into a mocking laugh, "Haha! You're bluffing!"

"Who are you to be able to ask my teacher to come to Channing to perform surgeries on these three lowly workers?"

"I swear to kneel down and apologize to you right away and to forever resign as a medical practitioner if you're able to invite my teacher here."

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The crowd then turned their attention back to Nathan Cross.

They were hoping Nathan was not bluffing. However, they knew that the chances of having Dr. Rothschild performing the surgeries were slim.

Even Penny was anxious at his remark and spoke to him in hushed tones, "What are you getting at? Are you still messing around at this moment?"

Nathan merely smiled, "I'm not messing around. This quack is going to apologize to me kneeling down today, and he's going to resign as a doctor from here on in."

Penny could not stand his delusion any longer, "Since you've invited Dr. Rothschild, where is he now?"

Nathan's lips curved into a thin smile. and he pointed a finger toward the sky.

The crowd was stumped. Richard Steele then mocked, "Do you mean he's thousands of miles away? What a ridiculous fella!"

Nathan replied impassively, "I'm not saying he's thousands of miles away. I'm saying that Dr. Rothschild is here and that he's descending from the sky soon."

Richard Steele burst into laughter while the others shook their heads in reprove.

Is he mental? Dr. Rothschild isn't a god, how could he descend from the sky?

It was at this moment that a loud noise could be heard coming from above.

The crowd was stunned, and they ran out of the building to pinpoint the source.

They lifted their head, and to their surprise, three armed helicopters were hovering in the sky.

The three helicopters landed on the helipad slowly. Afterward, a white-bearded old man could be seen heading out of the helicopter accompanied by a number of Northern soldiers.

The white-bearded man had a vibrant complexion despite his old age. The crowd was once again in an uproar, "My goodness, it's really Dr. Rothschild, the director of the North Army General Hospital!"

They were very excited at the sight of Dr. Rothschild. Some even wanted to walk up to him and greet him.

However, before they could get near Dr. Rothschild, they were stopped short by the soldiers guarding him.

Rupert Rothschild spotted Nathan Cross and Penny Smith in the crowd straight away.

He could not help himself but look at Nathan Cross with pure admiration.

He smiled at the sight of Penny Smith standing by Nathan's side.

As the personal doctor for the General, he was concerned with when Nathan Cross would decide to start a family, as would other people who cared for Nathan.

Nathan did not indulge in debauchery and did not seem charmed by women. Rupert had worried that Nathan would be akin to a great general who used to vow he would never start a family unless he had wiped out the enemy.

Rupert Rothschild was glad to see that a good match for Nathan was standing right beside him.

Rupert Rothschild did not take heed of the crowd and walked straight toward Nathan Cross and Penny Smith.

He grinned at the two, "Mr. Cross, Ms. Smith, I came straight from the Channing International Airport via a private plane and headed here in a private helicopter. I suppose I'm not late to rescue the patients right?"

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The North Army soldiers turned excited at the sight of Nathan Cross.

They straightened their backs and stood up straight like a pole.

Nathan smiled, "Dr. Rothschild, you're just in time. A worker's condition has worsened just moments ago and in need of urgent surgery."

Penny Smith could not believe her eyes. Her usual calm demeanor disappeared, and she even stuttered when she greeted him, "Dr.- Dr. Rothschild, it's really you."

Dr. Rothschild chuckled, "Yes, it's me. I heard Nathan and you require my help. So, I rushed here immediately."

Everyone at the scene then cast a curious glance at Nathan Cross and wondered who he is. How was he able to invite Dr. Rothschild here?

Even the mayor for Channing would not be able to invite someone like Dr. Rothschild here.

Of course, Richard Steele was the one to take the greatest punch of all.

The man's face went paperwhite at the sight of Rupert Rothschild, and he almost peed himself.

Richard Steele wanted to dig a hole and jump into it to hide from Dr. Rothschild.

He knew his teacher all too well. Even though Rupert Rothschild was a benevolent doctor, he detested evilness.

If Dr. Rothschild knew of his wrongdoings, he would truly be done for in the medical community.

Dr. Rothschild had spotted him even though he prayed fervently to be translucent.

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Besides, Dr. Rothschild had already heard of what happened on the way to the hospital.

He knew Richard Steele had tried to take advantage of the situation by trying to extort Penny Smith,

demanding an astronomical figure for the operations, and his indecent request to Penny Smith.

Even his repulsive request of asking Nathan Cross to lick his shoes.

Dr. Rothschild wasted no time in briefing the department heads of Channing Hospital to prepare for the surgery, including the anesthetization of the patient. He was ready to operate on the worker whose condition had worsened.

