

IVAN ZHUK: ZHUK'S GAMBIT BOOK 1

MENTAL AGONY

by

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Part One

Prologue

Prison Life for Ivan

#

Ivan Zhuk sat in his cell feeling quite miserable for what he had done to the other immigrants at the immigration center deep in the heart of downtown Chicago. He couldn't believe he already made a foe on the first day of his prison life - Yuri Kozlov! Yuri was a known Russian national who didn't seem to like Ukrainians one bit!

#

“What did I get myself into?!” cried Ivan.

#

Ivan paced around his cell nervously, he was already in solitary confinement for a previous fight he got into with another prisoner. The guards who checked up on him noticed his strange behavior.

#

“Hey, keep it down there” said one of the guards.

#

Ivan ignored the guards, all he wanted to do was get out of prison. He knew his brother Viktor was disappointed with him. He even disappointed Boris Orlova and his daughter Olga. They had to try to work round the clock trying to get Ivan free.

#

“I can't believe I am stuck here!” cried Ivan.

#

Ivan began to weep and cry, it was pathetic for him to be in this situation. A former bully now finding himself in a prison!

#

There Are Consequences

#

The hours went by and soon it was time for Ivan to be let out of his solitary confinement cell.

The guards escorted him back to his usual cell. He sat there on the bench and continued his sorry sad life.

#

“I should have never bullied those other immigrants!” cried Ivan.

#

Ivan had regrets over bullying the various immigrants at the immigration center. The center was a safer place than being in the middle of the war between Russia and Ukraine! But prison was just like the war, but worse since he didn't know who he could trust!

#

“Looks like the newbie is about to crack again” laughed one of the prisoners.

#

Ivan tried his best to ignore such comments, he couldn't believe it was going to be this way for the rest of his life. Soon he could hear those familiar footsteps - it was Yuri Kozlov strolling down the prison hallway with his fellow prisoners. These prisoners were his supporters and didn't take it too kindly to someone like Ivan.

#

“Let’s stop and mock the Ukrainian” said Yuri.

#

Yuri soon arrived near his cell and began to mock poor Ivan.

#

Mocking Ivan

#

For some odd reason, Yuri had more privileges while in prison than any other prisoner. It was because of his status as a Russian mobster that he was the next in line to make the rules. The warden was none existent at the prison.

#

“Well, well, well if it isn’t my favorite Ukrainian to pick on, what’s your name again, oh yea Ivan!” laughed Yuri.

#

Ivan was getting angry the moment Yuri spoke, and Yuri could see all of this.

#

“There is nothing you can do, because you are behind those bars and I am out here” said Yuri.

#

“How come you get to have more freedom than the rest of us?!” cried Ivan.

#

“I got a sweet deal coming from the State Department” continued Yuri, “you probably wouldn’t understand too much about Russian politics, but the Russian government is trying to make some sort of deal to get me out.”

#

Yuri was an asset of the Russian government, and he was letting Ivan know that first hand. Only because he knew it would tick Ivan off so much, that Ivan would likely get into another fight with some other prisoners.

#

Angry Ivan

#

Ivan attempted to charge at Yuri but the bars blocked his path.

#

“You’re not strong enough to break those bars” laughed Yuri.

#

Ivan continued to glare at Yuri with rage.

#

“You will stop making fun of me!” cried Ivan.

#

“The guards can’t do a thing to stop me, because if they did, I have my fellow supporters to help me” laughed Yuri.

#

The prisoners soon emerged in front of Yuri.

#

“Nothing to see here” said one of the prisoners.

#

Ivan couldn’t believe how much of a circus the prison felt, he couldn’t believe Yuri was having so much say. Yuri soon laughed at poor Ivan and soon marched off with his supporters. Ivan’s

only hope was Boris Orlova who was doing his best trying to find the best attorney to free Ivan. Boris was on the phone with a representative for a known immigration attorney who also specialized in defending criminals with immigration issues.

#

“I will have to see if my boss can help you” said the representative.

#

“Yes, we do need Ivan Zhuk out of prison as soon as possible” continued Boris.

#

“It might still take time for my boss to get things in order” added the representative.

#

“I understand the sensitive time procedure” added Boris.

#

Boris had high hopes he could get Ivan free and help his brother Viktor.

Chapter One

Ivan Gets an Attorney

#

It was thanks on part of Boris' patience with the representative she was able to get through to Ms. Angelica Esposito Esq., she specialized in criminal defense cases especially when it came to immigration status. Ivan's in particular caught her attention when she heard that Boris Orlova was trying to contact her.

#

"Mr. Boris Orlova, this is Madame Angelica Esposito speaking" continued Angelica on the phone.

#

Boris was thrilled he was able to make it through to her.

#

"Ms. Esposito, my client Ivan Zhuk has been imprisoned and I need you to get him out" continued Boris.

#

Angelica had Ivan's case right in front of her, apparently she was shocked at how cruel that Ivan was towards the other immigrants at the immigration center. She knew that she would have to see Ivan in person, as things likely had changed since he was put in jail.

#

"I will meet up with Ivan very soon" said Angelica.

#

“Yes, please I will arrive at the prison with my daughter Olga” said Boris, “and also bring Ivan’s brother Viktor.”

#

“Viktor must be devastated hearing about his brother in jail” said Angelica.

#

“Yes, sadly that’s all he’s been talking about” added Boris.

#

As Boris ended the phone call, within the depths of the Orlova Manor, Viktor was pacing back and forth in the guest room. He was worried sick for his brother Ivan.

#

Worried Viktor

#

Viktor paced back and forth, it seemed like he had been doing this for days since his brother’s arrest. It was all he could think of doing.

#

“Brother, why did you have to be so greedy and bully the other immigrants like that?!” cried Viktor.

#

Viktor was in tears knowing his brother was in jail. Boris soon marched over to the guest room and knocked on the door.

#

“May I come in?” asked Boris.

#

Viktor welcomed Boris in.

#

“Yes, please come in” added Viktor.

#

“I have some good news, I have secured an attorney for your brother Ivan” continued Boris.

#

Viktor was happy with so much joy.

#

“This is wonderful, that means she could get him out” said Viktor.

#

“It wouldn’t be that easy” said Boris, “she has to go through the system and meet with your brother. We’re going to meet him sometime later this week.”

#

Viktor was so happy and thrilled that he could finally see his brother Ivan again. Ivan must be in such a terrible shape Viktor thought.

#

“What if other prisoners have been teasing him?” asked Viktor.

#

“Well, it’s sadly karma for what your brother did back with the immigration center” said Boris,

“karma is karma. Nothing we can’t change, we just hope Ivan can become a better person.”

#

Viktor had every right to be worried about his brother’s safety. Yuri Kozlov and his fellow thugs were not the only ones interested in teasing poor Ivan.

