

## After Prison 361

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"I see. It's a slow-acting poison that takes a long time to kick in but is extremely deadly. Have I got that right?" Sheila sighed lamentably. "I didn't expect Lena to be that sort of person. Our family has always treated her very well, and she has worked many years for us."

Severin smiled and said, "Lena looks like an honest person, and she wouldn't have understood what she had been doing. She must've placed the incense under someone else's instruction, and now that I've rid you of your poison, Lena will very likely meet the person who told her to do it. We just need to follow her to find out who's the true culprit!"

Zachariah gave Severin an enthusiastic thumbs up. "You truly are amazing, Mister Severin. I am fully convinced by your abilities, for you have a perceptive mind in addition to your excellent medical skills. You have my utmost admiration."

Sheila finally had a realization. "Now I understand why Lena panicked and had such a frightened look when you yelled at her earlier. She wouldn't have reacted like that if she did not do anything wrong! Now that I think about it, something is off about her reaction earlier!"

"Mister Severin, when you say that, do you mean that the poison from the wooden chair will only be effective if mixed with the incense that Lena lights in my room every night? Will I be able to keep the chair and just avoid lighting any incense?" Zachariah said.

He remembered Lena telling him a few months ago that there was a kind of incense that would help him sleep, hence the reason she recommended it to Zachariah. He did not think too much about it at the time, and he did feel a noticeable improvement in the quality of sleep after using it for a period. As a result, he continued to use it until the present day. Had it not been for Severin's help, he might well have died suddenly without ever knowing the cause of his death.

Severin smiled wryly when he heard Zachariah's words. "Are you that reluctant to part with your wooden chair? I understand that it's a rare piece of workmanship that you cherish deeply, since the material is good and the carvings are detailed too. Unfortunately, you cannot use that wooden chair anymore. Take it out and burn it, and make sure to do it in the courtyard in front of everyone, especially Lena!"

"I understand," Zachariah said with a nod.

"The incense won't hurt you if the chair's gone. You can continue to use it if you like!" Severin then added.

"Not a chance! I'm traumatized by that incense now, and I wouldn't dare to use it again!" Zachariah smiled bitterly.

"Alright, I'm almost done here, so I should be heading home. Call me if there's anything else you might need!" Severin then prepared to leave.

"Sheila, could you please send Mister Severin off?" Zachariah immediately said.

“Sure thing!” Sheila was overjoyed of course. Though Zachariah still did not want her to marry Severin, it was obvious that his attitude toward Severin had improved tremendously. With time, she believed that Zachariah would eventually accept Severin.

Sheila followed Severin with her hands behind her back and she peeked at Severin’s handsome profile from time to time as he walked out with her “Thanks, savior! I wouldn’t know what to do today if you weren’t around!”

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“Besides, if it weren’t for you, I would’ve lost my closest family. I don’t even know how to repay you now!” Sheila pursed her lips, smiled, and rushed forward all of a sudden to try and sneak a kiss on Severin.

Severin was unprepared for her bold actions the last time around, but he had learned his lesson since then and was on the alert for any sneaky tricks she might try to pull again. As soon as he saw her move, he immediately dodged several meters to the right to evade Sheila’s sudden kiss.

She pouted angrily in response and said, “Why are you hiding so far away? You make it seem like I’m going to eat you up!”

Severin patted his chest and could not help but say, “Now that you mention it, I am scared of that. Luckily, I was fast enough to dodge you, otherwise, you would’ve attacked me already!” “Hmph, don’t you like being kissed by me?” Sheila could not help but roll her eyes at Severin. “Is there something wrong with me? Am I ugly? Are my thighs not sexy enough? Or are my breasts not big enough? Why do you have to hide from me? Besides, you wouldn’t lose out if you marry me as your second wife.”

Sheila was evidently somewhat angry, since she has always kept up appearances as an upper- class woman and frequently ignored the pursuits of other men. Yet she took the initiative to set aside whatever attitude she used to have and actively lowered herself to try and woo Severin, only to be rebuffed and avoided by him. It made her feel as if no one wanted her, or that she was ugly.