After he was done, he swiftly changed his tone, "However, before I start, I have some cleaning to do."

His tone was firm and domineering.

Richard Steele seemed like he had just been struck by the lightning when he heard Rupert Rothschild's words.

Dr. Rothschild then turned around to face Richard Steele after he was done briefing the department heads. His gaze was icy cold when he regarded Richard Steele, "Bastard, are you aware of your wrongdoings?"

Richard Steele's voice was shaky, "Teacher!"

Dr. Rothschild bellowed, "Kneel!"

Rupert Rothschild was not only Richard Steele's teacher but also a titan in the medical community. He held an unsurmountable position in the army as well.

His order made Richard Steele's legs turn to jelly. The latter got down on his knees immediately.

Dr. Rothschild was infuriated at the sight of Richard Steele and shouted at him, "Do you still remember my first lesson? One has to establish virtue before studying medicine!"

"I've long heard about you using the skills you learned from me to gain lucrative profit but I did not want to interfere."

"Who would have thought that you would stoop so low for money? From now on, you're no longer my student."

"I will also ask for the Medical Association to revoke your license as a medical practitioner."

Richard Steele shuddered at Dr. Rothschild's words, crying as he circled his hands around Dr. Rothschild's legs. "Teacher, please forgive me, it's all my fault..."

Dr. Rothschild was impassive toward his pleading, "You should ask Mr. Cross for forgiveness instead."

Richard Steele cast a glance at Nathan Cross, and he widened his eyes in disbelief. Is he saying that I can only survive if Nathan Cross forgives me?

Richard Steele threw his dignity out the window, and he crawled to Nathan Cross and Penny Smith, kowtowing to them as he pleaded for their mercy, "Mr. Cross, Ms. Smith, I'm really sorry. I beg you guys to put in a good word to my teacher and let me go this time."

Chapter 186

Nathan merely replied, "I've given you a chance. You've trampled all over it."

Richard Steele's voice was shaky, "I apologize, I'll apologize right now..."

Nathan was impassive and retorted, "Didn't you asked me to kneel down and lick your shoes just now? Why? You regret it now?"

Richard Steele could not seem to reply him.

"Be consistent and keep up with your bastard attitude. Your mannerism disgusts me. Get lost. I hope you learn your lesson this time and turn over a new leaf."

As soon as Nathan finished his sentence, two of the North Army soldiers took the imitative to come forward.

They then dragged the wailing Richard Steele away from the scene.

The hospital had done all the preparations for the surgery while Richard Steele was causing a ruckus.

Dr. Rothschild then went into the operation theatre and performed the surgery on the patient.

Dr. Rothschild had studied the three workers' medical history on his way to the hospital so that he could operate on them straight away.

The operation was done in just half an hour.

The operation was a successful one. The hematoma had been successfully drained from the patient's head, effectively reducing the pressure on the brain, so the patient was no longer in a critical condition.

The doctors and family members waiting outside the operation theatre cheered with joy when the surgery was declared a success.

Dr. Rothschild truly lived up to his reputation. He immediately asked to prepare the other two workers for surgeries after he was done with the patient facing intracerebral hemorrhage.

After another two hours, the other two workers' surgeries were also successful, and they were no longer facing life-threatening danger.

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Tha operation was a succassful ona. Tha hamatoma had baan succassfully drainad from tha patiant's haad, affactivaly raducing tha prassura on tha brain, so tha patiant was no longar in a critical condition.

Tha doctors and family mambars waiting outside tha operation thaatra charad with joy whan tha surgary was daclarad a succass.

Dr. Rothschild truly livad up to his raputation. Ha immadiatly askad to prapara tha othar two workars for surgarias aftar ha was dona with tha patiant facing intracarabral hamorrhaga.

Aftar another two hours, tha othar two workars' surgarias wara also succassful, and thay wara no longar facing lifa-thraataning dangar.

The news was widely broadcasted by the media; mainly accolades of Dr. Rothschild's medical skills.

Leaders from governmental bodies, medical fields, and the riches alike expressed their wish to celebrate Dr. Rothschild's successful surgeries.

However, they were all rejected by Dr. Rothschild. He decided to go to Penny's house for a simple homemade meal instead.

The public was gob smacked at his decision, and it sparked a heated discussion on how Dr. Rothschild was related to Nathan Cross and Penny Smith.

Even Jerry Zabinski, who was scheming against Nathan and Penny, was bowled over.

He immediately ordered his subordinate to find out how Dr. Rothschild was related to both of them.

