

CHAPTER 11

Ignoring Lucas's expression, Karen continued to berate.

"Do you know how miserable Cheyenne was after you abandoned her and left? She was humiliated and mocked by others because even her incompetent husband left her. She went to the office every day even when she was pregnant and spent all her time slogging her guts out. Later on, she was so angered to the point of going into premature labor. When Amelia was born, she was as tiny as a kitten, and her life was in danger. Old Master took over the company afterward, and he still hasn't returned it to us yet! Did you know about all of this?"

"You ran away as you pleased, and now you want to come back? No way! You have nothing to your name now. What makes you have the cheek to stay?"

Karen was rattling on and on like a machine gun while pointing at Lucas.

As her saliva splattered all over him, he felt extremely uncomfortable.

Back then, he left with the intention to make a name for himself so that people would stop mocking Cheyenne for having a wastrel husband. However, he didn't know that she was already pregnant with his child at the time, and that she even went through a dangerous labor and painstakingly raised their daughter.

Cheyenne covered her mouth as tears flowed down her eyes. The mere thought about the things that happened back then was agonizing for her. However, she clenched her jaw and stayed silent. She merely shivered a little as she tried to bear with it.

A strong sense of guilt overwhelmed Lucas.

He dropped to his knees and knelt in front of Cheyenne's parents.

He, the God of War, the mighty and esteemed captain of Falcon Regiment, actually knelt on the ground!

“What are you doing?” Karen was stunned as she moved her body on the chair uneasily.

“I’ve indeed let Cheyenne down over all these years. I failed to fulfill my duty as her husband, and it’s only right that you’re upset with me,” Lucas said in a deep voice. “The two of you raised Cheyenne painstakingly and let her marry me. You also went through great efforts to take care of Amelia. I will remember your kindness forever.

“I know it’s useless to say anything now. But I hope that I can try my best to make it up to you guys, Cheyenne, and Amelia so that they will no longer suffer in the future.”

Lucas bent forward, and his head hit the ground!

Bang!

There was a loud sound from the ground, which was evidence of how hard the hit was!

“What are you doing?!” Cheyenne yelled to stop him, anxious and exasperated. Why did he hit the ground so hard? What if he suffers brain damage?!

Lucas raised his red and swollen forehead and smiled at the beautiful lady squatting down beside him with a worried expression. He gazed at Cheyenne longingly, as though he wanted to keep her etched in his heart forever.

When he was drugged and ended up becoming intimate with her back then, he pitied her for what happened and was stunned by her ravishing beauty. He also admired her virtuous nature.

Her excellence made him develop an inferiority complex, as he was ashamed that he had nothing to his name.

In the few years that he had spent in the campground, he would think of Cheyenne, and her face would appear in his mind whenever he was fighting a tough battle or was overwhelmed with fatigue. He would then grit his teeth and bear with it time and time again.

She was Lucas's motivation and the person he unknowingly and deeply fell in love with.

However, he decided to let her go if all he brought her was endless misery and pain.

Deep love and complicated emotions surged in his eyes, but he simply gazed at her and said gently, "Let's get divorced."

Cheyenne looked at him in disbelief. Immediately afterward, she slapped him hard on his face.

Smack!

"You came back after so many years, and all you have to say is to ask me for a divorce?"

"Yes, we didn't have any feelings for each other back then, so you could leave for so many years without hesitation. I can't blame you. I can only blame myself for my bad luck.

"But what about Amelia? Our daughter grew up without a father, and all the children at the kindergarten call her an illegitimate child every day, calling her names and saying that her father doesn't want her. She comes home crying all the time, and I coax her by telling her that her father is a hero who's busy all day and will be back soon.

"She finally got to see you, but what about you?! You want to get a divorce? Sure, let's go ahead! Get lost! Scram as far as you can!"

Cheyenne finally cried out in pain and punched Lucas on his chest as she bawled her heart out, as if she was trying to vent all the grievances she had been holding in during the past few years.

Lucas was greatly distressed.

Without concern for anything else, he pulled the weeping Cheyenne into his arms. Although he had only ever shed blood and not tears, he was now teary-eyed.

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to make you cry. I'm sorry." Lucas gently caressed Cheyenne's shuddering spine and promised, "I won't leave. I'll treat you two very well from now on!"

"No!"

Although they had gotten a great shock when Lucas's head hit the ground, Cheyenne's parents were still glad to hear him initiate a divorce. That's more like it. How can a good-for-nothing be worthy of my daughter?

However, they never expected their daughter to be the one to disagree to the divorce.

Seeing that the two of them were hugging each other and seemed to be reconciling soon, Karen panicked and tried to push Cheyenne away. "Are you a fool? Let him get lost!"

William pushed Lucas far away too. "Get lost! Hurry up and get lost! You're not welcome in this house!"

Lucas sighed and had no choice but to leave first.

CHAPTER 12

However, Lucas was in a better mood now.

He reckoned that Cheyenne probably didn't want to divorce him for the sake of their daughter. But no matter what the reason might be, it was fine as long as she still wanted to stay with him.

He had long made up his mind and intended to make it up to them in double in the future, in hopes that he would really win her heart over time.

After Lucas left the Carters' home, Jordan, who had been waiting outside for a long time, caught up with him.

"Lucas, those items given to the Carters were prepared with the help of Ethan Sawyer, the wealthiest man in Orange County. There's also a letter for you."

Lucas grabbed the envelope Jordan handed over, opened it, and read it with a playful smile on his face.

"The helmsman of the Sawyer family is interesting. Although I have a deep feud with the Huttons, we can still try using him. Go tell him that I've acknowledged his goodwill."

"Okay, Lucas."

After running some more errands, Lucas arrived at the office tower of the Stardust Corporation, which was located in the central business district of Orange County.

When he saw the enormous and striking office tower, as well as the familiar logo, his emotions were extremely complicated.

The company was founded independently by his mother, Emma Gray, who was an outstanding, smart, and beautiful woman.

If not for the fact that she had met his father, she would have probably developed her career and become a legendary career woman.

Unfortunately, she had been mistaken about the Huttons all her life. And the company, which she had put all her efforts into developing, was taken away from her. She was humiliated and driven out of the Huttons' home. As a result, she had to go through great hardships to raise Lucas, but she passed away from excessive fatigue.

Lucas clenched his fist and swore that one day, he would return to the high-up-in-the-air Huttons to seek justice for his mother and himself!