“You look amazing, but I have no plans to do that. You’re also much younger than me too, almost like a little kid!” Severin cleared his throat awkwardly and said, “We’re good friends, and it’d be nice if we could stay that way!”

“No!” Sheila refused outright. “We might be good friends now, but we will be boyfriend and girlfriend in the future, and take it another step further! You know what I mean, don’t you? The point is, don’t even try to abandon me!”

Severin was speechless at how persistent she was. He did not know what to say, so he decided. to just walk until he reached the car before saying to Sheila, “I’ll head home for now, Sheila. Give me a ring if there’s anything you need. You have my number anyway!”

“Okay!” Sheila nodded. She knew in her heart that Severin’s main reason for not accepting her was because he already had a wife. His reluctance to take her as a second wife was even further evidence that he was a good man who did not play with women’s hearts, and that made her like him even more.

If any other man were in his shoes, they would never have avoided her advances earlier and might even suggest that they go to a hotel right away!

As Severin drove away, Sheila could not help but smile as she looked at his car and clenched her fists. "Mark my words, my handsome Severin! You will never be able to escape my grasp! I will one day marry you and make you mine!"

Lena was very nervous after she returned to her room. "What should I do now? Oh goodness, what should I do? Now that the Severin guy knows that Mister Zachariah was poisoned and helped get rid of the poison, it means that all my efforts in the past few months were in vain!!

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Lena calmed down after a moment and went out of the room to take a walk. Little did she know that two people were already watching her from the shadows.

Halfway through her stroll, she saw a few bodyguards carrying the wooden chair into the yard. They poured lots of gasoline over the chair and heaped some firewood over it before setting it on fire.

Lena felt her heart skip a beat, but she could not help herself from walking over and asking the bodyguards, "Why are you burning the wooden chair, Dan? Isn't it precious? It's also Mister Zachariah's most cherished item too. Doesn't he always show it off to other people? Why did he decide to burn it?"

Dan, the bodyguard, said to Lena, "We don't know for sure, but we've been told to burn it because it's poisonous. I'm just as surprised that we were ordered to do that when this is such a precious treasure. There might not be another one like this in the whole of the country!"

"I see." Lena smiled awkwardly and continued walking.

Diane had already gotten off work by the time Severin returned home. When she saw him, she could not help but smile at him and ask, "I heard from my parents that you said you went to treat Mister Zachariah?"

Severin nodded. "I did. His symptoms were the result of getting poisoned, not a natural disease. The poison used was very dangerous, and worse of all, his elder cousin brother and younger cousin sister wanted him dead when he was unconscious!"

Diane was a little curious when she heard that. "What's going on? Could you take it a little slower and explain it from the start?"

Severin finally explained everything to Diane.

"Tsk, ts. I didn't expect his brother would do that to him, much less his cousins plotting to take the family assets after seeing him unconscious! I can't believe they wanted to suffocate him with a pillow and then make plans to kill Sheila too!" Diane was shocked to hear all that. "Don't they have a single trace of humanity? I can't believe they'd lose their minds like that. Over money!"

Severin smiled bitterly. "I heard that Zachariah's brother, Zenoah, has a very good

relationship with Zachariah. Zenoah has a business abroad too, so he couldn't have been short of money. Why would he go to such lengths to try and kill his elder brother? I can't wrap my head around what sort of grudge Zenoah might have toward Zachariah for him to do something like that!"

“Okay, okay. Let’s have dinner. Mom and Dad have prepared all the food, and we were just waiting for you to have dinner together!” Diane smiled and said to Severin.

A sudden thought occurred to Severin and he could not help but ask Diane, “The Shanahans’ businesses should be showing some positive signs now, I believe?”

“Of course!” Diane walked in and said with a smile, “And it’s all thanks to you! After you secured two quotas for us Liberty City, many wealthy businessmen and third-tier families are

starting to look at us in a good light. They all saw how good of a relationship Sheila seems to have with you, and now, even the second-tier and first-tier families who have never done business with us before are interested to cooperate!”