The result came back almost instantly. It was said that Nathan used to be a soldier in the North Army and that he was a master at chess. Rupert Rothschild played against him but even he was no match for Nathan Cross.

Dr. Rothschild who lost the game promised Nathan's one wish with no conditions.

It was because of this that Nathan asked for Dr. Rothschild's help this time.

Jerry Zabinski was enlightened upon hearing the report and snorted, "I was wondering how Cross and Smith could get Dr. Rothschild to perform the surgery. Dr. Rothschild has only promised them because he stayed true to his promise."

His subordinate then added, "Now that Dr. Rothschild has fulfilled his promise, he is no longer related to Cross."

Jerry then smiled wickedly, "Cross and Smith got lucky this time. I doubt they're going to get this lucky again next time."

After the dinner, Dr. Rothschild bid goodbye to Nathan, Penny and the Smiths.

He then got on a private plane and headed back to the North.

After Dr. Rothschild left, Sean Smith brought Samuel and Paul over.

Penny's face darkened upon seeing them arrive. Her expression was hard to discern but she knew something big was going to happen soon.

Sean went straight to the point after sitting down and questioned Penny right away, "Penny, why didn't you discuss the serious construction site accident with us right after it happened? We're the shareholders, after all."

Penny then explained, "Grandpa, uncles. I've been busy handling the matter ever since it happened last night."

“It has been agreed that you guys will not be involved in the management of the company anyway. That’s why I have planned to deal with the matter first before calling for a shareholder meeting.”

Sean squinted his eyes, “Then how is it going?”

Penny continued, “The injured workers are no longer in a critical condition. This incident is now under control.”

“I’ll have to follow up on the treatment of the workers, plus the compensation for them now. I plan to discuss this part with you guys.”

Sean was irritated at her explanation, “There’s no need to tell me the details like medical fees, compensation, and whatnot. Just let me know how much Cross Corporation is going to lose this time.”

Penny replied in a small voice, “After some rough calculation, the loss is estimated to be about over a billion.”

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The Smiths’ face fell upon hearing the figure. They were the major shareholders, and if Cross Corporation were to lose over a billion, it would mean that they were losing millions each.

Samuel added impassively, “I’ve heard that the Channing Emergency Response Unit has set up an investigation team to probe into the root cause of the accident.

“If the root cause lies in the management of the Cross Corporation, then you’ll have to bear the most responsibility.”

Penny nodded in agreement, “Yes.”

Paul also added, “What’s more, I’ve heard that after the incident, the city council apparently thinks that Cross Corporation is not competent enough to handle the Asiatic Mall construction. Are they really considering to let other companies handle this project?”

Penny widened her eyes upon hearing the news, and shook her head, “This is just a rumor. At least, I haven’t heard anything from the city council.”

Sean then snorted, “Penny, you’ve caused a big ruckus this time. Not only is the company losing big bucks, but you’re also even going to cause the company to lose our cash cow.”

“Your uncles and I are innocent in this matter. We don’t want to pay for your mistake!”

Penny furrowed her brows, “Grandpa, what do you mean?”

Sean's face was expressionless, "Nothing. It's just that we think you should be responsible for your own mistake this time. We want to let go of our shares on hand, and for you to return our nine million capital to us."

Penny was astounded, "What? You guys asked to be shareholders in the first place. Now that we've made losses, you guys are not willing to bear the losses together, and even want to get the capital back in full?"

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Sean then replied, "Yes. We're going to give the shares back to you while you're going to give us the capital in full, not a single cent less."

Benson and Leah were incensed at their remark.

They were trampling over Penny.

This construction site accident was quite serious; it would be a huge loss to the company.

If they were going to pull out at this moment, then the company's cash flow would be in a dire condition.

Penny hurriedly added, "Grandpa, you guys really shouldn't do this. Even if we bring this to the court, you guys would be at a disadvantage."

Sean was enraged when he heard Penny, "How dare you! Are you saying you're going to sue your grandpa and uncles?"

Samuel retorted, "Hah! Penny, it seems like you're quite bold now, and even dare to rebel against grandpa and us!"

Penny did not really want to sue her own grandpa and uncles.

Even if she had won the case, the Smiths would become the laughing stock among the Channing business circle.

Moreover, they would still withdraw their shares.

The only difference would be that they would get less than their nine million capital as it would be calculated based on the current market price.

Penny then soothed them, "Don't get angry, grandpa and uncles. I'm not saying I want to sue you guys."

"I just want to ask for you guys to hold back the decision to withdraw your shares. Can you guys wait until after the incident has cooled off and for the company to return to its normal operation?"

The three of them had gotten the news that the city council is considering letting another company handle the Asiatic Mall project in view of the construction site accident.

