

The Formidable Son-In-Law: The Charismatic Lucas Gray

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Chapter 107 - Cocktail Bar

After crying in her room for a long time, Charlotte left home with reddened eyes.

Upstairs, Lucas frowned and took out his phone to send a text.

Charlotte strolled aimlessly on the streets. Actually, she didn't know where she was going. She simply didn't want to continue staying in that house.

She initially wanted to call her best friend, Sophie, but when she thought of what her mother had done, she found it hard to talk about it.

While wandering around, Charlotte saw a bar called the Cocktail Bar down the street and suddenly felt a strong urge to drink. *If I get drunk, I won't be in so much agony, right?!*

Charlotte walked into the bar, ordered an entire bottle of Martini, and sat in a corner where she started drinking by herself, unaware of how much attention a beautiful woman like her was attracting.

A refined and gentlemanly-looking young man in his thirties with a specially-concocted cocktail in hand sat down elegantly on the seat opposite Charlotte. "Beautiful lady, are you alone?"

Charlotte raised her head and glanced at him. She was not impressed by his gesture and demeanor at all. Instead, she snapped with extreme annoyance in her eyes, "Get lost."

The young man was slightly stunned, and he immediately smiled in a way that he thought was more charming. "Don't be so aloof. Since we're fated to meet each other, why don't we have a drink together? Let me introduce myself. My name is Logan Hale. This bar belongs to me."

Charlotte was so annoyed that she snapped furiously, "Don't you understand English? I told you to get lost!"

As she spoke, she splashed the liquor in her glass onto the young man's face.

“Wow!”

“How brazen!”

Immediately afterward, several people stood up at a table nearby and gathered around them.

They were all Logan’s friends, who were sitting nearby and having some drinks. They were the ones who egged him to go over and hit on Charlotte.

They thought that with Logan’s handsome good looks and charming aura, the beautiful Charlotte would definitely be attracted to him. But they didn’t expect her to be so bold as to splash liquor onto him!

Logan wiped a handful of liquor off his face, waved his hand, and told his friends not to act rashly while maintaining his gentlemanly and polite smile. He chuckled. “Ah, beautiful lady, I just want to get to know you better. Must you be so ruthless?”

Charlotte also felt that she was a bit impulsive. After all, Logan had just come over to strike up a conversation, which was a very common occurrence in bars. She had merely overreacted because she was in a bad mood.

“I’m sorry. I was in a bad mood just now. I didn’t mean to lash out at you,” Charlotte apologized politely.

“Haha, it’s a great honor to hear that from you. I guess we know each other now,” Logan teased. He then turned around and shouted to the bartender, “Go and bring the red wine that I’ve been cherishing for years!”

“Yes, Sir!”

Soon, the bartender came over with an ice bucket containing a bottle of red wine.

Charlotte frowned slightly. She didn’t want to drink with a stranger. “Sorry. I appreciate your kindness, but I have to go home.” She stood up and picked up her handbag to leave.

However, Logan stopped her smoothly. “Hey, don’t be in such a hurry to leave. You just splashed liquor on my face, but I’ll let the matter rest if you let me treat you to a drink. How does that sound?”

Logan poured two glasses of red wine and raised one of them in front of Charlotte.

Charlotte regretted her decision.

There were all sorts of people in bars, and she was now alone facing Logan Hale, who was the bar owner and had the company of his friends.

She probably wouldn't be able to leave the bar today if she didn't drink this glass of wine. Charlotte gritted her teeth and looked at Logan. "I can leave after drinking this glass of wine, right?"

"Of course. Just drink this glass." Logan smiled.

"Okay." Charlotte grabbed the wine glass and said to Logan, "Sorry for offending you just now."

She brought the glass to her lips and was about to down it when a hand suddenly reached over from the side and grabbed her wrist.

Charlotte was shocked. She immediately turned around to look, only to see a muscular and wide chest.

Only when she raised her head did she see a tall, muscular man who looked like a tower in front of her.

She immediately inhaled sharply while everyone else gasped in shock.

The burly man who suddenly appeared was over two meters tall, and he exuded a terrifying aura.

Standing tall, he was like a mighty and ferocious beast who made others shudder in fear.

"You can't drink that." Just as everyone was extremely astonished, the muscular man suddenly let go of Charlotte's hand and cautioned her.

Charlotte couldn't process his words immediately. But Logan's face had already turned gloomy, and he narrowed his eyes. "Who are you?"

The burly man glanced at Logan and said indifferently, "You don't need to care who I am. But you shouldn't have spiked Miss Carter's wine."

"What?!" Upon hearing this, something dawned on Charlotte, and she dropped the glass of wine in her hand, causing it to fall to the ground and shatter. The dark red liquor immediately spread on the carpet.

"Y-you spiked my drink?! You're so shameless and despicable!" Cheyenne yelled at Logan while shivering continuously.

“Haha.” Logan chuckled. “Beautiful lady, do you know this person in front of you? Do you believe everything he says?”

Logan saw clearly the astonishment and bewilderment on Charlotte’s face when she saw the muscular man. Obviously, she didn’t know who he was either.

After hearing what Logan said, Charlotte was indeed a little confused. One was a complete stranger, while the other was a stranger she just met a minute ago. Unsure of who she could trust, she had no choice but to look at the two of them with an uncertain gaze.

At this moment, the tall and burly man suddenly said, “My name is Wade. Mr. Gray sent me to protect you.”

Mr. Gray? Is he talking about Lucas? Charlotte was startled!

Chapter 108: Thank You, Lucas

This tall, muscular man, Wade, was the very same boxing expert Gordon Douglas had hired to deal with Lucas.

Ever since Wade realized how terrifying Lucas was when they were in Heaven Media, he righteously defected to Lucas and took on the duty of protecting the people close to Lucas.

At the time, Lucas didn’t agree. After all, he hadn’t investigated Wade’s origin and motive clearly then and naturally wouldn’t send Wade to go close to the people dear to him.

After all the information he obtained and the observations he made during this period of time, Lucas confirmed that Wade was a reliable person he could hire. So when he saw Charlotte leaving the house alone in low spirits earlier, he texted Wade and asked him to go and protect Charlotte.

Charlotte was elated to hear that the burly man named Wade was here to protect her.

But she was now also extremely cautious and didn’t dare to trust any stranger easily. She asked apprehensively, “Who is this Mr. Gray you mentioned?”

Wade smiled. “Mr. Lucas Gray. Miss Carter, if you don’t trust me, you can call Mr. Gray and ask about it.”

After receiving Wade’s confirmation, Charlotte immediately felt relieved.

Charlotte had long confirmed that Lucas was not an ordinary person, and she knew that he was definitely capable of sending such a tall and burly bodyguard to protect her at last-minute notice.

Logan frowned after hearing their conversation.

He had finally taken a liking to a woman and specially concocted the drug, yet his plans were foiled just as he was about to get what he wanted. How could he be happy?

“Let’s leave,” Charlotte said as she shot Logan a look of disgust. *Anyone who tries to drug people is a scumbag!*

“Hah, you can’t leave so easily after ruining my mood.” Logan couldn’t be bothered pretending to be a refined gentleman anymore. He simply walked toward the couch and sat down suavely.

After he said this, over ten hostile-looking burly men clad in security officer uniforms suddenly surrounded them.

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They were obviously not ordinary security officers but a group of well-trained fighters!

Charlotte became nervous. Although she knew that Wade was sent by Lucas to protect her and should also be an expert, he was alone and facing so many people, so Charlotte felt a little worried.

However, there was no fear on Wade’s face. He merely said to Charlotte calmly, “Miss Carter, just stand behind me, and don’t move.”

“Okay!” Charlotte nodded, feeling a little less nervous after seeing Wade’s calm expression.

Looking at Wade’s calm expression, Logan smirked and snapped his fingers.

Instantly, the burly men pounced at Wade.

“You’ve got a death wish!” Wade hollered while swinging his hard and massive fists at them!

“Ah!” The first burly man in front was sent flying and knocked over several tables and couches, making the patrons of the bar scream.

The first burly man laid in the middle of a pile of broken liquor bottles while covering his face and wailing incessantly. His cheekbones had probably already been shattered!

There was some horror on the faces of the remaining burly men. *This tall and muscular man is really ruthless!*

However, they were all hired fighters who had to take on the fight. They didn't believe that they couldn't defeat the outnumbered Wade!

The security officers swarmed up. Some of them held liquor bottles and smashed them at Wade.

Wade smiled contemptuously. *I am a king of underground boxing. How could I be beaten up by some bar fighters?*

Wade didn't pull any fancy moves and merely waved his fists. The men started howling in terror. Soon, the ten-odd burly men were sent flying, creating a huge mess in the bar.

After all the fighters fell to the ground, there was no one left to stop Wade and Charlotte.

Seething at Logan, Wade left the bar with Charlotte.

Seeing the mess in his bar and the fighters rolling on the ground and shrieking in horror, Logan was overwhelmed with fury.

Someone had recklessly caused a huge mess on his turf. How could Logan take it lying down?!

Logan roared ruthlessly, "Go find out who that woman and Lucas Gray are! I want to hear about it within three hours!"

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After finally escaping from the bar with Wade, Charlotte heaved a huge sigh of relief.

She didn't expect to encounter such a thing when she went to the bar to take a breather while in low spirits.

Fortunately, the person Lucas sent had saved her. Otherwise, the consequences would have been unthinkable!

Charlotte was full of lingering fear. And there were also countless doubts within her.

For example, she wondered how Lucas found such a tall, brawny, and powerful person to protect her. And she was extremely curious about what other abilities Lucas was hiding too.

Unfortunately, the tall man in front of her didn't seem like a talkative person. Moreover, he was more than two meters tall, extremely muscular, and had a menacing aura, so even Charlotte dared not ask him.

Soon, Wade escorted Charlotte back to her home.

When Charlotte went upstairs, she bumped into Cheyenne, who wanted to speak to her.

"Did you just go out to drink?" Cheyenne couldn't help but frown when she smelled the alcohol reeking from Charlotte.

"Yes." Charlotte nodded honestly. Just as Cheyenne was frowning and about to say something, Charlotte quickly interrupted her and assured her with a serious expression. "Cheyenne, I know I shouldn't have done that! I will never go to a bar on my own again in the future!"

"..." Cheyenne looked at her sister promising seriously and could only shake her head and sigh. "I'll hold you to your word. Don't go to such places again in the future. You're a girl. It's dangerous out there!"

"Yes!" Charlotte nodded profusely like a chick.

In the past, she would be unconcerned when Cheyenne persuaded her not to go to bars because the world was full of thugs. But after the incident today, she decided to behave herself and take Cheyenne's advice.

After Charlotte went into her room, she hesitated for a moment before sending Lucas a text. "Thank you, Lucas!"

When Lucas opened this text, Cheyenne happened to be next to him and coincidentally saw the sender. "Did Charlotte text you?"

Lucas nodded. But for some reason, Cheyenne suddenly felt uncomfortable.

Chapter 109: No Breakfast

Charlotte was in the room just next door. If she really wanted to say something to Lucas, she could have just come over to say it to him in person. Why did she choose to text him instead?

"Charlotte thanked you? What did you do for her to thank you?" Cheyenne asked in bewilderment while suppressing the strange feeling in her heart.

Lucas didn't want to make Cheyenne worried, so he didn't tell her that Charlotte almost got herself into trouble at the bar just now and instead said calmly, "I don't know either. She's probably just thanking me for helping her in the restaurant at noon."

"Oh. In that case, I also have to thank you properly." Cheyenne didn't think much about it anymore after hearing his answer.

Lucas had indeed helped Charlotte a lot in the afternoon. Otherwise, Charlotte's face might be swollen now, and she might have even been disfigured.

Lucas smiled. "She's your sister, and we're a family. You don't have to be so polite with me."

When Cheyenne heard Lucas say the word 'family', her heart trembled, and she couldn't help but be at ease.

Cheyenne lowered her head, not knowing what to say, but the tips of her ears were flushed.

Seeing the coy expression on Cheyenne's beautiful face, Lucas felt his heart skip a beat.

All of a sudden, both of them fell silent and simply sat quietly in the room. The ambiance was serene and heartwarming.

The next morning, when Lucas, Cheyenne, and Amelia went downstairs, they saw Karen sitting at the dining table and wolfing down a sandwich.

"Good morning, Mom."

"Good morning, Grandma!"

They greeted Karen politely.

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Seeing Cheyenne and the others come downstairs, Karen ignored their greetings and remained silent, as if she didn't see them at all.

Cheyenne furrowed her eyebrows slightly. When she took Amelia to the kitchen to get breakfast, she found that there was nothing but an unwashed empty pan.

"Mom, where's breakfast?" Cheyenne stood in the kitchen and raised her voice to ask.

“None for you guys! If you have what it takes, go make your own breakfast! I’m not going to serve you!” Karen finished the last bite of her sandwich and tossed the empty plate onto the table with a loud clang.

Amelia got a great shock while Cheyenne was infuriated.

They used to hire a helper to cook their meals, but Karen didn’t want to pay the high wages, so she often picked on the helper and ordered her around. Afterward, the helper quit.

Karen then offered to take care of their meals instead, in exchange for a few thousand dollars from both her daughters.

Yet Karen now quit and even acted as if Cheyenne and the rest had been taking advantage of her.

As soon as Charlotte came downstairs, she also heard what her mother said. She was furious to find out that Karen had cooked breakfast for herself but not for them.

“Mom, Cheyenne and I have to go to work, and we don’t have time to cook breakfast in the morning. When we wanted to hire a helper, you were the one who said that we should give you the money instead and that you would cook for us. What are you doing now?” Charlotte said in exasperation.

“I have every right to take your money! I raised you two, and now that you can work and earn money, shouldn’t you be filial to your mother? As for your meals, hmph, weren’t you guys very capable yesterday? Why should I cook for you and feed you well only to receive your rude treatment?” Karen retorted furiously with her eyes wide open.

At the end of the day, she just wanted to have authority over the people in this family and let them know that anyone who defied her would not have any cooked meals!

Cheyenne and Charlotte were both furious and disgruntled.

Karen was clearly the one who had gone too far yesterday, yet she was now accusing them of being unfilial.

When Charlotte thought about what happened yesterday, she suddenly flew into a rage and retorted, “What kind of a mother are you? Ever since we were kids, you only reprimanded us and threatened us. Did you ever take care of us?”

“When Cheyenne and I were little, you went out every day to play cards with your friends and never came home after leaving in the morning! Cheyenne and I were left alone at home all the time, all hungry and uncared for!”

“If it weren’t for Grandma, who was still alive at the time and would bring us food when she came to see us every now and then, we would have long starved to death!

“Later on, Cheyenne started to learn how to cook when she was around seven or eight because if she didn’t, we would have starved to death! And you? You ignored it when you saw how Cheyenne had scalded her hands trying to cook, and you even made her do all the cooking and household chores from then on. You only hired a helper after she started working and didn’t have time to cook. How many times have you cooked all these years?

“We said that we wanted to hire a helper, but you thought it was a waste of money and wanted us to give you the money instead. But now, you’re threatening us with our meals. You treat us with a horrible attitude every now and then too. If that’s the case, there’s no need for us to give you money in the future!”

After Charlotte finished retorting angrily, she picked up her handbag to leave.

Karen’s face was flushed yet pale after hearing Charlotte exposing her past. But after hearing that Charlotte wouldn’t give her money in the future, she suddenly panicked. “Charlotte, I was wrong to say that. I’m not deliberately giving you a bad attitude. I promise to cook for you every day!”

Unfortunately, Charlotte didn’t turn around at all and left without any hesitation.

Cheyenne watched coldly, extremely disappointed with her mother.

“Let’s go too.” After Cheyenne finished speaking, she took Amelia’s hand and walked toward the door with Lucas.

Karen was anxious again. If Cheyenne left and stopped giving her money too, what would she do?

“Cheyenne, you’ve always been the most obedient. Are you going to throw a tantrum at me too?” Karen tried to play the sympathy card.

Cheyenne looked at her disappointedly. “Mom, I’m not throwing a tantrum with you. It’s the other way around. I’m exhausted. We’ll get going.”

After Cheyenne said this, they left, ignoring Karen’s attempt to make them stay.

Karen stood alone at the door, staring at the empty courtyard distractedly.

Chapter 110: Phony Old Friend

Karen didn't care about the fact that she had disappointed her daughters and was merely worried that she would no longer be able to get money from them again in the future.

At the thought of that possibility, Karen was perturbed, frustrated, and regretful.

Actually, Karen had enough money to spend. But she liked stashing away her own money and then trying to get money from her daughters for her own expenses. Only then would she feel comfortable.

Karen stood at the door for a long time, seemingly pondering something.

Meanwhile, Cheyenne, Lucas, and Amelia had a sumptuous breakfast at a bistro.

After breakfast, Lucas first dropped Amelia off at the kindergarten before sending Cheyenne to the Brilliance Corporation.

"I'll go handle some matters and pick you up in the evening after work," Lucas gently said to Cheyenne while in the driver's seat.

"Ahem, actually... you don't have to send me to and from work every day. If you're busy, I can go back by myself." Cheyenne felt embarrassed about troubling him.

She knew that Lucas was the owner of the Stardust Corporation and kept his identity mysterious. So she reckoned that he must be busy all the time. But regardless of his busy schedule, he had been driving her to and from work on time every day, making her feel touched but apologetic for taking up so much of his time.

Lucas smiled. "It's alright. I'm not that busy. It makes me glad to be able to send you to and from work every day. You should get going."

Only after seeing Cheyenne enter the company did Lucas drive away.

Even after stepping into her office, Cheyenne still felt a burning hot sensation in her face.

After finishing some daily work, her new assistant, whom she recommended herself, knocked on the door. "Miss Carter, there's a person downstairs looking for you. He claims to have an appointment with you today."

Cheyenne was surprised. After thinking about it, she found that she didn't have an appointment with anyone today. She couldn't help but frown. "Did he say which company he's from? What is his name?"

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“No, he just claimed to be an old friend of yours and that you would know once you meet him,” the assistant said anxiously.

In fact, when encountering such people who didn't disclose their names, the assistant would usually not report it to Cheyenne. However, the assistant was new to the job and didn't know her temper well. So he decided to report the matter to her because he was worried that that man might really be an old friend of hers.

“Old friend?” Cheyenne was puzzled.

Actually, she didn't have many close friends, especially since many of them distanced themselves from her when she was down and out during the past six years.

Thus, Cheyenne couldn't guess the identity of this 'old friend'.

However, instead of speculating and making wild guesses, she decided to just let the man come to her office so that she could see who he was.

“Forget it. Bring him over then,” Cheyenne said.

Soon, the assistant led a young man in an immaculate suit in.

When Cheyenne recognized the man's face, she immediately frowned, her face turning sullen.

The young man smiled at Cheyenne gracefully. “Miss Carter, nice to meet you again.”

Cheyenne raised her brows and sneered. “When did I become an old friend of yours? I don't even know what your name is.”

The smiling man was none other than Aston Brooke, whom Cheyenne had met twice and whom Scarlet Wright had deliberately tried to show off to her.

He seemed like a gentle and refined wealthy man, but he actually slapped Scarlet in front of them yesterday and even pushed her onto the ground.

No matter how superior his family was, Cheyenne was extremely disdainful toward men who hit their girlfriends.

Besides, despite the man in front of her looking rather gentle and mild-mannered, the gaze in his eyes was often unsettling.

Cheyenne's attitude could be considered hostile, but Aston was still smiling as he said, “Miss Carter, you are being overly distant. We've met a few times before after all. Let me introduce myself again. I am Aston Brooke from LA. I'm here today because I really want to talk to you. Miss Carter, are you interested in cooperating with the Brookes?”

Based on Aston's behavior at this moment alone, he could really be considered a gentleman. He wasn't arrogant but was instead eloquent, and he would naturally form a good impression on others.

Unfortunately, Cheyenne didn't feel good about it.

Although Cheyenne still didn't feel good about Aston, she naturally couldn't decide things based on his personality after he mentioned cooperating since she was the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation. She asked patiently, "Cooperation? I'd like to hear more about it."

With a proud gaze in his eyes, Aston said, "The Brookes may not be from Orange County, but our family is one of the most powerful ones in LA, and we own many businesses. In particular, the Solar Corporation has developed very well in recent years. We would like to expand our market scope and develop some of our businesses in Orange County, so we're looking to cooperate with a company in Orange County that's on par with us.

"After my observations during this period of time, I think that although your company isn't considered a first-class enterprise at the moment, it has great potential for future development. Miss Carter, as long as you're willing to cooperate with us, I guarantee that with the help of the Solar Corporation, the Brilliance Corporation will definitely become stronger. Well, at least it will be much better than it is now."

Aston smiled, looking proud and smug. In fact, he even seemed condescending.

It was as if the Brilliance Corporation was gaining a huge favor by being able to work with the Solar Corporation and even had to rely on it.

Even a first-tier family of Orange County wouldn't be that arrogant in the Brilliance Corporation!

Cheyenne looked at Aston with interest. "As expected of someone from another city, you seem not to know much about the Brilliance Corporation's current development situation."

Aston was stunned.

He originally thought that after he announced his family's name and proposed cooperating with the Solar Corporation, Cheyenne should be overjoyed to accept cooperating with him.

However, Cheyenne didn't seem glad at all.

Besides, her words made Aston have an ominous hunch.

“Oh, is that so? Miss Carter, please enlighten me.” The smile on Aston’s face was on the verge of vanishing.

Chapter 111: Refusal to Cooperate

“Mr. Brooke, have you ever heard of the Stardust Corporation?” Cheyenne didn’t answer Aston directly and instead asked this question.

Aston nodded. “I’ve naturally heard of the famous Stardust Corporation. After all, its market value and influence are ranked at the top among the well-known enterprises in the US. Besides, the Stardust Corporation has the support of the Huttons, a powerful family in DC, and their power can’t be underestimated. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that the Stardust Corporation is the most influential company in Orange County.”

Cheyenne smiled. “Mr. Brooke, since you know how powerful the Stardust Corporation is, do you know that the Brilliance Corporation has already reached a long-term strategic partnership with the Stardust Corporation, which will begin in the near future?”

