

## After Prison 21

### [Chapter 21](#)

Catherine was manifestly unhappy when she heard what Diane said. "Diane, are you sure you want to be with him? How is someone like him worthy of a woman like you?"

"There's no point trying to persuade me, Grandma. I've already made my decision!" Diane remained steadfast.

"Why do you have to be so stubborn?" William finally could not resist voicing his opinion, and his tone seemed to lament that Diane's lack of desire to seek a better change.

The corners of Catherine's lips trembled slightly and she gritted her teeth. "I see. Since you've already made up your mind, I won't bother any longer. I would've been able to try and accept this. man if he was at least the son of an ordinary businessman, but I am thoroughly and utterly unable to accept a man like him! Worse still, he's an ex-convict!"

After saying what she wanted to say, the old lady said to Trevor, "Mister Trevor, Diane is still a Shanahan, so the least your people can do is refrain from hurting her. That man, on the other hand, is an outsider. Whether he lives or dies is none of our business. Since he hurt your son, you're free to decide how you wish to deal with him!"

"Grandma..."

Diane got anxious when she heard that. It scarcely occurred to her that none of the Shanahans would speak up for Severin after showing up there. She hedged her bet on the hopes that her family could tell the Loughs to let her and Severin leave the place safely, but the Shanahans' attitude toward them both left her incredibly disappointed.

George, the current head of the Shanahans, curled his lips into a smirk when he heard his mother's words, seemingly to revel in the schadenfreude.

"Oh Diane...the word 'bimbo' might just be the most apt description for you!" George's son, Stanley, crossed his arms and said with a derisive look.

Diane shot Stanley a vicious look, and her heart was already boiling with rage. Ever since she was kicked out of the Shanahans, Stanley-who was always eyeing to inherit the Shanahans' property- immediately took control of the company. After that, he made a point to tell those within his business circle to avoid accepting Diane in as an employee.

It was the reason why Diane encountered all sorts of obstacles when she went for interviews after being kicked out by the Shanahans. As a result, she could only make a living by delivering food.

Her life would have been much easier if Stanley did not go out of his way to stifle her.

Severin sighed to himself when he saw how ruthless they were in treating Diane.

It was evident from what he saw that Diane had suffered so much more than he initially imagined. Even her parents did not side with her, and everyone blamed her instead of standing by her.

He walked up to Diane and smiled at her. "Don't worry. I was the one who caused trouble here, so I should be the one to solve it. I can't possibly place the burden on a woman."

"Tch, are you seriously still trying to act tough at this sort of time? You think too highly of yourself," Megan said in disdain.

Stanley chimed in and remarked, "If you were capable of anything, you wouldn't have been sent to prison then, would you? Do you think you can just magically conjure up some strength to go against all these bodyguards today?"

Severin turned around and stared sharply at Stanley. "I don't have to take the Loughs too seriously.

"Haha! I'd like to see how long you can keep that stubbornness up." Trevor was ecstatic! Dealing with Severin was a piece of cake since none of the Shanahans had interceded for him. He was honestly still a little scared before the Shanahans come, but their attitude toward the entire situation turned his fear into delight.

All of a sudden, someone yelled, "What's happening here?"

## [Chapter 22](#)

Little did anyone expect that the owner of the hotel would show up there with the hotel's security guards.

Everyone there moves aside so he could pass through.

Severin looked over and saw none other than the middle-aged man who played chess with Henry earlier that morning. He wondered what the man was doing there.

"Oh, hello, Mister Monroe. What brings you here?" Trevor said with a smile.

Denzel Monroe, the owner of the Richemont Hotel, glanced at Severin and said, "I was told that somebody was causing trouble in my hotel, so I decided to bring someone over to have a look at the situation. Could you explain what's going on, Mister Trevor?"

"This kid came here just to stir trouble! He even hurt my son!" Trevor pointed at Severin and said angrily. "I don't need your hotel security guards to take any action, though. Our bodyguards have already arrived, so just let me people take care of him!"

Trevor paused, and said again, "Of course, I don't blame you for letting someone like him into your hotel. After all, it's a really big place, so it's normal that one or two people are able to slip in!"

