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Gritting his teeth, Zayne nodded. "I have met Mr. Lewis before," he answered ambiguously. After all, meeting Tommy before didn't necessarily mean that he knew him.

"Initially, all you had to do was to beg for forgiveness on your knees. However, I didn't expect you to go around lying in the name of Mr. Lewis. Because of that, none of you are leaving here today."

Bob's voice was so piercing cold that it sent a chill down everyone's spine.

"Hahaha, you are really just a bunch of kids. Do you know who this guy in front of you is? He is Mr. Hoffman's best fighter. As for Mr. Hoffman, he is one of Mr. Lewis' closest lieutenants. And yet, you got carried away and boasted in front of him about knowing Mr. Lewis."

Josh began to burst into a hearty laughter.

Given that they were just a bunch of ordinary folks, Josh had seen through their lies about knowing Tommy.

Having heard Josh's words, Zayne broke out in cold sweat. He had not expected his bragging to land him in such deep trouble.

Unfortunately, his subordinates thought differently due to their belief that he actually knew Tommy.

As for Maria, she wholeheartedly believed the lie still. Even if Zayne didn't really know Tommy, he would have a friend that did. Or else, Tommy wouldn't have helped her family recover the debt that they were owed.

Deciding to relent, Zayne began to apologize, "Mr. Queen, just now, my friends had too much to drink. Therefore, I would like to say I'm sorry and hope—"

Before he could finish, Bob interrupted, "For abusing Mr. Lewis' name, you're not going to get away with just an apology. Whether you live or die, fate will determine it for you."

With that, Bob turned to his men. "Take everyone away and let Mr. Hoffman decide what to do with them."

The next moment, more than ten fearsome men surrounded the group, terrifying everyone including Zayne and Maria.

At the same time, Troy, who was at a corner, was trembling in fear. Having wet his pants, he was gripping onto Kai tightly.

He had just graduated recently and never faced such a situation before.

Consequently, he was given the shock of his life.

When Kai saw how frightened Troy was, he patted him on the shoulder. "Relax, it will be fine."

Soon, Zayne and the rest were led to Charlie's office.

Meanwhile, Charlie was resting with his eyes closed, enjoying a massage by his secretary. When he saw Bob suddenly enter with the group, he knitted his brows and asked, "Bob, why did you bring a bunch of kids in here?"

"Mr. Hoffman, these are the guys who beat up Mr. Queen's man," Bob replied.

"Didn't I ask you to deal with it? What did you bring them here for?" Charlie was clearly upset.

"Mr. Hoffman, this man claims that he knows Mr. Lewis and is in fact close to him. That's why I brought him to you to be judged," Bob quickly explained.

"What?" Charlie sat up straight immediately before squinting his eyes at Zayne.
"You know Mr. Lewis?"
"I-I..." Zayne began to stammer. "My friend knows him."
"What is your friend's name? I have worked for Mr. Lewis for a long time and know all the names of his friends," Charlie pressed on with his questions.
At that moment, Zayne was stumped. Evidently, none of his friends knew Tommy. In fact, there was no way someone of his lowly stature would be connected to Tommy in any way.
Bam!
All of a sudden, Charlie banged on the table and got to his feet. "How dare you abuse Mr. Lewis' name!"