At this moment, a fancy metallic red Lamborghini sports car pulled over in front of the Stardust Corporation office tower, after which two beautiful girls alighted from the car.

"Charlotte, you're so lucky! The scion of the Sawyer family, the richest family in Orange County, has taken a liking to you! He's truly a rich second-generation heir who owns a massive fortune enough to last him several lifetimes. I'm so envious!"

A short-haired woman wearing the uniform of the Stardust Corporation was touching the shiny, streamlined Lamborghini sports car longingly, full of envy.

"After you marry the scion of the Sawyer family and live in the lap of luxury, don't forget me, your best friend!"

"Don't worry. How could I forget you?" said another giggling girl with a fashionable permed hairstyle. She was Charlotte, Cheyenne's younger sister. She put her hand on the shoulder of the short-haired woman. "I still need your help now! Please cut me some slack during the interview later."

"Rest assured. I, Julia Bell, am the head of the human resources department, and I'm in charge of recruitment. I told you to come for the interview just to go through the motions, lest someone deliberately picks on me."

"Hehe, that's good. When you get off work later, I'll treat you to a feast!"

The two of them were chatting chummily. As soon as they turned their heads, Charlotte saw Lucas, who was standing at the entrance of the building.

“What are you doing here?” Her face immediately turned sullen, and she charged toward Lucas furiously and questioned, “Hey, you good-for-nothing, are you tailing me? Tell me, what are your intentions?”

Lucas was in a foul mood when he saw her getting out of the Lamborghini he had specially given to Cheyenne.

He hadn’t forgotten the dirty looks the detestable people of the Carter family gave him just now. Hah, is she showing off the gift from me to me?

“Is there something wrong with you?” Lucas questioned hostilely.

“You!” As the younger sister of Cheyenne, who was known as the greatest beauty of Orange County, Charlotte was a self-proclaimed beauty as well. She was popular and often flattered by many. She had never been insulted right in her face before, so she turned beet red in anger.

“Charlotte, who is this?” Julia asked while walking over and sizing up Lucas curiously. This man is quite-looking, and he’s about 1.85 meters tall. However, his clothes seem very simple, and his outfit is probably worth less than thirty dollars.

Charlotte glanced disdainfully at Lucas. “He’s the good-for-nothing who married my sister. A few years ago, he stole fifty thousand dollars from my father, yet he still has the cheek to come back. He even made a huge scene at our home just now. He humiliated Seth Miller and made my sister so angry that she cried.”

Julia’s eyes suddenly opened wide in surprise.

Charlotte’s sister, Cheyenne, was involved in a huge scandal back then, and almost everyone knew about it. Although several years had passed, some

people would still talk about it. Julia's parents often said to her, "Why do you girls try to be so capable? Look at Cheyenne. So what if she became a CEO? Her reputation got ruined in the end, and she was even tossed aside and abandoned by her wastrel husband."

Therefore, Julia had always imagined Cheyenne's loser husband to be lewd, sleazy, lazy, stupid, and ugly. She didn't expect him to be so handsome in person.

But so what if he's good-looking? He's useless and incompetent, a total scumbag.

Julia tried to bear with the contempt in her heart and forced herself to smile politely. "Excuse me. I'm sorry, but irrelevant personnel are prohibited from loitering at the entrance of the Stardust Corporation's office. Please leave."

Lucas glanced at her and simply strode into the lobby. He couldn't be bothered to say anything to her.

"Hold it!" Julia hurriedly scurried forward to stop him, feeling a little furious. "Don't you understand what I said? Don't go farther inside. Our company won't receive someone like you!"

CHAPTER 13

She's really using a made-up directive to order people around!

Lucas glanced at Julia coldly, causing her to freeze in fear and then take a few steps back after being frightened by his gaze.

"How dare you scare her?" Seeing Julia being intimidated, Charlotte got angrier. "Julia, get security to drive him away!"

A short distance away, a security officer immediately walked over when he noticed the dispute. "What's wrong?"

Julia pointed at Lucas. "This man here has committed theft in the past, and he's now trying to barge into our company. I hope the security department will fulfill its duties. Otherwise, don't blame me for docking your salary! Also, the newly appointed chairman of the company will be coming to the office today. If you don't receive him properly, you'll lose more than just your salary. Do you understand?"

After all, Julia was the head of the HR department of the corporation and had considerable authority.

The security officer knew that this was a serious matter as well. Looking at the burly and tall Lucas, he was worried that he might not be able to stop him alone, so he hurriedly reported the situation over his radio. Soon, Captain Moore of the security team made his way over with more than ten fully-armed security officers.

"Hmph!" Charlotte raised her chin smugly at Lucas as she thought to herself, Serves you right for pestering my sister and me!

With content, she took Julia's arm and entered the office tower of the Stardust Corporation.

On the other hand, Lucas was surrounded by more than ten security officers.

Captain Moore took a look at Lucas's cheap clothes, his eyes full of disdain. "Are you going to get lost, or do you want us to help you?"

"Are you not even going to ask me why I'm here?" Lucas asked composedly.

Captain Moore laughed out loud, as if he had heard something extremely ridiculous. "Is it necessary to ask? A pauper like you can't possibly be here at the Stardust Corporation to sign a contract. Besides, Ms. Bell just said that you're not allowed to enter the company."

Lucas snorted coldly. "So you're not just a mercenary snob but an obedient dog too."

"What did you say?!" Hearing his words, Captain Moore flew into a rage and waved his hand at the security officers around him. "Damn it! You must be tired of living! Hit him! Hit this bastard!"

The security officers were all ready to attack, while Lucas's gaze turned colder as he clenched his fists tightly.

If the Stardust Corporation was full of such garbage, he wouldn't mind getting rid of them.

At this moment, a Lincoln commercial car drove over, and a prestigious man hurriedly got off. When he saw the situation in front of the office, he frowned and said impatiently, "What are you people doing in front of the office?"

As soon as Captain Moore saw the man, he immediately ran forward and bent over to greet him. "Greetings, Mr. Davis! Mr. Davis, this man came to our company to make trouble. We were about to drive him away."

Mr. Davis waved his hand in annoyance and instructed, "Quickly chase him away then. The chairman will be coming later, and I don't want him to see this ruckus."

Taking his secretary along, he entered the building without even taking a glance at Lucas.