#

The Other Prisoners

#

As the week progressed, Ivan went about his routine within the prison. The other prisoners soon began to take note about Ivan standing up to Yuri Kozlov. One such prisoner was an Ethiopian mobster known as Tamrat Hailu. Both he and his right-hand man Emnet Tasifa were eyeing in possibly trying to recruit Ivan. Then there was Enrico Russo, an Italian mobster who was just looking for some extra protection.

#

“There’s our boy” whispered Tamrat to Emnet as they were in the hallway of the prison.

#

The two Ethiopians noticed how Ivan was just doing various cleaning chores around the prison. The work kept Ivan busy and out of trouble with the other prisoners. Tamrat soon got the courage to introduce himself to Ivan.

#

“Excuse me, are you Ivan Zhuk?” asked Tamrat.

#

Ivan gazed at the two prisoners before him.

#

“I am known as Tamrat Hailu and this is my associate Emnet Tasifa” said Tamrat.

#

“Pleasure to meet you” said Emnet.

#

“What do you want with Ivan?” asked Ivan.

#

“We have noticed you were standing up to Yuri Kozlov, the notorious Russian mobster” continued Tamrat, “I use to run the show around the prison until he was tossed in here.”

#

“It’s all true” added Emnet.

#

Ivan didn’t know if he could just simply trust the two Ethiopian prisoners. It was so much all of a sudden to be welcomed like this without a catch.

#

The Italian Mobster

#

But the two Ethiopian criminals were not the only ones eyeing on Ivan - Enrico Russo a known Italian mobster who had been around the prison much longer noticed Ivan’s unorthodox behavior. Yuri was a pushover to all the other prisoners regardless of nationality. But since Ivan was Ukrainian it made it all the more easier of a target.

#

“Say buddy” whispered Enrico to Ivan.

#

“Wait, who are you?” asked Ivan as he gazed around.

#

“Name’s Enrico Russo, I know this prison like the back end of my forehead” said Enrico, “these two goof balls just want to use you as muscle to get back into power.”

#

“Hey, who asked you to mess around with us?!” bellowed Tamrat.

#

Tamrat was enraged that the Italian mobster was eavesdropping on their conversation with Ivan.

They saw Ivan first and wanted to recruit him.

#

“I know all of the hiding places around the prison where Yuri won’t be able to find you” added Enrico.

#

Ivan was soon perplexed on which side to choose - on the one hand a prisoner who knew the ropes around the prison - on the other hand - the former power players of the prison!

Chapter Two

Don't Make Ivan Choose!

#

Ivan was perplexed by all of this, his mental breakdown was happening before the three prisoners.

#

“DO NOT MAKE ME CHOOSE!” cried Ivan.

#

The commotion caught the eye of a few prison guards who rushed over to see what was wrong.

#

“What’s going on here?!” cried one of the guards.

#

“Nothing sir” said Tamrat.

#

“Yea, we were just introducing ourselves” added Enrico.

#

The prison guards noticed how agitated Ivan seemed just with their mere presence.

#

“You three better let him go back and do his chores” said the second prison guard, “we don’t want him to get into a fight with either of you.”

#

The prison guards managed to help calm Ivan down, the three prisoners were disappointed that

Ivan cracked so quickly.

#

“You should not have disrupted us like that” said Emnet.

#

“Well, I saw what he could do so I decided to insert myself” laughed Enrico.

#

Tamrat sighed.

#

“We’ll get nowhere with this if we all fight” said Tamrat.

#

“I got an idea, whoever could get Ivan to do something against that Yuri Kozlov fellow will win Ivan” laughed Enrico.

#

The Ethiopian criminals felt reluctant at first but soon agreed.

#

“Fine” said Tamrat.

#

“Fine by me” added Emnet.

#

The precise problem for Enrico was he was a loner among the prison population while Tamrat and Emnet managed to control Chicago’s black prison gangs who were more than eager to help them with the task.

#

Visitor Day

#

Another day came and went throughout the prison, and soon Ivan got called by one of the prison guards at his cell.

#

“You have visitors waiting for you” said the prison guard.

#

“Visitors!” laughed Ivan with joy.

#

Ivan knew his brother Viktor was among them as he was escorted out of his cell to the visiting booth. Enrico gazed at Ivan from afar within his cell. He knew he had to get to Ivan first before the Ethiopian criminals and their black gang allies did.

#

“Family, that’s it” thought Enrico to himself.

#

For Ivan, this was the most exciting time, he finally got to see his brother Viktor again. As he arrived at the visitor booth there he was, but also a strange woman he had never met. In the back was Boris and Olga.

#

“BROTHER!” laughed Ivan as he tried to hug the glass that separated him and the visitors.

#

“Yes, please pay attention to what this attorney has to say” said Viktor.

#

“Hello Ivan, I am Madame Angelica Esposito Esq., I have examined your case and I think I can get you out” said Angelica.

#

“Really?” asked Ivan.

#

“It will take sometime, but you will have to follow a few rules after you are freed by a judge” said Angelica.

#

“That would make me so happy” said Ivan.

#

Ivan danced around the visitor booth area, Viktor knew his brother was in a cheerful mood.

#

Enrico’s Strategy

#

After the little happy dance by Ivan, Angelica continued to tell him how she would get him out.

#

“I have to show the judge that you have changed since being in prison that you deserve a second chance” said Angelica.

#

“That would be wonderful” said Ivan.

#

“But this means not getting into any fights with fellow prisoners” continued Angelica.

#

Ivan paused he then thought of Yuri Kozlov. He would ruin all of his chances in leaving the prison. It was very clear to Ivan he shouldn't be triggered by Yuri's temperament nor by the other prisoners. As he agreed to her terms, he was escorted back to his cell by the prison guards. Enrico gazed again at Ivan as he sat back in his cell.

#

“So, I take you have family who still care about you outside the prison?” asked Enrico.

#

“My brother Viktor, why are you so interested in all of this?” asked Ivan.

#

“I can make things easy for you by showing the best hiding spaces in the prison so you can sneak away from Yuri” continued Enrico.

#

Ivan thought about it, but then he thought about Tamrat and his gang allies.

#

“I would have to wait” said Ivan.

#

“Suit yourself” said Enrico, “they are hiding spots not even the other gangs of the prison even know.”

#

Ivan soon began to have second thoughts, but that'd have to wait as it was soon meal time for the prisoners.

#

Tamrat's Strategy

#

Tamrat's strategy was going to be different from Enrico's, instead of cousing on family it was going to be all about the prison gang itself. Tamrat encouraged Ivan to sit with him and the rest of the black gang members. The other black gang members felt it was a bit off why a Ukrainian would sit with them.

#

"Why are we letting him sit with us?" whispered one of the gang members.

#

"Don't be rude" said Emnet, "you know none of us like Yuri Kozlov."

#

The other black gang members realized Ivan had more run-ins with Yuri than anyone else. Ivan decided to take a chance with Tamrat and sat right down next to him.

#

"I say we need to get the jump on Yuri and his crew" said Tamrat, "we have someone who knows his every move."

#

Ivan gazed around the table, he didn't recognize anyone there.