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At that moment, everyone's expression changed instantly. As for Zayne, the chill he felt down his spine turned him sober at once.
He had not expected that by falsely claiming to know Tommy just to satisfy his ego, he would end up in such dire circumstances.
When he saw Zayne's reaction, Josh sniggered before giving Zayne a tight slap.
"Why aren't you as brazen now as you were before? How dare you hit my man and even abuse Mr. Lewis' name? Looks like you have a death wish."
Josh's slap brought Zayne back to reality. He pleaded at once, "Mr. Queen, I'm sorry. I won't do it again. I swear I won't."
Zayne's pleas struck home with Maria and his subordinates. They finally realized that he had been boasting all this while and never knew Tommy at all.
Upon the epiphany, all of them began to tremble, as there was no one for them to rely on.
"Sorry?" Mr. Queen chuckled insidiously. "It's too late for that now. Prepare for your doom!"
Overwhelmed by fear, Zayne dropped to his knees with a thud. "Mr. Hoffman, I won't dare to make false claims in Mr. Lewis' name anymore. I beg of you. Please show me mercy."
At that moment, Zayne was filled with remorse and crying like a baby.
As for the others, they were even more terrified than Zayne was. Maria stared at him in shock, as she didn't even know what to think.
After glancing at Zayne, who was on his knees, and shifting his gaze toward the rest of the group, Charlie asked, "Mr. Queen, what do you think we should do?"
Charlie handed Josh the honor. After all, he was one of the establishment's key customers.
"They're just a bunch of hot-blooded youths. There's no point in crippling them. I suppose we can just let them go." Josh waved his hand.
The moment he heard those words, Zayne prostrated himself to thank Josh. Just when everyone heaved a sigh of relief, Josh turned his attention to Hilda, Maria, and Lydia. "The men can go, but the ladies have to stay and accompany me."
At that very instant, the ladies were stupefied.
Zayne in particular was even more shocked given that Maria was his girlfriend, and her dad had just acknowledged him. He could disregard Lydia and Hilda, but

there was no way he could leave Maria there.

Pointing at Maria, Zayne suggested with a sycophantic smile, "Mr. Queen, this is my girlfriend. Can I take her with me? The rest can stay with you. After all, I have been cohabiting with her for a year, so I don't think you'll be interested in her." In truth, he had never slept with Maria before. All he wanted to do was to extract her from danger.

Despite shooting him a glance, Maria didn't say a word. After all, her priority was to save her own skin.

Just as expected, Josh's eyes were filled with scorn after hearing Zayne's words. With a wave of his hand, he replied, "You can go, but the other two have to stay." In response, Zayne thanked Josh profusely before preparing to leave.

In the meantime, Lydia panicked and grabbed Zayne's arm. "Mr. Carlson, don't leave me here. Don't leave me."

As for Hilda, she looked helplessly at Kai, as he was the only one she could rely on. After all, no one else would be willing to do so because they barely knew her. "Lydia, just have a few drinks with Mr. Queen. You'll be fine. I'll come back in a while to pick you up."

Zayne pushed her toward Josh, causing her to be quickly filled with despair.

As for Hilda, she gently held onto Kai's sleeve with tears in her eyes. Even though she wanted Kai to escape, she didn't want to stay either. Consequently, she had fallen into a dilemma.

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"Don't worry, I won't leave you," Kai reassured her with a smile.

Troy, who was the first to dash out of the room, turned around and yelled, "Kai, why aren't you leaving?"

When Maria also turned around and noticed that Kai didn't budge, she called out, "Kai!"

The moment Josh sensed that Kai had no intention of leaving, his expression turned grim. He sneered, "What's wrong? Can't bring yourself to leave your girlfriend behind?"

Just as he spoke, Josh reached out to stroke Hilda's face.

Turning pale in fear, she didn't even dare avoid his hand.

Just when Josh was about to make contact, Kai grabbed his wrist instead. "I never had the intention of leaving at all."

When he finished, Kai tightened his grip. The next moment, a loud crack rang out as Josh's wrist was broken.

The excruciating pain caused him to let out a cry so agonizing that it sent a chill down everyone's spine.

"Fck, my hand is broken! Stop, or else I'll kill you and your girlfriend!" Josh roared with a vicious expression. Bam! Having launched a kick at Josh's crotch, Kai sent him flying out of the room. By the time he crashed onto the ground, his face turned purple. Kai's kick had as good as castrated him. Meanwhile, Charlie was outraged by what had just unfolded. "Kid, you've got some guts to beat my client up in front of me!" With a terrifying expression, Charlie waved his hand and ordered, "Close the door, and don't let anyone leave." Consequently, Zayne and the rest were

herded back into the office with the door locked. Back inside, all of them stared daggers at Kai. If he hadn't done anything, they would have already escaped. "Kai, what the fck did you do that for? We would've left if it weren't for you," Zayne bellowed.