However, what he didn't expect was that Denzel smiled, "Excuse me, but this man right here is a friend of mine. I hope you'll show me a bit of courtesy and just forget about what happened today."

"Are you siding with that kid?" The smile on Trevor's face gradually disappeared, only to be replaced with confusion.

The Monroes were much more influential than the Loughs. Though they still did not compare to the Shanahans, they were only slightly below the latter. For the time being at least, they were the family with the highest chance of elevating their status to that of a third-tier upper-class family.

Severin, who was already raring to make the first move, frowned instantly. It was odd that a man whom he only met once was siding with him. Within seconds, however, he understood that the man probably wanted to make himself look good in front of Henry. The Longhorns were only one of three first-tier upper-class families in the entirety of Brookbourn.

Both Severin and Henry had just formed a decent friendship with each other after Severin saved Henry's life. Furthermore, Henry would probably be arriving very soon, and when he found out that Denzel had helped Severin, Denzel would more or less have made an even better impression on Henry.

Denzel smiled faintly and said, "He's my friend, so I'm afraid I can't pass him over to you. How about I give you half-off on all your expenses at the hotel today in exchange for your cooperation in dropping this matter?"

Trevor's lips twitched violently a couple of times and he glared at Denzel while saying, "I held the wedding banquet at your hotel out of respect for you, Denzel. It's bad enough that your men can't maintain order here, and now you're speaking up for this kid? Are you sure you want to make an enemy out of me?"

Denzel smiled wryly and said, "I've made myself clear enough. I will spare no effort to make sure that he is safe! He must be allowed to leave this hotel in one piece! My security guards aren't pushovers, you know. If worse comes to worse, I can always call my bodyguards to come here!"

"Don't push your luck, Denzel. We'll soon know whether or not you'll be able to protect this kid!" Trevor was about to explode with anger. He was a regular patron of the Monroes' business, so he was appalled when Denzel helped a poor loser like Severin instead of a regular customer.

In the end, Trevor took out his phone and walked to the corner to make a call. When he came back, he had a smile on his face. "I wonder if you'll still be able to protect the boy once Blade arrives, Denzel."

## [Chapter 23](#)

"B-B-Blade?!" Denzel's expression soured when he heard that name.

Diane, who initially was able to breathe a sigh of relief, immediately turned pale. She said softly to Severin, "Bad news. It appears that the Loughs have still maintained connections with Blade."

Severin's brows furrowed, not out of nervousness, but out of curiosity. "Is this 'Blade' guy strong? What kind of person is he?"

"You might not know this, but aside from the wealthy families we see in Brookbourn's surface, there's the existence of a ruler in the underworld, as well as an organization called the Draco Hall. Draco Hall's second-in-command is Blade. He's a capable fighter, and he only got to where he is now by killing people. They say that he faced more than a hundred people with only a blade in his hand, and by the end of the massacre, more than sixty of them lay dead the ground, while the others ran off because they were scared out of their wits!" Diane said with a frown.

She was growing increasingly worried, and after pondering over the situation, she said softly to Severin, "We should go, Severin. We can probably still get away if we leave now, because Denzel's security guards might be able to help us stop the Loughs' bodyguards. If we miss that chance, I don't think anyone will be able to save us!"

When Severin heard that, he grinned slightly and said, "I didn't come here today to cause trouble at the wedding. Lucy owes me a hundred and ninety thousand, all of which were my parents' hard-earned money. That amount consists of forty thousand for the dowry, and the hundred and fifty from when she sold off my matrimonial home in a scam for half the original price!"

Diane was stunned for a moment before she managed to string her words together. "Are you stupid? You're willing to risk your life for money? Do you honestly think you'll be able to escape this situation with your money?"

Severin nodded right away and said with conviction, "I don't think that'll be a big problem."

Diane nearly fainted. His words were infuriating! She could not believe that he just described the situation as not a big problem! Had she not called the Shanahans to stall time, and had Denzel not stepped forward to speak up for him, Severin would have been hacked to death already.

She was utterly bewildered to see him being so calm about it.

Denzel pondered over the situation and said, "Severin, you and Miss Diane should leave. My people will hold them off for you!"

After saying that, he immediately yelled, "Listen up, fellas! You are to escort Severin and Miss Diane safely out of the hotel!"