Severin’s eyes lit up when he heard that. “Really? That’s great then!”

After some thought, Diane said, “By the way, Sheila seems to be a very pure-hearted and straightforward woman. To be honest, I’m quite envious of her character before she lives her life in such a carefree manner! But then again, I don’t think she’ll be that carefree anymore after what happened to her father!”

“Yeah. She didn’t expect that all her relatives wanted to harm her and her father. I can see that she’s feeling a little down in the dumps today!” Severin said lamentably.

Diane looked at Severin, and said again, “As her friend, you should show a little more concern for her these next few days. Be there to guide her and cheer her up. She’s a very kind girl, but she’s too naive, and she doesn’t know the dangers of reality!”

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Severin was stunned. “You can’t be serious, right? She confesses her feelings for me at every turn, and I get super awkward when she does that. How could you tell me to be there for her these next few days? Aren’t you afraid she might take advantage of me?”

“Pfft!” When Diane heard that, she covered her mouth and said, “Oh, keep bragging, Severin! She’s just a cheerful personality who doesn’t shy away from being blunt, but I don’t think she’ll cross the line and take advantage of you, right? You make it sound like she can’t wait to pounce on you!”

Severin was speechless, as he did not expect Diane not to believe the truth. A sudden thought then occurred to him and he asked, “By the way, the Shanahans don’t have any cooperation with the Horsfields or the Loughs, right?”

Diane frowned curiously. “Why would you suddenly think of asking this question? We’ve never cooperated with the Loughs before, but it’s a different story for the Horsfields. You do know that Edward has a thing for me, so he did try to establish a good relationship with our family. Stanley naturally took advantage of that and began a business cooperation with Edward’s family!” She then added, “Our main business cooperation right now is building materials!”

After hearing that, Severin immediately said, “In that case, you should cut off all cooperation with them from tomorrow onward, otherwise you’ll be suffering a lot of losses in the future. Try to sever business ties with them as soon as possible!”

“Why do you say that? I don’t like Edward all that much, so I did terminate some of the business dealings I had with them. But there’s quite a hefty amount of profit to be made the building material business, and we haven’t broken off the cooperation in that aspect because it’s been quite steady,” Diane said.

“Because the Zelankos, the Longhorns, and the Ballards are about to suppress the Horsfields, and I wanted to let you know in advance because the Horsfields might go bankrupt in a few more days!” Severin then explained.

“Whoa!” Diane inhaled sharply and understood right away. Severin seemed to have the means and influence to send a second-tier family spiraling downward!

“I understand now!” Diane nodded, knowing very well that the Horsfields and the Loughs. would be done for after facing such suppression from all quarters.

When dinner was over, Severin and Diane went upstairs with Selene. After finally coaxing the little girl to sleep, Diane came out of Selene’s room to discover that Severin had finished his shower and was still standing in front of her room door. She could not help rolling her eyes at Severin as she asked, “Are you still thinking about sleeping in the same room as me tonight?”

Severin smiled awkwardly. “Don’t worry, I won’t do anything fishy! I just want to sleep with you in my arms!”

“Pfft!” Diane rolled her eyes at Severin and walked in.

“Does ‘pfft’ mean yes or no?” Severin frowned, not knowing what Diane meant.

“Come in!” Diane was a little nervous, but she finally relented after giving it some thought.

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“Okay then! I’m coming in!” Severin was overjoyed and walked in immediately before closing the door behind him.

“Can I kiss you?” Severin could not help but gulp and ask when he looked at Diane’s sexy figure and her alluring red lips. He felt a little helpless actually, because his daughter was about to go to kindergarten soon, and yet his beautiful wife still did not let him get intimate with her.

After a bit of thought, Diane pursed her red lips and said, “I’ll take a shower first!”

Diane’s bashful expression made Severin feel a little happy inside because of how incredibly pretty and charming she was.

“Go ahead!” Severin lay on the bed and could not stop himself from letting his thoughts go wild as he listened to the sound of running water.