Given how badly Josh was beaten up, Zayne and the others realized they wouldn't be let off easily. Why did Kai have to be a hero just for a girl when they had already released us? He has now pulled all of us down with him!

"Kai, if you have a death wish, why do you need to drag us along?"

"Exactly. If you want to fight so much, you should go out and duke it out on the streets."

"It's over. We're done for because of you."

All of them, including Lydia, blamed Kai.

Even though she was supposed to stay back, she figured she could get away after having a few drinks. At worst, she would just spend the night with him, and it would all be over. Unfortunately, by beating Josh up badly, Kai had complicated the matter further.

Only Hilda looked at Kai with a worried expression. With tears in her eyes, she apologized, "Kai, I'm sorry. I'm really sorry."

She knew that if it weren't for her, Kai wouldn't have done it. Therefore, she was concerned that Kai might have to go back to prison. Or worse, he might even lose his life.

"It will be fine. Don't worry." Kai smiled casually.

When everyone saw how Kai didn't seem to be bothered, they were further enraged, leading them to disparage him with greater intensity.

Meanwhile, Charlie's expression darkened. "Bob, cripple that kid."

After nodding in acknowledgment, Bob dashed at Kai and hurled his massive fist toward Kai's head.

If the fist were to land, Kai's head would be blown to mush.

Anticipating what was going to happen, everyone recoiled in fear, worried that they would be splattered with blood. With a resolute gaze, Hilda gritted her teeth and stepped forward to shield Kai.

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Since Kai was in trouble because of her, she decided to sacrifice her life. After all, she couldn't sit idly by and watch Kai be killed in front of her.

As a massive gush of wind blew against her face, Hilda closed her eyes in fear. She gripped onto Kai tightly so that she could keep him behind her.

Maria couldn't help but scream, "Hilda!"

Although she had just gotten to know Hilda, Maria liked Hilda for her great personality. Hence, she couldn't resist calling out, as she felt it would be a shame for Hilda to die on Kai's behalf.

At the same time, watching Bob's rapidly approaching fist caused Hilda to feel death knocking on her door. After the strong gust of wind blew over, nothing else happened. When she finally opened her eyes, she noticed Bob's fist had stopped a few inches away from her. Kai had intercepted it and halted the attack. At that instant, everyone's eyes widened in disbelief. Bob in particular was

completely stupefied. He could feel the boundless energy Kai was emitting. No matter how much strength he used, his efforts were futile.

"If you weren't Tommy's subordinates, all of you would have already been dead." With a gentle push, Bob's body was sent backpedaling before crashing onto the ground.

When he saw what happened to Bob, Charlie was infuriated.

"F*ck, you're nothing but a piece of trash. How can you be defeated by a kid?" Charlie slammed a kick into Bob.

Getting up to his feet quickly, Bob hung his head in shame. Although he had fallen down, he wasn't harmed at all. Kai had shown him mercy because Bob was technically his subordinate.

"Let us go, and this matter will be over. Or else, you will definitely regret it," Kai warned Charlie.

"Regret?" Charlie sneered. "Regret isn't a word that resides in my dictionary." Just as he spoke, the door to the room busted open. Tens of men with machetes in their hands entered and had Kai and his group quickly surrounded.

When they were surrounded earlier, the men who did so were bare-handed. Despite how hostile they looked, Zayne and the others could still maintain their composure.

But right then, having been surrounded by men who were brandishing weapons, Zayne and the others were petrified by the cold glint of steel. Some of them fainted from fear while many others peed their pants. Even Zayne was no exception as he quivered in his wet pants.

"Kid, are you challenging me to turn you into mush?" Charlie hissed.

"If I recall correctly, didn't Tommy tell you to run your business in a legal manner and not to go around using violence? Shouldn't you check with him before letting this matter get out of hand?" Kai questioned calmly.