#

"You want me to do something to Yuri?" asked Ivan.

#

Ivan thought of what Angelica said, but then the peer pressure of the prison. Especially by Tamrat and Emnet.

#

“The shower, we will try to initiate an ambush against Yuri” continued Tamrat.

#

Ivan swallowed he knew this wouldn't end well. But then he also thought of Enrico as the Italian mobster sat at another table.

#

“Remember what I said about the hidden spaces” said Enrico.

#

There was that mental breakdown again, but Ivan tried to keep his cool.

Chapter Three

The Shower Incident

#

Before the prisoners could either exercise or do their various chores around the prison they were all ordered into the showers. One of the black gang members loyal to Tamrat agreed to wonder off to head towards where the valve system to the shower when Yuri Kozlov was going to step inside with his men.

#

“You all should wait your turn while we take the showers first” said Yuri.

#

Yuri could see the other prisoners were just anxious to get their turn finished. Yuri had a few of his thugs stay behind just to keep control over the crowd outside the showers. Meanwhile for the lone black gang member, he found the valve system and began to mess with it. As Yuri and his men took a shower, steam suddenly began to pour in.

#

“Now’s your chance” whispered Tamrat to Ivan.

#

Ivan was nervous as he headed into the shower, there was so much steam all around he couldn’t see anything. The valve system did its work, Yuri couldn’t see his own men.

#

“Hey, who put out so much steam?!” cried Yuri.

#

Before Yuri realized what was going on, Ivan soon confronted him.

#

The Confrontation

#

Yuri glanced at Ivan coming towards him, his men nowhere to be found as the steam made it impossible for them to see.

#

“Hey, where is everyone else?!” cried Yuri.

#

Ivan gazed towards the Russian mobster.

#

“You will regret for picking on me” said Ivan.

#

Ivan grabbed a towel and began to use it as a whip to poor Yuri who then fell to the floor of the shower. It was so slippery for Yuri, the Russian mobster tried to pick himself up.

#

“You will regret doing that to me!” cried Yuri.

#

Yuri attempted to move forward, but the water trickling down made it impossible. He slipped the moment he attempted to lunge towards Ivan - CRASH. Yuri felt he broke something as he fell.

#

“HELP, HELP!” cried Yuri.

#

The medics of the prison began to rush over with the prison guards trying to disperse the crowd of prisoners. Tamrat and Emnet were quite pleased that Ivan had done his job. They could hear the screams of Yuri crying for help in the shower.

#

“HELP, SOMEONE GET ME UP!” cried Yuri.

#

Ivan glanced at Yuri, but as he was about to make the next move - a ghostly image of his attorney Ms. Angelica Esposito soon emerged.

#

Angelica, Ivan’s Conscious

#

Madame Angelica Esposito Esq., was becoming Ivan’s own personal conscious! The apparition of the attorney frighten Ivan.

#

“What do you think you’re doing to that man?” asked the apparition of Angelica.

#

She hovered over poor Yuri who was trying to pick himself up.

#

“Go help him up” ordered Angelica.

#

The apparition was rather quite bossy towards Ivan for daring to get into a fight.

#

“You very well know that if you are at fault for all of this, you will not be getting out of here anytime soon” continued Angelica.

#

The apparition continued to nag towards Ivan which soon annoyed him.

#

“WHY ARE YOU IN THE PRISON!” bellowed Ivan.

#

Yuri’s men who were in the shower thought Ivan was going crazy with talking to someone who wasn’t there. But the apparition of the attorney was very real to Ivan. The prison guards soon dispersed the other prisoners and the medics soon came in to check on Yuri.

#

“We’ll get you on a stretcher sir” said a medic.

#

“Thank you” said Yuri.

#

Yuri glanced at Ivan as he was placed on a stretcher to be taken to the medical area of the prison.

#

“This isn’t over” said Yuri.

#

Ivan was spooked that an apparition of his attorney appeared trying to stop him from getting into further trouble.

#

Conflicted Ivan

#

Ivan was confused over what just transpired in the showers between him and Yuri. Angelica's apparition was following him all over the prison since the incident while he was trying to do his cleaning chores.

#

"You should have known not to follow through peer pressure like that" said Angelica's apparition.

#

The nagging presence of Angelica's apparition continued as Ivan tried his best to concentrate. He couldn't believe that something that wasn't there was speaking before him.

#

"LEAVE IVAN ALONE!" cried Ivan.

#

Ivan's mental breakdown was noticed by the prison guards as they could see he was talking to nothing.

#

"Are you feeling alright Mr. Zhuk, do you want to try solitary confinement again to ease off some steam?" asked one of the prison guards.

#

Ivan gazed over the guards, the apparition was becoming an apparent problem for him.

#

"No" said Ivan.

#

Ivan didn't want to alarm the guards over the prospects of an apparition of his attorney was following him around. The apparition sat back to observe, this version of Angelica was quite bossy to Ivan. It was a way to keep him out of trouble so that he would stop listening to the two Ethiopian criminals.

Part Two

Chapter Four

Tamrat Dominants Prison

#

Tamrat and his fellow black prisoners soon felt more dominant since that stunt back in the shower against Yuri. The other prisoners welcomed Tamrat's reign for a change as he was greeted as a hero.

#

"I can't believe we used that Ivan fellow to pull this off" said Emnet.

#

"Yea, I agree" said Tamrat.

#

Even prisoners who were not black celebrated Tamrat's reign, they too also feared Yuri's own dominance over the prison.

#

"Nice job" said a Hispanic prisoner.

#

"Yea, nice how you put Yuri out of our way" said a white prisoner.

#

"Sure thing, all in a days work" said Tamrat.

#

Tamrat was becoming quite the celebrity among the prison population. He was receiving so

many offers and fans from the rest of the prison. Even the prison guards took notice with the change of attitude with the other prisoners since Yuri was in the medical area.

#

“It seems like those prisoners like Tamrat better than Yuri” said one of the prison guards observing the commotion from a safe distance.

#

“Yea” added the other prison guard, “Yuri was a jerk to everyone.”

#

“I don’t know, Tamrat might be over in his head with this” said the second guard, “Yuri will not like hearing all of this.”

#

Back in the medical area of the prison Yuri was angry for what Ivan did to him. He had blamed Ivan for the fall.

#

Minor Injuries

#

Yuri Kozlov had only received minor injuries on his body since the fall in the showers. The medics were doing their best trying to patch him up.

#

“You should be ready to go back with the other prisoners in a few days” said one of the medics.

#

“A few days?!” cried Yuri as he was trying to get up from his bed.

#

Yuri was fuming mad at Ivan, he knew he was hearing rumors of Tamrat Hailu using Ivan in that fashion trying to cause him to slip and fall. He could also get some sense that it was one of the black gang members loyal to Tamrat that had created all of the steam in the shower preventing his men to come to his aide.

#

“You just rest for the next few days here” said another medic.

#

The prison guards watching over Yuri could tell he wouldn't like hearing the fact that Tamrat's own leadership and popularity was growing among the prison population.