Diane finished her shower not long later, and that was when she realized that she had been so shy that she rushed into the bathroom without taking her nightdress and panties with her. She was speechless for a moment and she bit her red lips as she called out to Severin, “Honey... I... I forgot to take my clothes! Could you please help me take them and pass them to me? But no peeking, okay?”

“Okay!” Severin opened the closet, searched the available clothes, and immediately decided to give Diane the shortest suspender nightdress. He took it down and asked again, “What about your innerwear? Do you need me to find them for you too?”

“Duh!” Diane said angrily. “Were you hoping that I wouldn’t wear it?”

“Ahem. A man can hope!” Severin cleared his throat in embarrassment, and after searching for some time, he asked Diane again, “Honey, what color do you like? Pink or black?”

“I... anything’s fine!” Diane’s face was already blushing with embarrassment, and she wondered if he was doing it on purpose. After Severin managed to find everything, he passed the clothes to her through the gap in the door.

Diane came out soon after and pulled the lower edge of the nightdress as she rolled her eyes at Severin. “You jerk. You did this on purpose, didn’t you? Did you have to choose the shortest. one when there are so many others to choose from?”

Severin smiled awkwardly and said, “Of course not. I just chose one randomly. And besides, there are no outsiders here, right? What’s there to be afraid of when it’s just the two of us?” he then walked over slowly and placed his arms around Diane’s slender waist.

“What are you doing?” Diane was startled, and she felt her heartbeat speed up a lot.

“Didn’t I say that I wanted to kiss you?” Severin kissed Diane’s red lips as soon as he finished speaking.

“Mggh!” Diane could not help but let out a muffled moan and her heart was beating non-stop. She could feel the passion in Severin’s kiss, and the masculinity in the way he hugged her so tightly. The combination of the two made her thoughts run wild.

Severin’s hand roamed around Diane’s back, and the heat between the two increased even more. Soon, Diane closed her eyes, as if she anticipating what was coming next, and the

overjoyed Severin was prepared to take it a step further when he saw that Diane did not show any intention of resisting.

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Severin continued to kiss Diane as he led her naturally into bed. Diane exhaled heavily while. Severin continued to kiss her, but just as the two of them were about to take things further, Severin’s cell phone began ringing.

“Your...your phone is ringing!” Diane was startled, and then she sobered up in an instant as she hurriedly pushed Severin away. She then straightened her nightgown and said, “Aren’t you satisfied after kissing me for so long?” She touched her hot cheeks as her heart beat rapidly, for a most passionate encounter would have happened that night if his phone did not ring.

Severin felt a little disappointed and wondered who could have called him at such a late hour. and ruined his intimate time with his wife. He glanced at the phone and was even more speechless when he saw that the caller was Sheila! He could not help but curse out loud, “Why is this Sheila calling me in the middle of the night?!”

Severin's angry look prompted Diane to lick her lips as a gush of sweetness surfaced in her heart. She rolled her eyes at Severin and said, "Why aren't you answering your phone, you pervert? She's the daughter of Brookbourn Mansion, and there must be a reason she's calling you at such a late hour!"

"Okay, okay. I'll answer her call. You happy now?" Severin said helplessly.

He placed the phone to his ear and asked somewhat annoyedly, "Why are you calling me so late at night, Miss Sheila? Don't you have to sleep?"

Sheila explained, "Mister Severin, the person in charge of monitoring Lena has just found out. that she sneaked out in the middle of the night. I'm taking a taxi to her location now, and I called you to ask if you could... um... if you could come along too?"

"Well, I didn't expect them to be that impatient. Okay then, you guys go ahead. Send me your location later!" Severin nodded and hung up the phone.

"What's happened? Do you need to go out?" Diane looked at Severin and asked.

Severin nodded and said to her, "Sheila said that Lena sneaked out in the middle of the night, and she asked me if I could go and have a look too. I figured I should go and see who instigated Lena to do such a thing to Zachariah!"

Diane thought to herself for a moment and approved. "Okay. Be careful, though! I'll wait for you at home, so make sure not to be back too late!"