"Hah, Mr. Davis is really a busy man," Lucas said aloud.

Mr. Davis paused in his tracks and looked over in displeasure.

Captain Moore shuddered and hurriedly yelled at Lucas, "Shut up! You're not worthy of talking to Mr. Davis! What are you waiting for? Hurry up and get rid of him! Chase him away!"

Mr. Davis turned his head and was about to walk away when he suddenly thought of something and abruptly turned around again.

His neck cracked with a popping sound because of the fast and abrupt twisting of his head.

But at this moment, Mr. Davis could no longer worry so much. He scurried toward Lucas and bent over respectfully with some fear. "Chairman, you're here."

What? Captain Moore instantly froze while the other security officers, who were surrounding Lucas and about to get physical with him, were dumbfounded too. They almost dared not to believe their ears. T-this person is the n-newly appointed c-chairman?

However, when they saw how respectful the general manager, Mr. Davis, was to him, they had no choice but to believe it.

Oh no! This was what everyone thought in their hearts, especially Captain Moore, who was full of so much regret that he wished he could cut his tongue off!

He had just told the chairman to get lost and even instructed his subordinates to throw him out... Oh dear, would it help if he scrambled now?

With a look of dismay, Captain Moore exclaimed, "Chairman, I'm so sorry. I failed to recognize you. I was being too much of a snob and had my nose in the air. Please don't hold it against me and forgive me!"

Mr. Davis glowered at him with resentment. If not for the nonsense Captain Moore spouted, he wouldn't have almost missed Lucas and left a bad first impression on him.

Lucas said coldly, "Mr. Davis, I know you're very busy every day, but you ought to supervise the matters of the company where necessary."

Mr. Davis wiped off the cold sweat on his forehead. "Yes, I understand. I will fire him right away and educate the other departments."

Lucas nodded and stopped paying attention to Captain Moore, who was begging for mercy.

It was not that he wanted to be calculative with a security officer. But because the Stardust Corporation was a precious asset left behind by his mother, he did not want it to be tainted by those disdainful things.

The two approached the building one after the other. Mr. Davis was very attentive along the way as he hurriedly pressed the buttons of the elevator while giving Lucas a general overview of the company's various departments, attracting the attention of countless veteran employees along the way.

Seeing how enthusiastic and kind the general manager, Flynn Davis, was, they reckoned that Lucas must be the newly appointed chairman. Unfortunately, the two of them were walking very quickly, and no one could get a clear glimpse of Lucas's face.

"Ah, I wonder what that new chairman looks like..." Craning their necks, Charlotte and Julia sighed, finding it a shame that they didn't manage to see him clearly.

CHAPTER 14

In the blink of an eye, they reached the chairman's office on the top floor of the office tower.

Flynn Davis wiped the sofa with his sleeve, which the janitor had already cleaned, and respectfully asked Lucas to take a seat. He then made a cup of tea and served it to him. "I don't know what kind of tea you like to drink. This is premium quality Dragon Well tea. If you'd like to have something else, I will have someone prepare it immediately."

Lucas stopped him and stared at him with a mirthless smile.

Soon, Davis could no longer laugh, as he felt extremely stressed by Lucas's gaze. Sweat began to seep out of his chubby face, droplet after droplet.

He wanted to find a subject to talk about on several instances, but he faltered when he saw the intimidating gaze in Lucas's eyes. As time passed, he became even more uneasy.

Smack!

Lucas threw a folder of documents onto the table, making a sound that gave Davis an enormous shock and almost caused him to spring up from his seat even though it wasn't loud.

Lucas angled his chin at documents. "Mr. Davis, take a look at it yourself."

Davis carefully opened the documents and looked at the first two sentences, after which his face turned pale, and he started shuddering.

"Read it out loud," Lucas ordered calmly.

"I-I..." Davis stammered while sweating profusely and shivering continuously. The content of the documents was outrageous. How could he read it aloud?

"You refuse to read it, right? I'll read it for you." Lucas began reading out loud every single word on the documents smoothly, as if he had already memorized it like the back of his hand.

"July 2018. A materials fund embezzlement of two hundred thousand dollars in cooperation with the Hanes Group.

"October 2018. Accepted bribes from Joslyn Building Materials, procured a batch of inferior building materials at a high price, and subsequently paid

compensation due to quality problems, causing the company to incur losses of more than a million dollars.

“March 2019...”

...

Unable to tolerate it any longer, Davis’s knees went weak, and he fell onto the ground with a loud thud. While he knelt on the ground, his face turned as pale as a sheet of paper.

He didn’t expect the young chairman to have gotten ahold of so much incriminating evidence against him as soon as he joined. There were also many pieces of evidence that he had destroyed. He didn’t know where Lucas had obtained them from.

If Lucas wanted to sue him, he would probably have all his assets seized and get thrown behind bars!

“It was all because of a moment of folly that I made such a huge mistake. Chairman, please spare me this time and give me a chance. In the future, I will definitely change my ways and try to recover the losses. I’ll also increase the company’s value!”

“Lucas, should we get rid of him?” Jordan appeared beside Lucas at some point. He suggested a brutal solution as soon as he spoke.

Davis was so frightened that he almost peed his pants!

Lucas was going to take over the position of chairman, and Davis was aware of some of the things of his past. Although he was unclear on the details, he knew that Lucas had taken several lives before. He didn’t doubt the authenticity of these words.

Jordan was really not trying to intimidate him and was instead asking Lucas that question solemnly. As long as Lucas said yes, he would definitely kill Davis on the spot.

He had embezzled so much money and even used lousy materials in a construction project, causing harm to others and damage to the reputation and image of the Stardust Corporation. Even if he died a hundred times, it wouldn't be too much.

"C-Chairman Gray, p-please spare me! As long as you let me off, I'm willing to do anything you want!"

Lucas glanced at Jordan with some displeasure. "We're not there now. Don't kill someone as soon as we return."

Davis heaved a sigh of relief after hearing this, but he soon heard Lucas's indifferent voice above his head.

"I can give you a chance, but it depends on you to grasp it. Mr. Davis, you're a smart man. I'm sure you know what I mean."

His voice was heavenly to Davis. Overjoyed, he hurriedly exclaimed, "Yes, yes, thank you, Chairman. I will definitely obey your orders in the future!"

Lucas patted his shoulder and turned around to leave.