Charlie was unnerved by Kai's words. After shooting him a glance, he hesitated before instructing a subordinate, "Watch them closely and don't let anyone escape. I'm going out to give Mr. Lewis a call."

With that, Charlie left the office with the phone.

Seeing Charlie on his way to check with Tommy, Zayne and the others couldn't be more terrified. After all, Tommy was infamous in Horington for his ruthlessness and tendency for killing without batting an eyelid.

If Tommy got involved, they were sure that they were all going to be killed. In fact, they might even be tortured before losing their lives.

When he saw Charlie leave to call Tommy, Zayne glared at Kai and admonished him, "Kai, you idiot! Why did you have to pull Mr. Lewis into this? All of us are finished."

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Furrowing his eyebrows, Kai shot Zayne an icy glare, which sent a chill down Zayne's spine. With that, Zayne backed off and held his tongue.

"I don't want to die. I don't want to die. Daddy... Daddy..." Maria bawled as if she had gone raving mad.

Suddenly, everyone broke out in tears and the room was filled with harrowing cries.

Meanwhile, Charlie was calling Tommy to check on how to deal with the bunch of brats.

Under normal circumstances, he would have disposed of the entire group. Since they were just a bunch of ordinary folk, their disappearance wouldn't cause much of an uproar.

But now, times were different. Tommy had forbidden them from killing indiscriminately. Thus, Charlie had no choice but to seek Tommy's guidance.

At that moment, Tommy was already asleep. When he received Charlie's call, he answered with a yawn, "Charlie, it's already late. Did something happen at the bar?"

"Mr. Lewis, a few kids are causing trouble here. They even managed to beat Bob up and are behaving arrogantly. Can I wipe all of them out?" Charlie carefully asked.

"Kids?" Tommy furrowed his eyebrows. "Who are they? Are they from the Crimson Dragon Gang?"

Considering Tommy's reputation, no one but the Crimson Dragon Gang dared to cause trouble on his turf.

Since Kai had recently beaten Steven up, it was possible that they had come to exact revenge.

"No, it's just a bunch of hot-blooded youths who work at a company owned by the Sullivan family. One of them is called Kai. He was the one who injured Bob," Charlie reported.

At the mention of Kai, Tommy sprang out of his bed.

"Charlie, I'll be there in a moment. Don't fcking touch them, and just wait till I arrive." The moment he finished, Tommy ended the call and rushed out. When Charlie heard Tommy's anxious voice, he was utterly baffled. Nevertheless, he had no choice but to obey. By the time he returned to his office, it reeked of the stench of pee. "Fck!"

Pinching his nose, Charlie ordered, "Open the windows. What the f*ck is wrong with them?"

The moment the window was opened, fresh air blew into the room and dampened the stinking smell.

Since Tommy had instructed him to wait, Charlie had no choice but to have the armed men withdraw, for fear that Tommy would see them.

"I have informed Mr. Lewis about it, and he will be here swiftly. If you have any last words, it's time to say them now." Charlie stared at them with an icy smirk.

The moment they heard Tommy was coming, Zayne and the others had their fears reignited.

Just when the room had finally quietened down, it was once again filled with agonizing wails.

Everyone in Horington, including a three-year-old, was aware that he was nothing but a ruthless killer.

"Mr. Hoffman, Kai was the one who did it. Since it has nothing to do with us, please let us go," Zayne pleaded on his knees again.

At the same time, everyone else dropped to their knees and began to plead repeatedly.

As for Kai, he held Maria with one hand and Hilda with the other, stopping them from kneeling.

Even though Maria resented him, he was still concerned for her on the account of her father, which Kai had a good impression of.

Meanwhile, Charlie felt the urge to admonish Kai when he saw how defiant he was. However, the thought of Tommy's instructions forced him to swallow his words.

Hmph, you will suffer the consequences when Mr. Lewis arrives later. Let's see if you can still keep that snarky attitude of yours up.