“Besides, the Brilliance Corporation is also in preparation to sign various business contracts with the Sawyer Corporation belonging to Ethan Sawyer, the richest man in Orange County. To be honest, we aren’t short of cooperation objects, but we have to pick our partners wisely because there are so many to choose from.

“Under such circumstances, do you still think that the Solar Corporation, a foreign enterprise without any roots in Orange County, has any competitive advantage to convince us to cooperate with you?”

Cheyenne’s words completely broke Aston’s prideful heart!

Although Aston had gained some understanding of the current situation of some enterprises in Orange County, the people of the Brilliance Corporation were definitely clearer about its current development situation.

Thus, Aston had tried to find out about the Brilliance Corporation from Scarlet Wright.

However, the Brilliance Corporation once belonged to the Carters and had been developing poorly under their management. And as soon as they lost the Brilliance Corporation, the performance of the Brilliance Corporation soared, especially with the support of the Stardust Corporation and the Sawyer Corporation. It managed to win the favor of countless companies of all sizes in the county, thus allowing its market value to increase countless times overnight. And there were numerous companies that wanted to cooperate with the Brilliance Corporation.

Faced with this situation, the Carters were feeling sour.

In particular, Cheyenne even managed to make a comeback and become the new general manager of the Brilliance Corporation, making Scarlet even more furious and jealous. So she wouldn't say anything nice about the Brilliance Corporation.

Scarlet made the Brilliance Corporation out to be a perennial family business that suffered losses every year. She said that many managerial positions were vacant as a result of poor management after the takeover. She even claimed that there was internal corruption, strife, power struggles, bribery, and all sorts of other disreputable vices in the company.

In particular, Scarlet also informed Aston about Jane Harper's arrest, further reinforcing her point.

The reason Aston went to Cheyenne today to talk about cooperating wasn't that he had his eyes on the potential of the Brilliance Corporation. It was purely because he wanted to take this opportunity to get close to her and eventually find a way to make the Brilliance Corporation a springboard for the Brookes to expand into Orange County.

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Moreover, Aston had already tried to cooperate with larger companies before going to the Brilliance Corporation, such as the Stardust Corporation and the Sawyer Corporation that Cheyenne had mentioned. However, he was turned down by all of them.

Aston felt that Brilliance Corporation was his second-best choice and that he was doing it a favor by offering it the opportunity to cooperate with him. He thought that Cheyenne should be grateful to him.

However, her words just now were a huge blow to him.

Cheyenne directly expressed her disdain for the opportunity he offered.

"I didn't expect the Brilliance Corporation to be so powerful. I've failed to find out enough. Pardon me," Aston apologized with a wry smile.

He continued, "In fact, since the Brilliance Corporation is also seeking competent cooperative partners, why don't you consider the Brookes? After all, we are very competent and capable. If we cooperate together, we'll definitely reach a win-win cooperation! In the future, if Brilliance Corporation wants to develop its market in LA, we can also provide a lot of support to make things more convenient for you. What do you think, Miss Carter?"

Cheyenne thought for a while and felt that what he said did make some sense. "I'll consider your offer to cooperate, Mr. Brooke. However, forming a cooperation

agreement is very important after all, and it isn't up to me alone. How about this? I'll contact you if we confirm that we'd like to cooperate with your family."

"Okay, I'll be waiting for good news. This is my business card. Please contact me when the time comes." Aston handed his business card to Cheyenne and pretended to be gentlemanly before getting up to leave.

After he left, Cheyenne immediately gave Lucas a call and told him about Aston Brooke coming to seek cooperation with the Brilliance Corporation.

After all, Lucas was the person who was really in charge of the Brilliance Corporation.

He simply answered, "Turn him down. We will reject all cooperation with the Brookes."

Although Cheyenne didn't quite understand why he rejected the Brookes so resolutely without hesitation, since he had already made a decision, she naturally wouldn't disrespect his opinion.

Afterward, Cheyenne tossed the business card Aston gave into the shredder.

When it was time to get off work in the afternoon, Lucas drove over as usual to pick up Cheyenne from work before driving to the kindergarten to pick Amelia up.

During the journey, Lucas suddenly said, "If Brooke comes again, just chase him out straight away and don't let him get close to you."

Cheyenne was stunned. Only after a while did she realize that Lucas was referring to Aston Brooke, who came to see her this morning.

Cheyenne disliked Aston too, but she was still puzzled about why Lucas detested him that much. She asked curiously, "What did that person do to make you hate him so much?"

"He's a hypocrite who looks gentlemanly and refined on the surface but is actually a playboy and a philandering scumbag who has cheated on and toyed with many women. He even caused the deaths of many women. He has an ulterior motive for trying to get close to you, so you should be careful," Lucas said seriously.

Cheyenne was stunned. She could vaguely feel that Aston wasn't a good person, but she didn't expect him to be such scum and even caused the death of others.

"How did you find out about this?" Cheyenne asked in bewilderment.

Lucas didn't say that he had already had someone investigate Aston clearly from the moment they first met and Aston gawked at Cheyenne with an evil gaze.

Instead, he turned to Cheyenne and asked, "Do you still remember that Charlotte used to court a boy when she was in college?"

Cheyenne was naturally very clear about that matter.

At that time, Charlotte fell in love with a senior in school. And being a young girl, she was extremely infatuated with him and would bring him food and beverages every day. She had given all her gentleness and affection to him.

However, he didn't cherish Charlotte's sincerity and left her hanging. He even wanted her to sleep with him.

Charlotte was nervous and terrified. But in the end, she decided to tell Cheyenne about it and ask for her opinion. Cheyenne told her to turn him down, the main reason being that Cheyenne felt he wasn't trustworthy at all.

As expected, after Charlotte turned him down, that senior soon hooked up with another girl, making Charlotte so heartbroken that she wept for two whole weeks.

While Cheyenne was feeling upset for her sister, she also felt thankful that Charlotte didn't get violated by such scum.

After hearing Lucas suddenly mention this matter, Cheyenne nodded. But at the same time, she was rather bewildered too. "How did you find out about that matter? What does this have to do with Aston Brooke?"

Lucas drove steadily while saying, "When Charlotte treated me to a meal previously, we happened to run into that man and his wife, who even threw her weight around in front of Charlotte. I also happened to find out then that that man's wife, Estelle Brooke, is this Aston Brooke's sister."

Cheyenne still didn't know about this matter yet, so she hurriedly asked about it.

After hearing Lucas's brief explanation about what had happened that day, Cheyenne suddenly yelled furiously, "That's too much! Even if Charlotte was blind and liked him, how long has it been since then? Why did they have to humiliate Charlotte? Their characters are incorrigible! We definitely won't cooperate with the Brookes!"

At this moment, Amelia, who was leaning on Cheyenne's body, raised her head and said with a look of determination on her tender face, "Anyone who bullies Aunt Charlotte and Mommy are bad guys!"

Cheyenne was immediately caught between laughter and tears as she rubbed Amelia's nose affectionately. "We're adults, and you're a child. What do you know?"

Amelia puffed up her cheeks. "I know things! I also know that Grandma bullied us this morning and didn't cook us any food for breakfast either."

Cheyenne cuddled Amelia. "Grandma was just in a bad mood today. Don't hold it against her, Amelia. Let's have a huge feast for dinner tonight!"

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The tantrum her mother threw in the morning had upset Cheyenne, so she didn't want to go home tonight and face Karen's hostile attitude.

Thus, the three of them decided to have dinner at a famous restaurant before heading home.

As soon as they entered the house, Karen welcomed them with a smile, which seemed abnormal. "You guys are finally home! It's been a busy day. You're all exhausted, right? Come. I've prepared a huge spread of your favorite dishes! Hurry up and wash your hands before coming to eat!"

Cheyenne said indifferently, "No thanks, we've already had dinner outside." While speaking, she brought Amelia upstairs.

"Huh? Why did you eat outside? The food served in restaurants isn't as hygienic and delicious as the food I make," Karen hurriedly exclaimed.

Unfortunately, Cheyenne didn't pay any attention to her and went straight into her room to help Amelia take a shower and change into a fresh set of clothes.

Soon, Charlotte returned.

Karen hurriedly called out to her. "Charlotte, you're back from work? Come have dinner. I've already whipped up a huge spread of dishes. We're waiting for you!"

Charlotte glanced at Karen coldly. "How can an unfilial daughter like me be fit to eat the food you cook? Go ahead yourself."

After saying this, she also went straight to her room.

Seeing that her two daughters had ignored her, Karen was overwhelmed with fury and so angry that she gnashed her teeth.

Normally, Cheyenne and Charlotte would never dare to treat her with such a hostile attitude. And if they did, she would just tell them to take it or leave it!

But what she was most worried about now was that they would stop eating the food she cooked and stop giving her money. Despite being infuriated, she had no choice but to bear with it.

Karen stood alone in front of the table covered with dishes, hanging her head low, looking extremely lonely.

Lucas sighed in his heart. He walked over and said with a smile, "Karen, your culinary skills are just so wonderful that I could smell the aroma from outside. Have you eaten yet? Let me accompany you to eat dinner."

Lucas was just about to get some utensils.

But to his surprise, Karen immediately raised her head and hollered with a look of menace and annoyance, "All you do is eat! Are you the embodiment of Gluttony? I didn't cook this food for you! I'd rather feed it to dogs than let you have any, you good-for-nothing! Get lost!"

After saying this, Karen dumped all the food into the rubbish bin right in front of Lucas.

Lucas was speechless.

Before returning home, Lucas had already had dinner with Cheyenne and Amelia at a restaurant. He offered to eat with Karen only because he took pity on her for the consequences she had to suffer for her actions. He also decided to give her an out on account that she was his mother-in-law. Besides, he also wanted to ease the strain on their relationship.

However, he never expected her to respond in such a hostile manner, as if he was really asking her for food.

Although Lucas had long known what kind of a person Karen was, she never failed to lower the bottom line in his heart.

Forget it. There's no need to sympathize with someone like her. Lucas turned around and headed upstairs.

Lights were on, and the night had just begun. The nightlife at entertainment joints was the liveliest.

While driving, Aston said to Scarlet impatiently, "Why did you ask me out? How are you managing the task I gave you? Don't blame me for not reminding you. If you can't do what I want you to, get lost before it's too late."

Scarlet clenched her teeth with some grievances in her eyes. But when she thought about the life she would enjoy after marrying a wealthy man in the future, she felt that the mistreatment was nothing compared to it.

Scarlet looked at Aston and smiled in a bid to please him. "Aston, don't worry. I asked you out today precisely because of what you want. You said you would marry me if I could get either Cheyenne or Charlotte Carter to sleep with you. Does it still count?"

Aston narrowed his eyes. "Of course. Why? Did you make progress?"

Scarlet hurriedly nodded. "Yes! As long as you act according to plan, I can guarantee that you'll get what you want tonight!"

Chapter 113: Setting up a Scheme at the Poker Table

Aston was excited. He hurriedly reached out to hold Scarlet in his arms, no longer as indifferent and cold as he was earlier. He exclaimed with a smile, "I'll hold you to your word!"

Soon, under Scarlet's guidance, Aston parked in front of a high-end club called the Opulence.

As soon as he entered, he saw a magnificent plaque with a golden border hung in the middle of the lobby, with the words 'Opulence Is Eternal' written on it. There were people leaving and entering the lobby, all flushed with excitement and clamoring incessantly. "Today, I must show off my skills and win big!" The clubhouse was obviously extraordinary.

Aston wasn't familiar with this place because he didn't live in this city. But Scarlet knew her way around and soon brought him to a hidden elevator where she pressed the button for the fifth basement.

As soon as the elevator door opened, he was greeted with a dazzling gilded door and two bellboys opening the door respectfully, revealing an extremely spacious, crowded, and boisterous hall.

Only then did Aston realize that this was actually a crowded underground gambling den.

This was naturally a prohibited practice. But this club was powerful enough to secretly set up such a large and extremely obscure den, making it difficult for investigations to take place.

Aston instantly seemed very interested. But of course, his main purpose tonight was not to gamble but for those two tempting beauties.

“Why did you bring me here? Those two women don’t seem like people who would appear in such a place.” Aston looked at Scarlet sullenly.

“Aston, don’t be impatient. Come with me first.” Scarlet took Aston’s hand and led him to a card table in a corner.

There were several players seated at the card table, and a bunch of other players were surrounding them and watching the fun.

“Hahahaha! William Carter, you’re out of luck today. It’s not even nighttime yet, but you’ve already lost all your money?”

“Can you still go on? If you have no more money, leave quickly. Stop hogging the seat and wasting my time! I want to play a few more games!” another poker player chimed in in annoyance.

There was a middle-aged man sitting opposite Aston with a pale face. He had lost all his chips.

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Facing the crowd’s constant urging and the heavy loss of his chips, the middle-aged man was reluctant to give up. So he gritted his teeth, took out a diamond bracelet from his pocket, and placed it on the table. “This is a fine bracelet that my wife spent close to eighty grand on. Now... I’ll sell it for forty-five grand. Anyone who wants it can take it!”

“William Carter, you must have stolen this bracelet from your wife. You’re going to be in trouble when you go home!” someone teased.

“Cut the crap. Forty-five thousand dollars, does anyone want it?” William ignored these remarks and simply looked at the people around him with reddened eyes.

The diamond bracelet was beautiful and obviously of good quality.

However, this place was a gambling den after all, not a jewelry store or an auction. The bracelet wouldn’t fetch a high price.

“This bracelet seems mediocre, and you took it at the last minute too. Who knows if it’s real or not. I’ll give you fifteen hundred if you’re selling it,” one of the players said with disdain after taking a look at the bracelet.

“That’s... too little. I bought it for close to eighty grand! Forget it. I’ll sell it to you for thirty grand!” William said, gritting his teeth.

“Fifteen grand at most. Take it or leave it. If you don’t want to sell, get lost with your bracelet,” the other person said impatiently.

Someone at the side chimed in, "It's just a lousy bracelet. You're going to suffer a huge loss by paying fifteen grand!"

"Exactly. This thing should fetch less than five grand."

"Okay! You can have it." William made up his mind and shoved the bracelet to him.

The other person was quick to toss 15,000 dollars worth of chips to him after accepting the bracelet.

At the side, Scarlet was staring wide-eyed at the beautiful bracelet. She sighed regretfully after the person stowed the bracelet in his pocket.

"Did you bring me here to stare at other people's things? We're not here because you want me to buy you that bracelet, right?" Aston questioned hostilely.

Scarlet snapped back to her senses and shook her head hurriedly. She whispered to Aston, "No, no, how could that be possible? Aston, look at the middle-aged man who sold the bracelet. His name is William Carter, Cheyenne and Charlotte Carter's father. I heard that he's been indulging in gambling lately and has lost a lot of money.

"And Aston, did you realize that everyone at this table is obviously in cahoots? Only that fool William Carter still isn't aware. At this rate, he'll keep losing until he has nothing left."

Aston nodded. Outsiders tended to have a clearer view of the situation. He hadn't stood here for too long and could already tell that something was fishy. Yet William Carter, who was involved in the situation, was completely unaware of it and was bent on recouping his losses.

However, how would that be possible?

Aston suddenly had an idea and immediately understood Charlotte's words. "Are you... planning to have me help him after he loses?"

"Yes! After he loses it all, lend him some money. He will definitely continue to lose and then have no money to pay you back. At that point, he'll have to get money from his daughters. But as far as I know, Cheyenne doesn't have much money, so she definitely can't pay for him. Since she can't afford it, you'll have every right to take his daughter as compensation! By then, it will be up to you to sleep with her as often as you'd like," Scarlet said with a sinister smile.

At the thought of that scene, Aston immediately became excited. But he was still rational enough and asked in doubt, "What if she doesn't agree?"

“If she doesn’t agree, she’ll have to give you back the money immediately. But can she afford it? She’ll have no choice but to agree! Besides, she’s not a good person anyway. Who knows how many men she’s slept with? Otherwise, how could she become the general manager of the Brilliance Corporation? Don’t worry. She will definitely agree!” Scarlet guaranteed with certainty.

Hearing this, Aston stopped worrying and narrowed his eyes to look at William, whose eyes were bloodshot. It was as if he could already see the scene of Cheyenne having no choice but to submit to him unwillingly. The corners of his mouth curled into a sinister smile. He was bent on getting what he wanted.

Chapter 114: Unable to Afford

Soon, just as Scarlet expected, William quickly lost all his chips again, leaving the spot on the table in front of him empty.

William widened his eyes in shock. He almost didn’t dare to believe that he had lost the chips he obtained in exchange for Karen’s bracelet in such a short time.

He was indignant, but unfortunately, he no longer had anything else of value with him that he could sell.

“Can one of you lend me some money? I will definitely win and recoup my losses. I promise I’ll return the money immediately after I win!” William suddenly turned his head and looked at his fellow poker players at the table, as well as those surrounding the table.

“Who would be so foolish to lend you money? You promised to pay me forty-five hundred after borrowing three thousand from me two days ago, but you didn’t return me anything!”

“Exactly! You still owe the Opulence seventy-six thousand dollars. Don’t think we’ve forgotten. Who would dare lend you money?” the people around said with contempt.

Gamblers often thought that they could win the next round and recoup their losses, but they often ended up losing even more terribly. And the more they lost, the more obsessed they became. But they were often unaware of it.

Seeing that the people around him weren’t willing to lend him any money to recoup his losses, William panicked, and his face became flushed. No amount of begging would help.

Suddenly, someone said from behind him, “I can lend you three hundred thousand dollars!”

His voice was like heavenly music to William's ears. He turned around and saw a dashing young scion standing behind him. It was the same man who offered to lend him 300,000 dollars!

Needless to say, this person was Aston Brooke.

Like a famished person who finally saw food, William immediately leaped toward Aston.

Aston smiled indifferently. "However, you must pay me back, including interest, 380,000 dollars tonight. Otherwise, you will have to put everything that you have or are related to on the line."

"Sure, no problem!" William agreed without even thinking.

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In his opinion, as long as he had 300,000 dollars as capital, he would be able to win several times that amount. So 380,000 dollars wouldn't be a problem for him at all!

William didn't even think about how he would be able to pay back the 380,000 dollars if he lost because he felt that it definitely wouldn't happen!

He was certain that he would break out of his losing streak and start winning!

Seeing William's bloodshot eyes, Aston stayed silent and immediately got William to sign an IOU for 380,000 dollars. Then he took out a bank card from his wallet and handed it to Scarlet to have her exchange for 300,000 dollars worth of chips.

When William saw the pile of chips in front of him, his fingers trembled with excitement.

After gambling for such a long time in this clubhouse, it was his first time touching so many chips. He reckoned that he would definitely win!

William's eyes were red as he shouted, "Come on, let's continue! It's my turn to recoup my losses next!"

With so many chips in hand, William gained confidence and started betting larger stakes than before while the crowd egged him on.

It didn't take long for the chips in front of William to get fewer and fewer. In less than an hour, he lost all 300,000 dollars worth of chips!

Aston looked at the money he had lent and lost, feeling a peculiar sense of joy.

William's face paled. Seeing that the chips in front of him had once again been pushed to others, his heart was almost going to explode, and his eyes were bloodshot.

He abruptly turned to look at Aston. "Hey, if you lend me another three hundred thousand, no, two hundred thousand, I will definitely win back all the money! I will return you every single cent that I promised to return!"

William simply pinned all his hopes on Aston.

But this time, Aston shook his head. "Sir, I've already lent you three hundred thousand, and you've lost everything. But you still have the cheek to ask me to lend you more money. What do you have that you can return to me? We're not related to each other, and I was already kind enough to lend you so much money. Everyone, don't you agree?"

The people around them immediately agreed. "Yeah, this young man has nothing to do with you. He was already kind and generous enough to lend you so much money in one go! William Carter, don't be ungrateful!"

William was anxious and overwrought. When he suddenly saw Scarlet beside Aston, he hurriedly pointed at her. "She's my niece! That makes us relatives, right? Lend me another two hundred thousand, and I definitely won't go back on my word!"

Scarlet had been standing beside Aston for a long time, and she was also the one who exchanged the chips for William just now. But William had been staring at the chips and only noticed her now.

Aston feigned looking surprised and looked at Scarlet in shock. "What? This man is actually your uncle?"

Scarlet rolled her eyes at William. "I don't have such an uncle who doesn't return the money he owes yet still has the cheek to borrow money from others. I don't know this person at all!"

William suddenly became anxious and tried to pull Scarlet's arm. "Scarlet, how can you say you don't know me? I'm your uncle, William Carter! When you were a child, you often came to our place to play!"

Aston stopped William, no longer as cheerful as before. Instead, his face turned gloomy as he glared at William. "I took pity on you when I saw that you lost a lot of money. I didn't expect you to be such a person. You're even trying to lie and say that she's your relative. In this case, pay me back the 380,000 dollars that you owe me now!"

As Aston spoke, he slapped the IOU that William just signed onto the table in front of him.

"William Carter, you actually tried to falsely claim that someone else is your relative! She doesn't even know you. Besides, even if she does, you can't just write off your debt merely because she's your relative."

“Exactly! Hurry up and return the money! 380,000 dollars isn’t a small amount!”

“Can he afford that? He’s already lost all his money. I bet he doesn’t even have a thousand dollars!”

“Hahaha, since you can’t afford it, don’t take the loan! You were so bold when you bet so much money just now!”

The surrounding poker players were all chattering continuously, making William so anxious that he started sweating profusely.

380,000 dollars was a massive amount of money that he obviously couldn’t repay.

If he had so much money, he wouldn’t have to sneakily steal Karen’s bracelet to sell!

Chapter 115: Paying the Ransom

William had no choice but to look at Aston pleadingly and beg, “Hey, I’ll definitely pay the money back! Please give me a few days’ grace. Once I get money from my wife, I will repay you immediately, okay?”

William remembered the chest of betrothal gifts that the Sawyers had sent them. Although the Sawyers later said that it was a mistake and that they weren’t betrothal gifts but a thank-you gift for his loser son-in-law, Karen had never returned it to Lucas but instead secretly hid it somewhere.