Cross Corporation would be nothing if they lost the Asiatic Mall project.

The three of them were not willing to bear the risk. That was why they were rushing to withdraw their shares.

They could not care less about Penny and just wanted to get their nine million capital back.

Even if Penny begged fervently at them, they would not budge.

Penny was anxious at their attitude and a glint of tears could be seen in her eyes, "Grandpa, you guys are essentially cornering me if you insist on withdrawing your shares now."

Sean was impassive. "We don't care. After all, it's only been a few days since we became shareholders. It's better if you just think we've never become shareholders before."

Benson and Leah were both distressed seeing Penny being cornered by them, but they could do nothing to help.

Queenie was doing her schoolwork, accompanied by Nathan. She was almost sobbing and said in a small voice to Nathan, "Daddy, great grandpa and uncles are bullying mommy again."

Nathan gazed at them, "Honey, no need to be bothered by them. Just let them withdraw their shares if they want to."

"I guarantee that they will repent for life for making this decision today."

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Penny looked at Nathan in disbelief, and even her voice was shaky, "Returning the nine million to them will totally disrupt the cash flow of the company. We might not even have enough to compensate the workers."

Nathan merely replied, "It's nothing. There will be other investors after they withdraw their shares."

Nathan immediately made a call to Colin Dunne, "Pass the message to investors in Channing. Diva Limited is looking for capital investments. Those interested are to see me within half an hour. Limited numbers only, so those interested should be fast."

Nathan hung up after he passed on the message.

The three of them sneered. Before this incident, a lot of people were indeed interested to invest in Cross Corporation.

However, after this incident and the news of the city officials considering to pass the project on to other investors, how many would still be interested?

Nathan had even asked for those interested to contact him fast. What a joke!

Penny was still doubtful, "Are we really going to return the nine million capital back to them and get our shares back?"`

To this Nathan replied, "Of course. It's their loss. Why should we be concerned?"

Penny was still on the fence. Nathan smiled, "Honey, after all I've done, do you still not believe in me? If

you trust me, you should get the lawyer and ask them to transfer the 48% shares in their hands back to us.”

Penny bit her lip at Nathan’s remark. In the end, she chose to trust him.

She then turned to the three people in front of her, “Okay, I will use nine million to buy the shares in your hands.”

Penny then called for the lawyer to come.

The three of them were smug after getting what they wanted.

They initially thought that they were going to lose a huge portion of their capital and that they would not be able to liquidate their shares.

However, they did not expect Nathan and Penny to be so naïve to agree to return the capital worth nine million to them.

The lawyer of the Cross Corporation arrived not long after.

The agreement draft was ready for Penny and the three Smiths to sign.

After they signed the agreement, a few men dressed in impeccable suits came knocking.

They were Zachary Schulz, the richest man in Channing; Liam Harrison, director of Channing Bank; George Miller, owner of Juno Hotel; Wyatt Kent, president of Watsons Holdings Corporation and finally, Calvin Grant, the chairman of the Avery Real Estate.

The three Smiths were astounded at the billionaires showing up.

Any one of their net worth would easily triumph the Smiths.

It was not an understatement to say that the Smiths seemed like beggars in front of Zachary Schulz.

The three Smiths were dazed by the billionaires. Oh my goodness. Are these billionaires really here to invest in Cross Corporation?

The billionaires approached Penny and Nathan directly, validating their guess. Zachary Schulz and the others were all smiles and asked, “Ms. Smith, we’ve heard that some morons have decided to withdraw their shares, causing your company to be in a tight spot financially. I’ve also heard you’re looking for investors?”

Morons?

Sean, Samuel and Paul cast glances at each other. Are they talking about us?

Penny was flabbergasted as well, and she turned around to glance at the grinning Nathan. She was visibly nervous at being face to face with these billionaires. "Mr. Schulz, and sirs. Greetings."

"My company has been facing some difficulties recently, especially in view of my grandpa and uncles liquidating their shares. It's true that we're facing some cash flow issues."

Zachary Schulz smiled, "I wonder how much Ms. Smith needs?"

Penny replied, "Two billion, no- just one billion will do."

"I just need one billion to get Cross Corporation through this hurdle. Would you guys be willing to invest a billion in me?"

Zachary Schulz and the others laughed at her remark. Schulz was especially generous, "How's one billion enough? Ten billion is more like it. The five of us will contribute two billion each!"

Penny's eyes widened in disbelief.

Grandpa and uncles were just making noise about liquidating their shares, yet now these billionaires are fighting to invest in Cross Corporation.