As soon as the guards received the order, they immediately surrounded Severin and Diane one after another.

Denzel did not dare to take any risks. Since he was unsure when Henry and the others would arrive at the hotel, his best bet was to find a way to get Severin and Diane out first.

The Shanahans watched the scene unfold with puzzled expressions.

Denzel was a businessman who almost never did anything if there was nothing in it for him!

A plausible explanation for Denzel's stance against the Loughs was probably to ingratiate himself with the Shanahans, but the Shanahans were there, and they did not intervene, so that explanation could be discounted. The only other possible reason was that he was trying to please Severin, rather than the Shanahans.

Whichever perspective one looked at it, Severin's appearance was the complete opposite of a rich and powerful person. Besides, everyone knew that he was the guy who was sent to prison after smashing a beer bottle over Easton's head, and there was no reason for them to have him imprisoned if he had been a rich and powerful person.

At that moment, the Shanahans could not understand what Denzel was trying to achieve with his

actions.

“Damn you, Denzel. Why’d you have to pick a fight with me today? Do you want to make an enemy out of me?” Trevor’s face turned red with anger as he waved his hand and signaled his men to surround them.

Easton gnashed his teeth in anger. “Think carefully before you act, Denzel. Ask yourself if it’s really worth offending us for Severin’s sake. Once our men start hacking him, don’t blame us if you get caught in the crossfire. After all, it’s easy for anyone to get wounded when weapons are at play.”

## [Chapter 24](#)

Trevor then asked, “Are you sure your men can put a fight against my men when your side has barely half the number of our bodyguards?”

At that moment, however, one could see through the window that a middle-aged man was leading a group of men to surround the hotel. A number of those people barged in directly, and the total number of individuals that had arrived was probably at least several hundred.

“We’re done for. The guys from Draco Hall are here!” Denzel’s expression sank when he saw the situation outside.

“W-w-what are we supposed to do?” Diane was extremely anxious.

“Come here, Diane. Are you sure you want to die along with a poor nobody like Severin? Don’t you care about your daughter at all?” Felicia squeezed through the crowd, grabbed Diane’s arm, and dragged her to where the Shanahans were standing.

William, who had also turned pale with fright, hurried over and took Diane’s other arm in an attempt to help his wife pull Diane away from Severin.

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“Think about Selene. How would she react if she loses her mother?” Megan immediately tried persuading her elder sister.

“But...” Diane’s eyes turned red and she said anxiously, “But...but I can’t let Selene lose her father! She’s been dreaming of meeting him, and now he’s finally back! What am I going to tell her if he dies before even seeing her?”

Her statement drew the ire of Felicia. “Are you stupid, Diane? Do you remember Edward Horsfield? He’s still in love with you, you know. If worse comes to worse, you can just marry Edward and tell Selene that he’s her father! It’s not as if Selene saw her father before.”

Megan anxiously tried to convince Diane too. “Yes! Edward said that he’ll treat you well even though you’ll only be his mistress. He’s offering a dowry of one and half million! He just came to our house yesterday and discussed it with Mom and Dad!”

Diane could only smile coldly and look at her mother with disappointment. “So that one and half million is why you and grandma would rather watch Severin die rather than help him? Whether you like it or not, he’s still Selene’s father, and that means you ought to treat him like your son-in-law!”

Felicia blinked her eyes in bewilderment and said, “Him? My son-in-law? Your father and I have never accepted him as a son-in-law, and besides, if you hadn’t called today to say that Selene’s father came back, we wouldn’t even know that he was Selene’s father!”

After a brief silence, William said to Diane, “You’re aware of what’s happening now, aren’t you? The Loughs have support from Draco Hall, and the Shanahans won’t be able to help even if they wanted to. I’m sure you know how powerful Draco Hall is. They won’t show any courtesy to third-tier upper-class families and even second-tier upper-class families!”

Felicia stepped up her efforts to persuade Diane. “You have to leave with us right now if you don’t want to see Severin die in front of you. It’s not like you owe him anything! He’s the one who owes you big time after causing you to suffer so much in the past few years! You have no idea how heartbroken I am when I see that!”

Everyone immediately fell silent at that moment, and a series of chaotic footsteps were heard. Dozens of strong men made their way over, and the people around them immediately gave way to them.