When I go back, I have to force Karen to tell me where the money is hidden. Then I’ll just siphon half of the cash to repay Aston Brooke.

“No, you must return it to me now. You’ve already stated on the IOU that you have to return the money by midnight today!” Aston insisted vehemently.

What a joke. I didn’t lend him the money for charity. This was the moment that Aston had been waiting for. The fact that William couldn’t return the money was the very reason he could make William trade his daughter to repay the debt so that he could get what he wanted.

William was extremely anxious, but at this moment, a decent-looking man wearing the special uniform of the manager of the Opulence led several burly men over and said to William, “William Carter, you still owe us four hundred and fifty grand. It’s time to pay it back!”

When William heard these words, he immediately yelled in exasperation and horror, "What?! Since when did I owe you four hundred and fifty grand? I only borrowed seventy-six!"

The decent-looking manager of the Opulence said, "It's true that you borrowed seventy-six thousand dollars at first, but the interest rate is stated on the IOU. If you deny and refuse to pay the money, don't think of leaving the club alive!"

The club manager waved his hand, and a burly man stood out immediately and kicked William in the thigh.

William screamed as he immediately collapsed to the ground. He clutched his thigh and wailed hysterically.

The people around him took a few steps back, but there was no fear on their faces. Instead, they all looked as though they were used to seeing people like this and gloating.

In this gambling den, it was common practice for people to be beaten up for failing to pay their massive debts.

Watching this scene from the side, Aston frowned.

These people suddenly coming out to collect their debt was probably going to disrupt his plan.

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William was now utterly horrified. When he borrowed money previously, he knew that the interest rate was very high. But he thought that he would soon be able to repay it, so he hadn't taken it seriously. However, he was now terrified because debt collectors came.

However, he would never be able to repay 450,000 dollars!

William kneeled on the ground and hugged the club manager's thigh. "Sir, please just give me a few more days. I promise I'll go to my mother-in-law immediately after I get home and repay you as soon as I get the money!"

"You're asking for a few days' grace? Do you take us for a charity?"

The club manager lifted his foot and kicked William with all his might. Although he looked civilized, he was actually extremely ruthless. Otherwise, he wouldn't have become the manager of this club.

He bent down, grabbed William's hair, and said with a menacing expression, "If you don't pay the money today, I'll chop both your hands off. If you don't pay tomorrow, your feet will be gone too. Do you understand?"

William was so frightened that he shuddered incessantly and almost peed his pants!

However, he also knew that this was a rare opportunity. He nodded frantically. "Yes! Yes! I'll definitely pay you back today! I promise! I'll call my daughter right now and get her to bring the money!"

At this moment, Cheyenne was teaching Amelia to draw at home while Lucas watched the both of them with a tender gaze and a smile on his lips.

Cheyenne's phone began ringing, breaking the silence in the room.

When she saw that the caller was her father, she was a bit surprised. As soon as she answered, she heard his horrified and impatient voice. "Cheyenne! Hurry and bring money here to save me! Or else, I'm going to get my hands and feet chopped off!"

Cheyenne's face changed drastically, and she stood up abruptly. The first thought in her mind was that her father had been kidnapped!

Cheyenne hurriedly asked, "Dad, where are you? What's going on?"

William's phone was in the hands of another person, and an unfamiliar voice sounded from the other end. "You're William Carter's daughter, right? You have an hour to prepare. If you don't come with the money in an hour, his hands and feet will be severed. Don't blame me then!" Then the man hung up before Cheyenne could even say anything.

Holding the phone, Cheyenne froze on the spot, her face paling and her body turning cold.

Seeing that Cheyenne didn't seem well, Lucas hurriedly held her shoulders and asked, "What happened?"

Cheyenne held onto Lucas's wrist as if she had found a pillar of support. Her eyes turned red, and she was on the verge of tears. "Lucas, my father is in trouble! That person just said that my father owes the Opulence club a few hundred thousand. If we don't return the money in an hour, they will... chop off his..."

Considering the fact that Amelia was still present and she was afraid of scaring her, Cheyenne gritted her teeth and fell silent. However, Lucas immediately figured out what she meant.

Such clubs were entertainment joints in name, but in fact, they were more like sordid places. If they said that they were going to chop off someone's limbs or kill them, they would definitely do it.

"But how can my father suddenly owe so much money? He just goes out to drink and play poker. How can he owe so much money? Lucas, do you think my father got kidnapped?" Cheyenne asked anxiously and distractedly.

Lucas patted Cheyenne's back to comfort her and said gently, "Don't worry. Since they're asking you to bring money to the club to get him out, it shouldn't be an abduction."

Actually, Lucas had already made some guesses. Recently, William had been going out early and returning home late in a drunken stupor every day. Sometimes, he wouldn't come home at all. Something must have happened outside. He didn't know if William had been lured there or gone there out of his own accord. But in any case, the debt definitely wasn't simple.

"Um, my father..." Cheyenne was extremely anxious.

Lucas comforted her. "Don't panic. Stay at home with Amelia. I'll go take a look."

Chapter 116: Give Me an Explanation

After hearing what Lucas said, Cheyenne immediately said anxiously, "No, what if you go alone and encounter danger too?"

Lucas smiled. "Don't worry. I'll be fine. I'll definitely bring your father home in one piece. Trust me."

Lucas was incredibly confident, and Cheyenne was much more relieved when she thought about the unknown power that he had. However, she still gritted her teeth and said worriedly, "You still have to be careful."

"Okay, don't worry." Lucas nodded and then turned around to leave.

Cheyenne watched his tall figure gradually vanish below the stairs with inexplicable emotions.

At some point, she had somehow begun getting a sense of security from Lucas, as he would be the first person she thought of whenever she was in danger.

After hearing that her father had suddenly fallen into such a terrifying situation just now, she was scared out of her wits. But Lucas's words put her mind at ease. All her fear and

anxiety vanished after hearing him comfort and reassure her. It was as though as long as Lucas was here, someone would accompany her to deal with any problems.

“Mom, where did Dad go? Did something happen to Grandpa?” Amelia looked up.

Cheyenne wiped away her tears and hugged her daughter. “It’s alright, Amelia. Don’t worry. Daddy is a hero, and he’ll definitely bring Grandpa home.”

“Yeah! Daddy is really a hero!” Amelia hugged Cheyenne, and her beautiful eyes were full of pride and faith in Lucas.

Soon, a black Jaguar shuttled through the traffic in the city and pulled over at the entrance of the Opulence. Lucas got out.

On the surface, the Opulence seemed to be just an ordinary entertainment joint. But Lucas already knew that this was just its facade.

He didn’t bother wasting any time. After entering the lobby, he said to a waiter, “I’m here to collect someone. Please go and inform them.”

The waiter was no stranger to this process. There were no changes in his expression as he asked, “Who are you paying ransom for?”

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“William Carter.”

After relaying the message through the intercom, the waiter said to Lucas, “Okay, Sir. Please come with me.”

The waiter led Lucas to a hidden door, which was obscure and inconspicuous. If there were no ushers, it would be difficult for anyone to discover it. The walls and decorations here were all full of hidden contraptions.

The waiter directly pressed the elevator button to go to the fifth basement. Before long, the elevator door opened, and a golden door appeared in front of Lucas.

When he pushed open the door, he saw a noisy and boisterous scene inside the spacious hall with various poker tables surrounded by many people. Their eyes were all bloodshot.

Lucas had long guessed that William had been brought to a gambling den by someone and thus ended up owing such a large amount of money in such a short period of time.

Everything happening before him was just a confirmation of Lucas’s guess.

The waiter led Lucas directly to the poker table in the innermost area.

There were people around the poker table and someone kneeling on the ground with a bruised nose, not daring to move an inch at all. He was none other than William Carter!

Lucas's eyes turned icy-cold as he walked forward to hold William's shoulders and help him up.

"Who is this kid?" The club manager, Joe Daniels, frowned in displeasure while looking at Lucas.

The burly men had hostile gazes in their eyes, and with a single command of Daniels, they would immediately rush forward to take Lucas down.

The waiter who brought Lucas in hurriedly bent down and said, "Mr. Daniels, he came to pay William Carter's ransom."

Daniels sized Lucas up. When he saw the calm expression on his face and his not-so-muscular body, he couldn't help but sneer. "Kid, you're pretty bold."

When Scarlet saw Lucas, she rolled her eyes hard and giped, "This good-for-nothing is surprisingly here. It seems that Cheyenne won't come."

Aston had a gloomy expression as he glared at Scarlet. "Is this what you promised me?"

Scarlet felt extremely aggrieved. "Aston, you can't blame me for this. I didn't expect the club to suddenly force William Carter to repay the money today and ruin our plans."

Aston snorted coldly and remained silent. He would have never expected such an urgent matter to crop up, let alone Scarlet.

When William saw Lucas, he immediately grabbed his hand as if he had found a straw to clutch onto. "You're finally here! Lucas, you brought the money, right? Hurry up and pay them! Or else they'll chop off my hands and feet!"

He was really frightened just now, afraid that Cheyenne couldn't convince Karen to give her the money. He was also terrified that the people of the clubhouse would get impatient and really chop his hands off.

They had beaten him up and made him kneel on the ground, so he did as he was told compliantly, not daring to breathe at all.

Now, Lucas finally appeared!

Daniels, who looked quite decent and civilized, didn't bother to say any nonsense. He simply crossed one leg over the other and said slowly, "The total you have to pay is

830,000 dollars. Once you pay, you can take him away. Otherwise, you two will have to stay here. Don't blame us for being unkind after you lose your hands and feet."

Lucas glanced at Daniels. "I've naturally already prepared the money. However, your people hit my father-in-law and made him kneel here for such a long time. Shouldn't you be giving me an explanation too?"

Hearing Lucas's words, the people around him froze for a moment before bursting into laughter.

Looking at Lucas as if he had just heard a joke, Daniels said with derision, "Explanation? What do you want me to explain? Come on, let's hear your family background and see if you're qualified to ask for an explanation!"

Scarlet burst into laughter. "Mr. Daniels, don't be fooled by this good-for-nothing. He's just a penniless orphan. What family background can he have?"

Before Scarlet finished laughing, she suddenly felt a piercingly cold and frightening gaze land on her. She shivered, stopped laughing, and subconsciously hid behind Aston.

How can this loser Lucas have such a terrifying gaze?!

Chapter 117: Shameless Father-in-law

Upon seeing Scarlet become frightened by a single look from Lucas, Aston was immediately displeased. He shouted, "What? Did Scarlet say something wrong? You're just a good-for-nothing who has nothing to his name. You're very brazen, huh? It's such a shame that the greatest beauty of Orange County married a loser like you!"

When Daniels, the club manager, heard this, his eyes lit up. "I heard that Cheyenne Carter, the former greatest beauty of Orange County and gorgeous CEO, got involved with a lowly chauffeur of the company and even had footage of her with that man in a hotel exposed, causing a huge uproar. Later on, she had to marry the chauffeur. You aren't that chauffeur, are you? William Carter, I didn't expect you to be the father of the most beautiful woman in Orange County! I couldn't tell at all!"

Scarlet snorted and snapped in disgruntlement, "Greatest beauty? She's just a bitch with a pretty face who climbed to the top by sleeping with men!"

Lucas looked at Scarlet with a murderous aura in his eyes.

Suddenly, a figure appeared beside Scarlet and slapped her twice, hard and loud, immediately sending her flying into the poker table behind her. After a series of loud sounds, the chips on the table scattered all over the floor.

“Since you have the audacity to talk nonsense about Cheyenne, you deserve to be slapped!” Jordan glanced at Scarlet, who was on the ground and couldn’t get on her feet for a long time. He then turned around to look at Lucas with a straight face.

Although he had suppressed his anger and didn’t use too much force, his slaps still ruptured the corners of Scarlet’s mouth and made her cheeks red and swollen.

This scene took everyone aback and made them dumbfounded!

No one saw clearly where this person had come from!

Moreover, it was apparent that he was someone who had been following Lucas.

The expressions of all the people changed drastically. And at this moment, the angriest person was, without a doubt, Aston Brooke.

Although Aston was just toying with Scarlet and didn’t have any feelings for her, she was still his current woman after all. Now that she had been sent flying with two slaps, it was more than just two slaps but also an insult to him!

“You have the guts to hit my woman, huh? Punk, do you know who I am?” Aston stared at Jordan with a threatening gaze.

To his surprise, Jordan was even more arrogant than him. He rolled his eyes and retorted, “Don’t you yourself know who you are? Fancy you asking me instead. Are you an idiot?!”

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“You!” Aston was furious. He felt a strong urge to dash forward and beat Jordan into a pulp.

Lucas glanced at Aston coldly before scanning his surroundings and saying in an icy-cold voice, “If anyone dares to speak ill of my wife from now on, it won’t be as simple as two slaps.”

Aston was about to say a few more words, but as soon as his gaze met Lucas’s chilly and frightening eyes, he immediately felt his heart turn cold. He could no longer say what he wanted.

The others even felt an indescribable power emanating from Lucas’s body, and they were too terrified to speak.

Lucas looked back at the club manager, Joe Daniels, and said indifferently, “Let’s continue where we left off. My father-in-law got bullied by you. How do you plan to explain this to me?”

Daniels suddenly began applauding. Although Lucas was thin, he had been maintaining a calm expression and even gave off a terrifying might, making it hard for Daniels to get a clear understanding of his background.

Although Scarlet and Aston just said that Lucas was a useless good-for-nothing, Daniels had been working for the club for years and had a discerning eye. His intuition told him that Lucas was not an ordinary person or a good-for-nothing like they said.

Daniels remained silent while William broke out in a cold sweat because of how frightened he was. He tried to punch Lucas while shouting, "Who do you think you are? How dare you ask for an explanation from Mr. Daniels? Are you tired of living? Hurry up and give him the money for the ransom. I'm alright now. I don't need you to stand up for me!"

Lucas could already guess William's reaction, but he didn't take it to heart and simply stared at Daniels calmly, waiting to hear his explanation.

"Damn it! You loser, you're going to be the death of me! I told you not to make things hard for Mr. Daniels. Even if you're courting death, don't drag me down!" William hollered at Lucas furiously before turning around to smile at Daniels deferentially. "Mr. Daniels, please don't blame me! I don't know what's wrong with this loser today. He actually had the guts to create trouble here! I... I apologize to you. Please don't take it to heart. If you must, blame this loser! You can beat or scold him if you want!"

Daniels immediately had a playful look. *This is hilarious. He's standing up for his father-in-law, but his father-in-law is shirking responsibility and letting an outsider hit his son-in-law. How amusing and ridiculous.*

Although the onlookers felt that Lucas was overestimating himself if he thought that he could beat Daniels and ask for an explanation, they were full of disdain for William.

People like William were cowardly, stupid, and inhumane.

Some even secretly thought Lucas shouldn't have come to William's rescue and let him learn his lesson by having his hands and feet chopped off.

Looking at Lucas in derision, Daniels said, "Your father-in-law himself isn't even bothered, so do you still want to ask me for an explanation?"

Lucas nodded lightly with a straight face. "Yes. It's his business that he doesn't want an explanation. I want one."

Hearing his words, William was even more furious. He reached out to slap Lucas, only to have Jordan grab him and hold him down.

“Let go of me! I’m your father-in-law. I don’t believe that you have the guts to get someone to hit me,” William roared furiously.

Jordan pursed his lips. If not for the fact Lucas had long instructed him not to harm Cheyenne’s parents, he would have crippled William!

“Jordan, take him home first,” Lucas suddenly said with a frown.

“Okay, Lucas!” Jordan immediately obeyed the order and carried William away by his collar.

“Wait, you haven’t paid yet. Now, none of you can think of leaving!” Daniels shouted. The few burly men around him immediately blocked Jordan and William.

William was so scared that he was shaking and didn’t dare to move.

But the next second, almost everyone’s eyes widened, nearly unable to believe what was happening in front of them!

Chapter 118: Ocean of Money

Jordan sneered. He didn’t take these burly men in front of him seriously at all and was still holding William’s collar in one hand and standing still on the spot. He suddenly put his right leg forward and swept it, immediately kicking the six burly men in front of him far, far away. They then crashed on the ground after smashing through numerous poker tables.

Daniels’s pupils constricted. He couldn’t control himself any longer as he looked at everything in front of him in shock.

If Jordan had only sent one person flying away with a single kick, Daniels would find it reasonable, as that could be done easily by a strong person.

However, sending six six-foot-tall men flying with one kick and rendering them immobile was something beyond the abilities of an ordinary person!

Some of the henchmen who heard the commotion and hurried over were sent flying before they could even step close to Jordan.

Jordan looked as though he was taking a leisurely stroll, ignoring all the henchmen while walking along the way and dragging William, who seemed to be on the verge of peeing himself, to the elevator.

“Lucas, I’ll take this... person back with me.” Before leaving, Jordan didn’t forget to say goodbye to Lucas, and he almost called William a fool.

Lucas nodded indifferently.

When Jordan vanished in the elevator with William, Daniels and the surrounding crowd finally recovered from their shock

Daniels looked at Lucas with scruples and inquisitiveness. “Who are you?”

The young man with impressive combat skills is clearly this Lucas’s subordinate. He followed his instructions without any questions.

He was more like Lucas’s underling.

If an underling was already this terrifying, how frightening would Lucas be?

Lucas smiled indifferently. “Didn’t they already tell you? I’m just a live-in son-in-law.”

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Lucas’s indifference made Daniels feel even more wary of him.

“Hey... your father-in-law borrowed money from us and hasn’t repaid it after more than ten days, but we only gave him a beating. That’s already showing him enough mercy. As long as you repay the money he owes with interest, I won’t hold it against you for injuring our men. How does that sound?”

Daniels’s words shocked everyone present.

The young man beside Lucas just now had injured more than ten burly henchmen of the Opulence and even caused a huge ruckus. Yet Daniels was willing to let go of it just like that.

“Don’t worry. We’ll talk things out one by one. I’ll pay you back what he owes,” Lucas said sneeringly.

Daniels could tell what Lucas was driving at. The money William owed would naturally be paid back, and likewise, Daniels would also have to give Lucas the explanation he wanted.

At the thought of this, Daniels couldn’t help but frown. *Seems like this punk isn’t going to stop here!*

Aston suddenly said, “Your father-in-law still owes me 380,000 dollars. Don’t forget.”

Lucas glanced at Aston. "Don't worry. I'll pay you every single cent."

Although he did not know why Aston Brooke and Scarlet Wright appeared here, how they even became William's debtor, and what their role was in the incident today, he knew clearly who to hold accountable and who to settle scores with.

Suddenly, the golden door swung open again, and a tall, gigantic, and burly man over two meters tall entered.

Many inhaled sharply and took a few steps back because the tall man was not to be trifled with.

If they were to provoke him, he could easily punch them dead!

With a solemn expression, Daniels looked at the man coming. He couldn't recognize him, but he hoped that he wasn't here to create trouble... Otherwise, Daniels wouldn't be able to handle it alone.

To his surprise, after the burly man entered, he walked directly toward Lucas, bowed, said respectfully in front of everyone, "Mr. Gray, I've already prepared the money according to your instructions."

Daniels's pupils constricted again. *Is this tall and burly man Lucas Gray's underling too?*

Lucas nodded and looked at Daniels again. "Have you thought about what explanation you're going to give me?"

Daniels gritted his teeth. "Let's compromise and give each other a way out instead of making things hard for each other. We're not afraid of you. If things get out of hand, you'll be at a disadvantage too! Since you've already brought the money, hurry up and pay it back!"

Lucas understood what he meant and nodded at Wade. "Bring the money."

"Yes, Mr. Gray!" Wade acknowledged and grabbed his phone to make a call.

After Daniels heaved a sigh of relief and thought that Lucas had yielded, he suddenly heard a dull thud coming from above him, and then the entire floor started shaking violently.

"What's going on?"

"Oh my god! Is it an earthquake?"

"Damn! Let's hurry upstairs! If there's really an earthquake, we're going to be buried alive!"

“Hurry up and get out of the way! Let me go up first!”

All of a sudden, chaos broke out in the hall, and many people were fleeing to go upstairs. Some even took advantage of the chaos and shoved some chips into their arms.

Daniels was stunned as well, but he dared not force all these people in the hall to stay in place. After all, those who were here to play were all big shots, and if they were trapped in the basement, he wouldn't be able to account for it.

Daniels hollered to get a few people to hurry up and check on the situation while having people escort these guests from the safety stairs quickly back to the lobby on the first floor.

However, when these people returned to the first floor and saw the lobby, everyone inhaled and widened their eyes in shock.

There was a truck in the middle of the spacious and luxurious lobby, blocking the entire exit.

The roll-up door of the truck opened, and a large pile of countless coins began to pour out from the truck.

The entire lobby turned into an ocean of glittering coins!

Chapter 119: Succumbing and Apologizing

Countless shiny coins poured down, turning the hundreds of square meters lobby into a sea of coins that was impossible to traverse.

This scene was extremely shocking and indescribable!

Daniels was astonished, and an indescribable sense of horror surged in his heart.

To be able to get around 800,000 dollars worth of coins delivered within an hour was definitely not something that ordinary people could do!

Even Daniels's proprietor, the owner of the Opulence, could never do it!

Aston was also looking at Lucas and everything in front of him in utter astonishment.

He had always thought that Lucas was just an ordinary live-in son-in-law of the Carters and that he was unworthy of Cheyenne.

Even when he saw the Douglas brothers apologizing to Lucas, he still felt that there must have been some misunderstanding in between. He even implied to the Carters that the apology was meant for him.

However, everything Lucas did today made Aston feel that he had misjudged and that Lucas was not as simple as the loser that the Carters made him out to be.

“There’s a total of 830,000 dollars worth of coins here. One of you gets 450,000, and the other gets 380,000. Get your shares yourselves,” Lucas said indifferently.

Daniels smiled awkwardly. “Ah, you are really... generous.”