After Lucas had left for a while, Davis finally collapsed, his back drenched in cold sweat.

Since Lucas had evidence against him, he had no choice but to obey him.

Besides, the young chairman, Lucas Gray, was not simple. Although his tone wasn't harsh, his indifference was even more frightening and intimidating, thus making Davis too scared to defy him.

"Lucas, are you going to let that scoundrel go just like that? Are you still going to let him continue being the general manager?" Walking out of the Stardust Corporation office building, Jordan was still full of regret.

“No hurry. I just came back, and I don’t have a particularly suitable candidate in mind. Davis is now in my hands. Besides, he’s quite competent and is familiar with the Stardust Corporation, as well as the forces in Orange County. He can still be in that position for a while. As for the future, it’ll depend on whether or not I can subdue him.

“The Stardust Group has been in the hands of the Hutton family for many years, and the interpersonal relationships are complicated. Let’s wait and see what happens. When we have enough people on our side, we’ll launch a purge and replace the majority of the personnel.”

“Okay, Lucas! I really hope to see that day soon.” Jordan rubbed his fists in anticipation.

Lucas couldn’t help laughing. Jordan was still a little childish, and he liked chaos and getting involved in drama.

“If you stick around with me, you’ll have fewer opportunities to display your talent. You...”

“No, no, Lucas. I know what you want to say. I’ve already said this before when I decided to leave Calico and follow you to Orange County. I’m not interested in building a career or empire. I just want to follow you around. Don’t think of chasing me back,” Jordan frantically said.

Lucas nodded without saying anything else.

“In that case, you should run around more in Orange County and find out more information for me. Especially...” Lucas’s face was completely sullen, and there seemed to be a storm brewing in his eyes. “The person who set me and Cheyenne up six years ago!”

CHAPTER 15

The following day, Cheyenne went to work at the Brilliance Corporation, dressed neatly in a smart attire as usual.

As soon as she entered the office, all eyes were cast on her, be it directly or subtly.

Ever since that incident happened, she was reduced from the chairman to a low-level manager. Thus, there were often strange gazes directed at her.

However, there were more people staring at her today.

Cheyenne was well aware of the reason. She reckoned that the commotion at the Carter residence yesterday had already spread like wildfire because of her blabbermouth relatives.

As she expected, when she entered the conference room, she was greeted with a sarcastic remark.

“Cheyenne, I heard that your useless live-in husband has returned. Why are you here at the office instead of serving him at home today?”

The person who spoke was in his thirties and resting his legs nonchalantly on the conference table.

There was a trace of disgust in Cheyenne’s eyes.

He was her cousin, Bryce Carter, and a few years older than her. He was incompetent yet arrogant and haughty.

Since her family took the Brilliance Corporation away from her, they appointed Bryce as the deputy general manager, thus giving him the chance to suppress her.

Thereafter, he was extremely complacent and would mock her sarcastically or show off to her whenever he saw her.

Seeing that Cheyenne was ignoring him with an aloof expression, Bryce became more aggressive. "I really take my hat off to you for being so thick-skinned. You did such a disgusting thing and got berated by everyone, but you still have the cheek to come to the office every day! We're ashamed and embarrassed for you. Oh, you also gave birth to a bastard. Tsk, tsk."

"Shut up!" With a furious expression, Cheyenne glowered at Bryce.

She could bear with it if she was being insulted, but she would never let anyone humiliate her daughter!

"Ah, you're getting angry, huh? Haha, am I wrong?" Bryce turned around to look at the other Carter heirs in the office. Pretending to be innocent, he waved his hands gently and exclaimed, "Everyone here knows that your father is a bastard, and so are you. Your daughter is naturally one too!"

Everyone laughed out loud, not finding his words to be insulting.

They all felt that Bryce was right. Cheyenne's father, William Carter, was not a Carter and was instead brought over by his mother when she married the senior Mr. Carter. Dominic Carter was magnanimous enough to take him into the family, even though he wasn't a Carter. He even gave them some annual dividends of the company to support them. This was the best he could do.

Cheyenne was raised because the Carters took pity on her family. Thus, they felt that there was nothing wrong with scolding her.

Overwhelmed with fury, Cheyenne shivered. But before she could even say anything, the door of the meeting room opened again, and a domineering old man with white hair walked in. It was Cheyenne's grandfather, Dominic Carter, the head of the Carter family.

"Welcome, Mr. Carter Senior!" Everyone stopped laughing and greeted him.

Bryce also stopped behaving nonchalantly and hurriedly went over to hold Dominic's arm obediently. "Grandpa, have a seat. I'll make you some tea."

“No need.” Dominic sat down on the chairman’s seat at the end of the conference table. When he saw Cheyenne standing still with a furious expression, he rebuked sternly, “What are you waiting for? Are you waiting for me to invite you to take a seat?”

Cheyenne gritted her teeth, contained her anger, and sat down near the other end of the conference table.

Dominic glanced at everyone authoritative. “As you all know, the Stardust Corporation settled down in Orange County not long ago. The Stardust Corporation itself is a large enterprise with an annual turnover of more than two billion dollars. It is also backed by the famous Hutton family from the capital. I’m sure you all know how powerful they are. As long as we form ties with the Stardust Corporation, we will have a chance to get close to the Huttons. Many companies and families in Orange County are interested in getting close to them. We can’t fall behind!

“In short, the Carter family’s most important task now is to try to get the opportunity to cooperate with the Stardust Corporation!”

All of them looked happy. But when they thought of the Stardust Group’s haughtiness, they didn’t feel confident enough.

“However, the Carter family isn’t considered elite in Orange County. Are we going to be worthy of the Stardust Corporation?”

“We want to do it too, but it’s really difficult.”

Dominic slammed his hand on the table and barked, “I will make things clear now. I will hand over the Brilliance Corporation to anyone who manages to clinch a cooperation agreement with the Stardust Corporation!”

Everyone got into an uproar upon hearing these words.

The Brilliance Corporation was the largest and best-developed company among all the enterprises belonging to the Carters. Ever since it was taken over from Cheyenne a few years ago, many Carters had been eying the Brilliance Corporation. As long as they had a position in the company, their year-end dividends would surge.

However, they knew that they could forget about being the general manager because they knew that that position was meant for the scion, Bryce.

However, Dominic was now willing to offer the Brilliance Corporation in exchange for a cooperation agreement with the Stardust Corporation. He was clearly going to invest a lot of capital!