“Welcome, Sir!” Two rows of Draco Hall’s most highly-skilled individuals shouted in unison to welcome Blade, making for a truly intimidating sight!

## [Chapter 25](#)

Blade was nearly two meters tall. His body was particularly robust and he had bulging muscles. The short-sleeved T-shirt that he wore accentuated his chest muscles, and they were big enough to rival an average woman’s bosom. His bronze-colored arm muscles instilled fear in people, while his thick eyebrows and sharp eyes were brimming with might.

When he arrived, he rubbed his bald head and asked Trevor in a hoarse voice, “Tell me, who do you want me to kill?”

Trevor had yet to even utter a single word when Easton said impatiently, “It’s him! That b\*stard ruined my wedding and even tore off one of my fingers! Kill him. No, wait, killing him would be going too easy on him. I want you cut off his meat bit by bit, and have the pieces thrown into the river for the fish to—”

Before he could end his sentence, Blade gave Easton a backhand slap that left Easton feeling all dizzy.

“B-B-Blade? You hit the wrong person, didn’t you? I want you to hit Severin! Not me!” Easton covered his face with a bewildered expression.

Blade smiled coldly and said, “I don’t need you to order me around. That question I asked was directed toward your father, not you! Don’t forget that I’m only repaying you a favor. I’m not your servant, and a brat like you has no business ordering me around!”

The corner of Trevor’s mouth twitched a few times. He gave Blade a bun when Blade was at his lowest, and in return, Blade promised to owe him a favor.

Had it not been for the Loughs’ lack of options that day after suffering such utter humiliation, he would have saved that favor for another time.

Trevor glared at Easton at once. "You idiot! Know your place and keep quiet! Now back away!"

There was nothing else Easton could do except heed his father's order. After all, he knew just how ruthless Blade could be.

"Hehe," Trevor chuckled, then said to Blade in a groveling manner, "I'm not asking for much. I just want you to beat that kid up and leave him disabled!"

Although he desperately wanted Severin dead, Diane would certainly be unhappy if Severin was killed. Although Diane was something of an outcast at that moment, it did not mean that she would continue to do the same in the future, since she might one day be allowed back to the Shanahans again. Should that happen, his act of having Severin killed would have been an affront

to the Shanahans.

Denzel protected Severin that day too, so if Trevor were to be absolutely ruthless, it might just lead to a falling out with the Monroes in the future.

After considering all the stakes, Trevor decided that it would be okay for Blade to cripple Severin. That was the least that could be done to vent out his anger.

Blade observed the situation there and frowned at once. He looked at Catherine and asked, "This is odd. Why are the Shanahans here too? Can somebody tell me what's going on?"

When Helga heard that question, she immediately volunteered to explain everything. She even made a point to exaggerate things a bit. Finally, she said, "Doesn't he disgust you? My daughter was with him for three years, but he still wants our family to return the dowry!"

In response, Blade merely smiled coldly. "I don't give a rat's a\*s about your family's affairs, but I must say that I admire this kid's courage to come here by himself and cause trouble. He's got guts, but unfortunately, no skills. Those who only have guts are reckless fools!"

Blade then looked at Severin and said to him, "You can forget about getting back your forty thousand today, kid. However, you pulling off one of Easton's fingers is a very serious offense, though we could call it even if you apologize to them and slice off one of your hands. How does that sound for you?"

Severin smiled faintly, pushed away the hotel security guards in front of him, and walked slowly over to Blade with his hands behind his back. With a sneer, he retorted, "Apologize to them? Do they think they're fit to receive an apology from me?"

Everyone at the scene gasped at Severin's sheer boldness. Blade was obviously trying to help him, but he did not even show Blade even the slightest bit of respect!

## [Chapter 26](#)

Blade's lip twitched a few times. His expression became gloomy and a murderous aura began to surge all around him. "The ignorant ones are always the bravest! How dare you rebuff a gesture from the Draco Hall's second-in-command!"

Severin smiled coldly and shot back, "I don't care if the first-in-command is here! I'm not going anywhere today unless I get my forty thousand back!"\*

“Have you completely lost it, Severin? Apologize to him!” Diane was so anxious that she was on the brink of tears! Losing a hand would be better than losing a life, yet he remained just as impudent as he always was!