At the side, Aston hurriedly said, “Mr. Gray, it was all a misunderstanding before. Since I now know that Mr. Carter is your father-in-law, how can I still have the cheek to ask you for the money? Just take the money as a gift.”

If William were still there, he would have been overwhelmed with joy after hearing Aston’s words.

However, Lucas was not like William, and he didn’t take the 380,000 dollars seriously at all. Of course, he wouldn’t accept Aston’s ‘kind intentions’.

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“What do you have to do with my family? Mr. Brooke, are you so generous that you’d easily give away 380,000 dollars to anyone? If that’s the case, I reckon everyone here is blessed. How many people can you give money to?” Lucas sneered.

After Lucas said that, the numerous people in the surroundings stared at Aston with intense gazes in their eyes, as if they were hoping that he would really give them 380,000 dollars.

Aston coughed and hurriedly said, “Mr. Gray, you must be joking. I was merely thinking that since we are relatives, there’s no need to bother about that money.”

When Scarlet saw how polite Aston was to Lucas, she interjected in disgruntlement, “Aston, why are you being so polite to him? Cheyenne’s family was kicked out of the Carters a long time ago, and we are no longer relatives with them. Why should we give them 380,000 dollars for no reason? Besides, this good-for-nothing even got a truck full of coins here. He’s obviously out to make things hard for us. He’s too mean!”

Scarlet was shallow and failed to realize how terrifying Lucas was.

“Shut up!” Aston roared furiously. He raised his hand and slapped her face ruthlessly. “Is Mr. Gray someone a bitch like you can insult as you please? You’re just a brainless

and shameless bitch. You're so stupid that there's no cure for you! Hurry up and get lost. I don't want to see you again! You want to marry into the Brookes? Dream on!"

Scarlet's face was already swollen after Jordan slapped her twice. Now that Aston had slapped her again, her face became even more swollen and now resembled a pig's head.

Hearing Aston's insults, many of the people present burst into laughter.

However, not many sympathized with Scarlet.

They felt that she deserved to be slapped.

Scarlet was about to lose control of her emotions. Aston saying that she couldn't marry him made her flustered.

She rushed forward to hug his thigh while weeping miserably. "Aston, don't abandon me! I've already given everything I have to you! I came here today to help you..."

"Shut up, bitch!" Aston immediately slapped Scarlet several times again to interrupt her, causing her mouth to bleed. He even kicked her hard to vent all his anger.

Scarlet Wright, you brainless woman! You almost said that the reason we're here at the Opulence tonight is to trick William Carter and help me hook up with Cheyenne and Charlotte Carter. You almost let the cat out of the bag.

If Lucas Gray finds out, I'll die!

I almost got killed by this bitch!

"Mr. Gray, this woman has been pestering me. From today onward, I have nothing to do with her anymore. Please don't misunderstand me," Aston hurriedly said to Lucas after interrupting Scarlet.

Lucas snorted coldly. *These two are just dogs biting each other.* He wasn't interested in them at all.

He turned to look at Daniels. "As I said earlier, we'll settle one thing at a time. I've returned you the money my father-in-law owes, with interest. Now, it's your turn to give me an explanation."

Daniels was immediately exasperated.

He thought that since he had already given Lucas an out, Lucas would drop the matter. However, he brought it up again.

The explanation Lucas wanted was undoubtedly for Daniels to atone and apologize for injuring and humiliating William.

But if Daniels really did that, it would be a shame on him and the Opulence.

However, when Daniels saw Lucas's calm and composed expression that seemed to contain terrifying power, as well as the burly man beside him and the pile of coins, Daniels unclenched his fists.

"Sorry, Mr. Gray. I failed to train my subordinates well and caused your father-in-law to be injured. In order to express our apology, we won't take any of the money that Mr. Carter owes, and we'll treat it as compensation for him instead. What do you think of that solution?" Daniels said through gritted teeth.

Discretion was the better part of valor.

Seeing how adamant Lucas was being, Daniels knew that this matter wouldn't blow over without some bloodshed.

Daniels did think about beating Lucas into submission. But Wade and Jordan crippling more than ten henchmen previously made Daniels realize that Lucas was definitely not someone who could be subdued by force. Lucas might even kill them too!

Who would dare to provoke such a terrifying man?

Daniels's submissive apology immediately left everyone around them in shock!

Chapter 120: I'll Go Look For Him

Although Daniels looked civilized and refined, he was extremely ruthless, and it was common for him to break the limbs of those who created trouble in the club. This was the reason why Daniels could become the manager of the club at such a young age.

However, Daniels actually swallowed his pride and bowed down to the young man in front of him, who was in his twenties and didn't seem that strong.

What is the background of this young man?!

Lucas glanced indifferently at Daniels, who was smiling deferentially. "No matter what you think, I'll state things clearly beforehand. If anyone dares to create trouble for me and the people around me in the future, they should think about whether they're tired of living or not."

His tone was calm, but his words made Daniels's heart hammer violently. He immediately got rid of his evil thoughts. "Yes, Mr. Gray. Don't worry. We won't do anything out of line."

Lucas glanced at him and then turned around to leave, with the tall and burly Wade following closely behind him.

Aston originally wanted to try sucking up to Lucas, but when he saw how uninterested Lucas seemed, he was smart enough not to chase after him.

Of course, he didn't take the 380,000 dollars worth of coins on the ground either.

Regardless of who Lucas was trying to deter, Aston was truly astounded, and he was already reevaluating Lucas's status and purpose in his mind.

The people left in the Opulence looked at the coins in the lobby before looking at each other, at a complete loss for words.

A service supervisor of the club came up to Daniels and whispered to him, "Mr. Daniels, are we... just going to let that arrogant punk go?"

"If you have what it takes, go and catch him then." Daniels glowered at him. The latter was instantly speechless and flinched.

They had all witnessed the scene just now. If they really went to nab Lucas, who would be able to defeat him?

"Use your brains and think about it properly. Who are those people around him? All of us will never be able to defeat his subordinate even if we work together! How are we supposed to nab him?" Daniels glared at his brainless underling. "What are you waiting for? Hurry up and get someone to pack up the coins on the ground. They're worth 830,000 dollars after all! Okay, now go placate the customers and ask them to continue gambling."

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"Prepare a check for 450,000 dollars and some gifts. Get some people to come with me to apologize to William Carter."

"What? Mr. Daniels, do you still intend to apologize to them?" The supervisor was astonished. He thought that Daniels was just making a casual remark and would send someone to apologize to William.

"Duh! Do I have a choice? You brainless fools are useless! That guy's subordinates are so powerful, and you guys are trash compared to them!" Daniels berated. His underlings lowered their heads, not daring to make a single sound.

At this moment, Jordan was bringing William back home.

William thought Jordan wouldn't dare to do anything to him since he was Lucas's subordinate, so he started insulting Jordan and called him an ill-mannered brat who was as rude as Lucas.

Jordan was overwhelmed with fury. If not for Lucas's instructions, he would have long beaten William up!

After they finally reached the residence, Jordan tossed William at the door and turned around to leave without looking back. He felt that taking another glance at William would be tainting his eyes.

Cheyenne, who had been waiting upstairs worriedly for a long time, immediately rushed down after hearing the commotion downstairs. By the time she arrived downstairs, she happened to see William cursing incessantly as he entered the house.

"Dad, are you okay?" Cheyenne rushed forward and held William's arm. She scrutinized him and found that although his face was a bit bruised and swollen, and some footprints were on his clothes, he fortunately had no severe injuries. However, it was obvious that he had been beaten up.

Only now did Cheyenne put her mind at ease and look at the door again. She found that there was no one else. Her father had come home alone.

"Dad, where's Lucas? He didn't come back with you?" Cheyenne hurriedly asked.

William snorted coldly and barked in anger, "You're asking about him? He probably got beaten to death. He deserves it!"

Cheyenne's heart sank. She was flustered and furious as she hurriedly grabbed William's hand. "What exactly happened? Dad, you owed someone hundreds of thousands of dollars. If Lucas hadn't brought the money to save you, you wouldn't have been able to come back now! How can you say that about him?! How is he now?"

"What hundreds of thousands?" Karen also happened to come out of her room, just in time to hear Cheyenne. She immediately glared at William and hollered, "Make yourself clear! What hundreds of thousands of dollars?!"

Too anxious to hear her mother's interrogation, Cheyenne shook William's arm vigorously. "Dad! How is Lucas?"

"Hmph, I told that loser to just return the money to those people, but he insisted on standing up for me. Now, he's in trouble. The Opulence isn't somewhere he can show off.

“When I left, there were a whole bunch of people surrounding him. He might just be dead now! He really deserves it for being stupid!”

William’s tone was full of anger, displeased because Lucas had refused to heed his advice. He simply said that Lucas deserved to be killed, not considering at all that Lucas had gone to a place like the Opulence and confronted those people for the sake of saving him.

“How did that happen...” Cheyenne’s heart was full of disappointment and pain. At the thought that Lucas was likely in danger, she felt as though her heart was being stabbed by a million knives. In particular, her father’s cold and merciless words made her feel miserable!

If she hadn’t let Lucas go to save her father, he wouldn’t have encountered such danger at all!

Warm tears rolled down her cheeks.

“No, I have to go look for him!”

In her panic, Cheyenne no longer cared about anything else and ran straight out barefoot.

“Cheyenne!”

“Cheyenne!”

Cheyenne ignored the shouts coming from behind her and dashed out of the door, only to knock into someone and fall into their embrace.

“Ah!”

Cheyenne shrieked in shock and violently pushed the person in front of her away.

But she suddenly heard a familiar voice. “Cheyenne, it’s me.”

She immediately looked up with tears in her eyes and saw that the man was none other than Lucas.

Cheyenne sobbed and hugged Lucas tightly as tears continuously rolled down her cheeks, soon drenching Lucas’s clothes.

Lucas was at a loss for words, especially when he felt Cheyenne’s warm tears seeping into his clothes. “Cheyenne, what’s the matter? Your father should already be home, shouldn’t he?”

“You... It’s great that you’re back! Dad just said that you got beaten to death, and it scared me so badly...” Cheyenne buried her head in Lucas’s chest while sobbing. She only felt relieved and at ease when she could feel his heartbeat.

Lucas was stunned for a moment before figuring out that Cheyenne had rushed out so anxiously because she was worried about his safety.

A warm current surged in his heart. He gently put his hand on her shoulder and said in a tender voice, “Don’t worry. I was in the army for years. Such a situation won’t be much trouble for me.”

At this moment, Cheyenne remembered the things Lucas had told her before. Lucas was indeed very powerful now, and ordinary hooligans wouldn’t be able to lay a finger on him. She was just extremely concerned about him, and in her moment of panic, Lucas was all she was worried about.

Realizing that she was still hugging Lucas tightly, Cheyenne immediately let go as though she had just received an electric shock and took two steps back. Her face was flushed, and she felt extremely shy and embarrassed.

A tender smile appeared on Lucas’s face, and a sweet feeling emerged in his heart when he saw how concerned she was.

But the next moment, he frowned because he saw that she was walking on the cement road without any shoes, baring her snow-white feet.

“Why aren’t you wearing shoes?” Lucas asked in a deep voice.

“Ah!” Cheyenne lowered her head and realized that she had dashed out of the house barefoot and was now stepping on the cold and rough concrete pavement.

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Her glistening toes curled up. Cheyenne felt shy and embarrassed and didn’t know what to say.

Lucas understood how she felt and was extremely touched.

He extended his arms and picked Cheyenne up in his arms.

Cheyenne was caught off guard and shrieked. “What are you doing?! Hurry up and put me down. What if someone sees us?!”

Her face flushed, she pushed at Lucas’s arms. She looked ashamed and full of complaints, and she didn’t notice how nervous she had become as her heartbeat increased rapidly. However, she wasn’t angry at all.

Lucas smiled gently and said softly, "It's okay. You're not wearing shoes, so it's hard for you to walk. We'll reach home soon."

"Cheyenne!" Charlotte exclaimed from behind with an anxious look. She was holding a jacket and a pair of shoes and had clearly chased after Cheyenne.

Upon seeing Lucas, Charlotte exclaimed in surprise, "Lucas! You're back too! Great!"

Only then did Charlotte realize that Lucas was carrying Cheyenne in his arms bridal style. She couldn't help but gape in shock.

Cheyenne was already feeling extremely uncomfortable with Lucas carrying her in his arms in the first place. But now that her sister had run into them, she felt even more awkward. She struggled and insisted that Lucas put her down. "Charlotte, good that you're here. Quickly pass my shoes to me."

"O-oh!" Charlotte hurriedly handed over the shoes, but Lucas snatched them away.

Lucas didn't embarrass Cheyenne and put her down before squatting down and laying the pair of shoes on the ground.

Cheyenne hurriedly put on her shoes but was stopped by Lucas calling out softly, "Don't move."

He then held her ankle and wiped away the dirt on her sole with his sleeve. Only then did he help her put on the shoes.

Lucas was serious and gentle, as if he was handling a precious treasure, causing Cheyenne's heart to skip a beat. She parted her lips but was at a loss for words.

Standing at the side, Charlotte looked at Lucas squatting on the ground and gently wiping away the dirt full of envy.

As soon as the three of them headed back inside, they found Karen and William in a heated argument, naturally because of William's debts.

"William Carter! I really can't live with you anymore. You're usually a good-for-nothing who does nothing but eat and sleep. And you need me to serve you all the time too. But now, you've actually picked up gambling behind my back! You even ended up losing hundreds of thousands of dollars. You're bent on making us go bankrupt, aren't you?!"

"You damned loser, you deserve to be struck by lightning! What did I do to end marrying a loser like you? Oh my God, why don't you just drop dead outside?!"

Karen was infuriated with William getting into debt of hundreds of thousands of dollars behind her back. She would have to shoulder it too because they were married! She was indignant about being implicated by him!

“Let’s get a divorce! I can’t spend another minute with you! Let’s get divorced immediately!” Karen screamed.

William was extremely annoyed by her scolding and hollered in exasperation, “You bitch, all you do is scold me! I’m fine now, aren’t I? Your incessant scolding and cursing is the reason for my bad luck! You want a divorce? Go ahead. Who’s afraid? If I divorce you, I might become lucky! You’ll regret it then!”

The two of them were arguing nonstop when Charlotte, Cheyenne, and Lucas came in.

Seeing that Lucas was safe and sound, not missing any limbs and without a single bruise, William was astonished. But he soon turned around in anger, not wanting to deal with this son-in-law who refused to listen to him.

Karen was stunned too. She muttered, “Didn’t you say that good-for-nothing was already killed? Why is he back again? I really can’t get rid of him!”

Seeing her parents’ reaction, Cheyenne was furious. Charlotte was displeased too, as she felt unjust for Lucas.

At this moment, a BMW suddenly stopped at the entrance of their home, and three people alighted. Seeing that the door was open, the three of them walked in.

Karen was extremely irritated. When she saw the strangers coming in, she barked furiously, “Who are you people? Can’t you see that this is someone’s house? Hurry up and get lost!”

After William saw the people who entered, his heart was about to fall out of his chest. He paled, and his legs turned into jelly.

When he heard Karen’s scolding again, he was so frightened that he almost peed in his pants. He raised his hand and slapped her. “Shut up! You must have a death wish!”

Chapter 122: Moving Out

Immediately afterward, William hurriedly walked up to the young man taking the lead, bowed, and said in a shaky voice, “Mr. Daniels! You’re here at such a late hour. I-is it because that loser didn’t pay you enough money? Don’t worry. I’ll tell him to return all the money to you immediately! He also offended you earlier, so you’re free to punish him as you wish! Please don’t hold it against me and my family!”

Karen had already guessed that they were the debtors whom William owed hundreds of thousands of dollars to. She heard William say that the people of that club were brutal and ruthless enough to kill and chop off people's limbs!

She hurriedly pointed her finger at Lucas. "Sirs, the person you're looking for is right there. Please don't involve us! Besides, he's going to divorce my daughter soon. Once he does, he will have nothing to do with our family anymore!"

When Cheyenne and Charlotte saw that the people of that club had actually come to look for them, they panicked and wanted to tell Lucas to run away.

But when they heard their parents' words, they were instantly about to explode in exasperation.

Not only did they put all the blame on Lucas, but they also drew a line between Lucas and themselves to make these people deal with him.

"Dad! Mom! Lucas was the one who brought Dad home. How can you treat him like this?"

Seeing how eager William and Karen were to draw a line between themselves and Lucas, Daniels looked at them with contempt. *Seems like this stupid couple still doesn't know what kind of person their son-in-law is. Otherwise, they definitely wouldn't talk to him like that.*

Daniels walked toward Lucas, Cheyenne, and Charlotte. Despite feeling scared, the sisters mustered their courage to stand in front of Lucas righteously. Keeping their guards up and looking at Daniels warily, they said, "What are you doing? What happened today has nothing to do with him!"

Lucas was stunned, not expecting the two women to suddenly stand out and shield him.

Apart from feeling surprised, Lucas was touched.

William and Karen were terrified of Daniels and his men, while the sisters, who had obviously guessed Daniels's identity, still dared to stand in front of him to protect him. Their bravery and loyalty were rare!

Lucas gently patted Cheyenne's and Charlotte's shoulders and said with a smile, "Don't worry. It's alright." As he spoke, he walked out and stood in front of Daniels.

Smiling, Daniels took out a check from his pocket and respectfully handed it to Lucas with both hands. "Mr. Gray, I'm really sorry for accidentally hurting Mr. Carter in the clubhouse earlier. This check for 380,000 and these supplements are compensation for Mr. Carter."

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Daniels's words immediately made all the Carters dumbfounded. They almost couldn't believe their ears.

To their further surprise, Lucas said calmly, "The apology and compensation aren't for me."

"Yes, Mr. Gray! I'm so muddle-headed. Hahaha." Daniels chuckled and bowed to Lucas apologetically.

Everyone watched in shock as Daniels walked to the dumbfounded William, bowed, and apologized again. He then stuffed the check into William's hand.

Daniels then glanced at the two young men he brought behind him.

Without saying a word, these two young men kneeled directly in front of William and bowed. "I'm sorry, Mr. Carter. We shouldn't have hit you. Please forgive us!"

Astonished, William was at a loss for words.

Daniels was a formidable figure in the Opulence, but he actually brought his men here to apologize. It seemed like something that would happen only in dreams!

William stood still on the spot, dumbfounded. He dared not believe it at all. However, Karen became brazen after hearing about the money, and she immediately snatched the check away from William.

Looking at Daniels, who seemed refined and harmless and even apologized to them politely, Karen immediately stopped feeling as nervous as she was just now and said haughtily, "Hmph, we'll accept your apology this time. But if you dare to get physical with William again, we won't let it go so easily! What are you waiting for? Scram."

Daniels looked up at Lucas, waiting for his instructions.

After all, he came here mainly to apologize to Lucas to convince him to drop the matter. He didn't take William and Karen seriously at all!

Lucas nodded slightly. Only then did Daniels feel relieved and leave with his underlings.

After seeing Lucas nod and only then did Daniels leave, William finally came to a sudden realization.

In fact, William was not always foolish. He could tell that Daniels was here to apologize only because of Lucas.

The fact that Lucas came back from the clubhouse in one piece was strange too.

William glanced at Lucas before turning around to go back to his room.

But as soon as he entered, he grabbed the check from Karen's hand and shouted, "This is compensation for me. Why are you snatching it from me? When I was beaten up by them, you didn't say you were going to save me, bitch. Didn't you just say you want a divorce? Do you still want a divorce now?"

"Damn it! How can you be so self-righteous even though you gambled and lost so much money?" Karen immediately rushed forward and started screaming at him.

But this time, no one went forward to stop the fight.

Charlotte even seemed displeased. "Hah, they're arguing all day. I really can't stand it anymore."

Cheyenne felt the same way too, especially since they would really scare Amelia.

After Lucas and Cheyenne returned to her room, they saw Amelia all huddled up and shivering in a corner.

Cheyenne gently lifted the duvet and called Amelia's name. As soon as she did, Amelia pounced on her and grabbed her neck with tears in her eyes. "Mommy, I'm scared..."

Cheyenne and Lucas were heartbroken to see this, and they immediately pulled Amelia into their arms. Patting her on her back to comfort her, Cheyenne said, "Don't be scared. Daddy and Mommy are home now. You don't have to be scared anymore!"

"Daddy... Mommy, you two... weren't at home, and Grandma and Grandpa kept arguing. It was so scary!" Amelia wailed while tugging their clothes.

The two of them comforted Amelia for a long time before she stopped crying and slowly dozed off.

Seeing how frightened their daughter was, the two of them were extremely upset.

Cheyenne suddenly said, "Lucas, let's move out!"

Chapter 123: Pestering

Cheyenne stroked the loose strands of hair on Amelia's forehead and said seriously, "I've thought about it for a long time now. I really don't want Amelia to continue living in such a rowdy environment where she develops negative emotions every day. Amelia is

so scared and frightened all the time, and I think it'll greatly affect her growth and character. I want her to live a happy life full of bliss and laughter."

Upon hearing what Cheyenne said, Lucas was immediately overjoyed. He had had these thoughts previously too, but he was worried that Cheyenne might not bear to leave her parents, so he had been holding himself back. "Okay, let's take Amelia to my lakeside villa tomorrow."

Cheyenne was about to nod, but she suddenly said, "What about Charlotte? If we move out, she's going to be all alone here. She'll definitely be upset."

Lucas wanted to say that it would be better to let Charlotte move to the lakeside villa together with them, but he thought about it and felt that it was inappropriate.

Besides, given Charlotte's character, she would definitely not be willing to move in with them.

Lucas thought about it and said, "Why don't all of us move together? The villa is huge, and there are several wings. We can just live in separate wings. When they argue, we won't hear it either."

The floor area of the lakeside villa was enormous, and there was only one villa in the entire Pearl Lake area.

Actually, it was more like a manor with several buildings, gardens, pools, docks, and all sorts of amenities.

Cheyenne shook her head. "Even if we live separately in the same villa, my parents will still get in a tizzy during huge fights. I'd like to think about it."

"Sure. Let me know after you've made up your mind," Lucas said.

