After Prison 351

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"Okay, we promise we'll bring bodyguards with us when we go out in the future."

Maurice could only laugh sheepishly. He looked at Severin's angry expression and knew that he only did that because he cared about them.

"The Novaks might be stronger than they look, Severin. Aren't you afraid of them at all? I'm worried they might try to cause trouble after you demanded three hundred thousand from them and told Quintus to kneel before us!" Judith was still a little worried when she thought about it and felt uneasy throughout the journey home.

"Don't worry about the Novaks, Mom. We don't have to be afraid of them at all. Trust me!" Severin smiled. "You do realize that it's not just the Longhorns that have a good relationship with us. Even Larry from Draco Hall calls me his sworn brother! Don't worry, okay!"

Maurice and Judith breathed a sigh of relief after hearing Severin's reassurance.

"Sir, a bald man just showed up outside the villa with five people with him," Lillie ran in all of a sudden and said to Severin. "He looked pretty fierce, and he was asking for you to come out. Since we're unsure whether or not you know him, we decided to come in and check with you!"

"That's pretty quick of them."

Severin frowned, stood up, and said to Maurice and Judith, "Wait here. I'll check out the situation outside!" He could not help but smile wryly as he went out and checked the situation with Lillie.

Standing outside the courtyard was a bald man that stood at a height of nearly two meters. He had prominent muscles that made him look very strong, and behind him were five grandmaster-level masters.

Those people were none other than the five that were sent over by the Blood-Drinker Gang. After Severin killed Frankie, Carmen, and Leonard, the bald Janvar volunteered to bring back Severin's head.

However, they enjoyed their time during their first few days in Brookbourn before finally locating Severin.

"You're Severin?" Janvar looked at Severin and said with a cold smile, "We're here to take your head!"

"Wait a second, who are you people? I assume you're not the Novaks' men?" At a glance, Severin felt that those people were much unlike bodyguards, particularly the five people behind Janvar who looked at Lillie, Kiera, and the other four bodyguards with a lustful look in their eyes.

By the looks of it, Severin figured that they were not sent by Novaks.

"There's no harm telling you since you're about to die anyway. You stirred up trouble with the Blood Drinker Gang, so I'm here to bring your head back!" Janvar clenched his fists and said in a rough voice.

"No wonder you all look sloppy. Turns out, you're trash from the Blood-Drinker Gang!" Severin was stunned when he heard that.

After thinking for a moment, he said to them, "You have nothing better to do, it seems.

Rather than staying put in Riverson, you've decided to extend your territory to Brookbourn. That's some ambition you have there!"

"Hmph, let's cut to the chase. Not even God can save you today!" Janvar snorted coldly with disdain in his eyes.

In his opinion, most of the bodyguards behind Severin were just putting on an act, and the only one who could fight them was Severin. In any case, they felt that it should be relatively simple to deal with Severin and those bodyguards. The six beautiful women, in particular, were exactly the kind of women they liked, and they figured that those women were probably hired by Severin to warm his bed.

"Sir, wouldn't it be such a pity if these six women were killed?" one of the men swallowed his saliva and smiled evilly as he stepped forward.

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Janvar knew what his pig-brained comrade was thinking and could not help but smile and say, "You have a point. It would be such a pity to kill them, and it just so happens that there are six of them. We can have one each then, haha! I call dibs on the one with the biggest t*ts!"

"Disgusting!" Wendy was so incensed by what she heard that she clenched her fists and glared viciously at the six degenerate men in front of her.

"Let us take them on, master! It's been a while since we've gotten some exercise, and they're right when they say that we can go against them one each!" Kiera said to Severin.

"Can we kill them, master? Just looking at them makes me sick!" Abigail said angrily.

Their responses elicited a smile from Severin as he said, "Sure. I'll leave them to you. then! Make sure to kill them!" Severin then looked at the male bodyguards and instructed them, The girls will deal with them in a bit, and all you have to do is dispose of the corpse!"

"Understood!" The male bodyguards immediately acknowledged the order. Nevertheless, they were all a little curious about the strength of those women, mainly because they looked young and wore revealing, fashionable clothes. It was thus difficult for them to gauge the six women's strengths.