“Do you see it now, Diane? He’s still thinking about money at this kind of time! I honestly think that being poor made him crazy enough to provoke Blade!” Megan said, then added with a snicker, “You’d be better off coming back with us and considering Edward. One and a half million is a very generous offer!”

Diane shot Megan an irked glare. “Don’t mention that name to me again!” Edward was a name that never failed to trigger Diane’s anger. In fact, the Shanahans had been pressuring her to marry Edward five years ago! They pestered her day in day out, all because the Horsfields were a second-tier upper-class family, and they were the most likely to become a first-tier upper-class family.

The Shanahans wanted her to marry Edward because then they could associate themselves with someone who was rich and powerful. Diane was averse, disgusted even, with the idea. She did not want love to become a mere business transaction. That was the reason she decided to go drinking one fateful night.

With the alcohol getting to her head, she happened to chat with Severin, who was in just as bad a mood as her. Then, out of nowhere, she made a bold decision to get a room with Severin. In any event, she did not expect to have gotten pregnant from that one-night stand, and it was even more shocking that man who took her first time was arrested the next day and sent to prison for offending the Loughs.

It was only a few months later that she found out that Severin had gone to prison, but by then, she was already far along her pregnancy and had decided to give birth to the child. Sometime after that, she found out about Severin’s situation at home and learnt that his parents were being harassed every day into repaying their debt. She could not bear to let that happen, so she secretly helped the old couple every month.

Blade was already fuming at that point. He clenched his fist and struck a punch right at Severin’s face. He could feel the strength pouring from his body as he lowered his center of gravity to open himself up.

“Awesome! Now kill that b\*stard with one punch!” Easton was ecstatic when he saw Blade make a move.

Severin, however, struck a punch at the same time as well. His punch did not seem too strong, but the gust of wind that came along with it collided with Blade’s punch.

“That ring!” Blade gasped when he saw the ring on Severin’s finger. It was the exact same one in the painting that their leader had once shown them! Blade did not expect the Dracodeus Ring to be with someone like Severin, and he was terribly frightened when he thought of it.

A dull sound was heard, and Severin stood there steadily while Blade staggered a few steps back. When he finally stood still, blood began to rise up to his throat, though he was able to stop himself from actually vomiting a mouthful of blood.

[Chapter 27](#)

“What! Did Master Blade actually...” Many of Blade’s subordinates were dumbfounded to see that Blade had staggered back!

Blade might be famous for his skills with a blade, but even a punch from him would be difficult for any random person to block. It was therefore all the more surprising that Severin actually took the punch head on.

“Let’s attack that kid together!”

“Yeah, why don’t we all hack him to death!”

Blade’s subordinates held up their machetes and glared at Severin, and they almost certainly had their own set of combat skills. He frowned as he stared intently at the ring on Severin’s hand. The wearer of that ring was someone they ought to revere, and it never occurred to them that someone like Severin would actually be wearing it.

He smiled coldly, and said to his subordinates, “I know what I’m doing. It’s not yet time for you to make a move!”

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At that moment, Blade wanted to bring his men away, because the person in front of him might just be their superior, someone even their first-in-command would have to kneel before. After all, the person wearing the Dracodeus Ring is the leader of the Dracodeus Temple, the superior whom their superior answers to!

Then again, doing so would make them seem a little timid, and they could not afford to embarrass themselves like that.

That was the first time in Blade’s life that he felt as if he was treading on thin ice! There were 12 halls in the Dracodeus Temple, and each hall was named after an animal from the oriental zodiac.

In addition to Draco Hall, there was Mus Hall, Equus Hall, and so on so forth. However, each hall was situated in different places, and they were all autonomous.

It never occurred to them that the temple head had actually come to Brookbourn...

“Blade, this...” When Trevor noticed that Blade had ceased attacking and was merely standing still, he frowned and tried to get a response from the latter.

Blade had a gloomy expression and his brows were furrowed into a frown. At that moment however, Henry came up from downstairs with his daughter Charmaine and several of the Longhorns’ bodyguards.