He was well aware of Cheyenne's concerns, which were mainly regarding William and Karen.

Cheyenne and Charlotte were really unlucky to have such parents.

The next morning, Lucas sent Cheyenne to the Brilliance Corporation and then drove to the Stardust Corporation to handle some matters.

Lucas just got out of his car outside the office when he heard a familiar and angry voice. "I said I have to get to work. Stop wasting my time here!"

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It was Charlotte.

Lucas looked over and saw a small group of people gathered at the entrance of the Stardust Corporation. Charlotte appeared extremely annoyed, and she wanted to head inside, but a young man of about 25 years old reached out to stop her.

Lucas narrowed his eyes. He knew who this man was. It was Declan Adams, the scumbag whom Charlotte once carried a torch for in college and the husband of Aston Brooke's sister.

At this moment, Declan was obviously pestering Charlotte.

"Charlotte, you used to like me so much. I believe your feelings for me wouldn't fade so soon. You must still harbor feelings for me now, don't you? In that case, why can't we start over afresh?" Declan said, looking like a devoted man.

Charlotte had a look of disgust. "Declan Adams, did you forget that you got married a long time ago? How dare a married man like you talk about starting over afresh with someone else? You're so shameless! You have no shame, but I do! Besides, I was blind to have had a crush on you in college. What makes you think I'm still fond of you?"

Declan insisted like a devoted lover. "Charlotte, I know you're only saying those things out of pique. You obviously still like me. The gaze in your eyes when we met last time can't fool me! Don't worry. Just give me some more time. I will divorce that woman and marry you! This time, I will never let you down, and I promise I'll treat you well! Please say yes!"

While speaking, Declan reached out to grab Charlotte's hand.

"Show me some respect!" Charlotte screamed furiously and took a few steps back to dodge.

"I've already said that I stopped having feelings for you long ago and that I have no intention to marry you at all! If you keep pestering me like this, I'm going to call security!" Charlotte was so enraged by Declan's shamelessness that her face was flushed.

"No, I know you're angry that I didn't choose you back then. Don't worry. I promise that you're the only one I will marry in this lifetime. You are mine!" Declan reached out to grab Charlotte again.

Charlotte was incensed, but to a lunatic like Declan, nothing she said would help. She wanted to leave, but he kept stopping her.

The people gathered around them were all the office staff, and they thought it was just a young couple's fight. So, apart from pointing fingers and gossiping, no one went forward to intervene.

Suddenly, a figure appeared in front of Charlotte and shielded her from Declan.

“Get lost! If you pester her again, I won’t be polite!” Lucas sneered.

After being stopped, Declan shouted in displeasure, “Don’t be so nosy!” But he soon realized that the person who stopped in front of him was actually Lucas!

As soon as Charlotte heard Lucas’s voice, she felt that she had found a savior and hurriedly tugged the hem of his clothes. She said to Declan, “Did you hear that? My boyfriend told you to get lost! Otherwise, he’ll teach you a lesson!”

Declan glared daggers at Lucas. “Like I said, you’re just trying to spite me on purpose. I checked long ago. Lucas Gray isn’t your boyfriend but your sister’s good-for-nothing loser husband.”

“You!” Charlotte was about to argue with him again when she heard Declan calling Lucas a good-for-nothing.

Lucas raised his hand to stop Charlotte. “Go to work. Let me handle this.”

Seeing that it was indeed getting late, Charlotte could no longer bother with this. She simply nodded to Lucas and entered the Stardust Corporation office building.

Declan wanted to chase after her, but Lucas stopped him. He had no choice but to watch Charlotte vanish into the building.

“Damn it! Lucas Gray, I won’t spare you since you’ve ruined my plans!” Declan glowered at Lucas.

“Haha, you’re already married, but you’re here to pester another woman. I wonder what’s going to happen to you when your wife and the Brookes find out about this,” Lucas said coldly.

Declan panicked and immediately snapped at Lucas, “You loser, how dare you threaten me?!”

Chapter 124: Take the Dog Away

Lucas kept the same expression and said, “If you hadn’t come to pester Charlotte shamelessly, I wouldn’t bother with your stupid affairs. But if you dare to get any funny ideas about Charlotte, don’t blame me for being nasty.”

Declan burst into laughter. “Hah, who do you think you are? What right do you have to poke your nose into my business? I can do whatever I want. What are you going to do about it?”

Lucas sneered. "It seems that you really need to be properly disciplined by the Brookes."

Declan flew into a rage.

Although Declan was not exactly considered a live-in son-in-law when he married Estelle Brooke, it was true that his family was far inferior to hers. If not for the fact that Declan looked like a handsome dandy and managed to charm Estelle, he would have never gotten the chance to marry the daughter of a first-tier family.

It was also true that this was the reason the Brookes looked down on him, and he could never hold his head high in front of them. Lucas's words had truly struck a sour chord within him.

"Hmph, you yourself are just a live-in son-in-law. What gives you the right to say that to me? At least, I'm still the son-in-law of the Brookes. But what about you? You're not even worthy of carrying the Brookes' shoes!"

Lucas didn't continue spouting any nonsense and instead whipped out his phone to make a call. "Go inform the Brookes in LA that one of their dogs is on the loose and barking in front of the Stardust Corporation. Tell them to come and take this idiot away within ten minutes, or else they shouldn't blame me for being merciless."

Declan grimaced in rage. *How dare he call me a dog on the loose?! He even called me an idiot!*

He thought Lucas was definitely just pretending to be calling someone. He didn't believe that Lucas would be able to order the Brookes around.

"You are the dog. Your entire family are dogs..." Declan was just about to continue cursing, but Lucas suddenly punched his mouth, causing him to retreat several steps before falling hard onto the ground. He was bleeding from his mouth and at a loss for words.

Staring at Declan with a gloomy gaze as if he was looking at a dead person, Lucas berated, "Watch your language. If I find out that you're pestering Charlotte again, I will definitely make you regret living in this world!"

After saying this, Lucas glanced at him coldly and then turned around to leave without looking back.

Behind him, Declan covered his numb and bleeding lips while looking at Lucas with a gaze full of resentment. "Lucas Gray, just you wait! I'll get someone to kill you. I'll see if you can still be so arrogant with me!"

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At this moment, a Mercedes-Benz commercial car sped over and pulled up at the entrance of the Stardust Corporation. Aston Brooke walked out and looked around at the surroundings anxiously.

Soon, he saw Declan sitting on the ground with blood flowing out of his mouth.

In an instant, Aston realized who the person who caused trouble at the Stardust Corporation was.

Aston stepped forward, grabbed Declan's collar, and lifted him up from the ground. "You're causing trouble because you're living too comfortably, huh? Who told you to come to the Stardust Corporation to cause trouble? Why are you here?"

Then he slapped Declan mercilessly.

Declan's originally handsome face immediately became swollen, and his mouth was full of fresh blood. He looked extremely disheveled and no longer as suave as earlier.

Only now did Declan realize that Lucas had really called the Brookes and got Aston to come over.

Declan didn't dare to say that he was here to pester Charlotte. If he did, Aston would definitely cripple him right then and there!

Declan spluttered, "I-I just happened to run into a f-former college schoolmate here and c-chatted with her, but her relative suddenly dashed out and beat me up. My teeth were almost knocked out! Aston, you must avenge me!"

Declan started complaining to Aston.

Aston shot Declan a look of disgust. *If Estelle hadn't fallen for this dandy's good looks, a loser like him would never be fit to be a part of the family!*

"Enough! Put away your sissy tricks. I'm not Estelle. Stop being so disgusting. Tell me honestly. What exactly did you do here just now? I can tell you, Grandpa personally called me and asked me to come to the Stardust Corporation to pick you up. If you don't give me an explanation, get your ass back to LA and explain to Grandpa!"

Declan was instantly frightened. Apart from Aston, the person he was most afraid of was the patriarch of the Brooke family, the elderly Mr. Brooke. If he had to explain to the elderly Mr. Brooke, he would be dead meat!

Besides, a single call from Lucas actually managed to alarm the Brookes and get the elderly Mr. Brooke to send someone to take him back.

“He’s just a lowly live-in son-in-law!” While Declan was thinking this to himself in astonishment, he subconsciously said it out loud.

“What lowly live-in son-in-law? Who exactly did you offend?” Aston grasped the main point immediately.

“He’s just... a little loser. I’m certain that he definitely isn’t a big shot!” Declan exclaimed.

Aston immediately slapped Declan hard on his face.

“Loser? Who can be more of a loser than you? If not for Estelle’s sake, I would have killed you long ago! Tell me, where is that person? Go and apologize to him now. You might still make it! Otherwise, you can go back to the Brooke family and die!”

Someone who could make Grandpa instruct me to come here and bring Declan back must be a big shot. Only a fool like Declan would call him a loser.

Declan pointed at the entrance of the Stardust Corporation and said sulkily, “He went in.”

Aston inhaled sharply, wishing he could slap Declan to death!

He had been in Orange County for such a long time, all for the sake of expanding the family’s business to Orange County, but to no avail, unfortunately. Among the companies that the family wanted to cooperate with the most, the Stardust Corporation was one of them. As long as they could reach a cooperation agreement with it, the Brookes would develop better.

However, Aston had already tried to contact Flynn Davis of the Stardust Corporation several times, only to be rejected. There was no chance for them to meet at all.

Aston was still thinking of a way to get close to the Stardust Corporation, yet Declan foiled all his plans. This time, he offended a big shot of the Stardust Corporation!

Aston glowered at Declan resentfully and barked, “You’re so incompetent! If you don’t make it up to him later and seek his forgiveness, you’d better get lost from the Brooke family!”

Chapter 125: It’s Actually Him

At this moment, Lucas had already entered the Stardust Corporation office and was sitting in the CEO’s office on the top floor with Flynn Davis standing beside him cautiously.

“Mr. Gray, do you have any instructions for me today?” Davis asked respectfully.

Although Lucas was the chairman of the Stardust Corporation, he left it to Davis to handle most of the company affairs and rarely showed up at the office unless it was for some major matters.

Lucas said with a sullen expression, “I remember telling you before that I don’t want to see any business belonging to the Brooke family in Orange County. However, now I’ve heard that they’ve found some partners to gain a foothold in the county.”

As soon as he heard Lucas questioning about this matter, Davis’s heart sank, and a helpless and bitter smile appeared on his face. “Mr. Gray, I gave instructions for this matter, but the Stardust Corporation is not the only corporation in Orange County. Although everyone is showing us respect on account of the Huttons... the Stardust Corporation is not deep-rooted in Orange County, and there are many things that we can’t control even if we want to!”

Lucas fell silent.

Indeed, just as Davis said, the reason that the families in Orange County were scrambling to cooperate with the Stardust Corporation and sucking up to them was not necessarily because of the power held by the Stardust Corporation. But because they wanted to take advantage of the opportunity of cooperating with the Stardust Corporation to forge closer ties with the Huttons.

After all, the Stardust Corporation had moved to Orange County not long ago. Its power alone was not enough to make everyone fearful.

After the news of the Stardust Corporation’s refusal of any cooperation with the Brookes spread, many businesses and enterprises declined to cooperate with the Brookes in order to show their support for the Stardust Corporation. However, there were countless businesses in Orange County, and there were definitely some that would agree to cooperate with the Brookes for the sake of the huge profits promised.

In addition, the Stardust Corporation had just been returned to Lucas from the Huttons not long ago, and many of the projects that had been operating well were all taken back by the Huttons, leaving Lucas’s Stardust Corporation much weaker than it was before. This was also the reason that many gradually began to be contemptuous toward it.

“It seems that we’re still too laid back. We have to speed up in our progress and reach a point where no one can underestimate us,” Lucas said with great determination as a sharp glint appeared in his eyes.

Moreover, it wouldn’t only be in Orange County. One day, he would visit the Huttons in Washington DC and make sure they returned everything they owed him and his mother!

Davis's heart was burning with zeal and fervor as he answered loudly, "Yes, Mr. Gray!"

At this moment, an assistant knocked on the door and asked for some instructions outside the door. "Mr. Davis, two people claiming to be from the Brooke family in LA would like to see you regarding something important. Would you like to see them?"

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When Davis heard that it was the Brooke family of LA, he immediately frowned. "No! Tell them to get lost immediately."

Lucas had just been upset because of the Brookes, yet they were now here. If Lucas were to misunderstand that he had something to do with the Brookes, he would be in trouble.

But after hearing what they said, Lucas suddenly interjected, "No, tell them to come up."

Soon, Declan and Aston arrived at the top floor of the Stardust Corporation and were brought to the chairman's office.

Aston was quite surprised. As far as he knew, the spokesman of the Stardust Corporation was the general manager, Flynn Davis. And no one knew the exact identity of the chairman except for a few insiders of the company. He was extremely mysterious.

The assistant brought us directly to the chairman's office. Does that mean we're going to meet the mysterious chairman? He wondered.

All of a sudden, Aston felt extremely agitated and excited but also regretful and uneasy.

Under normal circumstances, Aston would be overjoyed to meet the person with the highest authority in the Stardust Corporation and get closer to him.

However, he was here today with Declan to apologize to the big shot Declan offended. At this moment, he actually ran into the chairman, making things awkward, and he reckoned that it would worsen his first impression of them.

Who would have a good feeling about an outsider who offended their subordinate?

At the thought of this, Aston glowered at Declan and put the blame on him.

The assistant knocked gently on the door and said respectfully, "Mr. Gray, Mr. Davis, the Brookes are here."

"Let them in," Davis said calmly.

The assistant pushed open the door and invited both Aston and Declan in.

As soon as they entered the chairman's office, Aston noticed the two people at the desk in front of him. One of them was a middle-aged man in a suit standing at the side. He was none other than Flynn Davis, the general manager of the Stardust Corporation, whom Aston had met once.

The other man sitting on the large and spacious chair beside him looked extremely familiar. It was...

Aston was astonished. He stared at Lucas for a good few seconds before recognizing who he was!

He was incredibly shocked. Even though Aston had seen a lot of the world and had dealt with all sorts of people, giving him impeccable communication skills, he was so shocked that he was almost disoriented. He gaped and stared at Lucas, at a complete loss for words.

Aston wasn't a fool, and he had been raised as an elite of the Brooke family, so he was quite knowledgeable. Seeing Davis standing at the side while Lucas was sitting, he knew that the chairman was none other than Lucas!

Lucas turned out to be the mysterious chairman of the Stardust Corporation, something Aston never expected!

Thinking about how he had gotten into several conflicts with Lucas before and even tried to plot against Cheyenne, Aston felt a cold chill down his spine, and he broke out in cold sweat.

As soon as Declan saw Lucas sitting at the desk, he immediately reached out and pointed at him. "Aston, I swear I only got into a minor conflict with this good-for-nothing just now. I didn't offend any big shot!"

Smack!

Aston slapped Declan hard again and snapped, "Fool!"

Chapter 126: As Stupid as a Pig

At this moment, Aston really wished he could kill his brother-in-law, who was as stupid as a pig!

Anyone with a clear mind would have associated Lucas's identity with an extraordinary figure after seeing him in the chairman's office.

Only a fool like Declan would have a death wish and have the audacity to call him a good-for-nothing.

They had already offended Lucas, and they were here to apologize to him. Furthermore, Davis finally gave him the chance to meet him, yet Declan added fuel to the fire and foiled his plans. He was truly a dimwit!

The more Aston thought about it, the angrier he got. He raised his hand and couldn't resist the urge to slap Declan several times in a row. "Now that things have come to this, you still have the audacity to speak ill of Mr. Gray! You imbecile! Are you brainless or blind? You have repeatedly offended Mr. Gray. What are you waiting for? Hurry up and kneel down to apologize to him."

Aston kicked and punched Declan mercilessly, causing the latter to bury his head in his hands and beg for mercy. He had already been slapped swollen earlier, and now that there was blood all over his face, he looked extremely hideous.

Declan felt aggrieved and mistreated. *Why is Aston hitting me and forcing me to kneel and apologize to Lucas Gray?*

But while being beaten up badly by Aston, Declan had no choice but to bear with the humiliation and kneel through gritted teeth. "Mr. Gray, I'm sorry..."

Seeing how reluctant Declan was, Aston slapped him hard on his head again and ordered, "Apologize and reflect on yourself! If Mr. Gray doesn't forgive you, you will remain here on your knees! Grandpa has already said that if you can't satisfy Mr. Gray, you'll die, you good-for-nothing!"

Declan immediately shuddered in fear. He could tell that Aston was not putting on a show for Lucas but was serious about it! If he couldn't get Lucas to forgive him, the Brookes would really kill him!

At the thought of this, Declan shivered from head to toe and thumped himself down onto the ground. "I'm sorry, Mr. Gray. I was too ignorant and offended you. I'm just a dimwit. Please be kind and forgive me. Please don't hold it against me!"

This time, Declan's apologetic attitude was much more sincere than before.

Lucas had been watching them indifferently. He didn't even frown when Declan was beaten by Aston to the point of bleeding.

At this point, Lucas finally smiled calmly and looked at Aston. "You're not considered stupid, but do you know how he offended me just now?"

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Aston shook his head. Although he had questioned Declan downstairs, Declan said that he met his college classmate and chatted with her briefly. But Lucas soon dashed forward to hit him. However, it was obvious that Declan was lying.

Why would someone of Lucas's status beat up the foolish Declan for no reason?

"Find out what happened clearly before you come and apologize to me." Lucas leaned back on the large chair and looked at Aston composedly.

Aston dared not delay any longer. He picked Declan up by the collar and hollered, "Speak up! What exactly happened? How did you offend Mr. Gray? If you lie, I'll kill you right now!"

Aston was giving out an intense murderous intent. Declan was so frightened that he shivered and no longer dared to hide anything. He came clean about everything that happened between him and Charlotte at the door, followed by his conflict with Lucas.

After hearing this, Aston got even angrier as he glared daggers at Declan, wishing he could strangle him to death immediately!

This loser actually had the audacity to pester another woman behind my sister's back! And the woman is actually Lucas Gray's sister-in-law!

This fool has a death wish!

Furious, Aston grabbed the ashtray on the coffee table next to him and smashed it against Declan's head.

At this moment, he really wanted to kill this useless idiot!

"Stop!" Davis suddenly shouted to stop Aston. "We don't care what you want to do to him, but don't make trouble in the Stardust Corporation and dirty our place!"

Jolted awake by the loud shout, Aston finally recovered from his outrage and hurriedly put down the ashtray in his hand, bowed, and apologized, "I'm sorry, Mr. Gray, Mr. Davis. I was just too angry, and I almost alarmed you two. I'm so sorry!"

Lucas raised an eyebrow. "Now that you know what happened, what do you plan to do?"

Aston thought for a moment and said decisively, "In order to express my apology and compensate you, my family and I are willing to leave Orange County and never step foot into the county again unless we have your permission!"

Aston was quick to declare this, but he was already feeling the pinch.

For the sake of expanding their businesses to Orange County, the Brookes had done a lot of work and spent many resources to finally open up a small market. But it seemed it would have to be for nothing.

The fact that a phone call could make the elderly Mr. Brooke send Aston Brooke to placate the furious Lucas meant that he was not to be provoked.

If the market was gone, they could choose to expand to another place. But if they provoked Lucas, he couldn't imagine the consequences.

After hearing what Aston said, Lucas suddenly smiled. "In fact, I am a person who won't offend others unless they offend me. If you touch my family, I'll pay it back to you ten-fold!"

"You two had the guts to harbor designs on my wife and bully my sister-in-law. According to my usual practice, there's no way I would let you two still live in the world."

The cold sweat on Aston's body instantly drenched his clothes, and his calves were trembling.

He thought that he had hidden his designs on Cheyenne very deeply. The plan he had intended to execute at the Opulence yesterday fell through, so he was still somewhat fortunate. But now, Lucas's words clearly told him that Lucas had long seen through his lewd thoughts and was now thinking of killing him!

As for whether Lucas could really take his life, Aston didn't doubt it at all.

Based on what happened at the Opulence yesterday, the two experts who followed Lucas could easily kill him without letting others detect anything!

Aston reached out and wiped the cold sweat from his forehead. He forced himself to calm down before saying reluctantly, "Mr. Gray, since you've said that, you've probably changed your mind, right? What are you planning to do to us now?"

Chapter 127: Pledge Allegiance to Me

"No, don't kill me! If you kill me, you'll be breaking the law!" Declan was beaten into a pulp by Aston, and it took him a long time to sober up slightly. He then heard Lucas saying that he wouldn't spare their lives, making him howl loudly.

Lucas frowned with some annoyance in his eyes while Aston immediately kicked Declan hard. "Shut up! You disgraceful thing, get lost back to LA and reflect on yourself. You're not allowed to leave your home again!"

As soon as Declan heard this, he was relieved and hurriedly pushed the door open to scurry out.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Gray. We will teach him a good lesson, and he won’t appear in front of you or create trouble for you again in the future,” Aston hurriedly said, for fear that Lucas would be angry again.

Lucas had never taken a small fry like Declan seriously anyway. He simply said right away, “It seems that you and your grandfather aren’t fools, so I’ll cut straight to the chase. I can help your family expand your business into Orange County and even bring you huge benefits that you can’t imagine. However, I want your family to pledge allegiance in exchange.”

Lucas’s words were totally beyond Aston’s expectations. *Lucas Gray isn’t planning to punish us and chase us out of Orange County but is instead offering to provide some benefits for us? Does this mean he wants to cooperate with our family?*

Aston was overjoyed. If he could cooperate with the Stardust Corporation, which was backed by the Huttons, it would undoubtedly bring enormous benefits to the Brookes!

However, what does he mean by pledge allegiance?

“Mr. Gray, what do you mean by pledge allegiance?” Aston asked cautiously. If he could have the support of the Huttons because of the Stardust Corporation, that would be wonderful!

Lucas chuckled. “I mean that I want the Brookes to pledge allegiance to me.”

Aston’s eyes widened in shock as he looked at Lucas’s indifferent expression.

Afterward, Lucas said some things to him that made Aston look even more astounded. The plans that Lucas mentioned were just too brazen and insane!