"Haha, all right then! We'll take you on one on one! Haha!" The Blood-Drinker Gang's people. did not seem to think too highly of the six beautiful bodyguards and walked up to them one by one with a smile.

"Hmph! You're asking to be killed!" Wendy smiled disdainfully and charged forth in a flash.

For the record, the Blood-Drinker Gang's grandmasters were all very capable fighters, but they were no match for Lillie and her girls as they were beheaded after barely a couple of strikes. They had been at a disadvantage from the outset anyway.

"No way! They're that powerful?" The male bodyguards were dumbfounded after doubting Kiera and the others earlier.

Lillie clapped her hands and said triumphantly, "Why are all of you spacing out? Aren't you going to do your job and dispose of the corpses?"

"O-o-okay!" The male bodyguards exchanged glances at each other and could not help but gulp. They were well aware that their strength, powerful as they might be, was hardly on the level of those women. They also began to wonder just where their employer managed to find such attractive yet strong women to become bodyguards.

Severin had already returned to the living room.

"It's done already? Where are those people?"

then.

Judith and Maurice were sitting anxiously on the sofa, and Judith immediately asked Severin. when he came in, "Why were they here? Were they sent by the Novaks?"

Severin smiled. "No. They're just a bunch of reckless fools. It's been taken care of, so don't worry!"

The old couple breathed a sigh of relief when they heard that.

Jada, Victor, and Quintus happened to drive through the road passing Severin's villa. Jada, in her effort to try and appease Quintus, offered to drive Quintus's car for him so he could just sit in the passenger seat.

As they passed by, Jada could not help but glance at Severin's villa as she said to Quintus, That there is the villa that Severin is staying in, but that villa belongs to the Longhorns. Henry Longhorn gave it to

him. Severin got lucky when he happened to run into Henry when the old. man's illness acted up. He saved the old man right then, and the old man later helped him a lot to show his gratitude for Severin's life-saving grace."

Quintus glared at the villa with a vicious look. "Great! Our family's elite fighters will be arriving here before nightfall, and Severin will be dead by then!"

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"Look! Do you see those bodyguards carrying out several bodies and throwing them in the boot of the car? Are they going to dispose of those bodies?" Quintus was startled to see what was happening.

Jada then immediately pulled the car aside and looked at them from a distance. When she saw that it was exactly as Quintus described, she could not help remarking, "Someone probably went to cause trouble at Severin's place again but got killed in the end. He sure has made a lot. of enemies!"

"A lot? How many?" Quintus then remarked with a grin, "I don't care how many enemies he's made, but he's going to get himself killed for offending me!"

Jada then said, "Aside from us, he offended Easton Lough and Edward Horsfield too. Oh, and his wife, Diane, is very beautiful too. Some of the rich young men call her the most beautiful. woman in Brookbourn, and Rufus Chavez once tried plotting against them because he wanted to kill Severin and make Diane his!"

Quintus could not help but feel a little more curious. "His wife is known as the most beautiful woman in Brookbourn? Hehe, why would she fall in love with someone like Severin when plenty of rich guys are swooning over her? Wouldn't it be better if she married someone from an upper-class family?"

Jada then told Quintus about Severin's life story, after which an evil thought popped up immediately in Quintus's heart. Killing or even crippling Severin was not very difficult, in his opinion, but Severin would have been let off too easily by being killed or crippled.

Severin's wife was a beautiful woman, and she was only allowed to be with Severin because she slept with him in a drunken one-night stand and gave birth to his daughter. In other words, Quintus felt that Severin probably did not have that good of a relationship. As soon as he came to that conclusion, Quintus had the idea of cuckolding Severin.

Since Severin's wife was the most beautiful woman in Brookbourn, she would almost certainly be a stunner in the looks department. Quintus would not stand to lose anything if he could get her to sleep with him. More importantly, he could get some videos or pictures of them doing the deed to show Severin, which would likely rile Severin up to no end.

With that thought in mind, he decided not to kill Severin that night and prepared to execute his new plan. It went without saying that he would never tell his fiancee Jada about that idea, because knowing Jada's character, she would veto the plan if she found out about it.

"Hehe, I can't imagine how stupid Diane could be. If I were her, I would have aborted the baby after finding out that I'm pregnant. God knows what went on in her mind when she decided to keep the baby even after being kicked out by her family!" Jada continued to drive toward her home.