#

“Should we tell him about the Ethiopian crime boss rising in fame?” whispered one of the prison guards.

#

“No, that would just upset him even more” said the other prison guard.

#

But Yuri heard it all, and didn't seem to care. He was determine to know if Ivan's name was being used by Tamrat.

#

Yuri's Curiosity

#

Yuri was determine to know if Tamrat was using Ivan's name to get around the prison population.

#

“You two guards, I know you are speaking of this Tamrat fellow” continued Yuri.

#

Yuri had run in with Tamrat before, since Tamrat use to formerly run the prison before his arrival.

#

“Uh, well you are not going to like this” said one of the guards as he leaned over towards Yuri, “but he is gaining in popularity.”

#

“Ha, I knew it, what about this Ivan fellow is his name being used by Tamrat?” asked Yuri.

#

“Actually no” replied the prison guard, “Ivan had some sort of strange mental breakdown while doing his chores. Some of us saw him speaking to no one.”

#

“What do you mean, is he speaking to a ghost?” asked Yuri.

#

“I don’t think it’s a ghost, it could be a ghost of his conscious” continued the prison guard.

#

Yuri thought of a wonderful way of exploiting all of this when he got better. He was determine to embarrass Ivan for what happened back in the shower. For Ivan, he continued to do various chores until it was dinner time for the prisoners.

#

Enrico’s Disappointment

#

Enrico Russo arrived at the prison mess hall, he could tell something was worrying Ivan as Ivan looked quite paranoid.

#

“I cannot believe you followed through by listening to Tamrat, you should have listened to me” said Enrico.

#

Much to Ivan’s surprise, Ivan was spooked as Enrico sounded exactly like the apparition of Ms. Angelica Esposito who would often nag before him. Even the apparition which appeared before Ivan was right next to Enrico. She chuckled a little after seeing how Enrico was trying to show Ivan how he knew all of the hiding places.

#

“I could still teach you all of the hiding places around the prison if you tag along with me” continued Enrico, “but I am not so feeling comfortable around you knowing that you fell for Tamrat’s little scheme in regaining control of the prison.”

#

Enrico shut himself up as he could see Tamrat, Emnet and the other black gang members entering the mess hall. Enrico decided to just take his tray of food and head over to the more private area of the mess hall to eat.

#

“What’s his issue?” asked Tamrat.

#

“Uh, I don’t know” said Ivan.

#

“You should sit with us, since you got rid of Yuri for all of us” added Emnet.

#

Ivan couldn't believe Tamrat was so open to him, there had to be more to this.

#

Tamrat is Pleased

#

Tamrat was rather pleased to have Ivan among his groupies. He got a sense of celebrity status with Ivan beside him.

#

“I take other prisoners are jealous of your unorthodox approach” said Tamrat.

#

“Yes, I think they are” said Ivan.

#

Ivan wasn't naming Enrico by name, but Enrico gazed at him from afar.

#

“You're making a big mistake” whispered Enrico as he ate his meal.

#

The Italian mobster didn't have any previous run-ins with Tamrat or the other black gang members loyal to him. Even when they first controlled the prison, but Yuri Kozlov's presence changed all of this. He got some sense he was using Ivan for personal gain.

#

“That Tamrat fellow is using him for his own purpose” said Enrico in his own head.

#

Once the meal was finished for all of the prisoners it was time for them to head back to their cells where they'd turn out for the rest of the evening. As they were heading back, Enrico knew he couldn't say too much to Ivan knowing that Tamrat and the other gang members would notice it.

#

"You should not be listening to him" whispered Enrico to Ivan.

#

Ivan said nothing to Enrico as he sat back in his cell ready to sleep for the rest of the evening.

Chapter Five

Olga's Research

#

While Ivan rested for the evening, Olga Orlova was doing her best to do some research on some of the other prisoners that Ivan was forced to be neighbors with. She came across four profiles of - Tamrat Hailu, Emnet Tasifa, Enrico Russo and Yuri Kozlov. She brought this to attention to her father and Viktor as they arrived in her room.

#

“So you found who could be Ivan's neighbors?” asked Boris.

#

Olga pulled up the profiles of the four individuals - first one was the most concerning Yuri Kozlov.

#

“Yuri Kozlov is a known Russian mobster loyal to the Kremlin” said Olga, “he was imprisoned on conspiracy charges that included hacking the Mayor's office and intimidating political figures.”

#

“You know, I have heard that Yuri has some sort of strange deal with the State Department for a prisoner exchange” added Boris.

#

“We have to get my brother out” said Viktor.

#

Viktor had every right to be worried about his brother's safety, Olga soon pulled up Tamrat Hailu's profile.

#

"Tamrat Hailu has been known to try to control Chicago's black gangs through the prison" said Olga.

#

Olga then pulled up Emnet Tasifa's profile.

#

"This is Emnet Tasifa, Tamrat's right-hand man" said Olga.

#

"What's the last profile?" asked Boris.

#

Olga soon pulled off was Enrico Russo's.

#

Italian Mobster Profile

#

Enrico's was the most intriguing of the profiles for Boris and Viktor. Apparently he was imprisoned much longer than Tamrat and Yuri.

#

"Hmm, old fashion Italian mobster" said Boris as he took a glance at the profile.

#

"He was imprisoned on criminal racketeering charges and murder" continued Olga.

#

“He must know the prison’s ends and outs” added Viktor, “he can help my brother!”

#

“Unlikely, your brother Ivan is being prone to peer pressure in the prison” continued Boris.

#

“How can we convince him to help my brother?” asked Viktor.

#

“Let me have a visit with this Enrico Russo, and I will convince him” continued Boris.

#

Boris soon began to make arrangements for another prison visit, but this time it wasn’t going to have a visit for Ivan but rather this Enrico Russo mobster. As the evening soon turned into the following day, the scene switches to the prison where Ivan sleeps soundly in his cell. Enrico was still disappointed in Ivan’s behavior.

#

“Uh, can’t believe peer pressure was getting to him” sighed Enrico.

#

As the hours ticked by, a few prison guards came to Enrico’s cell.

#

“There’s a visitor expecting to see you” said one of the guards.

#

“That’s odd, I am expecting no one” said Enrico.

#

Enrico got the hunch it had to do something with Ivan. So he agreed to be escorted to the visitor booth.

#

Meeting Boris Orlova

#

Enrico soon was escorted to the visitor booth and noticed a man he didn't recognize on the other end.

#

“Who the heck are you, who sent you?” asked Enrico.

#

“My name is Boris Orlova, I am associate of Ivan Zhuk” continued Boris, “I have been working hard to try to get Ivan free.”

#

“Well you are out of luck” said Enrico, “that man allows those to manipulate him to do their dirty work.”

#

“What do you mean by that?” asked Boris.

#

“That Tamrat Hailu has been using Ivan to go after Yuri Kozlov” continued Enrico, “I know this because I have seen it with my own two eyes. These eyes never lie.”