Moreover, Lucas’s identity was a shock to him.

Aston felt as though he was being struck by consecutive bolts out of the blue, making him dizzy and putting him at a loss for words.

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“Okay. I know that this is something that you don’t have a say in. You can relay my words to your grandfather and let him come to a decision. It’s up to you to decide if you want to pledge allegiance to me or be at odds with me.” Lucas narrowed his eyes and waved his hand, signaling that Aston could take his leave.

Aston hurriedly left the Stardust Corporation office, still clad in his clothes drenched in sweat.

The things that Lucas said just now were too important. Although the choice seemed simple, it concerned the future fate of the Brookes!

Since Aston was in no place to make a decision, he immediately drove back to LA to break the news to his grandfather!

After Aston left the chairman's office in a hurry, Davis couldn't help but ask worriedly, "Mr. Gray, what if Aston Brooke goes to the Huttons and tells them about what you just told him... Wouldn't that put you in a disadvantageous position?"

Lucas shook his head. "No, they aren't that stupid. If the Brookes really snitch on us, that would mean that they choose to be at odds with me. The Huttons might not necessarily give them many benefits, but they would have to face my wrath. They wouldn't dare to take such a risk.

"Besides, even if they decide to snitch, what can the Huttons do to me?" Lucas said with a domineering aura. Although the Huttons were feared by many in DC, they were insignificant to Lucas.

Davis soon recovered from the shock. Lucas was a member of the Hutton family in the first place. And in fact, on the first day he returned to Orange County, Chad Kennedy, the head butler of the Huttons, had looked for Lucas and asked him to go back to DC and take over the Hutton empire. However, Lucas declined without hesitation.

Therefore, Lucas did have the right to be disdainful toward the Huttons.

Davis was unclear about Lucas's abilities, but he knew that Lucas definitely had the ability to fulfill his plan!

"In a while, tell some enterprises to get connected to the Brookes and agree to cooperate with them. We'll consider it a little bit of goodwill I'm giving them."

After giving some instructions, Lucas suddenly recalled something. "Furthermore, Charlotte's character and aptitude are pretty good. Try to train her well as soon as possible and get her ready to take on an authoritative position."

Lucas was now short of staff, especially ones he could trust. Besides, Charlotte was Cheyenne's sister, so he definitely trusted her. He believed that she would be of great help to him as long as she was trained and groomed well.

"Yes, Mr. Gray!" Davis agreed with a nod.

While Lucas was going downstairs to leave the office, he ran into Charlotte.

“Lucas, are you alright? I just saw that bastard Declan Adams entering the office with Scarlet’s boyfriend and going to the top floor to see the general manager. They didn’t make things hard for you, did they?” Charlotte asked worriedly.

Charlotte had seen how powerful Lucas was, and thus she wasn’t worried that the scumbag would be able to do anything to him. But if others got involved in nitpicking on Lucas, it would be hard to say.

“It’s okay. The man next to Adams just now actually happens to be his brother-in-law. Adams got beaten up badly just now, and he won’t dare to pester you again,” Lucas said smilingly without explaining much.

Feeling relieved, Charlotte exclaimed, “Serves him right! He’s already married, but he’s still so shameless. He deserves to be beaten to death by his wife’s family!”

“But why are you here, Lucas?” Charlotte asked in puzzlement after rejoicing.

“I just happened to come over to talk to Mr. Davis for some matters,” Lucas said.

“You know the general manager?” Charlotte was even more surprised.

Lucas said casually, “Well, I got to know him some time ago, and we have some ties with each other. If you encounter any trouble in the company or get bullied by anyone, just go to him. Don’t stand on ceremony.”

Charlotte immediately understood. Then she joked, “Sure, I’ll throw my weight around in the future by using your name!”

At this moment, her colleague came and said to Charlotte, “So you’re here. Mr. Davis is looking for you. He would like you to go to his office.”

Startled, Charlotte pointed at her nose in disbelief. “Me?”

“Of course. Is there someone else named Charlotte Carter in our company? Hurry and go,” the colleague urged.

Chapter 128: I Want to Rely on Myself

Charlotte suddenly became a little uneasy.

She was just talking to Lucas about Flynn Davis, and moments later, she was asked to go to the latter’s office to discuss something. She was just a new employee and didn’t know what they could discuss.

Lucas smiled. "Don't worry. It won't be anything bad."

Thinking that Lucas just said he was acquainted with Davis, Charlotte felt less worried and headed to Davis's office upstairs.

"Mr. Davis, were you looking for me?"

In fact, when facing Davis, Charlotte was still slightly unnatural because some time ago, she had rushed into his office on the first day she joined the Stardust Corporation and even scolded him for the sake of the Carters and Cheyenne. So whenever she saw Davis, she would feel embarrassed.

"Charlotte, come and have a seat." Davis pointed at the couch opposite him politely. He even poured a cup of tea for her and placed the cup beside her hand.

Charlotte immediately felt very surprised and flattered, and she quickly stood up to thank him.

"Charlotte, I asked you to come here today mainly because I saw your good performance in the company. Hence, I would like to groom you by having you be my assistant and helping me manage the daily affairs of the company," Davis said without too many pleasantries.

Charlotte was instantly shocked.

To be Flynn Davis's assistant, that is, the assistant to the general manager, she would definitely enjoy huge authority that ordinary people couldn't have. In fact, it was rare for a newbie like Charlotte to be given such a high position.

Charlotte was surprised. But after some thought, she quickly understood what was going on. "Are you doing this in consideration of my brother-in-law?"

Lucas had just mentioned to Charlotte about his relationship with Davis. And now, Davis actually said that he would have her become his assistant and train her. This was the only explanation that sounded reasonable.

Davis was slightly surprised. "Has he... told you everything?"

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"Yes, Lucas just told me that you two are close friends who got to know each other in the past, so you'd take care of me on his account."

Davis almost thought that Lucas had already told her that he was the chairman of the Stardust Corporation. It seemed that he didn't reveal anything. He nearly exposed him just now.

“Ahem, that’s right. I do have a close friendship with him, and he has given me a lot of help. Without him, I wouldn’t be who I am now. Of course, I want to promote you to be my assistant not entirely because of my ties with him. You are quite competent and have great potential.”

Charlotte thought about it for a while before shaking her head slightly. “Thank you for giving me this opportunity, Mr. Davis. I just joined the company, and I’m still a greenhorn. If I suddenly take on the position of assistant to the general manager, many people would have opinions, even if they don’t say anything. I don’t think I can do it myself either... Still, I have to thank you for your kindness.”

Charlotte’s polite refusal was quite a bit of a surprise to Davis. Most people would be overjoyed to hear about a sudden promotion, yet Charlotte actually considered seriously if she was really competent enough for the job.

“Actually, you don’t have to worry too much. I don’t have just one assistant. After you come, I will have someone teach you everything until you are familiar with the entire daily operations of the company.

“You don’t have to worry about the opinions of others. This is my decision. If anyone dares to gossip, I will fire them immediately.” Davis persuaded as much as he could. After all, it was a task that Lucas had given him.

Moreover, after some consideration, Davis thought that he could train an assistant if he wanted, and there was no need for her to worry about anyone criticizing her.

After all, she would be his assistant, and she only needed to be responsible to him, regardless of other people’s opinions.

Charlotte shook her head profusely. “Mr. Davis, I know you mean well, but I still want to get promoted and get what I want based on my own ability. Otherwise, I would feel uneasy.

“Besides, I can learn a lot by starting from a low level. If my ability becomes good enough for me to be promoted one day, I will definitely come to you,” Charlotte said with a smile.

Seeing how insistent she was, Davis couldn’t force it any further. “Okay then. Since you want to stay at the low levels to gain experience for now, I’ll give some instructions later to let you get involved in more projects. That shouldn’t be a problem, right?”

“No problem, Mr. Davis! I guarantee that I will complete every task I’m given!” Charlotte replied with a confident smile.

Meanwhile, Aston rushed back to the Brooke family in LA as quickly as he could. The first thing he did when he got home was to race to the room of Andrew Brooke, the head of the family.

“Why are you in such a hurry?” Andrew asked. Seeing how much of a hurry his grandson was in, he couldn’t help but frown. “Is there something wrong with the matters in Orange County? Did you fail to perform the task I gave you well?”

Aston hurriedly shook his head. “I followed your orders and apologized to the person Declan Adams offended. However, there’s another major matter that concerns the future development of our entire family!”

“Is that so?” Andrew had his interest piqued by Aston’s words, and his face became solemn. “Quickly tell me. What is it?”

Aston immediately told Andrew in detail about Lucas’s identity, as well as his plans and requests.

Astonished, Andrew said, “Lucas Gray is actually the chairman of the Stardust Corporation in Orange County and a descendant of the Hutton family in DC?”

Aston nodded. “That’s right. If he hadn’t told me his identity with the general manager of the Stardust Corporation present as a witness, I wouldn’t have believed it. Lucas Gray keeps a low profile in Orange County, and almost no one knows his true identity. They only think he’s a live-in son-in-law. His father-in-law also always calls him a good-for-nothing. It’s apparent that even his wife’s family doesn’t know his identity.”

“Yet he chose to tell you his identity, and he even told you about his plans without restraint. That just goes to show that this Lucas Gray is bold, and he isn’t worried that we might leak his secrets,” Andrew said in a deep voice while stroking his beard.

Aston hurriedly nodded. “Yes, he doesn’t seem scared that we might snitch on him at all. He even wants us to pledge allegiance to him. Grandpa, what are your thoughts on this?”

Chapter 129: The Brookes’ Choices

“Pledge allegiance?” Andrew scoffed. “If he can represent the Huttons or join the family in the future and let us be bound to him, it would be a great opportunity for us. However, he only has one company in Orange County now, and yet he wants to go against the Huttons. I bet he doesn’t know any better. He wants us to pledge allegiance to him? Is he worthy?”

Full of disdain, Andrew thought, *He's just a greenhorn in his twenties, but he has such a massive appetite. He wants to take over the Brooke family? He ought to consider his own abilities before thinking about it!*

"Grandpa, does that mean we're going to turn down cooperating with him?" Aston rubbed his hands.

In fact, ever since Lucas raised that request, the Brookes had three choices.

If they chose to agree, the Brookes would be subordinate to Lucas, and they would have to stand on the same side as him. Furthermore, they could also open up a vast market and expand their businesses into Orange County with his help. If he gained control over the Hutton family in the future, the Brookes would benefit too.

If they refused, the Brookes would no longer have anything to do with Lucas in the future, and it would be even more difficult for them to expand their businesses to Orange County. They would have no choice but to look for another market.

Of course, there was a third option. And that was to look for the Huttons in Washington DC and try to cozy up to them by disclosing Lucas's plans to them so that they could deal with him. However, this option would mean making enemies with Lucas, and they might not necessarily gain benefits from the Huttons. This option would really do more harm than good.

Actually, Aston was inclined to reject the first option, as Lucas was about the same age as him. He was definitely unwilling to let the entire Brooke family pledge allegiance to Lucas and be subordinate to him. So what if he was the chairman of the Stardust Corporation? It was given to him by the Huttons.

But to Aston's surprise, Andrew shook his head and said, "No, you go and tell him that the Brooke family is willing to submit to him."

"Grandpa?" Aston looked at Andrew in bewilderment. "Didn't you just say that he isn't worthy?"

With glistening eyes, Andrew said, "We're just going to tell him that to let the Brookes develop well in Orange County and gain a firm foothold. When he goes against the Huttons in the future, we will sit it out and reap the spoils. If he wins, we will really submit to him. If he doesn't, we'll have nothing to do with him!"

It suddenly dawned on Aston what his grandfather's plan was. *Indeed, elders are sharper and wiser! If we submit to Lucas Gray on the surface, the Brookes won't have anything to lose, and we can even profit greatly! He will only become our tool!*

If Lucas is really bold enough to go against the Huttons in the future, he will be courting death, and the Brookes will be able to retreat unscathed without any losses. If he wins by chance, we will have a bright future as his great helper!

It was a perfect decision that would bring no harm to them!

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“Grandpa, what a wonderful move! I take my hat off to you!” Aston said with heartfelt admiration.

“Hahaha, I’ve lived for many more years than you have after all. Just take your time and learn from me.” Andrew smiled proudly while stroking his beard.

Suddenly, Aston’s phone rang. It was a call from the person in charge of his business in Orange County. “What? Really? That’s great! Okay, follow up closely and draft all the contracts to be signed with them. I’ll sign them when I return!”

With fervor, Aston hung up and turned to say to Andrew, “Grandpa, good news! Our people in Orange County have just received invitations to cooperate with several companies! Previously, these companies all rejected us, but now they’ve extended an invitation to cooperate with us. Seems like we’re going to expand our businesses into Orange County soon!”

After thinking about it, Andrew immediately understood the catch to it. “It seems that Lucas Gray is quick to take action. He’s expressing his sincerity and showing us what he’s capable of!”

It took Aston a long while to recover from his shock and realize that the contracts came about because of Lucas!

The companies that had rejected the Brookes before had naturally done so because of Lucas’s influence. And now that Lucas intended to take the Brookes under his wing and wanted to show goodwill to them, they would definitely offer to cooperate with them. *Lucas Gray is indeed powerful!*

Seemingly interested, Andrew said, “It seems that this kid is indeed a bit interesting. Since he’s smart enough to know what to do, we shouldn’t let his good intentions go in vain. Aston, go back to Orange County now and set up the Solar Corporation branch in Orange County. Invest five million dollars and give Lucas Gray a portion of the shares. However, the Brookes must own 51% of the shares and possess the right to operate and make decisions, got it?”

After thinking about it for a while, Aston understood Andrew’s intentions. He smiled brightly. “Don’t worry, Grandpa. I will definitely make the most out of him!”

That afternoon, Lucas received a package of documents that Aston asked Davis to send him. It contained several contracts and equity transfer documents. It stated clearly that 49% of the shares of the Solar Corporation branch in Orange County would be transferred to Lucas.

“Mr. Gray, it seems that the Brookes are smart enough to know what to do. They’ve given you nearly half of their company’s shares. They seem to be sincere,” Davis said.

“Hehe, do you really think they’re generous enough to give me such a big gift for no reason?” Lucas sneered and slammed the documents against the table.

Davis was puzzled as he flipped through them before asking, “Is there... anything wrong with the shares?”

Lucas said, “There’s nothing wrong with them, but this company is just a newly established shell company. There’s nothing valuable except the registered capital. The Brookes are merely trying to use us to secure a foothold in Orange County.”

Davis finally realized that the Brookes seemed to be giving Lucas a huge present on the surface. But in reality, they were just trying to make use of the power of Lucas and the Stardust Corporation to bring more profits to them.

“That sly old fox Andrew Brooke must have been the one who came up with this idea! They made themselves look magnanimous on the surface but are out to reap all the benefits. It seems the Brookes aren’t that honest.” Lucas sneered. “Since they’ve already made their choice, they shouldn’t blame me for being unkind to the Brooke family in the future.”

Chapter 130: Amelia Encounters a Mishap

Lucas could tell clearly that the Brookes were only agreeing to submit to him on the surface, but in reality, they were just out to use his influence and power to strengthen themselves.

In fact, it wasn’t difficult to guess their mindset. They merely thought that Lucas’s current ability was not enough for him to compete with a big family like the Huttons.

In their eyes, the Stardust Corporation was merely doing well in Orange County because of the prestige of the Huttons. Once Lucas chose to go against the Huttons in the future, he wouldn’t have the slightest advantage or chance of winning at all. They felt that he was just being delusional by thinking that he could win against a family that was far stronger than him.

Lucas's other identity could not be easily exposed, so there was no way he could use it as deterrence either.

However, Lucas wasn't worried. He still had enough time to make both the Stardust Corporation and the Brilliance Corporation quickly expand into astonishing enterprises. By then, he would have greater chips.

At five in the afternoon, Lucas went to the entrance of the Brilliance Corporation as usual to pick Cheyenne up after work. But at this moment, he received a text from Cheyenne. "Lucas, I'm very busy today. I have to work overtime until late at night. Please go and pick Amelia up first."

Lucas imagined the scene of Cheyenne being busy in the general manager's office attentively and couldn't help but shake his head helplessly. He tapped away on his phone to reply. "Okay, got it. I'll send Amelia home and pick you up again at night. Take care of your health. Don't tire yourself out."

By the time Lucas drove to the kindergarten, it was the peak hour for parents to pick their children up after school.

He looked at the entrance of the kindergarten for a while but didn't see Amelia, so he asked a teacher at the door, "Hello, is Amelia still inside?"

During this period of time, Lucas had been fetching Amelia home from the kindergarten every day, so the teacher knew who he was. Hearing his question, the teacher couldn't help but ask in bewilderment, "Huh? Amelia's aunt came to pick her up ten minutes ago. Haven't you guys discussed it?"

"So her aunt came to pick her up today. I really didn't know. Sorry to trouble you!"

Lucas turned around and walked back to his black Jaguar. He was about to open the door to get in and go home, but he suddenly felt that something was amiss.

Logically speaking, he and Cheyenne had been going to pick Amelia up every day, and he knew that Charlotte wouldn't pick her up without telling him. Besides, Cheyenne had texted him to tell him to pick Amelia up, so he reckoned that she wouldn't have told Charlotte to pick her up instead.

At the thought of this, Lucas immediately picked up his phone and called Charlotte. "Did you pick Amelia up at the kindergarten just now?"

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Charlotte was a little stunned. "No, I'm busy with some things in the office now, and I haven't gotten off work yet. Lucas, do you want me to go pick up Amelia? I'll be there as

soon as I finish packing up.” On the other end, there was the sound of someone typing on the keyboard. Clearly, she was still in the office.

Lucas’s heart stopped for a moment. He felt as though he had fallen into an ice cellar. An icy-cold aura abruptly emanated from his body, and there was also a terrifying glint in his eyes.

“Lucas?” Charlotte asked when she didn’t hear him reply.

Lucas took a deep breath, clenched his fists, and tried to calm himself down. Trying to sound as calm as possible, he said, “Oh, since you’re still busy, go ahead and continue with what you’re doing. I’ll go pick Amelia up.”

Lucas turned around and took a big step toward the teacher just now. “Miss Moore, did you just say that Amelia was picked up by her aunt? Are you sure it was her aunt?”

Miss Moore thought about it. “Yes, it was Amelia’s aunt. Amelia even addressed her that way. But it wasn’t Miss Charlotte Carter. I even verified with her, and she made a phone call right on the spot. Your wife indeed sent that lady to pick Amelia up. That’s why we let her take Amelia away.”

Lucas’s face got gloomier, and Miss Moore couldn’t help but feel a little unsettled. “Mr. Gray, is... is there something wrong?”

Lucas clenched his jaw and asked, “Does that woman have long, curly hair and some abrasions on her face? Is there a mole on her right eyebrow too?”

Miss Moore nodded. “Yes. She was wearing a mask at first, but she took it off later. The corners of her lips and her face were red and swollen, but she claimed that it was because of a food allergy. But the mole on her eyebrow was rather striking, so I still remember it very clearly.”

Lucas was instantly overwhelmed with fury as his face became enraged.

The person who had come to take Amelia away was undoubtedly Scarlet Wright!

Scarlet was extremely hostile and malicious toward him and Cheyenne. Previously, at the Opulence, she even got slapped and abandoned by Aston Brooke because of Lucas. Since then, she hated Lucas to the core. She definitely had evil intentions for taking Amelia away from the kindergarten!

At this point, even Miss Moore sensed that something was wrong. She hurriedly asked, “Is... there something wrong with that woman’s identity?”

Lucas didn't have the time to explain anything to her. He turned around right away and strode toward his car. At the same time, he took out his phone and made a call. "Go and find out where Scarlet Wright is right now! Deploy everyone at all costs!"

Lucas was extremely furious, and he was full of a terrifying and murderous aura. It was the first time since he returned to Orange County that he wanted to get someone killed so badly!

If something really happened to Amelia, he would definitely make Scarlet Wright's life a living hell!

At this moment, Scarlet had no idea about Lucas's fury. She was currently sitting in a private room of a bar and glancing at a young man in his thirties sultrily while leaning against him flirtatiously.

"Mr. Hale, you promised that you'd help me take revenge! I almost got disfigured!" Scarlet's face was coated with a thick layer of foundation and concealer to hide the swelling of her face.

When she thought of how she had been hit and abandoned mercilessly by Aston in the Opulence, resentment and anger filled her eyes. She hated Lucas tremendously!

Furthermore, after being slapped by Jordan, she even got slapped and kicked by Aston.

However, Scarlet dared not look for trouble with Jordan now and simply pinned all the blame on Lucas!

The young man next to Scarlet put his arm around her and groped her a few times. "Scarlet, rest assured. Anyone who bullies my woman is insulting me too! I will definitely take revenge for you!"

This man was Logan Hale, the owner of the Cocktail Bar who tried to drug Charlotte previously!

Chapter 131: Tell Her To Come

All snuggled up in Logan's arms, Scarlet poured a glass of wine and fed it to him. "Mr. Hale, I'll count on you then! Have you hid that little bastard well?"

Logan rubbed Scarlet's waist while she was in his arms and took a sip of wine from the glass in her hand. "It's just a little bastard. What's there to worry about? However, if you

want to thank me, one glass of wine is not sincere enough. You should at least accompany me for some fun, right?"

His gaze was full of lust as his hand began to wander about her body.

Scarlet giggled coquettishly and pushed his hand away. "Mr. Hale, don't be impatient. I'll do whatever you want after we settle that bastard!"

She had a smile on her face, but her eyes were full of resentment.

Scarlet had approached Logan of her own accord because he was rather famous among the wealthy playboys of Orange County.

Scarlet hated Lucas Gray, as she felt that William Carter would have fallen for the trap she and Aston had laid in the Opulence the other day if Lucas hadn't come and messed things up. She thought that if Lucas hadn't appeared, Aston would have granted her her wish to marry him.

The beautiful future she had imagined was ruined by that wastrel Lucas. He even caused her to get slapped several times by Aston and even mercilessly abandoned by him.