Nathan circled his hands around Penny's slim waist and smiled, "Honey, since they're sincere enough to come all the way here to offer to invest their capital, why don't you just accept their offer?"

Penny then regained her composure and breathed in deeply to soothe the storm raging in her heart, and gratefully thanked them, "Thank you Mr. Schuz. Thank you to all of you. Thank you for believing in me, especially a time like this."

"I won't disappoint you guys. I promise to make your investments worth it."

The billionaires seemed happier than Penny when she agreed to let them invest in Cross Corporation.

They were all smile. "Sure, sure."

The three Smiths were dumbfounded.

They were not stupid and believed that the billionaires weren't stupid either.

On the contrary, the billionaires were as smart as a whip.

Hence, they believed that it was not a blind investment on the billionaires' part.

It was positive that the news on the city officials planning to pass on the Asiatic Mall project to another company was just a rumor.

Cross Corporation's future was still as bright as day!

The three Smiths then realized that they had made a stupid decision, and regretted it immensely.

However, there were no ifs and buts. They could only leave in despair.

However, what was going to happen two days later would make regret a word too mild to describe their feelings. They should not withdraw their shares then.

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After the Smiths left, Zachary Schulz and the other men did not stay on. Within moments, there was only Nathan Cross and his family left in the house.

There was a blatant look of suspicion on Penny's face as she stared at Nathan. "Nathan, why is it one phone call from you has so many business magnates fighting to invest in me?"

Benson, Leah and Queenie were all staring at him curiously too. After what had happened earlier, Penny was not the only one who had suspicions.

With the workplace incident at the construction site, the safety protocols of Cross Corporation had been called into question. Rumors had it the mayor of the city had wanted to hand the project off to another company.

In light of such a worrying situation, the Smiths had insisted on withdrawing their investment to protect themselves. On the contrary, Zachary Schulz and the others had still been willing to invest.

There was definitely something fishy going on here!

And it all had something to do with the man standing before them.

Smiling slightly, Nathan replied, "Mr. Schulz and the others invested in Cross Corporation because they think we're capable. However, there is another reason."

Penny asked eagerly, "What is it?"

"Dr. Rothschild!"

Realizing everyone was staring at him with bewildered looks on their faces, Nathan explained, "Didn't I call Dr. Rothschild to come and do surgery for the construction workers injured in the incident? He had declined the mayor and those business magnates' invitation and came to our house to eat, remember? Naturally, they think I'm very close with him."

Penny interrupted and picked up where he stopped, "Dr. Rothschild is the director of the North Army Hospital and is supposedly the personal doctor of the General of the North Army. Obviously, his social standing is quite high. With that, those people have misunderstood how close the two of you are. Mr. Schulz and those businessmen are hoping to be in his good book so they try to butter you up. Am I right?"

Nathan answered with a smile, "Something like that."

Penny and her parents were not sure whether to laugh at the situation. They knew Nathan and Dr. Rothschild. Nathan managed to get the doctor's help because the latter had once lost a bet to him.

Benson grinned as he said to Nathan, "Whatever it is, this is all thanks to you."

Leah had a wide smile on her face as she agreed, "Yeah, that's right! Nathan, you really are our lucky star. Ever since you came to our home, every misfortune we encounter just seems to get turned around and resolved so easily!"

At her parents' words, Penny could not help but smile as well. Her parents were right, Nathan Cross was always doing something unexpected that had led to interesting results. As a result, she found herself at a loss most of the time.

That night, Nathan told the pale-looking Penny and his daughter to sleep first. He had some matters to attend to and had to leave the house.

When he stepped out of the house, Thomas was already waiting outside in a Volkswagen Phaeton.

Settling in the backseat of the car, he questioned calmly, "Have you found that Chien fellow?"

Thomas replied, "Yeah. I thought the punk would have already left the city but it turns out that he's still in Channing with his lover."

"Let's go to him then."

"Yes, sir!"

The car moved forward at a sedate pace, heading towards the shadier part of the city.

Nathan had been discussing the incident with Bob, the supervisor of the construction site. The latter felt the crane toppling over was not a normal workplace accident but the work of someone sabotaging them deliberately.

Hence, Nathan had called Thomas and had the latter carry out his own investigations without waiting for the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) to finish their investigations. After all, Thomas was king of the Channing underworld now. Anybody doing this sort of shady business had to answer to him.

At the order from Thomas, the entire underworld went to work on the investigation. After some time, he received information that showed that a person called Chien was most likely behind the incident at the construction site. Unfortunately, the reason for his actions was still unknown.

This was why Nathan and Thomas were now on their way to Chien. They wanted to get to the bottom of this.