After some thought, Quintus said, "I think my family's men should wait a while after they've arrived before attacking Severin. It's not urgent anyway, and you've already hired an assassin too. If the assassin does succeed, then I wouldn't need to waste so much time and effort. anymore!" Despite saying so, Quintus was not optimistic about the assassin's chances. He estimated that the assassin Jada and others hired were likely not a match at all for Severin.

"Sure. We can reassess the situation in another two days. I think the assassin will be arriving soon, and we're hoping for the best this time!" Jada nodded and did not think much about.

Quintus's decision, for she assumed that his anger had subsided and was therefore in no rush to tell his men to act.

That afternoon, Severin returned to his room and had a pleasant nap. To his surprise, however, he was woken up by a phone call at about five in the evening.

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Severin picked up the phone, looked at the caller ID, and saw that Sheila was the one calling him. He could not help but frown because she was an unusually difficult girl to deal with. Unfortunately, ignoring her call would be unwise because she was the daughter of Brookbourn Mansion's leader.

After putting some more thought into it, Severin accepted the call with some reluctance." Hello, Sheila. Is something the matter?" he asked as soon as the call connected.

"My handsome Severin! Please come as soon as you can! My dad just vomited blood this afternoon, and now he's unconscious on the bed! I don't know what to do right now!" Sheila's voice sounded helpless over the phone and she was already choking up.

Severin frowned, and after thinking for a moment, he said, "But, when I went there this morning, your father kicked me out and accused me of being a quack with no medical ethics. If I'm honest, I have no intention of treating people who make such remarks about my ability!" Sheila was horrified to hear that and immediately burst into tears. "Hic...Hic...I'm begging you, please! My mom died early, and he's the only family I have left! He might be a little too stubborn sometimes, but he loves my mom very much, so he never got together with any other women after my mom died. he hasn't found any other women in the past few years. Although he does have a good relationship with a few women, he never had children with them! I don't know what I'm going to do in the future if he's gone!"

Sheila was pure at heart and had always been living under Zachariah's protection. If the Ballards lost Zachariah, Sheila would feel as if the world had come crumbling down. Severin's heart softened when he heard that and he said, "Okay, okay. Don't cry. I'll drive over right away. I'll save your father for your sake!"

"Okay. I'll wait for you then! You're the best! I knew you won't ignore my plea for help. because you're a good person!" Sheila said in between sobs.

Severin hung up right away and drove straight to the Ballards' residence after informing Judith and Maurice.

What was originally a thirty minute journey took Severin only twenty minutes. After parking the car and getting out, he saw Sheila waiting anxiously at the gate. She was obviously very anxious as she paced back and forth there. As soon as she saw Severin coming, she immediately ran over and threw herself into Severin's arms, saying, "You're finally here! I don't know what to do without you!"

Severin smiled awkwardly. "There, there. Let's head in and talk. Your father can hold out for another two or three days in his current condition."

"Two or three days? Does he only have two or three days to live?!" Sheila took two steps back. and covered her mouth in disbelief, for she was unable to accept that fact.

Severin then realized that she had misunderstood, and explained with a smile, "What I mean by that is, he can still survive for two or three days even if I didn't come in time. Now that I'm here, he'll be fine for sure!"

"Meanie! You scared me out of my wits there!" Sheila pursed her lips, then gently hammered Severin's chest with her fists. Her antics made it look as though she and Severin were young

lovers flirting with each other.

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"Let's head on in then!" Severin felt a headache coming on when he looked at the lovestruck. little girl in front of him, so he walked briskly into the house and left Sheila following right behind him.

Before long, they arrived at the door of Zachariah's room, but Severin stopped outside the door just as they were about to enter. He motioned for Sheila to stop and keep quiet too.

There was a discussion going on inside the room, and the people inside comprised the Ballards 'relatives who lived at Zachariah's home.

One of the men could not help but say, "Do you think the head of our family is going to die like this? He hasn't woken up yet, and judging from his complexion, his life is probably in danger!"

grave

"Sheila went downstairs to pick Severin up, and I wonder if that guy is even able to cure his illness. This is just too strange. He was fine earlier this morning, but then he vomited blood. and passed out all of a sudden!" a woman said.