After that, Dominic Carter found out that she had been abandoned by Aston, and since then, he had been indifferent toward her while the rest of the Carters began mocking her. All the glory that she had enjoyed vanished overnight!

And it was all caused by Lucas!

She wanted to exact revenge on Lucas, but she couldn't do it with her own strength alone. So she took the initiative to look for Logan Hale and even offered to give herself to him as long as he helped her take revenge. In her opinion, it would be best if she could beat Lucas until he was crippled and never able to stand up again!

However, at the same time, Scarlet also knew that she was just one of Logan's countless playthings. Even though he seemed decent, she knew that he was just a promiscuous playboy.

Besides, Scarlet also felt extremely humiliated to give herself to him.

Logan was getting impatient. "That person is just a good-for-nothing, right? I'll get someone to bring him here now and break both of his legs. Soon, the matter will be solved!"

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Scarlet pressed down his hand when he was about to reach in. She forced a smile and said, "Don't be impatient! Let him panic while his daughter is missing. I want him to kneel in front of me today and beg me to give his little bastard back! Besides, that man is a useless live-in son-in-law, but he has two subordinates who are great fighters. Mr. Hale, don't be too careless and let him get away!"

As soon as he heard the words 'live-in son-in-law', Logan paused and said in puzzlement, "Live-in son-in-law? Why does that sound so familiar? I remember that someone is a live-in son-in-law too..."

One of his underlings next to him hurriedly said, "Mr. Hale, that Lucas Gray you told me to check up on before is also a live-in son-in-law, and the beautiful woman you saw last time is his sister-in-law."

Logan then remembered that he had set his sights on a beautiful woman who was drowning her sorrows in liquor alone at his bar a few days ago. But just when the beautiful woman was about to drink his spiked drink, a burly man came to ruin things for him and took the beautiful woman away. He even injured a group of security officers in his bar.

The burly man also mentioned that the person who asked him to protect the beautiful woman was named Lucas Gray.

Later on, Logan told his men to find out who Lucas Gray, the person who foiled his plans, was. It turned out that he was just a live-in son-in-law.

Logan had wanted to find someone to take revenge on Lucas, but he was too busy getting intimate with beautiful girls and almost forgot about it.

At this juncture, hearing that Scarlet wanted to take revenge on a live-in son-in-law too, he couldn't help but ask with great interest, "What a coincidence. Live-in son-in-laws these days are so lawless, arrogant, and tyrannical! Who is the person who offended you?"

Scarlet said through gritted teeth, "That person's name is Lucas Gray, and he's the Carters' live-in son-in-law who got married to Cheyenne Carter six years ago. You might not know his name, but you'd definitely know who he is because he's Cheyenne Carter's loser husband."

As soon as he heard this, Logan immediately clapped his hands and laughed out loud. "Hahahaha! This is really a coincidence! It just so happens that he's the same person who ruined my plans previously. I've been trying to look for him to take revenge! I didn't expect to be helping you take revenge on that same man today! Heaven is really doing justice and helping me! Hahaha!"

Only now did Scarlet know that Lucas had offended Logan before, and Lucas happened to land in Logan's hands today!

"Hmph, it seems that scoundrel is really arrogant. He goes around making enemies. How dare he offend you too! He really deserves it!" Scarlet was overjoyed, her eyes full of a gloating gaze. "I wonder how that bastard offended you."

At the mention of this matter, Logan was overwhelmed with exasperation. "Previously, I finally set my sights on a beautiful woman drinking alone in my bar, but when I was about to hook up with her, this Lucas Gray sent someone over to take that woman away. He even beat up my underlings. I was hopping mad."

A light flashed in Scarlet's eyes. "Were you attracted to Cheyenne Carter or her younger sister, Charlotte?"

Logan said, "She was pretty young. Her name is Charlotte Carter, right?"

"That's right. Her name is Charlotte Carter!" the underling hurriedly said.

"That pair of sisters is quite pretty," Scarlet said sourly while looking at Logan with some evil intentions in her eyes. "Mr. Hale, you failed to hook up with Charlotte Carter, but are you willing to let her go just like that?"

Logan raised his eyebrows. "What do you mean by that?"

"Mr. Hale, think about it. I've already abducted that little bastard, and as her aunt, Charlotte Carter would naturally be anxious as well. You can take this opportunity to get her to come and fulfill your wish, don't you agree? Besides, that little bastard is with us, so she will have to do whatever you want her to. When Lucas comes and sees this scene with his own eyes, he'll be in greater misery because there's nothing he can do about it."

Hearing this, Logan couldn't help but grab Scarlet with great excitement. He guffawed and exclaimed, "Hahaha! You're right! Indeed, women are the most vicious! This is such an evil plan. But I like it. Hahaha!"

Immediately afterward, Logan impatiently instructed his underling, "Go give Charlotte Carter a call and tell her to come here alone. No one else is to be informed, or she will never see that little girl again!"

Chapter 132: Two Beauties Get Into a Great Fight

Meanwhile, Charlotte was planning to head home after she finished packing up at the end of an arduous day of work. But suddenly recalling the phone call she just received from Lucas, she felt uneasy.

Charlotte took out her phone and planned to call Lucas, but her phone screen suddenly lit up at this moment. It was a call from an unknown number.

She casually swiped her finger on the phone screen to answer the call. "Hello?"

A stranger's voice came from the other end. "You're Charlotte Carter, right? Listen up. Your niece is now in our hands. If you don't want anything to happen to her, you'd better come to the Cocktail Bar to pick her up immediately. If you dare to tell anyone about this, you will collect her corpse instead!"

Charlotte panicked, and her heart instantly sank to rock bottom. She felt chilly all over and almost dropped her phone.

By the time she returned to her senses and was about to ask another question, the caller had already hung up.

Dumbfounded, Charlotte looked at her phone while pangs of panic engulfed her.

Amelia was kidnapped? But didn't Lucas just call me to say that he was going to pick her up? How did she end up in the hands of kidnappers...

Oh, right!

At that time, Lucas asked her if she had gone to pick up Amelia. She reckoned that he must have already found out that Amelia had been kidnapped and thus called her to ask about it! Clearly, Amelia was already in trouble at the time, but Lucas probably didn't tell her about it because he was afraid that she might be worried.

Charlotte hated herself for failing to tell that something was wrong and thinking that Lucas was just asking a casual question.

During the phone call just now, the caller told her to go to the Cocktail Bar, a place familiar to her because it was the exact place where she nearly drank the drink that Logan Hale, the owner of the Cocktail Bar, had spiked.

In that case, the culprits who kidnapped Amelia must have come for her. She guessed that the culprit might be Logan Hale!

She had implicated Amelia.

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Charlotte was extremely chagrined and anxious. The only thing she wanted to do was to call Lucas and tell him everything. But what the caller said made her too scared to place the call.

If those people really did something horrible to Amelia, there would be no turning back even if she reproached herself until death!

Charlotte couldn't afford to take the gamble!

Biting her lower lip tightly, she finally made up her mind.

Since Logan's target was her, she should be the one to solve this matter! At least, she had to get Amelia back in one piece!

Charlotte left the office, hailed a cab, and headed straight to the Cocktail Bar!

Soon, the cab arrived at the entrance of the Cocktail Bar. Keeping her head raised high, Charlotte immediately strode over and said coldly to the receptionist, "I'm Charlotte Carter. Where is Logan Hale?"

An underling dressed in waiter's clothes had long been ordered to wait at the side at the front desk. After hearing Charlotte's words, he immediately walked out. "Miss Carter, Mr. Hale has been waiting for a long time. Come with me."

The underling then brought her to a private room in the innermost area on the second floor of the bar. He knocked on the door and said respectfully, "Mr. Hale, Charlotte Carter is here."

"Bring her in!" he exclaimed with excitement.

As soon as Charlotte heard this voice, she couldn't help but feel disgusted. After entering the private room, she saw Logan smiling hypocritically while sitting on the couch leisurely with a scantily clad woman in his embrace. He even slipped his hand into her clothing unrestrainedly.

"Where is Amelia?" Charlotte asked straightaway. She didn't even bother to make any pleasantries.

"Hey, Miss Carter, I had a hard time inviting you here. Why do you look like you want to kill someone? This isn't appropriate. Even if you're gorgeous, your beauty will be downplayed by your expression. You should smile more often because you look the prettiest when you smile," Logan remarked while sighing and clucking his tongue against the roof of his mouth.

Not in the mood to listen to his nonsense at all, Charlotte immediately exclaimed coldly, "Cut the crap! Where is Amelia? You just wanted me to come, right? Now that I'm here, let the kid off!"

"Hah, Charlotte Carter, you're really foolish. Get your facts straight. Now you are the one who is asking us to release that little bastard. Is this the attitude you should have when you're begging someone?" Scarlet said nonchalantly as she raised her head while laying in Logan's arms and staring at Charlotte.

"You... Scarlet? What are you doing here?" Charlotte finally realized that the woman dressed skimpily and cuddled up in Logan's arms was Scarlet!

Immediately afterward, Charlotte figured out the crux of the matter. Amelia went missing at the kindergarten, but the kindergarten's staff had always been quite strict in management and wouldn't let strangers take children away. She reckoned that Scarlet must have used her identity as Amelia's relative to convince the teacher to let her take Amelia away before handing her over to Logan Hale!

The more Charlotte thought about it, the more enraged she was. Glaring at Scarlet, she hollered, "Scarlet Wright! How can you use such a despicable method to take Amelia away? She's just a five-year-old child! Are you still human at all?"

Scarlet sprang up, walked over to Charlotte, and gave her a hard slap on her face!

Smack!

"Shameless bitch, you're in no place to teach me a lesson! Hmph, your loser brother-in-law put me in such a situation and ruined my potential marriage. I took away that little bastard because I want him to panic and make him kneel down and beg me!" Scarlet yelled furiously.

"Scarlet Wright, you bitch, how dare you slap me?!" Charlotte had always been hot-tempered. After shouting, she slapped Scarlet hard on her face.

"Heartless thing! You won't even spare your five-year-old niece! You deserve to be dumped! You've got such a vicious personality. Which man would dare to marry you?! Try hurling vulgarities and slapping me again!" Charlotte cursed furiously while grabbing Scarlet's hair with all her might. She then scratched Scarlet's face with her other hand.

Charlotte was rather brutal when she was fierce. She was totally beating Scarlet into a pulp, leaving the latter with no means to break free. Scarlet could only scream miserably.

Sitting on the couch and resting his head on his hand, Logan watched the two ladies fight with great interest. He had no intentions to stop them at all.

The scene of two beauties slapping each other and yanking at each other's hair was too interesting!

Chapter 133: Untitled

"Mr. Hale! Hurry up and get someone to stop this crazy bitch. She's scratching my face!" Scarlet was no match for Charlotte at all, and she could feel a hot and stinging pain on her face and her head. She hurriedly begged Logan for help, fearing that she would get disfigured.

Logan saw how distressed Scarlet was. She was going to give herself to him later, so if she really got disfigured, he would be the one losing out. He raised his hand and gestured to the few subordinates around him.

His underlings finally went forward and pulled apart the two women embroiled in a scuffle.

Scarlet still wanted to take advantage of Charlotte being pulled away to retaliate and scratch her face a few times, but the sharp gaze in Logan's eyes stopped her.

Logan was still waiting to conquer Charlotte and enjoy a good time with her tonight. How could he allow Scarlet to scratch Charlotte's pretty face?

"I couldn't tell that you're so impressive, Miss Carter. It'll be best if you can be just as amazing in bed later!" Logan said frivolously.

Charlotte was instantly enraged by his words, so much so that her face flushed red. However, she was now alone in a lion's den with various henchmen around her. There was nothing she could do to Logan.

"I said, since I'm here, hurry up and release my niece! As long as she can return home safely, I can do whatever you want! Otherwise, I definitely won't let you off!" Charlotte threatened through clenched teeth.

Logan laughed out loud. "Sweetie, it seems you haven't gotten a clear idea of the situation yet! You're now in my hands, and I can do whatever I want to do to you. Do you think you'll be able to resist? As for that child, I will naturally consider releasing her if you serve me well. Likewise, if you disobey me and anger me, I'll make her die in some corner. Do you understand?"

Logan seemed to have no respect for life or the law at all, and he was talking as if Amelia was not a living human.

Charlotte cursed in anger, "You're such a beast! She's just a five-year-old child. How dare you threaten me with a child? You're not human at all!"

However, Logan didn't waver and even burst into laughter. "Go ahead and continue scolding me. If you want me to send someone to beat that child up, you can continue scolding me in a louder voice."

"You! What exactly do you want?!" Charlotte didn't go all out, fearing that the perverse Logan would really take it out on Amelia. She didn't dare to scold him, but she was so furious that her eyes had already reddened.

"Since I told you to come here, I naturally want to toy with you!"

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Harboring evil intentions, Logan stared at Charlotte, who hadn't had time to change out of her black business suit, and suddenly said, "Take off your clothes first."

"What?" Charlotte felt a chill down her spine. She couldn't help but fold her arms in front of her chest and keep her guard up.

Scarlet humphed coldly. "Hmph, what are you pretending to be chaste and prudish for? You should have been mentally prepared when you were told to come alone, shouldn't you? Mr. Hale has taken a liking to you, and he obviously didn't ask you to come here for a chit-chat session."

Charlotte looked ashamed and humiliated. Although she had already mentally prepared herself for the worst-case scenario before coming, it didn't mean that she could accept it without any resistance.

Apart from Logan and Scarlet, there were five of Logan's underlings in the private room now, all of whom were strangers. After hearing Logan's request, they shifted their burning gazes onto Charlotte, wishing they could see her body through her clothes.

Charlotte really couldn't bring herself to undress in front of everyone!

"What are you still dawdling for? Mr. Hale told you to take off your clothes, so you'd better get undressed now! If you don't want to, we will chop off a finger, a toe, or something else from that little bastard!" Scarlet hollered viciously, feeling gutsy because of Logan.

"No! Don't touch her!" Charlotte yelled without hesitation. She then said reluctantly, "Don't lay a finger on Amelia. I will... strip."

Feeling humiliated, Charlotte instantly burst into tears. She clenched her jaw so tightly that her mouth was full of the odor of blood, and her fingernails dug deep into the flesh

of her palm. She finally reached her trembling hand out and slowly unbuttoned the blazer of her suit, revealing her trim white blouse, skirt, stockings, and high heels that accentuated her perfect figure.

The people in the room began breathing heavier, and their lewd gazes became more and more intense.

Charlotte's body trembled slightly as she kept her eyes shut tightly, not daring to look at the people around her again.

However, Logan whistled loudly, and his devilish voice rang in Charlotte's ears again. "You've got a great figure! Continue, keep undressing."

Meanwhile, a black Jaguar was weaving in and out of the evening rush hour traffic in Orange County, zooming past countless vehicles and speeding toward the bar at top speed.

In the driver's seat, Lucas had an icy-cold gaze in his eyes.

Just now, the people sent by Jordan and Davis had already found Scarlet's whereabouts. She was currently at the Cocktail Bar, but according to the news, Scarlet went in alone and didn't have a five-year-old child with her.

Tallying the information that they discovered from Miss Moore at the kindergarten with the surveillance camera footage, they confirmed that Scarlet was undoubtedly the one who picked Amelia up!

He had no idea what she had done to Amelia or where she had hidden her!

With a murderous gaze in his eyes, Lucas roared, "Scarlet Wright, if you dare to lay a finger on Amelia, I'll make sure that you regret living in this world!"

With a loud bang, the Jaguar directly hit the nearly two-meter-tall neon sign on the ground in front of the bar, after which it fell and was crushed into bits by the car's wheels.

Before the security officers and waiters of the Cocktail Bar could react, Lucas had already gotten out of the car and barged into the bar with Jordan following behind him. Anyone who tried to stop him would be punched hard by Jordan.

In the innermost room on the second floor, tears streamed down Charlotte's face as she was forced to take off her shirt and skirt and was now standing in front of this group of people clad only in her undergarments and stockings. She felt incredibly humiliated.

"There are still a few pieces. Hurry up and take them off, all of them! Otherwise, we'll immediately chop off that little bastard's limbs!" Scarlet shouted with a bizarre excitement as she kept urging Charlotte.

Seeing Charlotte being humiliated, Scarlet felt a peculiar sense of satisfaction.

"I won't let you off!" Charlotte yelled. Her gums had already started bleeding due to how hard she was clenching her jaw. As soon as she opened her mouth, blood flowed out of the corners of her mouth. However, her eyes were full of chilling hatred as she stared at everyone in this private room.

Suddenly, a henchman outside hurriedly pushed open the door of the room and dashed in. He exclaimed nervously, "Mr. Hale, bad news. Someone's here to cause trouble!"

Chapter 134: Vicious and Ruthless

Logan's expression changed, and he suddenly sprang up before hollering in fury, "Who has the audacity to cause trouble on my turf?!"

As soon as he finished speaking, a kick sent the thick door of the private room flying toward the couch in the innermost part of the room. If not for a henchman beside Logan pulling him away, he would have been hit by the door.

"Who are you? How dare you cause trouble on my turf?!" Logan barked.

A tall and long figure appeared at the doorway of the private room, where only the door frame remained.

When Charlotte saw this familiar figure, warm tears rolled down her cheeks. She felt extremely sour, but she was also full of the joy of surviving this ordeal.

Lucas ignored Logan and his henchmen. When he saw Charlotte crying miserably while clad in only her undergarments, his pupils constricted, and he was overwhelmed with fury.

Given Charlotte's character, it was obvious that she didn't go to the bar and end up in this state willingly.

Scarlet Wright must have colluded with Logan Hale and threatened Charlotte!

Lucas took off his jacket and draped it over Charlotte's body, wrapping it up and shielding it from the others in the room.

Immediately afterward, he turned around and furiously looked at Logan, Scarlet, and the henchmen like he was looking at dead people. With an icy-cold gaze, he said, "None of you can escape today!"

Lucas's voice was extremely sinister and terrifying, so much that even Logan was unconsciously frightened and took a step back. By the time he reacted and realized that he had actually been intimidated by Lucas, he couldn't help but be annoyed and shout, "Damn it! You're really arrogant, huh? Who are you?"

Scarlet hurriedly pointed at Lucas and said resentfully, "Mr. Hale, this is the useless live-in son-in-law of the Carters! He came to your place to cause trouble and ruined your plans. Clearly, he doesn't have any respect for you! Don't let him off. You must make him kneel down in front of you and beg for mercy!"

Only then did it dawn on Logan that the tall young man in front of him was Lucas Gray, his target today. However, Logan had an ominous premonition as Lucas was giving off a threatening and domineering aura. He didn't seem to be a useless good-for-nothing like his henchmen claimed after investigation.

"So, you're Lucas Gray. You came just in time. I wanted to see you," Logan said while narrowing his eyes. He was about to get someone to call out the fighters meant to deal with Lucas, but the scene before him suddenly turned blurry. The next thing he knew, a big hand as strong as an iron clamp was strangling him by his neck!

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Logan's pupils suddenly constricted. Lucas's enlarged face was already in front of him and staring at him with an extremely terrifying gaze. Lucas said in a cold voice, "Where is my daughter?"

While speaking, Lucas tightened his grip, and Logan immediately felt as though his neck was about to be snapped. The excruciating pain and horror of death overwhelmed him, making him shudder.

This person is way too terrifying!

The henchmen surrounding them didn't see how exactly Lucas moved. They only felt a breeze blow past them before Lucas was already in front of Logan and choking the latter so hard that his eyes started rolling.

"Rascal, hurry up and let go of Mr. Hale!" a henchman hurriedly shouted sinisterly. At the same time, the henchmen surrounded Lucas.

If Lucas really strangled Logan to death, they would all end up in a terrible state too!

Lucas didn't even look at them and simply said coldly, "Break their limbs!"

“Yes!”

The sounds of bones cracking rang out as Jordan immediately broke the arms of the two people closest to him. He then kicked them hard. His leg was like iron as it broke their bones and bent their knees into abnormal angles. The two men shrieked in pain and immediately collapsed onto the ground.

“Ah! Ahhh! My arm... my leg!” The screams were almost ear-piercing.

Jordan was unfazed as he shuttled back and forth within the private room like a phantom. Everywhere he passed, the sound of bones snapping and miserable shrieks filled the air. Soon, the five henchmen originally in the room and the eight people who rushed in behind them all had their limbs broken mercilessly and laid on the ground while wailing miserably.

If not for the fact that Lucas didn't want to kill anyone, he would have gotten rid of all the people who forced Charlotte to strip and even ogled her body!

Logan stared at the scene in front of him, his eyes almost popping out. The powerful fighters he had spent a lot of money on were all wiped out by Lucas's underling just like that! Although they weren't dead, all their limbs were broken. Even if their bones could be fixed, they were crippled beyond repair!

At this moment, Logan's heart was full of horror and exasperation. *Damn it! Who the hell told me that Lucas Gray was only a wastrel live-in son-in-law?!*

The fact that he was vicious enough to watch his subordinate injure so many people at once made him on par with all the mafia bosses Logan had ever met!

Hiding in a corner, Scarlet was even more frightened by Jordan's clean, sharp, and ruthless moves, and her heart was pounding rapidly. Previously, in the Opulence, she had already received two slaps from him. But what happened then was too trivial compared to the scene in front of her now!

The fallen henchmen were all shrieking miserably, making Scarlet's eyelids twitch. Huddled up and hiding in the gap between the two couches, she wished she could just disappear from the room! She was really afraid that Jordan might suddenly rush to her and break her arms and legs in that brutal way!

Logan's neck was still being choked by Lucas. He desperately reached out to break Lucas's steel-like grip but to no avail. The suffocating pain made his eyes roll back into his head and put him on the brink of passing out.

Lucas casually flung Logan toward the middle of the room. With a loud bang, the exquisite and beautifully crafted glass coffee table, as well as the wine and fruit plates

on it, instantly shattered under the impact of Logan's body. The broken shards flew all over.

Clutching his neck, Logan coughed several times, desperately gasping for breath for a long time before finally recovering.