#

Boris froze for a moment, this could complicate matters in getting Ivan out of prison. He could get the sense that Ivan was being pressured by Tamrat.

#

“This is rather disturbing” said Boris, “I thank you for bringing this information to me.”

#

“I will do my best to watch over him, but I cannot make any promises if he gets himself into further trouble” continued Enrico.

#

“Thank you for your cooperation, I hope you do your best, Ivan has a brother known as Viktor who misses him dearly. It would be nice if you could do more” added Boris.

#

“I will try, but no promises if he’s the one causing it” added Enrico.

#

Boris nodded and the prison guards soon escorted Enrico back to his cell.

#

Ivan the Pawn

#

Enrico knew it was could to be a complicated matter in preventing Ivan from being Tamrat’s pawn against Yuri. Yuri would be in the medical area of the prison for another day before being released back into the population. As the prisoners were let out of their cells for a morning roll call, Enrico took Boris’ wise words with him.

#

“ROLL CALL!” bellowed the prison guard.

#

The prisoners all lined up and the guards soon did a head count. They were determine to keep things in order. It was rather quiet since Yuri was still recovering from the incident in the shower. A few of Yuri’s men were not too pleased to see Ivan among the batch.

#

“How dare that man shows his face around here” whispered one of Yuri’s men.

#

“I concur” added a second Yuri henchman, “but how can we try to pick a fight with him when he has Tamrat and his gang supporting him?”

#

The Yuri henchmen continued to think as the roll call continued. They’d have to wait until free time was available. The prisoners soon headed to the mess hall to have their breakfast.

#

Ivan the Celebrity

#

Ivan felt like a celebrity sitting at Tamrat’s table much to the jealousy of Yuri’s men who sat on their end or even Enrico. Enrico knew he had to do his best trying to protect Ivan despite his arrogant behavior. For the apparition of Ivan’s consciousness, Angelica wasn’t pleased either.

#

“You think you can just sit with them and be happy?!” cried Angelica.

#

The others at Tamrat’s table didn’t see the apparition at all of the conscious trying to speak to Ivan. But slowly, Enrico could get a glimpse of some sort of strange figure following Ivan’s every move. It wasn’t necessary a ghost at all in the normal sense, but the ghost of a conscious manifesting.

#

“Something strange is going on with Ivan” thought Enrico as he continued to gaze at Ivan from

afar.

#

Perhaps it was Ivan being cooped up in prison that made the conscious manifest before Enrico's eyes, but only Enrico could see the figure of a woman attorney before him trying to discourage his behavior to no avail.

#

"He's, he's not listening" said Angelica.

#

The apparition of the conscious was clearly upset over Ivan's behavior as Tamrat and the other black gang members celebrated.

Chapter Six

Enrico Confronts the Angelica Conscious

#

As the prisoners finished their meals, Enrico soon got up to comfort the conscious of Ivan. The apparition was crying as she couldn't seem to get Ivan to do anything right.

#

“Are you alright?” asked Enrico.

#

The apparition gazed around and noticed Enrico.

#

“You can see me, but I am only for Ivan's conscious” said Angelica.

#

“I made a promise to Boris Orlova that I would watch over Ivan” said Enrico, “for some reason I can see you now.”

#

Ivan's conscious clearly has become Enrico's conscious in some strange turn of events. Enrico couldn't explain it, but perhaps this was a good thing.

#

“We should try to work together to help Ivan and get him out of Tamrat's clutches” added Enrico, “before Yuri is put back into the prison population.”

#

“I do not disagree with that” said Angelica.

#

The apparition knew they had to come up with a plan, nothing was working to convince Ivan to do anything. Back with the rest of the prisoners, it was free time and Yuri's men wanted to teach Ivan a lesson for making their boss fall. Ivan was playing soccer with Tamrat and his fellow black gang allies when Yuri's men showed up on the exercise field.

#

Unhappy with Ivan's Presence

#

Yuri's men were clearly unhappy with Ivan being in their boss' way.

#

“WE KNOW IT WAS ONE OF YOUR BOYS THAT CAUSED THE STEAM” roared one of Yuri's men.

#

The black gang member allies of Tamrat huddled around him trying to protect him and Ivan.

#

“So what if it was?” asked one of the black gang members.

#

Those remarks caught the attention of Enrico as he was heading out into the field. He could see a possible fight brew between Tamrat's allies and Yuri's men.

#

“This can't be a good thing” said Enrico to himself.

#

Enrico hid around the corner not to get too close to the two groups.

#

“We know it was one of you who messed with the valve system the other day in the shower and got our boss injured” added another one of Yuri’s men.

#

There was such commotion brewing the two groups, Emnet did his best trying to maintain order with Tamrat’s allies. However, the black gang members refused to back down from a possible fight.

#

“And what if we don’t want to say we’re sorry for getting your boss hurt?” laughed one of the black gang members.

#

One of Yuri’s men started to become more unhinged and lunged towards the black gang member in question. It soon became an all out brawl on the field!

#

Getting Ivan Out!

#

Things escalated pretty quickly between the two groups. Fists were flying in both directions as Yuri’s men and Tamrat’s allies continued to fight in the field. WHAM as each side began to pull the punches. Ivan was frighten by this sudden change. Enrico knew he had to barge in to rescue Ivan.

#

“I have to do something” said Enrico.

#

Enrico dove right in, bypassing each of Yuri's men and Tamrat's allies alike. He soon grabbed Ivan by the shoulder and soon pulled him out of the brawl. Tamrat along with Emnet didn't see Enrico pull Ivan out. Prison guards in riot gear soon arrived to break up the fight. Ivan couldn't believe what just transpired, as Enrico brought Ivan to a safer place.

#

"Listen, I saw that woman conscious of yours" said Enrico to Ivan, "I even met this Boris Orlova earlier today."

#

"Boris met with you?" asked Ivan.

#

"Yes" replied Enrico, "like before, you should have stayed with me. I would have shown you the best hiding places in the prison."

#

Enrico was doing his best trying to catch his breath, he knew he had to keep moving or Tamrat and his allies would surely find him.

#

Moving Ivan

#

Enrico soon realize he had to move Ivan quickly, the prison guards in riot gear soon began to disperse the prisoners who were fighting each other.

#

"ENOUGH!" ordered one of the prison guards.

#

Tear gas was used against some of the prisoners who were in the brawl on the field, Enrico soon moved Ivan towards the exercise area of the prison.

#

“You will be safe here for now” said Enrico, “I don’t understand why you would try to follow Tamrat’s orders just like that.”

#

“I wanted protection from Yuri and his crew” said Ivan.

#

“Well that will just lead you to more trouble” said Enrico, “you should have stayed with me from the beginning.”

#

Enrico knew this would be an uphill battle trying to get Ivan to stay in check with him. He could tell that Tamrat and his right-hand man Emnet were doing their best trying to search for Ivan. Back in the field, as the prisoners who were fighting were being re-arrested again for causing the riot, Tamrat and Emnet were not among the prisoners being arrested.