"Okay, honey!" Severin could not help but put his arms around her and kiss her when he saw how understanding she was.

"Ugh, another kiss?" Diane rolled her eyes at Severin in a slightly coquettish manner. When Severin saw that, he did not want to leave her side at all, and instead wanted to get intimate with her right then.

"Okay, honey. I'll be back soon! Wait for me!" Severin smiled, thinking that he might be able to spend some sexy time with Diane once he got the matter out of the way.

Severin went downstairs after changing his clothes, by which time Sheila had already sent Severin the approximate location.

Severin drove and soon arrived at a single-family villa in an urban area. He parked the car a little further away and walked over. By then, Sheila, Zachariah, and two of the Ballards' bodyguards were already waiting outside the courtyard wall.

"Mister Severin! Your guess was right on the money. Lena's acting suspicious, and she already went in." Zachariah got Severin up to speed when Severin arrived.

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"Okay." Severin nodded. "We should act now. I see only two gatekeepers at the gate over there, so I'll go first. You can all come over once I give you the signal?"

Zachariah, Sheila, and the others nodded. After Severin finished speaking, he slowly walked away from the courtyard wall and went to the two men guarding the gate.

“Hey, what are you doing here, kid? Scram! Outsiders aren’t allowed here!” One of the two men immediately scolded Severin when they saw him approaching them.

Severin smiled and said, “Do you have a lighter, my good friends?”

“No! And beat it!” One of the men waved his hand immediately. “I’ll break your neck if you-

Severin’s mouth curled up into a smile and he beheaded the two of them within seconds. After killing them, he motioned for Zachariah and the others to come over.

Zachariah, Sheila, and the two bodyguards promptly came. Severin said to the two bodyguards, “Bring these two bodies to the hidden corner over there and come back here to stand guard. I’ll head in with Mister Zachariah and Miss Sheila!”

“Understood!” Those two bodyguards had reached significant attainment in their abilities, but they could only heed Severin’s orders after recalling how skilled Severin was. However, one of them nodded and said, “Sir, if you need any help, just call us and we’ll rush in!”

Zachariah, however, smiled and said, “Worry not. Mister Severin is a profound master at the very least, and I’ll be safe with him by our side!”

Severin smiled but secretly chided Zachariah. ‘Profound master? That’s such a gross. underestimation of me!’

Severin walked in front while Zachariah and Sheila followed behind. After walking for some time, the three of them hid behind a wall and eavesdropped on a conversation between two people behind the rockery in the yard.

“And what’s his name?” a male voice asked.

Lena then said, “His name is Severin, and he seems to be a friend that Miss Sheila met. recently. I don’t know where he’s from, but he found out that there was something wrong. with the chair and told the bodyguards to burn it!”

“Dad! Isn’t that Uncle Zenoah’s voice?” A look of surprise appeared on Sheila’s face, and she could not help but whisper to Zachariah who was beside her.

Zachariah was just as shocked. “He told me that he was abroad when I called him a few days ago. Why is he here?”

Severin said with a cold smile, “Perhaps he returned long ago once he knew that you were going to die. That poison is a slow poison, and it can’t kill you in a day or two. Even if you died after vomiting blood, the doctors in most hospitals might not be able to detect it, and they would probably chalk it up to a sudden cerebral hemorrhage!”

“Oh, Zenoah...I wonder why you’re trying to kill me!”

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Zachariah's eyes were red, and he nearly cried. After all, he had only one biological brother, and the relationship between the two has always been very good. They frequently kept in touch with each other through the phone, and he never imagined that his brother would plot

to kill him.

At that moment, Zenoah said, "Severin, right? Damn him for ruining my plan! He better not let me meet him or else I'll kill him for sure!"

"What should we do now then?" Lena asked worriedly.

"We never thought you'd be such a despicable person, Lena!" At that moment, Sheila said as she came out together with Zachariah and Severin.

Zachariah looked at Zenoah with reddened eyes. "Aren't you supposed to be abroad, Zenoah? Why are you here? I really don't know why you'd plot against me when I treated you so well. I even gave you money to start a business and let you make a living for yourself!"