Coughing violently, he barked, "Lucas Gray, how dare you do this to me?! Aren't you afraid that I will immediately get someone to kill your daughter?" Logan raised his head menacingly and glared at Lucas with a crazed look in his eyes!

Chapter 135: Digging Three Feet

Logan was infuriated. As the prestigious scion of a wealthy family, he had always been respected by many ever since he was a child. Since when had he ever suffered such mistreatment?

There were some horrifying bruises on his neck, and several shards of glass had punctured his palms. Logan slowly got up from the ground and looked at Lucas with a look of hatred in his eyes. "Don't forget that your bastard is still in my hands!"

With a gloomy expression, Lucas asked, "Are you threatening me?"

"Yes! I'm threatening you. I want you to give up everything! If you want to collect the corpse of your bastard, you can continue being arrogant in front of me! Hahahaha! At most, we'll fight till the end and perish together!" Logan laughed maniacally.

Overwhelmed with fury, Lucas snorted coldly and sneered. "Fight till the end? I didn't provoke you. You chose to mess with me first. I'm giving you a chance now. As long as you hand my daughter over, I can let you off for what happened today."

Logan laughed arrogantly. "Hmph, if you kneel down in front of me now and beg me, I might decide to be benevolent and tell you where she is!"

Lucas's face became even gloomier. "Since you refuse to tell me, I'll find her myself!"

"Haha, that depends on whether you have the ability to do so!" Logan exclaimed viciously while clutching his neck.

Suddenly, the sounds of shrieking began to spread from the bar downstairs. Soon, a burly man dressed in a dark green military uniform walked into the private room. As soon as he saw Lucas, he immediately performed a standard military salute. "Lucas, your brothers are all here. We have come to follow your orders!"

Lucas nodded slightly and commanded in a deep voice, "Everyone, search carefully. Even if you must dig three feet deep into the ground and tear down this bar, you must find a five-year-old girl!"

"Yes!" The man in the military uniform acknowledged and then turned around to disperse.

Logan immediately flew into a rage. "Stop! Who gave you the audacity to search my bar? This is a property of the Hales!"

Who are these people?!

It was illegal to possess military-grade weapons, but all these people were in possession of such arms!

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They carefully searched every wall and floor for gaps and contraptions.

But even after such an intensive search, Amelia was nowhere to be found. But they managed to unearth some contraband items that were hidden in the bar.

Logan was so anxious that he had already broken into a sweat, but he dared not step forward to stop them.

Meanwhile, Scarlet had already silently moved to the door of the room. After looking outside and seeing the numerous soldiers and military weapons, she gasped and was so frightened that her legs turned into jelly. While shuddering and trembling, she tried to get back up on her feet and go to a corner to hide.

However, Jordan had long seen through Scarlet's intentions, and he hurriedly grabbed her hair with one hand before dragging her toward Lucas.

"Please spare me! Spare me... It hurts!" Scarlet begged for mercy loudly and pretended to be pitiful. But she could not incite any sympathy within the men beside her.

Logan had no time to care about her, while Lucas and Jordan were extremely disgusted with her. They even detested her greatly.

Lucas lowered his head and looked coldly at Scarlet, who was lying beside his feet. "You were the one who abducted my daughter from the kindergarten, right? Tell me where you hid Amelia?"

Scarlet was overwhelmed with regret. Lucas and the people he brought made her feel horrified.

“Um... Lucas, I was too obsessed and muddled up at the time and took Amelia away. But I handed her to Mr. Hale. I don't know where she is now...” Scarlet sobbed while hugging Lucas's calf.

Lucas kicked her away in repulsion and barked, “There's a limit to my patience. If you still won't tell me the truth, don't blame me for being ruthless!”

He picked up a piece of broken glass by his feet and placed the sharp end against Scarlet's face.

Scared soulless to the point of turning pale, Scarlet screamed and retreated frantically. However, Jordan grabbed her hair and held her in place, not allowing her to escape.

Forced to raise her head and feel the sharp glass shard being grazed against her face, Scarlet was so frightened that she burst into tears. “No, no! Don't scratch my face, Lucas! Everything I just said is true. I really don't know where Amelia is now. Logan Hale sent someone to take her away. Even I don't know where she's been taken!

“Lucas, on the account that I'm Cheyenne's cousin, please spare me this time! I promise I'll never go against you in the future or do something like this again!” Scarlet was bawling miserably with tears and mucus all over her face, looking extremely distressed and pathetic.

Lucas kicked Scarlet hard and roared furiously, “Trust you to have the cheek to say that Cheyenne is your cousin. When you were hatching a scheme to abduct my daughter from the kindergarten, have you ever thought that you were Amelia's aunt? She's only five years old, and you were fine with leaving her to strangers you don't know without any regard for where she'd be taken or how she'd be treated! You're just scum!

“Beforehand, you had been creating trouble for us, but I let you off on account that you're Cheyenne's cousin. Yet you weren't remorseful, and instead, you went from bad to worse. You even did horrendous and inhumane things such as abducting Amelia and threatening Charlotte!

“Initially, I thought that if you could bring Amelia back safely, I would give you one last chance and let you off the hook. Unfortunately, you don't know where she is. Since that's the case, you are completely worthless now.”

As Lucas continued, his voice became deathly cold. To Scarlet, his voice became increasingly horrifying, and when he said the last sentence, she felt that her death was imminent!

Chapter 136: Make Her Disappear

With no concern for anything else, Scarlet knelt on the ground and bowed several times while begging for mercy, "Lucas, I really know my mistakes! Please forgive me this time. I'll beg Mr. Hale to tell me where Amelia is now and go bring her back right away! Please forgive me this time!"

Lucas glared at her from above with an indifferent gaze. "It's too late. Jordan, get someone to drag her away. From now on, I don't want to see this person appear again."

"Yes, Lucas!" Jordan acknowledged and immediately ran out of the room. Soon, two men came in, and without uttering a single word, they dragged Scarlet away by her hair and arms.

Scarlet was immediately scared soulless. She wailed loudly and begged for mercy, "I-I really know my mistakes! Lucas! Lucas! Please spare me..."

Soon, her voice completely vanished. All that was left were the stains of dirty water on the ground.

Charlotte, who witnessed the entire process, was so frightened that she didn't dare to breathe. It was her first time seeing such a terrifying and resolute side to Lucas, which was worlds apart from his usual behavior.

Lucas simply meant that he was going to kill Scarlet...

This made Charlotte feel even more uneasy, not because she sympathized with Scarlet or thought that Lucas had gone too far, as she felt that Scarlet had brought it upon herself. Instead, it was because she was worried that Lucas's actions might harm him...

Suddenly, Lucas turned around and looked at Charlotte, who was still wrapped in his jacket. The clothes she had been wearing and forced to take off had long been soiled by the liquor that had spilled all over the floor.

"Jordan, find a clean set of clothes for Charlotte. Then get Wade to send her back to the Carters," Lucas ordered.

Jordan acknowledged and left. The bar was rather large-scale, and there were plenty of waiter and waitress uniforms in the storeroom, so it wasn't difficult to find a set of clean and fitting clothes for Charlotte.

Wrapping the jacket tightly around herself, Charlotte asked worriedly, "What about you then, Lucas?"

Lucas glanced at Logan, who was huddled up in the corner, before saying softly, "Amelia is still missing, so I naturally have to find her and bring her home safely. You should get going and head home first, lest your family get worried."

Charlotte pursed her lips a little, but she knew that even if she stayed here, she wouldn't be able to help in any way. Besides, the humiliation she had suffered today also left her heart in turmoil.

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She obediently went to the bathroom to change into a fresh set of clothes before leaving.

At this moment, only Lucas, Jordan, and Logan were left in the room.

The henchmen, who had their limbs broken earlier, had all been dragged out by Lucas's subordinates and thrown into the hall downstairs.

Logan's face was still a little pale.

After seeing Lucas's terrifying power and his ruthlessness when he didn't hesitate to kill, Logan was put on an emotional roller coaster. His feelings turned from disdain to shock, followed by shock to horror.

Now that Lucas was looking at him, Logan simply gave up and went all out. He was certain that with the status of the Hales in Orange County, Lucas would never dare to treat him the same way he treated Scarlet, whom he had gotten rid of silently!

Recalling the fact that he still had his family as his backing and that he still had control over Amelia's life, Logan was emboldened and fearless. He stood up sluggishly, leaned back on the couch, and crossed one leg over the other while staring at Lucas provocatively.

Lucas frowned slightly. At this moment, the burly soldier who appeared earlier walked in again and reported in a deep voice, "Lucas, our men have searched all over this bar, but we couldn't find your daughter. It seems they didn't hide her here."

Lucas's frown grew deeper.

If Amelia wasn't in this bar, the difficulty of finding her would increase exponentially!

She could be in Logan's residence or any of the residences of the other Hales. She could also be at the home of one of his sordid friends or even any random place. The range would expand to almost all of Orange County!

Trying to find Amelia in such a large area within a short period of time was akin to finding a needle in a haystack!

Even if Lucas mobilized all his forces and activated all the available manpower he had, it would still be impossible to search high and low throughout all of Orange County.

Thus, the focus was still on Logan. He had to make him speak!

Upon seeing Lucas's expression, Logan guessed that Lucas must have found out that Amelia was nowhere to be found in the bar. He couldn't help but smile victoriously.

"If you're willing to tell me where Amelia is, I won't pursue the matter. What do you think?" Lucas suppressed his anger and stared at Logan.

"Hah!" Logan burst into sarcastic laughter. "Lucas Gray, do you take me for a child? You have so many people armed with guns under you, and they've beaten up all my underlings. Do you really think I'd believe you? If I tell you where your daughter is, you probably won't let me off!"

Lucas frowned. He had indeed thought of letting Logan off just now in exchange for Amelia's safety. But unfortunately, Logan often went back on his word, so he projected his own shortcomings onto Lucas and decided that Lucas was also trying to trick him.

"So, what do you want before you are willing to let her go?" Lucas glared daggers at Logan.

Almost an hour or so had passed since Amelia was taken away by Scarlet. Lucas was not especially worried about Amelia's safety because she was still wearing the white moonstone bracelet he had given her.

The moonstone bracelet had some mystical effects that would protect Amelia from all harm as long as she was wearing it.

However, she might be locked up somewhere. She was only a five-year-old child, and she would definitely be flustered and scared out of her wits.

Therefore, Lucas had to get Amelia back as soon as possible!

"Haha, actually, at first, I didn't intend to kidnap that little bastard. That bitch Scarlet Wright was the one who brought her to me because she wanted you to panic so that she could lure you over and break your legs."

Logan took out a lighter and lit a cigar before continuing, "Scarlet was also the one who came up with the idea of calling Charlotte Carter over and threatening her into getting undressed and sleeping with me. Of course, I'm not trying to put all the blame on a woman, especially since she's already dead. That'd be too impolite. I just want to say that I actually didn't intend to do anything to your daughter in the first place."

Trying to curb his temper that he was about to lose control of, Lucas patiently listened to Logan's explanation in silence.

"However, I've now changed my mind," Logan said slowly.

Lucas's pupils suddenly constricted!

Chapter 137: Letting Him Off

"Lucas Gray, I have to admit that you are indeed powerful, which makes it even more impossible for me to return your daughter to you! As I said just now, if I return your daughter, you will immediately attack. I won't return her to you. Even if you don't dare to kill me and decide to cripple me instead, how can I agree to that? Your daughter is my life-saving ace!"

Lucas's eyes were brimming with anger, but he tried to contain it and said seriously, "Just now, you mentioned that it was Scarlet Wright's idea to abduct my daughter and threaten Charlotte. In that case, there's no unresolvable grudge between us. As long as you let Amelia go, I promise I won't touch you at all!"

"Hahahaha! I don't believe you! At least, if I were in your shoes and possessed such great power, I'd never let someone who dared to offend me like this off!" Logan guffawed without restraint.

Lucas narrowed his eyes. "Since you're aware of how powerful I am, aren't you afraid that I'll pay you back in your own coin by going to the Hales and abducting them to threaten you?"

When Jordan heard this, he immediately stood at the door. He looked as though he would go and nab the Hales right away once Lucas gave the order.

But to their surprise, Logan remained unfazed. He even tilted his head and chuckled. "Go ahead and catch them. I'm still a bachelor, and my mother died a long time ago anyway. As for the rest of the Hales, you can catch them and kill them as you wish. I won't bat an eyelid at all. In fact, if you really end up killing them, I'd still have to thank you. Hahahaha!"

Lucas frowned. He didn't expect Logan to be such a cold and heartless person who showed no concern for his family.

Jordan couldn't help but sneer. "No wonder you always behave like a beast. It turns out you really are one. You don't even care about your family who raised you! Lucas, I think you shouldn't waste your breath on talking to him anymore. Just break his legs. If he still refuses to come clean, torture him and chop off his fingers one by one. We'll see if he confesses then!"

With some delirium in his eyes, Logan laughed loudly. "Haha, go ahead and try then! I dare to guarantee that what you will do to me, I will do to your daughter! I'm an adult

and can still bear with it, but I'm afraid your delicate daughter will die the instant I chop her arms and legs off! Just you wait to collect her corpse!"

"You!" Jordan was enraged and wanted to slap Logan a few times.

However, as Logan said, Amelia was in his hands, so they indeed didn't dare to take the risk with Amelia's life.

Lucas's face turned dark. "What exactly do you want? You can't keep my daughter by your side forever, can you? You can hide her for one or two days, but can you do so forever?"

Logan spat a mouthful of smoke with a smug and detestable expression on his face. "You don't have to worry about that. I've naturally arranged a reliable person to take care of her. I won't let anything happen to her. When the day comes that I think I'm safe enough, I'll let her go. Don't worry. I'm not going to hold someone else's daughter captive for the rest of my life. If she becomes my wife one day, I'd have to call you my father-in-law! That'd be a huge loss for me!"

Lucas's eyes were instantly full of murderous intent.

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Amelia was merely a five-year-old child, and yet this beast actually had the cheek to say something like that!

"When you think you're safe? How can you confirm it?" Lucas asked coldly.

"I'll naturally have to wait until all your subordinates disperse and your underlings die!" Logan smiled arrogantly. "Don't worry. I will retaliate against you with all my might next and destroy you! As long as your daughter is still in my hands, you won't be able to retaliate against me. Once I reach my agenda, I will naturally release her. Of course, if you don't wish to comply, you can forget about your daughter."

Logan blatantly revealed his plan to deal with Lucas because he was certain that Lucas loved his daughter dearly. Even if Lucas knew that he wanted to kill him, there was nothing he could do.

"Okay, I won't say any more nonsense. In all, you can forget about taking your daughter home now!" Logan stood up arrogantly and walked toward the door of the private room.

"Hold it right there!" Jordan stopped Logan in his tracks.

Logan wasn't annoyed. He simply glanced at Lucas nonchalantly with raised brows. "What? You don't want to let me go? Do you want to fight me until we both perish? Don't forget. If I die, your daughter won't live either!"

Lucas waved his hand at Jordan. Despite being full of reluctance, Jordan glowered at Logan before moving to the side to let him leave.

“Remember what you said today. Take good care of my daughter and don’t let her suffer any mistreatment. If I find out that you’ve mistreated and bullied her, I definitely won’t let you off.”

Lucas’s words seemed harsh, but he was helplessly conceding to Logan’s conditions.

Logan was naturally extremely smug and chuckled. “Of course! She’s my life-saving trump card. Of course I’d treat her well. After I’ve completely trample you under my feet, I’ll naturally let you two reunite. Hahahaha!”

Logan laughed loudly as he strode away with a triumphant smile on his face.

Lucas and Jordan had never had to tolerate such defiance before. Utterly enraged by Logan’s arrogance, Jordan snapped, “Lucas, that scum is obviously using Amelia as a hostage to go against you. You can’t trust his words at all!”

Lucas let out a long sigh. “What can I do? Amelia is in his hands, so I can’t touch him. It’s a Herculean task to find Amelia! We can only obey him for now. I hope he keeps his promise!”

Jordan had an expression of great disbelief.

He did not expect that Lucas, the captain of the Falcon Regiment who persevered through hardship and made incredible achievements in the state of Calico despite the harsh circumstances he was subjected to, would concede so easily under Logan’s threat!

At this moment, Jordan noticed Lucas shooting him a glance and then turning his head. He looked in the direction of Lucas’s gaze and discovered that there was an inconspicuous black button-like object on the wall. It was a listening device!

Jordan immediately realized that Lucas had merely pretended to concede and deliberately said those words to Logan just now!

Chapter 138: Smashing Him With an Egg

At this moment, Logan was sitting in a luxurious Mercedes-Benz sedan. When he heard Lucas’s hopeless sigh coming from his earphones, he couldn’t help smirking.

“Hmph, as long as I’m in control of your weakness, you can do nothing to me. You’ll have to obey me regardless of how powerful you are!” Logan relished in his thoughts and even began humming merrily.

However, he didn’t notice that there was an inconspicuous and ordinary Nissan car tailing him.

Jordan was sitting in the driver’s seat of the Nissan while appearing rather hesitant. He asked, “Lucas, can we really find Amelia by tailing him like this?”

Lucas said in a deep voice, “He’s now treating Amelia as his life-saving trump card, so there’s a high probability that he’ll go and check on her personally after leaving us. Then he’ll make some follow-up arrangements. I’m almost positive about this. Let’s follow him and have a look first.”

“You’re right.” With one hand on the steering wheel and his eyes fixed on the Mercedes-Benz sedan in front of him, Jordan exclaimed resentfully, “After we rescue Amelia, I definitely won’t let this scum go!”

Lucas didn’t say anything, but his eyes had a deathly cold gaze. Clearly, he wasn’t planning on letting Logan off that easily.

Soon, Lucas and Jordan followed Logan’s car all the way to the entrance of a relatively isolated neighborhood near the outskirts in the south of Orange County.

The neighborhood had been established for a relatively short period of time. So although its location was relatively remote, it was an upscale district with several thirty-story high-rise towers. In the depths of the neighborhood, there was a cluster of luxury villas enclaved in lush greenery.

Amelia was sitting on the couch in the middle of the living room in one of these villas, hugging a small teddy bear in her arms and watching a cartoon on the TV. There was a 23-or-24-year-old woman with a gentle temperament sitting beside her.

Amelia was clearly not focused on the cartoon. After sitting for a while, she couldn’t help but blink her large eyes while looking at the beautiful woman beside her. “Aunt Grace, it’s already dark. When will Daddy come pick me up?”

The elegant beauty, whom Amelia addressed as Aunt Grace, was slightly stunned and couldn’t help but have a sympathetic gaze in her eyes. She quickly got a grip on her emotions and said with a gentle smile, “Your daddy is an adult, and adults are always very busy! Amelia, don’t be anxious. Your daddy will come and pick you up in a while!”

“Okay, I know. Let’s continue waiting for him.” Although Amelia was a little displeased, she remained sitting obediently without crying or throwing a tantrum.

Her obedience made the elegant and beautiful lady take even more pity on her. Unfortunately, she didn't enjoy freedom either, so it was impossible for her to release the little girl, who still knew nothing about the situation she was in.

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Grace stroked Amelia's hair affectionately and asked in a tender voice, "Amelia, are you hungry? I'll go bake you a cake, okay?"

"Wow! You know how to bake a cake, Aunt Grace? You're awesome!" Amelia's eyes widened as she looked at the elegant Grace with admiration.

"Haha, it's very simple. Amelia, do you want to come with me to bake the cake?" Grace asked as she bent forward.

"Yes! I want to learn how to bake a cake from you, Aunt Grace! Once I do, I can go home and bake a huge cake for Mommy and Daddy!" Amelia leaped up excitedly, completely devoid of her previous boredom and displeasure.

The elegant beauty sighed in her heart, unsure if Amelia would get to see her parents again.

She forced a smile on her face and took Amelia to the kitchen to wash her hands before taking out some flour and eggs. She then started to teach Amelia how to bake a cake.

Suddenly, a loud sound came from the door of the villa, and Logan entered. He shrugged off his shoes and casually kicked them to the side.

Hearing the commotion, the elegant beauty walked out of the kitchen, only to see Logan. She immediately took two steps backward nervously. "What are you doing here?"

"What? Shouldn't you feel happy to see me coming over, Grace?" Logan unzipped his jacket and walked toward Grace while taking off his clothes.

She immediately grabbed the sliding door of the kitchen and stared at him. "What are you trying to do?"

He had planned to have a good time with Scarlet Wright, who had taken the initiative to get close to him. But before he bedded her, he got an even more ravishing beauty, Charlotte Carter. But after forcing Charlotte to strip down to her undergarments, someone had come and ruined things for him.

Besides, he also had to vent the feelings of horror and uneasiness that Lucas had induced in him.

As soon as Grace saw the lust in Logan's eyes, she cringed with a look of dismay before frowning. "You promised me that you would wait until I'm willing and never force me!"

Logan could no longer care at this point. Grace was a beautiful woman he had snatched away by force and held captive in the villa for almost half a month. Previously, he was rather interested and thus agreed to give in to her request and play along by waiting for her to be willing.

Without another word, Logan reached out, grabbed Grace's arm, and pulled her away.

At this moment, a tiny figure scurried out from the kitchen from behind Grace and threw the egg in her hand at Logan. "Baddie, you're bullying Aunt Grace! Hurry up and leave!"

When the fragile egg smashed against Logan's knee, it shattered immediately, and the egg yolk and egg white spread on his leg before flowing down slowly.

Logan's face instantly darkened. *This little bastard of Lucas Gray is indeed as horrendous and detestable as her father!*

Grace immediately pulled Amelia behind her to shield her, fearing that Logan would take it out on Amelia. She said extremely nervously, "S-she's still young. She doesn't know anything. Don't hold it against a child! I'll help you wash your clothes."

Logan sneered. "Seems like you've been getting along well with this little bastard! She defended you, and you're protecting her. Hahaha, how ridiculous! You want me to let her go? Sure, go to the bedroom obediently and serve me well. I won't hold it against her after you do! I, Logan Hale, am not a kindhearted person. Even if she's just a child, I won't spare her!"