The man sighed. "I don't know what's going to happen to Brookbourn Mansion if he dies. Sheila is too young to control all the assets, and Zachariah's brother Zenoah isn't around. either. He's been abroad for so many years and never once came back. God knows if he's even alive at all!" After a pause, he said to the woman next to him, "There aren't any outsiders. here, cousin, so I might as well tell you what's on my mind. Let's not tell Zenoah if Zachariah dies. We can first think of a way to help Sheila manage the company and maintain everything at the usual capacity. Then, we'll use that as a means of controlling the Ballards' assets, after which we'll remove Sheila from the picture. Does that sound okay?"

There were only two people there-Zachariah's elder cousin brother Sean Ballard, and Zachariah's younger cousin sister Darcy Ballard. Sean kept his voice low as he said that, and Zachariah-who is already in a coma-probably could not hear it.

Darcy frowned and could not help but say, "That could be done, but what about Sheila then?"

Sean thought for a while and said, "Maybe the two of us can just wait a few days and an opportunity to cause a car accident or something. When both Sheila and Zachariah die, we'll be able to share the Ballards' assets equally! Things would've changed drastically by the time. Zenoah returns, and we'll have the final say by then!"

Sheila could not help but clench her fists as she stood outside the door. She was dumbfounded because it had never occurred to her that two close relatives of hers would look forward to her father's death and be so eager to take over the Ballards' assets!

When Darcy thought of the tremendous amount of assets they would stand to get, a trace of ruthlessness flashed across her eyes and she could not help but say, "Why don't we just suffocate him to death using pillows right now and be done with it?"

Sean immediately said, "That won't do. If Severin's medical skills are good, it'll pose even more trouble for us once he finds out. Let's just hope that Severin's medical skills aren't good enough to save Zachariah."

"Aren't we just leaving it to chance then?" Darcy could not wait any longer. As she looked at Zachariah lying unconscious on the bed, she had the urge to rush up immediately and

suffocate him to death using a pillow.

"What else can we do? It's easy to tell when a person is suffocated to death!" Sean then said, Let's just wait and see what that Severin guy has to say. He's young, so I don't think he'd be capable enough to cure Zachariah!"

When Severin heard that, he pretended to say to Sheila, "Is this the room, Miss Sheila?"

"Yes, Doctor Severin." Sheila suppressed the anger in her heart and played along with him. " Please check if my dad's okay!"

Sean and Darcy were startled to hear the voices and immediately pretended to remain calm.

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At that moment, the door opened and Severin walked in with Sheila. She looked calmly at Sean and Darcy, who felt a little guilty when she stared at him.

Sean thought for a while and said to Severin, "Mister Severin, you need to save the head of our family. He vomited blood all of a sudden this afternoon and passed out soon after! He hasn't woken up since then. I wanted to get someone to send him to the hospital, but Sheila says that you can save him because you're aware of his condition!"

Severin smiled faintly and said, "Don't worry. He'll live through this now that I'm here!"

"That's...that's great." Sean froze for a moment and forced a smile, but there was an imperceptible look of disappointment in his eyes.

Severin took out a small box, placed it to one side, and took out several silver needles as he turned to Sean and Darcy. "You may excuse yourselves. Sheila can stay here and keep watch. Mister Zachariah will wake up soon, and all you need to do is wait downstairs!"

"Is that so? I'm glad to hear that!" Darcy was a little speechless, but she continued to smile and pretend as if she was relieved.

Sean smiled and said, "That's good to know. We were incredibly worried for Zachariah earlier!

The two of them closed the door after excusing themselves. Once they left, Severin used his dry needling technique on several points of Zachariah's head.

"Ahakk!" After Severin manipulated the needles for a while, Zachariah finally coughed a few times and spat out another mouthful of black blood.

"S-S-Severin? You're here?!" Zachariah opened his eyes and saw that Severin was the one who treated him. He breathed a sigh of relief and said apologetically, "I'm sorry, Mister Severin. It was my fault for misunderstanding you this morning. My distrustful side. got the better of me!"

"Dad! You're okay! I'm glad that you're finally awake! Doctor Severin said that he'll be able to save you, and he also mentioned that you'd have two days to live if he hadn't come in time!" Sheila walked over excitedly and her eyes turned red as she held Zachariah's hand.