#

“Where the heck did Ivan go?!” cried Tamrat.

#

“He had to be close by somewhere” said Emnet, “don’t worry boss, we’ll find him.”

#

Tamrat knew he would have no chance if Yuri was to be put back with the rest of the prison population.

Chapter Seven

Yuri Makes a Full Recovery

#

Meanwhile back at the medical area of the prison, Yuri Kozlov was being examined by the medics.

#

“Well, it seems like nothing major happened with that terrible fall back in the showers” said a medic.

#

“Good, then I can find that Ivan and get even with him for what he’s done to me” said Yuri.

#

“Uh, you might want to go after Tamrat too, we heard he used Ivan to get the drop on you” added another medic, “that’s the rumor that’s been going on with the prison guards.”

#

Yuri sighed, he knew his old rival Tamrat Hailu had something to do with all of this.

#

“I will handle them both, don’t none of you worry” laughed Yuri.

#

Yuri finished his check up and soon was escorted back towards his cell by the prison guards. He could see that he had a smaller crew.

#

“What happened to you fellows?” asked Yuri to one of his men.

#

“Well boss, we thought it was a good idea to pick a fight with Tamrat’s allies” said the henchman.

#

Yuri sighed, he couldn’t believe his own followers were getting themselves in trouble.

#

Yuri’s Next Moves

#

Yuri wanted to move with caution against Tamrat, since he was involved with Ivan. Knowing how desperate Tamrat wanted to control the prison again he was determine to stop Tamrat’s quest at any all costs.

#

“We need to proceed with caution with this, since Tamrat’s allies are willing to fight we need to go after Ivan first” said Yuri.

#

“But Ivan could be anywhere” said one of the henchmen.

#

Yuri grumbled, he couldn’t believe his men were so incompetent. Meanwhile, for Ivan, he was still in the exercise area of the prison hiding with Enrico.

#

“See, not even the guards know we’re here, we’ll be back doing chores around the prison in no time” added Enrico.

#

“But I am still worried that Yuri will try to find us first before Tamrat does” added Ivan.

#

Ivan clearly preferred Tamrat, only because Tamrat was nicer to him. As the guards went to check around the exercise area, Enrico soon gave the orders for Ivan to move with him. The lone Italian mobster knew he had to help Ivan out while he still could. As they made their way to their chore area, Tamrat soon met up with them.

#

Upset Tamrat

#

Clearly Tamrat was upset on how Ivan was pulled away from him and Emnet just like that. Even Emnet was impressed with Enrico’s display.

#

“How dare you interfere with me like this” said Tamrat to Enrico.

#

Enrico wasn’t intimidated by Tamrat at all. He had seen worse with his own fellow Italian mobsters.

#

“You do not frighten me” said Enrico, “I have seen it all.”

#

Tamrat knew Enrico would be a wedge between him and Ivan.

#

“So long as you stand?” thought Tamrat.

#

Tamrat knew he would have to hurt Enrico in some manner if he wanted to get Ivan back with his group. He then thought of Yuri returning to the prison population.

#

“We need to come up with a strategy before getting him back” said Tamrat to Emnet.

#

The two Ethiopian criminals were no doubt disgusted to see Enrico coming to Ivan’s defense.

Ivan thanked Enrico for defending him.

#

“I am so happy you are trying to get me out of trouble” added Ivan.

#

“You should always be on your guard when dealing with those two” said Enrico, “I do not trust them. They are using you for personal gain.”

#

Enrico knew he had to keep watch on Ivan as he did his chores around the prison.

#

Running Into Yuri

#

While Tamrat and Emnet were trying to figure a way to get back Ivan, as they were heading to do their chores as janitors for the prison they noticed a few of Yuri’s men were blocking the closet.

#

“Hey, what gives here?” asked Tamrat, “We need to do our chores.”

#

The men laughed at the two Ethiopian criminals and soon Yuri Kozlov soon arrived. He was already released back into the prison population!

#

“Hello Tamrat, long time no see” said Yuri, “I see you were responsible for the valve incident with the showers the other day.”

#

Emnet was frighten by Yuri’s presence, he hid behind his boss Tamrat.

#

“I have a proposition for you, we will share power with each other if you help me find Ivan” continued Yuri.

#

“Well, I would like to, but that Italian mobster Enrico Russo is protecting him for some strange reason” said Tamrat.

#

“Ah, so it’s Enrico who is responsible for helping Ivan out” laughed Yuri, “if we join forces and go after Enrico we can both have the prison to ourselves. What do you say if we make peace?”

#

Tamrat knew there had to be a catch but soon placed out his hand and shook on the deal with Yuri.

Part Three

Chapter Eight

Viktor Continues to Be Worried

#

While Tamrat and Yuri were plotting to take down Enrico Russo, meanwhile back at Orlova Manor, Viktor was clearly worried about his brother Ivan. He was busy doing a few chores around the mansion trying to get his mind off of Ivan. He assisted in helping the butlers and other servants of the mansion.

#

“It must be so dreadful for you to have a brother who is in jail” said a butler.

#

“I know” sighed Viktor, “he is rather stubborn. Fails to listen sometimes.”

#

“Yes, but you are not like him” said the butler.

#

Viktor shook his head. Viktor was helping a few butlers and maids clean the manor. Boris knew this would keep Viktor busy until Ms. Angelica Esposito got the paperwork ready to meet a judge.

#

“I must say, you haven’t said one word about your brother since I have assigned you to help out the butlers and maids of my mansion” said Boris.

#

“Well, it keeps me occupied” said Viktor.

#

“Good” said Boris, “let’s see if we can keep it that way.”

#

The chores only could keep Viktor busy for so long, when he had free time he would always be worried about his brother.

#

Olga’s Further Investigation Into Yuri

#

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the manor, Olga continued to dig further into Yuri Kozlov’s past. She couldn’t believe the sort of trouble he got himself into. Boris headed towards her room to check up on her.

#

“How are things going investigating Yuri Kozlov?” asked Boris.

#

“I can’t believe he was illegally arming the Russians” added Olga.

#

“Ah yes, arming our favorite foes in the Kremlin” laughed Boris, “it’s no wonder why they must want Yuri for some sort of prisoner exchange.”

#

Boris knew if he made life easier in the prison where Ivan was locked away, such as taking Yuri out of the picture there’d be no more issues for Ivan.

#

“Olga, see if you can look who is helping Yuri to be set free, maybe I should contact this individual and get the ball rolling” said Boris.

#

“On it father” said Olga.

#

Olga went to work as she scrolled through the Internet, she did her best trying to figure out who was trying to get Yuri Kozlov released. One such figure was Zach Washington, a member of the Blue Checker Club, a political party that was trying to get a prisoner swap between the Kremlin and some American citizens trapped in Russia.

#

Calling Up Congressman Washington

#

Boris held his breath and began to dial the phone number to Congressman Zach Washington’s office. Lucky for Boris, Congressman Washington picked up the phone call.