All of a sudden, everyone's eyes reddened. They were eager to go to the Stardust Corporation to try their luck and see if they would be lucky enough.

Cheyenne clenched her fists tightly and clenched her jaw.

CHAPTER 16

Cheyenne had put her heart and soul into running and establishing the Brilliance Corporation. More than six years ago, her family used the excuse of her pregnancy and ailing health to snatch the Brilliance Corporation away from her. Ever since then, they never returned it to her.

She couldn't let go of the business she had built and returned to work for the Brilliance Corporation when Amelia was one year old. However, despite years of hard work, she was only given a low-level manager post.

Now that Dominic had offered the Brilliance Corporation as a reward, she was obviously upset. But to her, this was also an opportunity for her to snatch the Brilliance Corporation back rightfully!

Bryce stood up and said to Dominic, "Grandpa, I think reaching a cooperation agreement with the Stardust Corporation is not impossible, even though it might be difficult."

“Oh? Continue.” Dominic was rather kind toward this grandson of his, whom he valued greatly.

Bryce smiled. “Actually, I’ve already made a lot of preparations long before this. I’ve been going around making connections. Although there isn’t a clear answer yet, I believe there will be soon. However, there are some key people whom we have to give expensive gifts to, so…”

“Go to the finance department to withdraw five hundred thousand for preliminary funding later.” Dominic waved his hand nonchalantly.

Bryce was overjoyed and thanked him profusely.

Cheyenne sneered in her heart.

Her cousin had always been incompetent and boastful, so she knew that it was more likely for him to squander the money on having a good time with his friends, who were bad influences.

“However, I’m afraid that this alone is not enough to establish a cooperation agreement with them. As far as I know, there are countless people who want to get close to the Stardust Corporation in Orange County. There are at least a hundred families and businesses that can offer a few million. We’re just one of them, so why should the Stardust Corporation choose us?”

Dominic stroked his beard and nodded. “Continue, Bryce.”

“Therefore, I propose we find a family that is of comparable status or slightly better than ours and join forces with them. In this way, the chances of success will definitely increase greatly. Once we reach a successful collaboration, we will have a say too, and we won’t have to worry about being kicked to the curb by the other family because we are of the same status.”

“Wonderful! Great idea, Bryce!”

“No wonder you’re valued by Mr. Carter Senior. You’re so thoughtful and comprehensive with your thinking. Not only have you come up with a good idea, the countermeasures you’ve thought of are great too. They’ll prevent us from paving the way for others and getting made use of!”

Dominic nodded profusely, showing his satisfaction toward Bryce.

“Which family should we cooperate with?” someone asked.

Bryce looked at Cheyenne with a strange smile full of bad intentions, making her wary and giving her an ominous premonition.

Bryce pointed directly at Cheyenne and said to everyone, “I know Seth Miller of the JW Corporation has been pursuing Cheyenne. Yesterday, he already made it clear to me that as long as Cheyenne agrees to marry him, the cooperation between us and the Millers will be a sure bet.” He smiled. “What other relationship is closer than marriage?”

Cheyenne’s face instantly paled. She stood up abruptly to refute vehemently, “No!”

Dominic frowned.

Bryce walked toward Cheyenne. “What’s wrong? The Carters became the laughing stock of Orange County because of your scandal. Our reputation was ruined, causing our development to stagnate. If it weren’t for you, we would be one of the richest families in Orange County now! And we wouldn’t have to cooperate with others to fight for cooperating with the Stardust Corporation.

“The sins you’ve committed alone have dragged down the entire family, so shouldn’t you be the one to solve them and make it up to us?” Bryce said with a brazen smile.

The others in the conference room looked like they agreed and thought that this should be the case too.

Cheyenne was filled with misery. She was clearly the victim of that incident back then, and her family had already taken away the Brilliance Corporation, the pillar business of the Carters, from her.

Looking at Dominic anxiously, she asked, "Grandpa, I've already been married for a long time. How can I marry Seth Miller again?"

Dominic frowned and looked at Cheyenne with a disapproving gaze in his eyes. "I heard that your live-in husband has returned. Good. Go get a divorce later and marry Seth Miller."

Not expecting Dominic to make her remarry without hesitation, she felt extremely disappointed. She shook her head and refused, "No, Grandpa. I won't get a divorce or remarry!"

Bang!

Dominic's eyes were full of anger as he slammed his hand hard against the table. He shouted, "You're rebelling! Bryce is right. If it weren't for you, the Carters would have developed far beyond what we are now, and we wouldn't have needed this marriage! You should be taking responsibility for this, but you still have the guts to refuse. Do you respect me as the head of the family?!"

"But I was framed and set up back then..." Cheyenne's eyes were red and full of tears.

"Trust you to have the nerve to mention the events of that year!" Dominic smashed the ashtray on the table onto the ground. He flew into a rage and yelled, "You did such a shameful thing and disgraced the family. In ancient times, you would have been dragged to a pond and drowned by your family!"

Dominic's sudden loss of anger made everyone in the conference room fall silent.

CHAPTER 17

Cheyenne could no longer suppress the endless grievances and humiliation in her heart as two streams of tears rolled down her beautiful face.

Unfazed, Dominic glanced at her indifferently and made up his mind. "It's settled then. Divorce him by the end of today, and I'll get someone to visit the Millers tomorrow."

"Who said that it's settled? You people have no place to interfere in the affairs between me and my wife!" A cold and sharp voice sounded, followed by a tall, burly man emitting an icy cold aura pushing open the door of the conference room and walking straight in.

1

"Who is this man?"

"I don't know him. Why did he barge in?"

Cheyenne looked up, and her jaw dropped in disbelief the instant she got a clear look at the person who entered. "Lucas? W-why are you here?"

Everyone watched in shock as Lucas walked up to Cheyenne and wiped away the tears on her face.

"It's okay. No one can force you to do anything you don't want to do."

In a daze, Cheyenne stared blankly at Lucas's face.

He sounded incredibly confident and firm, as if no one could bully Cheyenne as long as he was by her side.

This made Cheyenne, who had always been facing mockery and taking the blame alone, feel some ripples in her heart.

Having been contradicted, Dominic looked extremely furious.

The younger generation of the Carters didn't have the guts to do it, let alone a random stranger!