“I wonder what’s brewing here?” After sweeping a quick glance across the scene, Henry could not help but smile and say, “Oh my, there’s plenty of people here. There’s dear old Catherine and even the Draco Hall’s people! Is something interesting going on? I was a little rattled by the commotion when I was downstairs earlier!”

Trevor immediately flattered him with a smile. “Oh, you jest, Mister Henry. I’m sure you’ve seen moments that more chaotic. A little fight like this couldn’t possibly scare you! By the way, what brings you here to the hotel today?”

Henry smiled and said, "Me? Oh, I'm treating a friend to a meal here. You can imagine my surprise when I reached the hotel and saw that it was surrounded by all these people from Draco Hall! I only came up here out of curiosity!"

Seeing Henry's arrival came, Denzel was overjoyed and immediately stepped forward to explain what happened. After listening carefully, Henry smiled faintly and said to Blade, "Severin here is my friend. You might not have shown much courtesy to Denzel, but I'm sure you'll indulge me a fittle, right?"

Blade had been trying to find a good excuse to make his retreat, and Henry's request came at just the right time. Moreover, the Longhorns were a first-tier upper-class family, and even those from Draco Hall would do well to avoid provoking them. He immediately cupped his hands in a

respectful gesture and said, "I see. Things will be much more straightforward now that we know he's your friend."

Once he concluded his sentence, he waved his hand and said to his men, "Let's go. We're leaving!" Blade then swiftly led his men away.

"Mister Henry, t-t-t-this..." Trevor was at a loss and was utterly perplexed at the sudden turn of events.

Henry smiled and said, "Is it that difficult for you to understand? Severin is my guest today!" Then, he walked away from Trevor and came up to Severin with a smile. "Are you alright, Severin?" "Right as rain! Thank you for that!" Severin answered.

## [Chapter 28](#)

A smile that was neither self-important nor self-abasing unfolded across Severin's face.

"This guy is Mister Henry's friend? That can't be possible!"

"For the love of God, that kid was invited to have a meal with Mister Henry when even people like us aren't qualified to do so?"

A number of wealthy businessmen were completely shell-shocked to hear Henry's words. Some of them even wondered if they were dreaming.

"How did he get to know Mister Henry?" George, the head of the Shanahans, frowned as well.

Everyone there had been trying to get close to someone as powerful as Henry, yet none ever had even the slightest chance of succeeding. By contrast, Severin seemed to be on such friendly terms with Henry that the latter had took the initiative to treat him to a meal!

Henry turned around and looked at Lucy while saying, "Aren't you Severin's ex-fiancee? Don't you think you should return the dowry now that you're getting married to someone else instead of him? And that one-hundred-and-fifty-dollar sum seems a bit excessive, isn't it?"

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“R-r-r-right! We’ll return that money to Severin!” Trevor immediately said with a smile. If even the Draco Hall’s people could not afford to offend someone like Henry, it was simply unthinkable for the Loughs to risk doing so.

Moreover, Henry knew Severin on a first-name basis, which hinted at a rather decent relationship between the two of them.

Severin, however, said, “Hehe, why should you be refunding that money? It was the Orwells who took it, so the responsibility to refund it falls on them!”

“You...” Helga’s face was purple from her anger. Having her return the money she had spent was worse than anything else.

Landon was taken aback, and hurriedly pulled Helga back for fear that she would offend Henry. After all, it was not in their position to refute, since the act of doing so could be likened to a slap in Henry’s face.

He said to Severin with a smile, “Could you give me your account number? I’ll have someone transfer the money to you!”

In another twist of events, Severin smiled faintly and said, “Sorry, but I prefer cash. You and your family accused me of being driven mad by poverty, so since I haven’t seen money in a long time, I want all that money to be given in the form of cash. It would hit the sweet spot whenever I sleep if I put it in under my bed!”

“You’re kidding.....” Landon gritted his teeth angrily. Severin was obviously trying to make things difficult for them, because taking out cash would require them to go to the bank.

Charmaine was very much amused by Severin’s words as she stood to one side. He refused outright when her grandfather offered him 150,000 dollars in return for his life-saving grace, yet he was suddenly demanding a bigger sum in cash. There could not have been a clearer indication

yet that he was simply doing it to piss the Orwells off.

“Fine. You want cash, right? We’ll get it for you now!” Lucy turned red with ire and looked angrily at Severin before leaving with Landon.