Zachariah nodded, looked at Severin with emotion, and said, "Were you able to treat me? I have no problem paying you seventy-five million dollars for your kind act!"

Severin smiled wryly. "Forget about the money. I came to save you today because of Sheila's filial piety toward you, so don't bother about the money! Seventy-five million seems like a lot, but that's just a number to me, so it's fine!"

Zachariah was a little dumbfounded. 'Did he just downplay my offer of seventy-five million and refuse it outright?"

Zachariah looked at Severin with a bit more admiration, for he knew that there was more to Severin than meets the eye. After thinking for a while, he said, "But you saved my life! I need to show my appreciation to you, and I'd feel bad if you don't accept my money!" Sheila's eyes lit up immediately as soon as she heard that, and she said excitedly. "Dad! Thanking him couldn't be any simpler! Just let me marry him! We'd be repaying our dues to

Severin if I can be a good wife to him!"

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Severin was speechless for a moment, and the corners of his mouth twitched a few times. Sheila truly was a master at taking advantage of the situation!

Zachariah frowned, and it was evident that he had been put in a tight spot by Sheila's proposal. Judging from how Zachariah reacted, Severin knew that the man still did not think too highly of him, but he was nonetheless quite happy that the other party looked down on him because he had always intended to keep a proper distance from Sheila. He immediately smiled and said, "I can't accept that either. Please don't be silly, Miss Sheila! You're Mister Zachariah's treasured daughter, and it'll be a big loss for the Ballards if you marry me!"

As he spoke, he removed the silver needles one by one and changed the subject without giving Sheila a chance to interrupt. "Like I said earlier this morning, you were poisoned. There was an obscene amount of poison in the mouthful of black blood that you spat out earlier. What I did was force your body to gather as much of the poison as possible before letting you spit it all out!"

"Sigh!" Zachariah could not help but let out a heavy sigh with a complicated expression on his face. Earlier that morning, Severin had already told him that the wooden chair that his biological brother gave him was the problem, and he really did not want to accept the fact that his brother would ever harm him.

"Is my

father all right now that you forced the poison out?" Sheila was a little worried and asked out of concern. She could not begin to imagine what she would do if her father died! The conversation she eavesdropped on from outside the door was particularly scary, and she did not expect that even such close relatives of the Ballards would covet the family assets and plot to kill her and her father.

Severin smiled and said, "The poison in his body wasn't formed in just a day or two. I removed ninety percent of it earlier, but ten percent of it remains. However, he can go about his routine. like a normal person now, and I'll give him two herbal prescriptions which he can boil and drink. That way, the poison in his body will slowly, but surely, be eliminated!"

Zachariah's face had regained some color and he got up from the bed and took a few steps. He then could not help but exclaim, "I feel so much lighter all of a sudden! You truly are a miracle. doctor, Severin!"

"I'm not a miracle doctor. I guessed that you would vomit blood within three days, and I didn't expect it to come so quickly. I expected you to vomit tomorrow morning, in fact!" Severin responded modestly.

Zachariah's mind went blank. If his medical skill was not considered to be that of a miracle doctor, then how else could it be described? "Doctor Severin, please allow me to bow to you!" He walked up to Severin, looked solemnly at the young man, then clasped his fists in both. hands and bowed to show his veneration for Severin.

It was very difficult for the leader of Brookbourn Mansion to do such a thing, so Severin immediately helped him up and said, "You're too polite. I'll be happy as long as you don't go around spreading rumors that I lack medical ethics. I might be a thick-skinned person, but I still do care about my reputation!"

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After Zachariah heard that, he could not help but laugh and say, "I'm a bit of a snob. I like to judge everything by its value in money because I've always felt that people tend to do things. only for money. Individuals like you are a rare gem, Mister Severin!"

Sheila then said to Zachariah, "Dad, when we entered, we heard Sean and Darcy talking about

Before Sheila could finish speaking, Zachariah stretched out his hand to tell her to stop and interrupted her, "Say no more. I might be unconscious, earlier, but I still heard what those ungrateful people said about me. They are utterly despicable! I really didn't expect that they'd plot to kill me and you for the sake of money!" After he finished speaking, he clenched his fist and said, "I'll go down soon and tell them to scram. I want them to leave here with nothing. but the clothes on their backs. I'll have their bank accounts and all credit cards frozen, and they'll have to leave the company too."