#

“This is Congressman Zach Washington, what can I do for you?” asked Zach on the other end.

#

“I’m Boris Orlova, I think you might have heard my name in the news before?” asked Boris, “I supplied weapons to the Ukrainians to fight the Russian invaders?”

#

“Ah yes, Boris, I remember hearing about you doing that going against your own government” continued Zach, “what brings you to me?”

#

“There is a gentleman in prison that I have noticed is part of a prisoner swap” said Boris, “Yuri Kozlov. Problem is, one of my people - Ivan Zhuk is also in jail with him. He’s Ukrainian.”

#

“That is a problem” said Zach, “but I cannot speed up the process of the prisoner swap. The deal must be accepted by the Kremlin before we can move forward with anything. You understand all of that.”

#

Boris sighed, he wanted to make life easier for Ivan.

#

“Well, do what you can on your end” said Boris, “I will keep tabs on any incidents involving Yuri or Ivan.”

#

“Yes, thank you” added Zach.

#

The Congressman ended his call and knew it would be a difficult process for the Kremlin to accept any agreement so long as the war continued in the Ukraine.

#

Targeting Enrico

#

Meanwhile back at the prison, Tamrat knew it was going to be a risky move going against Enrico an old timer within the prison. He got a sense he was looking out for Ivan and even Yuri got the sense as well. As the day progressed while Tamrat and Emnet did their chores as janitors, they were doing their best trying to figure out Enrico’s next moves.

#

“It looks like he’s purposely being close to Ivan” said Emnet.

#

Neither of the two Ethiopian criminals could do a thing, but that would soon all change. Ivan who was also doing cleaning chores around the prison heard familiar footsteps heading towards his direction. He soon got the ugly feeling that they had to belong to Yuri’s!

#

“It’s him” whispered Yuri to Enrico.

#

As the figure of Yuri soon emerged around the corner of the prison, so did a row of his own men.

#

“That was such a neat trick making me fall like that” said Yuri, “but you are not the one I am going after for now.”

#

Yuri was eying on Enrico who was doing his best trying to defend Ivan.

Chapter Nine

Enrico's Defense

#

It happened so quickly, a few of Yuri's men lunged towards Enrico, but Enrico took out a broom and used it as a defense weapon. WHAM! Enrico was able to knock a few of Yuri's men down. The commotion soon brought the attention of Tamrat's allies who came to the scene.

#

"Boss, do we help him or do we not?" asked one of the black gang members.

#

"Change of plans, Enrico is causing trouble for us" said Tamrat, "we need him out of the picture."

#

Both Ivan and Enrico soon realized they were trapped as the two groups were moving in on them.

#

"The air vents!" cried Enrico, "You have to get to the air vents!"

#

"But I would get in trouble" said Ivan.

#

"Do you want to be beaten by either of these two groups?!" cried Enrico.

#

Ivan held his breath and soon made his way into the air vent of the system. He knew he just

couldn't escape, the prison guards soon had to rush in with their riot gear trying to break up another fight. However, only one individual was causing the commotion - Enrico Russo! The prison guards quickly were able to tackle him and put handcuffs around his wrist.

#

"That's enough fighting them" said one of the prison guards.

#

"You don't understand, I was defending myself" said Enrico.

#

"Solitary confinement for you" said the prison guard.

#

It seemed like Tamrat and Yuri both got what they wanted - Enrico Russo out of the picture for now.

#

Ivan Hiding

#

Ivan was so frighten seeing Enrico Russo being taken away in handcuffs. The prison guards in riot gear thought he was the culprit.

#

"This is not right" said Ivan.

#

Suddenly he got the sense his conscious was watching him within the air vents.

#

"No it's not" said Angelica.

#

The conscious ghost knew Ivan was finally doing the right thing in terms of not following through with Tamrat.

#

“You should try to avoid getting into trouble until Enrico’s time in solitary confinement is over” said Angelica.

#

The consciousness ghost was there to comfort Ivan in his time of need. For Enrico, he soon found himself escorted to solitary confinement. He soon was shoved into the cell by the prison guard and the door was locked behind.

#

“You should have thought about it before you caused that riot” said the prison guard.

#

Enrico knew this was a setup by both Tamrat and Yuri as they both wanted Ivan for their own purposes.

#

“Uh, I can’t believe Tamrat would side with his old foe!” cried Enrico in the cell.

#

Enrico knew he had to wait it out in solitary confinement, Ivan would have to fend for himself for the time being.

#

Running and Hiding

#

Ivan soon emerged from the air vents when it was safe to do so. Lucky for him it was free time again and he could roam about the prison without that much restrictions.

#

“Poor Enrico” sighed Ivan.

#

Ivan felt so much guilt letting Enrico getting caught like that. He had such remorse for his actions in fleeing. As Ivan did his best to navigate the prison by himself, he decided it was best to avoid any black gang members or Yuri’s own men as best as he could. He could see them wondering the hallways of the prison as they were also on the lookout for Ivan.

#

“They must know to look for me” thought Ivan to himself.

#

Ivan darted around the hallways passing a few of the black gang members, lucky they didn’t see him at all. He eventually made his way towards the mess hall. It wasn’t time to eat, but he figured it was the safest place to be. There would be so many witnesses in the kitchen area if anyone tried anything.

#

“What are you doing here?” asked a chef.

#

“I came here to hide” said Ivan.

#

“Well, you can work with us” said the chef, “we don’t mind the help from the prisoners.”

#

Ivan found the best chance was to work in the kitchen.

#

Kitchen Duties

#

Even though the chores were over for most of the prisoners, Ivan knew this could be the best way for him to stay safe. It would be a good way for him to blend in.

#

“Just get some of the potatoes and pour them into the boiler” said the chef.

#

Ivan was thrilled he was doing something that felt so good. He grabbed the potatoes and placed them in the boiler.

#

“We’re making mashed potatoes for the rest of the prisoners” said the chef.

#

The other members of the staff were also helpful with Ivan. They showed him how to wash the dishes, among other tasks. Ivan continued to struggle with the sense he was still in prison. Suddenly a few of Yuri’s men were looking around for him when they entered the mess hall.

#

“We haven’t looked here” said one of the henchmen.

#

The henchmen gazed at the kitchen staff and noticed Ivan was there.

#

“Ha, you can’t get me while I am here” said Ivan.

#

The henchmen loyal to Yuri were clearly upset they couldn't do a thing.

#

"You got lucky in escaping us" said one of the henchmen.

#

Ivan knew he had to work in the kitchen whenever he could as a way to find freedom and safety when Enrico was still in solitary confinement.

Chapter Ten

Hours Pass Montage

#

For Enrico Russo, while he was in confinement he had nothing to do besides his own occupied thoughts. The presence of Ivan's conscious ghost - Madame Angelica Esposito or at least an apparition version of her kept him company.

#

"It's nice that you are helping Ivan in prison, I am sure my real self would like to hear that" added Angelica.

#

"Yes, I am sure she would" added Enrico.