With a stern look in his eyes, he shouted, "Are all the security officers dead? Why did they let some Tom, Dick, or Harry in?! Hurry up and get this person out of here!"

Bryce rolled his eyes. "Grandpa, this is Cheyenne's good-for-nothing husband who just returned."

Dominic squinted and sized Lucas up.

He had a vague memory of Lucas, who used to be penniless. In his opinion, Lucas still seemed as poor as ever, even though many years had passed. Just like before, he still didn't have a decent piece of clothing.

Disapproving of the fact that Lucas only had eyes for Cheyenne and had been ignoring him, the esteemed patriarch of the Carter family, as soon as he entered, Dominic thought, What a scoundrel indeed. He's so ill-mannered.

He looked at the two of them with growing displeasure in his eyes.

Seeing the anger on his grandfather's face, Bryce hurriedly took the chance to rub it in. "Cheyenne, you ignored Grandpa's words and even instigated your loser husband to barge into the conference room as and when he pleases. He even openly defied Grandpa's decision. If you have something against us, just say so. You don't have to get up to these tricks."

Bryce was generally incompetent, but he was an expert at sowing discord.

Cheyenne hurriedly explained, "Grandpa, I really didn't know he would come." She turned her head to look at Lucas and barked furiously, "Who told you to come here? Hurry up and leave!"

She wasn't being insensitive and was actually well aware that Lucas was speaking up for her. But his presence would only anger Dominic further.

Glancing askance at them in disgust, Dominic said, "Enough. Stop putting on an act in front of me. I don't care what you guys really think. Anyway, I've already decided. Get a divorce, and you, marry into the Miller family."

After pointing at Cheyenne, he pointed his finger at Lucas and ordered, "You, get lost!"

Cheyenne's face turned pale. She mustered her courage to speak, but before she could, Lucas had already retorted, "I said, no one can make arrangements for us. You don't have a say in this."

Dominic was so infuriated that he sprung up abruptly with exasperation all over his face.

It was his first time being contradicted twice by a junior who, to make matters worse, was a penniless good-for-nothing!

"Okay, great!" Dominic laughed mirthlessly and hollered angrily. "Seems like I'm too nice. That's why you youngsters don't respect me or take me seriously at all!"

"You're just a loser. You only got into the Carter family by sleeping with a woman. If not for you shameless people, the Carters would have developed greatly and become a top-tier family in Orange County! Yet you still have the guts to talk back to me so boldly!"

As though she had been struck by thunder, Cheyenne turned pale and almost lost her balance after being scolded and humiliated by her kin, whom she had always respected.

With an icy cold gaze in his eyes, Lucas stared at Dominic's face, which was twisted into an angry grimace. "Aren't you the one who knows best about the truth of that incident? I'm not as shameless as someone who's full of lust and yet puts on airs!"

After he learned the truth from Jordan last night, he was exasperated!

The scandal that tarnished Cheyenne's reputation turned out to be a scheme hatched by the Carters, all for the sake of snatching the Brilliance Corporation away from her!

Their shamelessness and viciousness that spurred them to resort to such underhanded means were truly appalling!

Yet Dominic Carter still had the cheek to berate the victims self-righteously. Such a shameless old man!

If not for Cheyenne's inability to accept the truth, he would have long exposed their true colors.

"You!" Dominic pointed at Lucas, his fingers trembling violently due to his extreme anger and the shock of having his secret exposed. A moment later, he fell backward.

"Grandpa!" Overwhelmed with shock, Cheyenne frantically wanted to dash over, only to be pushed away forcefully by Bryce.

"Get out of the way!" Bryce held Dominic and glowered at Cheyenne menacingly. "Grandpa was provoked by you! If anything happens to him, just wait to face your death!"

CHAPTER 18

When Dominic fell, everyone immediately put the blame on Cheyenne.

“Cheyenne, have you long been upset with Mr. Carter Senior, so you deliberately got your husband to come and provoke him?”

“Do you think the Brilliance Corporation will become yours after you anger Old Master and drive him away?”

“Like I said, they’re a family of ingrates. They’ve got such vicious intentions!”

...

The numerous scoldings were like daggers stabbing into Cheyenne’s heart.

She had given so much to the family in the past, only to receive such criticism now.

Dominic took two sips of water and got a grip on himself before glaring at Cheyenne, his eyes full of disgust.

“No matter what, you are largely responsible for the state that the Carters are in today. We must clinch a cooperation agreement with the Stardust Corporation. You either marry Seth Miller and let us join forces with his family, or go and settle the cooperation agreement with Stardust Corporation yourself. Otherwise, you’ll no longer have a place in the Carter family.”

Cheyenne had a bitter look of dismay on her face.

Bryce had asked for five hundred thousand dollars for operational funds and had even proposed that she get married to Seth Miller in order to make his plan somewhat feasible. How could she clinch the cooperation agreement all by herself?

“Okay, we’ll go and get the cooperation agreement settled. Mr. Carter, I hope you will keep to your word,” Lucas suddenly said.

Everyone looked at Lucas like he was a lunatic.

Does this good-for-nothing not understand how difficult it will be to clinch a cooperation agreement with the Stardust Corporation?

“Wait...” Cheyenne was about to speak when Bryce quickly interrupted her.

“Your loser husband promised it himself, so don’t blame us for forcing you!” Bryce grinned smugly and looked at Dominic. “Right, Grandpa?”

“Good. Since you took it on yourselves, don’t blame me for being merciless if you fail to complete the task. You have two days to get the contract signed. If you fail, you and your family can scram!”

Everyone looked at them gloatingly, and they immediately started mocking them as soon as Dominic left.

“How ignorant. If it’s that easy to clinch a cooperation agreement with the Stardust Corporation, I would have become the general manager a long time ago.”

“Hah, some people just don’t have any self-awareness. I’m afraid they won’t even be able to enter the Stardust Corporation office!”

“You only have two days. I think you’d better not go to such lengths. I suggest you go home, pack up, and get ready to get lost.”

Bryce’s face was full of smugness as he left with a bunch of people behind him.

“Why did you agree?”

As soon as Lucas lowered his head, he was greeted with Cheyenne’s furious little face.

“I’m actually...” Just as Lucas was about to speak, she gave him a hard and loud slap on his face!

“It’s all your fault! Why did you agree...” After slapping Lucas, Cheyenne broke down and burst into tears.

The anger in Lucas’s chest suddenly vanished amid her tears.