"Brother, I..." Zenoah gritted his teeth, clenched his fists, and blinked his eyes a few times before his resolve once again remained firm.

"Fellas!" Zenoah roared angrily, and a dozen people ran out from the inner room at once. Among these people were several light-skinned foreigners and two darker-skinned ones. When they came out, they immediately spread out and stared imposingly at Severin and the others.

"Please don't blame me for this, sir! I was forced to do this because they kidnapped my daughter!" When Lena saw what happened, she took a few steps back in fright and slumped down on the ground.

Zenoah looked at one of the men and said, "Jon, that person is my elder brother, and that girl there is his daughter. You can capture him and force him to write a suicide note saying he'll transfer all his property to me. As far as his daughter is concerned, I sincerely hope that you're able to let her go!"

The

guy named Jon, sneered and said, "Sure. Our goal is simple, and that is to get all of the Ballards' assets. We'll be fine as long as we're able to get it in our hands."

"How inhumane can you be, Uncle Zenoah?" Sheila was so angry that she looked at the other party viciously.

Zenoah did not pay attention to Sheila at all and instead looked at Zachariah. "I'm sorry, brother. There are plenty of things that can't be helped. I'm already very happy that I got the chance to see you again at such a time. All I can do now is to help you save Sheila's life!"

"Can't be helped? What's there that can't be helped? I am utterly heartbroken by your actions!"

Zachariah said as he glared at Zenoah.

Zenoah could only say, "I don't feel like going into too much detail with you right now, but I'll advise you to write a suicide note willingly and give me all your property. There won't be much trouble to be had if you do as you're told, and your daughter will be able to leave freely too." After a brief pause, Zenoah

added, "Of course, it's fine too if you decide not to write it. After all, we'll still take your assets after killing you. Should it come to that, then it will be much more troublesome because they will kill your relatives and the Ballards' bodyguards. I don't

want all that bloodshed, and I'm sure you don't either."

"Hurry up, and quit talking nonsense! My patience is limited!" Jon urged impatiently.

Severin smiled as he stood in front of Zachariah and Sheila. "Your words don't seem to hold much weight from the looks of it. You can tell me if you were forced to do this. Rest assured that I'll help you solve your woes."

Zenoah was slightly stunned to hear that, but in the end, he still shook his head and smiled wryly.

"There's no point. Resisting is useless because they'll kill you eventually. You're right when you say you say that I was forced to do this. I only did it because there was no other way!"

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"Get them!" Jon was clearly impatient, and he waved his hand to signal the two darker-skinned men to go first. "Kill the kid with the stubborn mouth first so he won't

"

"Understand!" The two big men clenched their fists as a faint white glow appeared.

"They're all profound masters!" Severin frowned as soon as he saw that. The group of people seemed to have come from a rather strong background, and any one of them happened to be profound masters.

However, judging by the extent of the glow on the opponent's fist, their attainment was probably only that of a level one profound master. Grandmasters were divided into levels one to nine, with nine being the most powerful, and the same level applies to profound masters. The two dark-skinned individuals were level one masters.

As their name suggests, profound masters were those who were able to profoundly absorb the essence of earth and sky for their use. Those who used such combat strength differed from those who could only use physical attacks. Level nine grandmasters would have difficulty killing a level one profound master, but conversely, it would be easy for level one profound masters to kill a level nine grandmaster.

"Die, kid!" In a flash, the two dark-skinned men attacked Severin from both sides.

"Hehe, how arrogant!" Severin chuckled and took the initiative to meet their attacks. His speed was unbelievably fast, and before his two opponents could even react, he ducked and delivered two firm punches that sent the two men flying out.

A dull thump was heard, and the two black men flew more than ten meters back before crashing to the ground, never to stand up again.

"But how?" Jon was terror-stricken as soon as he saw what had happened, and who could blame him when two level one profound masters were killed by Severin's hand.

"I didn't expect someone like that to exist in Brookbourn. Get him, guys!" Jon motioned for the others to join in.