“You get one hour to have it ready. If it’s not prepared by then, I won’t go easy on your family anymore!” Severin watched as Lucy stormed off, and added, “Just leave the money at the front desk. I’m going to have a nice meal with Mister Henry soon, and I won’t have time to count, but I promise I’ll make life difficult for you if it’s short by even a single dollar!”

Lucy, who had just walked to the stairs, flew into such a fit of rage that she sprained her foot by accident.

“Ahhhh!” Lucy exclaimed in pain, took off her high heels, then turned around and stared viciously at Severin before leaving.

When she and her family had left, Henry smiled and said, “Shall we have dinner together now, Severin?”

Severin walked up to Diane, and reached out to hold her hand. His sudden move caught her by surprise and she wanted to withdraw her hand, but he held on tightly to her that she eventually gave on trying to pull her hand away.

Severin led Diane to Henry and Charmaine, then introduced her, "Mister Henry, Miss Charmaine, this here is my wife. Do you mind if I bring her along?"

"She's most welcome to join us!" After hearing this, Henry laughed cheerfully, "You've got a good eye, Severin. She's famously known as one of Brookbourn's most beautiful woman!"

## [Chapter 29](#)

To everyone's surprise, Diane frowned and said, "I'm sorry, but I'm afraid I won't be able to join. You can go with them yourself, Severin!"

The smile on Henry's face froze in an instant, for her rebuff was downright discourteous!

The Shanahans were all taken aback, and William immediately stepped forward to say, "What are you talking about, Diane? Mister Henry invited you to dinner because he thinks highly of you. How could you refuse to go?"

He then smiled in a flattering manner and said to Henry, "Mister Henry, my wife has been a little spoiled since childhood, but it's nothing more than a bit of temper. Please don't take her actions to heart!"

Catherine was just as startled too. "What are you talking about? You need to go, Diane! It is unbecoming of you to refuse an invitation from Mister Henry!"

The Shanahans had been dreaming of getting such an opportunity, yet they were never fortunate enough to get one. On the other hand, Diane had received that privilege when Henry invited her to join the meal, yet she refused. The Shanahans would probably be done for if Henry was not

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– pleased by what happened and put the blame squarely on the Shanahans. It brought shivers

their spine when they thought about the possible suppression that they would receive from a first-tier family.

Diane smiled awkwardly and said, "I didn't refuse it out of disrespect. It's mainly because my daughter Selene has been waiting almost an hour for me at home. It won't be good for such a young girl like her to wait alone for too long!"

Severin then immediately added, "That's right! My daughter is still waiting for me to come back home. How about we just call it a day right now?"

Henry was absolutely speechless to hear that. He said to Severin, "But I've already reserved the VIP room. Might I suggest having someone to drive Miss Diane back so she could bring your daughter along to have lunch with us too?"

Diane immediately smiled in embarrassment and said, "I can't possibly accept that! We wouldn't want you to wait for us, Mister Henry!" She did not want to offend Henry any further, so she turned to

Severin and said, "You should stay here with Mister Henry. I'll go back to be with Selene. I'm really worried that she's been waiting too long."

Severin frowned, and finally said, "Perhaps you could have someone send me and my wife back so we can pick up Selene and come here?"

Henry was overjoyed when Severin agreed and immediately assured, "That won't be a problem. There's still time!"

Severin told them, "You may go ahead and order the food. We'll be back in a jiffy!"

"Sure thing. We'll order first and wait for you in the VIP room on the third floor!" Henry nodded and agreed with a smile.

Trevor and Easton looked at each other in speechlessness. They were mind-boggled to see that Severin would have such a cordial relationship with Henry! Furthermore, Henry seemed determined to treat Severin to lunch that day, so much so that he was willing to wait for Severin and Diane.

When Severin led Diane away, he stopped again and looked at Trevor and others behind him. Henry immediately understood Severin's intention and said directly to Trevor, "Luck doesn't seem to have favored you today, Trevor. Now that the auspicious time has passed, it's best for you to -just cancel the wedding. We wouldn't be able to build an appetite if we hear all the noise coming from the second floor, and Severin might not be in the mood to drink a few glasses with the me then."