“Do you know how difficult this task is? Do you know that they can’t wait for me to fail to secure a contract and then drive me away?” Cheyenne was crying with immense despair and misery.

Looking at her, Lucas was heartbroken and distressed. He said softly, “Don’t worry. I’ll help you.”

Cheyenne suddenly raised her head and stared at him with bloodshot eyes. “How are you going to help me? Do you know people at the Stardust Corporation? Do you know how to build connections and sign contracts? You don’t know anything. How can you help me?!”

She pushed Lucas away and left staggeringly.

Lucas followed her quietly until he saw that she had safely returned to the Carter residence before leaving bitterly.

As soon as Cheyenne entered, Karen approached her. “I heard that good-for-nothing made a scene at the office today. What happened? Did he cause any trouble? Why didn’t you keep an eye on him?! Who is he to enter the Carter family?”

Cheyenne waved her hand in fatigue. “I’m exhausted, Mother. Stop asking.”

“Hah. You’re so half-hearted when you answer my questions. You think you’re so good now, huh?”

Cheyenne was extremely annoyed and frustrated.

Her grandfather said that she had to clinch a contract within two days. She was now pressed for time to complete this task that was almost impossible to complete. She was so troubled that she felt that her head was about to explode.

If she didn't sign a contract in two days, her family would be kicked out of the Carter family. If her mother found out, she would definitely kick up a big fuss.

"I still have something to do. I'm going to leave now. Please ask Charlotte to pick Amelia up at the kindergarten later."

Cheyenne hurriedly washed her face, touched up her makeup, perked herself up, and then dashed out the door.

Time was running out, and she had to hurry up and see the helmsman of the Stardust Corporation. Even though the chances of success were low, she had to do her best.

Soon, a metallic red Lamborghini pulled over at the door, and Charlotte got out furiously.

"Where's my sister?" she asked as soon as she entered the house.

"Your sister went out. Oh yes, she wants you to help her pick up Amelia later." Karen was sitting on the couch and putting some cucumber slices on her face while she was talking.

Charlotte yanked her mother's arm and barked, "Mom! Now's not the time for a facial!"

She was so angry that her face turned red. "Mom, you have no idea. That loser came to the office today and provoked Grandpa. He even audaciously took on the task of clinching a cooperation agreement with the Stardust

Corporation! So many families in Orange County are dying to get acquainted with it. Who are we? This task is impossible to complete!”

“That good-for-nothing is really brazen to have agreed. I’ll give him a piece of my mind when he comes again!” Karen was also infuriated after hearing her words. That good-for-nothing is really a troublemaker who’s bad at everything.

“Mom, the worst is yet to come. Grandpa said that he’s going to kick all of us out of the Carter family if they fail to clinch the contract in two days!”

“What?!” Karen screamed and stood up abruptly, completely ignoring the cucumber slices falling onto the ground.

CHAPTER 19

Karen was angry because her personal interests were involved.

“That good-for-nothing is nothing but a jinx! He’s so evil, and he has lost his conscience. I bet he’s here to harm us! Even if he wants to die, he shouldn’t drag us down with him! No! Tell your sister to divorce him immediately so that your grandfather won’t blame us! Quickly, call your sister and tell her to hurry home!”

Karen pushed Charlotte in a moment of panic while Charlotte stomped her feet hard and said, “Mother, it’s useless. Grandpa said that Cheyenne and that loser took on the task together, so they have to complete it. Otherwise, none of us will be spared.”

Karen was so furious that she stomped her feet and cursed at Lucas with all sorts of malicious remarks. After she was done, she started scolding Cheyenne.

Hearing that they would be kicked out of the Carter family, William was no longer in the mood to continue reading the newspaper, as his heart was heavy.

Furthermore, Karen's screaming and cursing made him feel even more frustrated and annoyed, so he yelled, "My eardrums are going to break from your screaming. You're so annoying!"

"How dare you be fierce to me?" Karen retorted in an even louder voice after being shocked by William's outrage.

"At the end of the day, it's still all your fault! If it weren't for the fact that you're not Dominic's biological son, he wouldn't kick us out so easily. You're a useless good-for-nothing too. All you do is snap at me at home! If you have what it takes, go lash out at your father! I'm so unfortunate to have married a loser like you. If we really get kicked out, what are we supposed to do?!" Karen started hollering at William again.

Charlotte was also incredibly frustrated and thought, I can't stay in this house any longer.

She pushed open the front door and drove to the kindergarten to pick up Amelia.

She arrived at the entrance of Sanse Kindergarten.

Along the way, in the stylish and luxurious sports car, Charlotte attracted the envious gazes of passersby, lifting her mood greatly.

It was the peak hour at the kindergarten. Charlotte waited at the entrance for a long time, but she didn't see Amelia, so she entered.

Charlotte saw Amelia in front of a slide and was about to call out to her when she heard the bright and clear voice of a boy.

"You're a bastard child that nobody wants! Boo!" There was a little boy opposite Amelia, sticking his tongue out and grimacing at her.

Chagrined, Amelia's face flushed red, and tears were welling up in her eyes. "I have a daddy. My daddy has already come home!"

"Boo, my mommy said that your dad is a rapist and a good-for-nothing who's going to be arrested by the police. Pew pew! He's going to be shot dead! You're a little rapist, so you also have to be shot! Pew pew!" The little boy stretched out his index finger and made a gun sign before rushing forward to poke Amelia.

"Stop it!" Charlotte yelled as she frantically rushed over and pulled Amelia behind her.

When the little boy saw Charlotte, he turned around to run away, only to trip over his own feet and fall to the ground.

The boy wailed and bawled out loud.

When Amelia saw Charlotte, she hugged her hard and also cried out loud.

"Auntie, I have a daddy. My daddy is back. He's a good guy... He's not like what he said."

Charlotte felt teary as she heard Amelia crying in her arms.

"Yes, Amelia, be good. Your dad is back, and they won't dare to bully you anymore." She gently patted Amelia's back and consoled her.

"Baby! What's wrong, baby?" Hearing the crying, a couple immediately rushed over from afar and helped the bawling boy up heartbrokenly.

"Mommy, she hit me!" Upon seeing his parents, the little boy pointed at Charlotte and cried even louder.

The couple immediately glared at Charlotte hostilely. "You're an adult, but you hit my child. Do you have any shame at all?"