Those individuals stepped forward one by one and lunged forward abruptly as streaks of white light appeared on their fists.

"Sigh, didn't I just say that you wouldn't be a match for them?" Zenoah could not help but sigh. Though he did not know much about cultivation, he was aware that those who could produce a white glow on their fists numbered one-in-a-hundred and had strength that far outpowered ordinary people. Every one of Jon's men were the same, and even though Severin might be powerful, he could never be able to face so many people.

"The glows don't seem all that bright!" Severin smiled faintly. Those people were like ants to him, and judging from the strength of the glow on these people's fists, the more powerful ones were nothing more than level three profound masters. He might even be able to kill them without using any of his spiritual energy.

Severin then charged forth in a flash after ending his sentence. A quick succession of muffled blows was heard, and the men who had surrounded him were struck back one by one. They were no match for Severin at all, and every single person was beheaded right then and there.

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"No! That can't be possible!" That was Jon's first time encountering such a scenario, and though his attainment was slightly higher at that of a level four profound master, he lacked the confidence to face Severin. After all, he was well aware that he would have been killed if he were besieged by a dozen or so individuals. It had never crossed his mind that someone from Darshia could be so terrifying!

"He's...so strong!" Zenoah's mouth widened in surprise and he wondered if he was mistaken. He originally thought that Zachariah, Sheila, and the others would die that day, but he did not expect that the young man who came in with his elder brother would have such terrifying strength.

"Don't you

dare kill me. You'll be dead if you do!" Jon retreated slowly with every step that Severin took toward him.

Severin smiled coldly and said, "Hehe, this is Darshia, and Darshia is also known as Dracodom. Do you know why that is?"

"Humor me." Jon frowned. He did not know why Darshia was also known as Dracodom, since other countries were not as special.

Severin looked at him and said seriously, "Because Darshians are the descendants of dragons, and Dracodom is a sacred and inviolable place. Why should I spare your life when you encroach upon us?" He then rushed forward in a flash.

Jon still wanted to resist, but he was no match for Severin at all. Within seconds, another corpse lay on the ground.

"I'm sorry, sir! I...I had no choice! They kidnapped my daughter! I was forced to follow their orders! Please forgive me!" Lena knelt on the ground and kowtowed non-stop.

Zachariah sighed to himself. "Forget it, Lena. I'm aware that you wouldn't have such guts."

He then looked at Zenoah standing beside him and said, "You were forced to do this too, weren't you?"

"Brother!" Zenoah knelt and slapped himself repeatedly. "I'm not worthy of being a human! I never wanted to do this sort of thing, but I can't help it! Both Linette and Keagan are with them, and they'll be killed if I didn't follow their orders. We're...we're no match for them!"

"Get up, brother!" Zachariah helped Zenoah up. "I don't blame you for what happened. I understand that you were forced to do it!"

"Brother!" Zenoah felt extremely guilty. "What should I do? Even though you saved me after killing the guys that were with me, Keagan and Linette are still in their hands! What should we do? They're going to be killed!"

Severin walked over, looked at Zenoah, and then asked, "Are they your children?"

Zenoah nodded. "Sigh, there was a time I lacked funds when I was doing business in their country, and this guy named Jon said he could help me with a loan. Unfortunately, I fell into their trap and raked up too high an interest, making it difficult for me to pay the money back to them. In the end, the amount I owed snowballed, and even selling the company wasn't enough to pay everything back!"

After saying that, Zenoah paused for a moment before continuing, "After launching an

investigation, they found out that my eldest brother is the highest-in-command at Brookbourn Mansion, so they kidnapped my son and daughter and told me to get the Ballards' assets. Once they had it, they'll send someone over to take over. I will then become the Ballards. 'new leader, but I'll only be a

proxy for those who will control me from behind the scenes. Eventually, they would devour Brookbourn bit by bit and make even more money for them!"

"Utterly despicable!" Severin gritted his teeth when he heard that. "I didn't expect these people to be so bold! I will destroy them!"