"C-c-c-can...cel?" Trevor's expression sank. For them to cancel the wedding after everything had been prepared would be nothing short of embarrassing! They would probably have to hang their head in shame for the foreseeable future whenever they went out.

"Is something the matter? Do I have to repeat myself?" Henry's expression darkened, and he said to Denzel, "Denzel, could you please have your security guards clear the place? I want the place cleared in five minutes!"

"No problem!" Denzel grinned and nodded.

"We'll leave on our own!" Trevor gritted his teeth angrily. There was nothing he could do except leave as he was told.

### [Chapter 30](#)

"Severin, you b\*stard! You just had to ruin my daughter's wedding because you can't marry her, didn't you? It's not like you'll achieve anything with your actions. My daughter will marry Easton anyway!" Helga cursed at Severin as she was still resentful that her family had to return the 190,000 dollars.

Severin could not bother to pay attention to her and looked at Denzel with a smile. "Thanks for your help today, Mister Denzel. I owe you one, so if you ever need my help in the future, just say the word."

Denzel was secretly delighted to hear that. In fact, he was confident that Henry would help Severin after arriving there, and that was the only reason he dared to stand up against Blade and Trevor. Had he not known that Henry would show up and speak for Severin, he might not have dared to do what he did that day. Having Severin owe him a favor was a good thing of course, since he believed that someone whom Henry thought highly of would definitely be someone extraordinary!

"You're welcome, Severin! You can just call me Denzel!" Denzel smiled authentically.

Severin smiled and said, "Sure. I think dropping the Mister makes your name roll off the tongue a little smoother!"

Once done, Severin looked at Diane beside him and said with a grin, "Let's go, honey. It's time to pick up our daughter!"

"Well, start moving then!" Diane shot Severin a glare. Had she not feared that Selene might lose her father, she would not have gone all the way there to look for Severin.

By the time the two of them stepped out of the hotel, a Rolls-Royce had parked right in front of them.

After getting into the car, Severin saw Diane looking coldly out the window and said to her, "I'm sorry, Diane. I genuinely didn't know that you were pregnant with my daughter and decided to give birth to her. You've suffered a lot these past few years, but I vow to care for you from now on and make up for all the mistakes I made. Will you accept my apology?"

At the mention of what happened back then, Diane got angry and looked coldly at Severin before saying, "Make it up? You want to make it up to me? Do you know how much hate I got over the years? Where were you when I was at my lowest? Do you know what I resent most about you? I resent that you slept with me that night when you knew that might be arrested and sent to prison. the next day..." Diane almost could not go on because she already had the urge to strangle Severin to death.

Severin could only smile bitterly, "My head wasn't in the right place from all that drinking. I was just super depressed and afraid. Besides, I had no idea it was your first time, and I never thought that you would get pregnant, least of all keep the child! I just thought you wanted to get laid, and it hardly occurred to me that you'd be the Shanahans darling young miss!"

"I..." Diane was speechless, because she had only decided to get a drink that night after giving in to her extreme despair. She did not want to marry Edward, and it was her family's repeated pressure that drove her into doing such a thing.

Unfortunately, she did not stop to think that she would get pregnant on her first time!

Severin and Diane got out of the car after it was parked at the entrance of the residential area.

As they walked in slowly, Diane thought for a while and said to Severin, "It won't be a problem if you want to make up for your mistakes, but you need to listen to everything I say from now on!"

In response, Severin raised his hand and vowed, "I promise I'll listen to every word you say! If you tell me to jump, I'll ask 'how high!'"

Diane nodded. "You need to play the role of a good father and treat Selene well!"

"Of course," Severin said with a smile, "she's my daughter!"

Diane then said, "We can sleep in the same room from tonight onward, but I'll sleep on the bed and you'll sleep on the floor. You should be content with being given the chance to reconnect with your daughter! Don't even think about anything else!"

"Huh..."

Severin's mind went blank, but he soon saw Diane's cold look, and nodded, "Okay. I'll sleep on the floor!" He subsequently took the initiative to step forward and hold her hand. "Honey, since we're going to meet our daughter soon, don't you think we should be a little affectionate in front of her, even if it means having to play pretend? You can't always keep a straight face, you know. It won't leave a good impression on her!"