#

Enrico could get the feeling that Yuri Kozlov was purposely making the most of his time by having a temporary alliance with his old rival - Tamrat Hailu. But while Enrico was still in solitary confinement, Ivan Zhuk was having the time of his life in the kitchen. Sure it was prison food he was making for the rest of the prisoners but it was a way to pass time.

#

"I have gotten the warden to approve of you working for us" said the chef.

#

"Yes, I will do my best to help you all" said Ivan.

#

Ivan was having the best time of his life, however that would soon change when it was dinner

time for the rest of the prisoners. Yuri and Tamrat knew they saw their chance whenever they entered the mess hall.

#

Trying to Mock Ivan

#

It was another chance to try to go after Ivan, for Tamrat it was treachery for Ivan for daring to receive any help from Enrico and accepting it.

#

“You made a mistake by allowing that mobster to help you” said Tamrat.

#

“Hey, doesn’t he look so funny in that stupid kitchen outfit!” laughed Emnet.

#

Emnet was trying to crack a joke about how Ivan now looked in the kitchen. Even the other black gang members and even some of Yuri’s men joined in on the laughter.

#

“Yea, he looks like a wimp!” laughed one of Yuri’s henchmen.

#

“Mister tough guy who targeted immigrants will likely get a job that sucks after he’s released” laughed a black gang member.

#

Ivan was getting furious at those who were lining up to get their food. Tamrat continued to encourage the behavior with his own allies and so did Yuri with his people.

#

“He’s so tough picking on fellow immigrants at the immigration center” laughed Yuri, “but needs someone to defend himself!”

#

Ivan soon became quite furious, his anger soon began to boil inside of him. The ghost of his consciousness could see all of this unfolding.

#

Attempting to Calm Ivan

#

The conscious ghost did her best trying to cool Ivan down. She knew such jokes would only further enrage him.

#

“Please don’t listen to them” whispered Angelica.

#

This version of Angelica was doing her best trying to calm Ivan, but to no avail. He was getting redder and redder with each passing joke. She could see the anger before her very eyes.

#

“Don’t listen to them” continued Angelica.

#

But the jokes kept on coming, mocking Ivan’s past involvement in bullying immigrants. Only for him to become bullied himself by Yuri.

#

“Hey, I’m his bully!” laughed Yuri.

#

Even Tamrat couldn't help but to laugh at this along with Emnet. The rage inside of Ivan continued to boil and fester.

#

“ENOUGH!” bellowed Ivan.

#

Ivan took off the apron he was wearing, the chefs and other staff of the kitchen were frightened by this behavior.

#

“What are you going to do about it?” laughed Yuri.

#

Ivan then took a glance over the boiling water near the stove area of the kitchen.

#

“No don't” cried one of the bus boys.

#

The kitchen staff did their best trying to discourage Ivan's unspeakable behavior.

#

Ivan's Terrible Act

#

Ivan had enough of the mockery, he headed towards the stove with the boiling water, however he noticed one problem, the water was quite heavy to lift.

#

“Please stop!” cried one of the bus boys.

#

“Yes please don’t do this!” cried another chef.

#

The kitchen staff just like Ivan’s conscious couldn’t calm him. Ivan knew he had to do this to Yuri and even to Tamrat.

#

“YOU STOP MAKING FUN OF IVAN!” bellowed Ivan.

#

Yuri paused and laughed with his men along with Tamrat, Emnet and their allies. The laughing only further determined Ivan’s resolve as he picked up the boiling water from the stove. The pot soon was lifted, and with one mighty toss of the pot came the boiling water onto Yuri, his men and even on Tamrat, Emnet and a few of their allies. The men screamed in pain, medics soon arrived to the scene with a few prison guards. The chefs and bus boys began to hold Ivan down for the prison guards.

#

“Why did you do this, we trusted you!” cried a chef.

#

The prison guards sighed, they knew they had to take Ivan back to solitary confinement. In an ironic twist, it was nearly time to release Enrico.

Epilogue

Back to Solitary Confinement

#

Ivan lowered his head in shame, he could see the burns on the faces of the men that he caused.

Tamrat was in pain, but so was Yuri and Emnet. The act of tossing the boiling water on them all caused a temporary truce between the two factions.

#

“Uh, so much pain!” cried Yuri.

#

This was much worse than the fall in the shower area of the prison. However, Yuri soon realized he had to make the truce with Tamrat and Emnet if he wanted to also get out of prison safely and back to his home country of Russia. The men who were affected by the boiling water were placed on stretchers and taken to the medical area of the prison. For Ivan, he continued to do the shame walk towards the solitary confinement area. Enrico who was still in his cell was surprised to see Ivan.

#

“What did he do?” asked Enrico to one of the prison guards.

#

“Boiling water, he tossed boiling water on some of the inmates” said the prison guard.

#

Enrico shook his head in disappointment over this. He knew Ivan could do so much better.

#

Releasing Enrico

#

Enrico's time in solitary confinement was over as the prison guards soon let him out. Enrico gazed at Ivan who was sitting in the solitary confinement cell.

#

"Why did you do it?" asked Enrico.

#

Ivan said not one word to Enrico, as Enrico was being escorted to his cell. As the Italian mobster was being taken back to his cell, he could see that the other prisoners didn't have that much of bad burns as Yuri, Tamrat and Emnet did. They were allowed to go back to their cells after being checked by the medics.

#

"He can't take a joke" said one of Yuri's men as he sat in his cell.

#

"The fool can't joke around" added a black gang member in his cell.

#

The sentiment was like that with the rest of the prisoners who felt very unsafe around Ivan Zhuk. This was much to Enrico's surprise, sure, Ivan had his issues. But seeing the rest of the prison population being afraid of him. Something was quite off with him.

#

"Uh, I have to figure out what's wrong with him" said Enrico.

#

"Don't stress yourself out too much" said one of the prison guards escorting him, "he seems like

he's going to be on his own.”

#

Enrico hated to agree, but as he sat back at his cell he couldn't believe what Ivan just did.

#

Ivan the Incompetent!

#

Poor Ivan Zhuk sat in his solitary confinement cell. The ghost of his consciousness also floated around him.

#

“IVAN ZHUK!” bellowed Angelica, “I AM SHOCKED YOU DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO THOSE MEN!”

#

“They were making fun of me!” cried Ivan.

#

“That still doesn't give you the right to do that to them” continued Angelica.

#

The ghostly conscious of Ivan continued to nag and lecture him on how wrong he was.

#

“PLEASE STOP YELLING!” cried Ivan.

#

The prison guard who was stationed near the solitary confinement cell soon began to bang on the cell's door.

#

“HEY, WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?!” cried the prison guard.

#

Ivan stood back, he soon curled up in the corner, he was clearly having a mental breakdown.

The prison guard then just headed back to his post. Because of Ivan’s actions, would Yuri,

Tamrat and Emnet team up to go after Ivan? Would Ivan do something else crazy in prison?

Find out in the next exciting book!

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