Zachariah became angrier the more and more he talked. "They're not that competent too, actually. I made them the general managers of two companies because I treated them as family, and that's the reason I allowed them to stay here too. I gave them luxury cars and mansions, and I treated them well too! I would've never expected them to..."

Zachariah's slightly agitated demeanor prompted Severin to remind him, "Don't get yourself riled up. Your body might be in much better condition now than it was before, but you still need to rest quietly for a few days!"

After some thought, Zachariah said to Severin, "You're my savior, Mister Severin, and I've come to understand many things after my narrow escape from death today. Nothing is more important than health, and money is but an external item."

Having said that, he paused for a moment before continuing, "I owe you a huge favor today, and if there's anything you need from me, just say the word and I'll help you if it's within my ability!"

Severin's brows furrowed a little, but a grin soon appeared on the corner of his mouth. "Now that you mention it, I do have something that would require your assistance!"

Zachariah was immediately overjoyed when he heard that, since he did not want to owe Severin a favor. "Do tell!"

Severin smiled. "You probably know about what happened between myself and Easton Lough. I want to make them poor, and I heard that they rely on Edward and the Horsfields to be where they are today. My request is simple: I just want the Horsfields to be suppressed. The Longhorns and the Zelankos have already agreed to help, and most of the business cooperation with them would soon be terminated!"

Zachariah understood what Severin meant by that and said with a smile, "Haha, not to worry, then! Since the Longhorns and the Zelankos have already made their move, they'll go bankrupt in two days at most if we make our move too. They'll even have to owe a lot of money, and if we don't supply them with materials, they'll be forced to pay liquidated damages if they aren't able to deliver the goods on time to their clients!"

"Haha, I feel reassured to hear that, Mister Zachariah!" Severin laughed and began to imagine how Lucy would react when she found out Easton had turned into a poor man, and that the

Loughs had gotten bankrupt as well as owed a tremendous amount of money to other people.

"Let's head downstairs!" Zachariah said as he looked at Sheila.

"You're healthy again! That's such a relief!" Sean, who was waiting in the living room. downstairs, immediately stepped forward and said with a smile when he saw Zachariah coming down.

At that moment, some relatives and servants had also gathered here.

Severin glanced around and was drawn to a 40-something servant, whose expression was a little nervous scared, even-when Zachariah came down the stairs. Severin smiled coldly, for he had already identified the culprit behind the poisoning.

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"Zachariah! It's good to see you back in the pink of health! Everyone is worried about you!" Darcy also walked over and smiled with concern.

Zachariah sneered in his heart. Had he not overheard the conversation between the two when he was unconscious, he would have thought the two of them were good-hearted relatives. Hist face darkened and he snorted coldly, "Bodyguards, please!"

A group of bodyguards then rushed in from outside.

Zachariah immediately said, "Did you think I wouldn't hear what the two of you said earlier? You were hoping to see me die so you could divide my assets among yourselves, and you even. said that you'd cause an accident to kill my daughter. I might be unconscious and unable to open my eyes, but I heard every single thing you said!" After ending his sentence, he took at step forward and glared at the other party as he said, "I have never treated you unfairly, so it brings me great disappointment when I found out how ungrateful the two of you are."

"Seriously? Sean is too ambitious!"

"Indeed. I never would have expected that, although I did hear that they're not good people. since they tend to make life difficult for their subordinates!"

The other Ballard relatives whispered among themselves and pointed at the two of them.

"This is a misunderstanding! You're mistaken! We never said anything like that!" The two of them were shocked at first, but Sean immediately calmed down and said to Zachariah, "Your misheard us! It's probably due to the hallucinations you had when you were unconscious. earlier, or because you were dreaming. Darcy and I could never say such things!"

Darcy immediately doubled down. "Yes, that's right. You were probably hearing things while you were unconscious. We can never bring ourselves to do something like that! That's something we could never do, even if we were as brave as ten lions!"

"Tch!" Zachariah snorted again. "You were thinking of suffocating me with a pillow and yet you say you wouldn't dare? If Mister Severin hadn't saved my life today, my family's assets would've been divided between the two of you, would it not?"