Having been wronged, Charlotte was immediately infuriated. "It was your son who bullied my niece! As soon as I came over, he ran away in fear and tripped on his own. Since when did I hit him?"

The chubby woman in her thirties obviously wasn't willing to hear Charlotte's words. She looked up and rushed to Charlotte. "You hit a child, huh? You brazen hussy, try hitting him again in front of me!" She reached out and was about to slap Charlotte.

Charlotte was astonished. She was wearing stilettos and holding Amelia in her arms, so she dared not dodge at all!

Seeing the fat hand about to reach her, Charlotte closed her eyes and stiffened her body while protecting Amelia.

At this moment, a figure suddenly appeared and grabbed that woman's wrist!

"Ah! Who are you?"

Instead of the pain she expected, Charlotte heard the chubby woman yelling in exasperation.

She carefully opened her eyes and saw a tall figure blocking her.

Charlotte gasped in disbelief.

The sturdy figure was the good-for-nothing Lucas!

Lucas flung the woman's wrist away and turned around to look at Charlotte and Amelia carefully. He asked concernedly, "Are you alright?"

"Daddy!" Amelia exclaimed in surprise and stared at Lucas with glistening eyes. Just as the chubby woman was about to hit her and Charlotte, her daddy suddenly appeared just like a hero from a cartoon!

CHAPTER 20

Charlotte shook her head with complicated emotions. "We're fine."

"Hubby~ Look, both of them are bullying me!" The chubby woman was stopped from hitting them, but she dared not provoke Lucas because he was tall. So she had no choice but to turn to her husband for help.

In the end, she turned around, only to find that her husband was gawking at the youthful and beautiful Charlotte without blinking, making her even more infuriated.

"Vixen! Stop going around seducing men!" She pinched her husband's shoulder and twisted it forcefully. "You're still ogling her, huh? Your wife is being bullied! Are you still a man?"

The bespectacled man finally snapped back to his senses.

He would be kind to the fairer sex, but to a shabby-looking man, he was extremely hostile. He taunted, "Kid, do you know who I am?"

"Who you are has nothing to do with me," Lucas said calmly.

He took Charlotte and Amelia along and was all ready to leave, but the bespectacled man dashed forward to stop them. "You want to leave after hitting my wife and child? It's not that easy!"

"Daddy, we didn't hit that fatty. He tried to hit me but ran away as soon as Auntie came. Then he tripped himself and fell down." Amelia hurriedly told her dad what happened. "That fat woman blamed Auntie as soon as she came, and now this man is saying that we hit his son. We didn't do that!"

"What do you know?! Shut up!" The bespectacled man glowered at Amelia menacingly.

Lucas's gaze instantly turned cold. How dare he intimidate my precious daughter in front of me? He has a death wish.

Perhaps because Lucas's gaze was too terrifying, the bespectacled man was a little startled and frightened. But he wasn't willing to show his weakness, so he reached out to shove Lucas. "What are you looking at? Do you dare to hit me..."

Before he could finish speaking, Lucas kicked him!

"Ah!" The bespectacled man shrieked and was kicked seven meters away before stopping when he slammed into a toy house and made it collapse.

All of a sudden, everyone present was stunned!

After being shocked, the chubby woman screamed and ran over on her high heels. "Hubby, hubby, are you okay?"

The bespectacled man began struggling to get up on his feet. He felt the excruciating pain in his chest, but he realized that the other parts of his body were fine. He almost thought that he was going to die!

Actually, this was the result of Lucas's mercy. Had he used more force, that man's ribs and organs would have been crushed.

He just wanted to teach this person who insulted his daughter a lesson, not kill him.

However, the bespectacled man was clueless. After getting up, he glared at Lucas and exclaimed, "Damn it! Kid, just you wait! I'll kill you!"

He pulled out his cell phone and started shouting.

Seeing that things were going to go awry, the kindergarten principal hurriedly tried to mediate things. "Ah, this is just a misunderstanding. If things blow up, it's not going to benefit anyone."

After shouting something over the phone, the bespectacled man spat arrogantly and taunted, "Hmph, if you dare to hit me, you have to pay the price. Do you think we're pushovers?"

Seeing that there was no way to settle the issue, Lucas said to Charlotte, "Take Amelia away."

"Daddy!" Amelia looked at Lucas uneasily and clutched his sleeve.

Lucas looked at his daughter with a gentle smile and stroked her playful pigtails before saying reassuringly, "It'll be alright. Follow your aunt home. I'll be right back."

Although Amelia was reluctant, she nodded obediently when she saw the gentle gaze in Lucas's eyes.

After some hesitation, Charlotte said something unexpected that she had never said before. "Be careful."

However, as soon as she took two steps away with Amelia in her arms, the chubby woman stopped her. "Hah, don't you think of leaving. None of you can escape!"

Lucas's face turned gloomy.

He never intended to hit a woman, but if she hurt Amelia while stopping them, he definitely wouldn't let her off the hook!

At this moment, several Volkswagen Golfs sped by, almost hitting the large crowd of people in front of the kindergarten to pick up their children. Amid the complaints, more than ten men with tattooed arms opened car doors and dashed into the kindergarten menacingly.

"Boss, we're here! Where's that foolish bastard?"

As soon as James Wilson saw the people that he had called arrive, he immediately pointed at Lucas and roared, "It's this bastard! Damn it! How dare he touch me? Beat him!"

More than ten people immediately stared at Lucas.

The bald man, who was the leader, sized Lucas up and laughed disdainfully. "With his size? I can beat ten of him with no issue! How cocky of you to hit the boss!"

With ferocious expressions, the group of people surrounded Lucas.

"Daddy... Daddy! Ah!" Watching the terrifying men surround Lucas, Amelia was so frightened that she burst into tears.

Charlotte hugged Amelia, her face turning pale in fear too.

There was a cold and hostile gaze in Lucas's eyes, making the people surrounding him stop in their tracks, as they suddenly felt a strong sense of extreme danger!

Just as Lucas was about to lose his temper, Jordan suddenly appeared to block him. "Lucas, take the kid away. Leave this to me."

When Wilson saw that Lucas also had someone to back him up, he burst into laughter. What can one person do?

His face twitched, and his smile became even more menacing. "My wife said that none of you are allowed to leave!"

Jordan spat out the gum in his mouth. "You incompetent nobodies aren't worthy of getting hit by Lucas!"