"By the conscience of all that is good, you must've misheard us!" Darcy placed her hand over her heart. "I'm speaking from my conscience!"

"Stop pretending, you two! Mister Severin and I heard every single bit of your conversation!" Sheila shook her head helplessly. "I didn't expect you to be that sort of person!"

"Kick them out and freeze their bank accounts immediately. They are only allowed to take a few clothes with them. Do not allow them to take cars or anything of value!" Zachariah told. his men. He then waved his hand and said to the two of them, "You are no longer a part of the Ballards. Don't even think about taking any of my assets!"

"We have made significant contributions to the company and the family! How could you treat us like this, Zachariah?" Sean could not accept what was happening.

Darcy went so far as to say, "Does it matter if we said something like that? Sean and I were just joking! Are we forbidden from making jokes now?"

"Get out now, or I'll tell the bodyguards to break your legs!" Zachariah could not help but roar angrily.

The two of them looked at each other in fright and gritted their teeth as they turned to leave.

"Are you all right, sir? Have you recovered? What did the doctor say?" The butler came over and asked Zachariah concernedly.

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Zachariah felt emotional as he looked at the family-less old man who had devoted more than thirty years of his young life to the Ballards. "Worry not. I'm fine. Mister Severin said that I was poisoned, and most of the poison in my body had been forced out. He'll give me an herbal prescription for us in a bit, and I just need to boil the herbs into a drink!"

The old butler breathed a sigh of relief and said to Severin, "Thank you, Mister Severin!" Severin, who had been secretly paying attention to the servants, smiled at the old butler and said, "You're most welcome. Sheila and I are friends, so it's only right that I help her out!"

He then asked someone to take out the paper and pen, wrote down the prescription, and handed it to the old butler so he could arrange for someone to get the necessary herbs.

"Sir, how could you be poisoned when you've been at home all this time?" The old butler could not help but ask Zachariah as he tried to think of what could possibly cause the poisoning.

Zachariah felt mixed emotions in his heart and he did not want to say anything more. He merely waved his hands and said, "It's been a trying time for everyone, so please don't worry too much. I'm fine, and you may all go back to your respective duties!"

"Understood!" The old butler then went out along with servants and other members of the Ballards.

After taking a few steps, however, Severin pointed directly at the middle-aged woman he had been observing earlier and said, "You there! Stop!"

She trembled slightly in fright and then said in a panic, "Yes, sir...is something the matter?" Sheila was also taken aback and did not know why Severin would suddenly yell at their servant Lena. "What are you doing? Lena has worked many years for our family!"

Severin immediately smiled and said, "Nothing. She just happened to drop something!"

Severin picked up a purse from the ground, walked over, and handed it to her. "You dropped this!"

"Thank you, sir!"

Lena felt a cold sweat in her heart and did not notice that her purse had fallen out. She earlier thought that Severin had discovered what she did and was frightened as a result, but it all seemed to be a false alarm.

"No thanks necessary. It's the right thing to do!" Severin smiled, looking as harmless as a dove.

Lena took the wallet and walked out quickly.

Severin waited until Lena had left before telling Zachariah, "Tell someone to keep an eye on Lena. I suspect that she'll leave the Ballards very soon! Make sure someone's always tailing her where she goes!"

"Wait a minute!" Zachariah was a little confused for a moment and asked Severin, "Didn't you say that my poisoning is related to that wooden chair? Why are you telling me to send someone to keep an eye on her? Do you think she has something to do with it?"

Severin smiled wryly. "Your wooden chair was soaked in poison before it was mailed, so there's no absolving your brother of being involved in your poisoning." After a pause, Severin said, "But the poison isn't very powerful, and if you use the wooden chair as a medium to slowly volatilize the poison, it wouldn't enter your body as quickly as it would otherwise. That being said, there is a kind of sandalwood incense that would cause any poison that entered your system to have a quicker effect."

"Gasp!" Zachariah took a deep breath after hearing that.

Severin looked at the other party's expression and knew that Zachariah believed him. He nodded. "When I was treating you in your room earlier, I smelled a faint fragrance that is very unique. It might be fine to use the incense on its own, but it is extremely deadly if mixed with the poisonous gas emitted from your wooden chair!"